

CEDAR HILL MUSEUM OF HISTORY

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VOL. 5

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2021

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

SEPTEMBER 15 TO OCTOBER 15

National Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15 to October 15, recognizes the culture and contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans. Hispanic Heritage *Week* began in 1968 under President Lyndon B. Johnson. In 1988, President Ronald Regan signed the law that expanded the celebration to a 30-day period.

In Texas, Hispanic influence began when Mexico won its independence from Spain in 1821. The Mexican elite of that time welcomed Anglo-American settlers to the area. They even aided Stephen F. Austin on managing his colony and organizing San Felipe de Austin.

During the Texas Revolution, 1835-1836, the "Tejanos" fought along with the "Anglos." Two of them, Francisco Ruiz and Jose Antonio Navarro, not only signed the Texas Declaration of Independence, but also helped draft the Republic of Texas Constitution. After the battle of the Alamo, Juan Seguin, another Tejano, directed burial of those who died in the fight.

After the US-Mexico War, 1846-1848, the Tejanos had to choose between Mexican citizenship and American citizenship. For those who chose Mexican citizenship, it meant leaving the homes they had established in Texas. It was not easy for those who chose American citizenship. They faced discrimination and violence and were chased out of some counties. Hispanics endured many of the same Jim Crow practices that African Americans experienced. Despite the discrimination, Mexican Americans embraced American ideals and resisted bigotry. The Civil Rights Era of the 1960s brought change for Mexican Americans. Also, a significant number of non-Mexican Hispanics began immigrating to Texas during the 1960s. By the 1970s, educational opportunities for Hispanics had expanded in Texas.

THE 1850 CENSUS – HISPANICS IN DALLAS COUNTY

In Dallas County, the 1850 US Federal Census reveals that three (3) people stated they were born in Mexico. All were under the age of 17, and all were living with white families. They are the following:

John English was 12-years old and living with the Triston Witts family. The name was probably given to him by the Witts family.

Thomas was 15-years old and living with the Andrew Huitt family. There is no last name listed for Thomas.

Lucio Ramarus was 16-years old and living with the Josiah Pancoast family. Josiah had volunteered to fight in the US-Mexico war. It is possible that the young Mexican man came back with Josiah when he returned from the war in 1848.

HISPANICS IN CEDAR HILL

There did not appear to be any Tejanos in the immediate Cedar Hill area until 1856. At that time, there is a record of a “Mexican” making a purchase, in the amount of 75 cents, from the general store. James Berry owned the general store, the MM Miller and Company at Cedar Hill. This data was found on a document in the James L. Berry probate file following the 1856 tornado that destroyed Cedar Hill, including the general store.

Over time, the Hispanic population in Cedar Hill grew. According to the 2020 Census (April 1, 2020), the Hispanic population in Cedar Hill was 23.2% of the total population of 49,148 people. Hispanics who identified as more than one race are not included in the above percentage of population.

CEDAR HILL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATIONS

The Zula B. Wylie Library’s Hispanic Heritage Month Celebrations include:

- Bilingual Story Times
- Hispanic Month Crafts
- Live, In-person Performances

View the Library’s calendar of events at: <http://cedarhilltx.com/676/Library>

Sources for this article:

- National Hispanic Heritage Month, <https://www.hispanicheritagemonth.gov/about>
- Texas Historical Commission, Hispanic Texans, <https://www.thc.texas.gov/public/upload/publications/hispanic-heritage-travel-guide.pdf>
- 1850 US Federal Census, Dallas County, Texas
- James L. Berry Probate File, Dallas County, Case #60, 1856
- United States Census Bureau, QuickFacts, Population Census, April 1, 2020, <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/cedarhillcitytexas/>

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR
CEDAR HILL MUSEUM OF HISTORY
ON
NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY - SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

OTHER GREAT WAYS TO SUPPORT THE MUSEUM

Select the Museum as your charity when shopping with:

Amazon Smiles: [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smiles)

Kroger Community Rewards Program

Honor or Remember a loved one with a **DONATION TO THE MUSEUM**

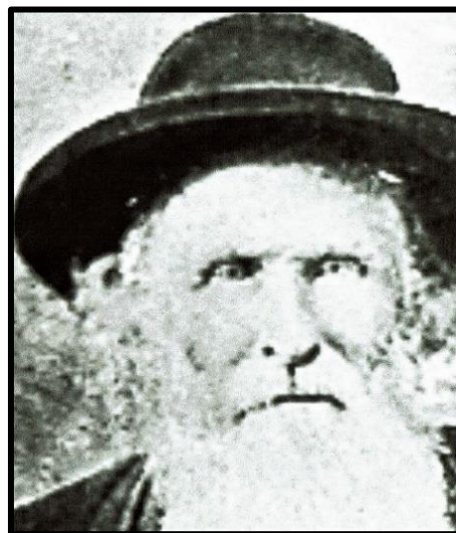
The Museum is a 501(c)3 non-profit Organization.

