



# Bell County Historical Commission Newsletter

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Bell County Courthouse  
Belton, TX 76513

## ***KAHA to host commission on March 23***

The Killeen Area Heritage Association will host the Bell County Historical Commission on Monday, March 23, at the former Bethel Primitive Baptist Church, 400 South Gray, in Killeen, according to new chairman Beverly Zendt. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

The commission's April 27 meeting will begin at 6:15 p.m. in the Precinct #1 courtroom in order to allow members the opportunity to attend a special presentation at the Bell County Museum (see related article below).

The February 23 meeting will begin at 7 p.m. in the same courtroom, Zendt announced.

Directions to former Primitive Baptist Church: Take US Hwy 190 to Killeen. Exit at the Trimmier/Downtown sign and turn right. (Red Lobster is on the corner.) Continue north on Trimmier 1.1 miles to Hallmark. Turn left on Hallmark. Drive two blocks to South Gray. Turn right on South Gray and drive to Nolan Creek (about two blocks). The white frame church building is just south of the creek on the right.

## ***Sitting Bull descendant to visit Belton***

Ernie LaPointe, great-grandson of Sitting Bull, will present *The Great-grandson's Insight on Sitting Bull and the Lakota Culture* on Monday, April 27, at the Bell County Museum, 201 North Main in Belton.

Co-sponsoring the 7 p.m. free event are Temple College and Temple South Rotary Club.

Born in 1948 on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, LaPointe attended public school in Rapid City, then joined the military in 1966 and was stationed in Korea, Turkey, Germany, and Vietnam and at numerous United States posts.

In 1992 he participated at the induction of Sitting Bull into the Hall of Fame of American Indian Chiefs at Anadarko, Oklahoma. In addition, he has presented programs at the Crazy Horse Memorial and the Little Bighorn Battlefield.

A Sun Dancer, LaPointe follows a traditional Lakota lifestyle, including adherence to the rules of the Sacred Pipe; in an internet discussion about the Sacred Pipe Ceremony, Ben Black Bear Jr. describes this ceremony as "the basis of Lakota spirituality" and "the basis for all other ceremonies." LaPointe also created a two-part DVD biography of his famous ancestor.

## **BCM plans black history event, garage sale**

The Bell County Museum has scheduled a variety of events during February and March that promise to appeal to wide audiences.

First on the calendar, during Black History Month, is an evening of readings from "Bell County Ex-Slave Narratives," plus poetry and songs. Praise dancers from Eighth Street Baptist Church will also perform.

The program will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, February 19, at the Temple College Pavilion.

The museum's newest exhibit, *Vintage Bell County: from the Collection*, will open on February 21 and will feature a Colt .44 revolver that may have been used in a famous Bell County feud plus a lady's side-saddle and more than 40 photographs. The exhibit will continue through May 30.

The Bell County Expo Center will be the scene on Saturday, March 14, for the museum's well-known Big Bell County Garage Sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The sale, a major fund-raiser, helps the museum mount exhibits like the Albrecht Dürer and Rembrandt van Rijn show scheduled to open June 16.

Admission to the sale is \$2, with children under the age of 12 admitted free. Volunteers are needed for the sale, according to museum director Stephanie Turnham. More information is available at 254-933-5243.

The museum's current exhibit, *Visioning Beauty: An Ella K. Mewhinney Retrospective*, is due to close January 31.

The museum is located at 201 North Main in Belton and is open 12 noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

## ***Bell County Calendar***

BCHC meeting . . . . . **January 26, 7 pm**  
*Mewhinney Retrospective*. . . . . **through January 31**  
'Ex-Slave Narratives'. . . . . **February 19, 7 pm**  
*Vintage Bell County* . . . . . **opens February 21**  
BCHC meeting . . . . . **February 23, 7 pm**  
BCM garage sale . . . . . **March 14, 9 am-4 pm**  
BCHC meeting (Killeen) . . . . . **March 23, 7 pm**  
TSHA meeting (Austin) . . . . . **March 26-28**  
BCHC meeting . . . . . **April 27, 6:15 pm**  
Lakota culture talk (BCM) . . . . . **April 27, 7 pm**  
DRT state convention (Killeen) . . . . . **May 13-16**  
*The Inspired Line* (BCM) . . . . . **June 16**

### Family history help at BCHC office

Genealogists and others interested in family history are welcome to visit the Bell County Historical Commission office where they will find indexed copies of obituaries from the Belton Journal for 1913 to 1967.

