

The Fielder Flash

Arlington Historical Society

June 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

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Website: www.arlingtontxhistory.org

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A note from the editor



I enjoyed participating in the preservation workshop at Johnson Station Cemetery. Check out page 3 for a quick recap or my personal [blog](#) for much more. This month's newsletter also includes info about our new board members, the downtown car show, Marker Monday, the Texas Author Book Club, Allan Saxe (1939-2024), Knapp's upcoming 20th anniversary, and an easy way to support the Arlington Historical Society.

Jason S. Sullivan, 06-30-24

Newsletter Editor

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Upcoming Events

- **July 18**—Texas Authors Book Club, Fielder Museum, 6:30 PM
- **July 21**—"The Seashores of Ancient Arlington: A Rich Fossil Record" exhibit opens at Fielder Museum (exhibit runs through September 29th)
- **July 28**—AHS Board Meeting, Fielder Museum, 2:00 PM
- **August 15**—Texas Authors Book Club, Fielder Museum, 6:30 PM
- **September 19**—North Texas Giving Day
- **September 19**—Texas Authors Book Club, Fielder Museum, 6:30 PM
- **September 28**—Knapp Heritage Park's 20th Anniversary Celebration | **Save the date!**

Arlington Historical Society news

Arlington Historical Society welcomes three new board members

Please welcome Mollie Gann, Cheryl Donaldson, and Ariel Donaldson to the board! Mollie is a UTA student who interned with us last summer. Cheryl and her daughter, Ariel, have been helping at Knapp Heritage Park. We appreciate you volunteering your time and efforts!

Classic Car Show Brings Visitors to Knapp Heritage Park



Downtown Arlington hosted its second annual Classic Car Show on June 1st, with over 100 cars participating. Knapp Heritage Park was open during the event, and many people came out to visit—for some, it was their first time! We gave tours and served hot dogs, popcorn, watermelon slices, and cold drinks. Folks also enjoyed live music from Hankins (www.hankinsmusic.com.)



It rained briefly, but the skies cleared, and we carried on. Thanks to everyone who came out to see us!



Marker Monday series continues on Facebook

In January, we started a new series on the Fielder Museum [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/fieldermuseum) page titled "Marker Monday." Each week, we highlight a different Arlington historical marker or plaque.

In June, we highlighted the following:

- Webb Community Baptist Church - Local Landmark plaque
- Arlington High School Building - plaque
- Johnson Station Cemetery - Texas Historical Marker
- Tate Springs Baptist Church - Texas Historical Marker



Preservation Workshop Held at Johnson Station Cemetery

The 48StateTour is a cemetery preservation workshop that travels through the lower 48 states. This year, it made 56 stops, two of which were in Texas. A videographer is traveling with the tour and plans to make a documentary about it.



The event came to Johnson Station Cemetery in Arlington on June 19th. It included a cemetery tour and demonstrations on how to clean, repair, and raise a fallen stone. There were plenty of hands-on opportunities for folks to get involved and participate.

About 70 people attended the event, making it one of the largest turnouts so far on the tour. While most people were local, and a few even had family buried there, some came from over 100 miles away. Thanks to everyone who attended!

Also, a big thank you to the Tarrant County Historical Commission and the Lucretia Council Cochran Chapter, NSDAR, for their support, as well as everyone involved with Atlas Preservation and the 48StateTour! It was a successful event and a productive day working in a historic cemetery.



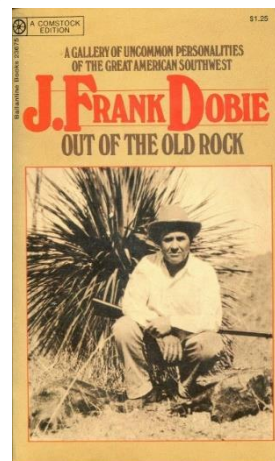
Photo Credits: Atlas Preservation and the 48StateTour
More photos available on the Fielder Museum Facebook page



Texas Author Book Club meets July 18th at Fielder Museum, 6:30 PM

This month, we're discussing "Out of the Old Rock" by J. Frank Dobie.

The people J. Frank Dobie liked to write about during his lifetime were the men and women who came "out of the old rock"—genuine, independent, unpretentious people, specialists of one kind or another, whether that specialty was teaching or horseshoeing—people who were, above all, interesting. There are sixteen such personalities in "Out of the Old Rock"—a cowboy preacher, a wildcatter, a trail driver, a gunman, an ornithologist, a rancher, a homesteader, several teachers and writers. Most of them Dobie knew personally, some intimately, and they come vividly alive through his portraits.



Check the Arlington Public Library, [Amazon](#), or bookstores for copies. Contact Fielder Museum or email texasauthorbookclub@gmail.com for more info.

