

# CHALKBOARD NOTES

## QUARTERLY FRIENDS GILLESPIE COUNTY COUNTRY SCHOOLS

Volume 6 / Issue Spring 2017 NEWSLETTER

### FRIENDS GILLESPIE COUNTY COUNTRY

SCHOOLS

OPEN HOUSE Schedule for

**MAY 6, 2017**

Luckenbach School

Meusebach Creek School

Grapetown School

**MAY 13, 2017**

Cherry Mountain School-

Open House & Fundrasier

[www.historicschools.org](http://www.historicschools.org)

FRIENDS REPRESENTED at the 2017 Country School Association of America in New London, New Hampshire, on June 11-14<sup>th</sup>; at Colby-Sawyer College. Showing three power point presentations to include Williams Creek School Restoration Project by Nelda Roessler, and two presentations produced by Mary Pressler: the Willow City School Painted Curtain Project and the 2001 and 2003 Gillespie County Calendars covering 24 of our country schools. Last year in June, the Friends hosted the National CSAA Conference in Fredericksburg. You can register online at [www.CountrySchoolAssociation.org](http://www.CountrySchoolAssociation.org) and learn more about CSAA or view the 2016 CSAA Conference slideshow.

TWELVE Gillespie County Country Schools are now listed on the CSAA National Schoolhouse Registry and display CSAA markers to identify these school buildings as historical, architecturally significant, and to recognize their preservation achievements. Markers on these schools: Lower South Grape Creek, Rheingold, Pecan Creek, Cherry Spring, Williams Creek, Cave Creek , White Oak at Pioneer Museum, Vereins Kirche, Wrede, Crabapple, Willow City School, and Zion Lutheran School. Our goal is to have all our country schools on the CSAA Registry.



*NEW PAINT INSIDE AND OUTSIDE AT  
RHEINGOLD SCHOOL-Looks great!*

**TO ENRICH OUR FUTURE:** “We shape our buildings and our buildings shape us” stated Sir Winston Churchill; he understood how buildings inspire us and tell our history. Over 16 years of restoration by the Friends has focused on the schoolhouse building—we could say the “outside”. Conserving what is “inside” the schoolhouse has increased with the Archives/Artifacts Project. Bernice Weinheimer and Marjorie Otte have placed all but three\* School History Notebooks in the Gillespie County Historical Society Archives at Pioneer Museum. If you wish to research family or school history, visit Evelyn Weinheimer, Archivist, at the Museum. The Archives Project will continue just as the repairs and restoration of the buildings continue each year.

If you have any country school GRADUATION CERTIFICATES, GRADE CARDS, PENMANSHIP CERTIFICATES or AWARD OF MERITS, we would love to scan them and add them to the FRIENDS archives. Let us know at [jane423@austin.rr.com](mailto:jane423@austin.rr.com) . \*Hayden, Morris Ranch, & Tivydale Schools coming!

NATIONAL CELEBRATION of TRAVEL in MAY: Fredericksburg CVB Newsletter gave these facts : the travel industry supports 15 million jobs in America with 8.2 million directly and 6.9 million indirectly. The country schools bring travelers to Gillespie County. We documented 10,735 visitors to our schools in 2016. Historic tourism supports the travel jobs and travelers supports us. Thanks for making travelers feel welcome and taking time to talk with them about our country schools. You can learn more about the CVB Travel Luncheon scheduled May 11<sup>th</sup> by visiting our CVB located at 302 E. Austin St or at [www.fredericksburg-tx.com](http://www.fredericksburg-tx.com) Remember Friends Driving Trail Map/Brochure is always available at the Fredericksburg CVB Center.

OPEN HOUSE & 10<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL LBJ BIKE RIDE, April 1<sup>st</sup>, brought 430 cyclists to the Willow City School and 20 cars from Bluebonnet Miata Car Club from San Antonio, plus 90 for Open House. Cave Creek School reported 252 bicycle riders and 90 at Open House. Nebgen School recorded 380 riders and the Miata Car Club. Rheingold School had 86 for Open House.



