

ARANSAS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Our new e-mail address is
achistory@aransashistory.org
Be sure to check our website:
www.aransashistory.org

It's full of information that you can use!



ACHS NEWSLETTER

Volume 9 Issue 1

January 2012

EXCLUSIVE FOR ACHS MEMBERS ONLY!

Bobby Jackson to perform “Stephen Franklin Sparks, Early Pioneer” at ACHS Annual Meeting, Thursday, Feb. 9, 6:30 pm, at Woman’s Club

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ACHS Officers & Trustees

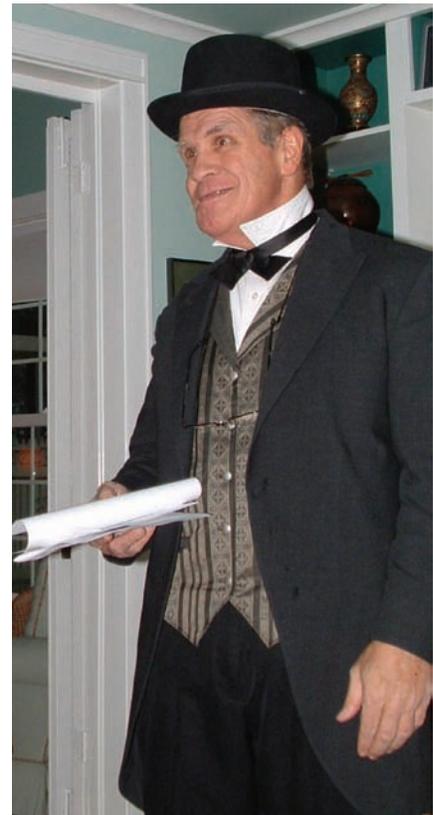
Kam Wagert, President (2014)
Pam Wheat-Stranahan, Vice-President (2012)
Marsha Hendrix, Secretary (2012)
Janet Taylor, Treasurer (2014)
Jerry Brundrett (2013)
Dolly Close (2012)
Norrine Holman (2013)
Carol Keller (2013)
Jo Ann Morgan (2013)
David Murrah (2014)
Patsy Parr (2013)
Janie White (2012)

You will not want to miss this year’s Annual Meeting of ACHS.

Bobby Jackson is well-known for his presentation of Texas historical characters. This portrayal will be of Stephen Franklin Sparks, one of the founders of Aransas County, who fought in the Texas revolution along side of Col. Ben Milam in the 1835 battle for the Alamo. His descendants settled on the west side of Live Oak Peninsula and formed Sparks’ Colony. Sparks family members will be honored guests at this event.

This is a Members only event and will include a brief business meeting and the election of trustees. If you know of someone who wants to attend, memberships will be sold at the door.

Refreshments will be served. Carolyn Cauley and Geoff Bywater are the coordinators for this program.



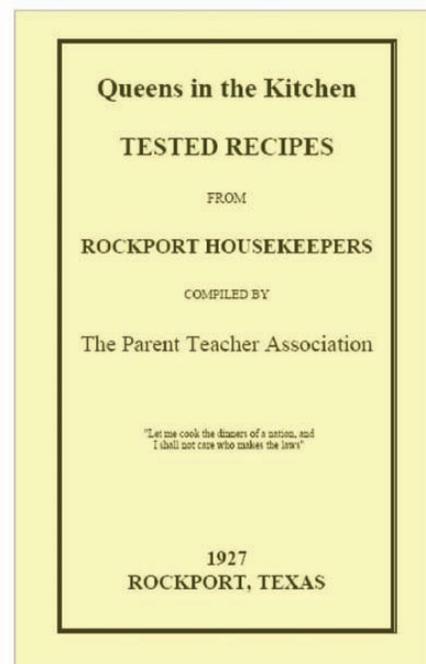
The President's Column: From the Lab

The past year of 2011 was a very exciting one for the ACHS. Our programs ("The History of Aransas County in Postcards", "Historic Restoration of the Fulton-Bruhl House", "The Early Settlers in the Blackjacks", and "A Soldier's Life") drew large crowds. John Jackson's book signing of "Taking the Tide" was quite successful. We also sponsored day trips to Refugio, Goose Island, Taft, Sinton, and Corpus Christi, and all were both informative and fun. The Corpus Christi trip included a tour of Old Bayview Cemetery.

