



BIRDVILLE HISTORIAN

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NEXT MEETING

May 17, 2008

12th Annual Reunion

Historic Birdville Cemetery

Haltom City, Texas

11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

It is hard to believe we are 12 years old. I look back at all the things we have done together and wonder "where has the time gone"? I'm sure none of you ever feel that way!!

The quarterly meeting in May will be at the Historic Birdville Cemetery and this will be the 12th Annual meeting in this beautiful place. The cemetery association works very hard to make sure the cemetery grounds are maintained properly and they should be commended for doing such a great job. If you have not visited the cemetery since last year, it now has paved roads through the area.

We will arrive approximately 11:00 A.M. A tour of the grounds will begin at 11:30 led by someone in the Cemetery Association. We will then enjoy lunch which is always wonderful. BHS will supply the main dish. This year we will have Schlotzsky's Sandwiches and members can bring complimentary side dishes. As always BHS will provide drinks and all paper goods for the meal. We always have an assortment of wonderful food and I'm looking forward to this being a great time in history as well.



Comanche Chief Quanah Parker

We will enjoy hearing from Ben Tahmahkera, the great - great grandson of Comanche Chief Quanah Parker. Ben will talk to us about his famous ancestor and will entertain us with stories of his family and the Comanche Nation.

Haltom Theater

I have some disappointing news about the Haltom Theater. We were allowed to set up the Birdville Museum in the Historic Haltom Theater in 2006 when Sam Weisblatt of Sam's Furniture let us do so free of charge. Since the fire in March 2007, the repairs have all been done and Mr. Weisblatt is no longer able to allow BHS this building and I am looking for some help on finding a location to display our collection. Birdville Historical Society would like to thank Mr. Weisblatt for his generosity and patience while we secure another location. We have some display cases and large items that are still in the theater and he has said we could leave them as long as need be or until it is rented. The theater is included in the Haltom Family Trust until December 31, 2009. At that time, the family will make the decision about the space. They may choose to sell the theater or it may be destroyed. I would really hate to see that happen and am hoping we will be able to save this fine historic structure.

Will you please let me know if you know of a location that would work for our collection? The collection is currently in storage and is being paid by BHS. Speaking of our collection, the Haltom City Public Library will not have a genealogy department in the new library which will open in the fall of 2008. They have donated all of their research material to Birdville Historical Society. This will be a great plus to our museum when we are located in a permanent building. I am hoping this will not be too long. I have a meeting this month with Historic Fort Worth about the pros and cons of a nonprofit organization owning property and hope to be educated in this process.

About 3 times a year, tours are conducted at the Tarrant County Courthouse by members of the Tarrant County Historical Commission. I had the pleasure of leading tours at the recent Main Street Arts Festival in downtown Fort Worth. We had 350 people tour the facility and marvel at the craftsmanship and beauty of the building. We are so fortunate to live in a county where such care is taken to preserve the heritage of this wonderful building and to be able to share with the community. As I am writing this newsletter, I just completed conducting a tour for All Saints Episcopal School. There were 48 students and what a joy to show them a bit of local history. Thank you for your part in keeping the history of this area alive for our children and for their children.

**Please remember to send your email address
to porterbhs@charter.net to receive this
newsletter via email in the future!**

Welcome

Please welcome new members to Birdville Historical Society

**Jimmy & Ida Jo Reynolds
Of North Richland Hills**

**Perry & Choiwan Moy
Of Farifax, Virginia**

I recently had the pleasure of attending a meeting of the White Settlement Historical Society and then the Cemetery Association. This organization is planning to restore and preserve the Isbell and Tannahill cemeteries. They have done a lot of work and I commend them on doing the very important ground work that is needed before any restoration can take place. Please keep up the good work in saving our heritage.

David Voorhees and I attended the Lake Worth Historical Society meeting and talked to them about the community of Birdville as well as the founding of Birdville Historical Society. They are doing a \$300,000.00 fund raising to move a house and restore it to be used as a museum. They are a very gracious group and I wish them all the good fortune to be able to make their dream become a reality.

On June 10, 2008 I will be speaking to the Arlington Genealogical Society about the work that is being done to survey Tarrant County Cemeteries. David Voorhees will be going with me to present a photo slide show of cemeteries that we have visited.

Beginning with the May meeting and all future meetings I will be sending the newsletter via email to those of you that I have on the email list. Please let me know if you have an email address. You can email me at porterbhs@charter.net. This is just a small way we can contribute to saving the environment plus it will save BHS on printing envelopes, purchasing paper and save the City of Haltom City in postage. If you would like to continue receiving your copy via US mail, please let me know. You may also download a copy from the BHS website if you wish www.birdvillehistory.org.

If you have relatives or friends who would like to bequeath items to the Birdville Historical Society, we are recognized by the IRS as an official 501©3 organization and all donations will be tax deductible. In the case of a death in your family, you can be assured that any donations made in memory or in honor of your loved one in the way of photos, documents or historical objects, will be preserved in the best way possible. We now have a place to keep the items and every effort will be made to preserve the treasures and your memories. This is one way to insure that the work of preservation will continue in Birdville.

If you have not had opportunity to join or pay your dues for 2008, please do so at this time. Mail your checks or contributions to Birdville Historical Society, P.O. Box 14246, Haltom City, Texas 76117.

Membership Levels

DIAMOND CORPORATE SPONSOR \$1000.00
RUBY LIFETIME \$750.00
SAPPHIRE LIFETIME \$500.00
COUPLE PER YEAR \$25.00
INDIVIDUAL PER YEAR \$15.00

Board of Directors

PRESIDENT BETTY PORTER
1ST VICE PRESIDENT LAURA HUNTER
2ND VICE PRESIDENT BOB WATKINS
SECRETARY FRAN BURNS
TREASURER DAVID HARPER

WEBMASTER DAVID VOORHEES

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