



*Star of the Republic Museum*

**ANNUAL REPORT  
SEPTEMBER 1, 2014 – AUGUST 31, 2015**

**Blinn College, Brenham, Texas**



**Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums**





**STAR OF THE REPUBLIC MUSEUM**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**September 1, 2014–August 31, 2015**

**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 634, of the 61st Legislature, in regular session, transferred the control and custody of the Museum to Blinn College, Brenham, 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 museum in the state accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, and devoted exclusively to collecting and interpreting pre-1850 Texas history and material culture.

**ATTENDANCE**

Total attendance at the Museum for the 2014–2015 fiscal year was approximately 25,700, which was down 4,000 from the last fiscal year. The reduction was primarily due to extremely bad weather in May, which caused the cancellation of many school field trips. In addition, over 200 individuals received outreach programs and presentations in the community.

**EDUCATION AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

***Scheduled Tours***

The staff conducted a total of 166 scheduled school tours, comprised of 6,646 students from public, private and home schools. In addition, 42 scheduled adult groups toured the Museum, with a total of 844 participants. A combined count of visitors in scheduled school groups and adult tours for the 2014–2015 year was 7,490.

### *Special Events and Projects*

- The Museum presented “Texas Pioneers,” a three-hour interactive workshop for Girl Scouts of Central Texas, on September 13. 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 participant earned a patch. The program was repeated on October 11 and March 14. A total of 38 girls attended the workshops.
- Every Thursday in October, 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. At the Museum, participants learned about childhood chores, clothes, and schools, and made old-fashioned toys to take home. After a picnic lunch in the pecan grove along the Brazos River, they visited Barrington Living History Farm to experience life on the farm. Approximately 346 students and adults participated in the program, which was an increase of 40% from last year.
- A genealogy workshop was held on October 11, presented by Heather Kramer, who is a librarian, certified genealogist, and descendant of Texas Declaration signer, Stephen H. Everitt. Promoted as an event for descendants of the signers of the Declaration, nearly two-thirds of participants were descendants. Ms. Kramer walked participants through the basics of genealogy and provided tips for locating those hard-to-find ancestors. Twenty-eight people attended the workshop.
- The Museum presented “Night at the Star of the Republic Museum” on November 1. From 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., 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. Approximately 300 people attended the event.
- Throughout 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. The program was designed to align with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for the appropriate grade levels. Approximately 270 students participated in the program.
- “Christmas on the Brazos” was held throughout the Park on December 13, with special craft activities available at the Museum. Over 80 people visited the Museum during the day.
- On January 31, an exhibit opening with an evening reception for invited guests was held at the Museum. In conjunction with the beginning of Black History

Month, the exhibit was entitled “Enduring Spirit: African Americans in 19th Century Texas.” The Marian Anderson String Quartet of Bryan, Texas provided entertainment. Introduced by Marcelo Bussiki, Music Director and Conductor of the Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra, and Dean of Visual and Performing Arts at Blinn College, the quartet played “Follow the Drinking Gourd” by Jonathan B. McNair, a song filled with code words directing slaves northward to freedom at the Ohio River. Over 100 people attended the reception. The Museum received a grant of \$833.00 from the Arts Council of the Brazos Valley in support of the quartet.

- Black History Month was recognized throughout the month of February with free admission on Saturdays. Additional recognition included a lecture on February 7, by Dr. Fred McGhee, Austin Community College anthropology professor, entitled “The Revolution that Wasn’t: The 1836 Texas Rebellion in Historical Perspective,” with 60 people in attendance; free showing on February 14, of the PBS series “The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross,” by Henry Louis Gates, Jr., with 35 people in attendance; and on February 21, a lecture by Dr. Bernadette Pruitt, Sam Houston State University history professor, entitled “The Other Great Migration: The Movement of Rural African Americans to Houston, 1900–1941,” with 45 people in attendance. The Museum received a grant of \$1,000.00 from Humanities Texas in support of these programs.
- The Brazos Valley Regional History Fair was held on February 13 at Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site. Students from Austin, Burleson, Brazos, Grimes, Waller, Washington and part of Madison Counties were invited to compete for the opportunity to advance to Texas History Day in Austin, Texas. Winners at the state contest advanced to National History Day at the University of Maryland. Students chose their own topics of study related to the annual theme, “Leadership and Legacy in History.” Students 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, Curator of Education, served as the Regional Coordinator for the contest, and was responsible for recruiting sponsors, participants, volunteers and judges, as well as, coordinating the entire event.