In addition to our 2011 program events, we re-published the cookbook, *Queens in the Kitchen*, which was originally printed in 1927 by the Parent Teacher Association. It is a faithful reproduction of the 1927 publication and includes all the original content, including advertisements, along with addi-

tional photographs of many of the ladies who had submitted recipes for the original cookbook. The advertisements are fun to read, and list phone numbers such as "7" and "10".

The cookbook may be purchased for \$15 on Wednesdays from 2-4 pm at the ACHS Lab in the old Rockport School.



WELCOME NEW ACHS MEMBERS!

The ACHS has received many new members since the publication of our last Newsletter, and the Society now has 236 members, the most ever in its 26-year history.

New members for the past quarter are as follows:

Dennis Augustine
 Chester Barre
 Kelli & Russel Cole
 Ann Davis & Oscar Garcia
 Paula Dean
 Cindy, Bill & McCauley Duck
 Kim Erwin
 Gary & Rita Gilbert
 David & Elizabeth Hartman
 Ramona LeBlanc
 Marita Muiznieks
 Oak Crest Nursing Center
 Roxanna Ponton
 Betty Stiles

A warm welcome to all of these new folks, and we look forward to seeing all of our members at our many activities this year.

In 2012, the ACHS will be working to organize our own Rockport cemetery tour. Participants will be dressed in period attire and they will be standing near designated headstones. They will then relate (told in first person) the life story and experiences of the person on the headstone. If you are interested in being a part of this event, let us know. We will provide the written script for you to read. It should be fun!

We have a number of great programs and day trips coming up in 2012. I look forward to seeing you then!! Thank you for being a member of ACHS.

--Kam Wagert

Aransas County History Trivia Question

There are currently five National Register of Historic Places designations in Aransas County. Which of these is NOT a house or structure?

E-mail your reply to:

achistory@aransashistory.org

The first with the correct answer wins a 2012 Historical Calendar!

Mention that you saw the question in the JANUARY Newsletter!

The Genealogical Society of Aransas County: An Introduction

I would like to introduce you to the Genealogical Society of Aransas County (GSAC). Our members are a group of diverse individuals with a common goal: researching our past. As you have probably noticed in television ads, television specials and magazines articles, genealogy has become a popular subject in the past few years. For us “diehard” genealogists, it’s always been a passion.

The Society was originally started in 2001 and was dissolved in 2005. In January of 2009 it was re-established and has been functioning continuously since that date. The GSAC meets on the fourth Monday of each month starting at 3:00 pm at the Aransas County Library. Our meetings are open to any individual or couple, beginner or advanced genealogist, who would like to partner with other people interested in researching and documenting their ancestors. The annual dues are only \$15.00 for an individual and \$20.00 for a couple.

At the majority of our meetings, informative programs are presented, ranging from DVDs relating to various subjects pertinent to our work, i.e. census data, immigration, military records, etc., to discussing the importance and methodology of documenting your research. We offer field trips to area libraries to learn about their resources and do research. We also have sponsor workshops with guest speakers known throughout Texas for their expertise in the genealogy field. In addition, many of our members are available and willing to provide any assistance they can to help you in your research project or when you hit that “brick wall” that so many of us encounter.

Our interest in history and our love of research go hand in hand with so many projects and ideals of the Aransas County Historical Society. What fun it could be if the GSAC partnered with the Historical Society on one of those projects. Please feel free to attend one of our meetings without charge or obligation and determine for yourself if you would like to join. Anyone with a sincere interest in genealogy will always be welcome.

