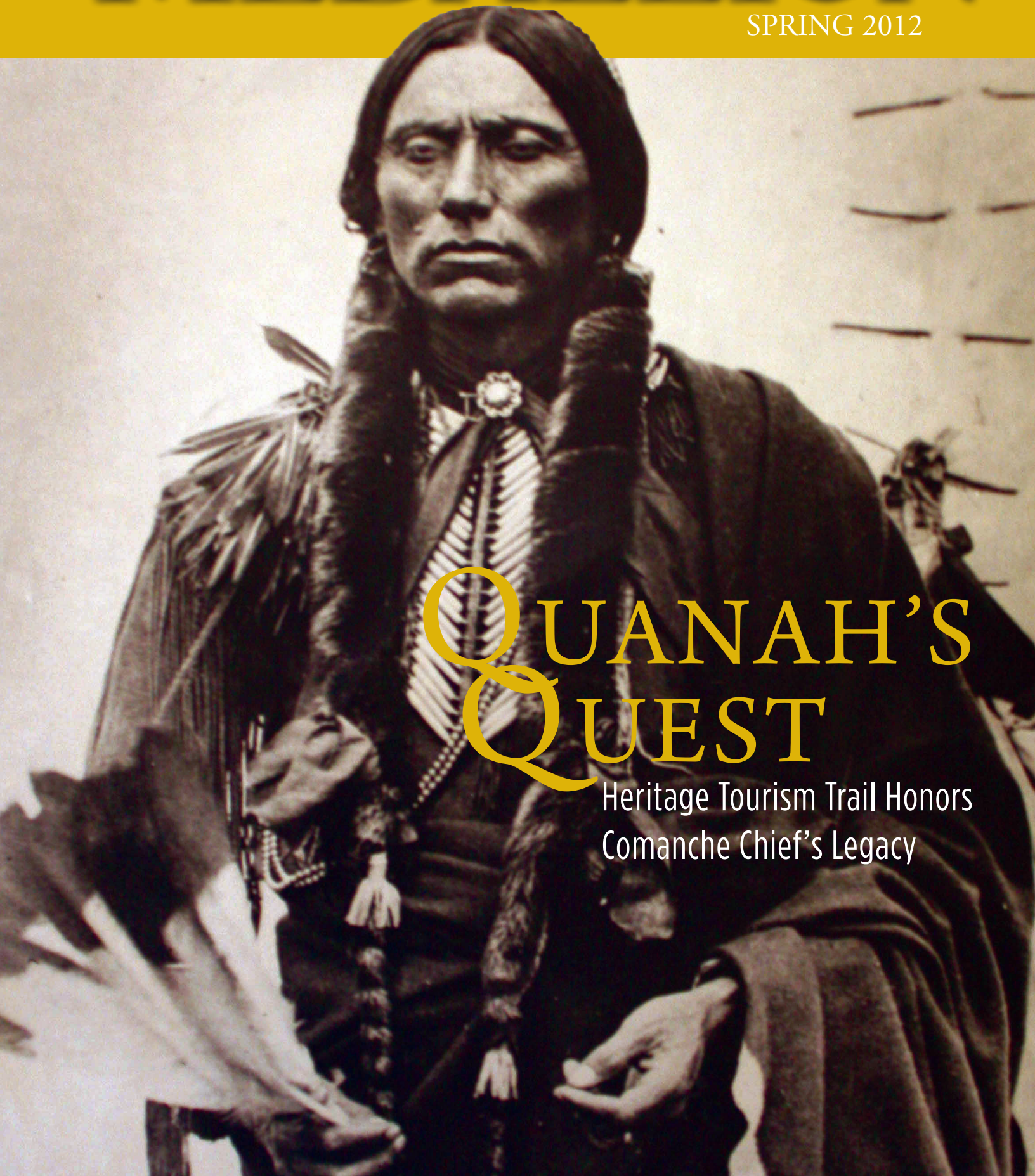


TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

THE MEDALLION



SPRING 2012



QUANAH'S
QUEST

Heritage Tourism Trail Honors
Comanche Chief's Legacy



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

THE **MEDALLION**

SPRING 2012

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ABOVE: (from left) Carolyn Wilson and Hanaba Welch of the Quanah Parker Trail in Quanah, Texas. ON THE COVER: Quahada Comanche Chief Quanah Parker as he appeared in the late 1800s (public domain photo).

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www.texashistoricsites.com

The THC's 20 historic properties

<http://seethesites.blogspot.com>

The agency's historic sites blog

FAST FACTS

The THC's preservation programs are significant economic catalysts throughout the state.

Texas Main Street Program

\$2.4

BILLION

has been reinvested in Texas downtowns and urban commercial districts since 1981.

Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program

\$254

MILLION

in local income has been generated.

9,133

JOBS

have been supported.

Certiably Effective

CLG Program Assists Preservationists at Local Level

By *Andy Rhodes*
Managing Editor, The Medallion

As preservationists across Texas are well aware, project funding is in short supply. But there's still hope for those willing to make the effort to engage their community (and attend a few meetings, fill out some paperwork, advocate for community history...).

Through annual Certified Local Government (CLG) grants, local preservation entities have access to funding for projects focused on generating a greater understanding of historic resources. The CLG program, administered statewide by the Texas Historical Commission (THC), was specifically developed to support local initiatives dedicated to federal preservation goals.

The THC recently announced this year's CLG grants totaling \$133,000, awarded to 10 Texas communities to develop products for local preservation programs. Communities receiving grants in fiscal year 2012 are: Austin, Comal County, Denton, Galveston, Killeen, Kingsville, Round Rock, San Antonio, Seguin, and Travis County. The funding will assist the selected cities and counties with preservation projects such as historic resources surveys, National Register of Historic Places nominations, heritage tourism publications, and historic site interpretation.

