NUECES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PRESENTS

Sandra Valencia

"Quest to Find My 4th Great Grandfather"

Tuesday, March 5, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church, 430 S. Carancahua Street, Corpus Christi

Sandra is a member of several lineage societies and made it her mission to locate her 4th great grandfather, Nathan B. Holder. He served with the 7th Texas Infantry Regiment, Texas Militia, during the War Between the States. He was taken as a prisoner. Come find out the rest of the story! Sandra is the principal of Por Vida Academy in Corpus Christi. She and her husband have two sons.

NCHS Mission Statement-The Nueces County Historical Society is a 501©3 multi-cultural organization which encourages a deeper understanding and appreciation for the rich history of Nueces County, the Coastal Bend of Texas, and the United States of America, by members and guests of all ages. It accomplishes this through hosting regularly scheduled presentations with interesting speakers, sponsoring special events, and leading preservation efforts for the area sites of historical significance.

Greg Smith, a former Corpus Christi City Councilman, presented the February program. He shared several stories about his ancestors, the Dunn Family.

Officers and directors of NCHS serve a two-year term. The current term ends this spring. The trustees will present a slate of officers at the March meeting. Officers will be elected at the April meeting. Installation will be held at the Dan Kilgore Banquet on May 7.

The Texas Maritime Museum in Rockport presents a lecture on each Monday from 12:00-1:00 p.m. It's recommended to call prior to driving over as the event may be cancelled due to weather. Upcoming dates and speakers:

March 4-Ed Cotham "Robert Creuzbaur, the Captain Nemo of Texas"
March 11-No presenter due to Spring Break camp
March 18-Father Joseph "Vietnamese Culture"
March 25-Michael Bailey "Jean Lafitte"

March 2024

TOAST TO TEXAS

Saturday, March 2, 2024
1:00 PM
Centennial House
411 N Upper Broadway
Corpus Christi, Texas

MARY AUSTIN HOLLEY (1784-1846)

Mary Austin Holley, author and teacher, daughter of Elijah and Esther (Phelps) Austin and cousin of Stephen F. Austin, was born in New Haven, Connecticut, on October 30, 1784. She attended New Haven schools and studied music and languages before her marriage, on January 1, 1805, to Horace Holley. They were parents of a son and a daughter. Horace Holley was a minister at Greenfield, Connecticut, from the fall of 1805 until 1808. During that time S. F. Austin was attending Bacon Academy in Colchester, Connecticut, and visited in the home of his cousin. In July 1827 Horace Holley died of yellow fever and was buried at sea. Back in New England, Mrs. Holley prepared biographical and explanatory notes for a book to be a memorial to her husband, *A Discourse on the Genius and Character of the Reverend Horace Holley* (1828).

In April 1829 she became governess to the Hermogene Labranche family in Louisiana. After her brother, Henry Austin, settled in Texas, she communicated with him and with Stephen F. Austin concerning possibilities that she had long considered of gathering her family around her in Texas. The empresario made arrangements to reserve lands for her on Galveston Bay, and in October 1831 she visited the Austin colony. As a result she wrote *Texas: Observations, Historical, Geographical, and Descriptive, in a Series of Letters Written during a Visit to Austin's Colony, with a View to a Permanent Settlement in That Country in the Autumn of 1831*, which was published in Baltimore in 1833. During her first Texas visit she also planned a book to be called "Travels in Texas" and composed a "Brazos Boat Song," illustrated with a vignette of Bolivar House, which was her Texas residence.

On her last Texas visit in 1843 she interviewed old settlers and secured material for a biography of Stephen F. Austin to go into a new edition of the *History of Texas*. In 1845 she decided to return to her teaching in the Labranche family. She died of yellow fever on August 2, 1846, and was buried in the Donatien Augustine tomb in the St. Louis Cemetery at New Orleans. Her books and her long series of family letters are invaluable accounts of early Texas.

Hosted by Clara Driscoll Chapter DRT and the Nueces County Historical Commission

UPCOMING EVENTS:

March 2-"Toast to Texas", 1:00 p.m. at Centennial House

March 5-Regular NCHS meeting, 7:00 p.m., Local educator, Sandra Valencia, will speak of her family's quest to find a loved one.

March 9-Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony at Sherrill Park, 10 a.m.

March 19-Texas Tropical Trail **

April 2-Regular NCHS meeting, 7:00 p.m., Nadine Hefner will speak about her father, Arturo Vasquez.

May 7-Daniel Kilgore Local History Awards Banquet

**** Contact Sandy Jumper Executive Director, for more info or to get on the mailing list, at info@texastropicaltrail.com.**

The Nueces County Historical Society meets the first Tuesday of the months of September-April. An annual Local History Awards Banquet is held on the first Tuesday in May. Out annual banquet will be held May 7 at the Emerald Beach Hotel.

Find us on Facebook or on the web at www.nuecescountyhistoricalsociety.org.

2022-2024 Officers and Board of Trustees:

President: Susan Trevino
Vice President: Kathy Wemer
Secretary: Amanda Kowalski
Treasurer: Sue Ryland
Membership: Michelle Balis
Bulletin Editor: Penny Pillack
Webmaster: Mike Carlisle
Hospitality: Karen Howden
Trustees: Mary Helen Dunnam, Dottie Ewing, RudyTejano Pena, Rene Trevino

IT IS NOW TIME TO SUBMIT YOUR DUES FOR 2023-2024.

The Nueces County Historical Society

NCHS Membership Year: September 2023 to August 2024

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ **State**_____ **Zip**_____

Home Phone_____ **Cell Phone**_____

Email_____

Please select Membership Category:

_____Military Veteran	No Charge (Present DD 214 or military ID)
_____Individual	$15.00
_____Family	$20.00
_____Student	$4.00
_____Patron	$50.00
_____Sustaining Patron	$100.00
_____Supporting Patron	$150.00
_____Benefactor	$250.00
_____Corporate	$250.00
_____Angel	$1,000.00

Please remit dues check with this membership form to:
Nueces County Historical Society
P. O. Box 60003
Corpus Christi, Texas 78466-0003

OR BRING TO THE NEXT MEETING…