



THE CYCLONE



WTHA Returns to San Angelo



Conference attendees browse the booksellers and silent auction at the 2017 meeting in Lubbock.

The 95th annual meeting of the West Texas Historical Association is in San Angelo this year on April 13-14 at the First United Methodist Church, 37 E.

Beauregard Ave. All sessions will be held at the Methodist church. For those arriving early, there will be a tour of Fort McKavett and the Presidio de San Saba in Menard during the day, Thursday. On Thursday evening an Early Bird reception and meal will be held at Zentner's Daughter Steak House. On Friday evening the president's reception and banquet will be held at the Cactus Hotel, next door to the church. The program, "A Region of Famous Forts" includes presentations on Fort Concho, Fort McKavett and Fort Chadbourne. Queries concerning the meeting should be forwarded to the Conference Coordinator Robert Hall at Robert.J.Hall@ttu.edu.

The program committee has assembled over 60 papers in 23 sessions including joint sessions with the East Texas Historical Association, the Center for Big Bend Studies and the Permian Historical Society.

Exhibitors interested in displaying items at the conference or those wishing to donate anything to the silent auction should contact Freedonia Paschall at (806) 742-3749 or e-mail Freedonia.Paschall@ttu.edu. Please consult our website at www.wtha.org for further conference information.

Martha Webster: A Tough Texas Pioneer

by Becky Matthews

Martha Webster was a true Texas pioneer who endured countless hardships early in life but went on to play a little-known but significant role in the settlement of the Texas frontier. Born in what is now West Virginia on April 30, 1835, Martha was the daughter of well-to-do planter John Webster and his wife Dollie Flesher Webster. Martha's father John Webster first came to Texas in 1836. After service in the Texas army, Webster brought his family to Bastrop County in 1839, where they set out for his land grant and met with disaster in what is now known as the Webster Massacre. The party consisting of the Webster family and twelve other men was attacked by Comanche under chiefs Guadalupe, Yellow Wolf and Buffalo Hump. They retreated to Brushy Creek near present-day Leander in Williamson County. There they formed their wagons into a hollow rectangle and made their last



stand. Four-year-old Martha, her mother and her older brother Booker were the only survivors. In later years, Martha would recall the battle for the 27 April 1913 edition of the *San Antonio Express*.

They [the Comanche] smashed the crate that contained my mother's fine china and silver that she had brought with her from her home in Virginia, taking the silver and making trinkets out of it with which they ornamented themselves,

stringing them around their necks, their arms and their ankles.

My father had his sword with him, and they broke it up into small pieces, breaking the hilt into three pieces for their three chiefs... While I was very young, scarcely 4 years old, yet I can well remember these old Comanches breaking up the sword and cutting up the silver on that awful day. Oh, that awful day still haunts my memory, but I feel happy that such sorrow can never come to me again.

In this memoir, Martha went on to describe being whipped by the Indians because she cried. She told of having a rope tied around her and being thrown into the river and pulled back out. In a petition to the Texas legislature many years later, she also mentioned being burned with live coals in different places on her body, where the scars still showed many years later.

In the *Express* article, Martha also alluded to the "awful suffering" of her mother. Her ten-year-old brother (cont. p2)

Martha Webster

(Cont. from p1) fared better as his captors admired his fighting spirit. Sources disagree on the exact date of the Webster Massacre and on how long the Websters were held captive, estimates range from two years to a few months. Martha places the date of the massacre on June 12, 1839, and her time in captivity at nine months.

In any case, Mrs. Webster and Martha did eventually manage to escape from the Comanche. After the warriors left for a council meeting in San Antonio, some of the squaws informed Dollie Webster that they were not planning on releasing her. She grabbed her young daughter and took the opportunity to slip out that night, following the trail of the braves toward San Antonio. Martha recalled:

My mother carried me nearly all the way, I only being strong enough to walk short distances. We traveled altogether at night, hiding during the day, avoiding the trails and watering places, for mother knew that many of the warriors were then on their way to San Antonio to attend the treaty meeting.... We were so weak and so near starved to death that mother had almost given up, to lie down and die, and I was too weak to cry.

