

WEST TEXAS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

93rd Annual Meeting
Abilene, Texas
April 6-9, 2016



The West Texas Historical Association was founded in Abilene, Texas in 1925.
So, our 93rd annual meeting in Abilene is like going home.

Come join us for the fun, fellowship and educational information.

(see our **REGISTRATION FORM** on the back of this sheet.)

93rd Annual Meeting of The West Texas Historical Association

**April 6-9, 2016
Abilene, Texas**

Please complete this registration form and return by Friday, April 1, 2016:

All Hotel reservations MUST be made by March 20, 2016, Hotel – MCM Eleganté Suites, Abilene,

All Rooms are Suite rooms – all sessions will be at the Hotel.

for reservations – **(325) 698-1234**. Rate of \$104.00 per night, Full Breakfast Included.

Tai Kreidler
West Texas Historical Association
P.O. Box 41041
Texas Tech University
Lubbock, Texas 79409

Fax: 806/742-0496

Phone: 806/742-9076

Registration Form:	Number	Amount
Registration Fee	\$30.00 _____	_____
(Students or Spouse of member – \$15.00)		
Friday Women’s History Lunch (open to all)	\$22.00 _____	_____
Friday Night Reception at the Hotel Followed by the President’s Banquet, Johnson Room on the Hardin-Simmons Campus, and Guest Speaker.	\$28.00 _____	_____
Saturday Presidential Address/ Lunch, and Business Meeting MCM Hotel	\$24.00 _____	_____
 <u>Special Tours and Activities</u>		
Wednesday, April 6th. ICBM Tour Buffalo Gap Village, & Supper at Perini’s Steakhouse	\$45.00 _____	_____
Thursday, 7th. All day. BUS Tour – Fort Tour, Art Museum, and Bankhead Highway Tour. Lunch is Included	\$35.00 _____	_____
Thursday Night “Early Bird” Dinner at the MCM Hotel	\$24.00 _____	_____
Board Meeting to follow @ 8:30 P.M.at the Hotel.		
Saturday, 9th. Afternoon Tour Frontier Texas and tour of Historic Abilene. Supper in Abilene at the BEE HIVE.	\$25.00 _____	_____
Total Amount Enclosed	_____	_____

(Make all checks payable to WTHA or West Texas Historical Association)

NAME (s) _____ WTHA ETHA Other - _____

ADDRESS _____ Phone _____ Email _____

CITY and ZIP CODE _____

Please include the names of all members and guests that will attend the meeting. Attach a list of names of persons and address if required.

A Short Schedule of Events for the 93rd meeting of WTHA in Abilene, Texas:

Wednesday, April 6, 2016 – Special Conference Coordinator’s Tour

1:00 pm – 8:00 pm Tour of the Atlas ICBM Silo south of Abilene and the Historic Buffalo Gap Village. Supper at Perini’s Ranch Steak House. (see flyer).

Thursday Day Tour and Evening, April 7, 2016

8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. **BUS Tour to Fort Phantom Hill, Fort Griffin, and Old Jail Art Center** in Albany. Lunch in Albany followed by a tour of part of the Historic Bankhead Highway east of Abilene. Dan Smith will be our “on Bus” Guide. Several stops are planned. (see flyer)

7:00 pm – 8:15 p.m. Early Bird Supper in the **MCM Hotel Ballroom**.

8:30 pm – **till** **WTHA Board Meeting** in the MCM Hotel Meeting room.

Friday, April 8, 2016

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Registration in the MCM Hotel Lobby Area

8:30 a.m. – 11:15 am Sessions – see schedule – over 40 papers – MCM Hotel

11:30 a.m. – 12:45 pm Women’s History Lunch in the **MCM Hotel Ballroom**.

1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Sessions – see schedule – over 40 papers – MCM Hotel

5:30 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. President’s Reception in the **MCM Hotel main area**.

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. WTHA Banquet at the Johnson Room on the Hardin Simmons Campus. Transport available.

8:15 pm – 9:30 p.m. Evening program – Speaker – Glen Ely

Saturday, April 9, 2016

7:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Registration in the MCM Hotel Lobby Area

8:00 a.m. – 12:15 a.m. Sessions – see schedule – MCM Hotel

12:30 p.m. Luncheon in the **MCM Hotel Ballroom**

2:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. **Frontier Texas** then a tour of historic Abilene.

7:30 PM – Supper in Abilene.

WTHA 2016 CONVENTION NEWS THAT YOU CAN USE

WHERE: All meetings will be held at the **MCM Eleganté Suites Hotel, 4250 Ridgemont Drive, Abilene, Texas.**

SESSIONS: All sessions will be held at the **MCM Hotel meeting rooms** (see map).

EXHIBITORS: Some exhibitors are already registered (please see program). Others who might be interested in showing items should call Freedonia Paschall at 806-742-3749 or email: Freedonia.Paschall@ttu.edu. Book exhibitors will be housed in the west side Lobby of the MCM Hotel.

