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TEXAS HERITAGE

A PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION | EST. 1954 | \$6 ISSUE | Volume 3 2021



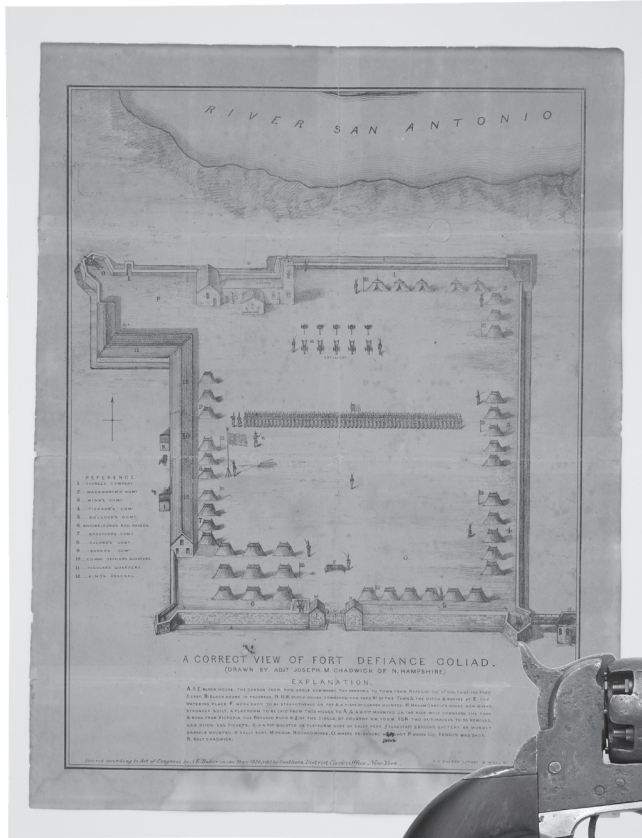
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TEXAS HERITAGE

A PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION | EST. 1954 | \$6 ISSUE | Volume 3 2021

FEATURES

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In 1953, Governor Allan Shivers appointed 18 men and women to the Texas State Historical Survey Committee. They became early guardians of the state's significant artifacts, buildings, artwork, and more. Profiles of six of the founding members recount their contributions to ensure the preservation of Texas history.

By Donna B. Jones

- 22 **T. V. Munson: Grape Man of Texas**
Thomas Volney Munson, a horticulturist and viticulturist, came to Texas determined to create disease-resistant and better-tasting hybrid varieties of the American grape. As a result of that groundbreaking work, he was instrumental in saving the French wine industry in the late 1800s.

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In December 1926, Rebecca Bradley Rogers, a 21-year-old graduate student, robbed the Farmers State Bank in Buda. The saga of the Texas girl bandit truly is, as they say, one for the history books.

By Pamela Murtha

EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor, Gene Krane

Assistant Editor, Pamela Murtha

Proofreaders, Molly Brown and Donna B. Jones

Production Designer, Stacey Van Landingham

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CONTRIBUTORS Austin History Center-Austin Public Library, Blackwell School Alliance, Brenham Heritage Society, Mavis Bryant, Ph. D., Gretel Enck, Lewis F. Fisher, Former Texas Rangers Foundation, Jessica Gadis, Grayson College Foundation, Grayson TXGenWeb, Kathy Hendrick, Hogg Foundation for Mental Health, Donna B. Jones, Mary Closmann Kahle, Tina Kinser, Gene Krane, Lake Jackson Historical Museum, Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, Michael Marchant, Pamela Murtha, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, National Park Service, Overland Trail Museum, Mona Quintanilla, River Road Neighborhood Association, The Rupert Richardson Library, San Antonio Conservation Society, San Antonio Conservation Society Foundation, San Jacinto Museum of History, Mary Lou Saxon, Michael Sparks, David Thomas, University of North Texas-Portal to Texas History

ON THE COVER

Viticulturist T. V. Munson found his "grape paradise" in Texas. Photograph courtesy of Gene Krane.

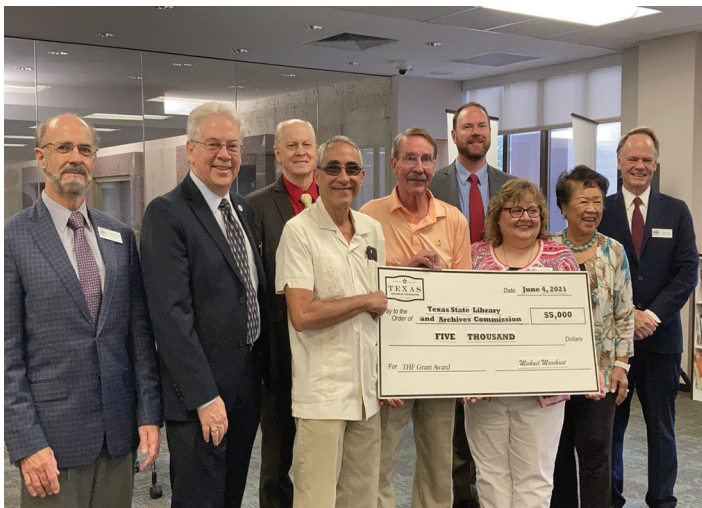
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More Grants Awarded at THF Summer Board Meeting



↑BRENHAM HERITAGE SOCIETY, BRENHAM

An old post office, the future site of the Brenham Heritage Museum, was the setting for this grant presentation. THF directors Kelly Rushing, Lewis Fisher, and Judy Davis are shown with grant recipient representatives. The post office box project, featured in the Volume 2 2021 issue of Texas HERITAGE, offers a creative way of displaying historic images to the public. Photograph courtesy of BHS.



↑TEXAS STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES COMMISSION, AUSTIN

A THF grant will help the state archives with the transcription of digital images relating to the Texas Third Court of Appeals case files, dating from 1891 to 1923, and adding those into a searchable database. THF directors Frank de la Teja and John Meadows made the gift presentation to TSLAC staff and commissioners. Photograph courtesy of Gene Krane.

Nine grants were awarded at THF's summer meeting:

- **The Bartlett Activities Center**, Bartlett, will continue renovation work at the 1909 school (now serving as a community center) using its second grant from the Michael C. Duda Historic Architectural Endowment.

The following assistance was funded from the Jack R. Wahlquist Directors Endowment.

- **Friends of the Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History**, Corpus Christi, will create a history project for 4th and 5th graders using live actors and educators with its grant.

- **Heritage Guild of Collin County**, McKinney, won approval for a request to make foundation repairs and hand brush the exterior paint on the 1854 Faires-Bell House.

- **Rockport Cultural Arts District**, Rockport, will help restore the 1888 Rockport San Antonio and Aransas Pass Depot with THF grant funds.

- **Goodman-LeGrand Museum**, Tyler, received an allocation for work on the windows and professional services to appraise and properly document artifacts.

- **Friends of the History Center for Aransas County**, Rockport, will use its grant for the exhibit *Vietnamese Neighbors: 40 Years on the Texas Coast* and for printing *Growing Up Vietnamese on the Texas Coast*.

- **Wolfe City Public Library**, Wolfe City, received assistance for renovating the Santa Fe Depot Building, which houses the city's library.

The following two rural preservation grants were made from the Jeanne R. Blocker Memorial Fund.

- **Farmersville Historical Society**, Farmersville, received a grant to repaint and complete other work on the 1865 Bain-Honaker House.

- **North Texas Society of History and Culture**, Nocona, will install a security system in the Tales 'N' Trails Museum with its award.



↑FORMER TEXAS RANGERS FOUNDATION, FREDERICKSBURG

FTRF's memorial cross program provides markers at the graves of former Rangers. THF directors Michael Marchant and John Auginbaugh presented a grant supporting that work. Photograph courtesy of FTRF.



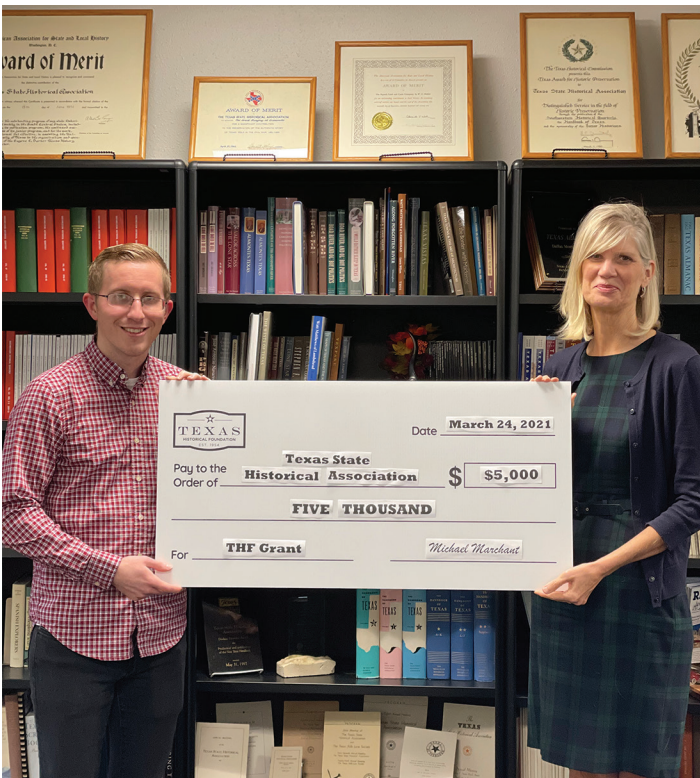
↑ RIVER ROAD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, SAN ANTONIO

THF board members Kay Hindes and Bill Sibley, at left, gathered with representatives of the RRNA to offer THF support for a project that will draw up historic guidelines for the residential area. This measure is essential to address development that threatens the neighborhood's cultural assets. Photograph courtesy of RRNA.



