



NEWS FROM THE PRAIRIE

AUTUMN 2021

PRESERVING OUR REGION'S HISTORY

Society Meets Virtually to Conclude Successful 2021

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, Grand Prairie Historical Society managed to hold all four meetings—with the April and July sessions in person—while accomplishing a number of goals in the process. As the new year began, GPHS had installed the replacement Crocketts Bluff marker a few weeks before. This plaque serves to correct an error on the original, which stated Robert H. Crockett was the site's namesake rather than his uncle William F. Crockett. GPHS Parliamentarian Glennda Fread revised our Society's bylaws in order to provide for the conducting of meetings over the internet and decision making by electronic mail. To improve user interface, GPHS transferred the organization's website to a new hosting service. This has also allowed for easier updating. A \$2000 donation was made to the Arkansas County Records Preservation Committee, an effort supported since its beginning by GPHS. The Society recently launched a youth essay contest, open to persons aged 15-18, that will provide a monetary award and the publishing of their essay in our April journal each year.

An illustrated brochure titled "A Driving Tour of Arkansas County Historical Markers and Sites" was published and is on display in numerous locations such as select welcome centers. GPHS participated in the dedication of three historical markers in the Bayou Meto community. A second printing of "Gillett, Arkansas: Celebrating 100 Years" was underwritten by the Society. A contractor was hired to repaint a weathered marker at St. Charles. The Society began offering the digitized journals and full index on flash drive media in addition to the popular disk format. A historical marker for Holman Heritage Community Center has been obtained through a grant from the Black History Commission of Arkansas. Social media presence remains strong with the website and Facebook page offering viewers a look into the organization's ongoing activities and future plans.

With these accomplishments in mind, Grand Prairie Historical Society held the fall quarterly meeting via Zoom on Thursday, October 21. President Raeann Braithwaite called the meeting to order and welcomed over twenty participants. Sarah Reap, superintendent at Arkansas Post Museum State Park, updated the meeting on activities and plans at her facility, where many improvements are underway. Ron Fields, Arkansas Post National Memorial superintendent, newly arrived from Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument in New Mexico, informed the meeting of plans at the Memorial, including further interpretation of the rifle pits area. Pres. Braithwaite displayed the wording of the marker being manufactured for Holman Heritage Community Center. She reported that the new driving tour brochure has been well received and a reorder was decided upon. The youth essay contest has been launched (see details on page 6). Braithwaite informed the meeting of the continuing need for material to be published in the *Historical Bulletin*. It is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain the twice-yearly frequency of the award-winning journal. A grant received from the Nathan Cummings Foundation of New York will be used to donate funds to Holman Community Center and Immanuel High School for their ongoing efforts. The meeting was adjourned. GPHS will reconvene at the Arts Center of the Grand Prairie in Stuttgart on January 20, 2022.

A Word from the Medicine Woman

By Dyan Bohnert

1. Remedies for chapped hands: Apply cider vinegar several times a day. Rub with a lemon peel often, rinse off with water. Rub hands in vegetable oil.
2. Aid for ingrown nails: Soak nails in warm, soapy water to clean and soften. Dry and fill sore area with powdered alum. Secure with pad and bandage. Repeat daily for five days. Relieves pain in infected area.
3. To remove nicotine stains from fingers: Mix 2 tsp. household ammonia with 1 tsp. vegetable oil. Add 2 tbsp. hydrogen peroxide and 1 tbsp. rain water. Bottle and store in dark place. Apply to stains, let dry, and wash hands.
4. Sweet breath perfumer: Flavor 1/2 cup powdered sugar with a few drops of oil of peppermint or cloves, mixing well. Soften sugar with a few drops of water to make a paste for small, stiff balls. Chew for bad breath. (used before the sale of chewing gum)
5. Methods of removing warts: Mix 1 tbsp. soda and water. Rub on wart several times a day. Rub castor oil on wart daily until it disappears. Rub wart with a piece of garlic every day.
6. A red sunset in autumn is a sign of cold weather.
7. If the oak is out before the ash, it will be a wet summer. If the ash is out first it will be a summer of fire.
8. When sounds like muffled footsteps are heard in a woodfire, there will be snow.
9. Never tell a dream until you have eaten or you will have bad luck.
10. If your fruit trees bloom out of season, there will be a harsh winter or you will have extremely bad luck.



