

April Newsletter 2025



Tomball Museum Center Spring Creek County Historical Association



Hours of Operation:

Sunday	2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Wednesday	10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Saturday	10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

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

tomballmuseumcenter.com

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Watts**

On the cover: Museum volunteers shower flower petals on a married couple during the museum's Swift Sweetheart Weddings on February 14, 2025. Picture taken by the city of Tomball.

Corporate Donors



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Many Thanks to All Our Corporate Donors!

2025 Board Elections

The Tomball Museum Center is governed by a Board of Trustees responsible for the promotion of historical, cultural, and educational pursuits at the museum. The Board consists of 12 members, who serve a term of three years. Each year, four members stand for election. Any member in good standing (those who are timely on their dues for at least one year) are eligible to run for a position on the board. This year, we have four Board members and two members running for positions.

Here is a list of the candidates running for a position on the Spring Creek County Historical Association Board. Members can **vote** for their top **four** (4) candidates at our upcoming annual meeting, **May 12th** at **6:00 PM** in the **Fellowship Hall** at the museum.

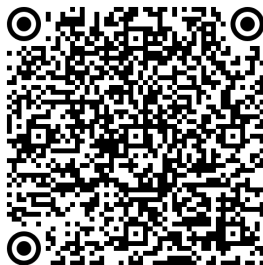
Bob Watts
Henry Reid
John McShan
Kaitlyn Ireland
Lynn McCoy
Mary McCoy

Docents

You see them with bright smiles on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Or perhaps you remember them from your 3rd grade field trip. Whether on a weekly tour or special event, the docents at the museum help share the history of the surrounding areas and make sure that it is known for many generations to come.

Some have years of experience while others are just beginning their adventure. No matter which, the museum docents help to make a memorable experience!

If you're interested in becoming one of their number, please fill out this form.



Thankful for Our Volunteers

What does it mean to be a volunteer? The Oxford dictionary says a volunteer is a person who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or to undertake a task. Elizabeth Andrew (an American author) stated, “Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.” And Winston Churchill quoted, “You make a living by what you give.”

Our helpers are the embodiment of what it means to be a volunteer. They give of their time and energy to see that the museum is available to our community. They greet guests with a smile and bring the history of our buildings to life with their tours. Our volunteers spend hours at community events to spread the word that the true jewel of our city is its history museum. They man brooms and dusters and tirelessly keep our buildings clean and ready to welcome old and young alike. And through all this hard work, our volunteers become part of our museum family. We ban together for a common goal – a love and appreciation of history and what it can teach us. It is up to us to share that knowledge and keep it preserved for all the generations to come.

To our volunteers, you are making a difference in our community and your dedication is seen and appreciated. You are why the doors are still open, and we thank each and every one of you for being a part of our museum family.



**-Lisa and Kaitlyn Ireland
Volunteer Coordinators**

Swift Sweetheart Weddings



On Valentine's Day this year, the museum, the city of Tomball, and Harris county teamed up to provide quick civil weddings for couples. Thus, began a unique and memorable event for brides and grooms near and far. Harris county provided a deal, waving the customary three day wait for a marriage license and every fifteen minutes, couples were married in the church and gazebo. While the museum provided the old (a historic venue), brides came with their grooms (as well as something new, borrowed, and blue) to enjoy a beautiful wedding. Couples left with special memories and a fun story to share on their anniversary, as well as special gifts from many local businesses

The buildings and grounds of the museum were beautifully decorated due to the combined efforts of museum volunteers, Tomball city workers, the Tomball Garden Club, and Bloomers Florist. Mayor Lori Klein Quinn also generously supplied flower petals to shower married couples walking down the aisle.

We hope this is the first of many annual events to come!



Tree Planted in Honor of Butch Theiss



If you've come to the museum lately, you may have noticed a new tree nestled amongst the grass in front of the Theis House.

Edwin G. "Butch" Theiss was born in Louetta in 1928 and lived his entire life in Klein and the surrounding area. A descendant of Johan Theis (yes, the family associated with the Theis House at the museum), he contributed much to the Spring Creek County Historical Association, even serving as a board member at one time. Growing up locally, he experienced a great deal and recorded many of these stories in his autobiography *My Life in Klein* (which can be purchased at the museum).

