



HERITAGE BRAZOS

The Newsletter of the Brazos Heritage Society



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President's Message

Once again our Old Fashioned 4th of July Celebration was a tremendous success! The Band – *Proud Country* – did a great job and I heard a number of people commenting on how good they were. We really enjoyed the mix of music they presented for us. And the Sojourners always make this patriotic event special by their presence.

It was great to see so many of the Society members and a number of people new to this Independence Day celebration with us in Heritage Park this year. There was so much more to see and do. This did not happen on its own, special thanks again goes to our hard-working Executive Committee. Without them, we would not have had all the exhibitors, all the silent auction items, the fabulous cars and trucks, the flyers for advertising, or the patriotic programs handed out at the Celebration. And, we certainly don't want to forget the time and effort spent on cooking, preparing, and selling the hot dogs and popcorn, as well as slicing all those watermelons for our enjoyment, and dispensing cold water and lemonade. Many thanks also to all the Committee members and volunteers who helped with our booths and lead the Children's Parade. Way to go guys!

There are several exciting things I want to report to you in this message:

- We plan to hold the unveiling and presentation of the Society's Community Historic Boonville Jail Marker very soon.
- Cross your fingers, we submitted our grant proposal to the Astin Foundation for funds to help get the rest of the Vintage Astin Clothes restored for display. We should hear about this in early October.
- The Society now has a Facebook page; if you are a Facebook user, please search of "Brazos Heritage Society," go to the Society's page, and click "Like."
- The plans for our Harvest Tea are coming together. I will talk more about this later in the newsletter.
- We are working on plans for a full membership meeting to be held sometime in September. More information about this event will be forthcoming.
- I would like to see the Heritage Society sponsor a float in Bryan's Christmas Parade; we will definitely need volunteers to help with this.
- Last, but by no means least, we will be working on plans for a Christmas Stroll in Heritage Park and the East Side Historic District for December 15, 2012.

Let's talk a little bit about our Harvest Tea. We are so pleased to announce that this event will be held in College Station's Historic District this year, in the *Abbott-Blakely-Chavis Home*. The Harvest Tea will be held on October 27, 2012, only, with two seatings, one at 1:00 p.m. and the other at 4:00 p.m. Each seating will accommodate 48 people, so get your orders in early for tickets! The owner of the home has graciously volunteered to arrange a tour of this historic home after each seating. This tour will be included in the price of the Tea Tickets, which will be \$40.00 this year.

We made our first appearance at the Historic Downtown Bryan First Friday event on August 3rd. We handed out over 50 of the *Guide to Historic Brazos County* booklets, along with a short description of the Brazos Heritage Society and its activities, and Brazos Heritage Society membership forms. We also got the chance to talk with some nice folks who were strolling by. We would like to continue to have a presence at the First Fridays, but we will need volunteers to help us man the table for a couple hours each month.

We will also have a booth at the Boonville Days Living History Fair at the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History on Saturday, October 6th. Our Treasurer, Beverly Myers, will be demonstrating her quilt piecing skills and I will be demonstrating how butter was made in old fashioned churns. We also plan to sell some of our Boonville books. If anyone is interested in helping with this booth please email me at nathilliard@verizon.net or call me at 979-229-2468.

Nat Hilliard, President

Treasurer's Report

The following is an overview of the finance condition of the Brazos Heritage Society as of August 20, 2012.

At Prosperity Bank we have a certificate of deposit valued at \$8,368.77 and our checking account at the bank has a balance of \$6,768.11, for a total of \$15,136.88.

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.

Beverly Myers, Treasurer

Electronic Newsletter, Facebook, and Email Address

If you have not done so, please visit the Society's electronic newsletter – *Heritage Brazos* – at <http://heritagebrazos.blogspot.com>. This electronic newsletter is the official publication of the Brazos Heritage Society and it provides the same information found in the paper editions of the newsletter and much, much more. In addition, the Society recently created a Facebook page, which may be viewed by going to the following link: www.facebook.com/brazosheritagesociety. Please visit it and "Like" it.

And finally, the Society has its own email address – brazos.heritage@gmail.com – which is regularly checked. Feel free to contact us.

An Enjoyable Old Fashioned Independence Day Celebration

Approximately 300 people gathered at Heritage Park in Bryan to attend the 26th Annual Independence Day Celebration hosted by the Brazos Heritage Society.

The program, which commenced at 9:30 AM and ended at noon, included a few remarks by Society President Nat Hilliard and an invocation by Gerald Garcia. Members of the Sojourners raised the American and Texas flags, led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance, and then provided their toast to Old Glory, our symbol of liberty.

Following the brief program, Proud Country, a local band, provided a variety of musical selections – from patriotic to country to popular standards – throughout the morning. And those in attendance joined in to sing “America the Beautiful” and “God Bless America.”

While the music played, the annual children’s parade took place; many of the children wore patriotic costumes and their bicycles and wagons were decorated in red, white, and blue. Other activities included a silent auction, games, face painting, booths, and exhibits, including a collection of vintage automobiles.