↑ PALACIOS AREA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, PALACIOS

Julie Sparks, third from right, represented the Texas Historical Foundation at a presentation of grant funds that will help PAHA acquire archival supplies for the City by the Sea Museum. Those materials include textiles and boxes for documents, hats, and pictures. Photograph courtesy of Michael Sparks.



↑ TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, AUSTIN

Dedicated to documenting the state's vast history, TSHA will use its recent THF grant to publish a book on working vaqueros. The publication will feature the poems and drawings of Ricardo Beasley and a manuscript by historian Andres Tijerina that explore the lives of the mounted herdsman. Photograph courtesy of Tina Kinser.

Late Director Honored in Irving



John Boyle, a long-serving THF director who passed away in July 2020, was recognized with a plaque on the City of Irving's Walk of Fame on May 15. A municipal law attorney and the first attorney for the community of Irving, Boyle helped guide the city through many years of growth. His family, including wife Kitty, at right, is pictured at the ceremony. Photograph courtesy of Mona Quintanilla.

Candles That Light the Way

By Michael Marchant

Some people are like candles. Their leadership brings light to the world. The challenge of historic preservation in Texas during the early days was taken on by individuals of vision and initiative. Inspired by those efforts, a new circle of people has stepped up to continue that work.

You have to go back to June 4, 1953, and Senate Concurrent Resolution 44 to understand the beginning of the Texas Historical Foundation and preservation in the state. It was then that Governor Allan Shivers created the Texas State Historical Survey Commission (TSHSC). The group was charged with identifying properties, documents, artifacts, and official records related to the “manners, customs, thought and way of life of any periods of Texas history.” It was a brilliant idea, but unfortunately, the mandate came with no funding. Seven months later, on January 11, 1954, leaders incorporated the THF to raise money that would be necessary to do the hard work. For five years, THF contributed and raised 100 percent of the operating funds for the TSHSC. In 1971, as the State assumed a funding role for the Survey Committee, the Foundation began to independently seek worthy projects and establish endowments that supported programs around the state.

In this issue of Texas HERITAGE, we’ll look at some of the leaders of the preservation movement. Here are several individuals who have been important to this organization.

JOSEPH J. BALLARD

Among Joseph Ballard’s lifelong loves was golf. One favorite story of his golfing prowess is a rumor that in 1929, he beat legendary golfer Ben Hogan at his hometown golf course in Fort Worth. Ballard led the Texas Historical Foundation for many years. A successful businessman with a keen interest in archeology, he funded a THF endowment that still supports efforts in that field today.

JUDGE JAMES EDWARD WHEAT

Judge Wheat was born in a log cabin in Chester. He wrote numerous articles on Texas history, was chair of the TSHSC, and the first president of the Texas Historical Foundation. A historical marker in Woodville recognizes Judge Wheat for his contributions to preservation and includes information about his great-grandfather Dr. Josiah Wheat, who donated 200 acres for the Tyler County seat.

CHARLES AND SARAH SEAY

Charles Seay was an insurance executive and stockbroker, who was married to Sarah Meadows. Their daughter Sarah



“Sally” Seay Stout, now deceased, served as a THF director, and the couple’s nephew John Meadows is a former Foundation president and long-serving current board member. In 1996, the Seays made a generous donation to THF establishing an endowment that still funds preservation projects today.

SHIRLEY AND CLIFTON CALDWELL

This husband-and-wife team, who were from Albany, were powerful forces in the state’s preservation endeavors. Together they raised money, donated their own, led the effort to renovate Texas courthouses,

and supported the printing of many Lone Star history books. Simply put, preservation in Texas would not be where it is today without the Caldwelles.

J. P. BRYAN

The descendent of Stephen F. Austin began collecting Texana when he was 10, amassing a huge collection now housed at The Bryan Museum in Galveston. He also meticulously restored the Gage Hotel in Marathon. Bryan led the Texas Historical Foundation and the Texas State Historical Association and was a Texas Historical Commission commissioner. In 2014, he was honored with THF’s Star of Texas Award.

MARSHALL J. DOKE, JR.

Doke, a retired attorney, has been a driving force in the THF, serving as president, chairman, and now chairman emeritus. He single-handedly created two endowments that are helping fund preservation in Texas today: one that ensures the future publication of this magazine and another that preserves the state’s legal history. That endowment now bears Doke’s name.

Much is owed to these visionaries. They understood the need to advocate for preservation and to save the stories, buildings, documents, and artifacts that collectively tell the tale of who we were then and who we are now. They gave of their own resources and rallied their connections to lead an important effort that continues today. So, think of them every time you read a historical marker or visit a museum or historic landmark—and make sure to say thank you.

Businessman Michael Marchant, a fourth-generation Texan, grew up in a military family and now lives in Grapevine. He is chief operating officer at Montgomery Cranes. Send comments regarding this column to: THF, P. O. Box 50314, Austin, Texas 78763 or by email to admin@texashistoricalfoundation.org.

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Others

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New and renewing members are listed on page 20.

Special Honors and Memorials

In honor of Marshall J. Doke, Jr.

Schoenbrun Philanthropic Fund of the Dallas Jewish Community Foundation
Marshall J. Doke, Jr., Texas Legal History Preservation Trust

In memory of Shirley Caldwell

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Linda and Patrick Rayes, Dallas
Elizabeth and Jerry Susser, Corpus Christi



Giants of Early Preservation

In the Beginning, There Were True Believers

By Donna B. Jones

“Shake the dust from your feet; the ground upon which you stand is holy.”

Texans’ reverence for Lone Star heritage is crystallized in this order from the late historian Rupert N. Richardson, Ph. D., to county judges, as he sought their support for protecting a historic site.

Richardson was among the early guardians of the state’s significant artifacts, buildings, artwork, and more. The Legislature gave these visionaries a nudge in 1953 with the creation of the Texas State Historical Survey Committee (later renamed the Texas Historical Commission). The resolution that established the 18-member Committee observed that at the time, Texas “lagged behind many other states in (historic preservation)...” and warned that “much source material is

in danger of being lost, and many historical shrines [are] in danger of being destroyed....”

To avert the threat, the Legislature directed the TSHSC appointees, who served without compensation, to lead and encourage preservation activities. They also were charged with forming a nonprofit fundraising arm, established as the Texas Historical Foundation in 1954, to underwrite those efforts. (The THF later was rechartered as a separate and privately supported organization.)

A few of the original Texas State Historical Survey Committee/Texas Historical Foundation members—all native Texans and descendants of storied pioneers—are remembered here.

Opposite: Preservationist and philanthropist Ima Hogg donated her residence, located in the River Oaks community of Houston, to the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, in the 1960s. The 14-acre facility, now known as Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens, showcases the European-influenced landscape design she created, reflecting her love of flowers and natural woodlands. Photograph courtesy of Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.



Left: Rupert Richardson, Ph. D., was one of the earliest proponents of Texas history education. He willingly shared his love of the Lone Star State and its past with his students, as well as those outside of the classroom. Photograph courtesy of The Rupert N. Richardson Library, Abilene. Inset, below: Amanda Cartwright Taylor, pictured at left, served as a Texas State Historical Survey Committee member for 10 years. Photograph courtesy of the San Antonio Conservation Society.

Amanda Cartwright Taylor

Amanda Cartwright Taylor (1879-1977) was born in Terrell, 32 miles east of Dallas, the descendent of prosperous East and Central Texas business owners. Beginning in 1906, Taylor lived in San Antonio, where her husband's family was involved in real estate, farming, and ranching.

In the 1920s, alarmed by proposals to efface or destroy historic sites, she helped found the San Antonio Conservation Society. Around that time, the society's inventive members furthered their preservation goals by creating a puppet show that featured a goose with five golden eggs, representing the city's unique elements that included the heart of Texas, history, tourists, and beauty.

