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MAY 2004

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Your Monthly Museum Newsletter

Museum opens 'Art from the Ice Age' exhibit June 14

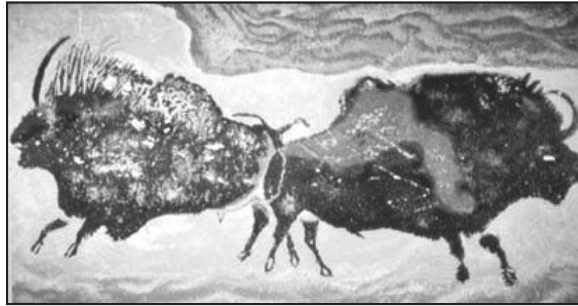
Art From the Ice Age, a special exhibition that celebrates the earliest art created by humans, will be on display at the Brazoria County Historical Museum from June 4 through June 18.

Consisting of 18 color photographs, charts, and maps, the exhibition illustrates the range and variety of artistic creativity over a period of 20,000 years, from 30,000 BC to 10,000 BC.

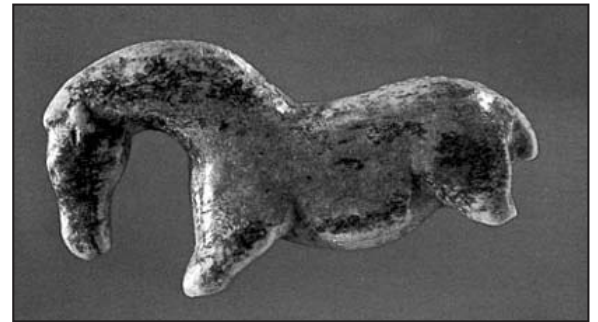
The attractive display was developed by the Texas Humanities Resource Center in cooperation with the Dallas Health and Science Museum. Technical assistance was provided by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) and by Douglas Mazonowicz, founder of the Museum of Prehistoric Art in New York City. Special funding for the exhibition was provided through grants from the Texas Committee for the Humanities.

Ice Age art provides some insights into Ice Age culture, but it also raises perplexing questions. Much of the art work is small and portable in the form of decorated tools and weapons, as might be expected of a nomadic people who survived by following herds of animals on their seasonal migrations. Cave paintings, however, seem to suggest a more domestic, settled culture, perhaps with more leisure time.

While there is no proof that humans lived in Texas when much of this art was created, many of the animals depicted already were thriving in the lush lands that were to become the great State of Texas.



*Bison (Detail from the painted ceiling)
Altamira, Spain, middle period, 13,500-11,000 BC
Courtesy Douglas Mazonowicz
Gallery of Prehistoric Painting, New York City*



*Horse carved from mammoth ivory, 2" long
Polished and worn by long usage
Vogelherd, Germany, ca. 31,000 years BP (Before Present)
©Alexander Marshack*

Color your world . . . Read!



Pinta tu mundo . . . Lee!

During the summer months of 2004, the Brazoria County Historical Museum will be participating in the Brazoria County Library System's Summer Reading Program entitled *Color Your World...Read!*

To compliment this year's theme, the Museum will present a one-hour long program entitled *People Around the World*, which will focus on various countries around the world. Described as interactive with hands-on activities, this program will be held at public libraries throughout the county and is open to the public free-of-charge.

Because of the large number of attendees, some libraries require an advance ticket for their programs. Below is a listing of the dates, libraries, and times where the *People Around the World* program will be held.

For more information about the 2004 Library Summer Reading Program, *Color Your World*, or other summer reading programs and activities, please contact your local library.

- June 2 at 10:30 a.m. at the Manvel Library
- June 2 at 2 p.m. at the Pearland Library
- June 3 at 3:30 p.m. at the Brazoria Library
- June 8 at 10:30 a.m. at the West Columbia Library
- June 8 at 2:30 p.m. at the Alvin Library
- June 9 at 10:30 a.m. at the Freeport Library
- June 9 at 2 p.m. at the Angleton Library
- June 10 at 10:30 a.m. at the Clute Library
- June 10 at 2 p.m. at the Danbury Library
- June 29 at 10 a.m. at the Damon School Library
- June 30 at 11 a.m. at the Lake Jackson Library
- July 2 at 3 p.m. at the Sweeny Library

Youth Summer Archaeology reminder

Get your hands dirty as a participant in the Brazoria County Historical Museum's Youth Summer Archaeology Program.

