



# WEST TEXAS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

*Public History and Citizen Historians  
--Guardians of the Hidden Story.*

91st Annual Meeting, April 4-5, 2014

Odessa, Texas



**In Memoriam:**

**Ralph Brock, Lubbock  
Bob Burton, Snyder  
Brenda Haes, Tucson  
Jim Smallwood, Gainesville**

**Officers:**

**J. Tillapaugh, Odessa. President.  
Bill O'Neal, Panola. Vice President.**

**2014 Program Committee:**

**Troy Ainsworth, Chair, El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail  
Association, NM.  
Peggy Hardman, Socorro ISD, Socorro, NM.  
George Torok, El Paso Community College, El Paso.  
Leland Turner, Midwestern State University, Wichita Falls.**

**2014 Local Arrangements Committee:**

**Robert Hall, Pittsburg.  
Freedonia Paschall, Lubbock.  
J. Tillapaugh, Odessa.  
Lynn Whitfield, Lubbock.**

**Cover: "Stampede," by Tom Lea, El Paso 1940.**



**West Texas Historical Association  
91st Annual Meeting  
Friday-Saturday, April 4-5, 2013  
MCM Grande Hotel, Odessa, Texas**

Friday, April 4

Session I, 8:30-9:45 AM

*Twentieth Century Texas Rangers: A Panel Discussion* (Room A)

Session Chair: Donaly Brice, Texas State Library

Bruce Glasrud, San Antonio, Texas

Chuck Parsons, Luling, Texas

Harold J. Weiss, Leander, Texas

*Public Education through Art, a College, and a Trail* (Rooms 3-4)

Session Chair: Kevin Sweeney, Wayland Baptist University

Bryan Wheeler, Texas Tech University, "O Pioneers!: Peter Hurd's Big Spring Post Office Mural in Context"

Zach Dowdle, Angelo State University, "In the Land of Sandstorms and Sand: Locating Texas Technological College in 1923"

Holle Humphries, Quanah Parker Trail Steering Committee, "Citizen Historians Create a Trail to Restore to Public Memory the 19th Century Story of the Comanches on the Texas High Plains"

*Nineteen-Century Texas* (Room 1)

Session Chair: Travis Roberts, Brewster County Historical Commission

Barbara Brannon, Texas Plains Trail Region, "Roscoe P. Conkling: The Man Who Tracked the Butterfield Overland Mail"

Debbie Liles, University of North Texas "Southern Roots, Western Foundations: Cattle, Slaves, and Cattle Drives from Stephens County, Texas"

Bill Steward, Wichita Falls, Texas, "The Battle of Dove Creek: An Inevitable Tragedy"

Session II, 10:15-11:30 AM

*Black Gold, Flying Saucers, and Bob Wills (Room A)*

Session Chair: John Caraway, Cisco College

Joe W. Specht, McMurray University, "Black Gold: Larry Gatlin's West Texas Oil Patch Roots"

Robert Reitz, Dallas, Texas, "Sputnik, the Atom Bomb, Flying Saucers, and the Red Scare: Cultural Anxieties of the '50s and '60s Expressed in Popular Music"

Leland Turner, Midwestern State University, "Icons of Innovation: The Country Music Stylings of Bob Wills—Texan—and Slim Dusty—Australian"

*Social Improvement in Post-World War II West Texas (Rooms 3-4)*

Session Chair: Kregg Fehr, Lubbock Christian University

Janie Ruth Cooper, President, Edwards Plateau Historical Association and member of the Runnells County Historical Commission, "The 'Chick Inn' and the Diners of Winters, Texas"

Deirdre Kelly Trotter, Lubbock, Texas, "Notable Historical Female Figures of Lubbock and the Surrounding Area"

Virginia Scott, Wolf Creek Heritage Museum, "Panhandle Emergency Medical Services, 1975-1982"

*Poor People, Poor Land Decisions, and Poor Animals (Room 1)*

Session Chair: Suzanne Campbell, Angelo State University

Joshua Logsdon, Angelo State University, "Western Welfare: The Pauper System in West Texas, 1879-1930"

Alvin O. Turner, Norman, Oklahoma, "The Greer County Decision Revisited; Why Didn't Anyone Care?"

