

BOSQUE

LETTER

SUMMER 2005



Jacob De Cordova

Bosque County's Jacob De Cordova

Bosque County land owners who take time to examine their abstracts of title are likely to find the name of Jacob De Cordova at the beginning.

Bosque County is not the only county that owes a debt to Jacob De Cordova but the state as a whole. Harold Preese in an article written for the Congress Weekly back on August 20, 1956 wrote that "Jacob De Cordova deserves greater recognition in the history of the Southwest that is presently accorded him, certainly more than some of the synthetic coonskin heroes resurrected for popular adoration. For one thing, he explored more territory of Texas than its first European discoverer, Cabeza de Vaca. He also brought to Texas

more settlers than did Stephen F. Austin. As a leader, he was the equal of Austin; as a statesman, comparable to Sam Houston who presented Texas to America."

Jacob Raphael De Cordova literally put Texas on a map. He not only published the first official map of Texas, but also the first Texas encyclopedia and two of the first newspapers in the Lone Star State. Sam Houston delivered a speech on the floor of the U. S. Senate praising the map and obtained a government purchase of five hundred copies. During the speech, Houston stated, "on account of the character of the individual who has been engaged in preparing it," it was the "most correct and authentic map of Texas." Jacob, who called himself "the wanderer", spent years traveling all over Texas, working on his map, and on it all future Texas cartography is based.

Through maps, newspapers, pamphlets and books, Jacob played a prime role in "Selling" Texas to the world in the ear following the battles for Texas independence. His writings and

travels attracted thousands of Americans and Europeans to Texas in the period following the revolution.

De Cordova was born in Kinston, Jamaica on June 6, 1808 to Joshua Raphael De Cordova and his second wife Judith. She was English and died at the birth of Jacob. Joshua refused to recognize Jacob because he felt the baby was responsible for his mothers' death. During his early childhood, he was raised by an aunt in England who had no sons. She was who fostered his education.

When he was old enough to realize his mother died giving him birth, he would not celebrate his birthdays in the usual way. Instead, he would always fast and keep the day sacred. His fasting was known only to his immediate family and close relatives.

While Jacob was still a boy, the family moved from Kinston to Philadelphia. Young Jacob liked the small town and lived there for the next fourteen years. During these formative years he obtained an education

far superior to most in those days. He could read and write English, Spanish, French, German and Hebrew. Jacob De Cordova became very much in demand at all the social functions in Philadelphia in that time shortly after the American Revolution. His manner and graces were said to be impeccable.

It was probably at one of these social events that he met Rebecca Sterling, the daughter of a very prominent Philadelphia English merchant. They were married on the September 24, 1829. The marriage was performed on Vine Street by Rev. Grant, a Presbyterian minister, even though Jacob was Jewish and Rebecca a Baptist. Jacob once said that no man had ever been able to describe Rebecca and do her justice because she had more charm than mere physical beauty; she possessed a beautiful soul and a marvelous personality.

Shortly after their marriage, Jacob was confined to his home because of an illness which the doctors diagnosed as "lung fever", the nineteenth century term for tuberculosis. Later Jacob was told by his physicians that he should leave the cold climate. He and his family returned to sunny

Jamaica both for his health and to escape the cholera epidemic in Philadelphia in 1932.

Never one to remain idle, he learned the printing business from a student who he had helped through school. At that time the Jamaican newspapers refused to print a Monday edition. Jacob took advantage of the situation, and on September 13, 1834, he started a daily newspaper, naming it The Gleaner. He established the newspaper on a firm foundation for it is still in business today. It is published under the same name he gave it, by relatives who remained in Jamaica.

Jacob De Cordova could not stay away from America long. He and his wife Rebecca returned to Philadelphia where she gave birth to a son who they named after his father Joshua Raphael. This baby would become the great grandfather of Ronita De Cordova Miller.

When Rebecca and the child were able to travel, the family moved to New Orleans. They arrived in New Orleans amid much enthusiasm for the Texas cause. One can be sure that Jacob was present when the three commissioners from Texas spoke at the Bishop Hotel in 1936. One of those

commissioners was Stephen F. Austin, with whom Jacob became a close friend and later had dealings with in Texas had commissioners was Stephen F. Austin, with whom Jacob became a close friend and later had dealings with in Texas had dealings with in Texas Austin's untimely death in December. While in New Orleans, Jacob was debating where he would like to settle permanently. He read a document which not only changed the course of his life, but also gave the American pioneer direction. This document was the Texas Declaration of Independence.

