This month we reach the end of our 2020 retrospective “look” through Frisco’s first 12 decades. This most recent decade brought us events that kept us glued to our televisions. The Tohoku earthquake at a staggering magnitude of 9.0 on the Richter Scale triggered a tsunami causing thousands of deaths and the meltdown of the Fukushima nuclear power plant. The collapse of a gold and copper mine in Chile trapped 33 miners for 10 weeks. The world watched their rescue with jubilation. Another rescue captivated the world again in 2018 when the Thai Cave Boys, missing for 18 days, were saved.

In March of 2014, a Malaysian Airlines Boeing 777 vanished from the radar with 239 passengers and crew members aboard. While some small debris has been found, the mystery of the disappearance of Flight MH370 still has not been solved.

Gangnam Style by Korean artist Psy became the first YouTube video to reach one billion views and had people galloping, swinging an imaginary lasso, and striking a pose in living rooms and dance clubs everywhere.

Steve Jobs unveiled the first iPad in 2010 but sadly, he would pass of pancreatic cancer at the age of 56 the following year. Other celebrity deaths this decade include Elizabeth Taylor, David Bowie, Carrie Fisher, Prince and Nelson Mandela, who died in 2013 at the age of 95.

Prince William’s marriage to Kate Middleton in 2011 was a royal spectacle watched around the globe. They would subsequently have three children: George, Charlotte, and Louis who would bump William’s brother, Harry, down from 3rd to 6th in the line of succession for the British throne. Harry settled down with an American, Meghan Markle, in 2018 and they share a son, Archie.

The Ice Bucket Challenge of 2014 was created by a young athlete, Pete Frates to raise awareness and money for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS, aka Lou Gehrig’s Disease). Like Lou Gehrig, Pete was diagnosed with ALS. His challenge saw millions of people posting videos of buckets of ice being dumped on their heads. The idea was to give a donation to the ALS Foundation or have ice thrown on you. Many people did both. As a result, $115 million dollars was raised in an 8-week period and to-date, over $220 million worldwide has been donated to ALS non-profits because of the Ice Bucket Challenge. Pete died in 2019, but his legacy lives on.

Frisco fortifies its title as Sports City, USA as it continues to attract teams and sports organizations to town. In 2013 Jerry Jones revealed plans to build his Cowboys practice field and headquarters here. That was followed by the Professional Golfers’ Association of America announcing their intention to move from Florida to Frisco. We again saw our population expand from 118,192 in 2010 to over 200,000 by the end of 2019. We’ll discuss this and more in this issue. We will also remember a dear member of the Heritage Association and lifelong resident of Frisco, Katy Almon.
Jerry Jones Brings His Game to Town

In August of 2013, the Dallas Cowboys announced they would be moving their headquarters from Irving, Texas to Frisco.

As part of the public-private project, the City, the Frisco Economic Development Corporation, and the Frisco Independent School District invested $115 million in the development. The Cowboys would be responsible for managing the facilities and paying for the operating costs. The space would be shared with the FISD sports teams hosting indoor football games, band competitions, graduations, and other events.

The 91-acre complex includes stores, restaurants, a hotel, and apartments in addition to the Cowboys practice facility and headquarters.

The Star in Frisco opened in 2016 with the staff and team moving in just in time for the opening of the season.

*FISD Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Lyon, Frisco Mayor Maher Maso, Dallas Cowboys Owner Jerry Jones, and the Dallas Cowboys Chief Operating Officer Steven Jones pose with the jersey of their newest star player—Frisco, Texas. The 16 on the jersey represents the year that the team and their employees moved into The Star in Frisco, 2016.*
When oil man, rancher, and banker Bert Fields, Jr. died in 2015, the speculation about what would become of his land holdings in Frisco started in earnest. That question was answered in part when Hunt Realty Investments purchased the 2,544 acres from the Fields estate in 2018. Not long afterwards it was announced that the PGA of America would move their headquarters from Florida to Frisco as part of a $520 million dollar mixed-use development including two championship golf courses, a short course, practice areas, offices, a clubhouse, retail village, parks, and miles of trails on 660 acres that would also be home to a 500-room Omni Hotel. The remaining acreage is slated for development in the coming years, but the PGA of America is the cornerstone of the property.

It is another public-private venture with $35 million coming through public funding. The PGA of America will open their facility to more than 300 Frisco ISD high school golfers who are expected to practice there each week. The community will have access to the walking trails when there are no tournaments scheduled.

The PGA of America was attracted to the property because of the rolling hills, the meandering Panther Creek, and the possibility of creating something unique for the golfing community. The golf courses are expected to open in 2022 with future tournaments already booked including two PGA championships however, the corporate move to Frisco began in 2019 with a temporary office space housing about 20 employees.