Bradley Folsom, University of North Texas, "When the Buffalo Fought the Bull: Animal Combat and Nationalism on the U.S.-Mexico Border"

11:30 AM-1:00 PM

Women's History Luncheon: The event is an open forum lunch for anyone interested in Women's History and will highlight current research trends and topics. Tickets are available and members should sign-up via the conference registration form (available on-line January 15, 2014 @ [wtha.org](http://wtha.org)). For more information, contact

[Marisue.Potts@wtha.org](mailto:Marisue.Potts@wtha.org) or [Cecilia.Venable@wtha.org](mailto:Cecilia.Venable@wtha.org).

Session III, 1:00-2:15 PM

*Where Are the Women in West Texas History?: A Roundtable Discussion (Room A)*

Session Chair: Marisue Potts, West Texas Historical Association

Cynthia Beeman, East Texas Historical Association

Vicki Cummins, Austin College  
Cecilia Venable, University of Texas at El Paso  
Lynn Whitfield, Texas Tech University

*Murder in Far West Texas* (Rooms 3-4)

Session Chair: Jim Matthews, West Texas Historical Association

Troy M. Ainsworth, El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association, "A Murder in Shafter, Texas, in 1889"

Pat Parsons, South Texas Historical Association, "A Sanguinary Affray in Sanderson"

Travis Roberts, Brewster County Historical Commission, "The Execution of Harvey Hughes at Alpine, Texas, in April 1923"

*Historical Studies, Employment, and Military Aviation in West Texas* (Room 1)

Session Chair: Jack Becker, Texas Tech University

David Murrah, Rockport, Texas, "Replacing the I-35 Bias with the I-20 Bias: The Landmark Work of Richardson, Holden, and Wallace"

Paul Wright, Sul Ross State University, "Work and Wages in the Big Bend on the Eve of World War II"

Vernon L. Williams, Abilene Christian University, "Pyote Army Air Field: A Sense of Place and Community in World War II"

Refreshments in the Reception Area

Session IV, 2:30-3:45 PM

*Civilizing West Texas: Religion and Education* (Room A)

Session Chair: Suzanne Campbell, Angelo State University

Kendra DeHart, Texas Christian University, "A Teacher on Wheels for Farm and Ranch Women: Home Demonstration Work on the Llano Estacado, 1917-1950"

Christena Stephens, Sundown, Texas, "Thou are a priest forever...The Early Priests that Shaped Nazareth, Texas"

Gloria Duarte, Angelo State University, "The Struggle for Equal Education in Melvin, Texas"

*Outlaws and Police in Nineteenth-Century Texas* (Rooms 3-4)

Session Chair: William Tydeman, Texas Tech University

Chuck Parsons, Luling, Texas, "John Wesley Hardin, 1870-1872"

Donaly Brice, Texas State Library, "Texas State Police"

Norman Wayne Brown, Snyder, Texas, "Four Shots, One Kill"

*Southwestern Pioneer George Causey and the Cattle Drive Frontier* (Room 1)

Session Chair: Jim Hammond, Pecos County Historical Commission

Emily Elliott, Pawnee, Oklahoma, "George Causey, The Man"

Jim Harris, Lea County Museum, "George Causey, New Mexico Stockman"

James B. Hays, Brownwood, Texas, "The Shortest Cattle Drive, June 1, 1871"

Session V: 4:00-5:15 PM

*Native Americans and West Texans* (Room A)

Session Chair: Monte Monroe, Texas Tech University

Sherry Robinson, Historical Society of New Mexico, "Mystery Apaches of the Plains"

Barbara Barton, Knickerbocker, Texas, "Friendly Texas Indians"

