

April 14 - 15, 2023 | Abilene



Annual Meeting

West Texas Historical Association

97th Annual Meeting





2023 Program Committee:

John Caraway, Chair
Jim Crownover
Golda Foster
Jason Pierce
William V. Scott
Warren Stricker

Cisco College
West Texas Trails
Tom Green County Historical Commission
Angelo State University
Texas Tech University
West Texas A&M University

Local Arrangements Committee:

Austin Allison
Nicci Hester
Allison Kendrick
Jennifer Spurrier
Lynn Whitfield

WTHA Special Events Coordinator
Texas Tech University
Texas Plains Trail Region
Texas Tech University
Texas Tech University

Hotels – WTHA Room blocks have been reserved at the MCM Eleganté 4250 Ridgmont Drive Abilene, Texas 79606. The room rate is \$114 for a single bed room and \$119 for double bed room which includes a free breakfast. The rooms rates are available for April 12th (Wednesday) through April 16th (Sunday). The cutoff date for reserving a room is March 13. Phone # 325-698-1234 or 888-897-9644. Remember to say that you are with the WTHA group.

Conference location – MCM Eleganté. 4250 Ridgmont Drive Abilene, Texas 79606

Thursday Afternoon – 3:30 PM Board meeting at Abilene Convention and Visitors Bureau 1101 N First St, Abilene, TX 79601

Thursday Night – 6 PM Early Bird at the Beehive at 442 Cedar St.



**West Texas Historical Association Annual Meeting
Abilene, April 14-15, 2023**

FRIDAY, APRIL 14

Registration: 8:00 A.M. – Lobby

Exhibitors -- Lobby

Silent Auction: 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. MCM Eleganté Hotel
Benefits the Student Scholarship Fund – Viewing and Bidding

Session I: 8:30 AM – 9:45 AM

Acapulco Room – **Joint Session with the Texas Heritage Trail Program**—*Its Significance in Texas*

Chair: Tammie Virden, Texas Forts Trail Region

- Allison Kendrick, Executive Director of Texas Plains Trail Region
- Melissa Hagins, Executive Director of the Texas Pecos Trail Region
- ~~Wendy Little, Executive Director of Texas Mountain Trails Region~~ CANCELED
- Tammie Virden, Executive Director of the Texas Forts Trail Region

Baja Room – **Joint Session with the Center for the Study of the American West**—*Aviation and Urban Development in Twentieth-Century West Texas*

Chair: Patrick Diepen, West Texas A&M University

- Amy Von Lintel, West Texas A&M University, *Aviation: A Hidden Aesthetic in the Texas Panhandle*
- Anna Boydston, Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA, *Interwar Development of Aviation in the Texas Panhandle*
- Brian M. Ingrassia, West Texas A&M University, *Sound Investments: Transportation Infrastructure and Residential Development in 1920s Amarillo*

Regency Room – *Abilene Personalities-- Jack Grimm and Anson Thomas*

Chair, Keith Owen, Lubbock Christian University

- TBD. *A Wildcatter's Search for Yeti, Noah's Ark, and the Titanic--Abilene's Cadillac Jack*
- William A. Thompson, Triple Arrow Ranch, *You Can Get there from Here (West Texas): The Life and Times of Anson Thomas*

Session II: 10:00 AM – 11:15 AM Friday

Acapulco Room – *Tejano Hero, Filipino Expatriate, and an Oklahoman in the Dust Bowl*

Chair: Monte Monroe, Texas State Historian

- José Martinez, Center for the Study of the American West--West Texas A&M University, *With His Pistol in His Hand: Juan Cortina, Mexican Agency, and Deprivations on the U.S.-Mexico Border*
- José Santos P. Ardivilla, Texas Tech University, *Lonn Taylor: From Archipelagic to Texan*
- Frank V. Bellizzi, Amarillo College, *Living Through The Dirty Thirties in Western Oklahoma: Stories from the Archive of Meta Chesnut Sager*

Baja Room – *Iconic Shape, Land Hunger, and Looking at the Texas Invasion of Santa Fe from the Other Side*

Chair: Gary Lindsey, Lubbock Christian University

- Joe Weaver, WTHA Board, *How Our Great State Got Its Awesome Shape*
- Marisue Potts, Mott Creek Ranch, *Land, A Driving Force in Settlement*
- Robert J. Torrez, Historical Society of New Mexico, *The Texan Pirates Are Coming*

LUNCH: 11:15 AM – 1:00 PM – ON YOUR OWN



Downtown Abilene



Session III: 1:00 PM – 2:15 PM Friday

Acapulco Room - Joint Session with the Center for the Study of the American West--Student Scholars, West Texas A&M University

Chair: Katelyn Denney, Center for the Study of the American West, West Texas A&M University

- Marin Bullock, *A History of the Barrel and Indian Creek Ranch of Briscoe County*
- Ashley Callahan, *The Texas Panhandle Curriculum Initiative: Regional Materials with the TEKS*
- Edie Heuss, *Stories from the XCEL Energy Digital Archive*
- Sierra Villarreal, *Stories from the Forgotten Frontera Oral History Initiative*

Baja Room – Culture, Socialism and an International Language—in West Texas?

Chair: William V. Scott, Texas Tech University

- Kimberly Hieb, West Texas A&M University in Canyon, *A Regionally Responsive Orchestra: The Amarillo Symphony under A. Clyde Roller (1948–1962)*
- Brincefield, Carroll. South Texas Historical Association, *Socialism in West Texas*
- Cindy Martin, Lubbock County Historical Commission, *A 1909 Lubbock Esperanto Mystery*

Regency Room – The West Texas Historical Review: Ask the Editors!

Chair: Elissa Stroman, West Texas Historical Association

- Elissa Stroman, *West Texas Historical Review* Editor, *Celebrating the Upcoming Centennial of the WTHA/WTHR*
- Wes Sheffield, WT Social Media Editor, *Connecting with WTHA on Social Media/Facebook, - 101 Checklist for Historical Organizations and Individuals to create a History/Research Facebook page*
- Jim Matthews, *The Cyclone* Editor, *The Cyclone: How to Submit Short Articles and News of our Members and Member Organizations.*



Frontier Texas! Parade Grounds

Session IV: 2:30 PM – 3:45 PM Friday

Acapulco Room – *Texas Rangers and U.S. Army Frontier Defense*

Chair: David Murrah, Texas Tech University, Retired

- Byron Johnson, Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum, *Founding and Evolution of the Texas Rangers*
- William V. Scott, Texas Tech University, *George Gibson Hunt: Career Army Officer and Founder of Fort Concho*
- Jim Matthews, West Texas Historical Association, *Fort Martin Scott: First in the Line of Frontier Defense in Texas.*

Baja Room – **Joint Session with East Texas Historical Association:** *So You Say You Want to Start a Podcast: Our Experience Beginning “Talking Texas History:”* A Panel Discussion

Panel Members:

- John Caraway, Cisco College
- Light Cummins, Austin College
- Debbie Liles, Tarleton State University
- Brad Maule, Stephen F. Austin State University
- Monte Monroe, Texas Tech University
- Gene Preuss, University of Houston, Downtown
- Scott Sosebee, Stephen F. Austin State University

Session V: 4:00 PM – 5:15 PM Friday

Acapulco – *West Texas Music*

Chair: Lynn Whitfield, Texas Tech University

- Elissa Stroman, Lubbock, *Cultivating Classical Music on the Dusty Plains: Women's Musical Work in Lubbock, 1890-1930*
- Joe Specht, McMurry University (retired), *Slim Willet's Winston Records: Rock 'N' Roll and Country Music with a West Texas Flair*

Baja Room – *Remembering David Gracy: A Legacy for Texas and Beyond*

Chair: Warren Stricker, West Texas A&M University

- David Murrah, former director of the Southwest Collection at Texas Tech University, and Vice President of Southwest Museum Services, Houston (retired)
- Tonia Wood, Information Services Supervisor, Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Austin
- Sarah Canby Jackson, Harris County Archivist (retired), Houston
- Christina Zamon, Head of Special Collections and Archives, Georgia State University, Atlanta, Ga.



David Gracy
Courtesy Southwest Collection



West Texas Historical Association
Founded 1924

5:30 PM Presidential Reception for President Becky Matthews
6:30 PM Banquet at the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature at 102 Cedar St

President Becky Matthews, Presiding

Keynote Speaker: John Erickson

I Went to College but Work for A Dog



Courtesy Hankthecowdog.com

John R. Erickson is best known for his Hank the Cowdog series of books and audios, which began as a self-publishing venture in his garage in Perryton. The series has grown to 79 volumes that have been translated into Spanish, Danish, Latin, Chinese, and Farsi, and have sold over 10 million copies.

He has written several non-fiction books, including *Prairie Gothic*, the story of his mother's ranching family on the South Plains, and two recent books by Texas Tech Press: *Bad Smoke, Good Smoke: A Texas Rancher's View of Wildfires* and *Porch Talk: A Conversation About Archeology In the Texas Panhandle*.

Erickson was born in Midland and grew up in Perryton, graduated from the University of Texas, and studied two years at Harvard Divinity School. He and Kristine have been married for 55 years and live on their ranch in Roberts County. He still maintains his schedule of writing four hours every morning, seven days a week.



SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2023

Session VI: 8:30-9:45 AM

Acapulco Room – *Paint Rock, Justice for the Warren Wagon Train, and Massacre at the Brazos Agency*
Chair, John Caraway, Cisco College

- James Hays, Runnels County Historical Commission, *Jack Hays' Indian Fight at Paint Rock*
- Ken Wise, 14th Court of Appeals, *Their Day in Court: The Rule of Law and the War on the Plains*
- Casey Doherty, Doherty & Doherty LLP, Houston, *The Choctaw Tom Massacre: Indians, Rangers, the federal government, and the Dawn of the Texas Reservation War*

Baja Room – *West Texas Goes Modern—Shortlines, Power Plants, and Stage Routes*,
Chair, Brian M. Ingrassia, West Texas A&M University

- Helen Cozart, Ranger College, *Shortline Railroads in the 1917 Oil Boom*
- Dixie Hoover, Preservation Texas, *Water Plus Natural Gas Makes Electricity and Ice: the West Texas Utilities Power and Ice Plant*
- Tom Ashmore, West Texas Archeological Society, *Butterfield Overland Mail's Antelope Spring Station*

Regency Room – **Joint Session with the Center for Big Bend Studies**

Chair: Austin Allison, West Texas Historical Association

- Bryon Schroeder, Center for Big Bend Studies, *For Fiber or Fiber: Paleoarchaic Desert Plant Baking as Calories or Raw Material?*

-----Silent Auction Closed @ 10:00 AM-----

Session VII: 10:15 AM – 11:30 AM Saturday

Acapulco Room – *Finding a Way West*

Chair, Kevin Sweeney, Wayland Baptist University

- Troy Ainsworth, Las Cruces, *Over Uncertain and Unknown Paths: Native Pathfinders of the Oñate Entrada in 1598*
- Holle Humphries, Quanah Parker Trail, *Who Knew? Comanches as Underacknowledged Guides for Those Singularly Credited as “Trailblazers” or “Finders” or “Fearless Adventurers” Across the Vast Reaches of West Texas*

- H. Allen Anderson, Texas Tech University, *Delaware Scouts and Opening of the West*

Baja Room – *Finding History in Abilene in 2023*

Chair: John N. Davis, Hardin-Simmons University

- Jeremy Maynard, Hardin-Simmons University, *Finding Abilene History in the Research Center for the Southwest*
- Tim B. Chandler, Hardin-Simmons University, *Finding Abilene History Using Drone Technology*
- Rich Traylor, Hardin-Simmons University, *Influencing Abilene: Pastor Jack Riddlehoover at Pioneer Drive Baptist Church*

Regency Room – *Cornelia Adair, Weldon Edwards, and a New Comprehensive Ranch History*

Chair: Jack Becker, Texas Tech University, Retired

- Alex Hunt, Center for the Study of the American West, *Cornelia Adair and the JA Ranch: Latest Findings*
- John Caraway, Cisco College, *Weldon Edwards: Guiding Light of the Hereford Industry*
- Leland Turner, Midwestern State University, *The Ranch in the History of Texas: From Central Texas to the Caprock*



Weldon Edwards of Clyde (1917-2001)
National Hereford cattle leader and innovator
Courtesy Cattle Raisers Museum

WTHA Business Meeting and Lunch: Noon

Frontier Texas! 625 North First Street

PRESIDENT BECKY MATTHEWS, PRESIDING

- Rupert Richardson Best Book Award
- Mrs. Percy (Ruth Leggett) Jones Best Article Award
 - Election of Officers



Presidential Address---

Looking Forward, Looking Back: 100 Years of Collecting West Texas History.



WTHA Presenters and Abstracts

2023 Program

Ainsworth, Troy. La Cruces, ***Over Uncertain and Unknown Paths”: Native Pathfinders of the Oñate Entrada in 1598***

Capitan Gaspar Pérez de Villagrà (1555-1620), the poet chronicler of the Don Juan de Oñate colonizing entrada in 1598 into Spain’s far northern frontier, infrequently acknowledged in his cantos the natives who helped guide the Spaniards through terra incognita. In his *Historia de la Nueva Mexico* (Alcalá, 1610), Villagrà merely notes the presence of “friendly Indians” or “native guides” but they were nameless. Despite their anonymity, these guides provided an invaluable service to Oñate in determining his route from Río Conchos to Río del Norte. While earlier explorations into *el tierra dentro al norte*, upon arriving at Río Conchos, followed that river downstream to its confluence with Río del Norte at *la junta de los ríos* and thence upstream into the continent’s interior through *el paso del norte*. In Oñate’s case, with the aid of native guides, the northward route jumped off at Río Conchos in dead reckoning toward *el paso del norte*. Because such an undertaking had never been previously attempted, Oñate’s decisions and actions were unprecedented and consequential to mapping a route from the mining frontier of Mexico to the far northern frontier. Oñate is remembered as the Great Colonizer of New Mexico; Villagrà has largely faded from historical memory; and the native guides were never even recorded by name. More properly though, these anonymous native guides contributed to the overall story of Spanish exploration into “Arid America,” although their contributions have largely been forgotten and obscured.

Troy M. Ainsworth, Ph.D., is a three-time alumnus of Texas Tech University, with his doctoral degree in Land-use Planning, Management, and Design with a specialization in Historic Preservation. Since graduating in May 2005, he has served in various preservation-related capacities in Texas and New Mexico. In addition to architectural history, he is a student and scholar of the U.S.-Mexico borderlands. He resides with his family in Las Cruces, New Mexico, on the foothills of the Organ Mountains.

Anderson, H. Allen. Texas Tech University, ***Delaware Scouts and Opening of the West***

H. Allen Anderson is an awarding winning author having won recognition from organizations like the Texas State Historical Association and the West Texas Historian Association (WTHA). He is a prolific and prodigious historian having authored 682 entries in the Handbook of Texas. He is a Life Member and a Fellow of the WTHA, and a longtime employee at the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library.

Ardivilla, Jose Santos P. Texas Tech University, ***Lonn Taylor: From Archipelagic to Texan***

This presentation hinges upon Lonn Taylor’s memoir *Child of the Sun: Memories of a Philippine Boyhood* which operates in junctions of boyhood and a wider world view. Taylor has had a special witnessing of the emergence of the third world via the reconstruction of Post-War Philippines. His boyhood is not the typical American one that may be reminiscent of Archie comics. Instead, he was exposed to the plight of those that suffer due to the havoc of warfare and survival through the birth pangs of a modern nation with astute cases of corruption and inefficiencies. Amidst all of this, Taylor’s “Texanness” has still been inculcated in his boyhood

across the islands of the Philippines still brimming with trauma. This experience afforded him a way of looking at a world with vastness, as vast as the sea between islands, as vast as the West Texan horizon.

Jose Ardivilla is a PhD candidate for Fine Arts at Texas Tech University. He holds a MA and MFA. He has published or curated related articles, artwork, and critical graphic art assessments of the socio-cultural environment, both abroad and in America. He current research focuses on artwork and its politicization as manifested in highly charged and often fractious societal and political upheavals.

Ashmore, Tom. West Texas Archeological Society, ***Butterfield Overland Mail's Antelope Spring Station***

In August of 1859 the Butterfield Overland Mail company decided to forego the northern route along the east side of the Pecos River to New Mexico and on through the Guadalupe Mountains to El Paso and begin operations from Horsehead Crossing across the Pecos River and west to Fort Stockton. From the river the stagecoach followed the Comanche Trail to Fort Stockton. However, a new stage station was needed before reaching Fort Stockton. This station was Antelope Spring Station. It was never on any public scheduled stops because it was close to Fort Stockton which was the depot stop. This presentation provides the first archeological research into this station, which revealed significant interesting facts on the construction of the station and most particularly their monumental endeavors to obtain clean water to the station

Tom Ashmore spent 22 years in the Air Force as a special intelligence analyst. After retiring active duty he taught intelligence skills for another 20 years for the Air Force and the Air Force Intelligence School at Goodfellow AFB, Texas. He headed up avocational archeological investigations for the Concho Valley and Iraan Archeological Societies and worked closely with the Texas Archeological Society over the last 15 years. He completed a book in 2019 on his Butterfield Trail investigations, 'The Butterfield Trail Through The Concho Valley And West Texas.' He is currently project director and editor for the West Texas Archeological Society and board member of the Southwest Federation of Archeological Societies. He has multiple articles published in the Desert Tracks , Southern Trails Chapter of Oregon-California Trails Association and Southwest Federation of Archeological Societies Journals.

Bellizzi, Frank V. Amarillo College, ***Living Through It, The Dirty Thirties in Western Oklahoma: Stories from the Archive of Meta Chestnut Sager***

In late September of 1930, at the age of sixty-seven, Meta Chestnut Sager became a widow. How would she survive? Sager's archive reveals how one woman living in Chickasha, Oklahoma, not far from the center of the Dust Bowl, managed to make it through the Great Depression. Her experiences and observations tend to confirm, supplement, and sometimes challenge common conceptions about that time and place

Frank Bellizzi is a full-time Instructor of History at Amarillo College. Prior to his pursuit of academic history, for twenty-seven years he worked as a minister among the Churches of Christ, serving congregations in Tennessee, Arkansas, Connecticut, and Texas. From 2006-2013, he was Director of the Amarillo Bible Chair, affiliated with Amarillo College. During that time, he served as Chair of the Religion Department at AC. He earned a B.A. in Biblical Studies at Freed-Hardeman College, the M.Div. at Harding University School of Theology, and the S.T.M. at the Divinity School, Yale University. He is a Ph.D. candidate in American History at Texas Tech University.

Boydston, Anna Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA, ***Interwar Development of Aviation in the Texas Panhandle***

Aviator enthusiast, Harold English, lived a thrilling and daring life that brought him to the Panhandle of Texas early in the twentieth century. His entrepreneurial spirit prompted him to launch his own airfield, English Field, which supplied Amarillo, Texas with flying entertainment and flight services unlike any Amarillo had previously experienced. The business of aviation in the Texas Panhandle was pivotal in supporting the region's booming oil industry in the wake of the disastrous Great Depression and Dust Bowl and reflected the nation's overall growing aviation industry. Capitalizing on a strategic location in the transcontinental airline system, Harold English's formation of the first full-scale operational airport in 1929 provided the Panhandle with commercial and passenger air travel services, while stimulating Amarillo's economy with outside investment. Occurring within one of the most economically tragic times of America's history, English defied the Stock Market Crash of 1929 with vision and fortitude in the promising aviation industry. He was shrewd in forming advantageous connections that aided him in creating one of the most reputable and modern operational airports in the United States at the time. Tragically, the brevity of his life prevented him from furthering his ambitions, but not before he made a lasting mark and paved the way for the future of the aviation industry in the Texas Panhandle, as well as many notable aviators. English was a visionary and valiant aviator who thrilled onlookers and worked tirelessly to pioneer the business of aviation in Amarillo, Texas during the late 1920s into the 30s, which served a sustaining role in the Texas Panhandle's economy. The story of Harold English and his establishment of English Field exemplifies and participates in a connective narrative of regional stories comprising the overall story of aviation during America's Golden Age of Flight.

