

# BOSQUE MUSEUM



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*Chronicle the Land,  
People, and Culture of  
Bosque County, Texas*

April 22, 2014

Mrs. Janet Jackson  
P.O. Box 233  
Clifton, TX 76634

Dear Janet:

The Carl Questad Farm is the "crown jewel" of the Norse Settlement. The rock home, barns, and fences were described by the U.S. Department of Interior in 1982 to be the prime example of a Norwegian farmstead in Norse National Historic District. The rock construction of the fences and the buildings are similar to what may be seen today in Norway's older farmsteads. In Texas, however, there had to be building modifications because of the local Indians. In the barn walls are slots through which settlers could fire their guns when there were Indian attacks on the farmstead. The blacksmith shop has a bell (still present) which the family would ring to warn other farmsteads about a pending Indian attack. In one of the bedrooms is a massive fireplace containing space for the children to crawl into whenever there was a threat.

The massive wooden beams in the house's original rock rooms are from huge oak and walnut trees no longer present in Bosque County. There were upstairs rooms which housed many visitors to the farm. Perhaps the most famous was Gustav W. Berfrage. He was one of the most significant scientists of the Texas frontier and did much of his significant zoological work in this region. His specimens may be found in the British Museum, The Stockholm Academy of Science, and the National Museum of Science in Washington, D.C. He is credited with the naming of the Monarch Butterfly.

Carl Andreas Engebretsen Questad (1815-1881) was recognized as the early leader of the Norse settlement. He occupied a unique status as leader, adviser and champion for the Norwegian Immigrant. Although he had more financial resources than most immigrants and he occupied the largest farmstead, he was always available to assist his fellow Norwegians with legal documents, financial assistance and other services needed to establish their farmsteads. He maintained correspondence between Texas and Norway for a number of years. The Bergan, Norway museum has many artifacts and letters he sent them from 1854 to 1875. He gave the land for the Norse Cemetery and later for Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

This property is one of a kind and its history is revered both here in Texas and in Norway. The property with the adjacent Our Savior's Lutheran Church and Cemetery is the heart and soul of the Norwegian Settlement in Bosque County.

Sincerely,

George W. Larson, Ph.D.  
Director