Todd Smith, Lubbock County D.A.'s Office, Lubbock, Texas, "The Battle of the Freshwater Fork of the Brazos"

*South Texas Historical Association Session* (Rooms 3-4)

Session Chair: George Cooper, Lone Star College

Cecilia Venable, University of Texas at El Paso, "Growing Up Black in America: Gloria Dean Randall Scott, Pioneer and Social Justice Advocate"

Chuck Parsons, Luling, Texas, "The Fight between Texas Rangers and Mexican Bandits at Palo Alto Prairie in 1875"

Carroll Brincefield, Somerville, Texas, "Un-American Activities along the Texas Gulf Coast"

*Spanish Colonialism, Architecture, and Music in West Texas* (Room 1)

Session Chair: David Murrah, Rockport, Texas

Ray Theiss, Angelo State University, "Uncovering a Legend: The San Clemente Mission, 1684"

Katherine Kelly, Lubbock, Texas, "Dominie Dell, Slaton, Texas"

Elvis E. Fleming, Roswell, New Mexico, "Long Before Lukenbach: Waylon, Willie, and Some Other Characters I Met Back in the Good Ol' Days"

Friday Evening

6:00 PM Reception Honoring President J. Tillapaugh at the Petroleum Museum in Midland.

6:30 PM Banquet

7:00 PM Featured Speaker, Bill O'Neal, The Historian of the State of Texas

Saturday, April 5

Session VI: 9:00-10:15 AM

*Center for Big Bend Studies Session (Rooms 3-4)*

Session Chair: J Tillapaugh, University of Texas-Permian Basin

William A. "Andy" Cloud, Sul Ross State University, "Late Paleoindians in the Big Bend: Ongoing Archaeological Investigations at the Genevieve Lykes Duncan Site"

Richard W. Walter, Sul Ross State University, "Comments on the Cielo Complex and Other Perdiz-Bearing Sites of the Eastern Trans-Pecos / Big Bend Region and Northern Mexico"

Robert W. Gray, Sul Ross State University, "Projectile Points of the Eastern Trans-Pecos and Big Bend Region of Texas: History, Typology, and New Insights"

*East Texas Historical Association Session (Room A)*

Session Chair: Bruce Glasrud, San Antonio, Texas

Gail Beil, Marshall, Texas "What's an East Texas Oilman Doing in Venezuela?"

Light T. Cummins, Austin, College, "Allie Victoria Tennant and the 1936 'Tejas Warrior' Sculpture"

*Hardships, Medicine, and Occupations in West Texas (Room 1)*

Session Chair: Leland Turner, Midwestern State University

Ann Dixon, Midland, Texas, "Letters from Texas: An Officer's Wife at Fort Lancaster in 1857"

Donna Gerstle Smith, Fort Davis National Historic Site, "Till Death (or Discharge) Do Us Part: The State of Medicine at the Nineteenth Century Army Post of Fort Davis, Texas"

Nancy Nunn, Edwards Plateau Historical Association, "Arnie and Marian's Story: Who Were the Cedar Cutters of Central Texas?"

Session VII: 10:45 AM-12:00 PM

*Permian Historical Society Session (Rooms 3-4)*

Session Chair: Peggy Kelton, Permian Historical Society, President

Patrick Dearen, Midland, Texas, "Castle Gap and Horsehead Crossing"

Snap Woodward, Crane, Texas, "Ranches and Ranchers of Crane County, Then and Now"

Richard Brantley, "Oil Discoveries in Crane County, Texas"

*Cattle Ranching in West Texas and Northern Mexico (Room A)*

Session Chair: Jean Stuntz, West Texas A&M University

Marisue Potts, Motley County Historical Commission, “Death Rides the Range of the Matadors”

Alex Hunt, West Texas A&M University, “The McCorkle Debacle: A JA Ranch Land Fraud Case”

Richard Hancock, Norman, Oklahoma, “The History of American Ranches in Chihuahua, Mexico, with Special Reference to Hacienda Corralitos”

Saturday Awards and Business Lunch: 12:00–1:30 PM, Room B, MCM Hotel Grande.