Anna K. Boydston is a doctoral candidate, ABD, and an Adjunct Instructor at Liberty University in the field of history. She is currently working on research in the National Archives in Washington, DC. Her dissertation focuses on the history of aviation in Amarillo and the Texas Panhandle. For years, while living in Canyon, TX, Anna worked closely with Texas Air and Space Museum and Rick Husband Amarillo International Airport on media projects, history writing, and curation. Her research is featured in educational videos such as this one: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=So6c3gXo3b4> Raised by a family of aviators, this topic became a natural choice for her to pursue. Her publications since 2019 have included economic history, biographies, and monographs.

Brincefield, Carroll. South Texas Historical Association, ***Socialism in West Texas***

"The great appear great to us only because we are on our knees, LET US Arise" Socialism in Texas had its beginnings among rural agrarian communities of Texas. Farm organizations such as Farmers Alliance, Farmers Union and the Socialist Party's Renters Union and Land League were formed. Exploring Socialism in West Texas will focus on the newspapers and campaigns of the Texas Socialists.

Carroll J Scogin-Brincefield. Bachelor of Science in History / Anthropology: University of Central Missouri (CMSU); Master of Art in History /Geography: University of Central Missouri (CMSU) (Military secondary); Continuing education in Geography: Texas State University. President of South Texas Historical Association; Past President of the Texas Czech Genealogical Society, active member in the Lavaca County Historical Commission, San Angelo Genealogical and Historical Association, Texas State Historical Commission, Texas State Archeology Association, East Texas Historical Association, West Texas Historical Association, Texas State Historical Association where she serves on the executive committee, Executive

Board of Women's History Texas Handbook, West Texas Trail Association, New Deal Symposium, The American Anthropological Association, and Who's Who in America

Bullock, Marin ***A History of the Barrel and Indian Creek Ranch of Briscoe County.*** Student Scholar from West Texas A&M University in a **Joint Session with the Center for the Study of the American West**

This paper is a historical narrative of the Barrel and Indian Creek Ranch, which is currently owned and operated by Ashley Watt. Barrel and Indian Creek Ranch spans across over 35,000 acres of land and is located in between Quitaque, TX and Silverton, TX. This ranch was originally part of the Quitaque division of the JA Ranch, operated by no other than Charles Goodnight. This historical narrative traces the history of Barrel and Indian Creek Ranch from Goodnight's ownership to Watt's by providing personal histories of individuals important to the development of the area, like the Bomar family, the Burson family, and the Grundy family. *Marin Bullock is a senior English major at West Texas A&M University. Originally from Roswell, New Mexico, her family moved to Midland, Texas when she was 5 years old, where her family still lives today. She is particularly interested academically in postcolonial and gender studies, and will additionally be graduating with a Gender Studies Certificate. Outside of school, Marin spends her time with her dog, Norbert, and enjoys spending her time writing at various local coffee shops.*

Callaham, Ashley ***The Texas Panhandle Curriculum Initiative: Regional Materials with the TEKS.*** Student Scholar from West Texas A&M University in a **Joint Session with the Center for the Study of the American West.**

The Texas Panhandle Curriculum Initiative (TPCI) is an online site that provides lesson plans about the region's rich history and culture to teachers across the state that may be unfamiliar with the Texas Panhandle. These lessons are not limited to history courses, but include lessons on the literature, art, and science of the region. The lessons found on the TPCI site focus on courses at a high school level across multiple disciplines. These created lessons allow for teachers to easily access material already created for a class and allow for interns that develop these lessons to develop skills related to curriculum creation. The purpose of this site is to not only provide lesson plans to educators, but to increase awareness and interest in the region as whole. *Ashley Callaham is a first year Graduate History student at West Texas A&M University, where she also earned her bachelor's in History. She is from Ropesville, Texas, located south of Lubbock, and has been an intern with the Center for the Study of the American West for almost two years*

Caraway, John. ***Weldon Edwards: Guiding Light of the Hereford Industry***

Jack Chastain of the Texas Hereford Cattle Association once called Weldon Edwards "the guiding light of the Hereford industry." For decades, Callahan County cattleman Weldon Edwards built the nation's premier Hereford cattle operation. His annual bull sale on the ranch at Clyde, Texas attracted buyers from across the nation and around the world. This paper will attempt to recognize Edwards's contribution to the cattle industry and the Clyde community while recognizing his place as perhaps the last of a breed of West Texas ranchers

So You Say You Want to Start a Podcast: Our Experience Beginning "Talking Texas History:" A Panel Discussion

The session will feature a discussion of how "Talking Texas History" was conceived, how it is

produced and edited, and guests of the cast will relate their experience, including a discussion of the intellectual and educational aspects of the podcast. Panel member John Caraway will also discuss his efforts to begin a podcast on his campus

John Caraway, a professor of government and history at Cisco College is currently working on a history of the Texas Sheep & Goat Raisers Association.

Chandler, Tim B. Hardin-Simmons University, ***Finding Abilene History Using Drone Technology***

Drone technology photography and videography provide innovative, 2023 approaches to research. Come hear Dr. Chandler describe how he does it. He'll show video of research that only can be done via drone photography. Find out if this approach is right for you in your research

Tim B. Chandler is Visiting Professor of Communication in the Cynthia Ann Parker College of Liberal Arts at Hardin-Simmons University. His research interests include advertising education, the Texas Forts Trail, and museum exhibit and design. He co-authored, with Randy Armstrong, "Castle on the Prairie: The Charles Goodnight House."

Cummins, Light. Texas State Historian Emeritus. **So You Say You Want to Start a Podcast: Our Experience Beginning "Talking Texas History:" A Panel Discussion**

The session will feature a discussion of how "Talking Texas History" was conceived, how it is produced and edited, and guests of the cast will relate their experience, including a discussion of the intellectual and educational aspects of the podcast.

Light Cummins was the official State Historian of Texas from May 2009 to July 2012, and the Bryan Professor of History at Austin College in Sherman, Texas prior to his retirement in 2018. He has written or edited ten books and numerous articles on the history of Texas, Louisiana, and the Southwestern United States. As a historian of the Spanish Borderlands, his research interests deal with the advance of the Anglo-American frontier into the Mississippi River valley, Spanish Louisiana, and Spanish colonial Texas during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Cummins grew up in San Antonio, Texas and holds a bachelor's and master's degree from Texas State University–San Marcos. He earned a PhD in history from Tulane University.

Doherty, Casey. Doherty & Doherty LLP, Houston, ***The Choctaw Tom Massacre: Indians, Rangers, the federal government, and the Dawn of the Texas Reservation War***

Casey Doherty is writing a book about the Texas Reservation War. He is an attorney from Houston who became interested in this topic through his interest in Texas History. His larger study of the Reservation War raised issues of current relevance, such as those relating to terrorism, immigration, diversity, and the manipulation of public opinion through false media accounts. Moreover, there has been little recent in-depth research on the subject.

Erickson, John. WTHA Keynote Speaker, ***"I Went To College But Work For A Dog."***

John R. Erickson is best known for his Hank the Cowdog series of books and audios, which began as a self-publishing venture in his garage in Perryton. The series has grown to 79 volumes that have been translated into Spanish, Danish, Latin, Chinese, and Farsi, and have sold over 10 million copies.

He has written several non-fiction books, including Prairie Gothic, the story of his mother's ranching family on the South Plains, and two recent books by Texas Tech Press: Bad Smoke, Good Smoke: A Texas Rancher's View of Wildfires and Porch Talk: A Conversation About

Archeology In the Texas Panhandle.

Erickson was born in Midland and grew up in Perryton, graduated from the University of Texas, and studied two years at Harvard Divinity School. He and Kristine have been married for 55 years and live on their ranch in Roberts County. He still maintains his schedule of writing four hours every morning, seven days a week.

Hagins, Melissa. Executive Director of the Texas Pecos Trail Region. ***Texas Heritage Trail Program and its Significance in Texas***

This session will go over the history of the Texas Heritage Trail Program and then will break down into each of the four regions and our vast differences of how we operate each of our non-profit organizations and how we function as a whole. Tammie Virden executive director will give a brief welcome to the WTHA as well as a thank you for choosing Abilene for this year's conference in the Texas Forts Trail Region. There will be four out of the ten regions in the West Texas and Panhandle areas of Texas represented. Allison Kendrick, Executive Director of Texas Plains Trail Region, Melissa Hagins, Executive Director of the Texas Pecos Trail Region, Wendy Little, Executive Director of Texas Mountain Trails Region and Tammie Virden, Executive Director of the Texas Forts Trail Region. Each of us come with an array of experience both in our field of work as well as previous experience in prior work. We come from chambers, convention and visitors' bureaus, non-profit organizations, retail, economic development, sales, and hospitality.

Cozart, Helen. Ranger College, ***Shortline Railroads in the 1917 Oil Boom***

The 1917 oil boom in Ranger, TX brought uncountable numbers of people to the area. Estimates say as many as 100,000 swelled the county, overflowing its ability to feed and house them. Oil wasn't just found in Ranger. It was all over the area. Camps and unincorporated communities developed as people struggled to find places to live as well as a means of getting to the oil sites from the communities. In the early days well site selection had as much to do with proximity to a railroad station, or at the very least a road, as it did geology. Roads were seldom good enough to transport in the materials to build the well. Tank cars to ship by rail were both scarce and expensive. From the oil company's perspective, it was cost effective to build spurs as close as possible to large groups of well sites, even when they were only a few miles long. Railroads quickly came along to take advantage of this by building town sites complete with housing, stores, and other amenities, ready for move in when the spur opened. New towns such as Frankell, Edhobby, and Breckwalker enabled the workers live where they worked, relieving the pressure on the people and on Ranger. This presentation proposes to tell the story of these short lines, the towns that were built along them, and the competition for land. It will explore how the situation came to exist, what a short line is, how they were developed and promoted, who some of the key players were in making these happen, and frustrations with Texas & Pacific's policies and embargoes.