Jacob followed the Texas freedom campaign with keen interest from the tragic massacre at the Alamo to the decisive battle of San Jacinto. While waiting for the conflict in Texas to end he became a merchant. He was one of the first merchants to begin shipping merchandise to the Texas colonists during the war. All types of cargo were shipped to Galveston for the citizens of the new Republic. He was so impressed with the amount of business that he decided to move to Galveston himself. He and his family arrived in Galveston in June of 1937. He (See De Cordova Continued Pg. 6)

In Memory of Walter L. May

Walter L. May, 85, of Clifton passed away at his home on May 21, 2005. He was born on October 30, 1919 in Clifton, Texas to Adam & Mary Alice (Pollard) May. He was the youngest of eight children. Walter was a member of Clifton Methodist Church, Scottish Rite, Karem Shrine, Eastern Star, Bosque Valley Golf Club, Texas Woodcarvers Guild, Nolan River Chippers of Cleburne, Squaw Valley Woodcarvers of Glen Rose and Masonic Lodge where he held many offices. In addition, he served on the Clifton City Council and was even Mayor Pro Tem from 1993 to 2001. He was well loved and will be greatly missed.



Four Word's

“Chock” C. K. Word, Jr., Burrell Nelson “Tex” Word, C. “Cole” Word and James Powell “J. P.” Word standing in front of the Word Building on the Square in Meridian

Words of Bosque County

The Bosque County Historical Commission was pleased with the attendance of 118 who registered for the open house on June 10, 2005 at the Bosque County Collection for the new exhibit “Word’s of Bosque County”. This exhibit was conceived by Jo Ann Word, wife of Chock Word, after the sudden death of the late Burrell Nelson “Tex” Word. Burrell participated in all four invasions of Europe during World War II with a glider unit. We wanted to chronicle the history of an extraordinary family that produced five Bosque County Judges. Pictures and information was furnished by Jo Ann, and helped Jo Meyer and Corinne Brandt put the exhibit together. It was truly a team effort.

The exhibit honoring the family line starting with two Word brothers, James Powell Word and Burrell Jackson Word. Burrell Jackson was County Attorney at one time and as County Judge from 1900 to 1905. He moved from Alabama in 1870 to Bosque County with his wife Ella and seven children, spending a year near Valley Mills, then moving to

Spring Creek, then to Iredell and finally to Meridian. The second County Judge was Burrell Franklin Word who served from 1926 to 1936 and 1945 to 1946. He married Stella Rundell of Walnut Springs and they had one son Burrell Nelson Word, the glider pilot.

James Powell Word, County Judge from 1959 to 1963, also served in the Texas State Senate from 1963 to 1973. J. P. credits his mother, a school teacher with his becoming a politician. He practiced law in Meridian and still handles real estate law a few days a week at Meridian Abstract Company. He and his wife Bobbye reside in Austin.

The fourth, Charles K. “Chock” Word, Jr. was appointed to fill an unexpired term as County Judge and was re-elected twice, serving until 1982. He also served one term as a Texas House of Representative from 1983 to 1984. Chock began his career in the abstract business in 1965, with his brother J. P. in the family business, Meridian Abstract and Title Company. This was a business that their father C. K. Word, Sr. had acquired in 1929. J. P. and his brother Chock, also operated the company in conjunction with their law practice. Chock acquired the abstract company from J. P. after their father’s retirement. Chock’s wife Jo Ann, a school teacher worked part time in the business until her retirement, then joined the company full time.

In July 1995, Chock Word, after operating the abstract and title

company for 30 years, sold it to his son, Charles “Cole” Word. Cole and his wife Sonja are now owners and operators of Meridian Abstract and Title Company.

Following in his father’s footsteps, C. Cole Word was elected Bosque County Judge in 2003, becoming the fifth Bosque County judge from the Word family.

This family has made history in the county and we wanted to honor them with the exhibit. The exhibit is housed in a large display case and includes many photos, family records and memorabilia. It will continue to be on display at the Bosque County Collection for a year. We invite those of you who could not make it to the opening, to come by and view the exhibit.



