THE TEXAS GULF HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD

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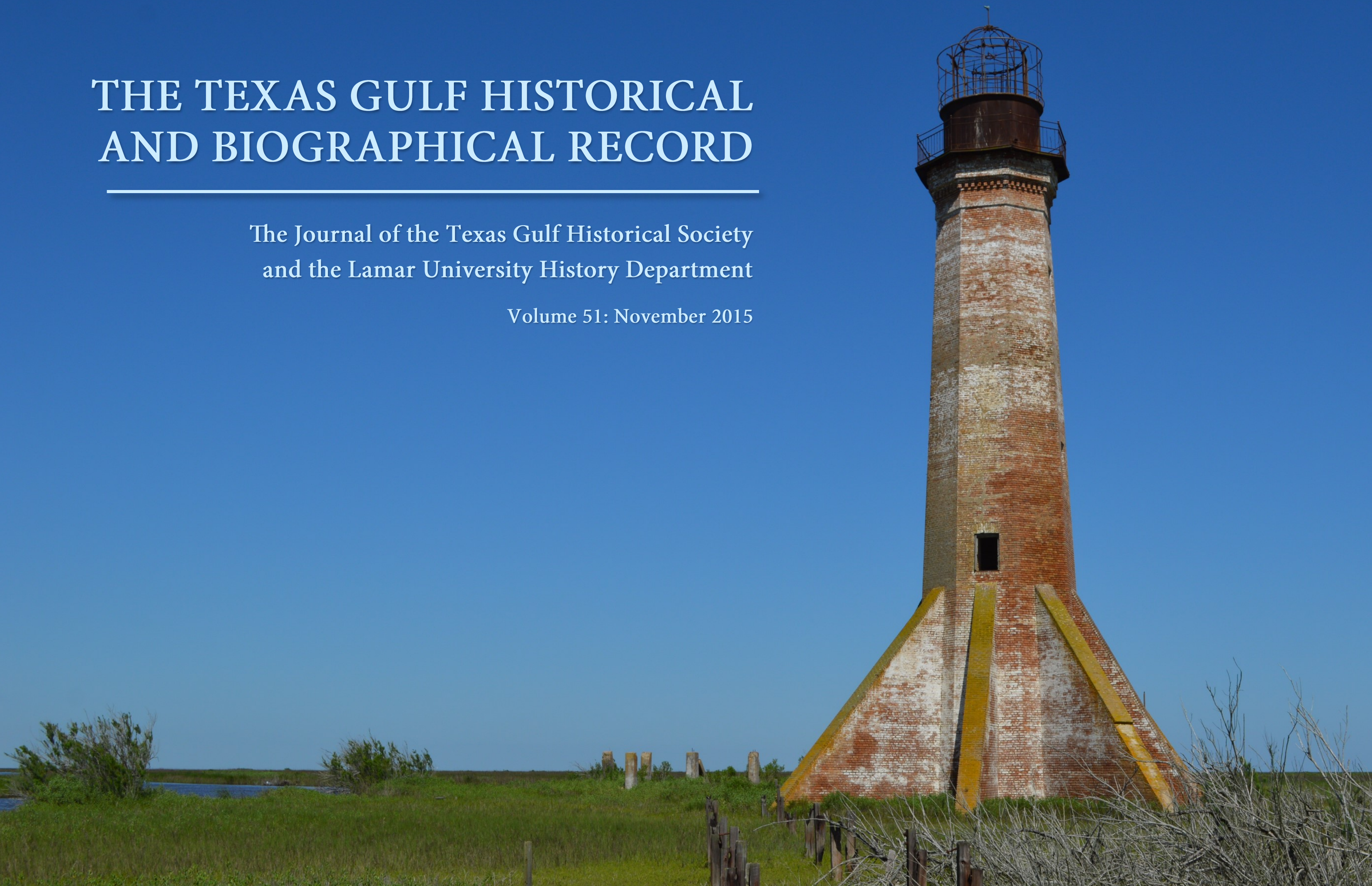

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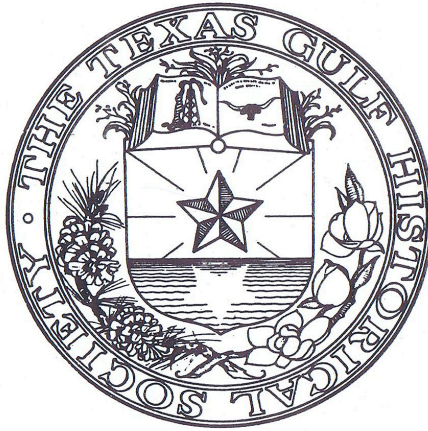

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THE JOURNAL OF
The Texas Gulf Historical Society
AND
The Lamar University History Department

Texas Gulf Historical and Biographical Record

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE HISTORY OF SOUTHEAST TEXAS AND THE GULF COAST

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November 2015

EDITOR
Jimmy L. Bryan Jr.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Robert J. Robertson

PROCEEDINGS
Ann Creswell

GRADUATE ASSISTANT
Valerie Domingue

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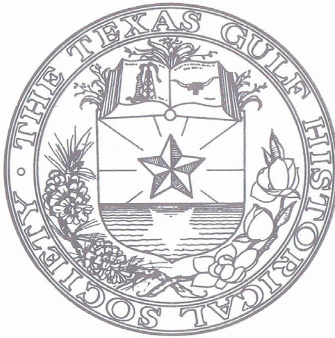
The Dr. Andrew J. and Betty H. Johnson 2016 Editor's Prize



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Through the generosity and support of Dr. Andrew J. and Betty H. Johnson, the Texas Gulf Historical Society will recognize a deserving Lamar University graduate or undergraduate history major for writing the best research article on Beaumont, Southeast Texas, or the Texas Gulf Coast completed in the 2015-2016 academic year. The recipient will receive a $500 scholarship and publication in *The Texas Gulf Historical and Biographical Record*.

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Submit by August 1, 2016

To: Jimmy L. Bryan Jr., Editor
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Editor's Note

Jimmy L. Bryan Jr.

In this issue, Kristin M. Szylvian of St. John's University examines the influence of Lawrence Westbrook and David R. Williams upon housing reform during the Great Depression and World War II. Their work culminated in 1942 with the construction of Multimax Village in Beaumont, Texas. Zachary Defrancis is the inaugural winner of the Dr. Andrew J. and Betty H. Johnson Editor's Prize for his essay in which he charts the history and neglect of the Sabine Pass Lighthouse, which operated for almost 100 years between 1857 and 1952. This volume also marks the return of two departments. In "Museum Corner," Lynn P. Castle explores the visual poetry of Port Arthur-native Harvey Johnson, and in "Primary Sources," Theresa Hefner-Babb interviews Cynthia K. Summers and Ralph J. Hefner-Babb, who in 2003 deployed to Uzbekistan as members of the 373rd Combat Sustainment Battalion, U.S. Army Reserves.

For making this volume possible, I would like to thank Robert J. Robertson, associate editor of *The Record*, for his tireless efforts; Jerry Craven, director of the Lamar University Literary Press, for his generosity of time and expertise; and the contributors for their hard work and patience. Mary L. Scheer, chair of the Lamar University History Department, and John Nelson and Ben S. Woodhead Jr., presidents past and present of the Texas Gulf Historical Society, continue to provide crucial support. I would also like to express my appreciation for Ann Creswell and Suzanne K. Stafford of the Society for their assistance. Mona Brittain kindly allowed us to reprint her poetry, and Mr. Defrancis provided the photograph for the cover.

Finally, take a look at our new website for *The Record* (www.texasgulfrecord.org), and visit our page on Facebook (www.facebook.com/texasgulfrecord).

Completed home module at Multimax Village, n.d. *Courtesy of the David Williams Papers, Edith Garland Dupré Library, University of Louisiana at Lafayette.*

The Road to Multimax Village

Lawrence Westbrook, David R. Williams, and the Collective Responsibility of Mutual Housing Reform

Kristin M. Szylvian

During the administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, civil engineer Lawrence Westbrook and architect David R. Williams of the Federal Works Agency (FWA) constructed a series of residential communities in response to the crises of the Great Depression and the mobilization of a workforce during the Second World War. In Southeast Texas and elsewhere in the United States, Westbrook and Williams developed suburban mutual housing projects and rural cooperative farm communities with minimalist dwellings. Through government assisted homeownership, they hoped to instill the seemingly contradictory values of individualism and collective responsibility. Their efforts culminated in the construction of the 600-unit Multimax Village in Beaumont, Texas. Like the vision of Westbrook and Williams to provide inexpensive housing to America's working class, Multimax succeeded in providing immediate housing for wartime workers, but it did not achieve an enduring impact. Despite the postwar interest in prefabricated housing, the federal government dismantled the project during the 1950s.[1]

Kristin M. Szylvian wishes to express appreciation to the anonymous reader, Jimmy L. Bryan Jr., Robert J. Robertson, Albert Duran, Brandon Williams, and Scott Keefer. She is an Associate Professor of History, Director of the Public History Program, and Director of Archives Concentration at St. John's University, New York. She is the author of *The Mutual Housing Experiment: New Deal Communities for the Urban Middle Class* (2015); with Michael J. Chiarappa, author of *Fish for All: An Oral History of Multiple Claims and Divided Sentiment on Lake Michigan* (2003); and with John F. Bauman and Roger Biles, editor of *From Tenement to the Taylor Homes: In Search of a Housing Policy for Twentieth Century Urban America* (2000).

1. Such model, experimental, and utopian communities have and continue to be of keen interest to historians. Donald E. Pitzer's *America's Communal Utopias* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1997), Robert S. Fogarty's *All Things New: American Communes and Utopian Movements, 1860-1914* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1990), and Edward K. Spann's *Brotherly Tomorrows: Movements for a Cooperative Society in America, 1820-1920* (New York: Colum-

The Great Depression and the Second World War precipitated a real estate market crisis in the United States. The U.S. Congress and President Roosevelt responded by authorizing hundreds of new urban, suburban, and rural communities. Westbrook was one of the most prolific and influential developers of publicly funded neighborhoods and towns during the 1930s and 1940s. He oversaw the construction of 28 "rural resettlement" communities for relief recipients via the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) in 1934-1935, a suburb for Michigan automobile workers for the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in 1935-1936, and nine residential communities for the civilian employees of defense contractors on behalf of the FWA in 1940-1942. Westbrook worked closely with architect David R. Williams, who provided many of the ideas for the experimental approaches they introduced. Williams designed the critically acclaimed Multimax Village in Beaumont, Texas, as a prototype for demountable housing that could be quickly assembled and reassembled wherever wartime needs demanded.[2]

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bia University Press, 1989) are the leading works on U.S. religious and ideological communities in the industrial era. Paul K. Conkin's *Tomorrow a New World: The New Deal Community Program* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press for the American Historical Association, 1959) remains the definitive work on the publicly funded model rural and suburban communities built during the Great Depression. Insight into the experimental communities built in Texas can be gleaned from each of these works. In *The War on Slums in the Southwest: Public Housing and Slum Clearance in Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico, 1935-1965* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2015), Robert B. Fairbanks offers a comparative perspective on how New Deal funds altered the urban landscape with the construction of large low-income public housing developments. Studies of individual communities or community leaders include Jose Maria Herrera, "Vision of a Utopian Texas: Robert Owen's Colonization Scheme," *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* (hereafter *SWHQ*), 116 (April 2013): 343-356; Donald J. Kagay, "Icaria: An Aborted Utopia on the Texas Frontier," *SWHQ*, 116 (April 2013): 359-385; Harry E. Wade, "'Les Communists' in East Texas," *East Texas Historical Journal* (hereafter *ETHJ*), 24 (1986): 15-26; and Jayme A. Sokolow and Mary Ann Lamanna, "Women and Utopia: The Women's Commonwealth of Belton, Texas," *SWHQ*, 87, (April 1984): 371-392. On housing and living conditions in Texas during the Great Depression and World War II, see *Texas Cities and the Great Depression* by Robert C. Coulter, Robert F. Colwell, Dorothy De Moss, et al., (Austin: Texas Memorial Museum, 1973); Paul E. Isaac, "Beaumont, Texas and the Great Depression, 1929-1933," *The Texas Gulf Historical and Biographical Record* (hereaftrer *TGHBR*) 14 (November 1978): 14-31; Lauren Schaubhut "World War II Sacrifices on the Home Front in Houston County, Texas," *ETHJ*, 45 (2007): 57-26; Ralph A. Wooster, "East Texas in World War II," *ETHJ*, 45 (2007): 41-56; Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez, "Reinventing Houston: Mexican-Americans of the World War II Generation," *Houston Review of History and Culture*, 2 (March 2005): 11-15; Yvette C. Rosser, "The Impact of WWII on a Rural East Texas Community," *Journal of the Midwest Education Society*, 25 (1998): 29-34.

2. Williams felt that others, including Westbrook, had laid "personal claim" to his ideas. O'Neil Ford to David R. Williams, Bryan, TX, undated, David Williams Papers, Edith Garland Dupré Library, University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Westbrook was well suited to creating government programs to help the refugees of drought and economic depression by both background and temperament. Born into a family of prosperous and politically active East Texas cotton growers, he served in France during World War I as a lieutenant colonel. He returned to Texas, briefly studied civil engineering and law at the University of Texas in Austin, and became involved in cooperative cotton marketing. Turning to Democratic Party politics, he served in the Texas State Legislature from 1928 to 1932. Westbrook would later say that his interest in housing "for families of average income" dated from his days in the state house, where he learned that "the average citizen can not enjoy housing facilities at least as good as those which the State must, in common decency, provide for its wards."[3]

In 1933, Texas governor Miriam A. "Ma" Ferguson appointed Westbrook to direct the Texas Rehabilitation and Relief Commission. In that position, he found that the need for relief funds was staggering in both the cities and the countryside. Westbrook was given roughly three weeks to develop and implement a system for the distribution of relief benefits to qualified recipients across Texas. Not surprisingly, the distribution system he put into place was inefficient and easily manipulated by wrongdoers. A state senate investigation subjected Westbrook to two weeks of rigorous questioning regarding the expenditure of relief funds. He admitted failing to take action against known cases of waste and corruption and agreed to resign. Westbrook, who came to the post with no education or professional training in social work, left Austin after ably defending the relief system against its political opponents.[4]

Later that year, Westbrook began work on community development project in Trinity County that would not only illustrate his innovative planning but also

3. Lawrence Westbrook, "Housing for Medium-Income Families," Address to National Public Housing Conference (typewritten copy), 1, Warren J. Vinton Papers, Olin Library, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY; Keith J. Volanto, *Texas, Cotton, and the New Deal*, (College Station: Texas A&M Press, 2005). For a fictional account of the Texas Cotton Growers Cooperative, see Dorothy Scarborough, *Can't Get a Red Bird,* (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1929). On housing conditions, see Judith Linsley, "Fact Finding Survey of Beaumont, Texas, about Colored Citizens, 1930," *TGHBR*, 35 (November 1999): 48.

4. Westbrook served concurrently as the Civil Works Administrator for the State of Texas. Texas Rehabilitation and Relief Commission, *Report to the Senate Investigating Committee of the 43rd Legislature First Called Session* (typewritten), 494-495, Texas Office of the Governor, Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Austin, TX; Irvin S. Taubkin, "Texas Scrutinizes its Relief Work," *New York Times* (hereafter *NYT*), October 5, 1933. See also, "Ferguson's Passing Forecast in Texas," *NYT*, February 18, 1934, and "Adam Johnson to Direct Relief," *Dallas Morning News*, February 2, 1934.

capture the attention of Roosevelt administration. He arranged for the Texas Rural Communities, Inc., a non-profit corporation, to obtain a FERA loan to purchase, enlarge, and develop a privately built farm colony named Woodlake for white relief recipients. Westbrook was convinced that relief funds ought to be used for "permanent rehabilitation rather than outright grants." He believed that those who returned back to the land would economically and socially flounder unless New Deal officials helped them help themselves through education and the establishment of producer and rural cooperatives and eventually, "modest industrial activities," that would allow them to more fully participate in the consumer economy. Westbrook anticipated that residents of his community would eventually purchase their homesteads "over a long period at a reasonable rate of interest." In this way, the collective efforts facilitated by the federal government fostered the individualism that many Americans valued as a national virtue.[5]

Architect Williams helped shape Westbrook's vision and significantly influenced the design and approach to the Woodlake community. He improved the site plan and created attractive, functional public buildings including a school, bathhouse, meetinghouse, and store. Williams designed 101 prefabricated houses that could be assembled by homesteaders equipped with basic carpentry skills and tools. Each family was expected to cultivate its own three-acre subsistence plot and contribute labor to the cultivation and processing of the crops grown in the community's 1,200 acres of collective fields.[6]

Westbrook promoted Woodlake as a model for other communities built with public and private funds. Sensitive to the growing power of visual media to shape public opinion, he arranged for the making of an 11-minute film documentary to tell the story of one of Woodland's first homesteaders, an unem-

5. Westbrook, "Getting Them off Relief," *Proceedings of the National Conference on Social Work* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1935), 621, and "Architects Lay Plans for Texas Farm Colonies," *Los Angeles Times*, January 21, 1934. See also, Westbrook, "The Program of Rural Rehabilitation of the FERA," *Journal of Farm Economics*, 17 (February 1935): 89-91. For criticism of the FERA see, Diane Yvonne Ghirarado, *Building New Communities: New Deal America and Fascist Italy,* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1989), 124.

6. Michael Glen Wade, "David Reichard Williams: Avant-Garde Architect and Community Planner, 1890-1962" (PhD dissertation, University of Southeastern Louisiana, Lafayette, 1978), 188. See also, James Terry Booker, "The Woodlake Cooperative Community: A New Deal Experiment in Rural Living for the Unemployed, (MA thesis, Texas A&M University, College Station, 1976), 11-13; "Rural Industrial Community Projects: Woodlake, Texas; Osceola, Arkansas; and Red House, West Virginia," *The Architectural Record*, 77 (1935): 12. Quote from Conkin, *Tomorrow a New World*, 132.

Assembling a housing module at Multimax Village, February 1942. *Courtesy of the David Williams Papers, Edith Garland Dupré Library, University of Louisiana at Lafayette.*

ployed Houston bookkeeper. The title of the film, "Frontier," suggested that by combining individual initiative and mutual assistance, Woodlake homesteaders could use the same formula for economic and social advancement successfully employed by America's early colonists. Despite the optimistic tone of the film, residents, local business interests, and outsiders criticized Woodlake for its cooperative idea.[7]

Like other public and private community development projects of its day, Woodlake was complicated and ambitious, and involved thousands of acres of land, large sums of money, and scores of people. The scale of the project and the use of heavy construction equipment, power tools, and prefabricated construction made it possible for the FERA to immediately establish its environmental, economic, and political presence in the region. At the same time, some of the changes Westbrook and other New Deal housing officials imposed upon communities were limited and did not include challenges to segregation by race and class.

At Woodlake, Westbrook learned lessons and established patterns and precedents that he would more or less follow in rest of the community development

7. Wade, "David Reichard Williams," 232. At roughly the same time, a small handful of Texas cities were pursuing federal housing aid through the Public Works Administration. See, Fairbanks, *The War on the Slums in the Southwest,* 26-46.

projects he undertook during the Roosevelt years. The experience showed him of the value of collaboration with forward-looking architects like Williams who were committed to community planning and immersed in both modern and indigenous building methods and materials. Westbrook gained an appreciation for the importance of getting the target audience involved early in a project, and later, giving residents a way to become financially vested in their community. The Woodlake experience convinced Westbrook of the importance of public relations, and he tried to carefully control the public image of the communities he developed, presenting them to the news media as models to inspire or guide future public and private investment.[8]

Westbrook's achievement at Woodlake brought him to the notice of Harry Hopkins, director of the National Relief Administration. In early 1934, Westbrook accepted an appointment from Hopkins to oversee FERA's Division of Rural Rehabilitation and Stranded Populations. Westbrook traveled throughout the western half of the United States on special assignment and personally updated Roosevelt on the impact of the drought and the effectiveness of relief programs. He hired Williams to help him plan and build 28 rural rehabilitation residential communities in 1934-1935. Most, but not all of the new communities were located in the south and central plains states. The Matanuska Colony was in the Territory of Alaska.[9]

Westbrook operated FERA's community development program independently of a similar undertaking directed by the Department of the Interior whose Division of Subsistence Homesteads built 34 developments nationwide in 1933-1934. Two of the four subsistence homesteads in Texas were on the Gulf Coast—Houston Gardens and Beauxart Gardens. Federal planners expected residents of these and other "industrial homestead" communities that included manufacturing sites to take advantage of their rural-urban "rurban" location by combining wage labor with work on their homestead. Houston Gardens was one of only a small handful of subsistence homesteads nationwide open to African Americans. Located north of downtown, Houston Gardens consisted of 100 homesteads situated on a "large oval parceled

8. J. H. Jenkins, "U.S. Corporation to Hold Control of Farm Colonies," *Atlanta Constitution*, April 23, 1934.

9. "President Orders Quick Drought Aid," *NYT*, May 15, 1934; "Roosevelt Calls Discussion on Relief," *Los Angeles Times*, June 5, 1934. In addition to Woodlake, FERA funded two other cooperative farming communities in Texas—Ropesville Farms in Hockley County and Wichita Valley Farms in Wichita County. William R. Johnson, "Rural Rehabilitation in the New Deal: The Ropesville Project," *SWHQ*, 79, (January 1976): 279-295.

on its ends into pie-shaped lots." Parks were located at the center and edges of the community.[10]

Beauxart Gardens was reserved for white homesteaders and occupied a large tract of land between Beaumont and Port Arthur. It consisted of 50 homesteads ranging in size from 2,000 to over 4,000 acres each and two community parks with over 10,000 combined acres. Similar to Westbrook's vision of government assisted homeownership, the Beauxart Homestead Association, a non-profit corporation, made it possible for homesteaders to obtain their house and land over time.[11]

In 1936 while serving as Assistant Administrator of the WPA, Westbrook held to his philosophy of future self-sufficiency, but switched the focus of his community development work from the working-class poor to moderate or "middle-income" urban and suburban wage-earners. Westbrook developed a residential community of architect-designed detached houses in a wooded tract outside of Pontiac, Michigan, using funds donated by the late U.S. Senator James Couzens (Republican, Michigan). Similar to Woodlake and Beauxart Gardens, the lease-to-own housing program that Westbrook devised for West Acres made it possible for automobile workers and other wage-earners to purchase their dwelling over time from the not-for-profit Oakland Housing Corporation.[12]

Shortly after the West Acres project, Westbrook left government service and began working as a private real estate developer. In 1937, he hired the renowned architect Richard J. Neutra to design a residential community for a site near Jacksonville, Florida. Neutra's plan for the Park Living Colony called for the grouping of dwelling units around an interior park. Financial backing

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10. Rafael Longoria and Susan Rogers, "The Rurban Horseshoe: Historic Black Neighborhoods on the Periphery," *Cite*, 73 (Winter 2008): 20. The community was transferred to, not started by, the Resettlement Administration. It was built by the Division of Subsistence Homesteads. "Farm Cities Follow American Designs," *NYT*, August 7, 1934; Conkin, *Tomorrow a New World,* 162.

