



On The Vine

GRAPEVINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

V29#5 • DEDICATED TO PRESERVING GRAPEVINE AND TEXAS HISTORY • MAY 2026

THE OBJECTS AT HAND

New Donations bring 19th Century to Life

The Grapevine Historical Society has recently been the recipient of four significant artifacts from Mr. John Klingstedt of Plano. That last name may not be familiar to most people, and you might wonder why someone in Plano was donating 19th-century items to Grapevine, but there's a connection that goes back almost 200 years to some of the area's earliest settlers.

John Klingstedt's grandmother was *Mary Klingstedt*, who passed away in 1990 having lived the last 60 years of her life in Oklahoma. But Mary Klingstedt's maiden name was Mary Estill Yates, and that's a clue to the history involved.

Mary was born in Grapevine to Carl Yates (born 1879) and *Claudie Lipscomb* (born 1882). Claudie Lipscomb was the daughter of John Lipscomb (1850) and

Mary Estill (1855). Going back another generation, Mary Estill was the daughter of *Jefferson Estill* (1820) and *Frances "Fannie" Staples* (1825). There we can stop, because Jefferson Estill and his family were some of Grapevine's earliest settlers.



Frances "Fannie" Estill's trunk, made prior to 1855.

The oldest of the donated items now being processed at the Museum date back to when Jeff Estill and his family made

their trek to Texas from Tennessee in the years before the Civil War.

A small trunk may be the highlight of the collection. Measuring roughly two feet by three feet, this trunk was packed full of Fannie Estill's

belongings and loaded onto a horse-drawn wagon in October 1855. Jefferson Estill had been to Texas before and evidently liked what he saw, as he decided



Jefferson Estill, then 41 years old, and son John, 16, were photographed ready to fight the Civil War

-- Continued on Page Two

MUSINGS FROM THE MAYOR

How the Hallford Prairie Got Its Name

The Hallford Prairie (sometimes "Holford") lands were located just north of Grapevine, in southern Denton County, encompassing much of modern-day Lewisville and extending into the western areas of Flower Mound. Now reduced to a few street names and historical marker mentions, how did it come by its name?

James Powell Hallford, was born in South Carolina in the war year of 1812. He, his wife Sarah, and their five children were part of the original group of sixteen families from Platte County, Missouri who lost their farms to the flood waters of the Missouri River and pioneered to Texas in the spring of 1844.

They settled on blackland prairie land that was later named the Hallford Prairie after the family. This original 16 families organized the Lonesome Dove Baptist Church west of town, becoming the oldest surviving Baptist church west of the Mississippi River.

James was also elected one of the first three County Commissioners of the newly-formed Tarrant County in August 1850. In 1852 he purchased for one hundred dollars the 320-acre William Dooley survey which consists of the area which makes up the Grapevine Central



Grapevine Mayor William D. Tate

--Continued on Page Three

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Klingstedt donation items date back to the mid-1800s

to move permanently. He and his wife Fannie; her 69-year-old mother Sallie; their children, including Mary who was not yet six months old; a niece and nephew; and their horses, belongings, and slaves took a month to reach the Grape Vine Prairie.

The “camelback” chest or trunk which made the trip on top of a wagon is simple but serviceable, constructed of pine wood, leather, and hand-forged iron; sturdy enough to have survived almost 200 years. The interior is lined with blue-patterned wallpaper.

A hand-crafted children’s chair also may well have made the trip from Tennessee, but that cannot be confirmed. The hickory chair certainly served multiple families for many years, beginning in the Estill family’s early cabin. Mary Klingstedt sat on it as a child in the early 20th century. Decades later she recalled her grandfather re-covering the seat with fresh leather straps which still survive today. Mary preferred to place a pillow on top of the strap seat to make it more comfortable.

Perhaps the humblest of the donations is a hand-carved rolling pin, which was created as a wedding gift for Mary Estill who married John Lipscomb in



A child’s handcrafted ladder-back chair with leather-strap seat.