Iredell’s First United Methodist Church Marker Dedication

On May 22, 2005, at First United Methodist Church, a large group met for a Texas Historical marker Dedication for the congregation of the church serving for 135 years. The application for the marker was made by Eleanor Helm Chaffin, the Church Historian.

Carol Robinson presided at the piano with Jo Meyer, Chairman of the Bosque County Historical Commission served as Master of Ceremonies. The Rev. Linda Wimberley gave the invocation. Jo Meyer stated the significance of the Historical Marker for Iredell, Bosque County and the state of Texas. The Texas Historical Commission depends on the County Historical Commissions to help survey and educate the communities of the importance of local history. Eleanor Chaffin serves as secretary of the Bosque County Historical Commission and did a great job on the application for the marker. Other Commission members are Vice Chairman, Raymond and Valeria Whitney, LaDawn Garland, Chairman of the Marker Committee, Allen and Betty Johannes and Gerald Meyer.

Charlotte Porter Myers grew up in the church and gives generously of her time and talents. Currently, she is Sunday School Superintendent, Choir Director, and Chairman of the Pastor Parish Relations Committee. She introduced noted guests. Bosque County Judge, Cole Word, related the importance of the churches in each community. He also stated his family was located in Iredell in the late 1890's. For special music, a Sextet sang "The Cornerstone", a perfect choice for the occasion.

Gene Blakley grew up in the church, spent his professional life away, and came back to make Iredell his retirement

home. His is Chairman of the Finance Committee and his love for history makes him very knowledgeable about the history of Iredell and the First United Methodist Church. He gave a very informative speech on the history of the church.

Everyone went outside for the unveiling of the Historical Marker by the church historian, Eleanor Chaffin and LaDawn Garland, Marker Chairman. After the unveiling, the group was invited to the church fellowship hall for refreshments. The inscription for the marker is as follows; *In 1869, Methodists in the Iredell area began worshiping at Hester Schoolhouse, a building used by both Baptists and Methodists for services. The Rev. Peter W. Gravis served as pastor. Two years later, the Methodist congregation moved to Wills Chapel, a half-mile east of present Iredell, on land donated by Dr. J. S. Wills for a church and campground. In the late 1870's, members moved the wills chapel to a site in town. The growing Methodist church increased in membership and in facilities throughout the next 100 years. Members also established programs and groups to support the congregation and the local community.*

Kudos for our Volunteers

Current Volunteers are Allen & Betty Johannes, Danielle Rigsby, all of Meridian, Doris Jennings and Beth King of Lakeside Village, Maxine Bakke, of Clifton and Jo Meyer of Valley Mills. The

Collection's accomplishments are due to their dedication of time and energy. Thank you Volunteers!



Graves-Payne House Marker Dedication

On April 23, 2005, a very large crowd gathered to witness the dedication of a Texas Historical Commission Marker. This Marker recognizes the Graves-Payne House as a significant structure in Texas history by naming it a Recorded Texas Historical Landmark. The designation identification is the highest honor the state bestows to a historic structure for architectural integrity and historical value.

About thirty Payne decedents were present for the program. While enjoying the beautiful restoration of the house, they shared stories about the many out buildings that are still standing. The house is located at 1318 County Road #1140 out of Kopperl.

The house was restored by Don and Ruth Buchholz of Dallas who own the ranch where the house is located. Ruth Buchholz did an outstanding job on her documentation. The written narrative is the most important part of the application

for the marker. It is the responsibility of the applicant to establish historic significance through a documented narrative history. Age alone does not determine the historic value.

Many friends of the Buchholz from Dallas and Bosque County attended the dedication. Don and Ruth were gracious hosts for the occasion. The program took place in front of the restored Graves-Payne house. Allen Johannes, member of the Bosque County Historical Commission gave the invocation. Vice Chairman Raymond Whitney led the group in the pledges to the United States and Texas flags. Jo Meyer Chairman explained the significance of a Recorded Texas Historical Landmark for the house. The Texas Historical Marker shows pride in the community, the county and the state. The County Commissions is the link between the small communities and the Texas Historical Commission.

The Commission members present were introduced by Jo Meyer. Raymond and Valeria Whitney, Allen and Betty Johannes, LaDawn Garland, Gerald Meyer, and Ron Carlisle were present.

Bosque County Judge, Cole Word, emphasized in his speech the importance of the early settlers to the history of each community and to the county. The settlers' religious influence helped shape the history of the community for the many people who came after them.

