

THE JOURNAL

The unofficial newsletter of Wilson County Historical Society



IN THIS ISSUE

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE
RANGER HONORED
OPRY LINE-UP

AI AND FAMILY
HISTORY RESEARCH

GRAVESTONE
DEDICATION

SCAVENGER HUNT
COUNTY CLERK QUERY

PAVE THE MUSEUM

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 Hebbronville, 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)

LOCATION		NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION					NATIVITY			CITIZENSHIP		OCCUPATION, TRADE, OR PROFESSION		EDUCATION		SPEECH & REED.	
IN CITY	IN RURAL			AGE	SEX	DATE OF BIRTH	Color or race	Religion	Place of birth of this person	Place of birth of Father of this person	Place of birth of Mother of this person	Age of person in this census	Age of person in last census	Occupation	Years of school in this country	Years of school in this country	Years of school in this country	Years of school in this country	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
		John McDaniel	Head	36	M	1864	W		Texas	Texas	Texas	36	32		4	4	4	4	
		Martha McDaniel	Wife	34	F	1866	W		Texas	Texas	Texas	34	30		4	4	4	4	
		William McDaniel	Son	12	M	1888	W		Texas	Texas	Texas	12	8		4	4	4	4	
		John McDaniel	Son	10	M	1890	W		Texas	Texas	Texas	10	6		4	4	4	4	
		Martha McDaniel	Daughter	8	F	1892	W		Texas	Texas	Texas	8	4		4	4	4	4	
		John McDaniel	Son	6	M	1894	W		Texas	Texas	Texas	6	2		4	4	4	4	
		Martha McDaniel	Daughter	4	F	1896	W		Texas	Texas	Texas	4	0		4	4	4	4	
		John McDaniel	Son	2	M	1898	W		Texas	Texas	Texas	2	0		4	4	4	4	
		Martha McDaniel	Daughter	0	F	1900	W		Texas	Texas	Texas	0	0		4	4	4	4	
		John McDaniel	Son	0	M	1902	W		Texas	Texas	Texas	0	0		4	4	4	4	
		Martha McDaniel	Daughter	0	F	1904	W		Texas	Texas	Texas	0	0		4	4	4	4	
		John McDaniel	Son	0	M	1906	W		Texas	Texas	Texas	0	0		4	4	4	4	
		Martha McDaniel	Daughter	0	F	1908	W		Texas	Texas	Texas	0	0		4	4	4	4	
		John McDaniel	Son	0	M	1910	W		Texas	Texas	Texas	0	0		4	4	4	4	
		Martha McDaniel	Daughter	0	F	1912	W		Texas	Texas	Texas	0	0		4	4	4	4	
		John McDaniel	Son	0	M	1914	W		Texas	Texas	Texas	0	0		4	4	4	4	
		Martha McDaniel	Daughter	0	F	1916	W		Texas	Texas	Texas	0	0		4	4	4	4	
		John McDaniel	Son	0	M	1918	W		Texas	Texas	Texas	0	0		4	4	4	4	
		Martha McDaniel	Daughter	0	F	1920	W		Texas	Texas	Texas	0	0		4	4	4	4	

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.