May 1871, a few weeks before she turned 16 years old. The rolling pin was carved for her by one of the Estills’ former slaves, a man named Nathan Martin who probably made the trip with them from Tennessee 16 years earlier.



Rolling pin given as a wedding present, hand carved by a former Estill family slave.

The final item in the Klingstedt collection is from the early 20th century, and reflects a Grapevine which had outgrown its pioneer roots to become an established, thriving farming community. For Christmas 1907, the Farmers National Bank on Main Street (which had been established seven years earlier) presented their customers with framed, hand-tinted photographic prints on glass as holiday “thank-you” gifts. The



This sentimental glass image of John and Priscilla Alden measures approximately 8 by 10 inches and includes a small frame.

image, created in 1898 and widely distributed in various forms by the Ullman Mfg. Co. in New York, pictured Mayflower Pilgrims John and Priscilla Alden content with their life in the New World.

At top left, above the hearth, a small advertisement for the Farmers National Bank was printed. It notes that in 1907 Farmers National Bank had \$35,000 in assets. Both Yates and Estill family members were named among the officers and employees.

It’s rare for objects so closely tied to Grapevine’s earliest history to turn up anymore. The Grapevine Historical Society is honored to accept Mr. Klingstedt’s donation, bringing new light as it does to lives of six generations ago, and hopes to place them on public display in the near future

--Larry Groebe

MONDAY JULY 27 -- MARK YOUR CALENDAR

"REMEMBER WHEN YOUR PAPER WAS DELIVERED BY A NEWSBOY?" WITH RICHARD SELCER

Fort Worth historian Richard Selcer looks at the early days of newspaper delivery, a time before families had moved to the suburbs and had their papers delivered on (or at least near) the doorstep. During much of the 20th century, newspapers were sold on street corners, in train stations, and downtown -- and the “newsies” were not polite high-school kids but street urchins scraping out a living.

QUIET ARCHITECT OF GRAPEVINE'S HISTORICAL MEMORY

Meet Sallie Andrews, Wyandotte Girl

For more than three decades, Sallie Cotter Andrews has been one of the most influential voices shaping how Grapevine understands, preserves, and tells its own story. Though she never sought the spotlight, her work forms the backbone of nearly every official historical touchpoint in the city. From museum development to public art research to the city's most widely used historical timeline, Andrews' fingerprints are everywhere in Grapevine's modern historical identity.

Sallie Andrews was born in Tulsa, proudly claiming Native American ancestry. Moving to Texas in 1977, Andrews eventually settled in Decatur, but her professional life became deeply intertwined with Grapevine beginning in 1991. The City hired her as a historic preservation employee, a role that grew into decades of research, writing, curation, and public history work. Her background also includes a long relationship with the Wyandotte Nation, where she served twenty-four years on the Historical and Cultural Committee and continues as a Seated Faith-

keeper. That grounding in cultural stewardship shaped the way she approached Grapevine's past — with accuracy, respect, and a sense of responsibility.

One of her most enduring contributions is the official Grapevine Timeline. Created for the City's 100th anniversary of incorporation and utilized in the Settlement to City Museum, the timeline remains one of the most referenced documents in local historical research. It distills decades of archival material into a clear, accessible narrative that residents,



Sallie Andrews is flanked by Mayor William Tate (left) and GHS member Tommy Simmons (right) at a Tarrant County Historical Society ceremony in October 2024.

researchers, and city staff still rely on today. Her museum work is equally significant. Andrews helped develop the Settlement to City Museum, the Donald Schoolhouse Museum, and later assisted in the reconfiguration of the Grapevine Historical Museum in 2014. These institutions form the public face of Grapevine's history, and her influence is visible in their exhibits, interpretive panels, and educational materials.

--Continued on Page Four

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Hallford Prairie History

Business District and Residential Historic Districts today. Then he did what so many people owning property in those districts have been doing ever since: he sold it for a huge profit of \$575 to E. N. Hudgins, who donated part of the land to the Cotton Belt Railroad, the Grapevine College, and the Methodist Church he founded.

