

Nueces County
Historical Society
P.O. Box 60003
Corpus Christi, TX 78466-0003



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NUECES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PRESENTS

“Texas Lands: The George H. Paul Co.”

Presented by Jim Maloney

Tuesday, October 4, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church, Corpus Christi



George H. Paul grew up on a farm near Washington, Iowa. He was a hired hand, making \$18 per month until 1904 when he went to work selling land. He was in Canada when he heard about the vast tracts of ranchland for sale in Texas, so he came to Corpus Christi to see for himself. Paul made a deal with rancher Robert Driscoll to sell Driscoll ranch land north of Robstown, founded at the junction of the Tex-Mex and Brownie railroad lines. The George H. Paul Company soon had prospective land buyers arriving by the trainload. The railroads offered cheap excursion rates to home seekers, at \$15 round-trip from Kansas City to Corpus Christi, and Paul brought his own private Pullman cars. Paul went on to sell much of San Patricio County lands.

The Nueces County Historical Society
Your support as a registered member is vitally important and sincerely appreciated.
NCHS Membership Year: September 2016 to August 2017

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Office _____ Email _____

Please Select Membership Category:

- _____ Military veteran No charge*
- _____ Individual -----\$ 15.00
- _____ Family-----\$ 20.00
- _____ Student -----\$ 4.00
- _____ Sustaining Patron \$ 50.00
- _____ Patron -----\$ 100.00
- _____ Supporting ----- \$ 150.00
- _____ Benefactor ----- \$ 250.00
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- _____ Angel ----- \$ 1,000.00

Please Remit Dues Check with this Enrollment Form to:

Nueces County Historical Society
Attn: Sue Ryland
P.O. Box 60003
Corpus Christi, Texas 78466-0003

(*Veterans should present ID card)

Historical Marker Dedication Sunday, October 16, St. John Nepomucene Parish in Robstown, immediately after 11:00 a.m. Mass., approximately 12:00 noon.

In 1907, after George H. Paul's first purchase of 10,410 acres of ranchland from Robert Driscoll, a sizeable number of Czech-speaking Catholics began to arrive to purchase former ranchland and to farm the land. For many years thereafter, religious services were sometimes held in some of the homes of these Catholics. Longing to hear the Czech language spoken at religious services, a parish was formed in 1924 and became a mission church of St. Boniface Parish of Corpus Christi and named St. John Nepomucene Parish. In 1934, a newly-ordained priest from Indiana volunteered to come to Corpus Christi to serve the Diocese. Father George Scecina, always known as "Father George", and conversant in the Slavic languages, was immediately made the pastor of St. John Nepomucene Parish (a position he would hold uninterrupted for the next 49 years) and he was also named pastor (for the next 29 years) of the mission church in St. Frances of Rome Parish in nearby Agua Dulce, itself having a large percentage of Czech-speaking Catholics. On October 17, 1937, the present Church of St. John Nepomucene was dedicated and its first service held in the new church at 600 North First Street in Robstown. During Father George's tenure, a Parochial School was opened in February 1946 with 82 students in grades 1-8 and a later-instituted high school graduated its first senior class in 1955. The high school closed in 1970 and the elementary school closed in 1986. Father George died in 1988.

2016-2017 NCHS Officers:

President: Dan Garza, 361-779-7571, degarza66@gmail.com
Secretary: Karen Howden, 361-853-7034, jhowdencc@aol.com
Hospitality Chair: Maria Griffin, 361-852-3449

Vice Pres: Kathy Wemer, 361-853-7034, rboyd@stx.rr.com
Treasurer: Sue Ryland, 361-903-2420, sryland@skkillc.com
Bulletin Editor: Penny Pillack, 361-813-3732, ppillack@aol.com

Bulletin Administrator: RudyTejano Peña, 361-850-0006, tejano_pride@hotmail.com

Make plans to attend *Voices of South Texas: Old Bayview Cemetery Comes Alive.*

What: *Voices of South Texas – Old Bayview Cemetery Comes Alive* is a walking tour which brings voice to the history of our community. The cemetery includes veterans from the War of 1812, Texas Revolution, War with Mexico, Civil War (both Confederate and Union), Indian Wars (“Buffalo Soldiers”), and the Spanish American War. It chronicles the history of the region with city founders, colorful law enforcers, promoters and its growing pains, including the Yellow Fever epidemic and hurricane destruction. These voices will be brought to life by storytellers, re-enactors and experts in the study of local history.

