

At 7:00pm President J. Patrick Hughes welcomed the membership to the 685<sup>th</sup> meeting of the society and encouraged them to enjoy dinner.

At 7:45pm President Hughes called the meeting to order. Guest introductions were made around the tables.

At 7:50pm a ten minute break was announced.

At 8:00pm President Hughes introduced the speaker and topic: "Getting Wise about Texas: Stories from Texas History" by Justice Ken Wise, 14<sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals.

Justice Wise began by noting that history is being poorly communicated to the public today. Justice Wise has begun a podcast on Texas History to make it more accessible to everyone. The podcast has 75,000 hits to date. The readers come from 48 states, China, and Iran. The target for the stories is what Justice Wise called 'journalism level scholarship.

Justice Wise then told three stories from the podcast.

The first was of Thomas Jefferson Chambers, one of the early judges of the Mexican state of Coahuila/Tejas and became the surveyor for the State of Texas. Chambers County is named for T.J. Chambers. Much of his exploits centered on his ownership of land in Texas and the court battles around property rights.

The second story was of Benjamin Cromwell Franklin, the 1<sup>st</sup> Judge of the Republic of Texas. He was nominated by Sam Houston and served in Houston. Mr. Franklin fought at the Battle of San Jacinto. The war exploits of Mr. Franklin were described in detail.

The third story was of E.J. Davis, a reconstruction era judge for the State of Texas who became governor of Texas. Mr. Davis created the state militia which came to his service during a leadership dispute following an election where he was voted out of office. The dispute was peaceably resolved with Mr. Davis' resignation.