



# THE TEXAS GULF HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD

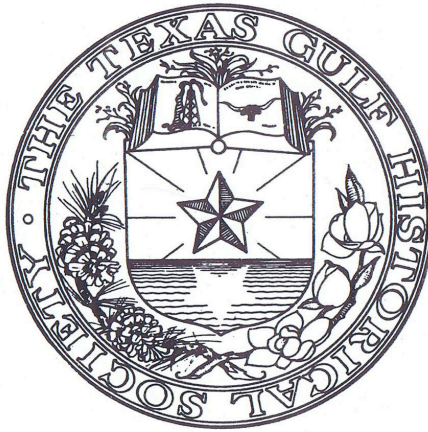
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The Journal of the Texas Gulf Historical Society  
and the Lamar University History Department

Volume 52: 2016



The Texas Gulf  
Historical and Biographical  
Record



*Vox audita perdit, littera scripta manet.*

VOLUME 52

2016

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THE TEXAS GULF HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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THE LAMAR UNIVERSITY HISTORY DEPARTMENT

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*Texas Gulf Historical  
and  
Biographical Record*

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

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*VOLUME 52: 2016*

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*Texas Gulf Historical and  
Biographical Record*  
(ISSN 0563-2897)

Published annually by the  
Texas Gulf Historical Society and  
The History Department  
of Lamar University

PO Box 7525, Beaumont, TX 77726

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**Subscription Rates:**

Individual members: \$20  
Family members: \$35  
Institutional members: \$25  
Lifetime members: \$500

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Printed by Lamar University Literary Press  
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Cover photograph courtesy of  
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**Indexed online by EBSCO  
America: History and Life**

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

JIMMY L. BRYAN JR.

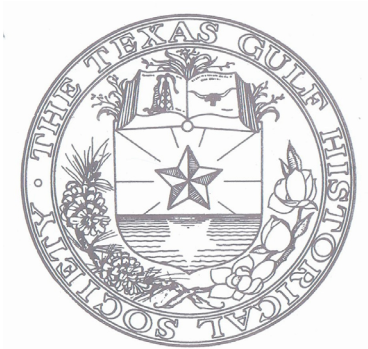
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In this issue, Dan K. Utley, a leading Texas oral historian and folklorist, contributes an essay about Woodville artist Clyde E. Gray and the 1976 out-house airlift. It is a story about storytellers that attests to the need to preserve regional folklore with all of its quirks and uniqueness. Alecia Machele Ross, this year's winner of the Dr. Andrew J. and Betty H. Johnson Editor's Prize, reassesses the Beaumont Riot of 1943. Drawing upon new research and scholarship, she determines that it was part of a larger, national story about racial tensions present in war-industry cities during the Second World War. In "Museum Corner," Mary L. Scheer, Chair of the Lamar University History Department, outlines the mission of the recently established Center for History and Culture of Southeast Texas and the Upper Gulf Coast, and in "Primary Sources," Theresa Hefner-Babb continues to preserve the personal histories of soldiers who served in the 373rd Combat Sustainment Battalion, U.S. Army Reserves, in Uzbekistan. With a new feature, "Biographical Notes," Grayson H. Meek shares a rare tintype photograph of Capt. William J. Spurlock and provides an overview of his service during the Civil War.

This volume would not be possible without the continued efforts of Robert J. Robertson, associate editor of *The Record*, and I rely on the expertise of Jerry Craven, director of the Lamar University Literary Press. Thanks to Mary L. Scheer, chair of the Lamar University History Department, and Ben S. Woodhead Jr., president the Texas Gulf Historical Society, for their support. I would also like to express my appreciation for Ann Creswell and Suzanne K. Stafford of the Society and to Adam C. Gorrell, History Department graduate assistant, for their crucial help. Guiseppe Barranco provided guidance and assistance in obtaining permission to reprint photographs from the archives of the *Beaumont Enterprise*.

## TEXAS GULF HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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*Vox audita perdit, littera scripta manet.*

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 2016-2017 academic year. The recipient will receive a \$500 scholarship and publication in *The Texas Gulf Historical and Biographical Record*.

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## FLYING AN OUTHOUSE TO THE CAJUNS

*Woodville's Clyde E. Gray as Artist and Promoter*

DAN K. UTLEY

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**A**t the fall 2016 meeting of the East Texas Historical Association (ETHA) in Nacogdoches, I delivered a version of the following paper as part of a panel commemorating the life and works of Austin historian L. Patrick Hughes, who died earlier that year. An instructor of history at Austin Community College, Hughes was a longtime faithful member of several important historical organizations, including the Texas State Historical Association, the East Texas Historical Association, the Texas Folklore Society, and the Texas Oral History Association. Although he was not an East Texan by birth or residence, hailing instead from San Antonio, he had a natural affinity for the Piney Woods region and its history. In a chapter entitled, “Reflections of an Outlander,” in *Just between Us* (2012), he wrote of his yearly sojourns to ETHA gatherings. “Each trip into the Piney Woods refreshes my soul and enriches my outlander

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**Dan K. Utley** is the Chief Historian with the Center for Texas Public History at Texas State University. He is co-author and editor of ten books, including *Just between Us: Stories and Memories from the Texas Pines* (with Milton S. Jordan, 2012), and most recently, *Echoes of Glory: Historic Military Sites across Texas* (with Thomas E. Alexander, 2015).

existence. Each meeting produces greater understanding of and appreciation for the region's rich past. It is a relationship that becomes deeper with each passing year."

The panelists for the memorial session on October 14 presented papers designed to celebrate three areas of Hughes's historical interests. M. Scott Sosebee of Nacogdoches presented a New Deal-era topic with his paper, "Liberals, Conservatives, and Loyalists: The Three-Way Fight in Mid-Century Politics." Representing folklore, Kay Reed Arnold of Austin presented "Texas, Our Texas, All Hail the Mighty Steak: An Homage to Meat." I rounded out the session by presenting the following paper to reflect his interest in oral history, with a bit of folklore mixed in for good measure. While Hughes was an academic historian by training, researching and writing for many years on the life of Gov. James V. Allred, he had an abiding interest in elements of cultural history that blended with folklore to present broader understandings of the vernacular past, and that was my intent. All three presenters sought to tell stories L. Patrick would have appreciated. Here then, is my contribution in that regard.

At L. Patrick Hughes's memorial service in Austin, I noted I was unsure of where I first met him, but I knew exactly—within a foot or two—where we became friends. It was at an Exxon station adjacent to a Whataburger on the outskirts of Crockett, where we both stopped for gas following East Texas Historical Association meetings as we headed back to Central Texas. Over the years, it became a tradition we never passed up, and the first one there would wait patiently for the other so we could spend thirty minutes or so in boots-on-bumpers time talking about all manner of things historical

and otherwise. Hughes even wrote of those roadside chats, adding them to other seasonal East Texas experiences, such as log trucks and love bugs. The Crockett station, he noted, marked a place to unwind, debrief, and then, after sufficient time, to “bid each other a wistful adieu until next we meet again.” It was, he added, “a ritual without which my sojourn among the pines would be incomplete.”<sup>1</sup>

Building on that roadside friendship, L. Patrick and I traveled together to other conferences, including the Texas Oral History Association. While he did not consider himself an oral historian, he simply enjoyed the camaraderie of the group, and because of his genuine enthusiasm for history and his affable personality soon became a member of the board of directors and then president.

Whether we were leaning on his truck at the Crockett station or traveling the byways together, L. Patrick and I liked to swap stories. He was much better at it than I was, but I could occasionally top him, like the time I told him about the large “catfish tree” I had photographed in Delta County. These were trees with low spreading limbs from which fishermen suspended large catfish while cleaning them, and afterward, the dangling and decaying catheads left behind served as darkened trophies, like folk art ornaments on some bizarre backwoods Christmas tree. He liked that and even used the picture in a paper he delivered at the Texas Folklore Society. It was a story just odd enough to pique his interest, so in that vein, and in his memory, I want to present a tale I neglected

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1. L. Patrick Hughes, “Reflections of an Outlander: On the Western Edge of East Texas,” in Dan K. Utley and Milton S. Jordan, eds., *Just Between Us: Stories and Memories from the Texas Pines* (Nacogdoches, TX: Stephen F. Austin University Press, 2012), 17.

to tell L. Patrick, but one which I am certain he would have enjoyed.

The story centers on an East Texas artist named Clyde E. Gray, who moved to Woodville from Beaumont in the 1950s to start a new phase in his life as a goat farmer. Clyde Edward Gray was a complex man who was a bit enigmatic, especially given the social context of the Tyler County seat, where newcomers—those who arrived after 1849, for example—were often suspect. Some people thus believed he came from “up north” somewhere, which is technically true, as he grew up in Arkansas. He left there as a young man, though, and traveled to Chicago—and maybe there is the northern connection others saw—where he studied art. He served in the U.S. Navy and worked as a cartoonist before heading south to find work in the shipyards around Beaumont. He arrived there in the late 1930s and joined up with the Sabine Towing Company, working both as a seaman and later as an in-house editor. In 1941, he married the owner’s daughter, Lillian William Rice, who went by the name of Bill. They were an interesting couple. Clyde was a bit of an introvert, more prone to swapping stories with close friends than being the center of attention. Broad-shouldered and barrel-chested, and sporting a dark, thick mustache, he appeared to many as somewhat mysterious. Bill, on the other hand, was diminutive—less than five feet in height—and gregarious. She worked as a newspaper reporter in Port Arthur and had no trouble commanding attention, especially from those who worked with her or for her. Bill spent most of her life in bigger cities, and so it was her idea that at some point the

couple should retire and move north of the Golden Triangle to the rural Piney Woods.<sup>2</sup>

Not long after moving to Woodville, Clyde once again returned to his early interest in art and began painting in oils and sketching in charcoal. His strength was in his landscapes, which in a style reminiscent of Texas regionalism (American Scene regionalism) captured the swirling terrain of wooded hills or meandering dirt roads flanked by native pine, dogwood, and beech. Word of his good work spread quickly, and soon he had sufficient commissions to open a studio up the hill from their home on the Livingston Highway (US 190) west of town. There, he built a small building that housed his studio and a display area. Adding her gardening talents to the site, Bill planted flowers out back of the studio and gave tours of her woodland gardens to visitors.

Over time, the Grays named their place Heritage Gardens and began collecting artifacts to add interest to the property. The first was a large anchor their friends at Sabine Towing dredged out of the Neches River. Soon after, they acquired a hewn-log kitchen from the Tolar family at Hillister, south of town. They hired traditional artisans to add a mudcat chimney, and local friends contributed period artifacts to furnish the cabin. From that, the collection grew to include other buildings and parts of buildings, like the Collier Store from Town Bluff, a church from the dispersed Cherokee-Dies community, a post office from Pluck, over near Corrigan—and various other memorabilia. There was no interpretation

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2. "Heritage Village Step Into Past," *Childress Index* (TX), September 19, 1971; Deanna Tubb, "Heritage Village Museum, Where History Comes Alive," *Tyler County Lifestyle*, January 1999; "Texas Artists, Clyde E. Gray," Kevin's Art Collection (website: kevindaniel.x10.mx).

J. W. Shaw (with powdered wig), co-chairman of the Nederland Heritage Festival; James Overstreet (with cap), helicopter pilot; and others prepare the outhouse for its airlift. Archive photograph, 1976. *Courtesy of the* Beaumont Enterprise.



of the features and no provenance; visitors simply took in what they saw, and occasionally they saw and took in many of the smaller artifacts as well. As the enterprise grew and shifted from art to tourism as the central focus, the Grays needed help in maintaining the site and dealing with the growing numbers of paying visitors, and this is where the oral history comes in.<sup>3</sup>

In 1993, after Clyde and Bill had both passed away, I had the opportunity to conduct a series of interviews with their primary assistant, Jack Whitmeyer, another interesting character who lived in the deep woods east of Colmesneil and not far from the Neches River. In a region where outsiders sometimes perceive locals as slow talkers, Whitmeyer set new standards for a moseying language. He could make three syllables out of my first name, for example: Da-un-a. Now, such slow talk is actually ideal for oral history, as it allows transcribers to follow and type without interruption, but Whitmeyer loved to tell stories and was reluctant to let the interview sessions end, which led to other problems. Normally, I limit interviews to an hour and a half, respecting the time and attention span of the interviewees, but when I tried to beg off after two hours, he said, “If you’ve got more tape, let’s keep going.” I tried again at the three-hour mark and at four hours, and finally, after six hours—with only a break for a meal—I lied and told him I had completely run out of cassettes. My fear was he had some of his own stashed

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3. Personal recollections of the author, who knew Clyde and Bill Gray; email correspondence with Light Cummins, Texas historian with specialties in Texas art and artists, May 31, 2016; Jack Whitmeyer interview by Dan K. Utley, June 17, 1993, 43-46 (final transcript), Historic Preservation Project, Baylor University Institute for Oral History, Waco, TX. The technology used in the 1993 session included C-60 (one hour) cassette tapes.

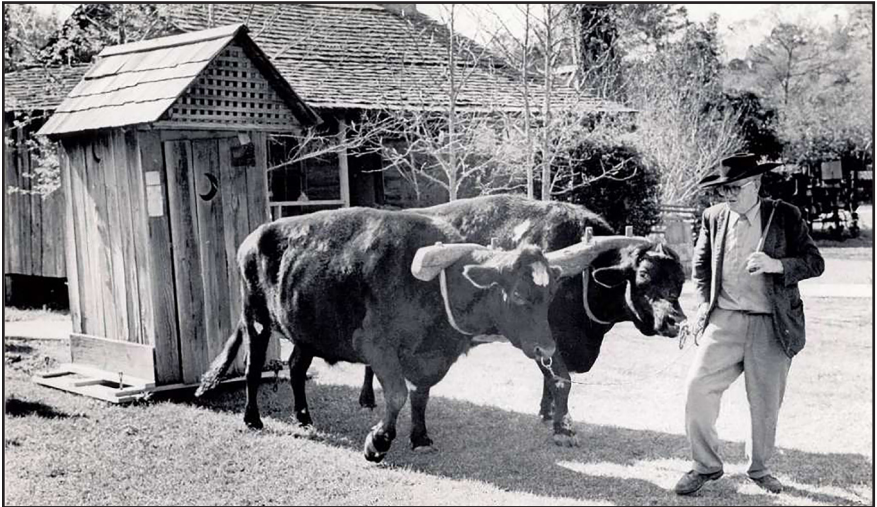


away, but he finally let me head on down the road before sunset.

