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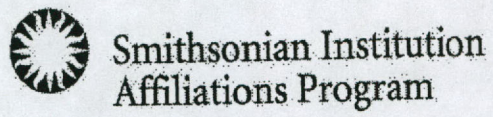
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**STAR OF THE REPUBLIC MUSEUM
ANNUAL REPORT
SEPTEMBER 1, 2008 – AUGUST 31, 2009**

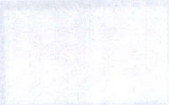
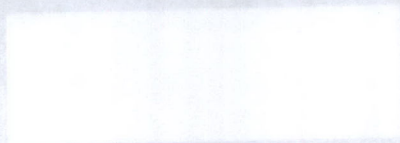
Administered by Blinn College, Brenham, Texas



Accredited by the American Association of Museums



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STAR OF THE REPUBLIC MUSEUM
ANNUAL REPORT
September 1, 2008–August 31, 2009

MISSION

The Star of the Republic Museum was created by the Texas Legislature and is administered by Blinn College as a cultural and educational institution. Its purpose is to collect and preserve the material culture of the Texas Republic (1836-1846) and to interpret the history, cultures, diversity, and values of early Texans. The Museum strives to inspire interest, understanding, and appreciation of Texas heritage for students, teachers, scholars, and the general public through exhibits, tours, programs, web activities, and outreach. (Revised and approved by the Blinn College Board of Trustees, 2007)

AUTHORITY

The Star of the Republic Museum, located at the Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site, was created by the State of Texas in 1970. House Bill No. 634, of the Sixty-first Legislature, in regular session, transferred the control and custody of the Museum to Blinn College, Brenham, in Washington County, Texas, from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission. The Museum was created to interpret the ten-year history of the Republic of Texas from 1836 to 1846, and to commemorate the site of the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence and the last capital of the Texas Republic. The Star of the Republic Museum is the only AAM accredited museum in the state devoted exclusively to collecting and interpreting pre-1850 Texas history and material culture.

HIGHLIGHTS

Exhibit Opening: Texas Transformed: Early Maps of Texas

On Friday, February 27, the Museum hosted an evening reception for over 100 guests to preview the new map exhibit, "Texas Transformed: Early Maps of Texas." Included in the exhibit was the largest map of Texas, on loan from the Texas General Land Office, and measuring approximately eight feet square. An online exhibit accompanied the physical exhibit—which ran through August 31.

Brazos Valley Regional History Fair

The Brazos Valley Regional History Fair was held at Washington on the Brazos on February 13. Students from Austin, Burleson, Brazos, Grimes, and Washington Counties

were invited to compete for the opportunity to advance to the Texas state history fair. Winners at the state level advanced to National History Day at the University of Maryland. Participating students chose their own topics of study related to the annual theme, which for 2009 was "The Individual in History: Actions and Legacies." They conducted extensive research, and chose the best method to display their findings. Group and individual project categories included: historical paper, exhibit, documentary, performance and interpretive website.

Anne McGaugh served as the Regional Coordinator for the fair. She was responsible for recruiting sponsors, participants, volunteers, and judges, as well as coordinating the entire event. A total of 173 students in Grades 7-12 entered the Regional Fair, with 102 projects. Fifty-six students advanced to the state contest with 31 projects, and four students with two projects advanced to National History Day.

AAM Re-Accreditation Review

Since 1972, the Star of the Republic Museum has held the highest honor a museum can receive: accreditation by the American Association of Museums, being one of the first museums in the state to be so designated. Accreditation certifies that a museum operates according to standards set forth by the museum profession, manages its collections responsibly and provides quality service to the public. On June 1-2, 2009, Bruce Bazelon, from the Pennsylvania Heritage Commission, and Robert Gerling, Curator, National Cowboy Museum in Oklahoma City, peer reviewers for the American Association of Museums, visited the museum to evaluate the museum's accreditation status, which takes place approximately every ten years, following a year of rigorous self-study. Results from the accreditation review will be revealed by the end of the year.

ATTENDANCE

Total attendance at the Museum for the 2008-2009 fiscal year was approximately 30,000. In addition, approximately 600 individuals received outreach programs and presentations in the community.

