

**STAR OF THE REPUBLIC MUSEUM  
ANNUAL REPORT  
SEPTEMBER 1, 2011 – AUGUST 31, 2012**

**Administered by Blinn College, Brenham, Texas**



**Accredited by the American Association of Museums**



**STAR OF THE REPUBLIC MUSEUM**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**September 1, 2011–August 31, 2012**

**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**

***Museum Curator Recognized with John L. Nau, III Award of Excellence in Museums***

The Texas Historical Commission honored Dr. Shawn B. Carlson, curator of collections and exhibits at the Star of the Republic Museum on April 5, with the John L. Nau, III Award of Excellence in Museums in recognition of her efforts to identify the descendants of those who signed the Texas Declaration of Independence.

Star of the Republic was recognized for its “Adopt a Signer” project in which Carlson organized an effort to research the lineage of the 59 delegates who signed Texas’ Declaration of Independence from Mexico in March 1836. Over 1500 descendants were recognized at the 175th anniversary celebration of Texas’ independence on Feb. 26-27, 2011, at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site.

### *Museum Recognized with Additional Awards*

The Museum and Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site received an Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) Leadership in History Awards for the website TXINDEPENDENCE.ORG. The museum also received two awards from Texas Association of Museums (TAM) in the 32nd annual Mitchell A. Wilder Publication Design Awards competition. The awards are: a Silver Award in the Non-Print Media Category for TXINDEPENDENCE.ORG; and a Merit Award in the Invitations Category for its 175th Anniversary postcard invitation, designed by Charlie Kelm, Marketing and Media Relations, Blinn College.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Total attendance at the Museum for the 2011-2012 fiscal year was approximately 25,250. In addition, over 960 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 160 scheduled school tours comprised of a total of 5,980 students from public, private and home schools. In addition, 38 scheduled adult groups toured the Museum with a total of 1,007 participants. A combined count of visitors in scheduled tour groups for the 2011-2012 year was 6,987.

#### *Special Events and Projects*

- Every Thursday in 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 260 students and adults participated in the program.
- On October 6, the museum hosted an **after-hours private reception** for patrons and prospective members of the Park Association. Guests were given a “behind-the-scenes” guided tour, and treated to light refreshments. Approximately 50 people attended.

- The Museum presented “**Night at the Star of the Republic Museum**” on October 22. From 7:00 to 9:00 pm, the lights were turned off and visitors were invited to explore the museum by flashlight. Costumed characters were stationed throughout the exhibits, each with a short script to recite as visitors approached. Over 200 people attended the event.

- During the month of November, the Museum offered an expanded program on **Native Americans in Texas** for children in grades K-2. The program utilized an inquiry-based, hands-on approach to encourage more student involvement. It was designed to align with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for the appropriate grade levels. Approximately 75 students attended the programs.

- **The Brazos Valley Regional History Fair** was held on February 10 at Washington-on-the-Brazos. 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 2012 was “Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History.” 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 regional fair. She was responsible for recruiting sponsors, participants, volunteers, and judges, as well as coordinating the entire event.

A total of 921 students with 528 projects competed in local school contests in Grades 7-12 for advancement to the Regional History Fair. From those, 185 students qualified for the Regional Fair, with 110 projects. Fifty-nine students advanced from the regional fair to the state contest with 32 projects. One entry from the Brazos Valley placed second at the state contest to qualify for National History Day in the Junior Individual Website category. Two entries from the Brazos Valley were recognized for Distinguished Achievement at the state contest, and two entries received Special Awards.

- The Museum hosted a private reception after-hours for members of the **Texas Lyceum** on February 17. Approximately 80 members were in attendance.

- On March 2, the Museum hosted a private **Texas Independence Day Reception** for Park Association members and invited guests. Light hors d’oeuvres and beverages were served to approximately 160 guests.

