Lubbock is once again the home for the eighty-sixth annual conference of the West Texas Historical Association on April 3 - 4, 2009. For those arriving on Thursday evening there will be an “early bird” reception and dinner beginning at 6:00 p.m. This will include a special program opportunity to tour the Medieval-Southwest exhibit at Texas Tech’s Southwest Collection.

All conference sessions will be held at the Radisson Hotel, 505 Avenue Q in Lubbock. Sessions will begin at 10:30 a.m. Friday with over 45 papers covering various phases of West Texas history and culture presented on Friday and Saturday.


The program will also include book exhibitors and a silent auction

On Friday evening, the Lubbock Women’s Club is the site for a president’s reception at 6:00 p.m. followed by the WTHA annual banquet.

Saturday, the association’s awards and business luncheon will be held in the Santa Fe room of the Radisson Hotel featuring an address by WTHA president Shirley Eoff entitled “Three Cups of Tea – West Texas Style.” Following the luncheon a special program is available including a tour of Ransom Canyon and dinner at the historic Harvey House in Slaton.

Accommodations for the conference have been made at the Radisson Hotel at the rate of $69 per night. For reservations call (806) 747-0171 and mention that you are attending the WTHA conference.

The Bosque Redondo Memorial, Fort Sumner, New Mexico

By Peggy Hardman

Genocide, physical and cultural, is too frequently regarded as a despicable crime conducted by nations other than the United States; nothing could be more wrong. During and after the Civil War, in the name of western expansion, and Manifest Destiny, Indian peoples of the Southwest found themselves hunted, killed, and herded like cattle to locations far removed from their ancestral lands. While most Americans know of the Cherokee Removal of the late-1830s, few know anything about similar activities in the Southwest. Ask the Navajo and Mescalero Apache, they know; they were victims of physical and cultural genocide policies embraced by the US government in the 1860s, and carried out by forces led by General James H. Carleton and scout, Colonel Kit Carson.

As settlers moved into the lands of the Navajo and Mescalero Apache, they sometimes found themselves attacked by those whose lands they claimed. The US, in turn, waged war upon the Indians. General Carleton dreamed not only of subduing the tribes, but of removing them to an area on the Pecos River near Fort Sumner, New Mexico. Carleton viewed the Bosque Redondo a veritable paradise, not only lovely to gaze upon, but salubrious and situated by nature to sustain agriculture. Here, Carleton believed, the Navajo and Mescalero Apache could learn to become husbandmen, eventually assimilate, and be out of the way of western settlers. The Apache fell to Carleton’s plans first. After months of fighting US troops under the direction of Kit Carson, four hundred and ninety-eight Mescalero Apache surrendered in November 1862. At gun point they marched to Fort Stanton. In January 1863, again force marched at gun point, the prisoners removed to Fort Sumner. There, the Mescalero became the forced labor charged with completing the building of the post.

The Navajo continued to resist Carleton and Carson’s forces, but could not hold out forever against the government’s scorched earth policy. The Navajo, “starved into submission” by 1863, surrendered and began what they call the Long Walk, their destination, Fort Sumner; in Navajo, the location is H’weeldi, meaning a place of suffering. In American history books, H’weeldi is the Bosque Redondo Indian Reservation (hereafter referred to as either the Bosque or the Bosque Redondo).

Almost 10,000 Navajo made the Long Walk of 450 miles across New Mexico from the Four Corners area to the Bosque Redondo at Ft. Sumner; about 1,400 Navajo died en route. There, they and the Mescalero Apache remained captive wards of the US government, put to work building the new fort, and made to take up farming in land both foreign to them and unsupportive of agriculture. In the winter of 1863-1864, 100 Mescalero Apache died, as did 1,500 Navajo. The Bosque Redondo lacked adequate food, shelter, and water; the Pecos River (cont. page 2)
Dear Fellow Members of the Association:

Recently I ran across the announcement for the opening reception commemorating the WTHA move to Lubbock. It was dated September 18, 1998. We’ve been in Lubbock 10+ years. It sure is surprising how fast the time goes. However, before that the headquarters had been in Abilene on the Hardin-Simmons University campus. Founded and husbanded there for 75 years by a renowned cadre of officers, members and citizens. A February 2, 1930 Dallas Morning News article announced one of the early meetings: “Many stirring incidents that happened during the early days will be recounted by old-timers at the annual meeting of the West Texas Historical Association which convenes at Texas Technological College April 5.”