For example, the Travis County Historical Commission received a 2012 grant to continue its investigations at the Ransom and Sarah Williams Homestead in rural Travis County. The Ransom and Sarah Williams Project is challenging current perceptions about the lives of African



From left: Winnie Moyer, Nedra Lee, Anita Bunton, and Lee Dell Bunton discuss artifacts related to a CLG project.

Learn more about CLG and other agency programs at these THC Preservation Month Workshops: May 1: Kingsville; May 8: Jefferson; May 15: Lubbock; May 16: Eastland; May 22: Fort Davis
Visit www.thc.state.tx.us for updated information about venues and schedules.

American families following the Civil War.

Drawing on archeological reports, historical documents, oral histories, and interviews with local descendants, the project will provide public school curricula to foster a better understanding of the period, and a more complete picture of the African American experience.

In addition, CLG funding will help the City of Seguin develop a driving tour telling the story of its limecrete structures, a unique building material used in Central Texas. Meanwhile, the City of Georgetown is utilizing a 2011 grant to host a regional preservation workshop, bringing national preservation professionals to preservationists throughout Texas.

“The CLG Program is designed to leverage grant funds to create the necessary tools for effective local preservation programs,” said THC Community Heritage Development Director Brad Patterson. “Many of the historic preservation efforts in Texas occur at the local level. These federal funds allow the THC to provide a critical benefit for 66 Texas communities participating in the CLG Program.”

According to CLG State Coordinator Matt Synatschk, the program—a partnership between the National Park Service, the State Historic Preservation Office (which, in Texas, is the THC), and local governments—offers a rare opportunity to encourage the growth of local preservation efforts.

“Historic preservation commissions are the leaders in local preservation efforts,” he said. “Municipal and county governments often make significant decisions that impact local historic properties, so it's crucial that the thread of historic preservation becomes woven into their legal policies.”

In the previous three fiscal years, the Texas CLG Program awarded 31 grants for a total of \$380,500, resulting in the completion of preservation projects totaling more than \$800,000 around the state.

To find out more about the CLG program, including application deadlines and how your community can participate, contact Synatschk at matt.synatschk@thc.state.tx.us or 512.463.7812. ★

Great Generations

As D-Day Approaches, Texas' Lt. Governor Relives Father's World War II Heroics

By *Andy Rhodes*
Managing Editor, *The Medallion*

Texas Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst met his father 59 years after he died.

Dewhurst was just 3 years old when his father was killed by a drunk driver in Victoria; but nearly six decades later, his father's heroic service in World War II was unexpectedly resurrected. Thanks to uncovered military records and conversations with the airmen who served with Lt. Col. David Dewhurst, his son pieced together a portrait of a noble Army aviator who ultimately inspired his own illustrious career.

Dewhurst's father, David Henry Dewhurst Jr., was born and raised in San Antonio. As a freshman at the University of Texas, he met Martha Harris, and asked her to marry him on their first date.

"My mom stiff-armed him for awhile, but she eventually said 'yes' a few years after they graduated," Dewhurst recalls with a smile.

Six months before the Empire of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Dewhurst's father joined the U.S. Army Air Forces, where he trained as a pilot on the new B-26 bombers. At the time, the planes were posing problems, especially with velocity and stalling issues during take-off. Dewhurst notes that once the wings were lengthened and additional modifications made, skilled aviators like his father helped make the B-26 one of the war's most effective medium bombers.

Dewhurst was stationed at the Great Dunmow airfield northeast of London. His 386th Bomb Group was located there, and he went on to become Operations Manager and eventually Commander of the base's 553rd Bombardment Squadron.

Manning the cockpit of the "Dinah Might," Dewhurst became one of the most respected pilots in the Army Air Forces, flying 85 missions. His role in the D-Day invasion was

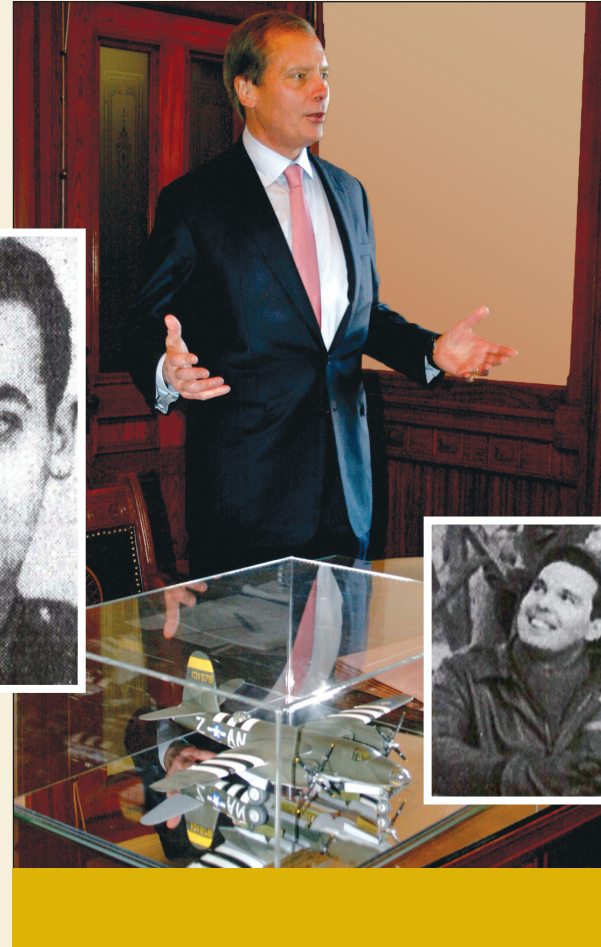
especially notable; Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower assigned his 386th Group the daunting responsibility of bombing Utah Beach last, striking important gun emplacements when the U.S. Army's ground soldiers would be nearest to the beach.