At this point, a train of Mexican carts found them only three miles from San Antonio and took them into town. Martha reported that her mother's feet were "worn to the bone and were bleeding" from walking barefoot through the brush. Martha said the two of them arrived in San Antonio on March 1, 1840.

A few days later, Martha and her mother were reunited with her brother, who was brought in and turned over as part of the treaty negotiations. In this same time period, tragedy befell the Comanche when the treaty session went wrong and a large number of them were killed in the "Council House Fight" in San Antonio on March 19, 1840. A Mr. Cooksey took young Martha to see the scene at the council house afterwards. She recalls, "I was not a bit scared at the sight of the dead Indians." Cooksey said the sight made him shudder, but, continued Martha, "he said I looked around at the dead Indians and called some of them by name while he held me." The Websters returned to Virginia, where Dollie Flesher Webster died in 1845. Martha added, "Mother never was herself again after her sufferings and bereavements."



Martha would return to Texas in 1849 as part of her uncle Paulser Flesher's household. One can only wonder how Martha felt about returning to Texas nine years after her escape from the Comanche. There are some hints of her indomitable character, though. According to the Burnet County History, Martha returned to Burnet County in 1852 to claim her father's land. By that time she was his only heir, as her brother Booker had been killed in the war with Mexico in 1848. She was obviously a wealthy young woman, with or without this land. The 1850 census showed her worth at \$5000, and she was only fifteen at the time. She would, however, be able to claim and settle the land. Years later, there would be a hint of pride in her words to the *San Antonio Express*: "I was married at the age of 17 to M. G. Stricklin, February 3, 1853, and we moved to the place where my father was going to build his fort, which was afterward the village called Strickland." The couple prospered, selling land to other early settlers, and the town became a major terminal for the Austin to Lampasas stage, with branches going northwest to San Saba, east to Belton, and west to Burnet. The Burnet County History calls Strickland a "thriving town... with a school, churches, post office, livery stable, a doctor's office, saloons, blacksmith shop, a broom factory and several stores." The town thrived until the railroad bypassed it in 1882. Martha had left the community years earlier after she was widowed in 1865. In 1868, she married Charles Simmons.

It is difficult to piece together the rest of Martha's life. Census records indicate that she and Marmaduke Stricklin had seven children, while she and Charles Simmons added four more children to the brood; the 1900 census records also indicate that nine of her eleven children did live to adulthood. In 1870, the Simmons were farming in Burnet County, with real and personal property valued at about \$3000. Though

Martha's net worth had dropped since 1850, the family was prospering in post-civil War Texas, where their neighbors' net worth was counted in hundreds of dollars, not thousands. The Simmons family had moved to a farm in Gillespie County by 1880, but by 1900 the widowed Martha and three of her grown Simmons sons had all moved to Rough and Ready, California, a mining town west of Lake Tahoe. In 1900, Martha's son Charles Simmons is listed as the head of the household, but in 1910 and 1920, Martha is listed as the head of her son Louis's household. None of her sons appear especially prosperous. The census lists their occupations as farmer, laborer, and street car conductor, and all rent rather than own their property. The Stricklin children appear to have stayed in Texas, though in 1910, Martha was raising her grandson Ancel Stricklin. Martha was 76 when she wrote her reminiscences of the Indian raid for the *San Antonio Express*. The newspaper exclaimed over a "woman nearing century mark" who was "still able to do her own housework" when she "takes pen in hand to correct history." Martha died in Oakland, California, on November 27, 1927 at the age of 91.

One can only guess at Martha's character. As a young child she survived the horror of watching her father and his friends killed, scalped and mutilated by Comanche warriors. She survived harsh treatment as a captive. These incidents would certainly remain vivid in her memory for the rest of her life. At the age of 76, she would still lament, "Oh, that awful day still haunts my memory." She was certainly not unaffected by the tragedy. She harbored an obvious antagonism toward her captors, calling them things like "savage demons" and "red devils." As a child, she appeared curiously unmoved by the sight of her dead captors at the council house. Yet she showed resilience and optimism when she added, "but I feel happy that such sorrow can never come to me again." Martha was orphaned by the age of ten and lost her only sibling three years later. Yet she came back to Texas and at the age of sixteen claimed the land her father had died for, and she was instrumental in settling and developing that land. She was widowed twice and outlived several of her children. Her economic situation obviously went up and down. Yet at the age of 74, she was raising a grandson and taking over her grown son's household. Posterity can never really know how pleasant or likeable she was, but they can certainly know she was a woman of strength and indomitable character, a tough Texas pioneer.

Signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence – Then What

By Elmer Kelton

[Reprinted from the 1979 YEAR BOOK. This paper was originally presented as a banquet address at the WTHA meeting in San Angelo in 1978.]

Somewhere a few years ago I read an account of the many misfortunes suffered by the men who signed the American Declaration of Independence, the price they paid in terms of lost property, lost family members, and long periods spent as fugitives.

I began wondering if some of the same things might have happened to the 59 men who signed the Texas Declaration of Independence at Washington-on-the-Brazos, March 2, 1836. It didn't turn out quite as I expected.

There was a big difference, first of all, between the American signers of 1776 and the Texas signers 60 years later in 1836. The American signers, by and large, were men of rank and property, aristocracy, so to speak. They were men who had a great deal to lose in a material way by sticking their necks out.

Not many Texians were of this class. The wealthiest of the 59 was said to be Robert Hamilton, 52 at the time, an immigrant from Scotland. He had become wealthy in North Carolina and came to Texas in 1834. After he signed the declaration, his financial background caused him to be sent with George C. Childress to Washington, D. C. to plead the cause of the new republic, seek recognition of Texas and try to establish commercial relations.

A relatively few others, such as Sterling Clack Robertson, the land empresario, might be considered wealthy. Certainly Robertson had a great deal of material property to lose if the revolution failed. But by and large most of the signers were not men of much property, beyond modest land claims, and whatever they might have accumulated in equipment and homes. In fact, 15 of the 59 had been in Texas less than a year.



Washington-on-the-Brazos

However, several of them would pay a price. At least five would get away from the convention in time to make their way back to their military units and participate in the battle of San Jacinto. Two or three others may have done so, but their record is unclear. Most of the 59 men never saw each other again. In a few weeks two of them were dead, one killed in the battle of San Jacinto, the other accidentally shot on his way there. Before the year 1836 was over, five of the signers were dead. On average the Texas signers lived a little more than 19 years after putting their signatures on the document. In actual fact, one was dead in just over a month, but one lived for 59 more years.

Let's review the background on the signing before we go into any real study about the men themselves. Washington-on-the-Brazos, though it was the capitol of Texas for a short time, was not named for Washington, D. C. It was named after Washington, Georgia, the old home of one of Stephen F. Austin's early settlers, Judge Robert M. Williamson—the noted "Three-Legged Willie." It was surveyed in 1834 at a ferry crossing on the Brazos, not far from modern Bryan-College Station. At that time it was considered some distance from centers of civilization.

The revolution had finally come to a boil in the fall of 1835. There was a great deal of dissension, bickering and

jealousy among the Texian leaders, and much jockeying for position. Not until Santa Anna was north of the Rio Grande and **DISASTER WAS IMMIMENT** did the Texians temporarily put aside their differences and attempt a united front.

The citizens at Washington-on-the-Brazos guaranteed that the convention would have a place to meet if it went there. Actually, they were premature, because they didn't have a suitable meeting hall. Noah T. Byers was in the midst of building a large frame structure, though, and this is the building in which the 59 delegates gathered. He hadn't put in the windows yet, so the openings were covered with cotton cloth to help keep out the cold March wind. Temperatures on the day of signing was recorded at 33 degrees.

That was the first price, the extreme discomfort not only of the trip but of the accommodations. Washington was just a little village, and ill-prepared to house the men.

It had been an unusually cold, wet winter, and everybody in Texas had suffered from it. The saving feature, from a military standpoint, was that the Mexican troops suffered even more than the Texians, because most of them had come from a Southern climate and were not prepared for the hard winter they found in Texas. At the battle of the Alamo, and all the way up to San Jacinto, a sizeable portion of the Mexican army was half dead on its feet from exposure, flu and pneumonia.

