



THE CYCLONE



Abilene Conference Prepares for WTHA 100th Anniversary



WTHA members at the 2023 conference in Abilene.

In the fall of 1923 R.C. Crane approached Rupert Richardson about Simmons College taking the lead in organizing a West Texas Historical Association. Almost one hundred years later, WTHA returned to Abilene for their 98th annual conference on April 14-15, 2023. During the Friday evening banquet at the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature, keynote speaker John Erickson regaled members with readings from his popular "Hank the Cowdog" books.



Keynote speaker John Erickson

The WTHA annual business meeting and luncheon on Saturday included presentation of awards and election of officers. New Fellows of the Association Debbie Liles, Marisue Potts and Scott Sosebee were announced. President Becky Matthews addressed the association on "Looking Forward, Looking Back: 100 Years of Collecting West Texas History."

Decatur Baptist College 1898 –1965

by Wes J. Sheffield

"Decatur Baptist College 1898-1965" is a paper, presented by Wes J. Sheffield, at the April 2004, Annual Meeting of West Texas Historical Association in Abilene, Texas. Sheffield is a graduate, and past adjunct professor of History at Dallas Baptist University- (formerly Decatur Baptist College). Fire tragically destroyed the Wise County Heritage Museum (former administration building of Decatur Baptist College)



located at 1602 South Trinity St. in Decatur, Texas in the early morning hours of Saturday, March 18, 2023.

During the frontier period the citizens of Wise County, Texas and those living in the counties bordering the Red River were under constant attack from warring groups of Comanche and Kiowa Indians. So significant were these attacks that during the period of 1860 to 1870, Wise County alone lost half of its population. By 1874, the Indian attacks had subsided and the population of Wise County progressively increased with the arrival of the Fort Worth and Denver

Railway connection at Decatur in 1882.

Decatur, an agricultural hub of the region and outpost on the eastern edge of the old Chisholm Trail hardly seemed a candidate for higher education in late nineteenth century Texas. Life, however, would drastically change for many Wise Countians, and other Northwest Texans when higher education came to the region with the founding of Decatur Baptist College in 1898.

In the 1880s and 1890s throughout Texas, Baptist churches were expanding their membership and began to form alliances and associations with each other. The origin of higher education in Decatur can be linked to one of these early association meetings. In the fall of 1892, the Northwest Texas Baptist Association held a meeting near Iowa Park, Texas, to discuss the future of a Baptist College in the region. Representing Decatur was 60 year old, George Bible Pickett. Pickett, a former Confederate Lieutenant Colonel, and five term representative of the Texas Legislature was well versed in negotiating terms to his liking. After several attempts to reach a majority vote on the location of the new college, the committee failed since each representative only voted for the location to be in their own district. Pickett, determined to bring the college to Decatur had an idea. Before the next vote was taken, he solicited individual delegates with the following proposal: "We the representatives of Decatur, if you will vote for the college to be in Decatur, and if the vote fails, then we will vote for your town next". When the committee re-convened and voted on the issue, the first vote was all Decatur. There was no second vote, and Northwest Texas Baptist College was to be established in Decatur.

The first classes for the college were held in rented space on the courthouse square in 1893. Immediately construction began on a three-story administration building of native

stone, contracted to S.C. Kilgard of Denison, Texas for the sum of \$20,855.00. The scenic hilltop location of the administration building on the outskirts of Decatur established the school as a landmark for all who traveled through Wise County. That same year, Dr. A.J. Emerson, a former president of Howard Payne Baptist College was elected president of the new school. Financial strains and the panic of 1893, however led to the failure of the school, and it was forced to close in 1896, and be sold at auction, after only four years in existence. The failure of Northwest Texas Baptist College, and other schools of its type started by associations were not uncommon. Many small regional Baptist colleges failed due to lack of financial resources within the supporting region and the lack of support from the denomination statewide.