A total of 361 students with 254 projects competed in local school contests in grades 6–12 for advancement to the Brazos Valley Regional History Fair. From those, 121 students with 66 projects qualified for the regional fair. Sixty-one students with 34 projects advanced from the regional fair to the state contest. Additionally, \$1,400.00 was distributed to students as prizes for special awards, sponsored by local organizations and individuals. At Texas History Day, four entries from the Brazos Valley were recognized for Distinguished Achievement, and one entry received an Honorable Mention. One entry received the Jane McCallum Women in Texas History Award, and one entry was awarded the Locke Lord LLP Legal History Award. One entry from the Brazos Valley placed

first in the state in the junior individual exhibit category to qualify for National History Day, where it placed 10th in the nation.

- On February 27, the Museum hosted a private Texas Independence Day Reception for members of the Washington on the Brazos State Park Association and invited guests. Light hors d'oeuvres and beverages were served to approximately 95 guests.
- During the Texas Independence Day Celebration on February 28–March 1, the Museum showcased several historical craft demonstrators. Included were: Brazos Bluebonnet Quilt Guild, Bluebonnet Lace Makers, Betty Thiel (tattooing), the Cox Family (spinning and weaving), and Betty Wharton (knitting). Performances by Texas Heroes and Legends, a professional troupe of historians/actors; and Star of Texas Dulcimers were featured. Over 1,700 people visited the Museum during the Texas Independence Day Celebration.
- The Museum hosted a luncheon for approximately 175 descendants of the signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence on March 1. Jack Edmondson, dressed as Sam Houston, conducted a roll call of the signers, with 25 of the signers' families responding. Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick addressed the assembled group.
- 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 25 through Labor Day. During that time, 75 visitors took advantage of this offer.
- “Hands On History” programs were offered every Saturday in the summer through August 15. Each week, a different historic craft was offered throughout the day, free with paid admission. Crafts included were: basket weaving, beading and weaving, patriotic pins, tissue paper flowers, quill writing, knot tying, embroidery, buzz saw toys, and corn husk dolls. A total of 154 people participated in the hands-on activities.
- In response to a call to action by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to engage libraries and museums as key partners in comprehensive early learning strategies to grow young minds, the Museum launched a new summer program for local youth. The goal of the STARS (Students Thriving and Reaching Success) Program was to teach students, ranging from age 6 to 14, about early Texas history and about museums in general, with hands-on, interactive activities. Participants kept a journal of their experiences, and at the end of each session, they selected a free book to take home and keep. Approximately 20 students participated in the new program. They met on June 18, July 9 and August 6. At the conclusion of the summer program, students received a certificate and gold star pin, and were recognized on a poster in the museum.

- “H-E-B Fireworks on the Brazos” was held on July 4, with the Star of Texas Dulcimers playing in the Museum. Other activities in the Park included historic children’s games, a musical performance by the Cody Bryan Band, free drinks, and a spectacular firework show. Approximately 645 people toured the Museum, including 160 members of the Washington on the Brazos State Park Association and their guests, who viewed the evening fireworks from the Museum’s second floor deck.
- An African American genealogy workshop was held on July 18, led by members of the H-Town Chapter Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc. Speakers included Debra Blacklock-Sloan, a member of the Harris County Historical Commission and recipient of numerous historic preservation awards; and Jacqueline Johnson, whose family’s DNA is the oldest ever encountered by DNA specialists. Twenty-two people were in attendance at this fascinating and informative workshop.
- All sites at Washington on the Brazos, including the Museum, participated in “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 150 descendants registered, with several applications pending. These members represent 27 of the 60 signers’ families.