This photo from around 1945 shows an old cart owned by Clarence Rich of Stuttgart. (L to r): Alex McCoy, Pat Jacobs, Nancy Howe (in cart), Yancey Burrows, Mitzi Dews, and Jo Ann Weidner. *Museum of the Arkansas Grand Prairie.*

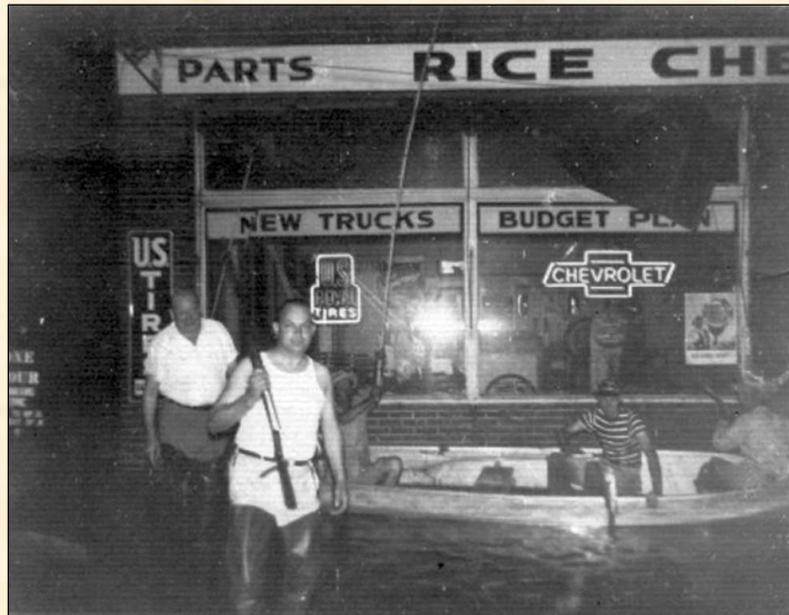


Scene from the 1955 Junior World Championship Duck Calling Contest in Stuttgart. *Museum of the Arkansas Grand Prairie.*



Scenes from the 1955 World's Championship Duck Calling Contest and Carnival, Main Street, Stuttgart. MAGP.

Stuttgart businessman Alfred Waggoner took these photos during a late 1940s Main Street flood, in the area of First and Main. The images were submitted by GPHS member James Waggoner.



**Grand Prairie Historical Society
Essay Contest**

TOPIC:	Any topic related to the history of the Grand Prairie region of Arkansas
PARTICIPANTS:	Any student, ages 15 -18. This contest is conducted without regard to race, religion, sex or national origin. DO NOT SUBMIT A STUDENT PHOTOGRAPH WITH ENTRY.
LENGTH:	Minimum of 800 words, no maximum limit.
FORM:	Essay must be typed or prepared on a computer, using black type in a non-script font no smaller than 12 point or larger than 14 point. The essay must be the student's original work. This includes all research, writing and editing, which must be done by the student and not by a parent, teacher or other helper. Each essay must have a title page listing the following: Title of Essay Subtitle may be included Contestant's full name and address (school address may be used) Contestant's phone number and email address Name of contestant's school and grade level
BIBLIOGRAPHY:	Essay must include a bibliography listing all references utilized. The bibliography should be cited in a standard, recognized citation style. Internet resources, if used, should be cited in the same style, including the electronic address used to access the document as supplementary information. Students are encouraged to use primary sources and cite them. Any essay with information copied directly from sources without using quotes will be disqualified.
JUDGING AND AWARD:	Judging will be based on historical accuracy, bibliography/quality of references, organization of material, interest, originality, spelling, grammar, punctuation, neatness and evidence as student's own work. Inclusion of high resolution pictures, maps, drawings, graphics and other additions are encouraged but will not be considered in judging. The winning essay will be published in the <i>Grand Prairie Historical Bulletin</i> and the student will receive a \$250 prize and will be featured at our regular January meeting.
SUBMISSION AND DEADLINE:	All essays should be submitted via email to grandprairiehistory@gmail.com no later than midnight November 30 each year.

2022 Meetings:

January 20	6:00 p.m.	Grand Prairie Arts Center, Stuttgart
April 21	6:00 p.m.	Arkansas Post National Memorial
July 21	6:00 p.m.	Phillips Community College, DeWitt
October 20	6:00 p.m.	Bayou Meto Schoolhouse Lodge

**Grand Prairie
Historical Society**

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GPHS is a 501(c)(3)
 organization.