

# FREESTONE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM Winter 2018



P.O. Box 524 – 302 E. Main, Fairfield, Texas 75840  
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<https://www.facebook.com/FreestoneCountyHistoricalMuseum/>  
HOURS: Wed, Fri, Sat – 10 am to 5 pm

Be a **FREESTONE FRIEND!**

## Winter Activities at the Museum

**Paint the Pews:** The fine arts students of Mrs. Susan Walsh at Fairfield High School continue restoring our church pews. The project is called “Paint the Pews” and involves restoring and painting historic images from Freestone County onto the pews donated to the museum by the Post Oak Church. Post Oak, also known as Postoak and Keechi, is an unincorporated farming community located in central Freestone County on Farm Road 1580, three miles south of Fairfield. The project is being underwritten with funds received from the Operation Round-Up Program of the Navarro County Electric Cooperative, Corsicana, Texas. We are very excited to involve these students in this partnership. Hopefully, we can inspire our youth to appreciate the diverse history of Freestone County.



*FHS Students Complete the First Pew*



**Historic Jail Renovation:** The museum continues the restoration of the county jail. Colonial Construction of Corsicana completed filling in the brick work around the new windows in Dec. 2017 with historically correct brick shipped in from Gavin Historical Brick Company. Beginning sometime in the spring next year, hopes are to have them complete repairs on the exterior brick work.

The building was built in 1881 and served as the Freestone County jail until 1913. The museum continues to work on this structure with the ultimate goal of opening it to the public. Many people do not realize that the first floor of the jail was the residence of the sheriff and his family. On the second floor were two large cells which held eight prisoners each. The building will eventually house permanent exhibits related to law enforcement, sheriffs, Justices-of-the-Peace, judges, etc.

**1900s Road Maintainer Returns:** An early Freestone County tractor-pulled maintainer is now on display at the museum for all our budding engineers to see. The maintainer was returned in late October after several years of being stored at the Freestone Co. Precinct barn. The maintainer has no engine and must be pulled by a tractor, thus requiring two workers to complete each job – one to operate the maintainer and one to operate the tractor. Maintainers were commonly used in Freestone County for early road construction and maintenance.



**Education in Fairfield Exhibit Continues:** If you have not been by the museum lately to see the exhibit depicting education in Fairfield, you have missed a real treat. The material in the exhibit was donated by **Mrs. Margaret Tolar**. Margaret received her B. A. in English and Secondary Education from Sam Houston State University in 1959. Mrs. Tolar taught English at Teague High School before coming to Fairfield. She began teaching English at Fairfield High School in January, 1962. When she began teaching in Fairfield, the schools had changed very little from the way they were when she attended them in 1944-56. Margaret ended her career as the Resource teacher at the Fairfield Intermediate School.



Margaret has been involved in community activities such as Cub Scout, Girl Scouts and 4-H, serving as a 4-H adult leader from 1979 until 1984. She has taught children's classes at her church since 1966. Along with her mother, she was a charter member of the Freestone County Genealogical Society in 1981, a member of the Freestone County Art League and a member of the Freestone County Historical Commission.

Margaret has donated pictures, spirit memorabilia and programs from the Fairfield ISD going back to the 1930's. If you are out and about on a cold winter's day, drop by the museum and glance at the pictures of the school buildings, faculty members and students. Who knows, you may even see yourself as a young scholar in one of the pictures. But, at least, let the pictures trigger memories and start you down Nostalgia Lane.

**Museum Fire Truck Visits Nursing Homes:**


Our 1936 Ford Fire Truck participated in the Fairfield Elf Run helping distribute holiday cheers to the residents of Fairview Manor and Fairfield Nursing & Rehab, the two nursing homes in the Fairfield area. In the picture, provided by the Fairfield Recorder, Don Thornton chauffeurs Santa and several elves from the Chamber of Commerce as they head to one of the homes.



**Freestone Friends Sponsorship Program!**

Various levels of sponsorship range from a PIONEER Individual Sponsor level to a VAL VERDE Corporate Sponsor level of \$1,000. This program will replace our prior membership plan. Your contributions are extremely important. Those of you who contribute year after year are the foundation of the museum and essential to its ongoing operation. New forms may be downloaded from our website: [freestonecomuseum.com](http://freestonecomuseum.com).

*The staff and board of trustees of the museum extend a Winter's welcome to all guests and visitors to the museum! With cooler weather, we hope visitors will take the opportunity to explore and learn about the many fascinating stories of Freestone County history.*

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