During Taylor's tenure as SACS president from 1931 to 1933, the society focused its attention on the fifth egg—San Antonio's missions. In that spirit, the well-connected and resourceful Taylor led the organization's restoration of the granary at San José y San Miguel de Aguayo Mission, calling on civic and business leaders to supply funding, equipment, and workers. Like many other preservation advocates, Taylor was not a trained historian, having been encouraged to pursue a career as a





From left to right, the characters in the San Antonio Conservation Society's 1924 puppet playlet, which promoted historic preservation, are: Fire and Police Commissioner Phil Wright, Park Commissioner Ray Lambert, Mayor John W. Tobin, Street Commissioner Paul Stefler, Tax Commissioner Frank Bushick, the goose, the state manager, and Mr. and Mrs. San Antonio. Photograph by Lewis F. Fisher, courtesy of the San Antonio Conservation Society Foundation.

concert pianist or as a painter. Putting her energy into the successful granary project, she proved to have yet another, almost magical talent. The SACS secretary noted: "Mrs. Taylor's list each month of donations and assistance given reads like the conservation society had some Aladdin's Lamp to make wishes come true."

Ima Hogg

Ima Hogg (1882-1975) was born in Mineola, 80 miles east of Dallas in Wood County, the only daughter of James "Big Jim" Hogg, the state's first native-born governor. Known as the "First Lady of Texas," she used the wealth that came from the discovery of oil on the family's land to fund not only historic preservation, but also art museums and mental health programs. In the 1950s, she restored the Hogg family home at Varner Plantation near West Columbia, showcasing furnishings that reflected her father's love of history and her admiration for George Washington and other early Americans, and presented it to the State of Texas.

In the 1960s, she restored the Winedale Inn, a 19th-century stagecoach stop near La Grange,

and gave it to The University of Texas. Now the landmark is a center for the study of Lone Star history and the site of a widely acclaimed annual fine arts festival. Hogg also rehabilitated her parents' home in Quitman, in Wood County, and in 1969, the town established the Ima Hogg Museum in her honor. Additionally, in 1966, Hogg's Bayou Bend residence, which was donated by the preservationist to the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, was opened to the public to share her extensive collection of early American decorative arts. Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, explained her generosity, saying that "[Hogg] and her brothers believed that since the oil came from Texas land, it belonged to Texas citizens."

Louis Wiltz Kemp

Louis "Lou" Wiltz Kemp (1881-1956), born in Cameron, 71 miles northeast of Austin, came to the TSHSC with impressive expertise even though he was not a professional historian. In the 1930s, he was a leader of the Texas Centennial commemoration and played a key role in improving and develop-

ing the Texas State Cemetery in Austin. He advocated for legislation to rebury pioneers and officials of the Republic of Texas in the cemetery, where Kemp himself now is interred.

The history buff compiled and wrote biographical sketches of every known Texian veteran of the Battle of San Jacinto and helped plan the construction of the 570-foot San Jacinto Monument and Museum of History that memorializes the 18-minute battle that won Texas' independence from Mexico. The obelisk is described as one of the finest examples of Art Deco architecture in the United States and is recognized as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark by the American Society of Civil Engineers. Kemp also helped locate the burial place of James W. Fannin's men, who died in 1836 in the Goliad Massacre, considered the most infamous episode of the Texas Revolution.

Kemp was an engineer with a long career with the Texas Company (Texaco) who modestly described himself as "a retired asphalt salesman who makes a hobby out of history." In reality, with vast knowledge acquired during his years of study and writing, Kemp was deservedly known as "Mr. Texas History."



Rupert N. Richardson, Ph. D.

Rupert N. Richardson (1891-1988) was born near the unincorporated community of Caddo, Stephens County, in north central Texas. He was a celebrated historian and educator who authored numerous scholarly publications, including *Texas: The Lone Star State*, which was published in 1943 and remained the leading college textbook on Texas history well into the 1980s. He pressed for better history education for the public, and in the TSHSC's early days, Richardson proposed the purchase of two copies of the film *History in Your County* to be shown to schools and organizations to promote preservation. He also served on a panel of historians who developed a list of significant historic topics that never had been celebrated, which provided a guide for future commemorations.

At the national level, he traveled to Washington, D. C., in 1965 to testify in support of the

bill to create the Guadalupe Mountains National Park. The park's natural beauty was the backdrop for significant events in early Texas history, including bloody conflicts between Mescalero Apache and Buffalo Soldiers.

Richardson was associated with Hardin-Simmons University as a student, administrator, and professor for some 80 years. He is remembered fondly there for his "Bee Speech," first presented in 1922 and repeated annually for many years. Based on Richardson's lifelong fascination with the insect, the speech focused on the lessons humans can take from bees' community-building and industrious nature.

John Ben Shepperd

The grandson of a member of the Texas House of Representatives and son of a Gregg County commissioner, John Ben Shepperd (1915-1990) was born to public service in Gladewater, a former oil boom town 105 miles east of Dallas. He

followed in his father's footsteps as a county commissioner and served as Texas Secretary of State and Texas Attorney General, as well as publisher of the *Gladewater Tribune* newspaper. In his later years, Shepperd championed historical preservation and was a leader of the Texas Commission for the Arts and Humanities and the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

As chair of the TSHSC from 1963 to 1967, he was instrumental in developing the highway historical markers program. Shepperd was dubbed "the man with the fastest mimeograph machine in Texas," which helped him reach county historical committees, urging them to publicize the program and identify sites, buildings, and subjects that merited marking.

In contemporary culture, Shepperd is credited with creating Odessa's "World's Largest Jackrabbit," an eight-foot statue built during his term as president of the city's chamber of commerce and a well-known roadside attraction. It is named Jack Ben Rabbit in his honor.

Francis Lee Lawrence

An attorney, Lee Lawrence (1926-1996), who went by his middle name, was born in Paris, 98 miles northeast of Dallas, at the western edge of the Piney Woods. He was a descendent of Texas Ranger James Cunningham, who helped bring law and order to Comanche County. Lawrence's award-winning restoration of Cunningham's pioneer homestead built in the 1870s, a recorded Texas Historic Landmark and also listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is said to have been among his favorite accomplishments.

As a member of the Texas State Historical Survey Committee, he collaborated with John Ben Shepperd and Rupert Richardson in originating the

highway historical markers program and helped write the application for the state's first marker, located at Camp Ford near Tyler, where Lawrence lived. He also was a member of the Texas Civil War Centennial Commission from 1960 to 1965 and president of THF from 1967 to 1968.

In addition to founding and leading state and local historical, civic, business, educational, and legal organizations, Lawrence was a prolific writer. He authored *Camp Ford, CSA: The Story of Union Prisoners in Texas* (co-written with Robert W. Glover) and *Cunningham Family Centennial Reunion, 1889-1989*. His book *Texas War Horses* was published the year before his death.

Preserving the Past for the Future

Thanks to these preservationists and countless others who believed in their cause, the people, events, and places that shaped Texas endure. A faithfully restored barn in bucolic Winedale provides a uniquely Texan setting for public performances of Shakespeare's plays. Thirty thousand artifacts on display at the San Jacinto Museum of History—from Mayan idols to Mexican manuscripts to Sam Houston's private dictionary—provide context for the brief, decisive battle that won Texas' independence from Mexico. More than 16,000 markers located throughout all 254 Texas counties interpret local and state history and encourage heritage tourism. And, perhaps surprisingly to some, art lovers can enjoy Bayou Bend's exhibits in Houston, described by *The New York Times* in 1996 as "an unlikely place to look for one of the finest collections of early American decorative arts in the entire nation...."

The efforts of these six men and women, as well as their Texas State Historical Survey Committee/Texas Historical Foundation contemporaries, have ensured that the preservation of Texas history will continue to be accorded the respect that Rupert Richardson demanded in those early days. ★

Donna B. Jones is an Austin freelance writer and editor.

Opposite: In 1967, Ima Hogg, pictured in her home, received an award from the Texas Historical Commission for "meritorious service in historic preservation." Photograph courtesy of the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health. This page, center: Archeological evidence found in caves and alcoves in Guadalupe Mountains National Park indicates that people occupied the land as far back as 10,000 years ago. Photograph courtesy of the National Park Service. Original in color. Below: John Ben Shepperd was sworn in as Texas Secretary of State in February 1950, with Governor Allan Shivers, who appointed him to the office, standing by his side. Photograph courtesy of University of North Texas Libraries, Portal to Texas History, crediting Austin History Center, Austin Public Library.



These Walls *Do* Talk

Memories and construction records help enrich the understanding of the education of Mexican-American children in a Far West Texas town during the early 20th century.