Sadly, he passed away in August of last year after living a fulfilling life. His memory won't be forgotten as some members of the museum have honored his contributions to the museum with a tree planting and plaque.

Donators

JoAnn Ehrhardt

John and Dwana McShan

Tommy and Pamela Kaiser

David and Millie Martin

Bobby Russell



Recent Donations

The museum has seen a couple of new additions these past few months.



The family parlor in the Griffin House now sports a new pair of chairs and marble-top side table. Donated by Amy and Chris Havern, the pieces fit well in the family parlor and share a story of one family's legacy. Even though the Griffin House does not have any pieces original to the Pillot and Griffin families it is thanks to family collections, such as this, to tell a story of the time.

Carl Howard Sims recently stopped by to drop off an old red brick. Although it may be small, it has seen quite an extensive history.

According to Mr. Sims, this tiny brick started as red clay from the nearby Colorado River and was used to build one of the first Beth Israel synagogues in Houston. After a time, it was put on a train and shipped up to Tomball where it was used to build a brick hotel on the corner of Main St. and Walnut St. Sadly, this hotel eventually burned down (due to a guest's accidental fire) and it was reused when William Holderrieth built his furniture store on the same site.

Today, it is a reminder that even one location (and one brick) can share a long and varied history.



A “new” sacking bottom bed can be found in the Griffin House's Girls' Room. This rope bed, donated by Johanna King, is a great addition as it is more like a bed that would have been found in the home during the mid-1800s.

Be sure to stop by the museum to see these new additions as well as the other amazing artifacts on display.

This Time In History

VE Day 80th Anniversary



VE Day, or Victory in Europe Day, occurred on May 8, 1945. On this day, announcements worldwide extolled the much-desired end of World War II. Although this was not the official end of the war (that would come a few months later when Japan surrendered in the Pacific), it marked the completion of an event, long sought to end. As such, this announcement left an impression on all who witnessed celebrations that day.

Tomball was no different in its jubilee. In our little town, many gathered on Main Street for a public prayer meeting and to hear speeches from the mayor and other notable residents. Those who witnessed the event have even shared stories describing how the fire station bells tolled *all* day long (much to the chagrin of some). Esther Buble, a photographer, happened to be staying in Tomball at this time and managed to document this historical moment.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of this memorable event.

Come visit the museum and our WWII Memorial that honors some of the young men who, sadly, were unable to join the celebrations on VE Day, but are remembered for their great sacrifice.

Picture from The Standard Oil Collection of the University of Louisville's Special Collections

Mowing Machine Accident

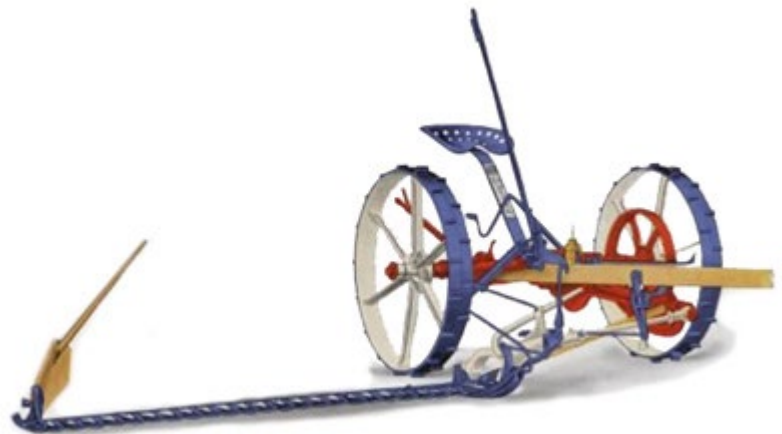
We had a McCormick Deering mower with a 4 ½ foot blade. Last year, while visiting the Pioneer Village in Minden, Nebraska, I took a picture of the exact same mower, which I think was the #4 model, to show my children. Grease guns were not yet in use and our mower had a large oil can with about a 4-inch spout mounted immediately in front of where the seated operator placed his feet. The oil can usually contained motor oil drained from the car and truck. Every few rounds the operator would stop to let the mules “blow” and to oil the moving parts.

