

The BFTS Link



The BFTS Link

Winter / Spring 2019-2020

Page 1

Visit us at:
119 Silent Wings Blvd
Terrell, TX 75160
www.bftsmuseum.org

Contact us at:
972.551.1122
Email:
kwhite@bftsmuseum.org

Museum Hours
Wednesday – Saturday
10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
Open other times by ap-
pointment.

Holiday Closing:
Thanksgiving Day and
Christmas Day

Executive Director
Rudy Bowling

Board of Directors
Chairman:
Bill Huthmacher
Vice Chairman:
Raymond Sparks
Treasurer:
Raenell Davis
Secretary:
Barry Walston

Jim Evans
Chris Hamilton
Paul Finnegan
Bernie Schaefer
Mike Siemann
Jerry Persall

Your support is
important to us. Please
contact us to become a
volunteer or sponsor to
support the legacy that
lives on in Terrell.

The Future Face of the Museum

The museum has had a major increase in visitor traffic. With over 2000 guests coming through our doors in fiscal year 2019 and over 1180 so far, this fiscal year, we're seeing audiences quickly growing beyond our typical aviation enthusiast and veterans. More and more families with small children are visiting the museum and our volunteers got together to do everything in their power to inspire new generations to appreciate the history that happened here in Terrell. The museum has an amazing collection and we are proud to announce our new focus on providing a hands-on experience at the museum.

A very exciting donation to the museum sparked phase one of the hands-on experience. A Gleim Flight Simulator, donated by Jon and Hilda Poort in 2018, will be the center attraction for the BFTS STEAM Education Center. Jon has been donating his time to engineer the facility which should be ready to begin construction in 2020.

A gracious grant from the Haddaway Foundation will help to fund the construction of the education center. The location will be in the BFTS north hangar on Airport Road.

STEAM is a curriculum based on the idea of educating students in four specific disciplines - science, technology, engineering and mathematics - in an interdisciplinary and applied approach. This program is envisioned to offer people of all ages the opportunity to soak up the history of the British Flying Training School in the exciting atmosphere of learning something new. Curriculum in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math uses in the field of aviation will be the basis of fun programs offered in the BFTS STEAM Center. The museum has certified volunteer instructors ready to facilitate the program.

More information on the Grand Opening will be posted on the website at www.bftsmuseum.org and follow us on Facebook, as it comes available.



North Texas Giving Day 2019

Since 2009, North Texas has come together every year for an 18-hour giving event -- North Texas Giving Day - - that has raised more than \$240 million throughout the region.

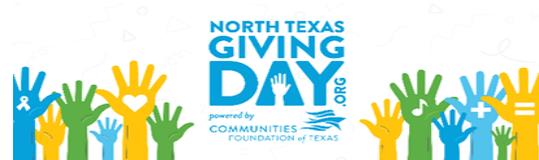
Donations from people like you make it possible for us to tell the story of the young British pilots who helped win World War II, thanks to their training and support from families in Terrell, Texas.

This event, hosted by Communities Foundation of Texas, gives us a chance to introduce the museum to new audiences and raise funds to support our educational and outreach efforts. We are eager to further develop our STEAM program to teach the younger generation about science and aviation but also to help them understand that democracy is not free.

Because of people like you, the museum increased its donations by 65% from the previous year and added many new donors.

Overall, more than 3,000 nonprofit organizations raised more than \$50 million during North Texas Giving Day, setting a new record.

Due to Covid 19 Social Distancing Requirements the Museum was closed from March 18th to June 3 of 2020 and once again the North Texas Giving day offered an opportunity for people to help local non-profits by setting up North Texas Giving Tuesday on May 5th. The museum received over \$3,700 in donations to help keep the bills paid during the closure.



“Conversation with...”

Frequently the No 1 British Flying Training School Museum (BFTS Museum) hosts events to promote the rich history the museum celebrates.

Museum staff and volunteers are always looking at new ways to highlight the history of this amazing story. In 2019, Marilyn Bowling, Museum Event Coordinator and Rudy Bowling, Executive Director of the museum, attended a luncheon, in Fort Worth, known as “Roll Call” (*On the last Friday of every month Veterans gather in a Ft. Worth church building for fellowship and food to provide veterans a place to gather and retain a sense of comradery.*)

At this luncheon, the Bowlings met hundreds of veterans,

recounting their personal memories of our nation’s history and the men that won our freedom. Marilyn and Rudy witnessed tears and laughter as many of the veterans hugged and shook hands as they shared accounts of their own experiences and brought history to life once again.

