

NUECES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PRESENTS

Speaker: Bette Ash

“A Family Connection to the Texas Independence”

Tuesday, March 4, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

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

Bette Hunter Ash grew up in Hebbronville and attended Trinity University. After marrying Joe Ash, she transferred to the University of Corpus Christi. She taught two years in Gregory-Portland prior to attending East Texas State University to receive a Master’s Degree. Her thesis was “The Mexican Texans in the Civil War.” Bette taught grades 7-12 history in Agua Dulce from 1976-1986. Joe decided to leave the Agua Dulce ISD superintendent position and go into the private oil/gas sector so they moved to the family ranch north of Alice and Bette taught Texas History, World History and Government/Economics in Alice. She retired from public school teaching in 2000 and taught freshman US history at Texas A&M-Kingsville until 2012. Joe passed in 2021. Today she operates the family business at Las Lagunas Ranch which includes real estate and ranching. Bette and Joe have three children, Sarah, Dean (deceased), and Rachal, along with three grandchildren. Bette is a 50 year member of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and is a member of the Smuggler’s Pass Chapter National Daughters of the American Revolution. Bette is known throughout the south Texas area as one of the best history teachers ever. Just ask her students!



At our February meeting, Gaby Hadyka presented “Hidden in Plain View-A Secret Story of Quilts and the Underground Railroad.” Quilts guided those in the underground railroad to safety, food, lodging...what a story!

Did you know?

Thomas Jefferson is widely credited with introducing and popularizing mac and cheese in America. He discovered it while traveling in Europe, particularly in France and Italy. He loved the dish and upon his return to America, he began serving it at his dinner parties in the early 1800's.

TOAST TO Texas

Sunday, March 2, 2025

1:00 PM

**3700 Ocean Drive
Corpus Christi, Texas**

HENRY SMITH (1788 – 1851)

Henry Smith (May 20, 1788 – March 4, 1851) was the first American-born Governor of the Mexican territory of Texas and briefly presided over the revolution there, serving during the Battle of Goliad and Battle of San Jacinto. Smith was born the tenth and last child of James and Magdalen (Woods) Smith of Bryantsville, Garrard County. At the age of 21, he became a merchant in Nashville, Tennessee, and married. Moving from place to place, he was ultimately attracted by land grants offered by the Mexican government and took his family to Brazoria County, Texas in 1827 where he worked his lands, taught school, and did some land surveying. He became involved in politics and was wounded in the 1832 Battle of Velasco. Elected alcalde of Brazoria in 1833, he was soon chosen a delegate to the Convention of 1833. In 1834, he was appointed by the Mexican governor as the political chief of the department of the Brazos.



Around 1835, he became a leader in the party favoring independence for Texas, called the War, or Independence Party. This party met with the Peace Party at a convention in 1836 called the Consultation. There, the two parties debated whether to declare immediate independence from Mexico, or not. While urging an immediate declaration of independence, he helped prepare the organic law that served as the constitution of a provisional government. Smith was named governor of the provisional government but soon was locked in struggles with rivals both political and personal. He threatened to dissolve the provisional government's council which retaliated by impeaching him. Smith refused to relinquish the governorship to James W. Robinson but the matter was rendered moot by the Convention of 1836.

He ran against Sam Houston and Stephen Austin in the 1836 presidential election, but was soundly defeated by Houston, though he did edge out Austin. Smith was appointed by Houston to serve as his Secretary of the Treasury during his first administration. Later he promoted development along the Texas Gulf Coast. In 1840 he was elected to the Fifth Congress of the Republic of Texas, serving in the House of Representatives, though he retired after just one term. He never sought another public office.



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



Hope you will join us as we honor our beloved state!

There's still time to catch a few of the Winter Lectures at the Texas Maritime Museum in Rockport.

JAN	01/06	Walter E. Wilson Civil War Blockade Running in the Western Gulf
	01/13	Donald S. Frazier, Ph.D Gunboats in South Louisiana (vs. Texas)
	01/20	Jim Moloney The First Football Game
	01/27	Susie Black The History of the Texas Maritime Museum
FEB	02/03	Leah Nguyen Oliva Growing Up with Boat People
	02/10	David Kroski The Town of Copano
	02/17	Janie Collier White Danish Watermen of the Texas Coastal Bend
	02/24	Carroll Brincefield Indianola Becomes A German Entry Point
MAR	03/03	Pam Stranahan Voices from the Past: The Making of Aransas County
	03/17	Jason Bradshaw Top Texas Treasures
	03/24	Donna Lee Nyzio 250 Years: America in Paint
	03/31	Wayne Carney The Battle of Sund Strait

**Winter Lecture Series 2025
Returns January 6th
MONDAYS FROM 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
FREE ADMISSION & REFRESHMENTS**

Learn more at TexasMaritimeMuseum.org



The Coastal Bend Genealogical Society meeting will be March 8. You are invited to attend!