In addition, eight regular commission volunteers staff the office to help visitors locate information about Bell County persons and historic sites, according to coordinator Joe Button; eight substitutes fill in as necessary.

Regular volunteers include Ron Gates, Joe Button, Tom Hughes, Bill Clark, Rae Schmuck, Nancy Kelsey, Berneta Peebles and Dena Hill.

Obituaries are listed in alphabetical order on the office computer's electronic index, as well as in a printed index. This index and copies of each obituary are located in blue binders in the office, one binder per year of the collection.

"A person seeking an obituary may review the index to determine if we have the obituary," Button says. "If it is in the collection, the index will give the date or dates of publication."

Obituaries in the BCHC collection are not currently available online.

Gates, immediate past BCHC chairman, began the obituary project about 2000 when the commission acquired its third-floor office during restoration of the Bell County Courthouse. Hours are 9 a.m. to 12 noon Monday through Friday except on county holidays.

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### Holiday benefit nets museum \$8,500

The home of Raye Virginia Allen was the site for *Christmas at Green Oaks Farm*, a fund-raiser for the Bell County Museum that cleared \$8,500 for museum projects, according to director Stephanie Turnham.

*This newsletter is published quarterly by the Bell County Historical Commission, Box 712, Belton, Texas 76513-0712. Editorial material may be sent to Annette Lucksinger, 811 Oakhill Drive, Killeen, Texas 76541 (254-699-5916).*

*(E-mail: annettelucksinger@yahoo.com)*

*The commission meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Monday of most months in Justice of the Peace #1 courtroom, Bell County Courthouse. The BCHC office on the third floor of the courthouse is open from 9 a.m. to 12 noon Monday through Friday. (Phone number is 254-933-5917.)*



### Temple man updating cemetery book

Charles Hart of Temple, above, has begun an update of *Texas Jewish Burials*, a 436-page book first published in 1997 by the Texas Jewish Historical Society.

Hart, a past JHS president, is basing much of his research on the extensive work of Don and Gertrude Teter of Baytown. He plans to contact county historical commissions throughout the state to solicit assistance in identifying Jewish graves in large cemeteries, as well as the occasional Jewish burial in small, rural cemeteries.

The update will be an addendum to the original volume, Hart says. He notes that the society has heard from some families whose father, for example, may be listed in the original volume, but whose mother has died since 1997 and thus should be included in the updated book.

Persons who possess information about Jewish burials in Texas may contact the JHS at txjhs@yahoo.com.

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### Bullock museum plans immigrant exhibit

A "first-of-its-kind" exhibit, *Forgotten Gateway: Coming to America Through Galveston Island*, will open February 21 at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin. The exhibit will tell the story of the island city as one of the country's top 10 trans-oceanic ports of entry into Texas and the United States during the 19th and early 20th centuries by means of individual immigrants' stories.



## BCHC elects Belton resident chairman

The Bell County Historical Commission elected Beverly Zendt of Belton as its new chairman at the recent annual meeting at the Bell County Museum. Above, Zendt confers with outgoing chairman Ron Gates. Other officers are Rae Schmuck, vice chairman; Harriet Monsell, treasurer and finance and budget chairman; Dorothy Button, secretary; Kristen Reichert, program chairman; Nancy Kelsey, marker chairman; Berneta Peeples, reporter; Joe and Dorothy Button, grants chairmen; and Annette Lucksinger, newsletter.



## Holiday wreaths retrieved from cemetery

A cold winter's day didn't deter volunteers from carrying out wreath retrieval duties earlier this month at the Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Killeen. Some 1,400 wreaths were laid in November by Friends of the Central Texas Veterans Cemetery, with more than 1,000 volunteers taking part.