The Bowlings were so moved by this experience that they invited the veterans to be guest speakers for a new series of events at the BFTS Museum to share their thrilling accounts under the title of “A Conversation with...” The museum has now hosted five very fascinating “Conversation with...” events in which guests from as far away as Round Rock and Fort Worth come to hear the fascinating history.

WWII RAF Veteran Lancaster Pilot, Ft. Lt. Robert Reynolds

Ft. Lt. Robert Reynolds shared the challenges of being the first Allied pilot to land in Berlin shortly after the surrender of Germany in an account he called “Flying the Russian Corridor”. The event was a great success and the setting was intimate enough that everyone was comfortable to ask questions and take pictures. Ft. Lt. Reynolds shared diagrams of the plane and the flight path as he recounted the historical event.

The second guest speaker in the series was **WWII Marine combat veteran Don Graves**. He shared his experiences surviving the bloody Battle of Iwo Jima, where three U.S. Marine divisions fought one of the most significant battles on the Japanese front securing Mt. Surabachi. The Keller TX resident kept everyone engaged with riveting and sometimes very funny detailed accounts of our history, as he lived and survived the WWII.



Ft. Lt. Robert Reynolds



WWII RAF Veteran Lancaster Pilot, Ft. Lt. Reynolds

visited again to share his accounts of “Surviving an Emergency Landing in France” shortly after D-Day.

Although Bob Reynolds was not a student at the No. 1 BFTS in Terrell, he has seen that many items were donated to the Museum. The new items received this year are a number of WWII related books for our library. The Museum is very grateful for these items and feels the items are a great addition to our collection.

WWII Gunnery Mate B J Shepherd shared his exciting memories on board the destroyer USS Picking where he experienced action in the Kuriles, Philippines and Okinawa. He manned a 40 mm anti-aircraft gun as he and his shipmates “splashed” 5 aircraft and rescued a US Naval aviator.

WWII Gunnery Mate B J Shepherd
 Roll Call Volunteer, Sally Luxton, As
 Rosy the Riveter



WWII Veteran B29 Superfortress Flight Engineer, Lieutenant Fiske Hanley II, former POW and noted author of: *Accused American War Criminal,*

Lt. Hanley shared his incredible experiences during his seventh mission when his plane was shot down. He and the co-pilot were the only survivors and were interned as a special prisoner of the Kempeitai. Lt. Hanley was an engineer responsible for numerous F-16 components and improvements.

FOR INFORMATION ON FUTURE EVENTS VISIT WWW.BFTSMUSEUM.ORG



Events



The 2019 Flights of Our Fathers Air Show and Fly-In was a huge success. In conjunction with the Terrell Chamber of Commerce and the City of Terrell, the No. 1 British Flying Training School Museum presented its 11th Air Show and Fly-In. Thousands of spectators watched as Russian MIGS roared past the crowds in a matter of seconds. You could feel the excitement in the air as vintage WWII aircraft and aerobatic performers dazzled the crowds with a spectacular show. Two T28B Trojan Phlyers performed formation and solo aerobatics. The Immortal Red Baron performed aerial dog fighting maneuvers, as kids were chosen from the audience to fire upon the Red Barron's plane with propane air machine guns as part of the act.

Hundreds of people strained their necks to watch as the North American AT-6, "Miss Texas" rolled in the air, smoke billowing from its tail. As the pilot pulled the World War II-era aircraft out of its maneuver, the engine roared and the crowd cheered.



On the ground, kids of all ages wandered through the displays and Kid Zone, getting their faces painted, listening to live music, and enjoying a variety of foods from local vendors. Visitors admired WWII aircraft static displays and classic cars in the AMRR annual Car and Motorcycle Show. The BFTS Board of Directors sold rides on Ole 42 vintage Stearman, an original plane used to train cadets here at the No 1 British Flying Training School.

This would not have been a success without our volunteers and staff. Thanks to everyone.

Notice: Due to a project to relocate the Terrell Municipal Airport taxi-way, the 2020 airshow has been cancelled. For further information visit www.bftsmuseum.org.

