

**STAR OF THE REPUBLIC MUSEUM  
ANNUAL REPORT  
SEPTEMBER 1, 2012 – AUGUST 31, 2013**

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



**Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums**



**STAR OF THE REPUBLIC MUSEUM**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**September 1, 2012–August 31, 2013**

**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 Launches New Website***

The Museum launched its fully redesigned website, [www.starmuseum.org](http://www.starmuseum.org) on September 1. Blinn College's Graphics Designer, Charlie Kelm and Web Coordinator, Layla Barrett were instrumental in creating the new interface which offers better navigation, improved content, and an updated look.

In addition to general visitor information, the website provides valuable teacher resources, online exhibits, and a section specifically for descendants of the signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence. The spotlight section on the homepage provides easy access to news about featured events. Detailed information about the Museum collection, with a searchable database, is also included.

### ***Museum Director presented Outstanding Service Award***

Houston McGaugh was awarded the “Jack Nokes Outstanding Service Award” from the Texas Association of Museums (TAM) on April 4, 2013 at the association’s annual meeting in Beaumont.

The award was established to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the Museum field and service to the Texas Museum community. Presented each year at the annual meeting, this award is named in honor of Jack Nokes, TAM Executive Director from 1995 -2008. McGaugh was also elected by his peers to serve a two-year term as TAM Councilor-at-Large

### ***Curator Honored for Finding Descendants of Declaration Signers***

Museum Curator of Collections and Exhibits, Shawn Carlson, received the Women in American History Award from the La Villita Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution for her work to trace the lineage of the signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence.

Carlson was recognized for her efforts on the Museum’s “Adopt-A-Signer” project, which identified the living direct descendants of the delegates who signed the Texas Declaration of Independence. More than 40 volunteers from 21 organizations invested approximately 5,000 hours researching the descendants. The Museum utilized that data to send more than 1,700 emails and postcards to descendants, inviting them to be recognized during the 175th anniversary of the document’s signing at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site in February 2011.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Total attendance at the Museum for the 2012-2013 fiscal year was approximately 27,500. In addition, over 200 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 157 scheduled school tours comprised of a total of 8,420 students from public, private and home schools. In addition, 35 scheduled adult groups toured the Museum with a total of 855 participants. A combined count of visitors in scheduled tour groups for the 2012-2013 year was 9,275.

### *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 324 students and adults participated in the program.
- The Museum presented “**Night at the Star of the Republic Museum**” on November 3. 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 300 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 120 students attended the programs.
- The Museum hosted **Texas Pioneers**, a three hour interactive workshop for girl scouts of Central Texas. Several girl scout troops from Brownies up to Senior Cadettes enjoyed this special event in January and April of 2013. The workshop promoted an awareness of how living has changed from pioneering days to modern times in Texas and created a sense of appreciation for modern luxuries. Each participating girl earned a patch. Thirty-eight girls attended the two workshops.
- **The Brazos Valley Regional History Fair** was held on February 8 at Washington-on-the-Brazos. Students from Austin, Burlison, Brazos, Grimes, Waller 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 2013 was “Turning Points in History: People, Ideas, Events.” 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 609 students with 360 projects competed in local school contests in Grades 7-12 for advancement to the Regional History Fair. From those, 187 students qualified for the Regional Fair, with 107 projects. Sixty-one students advanced from

the regional fair to the state contest with 35 projects. Three entries from the Brazos Valley were recognized for Distinguished Achievement at the state contest. One entry from the Brazos Valley placed second at the state contest to qualify for National History Day in the Senior Individual Exhibit category, where it ranked 14th in the nation.

- The Museum hosted a private behind-the-scenes tour and after-hours reception for members of the **Washington on the Brazos State Park Association Board** on February 16.
- On March 1, 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 100 guests.
- During the **Texas Independence Day Celebration** on March 2-3, the Museum unveiled its new exhibit, "The Substance of Life: Texas Through the Eyes of Theodore Gentilz." 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 and Legends" (professional troupe of historians/actors) and "Star of Texas Dulcimers" were featured. Over 2,800 people visited the Museum during the Texas Independence Day Celebration.
- 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, 133 visitors took advantage of this offer.
- Twenty-six teachers attended a workshop entitled "**The Science and History of Fun: Toy Time**" on June 13. Participants explored, observed, described and constructed explanations to identify various science principles (ie. gravity, inertia, resonance, centrifugal force, etc.) and understand the mechanisms that help the "Toy Time" exhibit components work. They also discovered how methods of play reflect the history and culture of the time when the toys were popular. Participants designed lessons/activities within and across disciplines that teach strategies for nurturing creative and critical thinking in students through project-based learning. 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 Tubie and the Touchstones, free Blue Bell ice cream and Coca-Cola products, and a spectacular fireworks show. Approximately 578 people toured the Museum, including 160 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. All teachers were granted free admission throughout the month.
- The Museum continued to accept new members into the **Registry of Documented Descendants of the Signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence**. There are currently 85 descendants registered and these people represent 20 of the 50 Signers' families.

