



GRAPEVINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# On The Vine

DEDICATED TO PRESERVING GRAPEVINE HISTORY

## MARCH Through Grapevine History

**1888 March 22:** Benjamin Richard (B.R.) Wall, then an 11-year-old boy, recorded in his diary, "... the train is passing now. The Depot is nearly done. I will be glad when it is. The men that are working on it are going to dinner. They don't camp out but they stay at the hotel."

**1922 March 3:** Grapevine joins the Tarrant County Free Library System. The branch library is located in the front corner of the Farmer's National Bank at Worth and Main Streets. Some 250 books are housed in cumbersome bookcases. Mrs. Sue Mullins is the first Librarian and keeps the Library open two afternoons a week.

**1926 March 10:** Citizens vote for the construction of a sanitary sewer system, disposal plant, and the issuance of improvement warrants not to exceed \$30,000. The proposition carries by a vote of 150 to 105. One acre of farm land is purchased from A. E. Hudgins for \$450 for the construction site. On May 7, an ordinance is passed prohibiting all outhouses and privies within the city limits.

**1927 March 1:** The Nash Farm is sold to Carl Yates. The farm was purchased by Thomas and Elizabeth Mouser Nash in 1859.

**1930 March 2:** James Torian is born in the Torian Cabin.

**1945 March 3:** The National Rivers & Harbors Act becomes law authorizing the building of lakes and dams essential to the growth and welfare of people living in the area. This paves the way for the construction of the Grapevine Dam and Reservoir.

**1976 March 3:** Grapevine City Council discusses relocation of the Torian Log Cabin on Main Street. The Tourist & Convention Bureau will pay and the restoration will be completed in July, when the the City Council approved an additional \$3,878.22 for the cabin.

**1987 March 3:** A contract is awarded and construction begins on a new Grapevine Convention Center.

**1988 March 4:** A Ford Motor Company meeting is the first event held at the new Grapevine Convention Center.

**1996** In March, senior golfer and long-time golf course supporter W. D. (Ted) Willhoite, shoots his age (84) at the Grapevine Municipal Golf Course.

**1999** In March, school supplies are sent to Parras de la Fuente, Coahuila, Mexico, Grapevine's first Sister City.

Sallie Andrews

## Grapevine's Peace Circle

Linda Lewis is this month's speaker at the Grapevine Historical Society. As the owner of the Grapevine Foundry, she has been asked to create and oversee the production of the new Peace Circle. The circle depicts Sam Houston along with the 10 Native American chiefs and leaders who met in Grape Vine



Springs and ultimately signed a treaty at Birds Fort in 1843. The sculpture features life-size bronze figures, gathered in an unbroken circle, representing the unity of the event and the "beginning and the end."

To make up for the lack of pictures of the Native American Leaders, Lewis and her team took time period photographs of the tribes, witness information, and communications with the tribes today to design each leader with a combination of accuracy and honor to the tribes' wishes. The Treaty of Birds Fort was a treaty of peace and friendship that was intended to cease the fighting between the Native Americans and Texas settlers. Lewis said that in her research, she was "overwhelmed with what [the Native Americans] had to go through." Sam Houston "was one of the only white men to fight for the Native Americans and his love for Texans and Native Americans is not even close to being documented."

Lewis said to be able to participate in this project is the "ultimate honor." She and her team have worked for a year on the circle so far and it "is a piece of her heart, Sam Houston's heart, and the Native Americans' heart." Lewis said that the overall purpose of the peace circle is to "honor them and bring the memory of who they were ... to the forefront so they are not forgotten." Linda will be joined by Paul McCallum and Sallie Andrews.

Aislyn Gaddis

# March

## March Events

March 23 at 7:00 pm - Grapevine Historical Society meeting at the Grapevine Public Library. Our monthly meetings are on the 4th Monday. Meetings are open to the public. The program will be on Grapevine's Peace Circle. We will also be honoring Texas Independence with Mayor William D. Tate and Jon Michael Franks. Refreshments will be catered for this special event.



## Museum Hours

Tue-Sat: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
 Sunday: 11:00 am - 4:00 pm  
 Closed Mondays

## Historic Home Coming to Grapevine



A farmhouse built by R.J. and Manie Roberson in 1905 will be moved from Flower Mound to the Grapevine Historic District on March 3. The home will pass over the Grapevine Dam en route to Grapevine.

## The Sam Houston You May Not Know

Texas Independence Day is March 2 and no doubt we will hear much about Sam Houston. He is also a major focal point of the "Peace Circle" project, the subject of this month's program. But Sam led an interesting and controversial life, much of which we don't hear about.



Texas Independence from Mexico was sealed with the Battle of San Jacinto when Houston's 900 men defeated Mexican General Santa Anna's larger force in 18 minutes, leaving 630 Mexican soldiers dead and another 730 taken as prisoners. The Texas Declaration of Independence was signed on Sam Houston's birthday – March 2.

As a teenager in Lexington, Va., Houston ran away from home and lived with the Cherokee Indians – becoming an honorary Cherokee himself. Houston became politically active early in life and is the only American to have served as governor of two U.S. States: Tennessee and Texas. Houston was also the first elected President of the Republic of Texas; David G. Burnet was the actual first president, although he was appointed, not elected. Houston also served as senator, governor and as president for a second term.

Sam was a lavish dresser – wearing traditional Cherokee dress to meetings in Washington DC and dressing as George Washington for Governor Lamar's inauguration in Texas.

During the Civil War, Houston's popularity in Texas faded a bit – despite being a slave owner, he was the only Southern governor to oppose secession to the Confederacy. Throughout the nine-years of Texas as a Republic, Houston encouraged annexation by the USA, making him widely disdained for his pro-Union views. As governor, his term was aborted in 1861 when he refused to pledge allegiance to the Confederacy. Houston was also admonished by the Texas House of Representatives when he attempted to move the state capital from Austin to Houston without the approval of Congress.

Houston was represented by Francis Scott Key for beating Ohio Congressman Stanbery with his cane after he allegedly made slanderous remarks about Houston and the Cherokees. Sam Houston appeared on a U.S. postage stamp in 1964.



In July 1863 Houston caught a cold after speaking against secession in Galveston. The cold worsened and he died at his home in Huntsville, Texas from pneumonia. His funeral was not well attended and he was buried in a coffin made by former Union Soldier prisoners from the nearby state penitentiary. Houston is memorialized along Interstate 45 near Huntsville with a 67-foot statue.

John Boyd