## *Thomas Drummond: Plant pioneer in central Texas*

By Robert C. Williams, Ph.D., Central Texas College

At first glance it might seem to be a long way from the drawing rooms and herbaria of Enlightenment Scotland to the almost uninhabited wilderness of early 19th century Texas. Either may also seem far removed from present-day Bell County. Yet there are some surprising — and delightful — continuities.

Drummond was born in 1793 in the rural parish of Inverarity, Forfar, County of Angus, Scotland, the son of the head gardener on the Fotheringham Estate. In England, Drummond's status might have been considered somewhat menial, but the Scottish Enlightenment was pioneering new social ideas that would later be dubbed "meritocracy," and bright, young Scots had access to educational opportunities that were undreamt of elsewhere. The Drummond family capitalized on such opportunities, although, like so many other Scots of the time, they found that advancement led from Scotland through Ulster to the far corners of the earth.

Thomas Drummond persuaded Sir William Jackson Hooker of the University of Glasgow to recommend him to Sir John Franklin. Franklin was planning an expedition to explore the Canadian Rockies and the Arctic coast. Drummond was appointed "assistant naturalist" and worked with the expedition from 1825 to 1827. Upon his return, he was named first curator of the Belfast Botanic Garden, 1828 – 1831. But the New World attracted Drummond, and by 1830 he was in the United States to study the continent's plants. Having heard of the French-born Jean-Louis Berlandier's earlier plant collecting in Texas, Drummond headed south. He landed in Velasco in 1833, with *two tons* of paper for preserving botanical specimens.

Drummond walked and canoed all over the Texas coast, the Edwards Plateau and Central Texas, often alone. He nearly starved at times. He almost died of sunburn. He suffered repeatedly from various diseases. He almost died of cholera. But before he was through, Drummond had shipped 750 species of plants back to Hooker at Glasgow. Many of those species now bear the species name "*drummondii*" (see listing on page six of this newsletter).

Like many who came to Texas, Drummond apparently liked what he saw. He planned to move his family from Scotland to Texas. Unfortunately, it was not to be. On his way back to Scotland, he had a layover in Havana where disease struck him again, and he died in March, 1835.

Drummond left a legacy of plants that are prized by gardeners around the world. Drummond's Phlox [*Phlox drummondii*] is one of the most popular bedding plants in temperate gardens everywhere.

Many of Drummond's plants are uniquely adapted to Texas and have huge advantages here. But, unfortunately, many people in central Texas purchase plants like the ones they see in magazines like *Better Homes and Gardens*. With a little luck, those northern maples and photinia and euonymus *may* look good for a couple of weeks, but in Texas' high-pH soil and drought-prone climate they either suddenly drop dead or endure an ugly, protracted death. Or, one can grow beautiful plants in central Texas like those collected by Drummond and simultaneously connect with both Texas' marvelous native heritage and its rich historical past.

Note: Dr. Williams teaches history at Central Texas College and, in addition, lectures on the subject of native plants. For further reading, he suggests the following volumes: Arthur Herman. *How the Scots Invented the Modern World: The True Story of How Western Europe's Poorest Nation Created Our World and Everything in It*. NY: Three Rivers Press, 2002; S. W. Geiser, *Naturalists of the Frontier*. Dallas: Southern Methodist University, 1937; 2d ed. 1948; and Sally Wasowski and Andy Wasowski. *Native Texas Plant : Landscaping Region by Region*. Houston: Lone Star Books, 2000.

The Tonkawa Chapter, Native Plant Society of Texas, meets at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in room 2807, The Pavilion, Temple College. More information is available from Ed Wood at 254-939-0559.

## ***Commission acquires Duncan collection***



Judge C. W. (Bud) Duncan Jr. has donated a collection of approximately 390 volumes to the Bell County Historical Commission.

The books were the property of Duncan's sister, the late Gra'Delle Duncan, BCHC member and longtime, Killeen-based writer and historian.

Penny Worley, left, recently retired library director at Scott & White Hospital, and Dawn Harris, assistant director of library services at the Killeen Public Library, have worked approximately 12 hours to catalogue the collection.