Starting on Monday, June 14, and lasting until Friday, June 18, 2004, the five-day hands-on archaeology program will begin each day at 8 a.m. and end at noon. The program will cost participants \$50 to attend.

Open to children between 11 and 14 years of age, this program will teach participants how professionals survey a historical site, record where and what artifacts are found, and what those artifacts say about the people that once used them.

Class participants will spend three days at the Brazoria County Historical Museum learning about basic excavation techniques. One day will be spent at an

(See Museum Page 4)

The Adriance Library and Research Center

By JAMIE MURRAY

William Pierce Duckett?

No, I did not remember hearing of him before, but there in the Information Files of the Adriance Library was a file folder with his name on it. Who was he, to have his own file in a collection of folders that includes places, events, and topics but very few surnames? I expected to find only the major players of Texas history indexed here, like Stephen F. Austin, Jane Long, Sam Houston, and Brit Bailey. I was a bit surprised to find a folder with a name I did not recognize.

As usual, I stumbled across this file while looking for something else. I was pleased to find that it contained a memoir -- one of my favorite sources for historical information.

I wanted to learn how this person, William Duckett, figured in the story of Brazoria County. I began to read and found that he was born in Georgia in 1852, but moved with his widowed mother and three brothers to Mississippi circa 1865.

By page three of the memoir, William was writing about moving to Texas. He wrote his memoir in the third person, as if he is speaking of someone else. If it were not for the preface written by his daughter, Dorothy Duckett Jones, we would not know

that this is a personal memoir. Dorothy tells how her father had written his memories in third person "in pencil on very poor tablet paper," following his wife Eliza's death in December of 1927.

After an uncle from Texas had visited William's family in 1870, William made his decision to go there himself. William wrote:

"[A]bout that time William taken the Texas fever. He had heard so much about Texas he really thought everybody out there were bandits that had escaped from other states. He had heard everybody carried from one to two six-shooters. So as a matter of fact, he had to have a six-shooter and he naturally thought that he would have to practice shooting. So for a month before starting out to Texas he did little but practice shooting."

William arrived at his uncle's store in Starville, Smith County, Texas, by way of train, boat, and stage. He worked for a time in his uncle's store. He turned 18 years old that May.

William had hardly arrived in Starville when he met Eliza Dickson, "the prettiest girl he had ever seen." They married in 1873. Not content to stay in one place, William

and Eliza moved on to Johnson County, then to Somerville County, and on to Hood County.

In 1875, 23-year-old William led a group of 12 young men "to explore the west then all frontier country." Some of the boys hoped they would see an Indian, but William expressed the opinion that although "he thought he had a brave head...he didn't know how brave his feet and legs were" and that "he had always thought a good run was better

William Pierce Duckett's journey landed him in Angleton before the town even had a name.

than a bad stand."

After touring several counties and encountering no Indians, the young men chose a beautiful site in the Caddo Valley of Stephens County. They returned home, and William and some of the others prepared to move to the Caddo Valley.

After spending two years there, they relocated on Deep Creek in Callahan County, but sold their place there after only one year. In the hard winter of 1882, William lost nearly all his cattle. He gave up the cattle business and moved on again, this time to

the town of Bell Plains, and then to Baird, the new county seat of Callahan County.

Once there, the Ducketts opened a grocery store and a hotel. Another hard winter in 1884 meant that the local farmers could not pay William what they owed him that spring. It was time to move again, this time to Erath County to the brand new settlement of Bluffdale. William and Eliza's family now had grown to include three girls and two boys.

Bluffdale was thriving and business was good, but William became ill in January of 1891. After several months

with little improvement in his health, he took his doctors' advice and moved to the coast of Texas.

They had heard of a boomtown called Velasco, and one of William's doctors agreed to accompany him there. From Bluffdale, they traveled to Fort Worth, then went by train to Houston and Columbia, where they boarded a boat called Hiawatha that was headed for Velasco at the mouth of the Brazos River.