### *Community Outreach and Service*

- During the month of September, the Museum offered a new outreach program, “Pioneer Women: Living in Early Texas,” to local nursing and retirement homes. Created for residents who were unable to make a trip to the Museum, the enriching program was designed to stimulate the senses and mind. Approximately 130 people participated at six residential facilities.
- On September 26, Elaine Platt, Visitor Services Coordinator, spoke to the Westerners International in Bryan, Texas about life in the Republic of Texas. Approximately 70 people attended the presentation.
- Houston McGaugh, Director, attended meetings of the Summerlee Foundation in Dallas, Texas on September 24 and February 11.
- As an elected member of the Texas Association of Museums Council, Houston McGaugh attended a planning meeting on December 11 in Fort Worth.
- Houston McGaugh appeared on KAMU’s *Brazos Valley Magazine* on February 5, 7, and 8, promoting the exhibit, “Enduring Spirit: African Americans in 19th Century Texas.”

- Various staff members attended meetings of the Bryan/College Station Museum Collaborative on October 21, February 24, April 29, June 24 and August 26.
- On June 10, Anne McGaugh, Curator of Education, was a guest on KAMU's *Brazos Arts* to discuss upcoming events at the Museum, including the "Hands on History" program.
- Houston McGaugh and Anne McGaugh served on the founding interim Board of Directors of the Central Texas Historical Association.
- On June 23, Houston McGaugh was a guest on KAMU's *Brazos Arts* to promote the July 4 activities.
- On July 7, Shawn Carlson, Curator of Collections and Exhibits, was a guest on KAMU's *Brazos Arts* to promote the Museum's African American genealogy workshop on July 18.

### ***Professional Development***

- Houston McGaugh attended the annual Mountain Plains Museum Association (MPMA) meeting in Aspen, Colorado from September 30–October 4.
- Houston McGaugh, Anne McGaugh, Shawn Carlson and Donna Barker attended the annual Texas Association of Museums Conference in Fort Worth on April 8–11.
- On July 1, Shawn Carlson received formal acceptance of her article, "Texas Mission Ceramics: Origins of Manufacture and Distribution during the 18th Century" for publication in the international journal, *Historical Archaeology* Volume 50(4).
- On July 23, Donna Barker and Shawn Carlson participated in CPR/AED recertification training from the American Red Cross.
- Anne McGaugh attended the National History Day Regional Coordinators meeting hosted by the Texas State Historical Association in Austin, Texas on August 12.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### ***Notes***

The Museum's quarterly newsletter, *Notes*, was distributed to over 600 subscribers throughout the year in print form. The newsletter was available free of charge, upon

request. The featured articles included “Grooming with a Lick and a Promise,” “Enduring Spirit: African Americans in 19th Century Texas,” “Early Texas Surgeons: Leading and Bleeding for the Cause,” and “Texas Sugar Production: Sweet Subsistence.” In addition to the quarterly mail-outs, the newsletter was also available to download from the Museum’s website and was distributed electronically to approximately 90 email subscribers.

## **WORLD WIDE WEB**

The Museum continues to add new content to its website as 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 re-design of its primary website, [starmuseum.org](http://starmuseum.org); its educational website, [txindependence.org](http://txindependence.org); a Facebook page; and a Pinterest page.