"Most of this I didn't know until a few years ago," Dewhurst says. "I didn't really meet my dad or get to know him until June 7th, 2007."

The previous afternoon—D-Day: June 6—Dewhurst had visited Omaha Beach in France's Normandy region. After touring the area's World War II sites, he was compelled to find more information about his father.

The next day, Dewhurst made an impulsive decision to visit nearby Utah Beach, where he saw "some old bunkers and a weathered-looking museum." Intrigued, he entered the aging facility and encountered a life-changing experience.

A large exhibit along one wall included an aging map delineated with faded green strings of yarn, each held taut with thumb tacks indicating



military bases and flight paths.

Adjacent to one of the pins was the name "Dewhurst."

"I had tears in my eyes, but I was paralyzed—I couldn't move, and I couldn't talk. I still get emotional just thinking about that moment," Dewhurst recalls. "I'd never had an experience like that. Everyone was sniffing and wiping tears from their eyes. It was unbelievable.

"When it was time to go, I couldn't move my feet," he adds. "My brother Gene had to pull my arm, but it was like a magnetic connection. I just couldn't move from that spot."

Dewhurst began working with Ret. Col. Chester Klier, a former member of the 386th Bomb Group eager to assist with the quest to find more information about Dewhurst's father. Before long, he received an urgent

From left: By 1944, Lt. Col. David Dewhurst had completed 85 combat missions; Texas Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst has a model of his father's B-26 in his Capitol office; Col. Albert Hill was Dewhurst's bombardier; a B-26 bomber in action during World War II.



message that Klier had recovered military records from 63 years prior, the text of which Dewhurst can recite from memory verbatim:

"Gentlemen. The time is 0330 hours. The battle for the liberation of Europe starts in three hours..."

Additional information from the records revealed a gunner, bombardier, wingman, and other servicemen had accompanied his father. Dewhurst recalls these significant revelations as an emotional epiphany.

"It wasn't closure, it was the beginning of a journey," he says.

Dewhurst's next step was to find surviving airmen from the 386th Bomb Group. He succeeded in locating Col. Albert Hill, his father's bombardier on 80 missions, now 92 years old and living in Tulsa, Okla. Dewhurst remembers Hill's eyes welling with tears as he talked about his "best friend" who'd made a significant impact on his life.

"He told me, 'Your dad was the best pilot in the entire Air Force, and

I can say that because I put my life in his hands 80 times,'" Dewhurst recalls. "Later, his wife joined us and said, 'That's not the whole story. We have one son, and his name is David.' Turns out, he was born the day after I was born."

Over the past few years, Dewhurst's attention has been focused on enhancing the Utah Beach museum in France. With his financial assistance (he agreed to underwrite a third of the project costs), Dewhurst has helped the museum "advance to the next stage" through expanded displays—including a large hangar currently housing a replica of the "Dinah Might"—and interactive exhibits inspired by a 2010 visit with French museum administrators to the Texas Historical Commission's National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg (see sidebar).

Dewhurst makes a point to clarify his investment in the French museum is not a memorial to his father. Instead, he refers to his own military service—as an Air Force intelligence officer at the height of the Cold War—as a testament to his father's legacy.

"I consider my assistance with the Utah Beach museum to be a tribute to the American GIs who crossed through there on D-Day," he says. "It's meant as a thank you for all the men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country during World War II." ★

A replica of Dewhurst's B-26, the "Dinah Might," is displayed in France's Utah Beach museum.



International Inspiration



A visit to the THC's National Museum of the Pacific War prompted French officials to design similar exhibits overseas.

While assisting with expansion plans for France's Utah Beach museum, Texas Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst brought a large group of museum administrators and French officials to Fredericksburg. Their tour of the THC's National Museum of the Pacific War (operated by The Admiral Nimitz Foundation) would prove fortuitous, ultimately inspiring the exhibit design for the upgraded Utah Beach museum.

"After seeing the impressive exhibits at the National Museum of the Pacific War, it was decided that more whiz-bang interactive functions were needed," Dewhurst says. "It influenced the whole concept of how to lay out the museum."

Dewhurst discovered the Utah Beach museum while researching his father's World War II experience, and was inspired to invest in its expansion. As a result of their Fredericksburg visit, Utah Beach museum administrators selected Houston-based DG Studios, designers of the recently upgraded National Museum of the Pacific War, to oversee their expansion project.

"The National Museum of the Pacific War is a real jewel," Dewhurst says. "My only advice is to be sure to plan for a full day, not just a half-day. It's a world-class experience."

QUANAHA'S QUEST

Heritage Tourism Trail Honors Comanche Chief's Legacy

By Andy Rhodes, Managing Editor, The Medallion

More than 125 years ago, a curious incident occurred along the rugged rocky edge between the high plains of the Caprock Escarpment and the grassy prairie of the Llano Estacado.

Quahada Comanche Chief Quanah Parker and a band of fellow tribesmen were evading U.S. Col. Ranald Mackenzie and his mounted cavalry troop. Comanche legend claims Parker and his men asked the tribe's shaman to summon spiritual support to combat Mackenzie's greater numbers and weapons. Soon afterward, a snowfall blanketed the area, obscuring all visible signs of the Comanche, allowing them to mystically fade into the natural surroundings.

