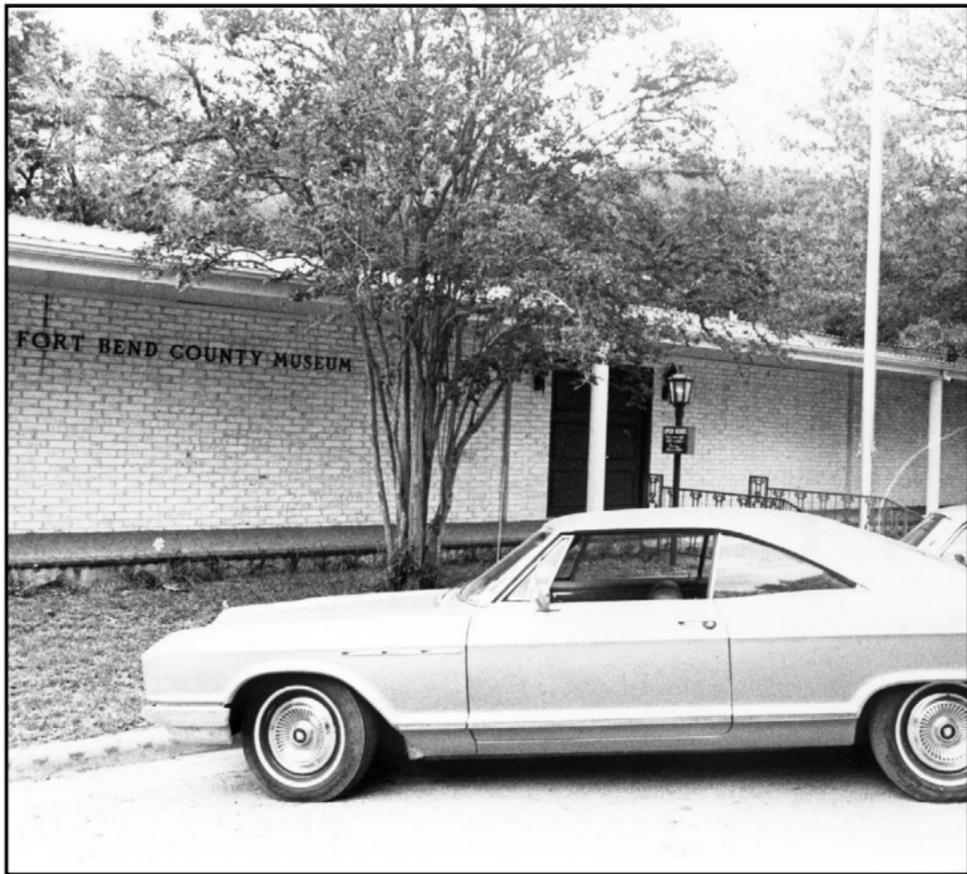


**FOR 53 YEARS, WE'VE  
BEEN CELEBRATING  
FORT BEND'S HISTORY.**

*Now, you have a chance  
to help transform it!*



fortbend**history**  
ASSOCIATION  
Preserve. Educate. Inspire.



## FROM NEED, TO DREAM, TO REALITY.

At the Fort Bend History Association, we've been telling our county's story since 1967. It's a story that is uniquely Texan and still evolving: the Old 300, America's most diverse county, the historic Moore Home and thousands of visiting school kids — and so much more. It's understanding what brought us here, and shining a light on what makes us unique.

Until now, its centerpiece has been a non-descript, somewhat functional, but, to be blunt, uninspiring museum building.

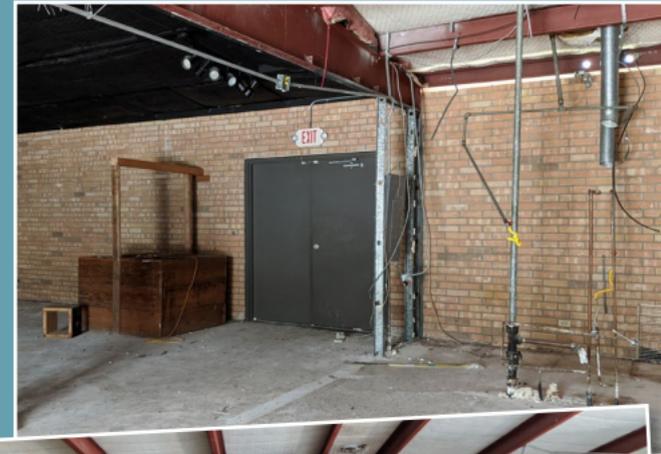
# A BETTER BUILDING. A BETTER HISTORY.