George Bible Pickett

To address the debt situation of Baptist schools statewide, denomination leaders in the 1890s began to discuss the possibility of consolidating school debts, and align control under the leadership of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, with Baylor University in Waco, being the head of the Baptist school system. The majority of Texas Baptist colleges were in debt, with a total of more than \$300,000, the exceptions being Baylor and Simmons College in Abilene.

Prior to the November 1897 meeting of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, J.M. Carroll, pastor and financial agent for Baylor Female

College, paid a visit to an old friend in Decatur, J.L. Ward. Ward, pastor of First Baptist, Decatur, was in Alvord holding an all-night prayer and revival meeting. While the two discussed the consolidation of Texas Baptist schools, Carroll mentioned the possibility of establishing a two-year junior college supported by the Convention. Ward immediately thought of the defunct Northwest Texas College, whose facilities had been purchased at auction by Decatur attorney J.W. Patterson. The old friends agreed that in order to accomplish the consolidation of Baptist Schools and retire debt, a significant financial donation would be required. Carroll, a well-known fundraiser in Baptist circles, could think of only one Baptist in Texas who could make such a donation, Col. C.C. Slaughter, "The Cattle King of Texas."

Christopher Columbus Slaughter, the son of itinerant Baptist minister and cattleman George Webb Slaughter, mastered his trade early while watching over his father's herds at their Palo Pinto County ranch. By 1897, Slaughter, had amassed his own fortune in land and cattle, having established the Long S Ranch in West Texas, he now lived in Dallas and was an active banker. After the meeting with Ward, Carroll traveled to meet with Slaughter who was vacationing in South Dakota. Carroll spent three days with Slaughter and proposed an amount of \$50,000 would serve as a "starter" to help retire the \$200,000 debt owed by seven Texas Baptist schools. Carroll, however, was unaware that Slaughter had recently invested \$100,000 in breeding stock, and was unsure of his ability to donate an immediate \$50,000. Slaughter agreed to give \$25,000, half of the proposed donation, and instructed Carroll the money be used as a challenge donation, and if support for the measure slowed in the future, "I will stand by you until the whole thing is put over." Carroll and Slaughter also agreed that during the upcoming

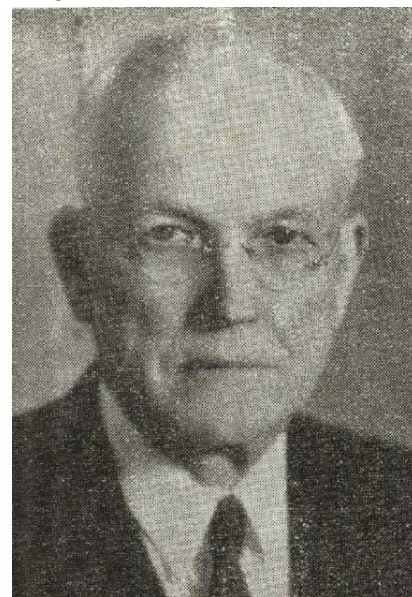
Baptist General Convention meeting, Slaughter would personally announce his donation. Following the meeting with Slaughter, Carroll met with several representatives of Texas Baptist schools, including J.L. Ward, to form a committee to address the Convention. When the Convention met in November in San Antonio, Carroll and his committee presented the consolidation and debt elimination plan to the 1,500-member delegation. As planned, the old cattleman stood to announce his \$25,000 donation to support the proposal. Reaction to Slaughter's announcement was overwhelmingly positive. The plan was adopted by the convention, and a commitment was made to purchase the vacant Northwest Texas Baptist campus, valued at \$35,000, from J.W. Patterson for \$7,000. Baptist Higher education would again, be available in Decatur due to the generosity of C.C. Slaughter, J.W. Patterson, and the persistent efforts of J.M. Carroll, and J.L. Ward.