Ruth Buchholz gave the history of the house. The old house was made of limestone and constructed in a typical style of the 1800's. During the restoration a brick was found in the fireplace in the east room with "1876" carved on it. The house is two stores high with two rooms down stairs and a large room up stairs. The walls are 24 inches thick with wide windows and door sills. Ruth interviewed a former neighbor, Darrell Higginbotham who remembers his family history well. He says the Chisholm Trail went right through their property. This ranch contains some of the Higginbotham farm, so this means the Chisholm Trail came right across the Buchholz property. It may have gone very near the old house. She gave a long and interesting history of the families that occupied the house and some of the changes to the house.

The unveiling of the marker was done by LaDawn Garland, the Marker Chairman and Don and Ruth Buchholz. After the program, the Bosque County Collection and the Buchholz invited everyone to have refreshments and visit. Don had fixed up an old wooden wagon to serve refreshments from, with wild flowers as the centerpiece.

The inscription for the marker reads as follows; *This home dates to the ownership of the Aaron S. Graves Family, who lived in Kentucky and Missouri before settling here in the Union Hill Community of Bosque County by the 1870's.*

A carved limestone brick in the fireplace indicates the house was built in 1876. From 1940 to 1973, it was home to the family of Shelton Payne, a Georgia native who farmed the land. The vernacular stone structure, typical of pioneer homes of the ear, features gabled dormers, a hipped roof, a double-pen floor plan, low windows with segmented arches above and a chimney. The farmstead includes a windmill, a cistern, storeroom, and well.

Visitors From Far and Near

During the past year we have had a number of notable visitors. There were two ladies from Norway who were searching for their American ancestors. A lady from Paris France came by to research her Bosque County roots. In addition, we have had visitors from all over the United States from California to New York. Visitors include those from Arizona, Washington D. C., and many other states. Of course, we have had visitors from all over Bosque County, the surrounding counties and all over the great state of Texas.

For Sale

We still have home-made jellies and jams available. The cost is only \$3.00 for an 8 oz. jar. We have Bosque County Tote Bags for \$5.00 each, hand painted jars for \$5.00 each. We have numerous books, flags, commemorative calendars, pictures and maps. We have T-shirts for only \$1.00 each. Stop by to see the latest items available.

De Cordova

(Continued from Pg. 2)

immediately applied for citizenship.

In 1937, Houston was the most promising city in the southern part of the republic. De Cordova moved there after a few months residence in Galveston. He often referred to Houston in later years as the "Atlanta of the Southwest". While residing in Houston, he opened a trading firm which was located "under the Exchange Hotel". All items were sold at a small advance in the New Orleans price for cash or country produce.

He quickly became a leading merchant in the village of Houston. His health continued failing in this low, damp, sub-tropical region so uncomfortably like Jamaica. A physician warned him that his only chance for life was a long stay in the high, dry, almost uninhabited areas west of the Brazos.

He left his store in the capable hands of his wife and set out toward the wilderness. It was a lonely and uninhabited area of sage and cat claws, of roaming herds of antelope and buffalo. As he rode endless miles and his health improved, there emerged for De Cordova the shape of his future career; he would bring families to Texas.

Jacob had learned intimately the eastern half of the republic from his travels during numerous business trips. Before his illness he had marked on rough

charts every swamp that might be drained, every thicket that might be filled for homesteads and villages. Now he began making careful charts of this western area. For five years he rode across the steep hills and flat high mesas, breaking his absence from home by semi-annual visits to his family in Houston. It was on one of these journeys that he made his way into the area now known as Bosque County. He noted in his journal that he was in the most spectacular country that he had seen in all of his travels through Texas. He added that he hoped someday to be able to retire to this land of excellent grasses, plentiful waterways and magnificent low lying hills. At the end of that decade he had regained his health and accumulated a comfortable fortune. More important for his adopted land, he had learned more about Texas on either side of the Brazos than any other man of his day.

The need for settlers had become acute and by 1845, Jacob De Cordova opened De Cordova's Land and General Agency business. This was the business to which he devoted most of his time for the last twenty-three years of his life. Within a few months, the agency became the largest land agency that has ever operated in the entire American Southwest. A year before, 1846, Texas had surrendered its independence to become the twenty-eighth state of the American Union. Texas, twice the size of Germany, had far less population than the tiny state of Rhode Island. Few

families were crossing the Sabine River into Texas. The settlements composed predominantly of single men quickly disintegrated as bachelors exchanged big grants of land for saddle horses to carry them back home.

