



D.A. Varnado Store Museum

NEWSLETTER

July 2024 thru December 2024

The Washington Area Museum Foundation
doing business as the



D. A. Varnado Store Museum greatly appreciates all the clubs and individuals who are not members of the clubs who have helped by hosting at the D. A. Varnado Store Museum.

Those who have hosted up to now for 2024 have been the Quilters Club, Shasta Club, Waverley Club, and the Franklinton Garden Club. The remainder of the year will be the Winbury Club, Rotary Club, and the Winterset Club.

Individuals, clubs, police, fireman, teachers, and students have given time in assisting our museum in various ways. The Board Members of the D.A. Varnado Store



Museum want to again say "THANK YOU!" for valued time and effort given to us at the Museum. Keep in mind that you don't have to give up a whole day to being a volunteer! A few hours on any given open hours or assisting in changing our exhibits would help! If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity, being a part of preserving our parish history, and would like to host, please call Mary Jo Poole at 985-839-2261 or at 1044 Main Street, Franklinton, LA for more information.

Thank you volunteers! Mary Jo Poole



Our non-profit organization depends on your membership, supporting our fundraisers, and various donations of individuals and companies to meet our usual and sometimes unusual expenses in the operation and maintenance of the museum and annex. Our museum is listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 2001. The various income of funds continues to help us in the preservation of the museum and history of Washington Parish for now and future generations. We are asking those of you who are members, to assist in letting others know of our foundation in hopes of obtaining new members. Attached to your newsletter is a 2024-2025 Membership form. We

appreciate your continued support! If you have not completed a renewal form, please do so at your earliest convenience.

Notes from the Director

Our Memorial Day program was inspiring as patriotic music, readings, a 21-gun salute and the playing of taps was presented by the museum and the members of American Legion Post 24. Our sincere thanks to the Legion who help us present the program every year. We also thank Dr. Chip McVea for lending his singing talent for the program. Thanks to the Board for providing refreshments and tours of the military exhibit afterwards. The fund-raiser lunch held on our Living History weekend in June was a success. The men from the various Living History groups and the museum board prepared and served the meal which was delicious. Thank you, Washington Rifles, for suggesting we have this fund-raiser along with their help. The "Cemetery Doctor" Trent Lewis spoke in the annex that same day and was well-received. His talk and slide show were both educational and entertaining. Thank you, Mr. Lewis.

We were visited by a representative of the Lt. Governor's office, Mrs. Dianne Hollis, recently. She toured the museum, took notes and inquired about our needs. We

enjoyed her visit and hope that it will result in attention to the museum as the Lt. Governor becomes more aware of our contributions to tourism in our area.

Our board members are such hard workers and are to be commended for the time and effort they give to their volunteer jobs. The changing of the exhibits in addition to the special events are big undertakings for our small group, but they all are cooperative and generous community servants.

EXHIBIT NEWS

July 2024 thru August 2024

"Franklinton - Then and Now"

The museum joins with classes of Grayson Ball of Bowling Green School to present a photographic exhibit "Franklinton-Then and Now". This project involved the collection of old photos of places and buildings in Franklinton and the photographing of those same places as they are today. The students began this project before school was out for the summer and completed it recently. We are excited to cooperate with the school and the students to show their work.

Special Event

There will be a Grand Opening reception at the museum on Friday evening, July 12th at 6 p.m. to kick off this exhibit.

September 2024 thru October 2024

"Our Wonderful Washington Parish Fair"

"Our Wonderful Washington Parish Fair" exhibit will include photos, a complete collection of official Fair posters, documents, daily programs, advertising posters, old Fair catalogs and much more about the history of our Fair.

Special Event

YARD SALE

A yard sale fund-raiser is being planned for September 7th. If anyone wants to donate items (excluding clothing and shoes) for the sale, please contact the museum or Mary Jo Poole at (985) 839-2261.

