



**FREESTONE COUNTY  
HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

P.O. Box 524  
302 E. Main  
Fairfield, Texas 75840  
903-389-3738

**HOURS: Wed, Fri, Sat  
10 am to 5 pm**



Scan here for more information on our website.

**DONATIONS & SPONSORSHIPS  
can now be made online  
through our website!**

# FCHM NEWS

JANUARY 2024

## Happy New Year—2024!!!

Thankfully we have had a much slower year this year as far as restoration goes. Completing the 1881 Jail and Littlejohn House, back to back, was quite an enormous task and has taken a long time to recuperate. However, it has been a very busy year and there never ceases to be an endless list of repairs that need to be completed. A large number of accessions have also come in during the past year and it was all we could do to get them cataloged and processed. If all were to be listed here, it would take up three typed pages. Our curator was barely able to catch her breath.

We are very proud to have our outdoor restrooms refreshed with new flooring, countertops, and faucets. The Littlejohn brick sidewalk was also restored this year and we are very excited about getting it redone. It had become, in a very short time, unsafe due to faulty installation. A local museum patron, a retired brick mason, saw the poor condition and offered to help us. He also helped with other brick repairs on the jail parapets, porch posts and yard clean up. A very unsightly pile of bricks from behind the Bethel church was hauled off with his help and also from the city crew. To them we say a big THANK YOU!!! The city is so good to help us anytime we call with a need.



In the near future the museum should be receiving a new historical marker plaque for the 1881 jail with the corrected information on it. By September, the THC notified the museum board that their application had been approved and the text of the marker was provided. It was approved by both the museum board and the Freestone County Historical Commission. The THC was to meet again in late fall for the final approval. We are still awaiting a reply from the THC.

We were very saddened just before Christmas to learn of the passing of Frank Dent, son on Mary Grace Lott Dent, who donated many items of his mother's collection to the museum. Then right after Christmas we learned of the passing of our friend Bing Smith, from the Littlejohn family, who was instrumental in the museum obtaining the Littlejohn Farm House. He was so very excited that day of the open house last fall. Both of these men will be greatly missed!

It's been a while since we sent out a newsletter. As postage continues to rise, the museum board has opted to only send out a printed newsletter via the US Postal Service at SPONSORSHIP RENEWAL TIME. Please consider renewing your sponsorship for 2024. These funds go a long way to help cover extra expenses through the year. Other news will be posted by email or online— via Facebook or our website.

## 2023 Recap



We were so proud of our curator **Patricia Pratt**! She was awarded the **Lifetime Achievement Award** at the Fairfield Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet last January! It is a well deserved award! Her nephew and Chamber Member, Eli Pratt, gave the award! Thank you Patty for all you have done and continue to do for our community! You are an enormous asset to the museum and your untold volunteer hours do not go unnoticed !

In June, the museum participated in the Freestone County Historical Commission & Moody Bradley Foundation's progressive dinner scholarship fundraiser. We were the first stop, and guests enjoyed an appetizer of quesadillas with chips and dips. It was a fun-filled event as our guests were able to enjoy a tour of the museum grounds as they finished up their snacks.



The museum is very grateful to the Freestone County Historical Commission & The Moody Bradley Foundation for their \$500 donation in response to our participation in this event. THANK YOU!



Sadly the Streetman Historical Society closed its doors this past year after serving the community from 2009-2023. They gave many of the artifacts from the First Presbyterian Church of Streetman (1913-2001) to be displayed in the museum. The display case seen in the image to the left came from an old store in Streetman. The "Cradle Roll" from the 1920-30s is very interesting and all the children photographed are named.

We are very grateful to the Streetman Historical Society for the grant that was issued the museum as they dispersed their funds. THANK YOU!

We are very proud of our new parking lot and street that the city provided for us this past year as well. It really improves the appearance of our museum complex and makes parking so much more accessible. THANK YOU!!!



Many thanks to our curator, Patricia Pratt, and board president, Linda Mullen, who helped pass out candy at the **Boo on the Square**....in the pouring down rain!!! They both earned a big star for enduring to the end—well until they ran out of candy. It was amazing the families came out in such miserable weather. We moved from the museum complex to the square this year because of poor attendance in past years.



## New Book in Print

The museum participated in a new event this year called "Christmas at the Campsites". As a family campsite owner, Linda Mullen, was asked to tell the history of the campsites to visitors as they toured the event. In order to do this more efficiently, she put together a collection of articles by P.D. Browne and others. The booklet tells the complete history of the Confederate Reunion Grounds (1890-1933) and how they came to be called "The W.L. Moody Reunion Grounds". The museum is selling these booklets for \$5 each. Pick up yours today. A free copy is being provided to each city counsel member and county official.



1



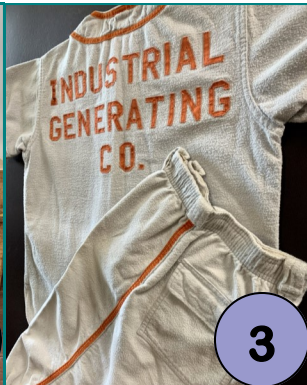
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Below you will find pictures of some of the more remarkable donations that came in during 2023. Many other very nice artifacts were donated, but these were some that stood out.

