

Museum Newsletter

Ellis County Museum, Inc.

P.O. Box 706 Waxahachie, TX 75168
972-937-0681

email: ecmuseum@cnbcom.net
web site: www.rootsweb.com/~txecm

Joshua Chapel Tour and Pittman Lecture...

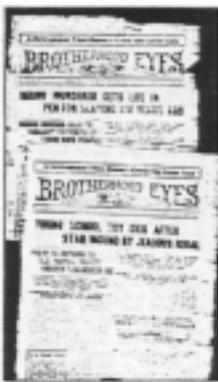
On February 22, the Ellis County Museum and Preservation Dallas will participate in and host a tour of Joshua Chapel A.M.E. Church in Waxahachie. In addition to the tour, members of Preservation Dallas will speak on African American architect, William Sidney Pittman. Mr. Pittman is the architect of Joshua Chapel and other noted structures in Texas (see article below on Pittman). The tour will start around 11:00 AM with bus(es) leaving from the Ellis County Museum for Joshua Chapel. The lecture will take place at the church after touring the building. Please reserve your seat on a bus by calling Shannon at the museum (972-937-0681). The City of Waxahachie is generously providing transportation to and from Joshua Chapel.

Brief background of William Sidney Pittman....

William Sidney Pittman was Dallas' leading black architect from 1913 - 1925. Born in Montgomery, Alabama in 1875, Pittman was a graduate of Tuskegee Institute and studied architecture at Drexell Institute of Technology. Before moving to Dallas, he designed several buildings for the Tuskegee Institute and developed the Fairmont Heights housing development for blacks in a suburb of Maryland. In 1907, he became the first African American to win a federal commission - the Negro Building at the national Tercentennial Exposition at Jamestown, Virginia. Later that year, he married Portia Washington, daughter of Booker T. Washington. Many feel he came to Texas to make a name for himself away from the influence of his famous father-in-law.



Joshua Chapel, Aiken Street, circa 1918. This handsome Gothic style church, was designed by architect William Sidney Pittman. The building has been a center of African - American life in Waxahachie since its construction.



"Brotherhood Eyes", Pittman's controversial newsletter.

In 1913, the Pittmans moved to Dallas, where Portia was an accomplished music teacher in the public schools. Pittman continued practicing architecture and designed several buildings throughout the state. Some of the buildings he designed in the Dallas-Fort Worth area include the Pythian Temple (1915-16), the St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church (1920), both in Dallas; the Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church in Fort Worth; and the Joshua Chapel A.M.E. Church in Waxahachie. Pittman died on March 14, 1958.

For an in depth look into Pittman's life and career, visit his page on the museum's web site at www.rootsweb.com/~txecm/william_sydney_pittman.htm.

Ellis County Museum master plans available for viewing and/or check out. Come see where we are headed!

Thank you members, 2002 - 2003....

The Ellis County Museum thanks all of its new and renewing members for the 2002-2003 fiscal year. If you are not sure if your membership is up to date, check the mailing label on this newsletter. If you see a "2002 - 2003" on the label, your dues have been paid. If you do not see the "2002 - 2003", dues have not been paid for the year. To update your membership status, 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.

The Museum depends on this annual support for its successful operation and once again thanks all of its members that have renewed. Whether you are an "Individual" member or a "Benefactor", your support is greatly appreciated.

Brown Bag Series, a popular lunch alternative....

The Ellis County Museum's "Brown Bag" Lunch Series returns in January after a brief December break. This event, brainchild of museum board member Julie Webb, features county residents speaking about various elements of Ellis County's history. The activity is scheduled for the last Friday of each month from noon to 1:00 P.M. This is an ongoing museum event so keep an eye on your local newspaper or visit the museum's web site (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. The museum provides lemonade and light dessert (cookies, etc.). The "Brown Bag" series is free for museum members and \$2.00 for non-members.

Joseph Kincannon, master stone carver....

