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JANUARY 2004

www.bchm.org Your Monthly Museum Newsletter

Texas history essay contest for 7th graders focuses on Texas politicians

The Brazoria County Historical Museum and Varner-Hogg State Historical Park are holding their fifth annual essay contest recognizing Texas History Month.

Seventh-grade students from across Brazoria County are invited to participate in this contest. This exercise offers students the opportunity to learn more about Texas while practicing writing skills necessary for successful completion of the TAKS test. Because 2004 is an election year, this year's Texas History Essay Contest will focus on

Texas politicians.

Students should write an essay (500-550 words) that:

- identifies one of the following individuals, all of whom played an important role in Texas history - John Nance Garner, Oveta Culp Hobby, James Hogg, Barbara Jordan, Ann Richards, Lorenzo de Zavala.
- discusses the part that figure had in Texas politics.
- explains how modern Texans continue to benefit from his/her efforts.

All essays must be typed and

double-spaced. A cover sheet with the title of the essay, the student's name, school name, the teacher's name, and the student's home telephone number must be included as well. Additionally, each essay must be footnoted and have attached a bibliography.

Although not a requirement, students are encouraged to make use of the abundant historical research materials available at both the Brazoria County Historical Museum's Adriance Library and Research Center and the Var-

ner-Hogg State Historical Park. Teachers also are encouraged either to make this essay a class project or to offer extra credit points to students who choose to enter the contest.

Three winning essays will be chosen. An awards banquet honoring the winning authors will be held on Saturday, March 20, at 6 p.m. at the Varner-Hogg State Historical Park in West Columbia. First-, second-, and third-place essayists will be asked to read their essays at the banquet and will receive a certificate, medallion,

and savings bond. The first-place essay also will be published in the Brazoria County Historical Museum's monthly newsletter, which can be found at www.bchm.org.

All essays must be delivered to the Brazoria County Historical Museum no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, March 5. Winners will be notified by the following Friday, March 12.

For further information, contact Ace Filipp at the Brazoria County Historical Museum by telephone at (979) 864-1208 or via e-mail at programs@bchm.org.

County Museum's relentless cemetery detectives bring home Cora Bell Trippel

Cemetery Committee members Bobby and Billy Koenning have been on a personal crusade to locate Cora Bell Trippel.

Her tombstone was vandalized many years ago--broken off at the base and removed from its original resting place. When Bobby and Billy first saw it, Cora Bell's stone was leaning up against a tree near the county maintenance offices on the old Central School block. They inquired, but no one in the nearby offices knew any details about when the stone had appeared there or from where it might have come.

So, Bobby began researching. He checked the county death records and found that she had died in 1950 in an institution in Austin. According to a notation on the death record, her body had been transported to Alvin for burial.

Yet when Bobby checked the list of burials in Alvin, Cora Bell was not on the list. He then went to the Internet and typed in her name in the hope that something about her would surface. Nothing did, but Bobby did find the addresses for a number of people with the surname Trippel. Bobby wrote a letter asking for informa-

tion on Cora Bell Trippel. He mailed it to every Trippel he had found, but he received no replies. When his research attempts had reached a dead end, Bobby still could not forget Cora Bell. Periodically, he typed in a search for her name on the Internet. In December, Bobby was amazed to find for the first time a web site that listed Cora Bell among those buried at a cemetery in Alta Loma.

Bobby and Billy went to the Alta Loma Cemetery and found Cora Bell's burial site next to that of her husband, Paul. Sure enough, Cora Bell's stone was missing, broken off at ground level, so they knew that they had finally found the right spot. They spoke with the groundskeeper at the cemetery and learned that he had known Cora Bell and remembered her.

A call to Bryson Memorials in Angleton produced a willing helper. Leslie Bryson offered to pick up the stone and return it to its rightful location in Alta Loma Cemetery and to make any repairs necessary in replacing the stone.

This is not the first time that Bobby has been instrumental in returning misplaced stones to a cemetery. On two different occasions previously, people in other counties have heard of his interest in old cemeteries and have contacted him. They have solicited his help in locating cemeteries from which stones had been stolen and dumped along

the roadside. Bobby's rate of success has been high. He is gaining a reputation among cemetery volunteers as the one to call when misplaced stones are found. It becomes a personal mission for him to locate the spots from which stones were removed so that they can be put back where they belong.