March 2025 Meeting

When:

Saturday, March 8th, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM

Where: 3700 Ocean Drive

*May your troubles be less
And your blessings be more.
And nothing but happiness
Come through your door.
An old Irish Blessing*

**March 2025 Program
Gabrielle Hadyka will present:
Spanish Connection to the
American Revolution**

DID YOU KNOW?

Terrell County is known as the “Cactus Capital of Texas.” The Texas Legislature bestowed the official designation in 1999 in recognition of the ‘vast array of diverse cacti’ that can be found there. The county seat of Sanderson hosts an annual festival in October called the Prickly Pear Pachanga. Terrell County is also the setting for Cormac McCarthy’s novel “No Country for Old Men” and the Academy Award-winning film adaptation of the same name.



**Tropical Trail Region
CELEBRATE OUR
20th ANNIVERSARY!
March 25, 2025**

FEATURED SITES:

King Ranch Museum
King Ranch Custom Bus
Tour

Caesar Kleberg Wildlife
Research Institute

Living History & Presentations

Food & Beverage

Transportation from King Ranch
Museum for all 3/25 Events

SWAG!

Transportation to/from
RGV on March 25 to
Kingsville



www.TexasTropicalTrail.com
email: info@texastropicaltrail.com
Sign up: <https://bit.ly/tttr20-sign>

**Tuesday: \$150
FREE Bus Transportation
from Harlingen on 3/25!
VERY LIMITED RESERVATIONS!**

THE WALL THAT HEALS

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL REPLICA & MOBILE EDUCATION CENTER

★

A PROGRAM OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND
FOUNDERS OF THE WALL

MARCH 27-30, 2025

★

VETERANS MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

SOCCER FIELD • 3750 CIMARRON BLVD, CORPUS CHRISTI, TX 78414

Free Admission • 24 hr Access • Closing 2pm Sunday

TheWallThatHealsCorpusChristi2025.org

Rotary Club of Southside Corpus Christi | United Corpus Christi | [Seal 1] | [Seal 2] | [Seal 3] | [Seal 4] | [Seal 5]



UPCOMING EVENTS:

March 2-“Toast to Texas” at 3700 Ocean Drive, 1:00 p.m., Speaker will be Joe Fox portraying Henry Smith.

March 4-NCHS meeting, Speaker will be Bette Ash.

March 8-Coastal Bend Genealogical Society meeting

March 24 & 25-Texas Tropical Trail will celebrate 20 years in the Texas Historical Commission’s Heritage Trails Program. The event will be held in Sarita and Kingsville. The March 24 event is sold out. There is still limited seating for the March 25 event. Contact info@texastropicaltrail.com for more info or to register.**

March 27-30-“The Wall That Heals” at Veteran’s Memorial High School

April 8-NCHS meeting, Speaker will be Dillon Beal with the Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History.

April 15-Texas Tropical Trail monthly partner event, TBA**

May 6-Daniel E. Kilgore Local History Award Banquet at Holiday Inn Airport

**** Contact the Executive Director, Pamela Morales, 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. Our annual banquet will be held May 6 at Holiday Inn-Airport.

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

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.

2024-2026 Officers and Board of Trustees:

President: Mary Helen Dunnam

Vice President: Kathy Wemer

Secretary: Amanda Kowalski

Treasurer: Sue Ryland

Membership: Michelle Balis

Publications/Newsletter Chair: Penny Pillack

Publications/Newsletter Administrator: Dylan Bailey

Social Media/Webmaster: Mike Carlisle

Hospitality: Karen Howden

Trustees: Dottie Ewing, RudyTejano Pena, Rene Trevino, Francis Westergren

IT IS NOW TIME TO SUBMIT YOUR DUES FOR 2024-2025.

**The Nueces County Historical Society
NCHS Membership Year: September 2024 to August 2025**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Please select Membership Category:

<input type="checkbox"/> Military Veteran	No Charge (Present DD 214 or military ID)
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$4.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Patron	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Patron	\$150.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate	\$250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 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...