

For Immediate Release

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Virtual East Texas History Presentation, September 3 ***Folklorist Stephanie Khattak presents “Ghost Story, Ghost Town”*** ***as part of the 2021 Folklore in the Archives Symposium***

DALLAS (AUGUST 12, 2021) - Artist, writer and folklorist Stephanie Durham Khattak will present “*Ghost Story, Ghost Town*,” a virtual, multimedia presentation about the history of Homer, Texas, at 12:15 pm, September 3, as part of the UNT University Libraries 2021 Folklore in the Archives Symposium. The public is encouraged to attend this free event, and the webinar may be accessed on Zoom by following [this link](#).

“*Ghost Story, Ghost Town*” will share a family ghost story and explore true historical events that align with the area, including a feud between two families that rocked the community.

Born and raised in Lufkin, Texas, Khattak’s current focus, the Pine Curtain Project, uses visual art, written narratives, and ethnographic and archival research to document life in Lufkin, Nacogdoches and the surrounding areas from the 1870s through the 1990s, exploring that consequential era’s influence on the communities’ present day.

“Once a thriving regional hub and the Angelina county seat, Homer began to decline in the mid-1800s and has since become a ‘Ghost Town,’ leaving no trace of its former prominence,” she said. “However, it is still home to many of its original settler families, giving us a valuable trove of resources in the form of oral histories, archival documents and community ephemera.”

Khattak’s research includes online and traditional archives at The History Center in Diboll; the Portal to Texas History’s digital collections, and various other national, family and community archives. Additionally, she uses in-person interviews, old photographs and generational folk tales to add context, personality and color to the information she finds.

In addition to writing and speaking on East Texas history and folklore, Khattak is a visual artist whose artwork can be found locally in the gift shop at the Texas Forestry Museum, by commission, and for purchase on her Website.

About Stephanie Khattak: Stephanie Khattak is artist, writer and folklorist who lives in Dallas, Texas, originally from the “pine curtains” of East Texas. Her work is based on vintage personal, found and public domain images, or iconic scenes from cities and small towns, and captures an

intangible sense of connection with bygone times through people, places and scenes, giving context to the past and creatively documenting history and community legacies.

Stephanie's main creative focus, the Pine Curtain Project, documents East Texas history, and she is hired for art commissions, wholesale programs and other work depicting subject matter in and beyond Texas. More information is available at www.stephaniekhattak.com.

About the 2021 Folklore in the Archives Symposium: Join archivists, researchers, and lore enthusiasts from around North America as they share their collections and research in a two-part virtual showcase taking place on Friday, August 27, and Friday, September 3, from 11am-1:30pm CST. Participants will learn about topics such as cryptids, urban legends, superstitions, local lore, hauntings and ghosts, UFOs, and more through examples of archival materials and special collections. This is one event you don't want to miss, so register today at: <https://bit.ly/3BILXpv>.

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