



Museum Musings

Carnegie Building Celebrates a Century

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Since 1905, the beautiful Carnegie library building has served this community, first as a library and now as the home of the Bell County Museum. We are proud to be its caretakers, and are proud of the building's history.

A library for Belton was first housed in a room at the Central Hotel. The Woman's Wednesday Club, the oldest continuing club in Bell County, and the Century Club, another literary organization, spearheaded the drive for a library building. The women wrote several letters to philanthropist Andrew Carnegie seeking funds for the project. Legend has it that Mr. Carnegie, tired of the persistent correspondence from Texas but dedicated to establishing free libraries across the country, wrote a personal check for \$10,000, just to get the women to stop their letter writing campaign to him!

The contractor for the library project was Ben D. Lee, a noted area builder who also built the Bell County courthouse, the Milam County courthouse, and Belton's opera house. The building was designed in the Beaux-Arts style, popular in North America from 1885-1925. Characterized by a monumental and imposing appearance and attention to embellishment and decoration, the style is an outgrowth of the Second Empire style. The exterior features a symmetrical façade complete with paired colossal columns, a low-pitched roof, medallions of lion's heads, composite Ionic columns, and a lovely broken pediment above the entrance filled with cornucopias and a cartouche of Carnegie. The exterior is also outfitted with yellow Beimer brick, from the local brick factory that once operated in the county.

Over the years, the structure has functioned as a library, county health department, museum, and the "teen canteen." It is one of 12 Carnegie library buildings still standing in Texas out of the 32 that were originally constructed, and is one of only 300 remaining on the North American continent (out of approximately 1,680). It is a Recorded Texas Historical Landmark, and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Although numerous photographs of the building's exterior exist, we seek photographs pertaining to the building's interior. Please call the museum if you can help in our search for interior views. Thank you!

RECENT ACQUISITIONS



from *Temple National Bank: A History*

We are so pleased to announce the gift of a well-known artifact – the 1910 O.B. McClintock clock that hung outside on the corner of Temple National Bank from 1917 until 1952. **Robert Ozment**, author of *Temple National Bank: A History*, writes that the clock's chimes "spelled out the time on each quarter of the hour and was perhaps the most loved landmark in the history of the town. . . . A clerk was charged with winding the clock and setting its time on the inside of the building." Bank founder Albert Flint, Sr., "bought the clock for \$1,000 and intended it as a public convenience and advertisement for the bank."

Temple National Bank began in 1910 as the Farmers State Bank. Later, the bank was designated as the federal repository for all monies allocated for the construction of Camp Hood.

The clock has been restored and is a gift of **Raye Virginia Allen & family, Dick Archer, and Bank of America.**

Kidstuff!

Letters from Lakewood Elementary fourth graders.....all spelling and grammar original.....

Thank you for taking the time to talk to Fourth grade about the Chisholm Trail. Along the Chisholm Trail we saw snakes and we ate beef jerky, corn bread, and bread. We crossed the Red River. I enjoyed the short film called Rawhide. My favorite part was when we got to go on the Chisholm Trail with the stick horses. Once again Thank you so much for sharing that wonderful information with the Lakewood Fourth grade students. Sincerely, Britnee Bostian

I was a cook and I learned that the cook doesn't just cook food for the cowboys. The cook helps the cows, and cowboys if their hurt. The cook is also important because he has to know how to teach the other person that's going to be the cook, how to cook right. So that the cowboys don't get sick. I also learned that cowboys do a lot to help the cattle stay healthy, and get them to the person that said they would to pay for the cattle. Love, Nikki Valdez



We extend appreciation to Jaymie Couillard for her volunteer efforts this summer. Jaymie has helped file catalogue cards and worked with our summer children program, *Goin' Up the Chisholm Trail*. We also thank Dr. Van Mask for showing us his wonderful longhorn cattle on that day!

You are cordially invited to attend
a reception honoring the
Lena Armstrong Public Library
for its efforts in the
conservation of the
1888 Bell County Ex-Confederate
Veterans Reunion Roster
Saturday, September 3rd, 2-4 p.m.
Lena Armstrong Public Library
301 East F Avenue
Belton, Texas

Every August we honor those who contribute their time and talent to help the museum help the community. Some volunteers serve as museum guides; others help out with the annual Big Bell County Garage Sale; still others come in each week to assist in office tasks. If you are one of these very special people, check your mailbox for an invitation to our *Volunteer Recognition Coffee*, held in your honor on Saturday, August 6th, from 10:00 until noon, in the lovely and historic home of Walt & Jane Brown. Volunteers are at the heart of all museum operations; if you are interested in helping the museum in some capacity, call us! We will find a niche for you.

