



**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

ARCHEOLOGY

Tuesday, August 17
7 p.m., Room 2B
George Memorial Library

MUSEUM

September 10
The Art of
Carmen Willey
Exhibit Opening
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

September 18
Celebrate!
A Cultural Festival
Noon - 5 p.m.

RANCH

Pioneer Skills Class
August 28
1830s Jones Stock Farm



P.O. Drawer 460
Richmond, TX 77406

www.fortbendmuseum.org
www.georgeranch.org

Final summer history week: August 10-13

The Fort Bend Museum is offering one more week of summer history programs August 10-13. Four programs will be presented: Archeology, Frontier Survival, At Home in 1860 and At Home in 1890. Each program is offered twice during the week, so children can complete all four programs by signing up for each morning session (9 a.m. to noon) or each afternoon session (1 p.m. to 4 p.m.). All four programs can also be completed by signing up for Tuesday/

Wednesday all day or Thursday/Friday all day; however, children must bring a sack lunch for the hour in between sessions.

Participants must be pre-registered to attend. Programs are suitable for children ages eight through 12. Slightly younger children may attend with a parent chaperone. For more information, call the Museum at (281) 342-6478 or E-mail Claire Rogers at educator@fortbendmuseum.org.

Docents need old watches for Christmas craft project

The Fort Bend Museum docents are currently looking for old, unused or broken watches to use as supplies for their craft sale item at the 2010 Candlelight Tours. Ways and Means Chairman Joan Murray is excited about this year's craft and will be leading the docent craft workshops as soon as enough watches have been collected. Need more information or want to donate a watch? Call the Museum at (281) 342-6478.



Find us on Facebook!

Link up to our Facebook pages and stay up-to-date on all the current news!

Get your name 'set in stone' on the Dew walkway

Inscribed bricks on the Dew walkway are still available through this fall! Have you ordered yours?

Any donation of \$100 or more receives a brick on the walkway. When the project is completed, people will be

able to stroll down the quaint red brick path and admire the beautiful rose garden and landscaping at the DeWalt Heritage Center.

"It's a great way to support the Center and see your name 'set in stone,'"

said Project Manager and Historian Diane Ware.

Also, several volunteer opportunities are currently available as the "Dew Crew" gears up for the Jan-

Celebrate!
A Cultural Festival
presented by the Fort Bend Museum

The second annual Celebrate! family festival will focus on Fort Bend County's cultural diversity, including its Hispanic, Czech and German roots.

Saturday, September 18
at the Fort Bend Museum
Noon - 5 p.m. • FREE!

(281) 342-6478 • www.fortbendmuseum.org

Pioneer classes continue at the 1830s Jones Stock Farm

The popular “Pioneer Skills” classes have been scheduled to continue throughout this fall. J.R. Thomas and Leslee Gup-ton (who portray Henry and Nancy Jones at the 1830s Jones Stock Farm site) host the classes on the fourth Saturday of each month. Class topics so far have covered skills such as cooking over an open fire, making candles and writing with quill pens and ink. Future classes will cover cleaning, maintenance, the development of black powder firearms up to the year

1845, making fire without matches and making primitive toys, said Programs Manager John Keahey.

Classes are free; however, standard admission fees apply for non-members of the Fort Bend County Museum Association. RSVPs are kindly requested to ensure sufficient materials.

Send an E-mail to jrthomas@georgeranch.org to RSVP. Classes typically last from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. However, class times may vary so call (281) 343-0218 for details about a specific class.

DEW, From Page 1

uary 2011 grand opening of the DeWalt Heritage Center.

Opportunities include working on the original Dew House lightning rods, tuning an 1870s Spencer upright piano, doing carpentry repairs to a wooden tilt-top table and two Eastlake chairs, refurbishing a candlestick-style phone and more.

For more information about progress on the DeWalt Heritage Center, check out the summer *Gazette* newsletter coming soon!

For more information, visit <http://www.fortbendmuseum.org/dewhouse2/> or E-mail Diane at dware@fortbendmuseum.org.

Sponsors sought for Texian Market Days

The 27th annual Texian Market Days festival is still two months away, but sponsors and vendors are already needed to help jumpstart the 2010 festivities!

Texian Market Days is a family-friendly living history festival set for Saturday, Oct. 23 at the George Ranch Historical Park. It features lots of hands-on activities, battle re-enactments, tours of the historic homes, live entertainment, food and more! (Friday, Oct. 22 is set aside exclusively for school groups to visit the Park for field trips. Last year, 2,645 children and their chaperones attended during the school day.)

VENDORS: Arts and crafts are one of the most popular sections of the festival. If you'd like to reserve a booth, contact Mitzi Jackson at (281) 342-1256

or via E-mail at mjackson@fortbendmuseum.org. Vendor booth spaces range from \$35 to \$80 if booked before September 1. Items must be arts, crafts, antiques or collectibles to qualify.

SPONSORS: Sponsors are the lifeblood of the Texian Market Days festival; Your generosity provides essential underwriting for the festival and significantly supports the educational programs offered year-round at the Fort Bend Museum and George Ranch Historical Park. Sponsorships range from \$25 to \$5,000. The 2010 sponsorship forms are up and ready to be printed at www.texianmarketdays.com. You can also call (281) 342-1256 for more information about sponsoring Texian Market Days.

Blacksmiths were early Texas manufacturers

Blogging!