Judge R. C. Crane (Sweetwater), Roy Holt (El Dorado), L.F. Sheffy (Canyon), Judge Sam Cockrell (Abilene), P.C. Coleman (Colorado) and others were on the program. Organizers of the annual meeting expected a record crowd on account of the interesting program. This year we return to Lubbock for our 86th annual conference and we are expecting another good turn out for same reason. Without a doubt the credit for a successful meeting must go to the local arrangements and program committees who’ve been working hard.

On February 11 the Association lost a good friend, member, and Life Director when Dr. Kenneth Jacobs of Abilene died. He was the Rupert N. Richardson professor emeritus from Hardin-Simmons University and Associate Editor (1978-85) and Editor (1985-1998) of the WTHA Year Book. Also, he studied history under two of the most revered and respected Texas historians—Rupert Richardson and Earnest Wallace. He and his wife Marilyn were a yearly presence at the Association conference—handling registration and making sure everything went on smoothly. To a graduate student attending his first history meeting of any sort he went out of his way to extend a warm welcome.

Thank you and adieu Dr. Jacobs.

Tai

Bosque Redondo Memorial

(cont. from page 1) is salt-laden, therefore, unfit for agriculture or drinking. Smallpox broke out in fall 1865. About 500 Navajo fled despite the orders to kill anyone leaving the reservation. In November, the Mescalero managed to secretly leave, and return to their homes in the Sacramento Mountains of southern New Mexico. More than 7,000 Navajo remained at the Bosque Redondo.

The suffering generated by the deficiencies at Ft. Sumner forced a Washington, D.C. investigation. Carleton’s experiment to turn the Navajo and Mescalero into self-sufficient farmers in the style of American husbandmen settling the West crumbled almost as quickly as the sparse wood in the area. Disease, drought, starvation, and the continual efforts of the Indians to escape resulted in General William T. Sherman’s visit to the Bosque in 1868. Sherman met with Navajo leaders Barboncito and Manuelito, the latter the last headman to surrender 1866. Negotiating the treaty, Barboncito said to Sherman and the other commissioners, “I hope to God you will not ask me to go to any other country except my own.” This wish received some respect, and on June 1, 1868, after the treaty was signed, the Navajo left H’weelidi, again walking, but returning their Four Corners home a sovereign people.

One hundred years later, in 1968, the Navajo returned to the Bosque Redondo Indian Reservation; they reenacted the Long Walk, and a tract of land was designated as the Fort Sumner State Monument. In 1971, after a Blessing Way ceremony, the site became a Navajo travel shrine. In 1991, the state of New Mexico, Navajo, and Mescalero Apache leaders worked to build the Bosque Redondo Memorial where the truth of the events of the 1860s is recognized. A museum provides the story of the Mescalero round up and imprisonment, and the Long Walk of the Navajo as they, too, found themselves forcibly incarcerated on the reservation. There is little skimping in relating the atrocities faced by the Navajo and Mescalero Apache, the attempt to destroy their unique cultures, and ways of life. The Museum building, a memorial housing the terrible story, is a work of art. The creator is Navajo architect David Sloan; his creation pays homage to the Navajo and Mescalero peoples in design, the teepee of the Mescalero, and the Hogan of the Navajo blend.

Today, the Bosque Redondo Memorial is on National and State Registers of Historic Places. For the past several years, Friends of the Bosque Redondo Memorial, Navajo and Mescalero Apache elders, Eastern New Mexico faculty, and others have dedicated themselves to the process associated with the Bosque Redondo Memorial site becoming an International Site of Conscience. A site of conscience museum offers an accurate and truthful interpretation of the event associated with it; it creates programs to stimulate public dialogue, not only about the event, but similar social issues past and present; it “shares opportunities for the public to become involved in issues raised by the site”; and ultimately, promotes awareness of “humanitarian and democratic values.”