BY GRETEL ENCK

The Blackwell School in Marfa tells stories from an era when Texas school districts established and perpetuated separate elementary schools for Mexican Americans through *de facto* segregation, a term describing a situation in which legislation did not overtly segregate students by race—yet the practice continued. In 1920, nearly three-quarters of Marfa’s population was Hispanic, and the Blackwell School was known simply as the Mexican School.

In 2017, the Blackwell School Alliance partnered with The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) Department of Architecture to conduct investigations of the 1909 schoolhouse, the last remaining building on the Blackwell campus. Their goal was to create a comprehensive historic structures report that would help preservationists understand the building’s history and plan for its appropriate restoration. The design and workmanship at the Blackwell School illustrates the transition from age-old adobe construction to the inclusion of factory-made materials available after the arrival of the railroad.

UTSA students spent a week on site as part of a graduate seminar in historic preservation architecture. They climbed a tall ladder to access the attic and donned protective suits to explore the crawl space below the structure. Some findings confirmed long-held understandings about the building and its history, while other evidence contradicted established stories.

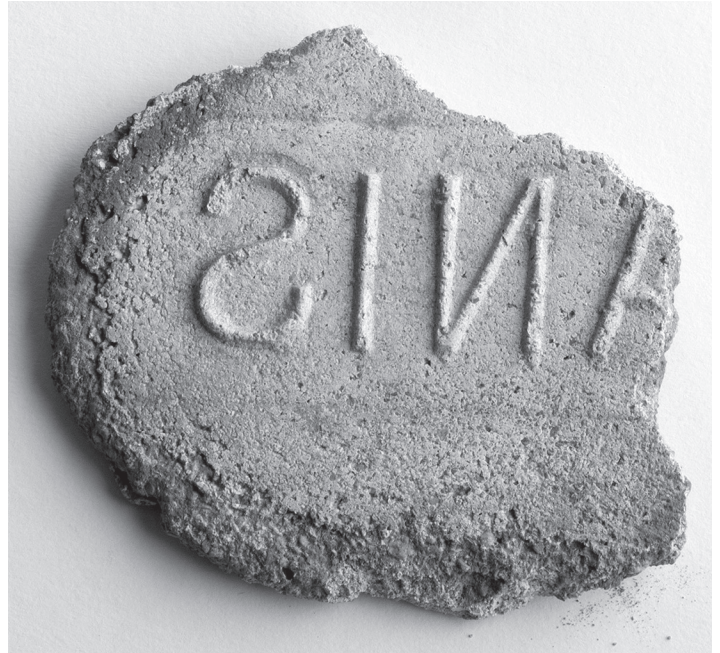
A significant inconsistency addressed by students involved the age of the Blackwell School. A photocopy of a 1940 handwritten account with unknown provenance placed the building’s original use as a Methodist church built in the 1880s. The document has been widely referenced since that time, but a firm construction date of the structure never was identified.

In preparation for the students’ visit, the late historian Lonny Taylor conducted deed research at the Presidio County Clerk’s Office. He discovered that John M. Dean, the founder of Marfa, sold the lots where the schoolhouse stands to the town’s school district on June 25, 1909. The document lacked any description or mention of a building on the property, leading Taylor to suspect that the adobe structure likely had been constructed after the date of sale.

In a presentation at the Blackwell School, UTSA student Lisa Garza explained other findings that also dispute the theory that the building dates back to the 1880s. First, *nominal dimension lumber* (where the actual size of a two-by-four-inch board is slightly smaller) was found in the attic. Use of that specific material came into standardized practice in this country in the first decade of the 20th century. Thus, Garza reasoned that such lumber would not have been available in the 1880s.

Second, portions of two chimneys embedded in the central wall—determined to be part of the original construction—were made of brick that was machined in D’Hanis, a town approximately 50 miles from San Antonio, starting in 1905.

Finally, a search of early 20th-century Marfa newspapers, housed in the Sul Ross State University Archives in Alpine, confirmed that the Marfa school district purchased Dean’s land, broke ground, and opened a new school for the community’s children of Mexican descent in 1909.



Collectively, the students’ architectural investigations and the informed deed research by a qualified historian add more understanding to the building’s history and lights the way to preserving the structure with historic integrity. Still, the value of the Blackwell School is greater than its assembly of adobe bricks and the series of dates when modifications may have occurred. Those included the destruction of the bell tower and front door archway, the construction—and then subsequent removal—of dividing walls in the inside rooms, the addition of bathrooms, and the covering over of windows. These changes were made to meet the evolving needs of the facility.

The building is nationally significant as one of the best existing examples of a Mexican-American schoolhouse in Texas that has not been repurposed and is available to tell the story of that experience. UTSA student Jennifer Uria explained that institutional structures, like churches, schools, and government buildings, usually were made of sturdy materials that were meant to last because these were places where cultural identity was most celebrated. The Blackwell School exemplifies this idea, having served as not only an educational center, but also a hub of community activity for more than 50 years.

Today, the Blackwell School is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is under consideration for designation as a National Historic Site—not because it was unique, but because segregated schools for children of Mexican descent were ubiquitous in Texas. This humble adobe building speaks for an important piece of American history.

Gretel Enck is president of the Blackwell School Alliance.

Opposite: Children play in front of the schoolhouse in this circa 1950’s image. Courtesy of the Blackwell School Alliance. Top: This mortar was dislodged from a D’Hanis brick in the attic of the school. Photograph by Mary Lou Saxon. Original in color.



REBECCA BRADLEY ROGERS

“Little Bit of a Girl” Bank Robber

Small in stature, but bold and audacious, this unassuming college coed lived a life filled with twists and turns.

Rebecca Bradley Rogers was a 21-year-old graduate student at The University of Texas in Austin when her life steered off course—for a few years at least. Between supporting her mother, who was without a job, paying for classes, and living expenses, the young woman was cash-strapped. With tuition due, she decided that robbing a bank would be a quick and easy solution and came up with a novel idea on how to pull it off.

On December 8, 1926, armed with a pad of paper and a .32 caliber automatic pistol, Rogers entered the Round Rock branch of Farmers State Bank. Posing as Grace Loftin, a Waco newspaper reporter, she started interviewing customers and bank employees allegedly for an article about farming and agricultural regulations. The ruse allowed the coed to linger in the lobby without raising suspicion as she waited for a slowdown in business, which for her was the ideal time for an armed holdup. To Rogers' frustration, such an opportunity did not arise that day nor the next when she returned to try her luck once more.

On the third day, the young woman left home and headed north again, this time with a plan that was sure to empty the bank. Right before closing time, she snuck into a nearby abandoned building, and with a can of coal oil and matches purchased at a nearby store in hand, set the structure ablaze. She then ran into the Farmers State Bank shouting that flames were shooting out of a nearby house. To her surprise, none of the customers or employees sprinted out the front doors to take a look. Rogers once again drove back to Austin empty-handed.

Astonishingly, the coed made yet another appearance in Round Rock the following morning. She quickly left the Farmers Bank lobby when suspicious employees began asking her questions about the previous day's fire. Undaunted, Rogers drove south to the bank's branch in Buda. There, she assumed her reporter alter ego once again, chatting with customers and staff. During a lunchtime lull, with only two employees in the building, she charmed her way behind

Opposite page: Photographs of Rebecca Bradley Rogers appeared on the front page of newspapers nationwide in December 1926. A few headlines deemed her the "flapper (a 1920s slang term for a woman who showed disdain for conventional dress and behavior) bandit." Image in the public domain, courtesy of Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division.



Above: Frustrated after two days of waiting for a lull in business, Rogers committed arson in a failed attempt to empty the lobby of Farmers State Bank in Round Rock, pictured here in 1920. Photograph in the public domain.

the tellers' cages by asking to use a typewriter to type up her notes. When cashier S. A. Jamison entered the vault, Rogers seized her chance and, with gun in hand, confronted him and the bank's bookkeeper. After Jamison gave her a stack of five-dollar bills totaling \$1,000, Rogers locked the employees in the vault, calmly returned to her car, and took off for Austin. However, within 10 minutes, the two men escaped with the help of a screwdriver and reported the robbery. Their description of the thief and the make of her automobile, provided by witnesses who saw the young woman leave the bank, quickly were distributed to area law enforcement.

A REMORSELESS PRISONER

Rogers took the dusty rural roads back to the state capital, bought a box of candy at a nearby store, emptied it out, and placed the stolen cash and pistol inside. Stopping at the post office, she mailed the package to herself, using the UT campus' central address. After an

Austin police officer spotted her Model T parked on the street, Rogers was arrested when she went back to it a few hours later. Travis County Sheriff George Allen, who transported the young woman to the Hays County Jail in San Marcos, later commented that during the drive, his unrepentant prisoner told him, "I have a whole lot to live down, but not as much as the men [at the Buda bank]...who let a little bit of a girl hold them up with an empty gun." Though she denied loading the weapon, a bullet was found in the chamber of the pistol when it was recovered by law enforcement.