Calendar

Monitor the website at www.bftsmuseum.org for event schedule

January "Conversation With..." Series

February Oklahoma Remembrance

March "Conversation With..." Series

April all events cancelled
Volunteer Week

May all events cancelled
Hangar Dance
Memorial Day

June all events cancelled
"Conversation With..."
D-Day

July - Independence Day

August all events cancelled
Purple Heart Day
National Aviation Day

September all events cancelled
Battle of Britain 9/15
Allied Memorial Remembrance Ride—Cancelled
Street Dance—Cancelled

October
Tuskegee Rise Above
Exhibit 10/27-31
AMRR Exhibit 10/15

November
Veterans Day 11/8
Remembrance Day 11/8

December
Tour of Homes—Cancelled



Thank You for the Help and Support



PLEASE ... Stay Safe !!!



The Allied Riders of Texas made their annual pilgrimage to the BFTS Museum to honor the fallen who died preserving freedom in many wars all over the world. The Allied Memorial Remembrance Ride is held in multiple countries and in various US states. Riding from Benbrook, Dallas, and east Texas, the bikers represented various posts of the American Legion Riders and the Sikhs Riders of Texas plus many individual riders. They were escorted by the Celtic Warriors (sworn peace officers who are also bikers) and the Kaufman and Terrell Police Departments.

After a brief visit at the Museum where they honored longtime participant RAF Squadron Leader Craig O'Donnell, they paraded through downtown Terrell to Oakland Memorial Park where RAF cadets who died during training accidents at BFTS are buried. A brief ceremony, complete with raising then lowering the colors and hymns played by a bagpiper, followed before the 50 or more bikers dispersed.

The Texas Allied Riders are sad to announce that this was the last Allied Memorial Remembrance Ride for one of our Allied Riders of Texas member that we respect and proud to call Craig a Friend.



Events

Tuskegee Airmen

Remembrance Day Memorial is held locally on the second Sunday in November with a ceremony at the Oakland Cemetery to honor the twenty cadets killed in accidents in Terrell followed by tea reception at the Museum.



On a clear, crisp Sunday we came together to honor the fallen at Oakland Cemetery. It was a beautiful day to remember the BFTS cadets and other dear friends and supporters who had passed this year.



Museum Chairman Bill Huthmacher, Father Bob Hackendorf and Father David Faulkner led the service. We were fortunate to have as our guests the Terrell/Kaufman County chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, family members of several former cadets, in addition to the RAF contingent at Majors Field, Greenville, TX Also joining us was Flt Lt Robert F Reynolds, RAF (Ret), who placed the wreath, and former Bletchley Park code-breaker Georgette McGarrah.

Fifteen Museum board members, staff and other friends, including RAF staff from Greenville, journeyed to Kiamichi Mountains in Oklahoma on February 2nd to remember the four RAF cadets who crashed during a training flight in 1943.

Representatives of the RAF, the Antlers Oklahoma VFW post and the No. 1 British Flying Training School laid wreaths and roses at the crash site. A reception at the VFW Hall followed and included a flag presentation by the Choctaw Nation Color Guard.

The young Brits were on a cross-country training flight from the No. 1 BFTS in Terrell, TX when they ran into bad weather and three planes crashed, resulting in four fatalities. Students in the area in the late 1990's researched the history of the crashes and raised funds for the memorial. Local residents maintain the site and organize the annual ceremony.



The Board of Directors voted to change the Hangar Dinner Dance to a fall event at a date yet to be determined.

Unfortunately, the annual **Big Hangar Dance and Dinner** had to be cancelled due the Covid 19 Pandemic Minimum Health Standard Protocols. Please visit www.bftsumuseum.org for the next scheduled Dinner Dance.



The annual event normally features a full sit-down dinner, a live band and a small live and silent auction. We encourage everyone to dance or just enjoy the music. Our vintage Stearman airplane is normally on site with rides available. Many folks like to dress in 1940's attire or just nice clothes. It is not a formal affair. We hope you will watch www.bftsmuseum.org for the next Dinner Dance and you will be able to join us. We look forward to seeing

On Memorial Day, when we honor those who have fallen in defense of freedom, please say a prayer for these 20 young RAF cadets who lie in Terrell's Oakland Memorial Park. These cadets died in training accidents between 1941 and 1945... Rest in peace.



October 27-31, 2020
We are proud to bring Tuskegee Airmen's – RISE ABOVE – Traveling Exhibit to Terrell, Texas again.