- The Museum sponsored its annual **Republic of Texas Art Contest** for fourth grade students in Washington and Grimes Counties. A total of 113 students submitted entries. An awards ceremony was held on March 3, 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 March 3-4, the Museum unveiled its new exhibit, “A Slice of Life: Washington in the 19th Century.” It also hosted several historical craft demonstrators. Included were: Brazos Bluebonnet Quilt Guild, Bluebonnet Lace Makers, Lou Rose (chair caning), Betty Thiel (tattling), and Betty Wharton (knitting). Performances by “Texas Heroes” (professional troupe of historians/actors) and “Star of Texas Dulcimers” were featured. Approximately 2,200 people visited the Museum during the Texas Independence Day Celebration.
- On the evening of March 9, the Museum hosted the monthly meeting of the **Independence Historical Society**. Members were treated to light refreshments, casual tours of the exhibits, and a presentation by a re-enactor who portrayed Robert M. (“Three-legged Willie”) Williamson. Approximately 75 people were in attendance.
- On April 28, the Museum hosted an **Arts Council of the Brazos Valley After Hours** event for its members.
- The Museum joined the National Endowment for the Arts in promoting the **Blue Star Museums Initiative**, providing free admission for active duty military personnel and their families from May 31 through Labor Day. During that time, forty-eight visitors took advantage of this offer.
- The Museum hosted a private reception after-hours on May 31 for potential donors interested in supporting the purchase of the **Asa Hoxey Family Papers** for the Museum. Light hors d’oeuvres and beverages were served to approximately 40 guests.
- Thirty teachers attended a workshop entitled “**Dive Into the Archives**” on June 14. The workshop demonstrated how using primary sources and historical documents in the classroom could help students identify with people and problems of the past. It was designed to enhance critical and creative thinking skills by making students “active learners” who dig deeper to learn the rest of the story. The workshop introduced research methods that take students beyond the textbook to bring history to life. Participating teachers received six hours credit for Gifted/Talented training or six contact hours of Continuing Professional Education credits.
- **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 musical performance by the Wesley Westbrook Band, free Blue Bell ice cream and Coca-Cola products, and a spectacular fireworks show. Approximately 322 people toured the Museum, including 124 Park Association members and guests who attended the private viewing of the fireworks from the museum’s 2nd floor deck.
- 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.

### ***Educational and Community Outreach***

- On September 28-29, the education staff traveled to the Bryan campus of Blinn College, where they made presentations to approximately 480 students in 12 Texas History classes. Artifacts and reproduction items from the Museum were used to demonstrate what life was like in Texas in the 1830s.
- Anne McGaugh spoke to the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Robert Henry Chapter, Bryan, Texas on October 10. Eleven members were in attendance.
- On October 19, Anne McGaugh was a guest on WTAW's *Bravo Brazos Valley* with Tom Turbiville. The topic was "Night at the Star of the Republic Museum." On that same day, Ms. McGaugh was also interviewed on KTEX/106 FM.
- On November 21, Shawn Carlson spoke to the Brazos Genealogical Society in College Station, Texas, with 8 members in attendance.
- The Museum participated in the Educator Showcase at the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History on January 26-February 6. Over 100 visitors viewed the resources provided by the Star of the Republic Museum Education Staff.
- Houston McGaugh spoke to the Brenham Fortnightly Club on February 23, with 25 members in attendance.
- On February 16-17, the education staff again traveled to the Bryan Campus of Blinn College to speak to seven sections of Texas History classes, which were comprised of approximately 250 students.
- Houston and Anne McGaugh made a presentation about the museum to the Nueces County Historical Society on April 3. Approximately 75 people were in attendance.
- Tom Turner of KWBC in Navasota interviewed Anne McGaugh on May 17 to promote the Blue Star Museum initiative.
- On June 7, Anne McGaugh met at Stephen F. Austin Middle School in Bryan, Texas with several teachers who were considering future participation in the Brazos Valley Regional History Fair.
- On June 28, Houston McGaugh was interviewed on camera and onsite by Shane McAuliffe from KBTX-TV for a news story about the new Texas 1836 app.
- Houston McGaugh appeared on the "Brazos Valley This Morning" program on KBTX-TV on July 2, to promote the new Texas 1836 app.

- On August 8, Shawn Carlson proctored a certification exam for the Academy of Certified Archivists at Baylor University with 6 people attending.

