

MUSINGS

www.gregghistorical.org

Fall and Winter 2025

A PUBLICATION OF THE GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM





LIFT OFF LONGVIEW!

THE GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM BALLOON SCULPTURE PROJECT

*Put your business on display with a Longview
tradition in full color!*



- Choice of two sizes: 5' 6" and 3"
- Fabricated locally with high quality, durable metal by Modisette Welding
- White base coat. WILL NOT RUST and should last 25+ years
- High grade, UV filtering, commercial top coat for painted balloons
- Concrete or grass installation with tamper free bolts
- Balloon location printed on a map distributed by the museum and online.

Questions?

903-753-5840 director@gregghistorical.org

*Pick a Size.
Pick a Location.
Pick an Artist.*

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Membership



214 N. Fredonia St.
Downtown Longview
903-753-5840
gregghistorical.org

Calendar of Events

September 12, 2025
Preservation Award Reception

September 20, 2025
Landmarks of Longview Home Tour
1:00-4:00pm

September 27, 2025
Tiny Thinkers
Let's Talk About Sports!
9:00am

October 18, 2025
Historic Haunts
6:00pm

October 25, 2025
Tiny Thinkers
Let's Talk About Pirates!
9:00am

November 26-30, 2025
GCHM closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

December 2, 2025
Fashion & Firs
4:00-7:00pm

December 6, 2025
Living History Christmas
10:00-2:00pm

December 20, 2025
Tiny Thinkers
Let's Talk About Trains!
9:00am

December 21-January 12, 2026
GCHM closed for Christmas/New Year
Holiday

January 24, 2026
Tiny Thinkers
Let's Talk About Texas!
9:00am

February and March 2026
*Where Freedom Rides: Juneteenth, Women
and the Texas Rodeo Spirit*

February 28, 2026
Tiny Thinkers
Let's Talk About the Rodeo!
9:00 AM

Spring and Summer 2026
Wheels that Formed a Nation

June 2026
Take me out to the Ballgame!
Block Party Celebration

Welcome to the Fall/Winter 2025 Edition of Musings

It's been said that the only constant is change, and we have certainly experienced several changes since our last edition, with more still to come. This October marks the beginning of a new year, bringing with it new officers and board members. I will be completing my term as president, and I'm pleased to share that the museum will be in very capable hands with our new president, Angela Choy. Additionally, two of our valued members, Past President Debbie Hancock and Secretary Dr. Meredith May, will also be completing their terms. Their dedicated service over the years has been a tremendous asset to the museum's growth and is deeply appreciated.

We've also made several important updates to our facility. As you read this, our offices and museum archives have been moved to the newly renovated upper floor. Improvements to this space include restored hardwood flooring, fresh paint, added air conditioning, and newly carpeted stairs. These upgrades have been part of our long-term vision and were made possible through the generosity of the Wrather Foundation. The space previously used for offices will now be transformed into an expanded military exhibit and a world affairs research library, made possible by the support of Dr. Robert Galvan. Stay tuned for more information on this exciting development.

In addition, several exhibits are being refreshed or newly added. One of the museum's standout features, the Dalton Days exhibit in the original bank vault, has been renewed, with a grand reopening scheduled for September. Design work is also underway for a renewed Native American Exhibit, a new Transportation Exhibit, the Gregg County Athletes Exhibit, an updated Mercantile Exhibit, and an expansion of The Cargill Kids Zone.

Our focus isn't solely on building improvements; exciting events are also on the calendar. This year's Landmarks of Longview tour, scheduled for September 20, will showcase several unique and historic Longview homes. As I wrap up my term as president of your Museum Foundation this October, I want to express my sincere gratitude. It has been an honor to serve over the past several years as both a board member and officer. Although my term is ending, I'm inspired and encouraged by the museum's direction and am confident it will continue to thrive in the capable hands of our new leadership.