Leonce Jack Whitmeyer Jr. grew up in Jefferson County. As he told, “I was born in the behind end of a baker’s shop in the 800 block of Proctor Street [*sic*] in Port Arthur. But I’m smart enough,” he said, “that I got out of there before I was six months old and moved to Beaumont.” There, his family raised cotton on a farm in the Rosedale community about seven miles north of town. He graduated from Beaumont High School and attended South Park Junior College for a few months, but then, as he said, “Uncle Adolf got active,” so he joined the U.S. Navy and served in both North Africa and Italy, primarily ferrying troops. After World War II, he moved to Houston with Shell Oil and later Sun Oil, working his way up to the position of research engineer. While in that position, he and his wife purchased their remote woodland tract in Tyler County as a getaway place, particularly pleased there was limited phone service. As he said, “When you came up here and closed the gate, why, you didn’t worry about Sun Oil finding you.”

At some point in the 1950s, while running errands in Woodville, Whitmeyer came across Gray, who had set up his easel and chair in the middle of U.S. Highway 190—with assistance from local police—to paint the bucolic, board-and-batten Dismukes grocery store, ca. 1890s. Naturally curious, Whitmeyer strode out into the highway and struck up a conversation with the artist, and from that chance encounter grew a longtime friendship and business partnership. Both men had abiding interests in local history and folklore, and both were inveterate collectors of artifacts—everything from

At Clyde Gray's Heritage Village, Jethro Holmes urges his oxen, Tom and Jerry, to skid the replica outhouse to the highway where a helicopter awaited to airlift it to Nederland. Archive photograph, 1976. *Courtesy of the Beaumont Enterprise.*



historic photographs and barbed wire to arrowheads and old tools. Soon, Whitmeyer joined Gray's operation, rebranded Heritage Village, and got caught up in the artist's innate ability as a showman and promoter.<sup>4</sup>

The cultural landscape at the village continued to change during the 1950s and 1960s, primarily for two reasons. The first was that B. J. Vardeman, who ran a local tile plant called Clay-Burn, approached Gray for assistance in marketing his products selecting pigments that might be more appealing to consumers. As a result, Gray began experimenting with painting on tiles, and he and Vardeman came up a new underglazing system—later patented by Gray and marketed as Gray Way—that in effect allowed the artist to work on a ceramic canvas for his landscapes. Some of his earliest works in that medium were large, multi-tile pieces, that depicted woodland scenes, but over time, Gray began painting complete scenes on four-and-a-quarter inch squares. Sales for the affordable art pieces were so encouraging that Gray moved to a system of using his original transfers and employing up to six women to fill in the colors. He also worked with a vendor to begin transferring photographs and other documents, like wedding announcements and birth notices to tiles.<sup>5</sup>

In 1968, the Grays made a particularly significant addition to the village with the relocation of the Midway School—from the community midway between Livingston and Woodville—that they opened first as a visitor center and then as a boarding-house-style eating establishment they

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4. Whitmeyer interview, 1-2, 10, 22-26, 31-33, 43-46.

5. Email correspondence with Maura Vardeman Auger, daughter of B. J. Vardeman, April 30, 2016; Whitmeyer interview, 31-35.

called the Pickett House. The menu featured traditional Southern home cooking that included fried chicken, chicken and dumplings, fresh vegetables, buttermilk, sweet tea, and bread of meal stone ground at the water-powered gristmill on the site. As word spread quickly, the expanded parking lot and highway frontage filled to capacity with cars and buses from far beyond Woodville, and tourists and locals alike from all walks of life stood in long lines to sit down and share meals and heritage together. Meanwhile, Clyde, Jack, and Bill moved in different structures, added more collections, and constructed new woodland trails for the visitors.<sup>6</sup>

In 1976, with the nation celebrating its bicentennial, a renewed enthusiasm for history spread to countless local groups that planned special events to commemorate their community's unique place in the American story. In Jefferson County, that included the Nederland Heritage Festival, which began only a few years before to honor the 75th anniversary of the town founding. Envisioned as a celebration of the area's cultural diversity—including ties to early Dutch investors and settlers—the event traditionally got underway with a parade led by a team of individuals in Dutch costumes who walked the route sweeping the streets with brooms. A new addition to the festival during the bicentennial was the dedication of a traditional South Louisiana homestead, known as La Maison Acadienne, which honored the area's sizeable population of Cajun ancestry. As work neared completion, though, the board felt that for the sake of authenticity, it needed an accurate depiction of a backyard, period *toilette*, or outhouse. A special privy committee, headed by W. T. Oliver, president of Cajuns

6. "Heritage Garden Expansion," *San Jacinto News-Times* (Shepherd, TX), March 25, 1971; Whitmeyer interview, 45.

for Tomorrow, thus sought out Clyde Gray for professional assistance. As it turned out, Gray had the perfect outhouse in his collection, a replica structure built of 100-year-old boards from Louisiana, and he decided to donate the vernacular structure to the Cajuns. In the deliberations that ensued, Gray and Whitmeyer hit on a unique promotional idea for the transfer. “You birds are missing the boat,” Whitmeyer allegedly said. “Now, you’ve got ties down at Port Arthur and down at Sabine Pass with all the helicopter pilots.” “Yes,” the privy contingent conceded. “They ferry stuff out to the rigs all the time.” “Yes,” again the response. “Then why take a truck?” With that, privy planning for the great Tyler County toilet airlift finally had movement.

When the day came in March for the relocation, workers stabilized the outhouse by placing it on skids and wrapping it in chicken wire. A crowd of local dignitaries and residents, joined by visiting Cajuns, tourists, and befuddled motorists, as well as numerous news media types, looked on as Gray formally presented the outhouse to the privy committee, along with a glossy copy of a current catalog courtesy of the local Sears outlet. A. J. Judice, who billed himself as the Crazy Frenchman, dressed up as George Washington for the occasion and made a personal inspection of the outhouse, as did recently retired Air Force colonel James E. Colovin, who Gray enlisted because of his role as waste management consultant to the Sky Lab Space Station. It was, after all, the Space Age. When both men deemed the outhouse fit for flight, crusty Big Thicket personality Jethro Holmes hitched the structure to his team of oxen—named Tom and Jerry—and as they skidded the precarious package to the Livingston

highway, which law enforcement officials had temporarily blocked, local musicians performed a specially commissioned piece known as “The Ballad of the Flying Outhouse.” At the appointed hour, the aircraft provided by Offshore Helicopters appeared low over the pines and hovered above the highway as workers connected the historical load, and to great applause and fanfare, it quickly lifted off and headed south on its sixty-mile journey.

Unfortunately, not all went as planned from that point, although what took place next never caught the attention of the news media. It was a typical stormy March day in East Texas, with 30-mph winds that slowed the helicopter’s air speed considerably, making the venture both dangerous and time-consuming. Thankfully, en route, calmer heads prevailed, opting to land the outhouse in Kountze, where workers loaded it onto a truck and proceeded to the Jefferson County Airport. There, the chopper again picked it up and carried it to Nederland, much to the enthusiasm of a gathered crowd of Cajuns, Dutchmen, and others. When U.S. Representative Charlie Wilson heard of the event, he reportedly offered the Cajun museum a year’s supply of the *Congressional Record* to augment the meager Sears catalog.<sup>7</sup>

Despite prevailing conditions, Gray, Whitmeyer, and the Nederland Cajuns successfully completed their mission, and news media carried the story worldwide, bringing even greater attention to the two local history museums. The outhouse is no longer *in situ* at the Nederland museum, as later board members of La Maison Acadienne decided it might not be

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7. Whitmeyer interview, 53-56; “Historic airlift to fly outhouse to Cajun museum,” *Port Arthur News* (TX), March 16, 1976.

historically appropriate and thus voted to move it to storage. At the village in Woodville, though, curious visitors will find a replica concrete monument at its former location there. Clyde Gray continued on with his promotions, one of which again brought him great publicity when the City of Houston sued him for return of its historic Market Square Clock. Gray had innocently purchased the artifact from a junk dealer in Shepherd and restored it as the state's largest mantel clock, complete with a giant mechanical rat that, for a modest sum, scurried up the side of the timepiece for a chunk of replica cheese. Despite bad eyesight, Clyde Gray kept at his artwork until his death in 1989. Bill Gray died two years later. Heritage Village eventually passed to the Tyler County Heritage Society, which Jack Whitmeyer headed until his death just a few years ago, and the genealogical library and research center there now bear his name.<sup>8</sup>

So, that's the story of the flying outhouse presented in honor of my friend, L. Patrick Hughes. Just to make this official, though, I plan to stop for gas in Crockett on my way home.

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8. "Old Clock Popular: Clyde Gray Doesn't Care What Houston Wants," *Longview News-Journal* (TX), September 7, 1978.



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# AN EXAMINATION OF THE BEAUMONT RACE RIOT OF 1943

ALECIA MACHELE ROSS

*Winner of the 2016 Dr. Andrew J. and Betty H. Johnson Editor's Prize*

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In the summer of 1943, a race riot erupted in downtown Beaumont, Texas. The event and similar clashes elsewhere in the country inspired celebrated poet and activist Langston Hughes to reflect upon these crises. In “Beaumont to Detroit: 1943,” he wrote, “You tell me mussolini’s / Got an evil heart. / Well, it mus-a been in Beaumont / That he had his start—. Cause everything that hitler / and mussolini do, / Negroes get the same / Treatment from you.”<sup>1</sup> In verse, Hughes connected Beaumont to the larger narrative of racial violence in the United States, and the scholarship on lynching and riots confirm that the mob action that took place in this Southeast Texas city was not unique. The stress of the wartime economy, the specific charge of rape, and the heightened racial tensions led a white mob to attack the black neighborhoods of the town.

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**Alecia Machele Ross** is seeking her degrees as part of the Lamar University History Department’s “fast-track” program, where she begins work on her master’s at the same time that she completes her bachelor’s.

1. Langston Hughes, “Beaumont to Detroit: 1943,” in *The Collected Poems of Langston Hughes*, edited by Arnold Rampersad (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2004), 281.

After the United States entered the Second World War, the population of Beaumont swelled as workers flocked to the Pennsylvania Shipyards to build transport ships for the U.S. Navy. Competition for jobs, food rationing, housing shortages, and an impending conference of the Ku Klux Klan contributed to racial stresses in the community. On June 15, 1943, after a white woman claimed that a black man had raped her, 2,000 or more white shipyard employees and as many as another 1,000 residents of the city gathered at City Hall and demanded that the Chief of Police Ross Dickey release the suspect. When the victim could not identify her alleged attacker, the mob turned its anger against the African American businesses and homes, resulting in three deaths and 200 injuries.<sup>2</sup>

Dickey understood that the crowd that converged on City Hall intended to lynch the suspect. The threat was not implied. It was based in decades of tradition that used the specter of sexual violence and white victimhood to incite community-wide action. Between 1889 and 1918, scholars have documented that 3,224 extra-legal executions occurred in the United States. Nearly 80 percent of the victims were African American, and the vast majority of the incidents took place in the South. As historian James M. Sorelle maintains, the practice of lynching gave white citizens a way to reestablish their supremacy in addition to punishing perceived crimes. Scholars like Sorelle find that these white mobs often used false accusations to justify their hate crimes. Alwyn Barr

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2. James A. Burran, "Violence in an 'Arsenal of Democracy'," *East Texas Historical Journal*, 14 (Spring 1976): 39-52; James S. Olson and Sharon Phair, "Anatomy of a Race Riot: Beaumont, Texas, 1943," *Texana*, 11 (1973): 64-72; Ron C. Tyler, ed., *The New Handbook of Texas* (6 vols., Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1996): 1:448-449.

explains that black victims faced a wide range of allegations that ultimately led to extra-legal executions that functioned as community events. He observes, “Crowds of up to 10,000 persons gathered in a holiday atmosphere to watch some lynchings.”<sup>3</sup>

Occasionally, lynching mobs led to full scale race riots, and East Texas had seen its fair share. During the Slocum Massacre of 1910, 18 to 23 black citizens were killed. The perpetrators offered no justifications. They made no accusations. In Kirven, 12 years later, the murder of a white woman incited a month-long series of lynchings. Although evidence suggests that white men had committed the crime, vigilantes executed 11 to 23 innocent black men. Racially motivated rioting occurred in Houston in 1917, Longview in 1919, and at Sherman in 1930.<sup>4</sup>

Although historians frequently mention the Beaumont riot of 1943 as part of the larger narrative of American racial violence, only a few focused exclusively on the event. This appears to be due to the scale of the riot, which was more moderate in comparison to those in Tulsa, Los Angeles, or Detroit. In his 1973 master’s thesis, James A Burran wrote, “In most of these studies the riot is seen as either one of the 1943 riots or as the immediate predecessor to the much larger Detroit riot.” However, the Beaumont action did result

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3. James M. Sorelle, “The ‘Waco Horror’: The Lynching of Jesse Washington,” in Bruce A. Glasrud and James M. Smallwood, eds., *The African American Experience in Texas: An Anthology* (Lubbock: Texas Tech University Press, 2007) 183-184; Alwyn Barr. *Black Texans: A History of African Americans in Texas 1528-1995* (Second Edition, Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1996) 137.

4. Glasrud, “Introduction: Racism’s Ugly Past—White Texas’ Twentieth-century Actions,” in Glasrud, ed. *Anti-Black Violence in Twentieth-Century Texas* (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2015) 6-9.

