

BASTROP COUNTY MUSEUM & VISITOR CENTER NEWS LETTER

Winter 2025

HISTORIC HOMES TOUR

Saturday | December 13 | 12 - 5 PM

It's a full immersion into Bastrop History like you've never experienced before! Mark your calendars for Bastrop County Historical Society's Historic Homes Tour, where the Holiday Magic begins: Saturday, December 13, 2025, from Noon to 5 pm. At BCHS our motto is "Bastrop History IS Texas History" and this year's tour truly epitomizes that statement! We have stories of courthouse architects who became world famous, of Texas's first woman professional engineer, of an influential state senator, of a veteran of the last battle of the Civil War, of cattle ranchers and bankers, and of a family of Texas Revolutionary heroes you will not believe once walked the streets of Bastrop. All of this along with the tale of a church celebrating its 190th anniversary and the 100th anniversary of its 1925 structure.

Our 2025 tour includes four historic homes and a church in celebration. Three houses are on the tour for the FIRST TIME EVER this year. Holy cow, it's been 25 YEARS since the fourth has graced the tour. Two homes are listed on the National Register. What a treat!

Help us celebrate a magical holiday season on December 13 -- an afternoon of Bastrop history, architecture, and characters as big as life -- straight out of Texas History!

The Moncure House, constructed in 1910-11 for Bastrop's County Surveyor, this house was the childhood and the retirement home of Texas' first woman professional engineer, Leah Moncure PE # 2250. At the front walk a newly placed Texas historical marker relays her impressive story.

The Paul D. Page House, designed by famed Texas courthouse architects, C. H. Page & Bro., in 1917-18 for Texas State Senator Paul D. Page and his wife, this red brick Prairie/Craftsman displays amazing architectural detailing both inside and out. The architectural firm went on to earn worldwide recognition as Page, Southerland & Page.

The Grimes-Eskew-Hanna Home, built around 1893 by a groceryman, this house was doubled in size by H. J. and Mary Ruth Eskew by 1934. In between (1898-1911) it was home to W. H. Grimes, whose father, brother, uncles and grandfathers were heroes of the Texas Revolution and the Republic. This is the first home, yet, to be attributed to this historic Grimes family in Bastrop.

The Hubbard-Trigg House, first constructed as an 'L' floorplan Folk Victorian in 1890 by a veteran of the last battle of the Civil War, in 1905 the home was morphed by his daughter into this fascinating two-story Greek Revival with Palladian windowed gables and dramatic hallways.

The First United Methodist Church, built in 1925, its congregation celebrates its 190th anniversary and the 100th anniversary of its present structure this year. The first services were held in an unfinished store on Main Street with a Bible and a hymnal placed on a barrel which served as a pulpit.



The Moncure House
1601 Main Street



The Paul D. Page House
1702 Pecan Street



The Grimes-Eskew-Hanna Home
1501 Hill Street



The Hubbard-Trigg House
1508 Pecan Street



The First United Methodist Church
1201 Main Street



Step Back in Time with Historic Fairview Cemetery Tours On Sale Now!

Experience Bastrop County history like never before! This unique guided tour brings the past to life as costumed actors portray real residents who shaped our community. Guests will walk alongside these captivating characters as they share stories of triumph, tragedy, and legacy that still echo through Bastrop County today.

Each tour is limited to just 30 participants, creating an intimate and memorable experience. Tickets sell quickly and can be purchased online or at the Bastrop County Museum & Visitor Center.

"This event is one of the most exciting ways to discover Bastrop County's rich past," says organizer and Historical Society trustee Sandra Chipley. "It's more than a tour—it's a one-of-a-kind experience that sells out every year."



Senator Barrientos Donates Flag

In September, former State Senator Gonzalo Barrientos generously donated a Texas flag flown at the Capitol on the very day the museum received the prestigious THC John Nau Award. Senator Barrientos, who grew up in Bastrop, shared personal stories of his life and service that highlight his deep connection to Bastrop County history. We are grateful for his generosity and his lasting contributions to both our community and the state of Texas.