Classes began at the newly established Decatur Baptist College in the fall of 1898, with an enrollment of 105 students. The Rev. B.F. Giles, a professor from Howard College, in Alabama was elected the school's first president. J.L. Ward in addition to his duties as pastor of First Baptist Decatur was named President of the Board of Trustees. The original land purchase of the school consisted of three blocks of land and two buildings. The three-story administration building housed the school chapel on the second floor, and held fifteen rooms. Neel Hall, a women's dormitory, held twenty-six bedrooms, a large dining hall, kitchen, and served as the home of the college president. As a show of good will toward the college, the city of Decatur donated funds for the construction of a men's dormitory. Named "Decatur Hall" the building contained sixteen rooms and was equipped with gas lighting. The college was divided into three separate schools. A primary, and college preparatory academy, and a

traditional two-year college curriculum program. Many local school age students attended the "academy" due to the poor quality of the local public schools. The college was divided into six departments, Literary, Music, Art, Military, Physical Culture, and Home Department. The Literary department taught the majority of the subjects, Biblical Literature, Latin, Greek, German, Math, and English classes. DBC's mission as stated in a report by the board of trustees, was "Finish here and on to Baylor, is the battle cry. We are going to furnish Baylor University some of the brightest minds in the state, and if the Convention or someone else will help us equip ourselves, we will give Baylor the best prepared students in the state." Including preparatory work of the academy a student might spend as much as six years at Decatur before moving on to Baylor. For the first few years of the school, DBC graduated only students from the preparatory academy. Beginning in 1904, students regularly received degrees from the Literary department, equipping them to enter Baylor. The first graduating students receiving degrees were Annie Ford, Margaret Gunn, W.M.W. Splawn, and F.A. Gentry. As part of a continuing effort to improve academics, starting in 1918 all graduating students were required to produce a senior thesis.

In the spring of 1900, B.F. Giles resigned his post as president to become president of Central Female College in Tuscaloosa, in his home state of Alabama. When Giles left the college in 1900, his replacement would be the man who would lead Decatur Baptist College longer than any other, J.L. Ward. Jesse Lawrence Ward, was born in the Deep Creek community of Wise County in 1866. A successful businessman, he joined his brother in a mercantile operation in Springtown Texas. At the age of twenty-six he felt the call to Christian ministry, sold his share of the business for \$12,000, and enrolled at Baylor

University in August 1893. Ward left Baylor before earning his degree, but later in recognition of his teaching and contributions to Higher Education, Baylor awarded him an honorary Master's degree, and Hardin Simmons College awarded him an honorary Doctorate of Divinity. During Ward's years at Baylor, he developed relationships with B.H. Carroll, George W. Truett, and J.M. Carroll, Baptist leaders that not only helped shape the future of Decatur Baptist College, also Baptist higher education throughout the state of Texas.



Jessie Lawrence Ward
Decatur Baptist College President

With the exception of a seven-year absence due to the death of his first wife, between 1907 and 1914, J.L. Ward served as president of Decatur Baptist for forty-three years. DBC not only served as a junior college that met the needs of traditional college age students, but as noted by Ward in a report to the Baptist General Convention of Texas: "The college furnishes opportunities to attend school at an expense within the reach of many who cannot meet the expense of attending larger schools. It affords opportunities to that class of preachers, many of whom are married men, who decide rather late in life that they are called to preach, who cannot fit into public high school and who are not prepared to enter college."

DBC served not only Wise County, but also North and West Texas. In the 1920 annual, the hometowns of the graduating class indicate the majority came from Decatur, North, and Northwest Texas communities. Cities included were Nocona, Paradise, Olney, Wichita Falls, Gainesville, Fort Worth, Burleson, and Cleburne. Many students who attended DBC were attracted to the school because of convenience of travel from their hometowns to Decatur, via the Fort Worth & Denver railway.

