

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

# FCHM Winter News

JAN 18, 2021

## 1881 Jail Restoration Project Nears Completion

The Campbell Custom Homes Company, of Bullard, owned by Jason & Cindy Campbell, has taken over the restoration project of the 1881 Freestone County Jail. This is the same company that completed the construction of the Littlejohn House reproduction.

After seeing the jail and going over the project with board members Don Awalt and Linda Mullen, Kevin Hester and Jim Stanley from Campbell Construction became very interested in completing the jail restoration.

Once the city matched our \$25,000 grant, giving the museum \$50,000 to add to their existing funds, the board was then able to move forward. The funds became available in September 2020 and a contract with Campbell Custom Homes was approved. The Freestone County Historical Commission also graciously gave us a total of \$10,000 through two \$5,000 grants. One in October and another this January. Without these supplemental grants we wouldn't be able to proceed without long delays. A mere "Thank You" does not seem adequate!

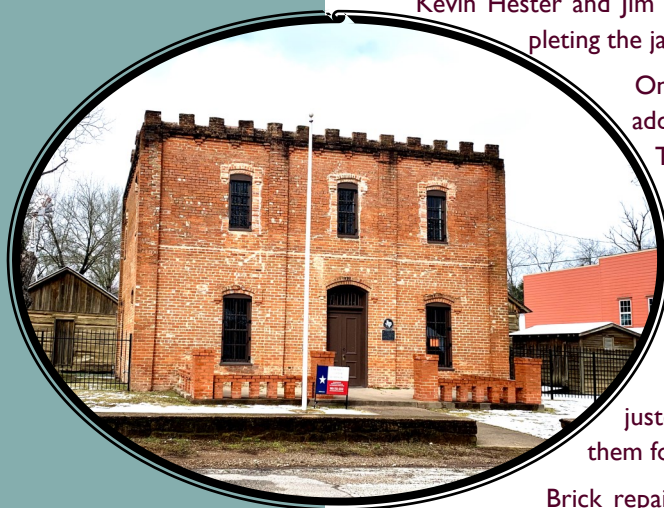
This past fall, Doug White also fabricated new window bars and adjusted the existing bars to fit the new windows. Steve Grecu installed them for us in Sept. 2020 after giving the windows a 2nd coat of paint.

Brick repairs were made inside the building and new plaster was added to the walls. Period paint colors were selected from existing paint found on the lower layers of the jail walls and trim boards. Two existing fireplaces were found in the walls and restored. Mantels matching the existing east room mantel were added to the new fireplaces. A previously removed wall was added back to the lower west room. All new LED lighting has been added.

Jail cell reproductions are to be added this week, as well as a display of the 1914 jail trap door which was donated under the direction of former Sheriff Sonny Sessions, Jr. This jail was located on the courthouse square and torn down in 1977. It will not be long before the jail is open to the public once again.

## Littlejohn Open House Delayed

The Littlejohn House project continues to move along at break neck speed. Many new items, too numerous to list, have been donated to the museum to help furnish the home with period furnishings. Ron Howard, formerly of Teague, has donated a multitude of items, but we are especially proud of the Home Comfort wood cook stove which he donated. Early 1900s parlor furniture has been donated by William Shelton from the Shelton home in Cotton Gin. A handmade wooden bed from the Huckaby family has also been donated. Kevin Hester from the Campbell Construction Company has even donated a very early electric washing machine that still runs. A complete set of Homer Laughlin Moss Rose China was donated by Mr. & Mrs. Michael Parker from the Lonon family of Butler. We are so very grateful to our patrons!





Way to Go Emma & Zach!



## Congratulations Nancy

Nancy Rula's new book, The Year of 1890 in Freestone County is now available for purchase in our museum book store. This book fills in the gaps for the missing 1890 census. Cost is \$65.

## It's Sponsorship Renewal Time Once Again

January is time to renew your museum sponsorship for the coming year. Our sponsorship program, formerly known as membership, helps the museum with unexpected costs that come to us during the year.

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.

Our cabins will need work this year and we have a long term goal of giving the metal building a pioneered themed fire house front. Also plans are being formulated for a brick walkway to the Littlejohn front steps from the Bass Wing.

**Our goal this year is to obtain 100 sponsors!**



## Freestone County Historical Commission Elects Officers

At their December meeting, the following officers were elected to serve a two year term:

William Shelton - Chairman

Brad Pullin - Assistant Chairman

Angela Ogelsbee - Secretary

Diane Pullin - Treasurer

The FCHC meets the 1st Tuesday of every quarter, usually at the Moody Bradley House. The next meeting will be April 6, at 7:00 pm.

## Volunteers are the GREATEST!!!!

Freestone County has some of the most wonderful volunteers EVER! Kudos go out to Billy Patterson who photographed and documented all of the rooms of the Littlejohn house before the furnishings were added.

Our thanks go to Nick and Lane King for hauling off a whole trailer load of scrap lumber left over from the Littlejohn house construction.

Also we are very grateful to Donald Mullen for removing the old fence on Hall Street so that a new fence could be installed. The new fence looks great and goes a long way to improve the museum grounds.

Diane Pullen spent the better part of the day helping clean the Bethel Church. A ton of dust was stirred up when it was repaired and leveled. Our curator, Patricia Pratt, also helped with this project on her day off-- and it was a very cold and miserable day too!

Emma and Zach White once again helped on a couple of afternoons on their Christmas break. They hauled two huge piles of bricks to the backside of the metal building, one wheel barrow load at a time!

Also much thanks goes to Calvary Baptist Church for supplying the box drains for the Hall Street parking area! Wow, "THANK YOU" just doesn't seem like enough!

### FREESTONE COUNTY HISTORICAL BOARD

Linda Mullen - President

Brad Pullin - Vice President

Nancy Rula - Secretary

Leslie Tate - Treasurer

Patricia Pratt - Curator

Don Awalt

Ralph Billings

Sherrie Minze

Muriel Morton

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, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_



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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	\$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