

# CEDAR HILL MUSEUM OF HISTORY

P. O. BOX 1021  
CEDAR HILL, TX 75106

Website: [www.cedarhillmuseum.com](http://www.cedarhillmuseum.com)

409 Texas Street

972-293-3806

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VOL. 4

## NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2021

### MAYOR STEPHEN MASON REFLECTS ON THE MUSEUM'S PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITY



The Cedar Hill Museum of History appreciates the support of Mayor Stephen Mason and the Cedar Hill City Council. On December 10, 2019, the City Council approved a Memorandum of Understanding to reserve space for the Museum in the new library that was approved in the 2017 Bond Program. When asked recently about his perspective on the City's partnership with the Museum, Mayor Mason stated,

***"We are excited to partner with the Cedar Hill Museum of History to provide a premier space in the new library to showcase the community's rich heritage. Design of the new library and signature park is underway, and we expect a final design to be considered by the City Council in late 2021."***

Although a completion date has not been officially determined, Mayor Mason estimates that construction of the Library could begin as early as the fourth quarter of 2021, with potential completion in the spring of 2023.

*Stephen Mason is the first African-American Mayor of the City of Cedar Hill.* His family moved to Cedar Hill when he was in the seventh grade. Mason was first encouraged to serve the City by his father, who was very active in the community and served on the Executive Board of the Chamber of Commerce. Volunteering alongside his dad, Mason was inspired by the way the business community and residents worked together for a greater cause.

Prior to his election as Mayor in May 2019, Mason served as City Council member in Place 5 for nine years, three of those as Mayor Pro Tem. Before serving on the City Council, he chaired the Planning and Zoning Commission and served on the Cedar Hill Comprehensive Planning Committee, the Best Southwest Board of Directors and the Lake Ridge Elementary Sitebase Committee. Mason was also the first African-American Chairman of the Cedar Hill Chamber of Commerce Executive Board. He was a member of the Texas Municipal League Board of Directors from 2013 to 2017, and is a graduate of both Leadership Southwest and Leadership North Texas.

Mason holds a Master of Business Administration from the Neeley School of business at Texas Christian University. He is President of Mas-Tek Engineering, which provides geotechnical engineering and construction materials testing services. Mason and his wife have five children.

Mason’s “focus as mayor is on keeping Cedar Hill safe, clean, and green. He believes that the preservation of Cedar Hill’s green space and natural beauty improves quality of life and creates an environment where families and businesses choose to live, work and play. Stephen is committed to comprehensive planning for the future of Cedar Hill’s development, infrastructure, and service delivery and is looking forward to completing the projects approved in the 2017 bond program that will provide enhanced amenities and quality of life for all Cedar Hill residents.”

## HISTORIC CRAWFORD’S TORNADO GRAVEYARD ANNUAL CLEAN-UP

Victims of the 1856 Cedar Hill tornado are buried in Crawford’s Tornado Graveyard, which is located on private property near Pioneer Trail in Cedar Hill. The Museum serves as caretaker of the Graveyard. Museum members and friends conducted the annual clean-up of the Graveyard on March 10, 2021.



(L-R) Ashley Derrick, Jerry West, Larry Hintze, Paul Aruda  
Not pictured: Dave Klauck and Karen Aruda

Photo by Karen Aruda

## WHO IS THIS PERSON FROM CEDAR HILL'S PAST?



- Moved his family to Texas in 1848
- Donated land for the Pleasant Valley Cemetery
- His 12-year-old son was the first person buried in Pleasant Valley Cemetery
- Three of his daughters married in a triple wedding in 1867

(Answer on page 4)

## DONATING ITEMS TO THE MUSUM

At this time, the Museum cannot accept donations or loans of **ARTIFACTS** or **FURNITURE**.

Please contact the Museum office for information about donating historic documents or photographs.

## ALBERTSONS RENOVATION INCLUDES HISTORICAL PHOTOS

The Cedar Hill Albertsons' store was recently renovated. Albertsons asked the renovation designers to include some local, historical photos.

The designers came to the Cedar Hill Historical Society for photos. They wanted old photos of grocery stores, pharmacies, cafes, etc. The Museum sent them copies of 14 photos from its collection. Five or six of those photos now hang in the renovated Albertsons' store. Look for the photos the next time you shop at Albertsons. The photos hang around the inside perimeter of the store.

Look for more Cedar Hill historic photographs and displays at local businesses such as Babes Chicken Dinner House, Cotton Patch Café and Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar.

### MUSEUM OFFICE UPDATE

The Museum office is now open on Mondays from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. We recommend calling ahead before visiting the office. Visitors are required to wear face coverings. Thank you for your cooperation.

PHONE:  
972-293-3806

EMAIL:  
[Karen@cedarhillmuseum.com](mailto:Karen@cedarhillmuseum.com)  
or  
[Geri@cedarhillmuseum.com](mailto:Geri@cedarhillmuseum.com)

WEBSITE:  
[www.cedarhillmuseum.com](http://www.cedarhillmuseum.com)

## INVITATION TO NEW MEMBERS

DO YOU LOVE HISTORY?

DO YOU LOVE CEDAR HILL?

**WHY NOT BECOME A MEMBER OF THE CEDAR HILL MUSEUM OF HISTORY?**

*Membership Application Form on Page 6*

## HISTORY MOMENT

DID YOU KNOW PASSENGER TRAINS MADE REGULAR STOPS AT THE CEDAR HILL TRAIN DEPOT YEARS AGO?