From the Executive Director

Kit Carson

The Bosque Redondo Memorial is about 165 miles from Lubbock and Amarillo, Texas, a day trip. The Memorial soars into the New Mexico sky, reminding the visitor of the soaring emotion freedom brought in 1868. Visitors should realize the genocidal policies leading to the establishment of the Bosque Redondo Indian Reservation in Ft. Sumner; they should, in the words of the Navajo and Mescalero Apache: “Never Forget!” But, visitors should also recognize as they observe the soaring memorial the words of many Navajo upon return to their lands: “Is that our mountain, one of the Sacred Mountains?” Yes, came the response; the mountain they saw looming before them is called Mount Taylor today. Reassured, “old ladies fell to the ground and cried . . . and gave thanks that they could see their own country.” The story of the Bosque Redondo is the site of tragedy, but it is also a demonstration of the resilience of people the US government intended to destroy either physically or culturally; the Bosque Redondo Memorial is a testament to the strength of the Navajo and Mescalero Apache then and now.

References:
Removal of Indians From Texas in 1853: A Fiasco

by Rupert N. Richardson

[Reprinted from the 1944 Year Book]

In early June, 1853, a motley caravan rumbled into the frontier village of Fort Worth. Pigs, goats, chickens, and dogs shared the wagons with men, women, and children. Herds of cattle and horses were driven along, and their low and neighs added to the squeals and bleats of the other animals to make a din that must have attracted attention even in a community accustomed to such sights. The party struck camp, and soon horse traders were driving bargains and sellers of whiskey were making inroads on the small stock of cash that members of the caravan happened to have.

Fort Worth had never seen anything just like this. These people were Indians; Delawares, Shawnees, and Quapaws. They were being moved by the United States Government out of Texas to the country north of the Red River, whence they had come a decade before. A few Comanche Indians rode along with the party also. They were not being moved, for the Texas prairies were their home. They were bound for the Indian Territory to hold a pow wow with certain Kickapoo Indians who, they alleged, had stolen their horses. Any excuse would do when one could travel at government expense.

The story of the removal of the Delaware and Shawnee Indians is one of the strangest in all of the bizarre chapters of the history of Indian relations. It stems from incidents in 1843, during the second administration of President Sam Houston. Far more sympathetic with the red men than were his contemporaries, Houston set out to establish friendly relations with the Indians of Texas. The task was not easy, for during the administration of his predecessor, M. B. Lamar, the Republic had virtually declared an open season on all Indians. In a series of bloody campaigns, troops and rangers had driven the tribes far into the interior. The Indians were sullen and resentful and threatened to stop the advance of settlers up the valleys of the Brazos and Colorado. Another general Indian war might begin any day.

Houston sought to make an enduring peace. But there was no person in Texas to serve as a messenger of peace. No citizen of the Republic dared to visit an Indian camp until the natives had been given assurances of the benign intent of the government. For aid in this emergency, Houston turned to P. M. Butler, formerly governor of South Carolina and at that time serving as United States agent to the Cherokees in the present Oklahoma.

Butler’s response to Houston’s request proved fortunate for Texas. He sent a band of Delaware Indian scouts, including Jim Shaw, Jim Second-Eye, and the chief John Conner. Later they were joined by other Delawares and members of a kindred tribe, the Shawnees, until the band aggregated probably a score or more of families. These Indians came to be virtually omnipresent on the Texas frontier. No Indian council was complete without them, no contingent of troops was certain of its course unless they guided it. They knew Texas as did no other civilized persons from the Big Spring of the Colorado to the Three Forks of the Trinity, and from the Neches to the Rio Grande.

They spoke English intelligible and knew several Indian dialects. They were quite proficient in Comanche, the court language of the plains; and they knew the sign language, which was even more widely used. They were alert, fearless, and loyal. They served as scouts, guides, and diplomats both for the Indian service and the army. They were equally useful when employed by surveyors or other persons who needed dependable guides. Soldiers and civilians alike praised them. An experienced Indian agent said that five Delawares or Shawnees were worth more as an escort than a regiment of soldiers. No serious charges against them can be found in the records of the army or the Indian office. Even the Texans, never disposed to give an Indian his dues, recognized the yeoman services of Jim Shaw and John Connor by voting Shaw six hundred dollars and Connor a league and a labor of land.

