

The Fielder Flash

Arlington Historical Society
February 2024 Newsletter



Our Venues

Fielder Museum | 1616 W. Abram Street
Knapp Heritage Park | 201 W. Front Street
Arlington Heritage Memorial Grounds | 600 W. Arkansas Lane

Contact Us

Email: fielderh@swbell.net
Website: www.arlingtontxhistory.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/FielderHouseMuseum
Phone: 817-460-4001

A note from the editor



We recently started a new series on the Fielder Museum Facebook page titled “Marker Monday,” where we highlight a different Arlington historical marker or plaque each week. I’m excited about this series, as I love Texas Historical Markers and they’re what first sparked my interest in local history. They’re bite-sized, informative stories, and tracking them down is sometimes like a scavenger hunt. In February, we highlighted ones for The Hill, Carver Dixon King, Mount Olive Baptist Church, and Andrew Hayter. What’s next? Follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/FielderHouseMuseum) to find out!

Jason S. Sullivan, 02-28-24

Newsletter Editor

JasonSSullivan@gmail.com

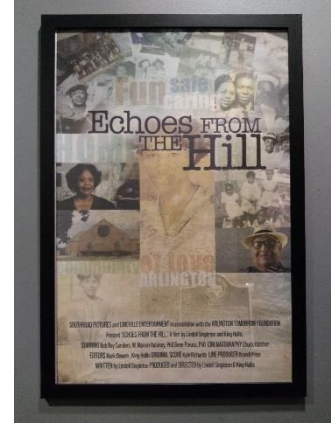
Upcoming Events

- **March 17**—AHS Board Meeting, 2:00 PM, Fielder Museum
- **March 21**—Texas Authors Book Club, Fielder Museum, 6:30 PM
- **April 18**—Texas Authors Book Club, Fielder Museum, 6:30 PM
- **May 16**—Texas Authors Book Club, Fielder Museum, 6:30 PM

Arlington Historical Society news

“Echoes From The Hill” screening kicks off Black History Month

“Echoes From The Hill” is a documentary that explores life for residents of The Hill, a historic Black community in Arlington. The documentary is planned to be a five-part series, and the first episode—titled “A Place of Our Own”—has been screened a few times since premiering in June 2022. Topics in the documentary include slavery, freedom, community, churches, education, social life, and others, told through interviews, commentary, photos, and reenactments.



Arlington Parks and Recreation hosted a screening of the documentary on February 1st, as part of their Centennial Celebration. Nearly 100 people attended the event; the audience was diverse and included many young people. It was a great turnout, and there was an insightful panel discussion afterward.

If you haven't seen the documentary yet, there is an extended trailer available on [YouTube](#). As the trailer is about 8 minutes long, and the documentary is only about 40 minutes long, you can see a decent part of it.

New content available on the Arlington Historical Society's website

Our website continues to grow and get even better! Here's some new content on our website that you might enjoy:

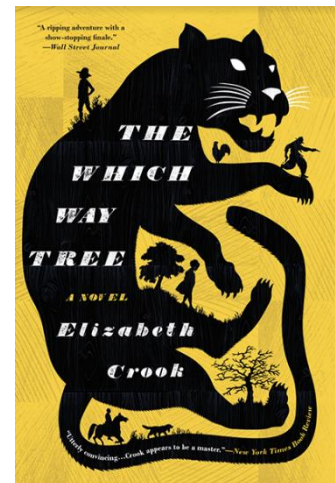
- [Past newsletters](#)
- [The Saga of Seven Seas – part 2 by Brian Burns](#)
- [A collection of artwork and insights from UTA students who visited Fielder and Knapp](#)
- [Info and photos of Knapp Heritage Park](#)

Texas Author Book Club meets March 21

For March, we're reviewing “The Which Way Tree” by Elizabeth Crook. Heads up—this is a different book than originally planned!

Elizabeth Crook's [website](#) describes the book as “*the story of a young girl's frightening and poignant odyssey to track down the panther that killed her mother.*” Published in 2018, the novel is a work of historical fiction set in the Texas frontier. It's one of six novels by Crook and rated 4.14 stars out of five on [Goodreads](#).

Check the Arlington Public Library, [Amazon](#), or bookstores for copies; it's also available as an audiobook or E-book. The book club meets at Fielder Museum at 6:30 PM. Contact Fielder Museum or email texasauthorbookclub@gmail.com for more info.



AHS Board Member takes on a new role with Texas Lakes Trail Region

Brian Burns, who is an AHS Board Member and our webmaster, was recently appointed to the Board of Directors for the Texas Lakes Trail Region. We interviewed Brian to learn more about his new role!

Congratulations on your new role, Brian! So, tell us, what is the Texas Lakes Trail Region?

Brian: TLTR is an organization dedicated to promoting heritage tourism in a 31-county region of North Central Texas anchored by the DFW Metroplex. Cities in this region feature world-renowned museums, historic downtowns, and true Western culture.

Wow, that’s a large area! What made you want to get involved with the group?

Brian: There are many historic places in our region that tend to go unrecognized. I welcome any opportunity to help bring those places and their stories to light for tourists, historians, and the public at large.

Recognizing history is vital to keep it alive. So, what does their Board of Directors do?

Brian: The TLTR Board works in conjunction with the Texas Historical Commission and organizations throughout the Texas Lakes Trail Region to promote the rich heritage of the area.