11. Judith W. Linsley, "Beauxart Gardens," 6, McFaddin-Ward House Museum Research File; Colib Guy, "Subdivision Founded as Depression Era 'Colony,'" *Beaumont Enterprise*, June 8, 2009. The other Texas subsistence homesteads were Three Rivers Gardens in Three Rivers, Dalworthington Gardens in Arlington, and Wichita Gardens in Wichita Falls. Marshall Gardens in Marshall was listed in U.S. Department of the Interior, Division of Subsistence Homesteads, *Homestead and Hope*, Bulletin No. One, (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1935), 26. McLennan Farms in McLennan County, Sabine Farms in Harrison County, and Sam Houston Farms in Harris County were farm communities developed by the Resettlement Administration.

12. "Westacres," *The Architectural Record,* 80 (October 1936): 253.

for the project proved to be insufficient and the development was never built. In 1940, Neutra allowed Westbrook to adapt the plan for the Park Living Colony to suit the sites selected for a special group of eight defense housing developments.[13]

Westbrook returned to the Roosevelt administration in mid-1940 at a time when when defense began to supersede relief as the primary concern for federal housing. In October, Congress passed a bill sponsored by Congressman Fritz G. Lanham (Democrat, Texas) that called for appropriations for the construction of housing for defense workers and their families. During the debate, Westbrook proposed that developments built under the Lanham Act be leased, and later sold, to non-profit corporations known as "mutual housing associations" formed by the residents. Westbrook's plan would make it possible for workers of public-financed residential communities to obtain an economic stake in their homes which he considered a key element missing from the politically unpopular low-income program.[14]

This new emphasis on wartime housing would allow Westbrook to refine his vision that mutual housing could lead to self-sufficiency for America's working class. FWA administrator John M. Carmody, who was charged with financial oversight of the expenditure of Lanham funds, authorized Westbrook to give the mutual home ownership plan a trial run. In November 1940, he placed Westbrook in charge of the agency's newly created Mutual Ownership Defense Housing Division (Mutual Division) and assigned him responsibility to develop eight residential communities ranging in size from 250 to 1,000 dwelling units. Westbrook hired his former associate, architect David Williams, to serve as the Mutual Division's director of planning.

At Carmody's request, Westbrook met with John Green, the president and founder of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America, part of the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO). He had independently proposed cooperative housing for defense workers. Together, Green and Westbrook refined the mutual home ownership plan and agreed that the Division should function as a "housing laboratory," combining mutual housing with experimentation in "all phases of the housing industry,"

13. Richard J. Neutra, "Peace Can Gain from War's Forced Changes," *Pencil Points*, 23 (November 1942): 31, 34.

14. Westbrook to Howard O. Hunter, October 7, 1940, Washington, DC, and Hunter to John M. Carmody, October 10, 1940, Washington, DC, Papers of John M. Carmody, Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, Hyde Park, NY. See also, Elsie Danenburg, *Get Your Own Home the Co-operative Way* (New York: Greenberg Publishers, 1949), 142.

including finance, planning, architecture and design, construction, and management. They agreed that the first community built by the Division to test the mutual home ownership plan would be Audubon Village (now Park), located on the outskirts of Camden, several miles from the New York Shipbuilding Corporation's huge shipyard.[15]

Architects Joseph N. Hettle and Oscar Stonorov designed one and two story wood framed houses for Audubon Village. The 499 dwellings were assembled from plywood panels built by CIO workers in a nearby workshop where Mutual Division architect Burns Roensch observed that the use of "assembly jigs and lumber cut to exact dimensions with power saws" permitted "efficient employment of unskilled labor and thus lowered cost of production." Roof and wall panels were carefully transported by truck to the job site and installed by specialized crews. When the American Federation of Labor (AFL) threatened to picket the work site, Carmody, a former member of the National Labor Relations Board, personally negotiated an agreement to appease the building trades. AFL workmen would build 28 Audubon Village dwellings using the "conventional hammer-and-saw in the field" method of construction and the rest of the houses would be prefabricated.[16]

As construction was progressed on Audubon Village, work on the other pilot projects got underway. The Mutual Division built Bellmawr Park in Bellmawr, New Jersey, Winfield Park in Winfield, New Jersey, and Pennypack Woods in Philadelphia for workers employed in shipbuilding, shipping, and other maritime trades. The Mutual Division worked with CIO unions in the Midwest representing electrical machinery and automotive assembly workers in planning and building Greenmont Village near Dayton, Ohio, and Walnut Grove in South Bend, Indiana.[17]

Westbrook built two of the Mutual Division's eight model communities in Texas in response to the housing shortage created by the growth of aviation

15. Westbrook, Report to John B. Blandford Jr., Washington, DC, March 7 1942, 2, Lawrence Westbrook Papers, The Texas Collection, Baylor University, Waco, TX.

16. Burns Roensch quoted in "Houses Built in Jig Time," *Engineering News-Record*, May 22, 1941, 57. See also, "500-House Experiment at Camden, New Jersey: FWA Defense Housing Project Tries Mutual Ownership Plan as Well as Prefabrication," *American Builder*, 63 (August 1941): 53, 116. On the AFL, see "Building for Defense . . . Government Housing in a Hurry," *The Architectural Forum*, 75 (November 1941): 344.

17. Westbrook originally planned for two other mutual developments in Coatesville, Pennsylvania, including the George Washington Carver Courts for African American steelworkers, but they were reassigned to the Federal Public Housing Authority.

training and aircraft production and service. Metropolitan Dallas area realtors and housing developers maintained they could supply all the housing needed, but Roosevelt administration officials drew a different conclusion. Westbrook constructed two defense housing developments for whites employed at the North American Aviation Corporation plant at the Naval Air Station in Grand Prairie. Avion Village was designed by a team of architects that included Roscoe DeWitt, Richard Neutra, and David Williams. On May 16, 1941, federal, state, and local housing and industry leaders gathered at the work site to eat lunch and watch two teams race to assemble a prefabricated house in less than one hour. The event was covered in *Life* and featured in newspapers all over the United States.[18]

Westbrook's Mutual Division and its eight pilot projects continued to attract national attention. *Architectural Record* favorably recognized Burns Roensch's design of Dallas Park in Dallas where he combined modern and East Texas vernacular architectural features such as front porches. The *Christian Science Monitor* indicated that if the residents proved the value of this "new idea in housing," they could help "revolutionize the way millions of Americans buy their homes." The *New York Times* predicted that if the "new mutual method of home buying" proved successful in its "first test" at Audubon Village, it could "revolutionize real estate practices." Union leader Green, his wife, and children were among the first families to move into the "cooperative guinea pig."[19]

When the United States entered the war in December 1941, the Mutual Division's eight pilot projects were not yet completed. One month later, Congress amended the Lanham Act requiring the construction of temporary housing wherever wartime needs remained unfilled unless a compelling case could be made for the construction of permanent dwellings. On February 24, 1942, Roosevelt put an end to the rumors of a housing shake-up when he ordered the consolidation of all federal housing programs under the National Housing Agency (NHA). One of the NHA's constituent agencies, the Federal Public Housing Authority (FPHA) inherited the low income and defense housing

18. "Federal Housing for Aviation Workers," *The Architectural Forum*, 75 (July 1941): 5; "Texas Workmen Build Finished Home in 58 Minutes," *Life,* June 9, 1941: 59-60, 63.

19. "With Benefit of Local Planning," *The Architectural Record*, 90, (November 1941): 85; "New Jersey Area Has New Idea in Housing Being Tested by 500 Families," *Christian Science Monitor*, October 29, 1941; "Tenants Buy Town in New Home Plan," *NYT*, November 9, 1941; "Co-operative Guinea Pig," [January 1941 clipping] in Westbrook to Blandford, March 7, 1942, Appendix E, Westbrook Papers.

programs of over a dozen different departments and agencies, including Westbrook's Mutual Division.[20]

Westbrook and several other New Dealers associated with communitarian reform were replaced or voluntarily stepped down when the consolidation took place. Under the leadership of National Housing administrator John B. Blandford Jr. the federal government's residential development activity became largely confined to temporary housing. There was a growing emphasis on the provision of direct and indirect aid to commercial home builders and real estate developers that promoted home ownership for wage-earners. Convinced that there was no place for him and the mutual housing program within the new federal housing bureaucracy, Westbrook made preparations to return to the U.S. Army.

Before he shipped out, Westbrook and Williams completed one more project—Multimax Village in Beaumont, Texas. Their plan offered architectural critics a glimpse of what they saw as the future of wartime housing. In late 1941, Westbrook and Williams began work on the a 600-unit community to accomodate white workers employed by the Pennsylvania Shipbuilding Company and other local defense contractors. It was the first and only development undertaken by the Mutual Division that featured prefabricated housing that was "demountable" or "portable" and was not earmarked for sale to the residents on a mutual ownership basis, but would nonetheless be called "far and away the biggest news of the war housing program."[21]

Working in collaboration with Roy A. Worden, Karl R. Schwartz, and associate architect William P. Jones, Williams approached the Multimax project as a "miniature" housing experiment within the laboratory of the Mutual Division's housing program. The architects produced a design for a one and a quarter story dwelling consisting of demountable wood panels that could be readily assembled and disassembled with a minimum of skilled labor and reassembled wherever needed. *Architectural Forum* reported in May 1942 that Multimax Village came "closest to illustrating the kind of shelter that is required" to help bring the war to a successful conclusion. The project set a new

20. W. Clifford Harvey, "Private Industry's View of Defense Housing," *Christian Science Monitor*, December 19, 1941.

21. "War Housing," *The Architectural Forum*, 76 (May 1942): 285; Jamie Credle, "Connecting with the War Era: The Office of War Information Photographs of Beaumont and Orange, Texas," *TGHBR*, 33 (November 1997): 50-75. At its height, the Pennsylvania Shipyard employed 10,000 workers and constructed 109 transport ships during a two-year period. William T. Faucett, "Shipbuilding in Beaumont during World War II," *TGHBR*, 41 (November 2005): 55-65.

Workers loading prefabricated wood panels at the Multimax Village construction site, March 1942. *Courtesy of the David Williams Papers, Edith Garland Dupré Library, University of Louisiana at Lafayette.*

"pattern for rapid construction of salvageable shelter requiring a minimum of critical material."[22]

Workers from the Henry C. Beck Company prefabricated wood panels in a nearby tent and assembled them by using the same mass-production methods employed at Avion Village and Dallas Park. Multimax's first 350 units were finished "60 to 75 days after the allocation of funds," much faster than the typical defense housing development which took 272 days to complete. The amount of critical material such as copper used in each dwelling unit dropped from an average of 937 pounds to 484 pounds. Under the provisions of the Lanham Act per unit cost of defense housing by 1942 could not exceed $4,000. Westbrook met that goal by reducing the cost per unit at Multimax by more than 50 percent. He estimated that in the event of relocation of the dwelling units, builders could reuse up to 70 percent of the original materials, depending on how long they were in use.[23]

22. "War Housing," 261-262. Worden and Schwartz designed South Bend's Walnut Grove.

23. "War Housing," 290-291.

Williams designed the dwelling units of Multimax Village as temporary structures that builders could dissemble and move to another location. Versatile use of the floor space was made possible by the fact that there were "only two doors in the entire apartment: the entrance door and the door to the bath." The kitchen/dining room and bathroom were the only permanently anchored rooms in each apartment because of the plumbing connections. The occupying family could configure the remaining floor space as it wished using "movable, prefabricated closet units and partitions" that could be "shifted to produce other arrangements." A clerestory ran the length of each building in order to maximize natural light and ventilation giving "perfect light and air flow [and] quite a dramatic effect," Williams noted. The yellow pine paneling used throughout the dwelling units gave the Multimax units a rustic, camp-like appearance. The design offered residents "plenty of room, an abundance of light and air and more than usual privacy." A writer for *The Architectural Forum* declared the Williams was "admirably successful" in his design and further proclaimed that the "living accommodations equal to many high-priced city apartments." The project was, "by no means perfect," but was "the nearest thing to an answer to the war housing problem that has been seen to date—an answer, be it noted, arrived at by avenue of design."[24]

The Multimax Village project was regarded by Williams's peers as his finest work and an important contribution to the war effort. Speaking for the editorial board of *The Architectural Forum*, Henry Wright told Williams that "we were enormously impressed with this job and have not hesitated to say so." Writing to Williams in Washington, DC, O'Neil Ford indicated that he and his fellow architects back home were "proud" that the project was "in Texas and sorry you and yours are not." He described the "Beaumont job" as "very very damn fine."[25]

The Mutual Division gained international recognition for breaking new ground in site planning, architecture and method of construction. In 1944, New York's Museum of Modern Art sent to London an exhibit, "American Housing in War and Peace," that featured photographs and models of Avion and Multimax villages. British architects had much to learn from their American counterparts about how to "rationalize and organize large-scale housing project" according to one reviewer. The Americans obtained "speed and economy through the training of crews to proficiency in performing single

24. "War Housing," 285-286, 288, 291.

25. Henry Wright to Williams, New York, NY, May 22, 1942, and Ford to Williams, Bryan, TX, undated, Williams Papers.

Interior of a housing module at Multimax Village, n.d. *Courtesy of the David Williams Papers, Edith Garland Dupré Library, University of Louisiana at Lafayette.*

operations, the use of power tools and heavy equipment, the mass purchase of materials, [and] the standardization and mass-production of building parts."[26]

Despite Multimax Village's critical acclaim, it did not serve as a prototype for the housing that was provided for workers in the last years of the war. The FPHA relied on trailers, dormitories, and other types of temporary dwellings to house war workers. Later in 1943 when Beaumont needed more housing for war workers, one and two-story wood frame apartment buildings of temporary construction known as the Marine Addition were built. The Marine Addition had fixed walls separating the dwelling unit's public and private spaces—not movable partitions and bore no resemblance to the 600 Multimax Village dwellings.

The creation of the NHA in February 1942 marked a turning point in federal housing policy away from reform. Roosevelt's new advisers put housing on the path to becoming a barometer of the overall health of the economy.

26. "American Housing in War and Peace," *Journal of the Royal Institute of British Architects*, 51 (July 1944): 227-230.

They placed an emphasis on homeownership for ordinary wage-earners and dismissed mutual housing's potential to help revitalize neighborhoods facing economic and social decline. Shortly after the FPHA took charge of the wartime public housing program, the residents of the eight pilot projects learned that the agency was considering denying them the opportunity to buy their homes on a mutual basis. They turned to their local, state, and national political leaders and union officers for help in persuading the FPHA to honor the mutual sales agreements made with Westbrook and the Mutual Division.

The FPHA decided to honor the promises made by Westbrook on behalf of the Mutual Division only because it was under political pressure from Congress to fulfill its mandate and dispose of all Lanham housing in the public interest. In 1946, the FPHA announced its intention to sell all qualified Lanham projects to mutual housing associations formed by the residents. A year later, Greenmont Village and Walnut Grove became the first of the eight pilot projects to be sold to mutual housing associations. Avion Village and Dallas Park were purchased under the mutual ownership plan in June 1948. Perhaps as many as 50 Lanham housing developments were sold to mutual housing associations before the disposition process was completed in 1958. Today, about 32 are still in business.[27]

Westbrook's mutual housing experiment helped to kindle interest in cooperative housing as a way to solve the postwar shortage. During that time, local and state governments, labor unions, veterans groups, and other organizations launched cooperative housing initiatives, but few survived the financial problems they encountered. Congressman Wright Patman (Democrat, Texas) was among a group of postwar lawmakers who proposed expanding federal housing aid for cooperative housing for veterans, households displaced by urban renewal or airport and highway construction, or others who could not afford to buy and maintain a house, but in the end, cooperative housing played a minor role in urban renewal.[28]

What happened to the communities developed by Westbrook and Williams? Woodlake, the cooperative farm community was unsustainable and too out of tune with the economic realities of wage labor and consumption. After World War II, the homesteads were subdivided and sold. Some of the land

27. Kristin M. Szylvian, *The Mutual Housing Experiment: New Deal Communities for the Urban Middle Class* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2015), appendix.

28. Nancy Beck Young, *Wright Patman: Populism, Liberalism, and the American Dream* (Dallas: Southern Methodist University Press, 2000), 145.

and buildings are now owned by the Baptist Church of East Texas and is the site of Piney Woods Camp. Similar to Woodlake, Houston Gardens, the Subsistence Homestead community, ran into financial problems. In 1936, a short time after the non-profit Houston Gardens Homestead Association acquired the development, a number of residents became involved in a contract dispute with the Resettlement Association. The community's distinctive imprint remains evident on current city maps, but it is not known whether any of the descendants of the original homesteaders are still in residence.[29]

Historian Judith W. Linsley confirmed that some Beauxart Gardens homesteaders purchased their residences. They were "families who could not otherwise have afforded" to purchase land and a dwelling, but the rent to own option offered by the non-profit association made it possible. The program contributed to the growth of community "pride" and a "strong sense of place" still prevails among contemporary residents.[30]

After the postwar shortage of housing eased, Beaumont's business leaders pressed for the disposition of Multimax Village and the Marine Addition. The dwelling units were either torn down or moved from the site. In the 1960s, the neighborhood suffered further trauma when U.S Interstate Highway 10 bisected it and when the construction of the Mildred Ella "Babe" Didrikson Zaharias Park and Museum erased any remnant.

Judging from a small sampling, residents who remembered Multimax Village differed in assigning meaning to their experiences. In August 2009, Jerry Moseley and Jeannette Pennell Doiron wrote guest columns in the *Beaumont Enterprise* about the Multimax that they recalled as children. Moseley, who was not a resident of the development, recalled that it was inhabited by impoverished migrant workers from "Lord knows wherever." Motivated by Christian charity, the Moseleys and other established families gave "refurbished unneeded toys" and home baked pies for newcomers. He recalled few amenities beyond roads paved in sea shells and bus service. By 1947, the community was such "a howling neglected and partly abandoned relic," squatters began taking up residence.[31]

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29. "Texans Protesting Orders to Evacuate," *The Christian Science Monitor*, October 13, 1936; "Homesteaders Defy Federal Ouster Order," *The Washington Post*, October 14, 1936. See also, Piney Woods Camp (website: www.pineywoodscamp.com).

30. Linsley, "Beauxart Gardens," 6.

31. Jerry Moseley, "Multimax Had Great but Brief History," *Beaumont Enterprise*, August 17, 2009 (website: beaumontenterprise.com).

Housing modules at Multimax Village construction site, n.d.. *Courtesy of the David Williams Papers, Edith Garland Dupré Library, University of Louisiana at Lafayette.*

Doiron, a Multimax Village resident from 1943 to 1948, objected to Moseley's characterization of her old neighborhood. A member of a local family, she recalled that her fellow residents came from both within and outside of Texas. She maintained that "only a couple things Jerry said in his article were true" and offered a six point rebuttal. Doiron recalled the Multimax as a clean, safe, and affordable community that made it possible for wage-earners to take advantage of unprecedented employment opportunities and save money. She maintained that it was not as rustic or primitive as Moseley implied. The outer ring road around the Multimax was paved and there was pedestrian access to public transportation, a commissary, a playground, a branch library, and an area for sports and games. The "barracks-type" homes were far better equipped and designed than many residents had previously known. Doiron did not question Moseley's recollection of "hymn-singing church-goers" marching into Multimax Village with fresh baked goods, but neither she nor her peers recalled such largess.[32]

The different memories of Moseley and Doiron in some ways reflect the contradiction within Westbrook's vision of individuality and collective respon-

32. Jeannette Pennell Doiron, "Reader Has Other Memories of Multimax WWII Housing," *Beaumont Enterprise*, August 31, 2009 (website).

sibility. Moseley seemed to criticize the charity displayed, and perhaps necessary, to help the working class residents, where Doiron fondly recalled the sense of neighborliness. Unlike the communities that Westbrook designed while heading the Mutual Division, he and Williams designed Multimax Village to be temporary, and when the war crises ended, Beaumont real estate leaders insisted on the dismantling of the project.[33] Similarly, Westbrook would have to dismantle his vision of government-assisted self-sufficiency for America's working poor.

