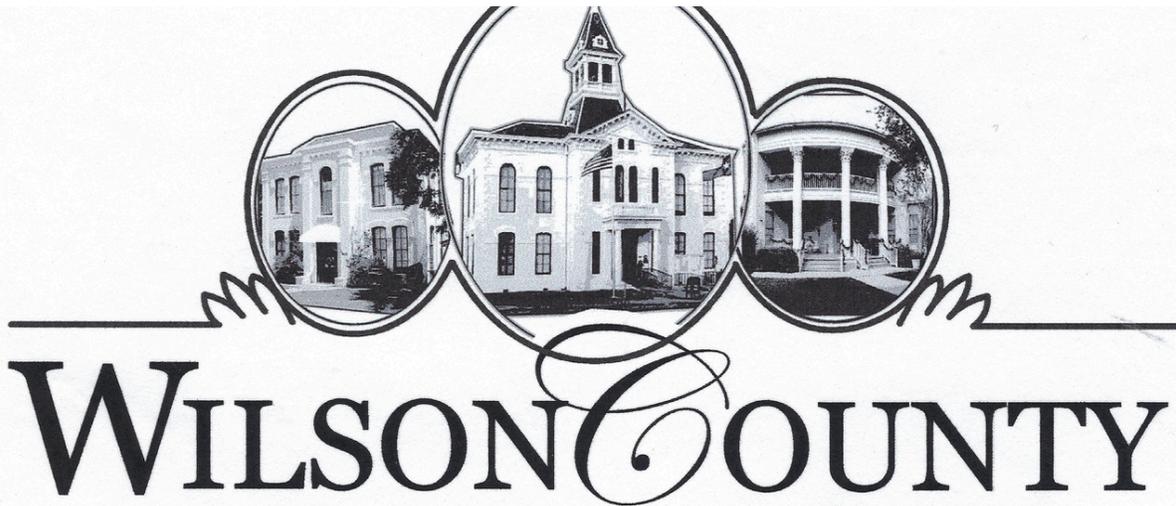


# THE JOURNAL

*The unofficial newsletter of Wilson County Historical Society*



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## Membership Drive

Our annual membership drive will be held on Tuesday, May 21st, 6:00PM, at the historic Dewees-Remschel House. Society members are asked to bring a dish and a new member. If you have not already signed up to bring a dish, please contact Sarah Gella.

For those not familiar with the location of the historic home, here's a link to help you navigate:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/2tZpC87W3naxgSks7>

See you there!

## SPECIAL RANGER HONORED

Margie Hayden and a fellow resident of Fairview honored Mr. Owen Gentry this past week with a Texas Ranger Memorial Cross.

Owen Edward Gentry was born July 30, 1893, in Cuero, DeWitt County, Texas, to John Baker Gentry and Josie Henrus. Owen stood 5ft. 7in. tall, had light brown eyes, brown hair and a light complexion. He was a game warden on the King Ranch in Kingsville, Kleberg County, Texas. Owen enlisted in the Texas Rangers as a SPECIAL RANGER on July 2, 1917 thru December 1917, attached to Co. C. His commission was cancelled because he ceased working for the King Ranch. Gentry said he had been a SPECIAL RANGER under Captain Sanders from Oct 1916 thru December 1917. He was a ranchman in Hebronville, Jim Hogg County. He was again a SPECIAL RANGER on August 12, 1932 thru January 18, 1933. In 1920, Owen was an oil company foreman in Ranger, Eastland County, Texas and in 1930, he was a cattle raiser in Jim Hogg County. Owen Edward Gentry died November 1, 1969, in Atascosa County. He was buried in Fairview Cemetery, Wilson County, Texas.



Photo and bio courtesy of Margie Hayden

# Floresville Opry Line-Up

Floresville  
Opry

## HEADLINER SCHEDULE

Call EARLY for  
reservations!

