



# Heritage Herald

A PUBLICATION OF THE ALLEN HERITAGE GUILD

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SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2011

## MEETING TIMES:

First Wednesday  
every month,

6:30 PM

Allen Heritage  
Center

100 Main Street  
Allen, Texas

**ALL ARE  
WELCOME!**

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## A note from the President



**F**all is upon us and the Allen Heritage Guild has a full plate of activities coming up this month! October

at the Depot continues with the Civil War in Texas, Collin County and the Allen area. The exhibit will run thru the end of the month when we sponsor once again the Civil War encampment at the Allen Heritage Village. Learn how camp life was in the war, shoot a musket and drill with the soldiers. Saturday morning we are returning to our "Pie-Baking Contest"—bake from scratch fruit and nut pies. Ribbons and prizes to be awarded—check our web-site for entry forms.

Local celebrity judges will be tasting all entries! And then we'll have a slice for sale! Saturday night we're bringing back the successful "Stories around the Campfires" from last year. Musical entertainment will accompany the stories. Finally on Sunday afternoon the Guild will be hosting the 9th Annual Appraisal Fair this year at the Allen Christian Church at 2 p.m. Collectible toys, arts, crafts jewelry and antiques of all kinds are good candidates to find their values. We'll have expert appraisers on hand plus refreshments and the opportunity to see the beautiful windows in the ACC. All proceeds from these events go to help support programs at the Allen Heritage Village.

Following closely on the Civil War in November, the Guild sponsors a "People's Choice" Art Exhibit at the Depot. An open house is scheduled for Nov. 8 where visitors will vote on their favorite entry.

December will feature a Christmas Open House at the Allen Heritage Village. "Christmas Thru the Decades" is the theme and the ACC will feature exhibits of four different time periods. Gingerbread and cider will be served. All is free, but donations are accepted.

It will be a busy fall—a great time to get involved with the activities!! And a great time to visit the Depot and the Village.

## A little-known fact about Ebenezer Allen *Spiritualism of the Ebenezer Allen Family*

**E**ven though it is believed that Ebenezer Allen was brought up with Christian beliefs in the Congregational Church in New Hampshire, he and his family had an interest in Spiritualism. Spiritualism as a religious movement was a varied set of beliefs and practices related to the conviction that the living and the dead could be in meaningful communication. It developed and reached its peak growth in membership from the 1840s to the 1920s.

In a book published in 1870 entitled *Modern American*

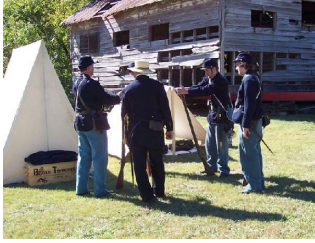
*Spiritualism A Twenty Years' Record of the Communion Between Earth and the World of Spirits*, by Emma Hardinge Britten, there is mention of Ebenezer Allen of Galveston, Texas. A chapter of the book is devoted to Spiritualism in Texas, and quotes from an article submitted by Ebenezer Allen on July 2, 1856 to the "Spiritual Telegraph," a publication of the American Spiritualist Society. The story recounts a seemingly miraculous healing of a slave of a Galveston resident which was performed by a local, well-known medium.

The author of the book identifies Ebenezer Allen as a "regular and valued correspondent" to the publication.

Ebenezer Allen's son, William Pitt Allen, was an early resident of the Spiritualist colony at Summerland, California which was located just south of Santa Barbara. William Pitt Allen's daughter, Sylvanna, was married to Robert Bell in 1895 at Summerland, by a Spiritualist minister, David Davis.

## Civil War Encampment at the Village

### *A Weekend of Reviving the Past*



Texas played an important role in the war. Come and take advantage of the fall weather and enjoy the Civil War Encampment and learn what life was like then on the grounds of Allen Heritage Village. See what a typical

Civil War camp looked like in 1860's. Demonstrations on weapons and skirmishes will take place at 1 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday Oct. 29 and 30. Saturday evening at 7 p.m. there will be stories around the campfire and music.

A Pie Baking contest will

take place Saturday at 10 a.m. at St. Mary Church. You can get your entry form on the AHG website. Be sure to bring a family heirloom to the Annual Appraisal Fair on Sunday afternoon from 2-5 p.m. at the Allen Christian Church which is a new location this year.