33. Seven of the original eight communities developed by Westbrook's Mutual Division including Avion Village in Grand Prairie, are mutually owned by their residents. Dallas Park is now a commercial rental property and is no longer owned mutually owned by the residents. Nationwide, there are at least 32 communities dating from the Roosevelt administration that are owned and managed by non-profit mutual housing associations established over a half century ago. Avion Village is the only one in Texas. A Texas State Historical Commission marker acknowledging its significance was dedicated in 1999.

Faded Beacon

A History of the Sabine Pass Lighthouse

Zachary Defrancis

Winner of the 2015 Dr. Andrew J. and Betty H. Johnson Editor's Prize

Sound as a fortress
I have towered through the ages
with sea birds as my solace,
the billowy marsh grass, my home.

Union cannonade did not move me
nor demon-howling Gulf storms.
You see, I had my life to do.

Beacon bright, I guided
your father's passage
or perhaps his father's
to ports and parts unknown.
Now, a desolate shrine at the pass of Sabine.

Time has grown old and hope—
she cannot be rekindled.
I am dying, alone.[1]

Across the United States, countless lighthouses that once allowed for navigation and prosperity fall into ruin. The above poem expresses the regret over the neglect of the Sabine Pass Lighthouse. Built in 1857 on the Louisiana side of Sabine Pass on Brant Point, this structure shone its light for nearly 96 years before its decommission in 1952. The story of its

Zachary Defrancis is the inaugural winner of the Dr. Andrew J. and Betty H. Johnson Editor's Prize. He is an undergraduate history major at Lamar University, and the department named him Student of the Year for 2014-2015. He worked as an intern at the McFaddin-Ward House Museum, Beaumont, Texas. Defrancis adds a late note that Carolyn Thibodeaux and Andrew Tingler have reorganized the Cameron Preservation Alliance and have renewed their efforts to save the Sabine Pass Lighthouse.

1. Mona Brittain, "The Light Once Shone," *Port Arthur News,* September 14, 1975. Reprinted with permission from the poet.

closure and its lack of preservation is all too familiar to U.S. lighthouses, a tale of chronic mismanagement, budgetary restrictions, natural and manmade disasters, and a lack of will to save this historic structure.[2]

Throughout U.S. maritime history, lighthouses have acted as the silent sentinels that established safety in the unknown waters of the country. Since before the nation's founding, lighthouses have been an integral part of its protection and advancement. Many of these structures have stood for decades, watching over cities and ports as they have grown and prospered. At one time, maritime trade and navigation acted as the most important industry in the United States. The federal government invested heavily in lighthouses, and many remained in use until the mid-twentieth century, until their usefulness diminished due to advancements in navigational technology. Once shuttered, these lighthouses fell into disrepair, leaving communities to wrestle with the decision to preserve or not preserve these historic structures. According to the National Park Service, lighthouses warrant conservation because they represent "for everyone a symbol of that chapter in American history when maritime traffic was the lifeblood of the nation." Also, some mark the sites of events such as battles or marine accidents which further enhances their historical significance. The preservation of lighthouses, much like the maintenance of any other historic structure or site, will preserve the legacy of an important part of the American past.[3]

The Sabine Pass Lighthouse stood in witness to a number historical events, including Civil War battles and dozens of hurricanes, yet it has received little scholarly attention. The general historiography of lighthouses is plentiful, but many works are simply guides that cover certain regions or specific sites. The few monographs that delve into the history of lighthouses focus on administration, duties, and technology. Only a couple of sources give cursory attention to the beacon at Sabine Pass. In his *Lighthouses of Texas* (2nd Edition, 2001), T. Lindsay Baker devotes a chapter to the history of the structure. Otherwise, mentions of the Sabine Pass Lighthouse appear primarily in several non-academic magazine articles that only piece together specific parts of its history with little or no analysis.[4] The Cameron Parish Alliance, the

2. Jim Hiney, "Silent Sentinels," *Texas Shores*, 32 (Summer 1999): 5-6.

3. National Parks Service, *Historic Lighthouse Preservation Handbook* (Washington, DC: National Parks Service, 1997), 2-4.

4. For general information on lighthouses, see George R. Putnam, *Lighthouses and Lightships of the United States* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Press, 1917); Dennis L. Noble, *Lighthouses and Keepers: The U.S. Lighthouse Service and its Legacy* (Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 1997);

The Sabine Pass Lighthouse in 2015. *Courtesy of Zachary Defrancis.*

group that currently owns the lighthouse, completed a professional but unpublished design study that contains a short history followed by an in-depth assessment of its present condition. Primary source information used in this paper includes newspaper articles, letters, logs, meeting minutes, and government documents found mainly in the Bill Quick Papers at the Sam Houston Regional Library in Liberty, Texas.[5] This paper seeks to add to the scant

David L. Cipra, *Lighthouses, Lightships, and the Gulf of Mexico* (Alexandria, VA: Cypress Communications, 1997); Ray Jones, *American Lighthouses* (Guilford, CT: Globe Pequot Press, 1998); George Weiss, *The Lighthouse Service, Its History, Activities and Organization* (Baltimore: John Hopkins Press, 1926). For Texas, see T. Lindsay Baker, *Lighthouses of Texas*, (2nd ed., College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2001).

5. Before he passed away in 2009, local historian Bill Quick researched the history of the Sabine Pass Lighthouse, compiling many resources such as letters, newspaper articles, and government documents. He placed them at the Sam Houston Regional Library. Many of the documents that he gathered originated from unindexed collections at the National Archives and countless newspaper clippings. Bill Quick Papers, Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center, Liberty, TX (hereafter cited BQP).

historiography on the subject by providing a full history of the lighthouse up to modern times and an analysis of the factors that led to its current state.

The effort to build a lighthouse at the opening of the Sabine River into the Gulf of Mexico, a location known as Sabine Pass, proved a long and drawn out affair. The federal government put plans for the lighthouse into play several years before Texas became part of the Union. On July 7, 1838, Congress approved a budget of $1,500 to "[e]nable the Secretary of the Navy to cause such a special examination of the coast between the mouths of the Mississippi and Sabine rivers . . . as may be necessary to fix suitable locations for lighthouses and other improvements." For unknown reasons, this early study yielded no concrete plans to build a lighthouse on the Sabine River, but it did provide valuable surveys of the land along the Louisiana coastline. After Texas entered the Union, Sen. Samuel Houston called for the U.S. government to look into navigational aids along the coast of the new state. He proposed "[t]hat the Committee on Commerce be instructed to acquire into the necessity . . . for the erection of lighthouses at the entrance to the harbors on the coast of Texas." On September 28, 1850, after several years of procrastination, Congress granted $7,500 for the construction of a lighthouse at Sabine Pass. Soon after, Cdr. Henry A. Adams of the U.S. Navy surveyed the pass, reporting that "the coast is so free from danger in that vicinity . . . that, in my opinion, a light-house is not necessary there at this time." Because of this report, the government cancelled the appropriation for construction.[6]

After Commander Adams's survey, citizens who lived near the pass complained to the federal government about the continued struggles in navigating the area. Looking for relief, they petitioned for a navigational aid. Eventually, their efforts succeeded, and on March 3, 1853, an act of Congress granted $30,000 for "a first-class lighthouse at the mouth of the Sabine river." Soon after, U.S. Navy lieutenant John Wilkinson conducted another survey and located the site for a beacon on the Louisiana side of the river a couple of miles inland from the coast. In 1855, the Lighthouse Board approved formal plans, and the construction slowly began. Due to problems with a contractor, the builders made no true progress until mid-1856. In May of that year, a Galveston newspaper reported, "Hands have been at work laying the foundation for the Sabine Pass Lighthouse, for the past two months . . . the house is to be

6. Samuel Pleasonton to W. M. Meredith, December 29, 1849, BQP; U.S. Lighthouse Board, *Lighthouse Laws and Appropriations, 1789-1855* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1855), 119, 144; Samuel Houston, *The Writings of Sam Houston: 1813-1863*, edited by Amelia W. Williams and Eugene C. Barker (8 vols., Austin: University of Texas Press, 1942), 7:18.

built of brick ninety [eighty four] feet high . . . and will be completed by October or November" 1857. The lighthouse went into service around June 22 of that year with Benjamin Granger as its first keeper. At the time of completion, the Sabine Pass Lighthouse Station, as it was formally known, consisted of the beacon tower and a small keeper's dwelling. Its bright light shone for four years before it encountered its first major problem.[7]

In 1861, Texas seceded from the Union and joined the Confederate States of America. During the Civil War that followed, southern officials shut down many lighthouses to hinder U.S. Navy operations, including the blockade. The beacon at Sabine Pass was the lone exception. Gowen W. Plummer, the keeper at the time, kept the light active until August, a full six months after Texas seceded. Plummer, a Union sympathizer, defended the site from Confederate raids until September 1862, when he and his family escaped onto a federal gunboat. Before fleeing, he successfully dismantled the valuable third order Fresnel lens and shipped it to a depot on Staten Island. After his escape, Plummer purportedly aided Union ships in navigating through the shallow coastal waters for several more months before travelling to the North for his own safety.[8]

Plummer successfully defended the lighthouse for the first year of the war, but soon enough the lighthouse formed a backdrop for two intense battles. At the beginning of 1863, Union gunboats began patrolling Texas gulf waters. In April, Confederate soldiers at the small town of Sabine Pass, directly across from the lighthouse, noticed that the federals were using the abandoned tower as a lookout point. On April 11, Capt. Charles Fowler led a squad of southern troops to investigate the site. Upon arrival, 20 Union soldiers ambushed and captured them. Embarrassed, the rebel troops planned a mission to return the

7. U.S. Lighthouse Board, *Lighthouse Laws,* 177; *Report of the Superintendent of the Coast Survey Showing the Progress of the Survey During the Year 1853* (Washington, DC: Robert Armstrong, 1854), 176-177; *Galveston Weekly News,* May 27, 1856; Baker, *Lighthouses of Texas*, 71-73.

8. W. B. Smith to S. P. Chase, September 7 and 25, 1863, BQP; Baker, *Lighthouses of Texas,* 72-73. The Fresnel lens, an invention of Frenchman Augustine-Jean Fresnel, led to a revolution in lighthouses. Their use began around 1821, and although the United States largely ignored the invention for decades, it became a common lens by the 1850s. It consisted of reflective glass plates concentrated on a central focal point, and it produced a far brighter and more efficient light than previous designs. Fresnel lenses had a simple numbering system indicating the power of the lens. A first order lens, which could be many feet tall, powered the largest coastal lighthouses, while a sixth order Fresnel lens, the smallest, lit up small piers and harbors. The third order lens at Sabine Pass, now lost, stood around five feet tall and could be seen for many miles. Noble, *Lighthouses and Keepers*, 21-26.

favor. On the night of April 17, Lt. W. H. Griffin sent 30 men to the lighthouse, instructing them "not to . . . show themselves in the boat and endeavor to capture any party of the Federals that should land." The next morning, two U.S. vessels landed nearby, and as one group of soldiers approached the structure, Confederates arose from behind the keeper's house and began a gun fight. Outnumbered, the Union soldiers retreated. One boat's crew was too close to the fighting, however, and was forced to surrender. The other vessel managed to escape. U.S. Cdr. Abner Read, explained, "Considering the murderous fire to which we were exposed . . . our escape is almost miraculous . . . Lieutenant-Commander [David A.] McDermut and his boat's crew are in the hands of the enemy." On that day, Confederate troops captured six men and killed four, while three others escaped. Almost all of the federal troops had some injury in contrast to the Confederates, who lost only one man. The rebels deemed this "affair" a success, but it was not the only blood that would be spilled near the lighthouse.[9]

Union and Confederate troops continued to engage in minor clashes in the region throughout the summer. The conflict intensified on September 8, 1863, when Union boats attacked the Confederate post at Sabine Pass, Texas. Lt. Richard W. "Dick" Dowling commanded the incomplete Fort Griffin with fewer than four dozen men and six cannons. In comparison, the federals attacked with four heavy gunboats and 18 transports containing some 4,000 or 5,000 troops. Though it seemed as if the Union had the advantage, in reality the Confederates were in the better position. First, the troops manning Fort Griffin were expert sharpshooters and artillerymen who knew how to use their limited resources with deadly accuracy. Second, the Confederates were in a readily defensible position that allowed for ease of firing. Lastly, the Union pilots were inexperienced in navigating through such a shallow pass. All of these factors led to the most surprising Confederate victory of the war. In a battle that lasted less than one hour, Dowling and his troops were able to sink two of their enemy's ships, wound or kill hundreds of soldiers, capture hundreds more, and proclaim an outright victory. From that point forward, the Union ceased operations on the northern Texas coast. The town of Sabine Pass and the lighthouse on the opposite shore remained under Confederate control.[10]

9. William H. Griffin to Albert N. Mills, April 13 and 28, 1863, Abner Read to Gideon Welles, April 18, 1863, and W. R. Scurry to E. P. Turner, April 19, 1863, BQP.

10. Ralph A. Wooster, "The Texas Gulf Coast in the Civil War," *The Texas Gulf Historical and Biographical Record*, 50 (November 2014): 55-57; Ron C. Tyler, ed., *The New Handbook of Texas* (6 vols., Austin: Texas State Historical Association), 7:745; Edward T. Cotham Jr., *Sabine Pass, The Confederacy's Thermopylae* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2004).

Although Union and Confederate forces destroyed many lighthouses, the beacon at Sabine Pass survived and resumed operations after the war. On December 23, 1865, it returned to service with the arrival of the lens from Staten Island. According to the 1866 *Annual Report of the Lighthouse Board*, the station "was renovated, necessary repairs made, and the light re-exhibited." From that point forward, the Sabine Pass Lighthouse returned to normal duty and shone its light almost continuously for another 87 years.[11]

After the Civil War, the Sabine Pass Lighthouse led a relatively quiet existence. Night after night, it displayed its beacon for sailors and during the day provided a useful marker for ship captains. During the immediate postwar years, it allowed for safe shipping that helped towns on the lower Sabine and Neches rivers grow and prosper.

Trouble did not return until 1886, when two severe hurricanes thrashed the Texas coastline. The first, on June 4, rose the seas eight feet and destroyed part of the boat landing and the wooden walkways. The Lighthouse Board quickly made repairs, but a powerful storm on October 12 washed away everything except the tower. Meteorologists widely consider the second storm, now known as the Hurricane of 1886, one of the worst storms in U.S. history. It severely damaged the town of Sabine Pass. One newspaper article, published just four days after the storm, recounted the observations of the first ship crew to reach the town and the beacon across the river. Of the latter, a reporter observed, "The residence attached to the lighthouse . . . was found crumbled to the ground." Those at the light station survived only because they sought refuge in the tower, but many died in town from the storm surge. Workers swiftly repaired the station, building a large house raised on pillars, a new boat house, new walkways, and new cisterns. The station returned to "first-class order," but subsequent storms proved the bane of the Sabine Pass Lighthouse's ultimate preservation.[12]

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11. Loither Iler Adams, *Time and Shadows* (Waco, TX: Davis Brothers Press, 1971), 6; *Annual Report of the Lighthouse Board to the Secretary of the Treasury for the Year 1866* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1866) 34.

12. *Annual Report of the Lighthouse Board to the Secretary of the Treasury for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1886* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1886), 66; *Galveston Daily News*, October 16, 1886; *Annual Report of the Lighthouse Board to the Secretary of the Treasury for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1887* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1887), 74; Baker, *Lighthouses of Texas,* 74; Judith Walker Linsley and Ellen Walker Rienstra, *Beaumont, a Chronicle of Promise: An Illustrated History* (Woodland Hills, CA: Windsor Publications, 1982), 72.

Storms in 1900 and 1915 damaged the light station further and destroyed the hopes of the citizens of Sabine Pass that their town could become a major port. Maritime traffic moved farther inland to Beaumont, Port Arthur, and Orange, but the lighthouse still proved useful in guiding ships. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, Sabine and Neches river port towns experienced substantial growth due to lumber and petroleum production. The U.S. government invested in a deep water jetty system that led farther inland and allowed larger and heavier ships to enter and navigate the pass. During this period, the Lighthouse Board appropriated money to build two new lights. The first completed was the 15-mile light, known as the Sabine Bank Lighthouse, which guided mariners towards the jetties. The other light, built on the end of the east jetty, was completed in 1928. By this time, keepers operated all three Sabine Pass area lights from the original station. Growth for area ports continued, but modern technological advances, such as automation and radar, soon reduced the need for the lighthouses.[13]

By the early 1900s, these new technologies and the use of electricity ended the need for manned lighthouses throughout the United States. Lawmakers deemed that automated lights would replace salaried keepers, resulting in large reductions in costs. After 1939, when the U.S. Lighthouse Service merged with the Coast Guard, the preference for automation garnered widespread support. Also, advances in maritime tracking, such as improved lights and radar, ended the need for a plethora of different light stations to mark the path for seafarers. After World War II, the Coast Guard commonly updated or shut down unneeded lights.[14]

The Sabine Pass Lighthouse survived these early calls for automation, but on May 14, 1951, the U.S. Coast Guard deemed the station unnecessary. The light structure built in 1928 at the end of the east jetty performed well enough to end the need for a lighthouse on the mainland. On May 20, 1952, the Coast Guard closed the station. The announcement alarmed local groups who wanted to save the nearly century-old structure. At first, they worried that the government would demolish it, but as *The Port Authuran* reported in July, "The old Sabine Pass lighthouse will probably not be razed after all, according

13. *Annual Report of the Lighthouse Board to the Secretary of the Treasury for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1899* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1899), 136-137; Baker, *Lighthouses of Texas,* 74-78.

14. Noble, *Lighthouses and Keepers*, 39-41, 179.

The Sabine Pass Lighthouse in 1938. *Courtesy of Port Arthur Public Library, Port Arthur, TX.*

to . . . from K. S. Harrison, chief counsel of the U.S. Coast Guard." For the moment, the lighthouse was saved.[15]

In August 1952, reports surfaced that the U.S. government would soon put the lighthouse on the auction block. Shortly after, concerned citizens, led by the last keeper of the lighthouse, Steve Purgley, formed the Sabine Pass Lighthouse Association in the hope of proclaiming it a national monument "with perpetuation being insured by continued federal ownership and maintenance." The association compiled a brief and sent it to Congress in September. It contained a short history of the lighthouse and dozens of local endorsements said to represent more than 10,000 citizens. Ultimately, the federal government denied the brief because they already operated two lighthouse monuments, one on the East Coast and one on the West Coast. The General Services Administration (GSA), an independent government office that aids

15. U.S. Coast Guard, *Proceedings of a Board of Survey: Sabine Pass Light Station, LA,* July 17, 1952; *The Port Arthuran* (July 1952) 31.

in supporting and managing other federal departments, soon took responsibility for the structure. The events that followed showed that the decision to pass the grounds into non-federal hands would eventually sentence the old lighthouse to a slow ruin.[16]

In 1954, following the federal government's liquidation of the lighthouse, the GSA transferred the property to the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. At the time, the commission "pledged to maintain the ancient landmark as an historic shrine," but instead the station fell into disrepair. Upon taking responsibility for the station, the State of Louisiana intended to turn the lighthouse into an artists' haven and scientific station, but lack of funds and negligence thwarted this original mission. For the next 15 years, the lighthouse station functioned as a field office for game wardens who patrolled the area. The commission hired a caretaker who resided in the keeper's quarters and watched for vandals. The caretaker, however, apparently did not have any resources to maintain the facility. A local newspaper revealed the true shape of the grounds, reporting, "The quarters . . . now sit on rotting stilts. The patches on the floor are themselves rotting." Instead of following through with its plans, Louisiana basically defunded the station and opened it up to the rough and tumble use of game wardens. Without proper resources and upkeep from the state, this neglect allowed the beacon to fall into disrepair, and its condition only deteriorated with time.[17]

In 1968, fervor began to build in Southeast Texas over the old light. Some of the original members of the Sabine Pass Lighthouse Association from Port Arthur noticed the state of degradation of the structures. One member, Sydalise Fredeman, wrote letters to the Louisiana departments about renovating the structures and opening the grounds to tourists. Rather than working with interested groups to restore the premises, the state decided to sell it. A correspondence between two Louisiana officials in September 1969 expressed their preference to divest the premises "to prevent [any] unwise expenditure of funds to maintain and man this marginal facility." By that time, the state was no longer interested in maintaining the lighthouse for its historical value. Instead, it wanted to use the property as a cheap and expendable game warden station. For the duration of its ownership, Louisiana woefully neglected the structures. The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission never properly funded the

16. *The Port Arthuran* (August 1952), 30; *Sabine Pass Lighthouse Brief,* September 10, 1952, BQP.

