



GRAPEVINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

On The Vine

DEDICATED TO PRESERVING GRAPEVINE HISTORY

Historic Blue Angel Fly Over



Blue Angels Over Grapevine Train Station Tower

The Blue Angels flew over Grapevine and other North Texas cities on May 6 to show support of health care workers and other essential workers who are helping all of us survive the virus pandemic. Six F/A-18C/D Hornet aircraft flew in formation over North Texas' major medical centers, including Baylor Scott and White Medical Center in Grapevine.

Many thanks to health care workers, police, firemen, EMTs - as well as grocery store workers, restaurants offering pick up service, city maintenance workers, trash service, postal workers, and all others that are keeping things running while we were in an otherwise shut down world.

John Boyd

How can you tell when it has gone from night to day?

When you can look into the face of any person and see that they are your brother or your sister. If you can not see this, then you are still living in darkness.

Grapevine's Early Doctors

Doctors have always been and will continue to be an important part of our Grapevine community, especially now during this global pandemic. The early doctors of Grapevine not only helped heal the sick but helped to build Grapevine.

Dr. Dabney Minor Lipscomb was one of the first doctors in Grapevine, Texas. He began his medical practice out of his home of eleven children in 1861; but, being a doctor was not his only service to Grapevine, helping to build one of the first churches here and his son opening E.J. Lipscomb and Sons Dry Goods Store which still stands on South Main Street today. Arriving many decades after Lipscomb and his family, doctors Edgar and Minnie Lancaster are credited with bringing modern medicine to our community, founding the Grapevine Clinic-Hospital in 1953 as the city's first hospital. They later founded the Grapevine Memorial Hospital in 1967 which was eventually merged with the Baylor Medical System. Even Grapevine's esteemed mayor Ira E. Woods served Grapevine as an optometrist early in his career.

In the present day, there are ways the doctors' marks can still be physically seen and remembered throughout Grapevine. The Dorris-Brock house on North Main was built by Dr. W.E. Dorris in 1875, the current location of the Cross Timbers Winery. Grapevine Performing Arts recently moved into Dr. J.A. Allison's historic home and office. Allison served Grapevine and the surrounding areas from 212 E. Franklin Street as one of the only doctors practicing for years until 1953 when the Lancasters arrived. Amy Lyday of Grapevine Performing Arts says the house still has many historical features, such as a hitching post on the front of the house where patients used to tie their horses. Despite having changed hands many times since Dr. J.A. Allison practiced there, it still serves as an important historical landmark in our community. According to Lyday "with 94 students coming in every week, the house is alive...we're keeping the memory alive and creating new memories." Aislyn Gaddis



June Events

At this time our June meeting is canceled.

While our exhibits at the Grapevine Historical Museum remain closed, the front reception desk is open and the other museum buildings on the Ted Ware Plaza are open. The "Grapevine Pioneers Storybook Adventure Passport" program started May 23 at the Ted Ware Plaza and other locations. The program is primarily for children and more information is at:

[https://
www.grapevintexasusa.com/
museums/grapevine-pioneers](https://www.grapevintexasusa.com/museums/grapevine-pioneers)



Ken and Angela prepare for the First Adventure Passport



Sunday services at a local church

"Don't doubt your ability to adapt during times of crisis. By doing our part, we will get through this."
Iannone

Grapevine's Early Educators

Grapevine settlers knew the importance of education and quickly established schools for their children. By July 1846, Rev. John Allen Freeman was teaching in a log school near the intersection of today's North Dooley Street and Bushong Road.

Schoolhouses, textbooks and equipment in early Texas were of the most primitive character. Dirt floors were the usual thing. The seats were simple rough board benches. Students brought books from home. Among the most frequently found textbooks books in early Texas schools were *Webster's Elementary Spelling Book*, *Weems' Life of Washington*, *Blair's Rhetoric*, and Peter Parley's *Universal History*.