One day when my brother was about 10 or 11 years old he was mowing in the hay meadow with the mules, Red and Jack. After Erwin had mowed for several hours, the mower hit a bumblebee nest. These bees made their nest in the ground and when aroused were very aggressive. They stung both of the mules, who jumped forward, causing Erwin to fall back. The mower then jammed, and the mules stopped. My brother lost his balance, falling forward and stuck the spout of the oil can through the soft part of his barefoot behind his toes. He was able to calm the mules who were now a short distance from the bees, take the mower out of gear, reach down and unscrew the bottom of the oil can from the spout, hop off the seat of the mower, raise the heavy mower blade to the travel position, and ride the mower back to Grandfather's house.

Dad saw him coming and opened the gate, thinking something on the mower had broken. He and grandfather managed to remove the spout from Erwin's foot. Grandfather got the “Heil Oel” and poured it liberally over my brother's foot, wrapped the foot with torn strips of cloth, poured more healing oil on the rags, and told Erwin to walk back to our house while dad went to finish mowing. My brother did not cry during any of this. (I don't remember ever seeing him cry.) When he got home, mother washed his foot, soaked it in hot Epson salt water, wrapped it in clean rags and poured on more healing oil.

The next day Grandfather asked me about Erwin's foot, and I reported that it was red. That afternoon my grandfather came with a gallon bucket and a bag of sheep wool and asked mother to get some clothes from the cook stove and put them into the bucket. He added a small handful of wool and told Erwin to put his foot over the bucket, wrapping everything with an old coat. There was no word to describe the smell of burning wool. Grandfather instructed mother to smoke the foot like this every day. Maybe because of the Heil Oel, the Epson salt soaks, the burning wood, or in spite of any of the three, my brother's foot healed without getting infected.

After that, when we mowed barefoot, we located the oil can in a safer place.



Written by Benjamin H. Scholl as published in:
Scholl, B., (2004), *"Growing Up In Rose Hill (We Were Poor But Didn't Know It"*

Photos from *nekbe SIGNS OF THE TIMES* E-Bay listing and Chris Tamel's blog post "The Restoration of an American Work of Art: The McCormick-Deering No. 7 Mower"

Events (Summer)



Stop by the museum's booth at Tomball's annual July 4th Celebration and Street Fest! Come for fun games and prizes, stay for the fireworks.

July 4th 6 PM—9 PM

(fireworks right after)

Business 249, North of Four Corners

If you would like to volunteer at the museum's booth, please check out the sign-up sheet here:





**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



Spring Hink Pink Riddles

A hink pink is a riddle whose answer is a pair of rhyming one-syllable words. Read the clues below and write your answers in the space provided. The first one has been done for you as an example.



spring ring

1. What do you call a flower crown made in April?
2. What do you call a tall plant that does not cost money?
3. What do you call a fast baby bird?
4. What do you call a young sheep's sneaky scheme?
5. What do you call the slimy path of a shelled slug?
6. What do you call a simple shower?
7. What do you call it when you frighten a bunny?
8. What do you call a fear of flying toys attached to string?
9. What do you call a cloudy fifth month of the year?
10. What do you call a bird's home for visitors?
11. What do you call a bunch of gray fluffy masses in the sky?
12. What do you call it when a plant takes a long time to develop?
13. What do you call a flower container that's been sitting in the sun?

Member Party – Meet Your Board



Saturday, May 17th ~ 6 PM ~ Fellowship Hall

All members are invited to a meet-and-greet at the museum. Come meet other members as well as get to know the Board Members of the Spring Creek County Historical Association.

Light refreshments will be served. If you can make it, please RSVP (email, word of mouth, etc.) so we have an approximate idea of how many people to expect.

Not a member yet? Sign up using the QR code below, by going to the museum's website, or by stopping by the museum any time during its open hours.