They could find nowhere to stay the first night in Velasco except "a large tent with 100 cots in it, almost all occu-

ped." A brand new rooming house was just being completed so William and his doctor moved into it the next day, even though "they could hardly sleep for the noise of the hammering and sawing" as carpenters worked day and night building this new town.

After only a few weeks in Velasco, William's health had improved greatly. He enjoyed walking around and watching the town of Velasco as it was being built.

William and the doctor returned to Bluffdale, but by this time William had made up his mind to move his family to Velasco.

By December of 1891, he was ready to make the move, with three wagons and a hack loaded with household goods and inventory for a store.

In the next newsletter, we will learn of William's experiences in the new town of Velasco. By now you know that William did not stay long in one place.

We also will follow him when he moves his family to yet another new town. It seems that William's wife had a relative, a lawyer named Bryan, whose partner was a man named Kiber.

The brand new town did not even have a name when William moved there, but soon it would come to be known as Angleton.

Cemetery Committee Report

Cemetery Committee members are busy making plans for the dedication of the Historic Cemetery Designation Medalion at Sandy Point Cemetery.

Anyone who has an interest in Sandy Point Cemetery or in the work of this committee is invited to attend. The dedication ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 22, at 2 p.m.

Instead of a meeting at the Museum in April, the group chose to have a clean-up day at Sandy Point Cemetery on April 17. Several members turned out to help Bill Fletcher start preparing the grounds for the marker dedication in May. The restoration of the mausoleum is complete, thanks to much hard work from bricklayer "Boots" Ermis and com-

mittee members Bill Fletcher, Max Royalty and Charles Kruse. The grass is mowed regularly by these members, and flowering plants placed around the cemetery are beginning to thrive.

The restoration of Sandy Point Cemetery has come a long way since Brazoria County resident Cathy Nash first called attention to the condition of this historic cemetery in 1998. It was overgrown and neglected. Cathy took the responsibility of heading up a committee to improve conditions there. From that beginning, the group has gone on to compile a database of burials in Brazoria County and to tackle several other projects relating to cemeteries. The database of burials has over 20,000

names and can be accessed by visiting the Museum's website. The database references about 137 burial sites throughout the county. Data entry volunteer David Roberts, along with some assistance from committee member Alice Royalty, has created a wonderful resource for researchers and genealogists.

The list of people who have helped restore Sandy Point Cemetery by contributing time, effort, and materials is a long one. In addition to all the committee members who have worked on the project, there are others the committee would like to thank. Hoping not to leave anyone out, the next paragraph is a list of people we would especially like to thank.

We appreciate the assistance and cooperation of the Curtis Mowery family, who owns the land that surrounds the cemetery. David Stacks, who was the warden at Darlington when the Sandy Point Clean-up project began, and Wes Mayo, also with the Texas Department of Corrections, provided us with a labor force to begin the project of clearing the underbrush and removing dead trees. The Velasco Cemetery Association provided funds for fencing. Miken Specialties loaned scaffolding for use in repairing the mausoleum. Pat Kelley donated grass; David Shackelford donated crape myrtles; and Alamo Materials provided sand for filling in the low spots. Lowe's of Lake Jackson recently donated five gal-

lons of weed killer that will help prevent the old stones from being damaged by weed eaters and mowers. Monetary donations for the project, like that from the Bingham Family, are also very much appreciated.

Restoring just this one cemetery has been a huge undertaking and could not have been accomplished without the help of many interested and supportive people. The Sandy Point Coordinator, Bill Fletcher, is to be commended for taking the leadership on this project. He and others have spent many hours at Sandy Point Cemetery in the past five years.

Guests for the dedication ceremony will be assembling

(See Museum Page 4)

Preserving the past in Brazoria County

By JAMIE MURRAY

This month we begin a new series designed to call attention to all the wonderful work now being done by businesses and individuals to preserve the old structures of Brazoria County.

We have lost so many old buildings to storms, fires, floods, and demolition over the years. Listing what has been lost is a sad task that summons up feelings of regret and anger. I have written quite a few words in this newsletter memorializing such structures as Freeport's Tarpon Inn, Angleton's First Methodist Church, Sharpe's Store, Angleton's Central School and old high school buildings, Brazoria's 1895 Courthouse, and the Angleton Community House. While citing the losses of the past may help prevent similar destruction in the future, it most likely will have no effect at all.