The Fields property is not only the future home of PGA of America and many other future residents, but also the longtime home of two historically significant family cemeteries. The Smith family cemetery lies just inside the Collin County line, while the Landrum family cemetery is on the Denton County side of Frisco. These families are some of the earliest settlers in the area and founding families of Rock Hill, Prosper, and Frisco. Being on private property, the descendants of these families have not been able to access the cemeteries in decades.

HAF members, Susanne Kerley and Donna Anderson were able to speak with a representative from Hunt Realty shortly after the land was sold and share what they knew about the cemeteries. Last summer they, along with then-museum director, Toyia Pointer, and several descendants of the Smith family were able to visit the property and assess the condition of the cemeteries. The trip required boots, long pants, sunscreen, bottled water, bug spray—lots of bug spray, and a 4x4 truck.

89-year-old John “Dale” Fooshee is the great grandson Charles Lewis Smith and Melissa Hawkins. Melissa is the daughter of Henry Hawkins, who founded the Hawkins Settlement, which is in the same area. Charles and Melissa moved to Texas from Kentucky in 1853. After spending a year in Nacogdoches, they moved to the Hawkins Settlement, west of the town of Rock Hill. Charles received a land grant in 1856 for 350 acres on the Denton and Collin Counties line. His name is still on the survey of this property.

The Landrum cemetery sits high on a hill and will overlook the PGA golf course, while the Smith cemetery sits inside a thicket of trees on the flatlands. The condition of both cemeteries was bleak, having lacked proper care and upkeep for many decades. While family members could not get in for decades, continued next page
it appeared that vandals had found their way to the Landrum cemetery and toppled several of the stones. The visitors were assured by the representative for Hunt Realty Investments that they intended to restore both cemeteries. As part of approval for development of the land that includes the cemeteries, there must be a road to allow for public access. This was wonderful news for the family and HAF.

The group stopped at the homesite where Dale’s family lived during the summers or when they would come to town from their home in Houston to visit their Smith relatives. There was nothing left of the home but his memories. A shed on the land, built later by the Fields family, still holds a huge truck with Bert Fields’ name on the door.

Dale’s mother, Lizzie, inherited 150 acres of land from her mother, Margaret Rogers Smith, who was the daughter-in-law of Charles and Melissa. Lizzie’s father, William Bristow Smith, had passed years earlier.

Standing in a circle of trees, Dale pointed out where the house once stood near the old windmill and water tower, that are still there. As children they called this place “Chore Hill” because Lizzie would always tell them, “chores before chow!” One of the chores Dale remembers was being sent to search in the field next to the house for square nails that might still be in the ground from when an old barn was torn down to build the home. They also had a small garden to tend, chickens to feed, cows to take care of, and putting up hay in the barn.

Dale told a story about a favorite uncle who would joke about the outhouse. If someone asked where he was going, the uncle would say, “Celina!” He said the kinfolk from Celina were not amused.

As he was reminiscing, Dale pointed across the field, beyond a grove of trees to a hill just past the pond. There, he said, is a 40-acre meadow that has never been plowed. It is all native prairie grass—so pure and pristine that farmers came from all around for the hay from that meadow because it had nothing else mixed in it and is extremely nutritious for cattle. Dale’s grandmother leased out the land for.
farmers to run cattle in the years after William Bristow Smith died. If a thistle did pop up in that meadow, it was immediately pulled so that it would not spread its seeds. This was an exciting discovery for the HAF team and was immediately shared with the Hunt representatives as a wonderful opportunity to preserve a section of original blackland prairie. Whether or not that happens, only time will tell.

Lizzie did not hold on to her family land for long. When Dale’s father died in 1947, Lizzie sold the land to Bert Fields, Sr. for $100 per acre. After being in the Smith family for over 90 years, the land would stay in the Fields family, passing from Bert, Sr. to Bert, Jr., for seven decades. Bert, Jr. was only 23 when his father died, and he took the helm of the family businesses. He expanded his father’s land holdings to thousands of acres over the years.

The story of this land will start a new chapter as cattle grazing grounds become putting greens and fields where farmers grew cotton bolls will be home to golfers and golf balls. Welcome PGA of America to our community and to Frisco’s history!

**HAF Twenty Years Later**

The Heritage Association of Frisco turned 20 years old in 2018. In the years since it was founded, the organization—run entirely by volunteers—has logged thousands upon thousands of hours fulfilling their mission to research, preserve, and share Frisco’s history.

For their 20th Anniversary HAF introduced a new logo featuring a cotton boll in honor of Frisco’s agricultural heritage.

Over the years HAF has produced multiple special exhibits in the museum, published books, created the 3rd Sunday Open Houses including the popular Happy Birthday Frisco on the 3rd Sunday in February, the mayor’s annual turkey pardoning in November, and a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus in December.

