

# Winter Newsletter 2025



**Tomball Museum Center**

**Spring Creek County Historical Association**



## **Hours of Operation:**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>2:00 PM—4:00 PM</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>10:00 AM—2:00 PM</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10:00 AM—2:00 PM</b>

**510 N. Pine St. Tomball, TX 77375 ~ (281) 255-2148**

*[tomballmuseumcenter.com](http://tomballmuseumcenter.com)*

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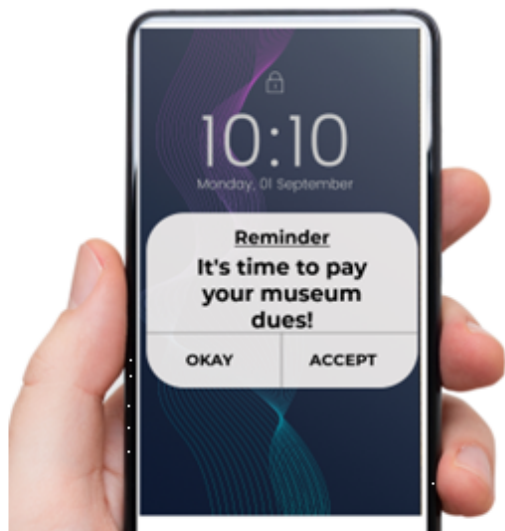
**On the cover:** A view of the Griffin House with snow from January 21, 2025. Picture taken by Tesa Harding.

# Corporate Donors



- Dale Cannon Insurance Agency, LLC
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Many Thanks to All Our Corporate Donors!



## *A Message*

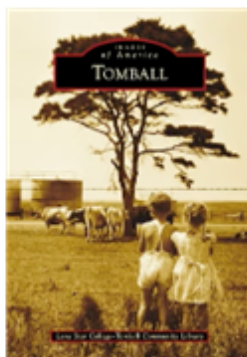
# **From the President**

**TOMBALL MUSEUM – 2025 Membership renewal time....**

2024 was an eventful year for the Tomball Museum. Thanks to our wonderful volunteers and loyal supporters, we all were able to expand our circle of friends and knowledge of our community and neighbors. As we go forward in 2025, please take a moment to keep your Museum membership status up to date. Membership dues for 2025 are now being accepted and need to be paid by **April 15, 2025**. The Membership fees have not changed in years (\$35 per year for individuals, \$50 per year for Families). When you remit your Membership, please make sure you provide us with your current address, phone number and preferred e-mail. Thank you for all you do for the Museum.

-Lynn McCoy

## *In the Community* A New Book About Tomball



Along with ringing in a new year, the Tomball community also welcomed a new book discussing Tomball's history.

This book is the result of a wonderful committee spending multiple years, and countless hours researching and collecting photographs. The museum's very own Mary McCoy was a member of the committee and assisted with the process. The museum would like to thank all who contributed in one form or another, especially Tomball genealogy librarian, Kayla Bayang, for initiating the project.

Grab your own copy from one of Tomball's local bookstores or pretty much anywhere books are sold!

If you didn't know, two other books concentrating on Tomball's unique history have also been published: *Welcome to Tomball: A History of Tomball, Texas* (2005) and *A Tribute to Tomball: A Pictorial History of the Tomball Area* (1982). Both of which can be found on The Portal of Texas History website.

<https://texashistory.unt.edu/>

# Highlights

## Volunteers

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The museum has been busy since our last newsletter. We had a booth represented in many of the city's events, such as July 4th, Depot Day, and Spooktacular, as well as our library's genealogy marathon. Volunteers always have a good time, so please consider helping out with this year's booths!



This past year, we have made some wonderful connections with our local community leaders, which will help increase the museum's presence in Tomball and surrounding cities. Another fantastic connection we've made is with the JustServe organization. Being a part of this group has really helped us get volunteers for our major events. With the assistance of JustServe and our regular museum helpers, we were able to decorate and take down the beautiful Candlelight Tour decorations.



Recently, a group from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints thoroughly cleaned every building. The museum now looks bright and clean and is all ready for our next big event: the city's Swift Sweetheart Weddings on February 14th.

Our fall Car Social event was made possible by the incredible work and effort of Tesa H. She has been fantastic as our city liaison and has made sure the museum continues to have all our city paperwork for all our events. Halloween was once again a huge success, and our local kids had a great time dressing up and going trick-or-treating at our scarily decorated buildings. Dwana M. and Pamela K. outdid themselves with the Hocus Pocus decorations and we are hoping next year's event will be even bigger (perhaps a haunted house?).



## Volunteers Continued



In November, our museum participated in the Tomball Holiday Parade. A big, rousing thank you goes out to Becky C. and Kip C. for arranging our tractor brigade! Despite the rain, our two evening Candlelight Tours were, as always, well attended and enjoyed! Thanks to Pamela for arranging all of the performing groups. Both performers and audience members had a wonderful time. The museum made a new connection with a performing arts organization that is very interested in performing at our various events.

We would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the dedication of Tim K., Mary M., Lynn M., and Alexiah R. (and family). They work as docents at the museum almost every week and help at every main event.