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Scheduled Tours

The staff of the Education Department conducted a total of 170 scheduled school tours comprised of a total of 10,515 students from public, private and home schools. In addition, 67 scheduled adult groups toured the Museum with a total of 1415 participants. A combined count of visitors in scheduled tour groups for the 2008-2009 year was 11,930.

Special Events and Projects

- On the second and fourth Wednesdays in September and October, the staff at the Museum and Barrington Living History Farm presented "**Home School Days: Childhood in Early Texas**," an interactive, hands-on program for the entire family. Participants discovered what life was like for a child in the mid-19th century. In the museum, they learned about childhood chores, clothes, and schools, and then made some old-fashioned toys to take home. After a picnic lunch in the pecan grove along the Brazos River, they hiked up to Barrington Farm to experience life on the farm. Approximately 430 students and adults participated in the program.
- The museum sponsored its annual **Republic of Texas Art Contest** for fourth grade students in Washington and Grimes County. Russell Cushman, Rosemary Mandrell, and J. Payne Lara judged entries from 121 students. An awards ceremony was held on February 28, during the Texas Independence Day Celebration, and the winning entries were exhibited in the Museum through the end of May.
- During the **Texas Independence Day Celebration** on February 28-March 1, the Museum hosted several historical craft demonstrators. Included were: Brazos Bluebonnet Quilt Guild, Bluebonnet Lace Makers, Lou Rose (chair caning), Betty Thiel (tatting), and Betty Wharton (knitting). Visitors were also treated to performances by "Texas Heroes" (professional troupe of historians/actors), "Gone to Texas" (musical theater group sponsored by Sam Houston Memorial Museum of Huntsville), and "Star of Texas Dulcimers." Approximately 2757 people visited the Museum during the Texas Independence Day Celebration.
- On March 13, the museum hosted an **after-hours private reception** for the patrons who purchased the party at the Fourth of July auction. Guests were given a "behind-the-scenes" guided tour.
- **H-E-B Fireworks on the Brazos** was celebrated on July 4th, with the Star of Texas Dulcimers playing in the Museum. Activities in the Park included historic children's games, a concert by the Brazos Valley Chorale, free Blue Bell ice cream and Coca-Cola products, and a spectacular fireworks display. Approximately 264 people toured the Museum prior to the evening events. Over 100 guests and members of the Washington on the Brazos State Park Association viewed the special fireworks display from the Museum's second floor outdoor deck.
- The **internship program** at the Museum works primarily with Texas A&M University's Anthropology Department to provide hands-on experience to students interested in a museum career. TAMU requires the students to contribute 60 hours to their internship for which they earn a total of 3 credit hours. Other schools have different requirements. The Museum's Curator of Collections and

Exhibits, Dr. Shawn Carlson, has designed a course schedule that provides an overview of museum studies for the students but also allows for them to work on museum projects.

During the fall semester of 2008, two TAMU students worked on a collection of ceramics and glass from the site of San Felipe de Austin—a site that is contemporaneous with Washington-on-the-Brazos. The archaeological collection was on loan to the Museum and students cataloged the artifacts. During the spring semester of 2009, four students researched and wrote interpretive descriptions for most of the artifacts that are on exhibit in the Museum. These descriptions are being used in the Museum's web project entitled, *Texas Independence*. A fifth student began processing the Museum's business archives and preparing a guide to them.

A sixth student, fulfilling a six-month internship for her master's degree in Museum Studies from Texas Tech University, worked on a variety of projects, including: scanning a collection of black and white photos, creating a database of the Museum's past loans, re-housing 4,000 color slides, and drafting an online exhibit for the Museum's 40th anniversary celebration. The Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park Association funded the Texas Tech internship. During the 2008-2009 fiscal year, interns contributed approximately 185 person-days to the Collections department at the Museum.

- All sites in the Park, including the museum, hosted **School Daze: Education in the Republic**, during the month of August. Visitors could learn about education in the mid 19th century. All teachers were granted free admission throughout the month and were provided free teaching materials.
- Throughout the year, the museum staff continued to work with EduWeb, an award-winning developer of digital learning games and multimedia interactives, to create a new website that will tell the story of Washington on the Brazos and the Convention of 1836. The target launch date is January 1, 2010.