According to historical researchers, Mackenzie's official military journals chronicle a similar mission near the Caprock. In their documentation, the operation was thwarted by an extremely rare snowstorm.

Historians in the Texas Panhandle and South Plains have spent the past year researching these legends

and facts for the Quanah Parker Trail, a heritage tourism initiative developed by the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Texas Plains and Texas Lakes Trail Regions. In the process, they discovered historical sagas have often melded, much like the shared heritage of the formerly opposing cultures now finding common ground after nearly a century.

"When we hear about these different stories matching up, it's an amazing feeling of connection," says Tai Kreidler, deputy director of Texas Tech University's Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library. "While working on this trail project, we've seen a wonderful generational shift—instead of people telling stories like 'They killed my grandpa,' there's more of a solemn reflection and nodding of the heads."

Parker's epic story and the associated research and outreach for his namesake trail is banding together historians, tribe members, and tourists. For the past nine months, Plains Trail communities have discovered their connections to Parker's heritage and submitted documentation in application packets. Once approved, the communities (27 and counting) receive a large metal arrow, serving as public artwork while pinpointing cultural attractions to heritage travelers.



Background: Caprock Canyons State Park

Parker's story begins with his mother, Cynthia Ann Parker, who was famously captured at age 9 by a band of Comanche during an 1836 raid at her family's homestead near present-day Mexia. According to the Handbook of Texas, she "forgot white ways, became thoroughly Comanche," and eventually married warrior Peta Nocona. Quanah was the first-born (circa 1845) of their three children.

In 1860, Cynthia was recaptured by Texas Rangers and forcibly placed in Anglo society, where she pined for her Comanche family. During the same skirmish, Nocona was killed (or died four years later, according to Quanah's affidavit) by Texas Ranger Sul Ross, who went on to become the state's governor. Essentially orphaned, Parker spent the subsequent decades seeking revenge against the Anglos in retaliation for his father's death. He was also haunted by the loss of his mother, whom he would never see again.

Although he was eventually subjected to living on a southwestern Oklahoma reservation, Parker made the most of his situation and found a way to thrive. Perhaps most importantly, he became a successful "assimilist," retaining Comanche cultural traditions (multiple wives, peyote use) while introducing the "white man's ways" to his tribe (schools, ranching).

"Quanah developed business relationships and even friendships with people around here—he would trade cattle and help other ranchers out when they were in a fix," said Matador historian Marisue Potts, chair of the Motley County Historical Commission (CHC) and a member of the THC's Texas Archeological Stewardship Network.

Potts adds that Parker went on to achieve great success as a rancher, eventually building a large two-story home in 1890 (the Star House, now on Oklahoma's official endangered properties list) and befriending notable figures such as President Theodore Roosevelt.

This compelling combination of impacts on Parker's life—being of mixed race, and harboring resentment against Anglos, yet ultimately working with them—was a significant element in developing the Quanah Parker Trail.



At a recent gathering of the trail's steering committee, members discussed Parker's legacy and the efforts to honor it through an educational heritage tourism initiative.

"Quanah Parker is considered an outstanding Native American son of Texas because he realized if he didn't do something to save his people and work with the conditions he was in, his tribe could become extinct," said Dr. Holle Humphries, a Texas Plains Trail Region board member.

Committee members agree that the trail's origins developed naturally, with strong regional partnerships stemming from an ambitious Texas Plains Trail Region program involving visits to each of the region's 52 counties in 2010, and a centennial commemoration of Quanah's death in 2011.

"This project is drawing interest in a part of the state that often goes under the radar," said Deborah Sue McDonald, executive director of the Plains Trail. "It's a fabulous story that has to be told. Our region has this amazing Texas mystique—it really was the final frontier, where the last Native Americans once roamed free."

Dolores Mosser, past president of the Plains Trail, adds, "This is such a great region for heritage travelers to explore. We're helping rural counties with economic development by promoting their cultural resources and heritage attractions."

Left: Quanah Parker's mother, Cynthia Ann Parker, and daughter Prairie Flower circa 1861. Above: The eastern portion of the Texas Plains Trail Region featuring locales on pages 8–9.

It's a way to bring visitors in to buy a Coke, visit an antique store, or even stay the night."

With this in mind, Quanah Parker Trail committee members discussed effective methods to develop customized travel itineraries based on a cohesive theme and to visually draw attention from the road. While traversing the region as part the 52-county tour, Humphries recalled seeing a 25-foot tall "planted" arrow in New Home, just south of Lubbock. Her follow-up investigation revealed the artwork was created by Charles Smith, a local cotton gin operator and metal artist.

"When Holle called, I told her I was very interested in participating in the trail project, but I wanted to make sure the Parker family had the courtesy of offering their blessing on the plans," Smith said. "They were very supportive of the project. We agreed that the arrow creates an uplifting spirit."

Humphries noted the arrows have served as a "lightning rod" by immediately capturing visitors' attention and causing them to investigate, take photos, and even explore a historic downtown district. Travelers have also been aided by a user-friendly and informative website (www.quanahparkertrail.com), developed by regional writer and artist Hanaba Welch to assist with itinerary planning and offer links to historical attractions.

The arrows are also prompting local residents to research their family history and learn about their connections to the region's settlers or to Parker himself. Comanche youth have visited trail sites and shared their culture's oral histories to a new audience.

In the process, relationships and friendships have developed, notably with Comanche tribe members. They have attended arrow dedication ceremonies throughout the Panhandle, and Plains Trail board members have reciprocated by traveling to Oklahoma for ceremonial events, such as the recent prayer service following the death of Baldwin Parker, Quanah's grandson.