### *Educational and Community Outreach*

- On September 26, Shawn Carlson spoke to a group of 75 Texas Research Ramblers in College Station about the Asa Hoxey Family Papers.
- On November 9, Anne McGaugh held a staged reading of the transcript of a murder trial from 1840 for the members of the Independence Historical Society. The transcript is from the Museum collection. Sixty-two members were in attendance.
- The Museum participated in the Educator Showcase at the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History on February 19–March 2. Over 500 visitors viewed the resources provided by the Star of the Republic Museum Education Staff.
- Houston McGaugh spoke to the Sons of the Republic of Texas in Brenham on February 22, with 9 members in attendance.
- On February 26, Houston McGaugh was a guest on KBTX Radio's *Brazos Valley This Morning* to discuss the Texas Independence Day Celebration.
- Houston McGaugh was interviewed on WTAW Radio's *Art Spot* on March 21 about the new exhibit, "The Substance of Life: Texas Through the Eyes of Theodore Gentilz."
- Shawn Carlson was the guest speaker on March 21 for the La Villita Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. She presented a program on the Asa Hoxey Family Papers to a group of 50 people.
- About 40 people attended the Rotary Club of Conroe's meeting on April 30 to hear Anne McGaugh talk about the Museum's summer exhibit, "Toy Time."
- Radio station KWBC Radio from Navasota conducted an interview with Anne McGaugh on May 16 about the Museum's summer exhibit, "Toy Time."
- Anne McGaugh taped a segment about the "Toy Time" exhibit on KAMU Radio's *Brazos Arts* with Penny Zent on May 21. The interview aired on May 30, June 1–2.

- On May 23, television station KAGS, the NBC affiliate from College Station, filmed an onsite segment, interviewing Anne McGaugh about “Toy Time.”
- To provide additional exposure to the Museum in the Bryan/College Station area, Elaine Platt, Anne McGaugh and Houston McGaugh participated in the 1st Annual Community Celebration at Wolf Pen Creek Park Festival Site, sponsored by the Bryan/College Station Convention and Visitors Bureau on May 28. In addition to handing out brochures and providing information, the staff invited attendees to make some old-fashioned toys to take home.
- Elaine Platt spoke to approximately 50 members of the Rotary Club of Brenham about the Museum and the “Toy Time” exhibit on May 30. She made the same presentation to about 35 members of the Prime Timers of First United Methodist Church in Bryan on July 11.
- Sharon Colson interviewed Anne McGaugh on June 5 for KAMU TV’s *Brazos Valley Magazine* to promote “Toy Time.” The video clip was aired on June 20, 22, and 23.
- Shawn Carlson spoke to approximately 15 residents of the Arbor Oaks retirement home on June 17 in Bryan about the Asa Hoxey Family Papers.
- On August 8, Anne McGaugh taped an *Art Spot* on WTAW Radio, to promote “Toy Time.”
- Anne McGaugh presented a session at the “Encountering Texas History Conference” of the Texas State Historical Association on August 12 in Houston. Her topic was “Declaring Texas Independence,” and she demonstrated the txindependence.org website. Approximately 40 teachers were in attendance.

### ***Showers-Brown Discovery Center***

Throughout the year, the Showers-Brown Discovery Center is utilized for educational opportunities for the general public. Through the use of temporary and permanent rotating displays, visitors can relate the past to their own lives in the modern world. A new temporary display, “Map Quest,” was implemented in January–February. Based on a scavenger hunt format, the new display encouraged visitors to look for clues on a map to find a corresponding artifact in the drawers of the display case.

The Discovery Center was utilized from May 25–September 30 for the “Toy Time” exhibit. Consisting of 15 large-scale versions of the most popular moving folk toys from around the world, the exhibit was crafted entirely from wood by Museum Productions of North Carolina. The exhibit reflected a simpler period in time when children could entertain themselves without video games or electricity.