With appreciation,

Marc Welch

President, 2023-2025



Staff Members:

Jennifer White
Executive Director
Lynn Bryson
Volunteer Coordinator
Bridgette Hunt
Accounting
Kelly Green
Archives
Sandy Spears
Education Coordinator
Lana Higginbotham
Membership Coordinator
Tiffany Haggard
Digital Designer
Kyler Littlejohn
Museum Intern

Board Members:

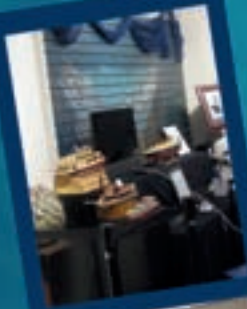
Sarah Albertson
Kathy Adams
Jordan Alford
Jon Carter
Angela Choy
Larry Courington
Kerri Esposito
Debbie Hancock
Dale Hardy
Dr. Meredith May
Steve McCoskey
Christian Pippins
Robert Proctor
Bill Rice III
Brittney Smith
Bill Supan
Nicole Walden
Marc Welch
Tayler Welch
Chase Wildt



The photo shows railroad workers at the Longview Depot proudly posing in front of a train, a fitting tribute to the people who kept the city's rail lines moving. The Longview Depot, located in the heart of downtown, served as one of two key rail hubs for the city. The second, known as Longview Junction, lay to the east where two major rail lines crossed. Together, these depots made Longview one of the few East Texas towns to offer both east to west and north to south rail service. This strategic advantage transformed Longview from a modest rail stop into a thriving center of commerce and transportation, drawing industry, innovation, and opportunity that would shape the city's identity for generations.

CONQUERING THE SEAS

a Recap



PIGLADON SCULPTURE:
WILL RUEGG, CHARLES ARNOLD &
DAVE STILLSON

BRAZOS VALLEY
MUSEUM of Natural History

KOMATSU

CenterPoint
Energy

HAROLD AND MARY
LETOURNEAU



KIDS 5 AND YOUNGER are invited for an age appropriate book followed by crafts and activities on the 4th **Saturday** of each month from **9AM to 10AM** at the Gregg County Historical Museum.



TINY THINKERS

AT THE GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

\$5
PER KID

Saturdays are
for fun!



 SPORTS SEPT 27 2025	 PIRATES OCT 25 2025	 TRAINS *DEC 20 2025
 TEXAS JAN 24 2026	 RODEO FEB 28 2026	 INSECTS MAR 28 2026
 CARS APR 25 2026	 CAMPING MAY 23 2026	 TRACTORS JUN 27 2026



**SCHEDULE A
GROUP TOUR**

FIELD TRIPS,
PRIVATE EVENTS,
QUIETER SETTINGS



FOLLOW US ON



MUSEUM HOURS
TUES-THU 10AM-4PM
SATURDAYS 10AM-12PM
GREGG.HISTORICAL.ORG



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*We are proud to
call the heart of
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TEXAS AMERICA 250

On July 4, 2026, America will celebrate 250 years of independence, and Gregg County is proud to share its part in that story. From the excitement of rodeos and the steady rhythm of the railroad, to the timeless joy of baseball and the resilience of our communities, our local traditions reflect the diverse spirit that defines the American identity.

The Gregg County Historical Museum invites you to join us in a yearlong America 250 Celebration filled with events that honor the moments, people, and places that shaped our region. We'll kick things off this year with a Traditional Texas Christmas, full of local charm and holiday warmth. Then in January, start the new year with our Windshield Tour of Gregg County, where you'll explore the landmarks and stories that make our history truly one-of-a-kind. There is no better time to celebrate where we've been, embrace who we are, and look ahead to what we can become together.



*Where Freedom Rides:
Juneteenth, Women,
and the Texas Rodeo Spirit*



June Block Party



Take me out
to the ballgame

Wheels that Formed a Nation



Meet our new

Taylor Welch



Taylor Welch lives in Kilgore with her husband, Mason, and their two sons, Cooper and Hayes. Family is at the heart of her life, and she deeply values being part of a community that emphasizes connection, tradition, and growth. Living in East Texas has strengthened her appreciation for local history and the unique stories that shape each town and family.

Taylor graduated from Baylor University in 2009 with a degree in History and Museum Studies. Her passion for history has long guided her personal and professional journey, as she is deeply committed to the idea that understanding the past helps us better understand ourselves and our communities. She believes museums are essential spaces for education and reflection, preserving the legacies of those who came before while inspiring future generations.

Taylor is honored and excited to join the board of the Gregg County Historical Museum. She recognizes the museum's vital role in the community and looks forward to supporting its mission through educational outreach, community engagement, and the preservation of regional historical treasures. For Taylor, this work is both a personal passion and a professional privilege, and she is grateful for the opportunity to contribute.