Helen Cozart, Assistant Librarian at Ranger College. She is a retired soldier and History professor at Cisco College with a BA in Intelligence Studies and a Masters in Ancient History. She loves doing research and helping students with research is the highlight of her day. She is active with the West Texas Historical Association as a board member and has presented at numerous conferences.

Hays, James. Runnels County Historical Commission, ***Jack Hays' Indian Fight at Paint Rock***

“The historians said that this may never have happened, after all, they weren’t there. John Coffey Hays rode to Corpus Christi in early March, 1846 to meet with General Zachary Taylor to discuss impending troubles with Mexico . . . After brushing off Jack Hays’ offer for enlisting Texas Ranger units to act as spies (scouts) and cavalry . . . He changed his mind, but by then Jack Hays was on his way chasing Comanche and stolen horses with R. Addison Gillespie’s company of forty Texas Rangers and Placido, the veteran tracker,” to the Painted Rocks.
James B Hays, B.S. in Agriculture 1961 Texas Tech, taught science and history at Paint Rock one year, returned to Tech, finished pre-med, Southwestern Medical School, Dallas 1963, in time for the Kennedy Assassination, M.D. in 1967, Two year residency John Peter Smith Hospital, Fort Worth, one year practice Anson, Texas, then General Practice and Surgery, Brownwood 1970-2006, part-time Coleman 2006-2011, County Health Authority 2010-2020. Military: Texas Army National Guard 1956-1962, inactive reserve to 1964, rifleman, fire team leader, Rejoined with direct commission 1985, Medical Corps, commanded 1989 medical task force to Bolivia, retired 1999 as Colonel, State Surgeon, Army, awards: Expert Infantrymen Badge, Legion of Merit. Began to research and write historical papers for fun about 2007. and a repeat presenter to WTHA.

Kendrick, Allison. Executive Director of Texas Plains Trail Region. ***Texas Heritage Trail Program and its Significance in Texas***

This session will go over the history of the Texas Heritage Trail Program and then will break down into each of the four regions and our vast differences of how we operate each of our non-profit organizations and how we function as a whole. Tammie Virden executive director will give a brief welcome to the WTHA as well as a thank you for choosing Abilene for this year's conference in the Texas Forts Trail Region. There will be four out of the ten regions in the West Texas and Panhandle areas of Texas represented. Allison Kendrick, Executive Director of Texas Plains Trail Region, Melissa Hagins, Executive Director of the Texas Pecos Trail Region, Wendy Little, Executive Director of Texas Mountain Trails Region and Tammie Virden, Executive Director of the Texas Forts Trail Region. Each of us come with an array of experience both in our field of work as well as previous experience in prior work. We come from chambers, convention and visitors' bureaus, non-profit organizations, retail, economic development, sales, and hospitality.

Heuss, Edie. ***Stories from the XCEL Energy Digital Archive***. Student Scholar from West Texas A&M University in a **Joint Session with the Center for the Study of the American West**

This research demonstrates how Southwestern Public Service (SPS) electric service facilitated the growth of World War II defense related industries and the subsequent post war economic boom in the Texas and Oklahoma panhandles and Pecos Valley Region of New Mexico. SPS electric service powered carbon black manufacture, potash mining, and natural gas production vital to the war effort. Electrified irrigation, farming, and grain elevators enabled the region's agriculture industry to keep the home front feed. Sources utilized for this research include issues of the SPS employee magazine *The Southwesterner* from the 1940s and 1950s located in the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum archives. This research presents a unique perspective on the history of the Plains by discussing the relationship between electric service and area growth. *Edie Heuss is a second year History graduate student at West Texas A&M University. A native Texan, she worked as a paralegal in the electric utility industry in Austin before relocating to Canyon in 2021. Her thesis will examine Southwestern Public Service advertising campaigns and boosterism efforts from the electric utility's inception in 1904 until the 1970s.*

Hieb, Kimberly West Texas A&M University in Canyon, *A Regionally Responsive Orchestra: The Amarillo Symphony under A. Clyde Roller (1948–1962)*

The Amarillo Philharmonic Club, a women's music club, presented its first symphony concert in 1925. The history of what eventually would become known as The Amarillo Symphony is one of folks who readily aspired to create a rich cultural life in the small city at the heart of the Texas Panhandle they called home. Despite the Great Depression and the impact of World War II in the 1930s and 40s, the organization kept on keepin' on. In fact, in those decades, they produced remarkable spectacles and hosted acclaimed guest artists. The 1950s and 1960s, those under consideration in this paper, served as a period of transition during which the organization's executive leadership, philanthropic supporters, and music directors shaped this enduring institution into the form it maintains today. These were pivotal decades for the institution. In 1948 music director Clyde Roller, a dynamic new music director, turned over a new leaf for the organization. Thomas Hohstadt, a native Oklahoman, took the podium following Roller's retirement in 1962 and served as music director until 1974. While Roller's programs were long, diverse, and reflected the sounds and culture of the American West, Hohstadt programmed more traditionally canonic repertoire in programs that followed the framework audiences are privy to at Amarillo Symphony Concerts today. Tough budget issues plagued the institution in these decades, and this period saw the founding and heroic support of the Amarillo Symphony Guild. The orchestra also settled into its new home, the Civic Center Music Hall, and celebrated its fiftieth season in 1974–75. This particular chapter of the Amarillo Symphony's history presents a case study that resonates with the entire history of the institution, an organization whose activity and vitality suggests that the musical cultures of the small American cities that dotted the vast American West in the twentieth century were indeed richer than one might think.

*Dr. Kimberly Hieb currently serves as Associate Professor of Music History at West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas, just south of Amarillo in the Texas Panhandle. There she teaches undergraduate music history as well as topical seminars and research methods courses for graduate students. She hosts pre-concert talks for the Amarillo Symphony, Chamber Music Amarillo, and a weekly radio show on High Plains Public Radio featuring recordings of local performances. Her recent research projects explore sources of sacred music that complemented the more famous instrumental repertoire composed in Salzburg in the second half of the seventeenth century. Her edition of Andreas Hofer's *Ver sacrum seu flores musici* (Salzburg 1677) was published by A-R Editions in May of 2021, and she explored Salzburg's particular Catholic piety through the lens of sacred music in an article recently published in the *Journal of Musicology* titled "Music for Martyrs: Sacred Music and the Particular Piety of Late Seventeenth-Century Salzburg". She is currently at work on a book project examining sources of sacred music as representations of the political and religious platforms of Salzburg's ruling prince-archbishops between 1650 and 1700. While her central research focus is sacred music in seventeenth-century Salzburg, she is currently at work on a coffee table volume celebrating the Amarillo Symphony's upcoming centennial.*

Hoover, Dixie. Preservation Texas, *Water Plus Natural Gas Makes Electricity and Ice: the West Texas Utilities Power and Ice Plant*

As part of the bigger Central and Southwest System, the West Texas Utilities Power and Ice Plant (WTU) was completed in 1922. Dallas Architect Wyatt C. Hedrick designed the structure to be a beautifully engineered industrial space by incorporating the use of natural lighting through generous windows and skylights and a smokestack that became and remains a dominant feature of the Abilene skyline. Located on Cedar Creek for its water source and using natural

gas as its fuel source, the plant was designed for long term use and one of about six of this type built in Texas in the early 20th century. As an added revenue until 1951, ice was sold as a by-product from generating electricity. The Abilene Plant became part of its community while it served as a regional electricity provider from the 1920s through the 1960s and helped shape the 20th century energy industry and economy of West Texas as WTU expanded throughout the region. The company provided employees with family Christmas parties, where every employee child received a gift with their name on it from Santa Claus, plus a 4th of July picnic at Lytle Lake each year with bar-b-que, boat rides and fireworks. For the broader community, WTU was also very civic minded when called upon. The local Abilene newspaper reported 100 years ago that the Elk Building in Abilene was such a hit that organizers called the plant to keep the generators on as to keep their celebration going beyond the usual midnight cut-off for electricity. Although the Abilene Power Plant was decommissioned in the 1960s and sits silent in the 21st century, the physical building that remains shaped the energy development and economy of West Texas to where electricity is no longer only provided during the evening hours and shut off at midnight without calling to request an extension for a special occasion

Dixie Hoover is currently a board member with Preservation Texas. She has served as board member for the Friends of Fort Parker in Mexia, Texas.

Humphries, Holle. Quannah Parker Trail, ***Who Knew? Comanches as Underacknowledged Guides for Those Singularly Credited as “Trailblazers” or “Finders” or “Fearless Adventurers” Across the Vast Reaches of West Texas***

The 20th century literature of Texas – both academic and popular -- is replete with tales of derring-do by those of the 17th, 18th and early 19th centuries credited as trailblazers across the vast regions of West Texas -- an area thought to be so forbidding for its seeming lack of fuel for fire – wood – and water, that it was marked on maps as “The Great American Desert.” Interestingly, all those accorded such status as “trail blazers” or “finders of trails” or “fearless adventurers in the formidable West Texas frontier” – are white. Yet, closer inspection of their travel diaries, documents submitted to authorities and popularized accounts reveals that several had as their guides – Comanches. For an Indian tribe so resoundingly relegated to the category of “hostiles” by later 19th and mid 20th century military officials, settlers, and Texas historians, it is rather startling to find that closer inspection of early European and American explorers’ accounts reveal that instead, early on in the history of the Texan West, Comanches willingly offered to lend their knowledge of the land as scouts for several such expeditions – at least – until they came to realize what the endgame was of helping Euro-American explorers establish trails across their hunting grounds. This overview will seek to place the spotlight on a few such underacknowledged Comanche-led forays undertaken and later credited to white “trail blazers and finders” – who, without benefit of their Comanche guides, otherwise may have ended up as tried-but-failed footnotes to history.

