



HERITAGE BRAZOS

The Newsletter of the Brazos Heritage Society



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President's Message

It is hard for me to believe that almost a year has passed since becoming President of the Brazos Heritage Society; but it has, and what a busy and successful year it has been. I was blessed to have an Executive Committee that was committed to revitalizing the Society! Our membership, which was one of our main focuses, has grown threefold this year and we hope to see the same trend in the coming year.

Dan Beto, our Publications Chair, developed <http://heritagebrazos.blogspot.com> this past May and it has kept the membership and the public timely informed of our activities. If you haven't had an opportunity to review this electronic newsletter, please do so; it contains not only information about the Brazos Heritage Society but also provides a number of helpful links.

Our 25th Anniversary Fourth of July Celebration in Heritage Park was wonderful; the kids of all ages had a great time. And the September membership meeting held at the Park's Matthew Winsper Knobel Memorial Gazebo, concluded with a social hour, was both informative and enjoyable.

The Victorian Tea of Thanksgiving, held in The Clary House, was really successful, both financially and as a social event. Many of the ladies, attending the tea, expressed gratitude at seeing the Brazos Heritage Society once again having the teas in one of our Historic Homes. We had ladies and gentlemen dressed in Victorian costume coming from as far away as Dallas to attend. Our blog contains great accounts with lots of pictures about all of these events.

Heritage Park was decorated beautifully for our Christmas Stroll on December 10th and the lights continued to sparkle until the New Year. We received so many compliments from the neighborhood and visitors to the park. Beverly and Homer Myers, Linda Roberts, and Phil and Harriet Smith had their homes open. Justin and Jenny Bulhof and my husband and I served Wassail and cookies on our front porches. Hidden Oasis provided horse drawn carriage rides in the neighborhood and St. Michael's Choir sang Christmas carols in the park.

We were successful in getting the Master Plan for Heritage Park approved by the Parks and Recreation Board in December. Now there is a plan in place to keep the integrity of the park as was intended when deeded to the City.

We have also been successful in getting several of the Astin clothes restored so they will be available for showcasing. We still have several garments left to be restored and will be deciding which ones to have done this year.

We will also continue to work on securing a new Boonville marker until that task is completed. Some things take longer than others.

We now have a New Year to look forward to and plan for. We are very fortunate to have Fran Lamb join the Executive Committee as our Events Chair and she has great ideas for additional fund raising events for the Society, ideas we will bring to the membership's attention as plans firm up.

I hope to see each of you at our annual membership meeting on February 26, 2012, at the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History. Thank you for your support and involvement in the Society.

Nat Hilliard, President

Treasurer's Report

Greetings from the desk of the Treasurer. The following is an overview of our financial condition at yearend 2011.

Wells Fargo Bank Certificate of Deposit	\$ 5,704.78
Prosperity Bank Certificate of Deposit	\$ 8,349.97
Prosperity Bank Checking Account Balance	\$ 1,526.02
Total	\$ 15,580.77

For more detailed information about the Society's financial condition, please do not hesitate to contact me at 979-229-9414 or by email at mycobra@suddenlink.net.

If you have not done so, please send in your annual membership fee with the 2012 Membership Application Form. You may also renew your membership at the annual membership meeting on February 26, 2012.

Beverly Myers, Treasurer

Annual Membership Meeting Scheduled

According to the Bylaws of the Brazos Heritage Society, an annual meeting shall be held each February for the election of officers, the hearing of reports, and for conducting other such business of the Society. The 2012 annual meeting has been scheduled as follows:

Date: Sunday, February 26, 2012
Time: 2:00 PM
Location: Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History
Brazos Center
3232 Briarcrest Drive, Bryan, Texas

Please plan to attend this annual business meeting. Your participation and involvement in the affairs of the Society are encouraged. Refreshments will be served.

2012 Exploring History Lunch Lecture Series

The College Station Historic Preservation Committee and the Senior Advisory Committee has developed an outstanding Exploring History Lunch Lecture Series for 2012. Each month speakers are invited to share their knowledge of local history during a light lunch. Each program is taped and broadcasts weekly on CSTV-19.