John Vachon, photographer with the Office of War Information, documented the segregation of the Pennsylvania Shipyards at the time of the Beaumont Riot. Here, African-American workers exit in a single line on the far right. "Workers Leaving Pennsylvania Shipyards," June 1943, transparency. *Courtesy of the Library of Congress, Washington, DC.*



in three deaths, a substantial amount of property damage, and the intervention of the Texas State Guard. Much more in depth than the article he would publish in 1976, and under the tutelage of Alwyn Barr, Burran's thesis provides the best analysis on the riot. He studies the social and economic impact of World War II on racial tensions, and he establishes precursors such as city bus altercations due to overcrowding, the Charles J. Reco court case, and the account regarding the rape of a white telephone operator by a black man a month earlier.<sup>5</sup>

James S. Olson and Sharon Phair provide one of the few published scholarly works that specifically focuses on the Beaumont riot. They discuss the pre-existing tensions leading up to the riot in Beaumont such as dramatic population changes due to war production, housing and food shortages, and newfound economic opportunities for black citizens in the area. Olson and Phair also cite the active Ku Klux Klan chapter, and the planned Juneteenth celebrations as instigating factors.<sup>6</sup>

Although Olson and Phair situate the Beaumont crisis within the immediate circumstances of war and community tensions present in 1943, Burran places it within well-established trends of racial violence in the United States. The shipyard workers who converged on City Hall reacted to the alleged

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5. Burran, including, "The Beaumont Race Riot, 1943" (MA thesis, Lubbock: Texas Tech University, 1973), and "Violence in an 'Arsenal of Democracy,'" 40-41. In 1967, Kirk Pate, a Lamar University student, wrote a research paper using newspaper articles and interviews of people that were living in Beaumont at the time, including Clyde Rush, who served as a police officer and would eventually become the Assistant Chief of Police. "A Short History of the Beaumont Race Riot of June 1943" (1967), 4, Special Collections and Lamar University Archive, Lamar University, Beaumont, TX.

6. Olson and Phair, "Anatomy of a Race Riot," 68, 70.

victimization of a white woman by a black man. Whether based the exploitation of a real crime, the exaggeration of a minor incident, or total fabrication, the defense of the “white woman” figured as the common denominator for lynchings and mob actions throughout Texas and the U.S. South. Burran notes, “Protecting the sanctity of white womanhood provided only one of several avenues through which intolerant Texans could visibly show their resentment over changing circumstances with a basically conservative society.”<sup>7</sup>

In an article that studies the U.S. riots of 1943, Marilyn S. Johnson examines the impact of “white woman” accusations upon mob actions. She uses the example to show that the validity of a rape charge is not as important as the charge itself. Johnson states, “Despite the highly questionable aspects of the case, white Beaumonters were quick to believe and act on the rape rumours. Their readiness to accept such rumours was hardly unusual; the Beaumont uprising was merely one example in a long tradition of rioting precipitated by alleged interracial rape.” She further cites that the hearsay of black men assaulting white women instigated almost half of mass violence between 1917 and 1943.<sup>8</sup> Whether the accusation was real, exaggerated, or completely fabricated, the actual evidence meant little to the white outrage that enflamed mobs.

In June 1943, tensions in Beaumont over job competition in the shipyards, housing and food shortages, inadequate transit,

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7. Olson and Phair, “Anatomy of a Race Riot,” 30-31. For specific case studies, see Sorelle, “The ‘Waco Horror,’” 185-186, 189-191; Scott Ellsworth, “The Tulsa Race Riot,” in “The Tulsa Race Riot: A Report” ([Oklahoma City:] The Oklahoma Commission to Study the Tulsa Race Riot of 1921, February 28, 2001), 37-102.

8. Marilyn S. Johnson “Gender, Race, and Rumours: Re-examining the 1943 Race Riots.” *Gender & History* 10 (August 1998): 259.

and pre-existing racial animus erupted into violence when a white woman claimed that an unnamed black man assaulted her. According to her story, the suspect was a stranger who had stopped at the victim's house looking for small jobs. She stated that he did some yard work for her earlier in the day and that after she had fed him and put her three children down for their naps he "threatened her with a file" and raped her before escaping into the woods. She reported the crime to the police department, who quickly responded with road blocks and search parties. The news spread through town, reaching the workers arriving at the Pennsylvania Shipyards for the evening shift, and informed those who were leaving. Some 2,000 gathered at the police station, joined by as many as 1,000 citizens from the city. Deterred, they moved to the county jail and demanded the release of the accused, so they could hang him. Sheriff W. W. Richardson stood at the front door of the jail with a pistol and a submachine gun and threatened to shoot anyone who attempted to usurp the law. Eventually, the accuser had to tell the crowd herself that the authorities had no suspect in custody, but she asked for their help in the search. If the mob had been sincere in their desire to seek justice for the victim, perhaps they would have assisted in the pursuit of the suspect. Instead, they dispersed from the police station and ransacked black neighborhoods, vandalizing property, and assaulting innocent citizens.<sup>9</sup>

The toll of the destruction included three men dead. John Johnson, a black man, was shot while getting into his car

9. "Negroes Whipped by Mobs Following Attack on Woman," *Beaumont Enterprise*, June 16, 1943; Pate, "Short History," 5-6; Burran, "Beaumont Race Riot," 64-66, 90; Alwyn Barr, *The African Texans* (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2004), 70; Judith Walker Linsley and Ellen Walker Rienstra, *Beaumont: A Chronicle of Promise*. (Woodland Hills, CA: Windsor Publications, 1982), 108.



after work. Authorities found E. C. Ellis, a white man, in his car, having died from a crushed skull. Alex Mouton, a black war draftee, died the following October from the severe injuries that he had sustained. Some 200 people suffered non-fatal injuries and 200 buildings were damaged. Some were a total loss.<sup>10</sup>

The statistics, of course, only partially measure the impact of the riot, but oral histories can both clarify and complicate its story. Jaytee Mattox was sixteen-years-old in 1943. Interviewed in 1992, he recalled that he had been out driving around with his friends that day. The police stopped and warned them about the riot starting. Mattox and his friends decided to drive home and wait out the violence. They observed trucks driving by while the occupants threw bricks at cars. Mattox noted that one truck was driven by a Hispanic male rather than white and explained that this was probably because the man knew which houses were owned by black families. Mattox added that had heard that the riot broke out because a black guy broke up with his white girlfriend and she claimed she was raped to get revenge.<sup>11</sup>

Dr. Harry G. Hendricks, interviewed in 1989, said that he had heard something about a woman crying rape and identifying a man who already had been in jail for three months. Hendricks believed that the riot was economic. He maintained that the riot started outside of Beaumont, in the ship-

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10. Burran, "Beaumont Race Riot," 80; Johnson, "Gender, Race, and Rumours," 259.

11. Jaytee Mattox interview by Donald W. George, July 31 1992, Special Collections and Lamar University Archive.

yards, and that it was because black citizens were getting jobs and promotions that they had not been getting before.<sup>12</sup>

In 2008, Smythe Shepherd remembered how he and his family protected their business during the riot. City authorities would later deem Shepherd Laundries Company on 725 Liberty Avenue as a “necessary business” after they declared martial law, but during the riot, he along with Albert Shepherd, Roy Philip, and Moodye Williamson protected the building by standing at the front door with shotguns and shuttling their employees to and from work. Shepherd Laundries was a commercial facility, so they did a lot of business for hotels and hospitals during those tumultuous weeks. Shepherd had also heard about the rape allegation but believed it to be a myth.<sup>13</sup>

During the crisis, Moodye Williamson was one of 400 men who received a deputation. As the only one with a license to carry a gun, Sheriff Richardson assigned him to assist a Texas Ranger named Gonzales—probably Manuel T. Gonzalez. They protected the employees of Shepherd Laundries to and from their homes. In his 2007 interview, he recalled that during one such escort, a group from the mob approached him on Gladys Street. They demanded that he turn over the black people in the car. Williamson informed them that he would shoot if they came any closer and that a Texas Ranger was in the car behind them, ready with his submachine gun. The men, who Williamson described as being all “young

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12. Harry G. Hendricks interview by Deborah L. Barideaux, November 21, 1989, Special Collections and Lamar University Archive.

13. Smythe Shepherd interview by Marjorie S. Turner, April 2008, Tyrrell Historical Library, Beaumont, TX.

white boys,” took off after that. After accompanying the employees to their homes, he and Gonzales spent a few hours rounding up random rioters before joining another ranger and some deputies in front of the Jefferson Theatre where another mob of 30 to 40 white men gathered. The law officers surrounded them with their cars, and Gonzales told them that they had two minutes to leave or he was going to shoot anyone who was not alone. The crowd dispersed. The next morning, the rangers and deputies placed the men they had arrested onto buses headed out of town.<sup>14</sup>

Williamson’s account provides a glimpse at how county, city, and law enforcement officials responded to the crisis. At 9:20 pm, June 15, Beaumont mayor George Gary telephoned Lt. Col. Sidney C. Mason of the Texas State Guard, asking for assistance. Mason immediately mobilized the local unit, and Adj. Gen. Arthur B. Knickerbocker placed, the 43rd Battalion on alert. In a telephone conversation at 11:28 p.m., Mayor Gary informed Knickerbocker that “the mob had increased to 5,000 persons, and was destroying property.” By 11:30 p.m., the 18th Battalion assembled at the court house and prepared to work towards the city police station in order to clear the area of rioters. Mason recorded, “This action, agreed upon with local police officials, released the Police of Beaumont, the Rangers, and the State Highway Patrolmen, who had previously been held closely to the vicinity of the city jail, to curb disorder in other parts of the city.”<sup>15</sup>

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14. Moodye Williamson interview by Marjorie S. Turner, April 2007, Tyrrell Historical Library.

15. Sidney C. Mason, “Formal Report on Riot Duty Performed by the Texas State Guard from 15-20 June 1943 submitted to the Adjutant General of Texas. July 1944,” 1-2, uncatagued archive, Texas Military Forces Museum, Austin, TX.

The Beaumont Fire Department logs show eight fires between 12:00 and 3:00 a.m. The record, however, attributed only one to the mob. In the far-right column of the book, a notation identified a rooming house at 1098 Gladys Street as “set on fire by rioters.” The other likely riot fires did not include such designation in a book filled with detail on every fire. Perhaps, the sheer volume of calls overwhelmed the department, or perhaps, being in the field, they just fought fires that they came across and under-reported them.<sup>16</sup>

At 8:45 a.m. on the morning of June 16, Knickerbocker received a telephone call from the local battalion commander. He reported that the mob was still present in the city and that the Texas Rangers were recommending martial law. By 2:00 p.m., Mason was en route from Austin to Beaumont to take command of the Texas State Guard with another four battalions. At 5:55 p.m., A. M. Aikin, acting Governor of Texas, “issued a proclamation declaring a state of Martial Law to exist within the corporate limits of the City of Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas, and directed the Adjutant General of Texas to assume supreme command for the Martial Law Zone.”<sup>17</sup>

This action represented only the third declaration of martial law in Texas history. As many as 2,400 soldiers and law-enforcement officers patrolled the city in the aftermath of the crisis. In his report, Col. H. H. Spoede’s explained that after the 8:30 p.m. curfew went into effect all vehicles driving in the area “were stopped and searched with the result that

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16. Beaumont Texas Fire Department Logs, AC-300, Fire Museum of Texas Collection 1856-1993, Tyrrell Historical Library.

17. Mason, “Formal Report,” 2-3.

some one hundred and fifty (150) rifles and shotguns and two hundred (200) revolvers and pistols of various make and model were confiscated.” As historian Burrans observes, Beaumont came to a virtual standstill as many businesses closed, the shipyards cancelled production, and many black citizens refused to attend their service jobs. In a memorandum, William McGill of the Beaumont Civilian Defense Office wrote that both the shipyards and the Consolidated plant in Orange operated with only 10 percent of their employees. The local rubber plant was closed, and 50 percent of the stores were closed as well.<sup>18</sup>

By the morning of the 18th, martial law imposed relative calm. Maury Pollard, an Executive Special Agent with The Netherlands Insurance Company, sent a telegram to the governor’s office and exclaimed, “Situation here in excellent condition now. Due to Martial Law and complete harmony and cooperation with Defense Guard, local, city, and county officers. State officers. Both Rangers and highway officers. They have restored order in no uncertain manner.” Pollard also sent Weaver H. Baker, chairman of the Texas State Board of Control, a letter that praised the efficient response of the city and state officials, making him one of several who felt the riot was handled appropriately.<sup>19</sup>

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18. H. H. Spoede, “Colonel Spoede Report on the Beaumont TX Race Riot for the Eighth Service Command, District no. 1,” Box 4-14/133, and “Memorandum: Report from Beaumont Civilian Defense to Governor Stevenson, June 16, 1943,” Box 4-14/133, Records of Governor Coke R. Stevenson, Part 1, Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Austin, TX; Burrans, “Beaumont Race Riot,” 80, 92-93; Pate, “A Short History,” 6-7.

19. Maury Pollard to Coke R. Stevenson, June 18, 1943 (telegram), Box 4-14/136, and to Weaver Baker, June 21, 1943, Box 4-14/133, Records of Governor Stevenson.

The riot dominated the front-page news of this June 18, 1943, issue of the *Beaumont Enterprise*, but it also included stories from abroad and from the homefront that documented wartime tensions evident in Southeast Texas. *Courtesy of the Beaumont Enterprise.*

BEAUMONT ENTERPRISE

YOUR HOME NEWSPAPER FOR SIXTY-TWO YEARS

VOL. XLVII, NO. 185.

BEAUMONT, TEXAS, FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 1943.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

MARTIAL COURTS SPEED RIOT CASE INQUIRY

Allied Aerial Forces Hit Axis On World-Wide Battle Fronts

Military Officials Acting With Local Authorities To Probe Looting, Burning

News Behind The News By PAUL MALLON

JAP ATTEMPT AT SOLOMONS IS SMASHED BY U. S. FLIERS

Largest Mobilization of Peace Officers Ever Assembled Here Enforces Martial Law Order

STANDARD OIL WILL CANCEL ITS CONTRACT AT ELK HILLS

Cruiser Houston Ready

FINAL CHARGES TO BE TURNED OVER TO STATE OR U. S. AGENCY

77 Enemy Planes in Battle Lost; Reich Is Pounded by Big Bombers

Officers Search Woods After Narrowly Missing Negro Near Attack Scene

DICKKEY CHARGES SABOTAGE IN WAR PLANT SLOWUP

Justice Official Declares Navy Agreement Exceeds Authority Under Law



The cruiser Houston, named for the warship that had been the target of the attack on the Texas coast, is shown here.

