



PO Box 251, Salado, Texas 76571

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

### **1st Quarter Newsletter**

**March, 2022**

OUR PURPOSE: The Salado Historical Society is dedicated to researching and preserving the history of the area and of the families that helped build this community. Our mission is “To locate, educate, and preserve the history and the historical integrity of the Village of Salado.”

#### **A Word From Our President - Bill Kinnison**

The Salado Historical Society has been busy the first quarter of this year. Our speaker at the March 7 Pot Luck Supper, Janet Gravette, told us many interesting things about Bill Bratton (her father) who was the power behind the Stagecoach Inn’s major expansion in the late 1950s. Janet shared with us many of the behind-the-scenes operations but it wasn’t enough. She needs to come back and tell us more!

The SHS has two major projects it would like to finish this year if we have the necessary support. Stay with us as we work on them and you might help us bring them to competition.

Becky Butscher-Norwood, (Cabins Committee Chair) opened the cabins during the Wildflower Arts and Crafts Festival. We were surprised and pleased to have many visitors who were curious about the cabins and took time from the festival to look in on them and see what SHS has done. Coming up next for the cabins is the Cowboy Music and Poetry Gathering. The Boles-Aiken cabin will be a stage for musicians and a real working chuckwagon will serve samplings of food. The date is May 6, 7, and 8 and it is a good time to visit SHS historic sites. You will be hearing more about this community “Gathering.”

Our sincerest condolences go out to our past VP, Dr. Wallace Davis, on the death of his wife, Patsy, this month.

Do you know what happened in Texas history on April 21, 1836? Hint: It was a battle that lasted 18 minutes and had tremendous ramifications. See answer at bottom of newsletter -Bill Kinnison, SHS President-

Congratulations to SHS's Person Of The Year, Judy Fields. Judy is a past president and a key player in the organization. Thank you for your many contributions, Judy!

## Remembering Sir Wigglesworth - A hop down memory lane



Susan Stockton was the talent behind this enchanted, bunny-themed shop of yesteryear. When Sir Wigglesworth closed in 2003, the owner of Mud Pies Pottery saved a bit of local history by purchasing the fudge making pot, the iconic Wigglesworth sign, the glass display counter, and 15 fudge recipes.

Susan Stockton died in 2005 and is buried in Salado Cemetery.



Remembering the whimsical Sir Wigglesworth store always brings a smile. In this cottage, decorating rules were tossed aside in favor of over-the-top whimsy that came together to produce decorative eye candy. And speaking of candy, you can still get that famous fudge at Mud Pies Pottery.

### **Betty the Librarian**

Sometimes you have to reach all the way to California to unearth a bit of Salado's history. Martha Elizabeth "Betty" Eubank lived most of her adult life in California, but she was born in Salado and has a close link to two founding families in Central Texas. Judging from her accolades, Betty was a pioneer in her own right. She was an independent, assertive, and self-empowered woman at a time when few women dared make such claims. When she and her equally

intrepid sister Louise ventured to San Francisco for a vacation in the summer of 1910, the escapade changed the course of life for the entire Eubank family.

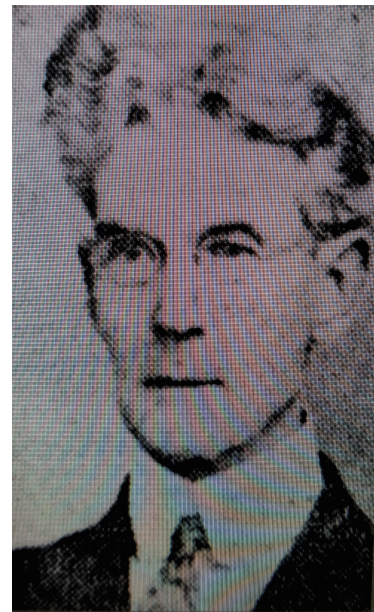


Meet Betty Eubank ~ This photo was published in the 1979 edition of *Wagon Wheels*, A publication by the Colusa County, California Historical Society.