Holle Humphries, Ph.D., a former educator and academic, in retirement has worked for over one decade to assist in documenting, mapping and synthesizing information to establish the basis of content for raising public awareness about the historic presence of the nomadic Comanche people and their allies of the 18th and 19th century in the fifty -two county region of the Texas Plains Trail Region, a cultural heritage trail of the Texas Historical Commission.

Hunt, Alex. Center for the Study of the American West, ***Cornelia Adair and the JA Ranch: Latest***

Findings

This paper is drawn from the ongoing research and writing of the biography of Cornelia Wadsworth Ritchie Adair. Cornelia took over ranch ownership when her husband John Adair (who had partnered with Charles Goodnight) died in 1885 and maintained her interest of in the ranch til her death in 1921. A native of New York, Cornelia spent most of her life after the Civil War living abroad in England and Ireland, where she maintained properties. She visited the JA regularly during these years and remained heavily involved in ranch management up to her death.

Regents Professor of English at West Texas A&M University and Director, Center for the Study of the American West at West Texas A&M University. He was the founding director of CSAW in 2016, involved in community outreach, public programing, curricular development, research support, and fundraising. Prior to this, he was an English Professor at WT in 2002 and became Vincent/Haley Professor of Western Studies in 2012. He was editor of the Panhandle-Plains Historical Review from 2012-2017 and was co-president of the Western Literature Association for 2019. He has been a Fulbright Specialist to Graz, Austria.

Ingrassia, Brian M. West Texas A&M University, *Sound Investments: Transportation Infrastructure and Residential Development in 1920s Amarillo*

In the 1920s, potential homebuyers in Amarillo, Texas, read in newspaper advertisements that it would be a “sound investment” to purchase a sturdy brick home in the new Wolflin Estates development. This neighborhood—developed by a family that made a fortune in groceries and automobile sales, and platted by a noted Kansas City landscape architecture firm—was located on brick streets just a short drive southwest of Amarillo’s central business district. Because of clearly delineated rules regarding what could and could not be built there, Wolflin would be the city’s most exclusive, or “restricted” neighborhood. This paper analyzes Wolflin alongside two other Amarillo neighborhoods—Bivins Home Place and the Country Club District—to show how 1920s developers marketed residential developments as long-term investments. It argues that a major reason they could do so was because of advances in transportation infrastructure, especially automobiles. Wolflin, Bivins, and Country Club additions were marketed as pleasant, even beautiful, residential spaces for comfortable living, yet they essentially comprised what geographer Ronald Horvath calls “machine space”: they relied on machines to annihilate distance between relatively far-off points, thus imbuing formerly rural lands with enduring (sub)urban value. The Bivins neighborhood, in fact, took machine space to its logical extreme, with a main artery built on the Y-shaped former runway of the Bivins family’s private airstrip. This paper cites primary sources including Amarillo daily newspapers, plus Wolflin family papers in the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum. It engages secondary sources including Paul Carlson’s *Amarillo: The Story of a Western Town* (2006) and LeeAnn Lands’s *The Culture of Property: Race, Class, and Housing Landscapes in Atlanta, 1880–1950* (2009)

*Brian M. Ingrassia is associate professor of history at West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas, where he is also associate director of the Center for the Study of the American West. He has published articles on Amarillo history in *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* (2019), *Panhandle-Plains Historical Review* (2020), and *Great Plains Quarterly* (forthcoming late 2022). He is author of *The Rise of Gridiron University: Higher Education’s Uneasy Alliance with Big-Time Football* (University Press of Kansas, 2012) and *Speed Capital: Indianapolis Auto Racing and the Making of Modern America* (University of Illinois Press, forthcoming 2023/2024). Ingrassia also serves as series editor of the *Sport and Popular Culture Series* at the University of Tennessee Press. He lives in Amarillo*

Jackson, Sarah Canby. Harris County Archivist (retired), Houston. ***Remembering David Gracy: a legacy for Texas and beyond.***

The cause of Texas history lost a great friend with the death of Dr. David B. Gracy II in 2020. His legacy, though will last far beyond his lifetime, thanks to his many accomplishments as an archivist, historian, and educator. This panel will remember this remarkable man and the varied phases of his career, which touched countless lives in Texas and beyond. Presenters will speak to the highlights of his career, including his time at Texas Tech University, as the founder of the Southern Labor and University Archives at Georgia State University, as State Archivist of Texas, Professor of Archival Enterprise at the University of Texas, and as the author of such books as *Littlefield lands: colonization on the Texas plains, 1912-1920*, *Moses Austin: his life and A man absolutely sure of himself: Texan George Washington Littlefield*.

Sarah Canby Jackson received her Masters of Science in Applied History from the University of North Texas and her Masters in Library and Information Science with an emphasis in Archives and Records Management from the University of Texas at Austin. After graduation from UT, she developed the archives program at the San Jacinto Museum of History in La Porte, Texas. In November 2002 along with Paul Scott, Jackson established the Harris County Archives, the first county archives in Texas as a component of a records management plan. She retired from Harris County in May 2021. During her archives career, Jackson held office in Archivists of the Houston Area, the Society of Southwest Archivists, and the Academy of Certified Archivists. She was a member of the Society of American Archivists, the Texas State Historical Association, the East Texas Historical Association, the Harris County Historical Commission, the Houston Genealogical Forum, and the Texas Historical Records Advisory Board (THRAB).

Johnson, Byron. Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum, ***Founding and Evolution of the Texas Rangers***

Byron Johnson serves as Director of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum in Waco, Texas since 1996. He has worked as a curator and director in Texas, New Mexico and Florida for 45 years. He has been a consultant to the Smithsonian Museum of American History, the National Air and Space Museum, the National Park Service Spanish Colonial Research Center, the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center and other agencies. He has written, contributed to or edited 14 books on Spanish Colonial history and the history of the Old West. He has served as a history commentator for CBS News, Discovery Channel, History Channel, and the FOX Network. He holds a M.A. Degree in Museum Management concentrating on Western History, Historic Architecture and Archives Management from Texas Tech University.

Liles, Debbie. Tarleton State University, ***So You Say You Want to Start a Podcast: Our Experience Beginning "Talking Texas History:" A Panel Discussion***

The session will feature a discussion of how "Talking Texas History" was conceived, how it is produced and edited, and guests of the cast will relate their experience, including a discussion of the intellectual and educational aspects of the podcast.

*Liles is the W. K. Gordon Chair of Texas History at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas. She is the author of multiple articles and book chapters that examine slavery, women, ranching, and the Texas frontier. Recent books include three co-edited anthologies, *Women in Civil War Texas* (UNT Press 2016), winner of the Liz Carpenter and Ottis Lock Awards; *Texas Women and Ranching* (Texas A&M Press, 2019) winner of the Liz Carpenter and Temple-Vick Awards; and *African Americans in Central Texas History* (Texas A&M University Press, 2019). Two monographs in progress examine the correlation between small slaveholders and ranching*

in Texas (LSU Press), including the biography of one of those men, Oliver Loving (Texas A&M University Press).

Little, Wendy. Executive Director of Texas Mountain Trails Region. ***Texas Heritage Trail Program and its Significance in Texas***

This session will go over the history of the Texas Heritage Trail Program and then will break down into each of the four regions and our vast differences of how we operate each of our non-profit organizations and how we function as a whole. Tammie Virden executive director will give a brief welcome to the WTHA as well as a thank you for choosing Abilene for this year's conference in the Texas Forts Trail Region. There will be four out of the ten regions in the West Texas and Panhandle areas of Texas represented. Allison Kendrick, Executive Director of Texas Plains Trail Region, Melissa Hagins, Executive Director of the Texas Pecos Trail Region, Wendy Little, Executive Director of Texas Mountain Trails Region and Tammie Virden, Executive Director of the Texas Forts Trail Region. Each of us come with an array of experience both in our field of work as well as previous experience in prior work. We come from chambers, convention and visitors' bureaus, non-profit organizations, retail, economic development, sales, and hospitality.

Martin, Cindy Lubbock Historical Commission, ***A 1909 Lubbock Esperanto Mystery***

Lubbock was less than 20 years old in 1909. The population was about 1,800 and there were no city services, the houses all had windmills, there were no paved roads, and the railroad did not reach the city until late in the year. On April 18, 1909, Harry S. Graham sent a postcard from Lubbock to Curtis B. Lore in Danville, Pennsylvania. What was different about this postcard was that it was written in Esperanto and concerned a fairly esoteric debate within the Esperanto community. Polish ophthalmologist L. L. Zamenhof constructed the language in 1887 and by 1909 it was gaining popularity throughout Europe and in some larger American cities in the northeast. So who were these two men and was Esperanto somehow popular in Lubbock and other parts of West Texas at the time? This paper will try to answer those questions and solve the mystery of the 1909 Lubbock Esperanto postcard

Cindy Martin is a former archivist at the Southwest Collection at Texas Tech University and currently serves as the archivist for the Northwest Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Lubbock Heritage Society and is a member of the Lubbock County Historical Commission.

Martinez, Jose Center for the Study of the American West--West Texas A&M University, ***With His Pistol in His Hand: Juan Cortina, Mexican Agency, and Deprivations on the U.S.-Mexico Border***

Recent historiography on events like the Porvenir Massacre has shed light on the ways that Mexicans along the United States-Mexico border were, to varying degrees, victims of violence in acts that were a response to tensions between the Anglo-American people and the Mexican people. These heightened tensions are rooted in the event of the Mexican-American War and its fallout. An unintended consequence of this writing of the violence on the border against border Mexicans is that it has left the border Mexican as a static actor in the historiography, a victim of violence with no agency, in the important retelling of his history. In an attempt to ameliorate that, this paper will tell the story of Juan Nepomuceño Cortina, his story of agency on the Border, and how he as a "bandit" caused trouble for the United States government. This paper hopes to use the story of Cortina as an attempt to tell the story of a man who was not a static actor in history and who displayed his agency in his own right, against a people whom he

believed were encroaching on his own.

