

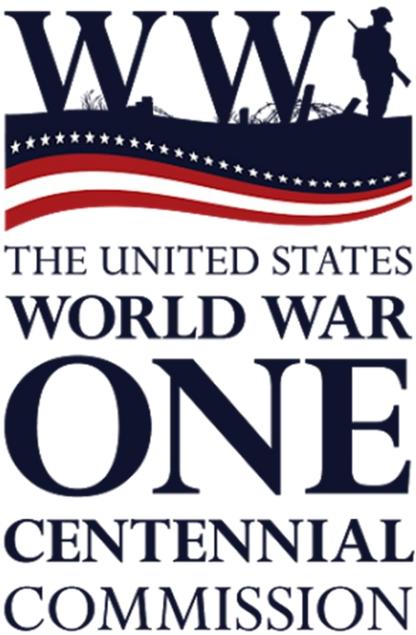
DEDICATED TO PRESERVING GRAPEVINE HISTORY

On The Vine

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APRIL 2017

Texas and WWI, Before, During, After and Today



April 6 2017 marks the 100th anniversary of the entrance of the United States into World War 1. The United States declared war on the German Empire on April 6, 1917, during the first World War. During the war, the U.S. mobilized over 4 million military personnel and suffered 110,000 deaths, including 43,000 due to the influenza pandemic. The war saw a dramatic expansion of the US government in an effort to harness the war effort

and a significant increase in the size of the U.S. Armed Forces.

The program is open to the public at no charge at 7 pm, April 24 in the Grapevine Public Library Program Room. Come join us for an entertaining and enlightening time.



Jim Hodgson

Our April program will be presented by Jim Hodgson. He is the Executive Director of the Fort Worth Aviation Museum and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the OV-10 Bronco Association. Also, he is a commissioner on the Tarrant County Historical Commission, as well as one of the founding coordinators of the Texas World War One Centennial Commemoration Association. He earned his Naval Aviator Wings with the United States Marine Corps and attained the rank of Major.

Hodgson will focus on North Texas as it was before the war, during the war, after the war and the long- lasting effects that surround us today. The focus will give insight on how the war affected lives and the economic impact of the mobilization for the war effort on the region and he will also dis-





In the Museum by Carolyn Ernst

In 1917 Grapevine was a small town of almost 800 residents. We had purchased a new REO fire truck—our first motorized fire truck in the town. B.R. Wall was mayor, writing weekly newspaper columns in the Grapevine Sun to keep the citizens motivated and optimistic about their future. [He served intermittent

terms from 1912 until 1946. The bronze sculpture of Mayor Wall by Archie St. Clair is near the city hall at Main and Wall Streets and honors this great man for his many services to his beloved community.] When war was declared over 40 men from Grapevine enlisted. [See more information in the CVB Headquarters in three cases until May 6.] The women also did their part by going overseas to act as nurses or by knitting socks here at home. Fashions even changed to simpler frocks to save material for the men in the military.

But what happened on a larger scale?

The U.S. was in a recession. When the U.S. entered the war in 1917 the national production shifted from civilian to war goods and the war production made up 52% of the gross national product. Because men were being drawn into the military, unemployment dropped from 7.9% to 1.4% as the unemployed were hired to replace those men. Between 300,000 - 500,000 African Americans moved north to the cities in the 'Great Migration' to take advantage of these job openings. The role of women changed during Great War, and many women took on the jobs of men. The influence and expectations of women and their role in society increased. Congress on June 4, 1919, passed the 19th Amendment and the Women's Suffrage Clause, was ratified on August 18, 1920. During World War I Liberty Bonds, and later Victory Bonds, introduced the idea of financial securities to many Americans and encouraged the concept of investment by people from all levels of society.

Woodrow Wilson had run for President of the United States on a platform espousing neutrality of the U.S. in World War I, also called the Great War or the War to End All Wars. It was with great reluctance that he signed the resolution to declare war on Germany and join with the Allied forces. What convinced him and many other reluctant Americans to take this step? There are several reasons.

On May 7, 1915, the Germans torpedoed the RMS Lusitania, killing at least 124 Americans on board.

The American economy was booming. Submarine warfare threatened to stop American trade and brought the threat of another recession in the US.

At the beginning of 1917 Germany launched all-out submarine warfare on every commercial ship headed towards Britain and started sinking American ships in the North Atlantic.

On February 3, 1917, German U-boat sank the U.S. cargo ship Housatonic and the United States broke off diplomatic relations with Germany. Between February 3, 1917 and March 21, 1917 German U-boats sank six American merchant ships without warning.

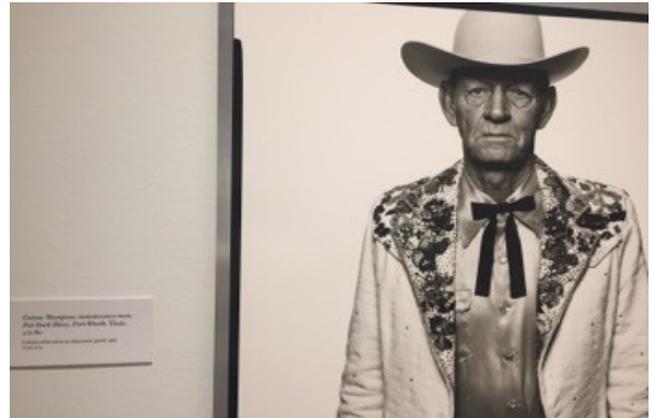
On March 1, 1917, German Foreign Minister Zimmermann sent a telegram to Mexico promising them the return of all lands ceded to the United States if they would join in the German war efforts. The telegram was published in the American



press and inflamed American public opinion against Germany and helped convince Congress to declare war against Germany.

The Amon Carter Museum is featuring the Avedon collection of photograph from Texas. These are almost life-size black and white photos of people around mainly West Texas. If one is into photography, you should not miss this display of his works.

One of these life-size photos is a Grapevine-ite, Our very own 'Cotton Thompson', A full blown character in his own right, pictured below



For more information visit <http://www.cartermuseum.org/press/releases/amon-carter-museum-of-american-art-presents-avedon-in-texas-selections-from-in-the-american-west>

From Debi's Scratch Pad

Be sure to mark your calendar for our May program, a choral tribute to Memorial Day presented by Sue Franks and the Grapevine Senior Choir, Monday May 22nd at 7pm. Please note the location for this meeting be at the REC.



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 July and December