We would also like to shout out the amazing help of Cayden A., Audrey A., Wade C., Donna D., JoAnne E., Astrid G., Zachery H., Julie R., and Christina Z. for their innumerable hours and dedication at last year's events. Although we can't name everyone who has volunteered their time at the museum (these pages are too few to fit you all in), please know that we are all thankful for your dedication and assistance in helping the museum continue to be the best it can be.

Our museum is small but mighty. With the support of all its members, board, and volunteers, we will continue to grow and prosper! Through everyone's hard work and effort, our community's history will be preserved, and we will continue to enrich and educate all who visit.

It is a true honor to help and represent our museum as its Volunteer Coordinators and we are looking forward to all the fun activities coming up!

-Lisa and Kaitlyn Ireland

*Volunteer Coordinators*



# Highlights

## A Year in Review

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### **Quilt and Crafters Festival**

The museum's inaugural Quilt and Crafters Festival was an amazing success! Visitors enjoyed perusing the wares of local crafters in the parking lot while, in the church, they could vote for their favorite quilt draped elegantly upon the pews. Patty Adams's quilts stole the show, winning First, Second, Third, and Viewer's Choice! Visitors also enjoyed bidding on silent auction goods ranging from goods from local Tomball businesses to exceptional crafts. The museum wants to thank all who participated and donated to the event!



### **Car Social**

Another Car Social was recorded in the museum books. Despite competition from other shows, all car owners and attendees had a wonderful day at the museum. The museum welcomed not only car owners, but also representatives from local city groups, such as Precinct 3, the Tomball library, Boy Scouts, various food trucks, and the Harris County Pet Adoption Bus.





## **Year in Review Continued**

### **Halloween Night at the Museum**

The museum hosted its second annual Halloween event this past year. Visitors enjoyed trick-or-treating at the Griffin House, Theis House, Church, Log Cabin, and Schoolhouse. They also enjoyed the themed decorations of Hocus Pocus and Harry Potter. Who knows what themes and fun will emerge at this year's event!



### **Candlelight Tours**

The museum finished the year with its annual Candlelight Tours. Visitors came from far and wide to see the museum buildings decorated in their Christmas decorations and lights. Beautiful music could be heard from the church, barn, and porches as various musical groups regaled visitors with their songs. Children enjoyed visiting Santa and the special gifts he handed out. All enjoyed the gorgeous poinsettia tree in the gazebo (graciously organized by the Tomball Garden Club) as well as cookie refreshments in the Fellowship Hall.



## *Nexus*

### **From the Tomball Museum Center Archives**

We are in the process of finding, identifying, cleaning, and preserving a wide variety of historical documents, largely found in the Griffin House. As part of this process, I have started digitizing some items at the LSC/Tomball Community Library. The point of digitization is to make historical items more accessible to the public for research and education; it is a complex and time-consuming endeavor, but a valuable one.

The Portal to Texas History at the University of North Texas is a large digital gateway providing free, international public access to a large number of historical digitized items from Texas institutions. In August 2024, I applied for a Rescuing Texas History Mini-Grant for digitization of a Collection of nearly 100 pre-WW2 identified portraits of local people. I had to identify, place in archival envelopes, and provide unique identifiers for each portrait. We were excited and encouraged that the application was accepted in September!



The Tomball Museum Center is now a Partner Institution of The Portal to Texas History! This means wide recognition - joining museums, libraries, historical societies, families, and government agencies throughout Texas. The Mini-Grant is not a monetary award. Rather, it covers all expenses to digitize a collection, which is a complex operation. The Portal to Texas History grant provides the following: scanning items and creating digital master and derivative images and metadata, providing us with master digital copies, digitally preserving the scanned digital images for the future, and archiving them for permanent storage on the University of North Texas servers.

Plus, we get to use their logo!

The Tomball portraits are currently being scanned and uploaded to The Portal to Texas History. This is a year-long process with many rounds of quality checks, and the collection is currently in the early editorial phase for the metadata. I am participating in the editing and error correction. Very soon, if you search Tomball Museum Center for images on The Portal to Texas History website, you will be able to see the images of the portraits. Stay Tuned!



- Elisabeth Cummings

## Check Out the Museum's *Socials!*

Want to see all the pictures taken at events? Want to know about upcoming events and opportunities at the museum? Check out our social media accounts. Collect them all!



Facebook

[Tomball Museum  
Center](#)



Instagram [@tomballmuseumcenter](#)



X (Twitter)

[@TomballMuseum](#)



YouTube

[Tomball Museum](#)

Do you have any suggestions for posts or would like to see the museum on another platform? Send us a message:

*tomballmuseumcenter@gmail.com*

### Wood for Fuel

When my grandfather bought his first land in America, he made sure that it had cleared land and some timber. His first field was on FM 2920 and he fenced it with rails. He split from his own logs. When he sold this farm and bought 320 acres on Mueschke and Juergen, he also bought 20 acres of timber on Spring Creek. In 1936 my dad bought the 20 acres of timber and 100 acres out of the 320 along with the larger farmhouse.