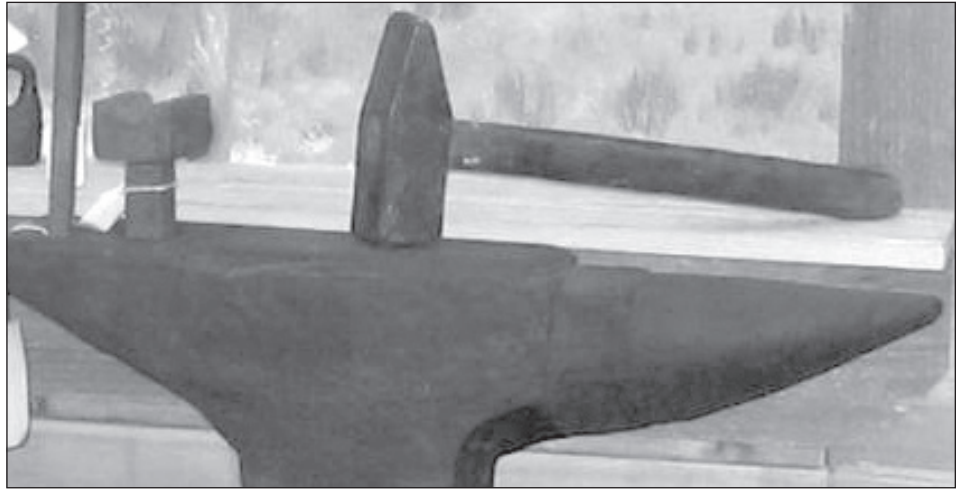


with Curator
Chris Godbold

Editor's Note: You can follow Chris Godbold's blog online at <http://www.ultimatefortbend.com/author/Chris%20Godbold>. This blog was first posted on Feb. 18, 2010. Show Chris your support for Fort Bend County history and leave him a comment!

In early Texas, blacksmiths were responsible for making hardware and repairing tools. Farmers and ranchers undertook these tasks for themselves before a forge was opened in a nearby town and continued to maintain a forge after that for quick on-site repairs. Blacksmiths commonly worked with iron or steel. These metals were heated in a forge, often made of brick, which would make the metal malleable. The blacksmith could gauge the temperature and thus the elasticity of the metal by its color. Color ranged from black to red to orange to yellow. Forges were coal fired and air was blown through them from the bottom up with a bellows to super-heat the fire.

Metal bars, scraps or other pieces were heated in the forge and then beaten on an anvil into a desired shape. Anvils were large iron pieces flat on top with square edges. At one end, there was a short drop to a horn which was used to bend metal into round shapes. The short drop or block was used when working with cold chisels. There were also two holes—



PHOTOS FROM THE FORT BEND COUNTY MUSEUM ASSOCIATION'S COLLECTIONS



*ABOVE: A hammer and anvil.
LEFT: Blacksmith tools.*

one square and one round—on the opposite end of the flat top that were used to hold hardies, swages or chisels, which were all used to shape or cut the metal.

The blacksmith used one of his hammers to beat the metal bar into shape on the anvil. He worked at a small portion of the bar, going slowly, heating only the sections being smithed. Other portions of the bar could be cooled by dipping them into a bucket or barrel of water. The bar was constantly either cooled or reheated because the blacksmith didn't want the bar getting too hot or too cold. If the metal bar got too hot it would burn and if it got too cold it would get brittle and be more prone to cracking.

Eventually, the blacksmith complet-

ed work forming his tool or piece of hardware. He then employed several techniques to strengthen the iron or apply a finish to it that included tempering, annealing and blacking (just to name a few).

Farmers used their forges to repair tools and wagons, sharpen plow points, create horseshoes and make any tools needed. Blacksmiths also made nails, hinges, drawer pulls, gate hardware, any tool, axes, barrel hoops, metal tires for wheels and more.

By 1890, tools and hardware were being produced in factories, ordered from catalogs, and shipped all over the country on the railroad. This forced most blacksmiths to abandon their efforts at manufacturing items and focus on repair work and other business avenues, such as vehicle sales and plumbing. However, the art of blacksmithing did not die. Many people still practice blacksmithing. One place to see a blacksmith today is at the George Ranch Historical Park!

Volunteers: Help our curator with inventory, artifacts

Get involved in special behind-the-scenes projects with Curator Chris Godbold. If you like working with computers and learning about Fort Bend County history, he could certainly use some help.

Volunteers are currently needed to help catalog artifacts and conduct inventories of the Fort Bend County Museum Association's collection.

"Cataloging is the process of describing, measuring, photographing and documenting information about new acquisitions and other artifacts from the permanent collections," Godbold said. Cataloging includes typing information into

databases and placing accession numbers on the artifacts.

Inventory duties include: confirming and determining the location of collections items; visually inspecting a section of the storage areas, galleries and historic structures; listing all of the collections items present; checking old lists against the new lists; and updating the database as necessary.

Other opportunities such as research, scanning or transcription of documents in the Museum's or Park's archives are also occasionally available, Godbold said.

Experience is preferred but not necessary. Training will be pro-

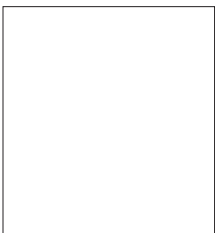
vided. Volunteer opportunities are available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Contact Chris at (281) 343-0218 x.237 or E-mail him at cgodbold@fortbendmuseum.org for more information.

MEMBERS:

Do you have an E-mail address?

Please consider receiving the Texian Footnotes electronically to help us keep costs low. Subscribe today by sending an E-mail to: info@fortbendmuseum.org.

Thank you!



Fort Bend County Museum Association
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Richmond, Texas 77406