### ***Starmuseum.org***

The Museum’s website, [starmuseum.org](http://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 following statistics reflect a sampling of the activity on the website during this fiscal year:

- The Texas Education Agency’s TEKS compliance requirements, as well as pre- and post-visit activities, were downloaded over 28,300 times.
- Teachers and students downloaded 12,151 files relating to the Brazos Valley Regional History Fair, hosted by the Museum.
- The public downloaded over 23,088 past issues of the *Notes*, as well as other information about the Republic of Texas. In October, all past issues of the *Notes* from 1976 to present were uploaded.
- The website had 254,790 visits, up from 212,845 visits last year.
- Over 5,666 files related to the Descendants Project were downloaded.
- The Museum’s five online exhibits were viewed over 22,000 times.
- A total of 104,683 files were downloaded, up from 49,000 downloads last year.
- The average time spent on the site was over one hour.
- Thirty-nine percent 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.
- People from 164 cities in Texas and 138 other countries also visited the site.



### ***Txindependence.org***

Launched on March 1, 2010, the website 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 at 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 interactives. In 2011, the website won an award of merit from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH).

The purpose of the project was to reach classrooms outside of the Museum's range of attendance. Last year, the site had over 421,950 visits and over 82,816 files were downloaded, up from 69,000 the previous year. Individuals from all 50 states have viewed this site, as well as from 974 cities in Texas, over 179 countries, and over 90 different school districts. The average visit duration was more than 58 minutes, which surpasses the average visit of less than five minutes. This is a good indicator that students are interacting with the games and activities.

### ***Facebook***

In an attempt to reach a younger audience, specifically Blinn College students, the Museum launched a Facebook page in 2010. The Museum currently has 1,325 fans and averages over 300 views per month. Although the original target audience was college students, the demographic has changed: 1% age 13–17, 3% age 18–24, 15% age 25–34, 22% age 35–44, 24% age 45–54, 22% age 55–64, and 13% over age 64. The Facebook page has proven to be an effective way to communicate on a weekly basis and to receive feedback. Additionally, while the large majority of the audience is from the local area, 42 different cities are represented. Most of the audience is from the United States, although ten other countries are represented as well.

### ***Pinterest***

The Museum launched a Pinterest site in 2013, to take advantage of its 70 million annual viewers. A Pinterest button on the Museum's website takes visitors to two boards where they can either view items from the Museum collection or view information about the 60 signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence. A new analytical feature in Pinterest shows data in 30-day segments. For the period July 23–August 23, 2015, the Museum Collections board received 332 impressions and 25 pins. The Signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence board received 234 impressions and 60 pins. [Impressions are the number of times the Museums' pins are shown on Pinterest, and pins are images from the museum website that are pinned to another board.] The average number of viewers from August 9–August 23 was 314, with 198 from the United States, and the remaining from the United Kingdom, Canada, France and Germany. The Pinterest site offers a unique way to promote the Museum's collection to visitors.

### *Texas 1836 App*

In July of 2012, the Museum and Park launched a new free app for iPhones, iPads, and Android phones. This app reveals the historic site of Washington as it looked in 1836, which was a rugged frontier town of log cabins and dogtrot houses, witnessing an influx of people arriving to create a new nation. The app features a full-scale virtual town overlaid on the historic site. Users explore the town by walking around the historic site, meeting people, and viewing the buildings as they were in 1836. Users 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 16,000 downloads of the Texas 1836 app.

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

In 2002, the University of North Texas 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 Portal allows these collections to be inter-searched by topic or item. 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 database. Since the last annual report, the Museum's collections were viewed over 76,755 times by students, teachers and scholars from all over the world. Since 2006, items from the Museum's collections have been viewed over 342,683 times.

## COLLECTIONS

### *Accessions*

Several new items were accessioned into the Museum collection during the 2014–2015 fiscal year. The first was a donation from Lou Ann Zellers, a descendant of Asa Hoxey. Her collection of 11 items included a photograph of Sarah Ann Hoxey and several photographs of her daughter, Nettie Williams Anderson. Another item was an original newspaper article describing the parlor of Asa Hoxey's home and its purchase and removal to the Haywood Nelms home in Houston.