17. U.S. Coast Guard, *Sabine Pass Light Station History Sheet,* 1954; "Louisiana Expected to Take Over Lighthouse at Sabine Pass and Make It Artists' Haven," *Beaumont Journal,* April 17, 1953; "Fight to Renovate Famed Old Lighthouse Opened," *The Port Arthur News,* July 20, 1969.

site, and when interested citizens decided it was time to preserve and exhibit its historical value, Louisiana backed out. At first, the state tried to transfer the land and buildings to the City of Port Arthur that was "interested in renovating the property," but deed restrictions would not allow lateral transferals from one state entity to another. In January 1970, the Louisiana commission returned the Sabine Pass Lighthouse to the federal government.[18]

Within months of this transfer, the GSA put the site back on the market. This time, the major suitors for the old lighthouse were educational institutions. First, McNeese State College in Lake Charles, Louisiana, expressed interest with plans to develop the premises and use it "to conduct classes in several courses." A second local institution, Lamar State College of Technology in Beaumont, Texas, also showed interest. On July 9, 1970, the Lamar Board of Regents approved a motion made by member Sam Monroe to provide for the "acquisition of this surplus property." On May 24, 1971, after a vetting process in which McNeese dropped out, the GSA awarded the grounds to Lamar at no cost. Officials of the Texas college were ecstatic about the acquisition and envisioned many possible uses for the station, such as "pollution control surveillance, radio communications center, weather monitoring station, core drilling operations, and marine biology research." Lamar estimated that $5,000 was necessary to prepare the site for operation. Though the well-built lighthouse was still in decent shape at this point, all other structures were in dire need of repair, and $5,000 would not suffice. At the same time, Lamar also bought acreage on Pleasure Island to use for similar purposes. After two years, the college determined that the rehabilitation of the old structures required too much of its resources and decided to focus the university's time and capital in their programs on Pleasure Island. In August 1973, Lamar returned the facility to the federal government.[19]

The economics that played into the decision to return the property were the Pleasure Island programs and the new $7 million library that Lamar was beginning to build. As with the state of Louisiana in the late 1960s, Lamar

18. "Road to Sabine Pass Light Sought," *Cameron Pilot,* September 26, 1968; Truett Latimer to Lamar Gibson, June 30, 1969, Max W. Summers to T. B. Ford, September 16, 1969, Jack Brooks to W. F. Fredeman, December 10, 1969, and Eugene J. Murret to C. M. Hoffpauer, January 28, 1970, BQP.

19. "MSC Officials Look at Marshland 'Campus,'" *Lake Charles American Press,* June 21, 1970; Meeting Minutes, July 9, 1970, Lamar State College of Technology Board of Regents, Lamar University Archives, Mary and John Gray Library, Lamar University, Beaumont, TX; "Lamar Has Landed on Louisiana Shores," *Beaumont Enterprise*, August 22, 1971; Edythe Capreol, "Lamar Tech Gets Lighthouse," *Beaumont Journal,* May 24, 1971.

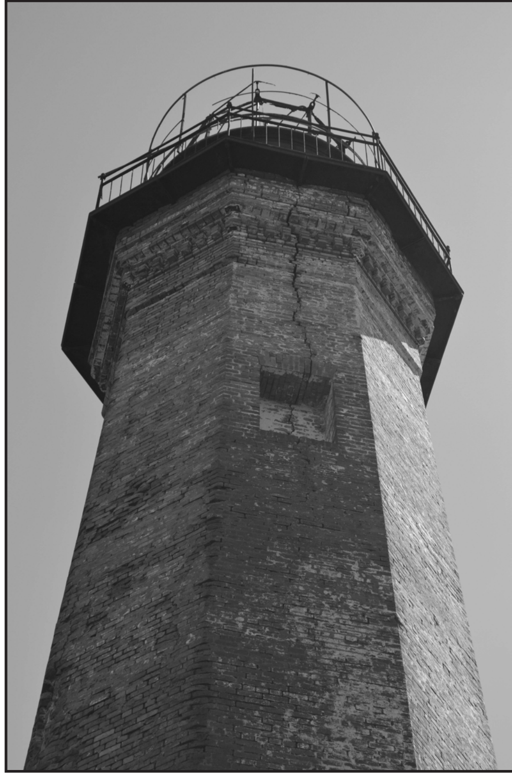
took control of the lighthouse for reasons other than historical preservation. College officials knew what shape the structures were in, but in the interests of advancement, they purchased the premises hastily without taking a closer look at what it would take to rehabilitate the station. In doing this, Lamar kept the property out of the hands of other civic entities, such as the City of Port Arthur that possibly could have done better at preserving the site rather than letting the buildings fall further into disrepair. Lamar did little to renovate the old keeper's quarters and left the grounds without an attendant for two years.[20]

After this second retro-conveyance, the GSA resumed stewardship of the property. In mid-1975, the State of Louisiana again acquired the lighthouse and other structures on the grounds. In a request to the federal government, the state mentioned that "[m]inimal recreational facilities are located in the towns of Hackberry, Cameron and Johnson Bayou," and thought that the location could fulfill that need. The state also mentioned the historical importance of the site and predicted that "public use would be heavy." In their request, the state gave conservatively estimated that it would need $1 million to preserve and repair the grounds.[21]

At the time of the state's second procurement of the premises, its condition seemed to be worse than ever before. A newspaper article from 1975 listed the myriad problems with the property at the time, including "[c]rushed window glass . . . the work of vandals. Screenless doors swinging in the breeze and portions of the porch banister carried away. Vandals also snipped away the bronze dome of the lighthouse structure." The old keeper's quarters sat virtually gutted, and the lighthouse itself finally fell victim to vandalism and the strains of time. A small renovation project began in 1976, but in September another tragedy struck the lighthouse when a marsh fire destroyed all the wooden structures and left the lighthouse standing alone in the coastal wilds. After the fire, Louisiana abandoned its plans. Similar to its previous ownership, the state never made adequate funding available for repairs, and the buildings fell into an even more pitiful state. In 1982, the state succeeded in listing the lighthouse in the National Register of Historic Places, but still did nothing to

20. Mary Jane Maddox, "Isle Outshines Lighthouse," *The Port Arthur News,* August 19, 1973.

21. Leslie Kent Jr. to William D. Quick, November 19, 1975, BQP.



The Sabine Pass Lighthouse in 2015 exhibited a large crack from the top.
Courtesy of Zachary Defrancis.

preserve what was left after the fire. On August 15, 1984, Louisiana returned the property to the federal government.[22]

In 1986, the GSA put the lighthouse up for auction. This time, no educational institutions or other organizations showed interest in buying the property, which only consisted of the badly damaged lighthouse and 45 acres of land. Instead, private citizens were the primary bidders. Its place on the National Register of Historic Places added to local interest in the structure. When the public bid ended on June 24, two Houston investors, W. E. Pielop Jr. and Pincus Grenader, beat out 13 other interested parties by bidding $55,000 for the lighthouse. Pielop mentioned that he planned to develop the grounds "for

22. Betty Holberg, "Unused Lighthouse Station Awaits New, Different Function," *The Houston Post,* September 4, 1975; "Lighthouse Renovation Project Begins," *Beaumont Journal,* May 13, 1976; "Lighthouse Sold," *The Keeper's Log* (Fall 1986), 28.

a yacht basin or a restaurant." Using the lighthouse for non-historical purposes likely seemed an affront to those interested in the building's history, but at least it had finally fallen into the hands of owners who had the resources for repairs. Pielop and Grenader, however, did nothing with the property for 15 years. The Houstonians never covered the top of the lighthouse, roofless since 1974. Year after year it stood, the victim of rain and salty coastal spray that gnawed away at the inside of the structure. Larger cracks developed all around the structure, and the dirt surrounding the base of the lighthouse washed away, revealing the substructure of the building. The once optimistic outlook for the lighthouse turned into yet another failure on the part of a disinterested party.[23]

In 2000, local concern in the beacon revived. Several interested citizens of Louisiana and Texas formed the Cameron Preservation Alliance—Sabine Pass Lighthouse, Inc. They stated their plains to "restore, preserve and maintain the history of Cameron Parish." As their name suggested, they dedicated their first project to the protection of the light station. The group sought donations and matching grants from the U.S. government to help with the renovation. It also called for an engineer to determine if the structure could withstand restoration. To date, this group has put forth the most active attempts to save the historic lighthouse since its closure in 1952. They secured a lease from the estates of the two Houstonians who in 1986 bought the lighthouse. On May 5, 2001, the estates agreed to "irrevocably donate, give, grant, transfer, set over . . . all of its rights, title and interest in . . . the . . . immovable property" to the Alliance. The deed to the grounds afforded the group the freedom to restore and preserve the lighthouse.[24]

In the fall of 2002, Lauren E. Harrell completed an engineer's assessment of the structure. Her report, "Sabine Pass Light Station: A Masters Design Study," brought together new and previous research related to the condition of the lighthouse and made recommendations on necessary renovations. This study provided a valuable, in-depth look at how far the lighthouse had fallen into disrepair during the 50 years since its closure. Harrell identified a number of significant problems, including the tilt of the lighthouse, the exposed

23. Robert B. Deblieux to Cameron Parish Police Jury, February 17, 1982, BQP; "Lighthouse Sold," *The Keeper's Log* (Fall 1986), 28; Richard Stewart, "Lighthouse at Sabine Bought for $55,000 by Two Houstonians," *Houston Chronicle,* June 25, 1986.

24. "Restoration Efforts," Sabine Pass Lighthouse (website: sabinepasslighthouse.org); Jeanie Wiggins, "Rebuilding History: Plans Underway to Restore Historic Sabine Pass Lighthouse," *Port Arthur News,* June 25, 2000; "Donation of Immovable Property," May 5, 2001, BQP.

foundation, cracks in the structure, the uncovered door, windows, and roof, and the heavy deterioration of the cast iron stairwell and lantern room. The engineer gave recommendations on how to repair or alleviate these problems properly and some required simple fixes, such as recovering the base of the structure so it would be safe from the elements. Others problems, however, demanded more complex solutions, such as recasting and replacing all cast iron components of the lighthouse. Overall, the report was positive. The engineer deemed restoration possible, but as expected, the project would be expensive. Previous owners left the lighthouse in such bad shape that it would take a great deal of time, effort, and money to complete the project.[25]

At first, the Cameron Preservation Alliance seemed up to the task of saving the lighthouse. Compared to past attempts, their work began quickly. With renovation costs set to exceed $1 million dollars, the group looked for new donors and government grants. From the start, the Alliance, led by Carolyn Thibodeaux, planned to get the community involved in the effort by holding fund-raisers, hosting an "annual hayride in October," and considered the possibility of "a lighthouse festival." The Alliance understood that success hinged on establishing community involvement that had been lacking in past efforts. The group held regular public meetings that helped to raise awareness and membership. By 2000, the Alliance raised $6,500 and completed a dirt road leading up to the creek that separated the structure from the mainland. By all accounts, the Alliance was on its way to saving the endangered Sabine Pass Lighthouse, but the future would prove challenging.[26]

Difficulties arose in late 2001 when the Alliance learned that the Army Corps of Engineers planned to widen the Sabine-Neches Waterway. The lighthouse, already close to the shore, was in danger of being destroyed in the interests of the maritime navigation that it once protected. The Alliance took immediate action. They met with preservationist Robert C. Vogel who informed the group that U.S. law required the Corps to consider the impact of the work on assets listed on the National Register of Historic Places. He also suggested that, to protect the lighthouse from future problems, the Alliance should "work with the Corps and state agencies to establish a protective 'buffer zone'"

25. Lauren Elizabeth Harrell, "Sabine Pass Light Station: A Masters Design Study," 2002 (copy located in BQP).

26. Richard Stewart, "Towers Shine Lights on the Past," *Houston Chronicle,* July 2, 2000; Judy Stanford, "A Ray of Hope," *The Advertiser* (Lake Charles, LA), July 15, 2001.

of at least 150 feet from the shoreline. The group met with the Corps and was able to work out an acceptable plan to bypass the area around the lighthouse.[27]

From 2001 to 2005, the Cameron Preservation Alliance slowly made progress on raising funds for restoration. The group held several events that raised $15,000. Also, Cheniere Energy, a company that built a new liquefied natural gas plant near the lighthouse, sponsored the renovation with a $2,000 donation, and committed to building an all-weather road to the site. In 2005, the Alliance planned for its largest "Fun Day" to date, in which the community could come together and "show support for our organization and its preservation and restoration goals." The group held the attention of the public and possessed widespread support from locals and other people from across the country as it worked to restore a piece of history.[28]

The year 2005 was shaping up as a great one for the Alliance, but as with previous attempts to restore the Sabine Pass Lighthouse, unexpected problems arose. On September 24, 2005, Hurricane Rita struck the Gulf Coast near the Texas-Louisiana border. The Category 3 storm arrived with sustained winds of 115 miles per hour and a 15-foot storm surge that inundated all low-lying areas. The hurricane's large eye passed directly over Sabine Pass and Cameron Parish, with the lighthouse at the center. Luckily, the structure survived the storm just as it always had, but the surrounding areas were decimated. As citizens recovered, the restoration project became a low priority. The storm ultimately diminished the momentum that the Alliance had gained. Since 2005, the group has been largely inactive. Three years later on September 13, 2008, Hurricane Ike, a Category 2 system made landfall near Galveston. With winds less powerful than Rita's, it was nevertheless massive in size and carried a storm surge of nearly 20 feet that again washed away the areas around the lighthouse. These two major hurricanes striking the region in such a short span all but ruined the Alliance's plans. Though the beacon is still standing, the efforts to restore it have virtually ended.[29]

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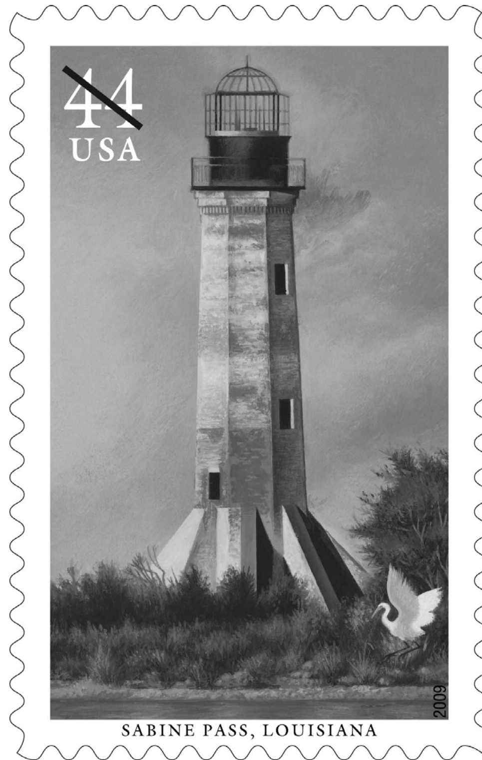
27. Robert C. Vogel to Carolyn Thibodeaux, November 15, 2001, and Carolyn Murphy to Thibodeaux, November 9, 2001, BQP.

28. "Lighthouse News" and "Sabine Pass Lighthouse Welcomes Cheniere Energy as Our New Corporate Sponsor," Sabine Pass Lighthouse (website); "Annual Fun Day—October 8, 2005," *The Light* (August 2005).

29. "2005—Hurricane Rita," Hurricanes: Science and Society (website: hurricanescience.org); "Hurricane Ike (2008)," National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (website: noaa.gov).



In 2009 following the devestation of Hurricane Katrina, the U.S. Postal Service issued the Sabine Pass Lighthouse stamp as part of a series on those Gulf Coast beacons that survived hurricanes. *Courtesy of the U.S. Postal Service, Washington, DC.*

Since Hurricane Ike, public interest in the lighthouse has waned. An interview with Alliance president Carolyn Thibodeaux in 2009 mentioned the station but said nothing about restoration plans. She could only confirm that the structure was "still standing" and that the U.S. Postal Service would feature it on a stamp. In a 2013 interview, Thibodeaux admitted that the search for grants "pretty much stopped" after the storms. The Alliance, which currently owns the lighthouse, did a lot of good by building up public support for its preservation, but it nevertheless failed to make any real changes. While focusing on fund-raising, the group continued to let the structure languish in the marsh. They did not act on some of the small or temporary solutions that Harrell recommended in her 2002 design study. Before 2005, they only performed a few simple cleanings. A news report from 2008 revealed that the interior of the tower finally gave way when two men climbing the stairwell

were left "dangling between 50 and 60 feet in the air when the stairs they were climbing collapsed underneath them." The Alliance wanted to restore the lighthouse, but circumstances conspired against them. Despite their efforts, the lighthouse has only fallen into further disrepair, now only a hollow cylinder full of rust and cracks.[30]

Through the years, many public entities, institutions, and individuals failed the Sabine Pass Lighthouse. Since its closure in 1952, the lighthouse has slipped further and further into disrepair as suitor after suitor has neglected to take care of this historic structure properly. These failures have occurred for a number of reasons. First, money has always been an issue for the project. Every owner of the lighthouse has pointed to the formidable financial costs of preserving such a structure. Either the entity or individuals simply did not have the funds to restore the lighthouse, or they did not feel that the project warranted the expense. Second, natural disasters have frequently put the restoration project on hold, including the fire in 1976 that destroyed all of the wooden structures on the property and the hurricanes in 2005 and 2008. These setbacks not only caused further damage but also ended preservation efforts. Lastly, neglect has been the main factor leading to the decline of this beacon. Every owner of the premises since 1952 refused to attend to the basic structural repairs that would have extended the longevity of the structure. Instead, these groups focused their attention elsewhere.

The Sabine Pass Lighthouse is a historically significant building that deserves preservation for future generations. It is one of the only pre-Civil War structures in the area that currently survives. Instead of safeguarding and celebrating this structure that has been an integral part of the history and development of Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana, the lighthouse continues to deteriorate. The elements will only continue to take their toll on the structure. As Jennie Watts, a lifelong Sabine Pass resident, recalled in 1989, "When I grew up we could be asleep and that lighthouse would go around. It was really something. When they stopped doing it [in 1952] you felt like part of your life was gone." Barring a renewed attempt at an ever-costlier preservation, the beacon at Sabine Pass, will eventually crumble onto the very shores that it once saved mariners from striking.[31]

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30. Mary Meaux, "Sabine Pass Lighthouse Still Garners Attention," *The Port Arthur News,* February 14, 2009; Johnathan Manning, "Sabine Pass Lighthouse Still Stands Tall Despite Hurricanes, Neglect," *Lake Charles American Press*, April 27, 2013; "Two Men Rescued from Sabine Pass Lighthouse," *The Port Arthur News,* September 5, 2008.

31. Jennie Watts, interview by Wanda Landry, February 15, 1989, Lamar University Archives.

Museum Corner

Harvey Johnson: A Visual Poet

Lynn P. Castle

Art Museum of Southeast Texas, Beaumont

Harvey Johnson, a native of Port Arthur, Texas, creates narrative paintings laden with rich imagery and symbolism. He has more than a half of century of experience with his brushes and canvas and continues to paint daily. Johnson refers to himself as a poet—not an artist—because, to him, poetry has a deeper significance that addresses the human journey. Typically, the word "poet" refers to a person who writes words in a creative and thoughtful fashion, bringing to light original ideas and feelings in a meaningful way. For painter Harvey Johnson, visual poetry is a higher form of artistic expression. He believes that art can become trivial, like a decorative ornament made for monetary gain to satiate a commercial market. Instead, his visual poetry is Johnson's salvation, and it has led him on a lifetime of self-discovery and universal exploration. His paintings document a passionate study and soul searching for the true cultural realization of African American identity and the human condition.

Born in 1947 to single-mother Annie Bell Thornton, Johnson was the second of four children. His mother worked three jobs to support her family. She worked as an elevator operator in the Sabine Hotel in Port Arthur, washed pots and pans in a cafeteria, and did domestic work. Despite living an austere life in a shotgun house and later a low income neighborhood called "the projects," she kept her family together and saw that her children remained emotionally close to each other as siblings. Johnson later discovered that growing

Lynn P. Castle is the Exectuive Director of the Art Museum of Southeast Texas.

up in a black neighborhood in Port Arthur was much like the living communities he encountered during his stay with extended family in Africa. Both emitted a socially conscious network where everyone looked after each other. In Port Arthur, Johnson knew several individuals as "aunties and uncles" even though many were not blood relatives. They were friends looking after each other and looking out for each other's children. Thornton was an industrious laborer and she commanded a great deal of community respect raising four children on her own. She also passed on her strong work ethic and sense of family values to her four children. Each one of her offspring earned college degrees and became accomplished professionals. Kenneth Johnson, her eldest child, graduated from Prairie View A&M as a mechanical engineer and went to work at ExxonMobil. Harvey attended Texas Southern University in Houston for his bachelor's in art education and then received his master's of Fine Arts degree from Washington State University. Audrey Pitre, the third child and only girl, attended Lamar University in Beaumont and studied nursing. She works today as the director of a hospice center. Gerald Wayne Thornton, the youngest, graduated from Prairie View A&M in metallurgy and served in the armed forces. Thornton remains a pivotal figure in Harvey's paintings and serves as a symbol of compassion, strength and courage. He understands and appreciates the great sacrifices she made for her children.

