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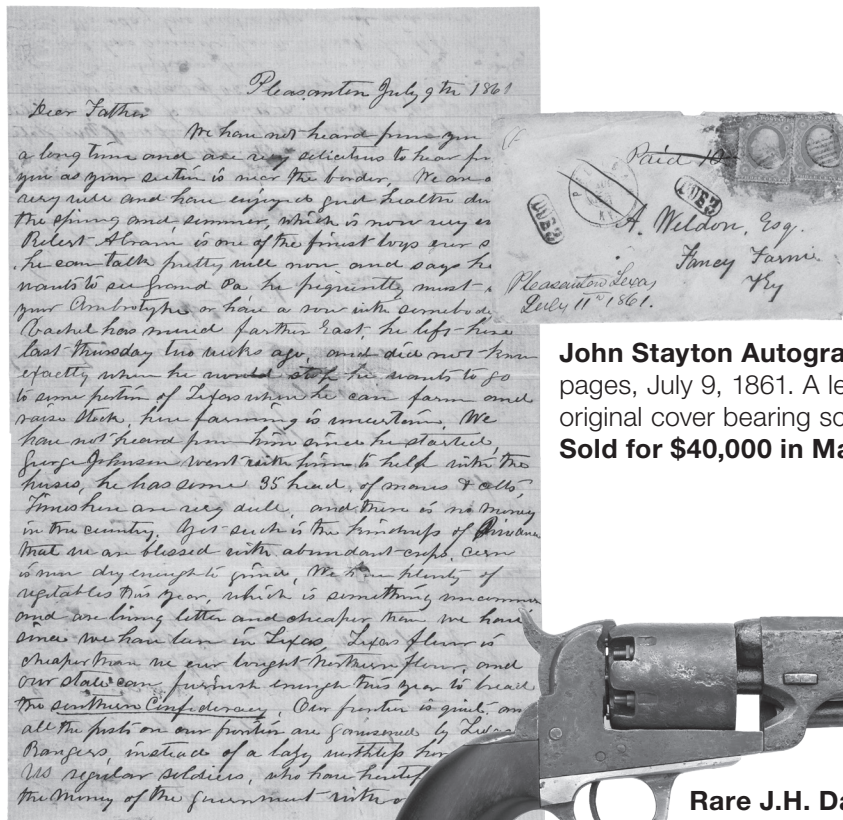
TEXAS HERITAGE

A PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION | EST. 1954 | \$5 ISSUE | Volume 3 2019



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TEXAS HERITAGE

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ON THE COVER

Unidentified Ranger holding the Texas Rangers flag, July 1957. Item # 1983/112 R-493-3. Courtesy of the Department of Public Safety Photographs, Archives and Information Services Division, Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

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THF Fulfills Its Mission By Providing Needed Assistance



• **Columbia Heritage Foundation**, West Columbia, won approval for work to repair the Heritage Hall roof at the CHF facility. That venue celebrates the town's heritage as the first capital of the Republic of Texas.

Grant proposals are reviewed and voted on quarterly. Information and a schedule of deadlines can be found at www.texashistoricalfoundation.org.

← **ALAMO TRUST, INC., SAN ANTONIO**

The Texas Historical Foundation provided funds to complete the conservation of seven cannons used in the 1836 Alamo battle. The project is now finished, and the cannons are on display at the shrine. Photograph courtesy of the Alamo Trust.

The Texas Historical Foundation celebrates its 65th anniversary this year by continuing to award assistance grants to nonprofits across the state. The following organizations are the most recent recipients:

• **Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum**, Canyon, will use THF funds to repair and replace wood shingles on the T Anchor Ranch Headquarters, built in 1877 and relocated to the museum property 100 years later.

• **Old Settlers and Veterans Association of Falls County**, Lott, won approval for a grant to restore an 1840's log cabin moved to the reunion grounds in 1936.

• **Texas Archaeological Society**, San Marcos, received a grant to assist with the field school at the Edd Melton Site in Bell County.

• **Caddo Mounds State Historic Site**, Alto, was the recipient of two grants. The first was used for a community healing event/teacher workshop following the devastating tornado that struck the site on April 13. The second gift will help create four videos to document that weekend event.

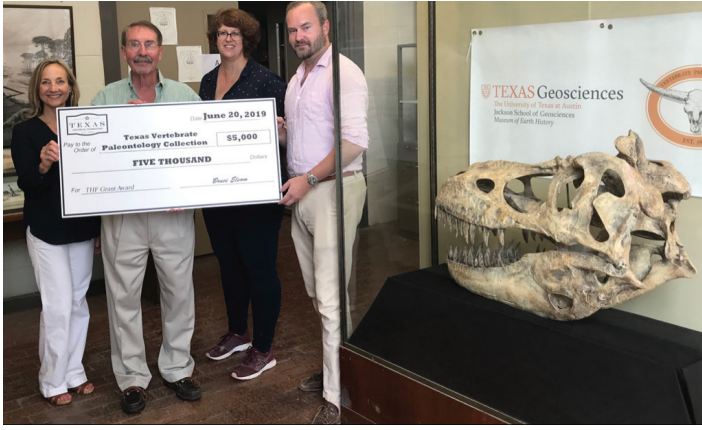
• **Southwestern University**, Georgetown, will purchase a digital camera and supplies to help with a project rehousing the uncovered photographs of Robert Stone (1869-1953) and Nathaniel Wilcox (1897-1946).

• The **Smithville Heritage Society** received assistance to help clean, restore, reproduce, and repair damage to artifacts destroyed in a 2019 fire at the Smithville Chamber and Railroad Museum/Visitor Center.



↑ **MONTOPOLIS PRODUCTIONS, AUSTIN**

A banner acknowledging THF's grant, made through the new William Jack Sibley Endowment, was on display during a recent multimedia concert produced by Montopolis. Photograph courtesy of Bill Sibley.



↑ TEXAS VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY COLLECTIONS, THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Texas Historical Foundation directors Ele Jordan, left, and John Meadows, second from left, presented a grant check that will fund the hiring of a professional conservator to work alongside university staff to label and arrange collection specimens. The fossil vertebrate holdings at the Austin repository rank among the seven largest in North America. Photograph courtesy of TVPC.

THF Endowments Fund Preservation Grants

Presently, the Texas Historical Foundation board of directors administers seven endowments that provide seed money to assist with work in areas ranging from archeology, to rural preservation, legal history, and operations.

Since 1990, nearly 300 projects have received funding totaling more than \$1.7 million. These endowments, listed below, provide assistance for grants awarded by THF to other Texas nonprofits.

- The **Joseph Ballard Archeology Fund** is for projects in the field of archeology.
- The **Jeanne R. Blocker Memorial Fund** supports work being done in rural areas.
- The **J. P. Bryan Preservation Trust** is for general preservation projects.
- The **Directors Endowment** can be used for any purpose or activity of the THF.
- The **Sarah Meadows and Charles E. Seay Preservation Trust** is reserved for the preservation and promotion of Texas history.
- The **Texas Legal History Preservation Trust** is

designated for the conservation of materials related to the legal history of the Republic and the State of Texas.

- The **William Jack Sibley Arts Endowment** helps identify, support, preserve, promote, protect, nurture, and celebrate Texas art.

While these endowments support a broad range of historical preservation efforts, the need is great—and continues to grow.

Readers who wish to support projects in a particular area of interest can make a donation to augment existing funds or establish a new endowment that would assist with other important work. That might include history education or student internships. Naming opportunities—for individuals or families—are also available.

What better way to honor a loved one or family than by creating an endowment that will ensure their name is linked in perpetuity to the preservation of Texas history? Or consider establishing an endowment through an estate gift.

Contact the Foundation office at 512-453-2154 to find out more information.

