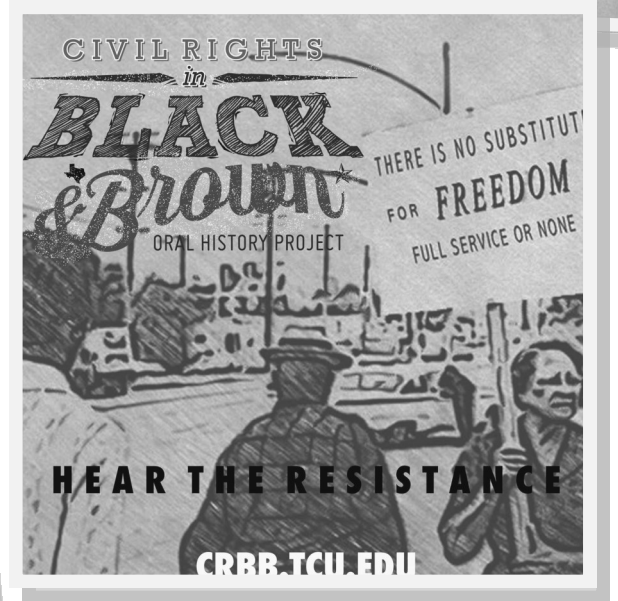
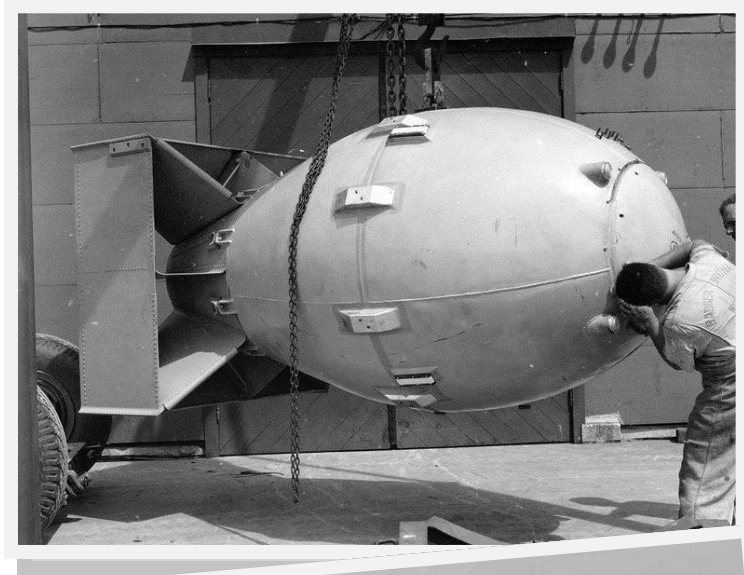
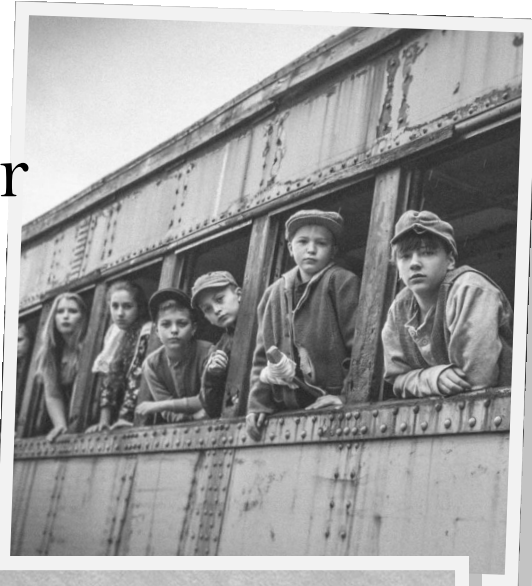


# Gregg County Historical Museum's Free Summer Lecture Series

Every Thursday at 2:30 p.m.  
Ann Lacy Crain Exhibit Center  
Limit 40 guests



## Gregg County Historical Museum Free Summer Lecture Series Schedule

### June 18th

Lecture by Johnny Ferguson on "*Failure Is Not An Option; The Apollo Missions.*" Jonny Ferguson was a NASA Flight Controller through the Apollo Missions beginning in 1966 and subsequent human space flight programs including the International Space Station, retiring in May 2009. In Ferguson's opinion, the most significant accomplishment of the Apollo Program was preventing the communist philosophy from dominating the world, keeping Christianity as the prominent philosophy of life. It was a big God Thing! Through the Apollo Program, his personal Motto became: "Failure is Not An Option," When You Are With God!

### June 25th

Lecture by Larry Ferguson on "*The History Of Texas Longhorn Cattle.*" This story starts in Europe and progressively ends with the cattle drives in the 1880's. This lecture will show the quality of the cattle and how they created a culture in our society that is still growing.