On December 16th, the Ellis County Museum hosted a holiday event featuring Mr. Joseph Kincannon of the Archaic Company. Mr. Kincannon was one of the master stone carvers that worked on the Ellis County Courthouse during its restoration. Kincannon spoke of the training involved to become a master stone carver and related personal experiences of his apprenticeship on The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, in New York City (1980-1991). The event was well attended by the public and concluded with a flashlight tour of the courthouses' exterior to view, first hand, elements that he and other carvers had worked on.

Museum Web Site....

Visit the museum's web site at www.rootsweb.com/~txecm or type "ellis county museum" into your favorite search engine. Our site is ever growing and contains valuable historical information and photos on the county and communities in the county as well as day to day museum announcements and events. If you are a county historian and have information you would like included on our site about a particular subject matter, community, etc., contact Shannon Simpson (972-937-0681 or ecmuseum@cnbcom.net) at the museum. We are always looking for new and additional information to place on our site. Also, check back often as information is periodically updated.

Please e-mail us....

The museum regularly sends event notices and other pertinent information to its membership through electronic mail. This speeds up the process of notification for various events and cuts our postage costs. Take a second and drop us a line. We will add you to our museum member distribution list. Our e-mail address is ecmuseum@cnbcom.net.

Brown Bag Speakers to date:

Ms. Steavy Jakubik (Czech Heritage)
Mr. Mike McMinn (Cotton Industry)
Ms. Joanna Dunn (Ferris Brick Manufacturing)
Mr. Horace Bratcher (Horse Sense)
Mr. Wilbur Stephenson (Hawkins Spring)
Mr. John Percival (HT&C & Ellis County Railroads)
Ms. Jimmie Faye & Ms. Ann Bynum (Quadrill and Rodeo)
Mr. Bill Pitts (Downtown Waxahachie)
Ms. Mattie Borders (Oak Lawn School)
Ms. Sugar Glaspy (Moore House, Ennis)

Upcoming Museum Events

Brown Bag Speaker Series - Ongoing

February 28, 2003

Ms. Reeda Peel

Ms. Peel will discuss Native American culture, artifacts, and archeology in Ellis County.

Book Signing

Saturday, February 8, 2003

10:00 AM - Noon

Drop by the Ellis County Museum and have author Kelly McMichael Stott sign her recent publication, *Waxahachie: Where Cotton Reigned King*. This is a new history on Waxahachie and a recent release by Arcadia Publishing. It is 160 pages long and features some rarely seen images of Waxahachie. Books are available for purchase at the Museum, \$25 tax included.



William Sidney Pittman & Joshua Chapel

Saturday, February 22, 2003

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Meet at the Museum for transportation to and from Joshua Chapel!

Join the Ellis County Museum and Preservation Dallas in a tour of Joshua Chapel A.M.E. Church in Waxahachie. In addition to the tour, members of Preservation Dallas will speak on African-American architect, William Sidney Pittman. Mr. Pittman is the architect of Joshua Chapel and other noted structures in Texas.

Lighted Courthouse Replicas are in....

In spite of the west coast longshoremen's strike the Ellis County Courthouse ceramic model arrived on December 17, just in time for Christmas. This edition is limited to 312 models which are available on a first come, first serve basis. Sales are brisk so come by the museum to purchase your limited edition courthouse replica. Each handcrafted piece measures 7 inches tall, comes with its own light and cord, and fits well with other collectible village sets. Pickup orders are \$49 each, tax included. Mail orders are \$59 each, tax, shipping and handling included. All proceeds benefit the Ellis County Museum.



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



Annual Dues Form 2002 - 2003

Send this form with check, money order or credit card information to: Ellis County Museum - P.O. Box 706 - Waxahachie, TX 75168

Name _____

Address _____

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E-mail address: _____

Type of Membership _____ Amount _____

If Family, how many family members? _____

Please make checks payable to the Ellis County Museum

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(for credit card holders only)

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