

The Fielder Flash

Arlington Historical Society

August 2023 Newsletter



Our Venues

Fielder Museum | 1616 W. Abram Street

Knapp Heritage Park | 201 W. Front Street

Arlington Heritage Memorial Grounds | 600 W. Arkansas Lane

Contact Us

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Website: www.arlingtontxhistory.org

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A note from the editor

We have lots of upcoming events—check out the list below and watch our Facebook page for further updates. We hope to see you there!

And, don't forget about North Texas Giving Day on September 21—we appreciate your support!

Jason S. Sullivan, 08-31-23

Newsletter Editor

JasonSSullivan@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

- **September 21**—North Texas Giving Day
- **September 21**—Texas Authors Book Club, Fielder Museum, 6:30 PM
- **September 24**—AHS Board Meeting, Fielder Museum, 2:30 PM
- **October 19**—Texas Authors Book Club, Fielder Museum, 6:30 PM
- **October 29**—"Honoring the Birthplace of DFW: A Presentation on Viridian's Planned Bird's Fort Cultural Center," Downtown Arlington Library, 4:00 PM
- **November 16**—Texas Authors Book Club, Fielder Museum, 6:30 PM
- **December 10**—Christmas Tour of Homes, 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Arlington Historical Society news

Carter’s Caddos events draw large crowds to Fielder Museum

On July 30, more than 100 people attended O.K. Carter’s book release event for the fourth edition of his book "Caddos, Cotton and Cowboys: Essays on Arlington." O.K. told stories about the book’s origins, gave an overview of the book, discussed the two new chapters, entertained a few questions from the audience, and then signed copies of the book. Folks also enjoyed refreshments and toured Fielder Museum. We had a much larger turnout than expected, and despite being hot and crowded inside Fielder Museum, folks enjoyed themselves.

Due to popular demand, we had a second event on August 20. It was nearly as well-attended as the first one. We were better prepared this time around, and O.K. was able to give a longer presentation. He again told stories about the book’s origins and was also able to go into a longer synopsis of Arlington’s rich and colorful history, touching on milestones such as the railroad’s arrival, the mineral well, the Bankhead Highway, and others. Raffle prizes included a copy of “Caddos” and copies of O.K.’s fiction books. Once again, we sold out of books!

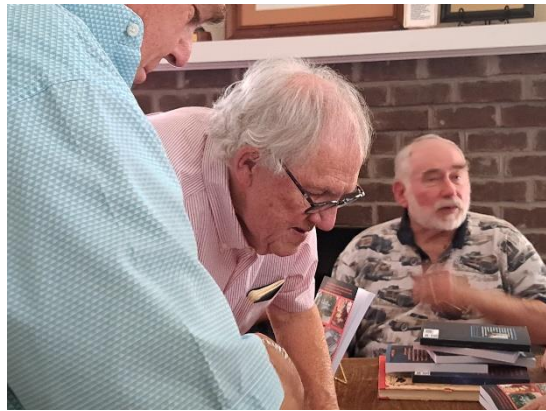
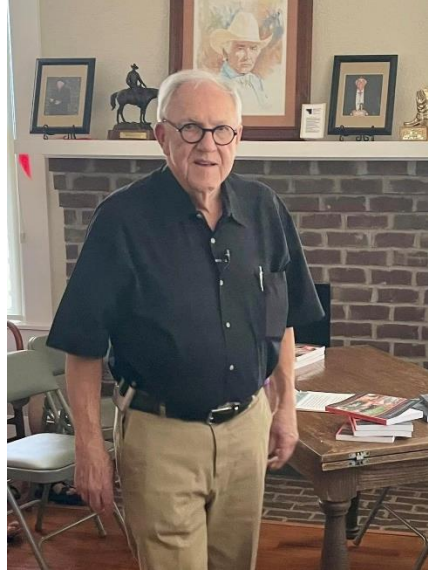


Thank you to the AHS Board Members who attended and helped make the events a success! A big thank you to O.K. Carter for presenting the talks and continuing to teach others about Arlington’s history.

If you were unable to attend the first two events, or just can’t get enough of O.K.’s stories, we hope to have additional events scheduled soon. We’ve ordered more books and will have them for sale at Fielder Museum.

Here are some photos from both events. A special thank you to Donna Darovich, Steve Barnes, and Randy Hendricks for submitting their photos!





North Texas Giving Day is September 21

As the Arlington Historical Society is a nonprofit organization, we mostly rely on grants, donations, membership dues, and fundraisers to operate. We always appreciate your support, but on North Texas Giving Day, we appreciate it even more.