Throughout his career as president of DBC, Ward faced two major challenges – student recruitment, and maintaining the school budget. In the early years before an endowment was established, DBC operated largely through the tuition and payments it received from room and board. During the depression and World War II, decreased enrollment and financial strains would have closed the college if not for the resourceful management of J.L. Ward. During these years Ward resorted to several cost saving measures which saved the school from financial ruin. He moved the faculty into the dormitories to provide room and board for them in lieu of salaries. The College dairy, which was established in 1915, by 1938 had grown to 85 acres and had a respectable size herd, provided milk and milk products for meals. The surplus was sold to the community to profit the school. Also, a Book and Lab fund was established which provided finances for purchasing much needed supplies and equipment. This concept allowed students the less expensive option of renting books, and the profits were used to purchase new books and supplies for the school.

During the depression Ward also accepted payment for tuition and board in a number of ways. Many students paid by providing janitorial and maintenance service, and dairy work. Many students paid their tuition and board with produce, beans, potatoes, sweet potatoes, beef, turkey,

chicken, hams, sausage, and ribs. Ward's idea was that he needed these services and food products to operate the school. This was a common practice during the depression era, and was done to keep the school alive during a difficult time and help students stay enrolled who would have otherwise dropped out of school.

HISTORY REPEATING



1912 Fire at the Boy's Dormitory.



2023 Fire at the Wise County Heritage Museum formerly the administration building of Decatur Baptist College.

A typical day at DBC revolved around class and chapel. While a rigorous academic schedule was required, students were required to attend chapel daily at Ten O' Clock, and Tuesday night prayer meetings in the dormitories. They also attended Wednesday evening prayer meetings and Sunday services at local congregations. A strong commitment to spiritual values, morals, and Baptist tradition would continue throughout the lifetime of the college. Another spiritual activity at the college, were scheduled revival meetings. In his 1980 memoir of early years in Decatur, Jim Tom Barton, noted, "The season of religious renewal at Decatur was heralded each spring at Decatur Baptist College. Each spring a forceful evangelist, imported to conduct a campus revival, took over

chapel services and conducted prayer meetings in the evenings." Revival meetings were sometimes reported like athletic contests. On April 19, 1907, the Decatur News announced: "The Baptist revival closed last night, there have been 69 conversions, besides a number of backsliders reclaimed!"

While spirituality and revivals were a key part of life at DBC, Athletics was a favorite among students and the community. Known as the "Decatur Baptist Indians" as early as 1906, the college built a baseball field, tennis courts, and a small gym. Basketball, a favorite at DBC became an intercollegiate sport in 1905. The 1907 team was so successful that DBC won the state basketball championship after traveling to Austin, defeating Texas State University (UT) and Baylor. The captain of this star team was Jess Predeaux, a seven-foot center, no doubt the tallest Baptist man in all of Wise County. The winning tradition of DBC basketball would continue until the school moved in the 1960s.

Baseball also popular, became an intercollegiate sport in 1912, although unlike basketball it was cut from the athletic program in the 1930s due to budget constraints. "The Indians" also established a Football team in 1916. During the inaugural season, the team played against both high schools and colleges. The 1916 schedule included games against, Denton High, Henrietta, Bowie, and TCU. In later years the team faced other state supported Junior colleges such as Grubbs Vocational College (UTA), Weatherford College, and John Tarleton (Tarleton State).

The school annual commented on the team, "Every man who went on the field for the Black and Gold was a hero," while describing players who competed with "shoulder bone fracture," "three ribs crushed," and a "lick on the skull that would have added the Sphinx of Egypt." The football program enjoyed moderate success, although like the baseball

program was cut due to budgetary reasons in 1953.

One of the unique sporting teams at DBC was the Boxing team. In 1947, two DBC students, Ray Spruill, and Albert Manire boxed in the state and district golden gloves tournament. In 1950, a boxing team was formed at the school, and seven boxers competed in regional tournaments held in Denton and Fort Worth, - finishing with an impressive record of 7-1. It is doubtful many of the opposing fighters expected to be stepping in the ring with a bunch of Baptist preacher-boys!