Robert Proctor

Robert Proctor was born in Corpus Christi, Texas, to Robert and Dorothy Proctor. He was raised in the League City, Texas area before moving to White Oak, Texas, in the eighth grade. Throughout his school years, Robert was active in football, basketball, and track, with his father serving as his coach, principal, and superintendent.

He earned a four-year track scholarship to Louisiana Tech University, where he graduated with honors in electrical engineering. During college, he spent three summers working at Southwestern Electric Power Company in Longview. His first professional role was with Houston Lighting and Power Company in Houston, where he worked on nuclear power plants.

Robert later held various positions in the oilfield industry, focusing on the manufacturing of downhole equipment. He also served as a plant manager in plastics manufacturing. His career eventually led him to work for two contractors at NASA Space Center, where he served as a project manager involved in astronaut testing, training, and space station projects.

Following his retirement, Robert has pursued interests in antiques and gardening. He recently purchased a home on Lake Devernia, where he enjoys fishing and water sports. He has one son, Robert III, who lives in the Houston area.

board members!

Mary Lou Tevebaugh

Mary Lou Tevebaugh, a lifelong resident of Gregg County, brings deep-rooted community ties and a passion for service to her new role on the board of the Gregg County Historical Museum. A Baylor Law School graduate, she began her career as an assistant district attorney before launching her own legal practice in 1987. Throughout her career, she has been a steadfast advocate for others, recognized for her dedication, compassion, and integrity.

In addition to her legal work, Mary Lou is actively engaged in enriching the cultural and civic life of East Texas. She serves on the board of the Longview Museum of Fine Arts and the Mayor's Task Force on Housing, and is involved with Newgate Mission's Healing Arts Project. Her commitment to mentoring is evident in her work with Aspire, where she helps guide young girls toward a bright future. As a sustaining member of the Oklahoma City Museum of Art, Mary Lou's enduring love for the arts, history, and community service continues to shape her impactful contributions across the region.



Paquita Hanks, born in Madrid, Spain and adopted as a child, has lived a life marked by resilience, faith, and a deep sense of purpose. Though she never knew her biological family, she found strength in the values of love, kindness, and forgiveness. With a strong foundation in branding and marketing, Paquita currently serves as a Media Executive at New Station and previously worked alongside Councilman Wray Wade. She is also the founder of Fierce Entertainment, a dynamic creative enterprise that has partnered with national platforms such as the Stellar Awards, and collaborated with acclaimed gospel artists and actors. At the heart of her professional journey is an unwavering commitment to community, compassion, and inclusivity.

Paquita's greatest passion lies in advocating for children in foster care. During her time at Casa for Kids of East Texas, she recruited and supported volunteers who served as voices for children in court and led the organization's Inclusivity Committee to ensure every child had the opportunity to find a safe, permanent home. She also founded Loving You, an initiative focused on self-love, emotional healing, and inner growth. A devoted member of Bible Teaching Ministries, Paquita serves in the Finance Department and remains deeply grounded in her faith. She is currently completing her debut book, sharing a powerful message of healing, unity, and grace. A proud mother to her daughter Shelby and an avid traveler, Paquita believes in the power of embracing one's past to create a meaningful and purposeful future.



Paquita Hanks

KOMATSU ROBOTICS



The Gregg County Historical Museum's annual Robotics Competition, held at Komatsu in Longview, proved once again that East Texas students are leading the charge in STEM education. On April 29, 2025, students from elementary to high school levels gathered to compete, collaborate, and showcase their engineering and programming skills—highlighting the power of innovation and teamwork in shaping tomorrow's technology leaders.

The event was a high-energy celebration of problem-solving and creativity, with prize money awarded to support the advancement of school-based robotics programs.

Elementary/Middle School Division

Pine Tree Robotics made a clean sweep in the Elementary/Middle School division. Their students' impressive designs and precise programming earned them both first and second place honors:

- 1st Place: Pine Tree Robotics - \$500
- 2nd Place: Pine Tree Robotics - \$250

Junior High Division

The momentum continued into the Junior High division, with Pine Tree Robotics once again taking home both top prizes:

