The Smashing History of Carry Nation Exhibit

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After eight years as Fort Bend History Association’s Executive Director, and 20 years in total with the FBHA, Claire Rogers announced earlier this year that she would be retiring in December.

While sad to see Claire leave, her announcement gave our organization the time to ensure something many organizations don’t benefit from – a smooth transition. Beginning in August, a six-person search committee made up of FBHA board members began the process of finding an outstanding replacement. And search they did. Utilizing several job sites, internal sources, and museum association resources, the committee ultimately received applications from more than 75 candidates.

The list ranged from local, state, and nationwide applicants. Many had strong museum experience, others came from non-profit organizations, while some brought strong business management expertise. All were thoroughly considered as the list was condensed to 15 contenders, then five 1:1 Zoom interviews, and ultimately two finalists brought in to tour our properties and meet our staff and board of trustees.

In the end, the committee’s recommendation was unanimous. Madeleine Calcote-Garcia – who is a former Sugar Land resident, received a Masters of Museum Studies from Baylor University, and most recently has served as Executive Director at the Museum of North Texas History in Wichita Falls – will become the FBHA’s new Executive Director on November 7.

A change at the top of our organization is a great time to both celebrate our accomplishments and be inspired about the future. Congratulations to Claire Rogers for eight years of executive leadership success, and to Madeleine Calcote-Garcia for the energy and possibilities she brings to us and Fort Bend County.
Designer Lucas Chavez creates one-of-a-kind autumn display for the Great Pumpkin Round Up

The George Ranch is a great place for families to visit year-round, but there’s something even more special about the Historical Park when the weather finally turns cooler, and the days feel like fall. Back by popular demand to help set that autumn tone, the Pumpkin Round Up returns this October, bigger and better than ever!

Inspired by the eighteen-year tradition at the Dallas Arboretum, Lucas Chavez of LC Floral Designs will once again create an amazing display that will take your breath away. Chavez has spent several months working with producers in West Texas to select specific varieties for an elaborate design that includes a hay wagon, training carriage, giant sugar cane vat and other vintage pieces. The display will be built using two semi-truck loads of more than twenty types of gourds, pumpkins, and squash along with popular varieties of mums and fall plants.

George Ranch Historical Park Site Director, Adrienne Barker says, “We’ve brought in so many different types of pumpkins and the displays are just outstanding. Every place you look, something different catches your eye, it’s unlike anything you’ve ever seen!”

The Great Pumpkin Round Up at the George Ranch kicks-off Saturday, October 15, and runs through November 26, 2022.

As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, guests are encouraged to support student education programs through the “Ranch to Table” Turkey raffle. Farm Raised at the George Ranch Historical Park, the Orloff Bronze turkeys are sure to add color to your Thanksgiving table. Purchase tickets online, at www.georgeranch.org. Drawing held on November 12.
The Smashing History of Carry Nation
The Temperance Movement & The Woman Who Carried A Nation

An Immersive Exhibit Experience

September 23 through November 19

To build up the good
to cut out the evil
The members-only preview of The Smashing History of Carry Nation, an immersive exhibit experience, was a smash hit indeed! On September 22, members were transported into the early 1900s with saloon music as they viewed the new exhibit that explores Carry Nation’s well-known “hatchetations,” as well as her lesser known family history and social activism. Artifacts include family portraits, a souvenir hatchet pin that Nation sold to help fund her bail and lecture tours, and a copy of her autobiography, among others. The star artifact, however, is one of Carry Nation’s hatchets that she used to bust up a saloon in Houston in 1905.

To complete the evening, Programs Coordinator Jessica Avery and Site Manager Ana Alicia Acosta gave guided tours of the Long-Smith Cottage, which has been transformed to depict different periods of Nation’s life. Members delved more into Nation’s background with a Q+A during the tour and had the opportunity to take a photo with Carry Nation herself in the protest room. The final room immersed members in a smashed saloon scene complemented by the commotion of breaking bottles, saloon music and an excited crowd, along with the smell of liquor and tobacco in the air. As one member put it, “I knew about her saloon-smashing campaign, but I didn’t know about the other interesting aspects of her life.” Other comments from the evening were about how fun the historical experience was.