The men who went to Washington-on-the-Brazos paid another price, a pervasive feeling among perhaps a majority that they were on a needless errand when their friends and relatives elsewhere in Texas were dying. Many of the group felt that pulling away from their homes or their military units to sign a piece of paper was an idle gesture, a waste of their time. No doubt some felt guilty about their absence from the seat of battle.

One in particular had reason later to be glad he *was* there. Jesse B. Badgett had been elected as a delegate from the Alamo. He had come to Texas the year before, from Arkansas. He left for the convention just before Santa Anna surrounded the garrison. While he was at Washington, his whole constituency was killed. It is understandable that after he signed the declaration, he went back to Arkansas. So far as the record shows, he never returned to Texas.

One of the first moves made after the meeting was called to order in that cold, drafty convention building was a proposal that the group immediately adjourn back to the war. The motion was voted down.

Sam Houston was there and argued that the convention did indeed have important work to do. He felt it was important from an international standpoint that the Texas insurgents be given some basis of legality. He argued that a declaration of independence would pave the way for much greater help from the United States. It turned out he was right, although the battle of San Jacinto came before much of that help had time to arrive. A great many men, considerable arms and ammunition and some money came after independence was a fact proven on the battlefield.

It is part of the tradition at Washington that George C. Childress brought a prepared declaration to the meeting with him, that the only thing really needed was ratification. Childress, fresh from Tennessee a few months before, was a nephew of the impresario Sterling C. Robertson.

The signing, March 2, was on San Houston's 42nd birthday. Maybe it was coincidence. But students of Houston's life knew that along with his tremendous abilities went a tremendous ego. So the choice of March 2 may not have been entirely by happenstance.

All but seven of the 59 signers were American-born. It is no wonder that the Texas declaration borrowed much from the American declaration of 60 years before.

What of the men who signed it? Who were they?

Eleven came originally from Tennessee and eleven from Virginia. Nine were from North Carolina. Five were from Kentucky, four each from Georgia and South Carolina, three from Pennsylvania, two from New York, one from Mississippi and one from Massachusetts.

England, Scotland, Ireland, Canada and Mexico each produced one signer.

Only two men were native-born Texans. It goes without saying that both were of Mexican extraction. The reason is plain enough, when you apply a little arithmetic. No Anglos were legally in Texas before the very early 1820s. Therefore, except for the Mexican citizens, there were no native sons more than 14 or 15 years old at the time the revolution began. The three youngest men to sign the declaration were 24. All three had arrived in Texas just the year before. One of them, Junius William Mottley, of Virginia, paid the supreme price for Texas freedom. He was killed at San Jacinto. In his honor, a county in the Texas Panhandle was later named for him. Ironically, the name was misspelled.

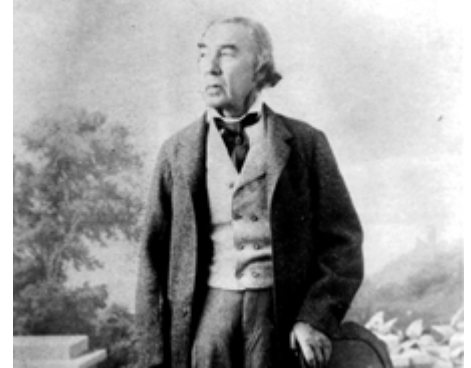


Junius William Mottley

One of the other two, however, lived for 54 more years. He was Stephen William Blount, whose company reached San Jacinto the day after the battle, perhaps sparing him from death but probably giving him something of an inferiority complex the rest of his long life.

The two native Texans were both of San Antonio. Jose Francisco Ruiz was 53 at the time and spoke no English. All the proceedings had to be translated for him. He had been involved in an

unsuccessful revolution against Spain in 1813 and was exiled to the United States until Mexico became independent. He served the Mexican government as a military officer until 1832 when he became an opponent of Santa Anna and out of official favor.



Jose Antonio Navarro

Jose Antonio Navarro was 41 when he signed the declaration. He was a good friend of Stephen F. Austin and became an empresario himself, settling up land grants after 1824. He was elected in 1834 to serve Texas in the Mexican national Congress, but he was an opponent of Santa Anna and did not choose to be trapped in Mexico City. He pleaded illness and didn't go. After the signing of the declaration of independence, he stayed on as one of 21 special committeemen to draft a constitution for the Texas republic.