Growing up in Port Arthur, Harvey Johnson recalls a segregated town. The railroad tracks acted as the dividing line between the black and white neighborhoods. As an African American child, he grew up completely unaware of the activities on the other side of town. His mother protected her children from the realities of racism and discrimination by keeping them sheltered in their own microcosm. The African American side of Port Arthur, located near the Gulf Oil refinery, had its own schools, barbers, churches, funeral homes, and pharmacy. Johnson recalls the refinery gasses and strange odors which permeated the neighborhood regularly. Schools in the black community used books that were hand-me-downs, worn and torn. He and his siblings held no animosity to this way of life. His community served as a buffer to the coming realization of his larger environment.

Johnson learned in school that Columbus discovered America and the only true civilization was European. Even in popular culture during that time, Tarzan was the hero taking on the black, indigenous Africans to save the white missionaries, while John Wayne took on the Native Americans to save the white settlers. When Johnson was a youngster, he wanted to be just like John Wayne. In his school lessons or in popular culture, he could not find any

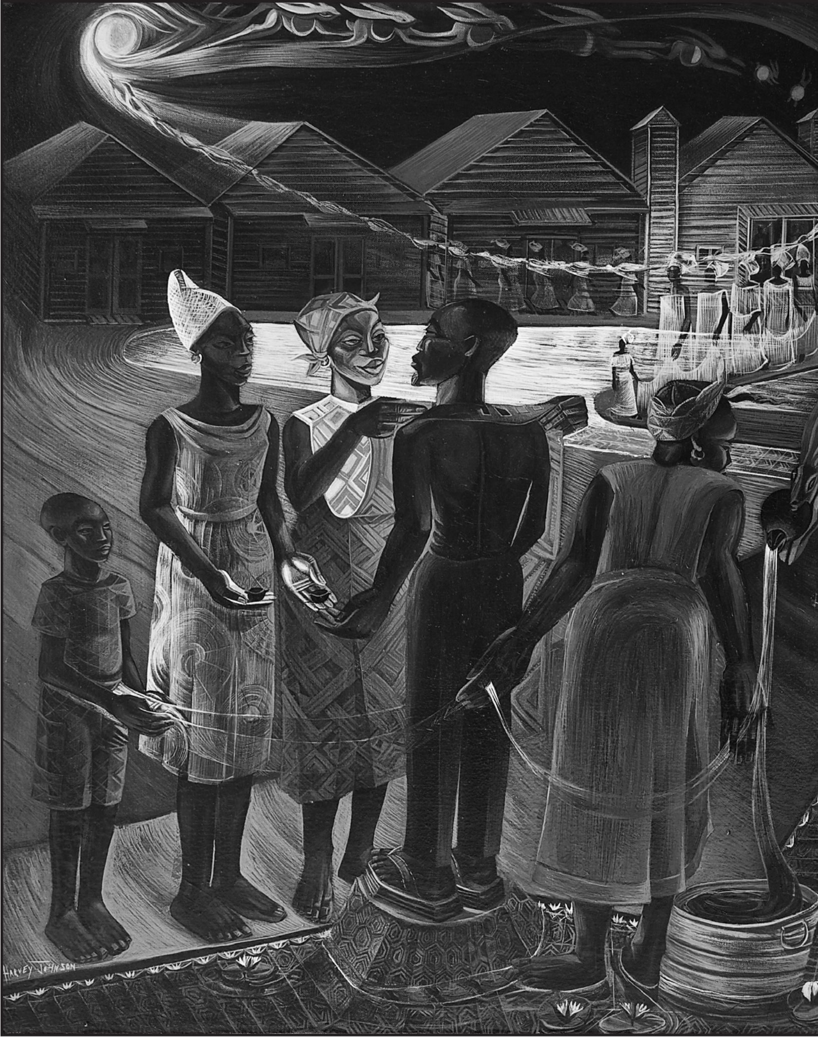
Harvey Johnson, *Deep River*, ca. 1990s, acrylic oil wash on canvas, 42 x 30 ¾ inches. *Courtesy of the Collection of Dottie and Kenneth Johnson.*

African American role models to emulate. Later, Johnson realized that his mother was his role model.

When Johnson was just fourteen years old, his destiny became clear. He had a vision that he would become an art professor at Texas Southern University and that is exactly what came to pass. In 1963 when he was in the 10th grade and 16 years old, he met Willie Nathaniel Moore, another visual poet who was his high school art instructor. Moore introduced Johnson to literature, outside of the school curriculum, that offered a different point of view of history and African American culture. He read voraciously and researched black history well beyond slavery. This life-long study led Johnson to the discovery of many influential books, including John Bigger's *Ananse: The Web of Life in Africa* (1962), James Baldwin's *The Fire Next Time* (1963), Cheikh Anta Diop's *The African Origin of Civilization: Myth or Reality* (1974), Ivan Van Sertima's *They Came before Columbus* (1976), and John Henrik Clarke's *Christopher Columbus and the Afrikan Holocaust: Slavery and the Rise of European Capitalism* (1992). Johnson thrived on studies indicating that modern man, *Homo sapiens*, originated from Africa. Through this research and knowledge, he discovered his true identity and cultural roots.

Moore also introduced Johnson to the renowned artist and visual poet, John Biggers, who was the founder and chairman of the art department at Texas Southern University. Biggers had a profound effect on Johnson's journey as a visual poet. After graduating from high school, the student went on to study at Texas Southern University where he developed and intensified his search for the truth about African American culture. Biggers became his mentor, and in many ways, his father. Biggers did not separate the teaching of drawing skills from the teaching of history. This was enlightening for Johnson, and during a particularly clarifying moment, Biggers recounted the West African tale of Ananse, the spider. In the story, the Universal Spirit gives Ananse the meaning of order by teaching him about architecture, dwellings, life, and society. Biggers explained that the spider web acts as a metaphor for these subjects, as well as the sun and its rays. This story of Ananse provided spiritual direction for visual art. Through this revelation, Johnson has continued to lead a life-time of passionate exploration with expressive energy and purpose.

While at Texas Southern, Johnson worked shelving books in the library and as a work study student in the art department. This allowed him unlimited opportunities to read, investigate, and begin his purpose as a visual poet. Through books, he uncovered insights about the human condition, and he



Harvey Johnson, *Glory, Glory*, 2000, acrylic oil wash on canvas, 31 x 25 inches. *Courtesy of the Collection of the Poet*.

painted these cultural revelations. Like the Ananse spider web, further research revealed that "Negro Sprituals" were also filled with cryptic language relative to sacred geometry and became the focal point of his visual poetry.

Over time, Johnson developed a symbolism within his paintings that bears a strong association to the Ananse story. He incorporated geometry with the elements of nature—water, air, earth, and fire—which have deep, iconic meanings in his images. Through his renderings, he reminds us that the earth, which appears in various manifestations in his work, is sacred. People need to restore a disturbed balance. Water is another element visible within the work. Johnson warns about the danger of contaminating and polluting this resource, vital to sustaining life and represents a percentage of our bodily composition. Fire is another symbolic element often depicted in Johnson's poetry. He views low fire as valuable and useful, but he regards high fire as fast and dangerous. He also depicts physical utilitarian objects to portray profound meanings. Washtubs and wash pots, for example, symbolize the mysteries of creation, the mother's womb and the universe. Washboards, seen in many of his paintings, depict the human transformation from body to spirit. Fish symbolize regeneration, and lotus flowers symbolize the rising and setting sun. Serpents symbolize life and the chemical configuration of DNA. Quilts with their infinite sacred geometry symbolize the cosmic laws through the ages, which govern the order of the universe. The six-pointed star in the quilt is a symbol of the law of opposites. Frogs represent fertility, and turtles depict the journey of the sun through the celestial zodiac. The swirling lines seen in many of his images connote the sacred eternal cycles of life that have no beginning and no end.

In 1971, Harvey Johnson graduated with a bachelor of art education degree with a concentration in visual art from Texas Southern University and pursued a master's of Fine Arts degree at Washington State University. Coming from Southeast Texas, Eastern Washington was a dramatic change in landscape, climate, and social atmosphere for Johnson. He also worked through school as a graduate research and teaching assistant. He was the first African American to graduate from Washington State in Fine Arts with a written thesis, "A Black Aesthetic." As challenging as it was for Johnson to acclimate to his new environment, it was equally as challenging for his colleagues to come to understand his theories—an original view of his cultural identity, central to the creation of his own visual poetry. To Johnson's colleagues, he became known as "Recalcitrant Harvey." The change in physical and social environment was a good experience for Johnson. He met outstanding people and learned to appreciate the colors of nature that Washington provided. During

the change of seasons, the blues, greens, and red tints seen in the spring and summer were particularly engaging for a painter.

Upon returning to Southeast Texas in 1973, Johnson accepted an instructor position in the art department at Texas Southern University. Through his teaching tenure, he first became an assistant, associate and finally a full professor. In 2007, he retired from the university. While he was teaching at Texas Southern, he received numerous awards and honors including a Ford Foundation Grant and three artist's proclamations from the city mayors of Houston and Port Arthur, among other accolades. His poetry was, and continues to be, in numerous exhibitions both group and solo and he has completed several major commissions.

In 2013, a solo exhibition of his work, *Negro Spirituals: A Triple Middle Passage*, organized by curator Danielle Burns, opened at the Library at the Gregory School in Houston. In 2015, it traveled to the Art Museum of Southeast Texas, Beaumont, where a catalogue of his work was published. An exhibition of his poetry, *A Triple Middle Passage: The Angels Done Bowed Down*, will be on view at the Museum of the Gulf Coast, Port Arthur, from January 30 to April 1, 2016.

In summary, Poet Harvey Johnson breaks down his life into six chapters, all of which reveal themselves in his poetry. First is *Origins*—conception to birth. Second is *Grace*—a gift from the Spirit, his Spirit guide, the Spirit of African ancestors, the Spirit of earth, air, fire, water, minerals, animals, and the spirit of birds, was given to him to create, and he knew he would teach at Texas Southern University. Third is *Awakening*—in the 10th grade, the realization of his blackness, followed by the understanding his African genes. Fourth is *Identity*—a life-long study of African American history that went far beyond slavery. Fifth is *Purpose*—to awaken young people to their genius and purpose, to inspire and motivate them to make a significant contribution towards the healing of man beyond themselves, and to possess the courage to do so in the face of standardizations and criticism. Sixth is *Meaning*—unlike those who are steadfastly narrow minded, young people possess the gift to awaken and steer us to what we share in common as brothers and sisters creating new relationships and worlds of spiritual values that elevate us from human beings to spirit beings. In the words of the Negro spiritual, "Walk Together Children."

In addition to hosting an exhibit on Harvey Johnson and his visual poetry, the Art Museum of Southeast Texas leads the effort to encourage and promote the arts and culture of the region. The museum pledges, "Through unique

Harvey Johnson, *A Time to Reap and a Time to Sow*, 1968, conté on paper, 33 ¾ x 47 ½ inches. *Courtesy of the Collection of the Poet.*

collections, exhibitions and public programs and outreach in the visual arts, our mission is to provide education, inspiration and creative vision throughout Southeast Texas." To achieve this goal, it collects, preserves, exhibits, and interprets the arts with special attention to the fine and folk arts of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries by providing conservation, preservation and exhibition of collections including docent-led tours, publications, symposia, film, lectures, and interdisciplinary programs.

The museum was originally incorporated in 1950 as the Beaumont Art Museum. Housed in a rented historical home near the city business district, it was a volunteer-run space for local artists to work, exhibit, and conduct classes. In 1956, increased interest led to a permanent home—a 2,000 square foot facility at the city fairgrounds. In 1969, the museum moved again near downtown into a 5,000 square foot donated house, renovated for exhibiting art. Three years later, the museum hired its first professional staff. With wide support, $4.2 million was raised for the construction of a 22,000 square foot facility. In 1987, the museum reopened in downtown Beaumont on land leased from the city for 99 years at $1.00 per year. Convenient to public transit and major highways that cross the region, the renamed Art Museum of Southeast Texas (AMSET) reflects the institution's expanded service area beyond Beaumont. The American Association of Museums accredited AMSET in 1990 and again in 2008. The collection currently holds approximately 1,000 objects of nineteenth and twenty-first century regional fine and folk art. Contemporary and historical exhibitions enhance and lend critical context to the permanent collection. Education remains a major strength of the museum. The growth community oriented programs such as the children's computer lab, Art After School, Protégé High School Art Competition, Family Arts Days, Art-to-Go, a rotating interactive education gallery, and the junior docent program make AMSET a vital community resource and a respected arts institution in the region.

Called to active duty in 2002, the 373rd Combat Sustainment Battalion, U.S. Army Reserves, deployed to Uzbekistan and received its redisgnation as the 373rd Logistical Task Force. *Courtesy of Ralph Hefner-Babb.*

Primary Sources

Six Months in Uzbekistan:
Soldiers' Recollections from the 373 CSB, Beaumont, Texas

Theresa Hefner-Babb, Editor

Personnel in military reserve units contributed greatly to the efforts of the Global War on Terrorism (2001-present) during numerous deployments in both Afghanistan and Iraq. Special units called Combat Sustainment Battalions (CSB) provided crucial logistical and material support during these campaigns. At the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom (2001-2014), only four such units existed—two in the regular army and two in the reserves. In early 2002 during the second rotation of forces into Afghanistan, the 373 CSB of the U.S. Army Reserves, located in Beaumont, Texas, deployed to Karshi-Khanabad in Uzbekistan (also Qarshi-Khanabad). The unit returned to Beaumont in November 2003 after spending six months in-country. Many of the soldiers who served in this initial deployment have moved on to other units, and others have retired. Some served again in February 2010 when the U.S. Army deployed the unit to help with the troop draw down in Baghdad, Iraq. Today, only has six units perform combat support and sustainment, and the 373 CSB, now designated Combat Support and Sustainment Battalion (CSSB), stands ready to provide their specialized service when called back to active duty.

In early November 2001 during the weeks following the attack on the World Trade Center, the United States entered into an agreement with the government of Uzbekistan to lease a square mile section of the former Soviet air base at Karshi-Khanabad (K2), located in the Qashqadaryo Province near the

Theresa Hefner-Babb serves as the Instruction and Assessment Coordinator and Government Documents Librarian at the Mary and John Gray Library, Lamar University.

border of Turkmenistan. The U.S. military designated their section of the air base as Camp Stronghold Freedom. In December, the first wave of forces landed in Afghanistan, and Joint Logistics Command operated out of K2. Prior to the second round of call-ups, the number of Reserve and National Guard forces participating in the War on Terrorism reached its greatest number at 85,592 by June 26, 2002. The U.S. command placed units called up during this period into force-protection roles but also included those deployed to Afghanistan. The debate at the time questioned the use of part-time soldiers in missions traditionally filled by active duty units. Press coverage from 2002 indicates that the root of the problem lay in the reduction that occurred after the end of the Cold War. The regular military downsized 40 percent and many bases closed. Maj. Gen. Donald W. Sheppard stated that the Department of Defense did not need to bolster active duty troops to meet the demand but rather needed to figure out how to balance military needs between active duty and reserve and guard units. Deployment of guard and reserve troops led to concerns about the length and frequency of mobilizations, the emotional and financial impacts on families, and attrition rates.[1]

In late 2002, reserve soldiers reporting to their monthly training learned that their commanders had resolved the debate when they called on reserve and guard forces to assume active duty. In November, the 373 CSB received orders to report to Uzbekistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Established in 1972 and headquartered at the Carl Pipkin U.S. Army Reserve Center in Beaumont, the unit specializes in combat sustainment and logistics. The deployment to Uzbekistan was the first time in its history that it had been called to active duty. When the unit deployed, it became Logistical Task Force 373, and according to an account in the *Beaumont Enterprise*, it "managed seven to 10 units that provide services to the troops on the ground in Afghanistan." The 373 CSB was responsible for providing all supplies for any units assigned to K2 and any medical supplies for the Jordanian hospital in northern Afghanistan. On January 5, 2003, soldiers of the 373 CSB left Beaumont

1. Kimberly Marten, "Understanding the Impact of the K2 Closure," *PONARS Policy Memo #401*, (December 2005), 211-215; Christopher N. Koontz, *Enduring Voices: Oral Histories of the U.S. Army Experience in Afghanistan 2003-2005*. (Washington, DC: U.S. Army, Center of Military History, 2008), 1; Vince Crawley, "War for Guard, Reserves Unclear—Mission Scale Would Determine Call ups, Officials Say; Number Could Reach Gulf War Levels," *Air Force Times*, November 11, 2002, 8; Allison Perkins "Guardsmen See Increased Time on Duty." *News & Record* (Greensboro, NC), September 15, 2002, A9; Ann Scott Tyson, "Reservists Now Play Central, Not Backup Role—National Guard and Reservists Face Longest Call-up Since Vietnam, Straining Families and Employers," *Christian Science Monitor,* September 3, 2002, 3.

Map of Uzbekistan showing Qarshi (or Karshi) to the south. Samarqand (or Samarkand) lies to the northeast of Qarshi. *Courtesy of the Central Intelligence Agency, Washington, DC.*

for further training at Fort Hood before deploying to theater. Reflecting on his time in Uzbekistan, Sgt. Maj. Chad Brown remembered that upon taking command on February 4 from the Logistical Task Force 329 the 373 CSB oversaw 12 subordinate companies, including the 22nd Postal Company, the 91st Provost Marshal Office, the 972nd Military Police Company, the 126th Finance Detachment, the 54th Mortuary Affairs Detachment, the 154th Petroleum Oil Lab, the 659th Maintenance Company, the 754th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Detachment, and the 945th Engineer Company. The unit provided personnel support to forces at K2 Air Base as well as the Forward Logistics Element at Mazar-e-Sharif and Kunduz, Afghanistan.[2]

The time between mobilization and deployment was a short two months. Many soldiers of 373 CSB were uncertain about their role at K2. They deployed to a former Soviet airbase, undergoing reconstruction, and found themselves in a climate opposite of the humid environment of Beaumont. The command oversaw a variety of units, some of which typically would not report to a logistics task force. Day to day issues included distributing materials

2. Christine Rappleye, "From One Extreme to the Other: Beaumont Army Reserve Unit Now Calls Uzbekistan Home as it Supports U.S. Ground Troops in Afghanistan," *The Beaumont Enterprise,* February 24, 2003, A1; Chad Brown, *Uzbekistan: The Unknown War Zone* (unpublished paper. 2009, 2011), USASMA Digital Library (website: carl.army.mil/contentdm/usasma.htm).

to these different elements of the U.S. Army, facing the challenges receiving supplies in a landlocked country, and dealing with personnel issues. Free time offered opportunity for short trips, shopping, soccer games, and movies.

Theresa Hefner-Babb conducted this informal joint interview with Lt. Col. (LTC) Cynthia K. Summers and Sgt. 1st Class (SFC) Ralph J. Hefner-Babb on August 23, 2015. This oral history will begin a project of documenting the experiences of the soldiers from the 373 CSB (now 373 CSSB) who served during the 2002-2003 deployment. The interviewer is married to Sergeant First Class Hefner-Babb and knows Lieutenant Colonel Summers from her time in the unit's Family Readiness Group between July 2006 and October 2015.

LTC Cynthia K. Summers, U.S. Army Reserves, retired, served as the Executive Officer of the 373 CSB during the unit's deployment to K2. She was born in Hutchinson, Kansas. She earned her undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice and a master's degree in Applied Criminology from Lamar University, where she also received a commission in the Reserve Officer Training Corps before going on active duty. She worked for the Texas Youth Commission at the Jefferson County State School prior to the deployment. From 1984 to 1992, LTC Summers served on active duty as a Military Police Officer, and during Desert Storm (Gulf War, 1990-1991), she served as a Company Commander for the 978th Military Police Company, Fort Bliss, Texas. When she came back to Beaumont in 1992, she joined the U.S. Army Reserve and the 373 CSB. At the time of her deployment in 2002, Summers held the rank of major. During the unit's deployment to Baghdad, Iraq, in 2010, she served as rear detachment commander, supervising the soldiers who remained here in Beaumont. Summers retired from the reserves in 2014. She currently works for the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

SFC Ralph J. Hefner-Babb, U.S. Army Reserves, retired, served as the Nuclear Biological Chemical Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge during the 373 CSB's deployment to K2 and received a promotion to Staff Sergeant while overseas. His responsibilities included chemical, nuclear, and biological operations at K2. He also served as the German linguist for the unit. SFC Hefner-Babb was born at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, in 1963 and was raised in Bad Nauheim, Germany, and in Texas. He is a graduate of Huntsville High School and earned bachelor's degrees in German and History from Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas, and a master's in Education from the University of Phoenix. In 1985, Hefner-Babb enlisted in the U.S.

Army, and after finishing two years of active duty, he transferred to the Texas National Guard with assignments in 163rd Armored Cavalry, 50th Armored Division; in the 49th Armored Division in Huntsville; and in the 1/133 field artillery service battery in Port Neches, Texas. In 2000, he transferred to the 373 CSB. Hefner-Babb worked for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice from 1993 until 1998 when he began teaching German at Odom Academy and Ozen High School in the Beaumont Independent School District. While he served overseas, his mother Helga Hefner-Babb, age 79, took over teaching his German classes. In 2010 when the U.S. military deployed the 373 CSSB to Baghdad, SFC Hefner-Babb served as the rear detachment first sergeant in Beaumont until his retirement in June 2010. He currently teaches German at Caney Creek High School in Conroe, Texas.