- Mrs. Percy (Ruth Leggett) Jones Best Article Award
- Rupert Richardson Best Book Award
- Elmer Kelton Best Fiction Award
- Best Student Essay Award
- Ernest Wallace Research Grant
- William Curry Holden Grant (student)
- R. C. Crane Heritage Award
- Student Scholarship
- Election of officers
- Presidential Address

Presidential Address:  
WTHA President J. Tillapaugh “

The Celebration of Public History”

2:00 PM Saturday Afternoon Tour of historic Odessa



**A Short Schedule of Events for the 90<sup>th</sup> meeting of WTHA in Odessa, Texas:**

**Thursday Afternoon, April 3, 2014**

- 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM Trans-Pecos “Wagon Trail” tour guided by noted WTHA historian and award-winning author Patrick Dearen includes stops at the beautiful sand dunes north of Imperial, Texas, historic Horsehead Crossing, Girvin schoolhouse, Girvin Social Club, McCamey’s Mendoza Trail Museum, Crane’s Museum of the Desert Southwest, and a photo op of Castle Gap. The trip includes a real cowboy lunch. Registration is necessary.
- 6:00 – 8:00 PM Evening Reception at the MCM Grande (conference hotel). Registration required.
- 7:30 PM WTHA Board Meeting in Ballroom C

**Friday, April 4, 2014**

- 8:00 AM – 5 PM Registration – Lobby Area at the MCM Grande Hotel, Odessa, Texas.
- 8:300 AM – 11:30 AM Sessions – see schedule
- 1130 AM – 1:00 PM **Women’s History Luncheon** or lunch on your own. For more information on the Women’s History Luncheon please consult the program. Registration necessary.
- 1:00 PM – 5:15 PM Sessions – see schedule
- 6:30 – 8:30 PM **Banquet and Reception** at the Petroleum Museum just up the road towards Midland. The Petroleum Museum has graciously extended the gallery hours to accommodate our group. Bus transportation will depart from the east entrance of the hotel at 6:15 pm.
- 7:30 – 8:30 PM **Evening Speaker** – Texas State Historian Bill O’Neal will regale us with his encounter with citizen historians and public history in his two years as the Lone Star historian.

**Saturday, April 5, 2013**

- 9:00 AM – Noon Registration – Lobby Area at the MCM Grande Hotel, Odessa, Texas.
- 9:00 AM – Noon Sessions – see schedule
- 12:00—1:30 PM Luncheon – Awards and Business meeting, Room B- ballroom of the MCM Grande Hotel.
- 2:30 – 7:00 PM. Odessa Tour, includes supper, and an evening program. Tour stops includes the Tom Lea mural—Stampede, The White-Pool House Museum, the Parker Ranch House Museum, the Presidential Museum and Leadership Center, the Ellen Noel Art Museum, and Odessa’s Stonehenge. Transportation provided and registration necessary.

**WTHA 2014 CONVENTION NEWS THAT YOU CAN USE**

**WHERE:** All sessions (Rooms A, 3-4 and 1) and the Saturday luncheon (**Room B-ballroom**) will be held in **MCM Grande Hotel in Odessa, Texas**. The Friday evening Banquet will be held at the Commemorative Air Force Museum. Transportation available.

**EXHIBITORS:** Some exhibitors have already registered (please see program). Interested vendors should call and reserve their table with **Freedonia Paschall @ 806/742-3749 or email: Freedonia.Paschall@ttu.edu**. Book exhibitors will be located in the lobby near the WTHA registration desk in the MCM Grande Hotel.

**SILENT AUCTION:** A silent auction will be held in the MCM Grande (Room 171). Members interested in donating items please send to Freedonia Paschall, WTHA, TTU, P. O. 41041, Lubbock, Texas 79409. **Auction closes at 10 AM Saturday, book pickup at 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM** on Saturday

**THURSDAY - April 4, 2013:** “Trans-Pecos “Wagon Trail” tour. Tour will depart at 8 AM from the east entrance of the MCM Grande. (see above for more information)

**BANQUET - Friday, April 4:** The banquet will be held from 6:30 - 8:30 PM at the Commemorative Air Force Museum. (transportation available).

