



**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

MUSEUM

Children's Day
March 27
Noon to 5 p.m.

DOCENTS

11 a.m. Salad Luncheon
Saturday, March 13
George Memorial Library

DEW HOUSE

House Dedication
March 21
1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Kitty Hollow Park

ARCHEOLOGY

Tuesday, March 23
7 p.m., Room 2B
George Memorial Library



P.O. Drawer 460
Richmond, TX 77406

www.fortbendmuseum.org
www.georgeranch.org

Dew House dedication planned for March 21

You are invited to attend the much-anticipated dedication of the historic Dew House on Sunday, March 21. The open house-style event will take place from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Missouri City's Kitty Hollow Park.

"The Dedication will be the single big event for the Dew project until late this year," said Special Project Manager and Historian Diane Ware. "It's been five years in the making!"

Light refreshments will be served as attendees are allowed to walk through the historic home for the first time to see the renovation that has taken place.

Missouri City artisan Ed Schwer will also unveil the

custom stained glass windows he created for the home.

Fort Bend County and the Fort Bend County Museum Association have been working together to preserve the plantation house. In 2006, the home made a monumental three-mile move down Highway 6 to Kitty Hollow Park where renovation began.

The master plan is to develop the home into the DeWalt Heritage Center—a combination of an interactive museum and a historic space for community activities and gatherings.

A formal grand opening is scheduled for late fall 2010.



DeWalt Heritage Center
FORT BEND COUNTY MUSEUM

HOUSE DEDICATION

Sunday, March 21
1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Kitty Hollow Park
9555 Hwy 6 South
Missouri City

The DeWalt Heritage Center/Dew House is located in Kitty Hollow Park, 9555 Hwy 6 South in Missouri City. For more information, call (281) 342-1256 or visit www.fortbendmuseum.org/dewhouse2/.

Children's Day: Free fun for the whole family!

Celebrate the arrival of spring at the Fort Bend Museum's annual Children's Day festival! The FREE family event will take place on Saturday, March 27 from noon until 5 p.m.

The Fort Bend Museum

will open its doors during the festival with free walk-through tours of the Museum gallery and guided tours of the historic Moore Home. Children will enjoy making paper pots and planting seeds with the

Fort Bend Master Gardeners, learning about wildlife with Brazos Bend State Park, decorating (and eating!) cookies with the Fort Bend Museum Docents and lots more! The

CHILDREN'S DAY*From Page 1*

Fort Bend County Farm Bureau will bring their cotton gin and rice miller, the Brazos Bottom Dulcimers will be playing on the front porch of the historic Moore Home and the Brazoria County Woodcarvers Club will be on site to teach festival-goers the ins and outs of woodcarving.

Also, families will get to practice chores of the past with clothes washing, ginning and carding activities. Spinning demonstra-

tions will also take place throughout the day at the Long-Smith Cottage.

New for 2010: The T.W. Davis Family YMCA will host games throughout the day and the Historic Richmond Association will create balloon animals and offer face-painting.

If you would like to volunteer for the event, call Claire Rogers at (281) 342-6478 or e-mail her at educator@fortbendmuseum.org. For more information, visit www.fortbendmuseum.org.

Calendar of Spring Events

MARCH 21 — Dew House Dedication
Kitty Hollow Park, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

MARCH 27 — Children's Day
Fort Bend Museum, Noon to 5 p.m.

APRIL 3 — Vintage Easter Egg Hunt
George Ranch Historical Park

APRIL 10 — Runaway Scrape Re-enactment
George Ranch Historical Park

APRIL 17 — Lone Star Stomp XXI
George Ranch Historical Park, 6:30 to 11:30 p.m.

MAY 15 — Day on the Farm
George Ranch Historical Park

You are cordially invited

to Attend a Volunteer and Member

"Lunch & Learn"

Tuesday, March 9

at the Fort Bend Museum

500 Houston Street in Richmond

Guest Speaker: **John Keahey**, Director of Programs

at the George Ranch Historical Park

"Soldiers of the Texas Revolution"

Bring a sack lunch; Dessert will be provided

Lunch from 11 a.m. to noon/Speaker from noon to 1 p.m.

RSVP: (281) 342-6478 or educator@fortbendmuseum.org

Politics led to gunfight at courthouse in 1880s

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 October 15, 2009. Show Chris your support for Fort Bend County history and leave him a comment!

In the 1880s, two political factions developed in Fort Bend County. One was the Woodpeckers and the other was the Jaybirds.

The Woodpeckers were those who accepted black suffrage and participation in government, which had come to the county during the Republican-dominated Reconstruction.

Jaybirds were opposed to black participation in government and what they saw as corrupt, incompetent county office holders.

The names Jaybird and Woodpecker probably came from a popular black song of the time.

Tensions rose throughout 1888 as both sides prepared to campaign for the coming election.

Jaybird J. M. Shamblin was killed in August. Some at the time attributed this to the Woodpeckers, but it is more likely that he was killed over a bale of cotton stolen from him earlier that year.

Then Henry Frost, another leading Jaybird, was shot on his way home. He survived, but again Woodpeckers were suspected of the crime.

