

FREESTONE COUNTY  
HISTORICAL MUSEUM

P.O. Box 524  
302 E. Main  
Fairfield, Texas 75840  
903-389-3738

**HOURS:**  
Wed, Fri, Sat  
10 am to 5 pm

### THANK YOU !

A great big thank you goes to the Fairfield City Council for approving a \$25,000 matching grant from the City's Hotel/Motel Tax Fund.

These funds will go a long way towards the 1881 Jail restoration project, which will hopefully be completed by years end.



# FCHM Summer News

SUMMER 2020

JUNE 23, 2020

## Littlejohn House Nears Completion

The construction phase of the Littlejohn house will be completed in the near future. The wallpapering was finished this week. Connecting the power and adding some trim and paint is all that is needed to complete the building.

Even though the house is a reconstruction, much of the original lumber was incorporated into the building.

The dwelling was reported as being under construction in the April 24, 1908 issue of the Teague Chronicle.

Mr. Lonnie Littlejohn was quite the inventor. He registered 2 different patents for automobile four-wheel drive

mechanisms. He created numerous vegetable and fruit tree crosses. One being the "Walnut Peach" tree and another being the crossing of honey drip cane with ribbon cane which he called the "rib-sog" cane. In 1940, it was reported that he had raised 5,500 lbs of peas on his farm.

He also raised figs, pecans, apples, and berries. He raised cotton as well!

Not only was he a very industrious farmer, he sang and managed the Shanks String Band.

Keep your eyes peeled for an Open House Invitation in the near future. The end July is our projected completion date.



## Mystery at the Museum

There are many mysteries at the museum. For years a "sleeping baby" portrait has hung on our walls unnamed and unsigned. The infant is sleeping behind a very delicate lace curtain and often thought to have been deceased.

One day, randomly, a file was pulled on Mrs. Emma Hill. The mysterious painting was given a name, Helen Saunders. Emma Hill had donated this painting to the museum in 1967 and all the information was recorded.

Miss Saunders was the Teague school music teacher in the early 1900s. The portrait was painted by her father, William C. Saunders around 1857. He was consul to Rome during the 1850s. This mysterious painting has been around the world and would you believe that other works by her father hang in prestigious museums across the nation?

The Saunders family story is very interesting and a much more detailed article is in the works for the local newspapers.

## Bethel Church Revival



The Bethel Church has had an uplift and a facelift. Earlier this spring the church was leveled and the foundation was repaired.

In June, the exterior was painted and now the church looks so much better and has been revived.

Volunteers are needed to help with some work inside. If you can help scrape some flaky paint from the interior windows, your help would be greatly appreciated. Please contact our curator, Patricia Pratt if you can help with this project.

*Much thanks goes to Diane Pullin, Emma White, and Zach White for volunteering for the clean-up project!!!*



## Corona Virus Update

The museum opened back up for business on May 30th. While the grounds were closed to visitors by the governor for the pandemic, the museum has taken advantage of this time and has been spring cleaning in the cabins.

Both cabins were

given a thorough scrubbing. During this time, it was discovered residents were living in the attic and they weren't ghosts.

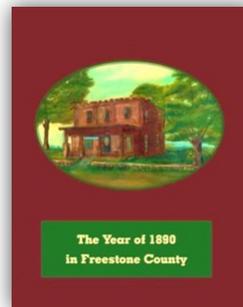
The count so far is 8 raccoons and 2 opossums. A very expensive clean-up and sanitation ensued.

We have also been making new artifact labels and photographing each item in the cabins for our Past Perfect computer program. The Carter cabin is near completion. The Potter Cabin still needs new labels. It's a work in progress.

## Freestone Friends

Our sponsorship drive has been fairly successful this year. Forms are still being returned. So far we have 64 sponsors.

There is still plenty of time to return your donation and form. Our goal is 100 sponsors!



## New Book Out Soon

Freestone County Historian, Nancy Rula, has completed another book, **The Year of 1890 in Freestone County**. The book has been printed and is now at the binders.

### **FREESTONE COUNTY HISTORICAL BOARD**

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Nancy Rula - Secretary  
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Patricia Pratt - Curator

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[www.freestonecomuseum.com](http://www.freestonecomuseum.com)

**HAPPY INDEPENDANCE DAY!**