All-Night Sessions Being Held to End Investigation as Many Are Released

BRITISH ALLIED AIR FORCES... 77 enemy planes in battle lost...

LONDON (AP) - British allied air forces... 77 enemy planes in battle lost...

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By June 17, law enforcement arrested around 300 citizens, and state officials established an overnight military court. Twenty-eight suspects received charges including assault and battery, unlawful assembly, and arson. "In order to promptly examine these prisoners and to determine those who should be held for trial by civil courts, a Court of Inquiry was ordered . . .," Mason described in his report. "Because of the great number of prisoners it was necessary to hold the court almost constantly in session. During a period of sixty hours the court recessed only long enough to permit its members an occasional hour of relaxation, or for meals." By June 20th, state authorities ended martial law restrictions. A headline in *The Houston Post* declared the "situation well in hand."<sup>20</sup>

Historians generally agree that the shipyard workers instigated the riot, but many, perhaps as many as 1,000, white residents of Beaumont joined in the mob action. Local law enforcement, with the assistance of state agencies, ended the destruction of property and personal assaults but could not immediately solve the racial animus. On the 17th, Lieutenant Colonel Mason addressed the workers, appealing to their patriotism to quell their mood for violence. As quoted by historian Burran, his words were "not enthusiastically received." Some business leaders, however, expressed their gratitude to state officials who acted to restore order in Beaumont. John Lansdale with Southern Pacific Railroad wrote to Adjutant General Knickerbocker on June 22 to congratulate him on a job well done, while the vice-president of the Beaumont

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20. Mason, "Formal Report," 5; "Martial Law at Beaumont Ends Today," *The Houston Post*, June 20, 1943; Olson and Phair, "Anatomy of a Race Riot," 66. For the records of the court of inquiry, see "Beaumont, TX Race Riot Court Records, June 18, 1943," Box 4-14/133, Records of Governor Stevenson.



Chamber of Commerce wrote a thank you letter to Governor Stevenson for the quick action of the State Guard.<sup>21</sup>

The Texas chapter of the NAACP quickly acted to seek recompense for the citizens of Beaumont who were victims of the riot. The Dallas branch of the NAACP sent Governor Coke Stevenson a letter on June 17, imploring him to seek state-funded reparations. The Houston chapter sent the governor a copy of a resolution drafted at the national conference held in their city. Because of the presence of important war industries in Beaumont, the group called for the U.S. government to prosecute the perpetrators, to investigate the causes of the violence, and to provide compensation to the victims.<sup>22</sup>

As poet Langston Hughes illustrated, many in the United States recognized the contradictions that the Beaumont violence revealed—fighting injustice abroad while perpetrating injustice at home. Dorothy Detzer with the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom admonished the rioters for focusing their energy on fellow Americans rather than nation’s enemies overseas. She wrote to Governor Stevenson and expressed that “it seems inconceivable to us that citizens of an American city should behave toward a racial minority as have the Nazi in Germany.” In another letter to the governor, “an old Southern woman” claimed to speak on behalf of the black citizens of the United States, emphasizing

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21. John Lansdale to Arthur Knickerbocker, June 22, 1943, Box 4-14/133, and E. C. Davis to Stevenson, July 12, 1943, Box 4-14/136, Records of Governor Stevenson; Burran, “Beaumont Race Riot,” 93.

22. B. E. Howell to Stevenson, July 17, 1943, Box 4-14/136, and Lulu B. White, “NAACP letter and Resolution from Houston,” July 2, 1943, Box 4-14/136, Records of Governor Stevenson.

the importance of the war with Germany and the dangers of dividing the country by race. Whereas, with the same foreboding sense of doom, the editor for the *Beaumont Enterprise* aspersed that “by committing lawless acts and halting work in vital war industries, they [the rioters] played right into the hands of the enemy” and went even further by insinuating that the riot was organized by “enemy agents” who were “trying to create racial tension” in order to subvert the work of the war industry. Historians like Burran discredit such fear-mongering, but agree the “riot was one of the last setbacks to the racial upheaval of later years, yet another forlorn attempt to stave off the twentieth century in the South.”<sup>23</sup>

The Beaumont race riot began for many of the same reasons that led to mobs in the past and those that would come after. Job competition, housing shortages, wartime rationing, and the nearly always present allegation of a “white woman” rape heightened racial tensions. The quick and lawful action of the local and state government helped to keep the violence in Beaumont from escalating to the scale of others in the United States, but the action still claimed the lives of three people and hundreds of innocent African American citizens faced property damage to their homes and businesses and the mental distress of a wrongful persecution.

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23. Dorothy Detzer to Stevenson, June 24, 1943, Box 4-14/136, and “Letter to Hon. Coke Stevenson from an old Southern woman,” June 30, 1943, Box 4-14/136, Records of Governor Stevenson; *Beaumont Enterprise* quoted in Burran, “Violence in an ‘Arsenal of Democracy,’” 46, 48.

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## MUSEUM CORNER

*Center for History and Culture  
of Southeast Texas and the Upper Gulf Coast*

MARY L. SCHEER

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The geographic region comprised of Southeast Texas and the Upper Gulf Coast is often described as a cultural crossroads where various ethnic and racial groups meet and share a unique blend of history and culture within a similar environment. Shaped by the land and its people, the region lies at the intersection of the American Southwest, the Deep South, and Cajun bayoulands. Throughout its history, various groups claimed the area, including Native Americans, Spanish conquistadors, French explorers, African-American slaves, and Anglo-American intruders. With porous borders the region soon acquired a reputation for crime and lawlessness until 1806 when Spain and the United States agreed to hold the disputed area as Neutral Ground. In later years, many believed that much of the violence that occurred in East Texas and Louisiana was rooted in these ungovernable lands. Nevertheless, a confluence of distinct histories and di-

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The CHC Advisory Board includes scholars and specialists from a variety of disciplines. From left to right: Director, Mary Scheer (History, Lamar Univ.), Ellen Rienstra (Stark Foundation), Dennis Kiel (Dishman Museum), Ryan Smith (Texas Energy Museum), Penny Clark (Special Collections and University Archives, Lamar Univ.), Stuart Wright (Sociology, Social Work, & Criminal Justice, Lamar Univ.), Donna Meeks (Art, Lamar Univ.), Troy Gray (Spindletop-Gladys City Boomtown Museum), Jim Westgate (Earth & Space Sciences, Lamar Univ.), Josh Howard (Public History, Lamar Univ.), and Jim Sanderson (English & Modern Languages, Lamar Univ.) Not shown: Terri Davis (Political Science, Lamar Univ.). *Photograph by Valerie Majors Domingue. Courtesy of the Center for History and Culture of Southeast Texas and the Upper Gulf Coast, Lamar University, Beaumont, TX.*



verse cultures emerged, providing long-lasting achievements in art, culture, music, cuisine, architecture, and law, which still flourishes today.

The new Center for History and Culture of Southeast East Texas and the Upper Gulf Coast, or CHC, at Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas, strives to tell the story of this unique region. Established in September 2016, it is a multi-cultural, interdisciplinary center that seeks to promote, create, preserve, and transmit knowledge of the region through public engagement, the production of high quality publications, educational and cultural programs, and faculty and student research. Located on the Lamar campus, less than two miles from the original Spindletop-Lucas gusher that started the modern petroleum age, the Center will focus on the role of energy, as well as the people, institutions, environment, history, and culture of this dynamic area.

The geographic reach of the Center for History and Culture is broadly conceived, crossing county and state boundaries. It includes Southeast Texas and the Upper Gulf coastal areas where strong commercial, cultural, and environmental ties exist. The 29 counties of Southeast Texas are part of the coastal plains of the Gulf of Mexico, most of the Texas portion of the Intracoastal Waterways, and inland to the pine forests of the Big Thicket. Numerous rivers and streams cross the region, the largest being the Sabine, Neches, and Trinity rivers. The only large bodies of water are Galveston Bay and Sabine Lake, with large reservoirs just to the north. Major/midsize Texas cities in the region include Houston, Galveston, Richmond, Beaumont, Port Arthur, Freeport, Baytown, Texas City, Huntsville, and others.

The Upper Gulf Coast includes the coastal regions of Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi to the Florida Panhandle. Much of this region is composed of swamps and tidal marshes. The major rivers flow north to south and empty into the Gulf of Mexico, including the mighty Mississippi River and the Apalachicola River. Important Upper Gulf coast cities include New Orleans, Biloxi, Mobile, Gulf Port, Pensacola, and Panama City.

The idea for this regional center began with Dr. Kenneth Evans, president of Lamar University. In the fall of 2015, he issued a challenge to faculty and staff to propose Visionary Initiatives that would be interdisciplinary, innovative, and self-sustaining, with the potential to transform communities. With resources from the Eighty-fourth Texas legislature, administrative leaders sought ideas that would advance the university's mission across all facets of instruction, scholarship, and service. With approximately \$1 million available, 49 investigators submitted proposals and 10 finalists were invited to provide detailed, formal Letters of Intent (LOI) with a proposed budget. A screening committee reviewed the proposals and submitted their results to Dr. James Marquart, Provost and Vice-President of Academic Affairs. Five LOIs were selected for funding up to \$300,000 over three years. Along with the new Center for History and Culture, other funded initiatives included a Center for Digital Learning; an Interdisciplinary Freshman Experience; a Center for Applications of Digital Technologies in Health and Disability; and Cybersecurity, Infrastructure and Abnormal Situation Management for the Process Industry.

In November 2016, for its first event, the CHC sponsored student and public lectures, a reception, and a book signing to mark the publication of JoAnn Stiles and Ellen Rienstra's new book. **Above:** Stiles (left) and Rienstra (right), authors of *The Long Shadow: The Lutcher-Stark Lumber Dynasty* (2016). **Below:** Lamar University students gather to hear Stiles and Rienstra talk about the Stark Family of Southeast Texas. *Photographs by Valerie Majors Domingue. Courtesy of the Center for History and Culture of Southeast Texas and the Upper Gulf Coast, Lamar University, Beaumont, TX.*





The success of the Center will build on the university's strengths while elevating its overall regional identity, or "brand." The existence of an effective infrastructure, a high quality of research scholars and artists, and two on-campus museums with a regional focus, contribute directly to the mission of the Center. At the same time academic courses, such as Texas History, the History of Beaumont and Southeast Texas, Environmental Science, and Texas Literary Figures, among others, already exist. An on-campus radio station (KVLU) and a LU Press will further add to the overall resources and personnel to support interdisciplinary and multi-cultural programming. And an oral history program—Voices—will tap into community resources, family stories, and cherished mementoes of the history and culture of the region, which will be housed in Special Collections of the Mary and John Gray Library.

One strength of the new Center will be the quality and accessibility of the Special Collections and University Archive. Housed on campus at the Mary and John Gray Library, they are a little-known treasure, save to a few dedicated researchers. These resources contain many unique collections of regional photographs, newspapers, oral histories, and distinct materials on local industries, such as oil, lumber, rice, and ship-building. Particularly significant is the Rolfe and Gary Christopher Negative Collection, which contains thousands of images relating to the oil industry from the late 1940s to the 2000s. Additionally, the Big Thicket Collection documents the history of this world-renowned region of biodiversity and its designation as a national preserve. Also, included in the holdings is "the largest collection of fungi in the



Mary L. Scheer (left) serves as director of the CHC. Valerie Majors Domingue (right), former graduate assistant for *The Record*, serves as assistant to the director. *Courtesy of the Center for History and Culture of Southeast Texas and the Upper Gulf Coast, Lamar University, Beaumont, TX.*

South,” donated by David Lewis, a prominent mycologist, who hunted mushrooms over a lifetime in the Big Thicket. These rich and diverse collections—and others—are available to scholars and researchers to help showcase the significance and uniqueness of the region.

In order to attract visitors and scholars to Lamar’s special holdings, the Center proposes to fund a talented group of

named Center Fellows, as well as support student and faculty research. The one-year fellowship, with an additional year, if warranted, will represent the highest honor of distinction awarded by the Center. Initially, two Fellows will be chosen from the Lamar faculty and/or community members. They would be expected to engage in the mission of the Center, broadly defined, produce high quality outcomes, and give a lecture, an exhibit, or a performance to the public. In addition, the Center will award research prizes to graduate and undergraduate students working on topics related to its mission.

The Center will also spearhead the upcoming Centennial of Lamar University (South Park Jr. College) in 2023. Only about seven years away, the 100th anniversary will “tell the university’s story,” especially its history, traditions, contributions, community role, and legacy. Utilizing the vast materials available in the Special Collections and University Archive—including yearbooks, campus newspapers, and earlier research about the institution—the celebration will take the form of lectures, exhibits, student and alumni activities, sporting events, a centennial history book, and even a time capsule for the next 100 years.

Programming is already underway. On November 9, 2016, the Center hosted its inaugural event with a reception, lecture, and book signing by Ellen Rienstra and Jo Ann Stiles, co-authors of *The Long Shadow: The Lutcher-Stark Lumber Dynasty* (2016). This well-researched and engaging biography, which tells the story of three generations of the Lutcher and Stark families of Orange and their unique contributions to the economic and social development of the region, was

the ideal kick-off event. On January 30, 2017, the Center will officially introduce its Director, Dr. Mary L. Scheer, and the CHC Advisory Board to the public. The launch will feature regional food, music, authors, and remarks by Dr. Sam Monroe, a long-time resident of the area, past president of Lamar State College—Port Arthur, and president of the Port Arthur Historical Society. Other upcoming events will include: “Culinary Traditions of Southeast Texas and Louisiana,” on February 13, 2017, by Dr. Rebecca Boone; *LaBelle: The Ship that Changed History*, on March 7, 2017, with Dr. James Bruseth; and Professor Keith Carter, “Ghostland: Myth, Mojo, and Magic” on April 24, 2017. All educational programs are free and open to the public.