Membership Meeting

The museum's annual Membership Meeting will be held in the annex on Sunday afternoon, September 29th at 2 p.m. *We are looking forward to seeing you there.*

November 2024 thru December 2024

"Holiday Time"

"Holiday Time" is a display of items relating to all the holidays that occur between Thanksgiving and New Year's. It includes housewares, china, clothing ornaments, old-fashioned Christmas trees, party items, religious icons and much more.

Special Event

"Museum's Christmas Festival"

The annual *Christmas Festival* fund-raiser will be held on the first weekend of December in cooperation with the Pioneer Christmas. It is in the Commercial Building at the Washington Parish Fairgrounds and features arts and crafts booths, food, entertainment, raffles and fun for the whole family.

Special Event

"Teddy Bear Tea"

The annual *Teddy Bear Tea* will be held in the Annex on Saturday afternoon, December 14 at 2 p.m. This is a fun party where youngsters dress in their Christmas finery to enjoy refreshments, make crafts, select gifts for their parents, hear stories, visit with queens and Santa Claus. Each

child takes home a Teddy Bear of their choice. Reservations required. Due to limited seating, please make sure you call Mary Jo Poole at (985) 839-2261 and reserve your seat.

A TIDBIT OF HISTORY

How Franklinton Got Its Name

As the Museum will be displaying the exhibit, "Franklinton, Then and Now" in the months of July and August, I was reminded of how we came to be called by that name. Our town was originally named Franklin in honor of Benjamin Franklin. The community had been in existence for several years by the end of the 1800's, but there were settlements in the area even in the early 1800's. John Bickham donated 30 acres of the land for the site of the town and stated that the parcel should contain the courthouse square and the public schools. That was in 1819, Then, in 1821, the town was established by the LA Legislature as the seat of justice for Washington Parish. At that time the Parish seat was about 5 miles south of the present location of our town. An election was held in 1826 and voters consented to having the land donated by John Bickham to serve as the parish seat.

We were still Franklin at that time but had to have the legislature petitioned to have the town officially named. A group of delegates

from our town traveled to Baton Rouge for that reason. When they got there, they learned that a delegation from St. Mary Parish had already petitioned to use the same name as its seat of justice, A compromise resulted in St. Mary Parish getting the name Franklin and Washington Parish agreeing to the name Franklinton as its seat of justice. That is how Franklinton got its name.

Presented by Terry Seal, Director
Washington Area Museum Foundation

A LIL TASTE OF HOME

Meringue Cookies

4 lg. egg whites (room temperature)
½ teaspoon cream of tartar
1/8 salt
1 cup granulated sugar
1 or 2 teaspoon vanilla extract or other
flavoring

Preheat oven 225F. Beat first 3 ingredients together until soft peaks form in a grease free mixing bowl. Add sugar, 1 tablespoon at a time, until sugar is not gritty. Beat until thick and stiff peaks are formed. Add flavoring and food coloring if desired. Drop mixture from a tablespoon or use a piping bag on to a parchment paper covered baking sheet. Bake for 1 hour. Turn off oven. Keep oven closed, letting the cookies set for two hours. Enjoy!

Events Quick Link

<i>July – Aug.</i>	<i>Franklinton-Then and Now Exhibit</i>
<i>July 12th.</i>	<i>Franklinton-Then and Now Exhibit Grand Opening @ 6 p.m</i>
<i>Sept. - October</i>	<i>Our Wonderful Washington Parish Fair exhibit</i>
<i>September 7th</i>	<i>Yard Sale</i>
<i>September 29th</i>	<i>Membership Meeting @ 2 p.m.</i>
<i>Nov. – Dec.</i>	<i>Holiday Time exhibit</i>
<i>December</i>	<i>First weekend – Friday – Saturday</i>
<i>December 14th</i>	<i>Teddy Bear Tea @ 2 p.m. Requires reservations</i>

*Times of events are subject to change.
Posting will be made to our Facebook page
with possible corrections and event details.*