Expanded Programs

The Education Department offered several expanded programs at selected times of the year. These programs utilized an inquiry-based, hands-on approach to encourage more student involvement. They were designed to align with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for selected grade levels. A total of 202 students participated in these programs. The expanded programs included:

- Thanksgiving/Native American Program: Offered during the month of November to children in grades K-2.
- "Leeches by Thousands," a program about Republic period medical practices: Offered during the month of October to students in grades 4-7.

Educational Outreach Programs

To further strengthen the museum's connection with Blinn College, the Education Staff worked with several teachers to provide additional resources for their classes. On October 1-2, the staff traveled to the Bryan campus, where they made presentations to approximately 600 students in 14 Texas History classes. Artifacts and reproduction items from the Museum were used to demonstrate what it was like to be a settler in Texas in the 1830s. The presentation was also made in Dr. Larry Watson's Texas history class on the Brenham campus on October 6. In addition, the Museum worked with Blinn History professors to provide a unique extra-credit project for Blinn students who visited the museum.

Special Topics

Each month throughout the year, the Museum focused on a special topic with a display in the Showers Brown Discovery Center. These rotating displays were designed to help visitors relate the past to their own lives in the modern world, through the use of images, text, artifacts and original documents. The special topics included:

- September– “Hispanic Heritage”
- October – “Archeology Awareness”
- November– “Native American Heritage”
- December– “Texas Christmas Traditions”
- January– “Anson Jones: President & Physician”
- February– “Black History Month”
- March– “Maps of Texas”
- April –May- “Nature’s Bounty: Wildflowers”
- June – “Famous Fathers”
- July– “Independence: The USA and the Republic of Texas”
- August– “Reading, Writing and Arithmetic”

PUBLICATIONS

“Notes”

The Museum's quarterly newsletter, *Notes*, was distributed to over 1,500 individuals throughout the year. The newsletter was available free of charge, upon request. The featured articles included “The Other Republic: The Republic of the Río Grande,” “The Shape of Texas: Defining Her Borders,” “Republic of Texas Postal System,” and “Night at the Star of the Republic Museum.” In addition to the quarterly mail-outs, the newsletter is also available to download from the Museum's website and is distributed electronically to all Blinn College employees through the college's “Update.”

Website

The Museum's website, www.starmuseum.org, has been online for several years and is used extensively by teachers and the general public to gain more information about the Museum's programs, exhibits, and activities. The site also provides downloadable files for teachers bringing students on tours to the Park and Museum. TEKS compliance requirements and post-visit activities were downloaded 1,657 times. The public downloaded 2,889 past issues of the *Notes* as well as other information about the Republic of Texas. Two of the key statistics for the past fiscal year are 80,550 visits, 121,357 pages viewed (16% increase), and 22,081 files downloaded. Website visitors viewed this year's exhibit, "Texas Transformed: Early Maps of Texas" 8,433 times. It is also interesting that 23% of the web visitors are from other countries and that 83% of our U.S. visitors are from other states, with the leading states being California, Virginia, Washington, and Illinois. The Museum will continue to grow this source of educational information and outreach communications over the coming years.

COLLECTIONS

Accessions

The Museum received six new accessions during the 2008-2009 fiscal year. Margaret Cherry, of Houston, donated a 15" brown transfer printed Texian Campaigne platter that was purchased in the 1930s by her grandmother. Rex Stever, a philatelist from Corpus Christi, donated an envelope postmarked Washington, TX, March 28, 1851. Three documents were purchased from Heritage Auction Galleries and included, (1) an estate inventory and appraisal of the community property of Anson Jones, (2) a summons for Sterling C. Robertson to appear before the Washington County District Court, dated 2-19-1840, and (3) a summons for William H.T. Brent to appear before the Washington County Justice of the Peace, dated November 21, 1838. The last item acquired was a "great" or "walking" wheel spinning wheel donated by Elaine McClurkan, of Bryan. The McClurkan spinning wheel has remained in the family since 1847.

Exhibits

This year's Texas Independence Day exhibit was entitled, "Texas Transformed: Early Maps of Texas." Twelve maps were hung along the theater's exterior wall and included two borrowed maps: Galli's "Texas" 1826 and Burr's "Texas" 1834 from the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin. In the Showers Brown Discovery Center were Upshur's "Washington Co." 1841 and Pressler's "Texas" 1879 from the Texas General Land Office in Austin. Pressler's 8'x8' map of Texas was the highlight of the exhibit. The exhibit maps ranged from 1587 to 1879 and each represented a significant contribution to Texas history.