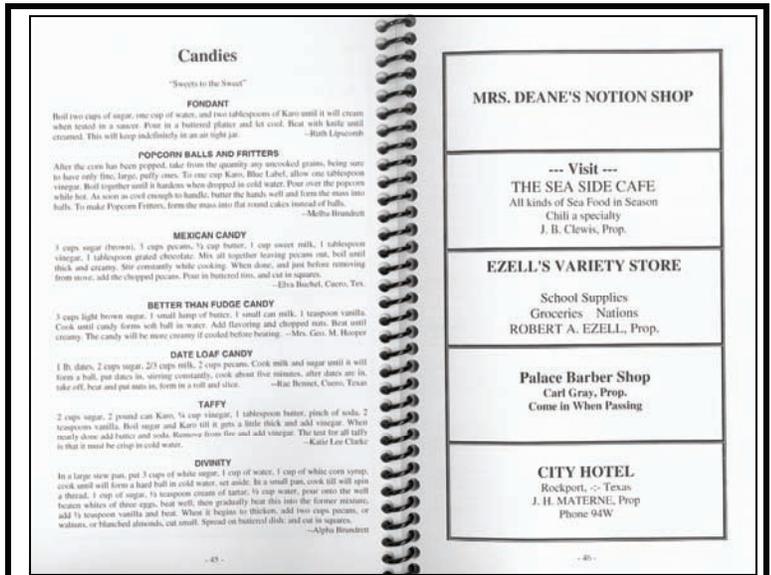
—Sally Reynolds

ACHS Members Attend Tropical Trail Event in Corpus Christi

In mid-December members of the ACHS attended the Tropical Trail Partners’ Event in Corpus Christi. The day began refreshments in Heritage Park and a description by Anita Eisenshauer of the various properties in the park – how they got there and who their owners had been.

Next we visited the Old Bayview Cemetery where members of the “South Texas Historians” made a living history presentation as they portrayed numerous people who are buried in the cemetery. Their re-enactments and answers to questions revealed interesting stories of every day life and intrigue along the coastal bend.

The group then moved to the South Texas Museum of Art where we viewed an exhibit of the Christmas trees decorated for different cultures. Selected schools were tasked with researching the traditions of countries then decorating a tree to illustrate that country. A lunch buffet featured quiches and desserts. The educational programs were about how to estab-



Pages from the 1927 *Queens in the Kitchen* cookbook, which include ads for local businesses.

1927 COOKBOOK GIVEN GREAT REVIEW BY NEW YORK PROFESSOR

Dr. Robert Harrist, a 1970 graduate of Rockport-Fulton High School and presently a professor of Oriental Art at Columbia University in New York, recently wrote ACHS to give his review of ACHS’s newest publication:

In his note, he said, "I just received these wonderful materials from the historical society, including the *Queens in the Kitchen Tested Recipes from Rockport Housekeepers* from 1927. It is just wonderful. There are things in here that are very important to me. There's an ad from my grandmother's store (Mrs. Deane's Notion Shop) and poems written by my great aunt (Lillie Lorena Deane). I really appreciate you sending this cookbook. A lot of the ladies in it I either knew or heard about all my life, either from my mother (Fran Harrist), aunt (Gussie Deane), or my grandmother."

If you have not yet purchased this cookbook, please come by the ACHS Lab on Wednesdays from 2 - 4. Like Dr. Harrist, we are sure you will not be disappointed, but you had better hurry, as they are going fast!