Volunteer Recognition Coffee

THANK YOU to our New & Renewing Friends

Friend:

Cecily & Wayne Ball
James O. Boyd
Betty Crowson
Mr. & Mrs. R.L. Epperson
Robert & Elleen Ford
Dorothy & Jack Martt
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Bell Popejoy
David Wilds

Family:

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Cronin
Fran & Sam Farrow
Maj. Gen. (Ret.) & Mrs. Ben L. Harrison
Jeannette & John T. Kelley
Miriam & Jack Knox
Dr. & Mrs. Robert E. Myers
Dr. & Mrs. R.E. Walsh

Patron:

Dr. & Mrs. Jerry Bawcom
Dr. & Mrs. R.J. Carabasi
Colonial Dames of the XVIIth Century
Adelaide S. Colwell
Sue & George Gideon
Mr. & Mrs. Keifer Marshall, Jr.
Mary & John Odom
Wanda & Jack Weinblatt
Mr. & Mrs. John T. Wilson

Partner:

Mickey & Bob Burleson
Gail L. Peck & Dean M. Chandler

Please join us! Take part in preserving the rich history of the Bell County region by joining the Friends of the Museum Association. Your membership allows us to continue award-winning programming through exhibits and educational activities that enhance our county-wide community. Benefits of membership include discounts in the museum bookstore, invitations to special events, and the satisfaction of knowing that YOU are an important part of the preservation of Bell County and Central Texas history. Together, we make our community great!

Yes! I want to support the Bell County Museum by becoming a member of the Friends of the Museum Association.

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| _____ \$10 Student | _____ \$100 Patron |
| _____ \$25 Friend | _____ \$250 Partner |
| _____ \$50 Family | _____ \$500 Associate |
| _____ \$75 Advocate | _____ \$1,000+ Benefactor |

MEMORIALS

In memory of
Elbert Aldrich

by Raye Virginia Allen & family
Dorothy H. Aldrich & Betty L. Clark
Virginia P. & Thomas A. Aldrich
Mary Jean & Paul Boston
Weldon Cannon & Patricia Benoit
James O. Cure
Bettye & Robert Davidson
Peri & Robert Edwards
B.J. Finch
First Texas Bank, Belton
Kathy & Ted Floca
The Paul Golden family
Marcia & Ken Hanson
Blythe & Bill Hardin
Janis & Bill Holmes
Dr. & Mrs. Lewis Hoppock
Mary & Stan Jackson
Dr. & Mrs. Delroy Johnson
Carol Jones
William J. Kotrla, Jr.
Bettye Cole Lawler
Helen Lingnau
Kathy & Griff Lord
Mr. & Mrs. Keifer Marshall, Jr., Keifer Marshall III,
Christina & Rob Marshall, & Patrick Marshall
Sue Mayborn
Brenda & Kenneth McGuire
Ann & Bill Messer
Ilene C. & Michael E. Miller
Dr. & Mrs. Robert E. Myers
Ruth & J.W. Perry
Dr. & Mrs. F.C. Petty
Mrs. J.C. Pitts, Dr. & Mrs. George Luck & Mr. &
Mrs. Chester Sadler
Katheryn & Ronnie Pitts
Beverly & Richard Sawyer
Scott & White Foundation Board of Trustees

In memory of
Elbert Aldrich

by Dr. & Mrs. James C. Stinson
Col. (Ret.) & Mrs. Thomas F. Tapman
Bill & Nell Valigura
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Wharton
Walter & Edla Wilde
Margaret & Mike Williamson
Ruth & Dale Yates

C.O. (Buck) Buckellew
by Weldon Cannon & Patricia Benoit

J.D. Cannon
by Caroline & Benny Bay

Shirley Cornett
by Peggy & Richard Dillard

Ruby Anne Fielding
by Charles Collins, Michael Collins,
Fran Hall & Rebecca Ray

Preston Goforth
by Peggy & Richard Dillard

Ralph McDonald
by Mr. & Mrs. E.A. Limmer, Jr.

Bob McFarland
by Benny & Caroline Bay

Nan & Judge James H. Russell
by Raye Virginia Allen & family

Allene Barr White
by Bell County Commissioners Court
Richard & Peggy Dillard

Dr. Harry A. Wilmer, II
by Weldon Cannon & Patricia Benoit
Margaret & Mike Williamson



One of our former curators, **Holly Mathis**, was featured in the June issue of *Better Homes and Gardens* magazine ("Chic on a Shoestring")! We are so proud of Holly and her many accomplishments, including her new business, *Shabby South Interiors*.

A contribution has been made to the museum honoring *Mr. & Mrs. Joe Pirtle* by Thomas Dannelley.

Bell County Museum

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Museum Staff

Stephanie Turnham.....	Director
Amanda Thompson Dyer.....	Curator
Jordon Winker.....	Assistant
Kelly Alonzo.....	UMHB Work-Study Student

¿Qué Pasa?

August 6, 2005, 10:00 a.m.-noon – *Volunteer Recognition Coffee.*

September 3, 2005, 2-4 p.m. – Reception at the Lena Armstrong Public Library marking the conservation of the 1888 Bell County Ex-Confederate Veterans Reunion Roster.

September 17, 2005 – New exhibit, *Russell Lee: The Man Who Made America's Portrait* – through November 3, 2005.

September 24, 2005, 10:00 a.m.–noon – *Textile conservation workshop* (rescheduled from July 9); \$10 fee, registration required.

October 8, 2005, 9:30 a.m. - noon – *Archeology Day at Miller Springs featuring archeologist Neal Stilley*; event is free, registration required. For kids ages 9-12.