February 2017

Grand Prairie Historical Organization

NEXT MEETING
February 16, 2017, 11:30am

Grand Prairie Historical Organization Building/Museum.
1516 W. Main Street, Grand Prairie, TX 75050 (Old Bankhead Highway)

Lunch $10.00 *** Please RSVP
before NOON on Wednesday, February 15.

TO president@gphistorical.com

WINE TASTING EVENT

Saturday February 4, 2017
Grand Bank of Texas Community Room
530 S. Carrier, Grand Prairie, TX 75051

Suggested Donation $25 per person/$40 couple
Seating is limited, please make your reservation by February 1
Questions - fundraising@gphistorical.com

Share this information with a friend and encourage them to become a member
of the Grand Prairie Historical Organization.

__________________________________________

SMILE, we have a new fundraising opportunity!
Use the URL/website name: smile.amazon.com
and choose Grand Prairie Historical Organization
Amazon will donate 0.5% of each purchase to our organization.
You pay the same prices and you can still use your Amazon Prime membership.
Please sign up now!
GPHO has wine glasses for sale!

$10.00 each

These are an 8 oz. clear wine glass with our GPHO logo imprinted. The imprint is frosted “etched look”, not black. The photo does not show up with the frosted “ETCHED” look.

Grand Prairie Museum Fundraising

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT OFFICERS 2015-2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PRESIDENT</strong> - Stephanie Jumper Moreno</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:president@gphistorical.com">president@gphistorical.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PRESIDENT ELECT</strong> - Vacant</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SECRETARY</strong> - John Wylie</td>
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<td><strong>HISTORIAN</strong> - John Wylie</td>
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<td><strong>PROGRAM CHAIR</strong> - Vacant</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:program@gphistorical.com">program@gphistorical.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TREASURER</strong> - Kathy Ritterhouse</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:treasurer@gphistorical.com">treasurer@gphistorical.com</a></td>
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<td><strong>MEMBERSHIP</strong> - Bonnie Steever Cockrum</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:membership@gphistorical.com">membership@gphistorical.com</a></td>
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<td><strong>NEWSLETTER</strong> - Bonnie Steever Cockrum</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:newsletter@gphistorical.com">newsletter@gphistorical.com</a></td>
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<td><strong>Fundraising</strong> - Kathy Ritterhouse</td>
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Standing committee chairs are appointed by the President.

GPHO welcomes all members to serve in a capacity that interests them. Let any officer know if you would like to serve in a position for the coming year or if you will be a committee member.

With Regrets - The GPHO board has received and accepted the resignation of our Program Chair, Jenna Whitehead, due to business obligations.

GPHO NEEDS YOUR HELP
GPHO 2017 Meetings and Events

- Thursday, February 16 - Regular Meeting
  Program - Don Juan’s Romantic Mexican Food
- Saturday, March 11 - Museum Opening
  Member-loaned displays
- Saturday, April 22 -
  Member’s personal reflections
- Thursday, May 18 - Regular Meeting
  Bass-Hays Foundry
- June - Date to be determined
  GP Business Recognition Awards
- Thursday, August 17 - Regular Meeting
  Program TBD
- Thursday, November 16 - Regular Meeting
  Program TBD

The GPHO Board meets the second Monday of each month.

We Would Love To Hear Your Ideas

President president@gphistorical.com
Programs program@gphistorical.com
Newsletter newsletter@gphistorical.com
  Email a historical photo (jpeg) with your story, that can be printed in the GPHO newsletter. Identify Grand Prairie people and places in the photo. This is one way to help preserve stories of people in Grand Prairie.
Membership membership@gphistorical.com
  Bring a prospective member to the next meeting.

September 19, 2006 - The City of Grand Prairie adopted a resolution designating the city as the “Purple Martin Capitol of North Texas”, and requesting the Texas Legislature to officially declare Grand Prairie as the Purple Martin Capitol of North Texas.

http://www.gptx.org/Home/ShowDocument?id=570
Thanks to our webmaster, Andy Little, you are now able to contact various officers through a specially assigned email address.

President
Program Chair
Treasurer/ Fundraising
Membership
Newsletter
Historian

president@gphistorical.com
program@gphistorical.com
treasurer@gphistorical.com
fundraising@gphistorical.com
membership@gphistorical.com
newsletter@gphistorical.com
historian@gphistorical.com

Complete the membership form at gphistorical.com, and mail to:
Grand Prairie Historical Organization
P. O. Box 532173, Grand Prairie, Texas 75053-2173

Grand Prairie History Books Vol I and Vol II
$25.00 each
Contact fundraising@gphistorical.com

Treasurer treasurer@gphistorical.com
Donations in honor or memory of family or friends are gratefully accepted.