Reserved Tables (Seat 8) - \$100  
General Admission - \$15  
*Catered Dinner  
Desserts by WCHS*

6-9:15 pm • Doors Open @ 5 pm  
**WILSON COUNTY EXPO AND  
COMMUNITY CENTER**  
435 Hwy 97 E, Floresville

- April 4 – Billy Mata *SOLD OUT*
- May 2 – Randy Carson
- June 6 – Jody Jenkins
- July 4 – Freddy Cruz
- Aug. 1 – Jake Blocker
- Sept. 5 – Sean O'Brien
- Oct. 3 – Derek Spence
- Nov. 7 – Wyatt Aleman
- Dec. 5 – Mike Hughes

### Floresville Opry House Band

Contact: Viola (830) 391-1062

*Wilson County News, a proud sponsor of the Floresville Opry*

Do not take your chances by waiting to purchase your tickets at the door. Viola and her team have **SOLD OUT** the previous months and this will likely continue. **Reserve your seats now!**

# A.I. & Family History Research

by Anthony Delgado

Artificial intelligence has been a topic of discussion lately and many are leery of how it is being leveraged. While any technology can be used nefariously, many of today’s modern technologies offer a variety of advantages. Here is one example of how genealogy tools, like Ancestry.com, are employing artificial intelligence technology.

One helpful resource in family history research is the census. Here is a snapshot of an extract of the 1900 Census pertaining to former Wilson County Clerk, John McDaniel. (Zoom in to see the details)

18 CENSUS	LOCATION	NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION			NATIVITY			CITIZENSHIP	OCCUPATION, TRADE, OR PROFESSION	EDUCATION	SPEECH OR HEAR.
				AGE	SEX	COLO.	Place of birth of this Person.	Place of birth of Father of this person.	Place of birth of Mother of this person.				

361-362	Wilson Co. Tenn.	John McDaniel	Head	38	M	W	1862	Tenn.	Tenn.	Tenn.	Farmer	4	Can read and write	0	1
		Martha McDaniel	Wife	35	F	W	1865	Tenn.	Tenn.	Tenn.	None	4	Can read and write	0	1
		William McDaniel	Son	12	M	W	1888	Tenn.	Tenn.	Tenn.	None	0	None	0	0
		Walter G. McDaniel	Son	10	M	W	1890	Tenn.	Tenn.	Tenn.	None	0	None	0	0
		Fred G. McDaniel	Son	8	M	W	1892	Tenn.	Tenn.	Tenn.	None	0	None	0	0
		John H. McDaniel	Son	6	M	W	1894	Tenn.	Tenn.	Tenn.	None	0	None	0	0
		Edmond L. McDaniel	Son	4	M	W	1896	Tenn.	Tenn.	Tenn.	None	0	None	0	0
		William D. McDaniel	Son	3	M	W	1897	Tenn.	Tenn.	Tenn.	None	0	None	0	0
		Walter H. McDaniel	Son	2	M	W	1898	Tenn.	Tenn.	Tenn.	None	0	None	0	0
		William McDaniel	Son	1	M	W	1899	Tenn.	Tenn.	Tenn.	None	0	None	0	0
		Ray H. McDaniel	Son	0	M	W	1900	Tenn.	Tenn.	Tenn.	None	0	None	0	0
		Walter McDaniel	Son	0	M	W	1900	Tenn.	Tenn.	Tenn.	None	0	None	0	0

When enlarged, you can see row-by-row of information pertaining to John and his family members. Besides the name and age of each enumerated person, the 1900 census also captured one’s occupation, literacy, home ownership, employment, and place of birth for the enumerated and their parents. All of this information is indexed for each person.

Ancestry.com’s artificial intelligence takes the indexed information, analyzes it and offers the data in paragraph form. On the next page is how Ancestry.com presents John McDaniels’ static census information.

*Based on information from the 1900 United States Federal Census John Mc Daniel, a 41-year-old white male, was born in November 1858 in Arkansas, USA. In 1900, he resided in Justice Precinct 7, Wilson, Texas, specifically at dwelling number 261. John was the head of the household, which consisted of his wife, Virginia J Mc Daniel, age 40, and their ten children.*

*John and Virginia had been married for 20 years since their union in 1880. They owned their home, which was free from mortgage, indicating a level of stability and financial security. John worked as a farmer, a common occupation in rural areas during that time.*

*Despite being occupied for most of the year, John had been unemployed for six months. This detail suggests that he may have faced challenges or difficulties in his farming endeavors during that period.*

*John was literate, able to read, write, and speak English. This skill would have been valuable for communication and conducting business transactions in the community.*