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Excavations at San Felipe Spring,
Val Verde County, 1998

Excavating Confederate Veterans,
Texas State Cemetery, Travis County, 1995

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Lone Star Brand Loyalty

By Bruce Elsom

*“Texans deeply care about our brand and all that goes into it.
And the bottom line is that history is at the core of it all.”*

I was multitasking the other night (doing two things at once so I don't really know what's going on with either) between the television and Facebook when I came across a humorous post that read, “I like Texas because it's the only state gutsy enough to have its own toast.” Of course, I “liked” it, probably shared it with some friends, and then turned my attention back to the TV in time to catch a commercial about the Ford F-150 King Ranch model. Ford and Chevy both have Texas Edition packages for their trucks because, after all, you can't afford to let the competition get a boot-clad leg up on you when it comes to who loves the Lone Star State more.

Come to think of it, we don't see professional sports teams named the Atlanta Georgians or the California Highway Patrols. And we, in return, don't name ours after the color of our socks because, as mentioned above, they are covered by boots and that just would be silly. We're Texans, Rangers, Cowboys, Spurs, Longhorns, Shorthorns, Mustangs, Horned Frogs, Jackrabbits, and still some Oilers (thank you, Pearland).

Texas' flag is easily the most recognizable (excluding states insecure enough that they felt it necessary to put their names on said flag). Obviously, there isn't a definitive authority on the subject, but in several opinion surveys, the Lone Star banner was consistently among the top five, while other flags made some lists but not



others. On a related matter, I would safely wager there are more Lone Star-painted barns than all the states combined.

Now, my point isn't to brag or start a swagger contest with any of our 49 good neighbors. It's simply that Texans deeply care about our brand and all that goes into it. And the bottom line is that history is at the core of it all. That burnt orange longhorn is a tribute to more than a million head driven north or west by thousands of cowhands and vaqueros. We buy King Ranch model trucks because we want a small part of the state's ranching heritage, even if we've never swung a lasso. And in every town or city with a Crockett Street,

even the youngest schoolchild can tell you about its namesake.

So, while others may despair about the loss of times past, Texans still have a burning romance with the state's iconic (defined as “famously and distinctly representative of its type”) heritage. The chance to serve and enable our fellow citizens in preserving that passion—all manners of the history behind the Lone Star brand—is what drives the Texas Historical Foundation.

Bruce Elsom is a sixth-generation Texan who traces his roots back to the Texas Revolution. He has enjoyed living in several areas of the state and currently resides in Houston. Send comments regarding this column to: THF, P. O. Box 50314, Austin, Texas 78763 or via email to admin@texashistoricalfoundation.org.

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New and renewing THF members are listed on page 20.

Special Memorials and Acknowledgments

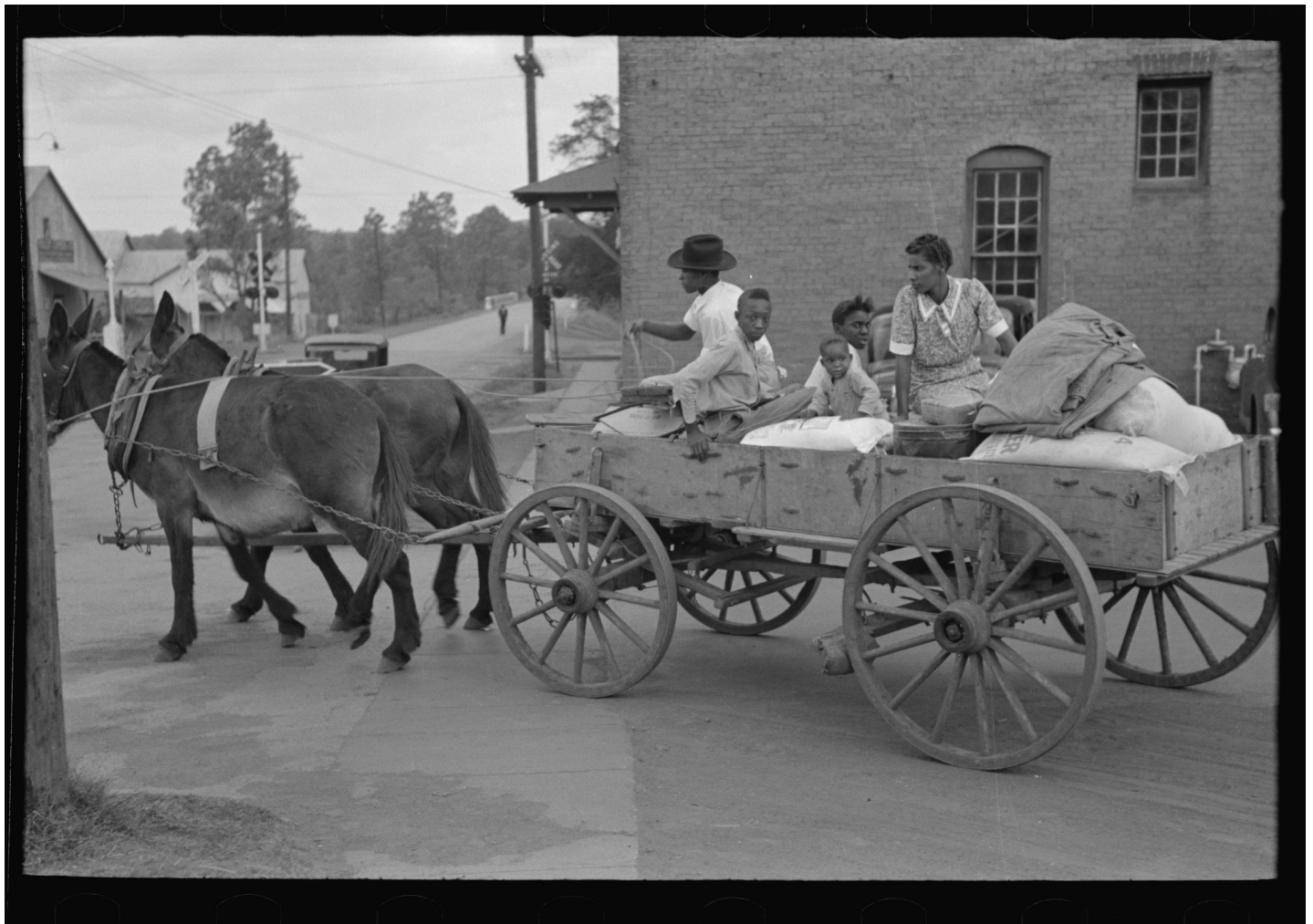
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EAST TEXAS TROUBLES

The Allred Rangers Arrive in San Augustine

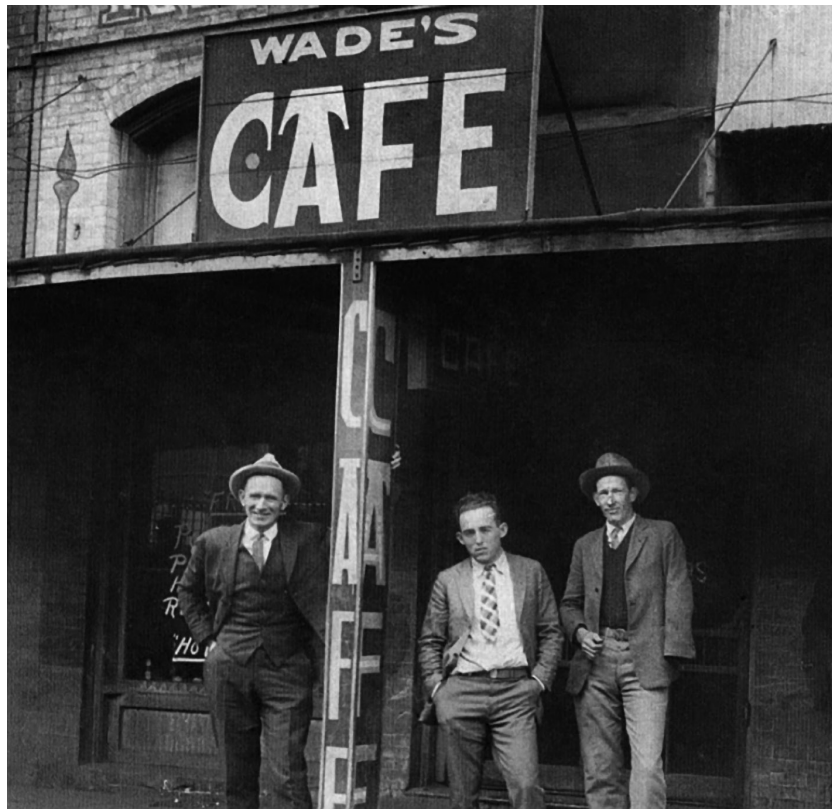
— By Jody Edward Ginn, Ph. D.



