

# THE CHISHOLM TRAIL HERITAGE MUSEUM

CUERO  
TEXAS

R O U N D ✧ U P

FALL  
2016

CHISHOLMTRAILMUSEUM.ORG



*Knights of Pythias Hall, Cuero, Texas c. 1903. In 1908, a stained-glass window in memory of Judge Sumners was placed third from left on the front of the building's second story.*

## A TREASURE OF CUERO HISTORY RETURNS HOME

☞ A “window” into the fellowship of the Knights of Pythias ☞

Sometimes, when the wind is blowing in the right direction and the timing is right, events that you only dreamed would happen have a way of sneaking back into reality.

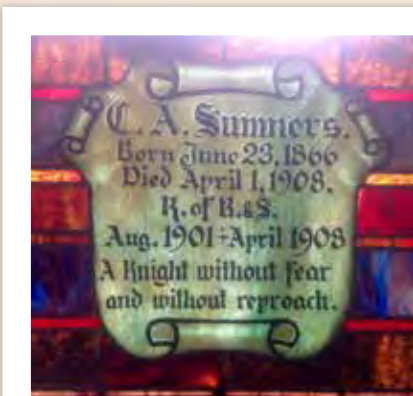
Such is the story of the return of a stained-glass window that was dedicated on the upper floor of the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum (CTHM) building in 1908. Built in 1903, the now historic Knights of Pythias Hall was constructed by a group of Cuero businessmen who pooled their financial resources for the purpose of meeting regularly to promote a moral uplifting and betterment of society. Some 100-plus members would

meet regularly in a large ceremonial meeting space, known today as the Wofford Room, named for Cuero merchant and rancher, John T. Wofford.

In 1908, one of the chapter's members, Judge Charles Sumners, died and at that time a stained-glass window was placed in his memory in one of the window openings facing Esplanade Boulevard. Judge Rudolph Kleberg presided over the window presentation and gave an eloquent speech about Judge Sumners' service to his community, claiming him as, “A Knight without fear and without reproach.”







A separate panel commemorates Judge Charles Summers.



Unfortunately, after decades of dwindling membership of the Cuero chapter, the organization ceased to meet and the building and many of its original architectural features were sold in 1975. Organizational papers were destroyed; several pieces of furniture were sold to another Pythian Lodge in Temple, Texas; and the stained-glass window was sold locally to an antiques dealer and Cuero merchant.

When the CTHM board of directors began restoring the hall in 2004, several attempts were made to purchase the window, but the stained-glass window had found a place of honor with collectors Art and Sally Means. Two of Cuero's most avid antique collectors, Mr. and Mrs. Means had built a special spot for the window in their living area. Over the past ten years, both Art and Sally passed away, leaving the window to their son and daughter-in-law, Cindy and Art Means, Jr.

Earlier this year, Cindy and Art, Jr. graciously agreed to sell the window to the Museum's board of directors, so once

again, the necessary funds were raised so that the window could be returned to its original location in the building's second floor.

Several other original features and artifacts have returned to the building, including ceiling light fixtures; a pot-belly wood stove; ballot boxes that were used for member selection; and furniture (chairs and ceremonial altar) that were purchased from the Temple Midlothian Lodge, # 50. Fortunately, the majority of the building's architectural detail on the second floor remained intact until the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum purchased the building to create a Museum dedicated to our local Western heritage and multi-purpose community spaces located on the second floor.

Currently under restoration, the window will soon find its way back to the Knights of Pythias Hall, Jewel Lodge, # 103. The CTHM Board is deeply grateful to the Means family for making this iconic restoration possible. 🍷



Top left: how the finished stained glass piece might look in place.

Above, the restored window, with its richly illustrated allegorical representation of Damon and Pythias, an ancient Greek story of friendship.

Left: Leonard Newsom and Dewayne Smalley at work on the main panel's window frame.