"In just one generation, there's been a switch—just as Quanah Parker wanted people to shift their focus and look at these different cultures in a different way, we're now starting to reach that mutual understanding," Humphries said. "It's pretty powerful."



Photo: Hanaba Welch

Traversing the Trail

The Quanah Parker Trail is already having an impact on economic development efforts in the Panhandle, but additional visitation is encouraged. Before hitting the road, heritage travelers can consult www.texasplainstrail.com and www.quanahparkertrail.com to learn more about the region's communities and their cultural attractions. The following represent merely a sampling of the dozens of participating cities.

Post

This Texas Main Street city southeast of Lubbock was named for cereal magnate C.W. Post, who established the town as a model farming community in 1907. A statue and several THC historical markers grace the entryway to the downtown 1923 Garza County Courthouse. A few blocks away lies the **Garza County Historical Museum** (119 North Ave., 806.495.2207), featuring a Quanah Parker Trail arrow in the side yard of the former sanitarium. Inside, several exhibits showcase Comanche artifacts, clothing, and artwork.



Spur

Harry Bob Martin, the Spur-based Dickens CHC Chair, recalls finding muleshoes and uniform buttons as a young boy playing on a nearby creekbed. He later spent nearly two decades as superintendent at Copper Breaks State Park, where Parker once roamed the rugged landscape. Martin remains involved with the Quanah Parker Trail project and the **Spur-Dickens County Museum** (Open Wednesday, 390 Burlington Ave., 806.271.4149), where a headdress reportedly belonging to Parker is displayed.



Opposite page: Downtown Post; Quanah Parker's grandson, Baldwin Parker. Above: Quanah visited Matador in 1902.

"The neatest thing about this whole deal is bringing both sides of the story together," Martin said. "It's just the most fascinating story you could ever imagine."

Matador

Site of the first arrow-planting ceremony in October 2011, Matador has strong ties to Parker's legacy, notably as his destination for several visits in the early 1900s. **The Motley County Historical Museum** (Open Mon., Wed., and Fri., 828 Dundee St., 806.347.2651) features an impressive collection of historic photos documenting these appearances, along with exhibits dedicated to local Native American legacies and a scale model of downtown from this time period. The Quanah Parker Trail arrow is placed on the grounds of the nearby 1891 **Motley County Jail**, which is undergoing careful restoration and boasts a THC historical marker.

"The very next day after we planted our arrow, a man stopped with a little red-headed girl and walked all around it—they were very interested," says Carol Campbell, chair of Historic Motley County Jail. "They took each other's pictures and explored the area a little bit. It's exactly what we're hoping to accomplish."

Quanah

On the far eastern edge of the Plains Trail Region is the town of Quanah, named in honor of the Comanche chief. Parker's partnership in the Quanah, Acme and Pacific Railroad was an important regional business venture, and he visited the town often from his nearby home in southwestern Oklahoma.

"I find it so amazing that they chose to name this town after him," Welch said. "Just think about it—in 1874, he was out here killing buffalo hunters and white settlers, and about

10 years later, they'd named a town after him. That'd be like naming a city after the Japanese emperor just a few years after the end of World War II."

Parker's legacy is on display at the **Quanah, Acme and Pacific Railroad Museum** (105 Green St., 940.663.5272), and a nearby arrow draws visitors to the well-preserved historic Main Street district. An impressive 1938 mural titled "The Naming of Quanah" is in the lobby of the **Quanah Post Office** (219 West 3rd St.), and a granite monument pays tribute to Parker on the downtown square. The square is anchored by the 1908 Beaux Arts style **Hardeman County Courthouse** (300 N. Main St.), which recently received an exterior restoration through the THC's Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program.

"We had the Quanah Parker family reunion here last year, and we rolled out the red carpet for his people," says Carolyn Wilson of the Quanah Parker Trail board steering committee. "They felt right at home. And I suppose that makes sense, compared to the reservation where they were stuck. This really is their home."

For information about other heritage tourism opportunities in the Panhandle region, order a free copy of the THC's Texas Plains Trail Region travel guide by calling 866.276.6219 or visiting www.thc.state.tx.us and downloading the Red River War brochure. ★

Where the Buffalo Roam

Before the 1870s, an estimated 50 million buffalo roamed the Great Plains. Within a decade, these majestic native American creatures were nearly extinct.

In 1878, pioneer Panhandle rancher **Charles Goodnight**, at the urging of his wife **Mary Ann**, saved a small herd as breeding stock that later helped reintroduce the buffalo to Yellowstone National Park. Now, geneticists at **Caprock Canyons State Park** near **Quitaque** are using these buffalo to help repopulate **Goodnight's original group** (the official Texas state bison herd), located in the park for more than 100 years.

"When we got them in the '80s, there were only 32 left and they were in pretty poor shape due to inbreeding issues and age," says park Superintendent **Donald Beard**. "Now we're having some success with the Yellowstone herd, and it's all coming around full circle."



Making Museums Matter

THC's Museums Services Program Continues to Provide Expertise, Workshops

By *Laura Casey*
Museum Services Program Coordinator

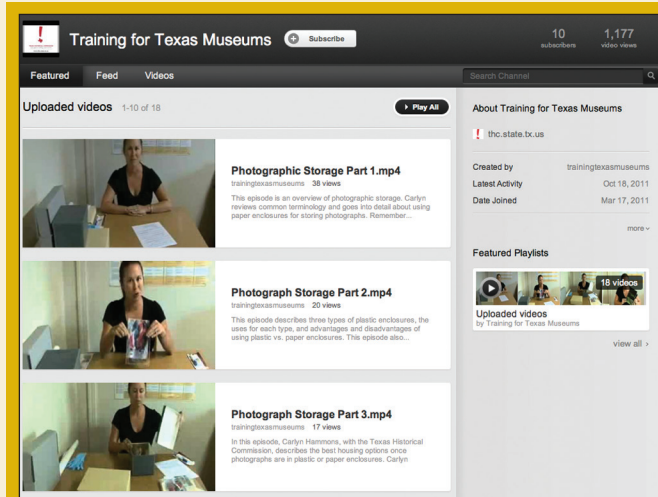
A common theme in the preservation community this year is change and adaptation. The Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Museum Services Program experienced similar challenges, but is viewing the future as a chance to reassess and envision new opportunities.