During San Augustine's troubles, black farmers were exploited by the McClanahan-Burleson gang. Fearing retaliation by the criminals, the victims were reluctant to cooperate with law enforcement. Courtesy of the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division.

In 1935 and 1936, during the Jim Crow era and “behind the pine curtain” (a reference to the heavily wooded region) in the heart of East Texas, three all-white juries found white defendants guilty of felony crimes against African-American victims. Those convictions are all the more notable for that time and place because these verdicts were based exclusively on the word of black victims and witnesses. They testified that the unprecedented prosecutions were the product of investigations completed by Texas Rangers at the request of newly elected Governor James V. Allred.

Known as “Allred Rangers,” these officers were sent to resolve troubles that had plagued San Augustine County for more than a decade. The sworn testimony of numerous African-American residents revealed that a group of local white criminals led by members of the McClanahan and Burleson families had been exploiting Jim Crow culture to abuse and extort the minority community. Anyone who attempted to defy the McClanahan-Burleson gang, black



or white, faced violent reprisals, including murder.

Prior to the arrival of the Allred Rangers, the San Augustine criminals had become so brazen as to carry out assaults and assassinations in broad daylight and in full view of the public—including severely beating a U. S. Secret Service agent at the local fairgrounds, before hundreds of onlookers. During one of the crowded weekend shopping days before Christmas in 1934, a shootout in front of the Thomas Brothers hardware store on the town square claimed four lives and finally motivated local community leaders to seek state intervention. Shortly thereafter, journalists became aware of the troubles, which they dubbed the “San Augustine Crime Wave.”

Depoliticization, modernization, and professionalization of state law enforcement were key components of Allred’s gubernatorial

campaign, and once in office, he began overhauling the Texas Rangers. He started by expelling all but three of preceding Governor Miriam “Ma” Ferguson’s Rangers and revoking the commissions of every single Ferguson Ranger in the state, estimated to have numbered as high as 5,000 during her final term (see sidebar on opposite page). While “Special Rangers” were created and appointed under a separate statute and administratively distinct from Texas Rangers, they still possessed statewide law enforcement jurisdiction to carry handguns and make arrests—authority originally intended for professional officers working on behalf of organizations, such as cattle associations, railroads, and oil companies. However, under Ferguson, most appointees were political supporters with no law enforcement experience and who

Top, left: Soon after taking office, Governor James Allred began overhauling the Texas Rangers. Courtesy of the Texas State Preservation Board. Top, right: Men pose outside Wade’s Cafe, formerly known as City Cafe, a favored gathering place for Allred Rangers. Courtesy of the Nelsyn Wade Family. Bottom: Ranger Dan Hines was confronted by a pistol-carrying Wade McClanahan, Jr., on San Augustine’s courthouse square, pictured here. Courtesy of the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division.



went almost completely unsupervised, free to abuse their power with impunity.

Allred then appointed only experienced and trusted peace officers to fill the ranks of the Rangers. The day after his inauguration, he immediately dispatched a contingent of the freshly commissioned Rangers to San Augustine to bring about a reckoning for the McClanahan-Burleson gang on behalf of their victims, both black and white. The law enforcement effort became known as the “clean up” of San Augustine—an expansive, 18-month-long investigation involving hundreds of crimes committed by dozens of criminals, more than 40 of whom were sentenced to state prison.

Once in East Texas, the Allred Rangers found the circumstances to be every bit as dire as they had been warned. Captain James W. McCormick, a veteran peace officer with decades of experience in some of the most violent boomtowns of early 20th-

century Texas, described the state of affairs in San Augustine as “the worst situation...that I have ever been in,” adding that “a gang of criminals, backed by officers and others...were in complete control.” He further noted that at first Rangers “were unable to get witnesses to inform against members of the gang...as the good people were afraid.”

Allred Ranger Dan J. Hines, who once served as an undercover Special Ranger in oil boomtowns, reported that when they did talk, the information locals provided about the “depredations of the gang that has operated here for the past several years” was “almost unbelievable.”

Hines is the subject of one of the most commonly-repeated anecdotes of the Allred Rangers’ arrival in San Augustine. When Wade McClanahan, Jr., approached the officer on the courthouse square wearing a pistol and carrying a Ferguson-era Special Ranger commission, Hines berated the law breaker. The officer confiscated the invalid commission and warned McClanahan, Jr., to leave his pistol at home. He also may have suggested that the thug and his associates get out of town.

In keeping with a show of force, Allred Rangers frequently practiced their marksmanship in public, shooting at bottle caps thrown into the air or mounted on tree trunks, as well as firing at empty cans



Ma Ferguson’s Rangers

Miriam “Ma” Ferguson became the state’s first female governor in 1925 and served two non-consecutive terms. When she took office for the second time in 1933, she fired the entire force of Texas Rangers (though some resigned beforehand) because they had backed the reelection of her opponent Governor Ross Sterling.

During her administration, Ferguson rebuilt the force but used Ranger appointments indiscriminately for political purposes, which tarnished the badge (this practice was one factor that prompted the creation of the Department of Public Safety and placed Ranger applicant approval under the control of that state agency.)

Special Ranger commissions came with the authority to carry a handgun and make arrests and originally were intended for veteran lawmen engaged in security-related tasks for ranches, railroads, and oil companies. Ferguson, however, handed them out to her supporters, many of whom lacked law enforcement experience and, in some cases, had criminal records. In San Augustine, a few of the McClanahan-Burleson gang leaders easily secured these commissions, using their privileges to expand their illicit activities.

Above: Photograph courtesy of the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division.



on the side of the road while in a moving car. They also were careful to watch each other's backs and to cover their own when alone. The officers often would lean against a wall, with rifles propped alongside them, so that local gangsters did not have the opportunity to sneak up from behind.

Another example of the Allred Rangers' bid to intimidate members of the McClanahan-Burleson gang occurred inside the City Cafe. William M. Wade, the owner of the eatery, was among the community leaders who requested state assistance following the December 1934 shootout on the square. Rangers McCormick, Hines, and Leo Bishop were visiting with the business owner when Wade McClanahan, Sr., walked through the door, approached their table, and stated that he had come to "give himself up," (presumably in response to a warrant having been issued for his arrest). McCormick replied, "Well, it's about time, seeing as how you've been mistreating these people for so long." The Ranger captain then instructed that either Hines or Bishop take McClanahan, Sr., to jail. Each officer admonished the other, "You better take him, 'cause I'll probably just shoot him on the way."

While the details of such anecdotes vary depending on the source, there is no debate that the Allred Rangers intended to use brute force if necessary to wrest the town from the control of the McClanahan-Burleson gang.



Intimidation tactics employed by the peace officers achieved the desired effect, and the Burlesons, McClanahans, and many of their associates soon left town. Some of them complained to the press and the courts, acknowledging that fear of the Allred Rangers had driven them out.