Looking to the future, the Center for History and Culture aims to bring together, under one roof, all the resources, personnel, and programs related to “transforming the communities of Southeast Texas and beyond.” As a great historical and cultural hub, the Center will attract visitors and researchers from throughout the region, state, and nation, as well as collaborate with the many museums and historical sites in the area. Unique to the region, the Center’s “branding” will differentiate Lamar University from other institutions, fill a niche in the knowledge and culture of the region, and promote the cultural and economic vitality of Southeast Texas and the Upper Gulf coast.

To learn more about the Center and its programs, please join us on Facebook and at [lamar.edu/centerhistoryculture](http://lamar.edu/centerhistoryculture).

## CENTER FOR HISTORY AND CULTURE FELLOWSHIPS

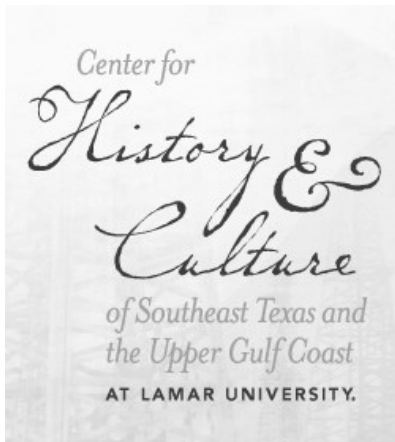
### CENTER FOR HISTORY AND CULTURE OF SOUTHEAST TEXAS AND THE UPPER GULF COAST

#### Request for Fellowship Proposals

The Center for History and Culture invites applications for up to two fellowship positions that are open to Lamar and non-Lamar candidates. The Center is an interdisciplinary, multi-cultural center promoting the creation, preservation, and transmission of knowledge—broadly conceived—about the region of Southeast Texas and the Upper Gulf Coast. Through public engagement, especially the production of high quality publications, creative exhibits and cultural performances; sponsorship of lectures and symposia; development of innovative curriculum; and support of faculty and students in their focused research, the Center strives to be the historical and cultural hub that tells the story of the area.

Lamar Fellows will receive up to a \$5,000 grant to cover their related expenses and a one semester 25% teaching load reduction. Non-Lamar fellows will receive a \$5,000 grant. If warranted, Fellows may apply for an additional year.

The deadline for applications is **March 24, 2017**. For more information about the Center and fellowship requirements please visit [lamar.edu/historyandculture](http://lamar.edu/historyandculture). Send your electronic application to Dr. Mary L. Scheer, [mary.scheer@lamar.edu](mailto:mary.scheer@lamar.edu). Fellowship recipients will be announced **April 21, 2017**.



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# BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

*William Jackson Spurlock*

GRAYSON H. MEEK

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**W**illiam Jackson Spurlock was born in Georgia, probably Early County, about 1837. His parents Woodward Spurlock and Rebecca Hooks moved the family to Tyler County, Texas, around 1853. They arrived at a time when the national controversy over slavery intensified. On February 23, 1861, Tyler County overwhelmingly supported secession 417 to 4, and Texas joined the Confederacy. After the Civil War began, William and his brother Patrick Henry Spurlock joined with their neighbors to form the Tyler County Grays with James G. Collier captain.<sup>1</sup>

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**Grayson H. Meek** is Special Events Manager at Lamar University and is currently seeking her master's degree in history. She is a direct descendant of Patrick H. Spurlock, brother of William J. Spurlock,.

1. Marriage Book 2, 18, Early County Georgia Court of Ordinary, Blakely, GA; 1850 U.S. Federal Census, Population Schedules (microfilm series M432, 1009 rolls), roll 68; 1860 U.S. Federal Census, Population Schedules (microfilm series M653, 1438 rolls), roll 1306; and William J. Spurlock file, Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers . . . Texas (Microfilm series M323, 445 rolls, Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration), roll 354; Elizabeth Spurlock file (27169), Texas Confederate Pension Applications, Texas State Library and Archive Commission, Austin, TX; Marcus J. Wright, *Texas in the War, 1861-1865*, edited by Harold B. Simpson (Hillsboro, TX: Hill Junior College Press, 1965), 186.

State authorities ordered the Grays to Sabine Pass, a strategic point on the Gulf Coast. There in November, the company joined with others to organize a battalion under the command of Lt. Col. James B. Likens. On December, 17, William Spurlock signed his commission as third lieutenant of Company D. For the remainder of the winter and the next spring, the unit spent most of its time drilling, constructing fortifications, and suffering from Yellow Fever. In December, unfortunately for William and Patrick, they received a furlough to return home after their father passed away.<sup>2</sup>

On May 15, 1862, after the Spurlock brothers returned, Collier resigned as captain, citing health concerns. William Spurlock replaced him, but the records do not specify the date and whether or not his placement occurred by election or appointment. Colonel Likens also left to form a new regiment, and in June 1862, Ashely W. Spaight took command of the battalion. In the meantime, the U.S. Navy had successfully established its blockade of the Gulf Coast, and Spaight's soldiers manned several posts from Sabine Pass to Beaumont to defend against incursions. On January 21, 1863, Captain Spurlock led his men, along with other units, as sharpshooters aboard steamboats that successfully captured the *Morn-*

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2. William J. Spurlock file, Compiled Service Records Texas, roll 354; J. G. Collier to Elizabeth, January 2, 1862, Tyler County Archives, USGenWeb Archives Project (website: usgwebarchives/tx/tyler); W. T. Block, "The Swamp Angels: A History of Spaight's 11th Battalion, Texas Volunteers, Confederate States Army," *East Texas Historical Journal*, 30 (March 1992): 45.



ing *Light, Velocity*, and 109 federal soldiers and sailors of the blockade squadron.<sup>3</sup>

Later that spring, Gen. John B. Magruder transferred Spaight's Battalion to Louisiana to serve under Gen. Tom Green's campaign to harass federal troops west of occupied New Orleans. The unit fought in numerous small skirmishes in this bayou country, and drawing upon that experience and in reference to their homes in Southeast Texas, the soldiers of the battalion styled themselves the "Swamp Angels." On September 23, Spurlock wrote from an encampment on the Atchafalaya River to his mother, assuring her that he was recovering from a bout of "the yellow jaundice." About his service, he wrote, "Our pickets are fighting with that of the Yankee's daily . . . . We are daily drawn up in line of battle."<sup>4</sup>

Five days later, on September 28, Spurlock and his men prepared to assault the federal position at Stirling's Plantation in Pointe Coupee Parish. That night, the captain and his company crossed the Atchafalaya River during a rain storm. They waited until morning, and then they participated in the advance through a sugar cane field. Union troops, positioned behind the shelter of slave quarters and a cane processing building, began firing. Capt. George W. O'Brien of Beaumont, leading Company C, recorded the "dreadful confusion" in his diary. The "enemy rained among us and the cane

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3. Spurlock and James G. Collier files, Compiled Service Records Texas, roll 354; *The Tri-Weekly Telegraph* (Houston, TX), February 4, 1863; Ralph A. Wooster, *Lone Star Regiments in Gray* (Austin: Eakin Press, 2002), 277-278; Block, "Swamp Angels," 49-50.

4. William J. Spurlock to [Rebecca Spurlock], September 23, 1863, Louisiana in the Civil War (website: louisianacivilwar.org); Block, "Swamp Angels," 51; Wooster, *Lone Star Regiments*, 277-278.

Capt. William Jackson Spurlock (ca. 1837-1863), Company D, Spaight's Texas Battalion, C.S.A. Half-plate tintype, ca. 1862. *Courtesy of Grayson H. Meek.*



around us a terrible shower of whistling wounding and killing bullets.” During the assault, Captain Spurlock was shot and killed. The battle at Stirling Plantation, a nominal victory for the Confederates, failed to meaningfully disrupt the Union occupation of southern Louisiana.<sup>5</sup>

William Spurlock’s brother Patrick continued to serve until the end of the war. After, he returned to Tyler County where in 1868 he married Elizabeth Collier, daughter of his former captain James G. Collier. He died in 1913 and was buried in the Beech Creek Baptist Cemetery near Spurger, Texas. Among the heirlooms that their descendants preserved was a half-plate tintype portrait of Capt. William J. Spurlock.<sup>6</sup>

Spurlock likely posed for this heretofore unpublished photograph in 1862 or 1863, somewhere in Texas. Spaight’s Battalion had briefly occupied a post in the Houston area in early 1863, where the captain may have acquired the likeness as well as the sword that he wears in it. According to professional appraiser John G. Sexton, the tintype shows the captain “in a regulation uniform with a most unusual sword, most likely made by J. C. Wilson of Houston, Texas. The sword has a multi-branched guard which is typical in an officer’s sword of their unique manufacture. The sword-belt he wears is also very unusual, showing a very rarely seen CS sword belt plate with oval tongue and wreath. It is often thought to be made

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5. W. L. Robards to Editor, September 30, 1863, *Tri-Weekly Telegraph*, October 12, 1863; Cooper K. Ragan, ed., “The Diary of George W. O’Brien,” *The Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, 62 (October 1963): 237; Block, “Swamp Angels,” 51-52.

6. Spurlock file, Texas Confederate Pension Applications; Elizabeth J. Spurlock death certificate (1935), Texas State Department of Health, Austin, TX; cemetery inscriptions, Beech Creek Baptist Church Cemetery, Tyler County, TX.

in Richmond, Va., but that's just a guess by collectors.”<sup>7</sup> The Spurlock tintype is a rare surviving image of a Texan officer in the Confederate Army that preserves a glimpse of the material and military culture of that era.

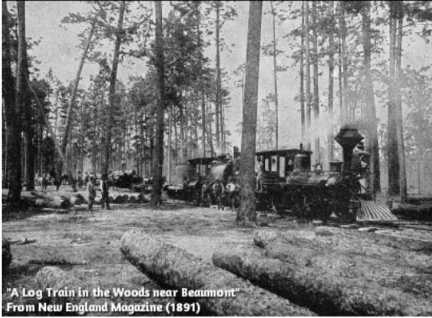
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7. John G. Sexton to Grayson H. Meek, October 26, 2015 (email).

# THE TEXAS GULF HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD



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*"A Log Train in the Woods near Beaumont"*  
From *New England Magazine* (1891)

The Journal of the Texas Gulf Historical Society & the Lamar University History Department

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## PRIMARY SOURCES

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

THERESA HEFNER-BABB, EDITOR

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**T**heresa Hefner-Babb conducted the following interviews during September and October 2016 via email, continuing her project to record the experiences of local reserve soldiers who served with the 373rd Combat Sustainment Battalion (CSB)—now the 373rd Combat Support and Sustainment Battalion (CSSB)—in Uzbekistan during the 2002 and 2003 deployment. The first interviews appeared in volume 51 of *The Record*. The interviewer knows all three participants through her time in the unit's Family Readiness Group (FRG) between 2006 and 2014. Sergeant First Class (SFC) Robert C. LaCob worked at the 373rd until his retirement in 2008, and his wife Kathleen helped the interviewer adjust to being a reservist's wife. At the time that the interviewer acted as leader of the FRG, Master Sergeant (MSG) Grover S. Haywood served as the liaison between the group and the command from 2006 until 2009, and Lt. Col. (LTC) Christopher L. Flowers was the battalion executive officer.

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**Theresa Hefner-Babb** serves as the Executive Director of the Office of Planning and Assessment and SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) Liaison at Lamar University.

All three soldiers served with the interviewer's husband, SFC Ralph Hefner-Babb, during his years with the 373 CSSB.

In the months after the attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, the U.S. Department of Defense had to activate reserve and national guard units to supplement the reduced active military forces. Before, during the post-Cold War world of the 1990s, the Department of Defense instituted a drawdown of military personnel in the active military component. According to defense specialist Bernard Rostker, the United States has a long tradition of demobilization after the end of wartime. Each time the United States reduced its forces, however, it created problems with readiness and efficiency of reserve and active component forces. Reserve units and personnel often bear the responsibility, challenges, and consequences of this policy. The advocates of force reduction do not account for the differences in training, experience, and leadership that an active military provides. Reservists train monthly but recent history shows that the units experience turmoil caused by transfers and cross leveling to fill positions prior to deployment. Thus, the unit lacks cohesion and stability resulting in poor preparation and varied competencies in training and readiness.<sup>1</sup>

The reliance on reserve forces also impacts the family of each individual soldier from pre-deployment through post-deployment. C. A. Lapp and a group of nursing researchers conducted a study of 18 military spouses and found that the five stressors for families included "worrying, waiting, go-

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1. Bernard Rostker, *Rightsizing the Force: Lessons for the Current Drawdown of American Military Personnel* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 2013), 5.



ing it alone, pulling double duty, and loneliness.”<sup>2</sup> The U.S. military provides assistance with resources like Military One Source and the FRG that provide support for deployed soldiers’ families. The following interviews capture the experiences of three soldiers during their deployment to Uzbekistan and the challenges faced by their families.

**LTC Christopher L. Flowers**, U.S. Army Reserves. He served as captain during the deployment to Uzbekistan. He received his Reserves commission in May 1991. He obtained a BS (1991) and MS (2011) in criminal justice from Lamar University. Flowers served as a Texas state trooper, a U.S. Probation Office, and as an adjunct instructor at Lamar. He is married and a father of two.

**MSG Grover S. Haywood**, U.S. Army Reserves, retired. He enlisted in the Reserves in June 1975. He started out as a Construction Surveyor, and during his career, he served at the unit level in a variety of military occupation specializations, including Unit Supply, Motor Transport Operator, Administrative Clerk, and Automated Logistics Specialist. Haywood also served in various non-commissioned officer (NCO) positions at the battalion and unit level. He also served as an Operations NCO and NCO Evaluation System Instructor at a Reserve Forces School where soldiers take courses required for rank advancement. Haywood is currently Command NCO for the Texas Wing of the volunteer Civil Air Patrol. In November 2016, he retired from his civilian position at the Reserve Center in Beaumont.