**SATURDAY LUNCHEON AND BUSINESS MEETING: 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM.** The Saturday Luncheon will be held in the Room B- ballroom of the MCM Grande Hotel.

**Saturday Afternoon and evening** – Odessa tour , supper, and additional program (see above)

**HOTEL: MCM Grande of Odessa** (432-362-2311). \$109 per night. Rates are available for Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. **Tell them that you are with the West Texas Historical Association to get the preferred rate. Deadline – March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013.** For more information go to <http://mcmgrandeodessa.com>. Robert Hall, WTHA Annual Conference [Coordinator—robert.j.hall@ttu.edu](mailto:Coordinator—robert.j.hall@ttu.edu)

Hotel address:

6201 E. Business 20

Odessa, Texas 79762

Toll free phone # 866-362-2311

## Trans-Pecos Wagon Trail Tour

### West Texas Historical Association Annual Meeting

April 3, 2014, Odessa, Texas

#### Come join us for the Thursday tour

**Horsehead Crossing** is a ford on the Pecos River, Crane County, Texas. Historically it was major landmark on the trail west as one of a few fordable sections of the Pecos in West Texas, and as a first source of water for about 75 miles on the wagon and stage route from the east. Elmer Kelton used *Horsehead Crossing* as subject and title of one of his Tales of Texas books (July 1, 1988). Several other books on the West and West Texas including *Crossing Rio Pecos* (Chisholm Trail Series) by Patrick Dearen (1996) have used Horsehead Crossing as part of their material. Legend says that when Maximillian was toppled in 1867, his wealth was packed up for overland shipment to Galveston, where it would be sent to Austria. The treasure train was ambushed at the historic Horsehead Crossing on the Pecos River in West Texas by six former Confederate soldiers. They killed the teamsters, buried the loot and headed back east. Five were soon killed in an Indian attack, and the sixth, stopped briefly at Fort Concho to treat an illness, where he told the story. Do you think that is true?

#### Castle Gap in Crane County, Texas



Peggy Kelton, President of the Permian Historical Society, who is hosting the tour explained—“ I HOPE to leave Odessa early in the morning, 7:30 or 8:00 go West on I-20 past Penwell to Hwy 1053 and turn South, travel through the large & impressive always shifting sand hills on through Imperial, crossing the Pecos River and coming to the marked crossing. After Patrick's [Dearen] explanation we will trek on to the Historic Girvin School house which has been saved & is used for special occasions & have our Cowboy Lunch prepared by real cowboys in Dutch Ovens (cowboy stew, cornbread, biscuits, cobbler, coffee & tea.) Rest Rooms

available. Eat outside or inside according to the weather and the wishes of the crowd. On to Hwy 67 with perhaps a quick stop at the Girvin Social Club, take photos & hear a short history then on to McCamey then Crane with stop at the Museum. We can do this is a day if we keep . . . moving . . . I will crack my whip.” --We will be ready Peggy.

#### **Museum of the Desert Southwest**—Crane, Texas; **Mendoza Trail Museum**--McCamey.

Crane and McCamey, Texas are due south of Odessa, Texas. We will stop in Crane and McCamey for visits to the respective museums. These stops and the entire tour has been arranged and sponsored by the Permian Historical Society.

After the tour, Thursday Evening attend the “early-bird” reception at the hotel.

