



On The Vine

GRAPEVINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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SAVING THE ARTHUR TATE HOME OF 1888

Moving Day for Another Vintage House

Another historic old Grapevine house - a unknown to most people, but which is nearly 140 years old - will soon be rescued and moved to a new permanent home in historic downtown Grapevine.



The circa-1888 Tate home, currently vacant on Peach Street

What is being termed the “Arthur and Dolah Tate House” is thought to date to 1888. It currently sits on Peach Street, just off North Main, but the single-story wood frame building was originally built several miles northeast of the then-small community, about where Oak Grove Park and Scott’s Landing are now. This was, of course, many decades before the creation of Grapevine Lake. Around 1951, as the Lake was filling up, the house was relocated to its current site.

The prairie-style house hides its age under twentieth-century siding and extensions, but the original exterior wood-frame walls are just underneath them. Four turned-wood Victorian columns still hold up the porch, and a pair of original front entrance doors also hint at the house’s 19th century pioneer origins.

James Arthur Tate was not the original owner, but did own the home for many decades. He had it moved to Peach Street next to his mother’s house, an even older log structure which unfortunately no longer exists.

Arthur was born to Robert and Martha Ellen Tate in 1881 in Tennessee, the eldest of four children. Before he turned six, his parents and younger sister Lula made their way to North Texas by covered wagon. Two younger Tate brothers were born here - Earl and Clarence. One of Earl’s sons would grow up to be future Grapevine Mayor Gordon Tate, the father of the town’s current long-serving mayor. James Arthur Tate is William D. Tate’s great-uncle.

After Arthur Tate’s death in February 1967, his widow Laura Dolah moved to a nursing home on Minter’s Chapel Road, and the John Bechtol family moved into the home. It continued to be a residence until recently.

Now the City of Grapevine has approved funds for the house to be moved shortly to a new location in the Cotton Belt Railroad Historic District, near the Bragg House and the Millican Blacksmith Shop. According to Paul W. McCallum, executive director for the Grapevine Convention & Visitor Bureau, he hopes the home can be open by Christmas. There’s a whole history just waiting to be uncovered within this vintage structure.

--Larry Groebe

MUSINGS FROM THE MAYOR IS ON SUMMER BREAK

Grapevine’s Beautiful Brides: A Legacy not always in White

-- by Sallie Andrews

June is the month of brides and weddings – possibly having its beginning associated with Juno, the goddess of marriage and women. More practically, back in the settler times, if a couple married in June and had a baby right away, the birth would occur in the spring and the mom would be available to help with the harvest. While the “farming on the prairie” reason is not very romantic, June has traditionally been the most popular month for weddings, possibly because of the availability of beautiful flowers. (*More recently, October and September have overtaken June to claim the top two spots.*)

Grapevine has a legacy of beautiful brides. A look inside the **Grapevine Area History** and **Grapevine’s Most Unforgettable Characters** books will amaze you with the number of bridal photos featured in them. Many wedding dress styles can be found in our books, and many

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TWO LOOKS BACK FROM DEPARTING GRAPEVINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INTERNS

Looking back at Grapevine, from Class of 2025 Seniors

Maia Abed recalls...

To sit down right now and write this article feels surreal: a goodbye to a place that is my home. I've spent lots of time in several towns whether that be in travel or residence, and yet I find our Grapevine to be one of the only places that has truly woven its way into my being. Upon my first visit to the museum earlier last year, it dawned on me how special this tiny town is. Its history is so rich, yet



still so subtly incorporated into even the events and traditions we hold today, decades later. From dissecting and piecing together several newspaper clippings to figure out how to frame a story to combing through interview notes, I got closer to our town in a way I didn't think was possible.

I soon learned the easiest way to know Grapevine is to know its loving

people. Even after all the documents and photos, so much was left unwritten and instead spoken or held in the hearts of those who have lived here long before I did. Our history is more than what can be captured in words: it's a communal feeling, one of belonging and perseverance. Although my time writing articles has sadly ended, I still am captivated by the stories still to be shared and the memories I still have to make. Even in the conversation in our local cafes or the chatter in the stores on Main Street, strangers have so easily become good company. And those who have become my friends seem more like a family I yearn to come back to even as I prepare to move away for college.

It is quite rare that in a town that people return so frequently to serve it. And yet, I often find myself recognizing the people I know have shaped our city as we know it still volunteering. I know that I myself will do the same in my future: give back to the community that gave so much to me.

What makes Grapevine so special is that its history is shaped by people looking towards the

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Ricky Valverde looks back...

As someone who was born at Baylor Scott and White hospital, just off of Ira E. Woods, I have always considered myself a part of the Grapevine community. However, for the first 15 years of my life I did live in the neighboring Colleyville and was not nearly as connected to my city of Grapevine as I have recently become.

When I first officially moved to Grapevine in 2021, I was met with a flood of kindness from my new neighbors and community, a testament to the character of our community. As a freshman in high school at the time, I increasingly became immersed in community events from football games to Grape-Fest and more as I lived the experience of many teens like me.

The culture of Grapevine, a culture of hospitality, care, and community is also ever present within the historic Grapevine High School. My biggest example of this was my involvement and inspiration gained from the Grapevine High School Ecology club and I was especially inspired by my advisor, Mrs. Burton. I cannot think of another school in the area and for that matter, anywhere, with its own ecology center. It was there I was able to grow my passion for the natural world and for my community; one that still holds onto its agrarian roots and appreciation for the simple things in life. In an effort to further my involvement, I joined *Keep Grapevine Beautiful* as a student liaison and this acted as a turning point in my appreciation of the city.