### ***Professional Development***

- Houston McGaugh attended the annual MPMA (Mountain Plains Museum Association) meeting in Corpus Christi, TX from October 2–6.
- Anne McGaugh and Elaine Platt attended a TAMEC (Texas Association of Museums Educators Committee) workshop, “Making the Most of the Visitor Experience,” on February 25 at the Houston Museum of Natural Sciences.
- Houston McGaugh, Shawn Carlson, Anne McGaugh and Elaine Platt attended the annual Texas Association of Museums Conference in Beaumont on April 2–5.
- On June 25, Shawn Carlson participated in a workshop entitled, “Digital Asset Management Systems for Small-Mid Size Institutions.”
- On August 6, Anne McGaugh, Elaine Platt and Donna Barker participated in CPR/AED re-certification training from the American Red Cross.
- Anne McGaugh attended the National History Day Regional Coordinators meeting sponsored by the Texas State Historical Association in Austin on August 9.

### **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 “Texas Toasts,” “The Substance of Life: Texas Through the Eyes of Theodore Gentilz,” “Toy Time,” and “The Lottery of Death: The Story of the Mier Expedition.” 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.

### **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, [txindependence.org](http://txindependence.org) 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 over 700 times. The public downloaded over 4,000 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 148,649 visits (doubling last year), pages viewed went from 2,148,411 to 6,195,939, as a result of the "Descendants Project," and the site had over 22,000 files downloaded. The average time spent on the site was 39.5 minutes, up from 23 minutes last year. It is also interesting that 50% 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 expand this source of educational information and broaden 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 3,793,060 page views, up from 1,576,033 page views last year. 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 72,243 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 129,836 visitors, up from 49,584 the previous year; 297,318 visits up from 168,281 the previous year; 7,496,260 pages viewed, up from 3,682,930 and 14,732 files downloaded, up from 8,973. Individuals from all fifty states have viewed this site as well as 161 Texas cities from Texarkana to Amarillo and Kingsville, and over 162 countries. The most impressive data is that the average visit duration was one hour and five 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 936 fans and averages over 300 views per month. Although the original target audience was college students, the demographic is changing to an older group: 5% are 18-24 year olds, 19% are 25-34 year olds, 21% are 35-44 year olds, 18% are 45-54 year olds, and 26% 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, 42 other cities are represented; and, most are from the U.S., but ten other countries are represented as well.

### ***Texas 1836 App***

In July of 2012, 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 over 5,000 downloads and 4,100 updates.

### ***Portal to Texas History; University of North Texas***

In 2002, the UNT Libraries began planning The Portal to Texas History, a digital gateway to historical materials from private collectors and collaborative partners, including libraries, museums, archives, and other historical groups. The goal was to structure the Portal in a way that would ensure long-term sustainability. The Star of the Republic Museum began participating in 2006 and has uploaded more than 3,000 items to the Portal. The Portal allows these collections to be inter-searched by topic or item. Last year, the Museum's collections were viewed 191,253 times by students, teachers, and scholars from all over the world.

## **COLLECTIONS**

### ***Accessions***

The Museum acquired 10 new accessions during the 2012-2013 fiscal year. One of these was the Asa Hoxey Family Papers comprised of 1,266 individual items. Of the 10 accessions, six were purchases. These include: the Asa Hoxey Family Papers (1830-1927), from Laura Farris; a hand-blown "storm glass" barometer (n.d.), from Dave Palmer; a thermoscope (ca. 1860-1870), from David Bacon; an English banjo style barometer (1840), from Paul Adler; a Charles Wilder hygrometer (1860), from David Bacon; and a reproduction rain gauge, from Restoration Hardware.

Donations to the Museum included: an Isaiah Blood broad axe (1851-1903), from Gerald and Sherry Humphreys; a ladder back chair made by Andrew Jackson of the Blue Community, from Lou Rose; and a pair of stenciled hand bellows (1860), from Cindy Bell.

### *Exhibits*

- This year's Texas Independence Day exhibit was entitled, "The Substance of Life: Texas through the Eyes of Theodore Gentilz." The exhibit focused on the period from approximately 1840 to 1880 when Gentilz lived in South Texas and painted scenes of everyday life in the San Antonio area. The exhibit was heavily advertised to the local Hispanic community.
- Targeting a larger summertime family audience, the Museum opened "Toy Time" on May 25. The traveling exhibit featured 16 giant, interactive versions of the most popular historic folk toys from around the world, including "Jacob's Ladder," "Whimmy Diddle," "Bird on a Pole," "Amazing Acrobat," "Pecking Chickens," and more. Designed by Museum Productions from North Carolina, the entire exhibit was crafted from wood, reminiscent of traditional folk art, with some of the designs dating back as far as 300 years. This was the first time the exhibit had traveled west of the Mississippi River. Museum summertime attendance increased 33% over last year.
- 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 Office Manager Effie Wellmann designed an exhibit that featured a selection of farming tools representing the Texian frontiersman. This exhibit was on display from September through December 2012. From May to July, 2013, a second display focused on the history of Asa Hoxey's life using reproduced photos and documents.
- The Museum's four online exhibits continue to be viewed on a regular basis. During the past year, there have been 3,225 visits to the online exhibits.
- 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 collections database has been an ongoing task. To date, approximately 5300 of the 8100 records have been edited, making them suitable for public viewing on the Portal to Texas History.

