

# Grand Prairie Historical Organization

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## NEXT MEETING

**August 18, 2016 6:30PM**

**Grand Prairie Historical Organization Building  
1516 West Main, Grand Prairie, TX 75050**



BBQ Dinner for the August 18 meeting is \$10.00

**\*\*\*\* RSVP \*\*\*\*** for dinner reservation to

**Judy Armstrong** home 972-262-0364

[judybillyjoe@aol.com](mailto:judybillyjoe@aol.com)

**Before NOON on Tuesday, August 16**



**Speaker Bill Moser will present**

**The History of  
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH**

Originally named St. Cecilia's Church, Immaculate Conception it had its beginnings, in 1916, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh F. Cowdin. The first Holy Mass was celebrated in the Cowdin's living room, in February of 1916.

The first recorded Baptism was that of Mary Jean Geppert, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R.C. Geppert, by the Revered Thomas C. Powers, C.M. on November 28, 1916. Father Powers also officiated at the first recorded marriage, that of Cornelius A. Vernoy and Vivienne F. Lichter on October 24, 1917. Father Leo V. Moore recorded the first death in the parish, May 30, 1921, that of Hugh F. Cowdin, the benefactor and builder of the church.

Our speaker, **William R. (Bill) Moser** has been the Senior Vice President at Grand Bank of Texas in Grand Prairie since 2001.

He received his BA in Economics from the University of Dallas, Irving, Texas, in 1982 and his MBA in General / International Business from the University of Dallas, Irving, Texas in 1983. He is currently studying Catholic Bible Study at the University of Dallas, School of Ministry, with an anticipated graduation in 2017.

A few of the organizations Bill has been active in include:

Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce, Grand Prairie Rotary Club, Knights of Columbus, Grand Prairie Planning and Zoning Commission, Grand Prairie Citizens on Patrol (COPS), Grand Prairie Citizen's Police Academy, and is a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church.

Several other involvements include:

Dallas County Homeland Security Advisory Council, Rotary International, U.S. Jaycees (Grand Prairie Chapter), Grand prairie Rodeo Club, Brighter Tomorrows, Grand Prairie Housing Finance Corporation, Boy Scouts of America, University of Dallas Board of Councilors, and Serra International.

Bill is married to his lovely wife, Ellie, and they have six children. He enjoys amateur astronomy, rugby, camping, archery, highland games, heraldry, and shooting sports.

**We appreciate Mr. Moser's time in presenting the history of Immaculate Conception Church to the Grand Prairie Historical Organization.**



At the time of publishing this newsletter, our President's husband, Paul Moreno, is under hospice care. His health is declining and we send Paul, Stephanie, Sarah and all of the family our prayers and best wishes.

## **Welcome New and Renewal Members**

### **Life Members:**

Jerry and Shirley Marion  
Bob Fitch  
John V. Barbara Brixey Wylie  
John Cockrum

### **Annual Members:**

Kevin Krajewski (renewal)  
John Tull (renewal)  
ADventures/Judy Broyles

## **Membership**

**Regular Membership** Single members \$25.00

**Life Membership** Life membership fees are \$100.00.

**Patron Membership** - **Any** person who contributes five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or more to the Organization shall be a Life Member thereof and shall, in addition thereof be appropriately recognized as a Patron of the Grand Prairie Historical Organization.

**Corporate Membership** - **Any** small business that contributes \$250.00 shall be classified as a corporate member.

**To become a member of the Grand Prairie Historical Organization**, complete the membership application, attach dues, and return to:

**Grand Prairie Historical Organization**

P. O. Box 532173

Grand Prairie, Texas 75053-2173

**NOTE:** The form may be completed online and printed after completion. [http://  
www.gphistorical.com/](http://www.gphistorical.com/)



**CURRENT OFFICERS 2015-2016**

**President**

Stephanie Jumper Moreno

[stephanie.a.moreno@att.net](mailto:stephanie.a.moreno@att.net)

**President Elect - Vacant**

**Secretary**

John Wylie

[john@wylie.com](mailto:john@wylie.com)

**Corr. Secretary - Vacant**

**Program Chair - Vacant**

**Treasurer**

Kathy Ritterhouse

[krittergp@yahoo.com](mailto:krittergp@yahoo.com)

**Historian**

Kathy Ritterhouse

[krittergp@yahoo.com](mailto:krittergp@yahoo.com)

**Membership**

[Bonnie Steever Cockrum](#)

**Newsletter - Vacant**

GPHO welcomes all members to serve in a capacity that interests them.

The standing committee chairs are appointed by the President.

Please consider an officer position or chairing or serving on a committee.

Let any of the officers know you are interested.



