

# Museum Newsletter

Ellis County Museum, Inc.

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web site: [www.rootsweb.com/~txecm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~txecm)

## Annual Membership Meeting 2003 - 2004.....

The Ellis County Museum held its annual membership meeting July 28, 2003. Ms. Julie Holcomb, special collections archivist for Navarro College, Corsicana, spoke on the Pearce Civil War Collection. This collection consists of over 7,000 Civil War documents, photographs and memorabilia and is recognized for its balanced coverage, depth, and content regarding this conflict. Ms. Holcomb passed around authentic documents signed by President Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant, Robert E. Lee, as well as other lesser known Civil War personalities.

In addition to the program, new board members were elected and past board members were recognized. The museum thanked outgoing board members Patsy Cornelius, Jeanne Moseley and Polly Starr for their service and welcomed new board members **Holly Davis** (Waxahachie), **Kent Brewer** (Waxahachie) and **Paula Baucum** (Midlothian). Refreshments and discussion followed the meeting.

## Museum receives Waxahachie Foundation grant.....

The Ellis County Museum recently received a grant from the Waxahachie Foundation, Inc. for the purchase of computer printers and a digital video camera. A large format color printer is allowing the museum to print images up to 13" x 19" and banners 13" x 4'. It also allows the museum to accurately reproduce historic color postcards and other images to sell in its gift shop and to photographically reproduce historic images for individuals. The laser printer is a high volume, duplex printer being used for the production of newsletters and other in-house museum publications. The grant also provided funds for a digital video camera/still digital camera to record oral/video history (brown bag speakers) and to document the museum's collection for record keeping purposes. The Waxahachie Foundation has been very generous to us over the years and deserves great recognition for all of the wonderful projects it funds in Waxahachie.



First Monday, Jockey Yard, Waxahachie, Texas. View is looking east on Jefferson Street between Rogers and College, circa 1900. This is a reproduction of an historic postcard. This image is slightly smaller than the original.

### Membership dues, 2003 - 2004....

The Ellis County Museum’s new fiscal year began on August 1st. It is time to renew your annual membership or become a member. Simply fill out the membership information included in this newsletter and mail it to the museum. Benefits of membership include: Museum newsletter, private previews for new exhibits, invitations to special events and lectures, free admission to the Brown Bag lunch series, exhibition announcements mailed to your home, 10% discount on gift shop items, and the general support of local history. If you are not sure if your membership is up to date, check the address mailing label on the front of the newsletter. If you see a “2003 - 2004,” you have already paid for your annual membership. If you do not see the “2003 - 2004”, dues have not been paid for the year.

The Museum would like to thank all of its members that have renewed their memberships. Whether you are an “Individual” member or a “Benefactor”, your support is greatly appreciated and very important to the successful operation of this facility.

### Education is the main course....

The Ellis County Museum’s popular **Brown Bag speaker series** continues to provide a wonderful lunch alternative on the last Friday of each month from noon - 1:00 PM. This activity, brainchild of museum board member Julie Webb, features county residents speaking about various elements of Ellis County’s history. To date, we have had 22 speakers from throughout the county covering everything from brick manufacturing to horse sense. Keep an eye on your local newspaper or visit the museum’s web site ([www.rootsweb.com/~txecm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~txecm)) for monthly information on speakers and other upcoming events. Each talk is videotaped for future historical reference. Attendees bring their lunch and listen to these informal talks in the museum. If you have suggestions for speakers, please contact the museum. To see a listing of all Brown Bag speakers and subject matter, please visit our web site ([www.rootsweb.com/~txecm/brown\\_bag\\_speakers.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~txecm/brown_bag_speakers.htm)).

### Lighted Courthouse Replicas are popular gift....

Last year, the Ellis County Museum produced a ceramic model of the Ellis County Courthouse. Sales were excellent but a few remain for the upcoming holiday season. This limited edition replica is available on a first come, first serve basis, so hurry in before they are gone. Each handcrafted piece measures 7 inches tall, comes with its own light and cord, and fits well with other collectible village sets. Courthouse replicas sell for \$49 (tax included) for pickup orders or \$59 (tax included) for mail orders.