Rogers was charged with "robbery by firearm" for the Farmers State theft, a capital offense that carried a maximum death penalty sentence. An indictment for the Round Rock arson followed a few days later. Newspapers from New York to Alaska carried the story of the "Texas girl bandit." The crime was made more sensational with the revelation that the accused secretly was wed to Otis Rogers, a newly minted Amarillo

Hang her high, and then I, as the sun of my life sinks to the setting, will come and cut her down and bury her with the last of my dreams...

attorney. The couple had married two years prior, following the groom's graduation from The University of Texas School of Law. They had decided to keep their union quiet while he established his legal career and she finished her studies.

TWO TRIALS—AND A HUSBAND'S PLEA FOR MERCY

The arson trial came first in September 1927 at the Williamson County Courthouse in Georgetown. The defendant's legal team claimed that Rogers was insane at the time she committed the crimes. Four *alienists* (mental health experts) testified that the young woman suffered from *dementia praecox*, a term of that era used to describe irrational and delusional behavior, and therefore was not culpable for her actions. Otis Rogers testified that his wife seemed to believe she was "incapable of wrong." Prosecutor Harry Nolan, according to newspaper accounts, offered his view of the affliction as "a disease criminals get when they are caught." Some members of the jury, though, were persuaded by the insanity plea while others disagreed, and the deadlock obligated the judge to declare a mistrial (the arson charge was dismissed in 1929).

The court case for the armed robbery indictment commenced three months later in La Grange at the Fayette County Courthouse. The defendant's attorneys again presented the same mental illness defense. During final argu-



ments, Otis Rogers, made an impassioned plea to jurists:

Here the state is crying for revenge, resting upon a little insane girl... Hang her high, and then I, as the sun of my life sinks to the setting, will come and cut her down and bury her with the last of my dreams, a victim of man's inhumanity to man.

Several news stories noted that many of the spectators were brought to tears by his words. However, the jury was unmoved, returning a guilty verdict and sentencing Rebecca Rogers to a 15-year jail term—an outcome her husband was determined to undo.

YET ANOTHER TRIAL...WITH STILL MORE ISSUES

In January 1929, Otis Rogers once again appeared in court on his wife's behalf and successfully petitioned to have the conviction overturned. A new trial was scheduled for May in the Hays County Courthouse in San Marcos, but the judge had to order a change of venue after a failure to secure a full jury. Many of the prospective male jurors (females were not allowed to serve at that time) were reluctant to consider imposing the death penalty on a woman.

Court convened for a third time in September, with the defendant's husband as the lead attorney, assisted by two of his law school classmates. Following nearly two weeks of testimony, including 34 witnesses for the defense, jurors deliberated for two days but were unable to reach an agreement. Nine jurists had voted for acquittal. Given that, District Attorney Fred Blundell indicated that he likely would not pursue another retrial, but the armed robbery charge was not dropped officially until 1933.

The Rogers family returned to Fort Worth, where they had settled during the legal proceedings so that Otis could establish a law practice. The couple later welcomed three children. The "Texas girl bandit" served as her husband's legal assistant, living the rest of her life in relative anonymity. She passed away in 1950.—*Pamela Murtha*

Pamela Murtha is the assistant editor of Texas HERITAGE magazine.

Above: Rebecca Rogers' failed attempt to hold up the Farmers State Bank in Round Rock in 1926 is overshadowed in that Central Texas city's history by the notorious bank robber Sam Bass, who died there in 1878 during a shoot-out with Texas Rangers. Photograph in the public domain.

Remembering What We Live Through

By Mary Closmann Kahle

A growing trend in the field of oral history is the collection of memories associated with significant disasters, such as hurricanes, floods, and forest fires. In these instances, oral histories can provide firsthand documentation that will become part of the historical record of the event, valuable for later use by researchers who have developed a suitable context over time.

One example is an interview the author of this article conducted with Houston resident Madeleine Elmer a year after Hurricane Harvey struck the Texas coast in August 2017. A family friend of the writer, Elmer is the owner of a floral and event design company. Her home is downstream from two reservoirs the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers chose for controlled release to prevent dams from breaching. While that move prevented more widespread damage from the Category 4 storm, it also resulted in the flooding of nearby neighborhoods, including Elmer's.

She recalled her dread while monitoring news reports and nearby rain gauges, saying, "At some point the water was up to our front porch, and we could no longer see the curbs.... I said to my husband, 'Let's have a conversation about this.'" The couple hurriedly moved what furniture, valuables, and family photos they could before driving to a friend's residence west of Houston.

The next day as the pair returned home via Interstate 10, countless emergency vehicles and the so-called *Cajun Navy* (volunteer search and rescue groups made up of private boat

owners formed after Hurricane Katrina and subsequent floods in Louisiana) streamed into Houston, a scene Elmer cites as one of many uplifting moments amidst her shock. Family and friends offered supplies, support, and labor to address the nearly two feet of water damage, at one point flipping over flower buckets that Elmer used for weddings to elevate furniture. She recalled, "This is one of my silver lining hero stories." Her sense of vulnerability was profound as she and her husband found themselves in the unfamiliar situation of accepting FEMA assistance and practical help.

After two months spent living with friends while their walls and floors were repaired, they finally returned home.

Elmer considered herself fortunate, recalling the stunned expressions of elderly neighbors who would never come back, and acknowledging "the history that [others] lost. Every single Christmas ornament, every...family photo album." She subsequently became an advocate with others seeking compensation from the United States government. As a descendant of military veterans, this, too was unfamiliar territory.

Elmer's story is just one of many highlighting the importance of capturing memories from a range



of participants, whether emergency workers, high-level decision makers, or residents who lost everything. Oral history thus becomes a means of collecting the present for the future, when it will be the past.

Mary Closmann Kahle, of Austin, is completing a master's degree in public history at Texas State University in San Marcos.

Top: Buckets that normally held beautiful wedding flowers were used to elevate furniture and save it from water damage inside a Houston home during Hurricane Harvey. Photograph courtesy of Mary Closmann Kahle. Original in color.



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SPOTLIGHTING THE HOLDINGS OF THE INSTITUTION MEMBERS

— *Lake Jackson Historical Museum, Lake Jackson* —

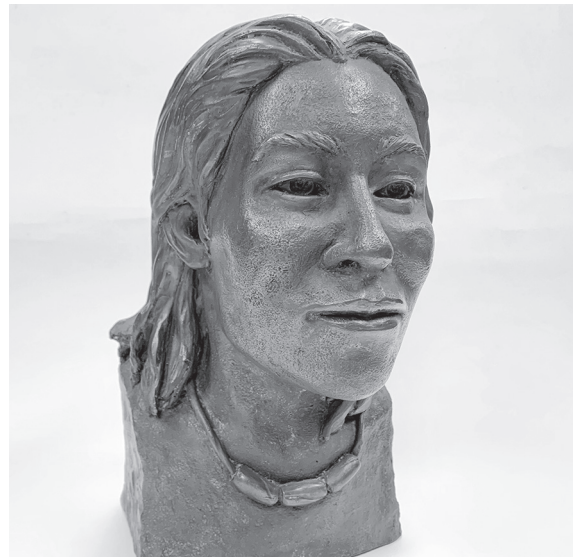
The earliest residents of Brazoria County were Native Americans known as the Karankawa, a tribe that comprised at least five independent bands with shared linguistic and cultural roots. The northern-most band, found in Brazoria, is known as the *Coco*. They first were recorded for history by Spain's Cabeza de Vaca in 1528 after he was shipwrecked on Galveston Island. In the following years, these natives encountered other Spanish explorers, as well as the French; they even battled with the infamous pirates led by Frenchman Jean Lafitte and the settlers in Stephen F. Austin's first colony, the "Old 300." Until recently, surprisingly little remained to be told about these intriguing Texans and their remarkable history.

Now, thanks to a collaboration between anthropology and forensic medicine, one particularly special artifact has provided a chance to experience the *Coco* in a most unexpected manner. Using a skull found during a construction project-turned-archeology dig, anthropologist Rebecca Storey and forensic sculptor Betty Pat Gatliff reconstructed the features of one Karankawa maiden. This Gulf Coast native lived in the 1500s and died at approximately 18 to 20 years of age. She was discov-

ered at the West Galveston archeological site 41GV5, an aboriginal burial ground. The location was exposed during construction and subsequently excavated by Dr. T. E. Pulley. Given the age of the woman and her evident health, complications during childbirth likely led to her death. Although the evidence is not conclusive, infant bones also found at the site suggest that neither mother nor child survived.