There are two ways that you can support the Arlington Historical Society on North Texas Giving Day. First, cast your vote for the Arlington Historical Society in the People's Choice Award. Voting is free and from **10:00 AM to 8:00 PM** through text messaging; one vote per cell phone number. Ask your friends and family to vote for us, too. With your votes, we could win a \$10,000 prize!

Second, you can donate money. While donations are accepted all day on North Texas Giving Day, we would greatly appreciate donations between **2:00 PM and 7:00 PM**, as it gives us the best chance of winning an additional \$5,000 prize!

Here is the link to our North Texas Giving Day [page](#) where you can donate on September 21.

Please watch your email and our Facebook page closer to the event, as we'll send out reminders and more information. And, don't forget that your support benefits the Arlington Historical Society, Fielder Museum, Knapp Heritage Park, and the Arlington Heritage Memorial Grounds!

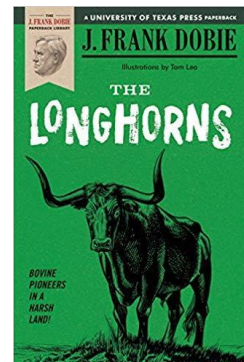
Texas Authors Book Club starts in September

The Texas Authors Book Club is a collaboration between the Arlington Historical Society and the Arlington Public Library, offering a chance to read and discuss influential books written by notable Texas authors. To kick things off in September, we have "The Longhorns" by J. Frank Dobie, a nonfiction work originally published in 1941. In October, we shift gears to fiction with "Horseman, Pass By" published in 1961 by the great Larry McMurtry.

Sessions are held at Fielder Museum and start at 6:30 PM. Folks are welcome to attend any and all sessions, however, books are not provided to attendees.

Below are the scheduled dates and books.

- **September 21:** "The Longhorns" by J. Frank Dobie (nonfiction)
- **October 19:** "Horseman, Pass By" by Larry McMurtry (fiction)
- **November 16:** "Goodbye to a River" by John Graves (nonfiction)
- **December:** No session
- **January 18:** "Empire of the Southern Moon" by S.C. Gwynne (nonfiction)
- **February 15:** "No Country for Old Men" by Cormac McCarthy (fiction)
- **March 21:** "The Great Plains" by Walter Prescott Webb (nonfiction)
- **April 18:** "The Which Way Tree" by Elizabeth Crook (fiction)
- **May 16:** "In a Narrow Grave" by Larry McMurtry (nonfiction)
- **June 20:** "The Gay Place" by Billy Lee Brammer (fiction)



"The Longhorns"
by J. Frank Dobie

“Honoring the Birthplace of DFW: A Presentation on Viridian's Planned Bird's Fort Cultural Center”

The site of Bird's Fort is the most historically significant site in North Texas due to its consequential place in our history and culture. It is the birthplace of the DFW Metroplex, and North Texans have long awaited its recognition as such, along with the preservation of its location and history.

Perhaps it is fitting, then, that the site of Arlington's earliest settlement, Bird's Fort, is now enclosed and protected by the city's latest residential development, Viridian.

The developers of Viridian made a vow from the beginning to honor and preserve the Bird's Fort site and its history, and plans are now in the works to build an impressive cultural center complex on the original site to realize that goal. What do those plans entail?

Arlington Historical Society members are invited to a presentation by Bird's Fort Cultural Center planning committee director Richard Wray. The presentation will include a summary of the history of Bird's Fort, an audiovisual overview of the planned Bird's Fort Cultural Center, and a question/answer session with Mr. Wray.

This is an exclusive event only for Arlington Historical Society members. If you are not currently an AHS member but would like to attend this event, AHS memberships are available for as little as \$25 annually—please visit the [membership page](#) of our website to join.

Event Details:

Sunday, October 29, 4:00 PM—Downtown Library (100 S. Center Street, Arlington)

New exhibit at Fielder Museum celebrates Arlington’s Sister City

Arlington and Bad Königshofen, Germany, have a relationship that has lasted more than 70 years. What began as letters between pen pals turned into a post-World War II assistance program. From there, it became a friendship, with the two becoming Sister Cities.

Delegates from both cities continue to visit each other to keep the relationship going. After more than a two-year delay, a group from Bad Königshofen is visiting Arlington in September. They will be welcomed with a new exhibit at Fielder Museum celebrating the Sister Cities. The exhibit includes photos, maps, letters, keepsakes, and other items. Stop by to see the exhibit for yourself!

