



DEDICATED TO PRESERVING GRAPEVINE HISTORY

# On The Vine

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## GRAPEVINE, TEXAS: THE STORIES BEHIND OUR CITY STREETS

John Boyd is a local physician and historian who has lived in the area with his family the last 30 years. His book, *Grapevine Texas: the stories behind our city streets*, tells the human stories behind our city's street names and the fascinating characters that transformed the 1843 settlement into a modern city in the heart of Dallas-Fort Worth. John and wife Becky are active Grapevine festival volunteers. His past book, *Parkland Hospital*, was recently featured on KERA's "Think" ra-

dio program. It details the 120 year history of Parkland and the UT Southwestern Medical School.

Come hear Dr. John Boyd enlighten us at our January 23rd meeting in the Community Room at the Grapevine Public Library at 7pm.



Winter is here, the holidays are behind us, the decorations put away for another year and the rain has washed everything clean. Have you noticed the beauty of our downtown? Some of the simple every day places now show the character of historic Grapevine. The sculptors remind us of a simpler life where children could play outside and enjoy roller skating with their friends.

The Sunday Skaters in the sculpture on the corner of Main and College, were given caps and scarves for the holidays. Have you wondered what these happy-go-lucky children of the 1920s and 30s did to earn their place in Grapevine's history?

The first girl in the sculpture, Mary Virginia Wall Simmons, lived at 503 Worth Street. The Wall family came to the city in 1858 and opened the City Drug on Main Street. The fallen skater in the sculpture is J. E. Foust III. His family arrived in 1876 and opened a general merchandise store. They sold lemon ice, an early precursor to the snow cone. Believe it or not, they also sold coffins from this same store! Dorothy "Bess" Francisco, the last skater in the sculpture, a granddaughter of Joe Lucas, of Lucas Funeral Home, never met a stranger. If asked a question she could not answer, she would be on the phone until she found someone who knew the answer.

Grapevine has used art and sculpture to preserve its history along with many museums. Our town has strived to preservation the wonderful history of the downtown buildings by keeping the store fronts as close to the original look of historic Grapevine as possible. Grapevine visitors comment on what a special place this is to visit and how well the City has maintained its history. The people of Grapevine greet visitors with a smile, a warm hello and "How can I help you?" All this draws people back and encourages them tell friends about this beautiful historic place they call Grapevine and we call home.

## In the Museum

The Grapevine Historical Museum is located on Hudgins Street. The speaker at our January 23 meeting, John Boyd, will tell us about this street name as well as others in town. Let me whet your curiosity with a bit of information from "Grapevine's Most Unforgettable Characters."

El Nathan Hudgins was a member of the group called the Peter's Colony which was responsible for the settlement of the area now known as Grapevine. This occurred during the westward trek of early pioneers in 1854.

According to the "Characters" book:

"El Nathan was a forward thinker. He was a hard worker, a good Christian man, devoted to his family, and generous with his gifts to church, family, community, and fellowship of believers. He gave land for the First Methodist Church, a public school behind the church, the right-of-way for the Cotton Belt Railroad, and the Masonic Lodge/school. He gave each of his children twenty acres of land when he or she married. At the time of his death he gave additional land for a new church to be built."

There is much more to El Nathan Hudgins' story. You can read it in "Grapevine's Most Unforgettable Characters" on pages 99-103 in preparation for the meeting. For a little more homework, look at the article named "Street Names of Grapevine" on pages 37 and 38. The book is available for your perusal at the Museum or at the Grapevine Public Library. If you want your own copy of this fascinating and informative book, it can be purchased at the Library. The book contains so many wonderful stories that make the history of Grapevine come alive.

I hope to see you at the meeting on January 23 to learn more about street names.

In 2016 we had 9570 visitors from 37 states and the District of Columbia and 34 countries outside the United States. We gave tours to several elementary school groups, one group from the University of North Texas, Destination Grapevine, the Leadership Class of the Chamber of Commerce, a group of Serbian visitors with the Rotary, and many families and individuals. Our docents were busy!

## Be A Proud 2017 GVHS Member

**Keep up-to-date on Grapevine past & future. Receive GVHS Monthly news communication. Receive the 2017 GVHS Membership Directory.**

**Membership is important and appreciated. Your participation in the membership program is the primary source of income for the Grapevine Historical Society to serve the Grapevine Community.**

## Grapevine Historical Society 2017 Membership campaign is in full swing

Be sure to renew your membership. Membership fees are due now and your renewal support is appreciated.

**Membership dues need to be received by January 31, 2017 in order to be listed in the GVHS Membership Directory.**

The 2017 application is included with this newsletter.

### 2017 Membership Levels

Individual Membership	\$20
Family Membership	\$30
Business Membership	\$50
Historian Membership	\$100
Pioneer Membership	\$250
Guardian Membership	\$1000

### GRAPEVINE HISTORICAL MUSEUM HOURS

TUESDAY– SATURDAY 10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
SUNDAY 11:00 am—4:00 pm CLOSED MONDAY

**The Grapevine Historical Society normally meets the 4th Monday monthly except May and December**