Why: Old Bayview Cemetery was created by Colonel Hitchcock during the occupation of Zachary Taylor’s forces in 1845. Hitchcock located the site overlooking Nueces Bay and Corpus Christi Bay as the final resting place for seven soldiers killed in a boiler explosion. Old Bayview Cemetery is the first U. S. military cemetery in Texas. Old Bayview is also an integrated cemetery including African-American and Hispanic soldiers and citizens. It is a true reflection of our community.

Who: *Voices of South Texas* is sponsored by the Nueces County Historical Commission, the Nueces County Historical Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, and Humanities Texas. The ‘voices’ are comprised of storytellers from our region and historical re-enactors.

When: Saturday, November 5, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Where: Old Bayview Cemetery located at Ramirez Street and Padre (IH37) next to Coles High School.

This program is made possible in part by a grant from Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

2016-2017 Nueces County Historical Members

Patron-Melvin Klein, Mary Ann & John McGregor, Bill & Hallie Roberts, Jim & Barbara Stever

Individual-Kenneth Anthony, Sr. Dorothy Anhaiser, Pat Booth, Monsignor Michael A. Howell, Harriet A. Tillman, Dan & Doretta McDonough, Jan Weaver

Sustaining Patron-Jim & Sylvia Whitworth

Family-Patrick & Wilma Norrell, Mary Jo O’Rear, Danny & Kathy Ordner, Jim & Jackie Rome, Sue & Jim Ryland, Louise Wagner

Military Veteran-Jim Whitworth

Upcoming Events:

October 4-NCHS Meeting, 7:00 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, Corpus Christi

October 8-Archeology visit to San Patricio, 1:30 p.m. Meet at San Patricio Catholic Church

October 16-THC Marker Dedication, St. John Mepomucene

November 1-NCHS Meeting, 7:00 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, Corpus Christi

November 5-*Voices of South Texas: Old Bayview Comes Alive*, 10:00 a.m./Marker dedication at 11 am

November 10-THC Marker Dedication, Gold Star Court of Honor, 2:00 pm, 400-500 N. Lower Broadway

December 6-NCHS Meeting, 7:00 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, Corpus Christi

December 17-Wreaths across America at Coastal Bend Veteran Cemetery, TBA

Maria A. Griffin and Mr. Rudy Tejano Pena, represented the NCHS at the unveiling of the Gregorio Cortes historical marker in Karnes County and the 203rd Anniversary of the Battle of Medina symposium on August 20, 2016.

October is Archeology Month! Make plans to join the Nueces County Historical Commission and the San Patricio County Historical Commission on Saturday, October 8, 1:30 p.m. at the San Patricio Catholic Church on FM 666 in San Patricio. There will be short talks about the sites to be visited: DeLeon and Ft. Lipantitlan crossings. The group will also visit the McGloin and Dougherty Homes. It is recommended that long pants, long sleeves, and boots or other outdoor shoes be worn. Insect repellent is also recommended.



On Sunday, September 17, 2016, the Maxine Flournoy Third Coast Squadron, Texas Coastal Bend, Commemorative Air Force inducted four members into its Hall of Fame at its Museum of Military History located at the McCampbell-Porter Airport near Aransas Pass. These were #41-#44 in a distinguished list of male and female members of “America’s Greatest Generation” representing all branches of our country’s proud military. Pictured above are CAF Unit Leader Col Pearson Knolle (left) along with family representatives of SSG Sam Houston Burris, USAAF; Capt. Dean E. Webster, Navy; Lt. Tobin Armstrong, USAAF; as well as NCHS member Lt. Rex “Jim” Stever, USAAF. Burris, Webster, and Armstrong were recognized posthumously.



Harvey Buehring, retired Texas A&M Agrilife agent and 2016 NCJLS Queen Bailee Saenz presented the history of the Nueces County Junior Livestock Show at our September 6 meeting.

The Girl Scout troop led by Mrs. Pat Jones presented the colors and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas flags.