Focus on Fundraising in 2019

“Raising funds will be a focus of the Museum Board of Directors for 2019”, says recently named Board member, Rebecca King. “Funding is greatly needed for renovations, new exhibits and events to raise awareness of our Museum and generate new revenue.” Rebecca is the daughter of Ms. Bonnie Bell Smith, who taught at the Gaston School from 1928 through 1965, and then at West Rusk until 1972. “The Gaston School is a part of our history and will always live in the heart of each Gaston Red Devil,” stated Rebecca. “It is our mission to preserve and share all artifacts and memorabilia through our exhibits, community events and educational programs.”

In addition to funding for monthly operations, help is needed for repairs and enhanced security measures at the museum. Rebecca continued, “We have increased night-time lighting of White’s Snack Shop and the Dixie Filling Station, where vandals recently broke out several windows; options for a security system are being investigated. We have been entrusted with a wonderful legacy. It is up to ALL of us to ensure our Gaston heritage is protected and maintained.”

CALLING ALL GASTONITES: LET’S RALLY TOGETHER ON THIS MISSION!!

We hope you will consider a monthly donation to help us maintain our Museum for future generations. You can easily enroll in our Monthly Giving Plan by completing the authorization included in this newsletter and returning it to us. OR, if you prefer a one-time donation to support one of these projects, we would be grateful for your check, or your credit/debit card donation through PayPal to museumoffice@gastonmuseum.org. As always, your donations are tax deductible.

Watch for updates on Facebook!

Museum has a NEW phone number: 903-722-9016
Reunion 2018 brings in over $3000 for Museum!

A great time was had by all at the 2018 all-school reunion. All who ever attended school on the Gaston campus, along with families and friends, were encouraged to attend. Many exes visited the Museum on Friday. Saturday started with a meet and greet at the West Rusk Raider Café cafeteria, followed by the fund-raiser luncheon. Approximately 100 people were present on Saturday. The delicious lunch was catered by Mona Jimerson, Simply Southern Catering. The meal netted $1240 for the Museum. Additional income from those in attendance included $1350 in donations, $410 in memberships, and $375 in memorials.

Thanks to the West Rusk Student Council for helping with serving the luncheon! This group has helped us for several years; they do a great job. Twister helped us to show our appreciation.

New Board Members

Thanks to new Board members for giving their time to the Museum! For the first time in several years, this newsletter does not include a plea for readers to consider Board membership. We are very grateful to those who have joined us over the last year: Julie Dickeson, Rebecca Smith King, and John Whitehead. Brief biographical information on Rebecca is included on page one. Julie and John will be introduced in coming issues.

Andy Elliott
Chairman

Gary Dickeson
Vice Chairman

Stephanie Osteen
Director

Rosemary Whitten
Secretary

Julie Dickeson
Treasurer

Janie Crisp Bradburry
Roy Davis
Paul Fess
Jim Gray
Carlos Hunt

Ruth Jackson Johnson
Rebecca Smith King
John Whitehead
Bill Woodall
Linda Croft Yarbrough

Mark Your Calendar
April 27, 2019 7:30 A.M.

Gaston Museum Terry Irick Memorial Golf Tournament

Longview Country Club

This activity is a major fundraiser for the Museum and also provides a scholarship. Contact the Museum or Andy Elliott if you can play in the tournament or become a hole sponsor.

Scholarship applications are due by April 1, 2019. Application form is available on our website, or contact us to request the form.

Help the Museum save on postage and printing

Please notify us at museumoffice@gastonmuseum.org if you are willing to forego receiving print copy of future Newsletters (two issues each year) to save postage and printing costs. This newsletter can be viewed on our webpage www.gastonmuseum.org or we will email you a copy. If you don't locate on the webpage or feel like you have missed the email, you can always call us to request a copy.
On December 13th Santa and Ms. Claus made a visit to the Gaston Museum. While there they greeted 45 children along with their parents. Several of the Museum volunteers were in attendance to share the festivities. All enjoyed cookies and hot chocolate.

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**Gaston Museum Income/Expense**

**1/1/2018 through 12/31/2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Admissions</td>
<td>389.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>4484.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golf Tournament</td>
<td>4280.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memberships</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memorials</td>
<td>1100.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merchandise Sales</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reunion Fundraiser</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walmart Dividends</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td>13911.20</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chamber of Commerce</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community christmas party</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golf Tournament</td>
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<td>Insurance</td>
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<td>Newsletters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reunion Fundraiser</td>
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<td>Scholarship</td>
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<td>Utilities</td>
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<td>Web page hosting</td>
<td>107.40</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>13,414.36</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Total Net Income 2018** $496.84

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**FINAL FAREWELL**

Gus Copeland, *Class of ’56*  
9/17/1938 - 8/15/2018  
Gus Copeland, *Class of ’56*  
9/17/1938 - 8/15/2018  

