

WCGS Newsletter

Washington County Genealogical Society

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**Dues for 2022
may be paid at the meeting**

Next Meeting

Monday May 2, 2022

1:00 pm Nancy Carol Roberts Library

The Washington County Genealogical Society meeting will be held Monday, May 2, 1 p.m. at the Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library. The program for the meeting will be researching land purchases in San Felipe, presented by Kathleen Kelly. **This will be the last meeting until September. The public is invited. Details for the September meeting will be announced during the summer.**

Kathleen Kelly moved to San Felipe, Texas over a decade ago where she soon discovered that her property was the location of the Land Office of the Austin Colony and the home of Samuel May Williams, the secretary, and confidant to Stephen F. Austin. Her research drew her deeper into the origin of the formation of Colonial Texas and the men and women who played critical roles during that time. Even though the importance of the colonial capital of the Austin Colony faded after the revolution, its importance has not.

So many fascinating, untold stories emerged from her research that she decided to write a book, Indelible Footprints in San Felipe de Austin: Trailhead to Texas Independence. She has recently enlisted the Houston Archeological Society to undertake a years-long project to substantiate her findings. As a result incredible artifacts have been discovered. Her talk to our group will center on the suburban enclave west of San Felipe where loyalist of Stephen F. Austin lived. Drawing receipts and first person accounts of the time, Ms. Kelly will some of her findings as well as some of the research pitfalls along the way.

Kathleen Kelly continued

Although her professional career has focused on international government relations, her love of history, historical research and new found love of avocational archeology has consumed her time

She holds a BA in History and European Studies from the University of Texas at Austin. She also studied at the University de Strasbourg, France. Since retiring, Ms. Kelly has returned to her passion for history, authoring two books, The Bell & The Bible and Indelible Footprints in San Felipe de Austin: Trailhead to Texas Independence.

For those of you who were not able to attend the April meeting, Ms. Idalia Avezuela, the the new librarian for the Nancy Carol Roberts Library gave us a wonderful program. Continue reading to learn a little about her and be sure to take time to stop by the library and meet her.

NCRML new librarian, Ms. Idalia Avezuela, has been a librarian for over 10 years. Although she is from Puerto Rico and received her Master's from U of PR, she attended the University of Texas to also received her Master's in Library Science. She has worked in various roles in the public library systems, from Galveston to Round Top. Ms. Avezuela says her objective is to promote literacy and leisure materials. There are lots of activities for children, as well as for adults promoted throughout the library. The library underwent a renovation in 2016 that included much improvements that are state of the art. One such amenity is a media room where it can be utilized for videoing. The library's collection is constantly being updated to remain relevant and they are always open to suggestions on needed materials. The genealogy room can be used to search family histories and it's open to the public. Currently the librarian who could assist is not available. There is a state-of-the-art book scanner available. Most activities and programs held through the library can be found on their calendar online. In collaboration with the Parks & Recs Dept, the library has a book trail starting at the playgrounds outside the library and runs for several miles throughout the nearby parks. Features about 28 books that are changed every 4-6 weeks and they try to coordinate book topics with the seasons.