A life-like bronze bust depicts the woman's delicate features, memorializing her and the Gulf Coast indigenous people she represents. Today, we can cross the barriers of time, gaze into the face of a lost people, and contemplate the Texas of colonial and precolonial eras. The sculpture and other recent acquisitions are part of an ongoing effort to develop the Karankawa exhibit at the Lake Jackson Historical Museum and increase awareness and appreciation of the region's earliest inhabitants.—*David Thomas*

David Thomas is the executive director of the Lake Jackson Historical Society in Lake Jackson, which operates the Lake Jackson Historical Museum.



Above: See the Karankawa maiden bronze and other artifacts of the Texas Gulf Coast at the Lake Jackson Historical Museum. For additional information, visit www.ljhistory.org. Photographs courtesy of LJHM.



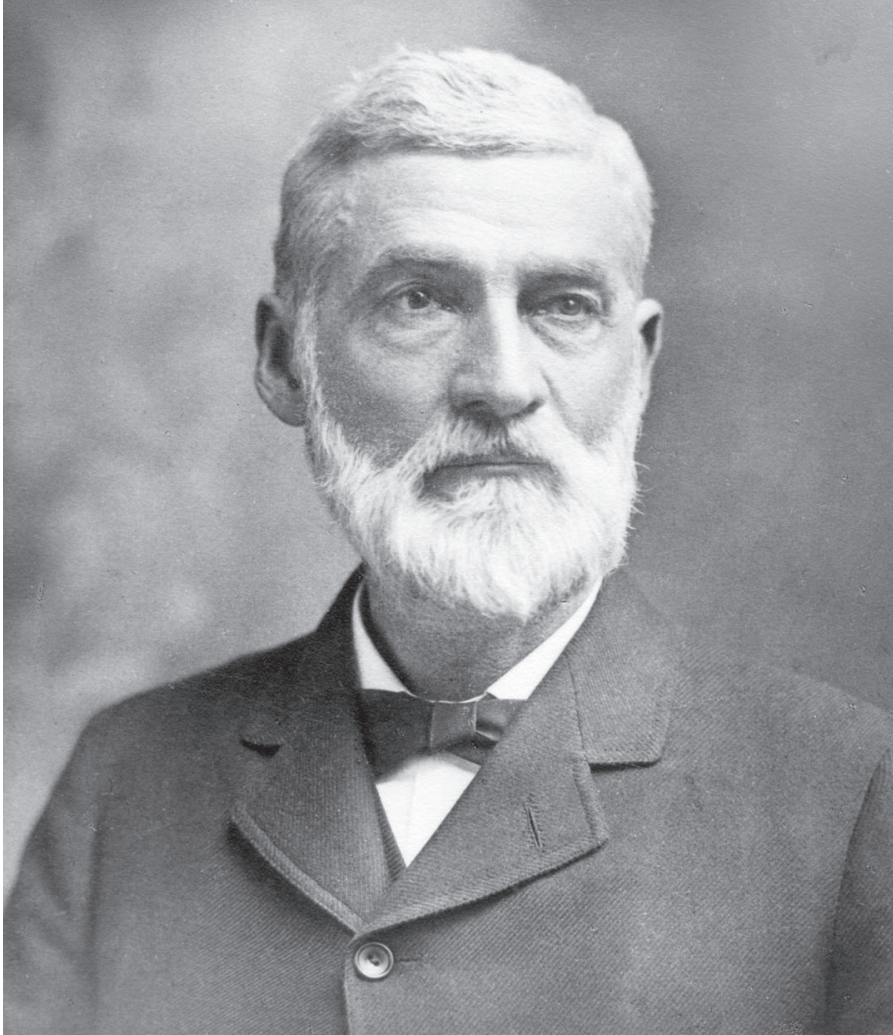
❧ *J. V. Munson* ❧

Grape Man of Texas



BY KATHY HENDRICK AND
PAMELA MURTHA

2021



Left: In his later years, T. V. Munson remained actively involved in his nursery business, wrote numerous scientific articles, and developed new grape hybrids. Photograph courtesy of the Grayson College Foundation. Bottom right: This 1890 cartoon depicts a "fancy portrait" of phylloxera and labeled the tiny insect as a "true gourmet...that attaches itself to the best wine." In reality, the devastation wrought by the parasitic louse was no laughing matter. Image in the public domain.

French and European wine connoisseurs today can thank Texas transplant Thomas Volney "T. V." Munson, a horticulturist who believed that grapes were the most beautiful, wholesome, and profitable fruit grown. As a result of that passion, and his research on native Texas grapes, Munson is credited with saving the French wine industry in the late 1800s.

Born in Astoria, Illinois, on September 26, 1843, T. V. Munson grew up on the family's 16-acre farm, which produced grains and fruits. Early on, he showed an enthusiasm for working the fields and learning the business of agriculture. His mother Maria shared her interest in horticulture with her son, teaching him about grafting, budding, and pruning plants and fruit trees on the family's land. This marked the beginning of Munson's lifelong fascination with cultivating plants.

HARDSHIPS AND HOPPERS

In 1866, the 23-year-old left his childhood home to attend Kentucky Agricultural & Mechanical College (now the University of Kentucky) in Lexington. There he met Ellen "Nellie" Bell, whom he married just days after his graduation in 1870. The couple stayed in the area after they wed because he had been offered an adjunct professor position at his alma mater. Within a year, the stress of teaching and poor health prompted a job change, and Munson went to work for his father-in-law, who owned a local nursery. The back-to-back loss of two infant sons and the onset of an economic depression made the next two years even more challenging for the young couple. By the summer of 1873, they had decided to start anew by relocating to Lincoln, Nebraska, to establish commercial gardens and a business.

Before leaving Lexington, Munson visited his mentor and friend Dr. Robert Peter, an A&M professor who had taken the young cadet under his wing. Peter, a physician, teacher, and geologist, had turned his interest in growing grapes into a profitable winery. He gave his protégé a tour of the estate's vineyards and talked about the character of the vine and the fruit of each variety he grew. As Munson listened, his mind turned to scientific possibilities:

It seemed to me that there might be numerous combinations [of grape varieties]... that one could expect some of the seedlings grown from such crossed seeds to turn out better than any in the vineyard, by combination of excellencies of both parents in the crosses.... This reflection aroused within me a strong desire to test the matter.





Left: Three of the Munson children pose in front of Denison Nurseries (later renamed Munson Nurseries) gardens, with the family's newly built home in the background. Photograph circa 1887 and courtesy of the Grayson College Foundation. Below: The catalogue for Denison Nurseries featured beautiful illustrations of the fruits grown in the commercial orchards. Photograph courtesy of Mavis Bryant, Ph. D., and Grayson TXGenWeb.

Munson shared that idea with Peter, who then supplied his former student with clusters of grapes collected from a few dozen different species and encouraged him to move forward with experimentation. Munson extracted the seeds from each bunch, packed them carefully, and headed for Lincoln determined to “improve the American grape” by creating new hybrids. He arrived in the Midwest city in late September and purchased 30 acres of farmland. Nellie, who was pregnant with their third child, had traveled with him as far as Astoria and stayed in Illinois with her in-laws until she gave birth to a healthy boy 10 days before Christmas.

In the spring of 1874, Munson planted vegetables and fruits for the commercial gardens, trees for the nursery, and the Kentucky grape seeds to establish his first vineyard. Unfortunately, July of that year was plagued by hot prairie winds, dry conditions, and swarms of grasshoppers that killed the prized grapevines and devastated his crops. The following growing season, Munson tried his luck by transplanting wild grapes native to the area. His efforts again were thwarted by weather and the next generation of *hoppers* (alternate word for grasshopper). With an unprofitable farm and his *viticulture* (grape cultivation) ambitions thwarted by the climate, he decided it was time to pull up stakes and try again elsewhere.

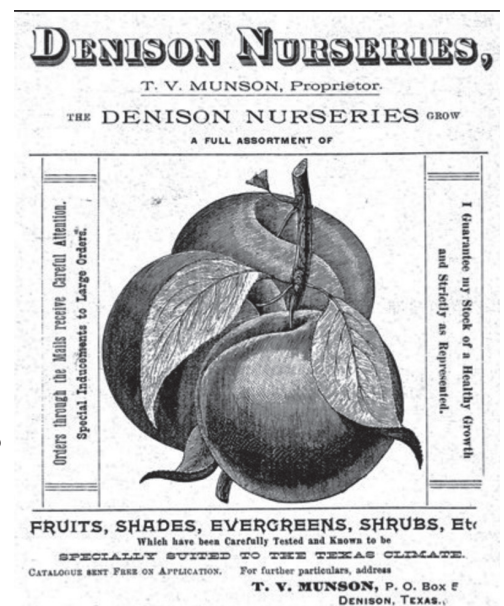
TEXAS TRIUMPHS AND FRENCH GRATITUDE

Munson and his family moved to Denison, then a North Texas railroad boomtown, in April 1876, at the insistence of his two brothers, who lived in the area and ran their own successful businesses. Crossing over the Red River, the viticulturist was pleasantly surprised to observe grapes growing wild along the banks of the waterway. “I have found my grape paradise!” he said, excited by the prospect of working with the vine after the difficult time in Nebraska. Again, he established a commercial nursery and planted a vineyard, and also built a home on 43 acres north of Denison. (Later, the family moved south of the city and constructed a larger house on 200 acres.) The viticulturist began in earnest to study grapes and experiment in breeding and hybridizing American varieties. He set aside several weeks annually, from late summer into early fall, for traveling the state to find wild species of the fruit and collect the seeds and vines of those deemed best for his research. Those forays continued in Texas and later in other states and Mexico for the next 15 years.