The two used large tables in the Bell County Commissioners Courtroom to examine and record information about the books. The collection includes Texas history volumes, general western history, histories of California and New Mexico and a leather-bound copy of Thomas Jefferson's *Notes on Virginia*, printed in the early 19th century.

According to commission chairman Beverly Zendt, a committee will be appointed in February to make suggestions regarding the care and accessibility of the collection, with the final decision to be made by the commission.

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## **Bell County hosts not one, but three inaugural balls**

In this year of history-making Presidential politics, Bell County Democrats have made a little history of their own.

On the evening of January 20, Democrats hosted three inaugural balls: one at the Shilo Inn in Killeen, sponsored by the Center for African-American Studies at Central Texas College; one given by the Bell County Democratic Party at the Bell County Expo Center; and the third, a Culture of Change ball at Club Hood hosted by a new organization of the same name.

All three events compose a first for Bell County, as, until now, no Presidential inaugural ball has occurred hereabouts. Spokesmen predicted that nearly 1,000 would attend at least one.

Longtime Democratic activist Rosa Hereford of Killeen said that one of the main reasons Bell County Democrats decided to sponsor balls was that this year's historic inauguration of the nation's first African-American president, Barack Obama, had attracted so many people to Washington, D.C., that tickets to inaugural events became scarce.

"So we decided here in Bell County to have some balls to celebrate," she added. "We are SO excited!"

**RR&HM continues timetable project**

Railroad and Heritage Museum volunteer Ben Julson is in the process of digitizing (scanning) the Robert Pounds Collection of Santa Fe Employee Timetables for the museum's archives.

According to RR&HM archivist Craig Ordner, the collection of more than 4,000 timetables is the nation's most complete and dates to the mid-1800s.

Employee timetables, Ordner explains, include special instructions or rules for railroad employees (conductor, engineer, brakeman, flagman, for example). These instructions include track speed limits, proper whistle signals, number of cars allowed on a siding and rules regarding signals, among others. Such timetables are no longer used by freight railroads, he says.

"These employee timetables document the history of the railroad," Ordner continues. "They show where the train once traveled. In some instances the old track has been removed and the only record of its existence is the timetable."

In addition, he adds, employee timetables identify railroad employees, including the superintendent, trainmaster, dispatchers, watch inspectors and surgeons, information that is useful for genealogists.

In 2008 the Santa Fe Railway Historical & Modeling Society published complete sets of timetables for 1891 (52 pages) and 1910 (190 pages). Copies are for sale at the museum for \$22 and \$31, respectively.

Donor of the timetable collection, the late Robert Pounds, retired from his position as Senior Special Agent for the BNSF Railway. A lifelong rail enthusiast, collector and museum supporter, he published *Santa Fe Depots, the Western Line* in 1984

The museum has also completed its Harvey House exhibit, giving visitors a sample of the hospitality formerly offered rail passengers at 84 stations along the Santa Fe line, including the Temple Harvey House, which closed in 1933.

The museum will host a member reception on Friday, February 6, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the museum gallery.

The museum is located at 315 West Avenue B in Temple. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Phone number is 254-298-5172.

**Five marker applications off to THC**

Bell County Historical Commission marker chairman Nancy Kelsey reports that five Bell County historical marker applications were completed and sent to the Texas Historical Commission by the January 15 deadline.

Applications and their sponsors include Raye Virginia Allen of Temple, Green Oaks Farm; Holland/Mountain Home, Monk Ivicic of Holland; Village of Salado, MaryBelle Brown of Salado; Dallas Cemetery, Steve Dallas of San Antonio; and Bernard M. Temple, City of Temple's Parks and Recreation Department.

Kelsey notes that two persons have joined the marker committee, Dr. Wayne Matthews and MaryBelle Brown. Both have extensive knowledge of Bell County history, as well as experience in documentation procedures. Dr. Matthews has agreed to help formulate procedures to be followed by sponsors as they prepare applications.

Kelsey suggests that persons wishing to apply for THC historical markers begin the process as early as possible. She hopes to set the county deadline for October 1, in order to have applications finished by THC's deadline, which now occurs in January. Some applications can be completed in about 40 hours after submission, she says, while others lacking proper documentation can require more than 150 hours.

