



# COMMISSIONERS COURT COMMUNICATION

REFERENCE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

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DATE: 01/17/2023

**SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION OF VARIOUS ITEMS FROM BILL HUDSON AND RAYMOND C. ASHLEY TO THE TARRANT COUNTY ARCHIVES**

**\*\*\* CONSENT AGENDA \*\*\***

**COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION REQUESTED**

It is requested that the Commissioners Court accept the donated items listed below from Bill Hudson and Raymond C. Ashley to be used by the Tarrant County Archives department, located in the Plaza Building, 200 Taylor Street Fort Worth, Texas.

1. Rocking chair belonging to John Peter Smith, Donated by Bill Hudson in 2017.
2. Desk belonging to John Peter Smith, Donated by Bill Hudson in 2020.
3. Dining table with extensions and eight (8) chairs belonging to John Peter Smith, Donated by Bill Hudson in 2021.
4. Springfield Model 1863 Type II Rifle Musket manufactured for Union armies in 1864, Intro to Civil War Bullets booklet, and eight (8) replica bullets, Donated by Raymond C. Ashley for display in the 1895 Room at the Tarrant County Courthouse in 2022.

**BACKGROUND**

John Peter Smith is known as the “Father of Fort Worth”. Smith moved to Fort Worth after graduating from college in Virginia in 1853. In January 1854 Smith obtained possession of an old army hospital where he operated the first school in the city. Smith voted against secession in 1861, but supported the Confederacy after Texas joined the Civil War, and fought with Tarrant County men in Company K.

After the war, Smith began his career as a lawyer in real estate. Smith was a major land owner in Tarrant County and donated much of his land to the development and expansion of Fort Worth. Smith was elected mayor of Fort Worth in 1882 and served six (6) terms. The collection and preservation of Smith’s material possessions, potentially for display, allows Archives to preserve and share his story.

The acquisition of the Civil War musket and related materials offers a material representation of a major historical event in our country’s history.

The above listed items were donated and accessioned into the Archives collections between 2017 and 2022.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

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| SUBMITTED BY: | Archives | PREPARED BY:<br>APPROVED BY: | Parker, Jaimi |
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