Allan Saxe, Professor and Philanthropist, dies at age 85

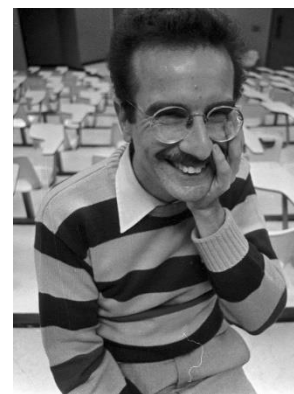
Long-time UTA professor Allan Saxe (1939-2024) died on June 18th. Peers, friends, former students, and many others soon offered tributes and condolences. He was a man who made a tremendous impact on the lives of others. Arlington lost a one-of-a-kind soul, and we'll continue to feel his presence long after his passing.

Saxe was born in 1939 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He attended the University of Oklahoma, earning his bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees in political science. He began teaching at UTA in 1965 when it was still known as Arlington State College. He taught political science at UTA until 2019 when health concerns forced him to retire. His classes were always packed with students. Saxe's classes featured lively discussions, quirky antics, and engaging authenticity. His faculty profile on UTA's website lists over a dozen awards and honors.

In 2001, he wrote a book entitled "*Politics of Arlington Texas: An Era of Continuity and Growth.*" It remains the most complete look at our community's political landscape. He also gave lectures outside of UTA and was a radio commentator.

Saxe was a prolific philanthropist. He tirelessly donated to countless causes and charities around the community, funding projects at the UTA campus, around Arlington, and beyond. His donations benefited parks, gardens, softball fields, meeting rooms, lobbies, a dental clinic, and much more. He also contributed to many scholarships. He was incredibly humble and generous with his giving. Dr. Saxe will be missed.

On July 11th, UTA hosted a program entitled "*In Celebration of a Life Well-Lived*" to commemorate his life and legacy.



A memorable photo of Allan Saxe, believed to be from 1983

Preparations begin for Knapp Heritage Park's 20th Anniversary

We're celebrating Knapp Heritage Park's 20th Anniversary with a special event on September 28th. Now's the perfect time to start going through the archives and old newspaper clippings to reflect on the journey—and what a journey it's been!



SPECIAL TO THE STAR-TELEGRAM/BRIAN LAWDERMILK
Darcy Knapp and Shelley Knapp stand next to the former law office of their grandfather, James Knapp. Some of Arlington's oldest cabins will soon be relocated to this site.

Society plans to move historic buildings to Knapp Heritage Park

By RICK MAUCH
SPECIAL TO THE STAR-TELEGRAM
ARLINGTON — With its latest project, the Arlington Historical Society plans to remedy two problems with one move.

Actually it's several moves, or several buildings being moved to the Knapp Heritage Park, 201 W. Front St. The society plans to relocate the oldest structures in the city — the Watson Cabin, the Jopling-Melear Cabin, the one-room Northside Schoolhouse and the Bardin Barn — from their location at the Col. Middleton Tate Johnson Plantation Cemetery, which also includes Arlington's African-American Cemetery.

By moving the structures, access to the historic ceme-

HISTORY Thanks to the acquisition of land from James Knapp's grandchildren, the plan to relocate four historic buildings continues in downtown Arlington.

teries will be available to the public. Until the move, visits to the two cemeteries will require preparation.

"We have to keep the cemeteries locked, and that's not the way you should do a cemetery," said Geraldine Mills, president of the Historical Society. "We had to put them someplace in a hurry, and it seemed like a good idea at the time. Now we realize we put something historical on historical ground but it's two different

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More on HISTORY on 6BB

Here is part of an article by Rick Mauch from September 2002, which was a special to the Star-Telegram.

You may remember that before the cabins were at their current home in Downtown Arlington, they were located at the Johnson Plantation Cemetery & Park—known today as the Arlington Heritage Memorial Grounds.

Regarding the cabin's former location, Geraldine Mills was quoted in the article as saying, *"We had to put them [the cabins] someplace in a hurry, and it seemed like a good idea at the time. Now we realize we put something historical on something historical but it's two different things, and that needs to be fixed."*

Geraldine continues: *"These are structures that people ought to see. They are a big part of Arlington's history, and it's a great chance to educate people on the history of the city."* Her words still ring true today.

Despite Knapp's prime location in Downtown Arlington and its historical significance, many people have yet to visit it. We're hoping that the 20th anniversary celebration will help change that. It's an excellent opportunity for us to celebrate the cabins, engage with new visitors, and, as Geraldine said in 2002, *"educate people on the history of the city."*

We appreciate your support!

Did you know you can donate to the Arlington Historical Society from our website? We accept donations through PayPal, which is fast, easy, and secure.

Donations support Fielder Museum, Knapp Heritage Park, and the Arlington Heritage Memorial Grounds. It also supports our mission of preserving Arlington's history. We appreciate your support!

Visit the link below to learn more and to donate.

www.arlingtonxhistory.org/support-us.php