According to Kelsey, Bell County now has 207 markers. Harris and Dallas counties have 314 and 317 markers, respectively. Williamson County has 208, and McLennan has 186.

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*from page four . . .*

Dr. Williams suggests "Googling" the following plants collected by Thomas Drummond in 19th century Texas:

<u>Genus</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
<i>Allium</i>	<i>drummondii</i>	Drummond's Wild Onion
<i>Clematis</i>	<i>drummondii</i>	Old Man's Beard
<i>Cooperia</i>	<i>drummondii</i>	Rain Lily
<i>Cornus</i>	<i>drummondii</i>	Rough Leaf Dogwood
<i>Hedeoma</i>	<i>drummondii</i>	False Pennyroyal
<i>Malvaviscus</i>	<i>drummondii</i>	Turk's Cap
<i>Oxalis</i>	<i>drummondii</i>	Wood Sorrel
<i>Phlox</i>	<i>drummondii</i>	Drummond's Phlox
<i>Ruellia</i>	<i>drummondiana</i>	Drummond's Ruellia
<i>Scutellaria</i>	<i>drummondii</i>	Drummond's Skull-cap
<i>Sesbania</i>	<i>drummondii</i>	Rattlebox
<i>Symphotrichum</i>	<i>drummondii</i>	Texas Aster

### IfH to study love, forgiveness, wisdom

Salado's Institute for the Humanities will explore "the capacity of love, the healing power of forgiveness and the wisdom that comes from both" during its spring 2009 series.

The series will begin with a lecture and reception on Friday, February 27, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Salado Civic Center, 601 North Main. Michael Conforti, Ph.D. will discuss "Forgiveness and Redemption: An Archetypal Perspective."

Tickets are \$20 for institute members and \$25 for non-members.

On Saturday, February 28, Dr. Conforti will lead a workshop from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Mill Creek Inn and Golf Club. Topic is "Living with Forgiveness and Living with the Unforgivable: Learning from the Wisdom Traditions." Fees are \$50 for members and \$55 for non-members, including lunch.

Dr. Conforti, a Jungian analyst, is a founder and director of the Assisi Institute in Vermont and is the author of *Field, Form and Fate: Patterns in Mind, Nature and Psyche*.

James Pennebacker, Ph.D., will discuss "The Wisdom of Self-reflection: Research on Expressive Writing and Health" on Sunday, April 26, at the Longhorn Conference Center at Stagecoach Inn.

The lecture will begin at 4 p.m., with an optional dinner to follow. Fees are \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members.

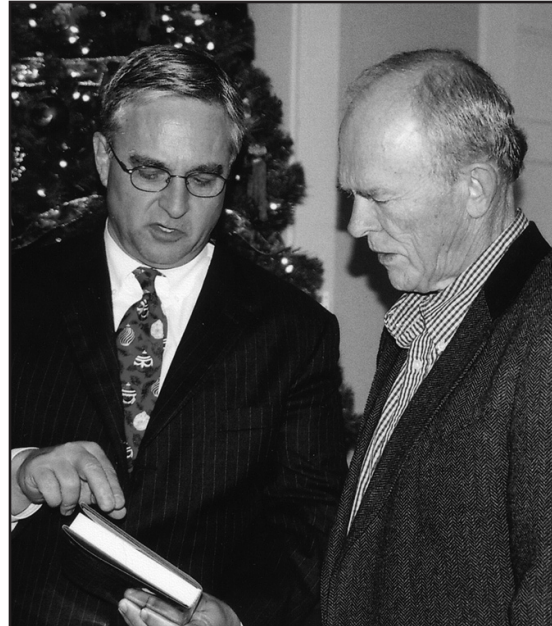
Dr. Pennebacker is the author of *Writing To Heal: A Guided Journal for Recovering from Trauma and Emotional Upheaval* and *Opening Up: Healing Power of Expressing Emotion*. He is the Bush Professor of Liberal Arts and chairman of the psychology department at The University of Texas at Austin.