### ***Professional Development***

- Anne McGaugh attended a VIP Marketing presentation, hosted by *The Navasota Examiner* on September 21.
- Shawn Carlson attended the Society for American Archivist's workshop, "Arrangement and Description of Manuscript Collections" on September 26-27, in Austin, Texas.
- On October 14, Shawn Carlson attended the Society for American Archivist's workshop, "An Introduction to Archival Exhibitions," in Austin, Texas.
- On November 3-4, Shawn Carlson attended a workshop, "Identifying Antique Quilts," sponsored by the Houston International Quilt Festival.
- On February 7; 14, 21, and 28, Shawn Carlson participated in the webinar, "Introduction to Digital Preservation," presented by ASERL (Association of Southeastern Research Libraries).
- On February 17-18, Anne McGaugh attended the East Texas Historical Association Spring Conference in College Station, Texas.
- Shawn Carlson attended the Society for American Archivist's workshop, "Managing Electronic Records in Archives and Special Collections" on March 8-9, at Cushing Library, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas.
- Shawn Carlson and Anne McGaugh attended the annual Texas Association of Museums Conference in San Antonio on March 27-30.
- On April 25, Anne McGaugh attended a workshop on "Social Media Marketing," presented by Constant Contact.
- On May 8, Houston McGaugh attended a "Social Media Workshop," sponsored by the Arts Council of the Brazos Valley and Branding Iron Management.
- On July 26, Houston McGaugh, Effie Wellmann, and Shawn Carlson participated in CPR re-certification training from the American Red Cross.
- Anne McGaugh attended the National History Day Regional Coordinator's meeting sponsored by the Texas State Historical Association in Houston on August 18.

## ***Special Topics***

Each month throughout the year, the Museum focused on a special topic with a display in the Showers-Brown Discovery Room. 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– “The First Thanksgiving”
- December– “Texas Christmas Traditions”
- January– “Anson Jones: President & Physician”
- February– “Black History Month”
- March–April –“Nature’s Bounty: Texas Wildflowers”
- May– “Jane Long: Mother of Texas”
- June –“Famous Fathers”
- July– “Declaring Independence: Texas and United States”
- August– “School Daze: Reading, Writing and Arithmetic”

In addition, two of the permanent display cases in the Discovery Room were revamped for a fresh look. The topics of the new displays are “Republic Medicine” and “Living off the Land.”

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### ***Notes***

The Museum’s quarterly newsletter, *Notes*, was distributed to over 1,600 individuals throughout the year. The newsletter was available free of charge, upon request. The featured articles included “Stomp and Gouge: Texas Folk Fights,” “A Slice of Life: Washington in the 19th Century,” “Asa Hoxey: A Man of Dignified and Courtly Presence,” and “Prairie on Fire!” In addition to the quarterly mail-outs, the newsletter was also available to download from the Museum’s website and was distributed electronically to all Blinn College employees through the newsletter, *Blinn Connection*.

## **WORLD WIDE WEB**

The Museum continues to add new content to its website and it has become one of the Museum’s main means of communication with its supporters as well as those just looking for information. The Museum has greatly increased its online presence, with the launching of an educational website and a Facebook page.



## *Starmuseum.org*

The Museum's website, [www.starmuseum.org](http://www.starmuseum.org) was 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. The Texas Education Agency's TEKS compliance requirements as well as pre and post-visit activities were downloaded 700 times. The public downloaded 4,031 past issues of the "Notes" as well as other information about the Republic of Texas. The three key statistics for the past fiscal year are 73,650 visits, pages viewed went from 258,015 to 2,148,411, as a result of the "Descendants Project," and the site had 22,147 files downloaded. The average time spent on the site was 23 minutes. It is also interesting that 20% of the web visitors were from other countries and 80% of the U.S. visitors were 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.

An entire new section was added to the website last year relating to the "Descendants of the Signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence." Over 1,000 pages of information, including a descendant database, a lineage worksheet, a registry section, and a gift shop section were added to the site. This section alone had over 1,576,033 page views. A forum (message board) was also established to enable descendants to communicate with each other, post information about their Signer, or ask questions. It also allows the Museum to communicate news and upcoming events to the descendants. Last year the forum had over 87,156 page views.