After the war he served as a Congressman of the new republic but had to resign in 1839 because this time he *was* ill. Against his better judgment he accepted Lamar's appointment as a commissioner on the Texas Santa Fe Expedition in 1841. When the expedition collapsed and his participants were taken to Mexico as prisoners, Navarro was separated from the others. Because of his part in Texas independence, he was considered a traitor to his race and his country and was condemned to die. The sentence was later commuted to life. In 1844 he escaped, got on a British vessel bound for Cuba and finally reached home the following year, in 1845. Hardships? A stiff price for Texas freedom? You bet. But he lived on to 1871, a full 35 years after signing the declaration. He served on the convention which voted in 1845 for

annexation of Texas to the United States, and helped draft the first state constitution. He also served as a state Senator. In 1861, he joined the secession movement, and all four of his sons served in the Confederate army.

One other Spanish-speaking delegate to Washington-on-the-Brazos was not fated for such a long life. Lorenzo de Zavala, 47, had been born in Mexico and was a Texas land empresario before becoming a political refugee from Santa Anna. His home was just across the bayou from the San Jacinto battleground. Wounded Texian soldiers were carried there for treatment.

After the republic's constitution was drawn up. David G. Burnet was elected president and de Zavala vice president. De Zavala was appointed to accompany the conquered Santa Anna back to Mexico and see that a satisfactory treaty was drawn up. But Santa Anna's trip was delayed for several months. During this time de Zavala became ill. He died in November, after having signed the declaration in March.

In those early days of Texas, because of the bitter strife with Mexico, it is not difficult to understand why few Mexican people were highly regarded; it was in many ways a racial conflict. De Zavala was a notable exception. Navarro was another.

It could be speculated that these three men—Ruiz, Navarro, and de Zavala—may have paid the highest price of all the signers. Many at the time—on both sides—saw it as a racial war. Santa Anna publicly proclaimed it so. In that respect these men were going against their race—against their own people—because they *knew* what Santa Anna was. One wonders what mental and spiritual torment they must have endured over their decision.

One man who brought a considerable amount of money to Texas with him, and spent it in Texas' behalf, was Samuel Price Carson. A former Congressman from North Carolina, he had fallen on political hard times somewhat like David Crockett. He bought land on the Red River and along the Arkansas border in 1834. He

was elected secretary of state of the new republic and was sent to Washington, D. C. to work for Texas interests. He spent so much of his own money for the good of Texas that in 1837 he had to mortgage a number of his slaves for \$10,000. He died the following year, 40 years old and in debt, two and a half years after pledging his all for Texas.



Samuel Price Carson

The *Handbook of Texas* carried the biography of each of the 59 signers. It struck me that a majority appeared to have achieved no more than modest financial success in their later years.

One luckless fellow, John Turner, almost completely dropped out of sight. Even the date of his death could not be pinpointed closer than four years. The only official record of him in his later years was when he filed for bankruptcy in Houston in 1844. In 1848 his widow remarried, so his death had to be sometime between these two dates. He helped to found a nation, but he seems not to have shared in any material success.

As proud of Texas as we are, we must concede that very few people here were having much material success in those times. Life was hard, often *bitterly* hard. For most Texians of the time the wolf was always growling just outside the front door, and the back door too, if they were affluent enough to have one. Cash money—they called it “specie”—was very scarce.

Many people had left an easier, more secure life elsewhere to come to Texas to try to build something for their own later years, or for their children. The Texas they found during and for the decade or so after the

revolution was a long way from paradise. But they paid the price—most of them—and endured.

A few of the signers died violent deaths within a few years after the war. George Washington Barnett took his family out of Texas during the Runaway Scrape but returned shortly. Two years later he was killed by Lipan Apaches.