Bobby's perseverance and patience paid off. Cora Bell Trippel's stone has now come home to its place in Alta Loma Cemetery. Bobby was so anxious to return her stone to the proper location that he could not wait to take the Brysons up on their offer to move the stone. Since the marker is a small one, Bobby transported it himself, and using a special adhesive donated by Bryson Memorials, he was able to reset the stone in December 2003.

In December, the *Facts* ran a story about Cora Bell's stone, and the article was picked up by the *Galveston County News*. Elizabeth Pokluda, a granddaughter of Paul Trippel, called the Museum after seeing the article. She said that Paul Trippel was a house mover by trade, and that he spoke with a strong German accent.

She said that Cora Bell was Paul's second wife and was stepmother to Elizabeth's mother, Nellie Trippel. Cora Bell had died of a brain tumor. Since Elizabeth was not born until after Cora Bell's death, she was not able to tell us much about her, but she was anx-

ious to talk to Bobby and thank him for his interest in replacing the stone.

The return of Cora Bell's marker to the Alta Loma Cemetery is one more accomplishment on a list of many by members of the Brazo-

ria County Cemetery Committee since the group began meeting in June of 1998.

Bobby and Billy Koenning and other members of the committee are making a difference in Brazoria County and beyond.



Long-lost headstone returned to its proper location.

Brazoria County Historical Commission's Annual Book Sale

February 26-28 • 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. each day

Mystery • History • Romance • Texana • Biography
Textbooks • Children's Audiobooks • VHS tapes & DVDs
CDs • Hardcover & Paperback

The book sale will be held at the Brazoria County Historical Museum, 100 East Cedar Street, Angleton. For more information, telephone (979) 864-1393.

New Museum exhibit: 'Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement'

By MICHAEL BAILEY

Martin Luther King, Jr. and the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s is the subject of a new photographic exhibition that will go on display February 6, 2004, at the Bra-

zoria County Historical Museum.

Consisting of sixty-five black and white photographs, facsimiles of landmark documents, quotations from the speeches and writings of Dr. King, and brief narrative texts, the exhibit covers the civil rights

movement from King's emergence as a regional leader in 1953 to his death as an international figure in 1968. The exhibition has been created and produced by the Texas Humanities Resource Center of Austin, Texas. Research and texts were provided by Professor Thavolia Glymph, specialist in Black History. Production of the exhibit was made possible under a grant from the Texas Committee for the Humanities, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

This photographic exhibit uses profoundly evocative - and sometimes horrifying - images to relate the story of the black struggle for justice and equality. It includes Charles Moore's unforgettable photographs of the fire hoses and police dogs of Birmingham, Bob Fitch's haunting view of the nighttime rally where the cry of "Black Power" was raised for the first time, and Flip Schulke's famous image of King announcing "I have a dream," with his hand raised toward the American flag. The powerful and famous also are featured - Eisenhower, Kennedy,

Johnson - as well as the humble and nameless - an elderly woman going to the polls in Alabama for the very first time. Throughout are images of King preaching, marching, and exhorting America to live up to its creed.

"Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement" captures the determination and passion of the movement, its moments of triumph in the mid-sixties, and its unfortunate fragmenting in the latter half of the decade. The exhibit conveys not only the major events of the civil rights movement, but also the historical context, extending back to the Declaration of Independence. Thanks to the skill and perceptiveness of individual photographers, it illustrates the

Gandhian philosophy of nonviolent resistance and the deeply religious fervor of the civil rights movement in the early sixties. The exhibition is not filled, however, with scenes of hatred and violence. Most images testify to the indomitable spirit and the cautious good will of persons

who believed, with King, that America could rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed. The overall impact of the show supports the final message, that King left with his listeners in Memphis: "We, as a people, shall get to the promised land."

The exhibit will be on display at the Brazoria County Historical Museum from Feb. 6-27, in conjunction with Black History Month. For more information, telephone the Museum at (979) 864-1208.