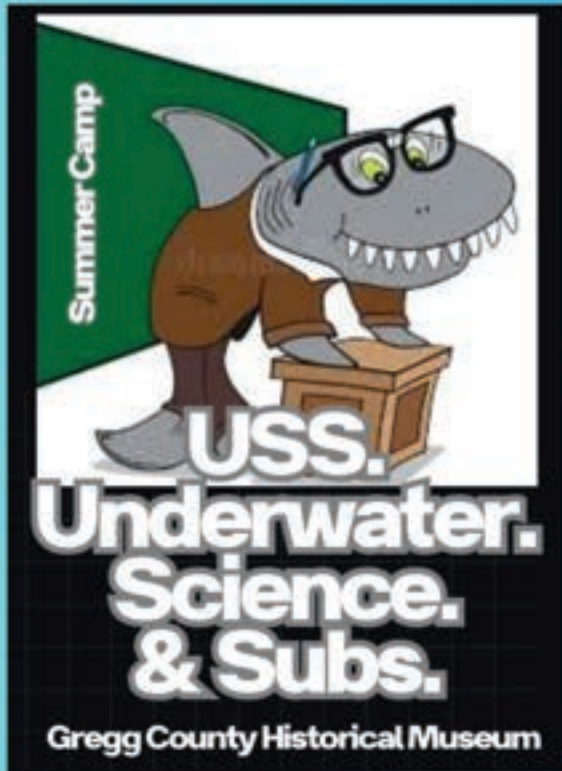
- 1st Place: Pine Tree Robotics - \$500
- 2nd Place: Pine Tree Robotics - \$250

High School Division

At the high school level, the competition took on a more collaborative tone as teams joined forces in alliance-style matchups.

- 1st Place Alliance:
 - Christian Heritage Classical School - \$250
 - Pine Tree High School - \$250
- 2nd Place Alliance:
 - Big Sandy High School - \$125
 - Pine Tree High School - \$125
 -

Pine Tree High School's students contributed to both winning alliances, securing a total of \$375. Beyond the prize money, the event emphasized the value of communication, strategy, and real-world problem-solving—hallmarks of successful robotics education. With each robot built, coded, and tested, these students are not only building machines—they're building their futures.



Diving into Discovery: GCHM's Summer Camp Makes a Splash

The Gregg County Historical Museum hosted an unforgettable week of exploration and innovation during its "Underwater Submarines and Science" Summer Camp. Designed to inspire curiosity and hands-on learning, the camp welcomed 24 enthusiastic young participants who immersed themselves in the fascinating world beneath the waves.

Throughout the week, campers explored topics ranging from deep-sea monsters and underwater ecosystems to the science behind buoyancy and how submarines function. One of the highlights of the program was the opportunity for each camper to design and construct their own mechanical creations—each equipped with five working components—blending science, creativity, and engineering in a fun and engaging environment.

This enriching experience was made possible by the support of dedicated parents, who entrusted the museum with their children's summer learning journey, and the generous efforts of volunteers whose time and energy brought the camp to life. Their contributions played a vital role in fostering a week of excitement, education, and growth.

The week concluded with a special finale, thanks to Harold LeTourneau, who generously shared his personal submarine at Lake Cherokee. His visit offered campers a rare, real-world glimpse into submarine technology—providing the perfect send-off to a week filled with wonder and discovery.



Honoring SPECIAL LADIES



WITH LOVE

the Harrison,
White, Kirkland,
Martin & Summers
Families

Gay Kirkland

Lucy Harrison



Preservation Award Recipients

On December 14, 1946 at Markham Hospital in Longview, TX, Margaret and Guy Harrison welcomed a namesake baby boy, Guy. Twenty one minutes later Gay Susan Harrison was born. Gay always considered having Guy as her twin one of life's greatest gifts. A younger brother, Kim, came five years later. The twins began first grade at Miss Ruby's School on High Street at age five. For second grade, they moved to Ware School in Ware Acres, then to Foster Junior High and finished at Longview High School. The family moved from south Longview to Lake Cherokee when the twins were freshmen. Gay & her husband, Kenny, live on the same lot at the lake now.

While attending SFA in 1968, Gay married Ward Summers. Following her graduation in 1969, the couple settled in Houston. Their family began with the birth of Letcher Ward Summers III (Bud). In 1973, "Big Guy", Gay's dad, needed help with Dickinson and Harrison Insurance so the family moved back to Longview and added two more sons, Guy Franklin Harrison Summers (Gif) and Charles McKinley Summers (Charlie). Life in Longview was good, moving into a wonderful neighborhood making lifelong friends. After the unfortunate passing of Ward, a new chapter began in December of 1987, when Gay married Kenny Kirkland and the family grew from three children to five children with the addition of Kay and Clay. Today the family also includes 15 of the smartest, brightest, and most beautiful grandchildren!