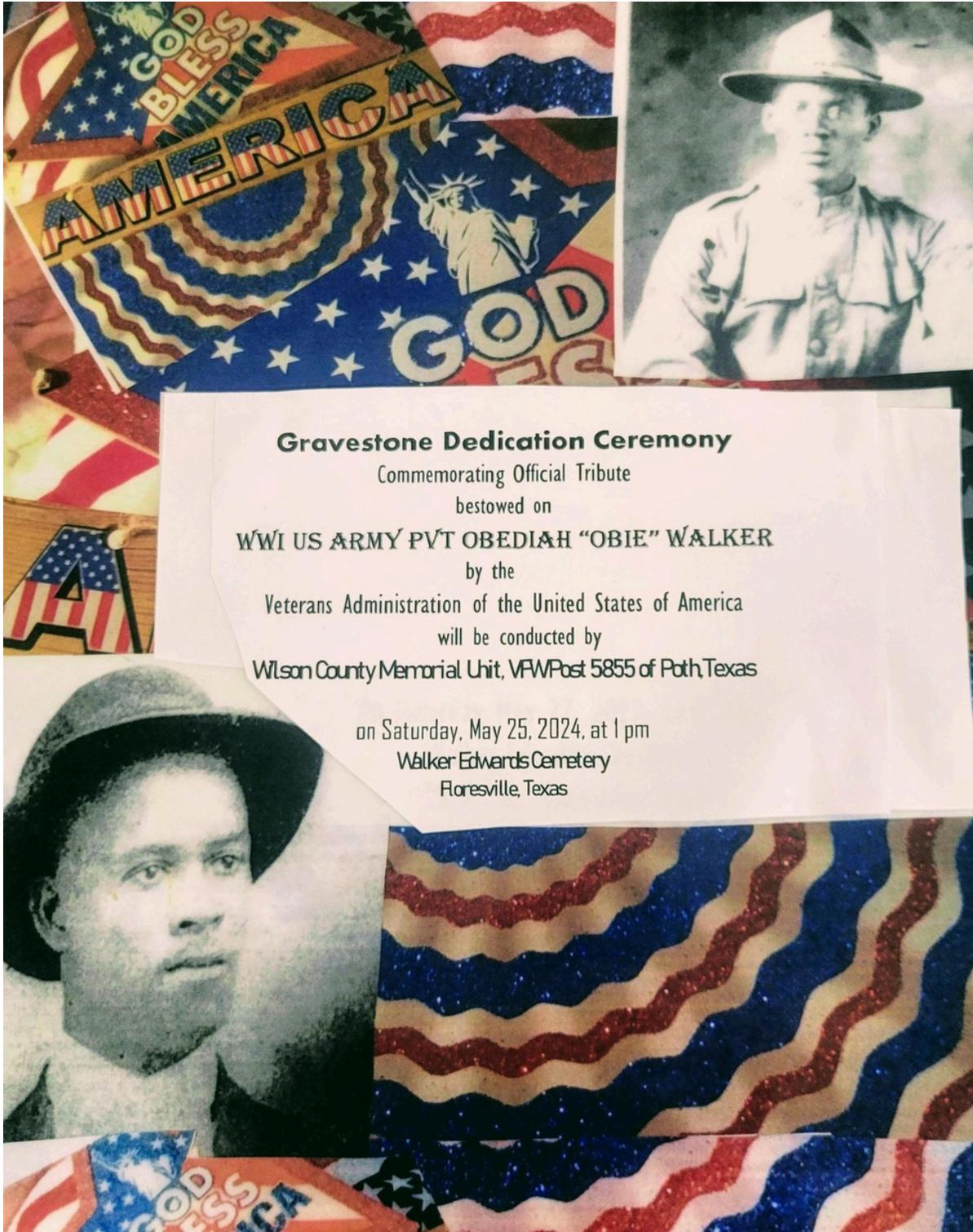
*Living with the Mc Daniel family was Edward Norwood, a 42-year-old boarder. The nature of their relationship is unclear, but it is possible that Edward was a friend or relative who needed a place to stay.*

*The household was bustling with activity, as John and Virginia had twelve individuals living under their roof. Their children ranged in age from 1 to 19 years old. The names of their children were Clemente, Mattie E, Fita A, John H, Edmond L, Willie M, Mary A, Delfina, and Ray H.*

*The data provides a glimpse into the life of John Mc Daniel, a hardworking farmer and family man, who, despite facing temporary unemployment, maintained a stable home and provided for his large family in rural Texas.*

Now writing your family history book just got easier. Happy writing!