Isn’t there something called heritage tourism? What is it and how can Arlington benefit from it?

Brian: Heritage tourism is travel that is focused on experiencing places, artifacts, and activities that authentically represent the people and events of the past. It creates business opportunities and jobs, helps protect precious resources, and often improves the quality of life for residents.



Heritage tourism sounds great! What is your favorite historic site in Arlington, and why?

Brian: The site of Bird’s Fort, the birthplace of the DFW Metroplex! It is the most significant historic site in Arlington. But it is also one of the most important—if largely unknown—historic sites in Texas.

For more info, follow the Texas Lakes Trail Region on [Facebook](#) or visit their [website](#).

The photo above is from their February Board Meeting at the Lake Granbury Conference Center; Brian is third from the right.

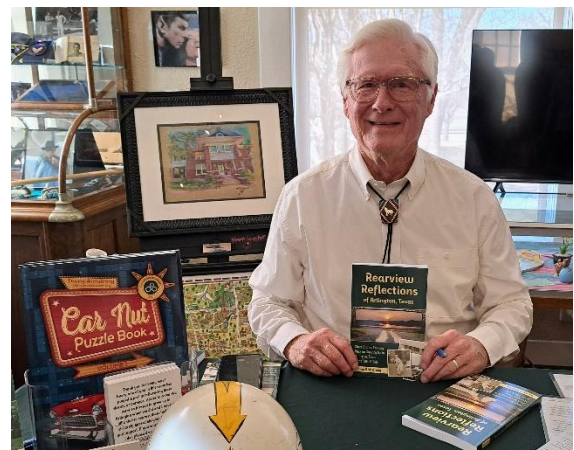
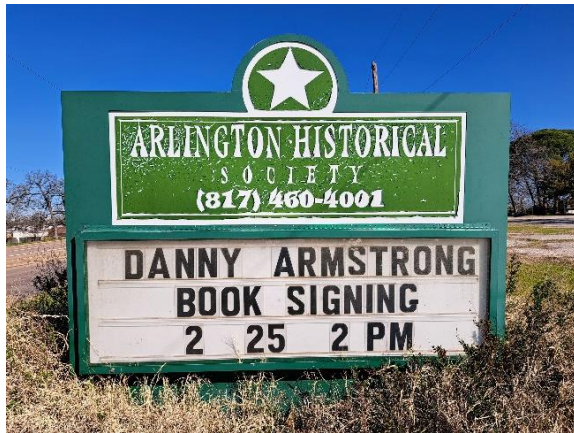
An afternoon with Danny Armstrong

Danny Armstrong graduated from Arlington High School, Class of 1963. He recently published a memoir titled “Rearview Reflections of Arlington, Texas: Short Stories Looking Back on Growing Up in Arlington, Texas in the '50s & '60s.”

On February 25th, Danny stopped by Fielder Museum for a book signing event. He shared stories from his book, signed copies, and we all reminisced about the good old days. Nearly 100 people attended the event, including Danny’s family and friends, as well as classmates and other well-wishers. We had a small pop-up exhibit with Arlington High School memorabilia to help set the mood. It was a great event and a full house. Congrats, Danny!

Photos (from top to bottom):

- (1) *Fielder Museum marquee.*
- (2) *Arlington High School pop-up exhibit.*
- (3) *The crowd waits in anticipation.*
- (4) *Danny interacts with a fan.*
- (5) *Danny poses for a final photo.*



On this day in Arlington's history

On February 22, 2019, actor Morgan Woodward died at age 93



Thomas Morgan Woodward (1925-2019) was born in Fort Worth but grew up in Arlington. One of five brothers, he graduated from Arlington High School in 1944 with early ambitions of becoming an opera singer. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps in World War II, hosted a weekly radio show in college, earned a Business Administration degree, enrolled in law school, served in the Korean War, and then became an actor.

A tall and recognizable character actor, known for Westerns and dramas, Woodward's IMDB page lists over 125 acting credits from 1956 to 1997. He had a prolific TV career, but also appeared in many movies—he's probably best known for his role as Boss Godfrey in the 1967 movie "Cool Hand Luke." Woodward received several awards and recognitions

during and after his acting career, including the "Golden Boot Award" and "Golden Lariat Award," both presented to actors who made significant contributions to the Western genre.

Morgan Woodward died on February 22, 2019, and is buried in Arlington Cemetery. Arlington honors Woodward with a street named Morgan Woodward Way, and at one time, there was a downtown mural depicting his character from "Cool Hand Luke." Fielder Museum has a small Morgan Woodward exhibit, with photos, awards, movie memorabilia, and personal items displayed.



Other news of note

Arlington Genealogical Society—visitors welcome

If you're interested in genealogy or have always thought about getting into it, then consider checking out the Arlington Genealogical Society. Their purpose is to promote the study of genealogy and to help the Arlington Public Library in obtaining and preserving genealogical books, microforms, and other records of historical interest.



The organization meets monthly, except in July and August, and visitors are welcome. Their meetings typically feature a guest presenter, with their March program featuring "Unique Challenges of African American Genealogy" by Mr. Larry McCarty.

Their next meeting is March 12th in reBrary rooms A & B at the George W. Hawkes Downtown Library, at 6:00 PM. Check out their [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page for more info.