HAF established the historic marker program to identify homes and sites significant in Frisco’s early years. HAF collects artifacts, photographs, and oral histories to showcase and tell Frisco’s history. The HAF genealogy workshops are popular among people researching their ancestors. HAF provides student scholarships through the Frisco Education Foundation and Collin College.

In the last decade, HAF has hosted teddy bear picnics, summer camps, Business After Hours, Saturday Lectures, and its signature event, Shawnee Trail Cowboy Day. In 2014, HAF was named the Frisco Chamber of Commerce Small Non-Profit Organization Award winner.

The 20th Anniversary celebration was capped off with a celebration in the Heritage Center Depot and the planting of a commemorative tree behind the Crozier House.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of volunteers from our community. If you have an interest in volunteering, the Heritage Association of Frisco has a place for you! Check out our website at www.friscoheritage.org or email us at secretary@friscoheritage.org. With the rate of development Frisco is experiencing, we need all the help we can get as our history grows daily!

*HAF Board members Susanne Kerley, Sandy Simpson, Donna Anderson, Brett Adams, president, Jane Whitledge and Brenda Tighe with the Chamber of Commerce award for the Small Nonprofit Organization of the Year 2014.*
Remembering Katy McIntire Almon

Mary Katherine “Katy” McIntire was born on Maple Street in Frisco on March 17, 1924, the youngest of eight children. The physician attending her birth was Dr. I. S. Rogers—Frisco’s first doctor and first mayor, who lived across the street. The McIntire home was next to the town’s school.

Katy’s first grade teacher was Mrs. Bessie Gunstream. In an article written for the HAF publication *Reading, ‘Riting, and ‘Rithmetic; Early Schools of the Frisco, Texas Area*, Katy states: “To me, she looked like what I thought a teacher should look like—hair pulled back in a bun, long cotton dresses, soft skin, and kind.” Katy nominated Mrs. Gunstream to have a school named for her. The Bessie Gunstream Elementary School opened in 2002.

As a young girl, she watched the construction of the new Frisco High School by the men of the W.P.A. from the front porch of her home. That building opened in 1939 and Katy was in the second class to graduate from the new high school in 1941.

Katy married Raymond Almon in 1943 and they built a home next door to her parents’ house where they raised their sons Ronnie and Freddie. Ronnie graduated in 1965 and Freddie in 1968.

Richard Crowder fondly recalls hanging out with the Almon boys at their home. “Miss Katy always had cookies or cake for us.” It was like a second home for him.

Katy was devoted to her family and community. She served as an election judge for the school district, city, and county. Involved for decades with the FISD, Katy was named the 1993 Silver Citizen by the Frisco Chamber of Commerce.

When the Heritage Association formed in 1998, Katy was one of the original members. She served on many committees including several publications. Katy chronicled HAF’s activities in multiple scrapbooks for more than 10 years.

When asked, Rick Fletcher said, “She is one of my all-time favorite Frisco citizens. Ms. Katy knew everyone and everything about Frisco! She spent all but a few years of her life living within 60 feet of where she was born. I called her the ‘Matriarch of Maple Street,’ since she knew the family histories of every family on her street and helped me write a few articles. Others called her the ‘waving lady’ since her house was next door to the Maple Street schools and, for decades, Ms. Katy sat on her porch in the mornings and afternoons—and waved to the students, parents, and FISD employees as they came and went.”

During this pandemic, Katy was lovingly cared for by her niece, Kay Stem Chatman-Haney, in the home she grew up in and that has been in the same family since it was built. Katy passed away peacefully on November 1, 2020 in the same home where she was born 96 years earlier. A full life comes full circle. She was a true Frisco treasure who witnessed nearly a century of Frisco’s 118-year history. Katy will be missed by her family and friends, many who recall sharing special times visiting with Katy on her front porch there on Maple Street.
What’s Cooking?

The following recipe is from the 1964 FISD cookbook, What’s Cooking, compiled by the Junior Class, which included Katy Almon’s son, Ronnie. Among the recipes submitted by Katy was this one for Banana Nut Cake.

**BANANA NUT CAKE**

| 1 C soft shortening | 2 ½ C sugar |
| 3 C sifted flour | 1 ½ tsp baking soda |
| 1 tsp salt | 4 eggs, separated |
| 6 Tbl buttermilk | 2 tsp vanilla |
| 1 C chopped pecans | 2 C mashed bananas |

Cream shortening and sugar. Sift dry ingredients together and add alternately with beaten egg yolks and buttermilk. Add vanilla, bananas, and nuts. Beat egg whites until stiff and fold into batter. Bake in large, greased stem pan (a Bundt pan) at 350 for 1 ½ hours. This cake needs no icing.