It was thought that blacks were responsible for both attacks and indeed one former slave, William Caldwell, was convicted of Shamblin's murder and executed. So, the Jaybirds proceeded to run several leading black Woodpeckers out of the county.

Each faction endorsed tickets for county offices and the campaign became bitter with harsh words being thrown out by each side. The Woodpeckers won the county elections in 1888.

That was not enough for Kyle Terry, a Jaybird turned Woodpecker, who killed his Jaybird opponent in that election, Ned Gibson, in Wharton while they were both there for a trial in June of 1889. Terry then fled Fort Bend County.

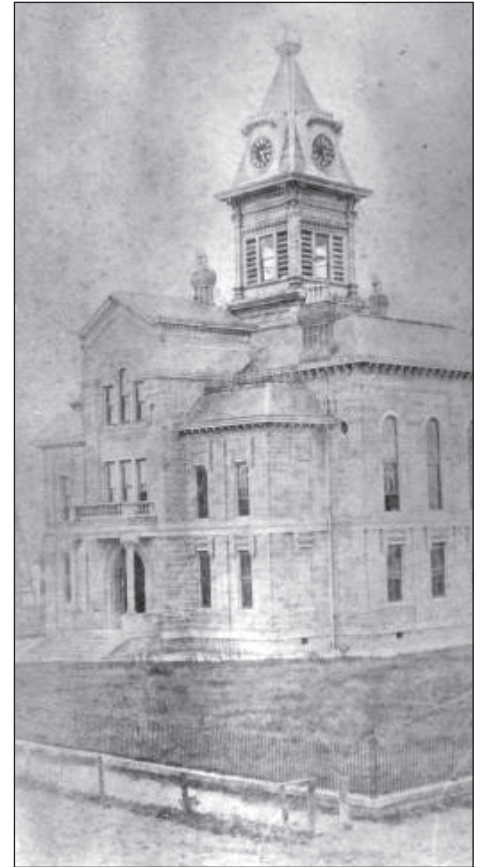
The Jaybirds were determined to get revenge for the killings at the next slightest provocation.

Texas Rangers were sent to Richmond to keep the peace. On the afternoon of Aug. 16, shots suddenly rang out along Morton Street between J. W. Parker, W.T. Wade and the Gibson brothers, Volney and Guilf. The Woodpeckers were chased back into the county courthouse, which at the time was on Morton Street.

The Jaybirds surrounded the courthouse and fired upon the Woodpeckers who returned fire. Four Texas Rangers arrived but did little as they were outnumbered by the combatants on both sides.

Eventually, the firing ceased and the wounded and dead were tended by the survivors.

Dead Woodpeckers included Sheriff T.J. Garvey and Jake Blakely. Judge J.W. Parker and Deputy Sheriff Harry Mason were wounded. Jaybird Hen-



*The fourth Fort Bend County Courthouse:
Where Jaybird-Woodpecker battle took place.*

ry Frost was mortally wounded and would die after a few days.

Other wounded Jaybirds were Volney Gibson and William Andrus. Ranger Frank Schmidt was also wounded and Robie Smith, an innocent young woman on an errand, was also killed.

Governor Ross sent in the Houston Light Guard to control the situation and then came down himself to negotiate an end to the hostilities.

Soon after, most of the Woodpeckers left the county and Fort Bend County politics would be controlled by the Jaybirds for the next 70 years. Kyle Terry was killed later by Jaybirds in Galveston in 1890 when both arrived for trials at the courthouse there.

Lone Star Stomp XXI: An Event with a Beat of Its Own!

Get ready for a rockin' and rollin' good time at the 21st annual **Lone Star Stomp** gala! Set for Saturday, April 17 from 6:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. at the George Ranch Historical Park, the Stomp is an evening of great food, lively music and fun you won't want to miss.

The original **TRIUMPHS** will headline as the night's entertainment. The band played with pop/rock/country star B.J. Thomas in the 1960s.

"I'm so excited about the 21st annual Lone Star Stomp!" said Event Chairman Becky Covell. "Not only will guests be able to dance the night away with music from the Triumphs, but we're also spinning the feel of the

event by introducing a little bit of Caribbean fun."

This year's Western/Caribbean theme is "Rockin' and Rollin': An Event with a Beat of its Own!"

In addition to music and dancing, the Lone Star Stomp features catering by The Swinging Door, live and silent auctions (with auctioneer Jeff Council), and other all-star extras.

Honorary chairs are Jeff and Ann Council, who are being recognized for their 20+ years of dedication to the Fort Bend County Museum Association.

For the first time in Lone Star Stomp history, tickets and sponsorships are available for purchase online



Lone Star Stomp

Saturday, April 17
6:30-11:30 p.m.
George Ranch Historical Park

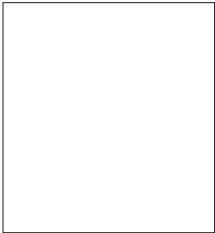
at <http://www.fortbendmuseum.org/annual-events/stomp/>. Sponsorship opportunities are available through March 12, so call (281) 342-1256 or visit www.fortbendmuseum.org for more information.



Did You Know?

This month in history...

March 1980 — The Fort Bend County Courthouse was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Fort Bend County Museum Association
P.O. Box 460
Richmond, Texas 77406