The Smashing History of Carry Nation will be on view in the Museum Gallery and Long-Smith Cottage until November 19, so be sure to schedule a visit!
FORT BEND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

The 38th Annual Texian Market Days Festival returns to the George Ranch Historical Park October 22

Join the Fort Bend History Association for the 38th annual Texian Market Days Festival on Saturday, October 22 at the George Ranch Historical Park. This fun fall family festival is full of activities with over 100 years of Texas history to discover. The whole family can enjoy hands-on activities, battle re-enactments, live entertainment, first-person costumed interpreters, historic home tours, and cowboy roping and riding just to name a few. Guests wearing full historic costume will receive half-off general admission at the gate and members receive complimentary tickets.

Festival attendees will have the opportunity to visit each time period for various Texian Market Days programs. The 1830s Jones Stock Farm is hosting Texian and Mexican Army encampments and Texas Revolution battles. Visit the cowboy camp at the 1860s Ryon Prairie Home featuring chuckwagon cooking, pasture roping and a cattle auction. The 1890s Davis Mansion Victorian site will be showcasing Blacksmith demonstrations and a Buffalo Soldier display. The 1930s George Ranch House yard will be overflowing with a WWII Army Encampment, Great Pumpkin Round-up display, and the Museum of the Pacific War demonstrations.

We are still seeking sponsors and volunteers for the day, along with food and craft vendors to sell their wares. For sponsorship opportunities, contact Michaela Carriere at development@fbhistory.org. To volunteer for the event, contact Sarah DeArmond at sdearmond@georgeranch.org. To apply as a food or craft vendor, please download and fill out the application online at www.georgeranch.org.

To learn more about the Texian Market Days Festival please visit https://www.georgeranch.org/programs-events/texian-market-days/ or call (281) 343-0218 x220. Be sure to follow us on Facebook/Instagram: @georgeranch and @fortbendmuseum to stay up to date on all our upcoming events.
Those objects we take with us every day say something about us. Canes, purses, jewelry, pocket watches, fans and other such artifacts passed down to us from our ancestors tell us about them and what they valued. Many of them served both practical and aesthetic purposes. An exhibit of these types of artifacts from the George Ranch Historical Park collection are now on display in the Davis Mansion and George Ranch House.

**Canes**

Canes were used to assist people in walking and supporting themselves and were an essential part of a man’s formal wardrobe. However, they also commemorated memorable events and beloved friends or family. As with other personal gear, canes can be symbols of membership in important groups or a material for artistic expression. Canes could also be used for personal protection. Any cane could be used to hit another person but some contained hidden swords, knives or guns for even more defense.

**Fans**

Victorian women never left the house without their gloves and a handkerchief. Another staple was a fan. Fans were made for all occasions. They were constructed with wood, bamboo, celluloid, ivory, amber and shell ribs and silk, lace, paper, feathers or leather. Fans may also have been made using other materials as well including blades made entirely of celluloid, wood or ivory held together with silk ribbons. By the end of the 19th century and into the 20th century, cheap paper fans were made to advertise businesses, products and events. Fans were also used by women to communicate their feelings and dating intentions to interested suitors.

**Pipes**

Many Victorian gentlemen smoked pipes. Initially manufactured with clay, by the 19th century pipes were made of wood and meerschaum, a lightweight porous stone from Turkey and what is now Iran. Victorian pipes were often ornately carved and could be made in other materials such as bone, ivory and porcelain. They also sometimes had silver linings and ornamentation and mouthpieces made of amber, gold or silver. These types of pipes continued to be made into the 20th century though the decoration became a bit plainer and more modern materials came to be used.

Native Americans were the first to whittle pipes out of corn cobs. The first corn cob pipes were commercially produced in 1869 but didn’t really reach peak popularity until the 20th century. By 1925, there were as many as twelve companies producing corn cob pipes in Franklin County, Missouri alone.
Candlelight Tours returns with A Gilded Age Christmas theme at the 1883 Moore Home

Once again, the Fort Bend Museum Docents are out-doing themselves in decorating for Christmas!

This year’s theme is “A Gilded Age Christmas in Texas.” The John M. Moore Home will be lovingly and lavishly decorated to reflect the early 1900s when many Texans made their fortunes in the oil, gas and timber industries. The Long-Smith Cottage will also be beautifully decorated, albeit on a more modest scale as befits this 1850s Richmond home.

Candlelight tours of both homes will be available on the first two weekends in December: Fridays, December 3 and 9 from 6-8pm and Saturdays, December 4 and 10 from 5-8pm. The Docents will also be serving complimentary cookies and wassail and will offer handcrafted seasonal items for sale.