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## LIFE MEMBERS

Judy Armstrong, Billy Bancroft, Chuck Bancroft, Howard Bancroft, J.D. Bancroft, , Greta Berry Beckler, Carol & Grant Bell, Bebe Bingham, Brian W. Bingham, Dorella Bond, Joan Bronstad, Lisa Brown, Verna Brown, Nan Bryan, Jo Robertson Campbell, L.R. Cannon, Patricia R. Watson Capps, Marion Cato, Sharon Chaparas, Helen Chennault, Thomas Chennault, Ann H. & Dan R. Chilton, BJ Claybourne, Jorja Jackson Clemson, John and Bonnie Steever Cockrum, Joe Colwell, Marjorie Colwell, Kay Conelly, Jerry & Doranna Corley, Reg & Rochelle Crump, Bob Donaldson, Scott Donaldson, Cheryl Dover, Karen Hale Eddlemon, Annette & Richard Edmonson, Charles & Janice England, Kirk & Marcy England, Alice Stanfield Ernst, Bob Fitch, Benton Ford, Olive Galloway, Angela Giessner, Norma Jean Robertson & Jimmy Hale, Loni Haran, Bill Henderson, Lee D. Herring, Aletha Hicks, Gary Hill, Betty Hulse, Vera Jinks, Bob & Patsy Johnson, Laurie Hulse Johnson, Kay Vail Kizziar, Fred & Myrle Knox, Ouida Lewis, Shirley and Jerry Marion, Marty Ford Martin, Joyce McGuffey, Linda McNeff, Kenneth R. Miller, Stephanie Jumper Moreno, Lynn Motley, Martha Bowerman Pengelly, Betty Phillips, Peggy Poage, Laura Thompson Potter, Alicia Powell, Jeff Powell, Charles & Nancy Powers, Kathy Ritterhouse, Bob Roberts, Susie Roberts, Ann & David Searcey, Kathy Sherrill, Susan Shuffler, Fynlon & Eugena Simpson, Janette Skrasek, Carol Powers Smith, Ouida Daugherty Smith, Amy Sprinkles, Don & Joyce Stanfield, Marshall Sutton, Sarah Terrace, Kenny Tyler, Donna Lambert Underwood, Carolyn Combs Vaught, Paul & Madie Vernon, Mildred Dickerson Walker, Sammie Ausmus Walker, Sarah Lou Graham Wallis, John R. Wright, John V. and Barbara Brixey Wylie.



## LIFE MEMBERS (in memoriam)

**Always keeping in memory those who helped establish and contributed to the Grand Prairie Historical Organization.**

Harold Archer  
Adelaide Banister  
L. R. Cannon  
Joe Colwell  
Victor Copeland

Jack Hays  
Lee Herring  
Thomas Hight, Sr.  
N. D. Hopkins  
Ruthe Jackson  
Bob Roberts  
Donald Taylor



## DID YOU KNOW?

Grand Prairie, Texas is the 127th largest city in the United States as of 2015. Grand Prairie, Texas is growing extremely quickly. It is growing faster than 90% of similarly sized cities since 2000.

### Population of Grand Prairie, TX

<u>1910</u>	<u>1,107</u>
<u>1920</u>	<u>1,203</u>
<u>1930</u>	<u>1,529</u>
<u>1940</u>	<u>1,595</u>
<u>1950</u>	<u>14,594</u>
<u>1960</u>	<u>30,386</u>
<u>1970</u>	<u>50,905</u>
<u>1980</u>	<u>71,462</u>
<u>1990</u>	<u>99,616</u>
<u>2000</u>	<u>127,427</u>
<u>2009</u>	<u>166,654</u>
<u>2015</u>	<u>187,809</u>

<https://www.biggestuscities.com/city/grand-prairie-texas>

Rank	Similarly Sized Cities	Growth 2000-2015
121	Augusta-Richmond County, Georgia	1.0%
122	Grand Rapids, Michigan	-1.4%
123	Mobile, Alabama	-2.2%
124	Salt Lake City, Utah	5.9%
125	Huntsville, Alabama	19.0%
126	Tallahassee, Florida	24.1%
127	<b>Grand Prairie, Texas</b>	46.6%

128	Overland Park, Kansas	22.9%
129	Knoxville, Tennessee	5.1%
130	Worcester, Massachusetts	7.1%
131	Brownsville, Texas	28.2%
132	Newport News, Virginia	1.1%

The formal boundaries for the City of Grand Prairie encompass a land area of 72.24 sq. miles and a water area of 8.9 sq. miles.  
The elevation is 515 feet.

While the primary coordinates for City of Grand Prairie are located in Dallas County, it should be noted that the formal boundaries for this community also extend into Tarrant County, and Ellis County.

***Facts***<http://texas.hometownlocator.com/tx/dallas/grand-prairie.cfm>

Grand Prairie Historical Organization **Wine Tasting/Fundraiser**  
**\$25.00 per person \$40.00 couple**  
**October 1, 2016**

Location - Grand Prairie Historical Organization Building 1516 West Main, Grand Prairie, TX 75050

**Reservation Deadline - Friday, September 23, 2016**  
**Bring reservation to the GPHO August 18 meeting or Mail check to:**  
Grand Prairie Genealogical Society P.O. Box 532026, Grand Prairie, TX 75053-2026

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
**PLEASE PRINT**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (City) (Zip)

Phone-home \_\_\_\_\_ cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_

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**Mission Statement**

The purpose of the Grand Prairie Historical Organization is to promote and preserve the history of Grand Prairie, Texas by collecting, preserving and interpreting that history through committed volunteers who translate that to others while maintaining the highest standards of excellence.

**Vision Statement**

The Grand Prairie Historical Organization will be a vibrant organization through which people may encounter, explore and learn about the past. With diverse audiences and Dallas County's unique heritage at its core, GPHO is intended to help those individuals an educational helps others understand the City's rich heritage.

**In pursuit of this vision, GPHO will:**

- Identify, collect, and exhibit significant historical materials related to Grand Prairie Texas and surrounding counties.
- Conduct quarterly meetings that promote this history with speakers and programs that help translate the Mission and Vision Statements.
- Provide leadership in the responsible preservation of, and public access to, these historical materials.
- Encourage excellence in research, documentation, and interpretation of historical materials.
- Foster an appreciation of the importance of historical materials to enrich public understanding of the past and present.
- Promote pride in both individual and community heritage.
- Respond to the community's needs to explore and examine issues critical to its past and application to contemporary life.
- Provide support to historic preservation initiatives in Grand Prairie, Texas.
- Maintain mutually beneficial relationships and alliances with educational institutions, the business community, government and other community organizations.

**GRAND PRAIRIE HISTORICAL ORGANIZATION**

PO BOX 532173  
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