SILENT AUCTION: A silent auction will be held in **the west meeting room of the MCM Hotel**. Members who are interested in donating items, please send those to Freedonia Paschall, WTHA, TTU, MS 41041, Lubbock, Texas 79409. The auction ends at 11 A.M. Saturday, with book pickup from 11:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. on Saturday

LUNCH FRIDAY 12:00 P.M. – Women’s History Lunch, **MCM Hotel Ballroom**, everyone welcome.

THURSDAY EVENING: The “Early bird dinner” will be at the MCM Hotel in the Center Ballroom.

(WTHA Board Meeting following at 8:30 P.M. in the west side meeting room.)

FRIDAY RECEPTION AND BANQUET: The reception will be held in the Main Area at the MCM Hotel. President’s Dinner to follow at Hardin Simmons University in the Johnson Room. Transportation available. **(7:00–9:30 p.m.)** See schedule.

SATURDAY LUNCHEON AND BUSINESS MEETING: The Saturday Luncheon will be held from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. in the **Center Ballroom of the MCM Hotel**. See schedule.

HOTEL: For room reservations call the **MCM Eleganté Suites at (325) 698-1234**. **Suite Room Rate – \$104 per night including a full breakfast. Be sure to tell them that you are with the WTHA Group.**

Reservation deadline is March 20, 2016

(See Tour and activity detail on the back of this sheet)

WEST TEXAS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION – April 6-9, 2016 – Abilene, Texas

Tour and events schedule (meeting presentations on Friday and Saturday morning)

All events and meeting presentations will be held at the MCM Hotel unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday April 6, 2016 – Afternoon 1:30 PM till (see tour sheet)

Atlas ICBM Historic Site

Buffalo Gap Historic Village

Supper at Perini's Ranch Steak House (about 7 PM) then return to Hotel.

Thursday April 7, 2016 – 8 AM (see tour sheet)

Fort Phantom Hill Cemetery

(this section approx. 4 hours)

Fort Phantom Hill State Historic Site

Fort Griffin State Historic Site (Albany)

Old Jail Art Museum (Albany)

Lunch at the BEE HIVE Café (Albany)

Caddo, Texas (Bankhead Highway)

(This section approx. 4 hours)

Thurber Hill Rest Stop and Museum (Ranger)

Cisco via Highway 6 from Ranger

Putnam on Bankhead Highway

Baird on Bankhead Highway

Clyde on Bankhead Highway

Abilene to Hotel around 5:30 PM to 6 PM

Early Bird Reception and Meal at MCM Hotel around 7 PM

Board Meeting at Hotel (West Side Meeting Room) around 8:30 PM – .

Friday night Banquet at the Johnson Building on Campus (Reception at Hotel at 5:30 PM)

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM (return to Hotel) Transportation Available.

Saturday Afternoon Tour – April 9, 2016 – 2 PM -- (best fit for time available)

Frontier Texas – Abilene

World War II Museum

Bankhead Highway Courts

Old Weather Bureau Building Abilene

Grace Hotel and Depot – Abilene Downtown

Airport on the Bankhead Highway

Supper at the BEE Hive CAFE in Abilene (about 7:30 PM) then return to Hotel

WEST TEXAS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
Abilene, Texas
Wednesday, April 6, 2016 Tour

Starting at 12:30 p.m. from the MCM Hotel. Located just south of Abilene are two Atlas ICBM underground silo facilities. This is a rare opportunity to see the scope and size of the silos used to house the ICBMs that were the main U.S. deterrent against the Soviet Union during the Cold War from the 1960s through the 1990s. Even with the missiles removed, the empty facility is impressive to see. Bring a camera and photograph what Cold War tax dollars paid for. Often called the “minutemen missile” honoring the historic defenders of Concord and Lexington, they stood as a bulwark against the Soviet Union. These sites are currently under the control of the Abilene Atlas ICBM Historical Society Inc.

**You really do not want to miss this opportunity.
Sorry, no rocket ride available.**



Buffalo Gap Historic Village is a large museum of fifteen outdoor structures and West Texas artifacts that reach back to the late 19th century and the early 20th century located in the small town of Buffalo Gap south of Abilene, Texas. The museum focuses particularly upon the years 1883, 1905, and 1925. The village is centered on the original Old Taylor County Courthouse and Jail from 1879. Several entire buildings have been moved to the village from other parts of the state for display, including an early Texaco gasoline station. This is

an easy walking tour that features many artifacts and local history of the area.

After your ICBM silo and Buffalo Gap Village experience, we will head to the nearby Perini Ranch Steakhouse for a relaxing evening and great food. Perini’s Steakhouse is well known throughout Texas and beyond. For good food and drink when you are in the Abilene area you cannot beat Perini’s. Sit back and enjoy the fun, fellowship, and food. Later, we will return to the MCM hotel.

Plan to be a part of this unique tour

WEST TEXAS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Abilene Meeting 2016

Thursday, April 7, 2016 Tour

Bus Tour of Local Forts and the Bankhead Highway. The Bus will leave MCM Hotel at 8:00 a.m.