***Theresa Hefner-Babb*: So where I really wanted to start is the mobilization process. Because I know it's so much different now than it was then.**

LTC Summers: Yeah.

Theresa Hefner-Babb: When the unit got called up, what the duties were, etc.

LTC Summers: I don't remember exactly, but I know it was around Thanksgiving of 2002 that Colonel [James] Beasley first heard that he thought we were going to get mobilized.[3] He did this big dramatic thing where he brought everybody in the drill hall and explained that we were about to be mobilized. We thought we were about to be mobilized and if we were going to go with him. You know, the whole line in the sand come over here.

***Theresa Hefner-Babb*: That's what he said.**

LTC Summers: Yeah.

SFC Hefner-Babb: That's, you know, [SFC Robert] Lacob.[4] Bob made a joke about that and he told Colonel Beasley, "You know Sir, that's kind of like The Alamo." The line in the sand.

LTC Summers: But anyway, even in those days, that unit had never been mobilized. I don't think they really knew what to expect. But Colonel Beasley

3. LTC James Beasley was the commander of the 373 CSB from 2000 until 2003. He is retired from the U. S. Army Reserves.

4. SFC Robert "Bob" Lacob was assigned to the 373 CSB as a member of the Active Guard Reserve (AGR). He worked at the unit from 2000 until his retirement in 2007. Lacob served as the unit's S4, or supply sergeant.

was excited about the prospect of going and tried to keep everybody energetic about it.

In those days, there wasn't anything like cross-leveling of soldiers and things. We pretty much felt like we had to go find people to fill the vacancies. So we kind of put the call out. Hey, we think the unit's going to mobilize. That was right on the heels of 9/11. Within about a year of 9/11 so a lot of people were very anxious to get in the fight. We really didn't have too many problems filling our vacant slots. We had a lot of people that volunteered and wanted to come.

Now days if you have vacancies they'll [do] what we call cross-level. They'll go out and find people and make them come to the unit whether they want to come or not. So pretty much everybody that went with us wanted to go. In a way, that makes a better positive attitude because they wanted to be there.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Right.

LTC Summers: It wasn't that they were forced to go.

SFC Hefner-Babb: It was mostly all a volunteers thing. Everybody wanted to go. It was not like, "Well I don't want to go because . . . ."

***Theresa Hefner-Babb*: Did they do that whole process like they do now? With all the medical and all that ahead of time or was it just . . . .**

LTC Summers: That actually didn't happen until we got probably to the mobilization station.

SFC Hefner-Babb: To the mobilization site.

LTC Summers: Most people in those days wouldn't tell you they had something wrong with them because they wanted to go. The unit had a lot of older guys who'd been in the unit a long time and they knew this was going to be their only opportunity to serve in a combat role or a semi-combat role. At that time we had no idea what we were getting into. That's what they'd trained for all those years.

If they had something wrong with them, they didn't want to tell anybody because they were afraid they wouldn't get to go. It was a totally different attitude then. Again, it was a year after 9/11, so people were still very angry and wanted to lash out at somebody. To get back for what had happened.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Right.

***Theresa Hefner-Babb*: What was the process here before you left?**

LTC Summers: We were here three days. I think we were here three days and that was pretty much packing up, loading out. Maybe there was some training here. I don't really remember. It was pretty quick.

SFC Hefner-Babb: I think we were here for about a week because we had to report to the unit every morning. In other words, we were put on active duty and we had to report every morning. We did PT [physical training] and all that every morning and then we went to our duty assignments and got stuff ready to be loaded up and then the 644th [Transportation Company]. They hauled all our stuff to the fort [Fort Hood in Killeen, Texas] on their flat-bed trucks.

LTC Summers: I remember having the pallets built to be sent out but I don't remember a whole lot about that process. That's not the first time I'd mobilized or deployed or whatever, so some of it may be kind of crosswise for me, but it just doesn't seem like we did a whole lot here before we left. Back at that time, too, you took everything you had because you were trying to anticipate what we might be doing.

We did get contacted. The Colonel [Beasley] got [into] contact with the unit we were replacing to try to get some feedback on what we were going to be doing once we got in-country but I don't remember when that happened. I think we may have been at the [mobilization] station by the time that happened. That we actually started having communications with the unit from Missouri that we replaced.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Yeah. That's true.

LTC Summers: We just had to anticipate anything that could possibly . . .

SFC Hefner-Babb: Materialize.

LTC Summers: . . . anything that they could possibly have us do. Because the type of unit that we were, it depends on the subordinate units that you have as to what your mission's going to be.

It could be heavy ordinance. It could be supplying ammunition or running an ammunition supply point. Or it could be fuel. You could be heavily providing fuel and moving fuel around or supplies around. The food. Are we doing the food? Are we doing the water?

Until you see what subordinate units you are going to have, you really don't know what capabilities you're going to have and what you can provide from the Quartermaster sense. We really didn't have an idea before we went what kind of logistics we were going to be responsible for.

SFC Hefner-Babb: I took all my NBC (nuclear, biological, chemical) stuff with me. That was part of the S2/3 shop. And I did all of the NBC operations. Sergeant [Cory] Najera was the TOC NCO. I was the TOC NCO for the night missions.[5]

***Theresa Hefner-Babb*: Now when you say "TOC" what is "TOC?"**

SFC Hefner-Babb: Tactical Operations Center.

LTC Summers: So it's kind of like any operation that comes in. They analyze it and see what response needs to happen.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Najera did the TOC NCO [Tactical Operations Center Non Commissioned Officer]. I did TOC NCO. I did all the NBC operations. We had intel. I was trying to explain how this whole . . . , What is a CSB? And what is it or CSSB? And I was telling her that it's kind of a logistics management corporation. That's the best thing I can say. Say you wanted 5,000 gallons of aviation fuel. The whole thing is built around a SPO which means Support Operations. SPO is the brain-child of the whole operation basically. It goes through—runs the whole thing. Everybody else is around to support SPO. Basically.

LTC Summers: Well, let me tell you technically how it works.—from somebody who's been in the SPO. That's your perspective.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Yes ma'am.

LTC Summers: But really how it's supposed to work is . . . . Support Operations, I used to tell people we were the Super Walmart of the battlefield. The SPO is responsible for getting anything a client needs.

Logistics-wise, they get the orders from the clients. We would have units that were assigned to us to be our customer units. They had to keep track of, just as a good example, fuel. How much fuel are the units we're responsible for using on a daily basis? Then we have to get from the supplier that amount of fuel to make sure to keep them sustained in whatever operation they were doing.

5. St. Sgt Cory Najera Najera is currently a master sergeant, 80th Training Command, Headquarters and Headquarters Company. Travis Edwards, "U.S., Uzbeks Find Ties in Soccer," *Veterans Hour*, May 21, 2003 (website: www.veteranshour.com).

Now the other part of the unit. The S2/3 the S1 which is the personnel. S1 is personnel. S2/3 is operations and intelligence.

The S4 is supply for internal. Anything our unit needed or the units that work for us. The support units that work for us needed to operate, we were responsible for. So in that same example. The units that work for us, how much fuel did they use on a daily basis? We had to make sure they had the fuel they needed to operate so that our customers got what they needed. So there's two different operations going on at the same time.

There was always this tussle back and forth. "Oh when we go to war the SPO is going to be the most important thing because they do everything." Well they don't. They do things for the customer. For the client units that we have. They are responsible for making sure they have what they need to survive on the battlefield. Everybody else that's part of that unit has to make sure that the unit can operate because if we're not keeping ourselves operational we can't provide for the client. That's basically how it works.

SFC Hefner-Babb: In a nutshell.

LTC Summers: In a nutshell.

***Theresa Hefner-Babb*: What was your role at the time?**

LTC Summers: At the time, I was the Executive Officer for the unit. I'm like second in command, like being the Vice-President. So if something happens to the commander I'd step up, and I'm in charge. The commander is responsible for everything, but he can't be everywhere. So the Executive Officer runs the local staff. So that S4 officer and S2/3 officer and the S1 officer, I'm making sure that they're taking care of our units.

So I run the staff. The commander, he has direct command authority with the commanders of the subordinate units that work for us. So he's directing what the units do that provide those supply and services for our customers. I'm making sure our staff takes care of us internally. That we're operating.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Basically, you know, in a nutshell.

***Theresa Hefner-Babb*: So the unit left here and then you went to Fort Hood. How long were you at Fort Hood? Ballpark?**

LTC Summers: I don't think I'm going to remember that.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Two months.

LTC Summers: When did we get to theater? I can tell you the day we left is the day the shuttle came apart over Texas [February 1, 2003].

SFC Hefner-Babb: Yeah. Because when we left . . . .

LTC Summers: We were on the bus and we could see the debris because it was coming over East Texas.

***Theresa Hefner-Babb*: That was *Columbia*?**

SFC Hefner-Babb: *Columbia*. Yeah.

LTC Summers: We left that day.

SFC Hefner-Babb: We left that day, and we went to the old Bergstrom Air Force Base which is now Austin International, and we left from there.

LTC Summers: We were afraid we weren't going to be able to leave because we didn't know what was happening. You could see something was happening. You got to the airport, and you know how they have CNN or whatever in the airport, so we were trying to watch and see what was going on. I know I was kind of worried. Are we actually going to get to go overseas if something going on?

Yeah, then we went to Germany. How long were we over there? A day or two?

SFC Hefner-Babb: We were there for two days.

LTC Summers: Two days. I don't remember how long, but we were there for just a short period of time.

SFC Hefner-Babb: I remember Colonel Beasley was screaming, "Where is Sergeant Hefner-Babb? Where is Sergeant Hefner-Babb? You've got to tell these Germans who we are."

***Theresa Hefner-Babb*: At that time did you travel in uniform or civilian?**

LTC Summers: We went over on . . . .

SFC Hefner-Babb: Civilian.

LTC Summers: Yeah commercial flights in civilian clothes. I knew they were commercial flights.

SFC Hefner-Babb: We went over there on commercial flights in civilian clothes.

LTC Summers: You could change in Germany before we went on to . . . .

From L to R: Capt. [Sharon?] Stevens, Lt. Col. Cynthia K. Summers, and 1st Lt. Virginia Frick, 2003. *Courtesy of Cynthia K. Summers.*

SFC Hefner-Babb: We went to Rhein Main Air Force Base. I remember that. We stayed in these big beer tents that the Germans provided. I think we had one or two meals there with the Air Force.

LTC Summers: I just remember there being snow on the ground.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Yeah.

LTC Summers: And being cold.

SFC Hefner-Babb: There was a lot of snow. And we changed and then we left that afternoon.

LTC Summers: We may have just been there overnight. I don't remember us being there a really long period of time. Two days at the most I would think.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Yeah two days. That was it.

***Theresa Hefner-Babb*: Then after that?**

LTC Summers: We went to K2.

***Theresa Hefner-Babb*: He has told me something about coming in . . . .**

SFC Hefner-Babb: In Kabul?

***Theresa Hefner-Babb*: In Kabul and . . . .**

SFC Hefner-Babb: We landed at Kabul, and they unloaded something in Kabul.

LTC Summers: I don't remember that.

SFC Hefner-Babb: And then from Kabul we flew to K2.

***Theresa Hefner-Babb*: Ralph said something about antiaircraft fire . . . .**

SFC Hefner-Babb: I thought that was what was going on.

LTC Summers: I remember coming out we had to stop in Afghanistan because the door wouldn't seal.

SFC Hefner-Babb: That's right. The door wouldn't seal.

LTC Summers: The light was on, and the door wouldn't seal, and so they were worried about the door . . . .

SFC Hefner-Babb: Blowing off.

LTC Summers: We had to land for the Air Force to fix the door on the airplane before we could completely leave. They wouldn't let us off the plane.

SFC Hefner-Babb: No.

LTC Summers: I don't know where we were in Afghanistan. It was just somewhere in Afghanistan.

SFC Hefner-Babb: We were there.

LTC Summers: Because if you looked out, you couldn't see anything.

***Theresa Hefner-Babb*: Okay, so the unit was assigned to K2.**

LTC Summers: Well yeah, Karshi Khanabad, Uzbekistan. There was a camp there. We also had a satellite camp in Northern Afghanistan where the Jordanians had a hospital. We were tasked with supplying supplies for the Jordanian Hospital to operate. There were Special Forces that operated off of K2 in northern Afghanistan. We were their main supplier—plus anybody that operated on the main airbase—the Air Force, I think. At some point, there was a Navy person there, so we had every branch of service. There were Marines there that at some point we were responsible for providing supplies to. We had either 12 or 14 subordinate units and detachments. It was much more than we should have had, but some of the detachments were maybe three or

four people. Guys that were explosive ordinance guys that were there—four of them.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Four or five people.

LTC Summers: Some of them were small units. Some of them were big units like the engineers that were on the base refurbishing everything because we were on an old Soviet airbase. Soviet hangers, and we were not in real good shape. Kind of dilapidated. They were rebuilding the base . . . .

We were responsible for the Military Police Unit that was there which is definitely not something that our unit should have been in charge of. [91st] Provost Marshal's Detachment. But they didn't have any other command and control because we were the only Americans in Uzbekistan were the ones that were on K2 so kind of like. It was like being on a post in a way where you have to be self-sufficient, so somebody's got to be in charge. ASG [Area Support Group] that was ahead of us that was over us the full bird Colonel that ran the unit from [Fort Bragg] North Carolina. They were an active duty unit. He was responsible for the base. Joint command with the Air Force because the Air Force had their Colonel as well.

SFC Hefner-Babb: And then we had the 18th Airborne Corp too. Weren't they over us also?

LTC Summers: We didn't have any . . . . Oh yeah! The JLC [Joint Logistics Command].

SFC Hefner-Babb: Yeah.

LTC Summers: The Joint Logistics Command. They had a full bird Colonel too.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Yeah. What was his name? Colonel Williams I think?

LTC Summers: Colonel Williams was the guy from Fort Bragg over . . . the command that was directly over us. The logistical unit that you're talking about had a very small staff.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Yes they did.

LTC Summers: They were almost on the same level with Colonel Williams and his staff. Probably because they really didn't have much staff.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Some of the units deployed in-country. I know that they didn't have their full MTOE [Modified Table of Organization and Equipment]. The full people.[6]

LTC Summers: They only sent what we would call a slice of the unit, a piece of the unit, because based on what you needed done. For example, the EOD [Explosive Ordnance Disposal] guys we were talking about. There were only three or four of them, but we didn't have a bunch of IEDs [Improvised Explosive Devices]. We didn't have explosive ordinance disposal that they needed to do. There wasn't any reason to have a big unit of those guys. But they did have an ASP [Ammunition Supply Point], so if they had any problems with munitions, they still need somebody from EOD that would be able to take care of anything that needed to be exploded.

SFC Hefner-Babb: I remember we had a postal.

LTC Summers: Yeah. The postal people were responsible to us—the Adjutant General, the in-and-out processing. The personnel people that would do the in-and-out processing—soldiers coming in and out—they were responsible for the postal detachment that was there because postal people were generally under that personnel the AG [Adjutant General] branch. We had those guys underneath us too.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Didn't we have a heavy maintenance unit that was with us.

LTC Summers: Mm-hmm (affirmative). The first shift that was there was from Fort Bragg as well. Lieutenant [Virginia] Frick?[7]

SFC Hefner-Babb: Frick, yeah.

LTC Summers: Yeah. First Lieutenant. She had a detachment [659th Company Detachment]. They weren't a full company. There was probably maybe a platoon or two.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Then we had now the base. The dispensary.

LTC Summers: The hospital unit?

SFC Hefner-Babb: The hospital unit. Weren't they under us also?

6. Modified Table of Organization and Equipment lists the personnel allotted to a specific unit.

7. Edwards, "U.S., Uzbeks Find Ties in Soccer."

LTC Summers: No. They were not. For command and control purposes, no. They were not under us. We may have given them supplies, but we did not headquarter them.

SFC Hefner-Babb: I know we had a fuel laboratory [154th Petroleum Oil Laboratory].

LTC Summers: Yep.

SFC Hefner-Babb: A fuel testing unit that would test fuel.

LTC Summers: Yes. That was right—out of New Mexico.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Then we had a Mortuary Affairs Unit.[8]

LTC Summers: Yeah, there weren't very many guys in that . . . .

SFC Hefner-Babb: There were what, five or six, at that detachment?

LTC Summers: No there weren't very many people in that detachment either.

SFC Hefner-Babb: What else did we have? We had maintenance. Did we have a transportation unit?

LTC Summers: I don't think so because we didn't truck anything. You didn't move anything by ground up there.

SFC Hefner-Babb: No. No.

LTC Summers: Everything had to be flown in.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Flown in, yeah.

LTC Summers: We did not use the road networks.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Horrible.

LTC Summers: Well you've got to remember, too. That was 2003, so any road networks have been built since then. That was long before we were there.

SFC Hefner-Babb: What else? There was . . . . I can't remember.

LTC Summers: The engineers. There was an ordinance unit because there was an ammunition supply point. There was a unit that ran the warehouse operations.

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8. This was a detachment of the 54th Mortuary Affairs Company from Fort Lee, Virginia. A detachment of mortuary affairs is assigned at the nearest support area where they operate the collection point. U.S. Army, Quartermasters Corps. *MAC Staff Guide*, October 2, 2014 (website: www.quartermaster.army.mil).

SFC Hefner-Babb: That's it. They were from Minnesota or somewhere? Or Michigan?

LTC Summers: I don't remember where they were from. But they ran a warehouse. So if you needed a specialized part, you would place an order and it would come in and they would distribute it to the unit that needed it. Like the maintenance unit that was there. If they needed repair parts, the warehouse would give them the repair parts that they needed. We had those guys, too.

SFC Hefner-Babb: I'm trying to figure out what else did we have? Laundry, bath and showers that was with . . . Brown & Root.

LTC Summers: Yeah that was all contracted.

SFC Hefner-Babb: All contracted.

LTC Summers: Food service, the water, the laundry, the showers—that was all contracted. We weren't responsible for that.

SFC Hefner-Babb: What was that unit ma'am that was the engineer unit that built furniture and all that?

LTC Summers: That was probably the engineer unit that was rebuilding the camp.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Was that the engineer unit? Yeah.

LTC Summers: They were from South Dakota? North Dakota? One of the Dakotas, weren't they?

SFC Hefner-Babb: North Dakota.

LTC Summers: And then there was a contingent of Marines there, too. I can't remember what those guys did. They might have been engineers, too, weren't they? I'm trying to remember.

SFC Hefner-Babb: I thought they were Seabees [CBs, or Construction Battalions]. No.

LTC Summers: I just remember there were Marines there. If [Chad] Brown wrote anything up, he might have put some detail into what type of units there were.[9] Now, it depends on when he wrote it because if he wrote it close to when we had come back then he might remember that a lot better.

9. Chad Brown was a master sergeant assigned to the maintenance section of the 373 CSB. Brown is currently a Command Sergeant Major who continues to work at the Reserve Center as a civilian employee in the maintenance shop.

SFC Hefner-Babb: No this was written when he was in Sergeant Major's Academy, Fort Bliss.

LTC Summers: It would have been after then. Well after.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Well, well after.

LTC Summers: It depends on how much record keeping he kept, too.

SFC Hefner-Babb: I also know that he was in charge of all the maintenance.

LTC Summers: He did the maintenance, yeah.

LTC Summers: If you can get a hold of [Chris] Flowers and talk to him, he can tell you what happened in northern Afghanistan because he spent a lot of time on that little base [the Forward Logistics Element in Mazar-e-Sharif].[10] He got assigned down there fairly early on and spent most of his time down there I think.

SFC Hefner-Babb: [Joe] Beck was down there too.[11]

LTC Summers: Yeah, Beck is another one that was down there.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Davila was fuel. What was his name? Sergeant First Class . . . .

LTC Summers: Who are you talking about? Fregia?

SFC Hefner-Babb: Fregia, yeah.

LTC Summers: I don't know what they had him doing because he was laundry and baths, and they didn't have a mission for that.

SFC Hefner-Babb: But he teamed up with Davila because they could use him in that respect. Beck was down there, and Lacob was the S4.

LTC Summers: Lacob, yeah.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Yeah. Najera and I and then they had who else? Who ran commo (communications) [Mark] Miller?[12]

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10. Maj. (now LTC) Chris Flowers is a native of Southeast Texas who works in criminal justice. In 2009, he deployed with the 373 CSSB to Baghdad as the unit's executive officer and is currently assigned to a reserve unit in New Orleans, Louisiana.

11. MSG Joe Beck is a current resident of Southeast Texas who worked in the local refineries. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War and retired from the reserves in 2005.

12. Sgt. (now SFC) Mark Miller is currently assigned to an Army Reserve unit in Houston.

LTC Summers: Miller was in commo. What was the other guy's name? He was just another specialist.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Arvizu

LTC Summers: Arvizu was a PFC [Private First Class], I think, when we went. No, there was a black guy.

SFC Hefner-Babb: I know, and I can't remember.

LTC Summers: I can't think of what his name is. He got in a bit of trouble while we were down there.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Yes.

LTC Summers: He was the one that stole Najera's password and login and was looking at stuff on the internet that he shouldn't have been.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Yeah, because I remember that evening that . . . .

LTC Summers: Was it Hanes?

SFC Hefner-Babb: Hanes.

LTC Summers: Hanes.

SFC Hefner-Babb: You always remember the bad ones, ma'am.