UPDATE ON LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

The City of Cedar Hill reports that the new library is now in the Design Development Stage. The City allocated 2,000 square feet of dedicated space in the library for the Museum, plus the use of some common spaces. The library will have a total of 41,000 square feet.

The City expects to move forward with construction documents within the next six months. The documents should be completed by March or April, 2022. At that time, the construction project will go out to bid. Ground breaking is tentatively scheduled for May or June, 2022.

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



1. He was born in Georgia around 1825.
2. In 1845, he moved to Texas with his widowed father and his unmarried siblings.
3. Mary Ann Robinson became his wife in 1847.

Answer on page 4

INVITATION TO NEW MEMBERS

**IF YOU LIVE IN CEDAR HILL OR HAVE A
CONNECTION TO CEDAR HILL'S HERITAGE, YOU
ARE A PART OF CEDAR HILL'S HISTORY.**

**PLEASE JOIN THE MUSEUM AND SUPPORT ITS
MISSION TO PRESERVE OUR LOCAL HERITAGE.**

APPLICATION FORM ON PAGE 6

HISTORY MOMENT

THE PETERS COLONY

THE PETERS COLONY was founded in 1841, when the Republic of Texas awarded the first of four, empresario, land grant contracts to a group of American and English investors led by William S. Peters for the purpose of attracting settlers to north Texas. The contracts continued in effect after Texas statehood.

Many early settlers to north Texas, including the Cedar Hill area, came to acquire land grants in the Peters Colony. A single man was entitled to 320 acres of land, and a married man was entitled to 640 acres. In exchange, the settlers had to promise to live on and work the land.

Over the course of the contracts, changes in investors and disagreements over land titles resulted in many legal battles. One of the conflicts ended up in what became known as the “Hedcoxe War of 1852.” The Texas Legislature eventually settled most of the disputes, but it took almost 20 years to reach the settlements. The Peters Colony proved to be a financial disappointment for the investors, but it helped settle Texas by bringing 2,205 families to Texas and granting them 879,920 acres of land.

Sources for this article:

“Trips into History, The Peters Colony in Texas”

<https://tripsintohistory.com/2012/01/06/the-peters-colony-in-texas/>, accessed August 6, 2021.

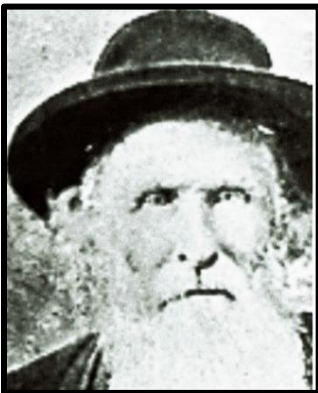
Harry E. Wade, “Peters Colony,” *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed August 05, 2021,

<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/peters-colony>, Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

“A Guide to the Peters Colony Records, 1841-1859”; Texas Archival Resources Guide, Overview,

<https://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/txglo/00049/glo-00049.html#did>, accessed August 5, 2021

ANSWER TO “WHO IS THIS PERSON FROM CEDAR HILL’S PAST” ON PAGE 3:



SEABORN JONES BAGGETT

Seaborn received a land grant from the **PETERS COLONY**. It included the highest land in Cedar Hill and Dallas County. He later sold this land and purchased land in Ellis County, where the soil was more suitable for farming. Seaborn participated in the organization of Ellis County in 1850.

Learn more about Cedar Hill pioneer families, local history and lore in [THE HISTORY OF CEDAR HILL, TEXAS](#), 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 1936 CEDAR HILL TORNADO**

COST: \$35.00 plus \$5.00 shipping

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

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MUSEUM OFFICE HOURS

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

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

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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.