

Texian [FOOTNOTES]

BRAZOS RIVER
IN WINTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

ARCHEOLOGY

Tuesday, September 21
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 25
Scout Workshop
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Registration Required

DEW HOUSE

Work Day
September 10
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Kitty Hollow Park

RANCH

September 25
Pioneer Skills Class
1830s Jones Stock Farm

P.O. Drawer 460
Richmond, TX 77406

www.fortbendmuseum.org
www.georgeranch.org

'The Art of Carmen Willey' opens Sept. 11

The Fort Bend Museum is pleased to present "The Art of Carmen Willey," a special exhibit running from Sept. 11 through Nov. 20. A members-only exhibit opening and reception with the artist will be held on Friday, Sept. 10 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The exhibit will be housed in the 1883 historic Moore Home and features more than 60 of Carmen Willey's original watercolors, sketches and oil paintings.

Willey, 92, helped form the first art league in Fort

Bend County and is recognized for her sketches and watercolor paintings of historical sites around the County, many of which are no longer standing. Willey gave private art lessons to many Fort Bend County children throughout the years and was very active in the community, particularly with the Fort Bend Museum and the art department of the Fort Bend County Fair.

For more information, call the Museum at (281) 342-6478 or E-mail Claire Rogers at educator@fortbendmuseum.org.



Carmen Willey

Grand opening date set for DeWalt Heritage Center

The grand opening of the DeWalt Heritage Center will take place on **Sunday, January 9, 2011** from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Please save the date and make plans to join us for this very special occasion in east Fort Bend County history!

The DeWalt Heritage Center still needs your help up until grand opening day, though. Exhibits need

to be installed and certain artifacts and furniture need to be repaired and cleaned. Antique cloth pieces need some sewing repairs and fringe needs to be attached to the darkening shades. Finally, the flower beds need some TLC.

If you can help with any of the needed work, the following days have been set aside as scheduled Dew

Work Days:

- Friday, Sept. 10
- Saturday, Oct. 16
- Friday, Nov. 12

Bring your tools, sewing kits, rubber gloves and rags!

For more information, contact Lisa Glenn at arknotes@aol.com or Diane Ware at dware@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.

Join us as a sponsor for Texian Market Days

The 27th annual Texian Market Days festival is next month — now's your chance to make history! Deadlines for sponsorship and vendor registration are looming, so please consider joining us for 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 \$50 to \$95 now through October 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.

Historic Evening Meals: Two dates left for 2010

Savor the historical flavor of Texas with a gourmet eight-course dinner by candlelight at the 1860s Ryon Prairie Home. Only two 2010 dates remain: **Sept. 15** and **Nov. 17**.

Costumed wait staff and "Colonel William Ryon" will entertain and educate you with tales of Texas while chef Nick Castelberg guides you through a dining experience like no other. Reservations are required; cost is \$50 per person. No children under 15 are allowed and a tie is required. For more information, send an E-mail to education@georgeranch.org.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

George Ranch Historical Park seeks Educational Sales Coordinator

The Educational Sales Coordinator is the primary contact for booking more than 1,600 individual events, including all educational programs and the historic meals program at the George Ranch Historical Park. Job duties include:

- Coordinating schedules between the George Foundation, GRHP Programs Dept. and the GRHP Site Rentals Dept.;
- Providing a weekly itinerary to all site staff;
- Answering phones and scheduling/making follow-up calls;

- Providing general support to the Visitor Services Manager;

- Helping in the gift shop

Requirements: Must be able to work full-time Tuesday through Saturday, have one year of customer service experience, computer proficiency, good organizational skills and the ability to work successfully in a fast-paced environment.

For more information, please contact Anna Hopkins at ahopkins@georgeranch.org. Pay rate is \$10/hour.



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Which city is named for a guy from Tennessee?



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 July 8, 2010. Show Chris your support for Fort Bend County history and leave him a comment!

News of Texas came early to William Stafford.