Despite losing a staff position due to recent legislative funding cuts, the Museum Services Program continues its commitment to providing technical assistance and training to Texas museums. Although the agency's museum grant program and e-newsletter were discontinued, the program still offers monthly email updates, training workshops, free consultations, and instructional webcasts.

One of the program's most popular services is free consultations to small and medium-sized history museums in Texas. Those with questions about anything pertaining to their museum can contact Museum Services Program staff. The majority of these questions are easily answered via email and phone.

"Please continue to think of our Museum Services Program as your main resource for all things museum-related," said Bratten Thomason, director of the THC's History Programs Division. "Our staff diligently sends updates to the email list every month."

Since 2007, the program has focused on providing affordable training workshops in locations across the state to limit participant



The Museum Services Program's YouTube channel

To obtain free advice about issues your museum is addressing, or to add your museum's email address to the THC's Museum Services Program monthly notification, contact Laura Casey at 512.463.6427 or laura.casey@thc.state.tx.us.

travel. Most of these workshops were underwritten as part of grant projects. Despite the lack of grant funding this year, the Museum Services Program continues to offer training workshops.

The program is now partnering with the Texas Association of Museums (TAM) to provide 10 training workshops in each of the state's heritage tourism regions. A workshop will be within a few hours drive of most museums. For information about upcoming events, visit www.texasmuseums.org.

The five workshop topics are:

- Basics of Financial Management
- Building a Meaningful Collection
- Charting Your Museum's Course for the Future
- Understanding Audiences and Visitors
- Meeting Museum Needs in Historic Houses

The Museum Services Program offers additional training platforms. In 2009, as part of a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the program began recording short instructional webcasts. These webcasts are available on the "Training for Texas Museums" YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/trainingtexasmuseums).

There are 18 different webcasts currently available. The videos are brief yet instructional, ranging from 3–12 minutes depending on the subject.

Some of the webcast topics are:

- Developing the "Big Idea" in Museum Exhibits
- Tips on Writing Interpretive Exhibit Labels
- Demonstrations about Salvaging Wet Objects, Including Paper and Textiles
- Conversations About Strategic Planning

"These webcasts provide very practical information that is available on demand and represent yet another free resource for Texas museums," Thomason said. "They're a great way for museum staffers across Texas to save money on travel expenses while learning valuable expertise from the comfort of their own office or home." ★

Partnerships Fortify Program

Military Sites Program Develops Significant Allies

By William McWhorter
Military Sites Program Coordinator

Preservationists in Texas and across the country are facing funding challenges on all fronts. To make headway in this battle, the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Military Sites Program has developed successful partnerships to secure grant funding from a variety of sources, resulting in multi-faceted initiatives highlighting Texas' role in significant military events of the past two centuries.

A key ally in the program's grant-procuring process has been the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission, which helped identify and contact dozens of funding entities to assist with the THC's military history projects. Through partnership development, the Military Sites Program's initiatives have generated heritage tourism and educational projects in Texas and other states.

One of the most successful projects has been the Texas Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War initiative. Since 2007, the Military Sites Program has worked to enhance interpretation of the last land battle of the Civil War, which took place at Palmito Ranch Battlefield National Historic Landmark east of Brownsville. With the support of the Friends organization, the program applied for and received eight grants and gifts between 2008 and 2011 to increase public awareness of the site and its history.

Projects related to the battlefield include: historical research and archeological survey work, publication of a full-color

brochure, regional workshops promoting the site's significance, and a radio broadcast repeater system (heard locally on 1610 AM). These activities, which bring the historical narrative of the battle and the conservation efforts of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (the primary landowner) to heritage tourists, were funded by a consortium of donors including private foundations, interested groups, individuals, and federal government grants.

"Regional and national partnership development has been the twin key to successful fundraising—it's certainly allowed our Military Sites Program to achieve its efforts in preserving and interpreting military history in the state," says Bratten Thomason, director of the THC's History Programs Division.

Another significant project spearheaded by the Military Sites Program is the Texas in World War II initiative, particularly the enemy alien confinement sites in Texas. The internment of enemy aliens during World War II is an untold story of Texas' World War II history, and the Crystal City

Family Internment Camp in South Texas—recently featured on the "Texas Country Reporter" program—was the largest of five such sites in the state.

The Crystal City Family Internment Camp's population consisted of Japanese Americans, Japanese nationals arrested in the U.S., and Japanese Latin Americans, along with German and Italian Americans, enemy aliens of many nationalities, and Latin American, German, and Italian detainees. The camp reached a peak population of almost 3,400 in December 1944, and officially closed in February 1948. Today, the City of Crystal City and the Crystal City school district own portions of the property, where two schools have been built over the former confinement site's footprint.

As a result of financial support from three National Park Service Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program projects, the Military Sites Program is documenting and interpreting the histories of the sites through signage, brochures, and new website pages. "Thanks to effective partnership building and grant

funding, the Military Sites Program is developing significant educational and heritage tourism opportunities, one site at a time," Thomason said. ★



The Military Sites Program has produced several educational brochures featuring maps and artifacts.