My dad, Erwin and I would drive to the timber land with two wagons, tools, water, bread, and sausage, and a frying pan. Dad would select the tree - usually red oak, because they were easier to split - and determine which way the tree should fall. Brush was cleared from the area, and we would cut into the tree about 1/3 of the way on the side it was to fall. We then chopped a notch to the saw cut and started sawing from the other side. If the saw became pinged, we drove a wedge into the saw cut to free the saw. When the tree began to fall, we would step back to keep from getting hurt. We took turns sawing, with the spare man trimming the limbs. Limbs too small for wood were piled out of the way and the other limbs were cut into cordwood lengths and put in a separate pile. As soon as one section was cut from the bottom of the tree, the butt end was examined for the natural split line. A wedge was then tapped into the split line about 12 inches from the end. After the wedge was started it was given several sharp blows with the maul and driven about 3/4 way into the log. By now the split should have opened most of the way to the other end. The second wedge was inserted into the split close to the end, and with several sharp blows, the log should fall apart, held together only by a few slivers of wood which were cut with the ax. The halves were then halved or cut into thirds or fourths, depending on the size of the log. The split pieces were loaded on the wagon to get them out of the way and to keep from handling them twice. When both wagons were full, we piled the rest of the cordwood by an open spot so that a wagon could be driven close. At noon, dad would build a small fire and fry the sausage, which we ate with bread. Sometimes we would make ham sandwiches. We continued to fell trees until it was time to go home.

At home, the cordwood was piled close to the woodpile to be cut into stove links with a crosscut saw when we had time. The blocks could be split by a person working alone. Those with knots were left for the wood heater. Cook stove wood was usually 2 to 3 inches in diameter and the heater used larger pieces, 10 to 12 inches.

For several years, a man who owed my grandfather some money offered wood to pay the debt. This wood was already cut into stove lengths, and if we could get to his stacks with a pick up, we used that instead of a wagon.

When we had time, Erwin and I would split wood for the neighbors. They paid us \$.50 a day and dinner.

What I never understood was that we made wood in the fall when there was no fieldwork. That meant that all fall and winter we would burn green wood which was hard to keep burning and gave little heat. I don't know why during one winter we didn't make enough wood for 18 months, so that the wood would be dry by the next winter. This was never explained to me.

When we were in the wood lot, we looked for pine stumps that were loaded with resin. We called this "fat pine", and it was used to start fires in the heater and stove and for the washpot. Corn cobs were also indispensable for starting fires.

In cold weather, we took a brick stove lid that had been warming on the heater, wrapped it in newspaper and a piece of flannel, and took it to bed with us to help warm the sheets. We heated the house with wood until my dad put in a propane tank.

When my parents remodeled the kitchen, they put in a kerosene cook stove, which they got from my mother's parents. Later, when the propane tank was installed my parents bought a used Chambers cookstove. It had a deep well, and the motto was, "Cooks with the gas turned off."

Written by Benjamin H. Scholl as published in:

*Scholl, B., (2004), "Growing Up In Rose Hill (We Were Poor But Didn't Know It)", ISBN 1583968830*



Tomball Museum Center



# CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

The museum is looking for new volunteers interested in the following fields: docents, small repairs, archives/research, graphic design, community outreach, social media, and more!

**SIGN UP ONLINE**

**OR STOP BY  
THE MUSEUM TODAY**



Register now at [tomballmuseumcenter.com](http://tomballmuseumcenter.com)

510 N. Pine Street, Tomball, TX 77375



Tomball  
Museum  
Center

# Become a Member

Tomball Museum Center, a part of the Spring Creek County Historical Association, is a privately owned 501(c)3 non-profit association. We depend on the support of our members and other donations to maintain and make improvements to the facilities and grounds. Please consider becoming a member of our association and supporting Tomball Museum Center for years to come.

Thank You!

**Individual \$35**

**Business \$500**

**Family \$50**



# Winter Word Search

Look at the list of winter words below.  
Then find and circle them in the word search.

boots	cocoa	earmuffs	gloves	scarf	sleet
chilly	cold	fire	icicle	shiver	snowman
coat	December	frozen	mitten	skate	sweater

D E C E M B E R N B C R D E S A C D T P N B C  
X A O E N O E T H N Y U V C B J O E F O H N T  
N E L A O O X F C W K L N C E E A R M U F F S  
D B D J G T M E P M M I O K A E T X Z Q H D L  
C A S M Y S N O W M A N J B M P K I M V B G E  
H D B N Y T R S D E E A C Z X G T O L U U H E  
S K A T E M U G Q L A M K P I U C W S Y J M T  
S K U H B N R S D T G F R O Z E N X C C A R N  
T D I N D C G M N R S T J U N B A G A A S D T  
T I G L O V E S Q Q Y E C H I L L Y R M Y N I  
P C M E G H N V B S N T V G Y U H I F M H N J  
E I N V H R S Z A K M N R D S C V L B T G H P  
X C O C O A L L E C S H I V E R E V I R F M N  
C L H T G C C A Z E D R S C W B H F P F I R O  
C E N T M M I T T E N N B V G O U F P N R J T  
B N R C S D X T R H A Z E D X S W E A T E R R