## *Txindependence.org*

Launched on March 1, 2010, the website [www.txindependence.org](http://www.txindependence.org) was developed by the Star of the Republic Museum and Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site. The website was designed to tell the story of the Convention of 1836 and Washington-on-the-Brazos, complete with a movie, games, comic maker, timeline, delegate database, primary sources, and teacher resources. The website was produced by EduWeb, an award-winning developer of digital learning games and multimedia inter-actives. The website won an award of merit from AASLH.

The purpose of the project was to reach classrooms outside of the Museum's range of attendance. Last year the site had 49,584 visitors, up from 29,301 the previous year; 168,281 visits up from 87,904 the previous year; 3,682,930 pages viewed, up from 2,034,257 and 14,732 files downloaded, up from 8,973. Individuals from all fifty states have viewed this site as well as 39 Texas cities from Texarkana to Amarillo and Kingsville, and over 100 countries. The most impressive data is that the average visit duration was one hour and 16 minutes, up from 30 minutes. This surpasses the average visit to most sites, which average less than five minutes. This indicates that the students are interacting with the games and activities.

## ***Facebook***

In an attempt to reach a younger audience, specifically Blinn College students, the Museum launched its Facebook page the year before last. The Museum currently has 780 fans and averages over 300 views per month. Although the original target audience was college students, the demographic is very evenly spaced across age groups: 20% are 18-24 year olds, 22% are 25-34 year olds, 16% are 35-44 year olds, 18% are 45-54 year olds, and 19% are over 55 years old. It has proven to be an effective way to communicate on a weekly basis and get some feedback. Additionally, while the large majority is from the local area, eight other cities are represented; and, most are from the U.S., but ten other countries are represented as well.

## ***Texas 1836 App***

In July the Museum and Park launched a new free App that works on iphones, ipads, and android phones. This app reveals the historic site of Washington as it looked in 1836: a rugged frontier town of log cabins and dogtrot houses, witnessing an influx of people from throughout the region who have come to create a new nation. It features a full-scale virtual town overlaid on the historic site. Users discover the town by walking around the historic site, meeting the people and exploring the buildings as they were in 1836. They can toggle between the full virtual world and the augmented-reality view that superimposes buildings and people against the modern environment. To date there have been 1,123 downloads and 640 updates.

## **COLLECTIONS**

### ***Accessions***

The Museum acquired 16 new accessions (47 items) during the 2011-2012 fiscal year. Fifteen items were purchases and included: a Southwestern Historical Quarterly article, "Negroes and Indians on the Texas Frontier, 1834-1874," from Buckingham Books; a petition signed by John W. Bunton (1838), a receipt (1839), and an oath (1838), from Chad Eubanks; a bond (1840) and a sworn statement (1843)—the latter regarding the value of lots in the town of Washington—from Jim Hudson; a passport (1836) issued for travel in the Republic of Mexico, from PBA Galleries; a sworn statement (1840) about the "scalp off an old wolf," a letter (1857) from Mirabeau Lamar regarding his "likeness," a deed (1838) signed by Richard Parmalee, and a receipt (1862) from Jane Long to Mrs. Mirabeau Lamar for cutting her hair, from RR Auction; a child's Hitchcock rocker (ca. 1825), a wooden butter churn (ca. 1850), a wrought iron candle stand (ca. 1830), and a hay rake (ca. 1850), from the Bybee collection at Henkel Square.

Donations to the Museum included: a container of carding teeth and a Sesquicentennial flag from Sherry and Jerry Humphreys; a modern, handmade cap lock derringer and pistol set from James Marsh; a book, "For the Love of Texas," from Mary Whigham; three B.B. Goodrich letters from Marion Douglas; a letter (1841), from Rex Stever; an

Edwardian wedding dress that belonged to Pam Puryear from Lindsey Young; a 500 lb. cotton bale from Ron Hall; and 22 items from Michael and Nancy Kelsey that include an 1839 map, 1829 Bible, a Masonic carpet, letters, deeds, sworn statements, depositions, agreements, etc.