Jose Martinez, WTAMU MA Candidate, Department of History

Matthews, Jim. WTHA Newsletter Editor, ***Fort Martin Scott: First in the Line of Frontier Defense in Texas***

Fort Martin Scott is a restored United States Army outpost near Fredericksburg in the Texas Hill Country, United States, that was active from December 5, 1848, until April, 1853. It was actually established in late 1848 before the flurry of fort building in 1849 that later became the line of frontier forts established to protect travelers and settlers within Texas.

The Cyclone: How to Submit Short Articles and News of our Members and Member Organizations

Jim Matthews is the Editor of the WTHA Newsletter—The Cyclone. He is an award winning published scholar on U.S. Cavalry exploits in West Texas and the southwest. He is a longtime WTHA member.

Maule, Brad. Stephen F. Austin State University, ***So You Say You Want to Start a Podcast: Our Experience Beginning “Talking Texas History:” A Panel Discussion***

The session will feature a discussion of how “Talking Texas History” was conceived, how it is produced and edited, and guests of the cast will relate their experience, including a discussion of the intellectual and educational aspects of the podcast.

Brad Maule works in the School of Theatre and a Cinematography Program Lecturer at Stephen F. Austin University's. Maule has received two Emmy Award nominations, one for best actor and one for best supporting actor in a daytime series, both for his best-known role of Dr. Tony Jones on General Hospital. He won the Soap Opera Digest Award for Best Supporting Actor and a Drama-Logue Award for Best Actor in a Musical for the west coast premiere of Stephen Sondheim's Marry Me a Little. On stage he has starred in such shows as Fiddler on the Roof with opera star Jan Peerce, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers with Ed Ames, No, No, Nanette with Nanette Fabray, and has performed with Bobby Gentry, Jim Nabors, Don Ho, and Vicki Carr. Brad has three solo albums of Texas country music: Living It Up, Chameleon and Small Town. Currently Maule hosts the syndicated television show Texas County Line. He also hosts a morning radio talk show on KSFA 860AM.

Maynard, Jeremy. Hardin-Simmons University, ***Finding Abilene History in the Research Center for the Southwest***

Founded in 1975 as a regional depository for Southwest materials, and as a “prestigious center of history, books, archives, records, and art relating to the history of the entire Southwest,” the Research Center contains a plethora of historic materials accessible to the public. In addition to artifacts, books, papers, and memorabilia related to Abilene, Texas, and the Southwest, the Center is the home to all documents, objects, and records concerning the founding, history, development, and operations of Hardin-Simmons University. Come learn to make use of these resources

Jeremy Maynard is Associate Professor of Library Science and is Associate Director for University Libraries in the Richardson Library at Hardin-Simmons University where he is a member of the Faculty Council and is responsible for the Research Center of the Southwest.

Monroe, Monte. Texas State Historian. **So You Say You Want to Start a Podcast: Our Experience Beginning “Talking Texas History:” A Panel Discussion**

The session will feature a discussion of how “Talking Texas History” was conceived, how it is produced and edited, and guests of the cast will relate their experience, including a discussion of the intellectual and educational aspects of the podcast.

Governor Greg Abbott re-appointed Dr. Monte L. Monroe to a third term as the official Texas State Historian on October 5, 2022. Dr. Monroe is Archivist of the Southwest Collection and on faculty at Texas Tech University. He has served on numerous statewide historic organizational boards and committees and has taught and published widely on Texas history. Formerly he served as the long-time editor of the West Texas Historical Yearbook, now Review, is a Fellow of the Association, and served on the board for 15 years. Monroe served on the Texas Historical Records Advisory Board and the prestigious Philosophical Society of Texas elected him to membership. Locally, he is president of the Rotary Club of Lubbock Foundation, and former president of the Downtown Rotary Club. He served on the Lubbock Tornado Memorial Gateway Committee and in his earlier life was the only American to have officiated in two Olympic Games in the sport of Taekwondo.

Murrah, David. former director of the Southwest Collection at Texas Tech University, and Vice President of Southwest Museum Services, Houston (retired). **Remembering David Gracy: a legacy for Texas and beyond.**

The cause of Texas history lost a great friend with the death of Dr. David B. Gracy II in 2020. His legacy, though will last far beyond his lifetime, thanks to his many accomplishments as an archivist, historian, and educator. This panel will remember this remarkable man and the varied phases of his career, which touched countless lives in Texas and beyond. Presenters will speak to the highlights of his career, including his time at Texas Tech University, as the founder of the Southern Labor and University Archives at Georgia State University, as State Archivist of Texas, Professor of Archival Enterprise at the University of Texas, and as the author of such books as Littlefield lands: colonization on the Texas plains, 1912-1920, Moses Austin: his life and A man absolutely sure of himself: Texan George Washington.

Dr. David J. Murrah is a Texas historian who lives in Rockport and serves as a museum and archival consultant. Dr. Murrah worked for Texas Tech University in Lubbock for 25 years as archivist and director of its Southwest Collection, and then became general project manager and vice president of Southwest Museum Services in Houston. He semi-retired in 2002. As a historian, Dr. Murrah has written or edited eleven books related to Texas history as well as more than fifty other publications. With the release of his book, The Rise and Fall of the Lazy S Ranch, in 2021, he now has publications by the four major university presses in the Southwest, UT, Texas Tech, Oklahoma, and Texas A&M. He is currently working on a museum-style exhibit for the historic Matador Ranch at Matador. He is the immediate past president of the Aransas County Historical Society and continues to serve as a Trustee and Newsletter Editor.

Potts, Marisue. Mott Creek Ranch, **Land, a driving force in settlement**

Marisue Burlison Potts grew up on a ranch in Motley County, Texas. She loves to document and preserve the county’s history with writing that brings out the local flavor of the people and places. She co-founded the Motley County Historical Museum and has served with several historical and archaeological organizations in Texas including the West Texas Historical Association for which she served as president, vice president and board member. She was also instrumental in the founding of the Comanchero Canyons Museum in Quitaque. She has

dedicated countless hours to the preservation of Motley County history while raising five children, earning a college degree, and running a cattle ranch.

Preuss, Gene. University of Houston-Downtown. So You Say You Want to Start a Podcast: Our Experience Beginning “Talking Texas History:” A Panel Discussion

The session will feature a discussion of how “Talking Texas History” was conceived, how it is produced and edited, and guests of the cast will relate their experience, including a discussion of the intellectual and educational aspects of the podcast.

Dr. Preuss’s research focuses on the history of public education in Texas. He has published articles in the East Texas Historical Journal, West Texas Historical Association Yearbook, Journal of South Texas, and Sound Historian: Journal of the Texas Oral History Association. He co-authored “Oral History, Folklore, and Katrina,” with Alan H. Stein, in There is No Such Thing as a Natural Disaster: Race, Class, and Hurricane Katrina (Routledge, 2006), and in Seeking Higher Ground: The Hurricane Katrina Crisis, Race, and Public Policy Reader (Palgrave Macmillan, 2007). He has contributed chapters on public education history in Texas in several books, and his monograph, To Get a Better School System: One Hundred Years of School Reform in Texas” (Texas A&M University Press in 2009) won the East Texas Historical Association 2010 Ottis Lock book award, and was a Texas Institute of Letters Scholarly Book Award finalist. He is currently working with former Secretary of Education Lauro Cavazos, Jr. on a memoir for Texas Tech press, and is working on a history of the 1948 Delgado vs. Bastrop decision.

Reitz, Robert. Dallas, *A Catch in your Throat: Tuvan Throat Singing from the far East and Yodeling from the Texas West*

Robert Reitz (he likes to be called Bob) is a Dallas public historian and independent scholar, specializing in growing up in Dallas in the 1950's and 1960's. He has presented papers at the West Texas Historical Association on a wide variety of subjects, from early Texas Art, Comanche Indians to West Texas music. He has also presented music research papers for the East Texas Historical Association as well as the recent Texas State Historical Association in February 2020. Combining his many interests was a paper he presented at WTHA: Sputnik and the Atom Bomb, Flying Saucers and the Red Scare - Cultural Anxieties of the 1950's and 1960's Expressed in Popular Music. Bob is the curator of the Scout Museum at Boy Scout Camp Wisdom in Dallas.

Schroeder, Bryon. Joint Session from the Center for Big Bend Studies. *For Fiber or Fiber: Paleoarchaic Desert Plant Baking as Calories or Raw Material?*

The West Texas–Big Bend region preserves some of the earliest examples of Hot Rock cooking in North America. These smaller early thermal features are thought to be the remnants of early plant baking subsistence events. Yet, work done at numerous sheltered sites in the Big Bend region preserves a remarkable perishable artifact assemblage. The foundation of this perishable technology comes from cooked and processed yuccas and agaves. The reported ratios of recovered stone to perishable tools from sheltered sites are heavily weighted towards processed desert plants. This talk offers an initial research framework to view the small Paleoarchaic thermal features of the Chihuahuan Desert as a record related to extracting fiber for tools rather than a pure subsistence pursuit.