This immense experience is housed in a climate controlled 53 ft. semi-trailer with expandable sides and equipped with a ramp and hydraulic lift to ensure access to all.

Visitors will see, hear and "feel" what it was like for the legendary Tuskegee Airmen and how they rose above numerous obstacles to achieve their dream of flying and fighting to preserve freedom during World War II.

Because of its dynamic 160-degree panoramic screen, the film creates the feeling of being in the cockpit soaring above the clouds in a P-51C Mustang, the signature aircraft of the Tuskegee Airmen.

The Tuskegee Airmen were remarkable pilots overcoming segregation and racism to become a decorated flying force during World War II. They were so successful in escorting the bombers over enemy territory, that the bomber pilots requested the "Red Tails" as their escorts.

Reservations may be made for groups limited to 40 per showing by calling the Museum at 972-551-1122. Reservations are not necessary for individuals.





We were surprised and honored to have the grandson of Henry Madgwick, one of the Museum's founders, drop in for a visit. Chris and his wife Elizabeth, with children Teddy and Katherine, came all the way from Wisconsin and spent almost two hours with us, touring the museum. He reminisced about spending time with his grandfather as he picked out his pictures among the displays and told us family stories. Henry was one of the RAF cadets who trained in Terrell. He came back after the war ended, married a local girl and established their family and home here. Henry became so steeped in Terrell's heritage that he served as Mayor of Terrell! Chris remembered hearing about plans for the museum as he grew up and he was pleased to see the new displays and the layout of the museum after the remodel.

Family and Friends Visit



The son of BFTS Flight Instructor W. Connally visited the museum.

He said his dad began with the first group that arrived from England and continued as instructor at the school until the program ended. He knew some of the people pictured around the museum and was delighted to have me take a picture of him next to one of the photos of his dad.



Christine Johnson, daughter of Cadet Peter E. Nelson from Devon, UK, in course 15. Christine and her husband, Gary, visited from Lakewood, CO. Christine, grew up in Cornwall UK. She brought in some of her father's log books and shared stories of she and her mom watching dad leave to fly dangerous missions, not knowing if he would return or not. He became a successful pilot and instructor, sharing his knowledge with young pilots to help them return safely to their homes and families. We are so proud of our cadets!



Bob Sullins brought his 94 year old brother Ted and his son and grandson to the museum. Their mother was Rossie Sullins, a Link Trainer instructor. These brothers recalled the British Flying Training School and the cadets. They spoke of coming to the school with their mom.



A former resident of Terrell, Elizabeth Griffith Miles and her husband, Mervin, from Bristol, UK, stopped by recently to bring photos and family memorabilia to donate to the museum. Her grandparents were longtime Terrell residents and befriended several cadets in Course 11. Her mom, Sarah Griffith, dated one of the cadets who gave her a pair of wings. She passed them on to Elizabeth's brother with the instructions to "wear them proudly" as they had been given to her by a very special cadet. The wings were part of the family's donation.



Danielle Best-Karst brought her cousin, Haley Hunter to show her the family history she discovered by accident. The granddaughters of Terry Best, a cadet in BFTS Course 17 tell the story of Terry accidentally knocking out the power in the town while on a routine flight. Haley pulled up a photo of her son and noticed the likeness to her grandfather she never knew.

Her uncle, D.E. Nicholson, had been one of the early supporters who helped create the airport. It is such fun to learn the special connections visitors have with the town and museum.



Americans and Brits refer to each other as friends "across the pond". Many Brits – some with family connections to the Museum and others not – often make Terrell, Texas their first stop on their travels in America. It's even more fun when they bring youngsters along (we have a special game for kids to play).

The Museum is dedicated to preserving a little known bit of World War II history - more than 2200 British and American cadets learned to fly in Terrell, Texas. Lifelong friendships were forged with local families. Some returned, married their wartime sweethearts, one even became Terrell Mayor! These stories include not only learning about aviation and history but also honoring veterans, preserving democracy and maintaining these friendships "across the pond". **We can't do it alone. Your help is needed.**



This mini-Stearman biplane, piloted by, almost three year old Jason Morris, is the newest part of the Museum's collection. The 8' long, 6'wide biplane, complete with propeller and instrument panel, was created by BFTS volunteer Rod Kinkaid to help promote the museum at special events and as a "photo op" for young visitors.