He was living in Tennessee at the time with his four children: Adam (born in 1806), Sarah (born in 1809), Harvey (born in 1811), and Mary (born in 1814). Stafford's wife Mary Donelle or Donald had died in 1818 after almost 34 years of marriage.

William Stafford was a native Tennessean, born on March 22, 1764. His father is said to have owned a place in Tennessee called Stafford's Mills.

There is no record of how Stafford responded to the news that Stephen F. Austin was developing a colony in Texas, but in 1822 he and his children traveled to what would become Fort Bend County.

C.C. Dyer traveled with them and the group settled first near San Felipe. In 1824, Stafford was granted one and one half leagues (6,642 acres) north-east of the Brazos River that was nearly bisected by Oyster Creek. He also received a labor of land (177 acres) in what would become Waller County. The year 1824 also saw the marriage

of C.C. Dyer and Sarah Stafford. The couple settled near the Stafford Plantation which also came to be known as Stafford's Point.

Dyer served as general manager for the plantation that by 1836 included a sugar mill, cotton gin, a home and outbuildings. The sugar mill and cotton gin were both among the first to be built in Fort Bend County.

In fact, Stafford had two homes on his property: a fall, winter, and spring house was near Oyster Creek at Stafford's Lake while the summer home was in the prairie about two miles away.

By 1827, William Stafford had remarried; His new wife was Martha Cartwright. Together, they would have 4 children: Martha (in about 1827), William Joseph, Jr. (in 1831), Susan (in about 1835), and John Thomas (in 1840). Martha Cartwright Stafford was a slave owner and constantly worried that the Mexican authorities would free her slaves, so she spent much of her time moving them back and forth across the Sabine River.

William Stafford left Fort Bend County in June 1835 after he killed a man named Moore. Details of the conflict between the men have been lost, but the Congress of the Republic of Texas passed a pardon resolution for Stafford, citing the poor reputation of Mr. Moore, good reputation of Stafford, and great provocation of Stafford that resulted in the death of Moore.

President Lamar signed the clemency order and William Stafford returned to his plantation.

In 1836, the Staffords and their neighbors fled the oncoming Mexi-



PHOTO FROM THE FORT BEND COUNTY MUSEUM ASSOCIATION'S COLLECTIONS

ABOVE: Santa Anna's well is located in Stafford. The city was named after William Stafford, a native Tennessean.

can Army that was chasing Sam Houston and the Texian Army. On their way east, the Mexicans stopped to rest on April 15 at a plantation where they found numerous provisions, among them corn, sheep, hogs and vegetables. This plantation was the Stafford plantation.

The Mexicans rested there for three hours and then moved on to the east, but not before burning the gin, mill, house, and outbuildings. After San Jacinto, the Staffords returned to their plantation and rebuilt it.

Stafford's Point again became a prosperous place. Soon other settlers found their way to this area near the northeast corner of Fort Bend County, including Paschal Borden who married Stafford's daughter Martha.

Unfortunately, Stafford could not enjoy the success of his plantation for very long. He passed away in 1840 and was buried in the family cemetery near Stafford's Lake.

SAVE THE DATE!



TEXIAN GOLF CLASSIC

Monday, November 22

Sweetwater Country Club

*Benefiting the educational programs of the
Fort Bend County Museum Association*

Preparations are in full swing for the 11th annual Texian Golf Classic! Mark your calendars, because cool golfing weather will be here before you know it.

Four-Player Scramble

10 a.m.: Registration, Contests, Lunch

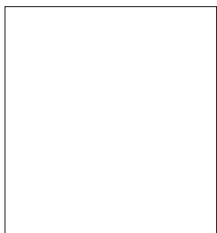
Noon: Shotgun Start

6 p.m.: Buffet Dinner, Tournament Winners and Awards Ceremony, Live & Silent Auctions

Contact Us: (281) 342-1256

sponsors@fortbendmuseum.org

www.fortbendmuseum.org



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