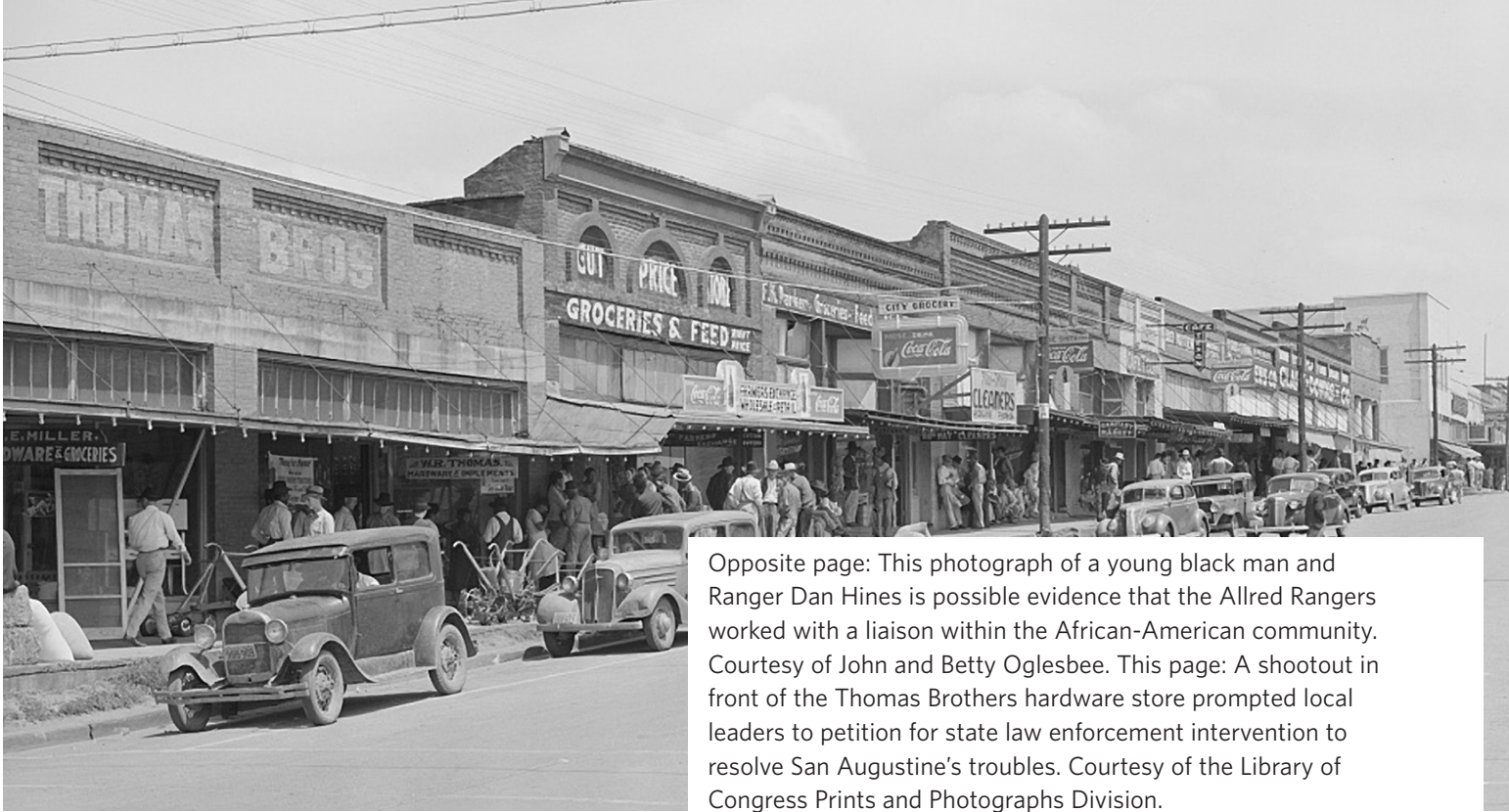
Shortly afterwards, victims and eyewitnesses began cooperating and coming forward to file complaints against the McClanahan-Burleson gang for virtually every sort of crime, including theft, assault, moonshining, highway robbery, white slavery, counterfeiting, election fraud, and murder.

Allred Rangers also actively pursued interviews with those targeted by the local mobsters whose names they learned from witnesses and informants, including African-American tenant farmers who were especially vulnerable to the gang's

schemes and violence. Several farmers eventually testified that their day in court had been made possible through the Rangers' efforts.

These investigations helped state law enforcement officers learn about what had transpired in the years preceding the arrival of the Rangers. They sought justice on behalf of black and poor white victims, as well as those with checkered pasts.

Although it remains unconfirmed, the Allred Rangers likely were aided by someone from the African-American community. Many black residents who recall those events insist that friends and relatives would have been reticent to speak openly with unknown white law officers. Thus, the Rangers would have needed a liaison from that community to persuade those targeted by the gang and eyewitnesses to cooperate.



Opposite page: This photograph of a young black man and Ranger Dan Hines is possible evidence that the Allred Rangers worked with a liaison within the African-American community. Courtesy of John and Betty Oglesbee. This page: A shootout in front of the Thomas Brothers hardware store prompted local leaders to petition for state law enforcement intervention to resolve San Augustine's troubles. Courtesy of the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division.

A set of photographs found among the personal papers of Rangers Dan Hines and Leo Bishop serve as the most concrete evidence of a working relationship with a member of San Augustine's African-American community. Images depict the officers with a young black man and give the appearance of a relationship that was friendly but also professional. In the shots, Hines and Bishop are smiling while facing the camera and when looking at the young man, who is carrying a gun and sometimes is posed in a firing position.

In San Augustine, black and white residents joined with the Allred Rangers to defeat the local mobsters who had terrorized them. The conviction of these criminals and their associates by all-white juries at the height of the Jim Crow era was the product of trust first established between black San Augustinians

and the Rangers. White jurors reciprocated by refusing to tolerate the McClanahan-Burleson gang's depredations any longer, defying racist norms in order to restore law and order. Further, the verdicts later were affirmed by the (then all-white male) justices of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

The Allred Rangers had so quickly and effectively reversed the tide in San Augustine that locals soon held the first of several heavily attended public gatherings to show their appreciation. Numerous state publications reported extensively on those events. The *Dallas Morning News* noted: "In striking contrast to other cities whose peace officers have resented the intrusion of Texas Rangers on their illicit home-town industries, San Augustine will show the State officers true East Texas hospitality Friday night." Considering that

just two months earlier most area residents avoided the town center altogether, widespread participation in such an event demonstrated the community's dramatic turnaround.

Because of the work of the Allred Rangers, San Augustine's reign of terror ended. The successful clean up of the town proved to be a key element in the state law enforcement division's renaissance under the auspices of the new Texas Department of Public Safety, which was created by Governor Allred and the 44th Texas Legislature and officially formed on August 10, 1935, amidst ongoing investigations in San Augustine. ★

Jody Edward Ginn, Ph. D., is the author of East Texas Troubles: The Allred Rangers' Cleanup of San Augustine (OU Press, 2019) from which this article is excerpted and revised (with permission).