And now the Delawares, together with a few inoffensive Quapaw Indians being removed from Texas by the United States government. The strange situation may be explained thus:

The Texas frontier, always turbulent, experienced severe Indian raids in the early 1850’s. North Texas, which had thus far been relatively free of violence, began to suffer. The white people demanded relief and called on their state and national governments to do something. In response to this clamor the state legislature had in 1850 hurriedly passed a resolution instructing the governor to demand of the United States that it remove from Texas all immigrant Indians, and a little later Congress appropriated $25,000 for that purpose. Who were the immigrant Indians? Just what Indians should be removed? Indian Agent George F. Howard made that inquiry of Governor P. H. Bell, but all
the chief executive could do was to refer him to the legislature—and the legislature was not in session. Nobody seemed to know the intent of the resolution, and knowing least about it, apparently, were the men who had passed it. Most Texans hated all Indians; so any Indian would do. Did it apply to the Wichitas, living north of the Red River, who visited Texas almost every moon to take horses and even scalps? If so it was futile; for the coyotes of the prairie were no harder to catch than they. If one were captured he probably would commit suicide rather than submit to the indignity of imprisonment. It could not have applied to the Wacos who had long lived near the site of the city that bears their name, some of whom had fled northward and joined the Wichitas. They had been in Texas since prehistoric times and certainly could not be classed as foreigners. The Northern Comanches, who frequently left their home range in Oklahoma and North Texas to join their southern kinsmen in raids on frontier settlements, might have come within the scope of the law. But they came to Texas without assistance by the government and left the same way. The Comanches, together with the Apaches who harried the country west of San Antonio, were the most destructive of all those tribes that troubled the Texas border; but they could never be removed, certainly not by an Indian agent in Texas. During this period they were accustomed to receive their presents from the agents of the United States near the site of Dodge City, Kansas, in June, and take horses and scalps in Texas and the North Mexican states in July and August. The advocates of Indian removal may have had in mind certain roving bands of Kickapoo and Seminole Indians who frequented Texas on their autumnal hunts, but they were armed with the best rifles to be had in that day, and it would have taken several regiments of troops to capture them.

So the only Indians in Texas available for removal were the Delawares and Shawnees, a few Quapaws, and a very few of the more docile Seminoles. Agent George F. Howard enlisted the support of Chief John Conner and soon reported that he had 351 Indians ready to be transported back to the country north of the Red River. He supplied beef, furnished in part at least from Conner’s herds, to an amount of 400 pounds per day at fifteen cents a pound. Apparently he was determined to spend all of the $25,000. Dependable sources outside of the Indian service reported the number of Indian service reported the number of Indians actually removed at less than one hundred.

Under Horace Capron, special Indian agent, the caravan set out from its place of rendezvous on the Llano River about the first of May, 1853, crept along by Fort Graham on the Brazos, by Fort Worth, and crossed the Red River near Colonel James Bourland’s trading house in Cooke County. The famous scout Jim Shaw did not go along. He was called away on an important errand for the United States government. Near the Red River crossing Capron found Jim Ned, a Delaware leader, with a band of his people farming and persuaded this party to go along with the emigrants.

Capron left his charges on the Chichkasaw and Choctaw Indian nations, where the chiefs of those Indian states assented that they might remain. The Comanches, we are told, went on to the Kickapoo camp near Fort Arbuckle to claim the horses stolen from them. The Kickapoos met the Comanche claim with a counter claim for horses the Comanches had taken from their herds. After striking off score against score, it was decided that the Kickapoos were thirteen ahead, and they surrendered that many horses to the plainsmen. This is one of the few cases where Comanches ever admitted that they had been worsted in a horse-stealing contest.

Thus was Texas deprived of its most loyal Indian inhabitants at the very time they were needed most. Sharp protests came from several quarters. The veteran Indian agent Robert S. Neighbors (not connected with the service at the time of the removal) thought the project “ridiculous.” When the caravan passed his trading house near Fort Graham on the Brazos, Henry Barnard wrote that Texas was being deprived of its most useful people, that he knew most of the Indians in the party personally and knew that they were “honest people who never made a living other than by honest means.” Major H. W. Merrill wrote from Fort Worth that he knew these Indians quite well, that they were useful people.

