



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

FALL 2024



Marker Unveiling Ceremony Oct. 5 10:00 am

Everyone is invited to an unveiling ceremony for our new “corrected” **1881 Freestone County Jail Texas Historical Marker**. The original marker was dedicated in 1967, but was determined to contain numerous errors. The information described the jail built on the same location in 1857. A corrected marker application was submitted to the Texas Historical Commission in 2022. It was approved and the new marker finally arrived this summer.

The museum board is very excited to unveil and dedicate this marker. We will begin our short ceremony around 10:00 am with guest speaker, William Shelton, chairman of the Freestone County Historical Commission in charge of the ceremony.

There will be free admission to the museum all day and light refreshments will be served. Please come and invite your friends and family to this historic event.

A very detailed article has been submitted to our local newspapers for publication which gives great detail explaining the corrections and gives some of the history of the 1881 jail. It will be worth your read!

Happenings



The museum board would like to officially welcome our newest board member, Gwen Rosser Moore. She agreed to serve as our secretary when Nancy Rula stepped down this May. Gwen is a wonderful volunteer, loves history, and helps our curator, Patricia Pratt, almost every Saturday. There is never an end of things to be done at the museum. Gwen is currently employed as Employee Injury Services Care Manager at the Mexia State School Supported Living Center and enjoys doting over her little grand-baby, Quinton.

Photo on the right is Brad Pullin, museum vice-president, awarding Nancy Rula a certificate of appreciation from the museum and also a card thanking her 13 years of service to the museum board.

Even though Nancy retired from serving on the board, Nancy was still actively volunteering at the museum. She was one of the best genealogical researchers to be found in this region and about the only one left that can read the microfilm. She was also working on a book about Freestone County in the year 1891.

Please keep Nancy in your prayers. She is currently recovering from an illness. She will be greatly missed at the museum. May she be blessed with a full recovery.

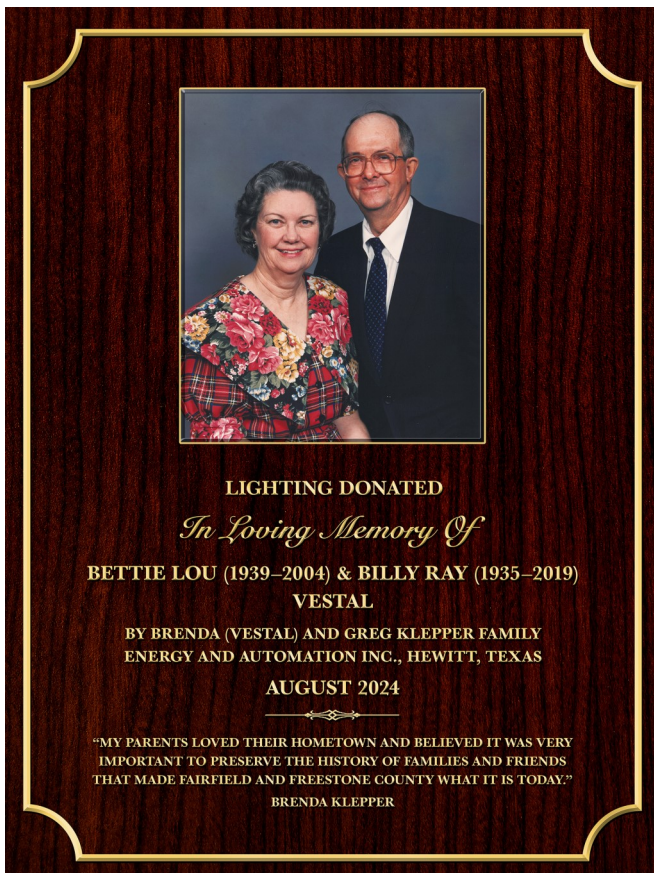


We are very proud of our new lights that were recently donated and installed by the Brenda and Greg Klepper family in memory of Brenda's parents, Bettie Lou and Billy Ray Vestal. The Vestals were 3rd -4th generation Freestone County residents, tracing their roots all the way back to the mid to late 1800s here in this county.

There is an amazing amount of difference in the visibility of the displays at the museum. Flash lights are no longer needed to read the signs.

Brenda stated that, "My parents loved their hometown and believed it was very important to preserve the history of families and friends that made Fairfield and Freestone County what it is today."

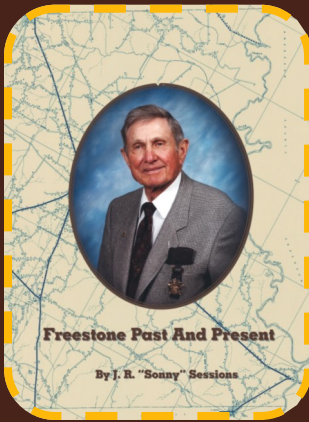
A memorial plaque is to be placed in the museum in memory of these wonderful people. Freestone County Museum is a much more enjoyable place to visit with its new lighting.



FALL BOOK SALE!

We are having a fall book sale. Sheriff Session's book, *Freestone Past and Present*, and Nancy Rula's book, *The Year of 1890 in Freestone County*, are both now on sale for \$50. Hope you will take advantage of our sale. These books make wonderful gifts. There is so much history packed into these books and unique stories about Freestone County.

Below you will find pictures of some of the more remarkable donations that have come in during this year. It has been an daunting task trying to process all of the new accessions. These are just a **FEW** of them. Our curator barely is able to catch her breath.



1



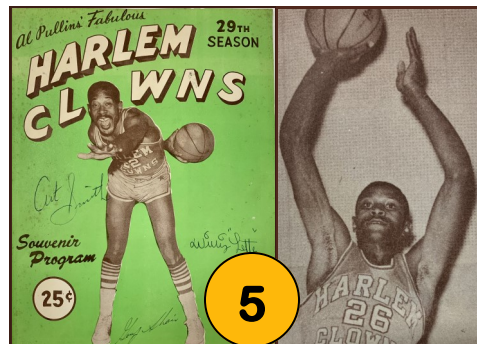
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FREESTONE COUNTY MUSEM BOARD

Linda Mullen - President

Brad Pullin - Vice President

Gwen Rosser Moore - Secretary

Leslie Tate - Treasurer

Ralph Billings - Consultant

Patricia Pratt - Curator

Don Awalt

Diane Pullin

Sherrie Minze

Muriel Morton

EMAIL: freestonecomuseum@windstream.net

www.freestonecomuseum.com

- 1) Player Piano owned by the Strange family of Wortham, donated by the Susan and Charles Myers family.
- 2) Tyus Family Bible donated by Kelly Tyus and family.
- 3) Barn Stompers Square Dance Club Album and Scrapbook collection donated by William Hammon, Jr.
- 4) 1970s Continental Telephone Company Fairfield Switchboard donated by Lloyd Benedict for our Pioneer Telephone Museum.
- 5) 1963 Harlem Clowns Program featuring Freestone County's first pro-basketball player from Rocky Branch, James Riley Morgan, donated by David Bedel of San Diego, California.
- 6) 1908 Rope bottom high chair donated by the family of Bill Boyd and Christine (Baker) Easterling.
- 7) Historic documents of the Honorable R. L. Williford (1863-1933), only State Senator of Freestone County donated by Kit Herrington.



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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: _____

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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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ORDER SHEET: From our Museum Library and Gift Shop

**NOW
ON SALE
\$50**

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)			
	GRAND TOTAL			_____

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