As the final chapter in her career, Betty spent forty years as the city librarian in Willows, California. Four years after her death, when Willows finally built the new library for which she had so fervently lobbied, city leaders memorialized Betty by naming a room in her honor. Its walls are still graced by an oil portrait of Miss Eubank. She never married.

Martha Elizabeth Eubank was born in Salado in 1879, the descendant of two pioneer families. Her father was Joseph Crittenden "Crit" Eubank, pictured below, whose brother John built the stone store building in 1873 that houses the museum today. Betty's mother Rebecca was the daughter of Doctor Welborn Barton and his wife Louisa.

Crit and Rebecca married in 1872 and spent their first decade of marriage on a ranch near Salado. Their first child Otis was born in 1873, daughter Louise "Lula" in 1875, and Martha Elizabeth in 1879. Two more children were later added to the Eubank family, Eva in 1884 and another daughter named (oddly) John. In later years, Betty wrote about life on that Salado ranch remembering fondly how she and Otis had attempted to ride wild horses. Her father, she said, drove cattle to Abilene and Dodge City, Kansas but later became a minister. She remembered spending much of her youth in her Barton grandparent's native stone house.



By 1900 the Eubank family had moved to Denison, where Lula and Betty taught school and Otis worked as a druggist. Their sister Eva, a talented musician was the first to leave home when she married in 1906.



Betty and Lula, who unabashedly referred to themselves as spinsters even when they were quite young, taught in Texas schools for about a dozen years before a trip to California redirected their lives.

(Lula pictured here)

In the summer of 1910, the Eubank "spinsters" crossed the country by train for a vacation in San Francisco and, loosely speaking, never returned. The sisters were enamored with California, so much so that Lula balked in dramatic fashion at the idea of resuming her less exciting life in Texas. Just minutes before the train was to depart, she boldly stepped off, refusing to leave. Betty remembered the traumatic scene well. She had been forced to stay on the train because the luggage was already loaded and was tasked with returning to Texas to give notice to her school—and to her surprised parents—that she and Lula were not coming back. Before long, the rest of the family joined the sisters in the Golden State.

In later years, Librarian Betty Eubank was legendary, known for her meticulous appearance, her no-nonsense attitude and her unyielding will. She often tried to redirect young people when she felt their choice in reading material was less than constructive. Young girls in hair curlers and sloppy apparel were sent home and poor grammar was never allowed to stand uncorrected in her presence.

After holding dominion over the library for almost half of her life, eighty-three-year-old Betty Eubank retired in 1962. When she died in 1966, she was laid to rest in the Willows Cemetery near her four siblings and her parents. Like Betty, Lula and Otis never married. The Eubank family lived their lives in ways that reflected well on their Texas ancestors. Sadly, this branch of the Barton/Eubank family tree grows no more. Eva's daughter Elizabeth Sullivan held the only hope for furtherance of that line. Because she had no children, her death in 1974 closed this chapter of the Barton/

## Eubank story.

Primary source: Colusa County Historical Society, Florence Ewing, *Wagon Wheels*, 1979, page 17. Writer's Note: The Eubank name is often spelled with an "s" on the end. This error has sometimes caused the Eubank brothers to be confused with Thomas Jefferson Eubanks, another early resident of Salado.

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We regret that we were compelled to cancel the Salado Heritage Speaks cemetery tour that was scheduled for April 9. We simply could not find enough volunteers to fill the positions necessary to have a successful event. We are most appreciative of those who did volunteer.

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Above is a sample of our new reusable name tags. We will find many uses for these. Thanks to Sterling Ambrose for furnishing these to SHS at no cost and for many, many past favors. He has been a long-time supporter of SHS. Thank you Sterling.

Answer to question above:

On April 21, 1836, Sam Houston and some 800 Texans defeated Santa Anna's Mexican force of approximately 1,500 men at the Battle of San Jacinto, shouting "Remember the Alamo!" and "Remember Goliad!" as they attacked. The battle lasted 18 minutes after which the Mexican soldiers abandoned their campsite and fled for their lives. The battle has been called "one of the most one-sided victories in history." This led to the formation of the Republic of Texas and 10 years later Texas became the 28<sup>th</sup> state in the Union.

**Happy Spring to all!!**