Rev. Charles N. Pierce from Red River County moved to Grapevine and opened a private school in 1856. His school, called the Grapevine Academy, was commended as "worthy of patronage" by the West Fork Baptist Association. In September 1869, the Grapevine Masonic Institute opened and was overseen by a board of trustees comprised of members of the lodge.

In January 1872, Mr. J. DeGress became superintendent of public schools for a term of six months. At that time, there were numerous church sponsored schools on the Grape Vine Prairie including Minter's Chapel, White's Chapel and Mt. Gilead School. There were also many small community schools, such as Medlin, Sam, Miller, Pleasant Run, Lone Elm, Florence, Donald, Spring Garden and Pleasant Glade School. By 1948, school consolidation brought most of the small schools scattered over the Grape Vine Prairie into the Grapevine or Carroll public school system.

It was the teacher's duty to make the fires and sweep the building each day. Restrooms were outhouses behind the school. Drinking water came from a well, and all students drank from the same bucket and dipper. Students carried their lunches in tin pails. "This wouldn't seem like good times to the modern teachers and children, but we had fun," said Lill Lillian Greener Baker in 1978.

Grapevine's early teachers were well educated. After the Civil War, C. W. Rains who taught at Spring Garden School went on to become a lawyer, judge and State Librarian of the State of Texas. Rev. Freeman went on to become the superintendent of schools in San Bernardino County and Kerns County, California. Home Schooling --- Before schools were established in Texas, home instruction met the need. In 1850, illiteracy rates were relatively low. Only 12.2 percent of the population of white men in Texas over 20 years of age could not read and write, and only 20.2 percent of the women over 20 years of age in Texas could not read and write. This is evidence of considerable family instruction.

Sallie Andrews

Hello Grapevine Historical Society Members!

It's been a few months since we've all been together and looks like it may be a few more before we'll see each other again in person. Who could have predicted what havoc this horrible virus would cause around the world? I hope and pray each of you is doing well and taking the necessary precautions to stay safe and healthy.

My family has been sheltering in place since March and except for the occasional trip to the grocery store and a socially distant City Council Meeting twice a month, life has pretty much been in isolation. Not an existence our socially active society enjoys but one we're forced to endure for a while for the greater good. Our Board still continues to meet once a month via Zoom meeting technology. We call in from home and can see each other via our computers. Our Board voted to cancel our June monthly program meeting but our current plans are to hold a July 27 meeting if things continue to improve in Texas and we feel safe having a group gathering. We will send out an email announcement next month and let everyone know final plans for July. Currently our Historical Museum is closed. The door is open and a CVB employee is stationed at the front desk to guide any visitors to the other museums in the complex but our Museum is closed to protect our docents and volunteers who work there on a daily basis. We will let you know when a decision is made to re-open.

The City of Grapevine has taken advantage of the "down time" of closed businesses along Main Street and has done extensive street and sidewalk repairs. It was a great time to get this much needed work done while traffic was at a minimum. As we slowly re-open businesses, I hope you will notice all the good work our City has done during the past few months and begin to visit Main Street again and help support our restaurants and shops. There is now a beautiful STAR in the road at the intersection of Dallas Road and Main Street and our beautiful new Train Station, Harvest Hall and the Hotel Vin are nearing completion. So despite all the devastation and loss of life during the past few months, there is always hope and progress and many good things to look forward to in our beloved city in the months and years ahead. Take care and stay safe!

Duff O'Dell, President, Grapevine Historical Society



Grapevine Beginning to Re-open

Photographed on Main Street, just a few weeks ago - it was me and just me, solo, all alone, no cars, no people, no functioning businesses. The last few weeks have seen a major change with most restaurants, shops and wineries being open at least to a partial capacity. Things have been tough on all of us, but retail and restaurants have had a big slow-down and we hope they will survive and that we all can support them in a way each individual is comfortable with.

The Grapevine Historical Society hopes to resume meetings and open the museum exhibit sometime in July. See our website and future emails for updates.

John Boyd