



DEDICATED TO PRESERVING GRAPEVINE HISTORY

# On The Vine

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## Living Iwo Jima Survivor Tells His Story

Donald E. Graves was born in Detroit, Michigan in 1925. He entered the United States Marine Corps at the age of 17 on August 17, 1942.

Donald served two tours in the South Pacific. His 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Division served with the occupation of Japan. On February 19, 1945 his division hit the beach on Iwo Jima and secured Mount Surabachi in three days, thus the famous flag raising on Mt. Surabachi. In the next five weeks of heavy fighting the island was secured. He was discharged on January 12, 1946.

Since then, Donald has been a singer and performer in Detroit, Michigan and Hollywood, California. After a few years, he was called to Christian ministry as a pastor and singer. Donald has had many opportunities as a guest speaker about his experiences in WWII. He also has worked with the federal prison system and gospel rescue missions. He has a wife, Rebecca, of 68 years and has four adult children, six grandchildren and ten great grandchildren.

Donald loves his country and some of the beautiful states he has lived in are Michigan, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Arizona and currently the great state of Texas.

Join us for our February 27th meeting in the Community Room at the Grapevine Public Library at 7pm and hear first hand World War II historical narrative from Donald.



From  
Debi's  
Scratch  
Pad

Recently, the Texas Lake Trail Association visited the GHS Museum. Lisa Dalton forwarded their comments to me and I wanted to share the kind words. "Your team is amazing and we loved our time visiting with the volunteers that were part of the historic society working in the Ice House." Thank you so much to the docents for doing such a good job of sharing our history every day.

## In the Museum

By Carolyn Ernst, Curator

Have you noticed the display case on the south wall of the Attic in the Museum? It is labeled “Yates Dry Goods Case,” but Yates Dry Goods has a long history.

In May 1859, Eli Mathis Jenkins, his wife, **Charlotte Dunn** Jenkins, and their children moved to Grapevine from Jefferson, Texas. While still living in Jefferson Eli made several trips to Grapevine, where Charlotte’s parents had moved. In 1857 he sent a shipment of general merchandise and employed his brother-in-law, **I.P. Solon Dunn**, to manage it. It was the only general merchandise store in Grapevine until after the Civil War.

The store has been known as **Yates and Bushong** (after Eli’s death), **Jenkins and Yates**, and finally **Yates Dry Goods**. **Earl Yates, Sr.** was the maternal grandson of Eli Jenkins. He was taken out of school in 1890 at the age of 12 to work in the store, which was then owned by his father, **J.E.M. Yates**. Earl married **Kate Jenkins**. The business then passed on to **Earl Yates, Jr.**

So there is quite a bit of Grapevine history of the families who were instrumental in founding both Grapevine and the Yates Dry Goods store.

The case itself contains many of the items left in the store at the time of its closing in 1986. You may still recognize some of the brand names such as Vaseline, but other items represent times past, such as “braces,” (suspenders commonly worn in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century), wooden or metal toys (no plastic) and drying frames for ladies' dress gloves. Read a more complete history in the holder on the case in the Attic or in *Grapevine Area History* under the various names above.

In January we had 247 visitors from 17 states plus Washington, D.C and 13 foreign countries. Come and see what attracts all these people to visit us!

### GRAPEVINE HISTORICAL MUSEUM HOURS

TUESDAY– SATURDAY 10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
SUNDAY 11:00 am—4:00 pm CLOSED MONDAY



## 100th Anniversary of World War I

The Grapevine Historical Society hosted a meeting with the Grapevine Heritage Foundation at the Bessie Mitchell House on February 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. Debi Meek, President, of the Grapevine Historical Society began the meeting with a prayer, followed by welcoming the 20 people in attendance.

Debi introduced the speaker for the first part of the evening, Anita Robeson, who is a member of the Ft. Worth Committee to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of WWI. She said that Ft. Worth played a major part in WWI, providing Camp Bowie and three airfields. In addition, some manufacturing for the war effort was located here. All of this set Ft. Worth on a growth path and made it a major Texas city. An inter-active exhibit is planned called “North Texas in WWI: Mobilization for the Great War” at the Fort Worth Central Library from July 9 - October 20, 2017.

Elaborate plans for displays are being made, such as a mock trench. Part 2 will feature years 1918 and 1919 after the war. The North Texas centennial group is part of a nationwide effort to commemorate World War I and is under the auspices of the Texas Historical Commission. Anita suggested that we might want to “tag on” to this celebration with a donation or perhaps a program, display, etc. in our own town.

**The Grapevine Historical Society normally meets the 4th Monday monthly except May and December**