From the official title records, Jacob De Cordova obtained the names and address of easterners who had bought large plots of Texas land for speculation or had gotten grants for serving in the army. He went to New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore to persuade these absentee proprietors to divide their holding into family size farms which he could sell at low prices to new settlers. About this time he owned or had obtained script to over one million acres of Texas land in at least forty-eight Texas Counties.

Then he embarked on a program to advertise Texas and induce families to head their wagons toward the new state. De Cordova's half brother, Phineas joined him as a partner in the agency. The two began the publication The Texas Herald, which they distributed free in crossroad stores and county post offices throughout the south and Midwest. "Come to Texas", every issue of the paper urged. "Come where your children can get a start on rich land that can be bought at a poor man's price." Many families that read the paper came. They rolled across the Sabine River in long caravans of ox wagons with plows, hoes and sacks of seed strapped to

the side of the creaking vehicles. Some groups drifted in by wooden rafts down a route of interlocking rivers. Young couples rode in on horseback with pack mules carrying pots and pans and washtubs. East of the Brazos, a number of families settled to strengthen old communities or to start new ones. West of the Brazos, colonists pushed in to build courthouses and schools in new communities that surveyors were kept busy marking off.

Everywhere in Texas thriving settlements rose on once desolate sites just as Jacob De Cordova has predicted. Squarely on the Brazos River, dividing the two sections, De Cordova founded the bustling city of Waco. March 1, 1849, three men gathered at what is now the Convention Center to mark off Lot 1, Block 1 of Waco. These men were Shapley P. Ross, George Erath and Jacob De Cordova. Little did these men know that someday the population of the new town would be over 100,000.

Several times during the time that Jacob De Cordova was in town helping to get his new town organized he would ride to the upper reaches of the Brazos to see the land he hoped someday to permanently make his home. In fact, a friend of the family, Frazier, did move his family to area known as Kimball. In 1856, Jacob instructed his wife to select land for their new home near their friend and to plan to have the house face the river. On April 25, 1956, Rebecca bought over

1200 acres of land for their Wanderers Retreat on the Brazos.

Largely because of De Cordova's untiring efforts, the population and reputation of Texas kept soaring. He wrote the first book about Texas and its' opportunities. Eastern mayors began inviting him to visit their cities and talk about Texas. His oratory influenced bankers to buy stock in Texas, many merchants and enterprises opened businesses here. One of these men was Richard Kimball, who became a good friend of the De Cordova's. He invested in the land and De Cordova called it Kimball. Jacob then set sail for Europe to make more speeches and find fresh markets among British manufacturers for the cotton his land customers were growing.

De Cordova invested his money bringing Texas its' first railroads after prophesying correctly that the ox-drawn freight wagons would vanish entirely, "when the snort of the iron horse shall awaken the solitude of the prairies". He organized the earliest Odd Fellow's lodges west of the Mississippi. He was one of the first members of a Masonic lodge in Texas, the Harmony Masonic Lodge in Houston along with Anson Jones. Later he transferred his membership to the Kimball Masonic Lodge.

Until the between the states, he was the state's leading land developer. But with the start of the Civil War, he saw migration slump and commerce come to a standstill. Settlers still owing

him payments of land purchases could not ship their cotton to Europe since all the southern ports were blockaded by Federal gunfire. The men and boys were all off to war, so other crops and livestock could not be tended. De Cordova sent all three of his sons, Joshua, Henry, and Frances, to war, all serving in the Confederacy. Jacob, being too old and sickly, could not serve, so instead he served as Bosque County Clerk and surveyor without pay.

These years were hard to De Cordova. He could have reposed farms and ranches through foreclosure, and was urged to do so by less sensitive traders. No doubt that he could have made significantly larger profits from the resale of these now improved homesteads. Instead, he felt responsible for these war stricken families. His eloquence of speech and keen judgment had guided these families to Texas and they were partners in his vision. He said, "I lived well when my friends could pay me. If I shared good times with them, I have to share the hard times too."

Jacob De Cordova witnessed first had the shortage of clothing the south suffered during the war and dreamed of ginning the cotton and weaving it into cloth in Central Texas. He explored for a proper site for a cotton textile mill along the Brazos River. He developed a detailed plan for harnessing the waters' flow and rallied eastern businessmen to invest in his plan as he invested too.