Since completion of the second floor exhibit renovation in the spring of 2002, only minor changes have been made in the permanent exhibits. Most of these have involved rotation

of light sensitive objects, especially quilts in the Textiles exhibit and documents throughout the Museum. Many other documents and artifacts were exhibited during the year and corresponded with the monthly displays in the Showers-Brown Discovery Center or the Document case in the first floor gallery.

Collections Management

Editing of the database information has been an ongoing task. One chore that has had low priority but is critical to using the database is accurate descriptions of the collections items. During the past year interns worked with the Curator of Collections and Exhibits to produce interpretive descriptions of the artifacts, focusing on those that are currently on exhibit. These descriptions were used for the "Primary Sources" section of the Texas Independence website but will also be imported into the collections database. Though the website is nearly completed, working on interpretive descriptions for the Museum's database is an ongoing task for interns.

VOLUNTEERS

During the past year, Gerald Humphreys has continued to volunteer his time on the Stagecoach Inn archaeological collection from Chappell Hill. He has worked 94 hours and completed an inventory of 452 lots (discrete proveniences) that represent approximately 70% of the collection.

In addition, approximately 65 people served as volunteers at the Brazos Valley Regional History Fair.

BLINN FOUNDATION DONORS

The following people and organizations have graciously donated to the Blinn Foundation for the Star of the Republic Museum during the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

- Dr. & Mrs. Henry J. Boehm, Jr.
- A. Heathcote & Hazel Hacker
- Jessica Demuth Kiihne
- Roane Lacey
- Mr. & Mrs. James Mikus

BRAZOS VALLEY REGIONAL HISTORY FAIR DONORS

Sponsors for the Brazos Valley Regional History Fair donated a total of \$3000 and included:

- Washington on the Brazos State Park Association
- Brazos Heritage Society

- Blinn College
- Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site
- Star of the Republic Museum
- Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Dr. Richard Fox Brenham Chapter
- Washington County Genealogical Society
- Brazos County Historical Commission
- Chesapeake Energy
- Independence Historical Society
- Lacina & Kenjura, Attorneys at Law
- African American National Heritage Society
- John Brieden State Farm Insurance
- Carol & Jared Patout
- Grimes County Historical Commission
- United Daughters of the Confederacy, Minnie B. Williams Chapter #531
- Washington County Historical Commission
- Blue Bell Creameries

PERSONNEL

Museum Staff

Houston McGaugh has been the Director since July of 1987. He received an M.A. in Museum Science from Texas Tech University, and has twenty-nine years of museum education and administrative experience. He has served on committees and panels for the Texas Association of Museums, served on the AAM Standing Professional Committee on Education for the Mountain/Plains Museums Region and is currently a member of the Washington County Historical Commission. He was also appointed by Governor Ann Richards to serve on the Sam Houston Bicentennial Commission and the Stephen F. Austin Bicentennial Commission. He also serves on the Texas Historical Resource Advisory Board for the Texas State Archives, and also serves on the statewide planning committee for the new Texas Heritage Digitization Initiative, and is past Chairman of the Steering Committee. The Director assumes overall responsibility for the long-term and daily operations of the Museum, oversees the curators and staff in their duties, and reports to the governing authorities.

Shawn Carlson has been the Curator of Collections and Exhibits since May 2002. She received her Ph.D. in Anthropology in 1994 from Texas A&M University and has an extensive background in historic sites archaeology of the 18th-20th centuries. Her field experience has centered exclusively on historic sites throughout the southeast, leading her through eight states and dozens of sites, including the town of Washington-on-the-Brazos, the Anson Jones plantation, and the David Burnet home site, providing her with considerable knowledge of Republic period artifacts.

Dr. Carlson has been a Research Collaborator with the Smithsonian Center for Materials Research and Education since 2000 studying Spanish colonial ceramics. Carlson has also

served on the Texas Preservation Trust Advisory Committee, the Brazos County Historical Commission and is currently a member of the College Station Landmarks Commission. As Curator of Collections and Exhibits, Shawn is responsible for accessioning, cataloging, conservation, research and storage of the artifact collections and oversees the development and implementation of exhibits.