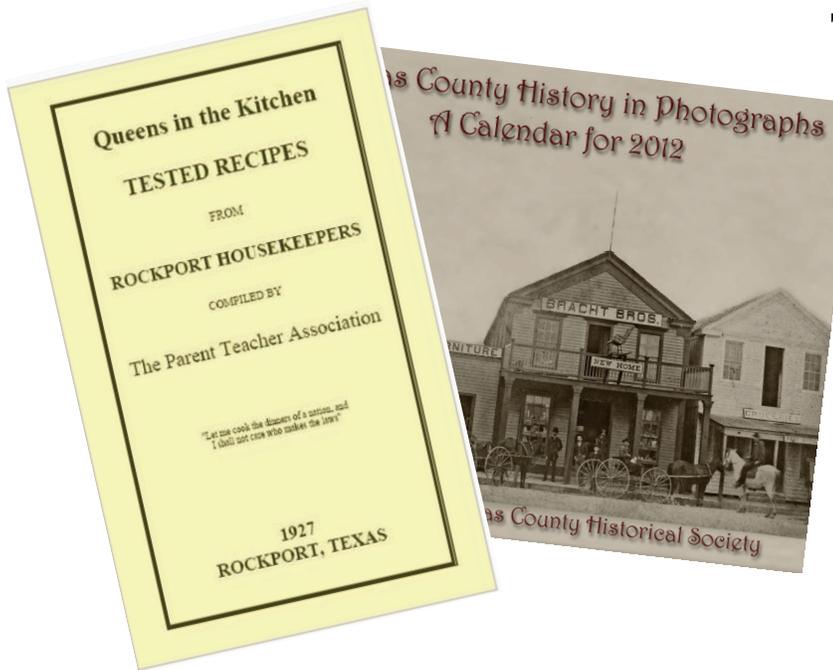
—Kam Wagert



ACHS members Kam Wagert (left), Norrine Holman, Sally Reynolds, and Carolyn Cauley toured the Bayview Cemetery with the help of a historical guide.

lish a cemetery tour and Jim Maloney talking about “A Soldier’s Life.” You can visit the Tropical Trail web site to learn more about their programs. www.texastropicaltrail.com/. —Pam Stranahan

Going, Going, Almost Gone!



THEY ARE GOING FAST AND YOU SHOULD GET YOURS BEFORE THEY ARE GONE! WE WILL SEND THE 2012 CALENDAR AND THE NEW *QUEENS IN THE KITCHEN* COOKBOOK TO YOU OR YOUR FRIENDS FOR ONLY \$25! (TAX & SHIPPING INCLUDED)
 Complete the coupon below and return with your check to ACHS, Box 702, Rockport, TX 78381. Allow 15 days for delivery.

Your name _____

Your address _____

City, State ZIP _____

Your email _____

Your phone number _____

(Please check) Send package(s) to _____ my address above _____ addresses listed below:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State ZIP _____

Enclose additional addresses on separate page.

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ for the following quantities:

_____ calendars @ \$10= _____

_____ Cookbooks @ \$17= _____

_____ Calendar/Cookbook combination @ \$25 _____

Mail to ACHS, Box 702, Rockport, TX 78381.

SAVE THE DATES FOR THESE UPCOMING ACHS PROGRAMS!

Mar. 6, 6:30 PM at Beach-front Pavilion, Rockport Beach Park

“Rockport Air Force Station, the Cold War in Aransas County” by Kathryn Morrow

The Air Station opened in 1959 due to the threat from Castro’s take-over of Cuba in 1958. Around 140 men were stationed here in barracks and family housing units. The base was decommissioned in 1963. Kathryn Morrow has researched the story in the records and by interviewing airmen who were stationed there, some of whom made Aransas County their home. Coordinated by Kathy David and Kam Wagert.

April 19, 6:30 PM at Beach-front Pavilion, Rockport Beach Park

“John Fred’k “Doc” McGregor, The Man Behind the Camera.” By Jesenia Guerra, Corpus Christi Museum of History and Science

The talk includes a biography on “Doc” McGregor, stories about the collection and its visitors, information on the most popular photographs, and photographs that he took in Aransas County. Coordinated by Sue Hastings and Kathryn Morrow.

Mar. 20, 9 AM – 3 PM Day Trip to Goliad and Refugio with Tropical Trail

Car pool from Rockport School on Live Oak; reservation required for lunch. Itinerary and menu choices will be mailed and emailed 10 days before the trip. Coordinated by Anne Mourtaja and Pam Stranahan.



RECENT ACHS PROGRAM—Historian Jim Moloney of Corpus Christi was the featured speaker for ACHS November program.