Please Note
Updates and changes are being made often to our website

VISIT gphistorical.com
In 1906, a group of Presbyterians who desired a church of their own denomination met in the First Methodist Church to discuss the possibilities of a united effort. Initially the group met in the Methodist church, which permitted them, the use of their facilities in the afternoons. The Presbyterian group was given their charter on February 24, 1907, 110 years ago this year.
Charter Members of First Presbyterian Church, Grand Prairie were:

Miss Sadie Miller, Mr. And Mrs. Jake Jackson, Mr. And Mrs. Jim Witherspoon, Mrs. John (Winnie) Hale, Mr. And Ms. C. V. Millar, Ms. Ruth Millar, Mrs. Bert Horn, Mr. And Mrs. A. T. Horton, Mr. Lee, Mrs. E. E. Hall, Dr. H. V. Copeland, Hix Jackson, Grover Jackson, and F. M. Harris.

Rev. W.C. Baber was installed as the first regular pastor in December of 1911. In the same year, the congregation moved from the Methodist Church to a building built by the Grand Prairie Civic Club, in order to hold morning services. The building had a tin roof and a grass floor which proved to be too warm for summer services. No photos of that building are available.

The Presbyterian Church rented the Woodmen of the World Hall located at the corner of Jefferson and Center, which was the previous site of Wyatt’s Cafeteria. In 1912, under the leadership of Rev. Baber, the church built its first sanctuary at the corner of Center and Dallas streets. The membership was still small, but with a donation from the Board of Missions and hard work, the church was completed.

The old building (above), at the corner of Dallas and Center, was sold and eventually torn town around 1972.
In 1952, Rev. R. W. Benton guided the church through a major fund raising project in order to build the sanctuary, as we know it today. The congregation voted to move to the corner of S.W. Third Street and erect a sanctuary and educational building, with the sanctuary being a tribute to James Edward Witherspoon and William Wallace Kerr.

In 1971, a new educational wing was added to the sanctuary, completing the present facilities. On October 31, 1976, the church rededicated the sanctuary and consecrated numerous gifts including stained glass windows, brass Latin cross, paneling, and paraments. The church burned all the outstanding notes on December 6, 1989, as well as rededicating the sanctuary and acknowledging the gifts of front doors to the sanctuary, stained glass windows, carpet, pew cushions, landscaping, and the addition of the Bride's room.

The present building was dedicated on December 7, 1952. (pictured right)

It stands in the same location, today, at 310 S.W. 3rd St. Jim Reinarz is the current pastor, serving since September of 2001. The church received the City of Grand Prairie site Medallion No. 46.

Submitted by Bonnie Steever Cockrum
(Information synopsized from historic records and First Presbyterian Church website.)

Photo credit http://www.grandprairiepresbyterian.org/
Richard E. Bredeson, 93 years of age, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, November 3, 2016, just after midnight. He was born in Bemidji, Minnesota to Edor and Agnes Bredeson on April 24, 1923.

He was a businessman and resident of Grand Prairie for 65 years. He left Minnesota for a much warmer climate in San Diego, California. Later he moved to Dallas, Texas, where he met the love of his life Jo Ann Sumrow. They were married December 25, 1943. He worked at Ling Tempco Vought (LTV) as an aero dynamics draftsman. Richard had a dream of owning his own business. After a lot of hard work and some failures, he was more determined. At the age of 32, he was a self-made millionaire. His dreams came true; success at last. He owned and managed American Consumer Corporation and Rebco Investments for over 60 years.

Richard loved the water and his boats. He also very much loved his dogs. Richard is survived by his daughters; Dona Powers, Vickie Vance, Patricia Bredeson and Kandie Bredeson; grandchildren Shane Labadie, Raymond Powers, Clarissa Coker, Jessica Bredeson, Ashley Bredeson, and Marco Trevino.

Richard is preceded in death by his wife, Jo Ann, his grandson, Shaun Labadie and granddaughter, Alexa Bredeson. A celebration of Richard's life will be held Sunday, November 6, 2016 from 2:00 PM until 5:00 PM at Funeraria Del Angel, 733 Dalworth Street, Grand Prairie. Funeral Service will be Monday, November 7 at Del Angel Chapel on Dalworth at 2:00 PM. Pastor David Jenkins will officiate the service. Burial will immediately follow at Moore Memorial Gardens Cemetery, 1219 N. Davis Street, Arlington, Texas.

Mary Ernestine (Weed) Bellamy was born on May 17, 1916 at Mesquite, Texas to Clayton and Lessie B. Weed. She was predeceased by her parents, husband and older sister, Ila B. Holton.

Mary Ernestine's family moved to Grand Prairie when she was very young and she attended Grand Prairie Schools until graduation in 1928 from Grand Prairie High School. She met and fell in love with Jack Florence and they had two children Donald Edward and
Nancy Gaye. Mary Ernestine worked for Chance Vought Aircraft in Grand Prairie, TX for 11 years from 1947 to 1958. She loved to do crafts when she was younger. In 1960, she married Wilmot (Bill) Bellamy and they moved to California, and resided there until 1970. They returned to Texas to retire at Cedar Creek Lake in a home they build at Clearwater Bay, where she loved to camp out and fish.

She moved to Grand Prairie in 1979. She is survived by one son, Donald E. Florence (Cathy) of Arlington, TX, and one daughter, Nancy F. Hopkins (Darryl) of San Jose, CA; 5 grandchildren; 9 great grandchildren and 4 great-great grandchildren.