LTC Summers: Well, I just remember the incident because they were really trying to nail Najera for that and because it was his password and login that was used, but he wasn't on duty when it was happening.

SFC Hefner-Babb: That's right. Because they had the CID down there investigating.

LTC Summers: That's right. We had a CID detachment assigned to us too.

***Theresa Hefner-Babb*: What is CID?**

LTC Summers: Criminal Investigative Division.

SFC Hefner-Babb: It's like your police force.

LTC Summers: Well it's more specialized. They're investigators, so it's . . . .

***Theresa Hefner-Babb*: Kind of like the NCIS type people in the Navy?**

LTC Summers: Yeah. If you watch that . . . . In fact they do CID on *NCIS* [television series] every once in a while.

SFC Hefner-Babb: What else?

***Theresa Hefner-Babb*: What was a typical day like? One that you can talk about.**

LTC Summers: It was all based on what they wanted. For a long time, fresh fruits and . . . . You would think this is funny, but fresh fruits and vegetables was a big deal.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Yes it was.

LTC Summers: The conference calls we would do back to the United States—they were talking about how much fresh fruits and vegetables was coming into theater—because they were trying to make sure that the soldier's diet was not just MREs (Meal Ready to Eat). It became a big deal about, could we get enough and where were we getting it from? They were talking about shipping that stuff from the United States because they couldn't get it locally.

We had a supply train that was hung up in Georgia and some equipment that was hung up in Georgia. At first people were like, "Georgia, we'll just ship it out." Thinking like, the state of Georgia.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Not the country.

***Theresa Hefner-Babb*: Not [former] Soviet Georgia.**

SFC Hefner-Babb: Soviet Georgia.

LTC Summers: And it had to get from point-a to point-b, and so a lot of stuff came in by rail and had political intricacies to how you could get it, and then sometimes by the time you got it, was the food any good by the time it got there?

SFC Hefner-Babb: I remember Major Moton coming over and saying—was it Moton? Yeah, it was Moton—and saying that they needed a part and the only people that had it was the Germans, and this was a heater part of some sort or something. They came directly to me, and they said, "Sergeant Hefner-Babb, I'll give you the number and everything. Can you call them and tell them that that's what we need in German?"—because the guy obviously didn't understand any English. I got on the phone, and it went smooth. I guess they got the part. I don't know.

LTC Summers: It seems like that maybe is a specialized piece of equipment and it needs a particular repair part. They would have to put it on an airplane to

get to us and daily briefing may be, "Where is that piece? Where is that item at?" And you'd have to have an answer.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Yeah, you'd have to track it.

LTC Summers: Back then, it wasn't as well tracked as you could track it now.

We were just getting into the barcoding and the scanning of equipment and having it in the computer. It was a lot of getting on the phone and calling back and finding out where things were and where's that plane and where did it land and when's it gonna be here and why is it delayed and that kind of stuff.

SFC Hefner-Babb: It was a big headache.

LTC Summers: It could be.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Very much so.

LTC Summers: Especially when some colonel or general wanted to know why some mission wasn't being done because they're waiting for some piece of equipment they can't move.

SFC Hefner-Babb: I remember one incident—the postal unit deployed into country without NBC, and I almost hit the roof.

LTC Summers: Their stuff was in a container that was sitting in Georgia. For whatever reason it went to a port in Georgia, and they could never figure out how to get it from Georgia to K2. I think they redeployed it from there. They never did. We were having to figure out. Do we have enough?—because everybody comes to theater with two sets of NBCs. So we were going, well can we come up with enough of this internally that we're going to give your second suit to somebody else in the Postal Unit because he doesn't have his first suit?

SFC Hefner-Babb: And I did, because we built stuff for them. I told Captain [Iverson] Jarrell . . . .[13]

LTC Summers: Oh yeah. The S-2, Captain Jarrell . . . .

SFC Hefner-Babb: Anyways, I rebuilt everything. I said, "Sir, if there's an attack, the unit will be able to do NBC."

13. Capt. Iverson Jarrell was assigned to the 373 CSB from July 2002 until August 2004 as the Battalion S-3 (Operations and Training Officer). He is career military and is currently the Chief Collective Training and Exercises officer at the 9th Mission Support Command at Fort Shafter, Hawaii. Iverson Jarrell profile, LinkedIn (website: www.linkedin.com).

Sgt. 1st Class Ralph J. Hefner-Babb in Uzbekistan, 2003. *Courtesy of Ralph J. Hefner-Babb.*

LTC Summers: Because this young lieutenant had been told put all their stuff in a Conex [an intermodal container for shipping and storage], and the Conex will be brought over. But it didn't make it overseas the way everybody else's equipment made it overseas. He had to fly it in, and he couldn't put it on a ship. He had a double landlocked country. There is no port.

SFC Hefner-Babb: I had to beg, borrow, and steal parts to get them going. I wasn't going to let those guys out there with nothing.

***Theresa Hefner-Babb*: So how long were you overseas there?**

LTC Summers: Six months.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Was it six months?

LTC Summers: I think we were deployed, or we were on active duty for about seven and a half because by the time we mobilized, we trained at Fort Hood, we were in-country, and then we came back and demob [demobilized]. Now the demob was pretty quick, I think what, a week?

SFC Hefner-Babb: Probably less than a week.

LTC Summers: Yeah.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Demob was quick.

LTC Summers: Because back in those days they didn't. They really weren't screening people for medical issues. Most people just wanted to go home, so they just let you go. They didn't really decompress, or they didn't do any type of training after you got back or counseling or very little.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Very little was done. They probably checked your heart. They checked your blood-pressure. They did all this other stuff and then boom.

LTC Summers: Again, they relied on you telling them, "Oh I'm fine." "Anything wrong with you?" "Oh, you think you have that wrong with you? Okay, you go get in this line over here because we're going to keep you here." Which is what happened to [Scott] Haywood.[14]

SFC Hefner-Babb: Yeah, Haywood was . . . .

LTC Summers: There for a really long time.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Scott told me. He said he was up there for six weeks—something like that.

LTC Summers: It seemed like it was longer than that. It seems like he was gone for months. But you'd have to ask him. But he was very unhappy.

SFC Hefner-Babb: He was not a happy camper at all.

LTC Summers: With that whole process. It just kind of highlighted the fact that you wanted to go home. You just told them you were fine.

SFC Hefner-Babb: And they sent you home.

LTC Summers: And they sent you home. Yeah.

***Theresa Hefner-Babb*: Now they don't do that.**

LTC Summers: Now they don't. Well, and they finally got to a process where you said something was wrong with you and you needed some kind of medical assistance, you could go home, and they would send you to a local doctor to get that taken care of. So you stayed on active duty, but you also got medical help from home. That was a process that they started which would have been helpful at that time.

14. MSG Scott Haywood retired from the U.S. Army Reserves after returning from the 2003 deployment. He worked at the 373 CSSB as a civilian until his retirment in 2005.

***Theresa Hefner-Babb*: Are there any anecdotes that . . . . Ralph has talked about this a number of times. What's the story about the Girl Scout cookies?**

LTC Summers: We just had Girl Scout cookies.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Yeah, the Girl Scout cookies arrived, and "Yes, Ma'am, we'll buy 10 cases of Girl Scout cookies."

LTC Summers: I had a bunch of Girl Scout cookies that were shipped over. Yeah.

***Theresa Hefner-Babb*: Kind of like how they do the popcorn now with the Cub Scouts.**

LTC Summers: Well, they were doing popcorn back then.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Yup. Anything else?

***Theresa Hefner-Babb*: I want to get the story on tape about the leave trip that you guys talk about where they ended up with the pounds of lamb.**

SFC Hefner-Babb: Oh, to Samarkand. We went on an R&R to Samarkand.[15]

***Theresa Hefner-Babb*: "We," who?**

SFC Hefner-Babb: Lacob, myself, Haywood, and several other people in the Air Force. We had two or three buses, and we went to Samarkand which was on the Silk Road, and we all went out there and looked at all the niceties of Genghis Khan and his palaces and all that, and you weren't with us Ma'am. I know that.

LTC Summers: No, I never went on one of those trips because we try to let the lower Master Soldiers go before people that had rank. I never got a chance to do that.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Bob (Lacob) and I and Scott [Haywood] and we all went to this restaurant and nobody could speak English, and there was no English interpreter, so Bob looks at the meal card and says, "That looks good." I said, "What did you order?" He said, "I don't know. It just looks good." So he gets this . . . . What it was, was this shish kebab of lamb? And it had vegetables,

15. Samarkand is located in Uzbekistan in the Samarkand Region and is the location of the Registan Mosque and madrasss, Bibi-Khanum Mosque, the Shakhi-Zinda compound, and the Gu-Emir-ensemble, as well as Ulugh-Beg's Observatory. "Samarkand-Crossroad of Cultures," UNESCO (website: whc.unesco.org).

and it's like barbecue so he gets done and he says, "Man this is good stuff." He tells the waiter, "Hey. . . ." The waiter says, "No, you're getting another load." And another load. And another load. And what he did is he ordered like 10 or 20 pounds of lamb and didn't know it because he couldn't read the thing.

He asked me, he said, "Ralph, can you read this?" I said, "This is not German." So he kept getting this stuff, and then they gave him the bill, and it was like, 20 or 30 thousand Uzbeks, or whatever it was. He said, "I don't have that type of money. I got to have that wired from the states." He said, "I'm broke. I don't have 20 or 30 thousand Uzbeks. I never paid in a restaurant in the United States in my life 30 or 40 thousand. No, no, no." And one guys says, "That's five dollars in Uzbek money." Because when the Russians left, they didn't leave those people anything. There was nothing. And the money was worth nothing because there was nothing to back it with, and it was all paper basically. Like your notebook paper. That was five bucks.

LTC Summers: Yeah, if you bought anything from over there, they did not have things that were of quality.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Not at all.

LTC Summers: They would have made in China cheap stuff. They didn't have things of real quality.

When Najera used to play soccer with the Uzbeks, and I would go out and watch him play sometimes because to me, it was like . . . . I used to tell people being in Uzbekistan was like being a trustee in a prison. You're free to roam about anywhere within the walls, but you can't go outside of it.

It was the first time I had been deployed somewhere where you didn't really get to see the local culture. You didn't really interact with the people. Very few of them. They had a military school of their own right off the camp and so whenever it was, Saturdays or Sundays. I don't remember what day of the week it was.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Saturday mornings.

LTC Summers: They would have a pickup soccer game, and Najera was big into soccer.

SFC Hefner-Babb: He was a good player.

LTC Summers: He was a really good player. He'd go out there and play. So I'd go out there and watch him because the guys from the military academy, they

would have their wives and their children, and so it was like a family day or a day at the park. It kind of reminded me of home. It was fun to watch them play because it was like an exchange type thing where the Americans could play with the Uzbeks, and they kind of got a camaraderie going or whatever. They looked forward to it.

If you do a Google search for my name as a Major, I think the article is still out there on the internet.[16]

SFC Hefner-Babb: That and if you put in 373rd in Uzbekistan in K2. Najera put a picture up there and something about playing soccer.

LTC Summers: It's the same article. There's quotes in there from both of us.

The *Beaumont Enterprise* did a piece on us that Sergeant Major [Dana] Braquet got in a bunch of hoo-ha about. Colonel Beasley didn't like it that he had either written back or he did something, and they did a little article and had a picture from inside the aircraft of the plane and . . . .[17]

SFC Hefner-Babb: I've still got that.

LTC Summers: Yeah, that was a nice piece but Colonel Beasley got all bent out of shape. Colonel Beasley and Sergeant Major Braquet were not your typical Commander and Sergeant Major. They weren't a team. That's another thing I used to tell people a lot. I felt like I was the referee. I just needed a black and white striped shirt. I could talk to Colonel Beasley, and he would listen to me. Sergeant Major would always come to me with his stuff. If I went to Colonel Beasley with an idea and didn't tell him it was the Sergeant Major's idea, he'd go with it. He'd think it was okay. But if he knew it was the Sergeant Major's idea, it had to be the dumbest thing he had ever heard in his life because the Sergeant Major had never been deployed before.

The other thing that I like to tell people about K2 that was very wondrous is we came up during a time when we were taught that the Russians were the enemy. We were going to fight it out in Germany. We were going to protect the German [and] Poland sovereignty against the Russian horde.

16. Edwards, "U.S., Uzbeks Find Ties in Soccer."

17. Rappleye, "From One Extreme to the Other." Dana Braquet served as Command Sergeant Major with the 373 CSB from October 1998 until April 2005, when he retired from the U.S. Army Reserve after a 30 year career. His prior service included six years of active duty in the Marine Corps and 24 years in the Army Reserve. Dana Braquet "Together We Served: Dana Braquet." Together We Served (website: army.togetherweserved.com).

So living on that base and seeing MiG [Russian aircraft] and seeing Hind helicopters [Russian helicopter gunship], those are things that you were taught was enemy aircraft and their flying over you.

At first that was disconcerting because you have to remember it was kind of like, "Oh yeah, this is the Russians."

SFC Hefner-Babb: They had BTRs [Russian Armored Personnel Carrier] out there and all that, and I'm like, "Am I in the right place?"

LTC Summers: Now, they're our friends.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Sort of.

LTC Summers: I mean, it just kind of made you . . . .

SFC Hefner-Babb: Made you think.

LTC Summers: Yeah.

SFC Hefner-Babb: It definitely did because every time I was out there on guard duty, I would see this BTR rolling by, and I'm like . . . .

LTC Summers: Because the way the security went, we were the inner ring of security for our camp, and the Uzbeks were responsible for the outer ring of security. So if anything were to happen or we were to be attacked for whatever reason, we were relying on them to defend us. These guys that my whole military career were supposed to be the enemy. It was interesting.

SFC Hefner-Babb: It was very interesting.

***Theresa Hefner-Babb*: I imagine even with him growing up in West Germany.**

SFC Hefner-Babb: The Russians are coming, the Russians are coming.

LTC Summers: But they had their little shop on the post. I brought home the little stacking dolls.

SFC Hefner-Babb: I have a set.

LTC Summers: I have probably two or three sets because I think I bought a set for each one of my children. I bought the little sets of the stacking dolls and one of the fur hats when you think of for Russia. They had a little shop where they sold us that kind of stuff.

SFC Hefner-Babb: I brought that back for my mother.

***Theresa Hefner-Babb*: Well didn't you also get that set of boxes. Those carved boxes. Those three carved boxes.**

SFC Hefner-Babb: Yeah. I brought back for mom. The jewelry boxes.

LTC Summers: Yeah, I have a little black lacquered jewelry box.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Jewelry boxes. Yeah.

LTC Summers: They did have some handcrafted stuff that was very nice. I picked up my husband a couple of swords while I was over there that were real.

SFC Hefner-Babb: I wanted to bring back a rug but . . . .

LTC Summers: I never made it down to Bagram when they were having their bazaar.[18] I never got down there.

SFC Hefner-Babb: No, I never purchased it, because I figured there wasn't enough room on the plane—because all the room was going to be used for something else.

LTC Summers: I don't know about all that. We got those big plastic, black plastic things that Walmart donated to us.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Yeah, those totes.

LTC Summers: Whatever you could fit in your tote. That's what you could bring home.

SFC Hefner-Babb: It was a good time, and sometimes it was a bad time. It all depends what you were doing.

LTC Summers: Yeah, we probably weren't as active as we would have liked to have been. But we were also having to do things that we weren't really trained to do. Having to adapt to whatever they needed to have done, we may get redirected in what we were doing, and it may not have been something that

18. Soldiers in Afghanistan would visit the Bazaar held at Bagram Air Field to shop for souvenirs symbolizing Afghanistan. The bazaar featured local vendors from the Parwan province of Afghanistan. Ryan Matson, "Soldiers look for perfect holiday gift at Bagram bazaar," December 17, 2010, Defense Video and Imagery Distribution System (website: www.dvidshub.net).

we were technically approved to do. It was hotter than Hades over there, too. It was 140 degrees.[19]

SFC Hefner-Babb: 40. 42.

LTC Summers: Something like that. As hot as it got.

SFC Hefner-Babb: But I keep telling people they all think that it's the heat like it is here. I said, "No, it's dry heat, and dry heat you can probably put up with a little better than wet heat."

LTC Summers: If you could get in the shade, it wasn't as bad. But I'll tell people, you know how you preheat an oven to like 450 degrees. If you get too close to it when you open it and all that heat just hits you, just imagine that all around you.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Yeah.

LTC Summers: You can't take a step back from it. It's like, literally all around you.

SFC Hefner-Babb: It's all around you.

LTC Summers: Yeah.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Yeah.

LTC Summers: And people will say, "Well, how do they wear long sleeves." Because people over there wear the long garbs, and that's so you don't get burnt. You don't really think about it. We went to sleeves down, and we've never gone back from that since we started deploying over there. We used to roll our sleeves up, and we don't do that.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Because we would get burned.

LTC Summers: So we wouldn't get burnt, so we wouldn't get sun burned. But you don't think about it. You're wearing a t-shirt underneath and that long shirt, but you don't think, "Oh, I wish I was in shorts and a t-shirt."

SFC Hefner-Babb: No.

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19. In Uzbekistan, the hottest temperature reaches between 42 and 44 degrees Celsius, or 113 to 115 degrees Fahrenheit. Nature and Climate, Uzbekistan Embassy (website: www.uzbekembassy.org). According to Ralph Hefner-Babb, they would do a wet bulb reading, so the cited temperature refers to the heat index.

LTC Summers: And they would do different things for us like the USO shows or whatever would come over. Some of those were kind of nice to break up the monotony of what was going on.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Barbecue.

LTC Summers: If there were certain holidays, they tried to feed us a special meal, or we might have a fun run or something.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Something like that.

LTC Summers: We were just out there by ourselves pretty much.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Yup, we were out there.

LTC Summers: Whoever was on the base is who you were friends with. There just weren't a whole lot of people on that base.

SFC Hefner-Babb: No.

LTC Summers: We would have a Friday night movie. There was a group of us—a small group of female officers. We would have a chick-flick night because Lieutenant Frick and Captain [Sharon?] Stevens had all these movies. When the PX little tent they had—when they would come in with new movies, she'd be the first one down there buying a movie.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Buying.

LTC Summers: She had tons of movies. On a Friday night, we might sit and watch and have a chick-flick night. Have a movie. Just something to do—to do something different.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Oh yeah. You have to imagine this is kind of like M*A*S*H [television series]. But then it's really not like M*A*S*H. It's kind of . . . . it's kind of an in between kind of thing.

LTC Summers: Well, it wasn't life and death.

SFC Hefner-Babb: It wasn't like that. Totally.

LTC Summers: Because, I knew at first I was kind of worried about the fact that we were going to deploy, and then when I heard where we were going, I was like, "Okay, I got no problem with that." So they're not really going to be shooting at us here.

SFC Hefner-Babb: No. There's no . . . .

LTC Summers: I think the closest you would get would be the guys down in the little base in northern Afghanistan. They got fired on once.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Yeah. I remember that day, too.

LTC Summers: Yeah, that was a big deal because Colonel Beasley was down there when that happened—one of the times that he had been down there to visit. He'd make a big deal out of everything.

SFC Hefner-Babb: Everything. Yeah. He made a big deal out of everything.

Book Reviews

"We Never Retreat": Filibustering Expeditions into Texas, 1812-1822. Ed Bradley (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2015. 344 pp., 4 b&w photos, 2 maps. $47.00 cloth)

Author Ed Bradley delights with his analysis of what many historians otherwise may think has already been done on filibusters in Texas such as Philip Nolan or the Magee-Gutiérrez expedition. Bradley focuses upon two principal issues over the extent of the U.S. government's involvement with the filibusters of Texas during Mexico's independence movement against Spain and the motives behind would be adventurers. His thesis finds that the administrations of James Madison and James Monroe were "somewhat culpable" (229) and that material gain outweighed political sympathy to liberate people under tyrannical rule. Bradley's narrative significantly moves beyond simple blame and shows how Texas became so intertwined with parallel developments in New Spain, the Louisiana-Florida borderlands, and across the Atlantic.

Bradley expresses a desire to fill some gaps in the historiography of filibustering into Spanish Texas through a closer examination of the James Long expeditions and a broader context for the expeditions that preceded him. On both counts Bradley succeeds, first in his Introduction, rightfully placing these stories within the context of Spain and its colonies during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century; then six chapters examining various filibusters, including Nolan, Augustus William Magee, Bernardo Gutiérrez de Lara, José Álvarez de Toledo, Henry Perry, John H. Robinson, and Long. We learn of Anglo-American perceptions about Latin American revolutions and Spain's rule as well as suspicious views of Spanish officials toward the United States. Chapters two and three deal specifically with the Magee-Gutiérrez expedition and is enlightening like his final chapter on Long.

Bradley explicitly states a key difference occurred between the goals of the Magee-Gutiérrez Expedition in 1812-1813 and the filibusters who followed

in their wake. While the former "turned their back" (110) on the United States and sought a separate Republic, subsequent efforts were veiled attempts at incorporating Texas into the Union when it appeared that Spain had placed its own house in order with the restoration of King Ferdinand to the monarchy and who gained the upper hand over revolutionary attempts in its American colonies. Bradley notes that by the time that Long launched his second expedition in 1821, and in the aftermath of the Missouri Compromise of 1820, many Americans interested in land and other natural resources of Texas preferred the colonization model of Stephen F. Austin. Meanwhile, shifting political winds in Spain that favored Mexico's independence reminded Mexican officials to remain leery of American expansionism through others like Long. Bradley's discussion of Long's wife, Jane Herbert Wilkerson, niece of infamous adventurer James Wilkerson, also brings women and gender relations into a story mostly about manhood. Jane Long, together with her slave Kian, raises powerful voices that in some cases also motivated men to seek adventure and opportunities from the start.