Among the alumni of Decatur Baptist College, many students would continue their education at Baylor, enter the ministry, become educators, lawyers, merchants, bankers, and doctors. DBC's most distinguished graduate was Walter Marshall William Splawn. Graduating in 1904, Splawn went on to graduate from Baylor in 1906 and returned to DBC as an instructor for three years. He also received a B.A. and M.A. from Yale University and a PhD from the University of Chicago. Splawn served as president of the University of Texas for three years, a member of the State Railroad Commission and served on the Interstate Commerce Commission for 19 years.

The 1950s were times of progress and change for Decatur Baptist College. In 1950, 83-year-old JL Ward resigned as president of the school, a few years earlier the school had celebrated its 50th anniversary, and Dr. Otis Strickland a DBC alumni and former star basketball player was selected as President of Decatur Baptist. Facilities were updated and expanded. A modern library was constructed in 1956. New faculty was hired, the sports programs flourished, and a record number of graduates were awarded degrees in 1956, 74 graduates, the largest in school history.

In 1959, the college received a long-awaited accreditation from the Southern Association of Schools.

DBC was also recognized as being the oldest planned junior college in the world. Change however was on the horizon for DBC, since the early 1950's discussion had been rumbling concerning moving Decatur Baptist to a new location. Mentioned as possibilities were San Antonio, Houston, Fort Worth, and Dallas. The Dallas Baptist Assoc. approached the board of DBC about a possible move. When they refused, the Baptist General Convention of Texas contracted a third-party study of the school in 1959. The study concluded that if the school were to survive it must re-locate. Competition from larger urban colleges, and DBC's rural location would stifle its future. The options for DBC were to move and convert to a senior college, or the Baptist Convention could not continue to fund the school.

The Decatur trustees agreed on Feb. 14, 1963, to move the college to a South Dallas location, beginning in the fall term of 1965. After more than 65 years in operation, Decatur Baptist College closed its doors and opened a new chapter in Christian Higher Education, as Dallas Baptist College in September 1965.

In summary the purpose and legacy of Decatur Baptist College can be summed up in the words of a sign created to welcome alumni and visitors during the 65th anniversary of the school:

“Greetings to the friends & Ex – Students of D.B.C” FOR A CONSERVATIVE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DECATUR BAPTIST COLLEGE FOUNDED THURS. NOV 8. 1897, - 65TH ANNIVERSARY SESSION FOUNDED AND FOSTERED BY SUCH CONSERVATIVES AS J.L. WARD, GEORGE TRUETT, AND B.H. CARROLL WE REJECT THE EMPTINESS OF RADICAL THEOLOGY. WE BELIEVE THE BIBLICAL ACCOUNT OF CREATION. WE TEACH GENESIS 1-12 AS HISTORICAL EVENTS. WE OFFER A BIBLE CENTERED

CURRICULUM. WE MAGNIFY CHRIST IN REGULAR CHAPEL AND CAMPUS REVIVAL. IN SHORT - WE BELIEVE, TEACH, AND LIVE THE BIBLE AS THE DIVINELY INSPIRED WORD OF GOD.”

In conclusion, I would like to thank Mr. Tom Gettys of Decatur, Texas for his assistance in documenting the facts of Decatur Baptist College. Mr. Gettys age 82, is the only surviving Dean of DBC. Also thanks to Mrs. Elizabeth Ward Robertson, of Denison Texas, daughter of J.L. Ward.



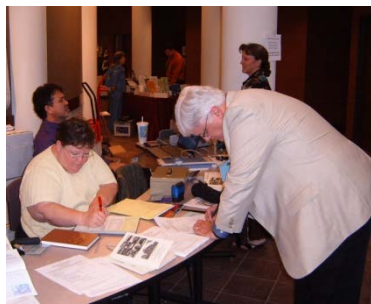
Author Wes Sheffield with Dean Tom Gettys.