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2. C. A. Lapp, et al. “Stress and Coping on the Homefront: Guard and Reserve Spouse Searching for a New Normal.” *Journal of Family Nursing*, 16 (February 2010): 45.

**SFC Robert C. La Cob**, U.S. Army Reserves, retired. He joined the Reserves in 1971, and transferred to the active army in 1972. He received his discharge in 1979. He served as the Unit Supply Specialist (S4) NCO during Operation Enduring Freedom from January to August 2003 and continued as Active/Guard Reserve status (AGR) until his retirement in January 2008. La Cob was responsible for all outside unit transactions, and took care of five unit property books with an assigned part time S4 Officer, except during the deployment when everyone was full time. His responsibilities included taking care of the soldiers' logistical needs. The Headquarters and Headquarter Company Detachment housed the unit supply sergeant that took care of soldiers of the 373rd. As the S4 NCO, he was also responsible for keeping the S4 Officer Capt. Michael Washington abreast of meeting schedules, monthly budget for the base camp through the Joint Army Review Board (JARB), conducted statement of charges, and Article 32 investigations.

The editor conducted the following interviews by email and moderately revised the responses for typographical and grammatical consistency.

***Theresa Hefner-Babb:* What was your rank and military occupation specialization (MOS) during the deployment to Uzbekistan in 2003?**

**LTC Flowers:** Captain, Infantry

**SFC La Cob:** SFC/E7/92Y4O<sup>3</sup>

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3. Sergeant First Class, Unit Supply Specialist.

**MSG Haywood:** MSG [Master Sergeant], Automated Logistics NCO during the deployment. My duty position was the Support Operations NCO.

***Theresa Hefner-Babb:*** **What is your current military status and rank?**

**LTC Flowers:** Lieutenant Colonel, Logistics

**MSG Haywood:** I am currently retired at the rank MSG due to medical disqualification since April 2004.

**SFC La Cob:** Retired/SFC/E7 since 2008.<sup>4</sup>

***Theresa Hefner-Babb:*** **When you learned that the 373 CSB was going to deploy, what was your reaction?**

**LTC Flowers:** I was excited that I could provide some assistance in the U.S. role in the fight against Islamic Terrorism.

**MSG Haywood:** The unit had been assigned to do annual training at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC), Fort Polk [Louisiana], and National Training Center (NTC), Fort Irwin [California] for several rotations. These are like the playoffs and Super Bowl in football at the NFL level. My expectations after doing these rotations were that we would be able to do the deployment mission successfully and above the required standards. Most of the Senior NCOs had been together for a decade, and I had worked with these soldiers and had every confidence in them to be successful. In fact, the 373rd was not on a call up list for deployment. We were requested by name because of our service during the rotations at NTC and JRTC. We had an excellent core of officers and NCOs, and enlisted soldiers who I knew would perform the

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4. E7 refers to a pay grade of a Sergeant First Class.

mission successfully and return. These people not only had the military experience to do their jobs but even more experience on the civilian side that contributed to our success. We were recommended by our Active Duty Headquarters (90th Regional Readiness Command, Little Rock, Arkansas) for a Unit Citation which was lost. I wish this could be found as the Soldiers of the 373rd deserved it.

**SFC La Cob:** I really felt good about what we were to encounter because I knew who we had in the unit and overwhelming pool of talent we had to offer. Of course, we all seemed a little nervous about going to war, but as far as doing what was asked of us, we were ready!

***Theresa Hefner-Babb:*** **How did you feel about the increased role of the U.S. Reserves in light of the downsized regular army?**

**LTC Flowers:** After beginning my officer training in 1986, I was excited to have the opportunity to finally serve in the U.S. Army in a real world fight. The years of training made me mentally ready to finally do my job, but as an Army Reservist, I wasn't sure I'd ever be activated.

**MSG Haywood:** What worried me the most was the fact one of the soldier's mother had asked me to make sure he made it back home safe. Also, I had to be asked for the names of soldiers to recommend to go to our Forward Logistics Element at Mazar-e-Sharif in Afghanistan. This leadership task is not easy as the men you have to name may be put in harm's way. You would do it yourself, but this was not an option. This worried me until all were on the plane safe and going back home.

**SFC La Cob:** I wasn't too keen on the idea of the Reserves taking on a larger role from the downsized Active Components, just to balance the military budget and make Washington look better with a "part time" army.

***Theresa Hefner-Babb:*** **What was the reaction of your immediate family when you told them of the deployment?**

**LTC Flowers:** Initially, anxiety came over my family and me. Although, I wasn't sure of the outcome of my activation, I convinced them that things would be fine.

**MSG Haywood:** My wife was worried about it and so were my immediate family on going to Operation Enduring Freedom.

**SFC La Cob:** Shock and dismay, but we all knew someday this is what we were training for, especially since we were seeing the war on television for a while already. We had a quick train up period, and some of us didn't have much time to spend with family, as I was switched to early advanced party at midnight, just before the Advanced Echelon Detachment (ADVON) was to leave the next morning.

***Theresa Hefner-Babb:*** **How did you prepare your family for deployment related issues like separation, finances, etc?**

**LTC Flowers:** I prepared a "how-to" book which contained contact information for friends, family, and fixer upper businesses. I also prepared a budget and had legal documents prepared (will, power of attorney, etc). We hoped the legal documents would never need to be executed, but failing to plan for the worst would only make matters harder should something happen.

**MSG Haywood:** I prepared my wife for the deployment, and she did a very good job while I was gone. That way, I could concentrate on the tasks there without worry. My wife did a commendable job. In fact, the wives are a valuable asset to the military. They are much undervalued but are just as important as the soldiers in my opinion. Also, the families of unmarried soldiers are important as well.

**SFC La Cob:** Being on active duty already, most of that stuff was already done. Separation is always hard, especially when leaving on the bus. Everyone was crying and waving. We just knew we had to come back alive, whatever it took.

***Theresa Hefner-Babb:*** **How did you handle the deployment with your employer?**

**LTC Flowers:** Working for the federal government made the transition much easier than working for a civilian employer because there are laws and policies which protect federal employees during times of military duty. I had no concern for my job being available upon my return, but that was not the case for other soldiers who worked for civilian companies. Also, because my military salary is more than my civilian salary, I knew my family would actually benefit financially by me being deployed. Soldiers who make more money in their civilian employment had financial challenges that I did not have.

**MSG Haywood:** I worked for the Army Reserve so it was no problem.

**SFC La Cob:** As an AGR already, this is what I did already, day to day, just adding a different overseas scenario and a few different rules with guard duty/Sergeant of the Guard.

***Theresa Hefner-Babb: What were the typical issues that surfaced for the stateside families?***

**LTC Flowers:** Accurate flow of information due to internet, phone, or mail issues; consistent contact between soldier and families; challenges with children's activities/school; significant days (birthdays/anniversaries/graduation); issues with creditors.

**MSG Haywood:** There was some marital infidelities, financial issues, illness of family members, problems with kids. As an NCO, I had to do details in the phone tent. We had 20 phones for 2,000 soldiers. I remember having to calm some soldiers down as they would get mad or upset while talking on the phones.

**Kathleen La Cob:** Paying bills, maintaining the yard, taking care of the vehicle, and being part of the FRG was taking up most of my time. FRG business was keeping together, raising money, and having a lunch or dinner out together.

***Theresa Hefner-Babb: What resources were available for families during the deployment?***

**LTC Flowers:** Army One Source was the primary source of information for families, but the unit had an FRG which acted as the hub for information. Unfortunately, the information was not always pure. It was received from a soldier who may not have the correct information.

**MSG Haywood:** The FRG was the main help I would guess. The Regular Army puts up a good talk but did little to help the reserves during that period.

**SFC La Cob:** Kathleen took on the role of newsletter and special events [coordinator]. The FRG was really on their own as no information was allowed until just before we got on the plane. Everything was a big secret. Partly responsible for that was the Battalion Commander, LTC [James] Beasley.<sup>5</sup>

***Theresa Hefner-Babb:* While overseas, what was your responsibility?**

**LTC Flowers:** I operated with forward logistical element at the airport at Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan, and our responsibility was to directly support American units in the region. Specifically, we received goods (food, water, equipment parts, ammunition, etc) via the U.S. Air Force, and we stored and transported the items to U.S. forces nearby. This region was controlled by the Taliban for many years earlier, so the populace was hesitant to have foreigners there, especially when we came to provide relief. That was very uncommon for them to see. In most cases, the U.S. units, that were stationed within a 20-mile radius, came to us to pick up the items they had requested.

Additionally, our logistical hub also supported a field hospital which provided a variety of medical services to the local population. The doctors and security forces (150 of each) were from the country of Jordan, and we lived in tents in the same compound as them. Combined, the 300 Jordanian and the 14 Americans lived in one compound about the size of two football fields. During the day, our compound was a hospital providing medical care to 300 to 700 Afghan patients and a logistical distribution point for other U.S. forces. The

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5. LTC James Beasley was the Battalion Commander of the 373 CSB during the deployment to Uzbekistan. He is now retired from the Army Reserve.



compound was located in the middle of nowhere, so keeping the hospital equipped was difficult at times. The hospital consisted of tents, so keeping the operating rooms sterile was simply impossible. When surgeries required blood replacement, special shipments with units of blood was required to be flown in. This demanded regular communication with the main logistics base in Uzbekistan, but the weather often times prevented that.

**MSG Haywood:** I was the Support Operations NCO. I was at Camp Stronghold Freedom in Uzbekistan. We took care of external Logistics for everything from toilet paper to equipment, fuel, food, ammunition, aviation fuel, transportation, and supplies for northern Afghanistan.

**SFC La Cob:** I was the Logistical Task Force Property Book NCO/Bn S4 NCO<sup>6</sup> and duties included taking care of all assigned units property books, keeping my S4 officer aware of all meetings and conferences and any logistic problems that arose that needed his attention. Any time equipment that was ordered through the S4 was \$10,000 or more for any unit, was to be voted on by the JARB board once, or twice if needed, a month. The Board consisted of all O6 Colonels and above in command position. We were special since LTC Beasley was an LTC O5, and we were the Logistical authority there.<sup>7</sup> The duty station was Karshi-Khanabad, Camp Stronghold Freedom, just outside the city on an old Russian air base.

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6. Bn S4: Battalion logistics officer.

7. O5 and O6 refers to colonel's pay grades.

**Theresa Hefner-Babb:** Did you have any interactions with the civilians? Please describe or provide brief anecdotes.

**LTC Flowers:** Interactions with civilians occurred daily as the Afghan patients would begin lining up at 7 a.m. in order to enter our compound to receive medical services. These services were the first time many of these citizens had received any medical attention in their lives. After a heavy rain, standing water was the norm, and often times, women and children were seen drinking water from the puddles; the same puddles men were seen urinating in just an hour earlier. That vision will never leave me as it was a sight that Americans simply don't see in the United States. Additionally, most of the medical issues needing attention were for things Americans take for granted, yet in a country where the average life span is far less than Americans, the issues were significant. I was able to stand and witness many surgeries, and it only gave me a better appreciation of the medical profession. Many Afghan lives were saved by the Jordanian doctors, and the local population seemed very grateful for receiving it.

**MSG Haywood:** We had civilian translators that had to accompany us off post to translate for us. These individuals as a whole were very well educated. One of them was a medical doctor. She made the equivalent of about \$35 U.S. a month and \$600 U.S. as a translator. One of the civilians cleaned tables in the food service facility. He had been a CEO of an industrial plant. He made more cleaning tables for military. One U.S. Dollar was worth 1,000 Uzbek Dollars. We had to carry Uzbek money when we went off post in case we needed something. It made for quite the big roll of money.

I also go to make R&R trips to cities in Uzbekistan. The most memorable was Samarkand. I had read about this city in books and history. It was impressive. I wish I could go back and spend some more time there. We also went to Bukhara which was a smaller town. I was impressed by it and the market there—especially a visit to a black smith and knife maker whose work had been exhibited in Paris, France. I purchased the set of knives that had been exhibited in Paris, and they are a work of art. I paid \$200,000 Uzbek Dollars for them. Which was equal to \$200 U.S. Dollars. I still have them. In fact, the local Uzbek Bank branch had to make a special order for that much money.

I was impressed by the locals I worked with and the civilians I met on the R&R trips. I have nothing but the best wishes for those folks and the nation.

**SFC La Cob:** Not Really.

***Theresa Hefner-Babb:*** **How did you stay in touch with your family during the deployment?**

**LTC Flowers:** The only contact for the 14 Americans at Mazar-e-Sharif was via satellite phone. Internet was a dream for us, so we took turns using the satellite phone. We used it for official business during the day, so the night time was normally special for the person(s) whose turn it was to call home. Today's soldiers often have a variety of internet-driven ways to maintain regular contact with their families in the United States. We would receive mail weekly, but because it took two to three weeks arrive, often times the information in the letter was not as insignificant.

**MSG Haywood:** Mainly by AKO [Army Knowledge Online] e-mail two to three times a week and a phone call on Sundays to the wife.<sup>8</sup>

**SFC La Cob:** Made some long telephone calls on pre-paid phone minute cards! I hate writing as by the time the letter get there, things would change.

***Theresa Hefner-Babb:*** **What happened after the unit returned to Fort Hood? How long did soldiers have to wait to see their families?**

**LTC Flowers:** The unit returned to Fort Hood and out-processed through the medical and equipment stations. It took approximately four days for that to occur, and on the fifth day, a chartered bus took the soldiers from Fort Hood to the Reserve Center in Beaumont where the families met us. Some spouses came to Fort Hood as the soldiers had free time each night, and those soldiers whose spouse came were able to begin their transition a few days early.

**MSG Haywood:** We arrived early in the morning and had to get up at 6 a.m. to eat and attend post deployment classes. The families started arriving that same day.

**SFC La Cob:** Only took about a week, and we were on our way home. For some of us, the out processing and medical screening seemed never ending. Some people were retired right after that, due to various things, medical or age driven.

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8. Army Knowledge Online (AKO) provides internet services and single web portal to the U.S. Army. It provides email, directory services, portal, single sign on, blogs, file storage, instant messenger, and chat. Army Knowledge Online (website: [army.com/ako-army-knowledge-online](http://army.com/ako-army-knowledge-online)).