### July 2nd

Lecture by Clark Sexton on "*Orphan Trains; 1854-1929.*" When Rev. Charles Loring Brace moved from New England to New York City to continue his seminary studies, he was appalled at the sight of so many homeless children on the streets. Some were selling newspapers, or selling matches, or just begging for food. He became so burdened for them he organized the Children's Aid Society, an orphanage in Midtown Manhattan. It soon proved to be too small to handle the amount of "street urchins" as they were called. He pleaded with a few businessmen to help him get the children out of the city, as it looked as though there was no hope for any kind of future for them. It was a great undertaking to plan and organize trains to send the children of all ages out west to hopefully find homes. Over 150,000 children were successful in being adopted as the Orphan Trains ran from 1854 to 1929. Some boys were adopted to work as farm hands and some girls to be used as young maids. These were not given the love they needed and deserved. Many others did find good homes and were given love, self-esteem and a good education.

### **July 9th**

Lecture by Ellen Gordon and Lynette Goodson on “*The Restoration of the Rucker-Campbell House.*” The Rucker-Campbell House was constructed in 1872 by Asa Rucker who was the owner of a large saw mill. The Rucker family was the original builders and owners of the house. The house was originally built in a Beaux Arts style and was converted to a Queen Anne Victorian in 1903. After this conversion three additions were done to the house over the years to add a sleeping porch, a solarium, and to convert the house into an apartment. In 2010, Preservation Longview began a restoration process. This process includes restoring the interior of the house, stabilization of the foundation, and reconstruction of the masonry fireplaces.

### **July 16th**

Lecture by Gayle English and Dr. Frank Jackson on “*Texas Eastman Employees Contributions To World War II.*” This presentation brings to light significant connections between Texas Eastman employees during the original research and development of the RDX Explosive, and the Atomic Bomb. These men moved to our community to begin the Texas Eastman division of Eastman Chemical. The eleven employees in the presentation are now deceased, but their story and the importance of the contributions to WWII will live on.

### **July 23rd**

Lecture by Dr. Meredith May on “*East Texas And The Civil Rights In Black And Brown Oral History Project.*” As the oral histories conducted in Deep East Texas demonstrate, African Americans fought for their rights in places like Lufkin and Nacogdoches through demonstrations, protests, and political activism and through more subtle means, particularly persistently pursuing educational opportunities, voter registration, and quiet economic boycotts. The Civil Rights in Black and Brown Oral History project aims to recover the role of local people in the fight for justice and equity and to investigate what communities choose to remember and to forget.

### **July 30th**

Lecture by Rickey Carter and Steve Coats on “*Oil for Victory; The Big Inch Pipeline.*” This lecture tells the story of how the Big Inch Pipeline came about and how it was one of the main contributing factors to the allies winning World War II.

### **August 6th**

Lecture by Kimberly Fish on “*Harmon General: A World War II Hospital That Is Still Changing Lives Today.*” Less than four months after the United States entered World War II, Longview civic leaders, led by Carl Estes, publisher of the Longview *Daily News*, and by Grady Shipp, director of the Longview Chamber of Commerce, secured an army general hospital for the city. The hospital was built just outside the southern city limits on 156 acres of the James A. Holloway farm. Construction began in May 1942, and the facility opened with 1,525 beds in 119 buildings on November 24, 1942. Additional improvements continued to be made throughout the existence of the hospital, which ultimately had 2,939 beds in 157 buildings and a total of 232 barrack-type buildings connected by 3 1/2 miles of enclosed walkways. The facility was named after Col. Daniel Warrick Harmon, who had served in the Army Medical Corps thirty-six years at the time of his death in 1940.

### **August 13th**

Lecture by Bobby Oliver on “*The Origins Of The White Primary Election System In Texas; 1874-1923.*” White primary elections and white man’s primary Unions or associations originated in deep East Texas and slowly spread from the Texas “black belt” counties to white majority counties, cities, and even school districts before ultimately becoming mandated by state law in 1923. Initially, white primary elections were devices to seize power from African Americans and their allies but they evolved into the political “Swiss Army knife” of late nineteenth and early twentieth century political leaders. During the almost half a century that it took voters and politicians to universally adopt white primary elections, politicians used white primary elections for a variety of reasons. White primary elections really came into their own only after most people of color were disenfranchised. The purpose of white primaries changed dramatically over time, and this presentation examines what those objectives were, who benefitted, and how and why white primary elections were repurposed to achieve personal, political, partisan, and financial power.

### **August 20th**

Lecture by Clent Holmes on the “*1919 Longview Remembrance Project.*” This project is an effort to reshape the narrative around how a significant historic event is remembered in Longview, Texas, what is often referred to as the 1919 Race Riots. Clent Holmes is hoping to bring honor and peace to the forgotten by installing a historical marker to remember a troubling aspect of Longview’s past and creating a documentary that chronicles these efforts and highlights oral histories from Longview’s citizens.

### **August 27th**

Lecture by Dr. Meredith May on “*Pine Resin In My Veins; East Texas Women’s History.*” East Texas is home to the only county in the state named after a woman: Angelina. As half the population, women’s contributions to the region over the millennia are impossible to summarize; their impact is everywhere. However, if we look just at the period in East Texas since World War II, we can get a feel for women’s wide and varied stories and how they’ve shaped the place we call home.

### **September 3rd**

Lecture by Anthony Souther on “*Caddo Mounds; Past and Present.*” Highlighting the Caddo Mounds State Historic Site, before and after the devastating tornado on April 13, 2019.