Gay holds a deep appreciation for the city of Longview and the many blessings it offers. She treasures the friendships and meaningful relationships she has built over the years and values the city's wealth of cultural, spiritual, and community-centered opportunities. Her strong community spirit is evident through her active involvement with several local organizations, including First Methodist Church, the Junior League of Longview, the Gregg County Historical Museum, the Longview Symphony, and the Longview Museum of Fine Art. Beyond these affiliations, Gay is also an enthusiastic supporter of the Longview Public Library, the Longview Arboretum and Nature Center, and Arts Longview. Gay believes in preserving the community's heritage, thoughtfully utilizing its resources, and honoring its many gifts, viewing Longview not just as home but as a place to invest, nurture, and celebrate for generations to come.

Lucinda "Lucy" Harrison was born in Texarkana, Texas. Her mother was from Texarkana, Arkansas but the hospital was on the "Texas side" so Lucy was born a Texan. Her family moved to Galveston when she was three months old where her father finished his medical residency in Ophthalmology. Two years later they moved to Hot Springs, Arkansas, her father's hometown. Lucy was five when her sister Suzie was born and four years later her brother Walter arrived.

Lucy attended Hot Springs schools through high school and then went to SMU in Dallas where she pledged Delta Delta Delta. At the end of her freshman year she met a tall, handsome man who became the most important person in her life, Guy Harrison. Their first date was in September 1966, they married in 1969 and were married for 56 years.

Guy served in the Army in Viet Nam and Lucy lived with her family in Hot Springs. After moving to Longview, Guy became part of the Dickinson and Harrison Insurance Agency for a year before deciding to return to SMU to become a lawyer. Two and a half years later, they returned to Longview and Guy began his law practice. They soon welcomed two sons, Parker and Worth, their special blessings. Parker and his wife Sunshine have two children, Rainy and Tate, who continue to bless her with great grandchildren—Ivy, Willow and McKinley (and another on the way).

Lucy became involved in many organizations including the First Methodist Church, the Junior League of Longview, the Longview Fine Arts Museum, the Gregg County Historical Museum, the Sweetbriar Garden Club, the Green Thumb Garden Club, and the Good Shepherd Hospital Guild. She also served on the boards of the Crisman School, the Cherokee Club and the Palisades HOA. Lucy acted as the Chair of several fundraising events: The Charity Ball, the Red Stocking Revue, Gold Rush, the Crisman School Garage Sale and Dolly's Tea. She was honored as a Star Over Longview by Longview Regional Medical Center. When Guy became involved in the State Bar of Texas, Lucy became a member of the Texas Lawyers Auxiliary and the American Lawyers Alliance serving as President of both organizations. Lucy is thankful for the Gregg County Historical Museum for preserving the history of Longview and making it alive for its citizens, especially the children.

Landmarks of LONGVIEW



SCAN TO PURCHASE TICKETS
\$25

Tickets available for purchase on
the Gregg County Historical
Museum website
or Humanitix.com

25th Annual Gregg County Historical Museum Architectural Home Tour

Saturday, September 20, 2025
Tour Times
1:00 - 4:00 pm

GCHM

GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

214 N. Fredonia St.
downtown longview
(903) 753-5840
gregghistorical.org



1111 YATES DRIVE

Catherine and Tucker Monsour

A marvelous mixture of old and new as soon as you enter this charming home built in 1957. Wonderful antiques and fresh new fabrics, rugs and wallpapers are combined for a pretty, bright take on this traditional home. The homeowners' love of color is especially evident in the "blue room" and with the green vintage tile in the kitchen overlooking the lovely backyard and pool.

Kelly and Aaron Alston

This 1941 mission style home received a dramatic transformation honoring the past and embracing the future. Now a stunning contemporary, the family has a design suited to today's lifestyle. Upon entering, you are greeted by an open floor plan, lots of color, a fabulous kitchen, a view of the backyard pool area complete with mural wall, and the list goes on.



830 HILLCREST DRIVE



Suzanne Lynn

This "well-traveled" home features Suzanne's collections from China, India, Mexico, Africa, California and Longview. These items are showcased in a glorious mix of colors to delight the eye, from fabrics to beading, paintings to photographs, wood to porcelain; from cats to cows, turtles to zebras, even skeletons- Bones and Bonita. So much to enjoy.