Please reserve \_\_\_ for pickup, at \$49.00 each (includes tax)

Please reserve \_\_\_ for delivery, at \$59.00 each (includes tax & \$10.00 S&H)

Make check payable to: **Ellis County Museum**

For Visa/MasterCard orders call 972-937-0681 or come by the Museum.

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Ellis County Museum, P.O. Box 706, Waxahachie, Texas 75168



## “First Football Game Very Exciting in 1897”

(from the Waxahachie Daily Light)

The following story is the first published account of a football game concerning a Waxahachie grid squad. The story was written for the Waxahachie Mirror in 1897 and newsletter readers should find the story interesting. The article is reprinted as originally written and is hard to follow at times.

### FOOT-BALL

#### An Intensely Exciting Game Witnessed Here for the First Time

“There has been some interest here in the game between the schools, but Waxahachie for the first time saw a match last Saturday. Ingalls, in describing the great Nevada prize

fight (the boys will pardon any reference here) said “the day was one of incomparable loveliness,” but not so last Saturday. Still the people went, and from their buggies, horseback, and on foot, witnessed the exciting struggle between Waxahachie and Fort Worth. Country men returning from town stopped long enough on their way through West End to take their first glimpse of the peculiar business.”

“The Mirror has never thought favorably of the game, but the reporter was present, to tell the readers something of it, though of course, it is in non-professional style, and then he had heard so much about it, that he ‘wanted to see the animals’ anyway as they say about going to the circus.”

“The gridiron is 330 x 160 feet, subdivided, and on each end is the goal, 18½ feet apart, and held together by something ten feet high, and kicking the ball over which counts big in the game, since this is much easier than pulling the whole mess and mass of humanity there with you, as the one getting the ball has to do to get there.”

“Fort Worth accomplished this feat once.”

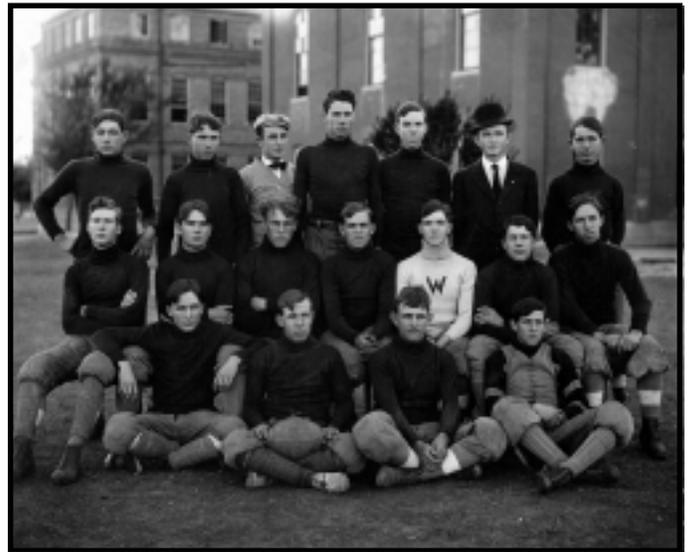
“They cast lots in opening for choice of goal, since the wind may make this important as it does even in running of freight trains, and also for the ball. To equalize any disadvantage the sides change goals during the game, so that when things are going our way, as seemed on the second round, imagine the disappointment when the uninitiated found that there had been a change.”

“Play lasts so long, time to be agreed on, and whichever ‘gets there’ with the ball the more, carrying everything else with him, as the opposition tries to prevent his getting there, has won.”

“This is a statement of the case as near as this reporter could catch it from the outside. Fort Worth ‘got there’ to the amount of 14, Waxahachie 0, within the 40 minutes play. Waxahachie had not the training of the Fort Worthites and her boys are said to have played well by those who know. To the outsider they seemed to be working at the business with just as much vigor as the others, and in fact some of them, Parks for fleetness, Cunningham for hang on, and Getzendaner (Ralph) for alertness and agility, seemed to do extra well”.

“The visiting team went away with many expressions of appreciation for the nice way they were treated, expense of their trip met by the Waxahachie team which they realized in gate fees to within a few dollars.”