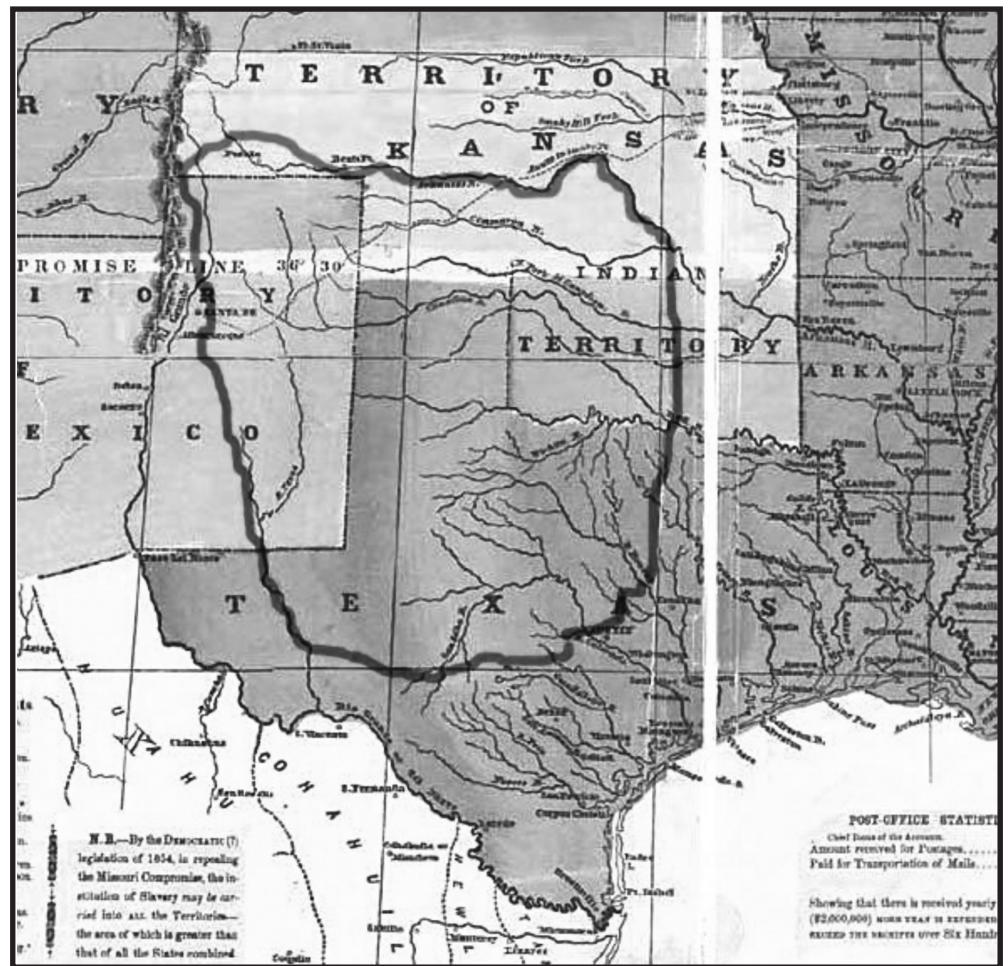
THE GREATEST TEXAS RANGER

JOHN COFFEE HAYS

By Marshall Doke, Jr.

John Coffee (Jack) Hays was relatively small at five foot nine inches and 150 pounds. Nevertheless, the legendary Texas Ranger could shoot straighter, fight meaner, ride faster, cuss louder, and endure hardship better than any man in his command. He was extremely modest and quiet in his manner, but in a confrontation, Hays was utterly fearless and invincible. He was said to be a lamb in peace and a lion in war.

Opposite page: John Coffee Hays learned the Indians' methods of warfare, an essential skill for a Ranger in the 19th century. Courtesy of the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division.



The title of this article reflects the opinion of this writer as well as the view of many prominent Texas historians. One among those scholars said that, for almost a century, every Texas Ranger wanted to be like Jack Hays, who became the ideal standard for these lawmen.

In the 19th century, Texas Ranger captains took Hays as their role model—and no subsequent captain ever displaced him as an example. His physical courage was part of the legend. In the first volume of *Lone Star Justice*, author and historian Robert Utley noted that “there never lived a commander more idolized by his men.” He added that Hays was the most spectacular and successful Indian fighter in Texas history.

Prominent historian T. R. Fehrenbach said this about the venerated Ranger in *Lone Star, a History of Texas and Texans*:

Three things stand out about John Coffee Hays above all others: he was no talker, but a born partisan who liked to ride the wild country by the North Star; he was not a great gunman, but a leader

without fear who rose by sheer ability from among his peers; and he was a superb psychologist, who could bend both friend and foe to his will.

On the frontier, being a Texas Ranger was a risky profession, with about half of the force killed every year. Their service often did not last more than a year or two, with new recruits supplied to replace the fallen. Hays’ troops, however, were never defeated by the Indians.

Jack Hays, born in Tennessee in 1817, was encouraged to seek a business career, but he expressed a desire to attend West Point and pursue military service. Unable to convince his family, he peacefully left home at an early age. Before striking out on his own, Hays bought a good knife and the best pair of pistols he could find.

The young man learned surveying and came to Texas in 1836 to perform that work. His first stop was Nacogdoches, where he entered a bar. There, the 19-year-old was targeted by a local bully whose practice was to select inoffensive-looking men, insult them, and then shoot or pistol-whip them.

On that day in East Texas, the tormenter knocked

Opposite page: This map shows the boundaries of the Comancheria, which encompassed parts of Texas, New Mexico, and the Oklahoma Territory. Image in the public domain.

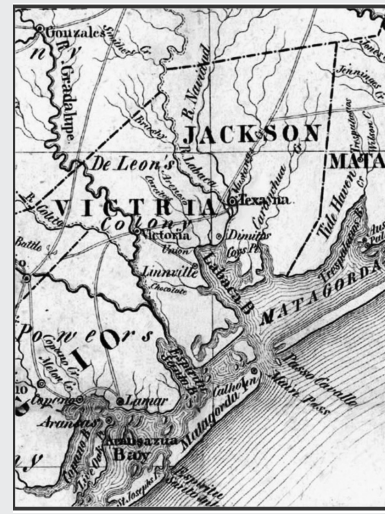
a drink from Hays' hand and reached for his gun. His opponent, though, drew faster and shot the bully, who was dead when he hit the floor. Hays was fully exonerated of any crime.

As he pursued his work, Indian encounters were inevitable. The Comanche and Apache knew that settlers soon followed surveying teams, so these parties became their targets. To protect his crew, Hays learned the Indians' methods of warfare and in his day was known as the greatest Indian fighter. Those skills, which he would hone during his military career, would serve him well when he joined the rebels of the Texas Revolution in 1836.

At the famous Council House Fight four years later, Texans ambushed and killed a number of Comanche chiefs (see sidebar). Five hundred tribal warriors retaliated by raiding as far south as Victoria, stealing cattle, burning property, and taking captives. At that time, Hays was a member of the Texan militia. The volunteer soldiers confronted the Comanche southeast of Austin in a fierce engagement known as the Battle of Plum Creek.

After hearing reports of Hays' leadership and valor, Republic of Texas President Mirabeau Lamar commissioned the young hero a Texas Ranger captain and authorized him to enlist a company of Rangers, which he selected from among the civilian population. He was 23 years old.

Hays' military success was due not only to his early study of Indian



The Council House Fight

On March 19, 1840, Comanche leaders from the Penateka tribe met with government officials for peace negotiations at the Council House in San Antonio. In addition to 12 chiefs, the delegation consisted of 43 other tribal members, including warriors, women, and children. The Penateka also brought several Mexican captives and one white prisoner, 16-year-old Matilda Lockhart. The young woman reported to the commissioners that she knew of more than a dozen white hostages held by the Comanche, who intended to ransom the captives back to their families.

Subsequently, during the negotiation taking place inside the Council House, Texas commissioners called for the immediate release of those prisoners. Chief Muk-wah-ruh, the appointed spokesperson for the Penateka leadership, explained that this demand could not be met because the captives were held by other Comanche bands not under his authority. Unsatisfied with that response, government officials ordered Texas soldiers to physically detain the chiefs in attendance until the white hostages were freed. When the tribal leaders attempted to escape, calling out for assistance from warriors outside, the fight that ensued claimed 35 Comanche, including three women and two children. Tribal members who survived returned to their territory.

Soon after, in retaliation for the massacre at the Council House, the Penateka, along with other Comanche bands, launched a series of violent raids deep into Texas, beginning in Victoria and moving down the coast to Linnville (a town in Calhoun County that was destroyed during the assault and does not exist today). The incursion prompted the formation of a militia, which included Texas Rangers led by Captain John Coffee Hays, who pursued and confronted the Indian marauders at the Battle of Plum Creek in August 1840. The Comanche suffered significant casualties, effectively ending their terrorizing raids.—*Pamela Murtha*

Above: Illustration, 1841 map of Linnville and Victoria. Image in the public domain.



The Texas Ranger Badge

At the time Jack Hays served, the Texas Rangers were frontier defense forces and not involved in law enforcement. The first known Texas Ranger badges started showing up in the late 1870s or early 1880s, and they were not official. Some Rangers crafted their own badges or had them made, but there was no standard design.

The circle-star cut from a Mexican cinco peso coin was one of the popular early Ranger badge motifs. The law enforcement officers were given official badges when the Texas Department of Public Safety was established in 1935, but modern cinco peso badges were not issued until 27 years later. Ranger and lieutenant badges are made from five peso silver coins, and 50 peso gold coins are used for higher ranks. While inspired by the earlier versions, the current badge is decorated with wreaths of olive and live oaks from the Great Seal of Texas.