In 1868, he made his last trip to New York to obtain the

necessary funds and bought the equipment for the gin. He had planned to cut a canal across the neck of the Brazos River at a point where the river makes a hairpin turn, just above Bee Mountain. Before he could arrive back home, he was caught in a blue northern and caught pneumonia and died shortly after reaching his beloved Wanderers Retreat in Bosque County. The equipment he had purchased arrived at Freeport where it rusted away.

The last trip that Jacob and his wife, Rebecca were to take in Texas was in 1935 when their bodies were removed from the Bosque County Cemetery in Kimball, near his home, to the Texas State Cemetery in Austin. His remains lie among the greats of Texas.



Jacob De Cordova Headstone in Austin, Texas

At the time of his death, Jacob still owned large amounts of land in 48 counties. His wife Rebecca later had to sell off the lands to clear up Jacobs debts with the exception of Kimball

Bend property which he had placed in the name of his friend, Richard Kimball, to save it should the south lose the war and the Yankees take all our lands. Jacob died without a will and it took Mr. Davis from Iredell over 17 years to straighten out the estate.

Items Needed at the Collection

The Bosque County Collection is in need of a number of items. These include an additional filing cabinet, a heavy duty stapler, additional shelving and a podium. If you are interested in purchasing any of these items, please contact Jo Meyer or Corinne Brandt at the Collection at 254-435-6182. Your gift will be a great addition to the Collection.

Volunteers Needed

Do you have extra time? Are you computer literate? Can you type? We need your help! Even those of you who don't have office skills can contribute. The Bosque County Collection is in need of volunteers to help organize and catalog our holdings. We especially need those of you who have been around the county for many years to help identify photographs. These old photos may be of people, places or things that only you may know about. If you are able to donate your time, please call 254-435-6182 and talk to Corinne Brandt to tell her when you would like to come up and work. We will greatly appreciate your help.



Gift in Memory of M. Jeanne Owen

Gifts to the Collection

The following was given to the Collection in her mother's memory by Elizabeth "Beth" (Owen) King; Census records from most of the states including Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Missouri, Mississippi, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, Tennessee and the entire state of Texas. Included in these many rolls of Microfilm are Slave Schedules, Marriage, Birth & Death Records, Vital Records, Biographies, Tax Lists, Court Records, Deed Books and Revolutionary War Records. In addition to the numerous rolls of Microfilm, Beth gave us a Microfiche Reader and countless pages of microfiche which includes 33 years of The Genealogy Helper, 80 years of the South Carolina Historical Magazine. Many of you, who remember Jeanne, are aware of the work she did for the Historical Commission and the Collection such as the Cemetery

Books. To Jeanne and her daughter Beth, the Bosque County Historical Commission and the Collection are deeply indebted.

Other Gifts Received

We have also received many other items of historical significance such as the manuscript files of Mary Lou Ford, records from the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church and Valley Mills School Annuals from Ronita De Cordova Miller. Other books donated are; Some Very Fine Folks, by R. L. Hopson, Bosque County Armed Forces Veterans, by Gloria M. Hewlett, Bosque County Probate Records, by Allen Johannes and Obituaries in the Valley Mills and Surrounding Area in Bosque County, by Gerald and Jo Meyer. We have also been given the Bosque County Census records on CD Rom from Bruce Wiland. Furthermore, Doris Jennings of Lakeside Village gave us a gift of two wrought iron tables and chairs for the courtyard in memory of her late husband, Kenneth "Ken" Jennings. Doris is also a volunteer at the Collection. Below is a picture of the courtyard with the new tables and chairs.



Courtyard Tables & Chairs

To all of you who have given so much in the way of gifts, time and energy, THANK YOU!!!

Your contributions help make the Collection one of the finest local history collections in the state of Texas.



Courtyard Pavers

Courtyard Paver Bricks Still Available

The Bosque County Collection still has room for more Courtyard Paver Bricks. Many individuals and groups have purchased these bricks to commemorate a loved one or ancestor. Stop by to see our beautiful courtyard. We are about to place an order for the next set of bricks, so order yours today. Please make your check payable to: Friends of Bosque County Collection and place your loved ones name in our courtyard.