## ENGLISH-GERMAN SCHOOL TO BECOME TEXAS HISTORY CLASSROOM



As the seasons change and cooler weather is approaching, exciting changes are also approaching at the English-German School site adjacent to the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum. Finally situated in its permanent location at the corner of West Courthouse and Terrell Street, the English-German School, circa 1880, is entering its earliest phase of the renovation process. Reported by Diana Thibodeaux



HISTORIC  
English-German  
School

Texas Historic Landmark | circa 1880

Work has begun on the foundation for the structure and a perimeter fence constructed of metal and welded wire panels (which will support jasmine vines, adding visual appeal and privacy). **Chip Dence** of **East End Builders** of Victoria, Texas, is overseeing the layout, preparation and construction of both the foundation and the fences. **Fisher Heck Architects** of San Antonio, highly regarded for preservation architecture, is directing the adaptive re-use of the historic structure.

With all the street projects currently taking place in Cuero, West Courthouse Street was evidently due for a face-lift: the City of Cuero has provided an added bonus to the project by funding parking right in front of the building. The City approached Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum Chairman, Robert Oliver, and a plan was agreed upon for diagonal parking spaces to be incorporated into the City's scope of work, thus saving the Museum money.

The simple wood frame schoolhouse was established by some of the early leaders of Cuero who understood the vital importance of a quality education and to accommodate the influx of German immigrants to the area. Eventually converted to a residence in 1911, it served as a family home for many years. In 1965, the structure received an Official Texas Historical Medallion and was recorded as a Texas Historic Landmark. After the building sat abandoned and in disrepair for many years, several

members of the Board for the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum came to its rescue, and the historic English-German School was given an opportunity for yet another purpose. A planning grant in the amount of \$4,800 was obtained from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and, together with dollar-for-dollar matching funds, was used to create an Historic Structures Report in 2014. The intent of the Report was to document the structure's history and existing condition, as well as provide goals for the use or re-use of the structure and has become the road map which will guide the renovation process. The rehabilitation of the English-German School will maintain the core building form while reconstructing missing elements – front porch, back porch, side addition – allowing the structure to accommodate its new use as a multipurpose building for CTHM.

**A Hands-On Texas History Classroom**

Several functions to be incorporated into



the restored space are a sound-proof room to record oral histories, ADA compliant rest rooms, a kitchen, and flex spaces that can be used for educational programs, meetings or rental space. The renovation of this 130-year-old school, with its expanded educational use, will teach local and area youth the values associated with historic preservation. Plans are being discussed to partner with local and areal school districts to develop classroom enrichment activities, especially at the junior high level where Texas History is taught. Raised vegetable beds at the rear of the school will become a hands-on experience for many children who otherwise might not fully understand how vegetables and fruits are grown, harvested, and preserved. The proposed kitchen will then be used to teach preserving and canning techniques as the older citizens in the community can pass along important traditions to the younger generation. A 19th century wagon and carriage, gifted to the Museum, will be housed in an out-building on the property and will enhance the visitor's overall pioneer experience.

### Strong Start on Fundraising

As in any historic preservation project, funding is always an issue. The projected cost of the renovation is estimated at \$400,000. With the help of several contributions by generous individual donors as well as the receipt of several grants, the project has received approximately \$100,000 thus far. The Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum would like to extend a sincere "thank-you" to the **Cuero Development Corporation, Conoco-Phillips, GVEC Power-up Grant,** and the **Texas Historical Foundation** for their contributions in the form of grant money. The support from these community-minded organizations and individuals will enable the English-German School to become a significant example of an adaptive re-use of a historically significant structure, as it is returned to its original purpose as a place for learning and creating stronger ties to local community, heritage, and history. 🐾

## A History Spotlight

### How did The Old Chisholm Trail get its name?

The best accepted origin story of the Old Chisholm Trail begins during the American Civil War (1861 – 1865), well before the celebrated cattle drives for which it is known today. With the outbreak of war, Union forces beat a retreat to Kansas, out of Texas and hostile Indian Territory. The path they took would become known as the Chisholm Trail after one of their guides, **Jesse Chisholm.**

Chisholm, of Scottish and Cherokee descent, was well known in Indian territory as a trader, interpreter, guide, and businessman. During the War, he traveled extensively up from Indian Territory on the Canadian River to Kansas transporting various supplies. After his death on March 4, 1868, the trail he used would become part of the trail that transported over 1 million cattle in a 10-year period, known today as the Chisholm Trail.

