

# museum musings

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## Need Help with Holiday Shopping?

Check out the museum store for unique books, ornaments and more! Our newest offers include our handsome new museum mug and the ultra hip 2010 calendar, *Biker Broads of Bell County, Texas*. Created as a fundraiser for Belton's 1874 Episcopal Church Restoration, the calendar features senior women in Bell County, including Mary Alice Marshall (100), Berneta Peeples (92), Rosa Hereford (68), Mary Hodge (83), and many more of our beloved female gems. The calendar sells for \$20 plus tax. You've just gotta get one!

## More Book Signings in 2010

Join us for two new bookish events next year. On Saturday, February 20, 2009, Clyde McQueen will sign copies of his new book, *The Black Army Officer*. Clyde is a World War II and Korean War veteran and a 1950 graduate of Prairie View A & M College. He is also the author of *Black Churches in Texas: A Guide to Historic Congregations*. The February 20th event will be held from 2-4 p.m.

On March 20, 2010, Amy Wink will sign copies of her new book, *Tandem Lives: The Frontier Texas Diaries of Henrietta Baker Embree and Tennessee Keys Embree, 1856-1884*. These two early Beltonians were married to Dr. John W. Embree, a physician, slaveholder, farmer, and merchant. The diaries "richly illuminate how these women coped with such issues as domestic violence, childrearing, faith, frailty, and mortality." The book signing will be held from 2-4 p.m.

## CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT WORKSHOP SCHEDULED

The Bell County Museum has scheduled a Christmas ornament workshop for Saturday, December 19, 2009, from 2 until 4 p.m. Visitors will be able to make their own Christmas ornaments which include bell ornaments, a lace angel, bell candy canes, and a cowboy boot ornament.

"This is a very fun event we hold each year, with a different craft activity," said Museum Director Stephanie Turnham. "It is a wonderful time to share with family and friends, and the theme of this year's 'bell' crafts makes perfect sense for us!"

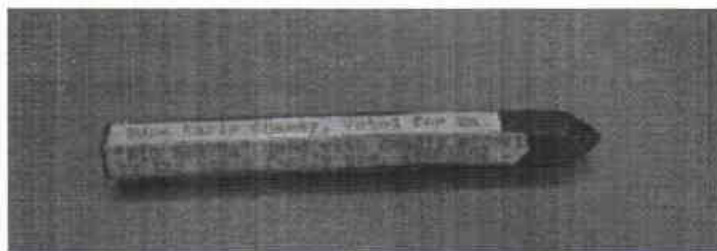
The ornament workshop is free, hot cider will be served, and to complement the museum's exhibit, *Meet the Fergusons: Two Governors for the Price of One*, Miriam Ferguson's "absolute favorite cookies" will be served. The event is a great opportunity to create a lifetime family memory.

## *The Power of the Pencil*

A recent gift to the museum by Jim and Barbara Watt speaks volumes about the popularity of Governor Miriam "Ma" Ferguson. The six-inch tall grease pencil has typewritten "notes" on each side of the pencil that say:

M.L. Earle, Voted for Ma.  
Mrs. Kate Earle, wife. Voted for Ma.  
Allen Earle, Son. Voted for Ma.  
Flora Earle, wife. Voted for Ma.  
Edna Earle Chaney, Voted for Ma.  
"Big Bertha" used with deadly effect  
by the Earle family Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> 1924. –

Pretty neat, huh! If anyone remembers the Earle family, please contact us, so that we can add to the story of the pencil. Thank you!