In Memory. . .

William "Bill" Elton Green, age 80 passed away May 8, 2023. Bill was a long time historian at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum and the Curator of History from 1992-2009. Bill was a long-time member of the WTHA, a regular conference attendee and presenter. He was also a good friend to many. Bill was born and raised in West Texas. His family roots were in San Angelo where he grew up with his siblings and mother in his grandparents' home and early on learned the secrets to home style cooking. By the time of his retirement he owned over 1000 Texas-related cookbooks and had accumulated a vast collection of regionally historic recipes. Having acquired an appreciation for the cultural importance for the region's food, Bill pursued his interest in public history by obtaining his Ph. D. in History from Texas Tech University in 1981.

Looking Back . . .

Since the beginning of the 21st century, the West Texas Historical Association has held its annual meetings in Abilene, Alpine, Amarillo, Canyon, Fort Worth, Lubbock, Midland, Odessa, San Angelo, and Wichita Falls. Here are a few pictures from past conferences that some of our members may recall.



NEWS AROUND WEST TEXAS

Alice Leese is the premiere artist for the 2023 Trappings of Texas exhibit at the **Museum of the Big Bend** on the Sul Ross State University campus in Alpine. The 37th annual exhibit opens Sept. 14-16. Tickets and information can be found at museumofthebigbend.com.

Dr. Tim Bowman, Chair of the Department of History at **West Texas A&M University** and past Book Review Editor for the WTHA, has been promoted to full professor.

Dr. Jean Stuntz has been named Professor Emeritus by **West Texas A&M University** for her "outstanding and wide-ranging" teaching and for pioneering the study of U.S. women's history.

Join the **Texas State Genealogical Society** for *Roots and Branches: Climbing Your Family Tree*, the virtual 2023 Family History Conference. On November 10-11, *TxSGS Live!* has ten presentations by some of the top speakers in genealogy on research techniques, records, DNA, and more. These lectures will be recorded and combined with 36 additional prerecorded lectures from well-known presenters from across Texas and the U.S.

UPCOMING:

October 5-7, 2023 - The **East Texas Historical Association** will hold their fall conference at the Fredonia Hotel Nacogdoches. For information go to <https://www.easttexashistorical.org/> conference.

October 14, 2023 - The **Edwards Plateau Historical Association** will conduct its 2023 Annual Meeting in San Angelo. The meeting will be hosted by the Tom Green County Historical Commission at Fort Concho National Historic Landmark, Officers Quarters #1, 630 S. Oakes St., San Angelo. Registration and coffee begin at 9:00 a.m. The meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. The theme for this meeting is "150 Years of Tom Green County's Heritage."

October 20-21, 2023 - **Fort Stockton Living History Days**. For more information contact the Annie Riggs Museum at (432) 336-2167.

October 27-28, 2023 - **Horsehead Crossing Living History Event**. For additional information contact tcashmo@gmail.com.

November 10 and 11, 2023 - The **Center for Big Bend Studies** will host a two day conference in the Morgan University Center on the campus of Sul Ross State University in Alpine. The conference features historians, archaeologists, folklorists and other researchers studying the past and present of the Big Bend region and northern Mexico.

CALL FOR PAPERS:

The **Texas Folklore Society** welcomes proposals for papers to present at our Annual Meeting in March 2024. The meeting is a time when folklore scholars and enthusiasts come together to share their love of the folklore of Texas and the Southwest through a series of presentations of papers, sharing meals, social gatherings, and evening hootenannies. If you already have a draft paper, that will be perfect to submit. If not, your proposal can be an abstract that explains the topic of your paper with a summary of the content and a description of the style of your presentation. Send proposals to TexasFolkloreSociety@gmail.com by October 15.