Our museum began its life as a storage facility for historic artifacts. It was then converted to a museum space and has served in that role, unchanged, for years.

It has long been in need of an update. **Actually, a transformation.** Two years ago, we set out on a path to renovate the outside by giving it a look to match the Moore Home next door. We also wanted to do the same on the inside by expanding the space to increase program flexibility and updating exhibits that hadn't been touched in decades.

Today, even in the middle of an historic pandemic, this vision is so close to becoming reality. Plans have been drawn. Money has been raised. Permits have been obtained. And some very creative museum experts and architects have been engaged to help us transform.

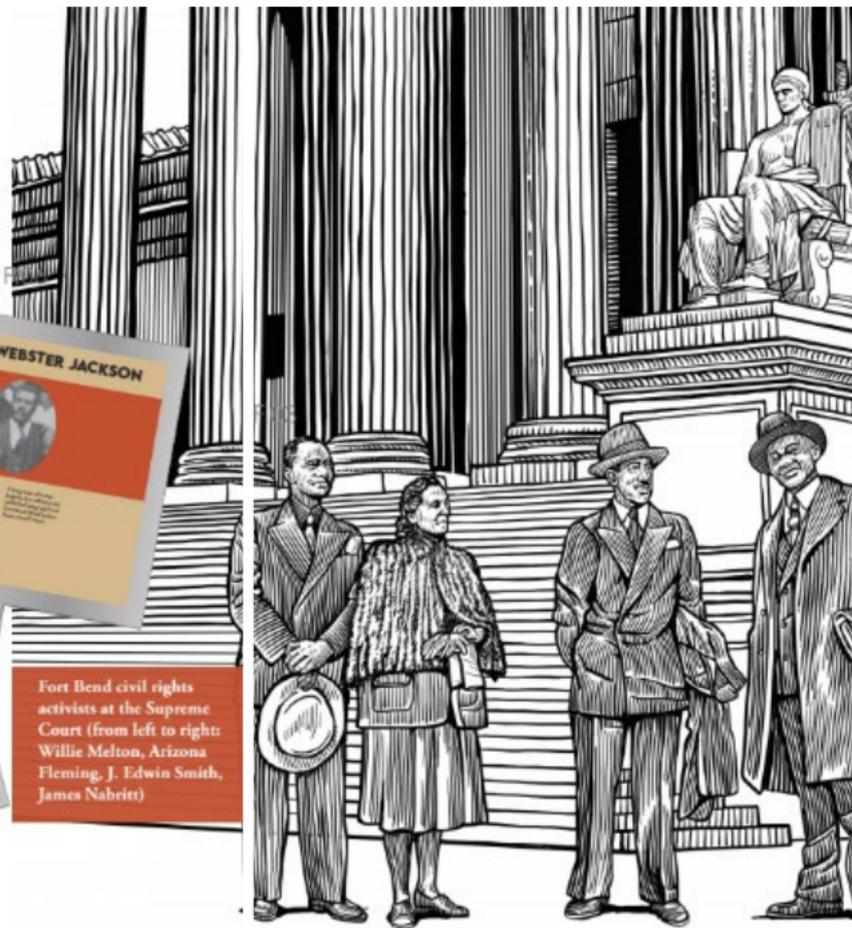
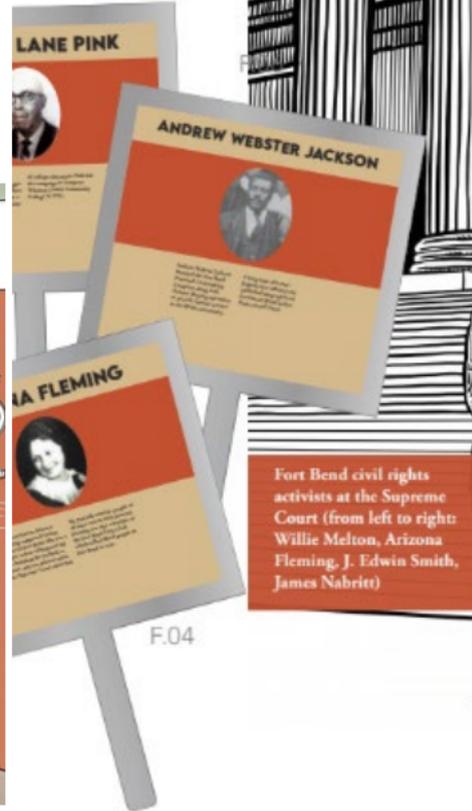
**In short, our community is very close to having the Museum it deserves. You can help make this happen!**



*July 2020: Construction/demolition progress in the Museum gallery.*



# GLIMPSES FROM THE NEW EXHIBIT:



## TERRY'S TEXAS RANGERS

### *The 8th Texas Cavalry*

Terry's Texas Rangers was a cavalry unit led by respected Fort Bend businessman and plantation owner Benjamin Franklin Terry.