WORD SEARCH

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Directions: See if you can find the words that relate to the life of Martin Luther King Jr. in the puzzle below. The words can be found vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards in the puzzle. As you find them, circle the word.

C	E	R	T	Y	U	I	A	S	D	F	G	M	S	I	C	A	R	W	
V	G	H	K	X	I	S	P	G	A	N	D	H	I	A	M	R	T		
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R	E	J	C	J	I	P	X	F	U	R	B	U	T	U	T	I	S	L	M
I	H	M	I	B	N	M	B	N	T	E	R	L	S	T	E	S	D	Y	
G	C	O	T	V	G	R	Y	A	Y	T	R	E	E	B	P	T	J	N	
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T	M	R	A	C	E	H	T	E	E	O	T	R	T	E	M	P	S	G	
Y	B	I	I	D	R	V	B	L	D	T	E	R	T	S	C	T	C	E	
G	R	S	C	V	B	O	Y	C	O	T	T	G	D	A	S	A	U	R	
H	T	T	A	C	P	U	I	U	M	R	F	S	A	R	T	K	Y	G	
C	S	I	R	Y	T	Y	U	J	H	E	R	N	T	Y	U	I	M	E	
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N	O	N	V	I	O	L	E	N	T	P	R	O	T	E	S	T	H	T	

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SEGREGATION

News from the Cemetery Committee

By JAMIE MURRAY

Seventeen people attended the December meeting, including new member, Bonnie McDaniel.

The group also welcomed Cathy Nash, founding chairman of the committee, who has been absent for a long time due to health-related problems. David Roberts reported that the database now has 22,758 entries, with 138 known cemeteries. Over 50,000 people have accessed the database since it was posted to the Internet about four years ago. It can be found by opening the Museum's web site at www.bchm.org and clicking on the link to Brazoria County Cemetery Information. Another web site that was suggested for research is one called Cemeteries of Texas that can be found by a Google search for cemetery burials.

Max Royalty announced that the restoration of the mausoleum at Sandy Point is now complete. Work is still in progress on the small entry room. The Historic Cemetery Designation Marker, purchased from the Texas Historical Commission by donations from committee members, has arrived and will be dedicated at a ceremony in Sandy Point Cemetery in the spring of 2004. A cemetery name plaque to go with the marker is yet to be purchased. It will bear the date ca. 1850, since we do not know the exact date that the cemetery was established. Melodey Hauch says that the stone for Henry Lobdale, a grandson of the Coffee family, appears to have a death date of 1852. We will try to verify that date through research in the Adriance Library. If 1852 is correct for Henry's date of death, this may be the oldest marked burial on the site. The area may have been used as a cemetery even earlier than 1852, since there are most likely a number of unmarked graves.

Bill Fletcher was not able to attend the December meeting. He did send word, however, that he will be ordering a granite plaque to be placed on the front

of the mausoleum and would like suggestions for the wording from committee members. Bill sent a group of photographs of the work that recently has been accomplished there.

He reported that Johnney Pollan, the Archaeological Steward for Brazoria County, has visited Sandy Point cemetery since the November meeting. Bill requested that members be asked to bring in any photos taken at the cemetery either before or since this committee has been working there.

Bobby Koenning has been communicating via email with a graduate student at Texas A & M concerning imaging equipment used for locating unmarked graves. The student has agreed to present a program on the subject at one of our meetings and also to demonstrate the use of the equipment at a local cemetery following the meeting. We must first establish the date chosen by the Washington County group for their seminar and work day which some of our number plan to attend. Then we can schedule the program and demo on imaging equipment for a meeting after the first of the year. Tentative dates chosen are Jan. 24, Jan. 31, or Feb. 21.

Members Nancy Howard and Roy Karl currently are working with several cemeteries: Johnson Cemetery, Zeno Phillips Cemetery, Moneyhon Cemetery, and Moon Lake Cemetery. Alice Royalty reported that she has brought our records on Restwood Cemetery up to date. Debra Bess has been recording and mapping her family's cemetery at Gonzales. Debra and Nancy hope to organize a rummage sale to benefit the Cemetery committee in 2004. Members were encouraged to begin collecting usable items in good condition for this sale.