2904 CELEBRATION WAY

Jill and Rick Elder

Guests are greeted by an open vintage cedar chest filled with colorful seasonal flowers and painted with the homeowners' name and marriage date. The home features special keepsakes and treasures collected over the years. This spacious home also has a lovely patio with the Elders' love of plants and flowers, and a special interactive fence feature.



2908 CELEBRATION WAY



Sammie and Bud Austin

This traditional home accented with beautifully colored flowers outside includes many special keepsakes inside. A gift from the Austins' daughter-in-law, a handcrafted mosaic cross and dove wall-hanging is in the entry and a footlocker once belonging to Sammie's father is in the sunroom. The kitchen's green cabinets are balanced by a wonderful patio and outdoor space.

2902 INSIDE PASSAGE TRAIL

This program made possible, in part, through a grant from the City of Longview.



Balloon in FOCUS

Eagle Capital Advisors

This is not just a tribute to our brand—it is a symbol of our values. Painted in bold red, white, and blue, with a fierce, focused eagle breaking through a star, this balloon declares exactly what we stand for: Faith, Family, and Freedom. Every detail is intentional, designed to reflect the heart of who we are and what we believe in. These values are not just part of our message—they are the core of our mission and the standard we hold ourselves to every day.

At the base, the words of Isaiah 40:31 are carved with purpose: "They will soar on wings like eagles." That verse is more than a reference—it is the foundation we have built this firm on. It speaks to our belief in perseverance, in purpose, and in rising above challenges with strength and conviction. This monument is not just something we put up to be seen. It is a daily reminder of why we started, who we serve, and where we are going.

This isn't a decoration. It's a challenge—to every business downtown: If you believe in this city, prove it. Invest in it. Put your name on it. Stand for something. Eagle Capital didn't just rise—we were built to soar. And now we're flying our flag high in the heart of Longview.

- William Rice IV, Eagle Capital Advisors



Artist: Micah Ruland

VOLUNTEER IN FOCUS

For more than a decade, Kelly Green has been a steady, invaluable presence at the museum. Serving under three directors, he has brought continuity, insight, quick wit, and a remarkable depth of institutional knowledge. His calm, thoughtful demeanor and steadfast work ethic have earned the respect of colleagues and the gratitude of researchers who rely on the museum's archival collections. Beneath it all is an enormous heart for both his community and his colleagues.

As supervisor of the archives, Kelly's influence touches nearly every aspect of our work. From exhibitions and educational programs to scholarly research and preservation initiatives, his careful stewardship ensures that thousands of historical documents, photographs, and artifacts are both protected and accessible. His meticulous organization allows even the most obscure materials to be located with ease.

Sophia Yastrebov, an intern who worked closely with Kelly, shares, "He is the kind of person who truly belongs in a museum. Any conversation with him is peppered with fascinating tidbits about Longview's history, geography, and people, all recalled in vivid detail. It's an honor to call him a friend!"

Through his quiet leadership and deep dedication, Kelly has shaped the archives into a trusted, vital resource. Whether mentoring staff, assisting visiting historians, or managing complex cataloging projects, he brings focus, precision, and genuine passion to every task. The Gregg County Historical Museum is proud to recognize Kelly Green as our current **Volunteer in Focus**.



Kelly Green

Staff Members

Lynn Bryson

Volunteer Coordinator

Kelly Green

Archives

Lana Higginbotham

Membership Coordinator

Bridgette Hunt

Accounting

Jennifer White

Executive Director

Kyler Littlejohn

Museum Intern

Sandy Spears

Education Coordinator

Not Pictured:

Tiffany Haggard

Digital Designer

Our GCHM Staff:



Meet your New President

Angela Choy



Dear Friends of the Museum,

As the incoming president of the Gregg County Historical Museum, I am honored to step into this role and help guide an organization dedicated to preserving and celebrating our shared history. Thanks to your continued support, we have an exciting lineup of events and exhibits on the horizon, and I can't wait to see you there.

First up, mark your calendars for September 20, and join us for Landmarks of Longview, a celebration of our community's architectural treasures. Our annual tour features beautiful homes graciously opened to the public, allowing us to admire both their design and the history they represent. Then on October 18, we bring back a local favorite, Historic Haunts, where the spirits of Gregg County's past come to life through storytelling and guided tours. This event sells out quickly and has become a true fan favorite!