There are those of us who love and appreciate old architecture, and those who

just want to clear it out of the way to make room for the new.

On the other hand, it is hard for anyone to ignore an old structure that has been brought back to its former glory by careful restoration. People who never noticed or cared about an old building will find themselves impressed by the finished product when a restoration is completed. Sometimes

buildings in your neighborhood, and take a moment to find out their history and photograph them so we can share their success stories with everyone. Perhaps these photos will provide inspiration for others who are attempting to restore an old house. It is a big job, and a little appreciation and recognition may encourage more preservation efforts all over the county.



William Patterson House at 602 E. Myrtle, Angleton.

I will begin with examples that I have noticed in Angleton's Historic District. This is the area included on Bryan and Kiber's early plat of the town in 1895, from Ash Street on the north, to Plum Street on the south, and

it is not so much their lack of appreciation for the old building as it is their lack of vision to see it as it was and as it can be again.

When I have exhausted my list of restored buildings in the Angleton area, I hope that residents in other towns across the county will send in photos and stories about restoration projects in their towns. Start noticing old

from Arcola Street on the east to Parish Street on the west. I scarcely know where to begin, as there are so many good examples of preservation and restoration in this area, but I have chosen to start with the old Patterson home on the corner of Myrtle and Anderson Streets in Angleton.

Kay Patterson, who lives

in the lovely old house at 602 East Myrtle in Angleton, was happy to share the story of her home. The house was built in 1905 by William E. Patterson (1881-1964), the grandfather of Kay's late husband, Bill Patterson.

William operated a lumber business in Angleton at that time, and Kay noted that some of the old boards bear the stamp of Patterson, Inc., Angleton, Texas. William and his wife, Alice Ella, (née Van Dorn) raised six children in the house: William, Leon, Jeanette, Opal, Jessie Wenonah ("Toddy"), and Ruth.

Members of the Patterson family have lived here continuously since the house was built in 1905. In recent years, Kay has operated "Especially for You," a mas-

sage therapy business, in the old house. She has been giving the house a makeover for the last two years, and it looks wonderful. She has done such a beautiful job of having it restored that I was sad to see a "for sale" sign posted in the front yard. No doubt whoever purchases this house will do so because they appreciate its history and style, and they will continue to preserve it as the Patterson Family has for the past 99 years.

Thank you, Kay, for preserving this lovely old home. It and others like it add a warmth and interest to the town. The rest of us appreciate what you have done and enjoy being able to view it when we pass down Myrtle Street.

Photo Request

By JAMIE MURRAY

I was chatting by telephone with Tom Scott from Midland, Texas the other day. Among many subjects discussed was the Stephen Perry, Jr. home on First Street in Freeport. It was sold recently, and the research center has been contacted by the new owner who is interested in finding early photographs of it (see related article in this issue).

In the course of our conversation, Tom recalled with fondness the old Red and White Store that was located across the street from the Perry home. He mentioned that he would love to have a photograph of it. A check of the Museum Photo Collection did not turn up an image of the old Red and White store in Freeport. If anyone has a photograph of the Freeport Red and White Store, or of the old Perry home on First Street in Freeport, please contact me at the Museum.

Many thanks to the businesses that are making this newsletter possible

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The Windows Book and Gift Shoppe

By ROSEMARY D. DUKE

Recently, I was reading some of Catherine Foster's articles in the *Angleton Times* and came across some interesting facts.

She wrote in 1974 about a plantation belonging to a William Maner. This plantation was located just north of the Osceola Plantation along the Brazos River, according to Abner Strobel in his 1926 brochure on old plantations. Mr. Maner settled on a land grant previously secured. He brought two ships loaded with household goods, slaves and tools from New Orleans to start a cotton plantation. According to the 1850 Census, he was raising sugar cane and doing well.

We have no information or pictures of the plantation. One can only imagine, like Catherine did, gold door knobs, massive hearths and mantels of imported marble,

mahogany stairs, carpeted floors and all the splendid things the other beautiful plantation owners of that time had.

It has been reported that Mr. Maner was a remittance man, his income having been paid by the reigning royal family of Britain. Catherine wanted to know what he did to be banished from England. Well, I would like to know that also.