**West Texas Historical Association Tour  
Saturday Afternoon April 5, 2014 Odessa Meeting  
Transportation Included**



**Gaze upon Tom Lea's WPA mural-- *Stampede***

*We was camping on the Pecos when the wind began to blow,  
And we doubled up the guard to hold them tight,  
When the storm came roaring from the north with thunder  
And with rain,  
And the herd stampeded off into the night. From "Little Joe the Wrangler"*



**Tour the White-Pool House Museum.**



**Visit the Parker House Ranch Museum**



**Be inspired by the Presidential Museum and Leadership Library**



**Reflect on art in the Ellen Noel Art Museum**



**Play with Stonehenge**



**... or watch the sunrise.**



**Dine and Be Entertained at the Barn Door and Pecos Depot Steakhouse**

**Tom Lea's WPA Mural—Stampede.** Painted by the well-known El Paso artist, Tom Lea, for the Odessa, Texas Post Office, it was completed in 1940 as one of the New Deal projects. This immense oil on canvas mural measures 5 ½ by 16 feet and simply has to be seen in person to be fully appreciated. The lightning streak against a coal black sky with the worked-up herd moving underneath is spellbinding.

**The Parker Ranch House Museum** is Odessa's newest addition to the historical records of Odessa. In 1935, the Jim and Bessie Parker family moved into this modest house. It represents the lifestyle of a prominent ranching family, who served the communities of Andrews and Ector counties since 1907. This restored modest house was once the headquarters of a ranch that took over 175 sections in Andrews and Ector Counties. Owned by the Parkers from the 1930s to the 1950s, this home features exhibits regarding the life and times of this family.

**White-Pool House Museum** stands as the oldest remaining structure in Odessa, Texas that was built in 1887, restored in 1979-1984. Rooms in the house are interpreted in two major periods: The 1880's "Pioneer Era" representing the time of occupancy by the White family, and the 1930's "Oil Boom Era", representing the time of occupancy by the Pool family. The museum complex features an Eclipse windmill and wood tank, barn replica, farm out-buildings, and an outhouse of handmade blocks from 1887. The barn also houses a permanent collection of horse drawn equipment. The White-Pool House was donated to Ector County for historical preservation in 1978. The White-Pool House Friends, a non-profit organization was formed in 1986 to preserve the historic heritage of the house and buildings on the grounds. The outside walls are red brick with plaster masonry over wooden lattice boards inside. The rock-lined cellar is made of native caliche rock found on the West Texas Prairie.

**The Presidential Museum and the Leadership Library** is unique among the presidential libraries in that it is dedicated to the Office of the President rather than an individual president. Originally open in 1964 in downtown Odessa the museum moved to the campus of the University of Texas, Permian Basin in 1999. The Hall of Presidents gallery offers visitors an opportunity to view objects related to individual presidents. The collections of artifacts include campaign memorabilia of presidents and presidential hopefuls. Also shown is the intricate Dishong collection of First Lady inaugural gown miniature replicas. The Library of the Presidents contains more than 3,500 volumes of subjects relating to the presidents and the office of the presidency. Students, scholars and the general public invited to use the reference facility for research.

**The Ellen Noel Art Museum** is the cultural oasis of Odessa since its opening in 1985 as the Art Institute for the Permian Basin. The Ellen Noël Art Museum of the Permian Basin is the culmination by Odessans to build a fine arts museum. The Museum was renamed to honor the leadership and philanthropy of Mrs. Ellen W. Noël. The American Association of Museums accredits the Museum. With 22,120 square feet of gallery and office space, including a storage wing for the growing permanent collection the Museum has three impressive galleries of varying sizes and configurations that allow for exhibitions of varied works, each in its own unique setting. Admission to the galleries is free.

**Stonehenge.** Built in 2004 by creative Odessans the impressive Stonehenge replica stands on the eastern edge of the UTPB campus. Formed by 20 stone blocks it is nearly full-scale with only the height of the stone blocks a tad shorter than the originals. The tallest original stone measures 22 feet with the replica only measuring 19. Purportedly one of the creators of the stonehenge in Odessa said "The stones are free, you take what you can get."

**Barn Door and Pecos Depot Steakhouse.** Tour members will have dinner at one of Odessa's favorite places to eat with entertain tailored especially for the WTHA members. A ghost story no less.