For generations, Grapevine has flourished and grown under a multitude of amazing and generous people. People who truly care for each other and our city, from Mayor Tate to the director of *Keep Grapevine Beautiful* and a mentor of mine, Cindy Harris. I am so grateful to have been involved in the effort that it takes to have all the beautiful natural areas and community events in the midst of one of the biggest urban centers in the United States.

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Maia Abed considers how Grapevine has shaped her

future and its future still gives a constant nod to the past. Take, for example, a typical fest at Nash Farm—where several volunteers dedicated their day towards providing tribute to historic Grapevine, teaching young children how to churn butter and milk cows. But, as I’ve walked through Grapevine High School for four years, I constantly am surrounded by gifts from the past—even in my last moments as a senior, listening, instead of conducting, to Starr Frank’s Alma Mater one last time.

As I’ve made my own mark on this town, I’ve realized I have so much more left: whether that be thriving, cherishing, or caring for it. While I’ve left bits of my soul along the beautiful greenery of Grapevine Lake, in the classrooms of GHS’ hallways, or among the shelves of our library, I know my own history with Grapevine is cyclical. Being that each time I foster a new relationship, work towards a change or constant, or simply live each day, I know its effects will follow me, encouraging me to continue towards curating another impact. I’ve grown close to many that call Grapevine home, and I know this haven—even if some may call it too small or old—will always await me, forever growing and cultivating memories.

Ricky Valverde reflects on life here

From volunteering in lake cleanups to building a student garden at Grapevine Middle School and being recognized on the sign in front, I am grateful to have had the opportunity to care for the city that has given me so much.

From the splendor of homecoming parades and GrapeFest to a simple picnic in Oak Grove park our city maintains its unique old school cool while still being an innovator of the times with new developments yearly. To me, it’s no wonder people move and visit our city so much; we provide a true community that cares for each other and one that holds onto our unique Texas culture.

In an effort to become more involved in a community I was loving more and more, and to grow my writing skills this last year, I joined the Grapevine Historical Society. It’s been a true privilege to meet and work with such a dedicated and kind group of people who are so passionate about our town’s history and culture. My involvement has allowed me to help turn places like the B&D Mills from an “old building” to a landmark representing our city’s origin and the lives of residents past. To me, every brick, tree, and person in Grapevine is a part of our city’s storied history and culture that I am proud to be a part of.

As I continue on to the next chapter of my life at the University of Texas at Austin, my heart will be forever intertwined with my hometown. I am extremely thankful to my city and the people within for supporting me through every stage of my life, and always providing a community for me to lean on. I know that the city will continue to shine for many years on and I am eternally grateful to be able to call myself a Grapevinian, and of course now and forever; Rah Rah Rah Mustangs fight!

Supporting Grapevine High School, 1912-style

City Restaurant and Meat Market

Wall Brothers, Proprietors

To Our Friends and Patrons:

We are here to serve the public with the best of Fresh Meats, Eggs, Butter and Cheese. Also a nice line of Canned Goods and Candies. SHORT ORDERS A SPECIALTY. Highest Prices paid for Hogs and Cattle.

We strive to please at all times.

Call and see us. We will appreciate your patronage.

Two advertisements from a 1912 booklet describing Grapevine High School’s academic offerings. The booklet outlined the four year studies in English and Math, and pointed out that the “carefully-selected” school library numbered about 300 books.

Main Street advertisers included City Restaurant which had existed since the 19th century, and the local optician who also sold high tech Edison phonographs.





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U.S. Nonbreakable Records buy them once and you will buy no other. *Don't Break nor wear out; perfect in tone; fit any cylinder machine. 2-min., 35c 4-minute, 50 cents*
A.F. WOODS
GRAPEVINE, TEXAS



Fit any Phonograph



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Grapevine Brides, June and otherwise

of the bridal dresses were not the white formal gowns we know today, but lovely dresses and suits complemented by big hats and small caps.

Now, for the first time in many years, there is a bridal shop on Main Street! Tracy Terrell has opened *Grapevine Bridal Boutique* at 120 S. Main St. She has a little Grapevine history up her pretty lacy sleeve, too. Tracy is the granddaughter of former Grapevine Mayor Willis Pirkle and Frances Sanders Pirkle, who married in 1934.

Stop by the Grapevine Historical Museum and take a look at the bridal area where gowns dating back to 1875 are on display.



William & Leona (Sparger) Cavender, December 1891

Drew & Ida (Starr) Wall,
October 1897



Jesse & Ruth (Corbin)
Willingham, November 1913



Harlan & Inez (Davis) Jewett,
June 1946



Jess & Effie (Chambers) Wright, December 1908



June 23 GHS Meeting: Family Grocery Stores on the Grape Vine Prairie

In-between the time of the General Store and the era of Supermarket, the area around Grapevine was dotted with family markets - businesses that carried essential foods, and also carried the names of the people who ran them: Hall, Trigg, Bone, Sowers, Board and others. They were an essential part of local life in the decades when this part of Texas was mostly small farming communities.

Join us for a fun and lively panel that features descendants of these well-loved community retailers. Tommy Ramsey, Mavy Trigg Wright, Charlotte Bone, Gloria Trigg Ware and others will join us to share stories, recalling the big impact these little stores once had on our lives.



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Trigg Grocery
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THE VINE ARTS CENTER, 225 W. WORTH ST 6:30 PM REFRESHMENTS • FREE • OPEN TO ALL

The Grapevine Historical Society • P. O. Box 995 / Grapevine, Texas 76099-0995 • grapevinehistory.org
Duff O'Dell, President • Larry Groebe, Communications Chair • updates@grapevinehistory.org

A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization supported by tax-deductible memberships and contributions. Become a member!

Join The GHS' Facebook Group - search for "Grapevine Historical Society" and read all about it!