Munson published papers on his studies and crossbreeding experiments, lectured, and corresponded with fellow horti-

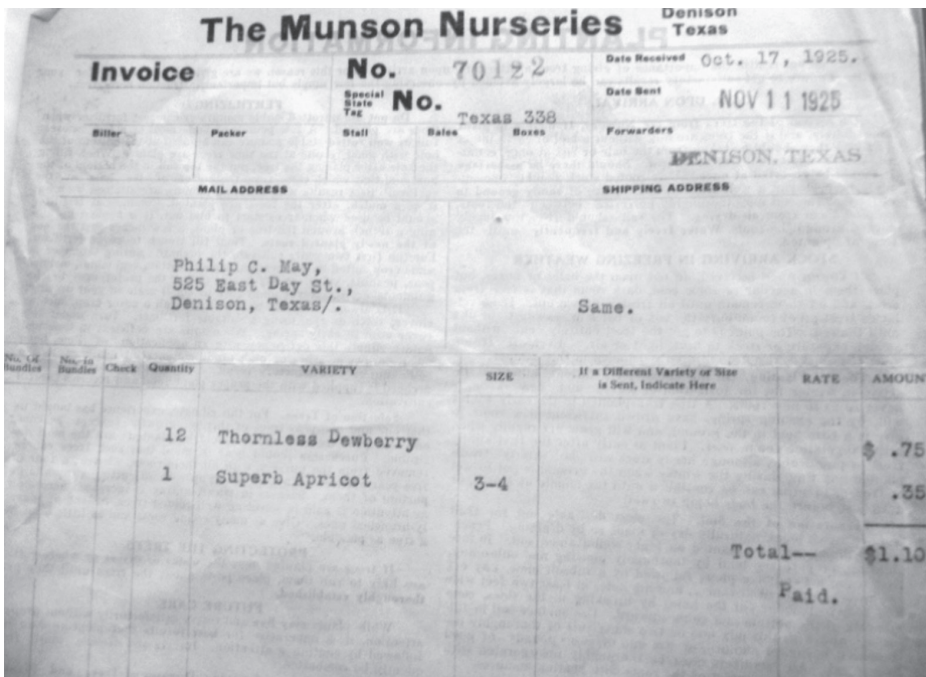
culturists, viticulturists, and botanists, gradually earning a reputation as a grape authority, both nationally and internationally. In 1887, he was contacted by representatives of the French government, led by M. Pierre Viala, professor of viticulture at Institut National Agronomique, who were in desperate need of his expertise. *Phylloxera*, a plant louse, had decimated nearly six million acres of vineyards in France, Germany, and other European countries, and efforts to combat the problem had failed.

Munson’s familiarity with Texas native grapes included three varieties that were unaffected by the pest and might be well suited to French soils. In fact, years before, the viticulturist had cross-bred one of those, *Vitis berlandieri*, to create a phylloxera-resistant grape





Top: T. V. Munson designed the two-story brick Italianate-style house the family named "Vinita," which was built in 1887. The historic home, restored to its original state, now serves as a museum. During restoration, items belonging to Munson were discovered in the attic and basement, including books, scientific equipment, and booklets from the Chicago World's Fair of 1893. Photograph courtesy of the Grayson College Foundation.



Left: The "Grape Man's" cross breeding experiments also introduced more than two dozen hybrid varieties of fruit plants and trees that were sold by Munson Nurseries. After his father's death in 1913, William Bell Munson took over managing the business, which by then had gained world renown and an international clientele. Image courtesy of Mavis Bryant, Ph. D., and Grayson TXGenWeb. Original in color.

hybrid that grew in his vineyard. As a result of Munson's recommendations and past research, Viala returned to France convinced that saving his country's vineyards "can only be done by grafting upon native Texas vines." Munson would offer further assistance by shipping thousands of cuttings from his *berlandieri* hybrid to France, which when cross-pollinated with European varieties yielded a rootstock that produced vines that would not succumb to phylloxera.

The following year, the French government sent a delegation to Denison to confer on Munson the French Legion of Honor Chevalier du Mérite Agricole for his role in saving the country's wine industry. In 1898, he was elected as a foreign corresponding member of the Société Nationale d'Agriculture de France and made an honorary member in the Société des Viticulteurs de France. Several statues honoring Munson have been erected in France.

Ultimately, the viticulturist's studies led to the development of more than 300 hybrid varieties of his beloved fruit. In 1909, Munson also published *Foundations of American Grape Culture*, which became the standard reference on the topic in the United States.

In addition to his accomplishments as a respected horticulturist, botanist, and writer, Munson was interested in art and philosophy. He also had a talent for fixing machinery and inventing new farm implements, which became a lifelong hobby. He came up with many patented ideas for tools and other gadgetry. He designed a hoe in 1879 that remained in use until the 1920s and envisioned a primitive helicopter that he called the "Safety Flying Machine or Car."

T. V. Munson died in Denison on January 21, 1913, but not before he had developed one last group of grape hybrids that were released shortly after his death.

PRESERVING A "GRAPE" LEGACY

Decades after his passing, Munson's groundbreaking work and achievements were all but forgotten. However, around 1975, Grayson College, located in Denison, established the Thomas Volney Munson Memorial Vineyard to recognize his contribution to horticulture by cultivating and preserving many of the original varieties of his hybrid grapes.

In 1988, the T. V. Munson Viticulture and Enology Center opened next to the vineyard, housing many of Munson's writings and drawings, along with other memorabilia. Grayson College became the first community college in the country to offer a viticulture and enology program, another fitting tribute.

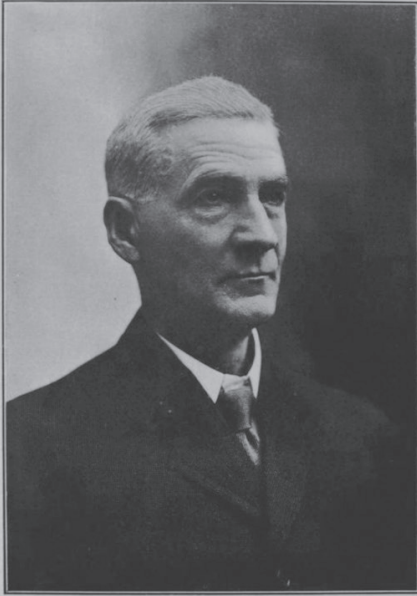
In 2005, the Grayson College Foundation acquired Vinita House, the Munson family's homestead, designed by the grape master. Today, the restored building is a museum that is furnished with pieces reflective of the late 19th century.

In the Munson biography *Grape Man of Texas*, coauthor Roy Renfro writes, "...to see [Thomas] Volney Munson with his hands in the earth, or gently tying up a grapevine, was to see him in the element he was born to enrich." Indeed, he did. ★

Kathy Hendrick is the director of development for the Grayson College Foundation. Pamela Murtha is the assistant editor of Texas HERITAGE magazine.

Primary Source: *Grape Man of Texas* by Sherrie S. McLeRoy and Roy E. Renfro, Jr., Ph. D.

Editor's note: In 2018, the Grayson College Foundation received a Texas Historical Foundation grant to digitally preserve T. V. Munson's documents, drawings, and personal artifacts.



T. V. Munson

Foundations of American Grape Culture

By
T. V. Munson, D. Sc.

Vice-President American Pomological Society,
Honorary Member American Wine Growers' Association,
Honorary Member of the Société des Viticulteurs de France,
Foreign Corresponding Member of the Société Nationale D'Agriculture de France,
Chevalier du Mérite Agricole, in Legion of Honor
Practical Viticulturist and Nurseryman.