*Enoch Arden*, a dramatic musical presentation based on an Alfred, Lord Tennyson ballad about love and forgiveness, with music by Richard Strauss, will conclude the spring series on Saturday, May 9, at First Baptist Church in Salado.

Performing will be Dr. Robert Freeman, Ragan Regents Professor of Fine Arts at UT-Austin, and Dr. Lucien Douglass, associate professor of acting and directing at UT-Austin.

Tickets for the 5 p.m. production are \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members.

Information about institute membership and programs is available at 254-947-5729.



### Baseball author meets baseball player

Talmage Boston, above left, discusses his new book, *Baseball and the Baby Boomer*, with former New York Mets catcher Jerry Grote at a recent book signing at the Bell County Museum.

Boston, a Dallas attorney who was named a "super lawyer" by *Texas Monthly* every year from 2003 to 2008, has written and taught widely about baseball and its history. A "media member" of the Texas Baseball Hall of fame, he is the author of numerous articles and three books about baseball and the inscription on the walls of the Nolan Ryan Center in Alvin.

Grote played for the Mets from 1966 to 1977, including the Mets' World Series wins in 1969 and 1973. A native of San Antonio, he now lives on a ranch near Austin where he raises longhorns.

On hand for the book signing were Boston's parents, Paul and Mary Jean Boston. Mrs. Boston has just completed a term on the museum's board of directors. About 60 persons attended the event.

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### Killeen receives \$3,000 National Trust grant

The National Trust for Historic Preservation recently awarded a \$3,000 grant for the creation of a master plan for the city of Killeen's downtown revitalization program.

## One history fan + One *more* history fan = LOTS of history!



A visit with Mike and Nancy Kelsey (left), arranged to learn about books the two have published to help people with family history research or historical marker documentation or virtually any other subject dealing with the past, almost immediately disintegrates into a free-for-all. For almost half a day, a visitor participates in a dizzying range of topics -- from the couple's main interest (central Texas history) to old books found at flea markets, politically incorrect recollections of interviews they've conducted, family treasures they've inherited and an incredible porch-turned-research-library at their c.1871 home in Belton.

Bell County Historical Commission marker chairman Nancy, who has assisted several women with documentation for membership in lineage organizations, is responsible for making sure applications for Texas Historical Commission markers are complete and that they are submitted by the annual deadline, set by the THC each year. A retired Veterans Administration nurse whose father's work took the family "all over Texas," she attended more than a dozen schools but spent more years in El Paso than in any other place.

She and Mike were married in 1997 and moved from Temple to Belton in 2001. Son of a career military man, Mike also attended a number of schools, mainly in South Carolina and Georgia and five different colleges. He has been reference and genealogy librarian at Temple Public Library for 14 years.

Melding careers and hobby interests, the two have published seven books dealing with historical records. These include *Notes on Bell County, Texas, Volume 1*, about South Belton Cemetery, published in 2006. This work lists burials at the historic cemetery, as well as information the Kelseys found about persons interred there. Another volume is from an Alabama newspaper called *The Southern Argus*; according to Mike, the *Argus* records (obituaries, death notices and implied deaths June 1869 through June 1874) are a "gold mine for anyone doing research for the Reconstruction period," thanks to the newspaper's regular section of Texas news during that era. Other works include the 507-page *Notes on Bell County, Texas, Volume 2*, about Temple's Hillcrest Cemetery burials; *Texas Masonic Deaths with Selected Biographical Sketches*; two volumes of miscellaneous Alabama newspaper abstracts; two volumes of miscellaneous Texas newspaper abstracts; and *Marriage and Death Notices from the South Western Baptist Newspaper*. The Kelseys get their information "anywhere we can," relying on collections at Baylor University and The University of Texas at Austin, among numerous other sources.

The couple's latest book, due to be issued soon, is another *Notes* volume, an extensive, illustrated history of Temple, complete with lists of business employees, reproductions of letterheads, long-gone factories (Temple Candy Company, for example, with its candy cane smokestack) plus fires, barber shops, transportation data, stories of the city's diverse population and much, much more.

A.L.