—*Information from the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum, Waco*

warfare but also to his friendship with the Lipan Apache and Delaware Indians. In particular, he learned the finer points of tracking from Flacco, a young Lipan chief. Hays also was tutored in the variations of tribal features and appearance as well as the different methods of fighting. For example, the Comanche customarily were open-field fighters, while the Apaches almost always attacked from ambush.

In 1839, the Republic of Texas Navy purchased 180 of Samuel Colt's .36 caliber revolving pistols manufactured in Paterson, New Jersey. When Sam Houston disbanded the Texas Navy in 1843, Hays acquired the revolvers, with extra cylinders, from the surplus and armed his troops. Prior to that time, Rangers had to dismount their horses during battle in order to reload their weapons.

Every culture has its distinctive weapons: the Macedonians had an 18-foot phalanx pike, and the Romans had their short-sword. In the 1840s, Texas became linked with the Colt revolver. The firearm permitted Hays to pioneer mounted combat. With the repeating pistols, the military now had the frontier equivalent of nuclear bombs. This weapon revolutionized warfare against Texas Indian tribes and changed the history of the West.

At the Battle of Walker Creek in 1844, Hays and 14 Rangers fought 70 Comanche warriors, killing all but 20. The Comanche were well-mounted and armed with effective short bows, quivers containing about 50 bone and flint arrows, 14-foot spears that

were deadly at close fighting, and some rifles. Each brave carried a shield that only a well-placed bullet, struck at the right angle, could penetrate. Even so, Hays and his troops, armed with their Colt firearms, defeated the Indians.

Hays' Ranger company also participated in the Mexican-American War. The U. S. military discipline and culture were new experiences for all of the Lone Star soldiers, who remembered the massacre at the Alamo and considered Mexicans as their enemies. As the Rangers entered Mexico, someone threw a rock at one of the mounted men, and the perpetrator was instantly shot. During the first night there, Rangers killed 13 locals, giving Mexicans a good reason to fear the Texans. In fact, reporters in Mexico City asked if the Rangers should be allowed to go into the streets without a guard.

During that conflict, Hays served as colonel of the 1st Regiment, Texas Mounted Volunteers. In 1847, a Ranger company of about 30 men under his command rode advance guard through a mountain pass where they encountered 700 elite Mexican lancers. Hays ordered his troops to retreat and then personally covered their withdrawal by turning around in his saddle to fire at the lancers. Brigadier General Joseph Lane said that no officer ever acted with more gallantry than Hays on that day.

On another occasion, a regiment of Mexican lancers appeared at dawn with their colonel, who ordered his soldiers to form a line. Hays borrowed a sa-



Above, left: A sketch of Samuel Colt, circa 1856, whose revolving pistol allowed Hays' Rangers to shoot while in the saddle. Courtesy of the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division. Right: A statue honoring John Coffee "Jack" Hays, supported with a grant from THF, stands outside the Hays County Courthouse in San Marcos. Courtesy of Pamela Murtha. Original in color.

ber and rode slowly towards the enemy. After advancing about half the distance, Hays bowed to the Mexican officer and, in Spanish, challenged him to a duel midway between the opposing forces. The colonel bowed his acceptance.

The Rangers stared at their leader knowing that he was not skilled with the saber. Hays walked his horse in the direction of his opponent, and when he was about 40 yards away, the Mexican colonel stood up in his stirrups, raised his lance, and charged. In response, Hays dropped his borrowed blade, grabbed his revolver, and fired under his horse's neck at the enemy officer, who fell dead from his horse.

American General W. J. Worth, a division commander, remarked that Hays' men were the best

light troops (foot soldiers who carry lighter equipment and are more mobile) in the world, and when facing the enemy, their leader was the tallest man in the saddle—despite his stature. In *The Ranger Ideal* by Darrel Ivy, one Ranger, known only as Brazos, commented that fellow lawmen had so much faith in Hays' military ability that "any half dozen veterans would have followed [Hays] in a charge against the whole Mexican army."

After the war, a group of Texas officers visited with Mexican General Santa Anna at his hacienda. When someone mentioned Hays' Rangers, Santa Anna remarked: "A Texan would think he had made a bad shot if he did not hit a Mexican's eye at a hundred yards."

In 1848, Hays acquired gold fever and led a group to California.

He later became the first elected sheriff in San Francisco and was appointed the U. S. Surveyor General for California in 1853. He purchased property across the San Francisco Bay and helped establish the City of Oakland.

During his final years, Hays suffered the pains of inflammatory rheumatism. On his death bed, he asked his good friend, John Freamer, if he knew what day it was. Freamer responded that it was Saturday. Hays then said, "Yes, John, and it's San Jacinto Day." Those were his dying words on his last day, April 21, 1883. ★

Dallas lawyer Marshall J. Doke, Jr., is chair of the Texas Scottish Rite History Committee, past president and chair, and current chairman emeritus of the Texas Historical Foundation.



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Dancing the Night Away ★ ★ ★
Among “The Stars”

By Evaliza Fuentes

Above: Las Estrellas, an Austin Tejano band, found a home playing in the city’s bars and dancehalls. Photograph provided by the author.

*A*s a public historian, I work to recapture and interpret a sense of place from an era when songs such as “Que Rico El Mambo,” “San Antonio Rose,” and “Maybellene” all lived on the same dance floor. It was a time when the cha cha and the rumba were played right along with rock and roll. A youthful nation rebelled without a cause and bought copies of “Rock Around the Clock” by the thousands.

Just as Bill Haley began to find success in the music charts, Austinite Manuel “Cowboy” Donley handcrafted his first electric guitar out of a fret board, guitar pickups, and a five-foot piece of wood. In 1955, Donley formed his band Las Estrellas (The Stars) with Mike Amaro on electric bass, Emilio Villegas on drums, Rudy Sanchez on tenor sax, Joe Sanchez on alto sax, and Andrew Zuniga on trumpet. The locally popular guitarist already was well known in the Tejano music scene. The guitar-picking flare of Donley was unrivaled, and on any day of the week, he could be found playing in bars, ballrooms, and dancehalls in and around the capital city.

In a series of oral histories conducted with Cowboy Donley, he attributed the appealing sound of Las Estrellas to the driving dance beat of the electric guitar, electric bass, and drum set. The soft acoustic instrumental numbers played by big bands quickly were replaced by Donley’s electric musical arrangements of popular radio hits performed with a Tejano style. Teenagers listening to the radio or watching “American Bandstand” during the week could, thanks to Donley’s band, dance to those tunes on the weekend.

All across Central Texas, from

THE SOFT ACOUSTIC
INSTRUMENTAL
NUMBERS PLAYED
BY BIG BANDS WERE
...REPLACED BY
DONLEY’S
ELECTRIC MUSICAL
ARRANGEMENTS...
PERFORMED WITH A
TEJANO STYLE.

Temple to New Braunfels and Killeen to Seguin, teenagers and young adults regularly caught their performances at a variety of venues. Las Estrellas frequently played in the Austin area at Club Avalon, the City Coliseum, and the Skyline Club, as well as a place near Round Rock called The Barn. These locations served as the backdrops for the new music scene created by Donley and his band members, all in their twenties.

Today, recordings of Las Estrellas reflect the excitement of love, dating, and courtship that mark these places with memories and recalls a time when cultures shared new sounds.

Evaliza Fuentes graduated with a master’s degree in public history from Texas State University. The title of her thesis was Música Tejana and the Transition from Traditional to Modern: Manuel “Cowboy” Donley and the Austin Music Scene.

In an effort to nurture the next generation of historians, THF is proud to include this column featuring the research of public history students.



Above: Manuel “Cowboy” Donley, known for his extraordinary guitar-picking talent, was a fixture in Austin’s Tejano music scene in the mid 1950s. Photograph provided by the author. Original in color.