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Leaves: Stipules minute, long-cordate, brown woolly, young, densely pubescent, pink or crimson, soon curving back from bud; petiole considerably more than half as long as width of blade; cylindrical with obscure groove above dull red, rusty woolly-pubescent all over, same as young wood; blade 2 3/4' to 4' wide by 2 1/2' long, hence circular in general outline; basal sinus acute at insertion of petiole, but quickly expanding to a broad bay, which generally is nearly or quite enclosed by the approach of basal limbs; lobes 5, 7, or 9, very broad in outer part, then narrowing greatly, leaving large, nearly circular sinuses. *The pure species always has leaves thus lobed.* Where it comes in contact with other species blooming at or nearly at same period, mixed forms are often found. Palmata, as a descriptive name would apply well to the leaves of the species. The lobes are always short and obtuse, except the mid-lobe is sometimes acute; teeth very short, scalloped or convex with a small mucron; venation, from the 5 to 7 nearly opposite pairs of ribs, obscured by a pale rusty or ash-colored, thin or dense felt all over lower side; ribs thinly woolly, and generally dull red; upper surface at first covered with thin, pale rusty hairs, soon becoming a rather lively light-green, much lighter than *V. aestivalis*, and quite wrinkled, giving a good hold for the Leaf-Folder (*Desmia funeralis*).

Cluster: 3' to 5' long, mostly simple, or moderately compound, open or compact, sometimes with a false tendril; peduncle medium to long, of nearly same diameter throughout, rather larger below tendril; rachis pale cottony or naked; pedicels short 1/8' or 1/8' thick, very warty in clusters of mature fruit.

Flowers: Stamens, pistil and style shorter than in *V. aestivalis*; fertile, stamens reflexed and bent laterally; berries 1/4' to 1/2' in diameter, spherical, black with considerable of prunose bloom when ripe, persistent; skin rather thick and tough, with much coloring matter; pulp generally juicy, less tough, acid and astringent than *V. aestivalis*, having also less sugar.

Seeds: Commonly 3 about the same average length as in *V. aestivalis*, but averaging broader, and much darker in color—a dark chocolate; beak short, small, well defined, dark brown; raphe becomes visible at base of beak and is slender and moderately prominent as it passes over top of seed, expanding gradually into the fairly conspicuous chalaza of medium size, lying in a very shallow basin in center of back of seed, with little or no groove toward the beak; ventral depressions very shallow, short, and curving away from raphe, of paler color than body of seed.

Plantlet: Seed-leaves small, broadly ovate, acute apex, green, with medium long petioles.

Viticultural Observations and Remarks

Germination quicker than *V. aestivalis*, feeble to strong; foliation, inflorescence, and ripening of fruit later than in *V. aestivalis*. Plant remains very spindling till three years old from seed, then becomes very rampant. Endures drouth and heat very well but very sensitive to cold, about half-hardy at Denison, Texas. Resists mildew and rot very well. Cuttings grow with more difficulty even than those of *V. aestivalis*.

It has been found hybridized naturally with *V. cordifolia*, *V. aestivalis*, *V. coriacea*, *V. cinerea*, var. *floridana*.

It is confined almost entirely in Florida, and with *V. coriacea* and *V. Munsoniana*, is abundant all over the southern half of that State.

One vine growing at Ashtabula, Florida, appears to be a hybrid of this species with *V. coriacea*. It was brought to my attention by G. H. Norton, of Eustis, Florida. Young vines of it with me have borne abundantly a very good grape, little inferior in appearance or quality to Norton Virginia, and might furnish the basis for a noble strain of extreme southern grapes. Another from J. H. Simpson, of Manatee, Fla., found wild by him, appears to be of same hybrid character, with later and larger, good fruit. It is a valuable species for experimentation in the extreme South.

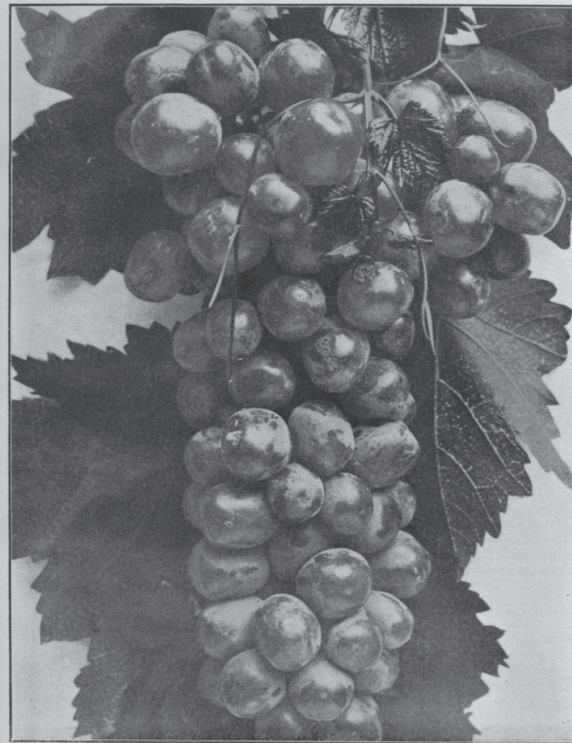


PLATE XVII. VITIS VINIFERA (FLAME TOKAY).

Above: *Foundations of American Grape Culture* was the result of decades of study and countless field trips, as well as Munson's studies of and experimentation on the fruit. The book has been reprinted several times since its publication in 1909, most recently in 2001, and remains in demand. Photograph courtesy of University of California Libraries.

A ROAD TRIP TO FAR WEST TEXAS



It is said that a person really has to want to go to Far West Texas—meaning that getting there is not easy. Airports can be distant, and road trips often are many hours long. But once a traveler puts in the effort, they discover the area’s beautiful landscapes, which vary from high desert to lush mountaintops, and a colorful history made even better by the remoteness. The region is unlike any other in the state. The West Texas road trip pictured here focused on Fort Davis and Balmorhea.

Above: Visitors to the Fort Davis National Historic Site are familiar with the stone spires that provide the backdrop at the frontier military post, which operated from 1854 to 1891 and helped protect immigrants, freight, and mail wagons traveling in the area. In this image, non-commissioned officers and their families pose on those rocks. Photograph courtesy of the National Park Service.

Right, top: This assortment of head gear is displayed in the barracks at Fort Davis National Historic Site. Soldiers thought little of the white helmet because they believed its light color did not blend in with the surroundings. The men resorted to using coffee to darken the helmet's cloth fabric covering. Photograph courtesy of Gene Krane.



Right, middle: Disease and infection caused more deaths at Fort Davis than battle wounds. Doctors, who had limited training, relied on rudimentary Instruments and medicines. Photograph courtesy of Gene Krane.

Right, bottom: Balmorhea's San Solomon Springs have provided water for thousands of years. Farmers hand dug primitive canals that channeled the spring water downstream to irrigate crops. In 1927, the Bureau of Reclamation constructed a canal, which still sustains fields of alfalfa and cotton today. Photograph courtesy of Jessica Gadis.



Below: The Sibley Stove was designed by Civil War General Henry Hopkins Sibley. According to the Overland Trail Museum in Fort Davis, the metal stove was used for both cooking and warmth. It was placed in the middle of a tent and fueled by wood. An attached stove pipe through the top of the tent carried the smoke out. Photograph courtesy of the Overland Trail Museum.

To see more small-town Texas photographs by Dan Utley, featured in the last issue of Texas HERITAGE magazine, visit www.univarchives.txstate.edu/exhibitions/online-exhibitions.html.



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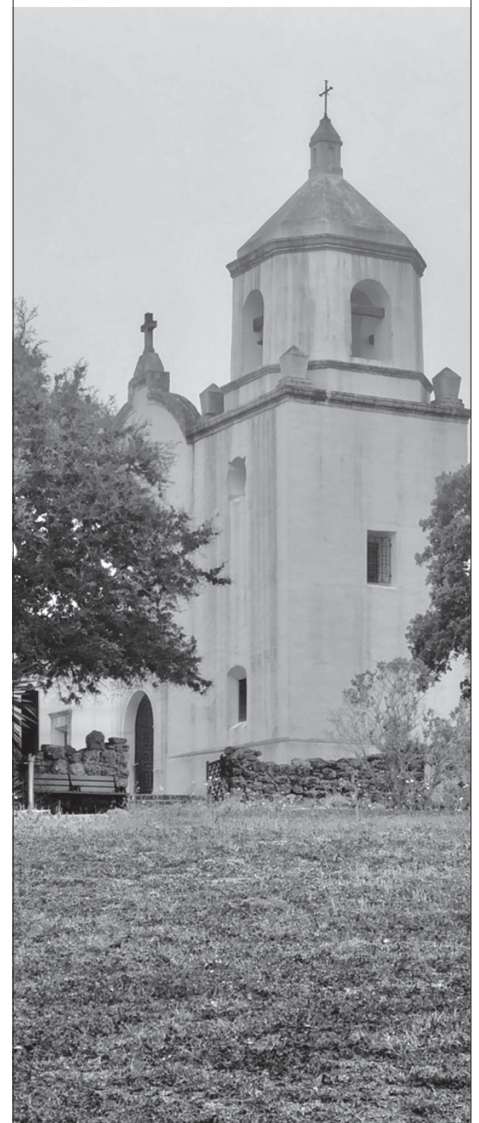
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