Rod is one of our dedicated volunteers with a particular interest in veteran's affairs but, obviously, a pretty creative guy as well.

BFTS Museum volunteers are amazing!



Sponsors

PAVEL FINNEGAN
No. 1 BFTS Museum
Board Member



Trinity Valley Electric Co-op's Laura Melton presents an Operation Round Up grant check to Raenell Davis, Treasurer of the Board of Directors of the BFTS Museum. The museum relies on support from foundations, organizations, businesses and individuals.

TVEC has been a gracious supporter of the BFTS Museum, in many ways, and we want to thank them for their continued support.



The Board of Directors and Staff want to thank all donors and volunteers both large and small, local and around the world for your continued support.



The museum is supported by several organizations as well as, hard working / history loving people such as you. This museum needs your continued support to make sure this very important part of American, Texas and British History continues to be told for generations to come.

We want to thank the Haddaway Foundation, Summerlee Foundation, Pendleton Family Trust and TVEC for their Grant support.



Museum volunteers gathered to say THANK YOU to Jon and Hilda Poort for their donation of the Gleim Virtual Cockpit Simulator to be used in the Museum's STEAM Learning Center. A plaque similar to the one presented to the Poorts will be placed near the simulator when it is installed in its permanent location. The Poorts have moved to Kansas but have retained their connections to and support of the Museum for which we are very grateful.



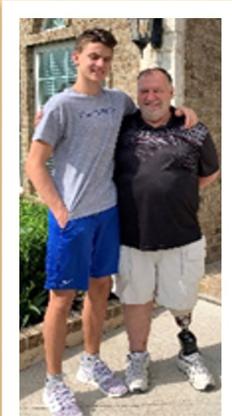
Marilyn Bowling
NANCY PIERCE BARBER
Carol Crowe
Jill Baltz

Team Focus, a group of ninth grade Basketball players from Indiana who were in the area to win the ninth-grade division on the following day.

The team was honored to have been escorted by veteran Denny Boester, grandfather to one of the players, who served in the Army 1967 - 1971. Denny spends much of his time as youth volunteer and the team wanted to honor him by sharing with you some of the details of Denny's military service.

- Rifle Platoon Leader
- Captain
- Injured on March 29th 1969
- Left leg amputee
- Purple Heart Recipient

BFTS Museum continues to strive



to keep our youth informed about all the men and women who sacrificed for their freedom.

Kathy Carroll, History Teacher at St. John's Episcopal School in Dallas, invited Executive Director, Rudy Bowling to make a presentation to her eighth-grade elective history class. Each class member was tasked with researching one of the British cadets who died while training at Terrell during World War II. They will produce a report detailing their findings at the end of the year.



Terrell Tigers Class of 1966 Reunion

Members of the Terrell High School Class of 1966 took time out from their reunion activities to tour the BFTS Museum. They were surprised to be greeted by fellow Terrell High graduate Rudy Bowling, executive director, who turned out to be their tour guide. The museum rang with laughter as they shared stories of high school days and family connections to the flight school....

Kathy Brown's mom (Frankie Lou Bethea Hinton) logged flights at the school during 1943-44;



Judy Lyne Alexander's uncle was a bomber pilot in WWII and she is considering donating some of his uniforms to the museum for safe keeping;

Susan Hamm Hall's mom dated one of the cadets who would "buzz" her house and drop notes from the plane; and

Nancy Becker Chenella commented that she has known about this museum forever and is so glad she finally came to see it.

Nine students from the **Poetry TX Community Christian School** listen as BFTS Board Member Raenell Davis brought history alive via stories of the cadets who attended the No. 1 British Flying Training School.

The students paid careful attention, both to her remarks as well as to display items, so they would be prepared to take Kaitlyn's No. 1 BFTS Around the Museum Adventure Tour Quiz. But they also had fun trying on some of the uniforms and other photo op props to take selfies to share with friends.



We get such interesting visitors at the Museum!



Ray Norton, right, with the Veterans Center of North Texas, brought two former war correspondents to see the BFTS Museum.

At the left is **Matthew Fisher, a visiting scholar at Massey College at the University of Toronto, Canada.** Mr. Fisher is Canada's most experienced and well-traveled foreign correspondent, having covered more than 20 conflicts in countries around the world.

