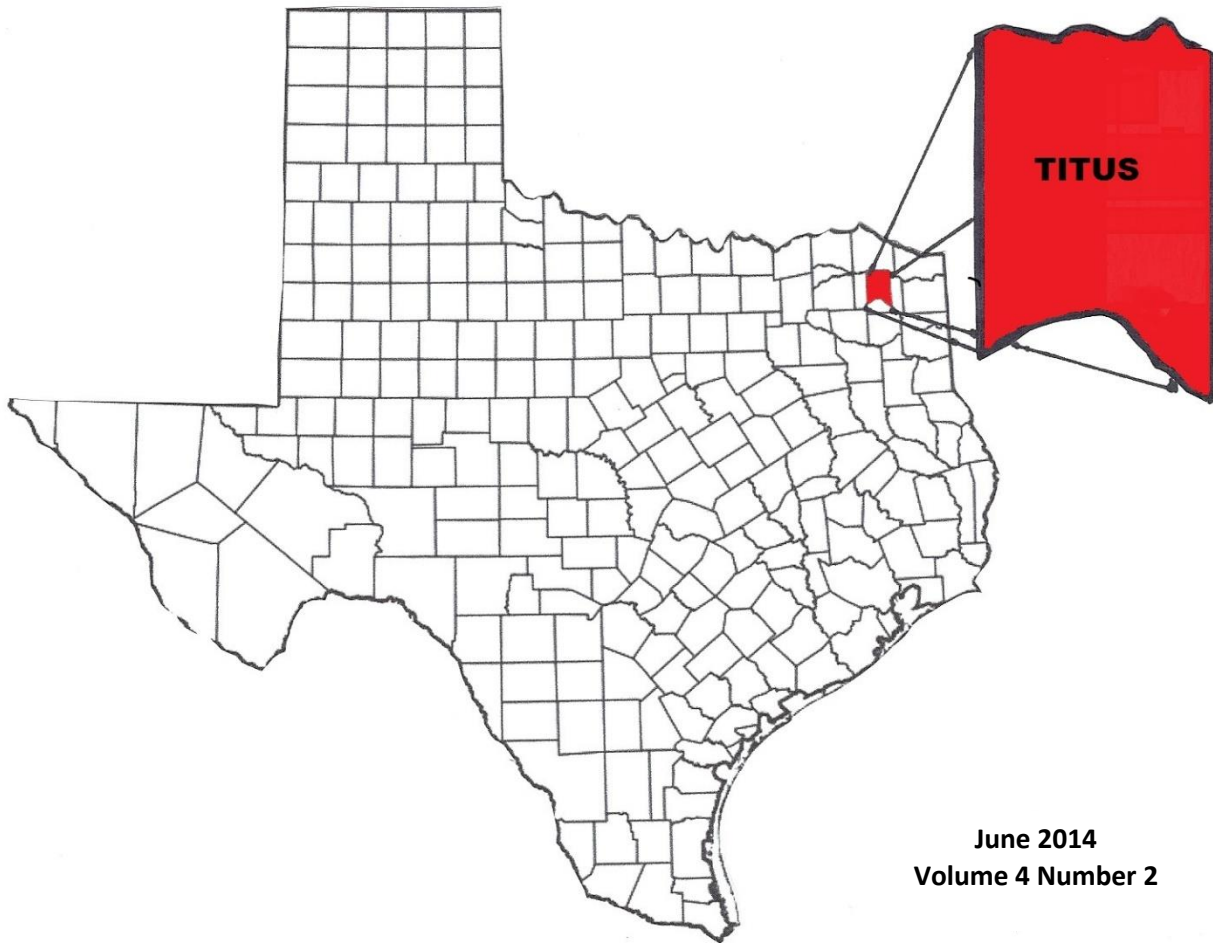


Titus County Generations

*Where the past connects with the present and
influences the future*



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Titus County Genealogical Society

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A Word from Our President

Summer 2014 finds our society active with plans to continue to meet each month through the summer. In years past we have not met in the summer, deferring to officer's travel plans and the general trend of people being out of town. However, it was decided, that in order to continue a momentum of activity, that making the effort to flourish during the summer was worth the effort.

On a personal level, I am happy to report that a couple of the history projects that I have been working on for some time have reached major milestones toward their completion. Although these projects were national and state projects, there is a strong tie in both projects to Titus County. The national project contains a biographical sketch of J. W. Harper. Rev. Harper was a representative to the Texas Legislature. The state project includes the names and address of pastors and churches in Titus County since 1901 to the present.

DNA testing for genealogical purposes is an interesting new trend. Several of our members have participated in these projects with very favorable results. At our last meeting Jean Martin shared her experiences. She has made personal contact with previously unknown relatives. If you are involved in this kind of genealogy, we would love to hear your feedback.