Family Land Heritage Program & Marker Applications

The Bosque County Collection has all current applications available. If you still have land that has been in your family for 100 years or more, please stop by or call the Collection for an application to be included in the Texas Family Land Heritage Program. Guidelines will be given to you when you receive your application. Also, if you live in or own any type of historic structure, please preserve it by applying for your Texas Historical Marker.

Applications are available at the Collection. Call 254-435-6182 for more information.



Lighted Ceramic Bosque County Courthouse

Bosque County Courthouse

Pictured above is a beautiful lighted replica of the Bosque County Courthouse. Our Courthouse is currently being restored. In order for the expenses of this vast restoration to be covered, we are selling the hand painted replicas. The cost in only \$100.00 and it comes with a tiny figure of a man who stands on the courthouse steps. Proceeds from the sales go to the Courthouse Restoration and Preservation Association. Come by the Collection to pick yours up today. Restoration construction will begin on July 13th, 2005.

Brand Books Available

After months of volunteer and staff time, we have finally completed the copies of the Marks and Brands books. The original six volumes date from December 4, 1854 through March 3, 1949. These old county records have faded and are very brittle due to their age. Due to the condition of the books, we could not allow people to view them or handle them. After carefully making copies, we were able to recreate

these books with an alphabetical index. These indexes took a great deal of time to complete since the handwritten books were done in the old fashioned style script making translation very difficult. Below, we have listed a few of the names that appear in these wonderful old books.

Arneson, Bible, Cutbirth, Dahl, Dansby, Edwards, Flanary, Galloway, Hensley, Killebrew, Olson, Looney, Nygard, Parr, Russell, Sellers, Tipton, Wood, Zuelke.

These are only a few of the names listed in these remarkable old books. It is amazing that so many women and even some children had their own brand back in the 1800's.and we thought women's liberation was something new?! Stop by to see if your ancestor had a registered brand and what that brand was.

Out of the Past

Many of you may be keeping up with LaDawn Garland's weekly article Out of the Past. LaDawn is the Marker Chairman for the Bosque County Historical Commission and the author of the weekly publication mentioned above from the Bosque County News. She has been with the Historical Commission for two years and with the newspaper for eleven

years. Her articles are informative and inspiring. She states each week in her column; "I would really like to encourage everyone to talk with the older members of your families and community. Record their memories, anything they know of their family and their past. Remember, these will one day become the treasures of future generations. It is so important to keep our history alive today, before it is lost to us forever." How very true! If you have a family story or information about your family or are looking for information about your ancestors, write to LaDawn at Bosque County News, P. O. Box 343, Meridian, TX. 76665 or e-mail her at bosque@htcomp.net. Of course, you can always stop in at the Collection to see what we have.

Upcoming Events

Each year the National Championship Bar-B-Que Cook Off is held in Bosque Bottoms on the fourth weekend of August. The Collection will be setting up a booth to sell items from our gift shop. In addition, the September Fest is coming up on the second Saturday in September in Cranfills Gap. The Collection will have a booth there as well. We need volunteers to man these booths. If you are

interested in helping us out, please contact the Collection at 254-435-6182.

Other Upcoming Events

In addition, the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II is coming up. There will be a celebration to commemorate this occasion on Friday, September 2nd, 2005 at the Bosque County Collection from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. This celebration is being held in conjunction with Texas Historical Commission's (THC) celebration. We have received word from THC the Hoblitzelle Foundation of Dallas has approved funding for the historical marker portion (Vignettes of Wartime Texas) of the Texas in World War II initiative. The grant will fund the research, writing and placement of fifteen new Official Texas Historical Markers across the state for World War II topics that have not yet been adequately interpreted. The list of markers already approved by the staff and commissioners reflects the regional and cultural diversity of the state and brings in such important elements of the overall story as the home front and role of business. Keep checking your local newspapers for updates on this historic event. As for further information on THC's celebration, go to their web site at thc.state.tx.us.

Bosque Letter, Spring 2005

The Bosque Letter is published by the Bosque County Collection, Jo Meyer and Corinne Brandt, Newsletter editors and publishers.

The Bosque County Collection is located at 101 North Main St., Meridian. We are open from 8:00-5:00, Monday thru Friday, closed for lunch from 12:00-1:00. Our mailing address is P. O. Box 534, Meridian, TX. 76665. Telephone Number: 254-435-6182; Fax: 254-435-2272,