Matthew is Postmedia's international affairs columnist and Canada's longest serving foreign correspondent. He has lived and worked abroad for 31 years in Europe, the Middle East, the Far East and, more recently, Afghanistan. His assignments have taken him to 162 countries, all U.S. states, Canadian provinces and territories, above the North Pole and to an iceberg over the Magnetic North Pole. During his travels he has been an eyewitness to 19 wars and conflicts. The personal highlight of his career as a roaming correspondent was when he attended Nelson Mandela's inauguration in Pretoria.

Mike "Buck" Tharp's career included covering multiple conflicts and other assignments for the McClatchy chain of newspapers and for the Wall Street Journal, New York Times and US News & World Report. Now, he writes about veterans affairs for the Dallas Morning News.

Fisher and Tharp are longtime friends who met, originally, while covering one of the wars in Albania. The three guests had lunch with Board Chair Bill Huthmacher and Executive Director Rudy Bowling after their visit.



Current RAF Pilots Visit Museum

It was such fun to welcome three RAF officers to the Museum. **Flt Lt David Ashworth, Flt Lt Elliot Lancaster and Flt Lt Guy Harvey** are stationed in Lincolnshire, England but are temporarily assigned in Greenville TX. They were impressed with the honor and respect with which the artifacts were displayed. Flt Lt David Ashworth said the Link trainer was the same type that his father used in training but marveled at how small in stature the cadets must have been during WW II. Most cadets were 18 years old. They also inquired if any of the cadets had married local women. We were pleased to tell them, "Yes"; one cadet had later become mayor of Terrell and was one of the founders of the Museum.



A few days later, a second group of RAF Waddington visitors came to the Museum while they were nearby. **Flt Lt. Alex Bragg, Cpl. James Ryan, Sgt. Ian Garnett, SAC Kieran Davies, Cpl. Thomas Wilkinson, and SAC Joshua Thinnesen** (left to right in photo). were amazed that they had never been told of the training venture between Britain and the US during World War II.

"A fantastic collection of an unknown history"... "how unfortunate it is that this significant historical program continues to remain a secret to the public both in Britain and America"... "such a great experience about an amazing unknown history". These were a few of their comments as they strolled through the Museum.



They enjoyed their hangar visit to check out the AT 6 (Miss Pauline) and were excited to recall their technical training in the Provost Jet.



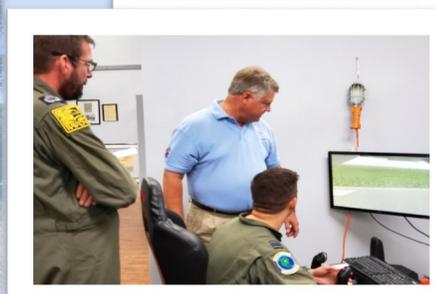
Thirty Freedom Riders from Allen Texas stopped in to visit the Museum on their motorcycles on their way to visit the Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall that was making a stop in Garland. We were very glad to see you, guys and gals!





During their visit to the DFW area, several members of Britain's crack flying team, the Red Arrows, made a surprise stop at the museum. Like the museum, the Red Arrows Tour marks the cooperation and enduring links between the UK and the US by remembering more than 2,200 British and American cadets who trained there during World War II.

In honor of the Battle of Britain celebration, team members visited Oakland Memorial Park to lay a wreath below the monument dedicated to the 20 cadets who died during accidents while attending the school.



The Texas Bucket List

<https://thetexasbucketlist.com/>



Shane McAuliffe, producer of the award winning television show, **The Texas Bucket List**, and his crew, visited the museum. After spending several hours touring and interviewing staff and volunteers, Shane and his crew paid tribute to the museum and its history with a spectacular spot on the tv show that began with the following quote:



Terrell, Texas feels like your typical town here in the Lone Star State. Its historic downtown is usually buzzing with business, but back in the early 1940's, it was a plethora of planes buzzing the sky that created commotion. To learn more about why this area was so active with airplanes, we headed where else but the airport to visit the Number 1 British Flying Training School Museum.

Getting such a detailed look at this little-known story of World War II is an inspiring tale of true courage. Many of the men who went on to fight in the war, sacrificed their lives to preserve their way of life and it all started right here in the Lone Star State.

Cadets trained in PT-17s and the AT-6, which is a plane appropriately named the Texan. For six months, they were taught by civilian instructors. Some of the cadets that came through here included men such as Robert Hardy, who would later become an actor in movies like Harry Potter, Thomas Round, who would end up being an opera star and even a few Americans trained here like Lieutenant Richard Hill, who had the unique distinction of earning two sets of wings.