Our hope is that you will continue to enjoy our newsletters.

Since Monday, May 26, 2014, was Memorial Day, I'd like to use this article as a tribute to citizens of Titus County who gave their lives in service to our country. The holiday, formerly know as Decoration Day, is celebrated every year on the last Monday of May. It originated after the Civil War to honor the Union and Confederate soldiers who died in that war. Now Memorial Day honors all Americans who died while in military service. Don't confuse Memorial Day with Veterans' Day. Memorial Day honors those who gave their lives, while Veterans' Day honors the service of all U. S. military veterans.

While researching txgenweb.org for Titus County (Titus County Civil War Dead), I found the names of two civil war veterans, from the county, who died during the war. W. H. Norblett died 4 July 1864, and Edward Hollister Green died 12 December 1863. There was no documentation stating that they were killed during the war, but having their names listed under this title and the fact that their death dates coincide with the period of the Civil War, I listed them as veterans to be honored as war dead.

According to the Titus County Veterans Memorial in front of the Titus County Courthouse, those who gave their lives for the United States during World War I were:

Earle Adkins, Sam Barber, John H. Burford John Burkes, Buford Causey, Charles J. Cloar, J. C. Coker, Earle Duncan, Vasker Elliott, Paul H. Hamilton, Al Bland Jessup, Orvin Keith, Joe Phillips, Aquila Goodwell Smith, William W. Smith, Thomas C. Trew, Arch C. Warren, and Emmet M. Woodard.

The next tragic war loss of those fighting for our country was during World War II. The names listed on the monument are:

William J. Alexander, James W. Allen, Robert L. Arnold, Gladis Belcher, Johnie C. Blalock, William H. Bishop, Edgar E. Boone, Sam H. Brown, T. B. Brown, William Arthur Burton, R. D. Cloar, James T. Cromer, William E. Crabb, Jesse L. Crump, Curtis L. Culver, Edmond Truett Franklin, Doyce W. Fry, L. G. Giddings, Isaac Gray, John F. Greene, Billy Bob Groce, J. B. Guess, Daniel P. Harvey, Nolon D. Harwell, Clyde J. Hayden, James H. Hollingsworth, Leonard E. Holmes, Vernon C. Hoeton, Billy Ralph Horton, William W. Huckeba, Vivian Jackson, Julian F. Johnston, Clarence E. Jones. Robert Lee Kidwell, James R. Kimberlin, Carlton P. Lee, Deward Marshall, Clifford T. Martin (my husband's uncle), Joseph E. McCollum, William D. McCollum, Tennison L. Miller, Howard Daniel Moore, Everett R. Newman, Orville E. Oliver, James H. Owsley. Sam H. Pate, Herbert G. Perkins, James B. Reed, Harmon A. Rhea, Charles D. Rogers, James J. Rogers, Jason B. Russ, James H. Sellers, Alford T. Shrout, John C. Smith, Ludie K. Smyth, Warren L. Sorber, W. E. Stotts, Melvin J. Taylor, Ralph M. Walker, William Paty Walton, John Thomas Watts, Weldon W. Weaver, William W. White, Bart Wiggington, Grady Wilbanks, Bill Jeff Williams, Bill J. Wilmurth, and Arthur P. Wood.

After World War II, the United States was involved in a "police action" called the Korean War. Titus County citizens killed during that period were:

Elmer Riley Daffer, L. C. Miller, Clifton D. Newman, and L. D. Summerlin.

My generation fought in the Vietnam War. Those who died and are just now in the last few years being honored, except by their own families, are:

Charley Holton Collier, Jimmy Leon Hockaday, Calvin Lee, Harold Loyd McNeil, Jerry Don Patton, and Otis Turner.

Hopefully, the last war in which the United States will be involved is the war in the Mid East. Chuncy Ryan Mays was killed in Afghanistan 28 February 2011.

While discussing my research with a friend of mine, she shared with me the tradition of placing coins on the headstones of those who gave their lives while serving in America's military. These coins are meant as a message to the deceased soldier's family that someone else has visited the grave to pay respect.

The meanings of the coins vary according to their denomination. Leaving a penny at the grave simply means that you visited. A nickel means that you and the deceased trained at boot camp together. A dime shows that you served with that person in some capacity. A quarter tells the family that you were with their family member when he/she was killed. In national and state veterans cemeteries the money is eventually collected and used to maintain the cemetery or to help pay the burial costs for indigent veterans.

I can't help but wonder how the deaths of all of these heroes affected the genealogy of their families. Some never had children to carry on their names, while some had children who grew up with half or step brothers/sisters after the spouse remarried. Were their children's paths altered because of a change of lifestyle, environment, or beliefs? I can do nothing but speculate on the answer to that question. My hope is that their new genealogy is one of joy, excitement, and fulfillment.

--Jean Martin