Exhibitors included the A&M Garden Club, Brazos Bluebonnet Quilt Guild, Brazos Spinners & Weavers Guild, and Blaine Brezina, who is working on the Heritage Park Master Plan as part of fulfilling the requirements to become an Eagle Scout.

The Brazos Heritage Society also had a booth to distribute programs, sell books on the history of Brazos County, and recruit new members.

Lemonade, popcorn, hot dogs, and water were sold at the old fashioned price of a quarter. In addition, members of the Society served watermelon to those in attendance.

Donors who helped make this celebration a success included: Academy, Barnes & Noble, Calvert Historical Society, Cavender’s Boot City, Patti Clark, Dent magic, Der Wienerschnitzel No. 255, Dixie Chicken, Inc., The Farm Patch, Mary Frances, Friends of Calvert, Gifts & Gab, HEB No. 544, Dan & Nathalie Hilliard, Steve Miller, Millican Heritage Society, Miss Dixie, Homer & Beverly Myers, Old Bryan Marketplace, Kenneth Olexy, Saint-Gobain Norpro, Southern Grace, Stephenson Chiropractic Center, Taco Bell No. 2310, Texas Rose Boutique, and Helen Wise.

Membership Meeting and Social Scheduled

The Brazos Heritage Society will hold its fall Membership Meeting and Social on Thursday, September 27, 2012, at 7:00 PM at the Matthew Winsper Knobel Memorial Gazebo in Heritage Park, 600 South Hutchins Street, in Bryan’s Historic District. The purpose of the meeting is to provide members and prospective members an update on the activities of the Society. Please bring a chair for seating. Hot dogs, snacks, and drinks will be served. Plan to attend and learn more about the activities of the Society.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP by Tuesday, September 25, 2012, by calling Beverly Myers at 979-823-6824 or Dan Beto at 979-822-1273. You may also RSVP by sending an email to the following address: brazos.heritage@gmail.com.

Antiques Sideshow a Success

On Saturday, May 19, 2012, the Brazos Heritage Society hosted the 2012 Antiques Sideshow – the Brazos Valley’s version of the *Antiques Roadshow* – in the library of Fannin Elementary School, located at Baker Street and 29th Street in Bryan.

Between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM experts reviewed items in the following categories: vintage jewelry, china and glassware, dolls and toys, linens and quilts, books, and political ephemera.

This program was under the direction of Events Coordinator Fran Lamb; Society members assisting in the delivery of this successful event included Nat Hilliard, Sheila Fields, Beverly Myers, Homer Myers, Randy Hilliard, Stephanie Hilliard, and Kyle Kovel.

Reviewers included Reggie Yannuzzi with English Surrey Antiques and Interiors, Wanda Comer of Vintage Jewelry, Marceil Geiser and Eulela Swinton with Brazos Valley Stitchers, and Christi Hendrix of Carousel Books.

Over 40 people showed up with 55 items for review.

Historic Allenfarm Tour

On May 9, 2012, the Millican Heritage Society sponsored a tour of the historic Allenfarm, located in Southern Brazos County, made possible through the generosity of Bill Terrell, who provided a history of the farm and the area. Approximately 20 people attended this wonderful experience, several of whom were members of the Brazos Heritage Society. Prior to the tour, lunch was served under the shade of the large Cottonwood trees by officers of the Millican Heritage Society.

There were a number of historic buildings open for the tour, including a train depot, farm house, blacksmith shop, company store, barber shop, houses once used by sharecroppers, a farm office, and an outhouse. Some people were deterred from using the outhouse during part of the visit because there was a live chicken snake inside on the bench.

The tour was very informative and provided a glimpse of Brazos Valley farm life, both past and present. Persons who participated in this educational experience expressed gratitude to members of the Millican Heritage Society and Bill Terrell for making this tour possible.

Dan Beto, Vice President

Trees for Heritage Park

Several people have sent in contributions for the purpose of purchasing trees for Heritage Park.

Darrell Lovelette, Director of Bryan’s Parks and Recreation Department, developed a list of prices for trees and shrubs that will comply with the approved master plan for Heritage Park. The prices are as follows: \$125.00 for Trees; \$70.00 for Shrubs; and \$225.00 for Mesquite Trees. The quoted prices will cover the cost of the tree, mulch, stakes, and planting.

If you are interested in donating a tree or shrub for the park, please complete the form below and send a check for the appropriate amount to:

Beverly Myers, Treasurer
Brazos Heritage Society
P. O. Box 1776
Bryan, Texas 77806

Thank you for your interest in this project and your support. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 979-229-2468 or email me at nathilliard@verizon.net.

Nat Hilliard, President
Brazos Heritage Society

Donation for Heritage Park Trees

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Item(s) Ordered

_____ Tree (\$125.00 each) Amount _____

_____ Shurbs (\$70.00 each) Amount _____

_____ Mesquite (\$225.00 each) Amount _____

Total Amount Enclosed _____

If you wish to donate a tree in memory or honor of someone, please provide the name of the person to be remembered or honored: _____.