



FREESTONE
COUNTY
HISTORICAL
MUSEUM

FCHM SUMMER NEWS

MAY 31, 2022



Firehouse Gets a Face Lift

We are so excited, our metal building that houses Fairfield's 1936 Ford Fire truck was recently given a new look. Now instead of a drab tan metal building you will see a vintage looking red firehouse topped with a true vintage bell. The design was created by local craftsman, Lucas Chavers, Cash Money Services.

Much thanks goes to Sissy Awalt for donating the bell which came from an old bank at Teague in memory of her husband, Warren. Now every time a child rings the old bell with joy a new memory can be made visiting **YOUR museum**. Leah Mullen was the first child to ring the bell on May 24 as seen with Lucas Chavers just after his crew installed the bell.



...School Tours

And it is your museum! The children were reminded when they visited the old jail during their annual May museum field trip how the citizens of Freestone County all pitched in and donated funds to purchase the old jail apartment building in 1966. They were told how it was lovingly converted in a museum to house the historical treasures of Freestone County for generations to come.



Our curator, Miss Pratt, has been extra busy this year planning several children's tours. On April 19, a group of homeschool children came for a tour and several Fairfield First Grade classes visited on May 16 and 17. The museum provides a coloring book for each child and a scavenger hunt for the older students. The children really enjoy the scavenger hunt!



A big shout goes out to all of our volunteers who helped Miss Pratt with the tours! Those who helped were Kristi McLeod, Sue Terry, Nancy McSwane, Billie Bournias, Teresa Zachary, Diane & Brad Pullin, Syd and W.A. Davis, Nancy Rula, and Linda & Marvin Mullen.



Papaw's Albums Find Their Way Home

Two long forgotten 1950's photo album/scrapbooks finally found their way back home to family members by the efforts of several good Samaritans: the Randy Robinson family, Pam Day, and Billie Bournias. Mr. Robinson's son had purchased the albums several years ago at a garage sale. After some time, he gave them to his parents to see if they might know to whom they belonged. Mrs. Robinson then gave the albums to John Day thinking they might be related to the original owners, as many military memorabilia mentioned the names of John J. and Marguirite Day. John passed them on to his parents, Billy Jim and Pam Day, hoping they might know if a relative or not. No connection was found to their DAY family.

Pam Day contacted Billie Bournias, a well-known DAR genealogy researcher, to see if Billie could help track down someone in the family. Billie instructed Pam to deliver the albums to the museum where others might be able to examine them. As a very ardent researcher, Billie was able to find names and clues. She was then able to track down **Paul Barnett**, the firstborn grandson of John Jay Day, Jr. Mr. Day's wife Marguirite Quarles was related to the Bell family of the Shanks community. This is how the albums landed in Freestone County. At one time some of the family lived in the Kirvin area.

The museum is very grateful to **Pam Day** and **Billie Bournias** for their diligence in seeing that these albums were returned to the proper family. Too many military and family keepsakes were inside to just be discarded or forgotten. The museum mailed the albums to Mr. Barnett on Friday, May 13. He was very happy to receive them and was very appreciative.

Historical Tid-bit

An exciting discovery was made while researching information for the 1881 Jail historical marker correction application. The initials of the first Sheriff to serve in the 1881 jail, Henry Jay Childs (1881-1888 and 1891-1892), and a following sheriff, James Norelda Haydon (1893-1896), were carved in the door jamb of the back door. Mr. Haydon could have possibly been a deputy sheriff during this time, but this is not known.

Unfortunately when the new doors were installed, the door trim was placed partially over the carvings, but the letters can all still be read. For years it was just assumed that the initials were of some long past inmate. To now know the significance of these letters brings history to life.



2022 Sponsorship Reminder

Our sponsorship program helps the museum with unexpected costs during the year. Please return the attached sponsorship form at your convenience if you haven't already done so. We are only about half-way to our goal of 100 sponsorships. These donations go a long way to help us with special projects incurred with our eight building complex. Various levels range from a PIONEER individual level of \$15 to a VAL VERDE Corporate Sponsor level of \$1,000. **DONATE ONLINE from our website!!!**

Freestone County Historical Commission

The FCHC meets the 1st Tuesday of every quarter, The next meeting will be July 5th, at 7:00 pm at the Moody Bradley House.

NOTE: A historical marker correction application has been filed for the 1881 Jail with the Texas Historical Commission. Notification of approval should be coming in the near future.

FREESTONE COUNTY HISTORICAL BOARD

Linda Mullen - President	Don Awalt
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EMAIL: freestonecomuseum@windstream.net

www.freestonecomuseum.com



FREESTONE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

302 East Main – P.O Box 524, Fairfield, Texas 75840
903-389-3738 / Email: freestonecomuseum@windstream.net
Website: www.freestonecomuseum.com
HOURS: Wed, Fri, and Sat - 10am to 5pm

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, plus newsletter subscription
- KEECHI Level: \$25 donation**
—earns you and your family free admission to the museum for 1 year, plus newsletter subscription
- 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, newsletter, and FCHM afghan and a spot on the FCHM Website Sponsors page
- VALVERDE Level: \$1000 corporate donation**
—earns free admission, newsletter, and 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 _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____ DATE _____

CHECK HERE TO SIGN UP FOR EMAIL NEWSLETTER

Return form to the above address.

AMOUNT _____ CHECK _____

1.13.2021

Thank you so very much for being a FREESTONE FRIEND!



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302 East Main – P.O Box 524, Fairfield, Texas 75840
 903-389-3738 / Email: freestonecomuseum@windstream.net
 Website: www.freestonecomuseum.com
 HOURS: Wed, Fri, and Sat - 10am to 5pm

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	\$65.00	\$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) (checks made out to Streetman Historical Society, Inc.)	\$45.00	\$5.00	_____
_____	Freestone County Afghan	\$50.00	\$8.00	_____

GRAND TOTAL _____

SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO ABOVE ADDRESS

CUSTOMER NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

EMAIL _____

Check box to sign up for newsletter

DATE: _____ **CASH** _____ **CHECK** _____ **For questions call: 903-389-3738**