A good friend of Texan and Indian Territory native Americans, Jesse Chisholm traveled their trails extensively to trade with them. He spoke several native American languages and was valued as an interpreter at treaty negotiations. He visited Bird's Fort, Comanche Peak, the council grounds near Waco, San Antonio, and other

places of importance to Texas Indians. It is interesting, and seems appropriate, that history remember this path that later became so vitally important as the Chisholm Trail.

After the Civil War, most Texans were left with very little real wealth. One of the few things in abundance was the thousands of cattle that grazed throughout the Lone Star State. One of the few men who recognized an opportunity to harness this wealth was Joseph McCoy, an Illinois businessman. After traveling to Abilene, Kansas in mid-1867, he soon arranged eager buyers for the cattle herds that would quickly dot the Texas landscape in a mass movement of animals the world had ever seen. Beginning in 1867 and lasting for the next 17 years cattle moved up the Chisholm Trail; an economic driver that not only lifted Texas and the West from the desolation of the Civil War, but transformed the city of Fort Worth into a major trade hub. ■



### Memories of Old Time Cowboys and the Chisholm Trail

*Where is now that once familiar  
Chisholm Trail,*

*Winding northward sure and slow.*

*Gone forever – destroyed by progress,*

*Gone to realms of long ago.*

*Never more will behold trail bosses,*

*With their brave and dauntless bands.*

*Guide the restless longhorns*

*Through the Texas border lands.*

*Yes, the cowboys trails are over*

*And the dim trail gone at last.*

*But his name will be transmitted*

*From the borders of the past.*

– H.H. Halsell, 1939

## Day Tripping through Local Texas History

Safe to say, you can explore Texas history in a lot more comfort than it was made in – no bumpy buckboards or hot dusty trail rides! Take a detour on your next Sunday drive to hunt up a nearby historical marker, or check out the full calendar of heritage tourism events at the Texas Historical Commission's excellent website, Texas Time Travel.

*Here are two resources related to CTHM:*

### Historical Markers for the Old Chisholm Trail near Cuero, Texas

#### Old Chisholm Trail Centennial Monument Marker 3806

*DeWitt County Courthouse lawn,  
downtown Cuero*

Marker dedicated to brave men who blazed the cattle trails in "the greatest movement of animals in history under the control and direction of men on the Old Chisholm Trail."

#### Old Chisholm Trail Marker 3705

*From Cuero, Texas US 183 /77A to  
junction of US 183N/77A NE*

In 1866, 1800 Longhorns used this "feeder" of the Chisholm Trail in first drive from the area.

#### Old Smiley Lake and Townsite Marker 3812

*4/10 mile south of intersection of  
US 87 and FM 108, Smiley, Texas*

With its natural lake, this site watered herds on the way to Chisholm Trail, 20 miles north. This town was moved to its present location when the railroad came to the area in 1906.

#### Route of Old Chisholm Trail Marker 837

*Junction east of Kerr Creek,  
Gonzales, Texas*

This "feeder" of the Chisholm Trail was used through 1896, providing economic growth after the Civil War.

### Happy 150th Birthday to the Chisholm Trail!

## THC Website and Mobile App to Explore the Chisholm Trail



The Texas Historical Commission (THC) has exciting plans to celebrate this landmark anniversary of the Chisholm Trail. Together with the many grass roots community organizations throughout Texas, they have a many events and efforts in the works, such as the development of a mobile app tour launching early 2017. When travelers use the new app,

they will be able to learn, do, and experience more at museums and historic sites related to the trail. Check out the whole Chisholm Trail celebration program at [chisholmtrail150.org](http://chisholmtrail150.org)

THC's forthcoming mobile app will demonstrate the impact of the historic trail through video, audio, and historic images, while sharing stories about driving cattle and the unique characters who were involved. App users will find over 65 stops at sites that are part of the cattle trail heritage. Significant historic topics, conveyed in three-minute videos – *Spurs, Storms, and Stampedes: Life on the Trail*, *Dollars & Scents: The Beef Economy*, *Horseback to Hollywood: The Trail in Popular Culture* and *Here's the Beef: The Trail's Culinary Legacy*.

There will also be an online printable guide to complement the app, an update to the 2002 print guide that CTHM Chair Robert Oliver was instrumental in developing.