### THE TEN O’CLOCK CANNON BALL



Construction of the railroad from Dallas to Cleburne began in 1880. By April 1881, the rail line had reached near Duncanville. In 1882, the first train made a trial run through the small community of Cedar Hill. Around 1900, there were six passenger trains daily that ran from Houston to Dallas and back. The north and southbound trains connected with the Ft. Worth-Houston main line at Cleburne.

Each morning at 8:00 a.m. two passenger trains met at Cedar Hill, one going to Dallas and one to Houston. Salesmen, known as *Drummers*, would come to town early in the morning to sell their merchandise and take the 5:45 p.m. train back home. At 9:45 p.m., the Dallas northbound train would wait on the sidetracks for the Houston southbound train to unload. The last train of the day back to Dallas was known as the **“TEN O’CLOCK CANNON BALL.”** (*History of Cedar Hill, Texas*)

### ANSWER to “WHO IS THIS PERSON” on Page 3



**Jacob Gardner Boydston**

### Pleasant Valley Cemetery

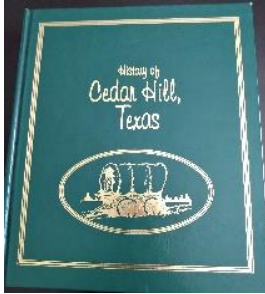
In May of 1995, the State of Texas presented an historical marker to the Pleasant Valley Cemetery of Cedar Hill. The first burial took place in this Cemetery almost 150 years earlier. Henry Boydston, 12-year-old son of Jacob and Drucilla Boydston, succumbed after being kicked in the head by a horse. Henry was buried on his parents’ land under an old oak tree. This was in 1848, the very year that the family arrived in Texas.

A 3.5-acre plot of land located on Texas Plume Road was deeded to the Christian Church in 1870. Over the years, descendants of Jacob G. Boydston and other early Cedar Hill pioneers buried their family members in the Pleasant Valley Cemetery.

Over the years, the Cemetery became neglected and vandals began tipping over stones and/or stealing them. In 1991, with the effort of volunteers and support of the police department, the Cemetery was cleaned up, stones righted and vandalism put in check. Now 173 years after that first burial, the Cemetery beckons historians and genealogists--people who are interested in the sometimes-fascinating lives of ancestors and early settlers. (*History of Cedar Hill, Texas*)

Learn more about the stories on this page and other local stories in the [HISTORY OF CEDAR HILL, TEXAS](#), available for sale at the Museum office.

## BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM THE MUSEUM



### HISTORY OF CEDAR HILL, TEXAS

COST: \$65.00 plus \$5.00 shipping



### GONE WITH THE WIND - THE 1856 CEDAR HILL TORNADO

COST: \$35.00 plus \$5.00 shipping

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## 2020 INCOME STATEMENT

Cedar Hill Historical Society			
Income Statement			
For the Year Ended 12/31/2020			
<b>Income</b>			
	Business Income		140.00
	Fund Raising Income		2,230.00
	Donations		19,845.82
	Membership		1,685.00
	Memorials		2,903.50
	Other		79.76
	<b>Total Income</b>		<b>26,884.08</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
	Rent--Office & Storage		6,822.00
	Utilities		2,547.65
	Office Supplies		325.42
	Moving		740.36
	Subscriptions		457.17
	Misc		149.52
	Postal Service		147.55
	Fees		80.68
	Golf Tournament 2020		402.59
	<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>11,672.94</b>
	<b>Net Income</b>		<b>15,211.14</b>

### MISSION STATEMENT

**THE MISSION OF THE CEDAR HILL MUSEUM OF HISTORY IS "TO COLLECT, PRESERVE AND SHARE THE NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE OF CEDAR HILL BY PROVIDING MEMORABLE AND EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES CONSISTENT WITH OUR HOMETOWN SPIRIT."**

### MUSEUM BOARD

#### **EXECUTIVE**

President Karen Aruda, Vice-President Norman Patten,  
Secretary Susan Patten, Treasurer Geri Klauck

#### **TRUSTEES**

Patty Bushart, Georgia Calloway, Alicia Clark, E. Glenn Clark,  
Carol Hanson, J. R. Hickman, Traphene Hickman, Frankie Lee,  
Linda Patton, Alan Peters, Joe Pitt, Russell Read, Jerry West

Details for any of the line items can be obtained by calling the Cedar Hill Museum office at 972-293-3806. The Museum office is open on Mondays from 10:00 AM until 12:00 PM. Please leave a voice message, if no one answers.

*Photographs in this Newsletter have been modified in size from the originals.*

409 Texas • 972-293-3806 • [WWW.CEDARHILLMUSEUM.COM](http://WWW.CEDARHILLMUSEUM.COM)

*Where a community embraces heritage and nature*

**Be a part of history ... Join today!**

There has never been a more exciting time to become a member of the Cedar Hill Museum of History. We have interesting artifacts and exhibits, oral histories and a wide variety of membership benefits to enthrall history lovers of all ages. Rediscover Cedar Hill's history and join our membership family today.

The Cedar Hill Museum of History wants you to discover yourself through the collective past. Choose from a variety of Annual membership levels:

Annual membership levels:

- Student/Teacher \$10
- Individual \$35
- Family \$50
- Supporting Member \$100
- Sustaining Member \$250
- Patron Member \$500
- Leadership Circle \$1,000

We have moved our offices to 409 Texas Street. We are planning on locating our displays in the new library upon its completion. View our traveling display in the Cedar Hill Government Center on Uptown Boulevard in Midtown.

The Cedar Hill Museum of History is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: Cedar Hill Museum of History  
P. O. Box 1021  
Cedar Hill, TX 75106-1021

Please return this application form with your payment. THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE MUSEUM.