The second acquisition came from Antonia Rivera, who donated 28 commemorative medals produced for the 120th anniversary celebration of the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence in 1956. The front of the medallion has an image of Independence Hall and the reverse side has a star with the words, "Karl Hoblitzelle, Chairman." Hoblitzelle was a philanthropist who served as Chairman of the Board of the Texas Heritage Foundation.

The third acquisition was from Martha McSpadden, who donated several articles of clothing handed down from her ancestors. Most notable was a pair of drop-front white linen wedding pants made for Levi Sewell in 1832. Also included were a pair of fine silk

knit fingerless gloves, a silk knit shawl, a silk napkin, a crocheted collar, and a pair of children's pantalets.

Lastly, items purchased for the Museum collection included a reproduction photo of Oliver Hardin Stapp, son of Declaration signer, Elijah Stapp; and an 1874 image of sugar processing in Texas from *Harper's Weekly*.

### ***Exhibits***

- The 2015 Texas Independence Day exhibit was entitled, "Enduring Spirit: African Americans in the 19th Century." The exhibit focused on the history of African Americans in Texas, particularly Washington County. To help guide the storyline, the Museum enlisted the aid of local community members as a focus group. A highlight of the exhibit was stoneware pottery made by Hiram Wilson, one of the first African American entrepreneurs in Texas, borrowed from the Heritage Museum of Seguin and Guadalupe County. Another highlight was a Pine Burr quilt, a pattern made by the renowned Gees Bend quilters of Alabama and representative of 19th century African American quilting. Also, personal items that had been recovered from the Levi Jordan Plantation site in Brazoria County were borrowed from the Texas Historical Commission.
- The Museum prepared an exhibit for the display case located just outside the Blinn College President's Office on the Brenham campus. Shawn Carlson designed an exhibit that featured reproductions of the Museum's John James Audubon prints. The exhibit, "Audubon's Creations: His Texas Legacy," has been on display since May 2015.
- Minor changes were made in the permanent exhibits. Most of these involved rotation of light sensitive objects, especially quilts in the textiles exhibit and documents throughout the Museum.

### ***Collections Management***

Editing of the collections database is an ongoing task. To date, 5,487 of the 8,169 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. Texas A&M University requires students to contribute 60 hours to their internship, for which they earn a total of 3 credit hours. Shawn Carlson designed a course schedule that provides an overview of museum studies for the students, but also allows them to work on museum projects.

The Museum provided intern opportunities for four students who worked on scanning and transcribing documents from the Asa Hoxey Family Papers. To date, 2,098 scans have been completed, representing 1,268 documents. Of these documents, 209 have been transcribed and 273 have been accessioned. The interns also completed an inventory of the Museum collections.

## **BUILDING**

Working with a lighting consultant hired by Blinn College, the Museum underwent an extensive lighting upgrade. Over 150 florescent fixtures were upgraded to new and more efficient standards. Light sensors were added to two track light systems downstairs and to all of the light systems upstairs. These upgrades will not only save on electricity usage, but will also enhance the Museum's security system. The staff is still researching proper LED replacement bulbs for the remaining light systems and hopes to have them in place in the near future.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

Throughout the year, several people contributed volunteer hours to the Museum:

- Gerald Humphreys continued to volunteer his time on the Stagecoach Inn archaeological collection from Chappell Hill. He worked 107.5 hours this year, preparing the artifacts for permanent storage and beginning a preliminary report of his findings.
- The Museum's internship program has benefitted from 240 hours contributed by student interns.
- In addition, approximately 54 people donated their time as judges or volunteers at the Brazos Valley Regional History Fair. Eight Blinn College faculty members and one member of the Board of Trustees served as judges, and 10 students from the Blinn College Webb Society served as door monitors.

