

The BFTS Link



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SUMMER 2023

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Visit us at:
119 Silent Wings Blvd
Terrell, TX 75160
972.551.1122
www.bftsmuseum.org

Email:
info@bftsmuseum.org

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

Holiday Closing
Monitor our website for
updated closing infor-
mation.
www.bftsmuseum.org

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Join Us For Monte Carlo Night!

It's going to be food, fun and games (casino, that is) Sept. 16 when the BFTS Museum hosts a fund raising event – Monte Carlo Casino Night - at the museum from 6-10 pm. Guests are invited to "dress to impress" while playing blackjack, craps and roulette. For an additional fee, serious players may choose a High Roller Texas Hold 'Em Poker table.

Big winners of the evening can bid on an assortment of prizes: Henry .30-30 steel lever action rifle, Traeger 575 Pro Pellet Smoker, 3-month membership at Texas Gun Ranch, golf for 4 including cart at Buffalo Creek Golf Club, a day on a Lake Ray Roberts houseboat for up to 12 guests and a basket of assorted British liquors.

Tickets are \$100 per person which includes heavy hors d'oeuvres, a selection of regular and adult beverages (donations gratefully accepted), a scrumptious dessert table, \$1,000 in chips and complimentary valet parking (enter at 1010 Airport Road). Special decorations will help create the casino atmosphere. Space is limited, so buy your tickets early!

"We hope to have some out-of-town visitors who may fly in to participate in special activities we are holding earlier in the day," explained Executive Director Patrick Hotard. "Fly Ins often attract recreational pilots from around the state for games and competitions so we are sponsoring a rubber chicken drop and a precision landing competition during the afternoon and inviting them to stay over and attend Casino Night. We'll provide shuttle service to the Holiday Inn Express and Suites where we've arranged special rates that are also available to other Monte Carlo Night guests who may not want to drive home after the party." The event is sponsored by J.S. Helwig and Son, U-Rent-It, Aircraft Ducting Repair and Film Alley, a Schulman Theatre. Madix Inc. is providing in-kind support.

Tickets are available from Museum board members or by visiting www.bftsmuseum.org. For additional information, call 972-551-1122.

Special Presentation Set For October 26th

Tom Killebrew, author of *The Royal Air Force in Texas*, will speak at the BFTS Museum at 7:00 PM on Thursday October 26, 2023. Mr. Killebrew's book is the "bible" of the No. 1 BFTS and we are honored to see him return to the museum. The presentation is free and open to the public and is presented to commemorate the Sesquicentennial of Terrell and the twentieth anniversary of the BFTS Museum at 119 Silent Wings. Right: Cadets at Bass Drug Store, Terrell.





Left: **Bristol Beaufigther**

Built by the Bristol Airplane Company, the Beaufigther was a unique and versatile plane in the RAF's inventory during World War II. Originally intended as a night fighter, this heavily armed aircraft evolved into a true multi-role instrument, carrying torpedoes, rockets, and 20mm cannon. The two seat strike aircraft was flown by No. 1 BFTS cadet W. R. Hollands while serving on the Burma front.

This slow but effective plane was constructed in both England and Australia during the war.



Image Above — Arthur Aaron Statue

The Millenium Statue in Leeds, England depicts Arthur Aaron, Victoria Cross holder and Leeds native. He was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for his heroic deeds during an August 1943 bombing mission over Northern Italy. The 80th anniversary of this BFTS (Course 6) cadet's heroic actions were recognized at the August Veteran's Breakfast.

COTTON HELPED PUT TERRELL ON THE MAP

"Cotton was king in Terrell but new growth is coming", declared Dr. Don Frazier, historian and head of the Texas Center at Schreiner University in Kerrville. His May 18 remarks at the No. 1 British Flying Training School Museum were co-sponsored with the Terrell Heritage Society and part of the city's Sesqui-centennial celebration. The program was made possible, in part, with a grant from Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The arrival of the railroad in 1873 literally put Terrell on the map. Throughout the Civil War, cotton was the main crop. But the good times slowed when the boll weevil arrived in 1914.

"Without cotton, the 1930's were pretty grim in Texas," Dr. Frazier explained. "That's why, in 1941, people were so eager to establish the airport and the flight school that became the No. 1 British Flying Training School."