The Indians had left reluctantly and soon the Delawares were back in Texas. Early in 1854 Agent Neighbors wrote the commissioner of Indian affairs that John Conner and his party were at Fort Mason and wished to remain in Texas; what was he to do with them? Apparently the commissioner let the agent solve that problem for himself and the Indians remained. The men continued to serve as guides and scouts. Thus, after a year of confusion the Indians were back where they had started. The United States Indian service had spent $25,000; the Indians were poorer than ever and more puzzled at the vagaries of the white men.

A year later, the Federal government established two reservations for the Indians of Texas.
When that experiment proved unsatisfactory the law abiding Indians were removed to the Indian Territory. The Delawares continued to serve as guides and scouts, however, until the Civil War. Bands of wild and lawless red men continued to harass the border settlers until the late 1870’s.

Rupert N. Richardson (1891-1988) helped found the West Texas Historical Association in 1924 and served as an editor of the Year Book from its inception until his death. He began teaching at Simmons College (now Hardin-Simmons University) in 1917 and remained associated with the university until his death. A well respected historian, he also was a fellow of the Texas State Historical Association and served as president in 1969-70. He also served as president of the Southwestern Social Science Association, the Texas Philosophical Society, and the Texas Council of Church Related Colleges and Universities.

NEW COLLECTION ACQUISITIONS AT NATIONAL RANCHING HERITAGE CENTER

By Dr. Scott White

The last few months of 2008 were a period for significant acquisitions of historic artifacts, books and art for the National Ranching Heritage Center in Lubbock, Texas. A recent arrangement coordinated by Dr. Jim Brink between the NRHC and the TTU Southwest Collection resulted in a number of significant artworks moving to the National Ranching Heritage Center art collection, including two works by Porfirio Salinas, several paintings by Frank Gervasi and a collection of more than 200 pastels and paintings by Frank Reaugh, the artist known as the "Painter to the Longhorns."

During this same time period, the NRHC became the recipient of three additional paintings of importance. A local attorney, Joe Nagy, made a gift of two Robert Lougheed oil paintings and one Jodie Boren watercolor painting. Nagy had kept the paintings in his Lubbock office. When he decided to retire from active practice, he wanted to find a home for the art where there was a good chance of the public getting to see them.

The NRHC takes pride in exhibiting the collections of our patrons and supporting public, so Nagy felt that this was the place for his paintings.

Other acquisitions during the last year include several items from the Santa Fe Railroad and artifacts of Glen Hines, who spent his career working for the railroad. These items were donated by the family of Sue Hines.

Just before the Christmas break, Edgar and Millie Martin of Greer's Ferry, Arkansas, donated a Frazier saddle with saddlebags, two leather rifle scabbards, two Navajo saddle blankets, a bridle, bit and set of braided leather reins, a pair of Crockett spurs, a set of aluminum spurs, and an 1886 Winchester Rifle. These items were all previously owned and used by Millie Martin's father, Courtland A. Paul, who ranched in Colorado and New Mexico.

During December, Jim Pfluger, executive director of the NRHC, made arrangements to obtain a number of valuable limited-or-first-edition books from a rare book dealer in Dallas. This group of rare books includes hard to find titles such as "Ranching With Lords And Commons" by John R. Craig; "A Log Of the Texas-California Cattle Trail, 1854" by J. Evetts Haley; "Trails of Yesterday" by John Bratt; and "Early Days On The Western Range" by C.C. Walsh.

All of these items are significant additions to the NRHC collections. Aside from the monetary value added to the overall collections value (a conservative estimate puts the value at more than $2 million), each donation represents a real measure of trust in our institution.
Midwestern State University Regents Professor Michael Collins was given the honor of being named a Piper Professor. The award is given annually by the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation to 15 State of Texas professors for superior teaching at the college level.

Travis Roberts was named the 2008 recipient of the Slingin’ Sammy Baugh Award for Outstanding Service to Sul Ross State University. He was honored last fall during homecoming events.

Don Frazier and Dr. Robert Pace, both of the McMurry History Department, have a new book out, Abilene Landmarks: An Illustrated Tour. Many of their students contributed articles to the book.