James W. Hudson, *Class of ’65*  
1/25/1947 - 2/15/2019  
Donald Nicol, *Class of ’58*  
1/26/1940 - 1/31/2019  
Esther Nelson Parker, *Class of ‘49*  
11/2/1931 - 1/30/2019  
Prebble Jordan Potter, *Class of ’58*  
deceased 2016  
Shirley Fowler Stephens, *Class of ’67*  
4/13/1949 - 1/12/2019  
A B Strickland, *Class of ’47*  
4/15/1929 - 12/14/2018  
Jerry Wade, *Class of ’64*  
7/22/1944 - 1/29/2019  
Betty Jo Mayo Walker, *Class of ’48*  
4/7/1930 - 12/15/18  
S. Boyd Wall, *Class of ’58*  
10/5/1939 - 2/11/2019  
Josephine Hyatt Wilbanks, *Class of ’51*  
5/6/1933 - 1/17/2019  

**MEMORIALS**

We appreciate memorials to honor the memory of friends and family as well as honoring the place that Gaston holds in all our hearts. The gift of a memorial helps maintain our commitment to preserving our common memories.

In Memory Of

- Jerry Wayne Blackshear  
  Donated By: Joel I. Franklin  
- Charles “Chuck” Croft  
  Donated By: Charles Burgess  
- Karen Duran Dean  
  Donated By: JoAnn Dowden  
- Karen Duran Dean  
  Donated By: Kenneth “Twister” Thomas  
- Talmadge Dowden  
  Donated By: Barbara Brewster  
- Talmadge Dowden  
  Donated By: Charles Burgess  
- Talmadge Dowden  
  Donated By: Class of ’54  
- Lila Cousins Dowden  
  Donated By: Charles Burgess  
- Lila Cousins Dowden  
  Donated By: JoAnn Dowden  
- Donnie Greer  
  Donated By: Barbara Brewster  
- Jimmy Greer  
  Donated By: Barbara Brewster  
- Hazel Grigg  
  Donated By: Barbara Brewster  
- Willa Dean Young Hinton  
  Donated By: JoAnn Dowden  
- Robert LaBay  
  Donated By: Barbara Brewster  
- Lois Lynch  
  Donated By: Barbara Brewster  
- Francene Franklin Mellon  
  Donated By: Kenneth “Twister” Thomas  
- Leatrice Nelson  
  Donated By: Barbara Brewster  
- Donald Nicol  
  Donated By: Class of ’58  
- Prebble Jordan Potter  
  Donated By: Class of ’58  
- John Charles Sears  
  Donated By: Barbara Brewster  
- Jack Terry  
  Donated By: Barbara Brewster  
- Jerry Wadle  
  Donated By: Class of ’64  
- Boyd Wall  
  Donated By: Class of ’58  
- Maude Ellen Whitehead  
  Donated By: JoAnn Dowden  

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**SAVE THE DATE**

**REUNION LUNCH**  
October 5th - 2019  
10 / 5 / 19  
**Gaston Museum**

**Gus Copeland, Class of ’56**  
9/17/1938 - 8/15/2018  
**James W. Hudson, Class of ’65**  
1/25/1947 - 2/15/2019  
**Donald Nicol, Class of ’58**  
1/26/1940 - 1/31/2019  
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10/5/1939 - 2/11/2019  
**Josephine Hyatt Wilbanks, Class of ’51**  
5/6/1933 - 1/17/2019
MEMORIES OF MRS. IRENE GASTON

By Truman White, Class of 1942

Excerpt from “Life in the East Texas Oil Field”

When I was a small boy, Mrs. Irene Gaston owned the land where the service station is located, and the site of the present Gaston Museum. She would stop to get gas and collect the payment for the land. We would have a little visit, and she would be on her way.

An interesting thing occurred one day at the service station. A highway patrolman pulled into the station and asked if we knew the lady that just turned down the side road next to the station. We told him that was Mrs. Irene Gaston and the school on the hill was named for her because she had taught school there for many years. He said, “I should have known that, because I stopped her between here and Henderson to give her a ticket for driving on the center stripe of the highway. She gave me a lecture as tough as any drill sergeant and told me she paid as much taxes on the center of that road as any other part of it and that she would drive where she pleased.” Dad laughed and asked, “Did you give her the ticket?” The patrolman said, “No, after the lecture she gave me, I thought it would be better to just warn her to be careful in the future!”

Editor's note: Mrs. Irene Gaston was a teacher in the Mt. Hope School. Mrs. Gaston and her husband donated nine acres for the new school that would be known as Gaston. Mrs. Gaston taught in the new Gaston school until she retired in 1934. She passed away December 16, 1941 and was buried in the Mt. Hope Cemetery, east of the Gaston museum.