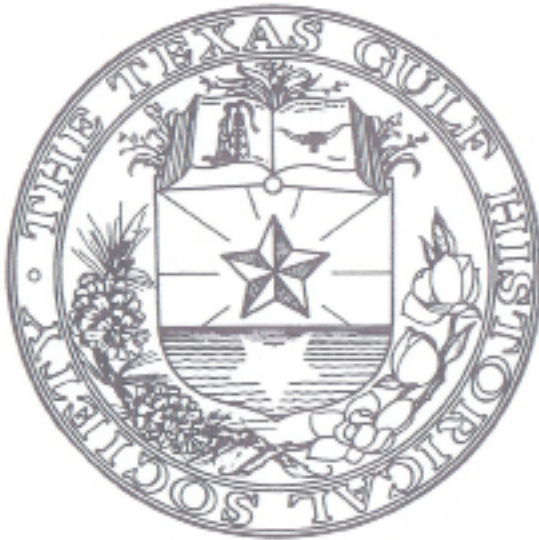
***Theresa Hefner-Babb:*** Do you have any stories about family members coming to Fort Hood before the soldiers returned to Beaumont?

**LTC Flowers:** No stories for me.

**SFC La Cob:** The very day we came home, some wives got a rental van and came to see us. I spent the next week in a Fort Hood hotel room with my wife, really great while out-processing. This made up for the lack of time we had while at Fort hood on the deployment, since I was switched the night before to the ADVON, and my wife was supposed to come and see me with other wives.

**MSG Haywood:** My wife drove up the day after we got back. Fort Hood is one of the biggest posts in the world. My wife is a very resourceful person. She tracked down the class were in. Then asked LTC Beasley the Battalion Commander to come to the door. I was so tired after 54 hours in the air and traveling. I was asleep in the class.

I was woke up by the Battalion Commander's voice. He said I had a visitor. I saw my wife as soon as I could see outside the door. He told her that we needed to stay for class. However, she gave him that wife look, and he melted under pressure and released those of us who had families that had arrived. The Commander in Wife had spoken.



*Vox audita perdit, littera scripta manet.*

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## BOOK REVIEWS

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**Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca: American Trailblazer.** Robin Varnum (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2014. 376 pp, 12 illus., 4 maps. \$26.95 hardcover.)

Imagine taking a voyage into the unknown. You are boarding a ship in Spain in 1527, traversing the Atlantic Ocean, landing somewhere in the Caribbean and making your way to the uncharted territories of Florida, Texas, California, Northern Mexico, and eventually South America. These remarkable oceanic and terrestrial crossings were the adventures of many Spanish conquistadors, like the illustrious Álvar Nuñez Cabeza de Vaca, coming to the New World in search of fame and fortune.

Robin Varnum takes the reader on Cabeza de Vaca's odysseys. The book is more than a biography. It reconstructs the life experiences of Cabeza de Vaca and his contemporaries, and illustrates the perilous, yet exciting journey traversed in search of adventure and wealth.

As the title reveals, Varnum emphasizes the accomplishments of Spanish explorers in the region that is now part of the United States. She often reminds the reader they deserve "the honor of being the first Europeans" to travel through Texas (98). She further makes this point by emphasizing that

Spaniards settled Saint Augustine, Florida, 93 years before the *Mayflower* Pilgrims landed in Massachusetts.

Major events in the life of Cabeza de Vaca ground the 16 chapters. Varnum acknowledges Cabeza de Vaca's pride in his family's genealogy and opens the book with the military triumphs of his father and grandfather. In doing so, she situates his willingness to serve the king with his family's long history of supporting the Spanish crown.

The first nine chapters are relevant histories of the eastern and western territories that modern scholars refer to as the U.S.-Mexican borderlands, the bottom rim of states from California to Florida that the Spanish claimed. The latter part follows Cabeza de Vaca's journeys to South America and back to Spain. Varnum pays close attention to the role of Native Americans and their interactions with not only Cabeza de Vaca and his men, but also other conquistadors. At various points, she offers insight into native customs and traditions, and the impact of their teachings. For example, she depicts how various groups taught Cabeza de Vaca and his men how to survive by sharing their healing methods, agricultural practices, and languages.

Varnum presents Cabeza de Vaca's remarkable career and travels through North and South America in a balanced way by situating the micro-historical moments within the larger, macro-historical events. Local occurrences depict and inform what was happening at the level of the empire. This method allows readers familiar with the history of Spanish colonialism to situate Cabeza de Vaca's adventures. This approach reveals that while his expeditions were extraordinary in several respects, they were also customary of the period.



He sojourned on the American continent at the same time as Hernán Cortez in central Mexico and Francisco Pizarro in Perú among many others.

Varnum relies on the writings of conquistadors from the period, and early cartography, as well as contemporary archeological evidence and secondary sources to either confirm or challenge previous explanations. This approach allows her to offer a revisionist historical interpretation of themes such as routes traversed, peoples encountered, or the socioeconomic status of Cabeza de Vaca at the time of his death. By researching foods, dress, ship manifests, and popular culture of the period, she brings her characters to life in exquisite detail. Students of colonial North American would benefit from this engaging and informative book. Varnum tailors the information to make it accessible for broad audiences. Students, general readers, and history aficionados seeking to partake in the adventure, will find it captivating and beautifully written.

Liz Elizondo  
University of Texas at Austin

**Riding for the Lone Star: Frontier Cavalry and the Texas Way of War, 1822-1865.** Nathan A. Jennings (Denton: University of North Texas Press, 2016. 464 pp., 35 photos, 5 maps. \$32.95 hardcover.)

Nathan Jennings has produced a well-researched work on the development of the Texas Rangers as a fighting force. He has examined this evolution as it passed through the governments of Mexico, the Republic of Texas, the antebellum United States, and the short-lived Confederate States. *Riding for the Lone Star* is one of numerous recent works on the antebellum rangers, such as Robert Utley's *Lone Star Justice* (2002), Michael Collins's *Texas Devils* (2008), and Bruce Glasrud and Harold Weiss Jr.'s edited work *Tracking the Texas Rangers* (2012). Jennings stands out from these other efforts. He emphasizes the fighting methodology of the rangers and their evolution during the first 40 to 50 years of Texas history. As his title suggests, he argues that Texas society developed a distinct way of war to deal with the region's unique geographic and cultural environment. He described Texas as a "cavalry centric arena, which had long been the domain of the Plains Indians and the Spanish Empire compelled an adaptive martial tradition that shaped and informed early Lone Star culture." This distinctive, "Texas way of war," featured "armed horsemanship, volunteer militancy and event-specific mobilization as it engaged both tribal and international opponents" (1).

Jennings argued that his work fills a gap in the historiography of Texas by providing a comprehensive analysis of the development of warfare in the region from the days before the revolution through the end of the Civil War. He centers

his analysis around the formation of an Anglo-Texan martial experience, the method of mobilization used in Texas, and the influence of North American warfare in the first half of the nineteenth century.

Jennings demonstrated that the frontier defense in colonial *Tejas* evolved much in the same way that it did in the early English colonies. He established that the concept of rangers in America originated in the 1620s, and, like the early English colonists, the Texans relied on ad hoc groups of volunteers mobilized for short periods or in immediate response to specific raids. In addition, he showed that these early rangers learned to adapt their tactics to the geography and the nature of the threat. Jennings convincingly argues that the unique geography of a large open country coupled with a highly mobile threat—the Comanches—were the primary drivers for the “Texas way of War.” The Texans adapted small mounted units of rangers to combat bands of raiding Comanches and, after independence, cross-border incursions from Mexico.

In addition to demonstrating a flexibility in tactics, Jennings further shows how the rangers adapted new technology in the form of revolvers. These weapons coupled with small highly mobile mounted units became characteristic of the “Texas way of war.” He convincingly illustrated that over time the Texans perfected their tactics and displayed them on a national stage during the U.S.-Mexican War. Texas units fought in both Zachary Taylor’s and Winfield Scott’s armies. They served as scouts, traditional cavalry, and as a counter-guerilla force. In the Civil War, the rangers would continue to perform their frontier defense duties while thousands of Texans

took the “Texas way of war” with them in their service in the Confederate Army.

Jennings has produced an outstanding work that ably supports his thesis of the development of a unique “Texas way of war.” He often uses modern military terminology to describe nineteenth century warfare which at times comes across as forced. For example, he claimed that Stephen F. Austin viewed the Texas population as a Clauswitzian center of gravity (13). These references might inform an audience of young officers at professional military schools, but they are a bit out of place in a mainstream historical work. *Riding for the Lone Star*, nevertheless, is a worthy addition to the scholarship of nineteenth century Texas.

Kenneth L. Merrick  
Texas A&M University

**La Belle: The Ship that Changed History.** James E. Bruseth, ed. (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2014. 104 pp., 135 color photos, \$19.95 paper.)

The 1995 discovery of the seventeenth-century French frigate, *La Belle*, stands as one of the most significant archeological finds in North American waters. Not only monumental because of the ship's relevance in French colonial history, the discovery also led to significant excavation innovations which successfully recovered over 1.6 million artifacts. Taking into account the age and vulnerable location, the Texas Historical Commission elected to unearth *La Belle* by implementing the Western Hemisphere's first dewatered cofferdam excavation. James Bruseth consolidates this triangular story of North American history, the significance of the ill-fated expedition, and the shipwreck's discovery and retrieval in *La Belle: The Ship that Changed History*. He assembles an informative work that includes essays from several scholars and large attractive photographs captioned with descriptive and historical context.

La Salle's story has inspired scholars from multiple disciplines, including literature, sociology, archeology, and history. Some have debated whether or not La Salle's 300-mile over-shot of the Mississippi was a miscalculation or a deceptive ploy. Others have focused on the discovery, excavation, and restoration of the frigate. Bruseth employs a multi-directional approach in an attempt to capture not only the archeological and scientific aspects of the frigate's history but also to place *La Belle* within the historical context of seventeenth-century Western Europe and North America.

In 1684, René-Robert Cavalier Sieur de La Salle—along with 400 soldiers, sailors, and colonists—sailed from the Old World with plans to establish a French colony on the lower Mississippi River. Departing with trade goods borrowed at 150 percent, a motley crew, and faulty maps, the poorly funded expedition seemed destined for failure from the start. Sailing hundreds of miles past their intended destination and having already suffered the loss of the supply ship, La Salle's party came ashore at present-day Matagorda Bay in a desperate situation. Within a month of landfall, the party established Fort Saint Louis, but 60 of the party had perished. The survivors murdered La Salle. *La Belle* had become a scene of desperation and death. The men and women left anchored off shore ran out of water and fresh supplies. Although *La Belle's* captain had finally decided to abandon their post and flee to the fort, the frigate did not make it and slipped into a watery grave where it remained for 300 years.

As head of the Texas Historical Commission during *La Belle's* excavation from Matagorda Bay, Bruseth offers first-hand knowledge of the logistics of the processes and the historical significance of the vessel and its artifacts. Enriching and augmenting the story, he includes essays from scholars that contributed different perspectives to this history. Providing a broad geographical, societal, and political background, Juliana Barr describes the Native American world that this age of exploration and colonization disrupted, while Jesús F. de la Teja explains the European power struggle that bled into the American continent. Narrowing the focus, William Foster, Jeffrey Durst, and Bruseth describe in detail the ill-fated La Salle and his disastrous 1684 expedition.

Not a mere catalogue to accompany a special exhibit, *La Belle: The Ship that Changed History* contains a well-rounded account of the historical as well as the archeological significance of this shipwreck. In addition to the essays, it contains numerous color photographs of artifacts and relevant art reproductions. Whether coming from the academic realm or the public arena, the reader will find the book both informative and visually stimulating. Bruseth's work stands on its own but also enhances and highlights a historical treasure now displayed in the Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin.

Valerie Majors Domingue  
Lamar University

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## ***The Record* Website as Research Gateway**

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Visit [www.texasgulfrecord.org/research.html](http://www.texasgulfrecord.org/research.html) for a convenient list of Southeast Texas and the Texas Gulf Coast research facilities with direct links to their websites and online digital collections. Under the “Research” tab, find pages for “SETX Collections” and “Digital Resources.”

### **Facilities include:**

Bryan Museum, Galveston

Center for History and Culture of Southeast Texas and the Upper Gulf Coast,  
Lamar University, Beaumont

Corpus Christi Public Library

East Texas Research Center, Ralph W. Steen Library, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches

Galveston and Texas History Center, Galveston Public Library

Herzstein Library, San Jacinto Museum of History, La Porte

History Center, Diboll

Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston Public Library

Lamar University Archives and Special Collections, Mary and John Gray Library,  
Beaumont

Museum of the Gulf Coast, Port Arthur

Port Arthur History Collection, Port Arthur Public Library

Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center, Liberty

Special Collections, Newton Gresham Library, Sam Houston State University,  
Huntsville

Special Collections, University of Houston

Special Collections and Archives, Bell Library, Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi

Special Collections and Archives, University of Texas at Brownsville

Tyrrell Historical Library, Beaumont

Victoria Regional History Center, VC/UHV Library

Woodson Research Center Special Collections & Archives, Fondren Library, Rice University, Houston



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# PROCEEDINGS

*Texas Gulf Historical Society Minutes*

ANN CRESWELL

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Fall Meeting  
November 17, 2015

The Texas Gulf Historical Society met in the home of Dr. Robert R. and Suzanne Birdwell. President Ben Woodhead called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and Kathryn Phelan offered an opening prayer.

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

Treasurer Joe Fisher Jr. presented the Financial Report. Income from dues and sales of *The Record* totaled \$4,700. Printing and mailing expenses for *The Record* were \$2,352, a dramatic drop in printing due to our association with Lamar. The P. O. Box rental was \$136 and \$500, was awarded for the Johnson Editor's Prize. Total cash is \$16,053 which includes the \$2,500 Andrew and Betty Johnson Scholarship Fund leaving the Society with operating cash of \$13,553. Mr. Fisher reminded us to pay our dues and any commitments made to the Berly Scholarship.