Holiday Greetings!

Ninety-three years ago, a 6-year-old boy from Frisco had a football on his mind when he wrote his letter to Santa. Check out the letter below from the December 19, 1927 Frisco Journal and our very own former mayor, Bob Warren!

HAF is inviting children of all ages to write a letter to Santa this year. Print out the form in this newsletter or create your own letter. Drop it off in the Frisco Heritage Museum’s welcome area between now and Christmas. One lucky person will win a Frisco Heritage raccoon person when Santa draws their letter out of the mailbox on Christmas Eve!
Collin County Historical Commission to Dedicate Foncine Marker

On Thursday, December 3, at 1 pm, the Collin County Historical Commission and Heritage Association of Frisco will officially dedicate the marker that celebrates and remembers the town of Foncine. All are invited to attend the dedication, which will be outside and last about 30 minutes. You may bring a folding chair, if necessary. The location is in front of the Kwik Kar at 12500 Eldorado Parkway near the corner of Eldorado and Coit. Because of the current COVID-19 precautions, all who attend must wear a mask.

Collin County Historical Commission is an umbrella organization for all historical preservation and education groups in Collin County. The 20 members of the CCHC are nominated by members of the Commissioners Court and represent the four quadrants of Collin County. One of the programs of CCHC is a historic marker program that designates sites important to historic heritage in Collin County. These markers are placed for the education and enjoyment of the citizens and visitors of Collin County. The site of the former community of Foncine has been chosen for the honor of receiving a Collin County Historic Marker. Foncine was a farming community located in the area near the current intersection of El Dorado Parkway and Coit Road. About 1860 there was a general store, gristmill, cotton gin, grain elevator and post office for the Foncine community. The marker commemorates the people and businesses of Foncine.

From the Heritage Association of Frisco Board of Directors

The Board of Directors met via Zoom in November to discuss the continued cancellation of meetings and events while the COVID-19 situation continues. Here are a few things you should know:

- Third Sunday Open Houses are cancelled until further notice.
- If you ordered a Virtual Shawnee Trail Cowboy Day T-shirt and did not pick it up on October 31, please contact us at secretary@friscoheritage.org to arrange a pick up day.

If you have not paid your annual dues, or you would like to support the work of HAF by becoming a member, please visit our website at www.friscoheritage.org. There are two ways to complete and submit your membership application.

1. Fill out and submit an online application at www.friscoheritage.org and pay through PayPal.
2. Download, print it, fill it out and mail it along with your check to: Heritage Association of Frisco PO Box 263 Frisco, TX 75034

Thanks for your support!
From the President’s Desk

Greetings Heritage Association of Frisco members and friends. I hope that you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and are doing well. I am so thankful to be a member of the Heritage Association during this tough time in our history. You have been great members supporting our virtual programs and meetings. Hopefully, with vaccines on the horizon, we will be able to resume many of the programs and events that we have done in the past. The HAF Board has been meeting regularly on Zoom to work through this year and thinking about the future.

Thank you to Mayor Jeff Cheney for pardoning Tom, the Thanksgiving Turkey, virtually this year. It will be great to have Mayor Cheney and Tom together in person in 2021.

I believe that Mr. and Mrs. Claus will be sharing a story with us virtually this year. We will be putting out “A Letters to Santa Box” at the Museum. Santa will read the children’s letters or greet them during the presentation. More information to come about this event.

As always, I would like to encourage you all to renew your membership and help us to continue to research, preserve and share Frisco’s rich heritage. If any of you have a desire to join us on the Board or would be interested in becoming our Membership Chair, please let us know. We are always looking for members to help us explore the past and imagine the future together. Please take care and be safe. Our very best wishes to you all for a Merry Christmas Season and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Historically yours,
Donna Schmittler, President, Heritage Association of Frisco

Researching Your Roots

http://usgenweb.org/ is a web site that has pages for every county in every state. The information on this site is maintained only by volunteers. The amount of information varies by state and by county with some place having a lot of information and others having very little information. For each county, there are links to other sites that may contain specific information about that county.

Happy Hunting!
Vickie Burns
Chairman, Genealogy Committee
Print and fill out this letter and drop it in Santa’s mailbox in the welcome center at the Frisco Heritage Museum. **Have an adult provide contact information on the back!** Santa will draw one lucky person’s letter to win a HAF raccoon puppet!

**Dear Santa,**

My name is ________________________
and I am ___ years old. I have been very ________ this year.

My favourite colour is ________________________
and my favourite animal is ________________________

My best friend’s name is ________________________

For Christmas I would like:

________________________________________

________________________________________

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Love, __________________
BONUS:
From the HAF Archives

Here are a few pictures from our past Shawnee Trail Cowboy Day events. We look forward to bringing back the fun in 2021!