Bobby Koenning, who has found homes for misplaced tombstones on a couple of other occasions, announced that the stone of Cora Bell Trippel will finally

(See Museum Page 4)

The Andriance Library and Research Center

By JAMIE MURRAY

Austin Town Volunteer Nadine Stevenson of West Columbia is starting early. Nadine portrayed early colonist Jane Wilkins for two years at Austin Town. She did not participate in 2003, but she did attend the event as a visitor. While there, she stopped off at the butter churning booth to bring for display a butter mold that had belonged to her mother.

Nadine stated that she would sign up for 2004 and plans to find "something different" to demonstrate. She has found that "something different" is not very difficult at Austin Town. There are so many topics for the 1830s period that can be researched and presented. For instance, no one has signed up to demonstrate candle making, either by using molds or by the dipping method, and no one is demonstrating rug making, like hooked rugs or rag rugs.

The topic that caught Nadine's attention was fabric dyeing. She is intellectually curious and enjoys learning something new. The idea of having a new topic to research and then present it appealed to her. It was not too long before she visited the Museum Library in search of information about the process of dyeing fabrics in the Austin's Colony period. She found a relevant chapter in the Foxfire Book Series as well as several other books on the subject of weaving and dyeing fabrics.

Nadine is trying to learn about the dyeing process of the 1800s and

then hopes to refine the research to discover methods that were used in Austin's Colony. Which of the plants that were used for dyeing during that time period were available in Texas? Nadine works at a plant nursery, so this subject is "right up her alley." She believes that pokeberry and sumac were used for shades of red, and elderberry and wild indigo were used for shades of blue. Pokeberry root produced purple, and coreopsis and dandelion provided the early settlers with yellow.

Nuts for brown and onion skins for yellow are easy to come by, but what about pokeberry, elderberry, and wild indigo? Would individuals who have these plants growing on their property be willing to provide the leaves and berries needed by Nadine for the dyeing process or share plants and seeds so that she can begin growing her own crop? Because Austin Town is a three-day event, Nadine could use some partners who are interested in learning about the topic and want to help demonstrate fabric dyeing to Austin Town visitors in the future.

Austin Town has been held annually on the last full weekend of October since 1997. It is not too early to start preparing for the next one. If you have an interest in demonstrating fabric dyeing, candle dipping, rug making, or any other life skill of the Austin Colony period at the next Austin Town, contact Jamie Murray in the Museum Library or Program Coordinator, Ace Filipp.



Volunteer Nadine Stevenson (left) chats with Austin Town visitors in 2000.

Museum members turn out for Lone Star Justice

On Thursday, Nov. 6, Robert M. Utley discussed his latest book offering, *Lone Star Justice*, with 60 Museum members and guests.

In *Lone Star Justice*, Utley, one of the premier historians of the American West, captures the first 100 years of Ranger history in a narrative packed with adventures worthy of Zane Grey or Larry McMurtry.

A former Chief Historian of the National Park Service, Utley is a founding member and former president of the Western History Association as well as is the author of 12 books on Western history.



Robert Utley and his wife following his book review.

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The Windows Book and Gift Shoppe

By ROSEMARY DUKE

While consuming the great traditional holiday dishes during the recent holidays, I could not help but think of the past when Austin's Old Three Hundred first came to Texas. They had no refrigerators. Since some winter days can be rather warm, like this Christmas season, just what did they do with their leftovers? In the Northern states people would cool their food with snow or ice brought down from the mountains.



1935 Frigidaire

The Chinese had a solution as early as 1000 BC. They dug cellars or holes in the ground and lined them with wood or straw and then packed them with ice to store

their food. Around 500 BC, the Egyptians made ice on cold nights by setting water out in earthen pots. The Chinese later discovered that the evaporation of salt water absorbed heat and therefore a container placed in brine would stay cool. In 18th century England, people collected ice in the winter and stored it in little houses where large sheets of ice were packed in salt and wrapped in cloth and stored until summer.

In 1748, artificial refrigeration was demonstrated but was not reliable and did not catch on. At the beginning of the 19th century, ice boxes were used in England and eventually in the United States as well.