Robert M. Coleman was a hard-luck man whose bad luck seemed to throw its shadow across his family. He came to Texas from Kentucky in 1832 and settled in what is now Bastrop County. He was an aide-de-camp to Sam Houston at the battle of San Jacinto and later raised and commanded a regiment of rangers. He was drowned in the Brazos river at Velasco in July 1837. Two years later his wife and his oldest son were killed by Indians near Webberville. Life in Texas could be hard indeed.

Robert Potter survived the revolution in good shape. He settled on his veteran's grant on Caddo Lake in Shelby County and became embroiled in the infamous Regulator-Moderator War which bloodied that region for several years. In 1842 he ran into a group of Moderators, who shot and killed him. His body was never recovered from the lake. Later on, President Sam Houston finally broke up the feud by threatening to bring in an army and declare war on both sides.

There were evidently some real characters among the declaration's signers. One was a Virginian named Martin Parmer known in his time as “the Ringtailed Panther.” One of his accomplishments was to outlive four wives. He was living with his fifth when he died at 72.

Samuel Augustus Maverick signed the declaration. In later years his prominence in the Texas cattle industry added a new word to the American vocabulary. He was said to have declared that any cattle bearing a brand belonged to somebody else, but any having no brand at all were his. Thus any unbranded animal past weaning age became known as a maverick, and gradually the word came to mean

anybody or anything which went contrary to general custom. Maverick paid a price for being a Texian. He was captured by General Woll in the invasion of San Antonio in 1842 and carried off to prison in Mexico.

Another signer of the declaration was Mathew Caldwell. A scrapper, he was wounded in the Council House fight with Comanches in San Antonio in 1840. He, like Navarro, became a member of the Santa Fe Expedition, was captured and sent to prison in Mexico. He was back in Texas in time to lead a party of 200 volunteers against Woll and to defeat the Mexican troops at Salado Creek. He got revenge for his imprisonment. But he didn't manage to rescue Maverick. Maverick and other prisoners had been sent on ahead. Caldwell died later that same year, but at least he had the honor of dying at his home, and not in a Mexican prison.



Collin N. McKinney

The oldest man at the time of the signing was Collin N. McKinney, 70, who had come to Texas in 1831, settling in what was then a disputed area along the Arkansas border. He thought for years that he was living in Arkansas, but as it turned out he was a Texian all the time. He lived to the ripe old age of 95.

Except for the two natives, the oldest signer in terms of time spent in Texas was James Gaines. He was 60 when he went to Washington-on-the-Brazos. Born in Virginia, he came to Texas first in 1812 and joined the filibustering Gutierrez-McGee expedition. He quit in disgust after his companions executed Spanish prisoners. He was alcalde of the district of Sabine as early as 1824.

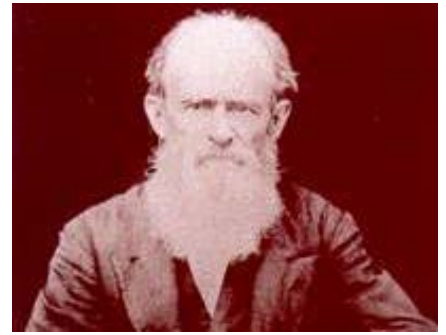
Haden Edwards accused him of being chiefly responsible for the Fredonia Rebellion of 1826. In the 1830s, he operated Gaines Ferry across the Sabine. He served three terms as a Congressman in the republic. Still an adventurer in his old age, he took off at 73 for the gold rush in 1849 and died in California at the age of 80, in 1856.

We've been talking about the price paid for freedom. One of the declaration's signers has a unique experience in that, in a way, he *lost* his freedom during his stay in Washington-on-the-Brazos. During the convention Charles Ballinger Stewart married Julia Sheppard of Washington. They had five children during their 13-year marriage. He outlived her by 36 years. Texas in those days seems to have been particularly hard on women.

The last surviving signer of the declaration was William Carroll Crawford. He had come from North Carolina in 1835, in very bad health. He was 32 years old when he put his signature on the document. Texas must have been good for him, because he lived another 59 years, dying in 1895 at the age of 91. It may be coincidence, or it may be family longevity. Crawford was related to Charles Carroll, the last surviving signer of the United States Declaration of Independence.