Two groups hard at work include the Texas Lakes Trail Region and the Tarrant County Historical Commission, partnering to coordinate the efforts of their city, museum, and tourism representatives, while working with counterparts in Oklahoma and Kansas. April 1, 2017, is the official kickoff of their 150th Anniversary celebration is April 1, 2017, so stay tuned for events up and down the trail on that day. For more information on the group's initiatives for partners and the traveler, go to <http://chisholmtrail150.org>.

While you wait for the new mobile app tour, explore THC's seven self-guided local history tours currently available: *WWII on the Texas Home Front*; *the La Salle Odyssey*; *Hispanic Texans: Journey from Empire to Democracy*, and more!

All free and at Texas Time Travel Tours. View at <http://texastimetravel.toursphere.com> or download the app to iOS or Android device at <http://www.thc.texas.gov/explore-texas>. ■



# CTHM Cowboy Camp 2016

Cowboy Camp is an educational outreach program initiated in 2011 by board member and former schoolteacher **Candy Glidden**. Candy, her family, and a host of dedicated volunteers put on a dynamic five-day camp funded by educational grants and community partnerships – made possible at no cost to students. Curriculum features age-appropriate demonstrations and activities designed to immerse students in the customs and traditions of the 19th-century, post-Civil War and cattle-drive era through observation, discussion and participation.



# Taste OF THE Trail

VIVA EL VAQUERO  
April 9, 2016

**Guest of Honor**  
Former Texas Governor Mark White  
**Co-Chairs:** Lindy & Ricky Gohmert,  
Gina & Paul Holcomb, Jr.





# THE 2011-2016 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PIONEER CIRCLE



Our permanent exhibit, *Ranching Heritage of the Guadalupe Valley* was made possible by the generous financial support of the individuals, families, ranches, and business leaders in the 2011-2016 Capital Campaign Pioneer Circle.

**PLATINUM | \$250,000 and up**

GeoSouthern Energy -  
George Bishop, Meg Molleston  
Frank Klein Family  
Robert Oliver  
Bill and Katherine Reilly  
Anne Friar Thomas  
and Margaret Anne Thomas

**GOLD | \$100,000 – \$249,999**

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**SILVER | \$50,000 - \$99,999**

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Mattye Stiles  
Matt and Amy Thigpen

Thanks to donors like you,  
the CTHM has earned several  
distinguished awards for  
excellence:

**2016 Built Environment Award**  
San Antonio Conservation Society

**2015 Historic  
Rehabilitation Award**  
Preservation Texas

**2014 John L. Nau, III  
Award of Excellence in Museums**  
Texas Historical Commission

**2014 President’s Award**  
Texas Association of Museums

**2013 Best Renovation  
and Rehabilitation**  
Texas Downtown Association

**2013 People’s Choice Award –  
Best Renovation**  
Texas Downtown Association

**Special Donor Recognition**

**HORSEMEN OF THE AMERICAS,  
TINKER COLLECTION**

Frank Klein  
in Honor and Loving Memory of  
Lucille Gaebler Klein & George F. Klein and  
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**THE COWBOY LEGACY**

In Memory of  
Lias F. Steen and Jennings Dincans  
from the Steen Family

**Friar Thomas Community Center  
CATERING KITCHEN**

In Loving Memory of Jane Mueller  
by Husband Harvey Mueller

**GALLERY HALLWAY**

Jack Traylor and  
Susan Hamilton Wallis  
Gallery

**Interested in joining the  
Pioneer Circle?**

Consider a year-end gift.  
Tax deductible ontributions to this  
historic capital campaign may still be  
made up to December 31, 2016.

Please contact any Board member,  
or call the Museum at

**(361) 277-2866**



## Salute to Oldest Family-Owned Texas Brewery

One of our first and most loyal sponsors, Spoeztz Brewery, is just up the road in neighborly Shiner, Texas.

You don’t have to be from around here to enjoy a cold Shiner on a hot Texas day. Since 1909, the website brags, “every drop of Shiner Beer has been brewed at the Spoeztz Brewery” in the town that bears its name. Now boasting just over 2,000 residents, Shiner welcomes thousands of visitors every year to tour its famous production facilities. The brewery sends more than 8 million cases of delicious Shiner Beer to states across the country. Community events and support are in abundance through its Shiner Beer Runs, Shiner Sessions, and “Toast Our Troops” fundraiser. Generosity is at the heart of the man who launched Spoeztz Brewery, Carlos Alvarez, and his team. Founding CTHM board member Sue Sulsar shared that the Museum has fortunately been one of the brewery’s long-time beneficiaries.