Rudy Bowling, the Executive Director of the museum shared his knowledge and appreciation for the museum with Shane,

"I want to show you this very unique situation here. This is a uniform coat from an American cadet here at the school. His regular Army Air Corps uniform. And if you'll notice it has two sets of wings on it. The American set and the English. And the reason for that is that this school taught under the British Syllabus. And if he learned under the British Syllabus, they decided, the powers that be, that he could wear the British wings on his other pocket. And it was kind of a mark of honor for them to get to do that."



The BFTS Museum is very proud of its volunteers and their dedicated work to preserve the history of the British Flying Training School and the relationship between Great Britain and America when times were in turmoil.

We want to introduce you to just a few of our volunteers in each newsletter

Dr. George Cozens –Cadet Historian/Docent

Thoughts on the No. 1 BFTS Museum:

My father was English and his older brother a RAF pilot during WWII who was killed on a bombing raid July 4th, 1942. I think about my uncle, who I never met, every time I come to the museum. As I continue researching the cadets I think about these young men who came so far from home to learn



how to fly and then returned home to fight against the Germans, the Italians, and the Japanese. I think about the story the museum can tell. I think about the stories the museum could tell with greater funding to enable: a larger facility to display the artifacts we hold; a larger library to serve as a resource; and, a larger archive of original documents.

I am a believer and follower of Jesus Christ. I am a University of Georgia Bulldog through and through. I enjoy music (though without musical talent). I love model and toy trains (Yes, there is a difference!).

Ann Embry—Garden Spot Artist

Several visitors have commented on the flower bed outside the Museum so we wanted to give credit where it is due. Ann Embry with the Terrell Garden Club is responsible for maintaining this flower bed as well as a number of others throughout the city that are on public property.

Executive Director Rudy Bowling thanks Ann Embry, the faithful volunteer who comes several times each week to water the plantings and make seasonal changes.



AIRCRAFT RESTORATION UPDATES

Nothing excites children more than the opportunity to get “up close and personal” with an aircraft. The Museum is in the process of he restoring two aircraft – “Miss Pauline”, an AT-6 that is nearing completion and an early British Jet Provost. The Board of Directors and everyone at the museum want to thank each and every one who gave up many hours to help restore these planes. This is still a work in progress but much headway can now be seen, thanks to their hard work. To volunteer to be part of the team call Rudy at 972.551.1122

Claudia Elowe – Archivist

We want to take this opportunity to introduce Claudia Elowe. Claudia is one of the volunteers working on the digitization project for the Museum’s collection which includes: objects, photos, archives and library.



Two years ago the museum received a grant from the George E. Haddaway foundation to be used toward the purchase of Past Perfect museum software.

Past Perfect Museum Software is an application for collections archiving. It is used to catalogue artifacts, documents, photographs, and library books. Images can be uploaded into the catalog, with multiple photos per record. It also stores donor information, and automatically generates Deed of Gift forms and thank you letters upon completing certain steps of the accessioning process. Certain extensions allow for the inclusion of Oral History records and transcripts. There is an additional online function that allows institutions to digitize their collections and make them free to browse on the internet.

Coincidentally, Claudia was visiting the Museum with her husband Alan and she indicated she just might be interested in volunteering. Her most recent work experience was data input at a law firm. After a short training period, she began working on the various aspects of cataloging our collection. Those functions included accession of new materials as well as editing entries which had been transferred from the older Excel spreadsheet date.

Much to our delight, Claudia’s attention is diverted when she comes across material which piques her interest or curiosity. She tells us she loves what she is doing and it shows.

“When I was younger I wanted to either be a movie star or work in a library. Working here I am living my ambition.... uh working in the library.”

Claudia has been a volunteer at the No. 1 BFTS Museum since February of 2017. She is always eager to help during events. She was one of the first to volunteer for the 2019 Flights of Our Fathers Annual Air Show and Fly-In. I asked

Claudia what she wanted to share about her experience volunteering at the museum and she said it was the most fun group of people she had ever worked with. She has always loved history but feels that she has learned so much.

She and Allen relocated from Los Angeles, CA (5) five years ago where she worked in Estate, Real Estate, and Family Law as a legal secretary. Before moving to LA Claudia was a legal secretary in Kerrville, TX.