The men who went to Washington-on-the-Brazos, facing that cold March weather, wondering where the Mexican troops were, probably had little thought that what they did there would ever bring them personal fame or fortune. Most of them had neither at the time, and never acquired it. A majority died in rather modest circumstances. The average Texan today probably could not name three of them without looking them up in a reference book. Fifteen of them had been in Texas less than a year, and only 14 of the entire 59 had been here as much as six years.

Some people—not many of the Texans, I hope—take the position that what these men did in effect was to steal Texas from Mexico. But I don't accept this as being the case, any more than the American colonists stole the United States from England.



William Carroll Crawford

Most of Texas' true "old settlers" were a long time in coming around to the notion of declaring independence. They held out a long time against the "war party." They asked not for independence but for a square deal and decent treatment from Mexico.

Not until after the tragic imprisonment of Stephen F. Austin in Mexico City did they begin to shift around to the independence view. By then they realized Mexico was in the grip of a despot, a cold and fearless dictator whose response to the suffering of his own men was to see after his own personal comfort; whose response to criticism was to crush it; whose response to freedom was chains.

Some of these signers paid a hard price, and relatively few ever gained what we would consider a generous material reward.

But because of those Texians, and what they did, we are Texans today.

Looking Back . . . 1934

The West Texas Historical Association came to San Angelo for the first time for their Tenth Annual Meeting in 1934. John R. Hutto recorded that papers centered around the history of "the hostess city and environs" stating, "From the standpoint of historical interest and background, San Angelo surpasses all other West Texas cities and communities." During the business luncheon at the San Angelus Hotel, R. C. Crane was re-elected president. One of the vice-presidents, Ginevra Wood Carson spoke on the founding of the West Texas Historical Museum to preserve all types of history in the area noting that "the old timers are silently passing on one by one and with them will go all the authentic facts of our pioneer days."

NEWS AROUND WEST TEXAS



Leland Turner represents WTHA at the 2017 East Texas Historical Association meeting.

UPCOMING:

April 15, 2018 – “Hermann Lehmann: Anglo or Comanche?” **Mason County Historical Symposium**, Odeon Theater. For more information email Jan Appleby at janell@ctesc.net.

April 21, 2018 – **Permian Historical Society**, Petroleum Museum, Midland, TX For information go to <http://permianhistoricalsociety.org>.

April 18-21, 2018 - **Texas Association of Museums**, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Houston, Texas. For information go to <http://texasmuseums.org/annual-meeting.html>.

April 27-28, 2018 – **Central Texas Historical Association**, Wingate Hotel and Williamson Conference Center, Round Rock, Texas. For information go to <http://www.centexhistassn.org/annual-conference>.



April 28-29, 2018 – **Texas Archeological Society**, Archeobotany Academy, Alpine, Texas. The Academy will be held at Sul Ross University with co-sponsor the Center for Big Bend Studies coordinating the facility. Talks will be an introduction to ethnobotany, southwestern agriculture, historical plants, sandal making and traditional plant use by the Puebloans and Apache. Hands-on activities will include identification of wood species from archeological sites, tools and weapons in the desert,

experimental gardens, and Chihuahuan Desert medicine. The group will also tour the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute to observe plants and hear about their uses.

Participants will receive two lunches, snacks, certificates, and a collection of articles for further reading. Educators may receive CPE credits. The fee for the Academy is \$100 and membership in TAS is required. For further information, contact Pam Stranahan at 361 460-4608.

May 5, 2018 – **Edwards Plateau Historical Association** at the Mason County Library, 410 Post Hill St., Mason, Texas. Registration cost is \$15.00 per person and includes the catered noon meal. Deadline for meal reservations is Tuesday, May 2, and are to be made with Margaret Gaver, P. O. Box 243, Junction, Texas 76849 or e-mail fwyatt30@cebridge.net.

May 23-26, 2018 - The **Society of Southwest Archivists (SSA)** will hold its annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas at the Hilton Palacio del Rio. For questions or concerns pertaining to registration, please contact Kristine Robb at kristinerobb@gmail.com.

May 25-26, 2018 – **Texas Map Society** will meet in San Antonio, Texas at the Hilton Palacio del Rio. For additional information go to <https://texasmapsociety.org/events/>.

