Preliminary WTHA 2016 Sessions

Below is a sampling of some of the papers that will be presented at our 2016 meeting in Abilene from April 8th – 9th. Session times and dates are yet to be assigned. A complete meeting program will be posted at a later date.

Troy Ainsworth, “The Intercollegiate Athletic Association that Never Was: The Staked Plains Conference, 1929-1930”

Barbara Barton, “Taming of the Southern Cross Timbers: Indians, Oil Wells, and Plows”

John Becker, “Isham Tubbs, Forgotten Founder of Lubbock”

Barbara Brannon, “Road to Nowhere, or Great Plains Highway?: West Texas’ Role in Creating a Canada-to-Mexico Route in the Early Automobile Era”

Bob Brinkman, “First and Ten: Football Origins of West Texas Colleges”

Norman Wayne Brown, “Cattle King Clay Mann’s Secret Past”

Robert Chad Campbell, “A Glimpse into Abilene’s Music: A Reflection of Abilene’s History”

Suzanne Campbell, “Hardin-Simmons and the Manhattan Project in World War II”


Paul Carlson, “W.E. Raynor and the Founding of Lubbock”

Paul Chaplo, “Marfa Flights: Aerial Photography of the Big Bend Country”

Henry B. Crawford, “John Wesley Mooar’s Buffalo Gun”

John N. Davis, “‘His Most Un-Baptistic Name:’ Dam-It @ 100”

Jodella K. Dyreson, “Hunting for the Indian Wars at the U.S. Army War College Archives, or How to Research West Texas History while Living in Central Pennsylvania”
Rob Fink, “Bringing Art to West Texas: The Abilene Women’s Forum Art Unit and the Great Depression”

April Garner, “Leveraging Texas Historical Commission Tools for Preservation and Heritage Tourism along the Bankhead Highway”

John Gorman, “Reconstruction Violence along the Brazos River”

Montie Guthrie, “Before Barbed Wire: John S. Chisum in Coleman County”

Jerod Haines, “The Filthy 50s: The 1950-1957 Drought and Its Impact on the Queen City of the South Plains—Plainview”

Richard Hancock, “A Practical Solution to Illegal Immigration”

Hardin-Simmons student session - “Texas Media Interpretation of the 2015 Military Vehicles Preservation Association Bankhead Highway Convoy,” chaired by Tim Chandler


Deborah Liles, "Before Freedom Came: Slaves and the Livestock industry in Texas"

Sylvia Gann Mahoney, “The Great Western Trail: Searching Fiction, Fabrication, Trail Segments, and Historical Events to Verify Its Name”

John McCullough, “Dagley Field: A Training Air Field for the Civilian Pilot Training Program during the Second World War”


Bill O’Neal, “Sam Houston, Texas Icon”

Chuck Parsons, “John Wesley Hardin: A Trail Driver?”

Robert Reitz, “I Fought the Law and We Both Lost—The Tragic Life of El Paso Rock ‘n Roller Bobby Fuller”
Sherry Robinson, “Traders, Raiders and Scouts: Lipan Apaches on the West Texas Frontier”

Robert W. Sledge, “Girl Editor of the Plains: Cleffie Watson, the Slatonite, and the Ku Klux Klan”

Dan L. Smith, “The Bankhead Highway in Texas”

Jennifer Spurrier, “Frank Wheelock, a Man of ‘Firsts’”

David Todd, “Data, Maps, and the Desert Bighorn Sheep”

Dallas C. Ward, “Digital Heritage of an Early Nineteenth Century Homestead”

Dale Rankin, “Abilene Courts: Past, Present, and Future?”

Joe W. Specht, “Sonny West: A West Texas Rockabilly Pioneer”