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SPOTLIGHTING THE HOLDINGS OF THE INSTITUTION MEMBERS

— *Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Canyon* —

By Stephanie Price

PURCHASED FOR NEARLY
ONE MILLION DOLLARS,
A HISTORIC FIREARM THAT
ONCE BELONGED TO
UNITED STATES PRESIDENT
THEODORE ROOSEVELT
IS ON LOAN AND DISPLAY
FOR ALL TEXANS
TO SEE AND ADMIRE.



Above: The specially made shotgun in its case is shown here, along with a pair of Roosevelt's pajamas, which he used to clean the firearm. All images courtesy of Ralph Duke Photography on behalf of the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum. Original in color.

United States President Theodore Roosevelt's favorite firearm, on display at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon, is considered to be among the most historic shotguns known to exist. The artifact is on loan from the Jason Roselius Trust.

Roselius, a native of the town of Panhandle in Carson County, graduated from West Texas A&M University with degrees in history and political science, as well as from the University of Oklahoma College of Law. The successful litigator, business executive, and entrepreneur

purchased the shotgun in 2010 for \$862,500, setting a record for the most expensive firearm of its kind ever auctioned.

Following Roselius' death in January 2018, his family initiated efforts for the Roosevelt shotgun to be placed on exhibit at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, located on the campus of the Lone Star university the Texan loved. According to father Jay Roselius, his son intended that the artifact be displayed at a location where residents of the Texas Panhandle could enjoy it.

In February 1909, the Fox Gun Company presented the “F” Grade double-barreled shotgun to Roosevelt. The statesman used the weapon during his 1909 yearlong African safari. He told friends it was “the finest and most beautiful gun” he had seen. The firearm bears the inscription “Made Expressly for Hon. Theodore Roosevelt.” It features intricate scroll work, oak leaves, and the image of a hunting dog, inlaid in gold, on each side.

In the book *Theodore Roosevelt, Outdoorsman* by R. L. Wilson, the former head of state is described as: “...one of the greatest of American Presidents, and one of the most versatile and accomplished individuals to hold that office. His public and private record of achievements during his sixty years of life (1858-1919) is remarkable. He was a social reformer and trust-buster, statesman and diplomat, rancher and hunter, naturalist and conservationist. He was a recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, co-organizer of the Rough Riders, builder of the Panama Canal, and founder of the Boone and Crockett Club...To all Americans he was a great exemplar of courage, hardihood, and self-reliance.”

Carol Lovelady, director of the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, said, “We are...excited to have this shotgun on loan. [The facility] has long been known for having the best gun collection in the state, but with the arrival of Teddy Roosevelt’s shotgun, [it] has become a destination for history buffs, gun collectors, and Roosevelt scholars.”

The historic firearm is on display in PPHM’s Pioneer Hall for the remainder of the summer and possibly longer, per the terms of the agreement with the Roselius Trust. Visit www.panhandleplains.org for more information.

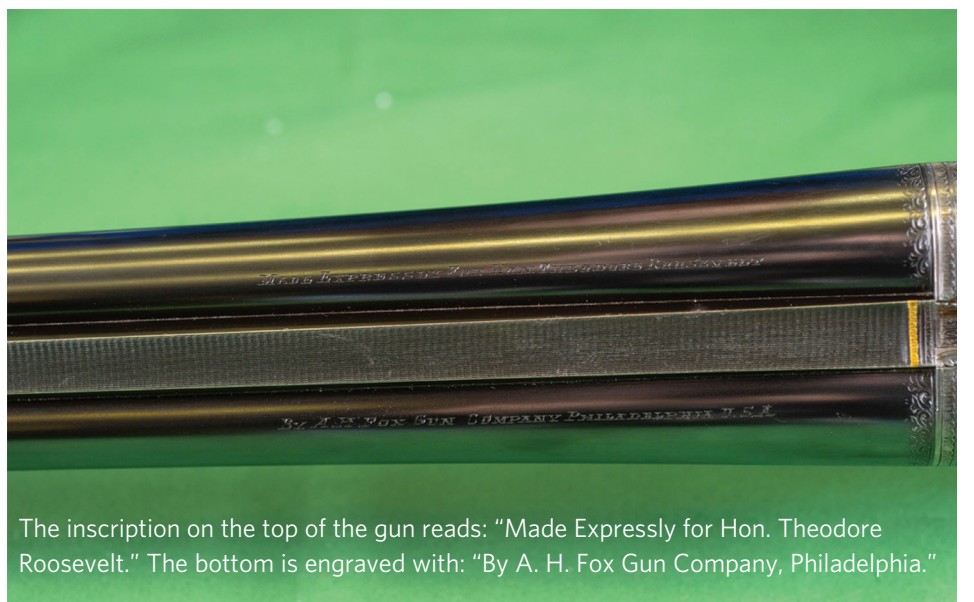
Stephanie Price is the director of communications at PPHM.



Ornamental scroll work on the firearm features an image of a gold-inlaid hunting dog on either side of the frame.



The fleur-de-lis and checkered pattern carving reflect highly-skilled craftsmanship.



The inscription on the top of the gun reads: “Made Expressly for Hon. Theodore Roosevelt.” The bottom is engraved with: “By A. H. Fox Gun Company, Philadelphia.”

NEW BONNIE AND CLYDE MOVIE PUTS FOCUS ON LAW ENFORCEMENT

THIS IS THE STORY OF HOW OLD WRONGS WERE MADE RIGHT AND A GROUP OF TEXAS RANGERS BECAME HONORED GUESTS AT A HOLLYWOOD MOVIE PREMIERE.

BY JOE B. DAVIS

Texas Rangers were front and center at the recent world premiere of the Netflix original film, *The Highwaymen*. The movie stars Kevin Costner as legendary Texas Ranger Captain Frank Hamer; Woody Harrelson as Maney Gault, Hamer's fellow Ranger and trusted companion; Kathy Bates as the infamous Texas Governor Miriam "Ma" Ferguson; and Kim Dickens as Gladys, Hamer's feisty wife. The event was hosted by the South by Southwest Film Festival and held at the historic Paramount Theater in Austin.

The movie, written by John Fusco and directed by Texas native John Lee Hancock, tells the tale of Hamer and Gault's pursuit and eventual killing of notorious murderers Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow. However, this time the story is told from the perspective of the lawmen and more in keeping with historical reality than past depictions. Fusco spent more than 15 years researching and working to bring the production to the big screen, and he received detailed historical information from the Hamer family and the blessing of Frank Hamer, Jr.

BACKGROUND

Hamer's wife and son had sued Warner Brothers over the 1967 Warren Beatty/Faye Dunaway movie *Bonnie and Clyde*, in which the famous Texas Ranger, one of the most respected law enforcement officers in the state, had been depicted "as a villain and a



buffoon." Today, Hamer's descendants feel vindicated with the release of *The Highwaymen*. According to great-grandson Travis Hamer, "Our family has been waiting for this since before I was born!"

How did a dozen Texas Rangers come to attend the world premiere of a Netflix film written, produced, directed by, and starring some of the biggest names in Hollywood? That story begins decades ago, with one of the first Texas Rangers under the Department of Public Safety: Dan J. Hines. He got his start with the state police division working undercover in the oilfields and busting up cattle-rustling operations for Senior Captain Frank Hamer from 1931 to 1933.

THE [NEW] MOVIE TELLS THE TALE OF [FRANK] HAMER AND [MANEY] GAULT'S PURSUIT AND...KILLING OF NOTORIOUS MURDERERS BONNIE PARKER AND CLYDE BARROW. HOWEVER, THIS TIME THE STORY IS...MORE IN KEEPING WITH HISTORICAL REALITY THAN PAST DEPICTIONS.

Decades after the two men worked together as Rangers, Hines' great-grandnephew, Jody Edward Ginn, who was then a deputy constable in San Marcos, began to research the life and career of his Ranger ancestor. Fortunately, that same city was also the hometown of Frank Hamer, Jr., who had an accomplished career as a game warden assigned as a pilot.