Anne Simms McGaugh was hired as the Assistant Curator of Education in 1998, and selected as Curator of Education in 2002. She graduated with honors from Trinity University with a B. A. degree in Elementary Education. She received her M. Ed. degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Texas A&M University. She also is a graduate of the Winedale Museum Seminar. She has five years experience as an elementary classroom teacher, and was an Assistant Lecturer in the College of Education at Texas A&M University in the spring of 2001. She oversees the development and implementation of all educational programs at the Museum, and supervises two Education Staff positions. She is also responsible for writing and editing the Museum's quarterly newsletter and maintaining the Museum's website. She also serves as Regional Coordinator for the Brazos Valley Regional History Fair.

Sabra deLyn worked as the Public Programs Coordinator from July 2008—April 2009. Her responsibilities included coordinating all scheduled school and adult tours with the other sites in the Park. She also served as a tour guide and as the coordinator for the Republic of Texas Art Contest.

Jodi Jungman joined the museum staff as Public Programs Coordinator on June 2009. A 2006 graduate of Texas A&M University, she completed a teaching internship in a 7th grade math classroom to earn a teaching certificate in Middle Grades (4th-8th) Math and Science Education. She received an M.A. in Human Development & Family Sciences from The University of Texas.

Judy Habermehl has been the part-time Education Assistant since October 2005. She retired after 30 years in the classroom, 26 of those teaching fourth grade social studies in Brenham Independent School District. She taught gifted and talented students for many years, and was able to delve deeper into the beginnings of this great state. She has a Bachelor of Science degree from Houston Baptist University. Her responsibilities include giving school tours and programs, assisting with the development of teacher resources, and assisting wherever needed.

Effie Wellmann, Museum Secretary, has been with the Museum since November 1995. She manages accounts payable and receivables and prepares and tracks all requisitions, invoices and deposits. She is responsible for preparing end of the month and year-end reports for the Museum and schedules part-time personnel for the weekly and weekend information desk. She maintains the Gift Shop Inventory, reordering stock as necessary and is currently assigning Library of Congress call numbers to the Library Inventory. She also provides layout, design, printing and mounting of exhibit graphics. She is currently serving as Treasurer of the Sunday School at Friedens Church of Washington, UCC.

Additional Staff:

Virginia Tappe, Building Maintenance and Cleaning
Kimberly Freeman, Building Maintenance and Cleaning
Judy Bogan, part-time Information Desk Clerk
Vivian Keil, part-time Information Desk Clerk
Bill Marshall, part-time Information Desk Clerk
Beverly Barker, part-time Information Desk Clerk
Ketra Williams, part-time Information Desk Clerk
Kristen Herzog, part-time Information Desk Clerk

Blinn College Administration

Daniel J. Holt, Ph.D. – President/CEO
Bob Brick, Ph.D. – Vice President of Applied Sciences
John D. Harris, Ed. D. – Vice President Student Services
Debra LaCour, Ph.D. – Vice President Academic Affairs
Barbara Pearson, Ph.D. – Vice President Brazos County Campus
Van Miller, Ed.D. – Vice President Administrative Services/CFO
Cathy Kemper, Ed.D. – Dean of Institutional Effectiveness & Accreditation
Cathy Boeker, M.B.A. – Executive Administrator of External Affairs
{administrative responsibilities for the Star of the Republic Museum}

Blinn College Board of Trustees for Academic Year 2008-2009

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**STAR OF THE REPUBLIC MUSEUM
REVENUES AND EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2009**

REVENUES

State Appropriations	\$356,248.00
State Health Insurance Appropriations/State Retirement	\$ 42,275.00
Sales/Services/Miscellaneous Income	\$ 6,135.00
Museum Receipts	<u>\$ 49,867.00</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	\$454,525.00

EXPENSES

Salaries	\$263,814.00
Fringe Benefits	\$ 68,251.00
Building Maintenance	\$ 13,170.00
Training/Travel	\$ 4,078.00
Consumables/Services	\$ 31,604.00
Utilities	\$ 45,008.00
Property/Liability Insurance	\$ 12,170.00
Furniture/Equipment	\$ 2,144.00
Collections/Miscellaneous	<u>\$ 2,189.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$442,428.00