Byron Schroeder became the Director of the Center for Big Bend Studies in 2020. He received his Ph.D. in archaeology from the University of Montana in 2015 focused on high-altitude hunter-gatherer sites in the Wind River Range of the Middle Rocky Mountains. He also holds both a

B.A. and M.A. in archaeology from the University of Wyoming where he studied hunter-gatherer conflict, violence, and Identity. He has worked throughout Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, Montana, the Central Coast of California, and Texas. In Texas, his research interests focus on collector collaboration, ancient human and plant DNA, and the distribution of ancient maize and he has ongoing excavations at several of the large rockshelters and caves in the Big Bend region

Scott, William V. Texas Tech University, ***George Gibson Hunt: Career Army Officer and Founder of Fort Concho***

George G. Huntt was a career army officer, who was raised in the shadows of the White House. Huntt was commissioned into the U.S. Cavalry on the eve of the Civil War but served most of his war-time service in Pennsylvania, due to his health. Following the Civil War, Huntt and the 4th U.S. Cavalry was stationed at Camp Verde and Fort Chadbourne, Texas before he was assigned to establish a “permanent camp” on the Concho River. Huntt served as the first commanding officer of Fort Concho and served the post for about nine months. Huntt would serve at other posts in Texas, including Helena, Fort Brown, and Austin; before being transferred to the Military District of the Pacific. Huntt also served the Freedman’s Bureau in Washington, D.C., along with command and military assignments in the Pacific Northwest and the Southwest in his more than thirty years of service.

William V. Scott is a Ph.D. student in the Department of History at Texas Tech University.

Sheffield, Wes. WTHA Social Media Editor, ***Connecting with WTHA on Social Media/Facebook, - 101 Checklist for Historical Organizations and Individuals to create a History/Research Facebook page***

Since the Spring of 2011, the West Texas Historical Association has maintained a Facebook page to support the organizations mission to preserve and promote the history of West Texas. WTHA is represented on Social Media with pages on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn. As of 2022, the WTHA Facebook page has grown to over 15,000 followers. Posts include historical photos, upcoming west Texas historical events, news, and organization updates. This presentation will serve as an overview of how to navigate the WTHA. Facebook page content, and a step by step process on how individuals and west Texas partner institutions (museums, historical sites, commissions and related organizations) can submit content to share with WTHA and how individuals and regional partners can create their own Facebook history page to promote their research or organization.

For over 30 years has worked as a Supply Chain/Technical Training/Engineering professional in Technology and Aerospace Industries. Completed degrees at Tarleton State University and Dallas Baptist University. -WTHA Life Member, Past Board Member, since 2011 has served as WTHA Social Media Editor. Past Adjunct Professor of History at Dallas Baptist University and Concordia University. Research Historian focusing on U.S. Southwest, Military, Technology, and Post-War Era.

Specht, Joe. McMurry University (retired), ***Slim Willet’s Winston Records: Rock ‘N’ Roll and Country Music with a West Texas Flair***

Joe W. Specht is emeritus director of Jay-Rollins Library at McMurry University. He is the author of The Women There Don’t Treat You Mean: Abilene in Song (revised, expanded edition, Texas Star Trading Company, 2017) and coeditor of The Roots of Texas Music (Texas A&M University Press, 2003) and Abilene Stories: From Then to Now (Abilene Christian University

Press, 2013). In addition, Specht has published articles on a variety of Texas music topics, including Blind Lemon Jefferson, Lightnin' Hopkins, Bob Wills, Ernest Tubb, Jimmy Seals, Terry Stafford, Tommy X Hancock & the Supernatural Family Band, and The Flatlanders. He is currently working on an oil field song project, Smell That Sweet Perfume: Oil Patch Songs on Record, which focuses on commercially recorded petroleum-related songs written and/or waxed by performers with roots in the Gulf-Southwest.

Stricker, Warren. Chair and Organizer. ***Remembering David Gracy: a legacy for Texas and beyond.***

The cause of Texas history lost a great friend with the death of Dr. David B. Gracy II in 2020. His legacy, though will last far beyond his lifetime, thanks to his many accomplishments as an archivist, historian, and educator. This panel will remember this remarkable man and the varied phases of his career, which touched countless lives in Texas and beyond. Presenters will speak to the highlights of his career, including his time at Texas Tech University, as the founder of the Southern Labor and University Archives at Georgia State University, as State Archivist of Texas, Professor of Archival Enterprise at the University of Texas, and as the author of such books as *Littlefield lands: colonization on the Texas plains, 1912-1920*, *Moses Austin: his life and A man absolutely sure of himself: Texan George Washington Littlefield*.

Warren Stricker joined the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum staff in 2008 after many years as archivist at the Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library in San Antonio. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from University of Colorado Boulder and has a master's degree in library and information science from the University of Texas where he was a protégé of the nationally known archivist, librarian and historian Dr. David M. Gracy. When he's not at PPHM, Warren enjoys birding and reading. If he could live anywhere in the world, Warren says, he would live "in the past."

Stroman, Elissa. ***West Texas Historical Review Editor***

In this general information session, we will discuss the current events of the *West Texas Historical Review*: outlining our publication schedule, explaining some of the common editorial and stylistic issues that arise for submissions, announcing our upcoming special issues, and answering questions for interested authors. We encourage anyone who has written or thought about writing an article for the *West Texas Historical Review* to attend this session to learn more about this nearly one hundred-year-old publication.

Elissa Stroman is the editor of the West Texas Historical Review and the assistant archivist for oral history at the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library

Sosebee, Scott. Stephen F. Austin State University, ***So You Say You Want to Start a Podcast: Our Experience Beginning "Talking Texas History:" A Panel Discussion***

The session will feature a discussion of how "Talking Texas History" was conceived, how it is produced and edited, and guests of the cast will relate their experience, including a discussion of the intellectual and educational aspects of the podcast.

Scott Sosebee is a professor of history at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, as well as the executive director of the East Texas Historical Association. He teaches and researches on Texas and the South, primarily during the 20th Century. He is the co-editor of Lone Star Suburbs: Life on the Texas Metropolitan Frontier (w/ Paul J.P. Sandul) from OU Press, and the author of What Is It About Texas? Historical Stories About the Lone Star State (Stephen F. Austin State Press). He is the co-author of The American Challenge: A New History of the United States (with Keith Volanto and Michael Phillips) for Abigail Press, and the co-

editor (with Kirk Bane and Charles Swanlund) of *A Lone Star Reader* from Kendall-Hunt Press. His latest project is *The Cross B: A Small Operation on Texas' South Plains*, which is forthcoming in fall 2020 from Texas A&M Press. He is also the co-editor (with Paul Carlson) of the *Nancy and Ted Paup Ranching Heritage Series* at Texas A&M Press. He and his wife Leslie manage/clean/try to keep up with a house in Nacogdoches that is owned by their four rambunctious Sheltie puppies.

TBD. ***A Wildcatter's Search for Yeti, Noah's Ark, and the Titanic--Abilene's Cadillac Jack***

In the frontier town of Abilene, gateway to West Texas, a wildcatter from West Texas pondered the whereabouts of the legendary passenger ship Titanic that sank in 1912 after striking an iceberg in the North Atlantic. Jack Grimm from Abilene had made a fortune in the oil patch, and, with his millions, announced to an incredulous world that he was "wildcatting" for the Titanic. In 1980, Jack Grimm spearheaded a three year search for the famous wreck. Amid the snickers and bemusement of the media who made fun of the stereotypically rich oil man who seemed to have more money than sense, a circus atmosphere enveloped the reality of what happened over 40 years ago in the search for the most famous ship wreck in maritime history.

Thompson, William A.. Triple Arrow Ranch, ***You Can Get there from Here (West Texas): The Life and Times of Anson Thomas***

William A. Thompson, Jr. is a fifth generation Texan and a renaissance man. Like an old-fashion wagon wheel, he is a man with many spokes. Those spokes include educator, administrator, stain glass artist, rancher, poet, writer, historical preservationist, and county judge. His latest book is Dancin' Boots.

Traylor, Rich. Hardin-Simmons University, ***Influencing Abilene: Pastor Jack Ridlehoover at Pioneer Drive Baptist Church***

Jack Ridlehoover served as pastor of Pioneer Drive Baptist Church in Abilene from 1963-1992, an era that coincided with growth in Abilene and in the church. Ridlehoover's influence extended well beyond Pioneer Drive to the city, the county, the region, and the State of Texas. He continued to influence through his mentorship of hundreds of younger pastors in the three decades after he retired from Pioneer Drive Church and until his death in 2022. This presentation is built on research for a book on the history of Pioneer Drive Baptist Church and includes results of face-to-face interviews with Dr. Ridlehoover.

*Rich Traylor is Professor of History in the Cynthia Ann Parker College of Liberal Arts. In 2015, Dr. Traylor published *Born of Water and Spirit: The Baptist Impulse in Kentucky, 1776-1860* with the University of Tennessee Press. He is the foremost authority on 19th century Baptist author Sallie Rochester Ford and has published articles in the *Missouri Historical Review*, *Baptist History and Heritage*, and the *Texas Journal of History*.*

Torrez, Robert J. New Mexico Historical Society, ***The Texan Pirates Are Coming***

George W. Kendall's *Narrative of the Texan Santa Fe Expedition* notwithstanding, our history books tell us little of what happened on the New Mexican side of this important topic. This presentation will review what a substantial element of the Mexican Archives of New Mexico (1821-1846) reveal about rumors of a Texan invasion (some as early as 1836), the internal conflicts regarding suspected Texas sympathies in New Mexico, local preparations, and the Mexican government's authorization to treat the Texans as pirates. Capture of the Texans provided a great lift for the morale of the Mexican Republic and as soon as reports from New

Mexico reached the capital in Mexico, the President authorized Armijo and a number of his men and officers be awarded medals of honor (*una cruz de honor*) for their service against the Texans.

Robert J. Tórréz is an independent historian who served as the New Mexico State Historian from 1987 to 2000. He has authored dozens of scholarly and popular articles in regional and national publications and since 1992, published more three hundred columns under his "Voices From the Past" byline in "Round the Roundhouse." He has a special interest in the judicial and governmental systems of Spanish, Mexican, and Territorial-era New Mexico, Spanish - Indian relations, and land grant issues and has contributed to nearly two dozen anthologies, including a recent New Mexico history textbook for use in New Mexico schools. An award-winning author, his books include UFOs Over Galisteo; New Mexico in 1876-1877: A Newspaperman's View; Rio Arriba, A New Mexico County (with co-author Robert Trapp); Myth of the Hanging Tree: Stories of Crime and Punishment in Territorial New Mexico; and Voices From the Past: The Comanche Raid of 1776 and Other Tales of New Mexico History.