Dr. Jimmy L. Bryan Jr., editor, reported that the next addition of *The Record* would include book reviews and Lynn Castle's Museum Corner as well as articles. He reported that the website and Facebook page are up and running, and the first recipient of the Charlsie Berly Scholarship will be awarded in the Fall 2016. Dr. Bryan then announced the Andrew J. and Betty H. Johnson Editor's Prize was awarded to Lamar undergraduate Zachary Defrancis for his student achievements and his article on the Sabine Pass Lighthouse. Not only will it be published in *The Record*, but Mr. Defrancis will be presenting it at the East Texas Historical Association Spring Conference to be held in Beaumont, February 18-20, 2016. Several members of TGHS will also be presenting. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Jo Ann Stiles introduced Ellen Rienstra, our speaker for the evening, who along with her sister Judith Linsley is well known for her community involvement and contributions to the history of our area.

The Lutcher-Stark families of Orange are Ms. Rienstra's latest concentration, and her presentation, "Forest Triumvirate: The Strong Women of East Texas's Luther-Stark Lumber Dynasty," gave us a glimpse into the lives and achievements of these very powerful 19th and early 20th century women. Frances Ann Lutcher, her daughter Miriam married to W. H. Stark, and Nelda third wife of H. J. Lutcher Stark, Miriam's son and Frances's grandson all greatly influenced the city, region, and state.

Frances, her husband Henry, and their two daughters moved to Orange when the operations of the Lutcher and Moore Lumber Company were transferred from Pennsylvania to the

Orange mill which had four times the capacity of area mills. The family arrived in 1877 to what had to be somewhat of a shocking contrast to the life they lived in Pennsylvania where the girls attended finishing school and literature and culture were encouraged. The move proved to be a great economic success. Frances was always treated as a partner, and in fact, Henry gave her credit for much of their success. After his death, Frances traveled all over the United States and Europe in her famous Pierce-Arrow automobile. She was responsible for numerous philanthropic projects such as the Episcopal Church built around three stained glass windows she bought at the World's Fair. Her concern about mill accidents resulted in a hospital where no one was turned away for lack of money. Prior to her death she deeded her interest to her Stark grandson (a source of conflict for many years) who inherited the bulk of her estate when she died at age 84.

Second of the triumvirate was her daughter Miriam who collected art, art objects, manuscripts, and letters. We are fortunate to have the diary of her trip to Europe, which includes fascinating detail about food, entertainment, and her reaction to world events. A female book collector was considered an oddity for her time, and the bulk of her collection is in the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas, Austin. The Miriam Lutcher Stark Library is still an impressive collection.

Last of the triumvirate was Nelda who was not fond of travel, food, clothes, or diamonds but had a strong aptitude for business. She allowed her husband H. J. Lutcher Stark to indulge his numerous interests including Shangri La, his alma mater at the University of Texas, and various projects

for young people, putting an unknown number through college. He reportedly had an explosive temper but was indeed a philanthropist. In 1961, the Nelda C. and H. J. Lutcher Stark Foundation was established and after his death. Under Nelda's leadership, it continued to grow and develop wonderful assets for Orange and the entire region. When she died, the Stark Foundation was in great shape and it continues to provide valuable resources and venues.

The Lutcher-Stark women were prominent and powerful women who influenced the economy as well as the arts of Orange, this region, the state, and all those who visit today. Their legacy includes the W. H. Stark House, the Stark Museum of Art, Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center, and the Frances Ann Lutcher Theatre for the Performing Arts. If you have not visited all of them, take advantage of these valuable gems in our community.

Following questions and a brief discussion, President Woodhead thanked Ellen for her presentation and the Birdwell's for their hospitality. He thanked Kay Eastman and Sue Philp for the refreshments and everyone for coming. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Spring Meeting  
April 27, 2016

The Texas Gulf Historical Society met in the McFaddin-Ward House Visitor Center. President Ben Woodhead called the meeting to order at 7 p.m., and Marilyn Adams offered an opening prayer.

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. The Net Operating Fund totals \$15,585. Income for 2016 is \$3,015, including dues and sales of *The Record*. Expenses to date for mailing is \$515.

Robert Robertson asked for articles for the next addition of *The Record* and reminded us of the great articles in the last one and that copies were still available.

Dr. Mary Scheer reported on activity at Lamar University including the hiring of a public historian, Dr. Josh Howard, and the new offering of a MA with concentration in public history.

Judith Linsley introduced our speaker for the evening Dr. Bill O'Neal. He is the Texas State Historian and has an impressive list of honors and awards. He is well known for his numerous writings, television documentaries, and presentations. His most recent publication is about Sam Houston and focuses on Houston as a leader.

Sam Houston was a gifted man who radiated leadership and whose qualities thrust him into leadership roles throughout his life. His prominence is well noted by the abundance of statues, paintings, cities, National Forests and Parks, schools, and books about and/or named for this fascinating man.

Dr. O'Neal highlighted various events throughout Houston's life that shaped the different qualities of his leadership and molded him for the roles he undertook: U.S. Congressman, Governor of Tennessee and Texas, Major General of the Texas Revolutionary Army, twice President of The Republic of Texas, and U.S. Senator.

Houston had a great deal of leadership experience prior to coming to Texas in 1836, and it would become evident again during his years in Texas. One of the times the value of his past experience is most evident is in Houston's training of volunteers at Groce's plantation prior to the battle of San Jacinto. His commanding presence kept the Texians together at the critical time after the Alamo and Goliad. Dr. O'Neal compared Houston to George Washington and concluded, "not another Texan could have pulled this off."

Dr. O'Neal stated that while there is extensive work on Houston he focused on Houston's leadership and the life events that developed those traits. An extensive list of those "leadership principles" is included in Dr. O'Neal's recent book *Sam Houston: A Study in Leadership* released on March 2, which is Sam Houston's birthday, and Texas Independence Day.

President Woodhead expressed our appreciation for a wonderful presentation, thanked Kay Eastman and Sue Philp for the refreshments and everyone for coming. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

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## MEMBERS

\*Gilbert T. Adams Jr.  
Marilyn Thornton Adams  
Kent Morrison Adams  
Molly S. Adams  
\*Patricia Adams  
\*Dr Charles L. Allen  
Hez Aubey  
Rexine A. Aubey  
Dr. Barbara D. Batty  
Louis Henry Beard  
Larry Beaulieu  
Caliste Boykin Benckenstein  
Don J. Benton  
Francis Blair Bethea  
Vida B Blair  
Dr. Robert R. Birdwell  
Susanne Brown Birdwell  
Karla Schwartz Blum  
Lawrence H. Blum  
Faye Byer Blum  
C. Kathleen Boudreaux  
James Earl Brickhouse  
James Blue Broussard  
Paula Ann Comeaux Broussard  
Joseph Eloi Broussard II  
William Alex Broussard  
Marie Martin Broussard  
Jimmy L. Bryan Jr.  
Elizabeth Ann Bryant  
Barbara Ellen Buchanan  
Marvin R. Bullard  
Linda Birdwell Bullard  
Marjorie Rembert Carroll  
Dr. Lamar John Ryan Cecil Jr.  
Stewart M. Chisum  
Bessie F. Chisum  
Penny L. Clark  
Eugenia Coffin  
Edwin Gerald Cordts Jr.  
Grace Naquin Cordts

Regina Babin Cox  
Mary Ann Snowden Crabbe  
\*Will Block Crenshaw  
\*Joy Hopkins Crenshaw  
Ann Creswell  
Kevin Bryan Cronin  
Susannah McNeill Cronin  
C. Cohron Crutchfield Jr.  
Rosalie Woodhead Crutchfield  
James Glenn Cummings  
Linda Parmer Cummings  
George Austin Dishman III  
Phoebe Hambright Dishman  
George Dishman  
Judy Gay Dishman  
Melanie Dishman  
Valerie Majors Domingue  
\*James Dale Dowell  
Dianne Duperier  
Frank Allan Eastman  
Kaye Eastman  
Harold Eisen  
James A. Elkins, III  
Ronald D. Ellington  
Ronald Coleman Ellison  
Joseph Jefferson Fisher Jr.  
Gerald R. Flatten  
Carol K. Flatten  
Charlotte P. Fontenot  
Joanne Stedman Fulbright  
Richard Michael Gachot  
Jonathan Kirk Gerland  
Patricia Gilbert  
Mary Anna Glasgow  
Charles D. Glass  
Guy Neil Goodson  
Kimberly White Goodson  
Carroll Berly Gorham  
\*Madelon Douglas Graham  
Edward H. Green

## MEMBERS

- Margaret Phelan Green  
 Margaret Woodin Green  
 Hon Carl R. Griffith  
 Elizabeth Marion Logan Gwin  
 Dr. Howell Holmes Gwin Jr.  
 Kathryn Manion Haider  
 John T. Halbert  
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 Joan Mayfield Hataway  
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 The Honorable Thad Heartfield  
 Cornelia Bozada Heartfield  
 J. Thad Heartfield  
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 Karen Campbell McCormick  
 Alan McNeill  
 Barbara Gordon McNeill  
 The Hon. James D. McNicholas  
 David E. Montgomery  
 Leslie Millard Moor Jr.  
 Yvonne Lyle Osborne Moor  
 Theodoric Edwin Moor Jr.  
 Jerry J. Nathan  
 Marilyn A. James Neathery  
 Nancy Brooks Neild  
 \*Dr. John Lockwood Nelson  
 \*Anne Shepherd Nelson  
 Dr. Edward Alexander Neusel  
 Sharon Ruddy Neusel  
 \*Lipscomb Norvell Jr.  
 \*Cynthia Tate Norvell  
 James Rowland Old Jr.  
 Ann Clary Fancher Old  
 Dr. Sam Frank Parigi  
 Margaret Davis Parker



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## MEMBERS

T. Michael Parrish  
Carroll Douglas Phillips  
Roy Marvin Philp  
Susan Phillips Philp  
Gwili E Posey  
Wiley Ken Poston II  
Brenda Chance Poston  
James Cornelius Potter Jr.  
Lula Langham Potter  
Ida McFaddin Pyle  
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Joyce Fergusson Richardson  
Ellen Walker Rienstra  
Stephen Christopher Roane  
Rachael Ann Low Roane  
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Christine Moor Sanders  
Yasuko Sato  
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Ron E. Schroeder  
Lucinda Lewis Smith Seale  
William Seale Jr.  
\*William Smythe Shepherd Sr.  
Kathleen Quick Sibley  
Dr. John Terry Smith  
Joedna Mills Smyth  
Mathew M. Sooudi  
John P. Stafford  
Suzanne K. Stafford  
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Cecilia Gutierrez Venable  
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Callie Mae Coe Wilson  
Anne Fisher Winslow  
Ben S. Woodhead Jr.  
Sharon Compton Woodhead  
Naaman Johnson Woodland Jr.  
Mary Baldwin Woodland  
Dr. Ralph Ancil Wooster

\* Life Members

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## PAST PRESIDENTS

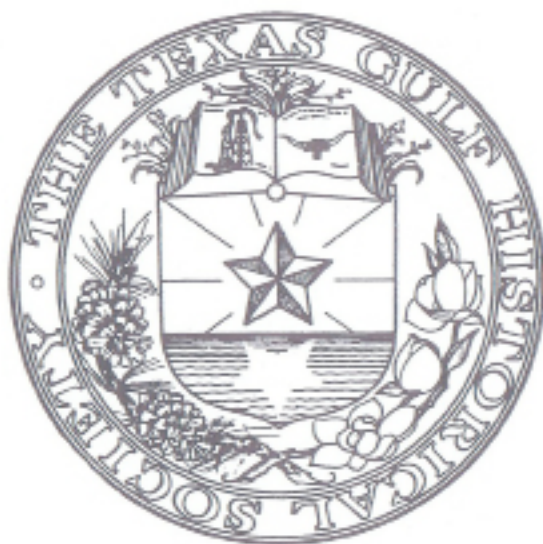
Lipscomb Norvell	1964-1968
Chilton O'Brien	1968-1970
Dr. Charles Walker	1970-1972
Gilbert T. Adams	1972-1974
Judge Joseph J. Fisher	1974-1976
W. Smythe Shepherd	1976-1978
Jack B. Osborne	1978-1980
Peter B. Wells	1980-1982
Fred Lock Benckenstin	1982-1984
Gilbert T. Adams Jr.	1984-1986
Judge Wendell Conn Radford	1986-1988
Dale Dowell	1988-1990
Don Kelly	1990-1992
Robert J. Robertson	1992-1994
Naaman J. Woodland Jr.	1994-1996
Joan Mayfield Hataway	1996-1998
Yvonne Osborne Moor	1998-1999
William B. Hataway	1999-2001
Alex Broussard	2002-2003
Penny Lousia Clark	2004-2006
Curtis Leister	2006-2008
James Earl Brickhouse	2009-2011
Gilbert T. Adams Jr.	2012-2013
Dr. John Nelson	2013-2015

## PAST EDITORS

Charlsie Berly, as managing editor	1965-1966
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
Robert Schott	2007-2008
Dr. Ralph Wooster	2009-2010
Dr. John Storey	2011

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Allen County Public Library	Fort Wayne, IN
American Antiquarian Society	Worcester, MA
Baylor University Libraries	Waco, TX
Beaumont Heritage Society	Beaumont, TX
Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library	San Antonio, TX
Ed Rachal Memorial Library	Falfurrias, TX
Fire Museum of Texas	Beaumont, TX
Galveston Texas History Center	Galveston, TX
Harvard College Library	Cambridge, MA
Houston Public Library	Houston, TX
Jefferson County Historical Commission	Beaumont, TX
Lamar University Library	Beaumont, TX
Lamar State College—Orange Library	Orange, TX
Lamar State College—Port Arthur Library	Port Arthur, TX
McFaddin Ward House	Beaumont, TX
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
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Texas Energy Museum	Beaumont, TX
Texas Tech University Library	Lubbock, TX
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University of North Texas Library	Denton, TX
University of Texas at Arlington Library	Arlington, TX



*Vox audita perdit, littera scripta manet.*