## Gravestone Dedication - May 25th, 1:00PM Walker-Edwards Cemetery



**Gravestone Dedication Ceremony**  
Commemorating Official Tribute  
bestowed on  
**WWI US ARMY PVT OBEDIAH "OBIE" WALKER**  
by the  
Veterans Administration of the United States of America  
will be conducted by  
Wilson County Memorial Unit, VFW Post 5855 of Poth, Texas

on Saturday, May 25, 2024, at 1 pm  
Walker Edwards Cemetery  
Floresville, Texas

# Historical Marker Scavenger Hunt

One way to explore Wilson County is to participate in the library's *Marker Scavenger Hunt*.

Visit any of the Wilson County libraries and ask for the Marker Scavenger Hunt game sheets then get ready to learn all about our remarkable history and the people that made it.

Visit your local WCPL location to obtain your game sheets!

**Adventure Begins @ Your Library  
Summer Reading 2024**

This is a teen and adult scavenger hunt that will take you around Wilson County.

To play our game, you will need our featured game sheets for the communities in Wilson County, a pen or pencil, and a navigation system to take you on your adventure.

When you find the featured historical marker, please make sure that you are safely parked, if at a roadside marker. Read about the area's history, fill in the blanks and turn your game sheet in at any Wilson County Public Library. You will earn an entry for a special prize for each game sheet submitted. All entries must be submitted by close of business on Friday, July 12, 2024.

Addresses and some GPS coordinates have been listed as a way of finding our selected historical markers. In addition, we have paper copies of maps if needed.

Be sure to check out our Website and "like" our Facebook page



<https://www.wilsoncountyhistory.org>



[facebook.com/wilsoncountyhistoricalsociety](https://facebook.com/wilsoncountyhistoricalsociety)

Have you visited the Wilson County Clerk's Official Records Site?

<https://wilson.tx.publicsearch.us/>

How many acres of land did John Sutherland leave Ann Sutherland in 1860? How many acres did he set aside for the cemetery?

 The background of this section is a faded, tilted image of a historical land deed document. The document contains text and a map of land parcels, with several instances of 'Wilson County Clerk Official Copy' visible.

*Make your mark in Wilson County's history!*

# BUY A BRICK

*Consider an inscribed brick paver as a tribute or memorial to a friend, family member, a loved one, or yourself, as a permanent part of Wilson County History!*

We are taking orders for engraved bricks that will replace the existing sidewalk leading to the Wilson County Jailhouse Museum. As a "State Antiquities Landmark" we must preserve and protect the old Jailhouse.

*Orders for engraved bricks will help fund the restoration and upkeep of the Wilson County Jailhouse Museum.*

The Wilson County Historical Society's goal is for ALL families in Wilson County to be represented with an engraved brick.

*Thank You!*

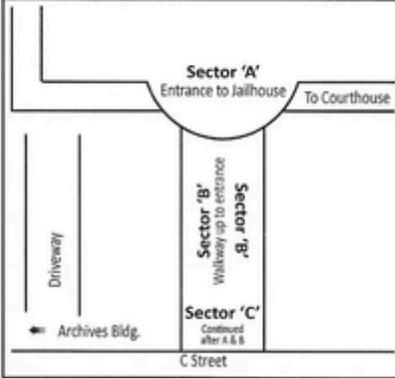
**4x8 Brick Pavers**  
3 Lines, 20 Characters per line  
**\$100**



Order at [wilsoncountyhistory.org](http://wilsoncountyhistory.org)




For info., contact  
Neila Hopkins  
281-376-1364  
or Viola Henke  
830-391-1062



WCH Graphics • 830-218-8531

## Congratulations and Thanks!

**Congratulations** Neila on your successful jailhouse fundraising campaign selling more than 200 bricks sold thus far.

**Thanks** to each of you who purchased a brick that now graces the entry to our Jailhouse Museum. Proceeds from brick sales directly contributes to funding museum renovations.

If you have not yet purchased a brick paver, or wish to purchase another, feel free to contact Neila or Viola.