December begins with Fashion & Firs on December 2—a festive evening filled with fashion, holiday shopping, and stunningly decorated Christmas trees and wreaths. It's one of my favorite events for finding unique gifts and soaking in the season's cheer. Just a few days later, on December 6, our Living History Christmas will fill the museum with costumed interpreters, the Kilgore Rangerettes, model trains, and a variety of fun activities for kids.

Looking ahead, we're thrilled to launch a brand-new Windshield Driving Tour of Gregg County in January. This self-guided experience lets you explore our area's rich history from the comfort of your car. In February and March, we'll spotlight the traditions and culture of East Texas rodeo life with a Rodeo Exhibit, and from April through August, our featured exhibition, Wheels that Built a Nation, will showcase the machines that built and moved our nation forward.

None of this would be possible without your incredible support. I extend a heartfelt thank-you to our generous sponsors, dedicated volunteers, and hardworking museum staff—your passion and commitment make all the difference. We are also deeply grateful to the City of Longview and Gregg County for their continued partnership and annual support. Your investment in preserving our history ensures that future generations can continue to learn from and be inspired by it.

Thank you again for your enthusiasm and dedication. I look forward to a fantastic year ahead and hope to see you soon at the museum!

Warm regards,

Angela Choy

President, Gregg County Historical Museum

HISTORIC HAUNTS & LEGENDS OF LONGVIEW SAT, OCT 17, 2026 DOWNTOWN

HAUNTED WALKING TOURS
AT 6PM, 7PM, 8PM
\$10 PER TICKET

TOUR BEGINS AT
GREGG COUNTY
HISTORICAL MUSEUM



SCAN QR TO BUY
YOUR TICKETS

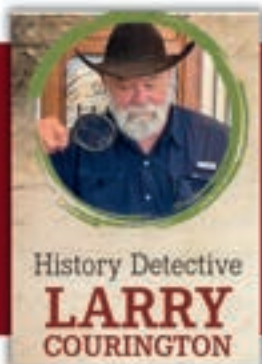


GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM
214 N. FREDONIA ST.
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(903) 753-5840
GREGGHISTORICAL.ORG

FOLLOW US ON



This program is made possible, in part,
through a grant from the City of Longview
and Everything Vaguely Paranormal Group.



A TEXAS RANGER

by: Larry Courington

Glenn Elliott, a true Ranger's Ranger, was born on August 1, 1926, in Fannin County, located in North Texas. He served in World War II as a Military Police officer in the South Pacific, returning home with the samurai sword now featured in the museum's exhibit.

After the war, Glenn joined the Texas Highway Patrol and later became a Texas Ranger. He lived in Longview and worked throughout East Texas, earning the respect and admiration of those who served alongside him. Glenn was well known among our museum volunteers. After he became

homebound, he often shared stories of his days as a Ranger. He'd always begin with a smile and say, "The story I'm about to tell you is almost true..." Many of those tales are now captured in his books, which are available in the museum gift shop. He retired as a Texas Ranger in 1987. On the day of his retirement, the legendary radio broadcaster Paul Harvey honored him on his national program, saying:

"I don't know what you know about the Texas Rangers, but they are an elite corps of lawmen, respected at all levels of law enforcement...and if you had to pick one to represent the 'best of the best,' that one would be Ranger Glenn Elliott."



LAYERS OF Beauty



LAYERS OF HISTORY

PROUD SUPPORTERS OF

**GREGG COUNTY
HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

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Waves of Books have washed ashore at the GCHM!



Book Review by Lana Higginbotham

The joy of the GCHM's "Conquering the Seas" exhibit continues in the museum gift shop in these featured books:

A Sea Voyage: A Pop-up Story About All Sorts of Boats by Gérard Lo Monaco. This precious book will delight all ages. It is filled with a wonderful story with rhyming prose. The reader joins in the journey with three passengers on a boat. As one of them is a dog who falls overboard, the intrigue and concern rise like the waves but soon diminish. They sail into smoother and action-filled waters, passing multiple boats and larger ships. A tidbit of history is offered in the bottom-left corner below the painting-like pop-up illustrations. This magnificent little book is the perfect length for primary and intermediate readers. Younger, non-readers will delight in the pop-ups, but will need supervision to assure the pages aren't damaged during interactions.