THIS 1925-26 PHOTO will be in the Smithsonian Institute's Country School Exhibit to open this summer. We thank Mary Paige Huey for her restoration work on the photo so it could be sent to the Smithsonian in Washington D.C. Friends sent hundreds of our early school photos at the request of Smithsonian Curator, Debbie Schafer-Jacobs. Our schools will be the focus of a special interactive section of the exhibit. Note the traditional Washington, Lincoln pictures plus the great American flag and wood-burning stove in the

Crabapple School Classroom. We are thrilled and will let you know the exact exhibit dates in the American History Museum at the Smithsonian. Thanks to our Friends members at our 12 schools for helping gather and scan these early photographs to the Smithsonian's American History Museum

You have received the Friends CHALKBOARD eNewsletter as part of your Friends Membership-at-Large of Friends Membership. If you do not wish to receive it four times a year, please contact Jane at [jane423@austin.rr.com](mailto:jane423@austin.rr.com) to discontinue CHALKBOARD eNewsletter. Feel free to suggest items for the CHALKBOARD. We want to keep it short, share our work, and vary the school stories. Thanks for your membership and encouragement, thanks for being on our TEAM.

Jane Woellhof and Doris Spraggins, Directors at Large

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*PRESERVING THE PAST TO ENRICH THE FUTURE*

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Friends of the Gillespie County Country Schools, a 501 (C) (3) Organization

P.O. Box 55, Fredericksburg, TX 78624

[www.historicschools.org](http://www.historicschools.org)



# One Page History Lesson From Friends Country Schools

**1847**



Vereins Kirche:  
The first Public School  
in Gillespie County.

**1950s**

TWELVE  
Community Clubs  
Maintained Schools  
Without Tax \$\$\$\$.

**2001**

## PROPOSITION 13

Known as  
the Friends' Bill,  
Passed the Texas  
Legislature; Voters  
Approved an  
Amendment to the  
Texas Constitution.

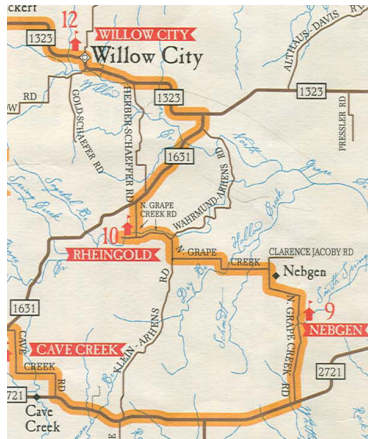
**2006**

Country School  
Driving Trail  
is Official.

### OUTSIDE SCHOOL RESTORATIONS:

Drilled 12 Wells;  
Restored: Roofs,  
Windows, Pavilions,  
Fences and some  
Teacherages;  
Painted;  
Repointed Walls.  
Added Mini-Kitchens,  
Water Systems,  
Bird Viewing Areas.

**Next 100 Years**



There were 44  
Country School Districts  
and Schools  
in Gillespie County.

**1949**

## Gilmer-Aiken Bill

Consolidated  
School  
Districts.

**1950-1960s**



Country Schools Closed.

**1999**

## Friends of Gillespie County Country Schools

Organized as a Non-Profit 501 (c) 3 status:

**A Permanent Grassroots Solution**

to Saving the Country Schools.

Friends Establish Website [www.historicschools.org](http://www.historicschools.org)

**2002**

Schools' Ownership  
Moved to  
Gillespie County  
Commissioner's Court.

**Since 2002**

16 Annual BBQs and Raffles Held.  
180 School Open House Events.

**2015-2016**



Willow City School  
Painted Stage Curtain  
Conservation.

**2015**

**Dr. Alice White**  
Friends Endowment Established  
with a goal of \$20,000.

**2016**

Friends Membership is Over 600.  
\$1,200 Average Expense per School to Open Doors.  
Hosted National CSAA Conference.  
10,735 Country School Visitors.

*Friends of Gillespie County Country*



OFFICIAL LOGO

### INSIDE SCHOOL CONSERVATIONS:

Repaired Floors, Ceilings,  
Painted Walls.  
Archives/Artifacts Project:  
44 School History  
Notebooks;  
Digitizing Early Records,  
Scan Early Photos.  
Increased Rentals.