Grease pencil, 1924. Gift of Jim and Barbara Watt, 2009

## Christmas at Twelve Oaks

Saturday, December 12, 2009

*We hope to see you there!*

## The Maximo Moreno Land Grant

*The following article was written by Temple Librarian Judy Duer based upon a presentation by Dr. David Yeilding given to the Temple Rotary Club on November 12, 2009. Interesting!*

"Last week we got a treat from past president David Yeilding when he told us about the Maximo Moreno Land Grant as it relates to Temple. David's renditions of history are always entertaining, and this one came particularly close to home. As David tells it, he got started researching this topic when he was doing a history research project for Amy Thomas on her family's property. In order to discuss the Maximo Moreno Land Grant you have to go back to Moses Austin, who got permission from the Mexican government to colonize Texas soon after Mexico received their independence from Spain. Moses Austin was the first person to get a contract with the Mexican government to be an empresario (to hand out land grants). The Mexican government agreed to give 4,428 acres of land to each head of family, 1 labor (accent on the last syllable) for farming, and 24 for ranching or grazing. 25 labors equaled one league. Single men could receive a quarter of a league, or 1,107 acres. As fate would have it, Moses did not live to hand out the grants, so his son, Stephen F. Austin took over for him.

" In the meantime there was a group in Davidson County, Tennessee who created the Texas Association with the intention of doing the same thing. However, since they were slow in organizing, Robert Leftwich got a contract for an area which included what is now Bell County, but did not do anything with it. In the meantime, Sterling Clack Robertson created a subsidiary called the Nashville Company which is now known as the Robertson Colony and moved 9 families to Texas in 1830. Unfortunately for him, the Mexican government had repealed their liberal immigration policy just months before. Although he tried to work with Stephen F. Austin, they clashed, and in 1831 Mexico gave Robertson's Colony to Austin who called it the Upper Colony. Austin, however, never moved US citizens into the Upper Colony, but did issue grants to Mexican citizens, some of which fell in the Bell County area. In 1833 Maximo Moreno paid the state of Coahuila 1,175 pesos (or 2 ½ cents an acre) for a grant in this area, making Moreno probably the first man officially given title to land in what became Bell County, including Temple. Moreno never came to Bell County and eventually sold off all his rights here, but retains the title of the first man to hold title to land here. Through the years the land changed hands many times, but David says that we can look somewhere in the neighborhood of North 13<sup>th</sup> to North 15<sup>th</sup> and Mayborn for something (a tree? a pile of shells?) marking the North West Corner of the Maximo Moreno grant. "

*Dr. Yeilding would like to continue his research on this fascinating topic. If you have information regarding old land abstracts referencing land holders within the Maximo Moreno land grant, please bring the information to the museum. We are happy to forward the information to Dr. Yeilding. Thank you!*

*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.*
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Student  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Patron       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Friend   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Partner      |
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Lu & Dave Palmer

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by  
Ann & Dennis Turk

**O.L. Frazer**  
by Camilla & Don Gidden

**Martha James**  
by  
Don Asfahl  
Hilliard Lyons Company, LLC  
Mary Ray

Mark your calendar!  
Save the date!  
Put a string on your finger!

THE ANNUAL  
**BIG BELL COUNTY  
GARAGE SALE!**

Saturday, March 13, 2009  
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Hooray!



**Happy Holidays  
to You and  
Yours!**



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## ¿Qué Pasa?

Now through March 13, 2010 - *Meet the Ferguson: Two Governors for the Price of One*

December 12, 2009, 6:00-9:00 p.m. – *Christmas at Twelve Oaks*, a benefit for the Bell County Museum

December 19, 2009, 2-4 p.m. – *Taste of Bell County* and holiday ornament workshop; bring the family!

January 23, 2010, 8:30 a.m. – guided tour of the Gault Site; limited to 30 participants; call to register

January 23, 2010, 2:00 p.m. – book signing by Heather Wooten, author of *The Polio Years in Texas: Battling a Terrifying Unknown*

February 20, 2010, 2:00 p.m. – book signing by Clyde McQueen, author of *The Black Army Officer*

March 20, 2010, 2:00 p.m. – book signing by Amy Wink, author of *Tandem Lives: The Frontier Texas Diaries of Henrietta Baker Embree and Tennessee Keys Embree, 1856-1884*

April 10, 2010 – *1968 in America* opens

April 24, 2010, 8:30 a.m. - guided tour of the Gault Site; limited to 30 participants; call to register