### ***Exhibits***

- This year's Texas Independence Day exhibit was entitled, "A Slice of Life: Washington during the 19th Century." The exhibit focused on the lives of approximately 40 people who were residents of Washington during the Republic period. Using documents and artifacts from the Museum's collection, the exhibit examined land agreements, ferry rates, petitions, receipts, promissory notes, legal suits, marriage licenses, divorce decrees, ball invitations, love letters, horse racing agreements, and a diary. The exhibit will continue through December 31.
- The Museum was asked to prepare two exhibits for the display case located just outside the Blinn College President's office on the Brenham campus. Curator Shawn Carlson and intern Renee Meyer designed an exhibit that featured a selection of items from the Museum's collection that was installed in September. In January, an exhibit focusing on the four presidents of the Republic of Texas was installed.
- In December, the Museum loaned the Historic U.S.A. quilt, with permission from the Artie Fultz-Davis estate, to the New England Quilt Museum, in Lowell, Massachusetts, for its exhibit, "Campaigns & Commemoratives: Quilts for Presidents." It was on display from January 19-March 24, 2012.
- In February, a new touch screen exhibit was installed in the Merchant's Exhibit on the second floor of the Museum. Jake Blaszak of College Station developed the exhibit as his Eagle Scout project. Using digital images and descriptions of the 120+ objects, Jake and his fellow Scouts designed the interactive exhibit and installed it in time for Texas Independence Day.
- The Museum's four online exhibits continue to be viewed on a regular basis. During the past year, there have been 3,225 visits and 4,627 page views to the online exhibits.
- 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 Room or the document case in the first floor gallery.

### ***Collections Management***

Editing of the collections database 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. Thanks to Jake Blaszak's Eagle Scout project, another 120 artifacts were updated with new descriptions in the database.

### ***Internship Program***

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 2011, four TAMU students developed and installed a new Texas Archaeology Month display for the Discovery Room. They also researched and collected information to use in updating the Museum's French and Spanish exhibit.

## **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 126.5 hours this year and completed the basic data inventory of nearly 40,000 artifacts.
- The Museum's internship program has benefitted from 240 hours contributed by the student interns.
- In addition, approximately 60 people served as judges and volunteers at the Brazos Valley Regional History Fair.

## **DONORS**

### ***Blinn College Foundation Donors***

The following people and organizations have graciously donated to the Blinn Foundation for the Star of the Republic Museum during the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

- Friends of the Texas Historical Commission
- Jessica Demuth Kiihne

- Mr. & Mrs. James Mikus
- Mr. Gus Mutscher
- Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park Association

### ***Asa Hoxey Collection Donors***

- Henry and Teddy Boehm
- Wilfred and Bobbie Dietrich
- Lanella Gray
- Stephen and Mary Sue James
- Jill Kyle
- Gus Mutscher
- Harold and Lynn Nolte
- Stanley and Ann Sommer
- Rex Stever

### ***Collections Donors***

- Sherry and Jerry Humphreys
- James Marsh
- Mary Whigham
- Marion Douglas
- Rex Stever
- Lindsey Young
- Ron Hall
- Michael and Nancy Kelsey

### ***Brazos Valley Regional History Fair Donors***

Sponsors for the Brazos Valley Regional History Fair donated a total of \$3760 and included:

- Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park Association
- Lorene Jackson
- Brazos County Historical Commission
- Washington County Genealogical Society
- Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Dr. Richard Fox Brenham Chapter
- Independence Historical Society
- Jared Patout, C. P. A.
- Brazos Heritage Society
- John Brieden State Farm Insurance
- Fultz & Fultz, PLLC
- Lacina and Kenjura, P. C.
- Daughters of the American Revolution, La Villita Chapter
- United Daughters of the Confederacy, Minnie B. Williams Chapter #531
- Sons of Confederate Veterans, Grimes County Greys Camp #924
- Sons of the Republic of Texas, William Mayfield Chapter #34