San Antonio Conservation Society:

A Gift to Help Now and in the Future

The Friends of the Texas Historical Commission recently received a generous gift from the San Antonio Conservation Society's Capital Club members. This gift will support the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) areas of greatest need, significant yet underfunded strategies, and new opportunities.

The Society, longtime friends of the THC, has previously supported several of the agency's special projects, but this gift is unique in designating half of the amount to provide long-term resources through the Texas Heroes Endowment. The other half provides immediate funding to assist the THC with immediate needs.

To learn more about the development of this gift's visionary approach and the organization behind it, the Friends' Executive Director Lisa Avra recently spoke with the Society's president, Nancy Avellar. Avellar has been a member of the Society since 1974, when she became involved as a college student through the Society's premiere event, A Night in Old San Antonio. A third-generation member of the Society, she first joined the board in 1988.

Avra: The reputation of the San Antonio Conservation Society among preservationists is quite distinguished, but for those unfamiliar with the organization, please tell us about the Society and its purpose.



The San Antonio Conservation Society's headquarters

Avellar: The Society was founded in 1924 by 13 women, and it's one of the oldest and most active community preservation groups in the United States. It began with efforts to prevent historic structures from being razed, and to preserve unique features like the San Antonio River bend district and the city's Spanish Colonial missions.

The Society has been responsible for saving most of the historic attractions that now make San Antonio one of the top tourist destinations in Texas. Our purpose is to preserve and encourage the preservation of historic buildings, objects, places, and customs relating to the history of Texas, its natural beauty, and all that is admirably distinctive to our state.

Our goal is to keep the history of Texas legible and intact, and to educate the public by preserving the city's physical and cultural resources. We especially want to help the youth of today and tomorrow perpetuate the knowledge of our inherited regional values.

Avra: Clearly the purpose of the Society and that of the THC is quite symbiotic. Tell us about the relationship between the THC and the Society.

Avellar: The THC is a friend and ally. The Society considers the THC an important resource for all of Texas, and especially for people who value our collective Texas history.

Our organizations have worked together on many key projects over the years, most notably Casa Navarro, the homestead of José Antonio Navarro, a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence. The Society originally purchased this property in 1960, restored the building and grounds, and gifted it to the state in 1975. We are quite pleased with the work the THC has accomplished since assuming custodianship of the property in 2008. The agency has provided excellent care of this home, and we're excited about the site's recent reopening after its restoration and installation of new exhibits.

Because the THC is such an essential source of technical assistance for preservationists across the state, the Society's Board of Directors was quite concerned that Texas would lose this critical agency during the budget crisis of the last legislative session. Because of the state's significant budget cuts to the THC, the Society's Board of Directors decided to

The San Antonio Conservation Society's Capital Club members contributed

\$21,125

to the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission for the immediate and long-term benefit of the THC through support of the Texas Heroes program.

The Guardian level of the Texas Heroes splits gifts between immediate use for areas of greatest need, and the Texas Heroes Endowment, which provides long-term resources for the THC's needs, strategic initiatives, and unique opportunities such as the excavation and preservation of the 17th-century shipwreck *La Belle*.

For information on how you can support the THC through the Texas Heroes, visit www.thcfriends.org/texasheroes.



ask our Capital Club members to dedicate their 2011 annual gift to support the THC through the Friends' Texas Heroes program. This program strives to provide resources for the THC both now and in the future, which we felt was important.

Avra: We very much appreciate this gesture and the generous gift that resulted. We will certainly put these funds to good use. Please tell us more about the Capital Club.

Avellar: The Capital Club is a relatively new program of the Society. It is comprised of non-voting members, including individuals, businesses, and foundations that make an annual gift to the Society to support its mission. There are different levels of membership, ranging from \$500 to \$10,000. The membership, which has been steadily growing since its inception a few

years ago, is individually recognized on our website for their support.

Avra: How does this campaign compare to previous Capital Club campaigns?

Avellar: We were quite pleased with the outpouring of support for the THC through the 2011 Capital Club Campaign. Clearly, our business, foundation, and individual members have demonstrated their belief that the THC plays a unique role as a vital catalyst for historic preservation, heritage tourism, and economic development in our state.

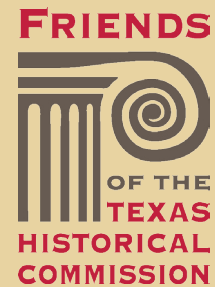
Avra: Thank you, Nancy. Please express the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission's sincere appreciation to the Society's Board of Directors and its Capital Club members for their gift and support of the THC. ★

The San Antonio Conservation Society has helped preserve the city's historic resources, including Mission Concepción.

Thank You!

The Friends of the Texas Historical Commission extends sincere appreciation to the members of the San Antonio Conservation Society for their generous Texas Heroes contribution to benefit the THC.

"We are grateful for your support during this time of severe budget cuts to the Commission," said Lisa Avra, executive director of the Friends organization. "Your leadership among Texas preservationists is inspiring. You are truly Texas Heroes one and all!"



The preservers of our history are as heroic as those who make it.

— Pat Neff, Texas Governor
1921-1925

Cass County Courthouse Rededicated

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) recently participated in a rededication ceremony for work completed at the Cass County Courthouse through its Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program. The Classical Revival-style courthouse, completed in 1861, anchors the historic downtown square in Linden.

The February 18 rededication ceremony featured state and county officials, including THC Executive Director Mark Wolfe. Linden native Don Henley, a regional history enthusiast and member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, also gave a keynote address.

For more information about the program, visit www.thc.state.tx.us.