BCHS Quarterly Meeting | Tales of El Camino Real & the Visitor Center

Thursday | October 23 | 4:30 - 8 PM

Join us as Bastrop celebrates its designation as an official site on El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail with music, dancing, history, and community fun in front of the Bastrop County Museum & Visitor Center.

Festivities kick off at 4:30 pm with mariachi music, flamenco dancing, and a lively historical skit. At 5:30 pm, we'll unveil the official National Historic Trail signage, followed by a dramatic retelling of the Spanish crossing of the Colorado River. The evening will conclude with keynote speaker Frank Huffman, sharing the story of the Visitor Center's evolution.

Food and drinks will be available inside the Visitor Center. Don't miss this milestone celebration wrapping up by 8:00 pm!



Indigenous Peoples Day

Saturday | October 11 | 11 AM - 3 PM

The Bastrop County Historical Society is proud to host its second annual Indigenous Peoples Day on Saturday, October 12, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Join us as we honor the native roots and legacy of Texas with family-friendly crafts and activities, a drum school, and engaging talks from special guest speakers.

Bring the whole family for a meaningful day of learning and celebration!

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

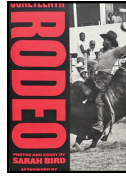
Membership renewal invitations were mailed to all members on September 4, 2025. Rendezvous sponsorship information was included with these invitations. We have already received a number of responses for membership renewal, so thank you to all who have renewed! If you have not yet, now is the time to renew and to enjoy all the benefits your museum offers! Please return those membership cards or go to the QR code to renew. Those of you who became members in the Spring of 2025 received Rendezvous information only as your museum membership will renew on your anniversary date.



Be sure to join us for the annual **Rendezvous Gala**, celebrating the homeowners of the Historic Homes Tour and the accomplishments and growth of the Bastrop County Historical Society and Visitor Center. The annual holiday gala will be held at the Bastrop Convention Center on Friday, December 12, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. Highlights include a live DJ, a silent auction, a \$ 2,500 gift certificate raffle to Found Fine Art, delicious food, and more! It will be a fun and memorable evening, so please join us in the festivities! Ticket information is included in your invitation or go to our website in the QR code. See you at Rendezvous!

BASTROP COUNTY MUSEUM GIFT STORE

Shop local at the Bastrop County Museum Gift Store! From pottery and jewelry to home goods and stuffed animals, discover unique treasures by local makers. New items arrive year-round—perfect for gifts or a treat for yourself!



THANK YOU FOR A RECORD-BREAKING FIRST DAY OF GIVING!

The Members and Supporters of the Bastrop Museum are simply the best! During our very first Day of Giving, you helped us raise more than \$24,000 to ensure the museum continues preserving and sharing the stories of Bastrop County. What made this milestone even more meaningful was the broad support shown across our community. We were honored to have City Council members and the Mayor join us in celebrating, alongside representatives from local businesses and individual donors. Local musicians filled the space with talent and energy, creating a festive spirit that matched the generosity of the day.

Every contribution—whether \$1 or \$5,000—made a difference. Together, you proved that preserving our history is a community effort. Your support helps us care for our collections, develop engaging exhibits, and create educational programs for visitors of all ages.

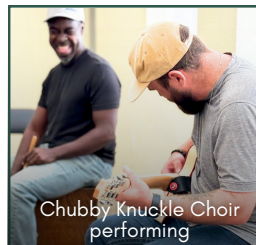
From all of us at the Bastrop County Historical Society—thank you for making our first Day of Giving a resounding success and for investing in the past, present, and future of Bastrop!