See image on page 5 related to Dr. Frazier's May 18th lecture.

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BFTS SOCIAL MEDIA

We are now on Instagram in addition to our Facebook page. Check us out!!!!



Right: Mark and Sian Robinson of Wales were on vacation in the United States and decided to drop by the museum and learn about the flying school. Always great to have visitors from the United Kingdom.



Right: An old clipping from the Dallas Morning News brought visitors to the museum from both near, Mesquite, Texas, and far, Trowbridge near Bath, UK. Reminded by the old news story, local residents Anita and Randy Conover (far right) and their neighbor, Kathy Hohertz (seated), thought their British visitors—Jordan, Kevin, Amy (red dress) and Mazie Ransome (L-R) would find the museum interesting and they did. The ladies enjoyed the coronation ware exhibit and Mr. Ransome was intrigued that, in 1942, there was a soccer league in Dallas where the school team competed and won the championship.



Left: On June 24 we were happy to welcome 16 visitors from the Highland Terrace Baptist Church in Greenville to the museum. Volunteer Carl Nillson helped Executive Director Patrick Hotard guide the visitors through the building. We enjoy welcoming neighbors.

Right: On May 23rd members of the Kaufman County Library Book Club (l-r, Mary Terry, Mary Dean, Tina Reamey, Desi Kennedy) visited the museum as part of a field trip. The membership became interested in touring the museum after reading the novel *Girls of Flight City*. This novel was written by Dallas-based author Lorraine Heath. The book is available for purchase in the BFTS gift shop.



Above: The image above was taken on May 18, 2023 during a large group tour of the No. 1 BFTS. The group visiting that day was from White's Chapel Methodist Church located in Southlake, Texas. This Adult Fellowship group was kind enough to host a presentation by the BFTS director in 2022. Approximately 60 patrons toured the exhibits including the special coronation ware display in Gallery Three. Our thanks to the volunteer tour guides for their assistance.

Church Groups Tour The BFTS Museum

Below: Thursday, May 25, was a busy day at the museum and for volunteer Rudy Bowling who conducted tours for two church groups visiting from nearby towns. The Rockwall First Baptist Church had 20 people in their group while Mesquite's Meadowview Church of Christ (see photo below) brought 14 visitors.



Giving News

Donor Spotlight:

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| William and Charis Bennett | \$2000 (Stearman Project) |
| Fred and Patricia Pendleton | \$400 |
| Anonymous | \$1200 |

In-Kind Contributions:

645 Squadron, United States Air Force — projector

Terrell Alarm Systems, LLC — monitoring fee

Barry Walston — door mat

Terrell Garden Club — flower bed maintenance

Trek Solutions — computer equipment

Just Pie (of Quinlan) - food, veterans breakfast (month of June)

Madix — use of hangar interior, 4th of July

Brookshires — bottled water for special events

Jaguar Owners Assoc. of North Texas — car show, 4th of July



Sponsors for the 2023 Freedom Fest

Our sincere thanks to the sponsors for this year's Freedom Fest:

Helwig

U-Rent-It

Aircraft Ducting Repair



Collections & Events in Review



Left: The BFTS was honored to receive a Second World War flying jacket from Michael and Sandy Diamond of Newark, New York. The jacket belonged to E. J. Diamond, No. 1 BFTS cadet (Course 23). The leather jacket is in very good condition and is a significant addition to our collection.

The jacket is a Mark IV variant. It was produced by Avirex Limited, New York, New York under contract 1978-030 to Air Ministry specification 38/188. Note the wool lining.

Right: In honor of the coronation of King Charles III and to mark the opening of the coronation were display on May 6, staff, volunteers and guests of the BFTS Museum and the Daughters of the British Empire-Texas celebrated with a formal English tea. Many guests came in traditional attire, complete with fascinator hats and white gloves. At each table were tiered plates that held the usual assortment of sweets, dainty sandwiches and scones with jam and clotted cream. Tea was served by several hostesses. To mark the occasion, guests enjoyed taking photos with a life-sized likeness of His Majesty in addition to touring the exhibit which closes September 2.



Left: Dr. Don Frazier of the Texas Center gave a very well received presentation in May on the cotton crop and its role in the growth of Terrell. The program was presented to commemorate the Sesquicentennial of the City of Terrell. We were happy to partner with the Heritage Society on this educational program.