The **Historical Society of New Mexico** invites proposals for presentations at the 2024 New Mexico History Conference, to be held April 25-27th, 2024 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Conference sessions are 90 minutes in length. Most sessions will consist of two or three individual presentations delivered orally, each approximately 20-25 minutes, allowing time for a moderator's introduction and questions from the

audience. **Submission deadline is October 31, 2023.** Send by email to program24@hsnm.org or mail to HSNM Program Committee, P.O. Box 1912, Santa Fe, NM 87504-1912.

KERNELS OF TRUTH

[WTHA President Sylvia Mahoney has asked that all members look for "Kernels of Truth," quotes or statements of truth embedded in presentations we hear or articles we read. Here are a few from our earliest WTHA Year Books.]

"It is my belief that we have too long followed slavishly in the footsteps of our predecessors along the well beaten roads of history without occasionally broadening our understanding by our wandering off for awhile into inviting bypaths. There is no more effective way of making history an interesting, living, breathing subject than by introducing legends, stories, traditions and folklore as side lights." – W. C. Holden, "Possibilities of Literature in Local History," Volume I, p. 27.

"The purpose of the [West Texas Historical] Association is manifestly to conserve historical interests. The prospectus of this gathering referred to our "glorious" history. We are glad if the history is that of which we may justly be proud, but we are interested in interpreting and conserving the history whether it be glorious or inglorious." – John C. Granberry, "Making History in West Texas," Volume IV, p.86.

"Every distinctive civilization of the world is largely the product of its environment. Indeed, in many instances, social mannerisms and customs are closely related to geographic and economic influences." – C. C. Rister, "Social Activities of the Southwestern Cowboy," Volume VII, p. 40.

The **West Texas Historical Association** has issued a call for papers for the 2024 centennial meeting in Lubbock. Please submit proposals to wthayb@ttu.edu by November 1, 2023.

In Memory . . .

William "Bill" Townsley of Alvin passed away May 30, 2023 at the age of 72. Bill was a long time member of the association and had recently help found Texas Times Magazine in collaboration with Tim de la Vega of Abilene. He authored many West Texas history articles and books, and was especially known for his quest to solve the Spyder Rock Mystery which was purportedly linked to a legendary cache of Spanish gold. He was a member of a triumvirate of West Texas scholars, that included Steve Davis and Duane Hale, who had joined forces to solve the puzzle. He was predeceased six months earlier by his beloved mother Floy who regularly accompanied him and his wife Roberta to many WTHA meetings.

Norman Wayne Brown, age 83, of Snyder, Texas passed away July 16, 2023. He was a retired Senior Master Sergeant from the US Air Force who later pursued a second career as a Texas State Parole Officer. He went on to a writing career covering Wild West topics with seven

books and dozens of magazine articles. His 2019 book, *Man Hunter in Indian County, Deputy US Marshal George Redman Tucker*, received five-star reviews. He is a coauthor with Chuck Parsons of the book *A Lawless Breed*, a biography of John Wesley Hardin. He also was a regular contributor for *True West*, *Wild West Association Journal* and the *Tombstone Epitaph* monthly newspaper.

Alice Ruth Kiel, 93 years old, died on June 26, 2023, at Morningside Manor at Menger Springs in Boerne, Texas. Ruth was born November 13, 1929, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania,. She earned a B.S. in Primary Education from Mount Union College at Alliance, Ohio, in 1951. She became a schoolteacher, serving Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Arlington, Virginia; and Montgomery County, Maryland. She was a long time member of the WTHA and President of the Board of Trustees for the Comfort Public Library, spearheading its major renovation. She served the Comfort Heritage Foundation as President of the Board of Directors and led the acquisition of the abandoned Brownsboro Cemetery.

WEST TEXAS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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.wildapricot.org

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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

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|---------------|--------|
| Student | \$ 10 |
| Regular | \$ 30 |
| Institutional | \$ 25 |
| Family | \$ 35 |
| Sustaining | \$ 50 |
| Sponsoring | \$1000 |

o 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.