Board President Glenda Dayton and Vice President Jane Wright accept a donation from First national Bank



Two locals visiting the museum for the first time



Chubby Knuckle Choir performing

Research Library Volunteers

Karen Derr	Dianne Mills
Jackie Givens	Randy Mikel
Gloria Hoffman	Ron Ramirez
Adela Jones	Robin Schneider
Kathy Kolhoff	Brenda Uptain
John Lockwood	Brad Weber
Mary Lucas	Allen Ziegenhals
Pat McKay	

Visitor Center Volunteers

Gloria Adams	Docents:
Michelle Adams	Madeline Baird
Dawn Ellis	Judy Enis
Bert Godkin	Jeff Haladyna
Adela Jones	Frank Huffman
Bob Malerk	Leona Jones
Leslie Mellenbruch	Carrie Martin
Randy Mikel	Mark Mowery
Karen Naqvi	Ron Ramirez
Cissy Soto	
Jan Stringer	Junior Volunteers:
Orlanda Valka	Stephen Ellis, Jr.
Nancy Wood	Sophia Serna
	Briella

College Student Volunteers (holiday break):
Nathan Banta
Zoe Moreno

Visitor Center Staff

Gloria Perkins, Visitor Center Manager
Candice McClendon, Events Coordinator
Rachel Hatch, Mktg. & Comm. Coordinator
Candiss Lawrence, Visitor Center Associate

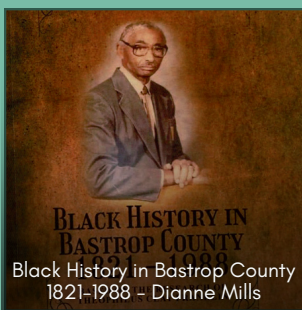
Museum Staff

Glenda Dayton, Acting Interim Director
Barbara Vana, Office Coordinator
Heather Bloom, Collections Manager
Traci Frary, Archivist

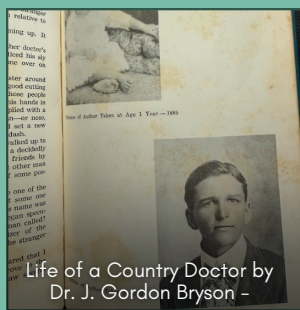
RECENT MUSEUM DONATIONS



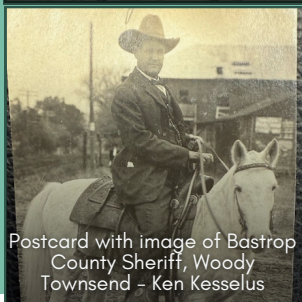
Railroad Lantern - the Wesson Family



Black History in Bastrop County
1821-1988 - Dianne Mills



Life of a Country Doctor by
Dr. J. Gordon Bryson -



Postcard with image of Bastrop County Sheriff, Woody Townsend - Ken Kesselus



Textile fragment woven by Thomas Christian - Evelyn Horsman



Photograph of Ellen Moore - Sherri Gilmore



BCHS Officers

Glenda Dayton, President
Jane Wright, Vice President, Treasurer
Jill Barrow, Secretary

Trustees

Jill Barrow	Judy Enis
Lee Ann Calaway	Sherri Gilmore
Sandra Chipley	Michal Hubbard
Barbara Clemons	Jennifer Leisure
Les DeGraffenried	Johnny Sanders
Sara Emmert	Joe Grady Tuck

OCTOBER EVENTS



First Friday | Book Bash
10/3 | 6-8 PM

Swap some books and discover local authors.

Dia de Los Muertos Exhibit
10/3-11/1 | 10 AM - 5 PM

Honor the past with our community ofrenda!

Indigenous Peoples Day
10/11 | 12-3 PM

Celebrate the Indigenous Peoples of Bastrop County and Texas!

Historic Fairview Cemetery
Tours
10/18 | 3 & 4:15 PM

Learn Bastrop County history from the people who lived it!

Music in the Museum | Jeff
Hortillosa
10/18 | 12-1:30 PM

Enjoy an afternoon of bluegrass with a nationally recognized artist!

Quarterly Meeting | Tales
of El Camino Real & the
Visitor Center
10/23 | 4:30-8 PM

Celebrate the iconic National Trail that goes right through the heart of Bastrop!

Boo Bash
10/31 | 6-8 PM

Trick or Treat at the Museum & Visitor Center!

BE A PART OF BASTROP HISTORY!

Bastrop
MUSEUM & VISITOR CENTER
of the Bastrop County Historical Society

904 Main Street
Bastrop, TX 78602
512-303-0904

www.bastropcountyhistoricalsociety.com

Follow us! @bastropmuseumvc

