



The Salado Historical Society is dedicated to researching and preserving the history of the area and of the families that helped build this community. Their mission is "To locate, educate, and preserve the history and the historical integrity of the Village of Salado."

Salado Historical Society

PO Box 251, Salado, TX 76571, US www.saladohistoricalsociety.com

1st Quarter Newsletter - 2020

Stated meetings are the first Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Salado Public Library. **All board meetings are open to the membership.** Meeting minutes since 2017 are posted on the web site. Months (March, July, November) when there is a general membership meeting, there are no minutes for those months. (Currently, board meetings are suspended until the end of the Covid-19 event).

www.saladohistoricalsociety.com This site is a wealth of information about Salado's history. You can see pictures and short descriptions of the sites with National Register Markers as well as Texas Landmark Awards. Under the heading "More" you can see information on Early Settlers, Meeting Minutes, and the Salado Cemetery. Thanks to Linda Griffith for maintaining the historical society web page.

Membership

Currently, our membership is 92. We welcome all who are interested in preserving Salado's history. Membership dues are \$25 for individual and \$40 for family. Membership renews each November. A completed membership form with current email address will make sure you receive the most current quarterly newsletter. Please mail dues and your current information to P. O. Box 251, Salado, TX 76571.

2020 Officers

Judy Fields (President), Gary Stripling (Vice-President), Linda Reynolds (Secretary), Bonnie Smith (Treasurer). **Board of Directors** - Becky (Butscher) Norwood, Lauren Drake, Marianne Fiorenza, Hulda Horton, Shirley Lett, Jeanie Lively, Tom McMahan, Cathy Sands, Ellen Staples, Sandi Wicker (Past President).

March Pot Luck Dinner

The March Pot Luck Dinner was held March 2nd at the Salado Church of Christ Fellowship Hall. County Commissioner, Bobby Whitson, was our speaker as we celebrated "Texas Independence Day". President, Judy Fields, presented Commissioner Whitson with the book "Empresario's Son: E.S.C. Robertson of Salado" by the late Michael Kelsey, Nancy Kelsey, and Ginny Parsons. The annual award for "Person of the Year" was presented to Judy Fields late husband, Hans Fields.



Tribute to Pat Barton by Charlene Carson

Salado has lost another loving, caring historian with the recent passing of Pat Barton. She was a woman of many accomplishments and the “Queen of Salado History”. Pat and her husband John moved to Salado in 1976. Almost immediately Pat began preserving the history of the quaint little village they had adopted as their home. She never used a typewriter much less a computer, but in her perfect handwritten penmanship she left many documents which are in the historical society archives at the Salado Public Library. Pat loved Salado and spent over 40 years preserving the history of the village she treasured. She will be sorely missed as an historian and as a friend.

Feature of the Quarter



So, what would a painting of a little blond-headed girl have to do with the history of Salado. The painting is dated 1950 and is signed by “Athena”. The subject of the painting is standing next to an outdoor water faucet intended for keeping at least a portion of the grass and flowers alive. It is summertime and its hot in Salado. You can almost smell the grass and the cedar trees in the air and feel the heat of the day. She obviously is enjoying the cool water from the garden hose and playing in the yard.

The child is Elizabeth Ann Berry, granddaughter of Athena Vickrey Berry. She is about 2 years old in this moment of time. As a child she was called Bethie or Beth Ann. The setting for the painting is in the back yard of Great Aunt Ruby and Great Uncle Eustice Hutchen’s home across the road and down a bit from the Vickrey House now the Antique Rose of Bell, an antique business.

Athena was the last Vickrey to live in the Vickrey house that her father Granville Napoleon Vickrey and his brothers built in 1886. Granville Napoleon Vickrey was one of several children of John Wright Vickrey who had brought his family to the area in the mid 1850s.

It was Beth Ann's mother Wilma who would bring Bethie and her older brother David to visit Grandma "B" in the summer for two weeks while Bethie's father, Claude "Chuck" Berry, was at summer camp at Ft. Hood. Chuck was the only child of Athena and Claude George Berry and he was lovingly called "Son" by Athena all her life.

Beth Ann Berry Stripling now lives in Woodway TX. She and her brother David have fond memories of those summer visits to Grandma B's in Salado. Riding Grandma B's horse Miss Hoppy, going to Pace Park, sliding down the mossy rocks in Salado Creek, picking watercress for sandwiches, visiting Mary Rose and her son Seymore, going to church at the old First Baptist and looking out the open windows and seeing kids already playing in the creek "during church!", going to the old fashioned Grocery Store on the corner of Royal and Main with its wood floors, Grandma B having groceries delivered to her front porch in a box (sound familiar?), enjoying the excellent well water at Grandma B's, playing croquet in the evening under the lights in Grandma B's front yard, swinging under the huge Live Oak trees in the backyard, getting in trouble for throwing pea gravel from the "sidewalk" leading to the front porch, blister bugs and chiggers, seeing cousins from New Jersey, John Robert, Richard, and Carol visiting their grandparents Ruby and Eustice, and sleeping in the screened-in south porch of the Vickrey house. The summer visits went on for many summers and were pretty much annual trips which eventually included two additional children, Carolyn and Tim.

So, what does the little girl in the painting have to do with the history of Salado? She is a 5th generation Vickrey in Salado that enjoyed the simple and quaint village life of Salado when Main Street was the only highway going north and south.

By: Gary Stripling, Vice President

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