Mr. Maner was born in 1795, in South Carolina to a Captain William and Jane Aseneth May Maner. He married Rachel Miles, and Catherine thought they had 17 children.

According to the 1850 Brazoria County Census, however, they had only 12 children listed. The oldest was 26 and the youngest four years old. Interestingly,

the census states that none of the Maner children were born in Texas. Of course, they may have left a couple of adult children behind. Also of note is that Catherine found that Mrs. Maner supposedly was no larger than a dwarf: a very small woman to have born so many children.

William Maner was said not to remember all of his children's names, but always spoke to them politely when he encountered them on the plantation. Wanting to impress upon them their royal blood, it is said that he would not allow them to press foot directly on Brazoria County soil. Now that upsets me! Supposedly, he had a small slave accompany each of the children who would roll out a carpet for them to walk upon.

Catherine recounts in her story that William and Rachel were buried in gold coffins, studded with precious stones. I think Catherine, an avid collector of ghost stories, wanted someone to dig up these graves back in 1974 to see if it would rile William and Rachel so that she would have a new ghost story to write about!

William and Rachel are buried in the Maner Cemetery in Columbia Lakes. There is a head stone on the grave of William Maner. Although Rachel is buried next to him, there is no head stone or marker. It is said that folks used the bricks from the mausoleum to make chimneys for fireplaces.

The only other thing that

we know about the Maner family is that William's son, Theodore A. Maner, was a member of Terry's Texas Rangers during the Civil War. It is said that when he came home from the war, he brought along with him the news that Lee had surrendered. If anyone has any information on the Maner Family or Plantation, please call the Museum.

The Bookstore has received a new shipment of *Ghosts Along the Brazos*, if you have been waiting to buy one. We are open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Visa and MasterCard are accepted and we will ship for you.

Cemetery Committee Report

(Continued from Museum, Page 2)

around 1:30 p.m. on May 22, at the Sandy Point Bible Church near the intersection of FM 521 and CR 42 at Sandy Point, north of Angleton. Cemetery Committee members will take them to the cemetery from there.

The Cemetery Committee meets once a month at 10 a.m. on a Saturday morning. Anyone who is interested in the cemeteries of Brazoria County is invited to attend. Those who cannot make it to the monthly meetings can still participate in cemetery committee projects by contacting Jamie Murray at the Museum.

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.

NEW MEMBER

Senior
Dan Kessner, Clute

Johnney & Sandra Pollan, Lake Jackson
Buddy & Dolyne Stevens, West Columbia
Alice Ball Strunk, San Antonio
Don & Sharon White, Lake Jackson

RECENT RENEWALS

El General
Ruth Lauzon, Angleton
Evelyn Muchowich, Freeport
Bill & Shirley Walcik, Alvin

El Tejano
Ruby Marken, Alvin

La Familia
Quinton & Lee Anderson, Lake Jackson
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Fenn, West Columbia
Dr. & Mrs. Jack Harris, Pearland
John & Ileen Moorman, Williamsburg, Virginia
Don & Jo Parish, Angleton

Senior
Rayman G. Carlton, Atlanta, Georgia
John Carson Copes, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Bill Fletcher, Angleton
Laura Ingraham, Houston
A. M. J. Martin, Angleton
Carolyn Tunnell, San Antonio

Mystery Photo



This photograph of a goat cart is labeled simply "unidentified boy in goat cart." Who is this handsome young man seated in the cart? If you recognize him, please call Jamie Murray at the Museum. Perhaps someone has this very image at home in the family photograph collection.

Youth Summer Archaeology reminder

(Continued from Museum, Page 1)

archaeological site, and one day will be spent participating in an actual archaeological dig. Students will take part in a full-scale excavation and assist a professional in identifying and interpreting artifacts uncovered during the excavation. Participants will receive printed course materials and daily snacks. Parents/Guardians are responsible for the transportation of the participants to the Museum and the archaeological and excavation sites.

For more information, or to register, please contact Ace Filipp at the Brazoria County Historical Museum by telephone at (979) 864-1208 or via e-mail at programs@bchm.org. The minimum enrollment for each class is 10 students. Classes with fewer students may be cancelled. A full refund will be made if the class is cancelled. Maximum enrollment is 20 students.

Museum Staff

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