## **DONORS**

### ***Blinn College Foundation Donor for the Star of the Republic Museum***

- Cynthia Russ

### ***Collections Donors***

- Martha McSpadden
- Antonia Rivera



- Lou Ann Zellers

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

Sponsors for the 2015 Brazos Valley Regional History Fair donated a total of \$3,860 and included:

- Deanna and Ron Alfred
- American Red Cross
- Anderson Baptist Church
- Blue Bell Creameries
- Brazos County Historical Commission
- Brazos Heritage Society
- John Brieden State Farm Insurance
- Daughters of the American Revolution, La Villita Chapter
- Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Dr. Richard Fox Brenham Chapter
- Duramast Industries, Inc.
- Fultz and Fultz, PLLC
- Celia and Steve Haley
- Lacina and Kenjura, P. C.
- Henry P. Mayo
- Houston McGaugh
- Monograms and More
- Jared Patout, CPA
- Laurie and Duane Schlitter
- Sons of the Republic of Texas, William Joel Bryan Chapter #14
- Sons of the Republic of Texas, William Mayfield Chapter #34
- United Daughters of the Confederacy, Minnie B. Williams Chapter #531
- Washington County Genealogical Society
- Washington County Historical Commission
- Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site
- Washington on the Brazos State Park Association

**PERSONNEL**

***Museum Staff***

**Houston McGaugh**, Director, since July 1987. Houston received an MA in Museum Science from Texas Tech University, and has 36 years of museum education and administrative experience. He has served on several committees and panels for the Texas Association of Museums, on the American Alliance of Museums Standing Professional Committee on Education for the Mountain/Plains Museums Region, and on the Washington County Historical Commission. He was appointed by Texas Governor Ann Richards to serve on the Sam Houston Bicentennial Celebration Commission and the

Stephen F. Austin Bicentennial Commission. He served four years on the Texas Historical Resource Advisory Board for the Texas State Archives, and as chairman of the steering committee on the Texas Heritage Digitization Initiative. At the annual conference of the Texas Association of Museums in 2013, Houston was awarded the Jack Nokes Outstanding Service Award, and was elected by his peers to serve a two-year term as Councilor-at-Large. In 2014, Houston was asked to serve on the Summerlee Foundation Commission to assess the condition and needs of small historical organizations, museums, and house museums in Texas. He is also a member of the Board of the newly formed Central Texas Historical Association. The Director assumes overall responsibility for the long term and daily operations of the Museum, oversees the curators and other staff, and reports to the governing authorities.

**Shawn Carlson**, Curator of Collections and Exhibits, since May 2002. Shawn has a BA, MS and PhD in Anthropology and she worked as an historical archaeologist from 1974 - 2000. Shawn has been a Research Collaborator with the Smithsonian Center for Materials Research and Education since 2000, studying Spanish colonial ceramics. Shawn also served on the Texas Preservation Trust Advisory Committee, the Brazos County Historical Commission, the College Station Landmarks Commission, and is currently Treasurer 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 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. Shawn maintains memberships in the Academy of Certified Archivists, Society of American Archivists, Society of Southwestern Archivists, Society for Historical Archaeology, Texas Archeological Society and the Texas Association of Museums. The Curator of Collections and Exhibits is responsible for the accessioning, cataloging, conservation, research and storage of the artifact and manuscript collections; and oversees the development and implementation of exhibits.

**Anne Simms McGaugh**, Assistant Curator of Education, from February 1998 to February 2002; Curator of Education, since February 2002. Anne graduated with honors from Trinity University with a BA in Elementary Education. She received a MED in Curriculum and Instruction from Texas A&M University. She is also a graduate of the Winedale Museum Seminar. She has been an elementary classroom teacher and an Assistant Lecturer in the College of Education at Texas A&M University. Anne maintains memberships with the Texas Association of Museums, the Texas Association of Museums Educators Committee, the Central Texas Historical Association, and the American Alliance of Museums. She also serves as Regional Coordinator for the Brazos Valley Regional History Fair. The Curator of Education oversees the development and implementation of all educational programs and materials at the Museum, writes and edits the Museum's quarterly newsletter, maintains the Museum's website, and supervises two staff positions.