Margie Ann Davison



April 9, 1940—November 12, 2019

We were all saddened by the loss of our dear friend Margie. Margie was born on April 9, 1940 in Plano, Texas and passed away November 12, 2019 in Wills Point, Texas. She enjoyed spending time with her children, Grandchildren and Great-grandchildren.

Margie served as Administrative Assistant for the No 1 British Flying Training School Museum for three years. Margie never met a stranger. Such a beautiful sweet person inside and out. She always made everyone around her feel special and she loved her family very much. May She Rest In Peace.

Margie had a way of making you feel so special. When I would go into her office at the BFTS Museum she would say, come give me a hug, at the end of a conversation she would always end it with "I love you". 'Til we meet again, I love you too, Margie.

- Marie Taylor

Margie was such a lovely lady and made everyone she met feel welcomed. She loved the BFTS Museum and came to work even when she shouldn't have because she cared so much about its mission and those she worked with. I marveled at her strength and my heart ached as I watched her struggle to breathe. She is missed and will be in our memories forever.

-Liz Oliphant

I was honored to know Margie - her dedication to the BFTS Museum and her love for her family. She always had a smile on her face even when not feeling well. We love you Margie, you will be missed and we will meet again!

- Raenell Davis



SGT Matthew Nethercutt



It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Sgt. Matthew Nethercutt.

He was one of the founding members of the 36 Recon Living History Group.

His knowledge, dedication & enthusiasm were appreciated by all that knew him. He will be sorely missed.

Oct 28, 1965 – Jul 17, 2019

Matthew joined the military before he even graduated from high school and spent 14 years on active duty. When he could no longer serve due to a service-related injury he continued his service for his country as a civilian. Sgt Nethercutt always went above and beyond to make sure the 36 Recon Living History Group supported the No 1 BFTS Museum during the Annual Flights of our Fathers Air Show and Fly-In.

Stanley David Perkins

From his daughter - It is with great sorrow to advise that Stanley David Perkins passed away in June, 2019. He was a cadet in the last RAF No.1 BFTS, Course No. 27. He was inducted into the RAF (No. 3000883) as a Wireless Operator Air Gunner and graduated as a Pilot Air Gunner.

He often talked about his time in Terrell as a young man and remained immensely proud to have been a member of the RAF. He visited the City of Terrell and the BFTS Museum as an older man. The museum, in particular, meant a great deal to him and as such, he penned a number of memoirs of his time at the BFTS No.1 flying school. I collated some of those memoirs and photos and published them into a small book for his 90th birthday. He continued to maintain contact with various organizations such as "old flyers groups" and subscribed to your regular newsletters and other information about the BFTS Museum. Sadly, we should now unsubscribe him from the museum's email correspondence.

Stanley remained in excellent health for all his life, until at almost 94, the Influenza A virus took him from us very quickly, but thankfully, gently. As the Executor of his estate, I continue to intermittently monitor his emails and will eventually close the account.

The BFTS Link

Winter / Spring 2019-2020

Yes, I want to support the No. 1 British Flying Training School Museum!

Donor Name _____ Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

E-Mail _____
 _____ Individual (\$45) _____ Individual -Senior (\$25) _____ Family (\$80)
 _____ Cadet Patron (\$250) _____ Flying Officer Patron (\$500)
 _____ Squadron Leader Patron (\$1,000) _____ Air Marshall Patron (\$2,500)
 _____ STEAM-Winder Patron (\$5,000)

Special Gifts \$ _____ STEAM Learning Center \$ _____ Aircraft acquisition/restoration
 \$ _____ Museum Operations \$ _____ Other _____

Thank You for Your Support

Gifts may be made by check (drawn on US bank), credit card or online
 via Pay Pal at www.bftsmuseum.org/donate

Visa Master Card Discover American Express
 Card Number _____ Expiration _____ Security Code _____

Name as it appears on card _____
 City, State, Zip (if different from above) _____

_____ Please include credit card processing fees in my donation
 _____ My gift qualifies for a matching gift by my employer.
 I will send the Museum the matching form.
 _____ Contact me about volunteer opportunities.



GREETINGS FROM
 NO. 1 BRITISH FLYING TRAINING
 SCHOOL MUSEUM
 PO BOX 219
 TERRELL, TX 75160

This newsletter is also available on our website
 Visit us at ww.bftsmuseum.org/news