“What is there in it, naturally asks those who witness it. It certainly cultivates the grit faculty. Then the



Waxahachie Football Team, 1911

Top Row, L to R: unknown, unknown, unknown, Raymond (Bugs) Fleming, unknown, John Templeton  
 Middle Row, L to R: Bass Williams, unknown, James Hurd, Ed Sweat, John Henry Pierce, George Hurd, unknown.  
 Bottom Row, L to R: unknown, unknown, Dickie Quaite, J.R. Shelton.



Waxahachie High School Football Team, 1912.

boy who gets the ball is put to the test in deciding on the moment what to do, and where to go. He can say with Milton; ‘Which way I fly is hell.’

“No lexicographer, linguist, or philologist will ever understand the word ‘tackle’ until he witnesses a game of foot-ball.”

“With it all this scribe doesn’t think that the play is worth the candle, speaking in a figure. There is too much risk in it. The statistics are appalling and those who see it wonder that they are not worse.”

“Was anybody hurt was frequently asked those returning Saturday evening: ‘nobody hurt seriously -- all hurt some.’”

“Talking of it after the game, with Mr. John

C. Gibson, he illustrates it well with the following, and he has never seen the game: He says that in an early day here when Waxahachie had opened her first barber shop with impromptu material, and the barber was shaving Mr. Russell Marchbanks; at one of the resting places he asked: ‘Well Mr. Marchbanks, how do you like it?’ Mr. M said: ‘Well, if you call it skinning it is tolerable slick, just tolerable: but if you call it shaving it’s mighty tough.’”

The Year 1897 Witnessed:

- \*The discovery of the electron by British physicist Joseph John Thomson;
- \*The invention of the modern submarine;
- \*The first successful steam powered car by the Stanley brothers;
- \*The birth of William Faulkner and Amelia Earhart;
- \*The presidency of William McKinley.

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1897

in technology & fashion





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## Upcoming Museum Events

### *“Waxahachie Wild Man”*

Ronnie Dawson Display - October 28th - January 31st

The Ellis County Museum is kicking off a new rotating exhibit featuring the “Music of Ellis County.” The inaugural display will honor Waxahachie Native, Ronnie Dawson and will feature memorabilia of Mr. Dawson and his career.

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### *“Blades in the Sky” Exhibit - November*

Historic windmill photographs by B. H. Burdick, 1920 - 1940.

In conjunction with the *“Blades in the Sky”* exhibit an evening lecture by T. Lindsay Baker, noted windmill historian, entitled *“Tex Burdick and His Blades in the Sky”*

Monday, November 10th, 7:00 PM

Ellis County Museum

This lecture discusses B. H. Burdick’s company and the work of his windmilling crews in the desert southwest between the two world wars.

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Brown Bag Speaker Series - Ongoing - last Friday of the month

October 31st

*“Nursing in Waxahachie”*

presented by Lois Hacker, Elizabeth Sims, Helen Smith, and Mattie Matthews.

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Archeology Night - Tuesday, October 28th

*see below*



### **Ellis County Museum Board Members**

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**Vice President**

Neil Blankenbeckler

**2nd Vice President**

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**Recording Secretary**

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Evelynn Pitts

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Erdie Webb

Julie Webb

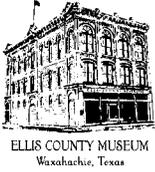
### **ECM & ECHC To Host Archeology Event...**

October is archeology awareness month and the Ellis County Museum in conjunction with the Ellis County Historical Commission presents Ms. Reeda Peel speaking on *Native American Rock Art in Texas*. This evening event will take place Tuesday, October 28 at the Ellis County Museum, 201 S. College St.

The event will feature a slideshow & lecture with photographs and displays of rock art, research, and projects. The slideshow will feature images of the rock art styles found in Texas and will show how degradation and vandalism challenge this art form.

Ms. Peel has worked with archeology to record and research rock art for 14 years. During this time she has worked with the Texas Archeology Society, Texas Parks and Wildlife, National Preservation Society, the Center for Big Bend Studies, and currently is director of a project to place all Native American rock art in the state of Texas on a database. Please join us for this informative talk.





ELLIS COUNTY MUSEUM, INC.

972-937-0681 201 S. COLLEGE P.O. BOX 706 WAXAHACHIE, TEXAS 75168

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2003 - 2004

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If Family, how many family members? \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to the Ellis County Museum

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