### ***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 2012, two students worked on the inventory of the 1,266 documents in the Asa Hoxey Family Papers. During the spring semester of 2013, four interns helped to catalog, scan, and transcribe the documents. All documents were cataloged, about 300 were scanned, and 60 transcribed.

### **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 114.75 hours this year and completed the basic data inventory of nearly 40,000 artifacts.
- The Museum's internship program has benefitted from 360 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 2012-2013 fiscal year.

- Abbott Fund
- Gene & Susan Lake
- Mr. & Mrs. Ron Alfred
- Mr. Gus Mutscher
- Prime Timers

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

- Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park Association
- Summerlee Foundation
- George and Anne Butler Foundation
- Christine M. Sanders
- John N. Gambrell
- Donald Kitlinger
- Jean Michael
- Blinn College

### ***Collections Donors***

- Sherry and Jerry Humphreys
- Cherrell and Lou Rose
- Cindy Bell

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

Sponsors for the Brazos Valley Regional History Fair 2013 donated a total of \$3,200 and included:

- Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park Association
- Brazos County Historical Commission
- Washington County Genealogical Society
- Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Dr. Richard Fox Brenham Chapter
- Independence Historical Society
- Jared Patout, CPA
- Brazos Heritage Society
- John Brieden State Farm Insurance
- Fultz & Fultz, PLLC
- Grimes County Historical Commission
- 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 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
- Monograms & More
- 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-four 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. At the annual conference of the Texas Association of Museums in 2013, McGaugh was awarded the “Jack Nokes Outstanding Service Award” and was also elected by his peers to serve a two-year term as TAM Councilor-at-Large. 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 has a B.A., M.S. and Ph.D. in Anthropology and worked as an historical archaeologist from 1974 -2000. 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, 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 of Daughters of the American Revolution. In 2013 she received the Women in History Award from the 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 a 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. Anne is 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.

**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.

**Donna Barker** joined the staff as the Visitor Services Assistant in September. She received her undergraduate degree from Baylor University and earned a Master of Arts in Education while her husband was stationed in Sicily. Donna has nearly 20 years of experience in education working with various age groups and in community service. Her responsibilities include organizing and scheduling tour bookings for all the sites in the park, as well as conducting school tours and programs at the Museum.

**Effie Wellmann**, Museum Office Manager, has been with the Museum since November 1995. She manages accounts payable and receivable 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 also provides layout, design, printing and mounting of exhibit graphics and oversees the custodial service at the Museum. She is currently serving as Treasurer of the Sunday School at Friedens Church of Washington, UCC.

**Additional Staff:**

Lanelle Bailey, part-time Information Desk Clerk (until June 30)  
Janet Crane, part-time Information Desk Clerk (from February 6)  
Celia Haley, part-time Information Desk Clerk (until January 2)  
Geraldine Johnson, part-time Information Desk Clerk (from April 20)  
Vivian Keil, part-time Information Desk Clerk  
Kerri Smith, part-time Information Desk Clerk (until March 3)  
Ketra Williams, part-time Information Desk Clerk  
Mattie Williams, Custodian

**Blinn College Administration**

Harold Nolte, Ed.D. – President  
“Ted” Raspiller, Ed.D. – President, Brazos County Campuses (until July 31)

Bob Brick, Ph.D. — Vice President, Applied Sciences and Workforce Education  
(until Dec 2012)

Dennis Crowson, Ph.D.—Senior Vice President Student Services

Debra LaCour, Ph.D. –Vice President Academic Affairs (until August 2013)

Kelli Shomaker, BBA, CPA—CFO/Senior Vice President for Financial and  
Administrative Services

Cathy Boeker, M.B.A. – Associate Vice President Institutional Advancement &  
Governmental Affair

{administrative responsibilities for the Star of the Republic Museum}

Cynthia Griffith, EdD.—Vice President Allied Health Sciences

### **Blinn College Board of Trustees for Academic Year 2012-2013**

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