Weekday daytime tours for groups of 6-12 people may be scheduled and the docents are also offering a few VIP tours. The VIP tour will include several decorated rooms upstairs which will feature family items from the museum’s collection not normally displayed in the house. To purchase tickets, go to fortbendmuseum.org/candlelight-tours. Tickets can also be purchased at the door on the Candlelight Tour nights.
You’re invited to the grand opening of our new permanent exhibit Related Neighbors: DeWalt and Missouri City. The Dew family developed the successful agricultural town of DeWalt after 1900. But despite their distinctively separate community, family members also took on civic and philanthropic duties in nearby Missouri City. Join us to celebrate that history amidst exhibits of newly acquired Dew family artifacts.

Photos: Mantie Dew’s Farrand and Votey pump organ recently returned to Dew House by her granddaughter Sue Brinkman Alston’s estate. Sue grew up in nearby Missouri City. Drawer exhibit displaying educational connections between DeWalt and Missouri City.

Yard & Porch Sale

Sunny weather, exuberant Dewcents and cheerful shoppers made the annual DeWalt Heritage Yard & Porch Sale a huge success. Sales and generous donations yielded an even $1,000 total for our upcoming programs and projects.

A parallel event included the Fort County Historical Commission Museum Crawl buses that brought more than 64 guests to learn about DeWalt Heritage Center. The following day, some 17 guests returned for in-depth Sunday tours. Thanks to everyone involved in our successful September weekend.
Special Thank You to Our Donors:

The Historians

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The Historians care deeply about investing in the association and do so by contributing each month through automatic monthly gifts via credit card charge or electronic funds transfer from their bank account. Please join the Historians today and take advantage of the current tax benefits by making your first donation on or before Dec. 31. Contact Michaela Carriere at development@fbhistory.org or 281-342-1256.

Special Thank You to Our Members:

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Adam DeWalt Adams
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Nancy and John Sumrall
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Vicki and Lane Ward
Christy and Larry Willman
Upcoming Events: October - December 2022

Fort Bend Museum & Docents
fortbendmuseum.org

**October 8**
Season of the Witch: Lecture & Ghost Tour

**October 7, 8, 14**
Fort Bend Museum Ghost Tours

**October 15, 29**
Combo Tour: Richmond’s Historic District & Fort Bend Museum Ghost Tour

**October 29**
Miss Ivy’s Spooktacular Halloween Party

**November 10**
Bites & Brews

**December 2, 3, 9, 10**
Candlelight Tours: A Gilded Age Christmas in Texas

George Ranch Historical Park
georgeranch.org

**October 15 - November 26**
Pumpkin Round-up

**October 22**
Texian Market Days: Festival Day

**October 29**
Halloween Event: Trick-OR-Treating at Historic Houses

**November 12**
George Ranch Turkey Raffle Drawing

**November 25, 26**
Fall Festival Event

**December 10**
The Lone Ranger Christmas Caper

**December 17**
Campfire Christmas

DeWalt Heritage Center
fbhistory.org/dewalt-heritage-center

**October 9**
Related Neighbors Exhibit: DeWalt & Missouri City

**November 13**
Second Sunday Tours: 1-3:30 p.m.

**December 4**
Second Sunday Tours: Wassail 1-3:30 p.m.

Fort Bend Archeological Society
fbhistory.org/fbarch

**October 18, November 15, December 20**
FBAS Meeting, 7 p.m.
Fort Bend Museum Gallery

Subscribe to our e-newsletters and stay up-to-date on all the upcoming events!

FORT BEND MUSEUM: fortbendmuseum.org/newsletter-sign-up
GEORGE RANCH HISTORICAL PARK: georgeranch.org/newsletter
DeWALT HERITAGE CENTER: fbhistory.org/dewalt-heritage-center

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**NOVEMBER 10, 2022**
6:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

The event will offer guests a night under the stars filled with live music, dancing, museum tours, and sample tastings from local food and beverage vendors. Tickets are available online at fortbendmuseum.org/bites-and-brews.html
Since September 10, the Fort Bend Museum Lobby has been the location of a special exhibit from the Fort Bend County Clerk’s office. The documents on display are from their historic records collection. Records date back to 1821 and include documents such as deeds, probate documents, marriage licenses, death certificates and Commissioners Court documents. This exhibit specifically includes a returned unused marriage license from 1940, the 1845 prenuptial agreement between Polly Jones and William Ryon, surveys and maps, and pages from the 1930’s book of registered brands. This exhibit will be on display through October 14, 2022, but you may also view electronic versions of documents in Official Public Records by visiting the county website: www.fbctx.gov