The luncheon is \$5.00 per person and begins at 11:30 AM in the College Station Conference Center located at 1300 George Bush Drive. There is a new shuttle that you can reserve a spot on that will leave from the Southwood Community Center, located at 1520 Rock Prairie Road, at 11:00 AM.

Reservations are required and must be made by the Monday before each lecture with Kelly Kelbly at kkelbly@cstx.gov or by calling 979-764-6351.

On January 18, Col. John Vilas delivered a fascinating presentation on "The Magic and Mystery of Millican." This lecture was sponsored by Waldenbrook Estates.

The remainder of the 2012 lecture schedule features a number of interesting topics and speakers:

February 15: How to Steal a Moon Rock

By: Dr. Everett Gibson, Senior Scientist, Johnson Space Center

Sponsor: Scott & White Health Plans

March 21: Edge of Freedom: Battle of Goliad

By: John Willingham, author

Sponsor: Comfort Keepers

April 18: Rudder: From Leader to Legend

By: Dr. Tom Hatfield, Senior Research Fellow, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at The University of Texas and Director of the Center's Military History Institute

Sponsor: Watercrest at Bryan

May 16: Save the Queen

By: Ben Hardeman

Sponsor: Physicians Home Medical Equipment

June 20: Reliving Texas History: Muskets, Cannons and Knives

By: Dr. Lou Hodges, Associate Professor, Department of Recreation, Parks, & Tourism Sciences, Texas A&M University

Sponsor: Lighthouse Hospice

July 18: Brazos River History and a Levee

By: Dr. Wendy Patzewitsch, Lecturer of Geography, Texas A&M University

Sponsor: Medi-Care Equipment Specialties

August: No Program

September 19: Texas A&M Corps of Cadets History

By: Dr. John Adams

Sponsor: Waldenbrook Estates

October 17: Hidden Treasures of Cushing Library

By: Dr. Mary Manning, Texas A&M University Libraries

Sponsor: City of College Station Senior Services

November 14: Presidential Regrets with their Supreme Court Nominations

By: William T. Harper, author

Sponsor: The Isle at Watercrest

December: No Program

International Interest in Electronic Newsletter

Heritage Brazos, the electronic newsletter of the Brazos Heritage Society, had its inception in May 2011. As of the end of 2011, the Society's newsletter has had 1,085 online visits. While the vast majority of those visits were from within the United States, the newsletter's website was also viewed by people in the following countries (listed in alphabetical order): Bangladesh, Canada, France, Germany, Ghana, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand, and the United Kingdom. The Society's online newsletter contains all the information as the one mailed to members, and more. For a more timely access of news about the Society and Brazos County's history, visit: <http://heritagebrazos.blogspot.com>.

Heritage Highlights

Every Monday morning people in the listening area of KAMU-FM radio tune in to hear *Heritage Highlights*, a brief radio show that provides historical highlights of the Brazos Valley. This program, in existence since September 2004, is sponsored by the Brazos Heritage Society.

All these programs – more than 380 episodes written and narrated by Society member Fran Lamb – are archived on the KAMU website and may be accessed: http://kamu.tamu.edu/FMLocal/EpisodeList.php?show_id=1106330212.

Persons interested in the history of the Brazos Valley – its people, places, and events – would do well to visit this site and listen to some of the fascinating podcasts.

Happenings at the Brazos Valley African American Museum

An excellent resource regarding the history of Brazos County is the Brazos Valley African American Museum. The Brazos Valley African American Museum, operated by the African American National Heritage Society, is located at 500 East Pruitt Street in Bryan, Texas. The museum is open from 1:00 to 4:00 PM, Tuesdays through Fridays, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Saturdays, and from 2:00 to 5:00 PM on Sundays. For additional information, call 775-3961.

Found in a recent issue of the *Bryan-College Station Eagle* was an article about a new exhibit at the Brazos Valley African American Museum dealing with the path to politics African Americans took locally and across Texas. According to the article, the exhibit – “Ain’t It Good to Always be the Beginning: The Power of Politics” – will showcase the stories of a number of African Americans elected to office across Texas.

To read the *Eagle* article, go to: <http://www.theeagle.com/local/A-history-of-BV-politics--6868183>.

This new exhibit, part of which is on loan from the Texas Institute for the Preservation of History and Culture, will run from January 7 to April 22, 2012.