

## A LOOK BACK IN HUTCHINSON COUNTY HISTORY

### Elizabeth Borger

Elizabeth Willoughby Borger was the wife of our town's founder, Ace Borger. She served as the unofficial first lady of Boomtown after following her husband as he founded and developed similar enterprises in Oklahoma and Texas.



In addition to the drifters, lawless roughnecks, ambitious entrepreneurs and a notorious criminal element, Borger was also home to a select few women who expected a more refined environment.

Elizabeth Borger was one of these unusual women. She encouraged the local women to support their husbands, but also to build schools to educate the town's children and to nurture art and beauty in the culturally devoid outpost of early Borger. She helped to domesticate the town and start it on its way to becoming a good place to live, work and raise a family.

Elizabeth and Ace built the first brick home in Borger which is still in use. Their home was the hub of all local social activities. She graciously hosted visiting dignitaries including legislators, businessmen and preachers as well as providing a place for local women's societies to gather. She appreciated art and antiques of all kinds and decorated her home very stylishly.

As a mother, she was very protective of her three children in a place teeming with thugs, criminals and prostitutes. The couple were local celebrities and Ace was as well-liked and influential. Elizabeth met the challenges of living in this remote place bravely, but she died of a stroke in 1933 at age 43, almost a year before her husband was murdered. ■

618 North Main Street  
Borger, Texas 79007  
806-272-0130

Open Tue-Fri  
9am-5pm  
Sat-11am-4:30pm



Hutchinson County  
Historical Museum

Free admission

Handicapped  
accessible

Kid-friendly

[www.hutchinsoncntymuseum.org](http://www.hutchinsoncntymuseum.org)