“We had formed a board of directors, established our articles of incorporation and bylaws in 2000, and in 2002 decided to have our first fundraiser with a “cowboy cookout” theme, reminiscent of the original trail riders – our first Taste of the Trail,” she recalled. “I was on the Spirits Committee, which was alcohol, of course. I had enjoyed Shiner Beer since I first started drinking beer, and drove to the brewery to meet with John Hybner, who has since retired. John and his team did not hesitate and donated three kegs – that’s 150 gallons of beer!”

Sue fondly noted that the Spoeztz Brewery has consistently supported the CTHM in so many ways. “They not only donate the beer, but purchase sponsor tables and underwrite the tents for our “Saloon” or “Cantina” at our bi-annual fundraiser, and donate silent auction items, such as baskets and their neon signs. They even created a ring-toss game at their booth in the saloon. If it lands on the bottle neck, you win a 12-pack!”

**“Spoeztz Brewery is  
very supportive of small  
communities and we are  
extremely grateful.”**

Brewmaster Jimmy Mauric, Hospitality & Public Relations Manager Annie Raabe, and Controllor Tess Liberto are regular faces at the Museum events. A passion for South Texas history and the historical aspects of the Museum are at the heart of Spoeztz Brewery’s long commitment.

“The history of our area is very important to Mr. Alvarez and to our company. To partner with the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum just made good sense,” said Tess. “I took my mom to the first fundraiser and I am really glad I did. My mother was thrilled and I was incredibly impressed.” Sue noted, “Spoeztz Brewery is very supportive of small communities and we are extremely grateful.” ■



# 2016 CTHM Membership

As of March 2016

## SCOUT | \$1000

Franke & Bill Albrecht  
Linda & Lawrence Anzaldua  
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Nathan Post  
Bill Blackwell, *Ex-Officio*

*The Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum mourns the passing in November 2015 of one of our founding members, **Carey Jane (née Turner) James.** Mrs. James’ forebears settled in Texas before 1820, when it was still part of Mexico. She was descended from men who fought for Texas independence, and her great-grandmother survived the infamous “Runaway Scrape,” after the fall of the Alamo. Her grandfather made seven cattle drives up the Chisholm Trail. Mrs. James personally made possible the loan of the mid-1880s Crockett Cardwell store ledger now on display in the Museum, a meticulous mercantile record linking DeWitt County to the southernmost tributary routes of the Chisholm Trail cattle drives. We are honored by her generosity.*



THE CHISHOLM TRAIL  
HERITAGE MUSEUM

CHISHOLMTRAILMUSEUM.ORG  
BOX 866  
CUERO, TEXAS 77954-0866



The Board of Directors is deeply grateful for our Members' steadfast support, and the holiday Season is a perfect time of year to express our thanks. The Museum, Community Center, Gift Shop and Proctor Green home will be open to Museum members for an **Open House | Thursday November 17, 2016 | 5:00pm – 7:00pm.**

*Members will receive an invitation.*

*Visit the Museum Gift Shop for handsome Western-style home accents, Texas gifts, and adorable souvenirs for kids!*

*Stop in and browse any time during Museum hours, with no admission fee.*

*Gift Shop (361) 277-2866*



### OUR MISSION

THE CHISHOLM TRAIL HERITAGE MUSEUM'S MISSION IS TO PRESERVE THE RANCHING AND WESTERN CULTURE OF SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS THROUGH INTERPRETIVE EXHIBITS, RESEARCH, AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS.

*The Museum is a 501(c)(3) organization.*



### MUSEUM AND GIFT SHOP HOURS

Open Tuesday – Saturday,  
10:00am – 4:30pm

Closed Sunday, Monday  
and major holidays.

Outdoor space for picnics is available  
in George Bishop Park, directly  
behind the Museum.

**361-277-2866**

**CHISHOLMTRAILMUSEUM.ORG**

### ADMISSION

Adults:	\$8.00
Children (5 to 7):	\$4.00
Children under 5:	Free
Active Duty Military:	Free
Seniors (65 and over):	\$6.00
Current Members:	Free