This year (2016) she celebrated her 100th Birthday Party at The Summit in Grand Prairie, was invited to a Texas Ranger baseball game where she was publically interviewed; the interview was displayed on the giant ballpark screen and TV.

Visitation: 2 pm to 4 pm, Sunday, November 27, 2016 at Bean-Massey-Burge Funeral Home in Grand Prairie. Funeral Service: 10:00 a.m., Monday, November 28, 2016 at Bean-Massey-Burge Funeral Home Chapel. Committal Service: 10:00 a.m., Tuesday at Moore Memorial Gardens in Arlington.

Paula Faye "Barnard" Burge, October 18, 1943 - January 12, 2017

Paula Faye "Barnard" Burge of Stephenville, Texas passed away January 12, 2017 after a short illness. Paula was born October 18, 1943 in Dallas, Texas. Paula attended Grand Prairie High School and operated the flower shop at Bean Massey Burge Funeral Home prior to relocating to Stephenville, Texas.

Paula had many friends and enjoyed crafts, horses, dogs and her yard. She was a member and very involved with Huckaby Baptist Church. Paula was preceded in death by her husband Duke Burge of Grand Prairie, father T.R. Barnard, mother Inita Barnard, sister Peggy Smith and brother John Barnard.

DID YOU KNOW?

Grand Prairie has several cemeteries that many of you may have never heard about. Thanks to the **Grand Prairie Genealogical Society’s Cemetery Committee (GPGS)**, you can read the historical facts about each cemetery and see the information available on persons buried there.

Since the project began in April 2010, Regina Shumaker, Committee Chair, and her husband, Lynn Shumaker, have been guiding the GPGS volunteer members through recording and photographing every grave in each cemetery. Headstones are photographed with full names as shown. All of the information is now listed on the GPGS website at www.gpgstx.org.

![Nancy P. Back 1818-1879](image)

Antioch Life Park Cemetery (formerly American Memorial Park)  
1881, GP site Medallion No. 12

Bradshaw Cemetery

Estes Cemetery  
1855, GP site Medallion No. 38

Ford Cemetery  
1879

Grand Prairie Memorial Gardens and Mausoleum  
2004

Hardman Cemetery  
(no date)

Jordan-Hight Family Cemetery  
1886

Shady Grove Cemetery  
1877

Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth Cemetery  
1900

Small-Upchurch Cemetery  
GP site Medallion No. 13

Southland Cemetery (OLD)  
GP site Medallion No. 16

Southland Memorial Cemetery  
Currently being recorded (2016)

Turck Cemetery  
1895, GP site Medallion No. 14

Vernoy Cemetery  
Late 1895’s

Wilson Cemetery  
ca 1872

This information has also been added to www.findagrave.com.

The GPGS Cemetery Committee is currently working on completing the final cemetery, Southland Memorial Park Cemetery. Additional burials will be added, as they are made aware and as volunteer time allows.

Submitted by Bonnie Steever Cockrum with thanks to Regina Shumaker
LIFE MEMBERS


LIFE MEMBERS (in memoriam)
Always keeping in memory those who helped establish and contributed to the Grand Prairie Historical Organization.

Harold Archer
Charmain Aikins Byers
Thomas B. Chennault
Marge Copeland
Paul Wayne Ernst
Lee D. Herring, Sr.
N. D. Hopkins
Ray Phillips
Bob Roberts
Marie Kerr Stufflebeme
John Wright

Adelaide Banister
L. R. Cannon
Joe Colwell
H. Victor Copeland
Jack Hays
Thomas Hight, Sr.
Ruthe Thompson Jackson
Laura Thompson Potter
Frank Robertson
Donald Taylor

This list has been recently updated. If you have any information on deceased Life Members not listed here, please email to membership@gphistorical.com.
Mission Statement
The purpose of the Grand Prairie Historical Organization is to promote and preserve the history of Grand Prairie, Texas by collecting, preserving and interpreting that history through committed volunteers who translate that to others while maintaining the highest standards of excellence.

Vision Statement
The Grand Prairie Historical Organization will be a vibrant organization through which people may encounter, explore and learn about the past. With diverse audiences and Dallas County’s unique heritage at its core, GPHO is intended to help those individuals an educational helps others understand the City’s rich heritage.

In pursuit of this vision, GPHO will:

- Identify, collect, and exhibit significant historical materials related to Grand Prairie Texas and surrounding counties.
- Conduct quarterly meetings that promote this history with speakers and programs that help translate the Mission and Vision Statements.
- Provide leadership in the responsible preservation of, and public access to, these historical materials.
- Encourage excellence in research, documentation, and interpretation of historical materials.
- Foster an appreciation of the importance of historical materials to enrich public understanding of the past and present.
- Promote pride in both individual and community heritage.
- Respond to the community’s needs to explore and examine issues critical to its past and application to contemporary life.
- Provide support to historic preservation initiatives in Grand Prairie, Texas.
- Maintain mutually beneficial relationships and alliances with educational institutions, the business community, government and other community organizations.

GRAND PRAIRIE HISTORICAL ORGANIZATION
PO BOX 532173
GRAND PRAIRIE, TEXAS 75053-2173
www.gphistorical.com
Facebook.com/GPHistorical