Cass County Courthouse

Photo: Alex Morris Lazara

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM COMING TO SAN ANTONIO

The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) will host “World Heritage in the Americas: Confluence of Cultures” May 31–June 2 in several San Antonio locations. The symposium will celebrate the cultural heritage of Texas, with a specific focus on the five San Antonio missions.

Collectively, the San Antonio missions have “outstanding universal value” as defined by the guidelines for ICOMOS’ World Heritage sites. A World Heritage nomination has been written for the missions, now on the “tentative list” for consideration in the United States.

Events will take place at the El Tropicano Riverwalk hotel, Franciscan Missions of San Antonio National Historic Park, The Alamo, and Los Compadres de San Antonio Missions. For more information, visit www.usicomos2012.com.

REVAMPED WEBSITE SERVES AS TEJANO HISTORY HUB

TexasTejano.com has launched a newly updated website featuring a comprehensive collection of Tejano artifacts depicting early Texas ranching and life on the frontier. Items include documents representing Tejano contributions to Texas’ development (including records of Alamo defenders) and photos of early communities. In addition, the site offers original land grant maps from the Texas General Land Office and other official Tejano records.

This first-ever archive of early Tejano history will also feature several hundred Tejano biographies provided by the Texas State Historical Association’s Handbook of Texas Online. In addition, TexasTejano.com will continue to collect historic family photos, documents, and oral histories.

To view these resources or to contribute photos, artifacts, documents, or oral histories, visit www.texastejano.com.

HOUSTON HISTORY ASSOCIATION HOSTS CONFERENCE

The Houston History Association’s (HHA) second annual conference will be held June 2

at the Hilton-University of Houston Hotel and Conference Center. The theme is “Building Houston: From Allen’s Landing to the Moon.”

The HHA is also accepting proposals for papers to be presented at the conference. Topics for consideration include Houston’s emergence from its founding in 1836 to the international city of today; obstacles city founders encountered; and significant milestones in Houston’s growth.

For more information, visit www.houstonhistoryassociation.org or email info@houstonhistoryassociation.org.

FORMER THC HISTORIANS RECEIVE AWARD

The Philosophical Society of Texas recently presented its 2011 Award of Merit to former THC historians Dan Utley and Cynthia Beeman for their book, *History Ahead: Stories Beyond the Texas Roadside Markers*.

Utley and Beeman’s book documents cotton gins, abandoned airfields, forgotten cemeteries, and former World War II alien detention camps, highlighting the little-known and unsuspected narratives behind the text on the THC markers they helped develop. To order a copy, visit www.tamupress.com



TexasTejano.com recently launched its updated website.

Community Contribution

Compelling Stories Will Promote Your CHC's Work

By Amy Hammons
County Historical Commission Outreach Coordinator

We encourage County Historical Commissions (CHC) to grab people's attention with compelling stories and concrete examples of the effective work they do.

One of the best ways to identify these topics is to review your CHC annual report's project descriptions, which are 4–12 sentences long. The report asks CHCs to briefly describe a project, explain associated partnerships, and evaluate the project's impact on the community. Working within these confines reminds us that the description is for your audience rather than for those familiar with your work.

Jeff Davis CHC members used this format to illustrate a fun and dynamic event while providing the basic background of their involvement. In the following description, they detail the scope of the event, contribution of appointees and partners, community engagement, and entertaining activities.

Their report reads:

On October 8, 2011, the Jeff Davis CHC coordinated a day of events that commemorated the 100th anniversary of the Jeff Davis County Courthouse and County Jail, the 100th anniversary of the Fort Davis State Bank, and the 50th anniversary of the authorization of

Fort Davis National Historic Site. The CHC was responsible for the program of events, publicity, invitations, and arrangements, along with the activities at the jail and courthouse.

At the jail, Lonn Taylor, a CHC appointee, conveyed the building's colorful history and different uses. THC Commissioner Pete Peterson from Alpine unveiled the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark marker for the building. At the courthouse, CHC Chair Mary Williams related historical events and the many services the courthouse had provided over the past 100 years.

CHC members opened both buildings to the public. Other events included: speeches at the bank; a mock bank robbery in which the "robbers" were hauled off to the jail; a barbecue

lunch on the courthouse lawn; activities at Fort Davis NHS (featuring the U.S. Army's 1st Armored Division Band from Fort Bliss); and a dance at the Union Building sponsored by the Fort Davis Chamber of Commerce.



Jeff Davis CHC members hosted a 100th anniversary celebration for community landmarks.

Hundreds of people attended this educational and entertaining community event, and the CHC was proud to sponsor and coordinate it. ★

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Our Mission

To protect and preserve the state's historic and prehistoric resources for the use, education, enjoyment, and economic benefit of present and future generations.



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories

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WHERE ON EARTH...IN TEXAS

Know your Texas history? Put your skills to the test by identifying the pictured site! The first three people who correctly identify the location will receive a prize and be named in the next issue of *The Medallion*. Send your answer to: *The Medallion*, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276; via fax to 512.463.6374; or email to medallion@thc.state.tx.us. Limit one prize annually per contestant.

Need a clue? Overlooking a broad floodplain of the Rio Grande, this 1840s adobe structure served as a home, outpost, and supply center.



Answer to the photo from the last issue: Many readers correctly identified Zion Hill Baptist Church in Nacogdoches. The Rev. Lawson Reed organized this African American congregation in 1879

under a brush arbor, and the 1914 structure pictured was the third building occupied by the membership.

Congratulations to the first three readers who submitted the correct answer: Bobee Boyett of Lumberton, Sondra Daniel of Gladewater, and Texana Echols of Houston. Thanks to all participants! ★