Don Chumley, who served alongside Hamer, Jr., as a state game warden, introduced the men, who shared family histories. In 2004, Hamer, Jr., mentioned to Ginn, by then chief investigator for the Hays County District Attorney, that he had given his endorsement to a script about his father's pursuit of the Barrow gang, written by Fusco. Two years later, however, Hamer, Jr., passed away before he could witness the project's completion.

A NEW CHAPTER

Fast forward to 2018: after years of work, production of *The Highwaymen* was finally underway. Ginn was now a professional historian, with a doctorate degree and a specialty in Texas Rangers history. He had been serving as the Former Texas Rangers Association's official historian since 2014 (Hamer's wife and son were past directors of that organization). Upon learning that the long-awaited film was moving forward, Dr. Ginn reached out to Fusco to offer congratulations and share information from his academic research. In the end, Netflix brought Ginn in as a historical consultant.

Texas Rangers, active and retired, attended the premiere earlier this year and received a warm welcome

Opposite page: Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow were among the most wanted criminals during the Depression. Photo courtesy of the FBI. Inset: Frank Hamer led the law enforcement posse that killed the couple in 1934. Photo in the public domain.

from the cast, crew, and audience. During the question-and-answer segment after the screening, Costner expressed respect and admiration for the law enforcement officers. Next, Fusco recognized the Rangers in the audience, at which point the 1,200 fans in attendance gave the lawmen a standing ovation. As recounted by Kathy Bates on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien* the following week, "The coolest thing was, when we walked in, there were the Texas Rangers!"

The Highwaymen has become one of the most successful Netflix original film releases to date. It was viewed more than 65 million times worldwide in the first two weeks following its March 29, 2019, release.

Joe B. Davis is a retired Texas Ranger and president of the Former Texas Rangers Foundation in Fredericksburg.

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↑ **Training a More Modern Professional Force**

Under the wing of the DPS, Texas Rangers received ongoing training in forensic science and evidence collection. Item #1983/112 R-492-2. All photos courtesy of the Texas Department of Public Safety Photographs, Archives and Information Services Division, Texas State Library and Archives Commission.



← Only a Horse Will Suffice in Some Parts of the State

This 1939 image shows that even though automobiles were the principal mode of transportation by the 1930s, horses remained an essential part of patrolling the state's rural and rough terrain.

While provided with a horse trailer, a Ranger had to supply his own mount, saddle, and vehicle.

Item #1983/112 R-214-1

→ The Rough and Rugged Life of a Texas Ranger

Though stationed in a specific town or city, a Ranger could be assigned to a case anywhere within the broad expanses of the state.

Duties such as tracking fugitives, cattle thieves, and smugglers made setting up camp part of a typical work day, as seen in this 1941 photograph.

Item #1983/112 R-213-8



← Transforming the Texas Rangers Into an Elite Division

As the director of the Department of Public Safety for three decades (1938-1968), Colonel Homer Garrison, Jr., pictured at right, helped transform the Texas Rangers Division into a top-notch, skilled investigative unit.

Garrison instituted many new leadership programs including crime control, accident records, safety education, and police training.

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www.heritagemuseum.us

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102 N. Temple, Diboll 75941;
936-829-3453; Mon-Fri 8-5, Sat 9-1;
www.thehistorycenteronline.com

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830 S. Maple St., Kountze 77625;
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Wed 10-1 or by appointment

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77019; 713-739-0163; Mon-Fri 9-4;
www.rbhy.org

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936-632-9535; Mon-Sat 10-5;
www.treetexas.com

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76107; 817-738-9133; Tues-Sat 10-5,
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www.cartermuseum.org

COMMERCE PUBLIC LIBRARY

1210 Park St., Commerce 75428;
903-886-6858; Mon, Wed, Fri 10-5,
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www.commercepubliclibrary.org

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Branch 75234; 972-406-0184;
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www.fhistoricalpark.com

HISTORIC FORT WORTH, INC.

1110 Penn St., Fort Worth 76102;
817-336-2344; Two historic properties:
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Individual/group tours Wed-Fri 11-2,
Sun 1-3; www.historicfortworth.org

HISTORIC WACO FOUNDATION
MUSEUMS
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254-753-5166; Four historic houses:
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Fort House, and McCulloch;
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www.historicwaco.org

JEFFERSON HISTORICAL MUSEUM
232 W. Austin, Jefferson 75657;
930-665-2775; Mon-Fri 9:30-4:30;
www.jeffersonmuseum.com

HISTORIC MESQUITE, INC.
P.O. Box 850137, Mesquite 75185;
972-216-6468; Two historic properties:
Opal Lawrence Historical Park Tues-Fri
10:30-3:30; Florence Ranch Homestead
Thurs-Fri 10:30-3:30;
www.historicmesquite.org

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OF COOKE COUNTY
210 S. Dixon St., Gainesville 76240;
940-668-8900; Tues-Fri 10-5; Sat
10-2; www.mortonmuseum.org

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AMERICAN RAILROAD
6455 Page St., Frisco 75034;
214-428-0101; Wed-Sat 10-5, Sun 1-5;
www.museumoftheamericanrailroad.org

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940-825-5330; Mon-Sat 10-5;
www.talesntrails.org

THE SIXTH FLOOR MUSEUM AT
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411 Elm St., Dallas 75202;
214-767-6660; Mon 12-6,
Tues-Sun 10-6; www.jfk.org

WISE COUNTY HERITAGE MUSEUM
1602 S. Trinity, Decatur 76234;
940-627-5586; Mon-Sat 10-3;
www.wisehistory.com

WICHITA COUNTY HERITAGE
SOCIETY
900 Bluff St., Wichita Falls 76301;
940-723-0623; Mon-Fri 9-4;
www.wichita-heritage.org

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PANHANDLE-PLAINS HISTORICAL
MUSEUM
2503 Fourth Ave., Canyon 79015;
806-651-2244; Mon-Sat 9-6, Sun 1-6;
www.panhandleplains.org

WOLF CREEK HERITAGE MUSEUM
13310 Highway 305, Lipscomb 79056;
806-852-2123; Mon-Fri 10-4;
www.wolfcreekheritagemuseum.org

SOUTH/GULF COAST

BRYAN MUSEUM
1315 21st St., Galveston 77550;
409-632-7685; Thurs-Mon 11-4;
www.thebryanmuseum.org

CHISHOLM TRAIL
HERITAGE MUSEUM
302 N. Esplanade, Cuero 77954;
361-277-2866; Tues-Sat 10-4:30;
www.chisholmtrailmuseum.org

COLUMBIA HERITAGE FOUNDATION
P.O. Box 1013, West Columbia 77486

GALVESTON AND TEXAS HISTORY CENTER
2310 Sealy Ave., Galveston 77550;
409-763-8854 ext. 127; Tues-Sat 9-6;
www.gthcenter.org

MUSEUM OF SOUTH TEXAS HISTORY
200 N. Clossner Blvd., Edinburg 78541;
956-383-6911; Tues-Sat 10-5, Sun 1-5;
www.mosthistory.org

STANZEL MODEL AIRCRAFT MUSEUM
311 Baumgarten St., Schulenberg 78956;
979-743-6559; Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat 10:30-
4:30; www.stanzelmuseum.org

WHITEHEAD MEMORIAL MUSEUM
1308 S. Main St., Del Rio 78840;
830-774-7568; Tues-Sat 10-6, Sun 1-5;
www.whiteheadmuseum.org

WEST

FORT CONCHO NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARK MUSEUM
630 S. Oakes St., San Angelo 76903;
325-481-2646; Mon-Sat 9-5, Sun 1-5;
www.fortconcho.com

HALEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY AND
HISTORY CENTER
1805 W. Indiana, Midland 79701;
432-682-5785; Mon-Fri 9-5;
www.haleylibrary.com

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MUSEUM
207 Broadway St., Stanton 79782;
432-756-2722; Mon-Fri 12:30-5:30;
www.martincountyhistoricalsociety.com

WEST OF THE PECOS MUSEUM
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