October 11-13, 2018 – **East Texas Historical Association** meeting in Nacogdoches, Texas at the Fredonia Hotel. For information go to <https://etha.wildapricot.org/Fall-Meeting>.

November 9-10, 2018 - **Center for Big Bend Studies**, Sul Ross State University, will hold its 25th Annual Conference of history and archaeology. More details will be on the CBBS website by October at <http://cbbs.sulross.edu>, or call 432-837-8179.

CALL FOR PAPERS:

The **East Texas Historical Association** invites proposals for papers and sessions for its 2018 annual fall meeting to be held in Nacogdoches, TX at the Fredonia Hotel on October 11-13. Deadline for submission is May 11. Proposals should be sent to Program Chair Gwendolyn Lawe at gmlawe@aol.com.

The **Center for Big Bend Studies** is now accepting papers to be given at the 25th Annual Conference in November in Alpine, Texas. Presentations are 30 minutes long. Please submit your paper by October 1, 2017. For information go to <https://cbbs.sulross.edu/callforpapers.php>.

In Memory...

Jeanne Anne Christian of Claude, Texas passed away March 29, 2018. She was active in the preservation of ranching history through her service with Armstrong County Museum. The Christian family also has a three generation history of service to the Panhandle-Plains Museum in Canyon. Mrs. Christian and her husband Tom are members of the West Texas Historical Association and were recognized for starting Cowboy Morning breakfast.

Rick Sherrod of Stephenville passed away March 27, 2018. He was a high school and college teacher, historian and author. Sherrod held a doctoral degree from Michigan State University in modern British history. He was a frequent attendee at the West Texas Historical Association meetings.

Jo-Ann E. Palmer passed away at the age of 72 on March 3, 2018. She was a long time board member and Secretary of the Sutton County Historical Society. For many years, she wrote a weekly column for the Devil's River News called "Ask the Historical Society." Palmer interviewed many of the pioneer families of Sonora and developed a filing system for the archival collections in Sutton County. She was described as "an unforgettable character: intense, opinionated and generous, with a witheringly incisive intelligence."

Call for News and Articles

The *Cyclone* wants your news and articles for publication in future issues of the newsletter. We would like to publish any information concerning conferences, events, local celebrations, museum exhibits and books throughout West Texas.

We are also looking for short articles on West Texas subjects. In this issue, there is an article on Martha Webster, a strong West Texas woman. We would like to publish further articles on West Texas women. We would also like to continue our articles on interesting sites around West Texas. We are open to any subject that will further the understanding of and interest in West Texas history.

Please consider submitting your news and short articles for inclusion in upcoming issues of the *Cyclone*. All submissions or queries should be sent to Jim Matthews at jjmatthews2@att.net.

THE CYCLONE

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Editor: Jim Matthews at jjmatthews2@att.net.

WEB PAGE

This site lists association news, conference updates, and membership forms for new members. Members are encouraged to submit professional and organization news and photographs.
Editor: Lynn Whitfield at Lynn.Whitfield@ttu.edu.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The WTHA Facebook is maintained for the benefit of members and affiliates who are interested in West Texas history.
Editor: Wes Sheffield at wes.sheffield@wtha.org.

WEST TEXAS HISTORICAL

Southwest Collection, Texas Tech University
P.O. Box 41041
Lubbock, TX 79409-1041

Phone: (806)742-9076
Fax: (806)742-0496
E-mail: wthayb@ttu.edu

Website: www.wtha.org



Join the West Texas Historical Association

Throughout its distinguished history, the West Texas Historical Association has encompassed a wide range of both professional and non-professional historians, from lawyers to ranchers to teachers. Although their interests vary, members share a common desire to preserve the rich history of West Texas. All members receive the *West Texas Historical Review* and the *Cyclone*.

Membership Levels

Student	\$ 10
Regular	\$ 30
Institutional	\$ 25
Family	\$ 35
Sustaining	\$ 50
Life	\$ 500
Sponsoring	\$1000

To join mail your check to: West Texas Historical Association, Texas Tech University, Box 41041, Lubbock, TX 79409-1041 or register online at www.wtha.org.