Although Bradley initially identifies the Sabine River instead of the Arroyo Hondo, located near Natchitoches, as the colonial boundary between Texas and Louisiana during the eighteenth century, he concisely discusses Spain's reclamation of the Arroyo Hondo as the border following the Louisiana Purchase and the Spanish attempt to reoccupy the abandoned fort at Los Adaes. This mattered to filibusters who had ignored the Neutral Ground Agreement between Spain and the United States that preceded the Adams-Onís Treaty of 1819 that established the Sabine as the border between the United States and Spanish Texas. While the author's reliance upon much more traditional secondary sources minimizes the impact of Indian nations, his thesis is supported with many primary sources and offers a more nuanced examination of this time period.

Bradley's book reaches both general and scholarly audiences. His work encourages Texas historians toward transnational and comparative histories more broadly along the Gulf of Mexico, Latin America, and the Caribbean in that filibustering expeditions and revolutionary movements fed off each other, which helps our understanding of events from multi-national perspectives.

Francis X. Galan
Texas A&M University-San Antonio

Texas Women: Their Histories, Their Lives. Elizabeth Hayes Turner, Stephanie Cole, and Rebecca Sharpless, eds. (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2015. 464 pp., 19 b&w photos, 2 maps, 2 tables. $32.95 paper).

Editors Elizabeth Hayes Turner, Stephanie Cole, and Rebecca Sharpless, all professors of history with specialization in women studies, have compiled a selection of essays about Texas women that reflect "the enormous racial, class, and religious diversity of the state" (xi). Part of the Southern Women: Their Lives and Times series, the volume utilizes the most recent scholarship to demonstrate both the unique gendered experiences of Texas women living in a borderland, as well as their relationship to the larger themes in southern and American women's history.

Using the lens of individual feminist biographies and groups of women, the contributors to this anthology reveal the complexity and diversity of Texas women's lives, including high profile women such as Oveta Culp Hobby and Barbara Jordan, less well-known such as Harriot Perry and Julia Scott Reed, and communities of women such as equal rights associations and rodeo cowgirls. Divided into three parts, the book adopts an alternate chronology than traditional narratives—one more suited to the significant events and themes in Texas women's history.

Part One covers 1600-1880, from the Spanish and Mexican eras to the Anglo-Texas Republic and U.S. statehood, an extended period characterized by shifts in governing authorities and women's autonomy. Juliana Barr documents the significance of Indian women in intercultural power relationships, especially between the Spanish and Indian nations. Jean A. Stuntz shows how women in colonial Texas possessed certain legal rights and the means to claim them, even against powerful men. Eric Walther examines the lives of enslaved women and the role that changing regulations by the Spanish, Mexican, Texan, and U.S. governments played in fostering resistance to slaveholders' control. In her essay, Rebecca Sharpless looks at women's higher education in antebellum Texas and the ambiguous messages received by elite women. Using the correspondence of Harriet Perry, Angela Boswell chronicles the life and struggles of a Civil War wife determined to maintain gendered, social expectations even during times of war and separation. And Robin Sager counters the stereotype of women's sphere as solely a domestic one by showing how Reconstruction-era Waco women functioned as successful entrepreneurs in the marketplace.

Part Two encompasses the years 1880-1925. During this period, Texas women moved from the home to public activism in various reform movements. Laura

Lyons McLemore discusses the life of Adele Briscoe Looscan as she made a niche for herself in the public sphere as clubwoman, library founder, and Texas history preservationist. Ruth Hosey Karbach examines the transformation of Ellen Lawson Dabbs, a wife trapped in an unsatisfying, traditional marriage who earned a medical degree and later became a political activist, Populist supporter, and early leader in the Texas equal rights movement. In her essay on Mariana Thompson Folsom, Jessica Brannon-Wranosky relates how a mixture of liberalism, Universalism, and Quakerism formed the foundation for Folsom's social and political activism on behalf of woman suffrage. Gabriela González documents the ideological origins of Jovita Idar's struggle against racism and sexism in South Texas. The section closes with Judith N. McArthur's case study concerning the battle over the Sheppard-Towner Act (1921) to provide maternal and infant care and the hostility towards changing gender roles.

In the last section of the book, 1925-2000, the experiences of Texas women mirrored the historical shifts in urbanization, immigration, and modernization across the state and nation, which provided openings for women outside the home. Clubwomen such as Frances Battaile Fisk, according to Victoria H. and Light T. Cummins, were in the vanguard of the promotion of the visual arts in Texas. Bianca Mercado traces the lives of Latinas in Dallas, 1910-2010, showing how they worked within traditional, Mexican gender roles while reshaping the notions of women's work beyond the home. In her essay on Oveta Culp Hobby, Kelli Cardenas Walsh examines Hobby's remarkable career in politics, business, and the military, thereby exceeding the expectations society placed on women at the time. Renee M. Laegreid explores the ways ranch women and rodeo cowgirls in post-World War II Texas performed outside traditional gender boundaries, yet within social and political norms. Using three important reform movements, SNCC, SDS, and women's liberation, Harold L. Smith examines the life of Casey Hayden and her campaign against racial and gender injustice in the 1960s. W. Marvin Dulaney exposes the often-neglected role of black women, such as Julia Scott Reed, in the events and aftermath of the civil rights movement. Mary Ellen Curtin reexamines Barbara Jordan's civil rights activism in Houston within the political context of black female ambition. In her essay on Hermine Tobolowsky, Nancy E. Baker argues that after suffrage, Tobolowsky's brand of conservative feminism represented a continuum in women's rights activism rather than inactivity as some studies have suggested. The section concludes with Jennifer Ross-Nazzal's essay chronicling the life of Mae C. Jemison, the

first female black astronaut, who challenged the biases women faced in science and technology fields, and the hyper-masculine space profession in particular, to expand spaceflight to include women of color.

The volume ends with a personal perspective by noted historian Paula Mitchell Marks, who entered the nascent field of women's history in the 1980s, and a historiographical journey by the editors through the various interpretive frameworks and significant scholarship about Texas women. In the end, however, the basic question that ties these essays together remains: Where are the women's stories? This volume offers some new insights and divergent answers to that question, while pointing out the gaps in the literature for further research. It also incorporates the more recent theoretical changes in women's history, such as challenges to a rigid separate spheres for the sexes, to answer or reconceive Texas women, their histories, and their lives. *Texas Women* is a welcome and engaging addition to the growing collection of women's stories in the southern states. It will be a useful resource for those interested in Texas, women, and the Southwest for years to come.

Mary L. Scheer
Lamar University

Lone Star Blue and Gray: Essays on Texas and the Civil War. Ralph A. Wooster and Robert Wooster, eds. (Denton: Texas State Historical Association, 2015. 384 pp., illus., tables. $19.99 paper.)

Scholars and general readers of Civil War history will already be familiar with *Lone Star Blue and Gray* from the compilation's first edition. That printing proved to be an invaluable resource for anyone seeking information on the important aspects that shaped Texas's experience in the Civil War. If there was one criticism of the first edition, it would be that its concentration was too narrow and focused on the traditional modes of research that have embodied Civil War historiography in the past decades. This new issue *of Lone Star Blue and Gray* expands the scope of the Civil War in Texas to provide a "broad coverage so that the diversity of Texas's experiences in the war can be discussed" (12). In this endeavor, the editors have hit their mark.

Recent scholarship concerning the Civil War has emphasized the important role that memory, gender, community, and minority groups played in shaping the conflict. No longer is Civil War historiography simply about battles, strategy, and politics. Rather, the focus has shifted toward incorporating new

avenues of research and sources that have stressed the impact of various social, political, and economic forces that have previously been ignored. As a result, the field has produced a deeper, richer understanding of the bloodiest conflict in American history. *Lone Star Blue and Gray* has applied this new emphasis to Texas in the Civil War.

While the reader seeking military and political affairs will be satisfied with this edition (the volume contains five of the essays from the first printing), it also includes eleven new essays that focus on topics previously ignored in the first issue. Of the new contributions to this publication, many stand out as valuable resources for understanding events in Texas, beyond the traditional historiography. For example, Andrew Lang's essay, "Memory, the Texas Revolution, and Secession," embraces the study of memory and how it shaped Texans' attitude towards secession. Lang argues that secessionists purposely manipulated Texans' recollections of the Texas Revolution and Republic in order to lay the ground work for secession and the creation of a southern confederacy, in spite of their previous hopes for a bright future within the Union. Recent scholarship on the Civil War at large has focused on the role of memory in shaping historical events, and it was good to see the editors include an essay that showcases this important dynamic. Another essay that broadens the reader's understanding of Texas in the Civil War is David C. Humphrey's "A 'Very Muddy and Conflicting' View." He provides the reader with a narrow view of how one community, Austin, experienced the war. This emphasis on local rather than state, or regional, understandings of the course of the war demonstrates the hardships average Texans faced during the conflict. In Austin, one difficulty was obtaining reliable news and Humphrey found that residents of the city formed a highly distorted view of the war that did not reflect the historical understanding of it. This essay is a valuable contribution to the field because it denies hindsight and places the reader in the shoes of Austin residents as events unfolded.

Other insightful essays include, but are not limited to, Charles E. Brooks's examination of the social and cultural forces that produced the notoriously unruly soldiers of Hood's Texas Brigade, and Randolph B. Campbell's thought provoking analysis of whether or not poor whites residing in Harrison County viewed the conflict as a "rich man's war." In both of these cases, the reader is brought to the level of the average Texan and, as a result, preconceived ideas about the experiences of the Civil War are challenged by incorporating social, economic, and local history. In addition, Alexander Mendoza's essay concerning Tejanos cuts against the grain of the traditional,

compartmentalized history of the period. By placing their reaction to secession and war in a broader context of the nineteenth century, Mendoza provides a unique insight into how regional loyalty, economic ties, and honor shaped Tejano's choice of remaining loyal to the Union or throwing their lot in with the Confederacy. Women are given ample treatment in this edition as well. In Joleene Snider's essay about Sarah Deverux, the author asserts that the war challenged traditional gender roles and while many women dreaded these new responsibilities, some women accepted, even welcomed, them as matters of exigency. This essay is valuable because it adds to the larger ongoing debate about southern women, agency, and gender in the crucible of war. The last essay of the collection is a welcome addition to the volume. In it, Jerry Thompson details the return of Albert Sidney Johnston's body to Texas for reburial in 1866 and concludes that the imagery of the Lost Cause flourished in post-war Texas. This reviewer was pleased to see the inclusion of an essay dealing with the memory of the Civil War in Texas because the vestiges of that recollection are currently debated today.

This compilation of essays is a solid edition that any student of the Civil War in Texas can find informative and the editors should be commended for their efforts. It is, perhaps, more complete than its predecessor and broadens the reader's understanding of the war beyond the mere focus on battles and tactics. By shifting part of the collection's emphasis toward memory, gender, community, agency, and minority groups, the editors of *Lone Star Blue and Gray* provides a clearer picture of how Texan's experienced the Civil War.

Matthew K. Hamilton
Grayson College

THE TEXAS GULF HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD

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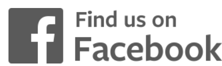

Proceedings

Texas Gulf Historical Society Minutes

Ann Creswell

Fall Meeting
October 14, 2014

The Texas Gulf Historical Society met in the McFaddin-Ward Visitor Center. A slide show presentation of founders and early members of TGHS that Judith Linsley and others put together greeted guests prior to the meeting and was enjoyed by all.

Vice President Judith Linsley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and recognized the contributions made over the years by and Anne and John Nelson and Smythe Shepherd.

There were no new members presented. Recording Secretary Ann Creswell read the minutes of the Annual Meeting, and they were approved as read.

Treasurer Joe Fisher Jr. presented the financial report. Income from dues amounted to $3,470.00 and sales of *The Record*, $250.00 for total of $3,720.00. Expenses totaled $4,006.30 and included mail expenses for $692.30, P.O. Box rental $132.00, and printing expenses for *The Record* $3,182.00. Cash in the bank is $15,334.89.

An additional $2,100.00 has been received for the scholarship. Joe reported that now is the time to send the check if a commitment was made toward the scholarship and you have not done so.

Dr. Jimmy Bryan reported that the 50th volume of *The Record* would be an expanded edition comprising of a good representation of the best scholarship. A partnership with Lamar University Press made it possible to avoid an increase in printing cost due to the expanded size.

Suzanne Stafford reported that there were still a few extra copies of *The Record* available tonight for purchase and Joe would like your dues.

Penny Clark, Chairperson of the TGHS Scholarship Committee, reminded us to send money for the scholarship and asked for suggestions about a name.

Robert Robertson reminded us of several of the founding members including Rosine Wilson, Smythe Shepherd, William Seale, and Andrew Johnson our speaker for the evening. Dr. Johnson is a retired Lamar University professor whose distinguished career included several positions at Lamar including Vice President of Academic Affairs. He was also a charter member of the Editorial Board for Volume 1 of *The Record* and has been a long time supporter of the TGHS.

Dr. Johnson reminded us of the significance of 1964 with an interesting month-by-month retrospective of some of the major events of that year. The year 1964 included the World's Fair held in Flushing Meadows, New York; the Beatles arrived in the United States; Jack Ruby was sentenced for the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald; North Vietnam fired on an American ship in the Tonkin Gulf; and Congress enacted the Tonkin Gulf Resolution. Lyndon B. Johnson was elected President defeating Barry Goldwater. Martin Luther King received the Nobel Peace Prize, and John Paul Sarte refused his Nobel Prize for Literature. China became a nuclear power, color TV appeared in our homes, and the Yankees won their fifth straight pendant. The Big Thicket Society was organized, John Connally was Governor of Texas, and Jack Brooks was reelected to U.S. Congress with over 60 percent of the vote. Gasoline was 25 cents per gallon, bread was 21 cents, a postage stamp was 5 cents, and a local phone booth needed 10 cents. Looking at 1964 in a timeline of history shows that it was 25 years after the 1939 German invasion of Poland and 25 years before the fall of the Berlin Wall. It was also the year John Omohundro and others founded the TGHS.

Not enough is known about John Omohundro. His name is listed in the 1926 *Pine Burr*, so we know he attended Beaumont High School. In the late 1940s and 1950s, he divided his time between New York and Beaumont. He was editor of *The Record* and assisted other editors. The last of three articles were submitted to the Society in 1974. He died October 1, 1999, but there is no obituary in the *Beaumont Enterprise*, none in New York, and no memorial in *The Record*. Dr. Johnson stated that the man mainly responsible for the founding of TGHS remains an enigma—incapable of being researched and understood.

For the next 50 years, Dr. Johnson made the following recommendations: Review of the so called "Wooster Roster" suggested by Dr. Ralph Wooster in 1995 to expand *The Record* to include articles about the role of women and contributions of African American and Mexican Americans,.

Dr. Johnson added that *The Record* should include more about the high school graduates and teachers that shaped Beaumont and a full memorial tribute for John Roger Omohundro.

To that end Dr. Johnson presented the organization with a check to establish an annual $500 award for a student submitted article advancing these goals. If no article qualified, the award would be held over until the next year. This would end in 10 years with any remaining money turned over to the Scholarship at that time.

Vice President Linsley thanked Dr. Johnson for this award, his delightful presentation, and those in attendance for coming. She reminded all to enjoy the refreshments before leaving. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Annual Meeting
April 28, 2015

The TGHS met in the Spindletop/Gladys City Boomtown Museum meeting room. President John Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and Chaplain Marilyn Adams offered an opening prayer.

New member Valerie Domingue was introduced and so was returning member Kathy Sibley.

Prior to this meeting Recording Secretary Ann Creswell provided copies of the minutes of the Fall Meeting and they were approved as presented.

Treasurer Joe Fisher Jr. presented the Financial Report. Income from dues and sales of *The Record* totaled $3,355.00. Printing expenses for *The Record* were $1,652.00 and mailing expenses were $638.00 for total expenses of $2,290.00. Total cash in the bank is $27,884.00. This includes $8,300.00 of Scholarship Funds and makes the Society funds total $19,584.00. Mr. Fisher reminded us to pay our dues and any commitments made to the Scholarship.

Robert Robertson presented the report for the Nominating Committee consisting of himself, Dr. John Storey, and Ellen Walker Rienstra. They presented the slate of nominations for year 2015-2016:

President: Ben S. Woodhead Jr.
Vice President: Judith Linsley
Recording Secretary: Ann Creswell
Corresponding Secretary: Suzanne Stafford
Treasurer: Joseph J. Fisher Jr.
Curator: Rosine McFaddin Wilson
Genealogist: Margaret Davis Parker
Librarian: Penny Clark
Parliamentarian: Ann Winslow
Sergeant-at-Arms: David E. Heinz
Members at Large: Mary Scheer, Richard Gachot, and Rosalie W. Crutchfield
Chaplain: Marilyn Thornton Adams
Constitution: David Montgomery
Membership: Joy Crenshaw
Nominating: John Nelson, Ellen Walker Rienstra, and Robert J. Robertson
Social/Hospitality: Kay Eastman and Sue Philp

Robert Robertson moved that the slate of officers be approved. Joe Fisher seconded, and the motion carried.

Treasurer Fisher referred to the Scholarship money in our account and noted that including the funds directly contributed to Lamar the total of $9,500 was not enough to get it started. He moved, and Kathy Sibley seconded that the TGHS contribute $5,500 so that the Charlise Berly Scholarship fund would total $15,000 and that would be enough to get started. Motion carried.

President Nelson reported that the by-laws were amended at a January board meeting to reflect the decision to drop the February meeting and have meetings only in October and April.

President Nelson introduced Judith Linsley to present our speaker Dr. Jimmy Bryan, who studies the cultural history of the early nineteenth-century United States, teaches classes at Lamar, and is a skilled author and editor. He serves as the editor of *The Record*.

Dr. Bryan talked about "*The Record* at Fifty," in reference to the anniversary edition that was truly a collaborative endeavor. It involved intense behind the scenes efforts by many. The committee consisting of himself, Robert Robertson, and Judith Linsley selected 18 articles totaling approximately 300 pages. The increase in printing cost with our long time printer was considerable and the Board decided to use the Lamar University Press, which

was significantly cheaper. Transition to the digital world was labor intensive. Once each article was converted to the new format, they still required editing, layout with photos, and proof reading. Lamar graduate assistants with the help of Ellen Reinstra and Judith Linsley devoted numerous hours to this venture.

The criteria used for the selection of articles mandated not only good scholarship but also a wide chronological and thematic range. Thus this edition includes biographies and various aspects of the economic and social history of Southeast Texas. It includes nationally recognized scholars, Lamar faculty, student research, and local history experts. Dr. Bryan lamented that still "many good ones" had to be left out.

Dr. Bryan proceeded to make brief comments about the articles to give us an overview and urged us to read this excellent edition to fully appreciate the efforts of those who made it possible.

The future of *The Record* looks good but a couple of challenges still need to be tackled. New issues need to include articles from multiple areas lacking coverage including labor and industrial, pre-Anglo Texas, and the rich music, art, and other cultural history of the area. The public profile of *The Record* needs to increase especially online. That will hopefully happen with a website coming this summer and the creation of a Facebook page that we should visit and recommend to friends.

Discussion followed as to how we might assist in this and comments included a reminder that many could qualify for the award created by Dr. Johnson.

President Nelson thanked Dr. Bryan for his presentation and all those who worked so tirelessly to make this issue such a success. He also thanked everyone for coming, Mrs. Eastman for her help with refreshments, and reminded all to enjoy them before leaving. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

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Dr. John Nelson	2013-2015

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Alyce J. McWilliams	1966
Joseph F. Combs	1966-1967
Beatrice Burnaby	1968-1969
Alexine Crawford Howell	1970
J. Roger Omohundro	1971-1972
Charlsie Berly	1973, 1976, 1978-1985
W. T. Block	1974-1975, 1977
Ellen Rienstra and Judith W. Linsley	1986-1989
Marion Holt	1990-1995
Jonathon K. Gerland	1996-1999
Judith W. Linsley	1999-2002
Penny Lousia Clark	2004-2006
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Dr. Ralph Wooster	2009-2010
Dr. John Storey	2011

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Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library	San Antonio, TX
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New Orleans Public Library	New Orleans, LA
New York Historical Society Library	New York, NY
Orange Public Library	Orange, TX
Port Arthur Public Library	Port Arthur, TX
Sam Houston Regional Library	Liberty, TX
Southwest Collection	Lubbock, TX
Stephen F. Austin State University Library	Nacogdoches, TX
Sterling Municipal Library	Baytown, TX
Texas Christian University, Burnett Library	Fort Worth, TX
Texas A & M University, Evans Library	College Station, TX
Texas Energy Museum	Beaumont, TX
Texas Tech University Library	Lubbock, TX
History Center	Diboll, TX
Newberry Library	Chicago, IL
University of North Carolina Library	Chapel Hill, NC
University of North Texas Library	Denton, TX
University of Texas at Arlington Library	Arlington, TX