**Elaine Platt**, Visitor Services Coordinator, from August 2012–May 2015. She received a BAT in Elementary Education from Sam Houston State University and a MLIS from the

University of North Texas. She was a classroom teacher for 21 years. The Visitor Services Coordinator is responsible for providing superior visitor services, including developing educational materials and programs, managing marketing and web-based communication, and conducting tours and outreach presentations.

**Donna Barker**, Visitor Services Assistant, from September 2012–May 2015; Visitor Services Coordinator, since May 2015. Donna received a BA in History from Baylor University and a MA in Education while living in Sicily, Italy. Donna has nearly 20 years of experience in education, working with various age groups and in community service. In addition to assisting the Visitor Services Coordinator, the Visitor Services Assistant is responsible for organizing and scheduling tour requests for all the sites at Washington on the Brazos, and maintaining the tour schedule database.

**Effie Wellmann**, Museum Office Manager, since November 1995. The Museum Office Manager maintains accounts payable and receivable; prepares and tracks all requisitions, invoices and deposits; is responsible for preparing month-end and year-end reports; schedules part-time personnel; maintains the Gift Shop inventory and reorders stock as necessary; provides layout, design, printing and mounting of exhibit graphics; and supervises the custodial staff at the Museum.

**Additional Staff:**

- Leslie Hassell, part-time Information Desk Clerk
- Vivian Keil, part-time Information Desk Clerk
- Ketra Williams, part-time Information Desk Clerk
- William Wright, part-time Information Desk Clerk
- Laura Mewis, part-time Information Desk Clerk
- Martha Lee, part-time temporary Tour Guide (from April–May 2015)
- Frank Atkinson, part-time Custodian
- Alisha Zenor, part-time Maintenance

**Blinn College Administration:**

- Harold Nolte, EdD–District President (through January 2015)
- Ana Margarita Guzmán, EdD–Interim President (February–June 2015)
- Mary Hensley, EdD–District President/CEO (July 2015 to present)
- Sylvia McMullen, MEd, JD–President, Brazos County Campuses
- Kelli Shomaker, BBA, CPA–Senior Vice President for Financial and Administrative Services/CFO
- Dennis Crowson, PhD–Senior Vice President, Student Services
- Cathy Boeker, MBA–Associate Vice President, Government and Public Affairs {administrative responsibilities for the Star of the Republic Museum}

**Blinn College Board of Trustees for Academic Year 2014–2015:**

- David Sommer, President

- Douglas R. Borchardt, Vice President
- Atwood C. Kenjura, Secretary
- Theodora ("Teddy") V. Boehm
- Richard Powell
- Charles Moser
- Stacy Aschenbeck



**STAR OF THE REPUBLIC MUSEUM  
REVENUES AND EXPENSES  
SEPTEMBER 1, 2014–AUGUST 31, 2015**

**REVENUES**

State Appropriations	\$253,827.00
State Health Insurance Appropriations/State Retirement	\$ 55,229.00
Blinn Foundation	\$ 7,709.00
Sales/Services/Donations Income	\$ 9,689.00
Museum Admission	\$ 56,991.00
Blinn College	<u>\$146,529.00</u>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$529,974.00</b>

**EXPENSES**

Salaries	\$315,740.00
Fringe Benefits	\$ 92,420.00
Building Maintenance	\$ 5,998.00
Maintenance – Equipment, Vehicle, Copy Machine	\$ 3,065.00
Training/Travel	\$ 10,265.00
Consumables/Services	\$ 29,877.00
Utilities	\$ 45,530.00
Property/Liability Insurance	\$ 19,107.00
Collections/Other	<u>\$ 7,972.00</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$529,974.00</b>