MAKING HISTORY COME TO LIFE: THIRD GRADERS STAR IN ACHS READING AND PICTURE PROGRAM

Third graders at Live Oak Learning Center were treated to a program from ACHS, in which the students served as the stars of the show! In early January, ACHS trustees Kam Wagert (center, in turquoise dress) and Pam Stranahan (right) showed photographs and post cards about early Aransas County and provided a script for students to read to accompany the pictures.



Students wore period hats as they read their script. In addition, ACHS provided a word-seek activity which students could use in the class rooms for further review. The program tied into the the third grade unit on community. CHS received a large thank you poster from the class.

—Pam Stranahan



TROPICAL CHRISTMAS BOOTH—ACHS members Pam Stranahan (left) and Kam Wagert were two of several volunteers who worked at ACHS’s booth at Rockport’s Tropical Christmas in December.

YARD SALE PLANNED BY ACHS TO BENEFIT NEW HISTORY CENTER

A huge yard sale will take place on Saturday March 17 from 9 - 2 at the parking lot for the Griffith & Brundrett Surveying Office, located at 411 S. Pearl in Rockport (behind City Hall). If you have items you would like to donate to this sale, please contact Janet Taylor at 729-2148 or Kam Wagert at 729-5725 and we will come pick up your items.

Proceeds from the yard sale will benefit the new history venue to be housed in the soon-to-be-relocated Bruhl-Paul-Johnson residence.



News from History Venue and ACHC

History Venue Gains Property, Moves Closer to Becoming Reality

For more than a year, members of a subcommittee of ACHS have been working toward the establishment of a history venue initiated by the availability of a historic house. The vision has moved closer to reality, and the subcommittee is initiating plans to become an independent organization.

On November 30, 2011 Dr. Gary and Rita Gilbert donated Lots 7,8,& 9 of Block E, Live Oak Heights addition to Aransas County for use as a history venue. The intent is for the Bruhl-Paul-Johnson (B-P-J) house currently at 910 Concho to be moved to that location at the corner of Church St. and Cedar St.

On January 9, 2012 Commissioners' Court approved the budget and projects proposed by Aransas Pathways. The work plan for 2012 includes \$33,000 to move the B-P-J house. The house is currently being stabilized under a custodial agreement between the Historical Society and the County with \$16,500 funding committed by the County. Also on the Pathways list of projects for the future is \$100,000 for the renovation of the house to become the History Center. This renovation will require some monies to match the Pathways funds.

The sub committee for the history center has been chaired by Jerry Brundrett with Janet Taylor and Kam Wagert serving as vice chairs and Jennifer Day as Secretary. Members of the committee have included Pam Stranahan, Carolyn Cauley, Jackie Shaw, Kathy David, Janie White, Greg Harlan, Linda Valdez, Dora McKelvey, Sandy Garrison and Rusty Day. This sub-committee is currently writing By-laws to become a 501c3 with the specific goal of managing the History Center as a venue for the display of Aransas County history that shall be open to the public.

--Pam Stranahan

COUNTY APPOINTS NEW HISTORICAL COMMISSION FOR 2012



Standing L to R: Melissa Daylong, Jack Chaney, Kathy David, Sandy Garrison, Janet Taylor, Dora McKelvey Marsha Hendrix, Gwynn Lumpkin. Seated: Greg Harlan, Carolyn Cauley and Sally Reynolds. Not pictured were Diane Dupnik and Linda Garcia.

Aransas County Commissioners' Court recently appointed Melissa Daylong, Greg Harlan and Jack Chaney to the Aransas County Historical Commission (ACHC).

Those re-appointed for a second term are Carolyn Cauley (chair), replacing Jackie Shaw, Kathy David (vice chair), Linda Garcia (secretary), Dora McKelvey (treasurer), Diane Dupnik, Sandy Garrison, Marsha Hendrix, Gwynn Lumpkin, Sally Reynolds and Janet Taylor.

The CHC makes nominations to the Texas Historical Commission for historical markers in Aransas County and provides the research information for the marker. You can view the 2010 Aransas County Historical Marker Guide published by the Rockport Pilot under the Historical Marker tab at www.aransascountytx.gov/historiccomm/.

—Carolyn Cauley