Soldiers brought their own weapons and equipment to the battlefield; the army provided the horses. Although the men were comfortable with both weapons and horsemanship, many lacked military experience. Early on, they were much of their time drilling.

Terry's Texas Rangers fought in significant battles across Tennessee and Kentucky.

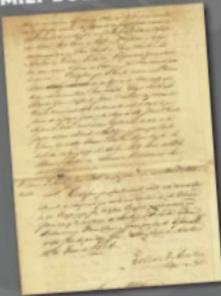
Colonel Terry was killed early on and replaced by Lt. Colonel John Austin Wharton of Bennett County. Rather than surrender to the Union army after losing the battle in Durham, North Carolina,

many Rangers slipped away to join other Confederate groups. Eventually, they made their way home, some having officially surrendered.



## LAND GRANTS: A FAMILY BUSINESS

In 1820, Texas belonged to Spain. Armed with a Spanish passport and a big idea, American entrepreneur Moses Austin traveled to San Antonio to convince the Spanish government to let him settle American families in Texas. He returned home with a contract allowing him to sell Texas land grants to 300 American families, but he became ill on his journey back and soon died. Moses's son, Stephen F. Austin, took over the venture and began advertising the cheap, fertile Texas land.



## SETTLERS ARRIVE

Settlers were already journeying to Texas by 1821, but Stephen F. Austin's work was far from over. Mexico declared independence from Spain and the new government did not recognize Austin's contract. Austin traveled to Mexico City and spent almost a year there negotiating a new contract with Mexico.

For the next decade, Austin sold land to American settlers as a land agent, or empresario. He was also responsible for keeping order and ensuring that settlers met with conditions specified by the Mexican government. Settlers were required to pledge allegiance to Mexico, speak Spanish, be "honest, industrious farmers and mechanics," and practice only the Catholic faith.

## AUSTIN'S COLONY

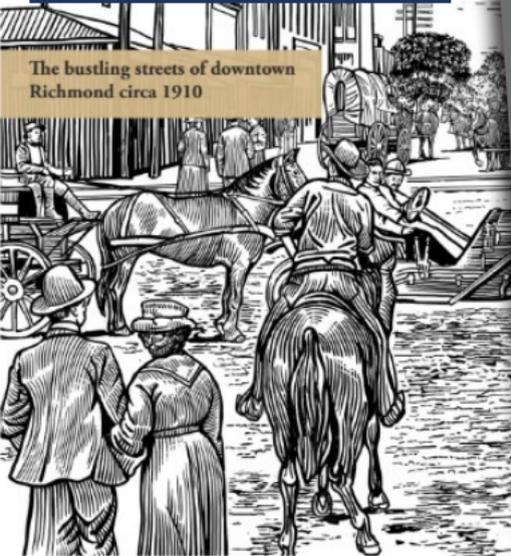
*The First American Settlement in Texas*



# MAKE A SAFE SECURE DONATION AT: FORTBENDMUSEUM.ORG/HISTORYRISING

# GRAND OPENING: MAY 2021

The bustling streets of downtown Richmond circa 1910



# A WORD ABOUT YOUR SUPPORT

Our “History Rising” campaign has set us down the path of an amazing journey. All of you who have contributed support — whether finances, expertise, motivation, or simply a reinforcing word — have been such an inspiration.

How often do museums get reinvented and reimagined?  
Without all of you, we would not have made it this far.

When we open our new space in May 2021, we will have the opportunity to more formally recognize those who have provided support.

*Every gift of \$10,000 and above will be recognized on our donor wall!*

Looking for a specific naming opportunity?  
Contact Zarinah K. Poole at 281-342-1256 or [zpoole@fbhistory.org](mailto:zpoole@fbhistory.org) for customized packages.



*Above: Moving the big sugar kettle out of the Museum's old gallery earlier this summer.*

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