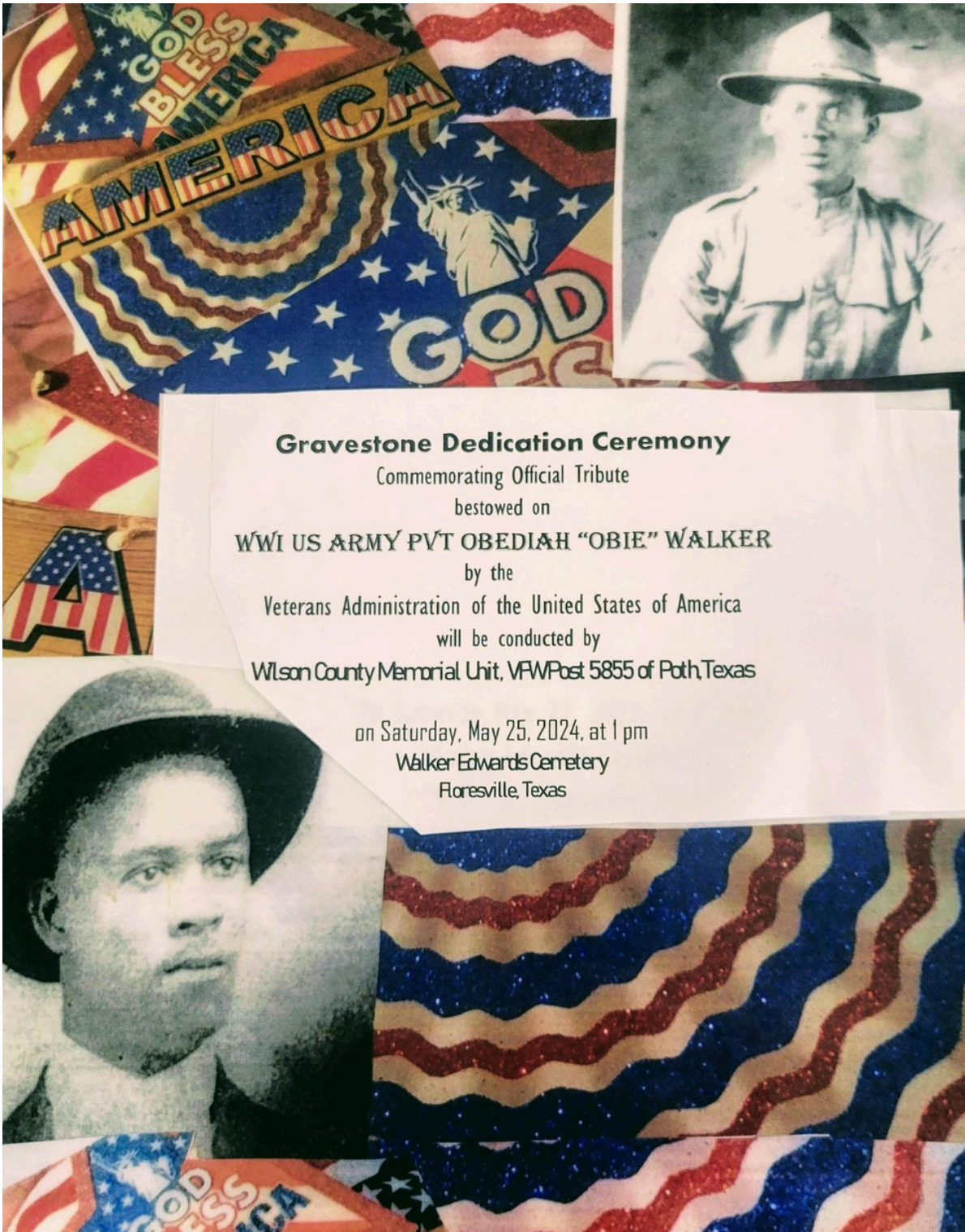
Living with the Mc Daniel family was Edward Norwood, a 42-year-old boarder. The nature of their relationship is unclear, but it is possible that Edward was a friend or relative who needed a place to stay.

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>

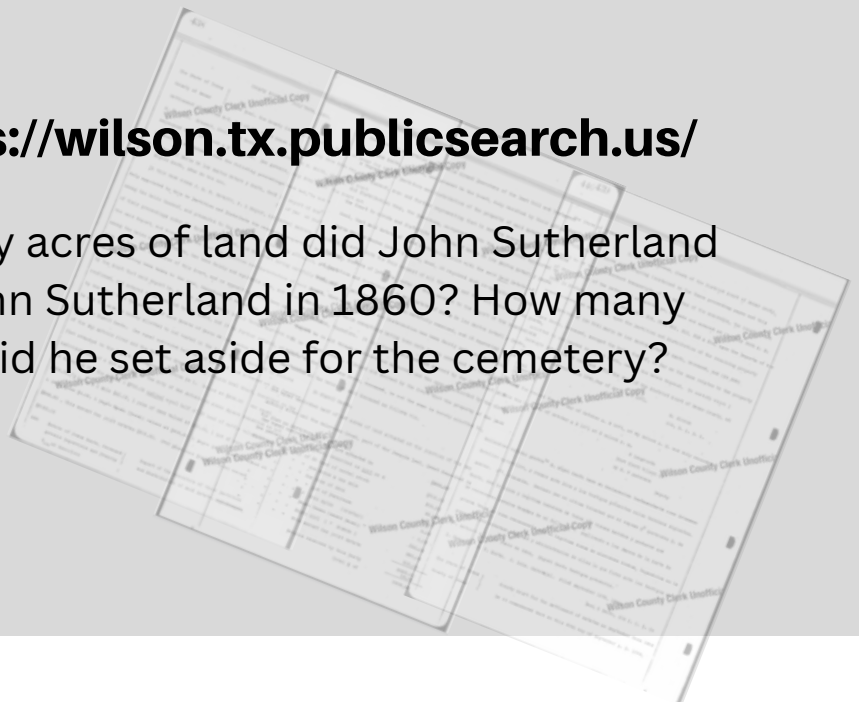


facebook.com/wilsoncountyhistoricalsociety

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?



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!

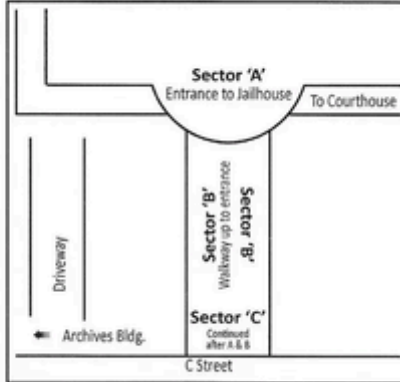
4x8 Brick Pavers
3 Lines, 20 Characters per line
\$100

Order at
wilsoncountyhistory.org


WILSON COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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


SCAN ME



Wilson County
(Arial Black Font)
Historical Society
(Rockwell Extra Bold)
EST. 1860
(Clarendon IX Font)

WCN Graphics • 830-218-4531

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.