- Sons of the Republic of Texas, William Joel Bryan Chapter #14
- Washington County Historical Commission
- Celia and Steve Haley
- Blue Bell Creameries
- Henry P. Mayo
- Houston McGaugh
- Gilbert Mediation Service
- Blinn College–in-kind
- Star of the Republic Museum–in-kind
- Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site–in-kind

## 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 thirty-three 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 also served on the Washington County Historical Commission. He was appointed by Governor Ann Richards to serve on the Sam Houston Bicentennial Commission and the Stephen F. Austin Bicentennial Commission. He served for four years on the Texas Historical Resource Advisory Board for the Texas State Archives, and on the statewide planning committee for the new Texas Heritage Digitization Initiative as 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, the College Station Landmarks Commission and is currently Recording Secretary of the La Villita Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. In 2012 she was awarded the John L. Nau, III, Award of Excellence in Museums from the Texas Historical Commission and was also appointed as a State Vice Chairman of the Historic Preservation Committee for the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. As Curator of Collections and Exhibits, Shawn is responsible

for accessioning, cataloging, conservation, research and storage of the artifact and manuscript 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 an 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 has been an Assistant Lecturer in the College of Education at Texas A&M University. She maintains professional memberships with Texas Association of Museums and the Texas Association of Museums Educators Committee. 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.

**Sheri Finke** worked as Public Programs Coordinator from July 2010–August 2012. Sheri received a B.S. degree in Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences at Texas A&M University. Her responsibilities included scheduling all school and group tours at the museum and park sites, and developing additional educational programs for the public.

**Elaine Platt** joined the staff as Visitor Services Coordinator in August 2012. She has a BAT degree in Elementary Education from Sam Houston State University and an MLS in Library and Information Sciences from the University of North Texas. She comes to the museum with 21 years of teaching experience. Her responsibilities include developing and providing superior visitor services, including developing educational materials and programs, managing marketing and web-based communication, and conducting tours and outreach presentations.

**Valerie Purcell** worked as the part-time Education Assistant from September 2010–February 2012. She graduated from Sam Houston State University with a BA in Criminal Justice. Her responsibilities included giving school tours and programs, assisting with the development of educational 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 and reorders stock as necessary. She recently finished 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:**

Mattie Williams, Building Maintenance and Cleaning  
Celia Haley, part-time Information Desk Clerk  
Vivian Keil, part-time Information Desk Clerk  
Lanelle Bailey, part-time Information Desk Clerk  
Ketra Williams, part-time Information Desk Clerk  
Sue Vierus, part-time Information Desk Clerk

**Blinn College Administration**

Harold Nolte, Ed.D. – President  
Edward “Ted” Raspiller, Ed.D. – Provost, Brazos County Campuses  
Bob Brick, Ph.D. – Vice President, Applied Sciences and Workforce Education  
Dennis Crowson, Ph.D.-- Vice President Student Services  
Debra LaCour, Ph.D. –Vice President Academic Affairs/CAO  
Van Miller, Ed.D. – Vice President Administrative Services/CFO  
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 2011-2012**

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**STAR OF THE REPUBLIC MUSEUM  
REVENUES AND EXPENSES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2012**

**REVENUES**

State Appropriations	\$253,827.00
State Health Insurance Appropriations/State Retirement	\$ 50,428.00
Blinn Foundation	\$ 5,058.00
Sales/Services/Miscellaneous Income	\$ 6,975.00
Museum Admission	\$ 56,847.00
Blinn College	<u>\$ 80,463.00</u>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$453,598.00</b>

**EXPENSES**

Salaries	\$257,751.00
Fringe Benefits	\$ 78,364.00
Building Maintenance	\$ 20,124.00
Maintenance – Equipment, Vehicle, Copy Machine	\$ 2,710.00
Training/Travel	\$ 5,325.00
Consumables/Services	\$ 28,522.00
Utilities	\$ 44,328.00
Property/Liability Insurance	\$ 12,327.00
Collections/Miscellaneous	<u>\$ 4,147.00</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$453,598.00</b>