Little Turtle's Book of the Blue by Yuval Zommer. Join Little Turtle as he plays with other sea creatures. Toddlers and all primary-aged readers will engage with the detailed illustrations. Each board book page is active and punctuated by key action words. The prose and illustrations pull the reader into the sensory depths of the ocean. Non-readers will follow the story well through the pictures.

The Big Book of the Blue by Yuval Zommer The upfront challenge on the second page—"Can you find . . . exactly the same sardine 15 times in this book? Watch out for imposters."—assures you won't miss a thing. The illustrations in this large book will engage all ages. The table of contents titled "Who's Inside?" will help older readers and parents to locate specific sea life and areas of interest. A "Did You Find . . ." page and an index page at the end of the book are excellent reviews. The reader will see if they met the sardine challenge and can also relocate favored sea life and ocean topics with ease. Due to the length and detail of this beautiful book, it might overload younger readers if not read over multiple sessions instead of one.

The Secret Life of Whales by Rena Ortega. This is a detailed children's reference book. It starts with an introduction to the Cetacean Family. Scientific classifications and reader friendly descriptions are accented by accurate illustrations of each whale. The reader will learn all about whales—behavior, sleep habits, songs, migration—and their families, as well as about the dangers they face, the whaling industry, and whale watching.



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The story of the swimming pool has its roots in November 1930, when H. L. Hunt convinced "Dad" Joiner to sell him his oil interest in East Texas. An Eldorado, Arkansas clothier, landman, and oil man named Peter Gause. "Pete" Lake loaned Mr. Hunt the \$30,000 to complete the deal. In 1936, Mr. Lake moved to Tyler and established an oil company with a camp on the northern part of Gregg County, at the most northern reach of the East Texas Oil Field. Workers were housed there, and Mr. Lake built a house to stay in when visiting the lease. Included on the lease was a spring fed creek which Mr. Lake dammed to create a swimming pool to cool off during the hot and humid summers.

This is where the story relies on the oral history as told to me by Mr. Billingsly, who lived and worked on the lease. Mr. Lake had a lady friend who enjoyed swimming in the pool, but the water had so much iron ore in it, when she swam, she emerged with a reddish tint. This just would not do, so Mr. Lake had the pool drained, lined with concrete, and installed a filter system, with all the labor provided by the lease employees.

Over the years the pool was opened to select groups including local church teen groups, Little League teams, and other local youth groups. The pool was not free of tragedy though. In 1956, a boy drowned when a Gladewater Little League team was enjoying the pool. The lease eventually closed, and the pool was all but forgotten. In the late 1970's, my brother and I ventured to the lease only to find only concrete foundations of the houses and evidence the beavers had dammed the creek and flooded a large area, making the pool inaccessible. It was another Gregg County Landmark lost to the ages.

Lost Landmarks of Gregg County

The P. G. Lake Swimming Pool
By: Marc Welch



P. G. Lake Pool
Judson, Texas

Gregg County Windshield Driving Tour

Coming January 2026

Drawn by R.H. Gosselink

A driving tour through Gregg County immerses visitors in East Texas history by highlighting the people, industries, and events that shaped the region. The journey begins in downtown Longview, where the Gregg County Historical Museum welcomes guests inside the 1910 Everett Building, originally built as a bank, as a standout example of early 20th-century architecture. From there, travelers explore Heritage Plaza and stroll through Bank Alley, once the heart of early commercial life. At the Longview Depot, visitors discover how the arrival of the railroad in the 1870s sparked the city's founding and growth.

As the route moves west and south, the driving tour reveals the powerful impact of the East Texas Oil Boom of the 1930s. In Kilgore, travelers encounter the "World's Richest Acre," where dozens of oil derricks once stood in close quarters. The East Texas Oil Museum brings this era to life with vivid stories of wildcatters, oil workers, and sudden fortune. On the nearby Kilgore College campus, the Rangerettes perform and train as a symbol of local pride and progress for women in athletics and performance.

Continuing east, the tour drives through historic African American communities like Red Springs, where churches, cemeteries, and former schools share stories of strength and resilience. In Gladewater, visitors explore the Antique Capital of East Texas and see buildings that date back to the Depression era, many built through federal relief programs. By following this self-guided route, visitors experience Gregg County's diverse and dynamic history through the very landscapes and landmarks that shaped its story.



Interested in becoming a member? Memberships provide a significant portion of the funds that the museum uses throughout the year to provide educational events and resources for the community and all visitors!



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