Funding was provided by Humanities Texas.



Right: Second Saturday Veterans Breakfast crowd at the BFTS Museum in April 2023.

Our thanks once again to Margaret Briggs, Rosie Juarez and Gerrie Huthmacher for the support and ongoing efforts to make these breakfasts a success. God Bless our veterans!



The BFTS Museum Spreads The Word Around the DFW.



Above:
Director Patrick Hotard spoke to a group of citizens at the Allen Pubic Library on June 29th.

The crowd of about fifty patrons asked several questions about the museum and its programs. A few of the attendees had recently visited the museum as part of a group tour and attended the presentation to learn more about the BFTS. The Allen Library is a wonderful facility and the BFTS looks forward to working with the library and its staff in the future.



Above: The Cedar Creek Model A Club visited the museum May 19, 2023. As you can see they brought along several examples of this classic car produced by the Ford Motor Company in the late 1920's and early 1930's.

Upcoming Events

Monitor the website at www.bftsmuseum.org and follow our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/No1BFTS for event [schedule updates and changes](#).

9-9-2023

Continental Breakfast for Veterans

9:00 - 10:30 AM

9-16-2023

Monte Carlo Night/Fly-In at the BFTS 6 PM
A ticketed casino style event: \$100.00 per person; Fly-In is \$30.00/person; Proceeds to benefit the museum; Details on page one

9-28-2023

Educational Program

7 PM

Subject: Merrill's Marauders (CBI Theatre)
By Prof. James Sandy, UT-A

10-14-2023

Continental Breakfast for Veterans

9:00 - 10:30 AM

10-26-2023

Educational Program

7PM

Reflections on the No. 1 BFTS (tentative title)

By Tom Killebrew, author

11-2-2023

***Conversations With...* Terrance Furgerson**
Author of a new book about the N. American AT-6 aircraft plant in Dallas (later known as the Vought plant) Ticketed event is \$30.00 per person
7 PM

All events, unless otherwise stated, will be held at the BFTS Museum at 119 Silent Wings Blvd in Terrell, Texas.

NOTE: The North Texas Allied Memorial Ride schedule for September of 2023 has been cancelled.

Freedom Fest - 2023



Above: Terrell Freedom Fest drew a big crowd to Terrell Municipal Airport on July 4th. Food vendors did a brisk business, visitors drooled over the cars from the Jaguar Owners Association of North Texas car show and the No. 1 British Flying Training School Museum may have set a one-day record in number of visitors. And a good time was had by all! It is estimated the event attracted a crowd of 3500 to the airport. That's not counting the folks who watched the fireworks off-site.

High School Jr. Historians Tour the BFTS Museum



Left: On May 16th the museum hosted a visit by the Junior Historians Club from Mineola High School. The seven students were accompanied by their sponsor, Jim Phillips, and two other adults.

The museum was honored to host these teenage historians. They were very engaged and knowledgeable, having a strong grasp of the scope and significance of the Second World War.

We look forward to hosting more youth groups, schools, and homeschoolers in the coming school year.

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SUMMER 2023

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

Donor Name _____ Email _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Individual (\$45) _____ Individual-Senior (\$25) _____ Family (\$80) _____

Cadet Patron (\$250) _____ Flying Officer Patron (\$500) _____

Squadron Leader Patron (\$1,000) _____ Air Marshall Patron (\$2,500) _____

Static Aircraft Display Patron (\$5,000) _____

Other (\$ _____) _____

Thank You for Your Support! Please return this section with your payment. Thank you!!

Gifts may be made by check (drawn on US Bank), Credit Card or Online via PayPal at www.bftsmuseum.org/donate



Visa



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Card Number _____

Expiration _____ Security Code _____

Name as it appears on card _____

Address, City, State, Zip (if different from above) _____

Please Note: Our system will not accept debt cards without the card present.

_____ My gift qualifies for a matching gift by my employer. See employer form enclosed.

_____ Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.



NO.1 BRITISH FLYING TRAINING SCHOOL MUSEUM

GREETINGS FROM TERRELL, TX!

This newsletter is also available on our website

Visit us at www.bftsmuseum.org/news

No. 1 British Flying Training School Museum Inc.

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