- 1) Marx Toy soldier specialty collections on loan from Mike McVey includes The Alamo, the Civil War, and Robin Hood playsets
- 2) Freestone County Ballot box collection donated by Freestone County
- 3) 1970s IGC Winning baseball uniform and ball donated by Rob Dotson. Really special since the Big Brown plant is no longer standing
- 4) Chrome plated, Stevens 22 Model 66-B with hand carved walnut and pearl embellished stock by Garfield Shanks, donated by Robert & Rebecca Shanks
- 5) Hollywood Regency Style Ormolu perfume bottle donated by Michael and Linda Parker
- 6) Pump organ & Iron Horse lamp. Organ & chair donated by John Hagler, Jr. and iron hanging lamp donated by Frank Dent
- 7) Huckaby Family wash stand, basin, & hand shaped soap dish donated by Barbara Fryer Price

### FREESTONE COUNTY MUSEM BOARD

- |                              |               |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Linda Mullen - President     | Don Awalt     |
| Brad Pullin - Vice President | Diane Pullin  |
| Nancy Rula - Secretary       | Sherrie Minze |
| Leslie Tate -Treasurer       | Muriel Morton |
| Ralph Billings - Consultant  |               |
| Patricia Pratt - Curator     |               |

EMAIL: [freestonecomuseum@windstream.net](mailto:freestonecomuseum@windstream.net)

[www.freestonecomuseum.com](http://www.freestonecomuseum.com)



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### Become a **FREESTONE FRIEND** today by giving a generous tax deductible gift!

The FCHM Board is pleased to announce a sponsorship program called **FREESTONE FRIENDS**. The museum depends on your local support, along with the city and county support, to keep the doors open. It is very expensive to maintain eight buildings. Yes, with the enclosing of the fire house building, we now have eight buildings on our campus.

Our patrons are what make the Freestone County Museum one of the better small town museums in existence; not just in Texas, but across the nation. How long has it been since you stopped by for a visit or brought your friends and family to come see your local county treasure? They will be amazed. Our visitors make it all worthwhile.

### *Your sponsorship is important to maintain YOUR LOCAL museum!*

- PIONEER Level: \$15 donation**  
—earns one individual free admission to the museum for 1 year
- KEECHI Level: \$25 donation**  
—earns you and your family free admission to the museum for 1 year
- TEHUACANA Level: \$100 donation**  
—all of the above plus a free book: *Two Stars in the Southern Sky*
- TRINITY Level: \$200 donation/ individual or corporate**  
—all of the above plus a free book: *Freestone County History Volume II*  
(Spot on the FCHM Website Sponsors page for corporate donation)
- W.L. MOODY Level: \$500 corporate donation**  
—earns free admission, beautiful woven FCHM afghan and a spot on the FCHM Website Sponsors page
- VALVERDE Level: \$1000 corporate donation**  
—earns free admission, beautiful woven FCHM afghan and a spot on the FCHM Website Sponsors page

**MEMORIALS:** A gift to the museum given in lieu of flowers is a gift that lives forever. Cards will be sent announcing your gift. Given in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Send acknowledgment to: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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CHECK HERE TO SIGN UP FOR EMAIL NEWSLETTER

Return form to the above address.

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1.13.2021

***Thank you so very much for being a FREESTONE FRIEND!***





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### **ORDER SHEET: From our Museum Library and Gift Shop**

QUANTITY	ITEM	PRICE	S & H	TOTAL
_____	The Year of 1890 in Freestone County By Nancy Rula	\$75.00	\$10.00	_____
_____	Freestone Past And Present By J. R. "Sonny" Sessions, Jr.	\$75.00	\$10.00	_____
_____	Freestone County Historical Museum Celebrates 50 Years And Beyond, By Linda Mullen	\$15.00	\$5.00	_____
_____	"The Boll Weevil" Railroad Book Teague Chronicle by Nancy Rula	\$25.00	\$5.00	_____
_____	Fairfield Recorder Obits 1900-1905 Book 1 by Nancy Rula	\$20.00	\$5.00	_____
_____	Fairfield Recorder Obits 1906-1910 Book 2 by Nancy Rula	\$25.00	\$5.00	_____
_____	Freestone County History Book-Vol 1	\$90.00	\$10.00	_____
_____	Freestone County History Book-Vol 2	\$35.00	\$10.00	_____
_____	Two Stars in the Southern Sky: General John Gregg, CSA & Mollie by Davis Carter	\$25.00	\$5.00	_____
_____	Fryers Delight by Barbara (Fryer) Price	\$25.00	\$5.00	_____
_____	Queen of the Trinity Star by B. Price	\$15.00	\$5.00	_____
_____	The Kirvin Centennial (1906-2006) (only a few copies left)	\$10.00	\$5.00	_____
_____	The History of Streetman (1906-2006)	\$45.00	\$5.00	_____
_____	Freestone County Afghan	\$50.00	\$8.00	_____
_____	Your Antioch Family (Turlington)	\$60.00	\$10.00	_____
	(make checks to Antioch Cemetery Assoc. of Turlington)			
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>			_____

**SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO ABOVE ADDRESS**

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