In 1834, a design to make ice cool the air for patients who had yellow fever was used for refrigeration.

Natural ice still was harvested and distributed for commercial and home uses. Wooden boxes lined with tin or zinc and insulated with cork, sawdust or seaweed were used to hold blocks of ice. A drip pan collected the melted water and had to be emptied several times during the day. The ice trade between Boston and the Southern states was one of the first casualties of the Civil War.

The warm winters of 1889 and 1890 created such a severe shortage of natural ice that it stimulated the use of mechanical refrigeration. The meat- and fish-packaging industries needed something to keep the fish fresh.

They considered the use of liquid ammonia. Sometime in the early 1900s, General Electric unveiled a unit invented by a French monk in Fort Wayne, Indiana. This unit enabled most Americans to have a refrigerator. In the late 1920s, the freezer was introduced to the American consumer.

The 1940s added frozen food storage to the refrigerator. In the 1950s and 1960s, innovations like

ice makers and automatic defrost were added to the refrigerator, and by the 1980s, energy-efficient refrigeration became popular.

All of this information still does not explain what Austin's Old Three Hundred did with their Holiday leftovers! I would assume that they made jerky with left-over turkey or smoked most of their meats. Maybe they canned or jarred vegetables in smaller amounts.

Whatever they did, I am happy that I do not have to go through all of their preparations or eat

leftovers that have sat out for a couple of days. I really am happy to have my new refrigerator and safer ways to prepare the holiday meals!

If you have not shopped in the Gift Shoppe lately, then make it a point to stop by and browse the selection of books. If you are a member of the Museum, you can save 10% on most purchases. The Gift Shoppe is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

News from the Cemetery Committee

(Continued from Museum, Page 2)

be returned to its original location at a cemetery in Alta Loma. Her stone has been leaning up against a tree near county offices on the old Central School campus for several years because no one knew where it belonged. Bobby has researched for four years and has finally found the cemetery to which Cora Bell Trippel's marker will be returned. Bryson Memorials of Angleton has very generously offered to transport and reset the stone (see related story in this issue of the newsletter).

Patience, persistence, and dedication: these are qualities that abound among members of the Cemetery Committee. There is nothing quick or hurried about Cemetery Committee projects. They all seem to move at a slow and measured pace, but move they do. This group has accomplished a great deal in the five years since beginning the work of locating and recording all of Brazoria County's known cemeteries.

Anyone who is interested in this committee or its projects is invited to attend the monthly meetings of the Cemetery Committee in the Museum auditorium. The January meeting is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 31 at 10 a.m. The meetings provide a time for committee members to share ideas and keep one another apprised of current projects, but attendance at the meetings is not a requirement for membership. Contact Jamie Murray in the Museum Library for information on committee projects and ways in which you can participate.



1929 Gibson ice box

Are you a member of the museum?

If not, then join the Brazoria County Historical Museum today! No matter which level you choose, your involvement is indispensable. Membership dues provide vital support for continuing research, collections preservation, exhibit development, and educational and entertaining programs for children and adults. In addition, membership contributions are tax deductible according to IRS rules. What better way to begin the new year than by becoming a supporting member of your County Museum. A heart-felt thanks to our renewing members and a warm welcome to our new members. You help to make the Brazoria County Historical Museum the county treasure that it is.

Recent New Members:

El Tejano
Laura Dagley, Houston

Senior
Peggy S. Baker, Angleton

Recent Renewals:

El General
John & Nancy Gilbert, Lake Jackson

La Familia
Doyle & Betty Fenn, Manvel
Bill & Sara McDaniel, Angleton
Alice Ball Strunk, San Antonio

Jeff & Kimberly Young, Ashland, Oregon
Irving & Mary Zelade, Lake Jackson

El Tejano
Graham B. Luhn, FAIA, Houston
O. F. Schumm, Lake Jackson
Darrell Schwebel, Lake Jackson
Sue Williamson, Angleton

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If you wish to support this newsletter, please call (979) 849-5407.

Your ad will be mailed to all museum members in addition to being printed in The Bulletin.