James' son, Andrew Jackson Hallford, who was born in Cole County, Missouri, was baptized by Rev. John A. Freeman at the Lonesome Dove Baptist Church in 1849. He became one of Tarrant County's most outstanding preachers of all time. He married his cousin Dizanna Foster, the daughter of Susan and Ambrose Foster. They raised three children.

In 1861 when Texas entered the Civil War, Andrew joined the 100-member Grapevine Mounted Volunteers with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. In 1864 he was ordained as a minister by the Lone Dove Baptist Church, and served as a army chaplain until the end of the war. He is credited with baptizing forty soldiers in the bayous of Louisiana, plus many more along the way. After the war, he finished his education at Baylor University and became the pastor of Lonesome Dove Baptist Church. He was pastor of 34 different churches in Tarrant and Denton Counties during the remaining 35 years of his life. I take it that he was the pastor of several churches simultaneously. His wife Dizanna died at the age of 36, and Andrew died on April 15, 1890, age 54. During his life he saw great change in the settlement of the area, with tall prairie grasses plowed under by the John Deer plow and put into cultivation of corn, wheat and cotton. During the first years of the settlement, the community was known as the Hallford Prairie, a result of the influence that the Hallford family had on church and community.

-- William D. Tate

CONTINUED FROM PAGE THREE

Sallie Andrews has spent decades exploring Grapevine history

Beyond the museums, Andrews has authored more than fifty historical markers across the city. Each marker represents hours of research into land records, family histories, business ownership, and early settlement patterns. She also served on editing teams for three Grapevine history books and wrote the children's book *Grapevine Tales Through Time* in 2019 for First Baptist Church Grapevine's 150th anniversary.

Her research has extended into public art as well. Andrews played a key role in the Peace Circle project at Main Street and Dallas Road, providing the historical foundation for the installation, and participating in the dedication ceremony by delivering the Wyandotte Thanksgiving Address. Her work ensured that the project honored the Indigenous history connected to the region and the 1843 peace negotiations that shaped North Texas.

In recognition of her decades of service, Andrews was named a Lifetime Member of the Grapevine Historical Society in 2012. She also holds lifetime membership in the Wise County Historical Society, reflecting her broader regional impact. In October 2024 she was given the *Susie Pritchett Lifetime Achievement Award in Preservation* by the Tarrant County Historical Commission

Much of Andrews' research has drawn from the *Grapevine Area History* book, *Grapevine's Most Unforgettable Characters*, her *Quick Reference Guide to Grapevine History*, the City Secretary's archives, and the Local History Room at the Grapevine Public Library. Over the years, she's become one of the few people who could navigate these sources with ease, connecting scattered pieces of information into coherent stories that shaped the city's understanding of itself.

Sallie prefers collecting photographs to appearing in them. Yet her presence is unmistakable. Every museum visitor, every student reading a marker, every resident learning about Grapevine's past is encountering the legacy of Sallie Andrews. She may not be a household name, but she is one of the quiet architects of Grapevine's historical memory — a researcher, writer, cultural steward, and Grapevine ambassador whose work will outlast us all.

--David Lee Clark

June GHS General Meeting Meet Don Graves, Marine Veteran of the Battle of Iwo Jima

June's guest speaker is **Don Graves**, a 102-year-old Marine who is one of the last survivors of the Battle of Iwo Jima in World War II.

This is an extraordinary opportunity to hear world history direct from one who lived through it. Don Graves was a young Marine who carried a 75-pound flamethrower on his back into that decisive island battle. His story is exactly one of the "ordinary heroes" that have pulled this country through tough times.

His inspiring memories reveal why he and fellow veterans have been called "The Greatest Generation." It will be an unmissable evening!



**MONDAY, JUNE 22 • 6:30 PM FOR REFRESHMENTS
THE VINE, 225 W. WORTH ST • 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!