Turner, Leland. Midwestern State University, ***The Ranch in the History of Texas: From Central Texas to the Caprock***

Texas is sometimes defined as being born from hide and horn. And Texans have almost always embraced that western imagery. Certainly, ranching has been central to the story of Texas history if not the actual engine of the Texas economy. However, ranching was the economic reality in much of West Texas. Beginning in the 1860s cattle, sheep, and goat ranchers filtered onto the plains north of Hill Country. With the defeat of the Southern Plains Indian nations, migrants continued further westward toward the caprock and Llano Estacado. Their migration was in response to a growing U.S. demand for beef. Cities such as Abilene, Big Spring, and others became important livestock trading centers. This project, "The Ranch in the History of Texas," of which most of West Texas is important, is meant to address the mythology, economics, and the institution of ranching in the state

Turner is an Associate Professor of History at Midwestern State University. He specializes in the history the American West, Texas, cattle economies, and the consequent Wild West mythology. A 2007 Fulbright Fellowship to Australia enabled Turner to complete his manuscript, "Outback by Southwest: King Ranch Cattle in the Australian Grasslands" is under consideration by the University of Oklahoma Press. His present borderlands research is a continued effort to consider transnational cattle economies and their historic importance.

Villarreal, Sierra. *Stories from the Forgotten Frontera Oral History Initiative.* Student Scholar from West Texas A&M University in a **Joint Session with the Center for the Study of the American West**

Forgotten Frontera is a project with the intent to acknowledge and promote the history of Mexican American and Tejanos in the Southern Great Plains. The program is meant to encourage community support of first-generation Mexican Americans. This project also includes the collection and preservation of oral histories from Mexican Americans in this area these stories can highlight just how tightly woven the history of Mexican Americans are with the history of the Southern Great Plains. T Boone Pickens was an incredibly wealthy entrepreneur who did many great things in his long life. One story that is not mentioned is the story of Sagrario Majia and her family. Her family, Mexican immigrants, were brought into the United States with the intent to work on Pickens' ranch, just as her father had been before she arrived. Her story is about the incredible bravery it takes to not only leave the one place you have ever known but also trust a complete stranger.

Sierra Villarreal is a first-year history graduate student from Amarillo, TX. Her field of study is prostitution, specifically during westward expansion into the United States.

Virden, Tammie. Executive Director of the Texas Forts Trail Region. ***Texas Heritage Trail Program and its Significance in Texas***

This session will go over the history of the Texas Heritage Trail Program and then will break down into each of the four regions and our vast differences of how we operate each of our non-profit organizations and how we function as a whole. Tammie Virden executive director will give a brief welcome to the WTHA as well as a thank you for choosing Abilene for this year's conference in the Texas Forts Trail Region. There will be four out of the ten regions in the West Texas and Panhandle areas of Texas represented. Allison Kendrick, Executive Director of Texas Plains Trail Region, Melissa Hagins, Executive Director of the Texas Pecos Trail Region, Wendy Little, Executive Director of Texas Mountain Trails Region and Tammie Virden, Executive Director of the Texas Forts Trail Region. Each of us come with an array of experience both in our field of work as well as previous experience in prior work. We come from chambers, convention and visitors' bureaus, non-profit organizations, retail, economic development, sales, and hospitality.

Von Lintel, Amy West Texas A&M University, ***Aviation: A Hidden Aesthetic in the Texas Panhandle***

When working on a recent book manuscript currently titled *Art Stories of the Texas Panhandle* (contracted and under review with Texas Tech Press), I discovered a treasure trove of archival evidence of the aesthetic history of aviation for the region—largely held at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum Research Center and at the Texas Air and Space Museum in Amarillo. Aviation history is most commonly told as a history of pilots and planes, technological advances and wartime accomplishments. Recently, though, there have been excellent studies on the aesthetics and visual culture of aeriarity and aviation—including Jason Weems's *Barnstorming the Prairies* (2015) and Vanessa Schwartz's *Jet Age Aesthetic* (2020). Following these two models, I have been exploring the hidden aesthetics of aviation in West Texas—hidden because they have been literally buried by city development and because the planes criss-crossing the Panhandle skies in the 1920s and 30s—flying doctors and veterinarians to their visits, barnstormers giving rides to the locals, and ranchers cowboying from the air—have all left no physical trails and traces behind. That is, except for the archival evidence and the oral histories that so many Panhandle folks have stored in their memories. This paper will address what we can still learn about the rich history of aviation in a place that embraced the practice from 1918, that housed a major Air Force Base for years before it was shut in 1968, that now houses the Texas Air and Space Museum, and how this history affected the aesthetic development of the region. *Amy Von Lintel is Professor of Art History and Director of Gender Studies at West Texas A&M University. Her areas of research include modern and contemporary art of the American West, women and gender, fakes and forgeries in art, and the history of art history. Her award-winning publications include Three Women Artists: Expanding Abstract Expressionism in the American West (TAMU Press, 2022), two books on Georgia O'Keeffe in Texas (Radius Press/Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, 2016 and TAMU Press, 2020), and a co-authored book on the Earth Artist Robert Smithson in Texas. Along with numerous journal articles on her research topics, she has co-curated several museum exhibitions on regional themes, including women artists and urban history in Middle America. Born and raised in the Midwest, in Kansas City, she now lives in Amarillo, Texas with her brewer-meteorologist husband, and their three children adopted out of the Texas foster system, along with two dogs and two cats.*

Weaver, Joe. WTHA, ***How Our Great State got its Awesome Shape***

The shape of Texas is recognized the world over. But how did it get that shape? Not quickly or easily. Centuries of exploration, treaties, and map-making (and maybe a few under-the-counter deals) gave us the form so recognizable in cornbread pans, paving stones, and even swimming pools!

Raised on former XIT ranch land in the far western Panhandle, Joe Weaver has been interested in history for as long as he can remember (enhanced by stories told by people he loved). A graduate of Walcott Grade School, Hereford High, he holds a BS in Mass Communications from West Texas State University (where he was privileged to take classes under Fred Rathjen and Garry Nall!) Discouraged in high school from pursuing a vocation in history, he adopted it as his avocation. As a library administrator he prepared and presented monologues as historical characters. He has served on historical commissions, museum boards, and the WTHA board, and has presented for the Fort Concho Speaker Series.

Wise, Ken. 14th Court of Appeals, ***Their Day in Court: The Rule of Law and the War on the Plains***

"History is never far from us, as similar disconnects exist even today. The Warren wagon train affair instructs us that, despite a preference for peace, cultural conflicts sometimes exist where violence is an inevitable result. . . Violent conflict on the western frontier presented a unique challenge to United States expansion. The Plains Indians wouldn't give up the only way of life they knew, and the United States wouldn't tolerate what it viewed as lawlessness on the frontier. The Peace Policy of President Ulysses Grant, strongly favored by Easterners far removed from the frontier, finally collided with the terror Texans were experiencing. The turning point came in the form of a deadly Indian attack on a merchant wagon train. Strong personalities and an almost desperate desire to impose the rule of law upon a rugged land called into question whether peace was even possible. Could the rule of law resolve a clash of cultures, or are some conflicts destined to resolve only by war?

Justice Ken Wise is a Justice on the 14th Court of Appeals. He is the President-elect of the Texas Supreme Court Historical Society as well as a director of the Texas State Historical Association and the Texas Historical Foundation. He is the creator and host of Wise About Texas, a Texas history podcast heard in 150 countries worldwide.

Wood, Tonia. Information Services Supervisor, Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Austin.
Remembering David Gracy: a legacy for Texas and beyond.

The cause of Texas history lost a great friend with the death of Dr. David B. Gracy II in 2020. His legacy, though will last far beyond his lifetime, thanks to his many accomplishments as an archivist, historian, and educator. This panel will remember this remarkable man and the varied phases of his career, which touched countless lives in Texas and beyond. Presenters will speak to the highlights of his career, including his time at Texas Tech University, as the founder of the Southern Labor and University Archives at Georgia State University, as State Archivist of Texas, Professor of Archival Enterprise at the University of Texas, and as the author of such books as Littlefield lands: colonization on the Texas plains, 1912-1920, Moses Austin: his life and A man absolutely sure of himself: Texan George Washington Littlefield.

Tonia Wood has been with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission for 30 years. She started as an archivist and is currently Information Services Supervisor. A sixth-generation Texan, her cotton farming family's westward migration led to Dawson County in the first part of the 20th century. Tonia received her bachelor's degree in history and master's in library and information science from the University of Texas at Austin.

Zamon, Christina. Head of Special Collections and Archives, Georgia State University, Atlanta, Ga.

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*Christina Zamon is currently the Head of Special Collections and Archives at Georgia State University in Atlanta, GA. Prior to that, she was the Head of Archives and Special Collections for Emerson College in Boston, Massachusetts for nine years, six of those as a solo archivist. Throughout her career, she worked as the archivist for the National Press Club, rare book acquisitionist at the Folger Shakespeare Library, and cataloger at the Frick Art Reference Library. With over 20 years of experience, she has been an active member in several archival organizations and is currently involved in the Academy of Certified Archivists, Society of American Archivists, and is serving as the 2023 President of the Society of Georgia Archivists. She is the author of *The Lone Arranger: Succeeding in a Small Repository* published in 2012 by the Society of American Archivists with a new edition forthcoming. She is the founder of the Boston Area Archives and Records Consortium (BAARC), now the Boston Archivists' Meetup, for archivists working in small institutions. She received her MA in History and MLIS from the University of Maryland where she also worked as a graduate assistant in the Preservation Department.*