Fort Phantom Hill and the Fort Phantom Hill Cemetery are private properties registered with the Texas State Historical Association. Fort Phantom Hill is one of the most pristine historic sites in Texas. It was one of the second line of forts laid out in the early 1850's to protect the westward-moving frontier of Texas settlement.

Originally known as the "Post on the Clear Fork of the Brazos," the fort was occupied by the U.S. Army from 1851 until 1854. Shortly after the army abandoned Fort Phantom Hill, fire destroyed most of the log walls and thatched roofs of the post's buildings. However, much remains of the old fort for visitors to explore, inspect and study, including three original stone buildings, more than a dozen stone chimneys, and stone foundations from the original fort. Some flat level walking required.

Holding command over the Southern Plains, Fort Griffin served as one in a line of western defensive forts from 1867 to 1881. Remnants of the fort remain today at **Fort Griffin State Historic Site**, which is also home to the Official State of Texas Longhorn Herd. The Historic Fort Griffin Site is located just north of the city of Albany, Texas. There are tours offered to groups such as ours. Some walking required on level ground.

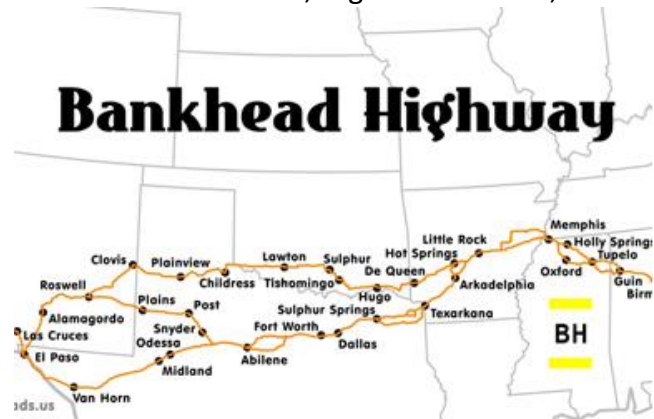


The Old Jail Art Center is located in downtown Albany, Texas. It houses a collection of contemporary art and sculptures in a pleasant atmosphere. The visit to this art center will have something to please everyone. **We will have lunch in Albany.**

Leaving Albany to the east, we will be traveling on a branch route of the Bankhead Highway through Caddo to Strawn, where we will join with the main route of the Bankhead. We will stop at the new Thurber Hill Rest Stop and Museum just outside of Ranger. We will then travel west on the old red brick road from Ranger to Cisco then west on the old Bankhead Highway (parallel to I20) through Putnam, Baird, Clyde, and back to Abilene. There will be lots to see of the old highway as we travel this historic route. Dan Smith, regional historian, will be our guide for Bankhead Highway part of the trip.

We will be back to the MCM Hotel at about 6:00 p.m., in time for the Early Bird dinner at the hotel at 7 p.m.

Plan to join us for this tour through history.



WEST TEXAS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION SATURDAY AFTERNOON TOUR April 9, 2016 Starts at 2:00 PM

We will leave by Abilene Trolley after the Business meeting and stop first at Frontier Texas!.
Frontier Texas! is a world class interactive museum.

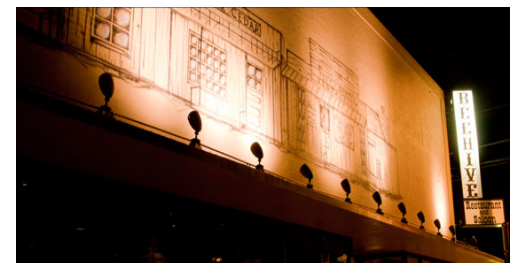


Frontier Texas! is a western heritage center that allows visitors to relive the Old West through the magic of state-of-the-art technology. Frontier Texas brings the frontier to life and lets visitors meet people who played out their lives on the Texas frontier. Frontier Texas also serves as the official visitor center for Abilene and the Texas Forts Trail Region. **NEW EXHIBITS ARE NOW OPEN!** "Blood & Treasure on the Frontier" features a new high definition, surround-sound welcome theater. The new "Early Texas" exhibit area showcases the natural history of the region including artifacts, interactive discovery stations and beautiful large murals by local artist H.C. Zachry and much more.



Our Next Stop is the 12th Armored Division Memorial Museum which highlights the use of Armor in World War II. The primary mission of the Twelfth Armored Division Memorial Museum is to serve as a display and teaching museum for the study of World War II and its impact on the American people through exhibition and education programs using the Museum's owned and borrowed Historical Collection as a resource. This collection is chiefly 12th Armored Division World War II archives, memorabilia, and oral histories, along with selected equipment.

The Trolley Tour will continue with stops at other historic buildings and sites around Abilene as time allows. Supper is included in the tour with a stop at the **Bee Hive Restaurant** around 7 PM. Texas Monthly says "The Bee Hive Restaurant is the finest steak House in Texas". After supper we will return to the hotel for an evening happy hour and a chance to relax and discuss the conference and good times we have had at this fun filled and educational meeting.



We are looking forward to seeing you there. Don't miss out on any of the good times and fellowship in Abilene.