## Acquisition Committee Receives New Donations

### *Assuring Tomorrow's Heritage*

Our committee is constantly working toward our mission to acquire good pieces of furniture, artifacts and old personal belongings to build up a base that will enable us to start furnishing the properties at the Allen Heritage Village in the future. Recently we were notified that the Florsheim Foundation was donating items from their antique furniture collection. On September 12, 2011 several of our members: Ed and Marge Bryan, Anne Gifford, Ken Byler and Jitka Hynecek drove in caravan to Sherman, where the foundation has a warehouse.



two shelves. The estimated cost of the entire donation was \$2,085.00. The Allen Heritage Guild would like thank Anne Florsheim for their generous donation.

Except for the bed and water stand that were placed in our storage unit until the Lyng House is finished, we added pieces to both our churches as well as

the Bolin House. The four small wooden tables gave a quick face lift to the Christian Church. One table made of dark wood was placed at St. Mary Church. The rest of the tables and shelves fitted into the main room of the Bolin House. Slowly but surely it is being furnished and it has gained a warm and homey atmosphere.

If some of you have items you would like to donate to the Guild, contact Bonnie Borrello or Jitka Hynecek. We appreciate and treasure all the items that have been entrusted to our care.



## St. Jude's Catholic Church Seniors Visit the Depot

### *Sharing Allen's Heritage*

On September 15, 2011, there were 32 seniors that arrived by bus to tour our new exhibit on the Civil War. Anne Gifford, past president of the Allen Heritage Guild, discussed the history of Allen and how the train was responsible for establishing the development and early growth of Allen. She also showed them "The History of Allen" video.

Carol Lowe, from the Collin County Historical Commission spoke briefly about Carry Along Collin and was very excited to have the senior participation in Carry Along Collin program. She said that this had opened up a new age group for this program that they hadn't anticipated. Allen Heritage Guild members Ed and Marge Bryan were also there to welcome guests and answer any questions the guests had as they came into the Depot.



# Scouts Visit Allen Heritage Center

*Where Allen's history comes alive*

On Sunday, Sept, 18, seven Cub Scouts and seven adult leaders came to tour the Civil War Exhibit at the Depot. Guild member Ed Bryan told them about how the town was created and named after Ebenezer Allen. The History of Allen video was shown to the scouts and there was a tour of all the display cabinets including the weapons, flags, and utensils used during the Civil War Era. Marge Bryan handed out Carry Along Collin information and encouraged them to participate next summer. Everyone was invited come to the Civil War Encampment and other activities at the Village Oct. 28, 29, and 30.



Tiger Cub Pack 1630

### Mission Statement:

- Create a sense of community spirit by providing service and implementing projects that create a distinctively positive image of Allen.
- Assure tomorrow's heritage by recording past, recent and current milestones.

### OFFICERS

President - Paula Ross

972-740-8017

(perdesigns@tx.rr.com)

Vice-President-Alice Blanchard

(aksblanchard@gmail.com)

Secretary-Sue White

(white-house.3@netzero.com)

Treasurer-Van Orr

(maycorr@aol.com)

### OTHER BOARD MEMBERS

Anne Gifford

(J-a-Gifford@swbell.net)

Jim Waldbauer

(jlwald@swbell.net)

Bonnie Borrello

(sebborrello@att.net)

Marge Bryan

(margebryan@verizon.net)

Jitka Hynecek

(hynecek2@tx.rr.com)

Ken Byler

(kbyler@tx.rr.com)



ALLEN  
HERITAGE  
GUILD

P.O. Box 226

Allen, TX 75013

www.allenheritageguild.org

# AHG Supports "Carry Along Collin"

*Promoting history by recognizing participants*

Participants from the Carry Along Collin Program will be recognized at the Depot on Sunday, Nov. 6. Carol Lowe from the Collin County Historical Commission will hand out awards to the participants. "Carry Along Collin" is a summer project of the Collin County Historical Commission to promote student understanding of their local history, and to encourage families to visit local museums. This past summer



The Campbells (Connor (green shirt), Knox (tie-dye shirt) and Keegan (black shirt)) Carry-Along Collin in McKinney.

students carried along cut-outs of Collin McKinney, one of our first settlers and the namesake of the county and county seat. The "Carry Along Collin" was also a folder that was a child's passport to learning and fun as they visited different Collin County museums for validation stamps and the answers to questions on local history contained within the folder. They also found various historical markers using geocaching. This past summer hundreds of local kids participated in the program, and many more will "Carry Along Collin" next summer as they visit our county museums and historic landmarks.



## Preserving and Promoting Allen's Heritage & Spirit

A friendly reminder to those who haven't paid their membership dues for the current year, or those who would like to become a member, please send your payment to: Allen Heritage Guild, P.O. Box 226, Allen, Texas 75013

### Membership Level per year

Individual \$25.00

Family \$40.00

Student \$10.00

Senior (65+) \$10.00