Ross McSwain tells about violent, bloody times in Central Texas his newly released book, See No Evil, Speak No Evil: A History of Mob Violence in the Texas Heartland, 1869-1904, which is now available through mail order or at select bookstores. The book, containing 176 pages, photos and maps, is soft cover and is $18.95 plus state sales tax, shipping and handling. For information on ordering, call 325-949-6180, or e-mail to yonder11@suddenlink.net. Check the website, www.rossmcswan.com.

J’Nell Pate has a new book Fort Worth Stockyards, which was released by Arcadia Publishing on January 19. It has an optional packet of 15 postcards from the book. The photos and captions tell the story of the stockyards as a livestock center and now as a tourist attraction.

Texas Devils: Rangers and Regulars on the Lower Rio Grande, 1846-1861, by Michael L. Collins has been released by the University of Oklahoma Press. This history examines the Rangers from Texas Annexation to the start of the Civil War, when the Rangers were a paramilitary, irregular group in the service of Texas.

Tom Britten, from the University of Texas at Brownsville, has a new book entitled The Lipan Apaches: People of Wind and Lightning that the University of New Mexico Press will issue in February. The book is the first full-length tribal history of the Lipans. The inspiration for the book was Dr. Paul H. Carlson, who in a seminar over a decade ago issued a challenge that someone needed to write about the Lipans.

Tracy Stewart, winner of last year’s Best Student Paper Award, completed her thesis at WTAMU on Early Education in the Texas Panhandle and was accepted to the Texas Tech doctoral program for the Spring 2009 semester.

Earl Elam’s book, Kitikiti’sh: The Wichita Indians and Associated Tribes in Texas, 1757-1859 was recently published by Hill College Press, with a first signing in a forum at the Texas Heritage Museum at Hill College on November 22, 2008. Honored guests were members of the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes executive council from Anadarko, OK. The book is available from the Gift Shop in the Texas Heritage Museum: $30.00 plus state tax and $4.00 shipping if mailed.

The Archives and History Commission of the Northwest Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church is publishing a new history of the Conference as a part of its forthcoming centennial celebration. Entitled “And Are We Yet Alive?” The Centennial History of the Northwest Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church. The book, written by David Murrah of Rockport, will be released by State House Press, Abilene in June 2009.

From Guns to Gavels by Bill Neal, recently released by Texas Tech University Press, traces the emergence of modern criminal law in Texas and the West. In this companion volume to Getting Away with Murder on the Texas Frontier, Neal takes readers from Mississippi to the frontiers of West Texas, Indian Territory, New Mexico Territory, and finally the frozen Montana wilderness through a series of linked tales of crimes and trials. Virtually an anecdotal textbook, From Guns to Gavels follows a bloody trail from the Wild West through the decade after World War I. From murder in Seminole, shootouts in Quahah, and the infamous 1896 bank robbery in Wichita Falls, Neal’s newest book reveals how the gavel-wielding, black robed Judge Blackstone at last gained ascendancy over “Judge Winchester” and “Judge Lynch.”

Patricia Clark of the Southwest Collection at Texas Tech has published Tribal Names of the Americas: A Cross Reference to Spelling Variants and Alternate Forms. The book is an index of tribal names from printed sources on indigenous peoples of the New World. It traces variations of names to spellings and forms which have been standardized.

Kenneth W. Davis was reappointed to the Lubbock County Historical Commission for a two year term, 2009 – 2011.

John Klingemann, who now teaches in the History Department at Angelo State University, received this Ph. D. this past December 2008.

Arnaldo De Leon published an article in the Southwestern Historical Quarterly, October 2008.

The Sutton-Taylor Feud: The Deadliest Blood Feud in Texas by Chuck Parsons has recently been released by UNT Press. The book looks at The Sutton-Taylor Feud in Texas, which began shortly after the Civil War ended and continued into the 1890s.

Christena Stephens of Sundown has completed her study and recommendations for the preservation of the Mallet Ranch Headquarters Court in Hockley County. Her work was published in 2008 under the title Mallet Ranch: What Was, What Is and What the Future Can Be... The book documents the history and potential use of the ranch headquarters as a historic site and outdoor classroom for both natural and cultural history. It also contains photographs of the Mallet Ranch’s flora and fauna, as well as the historic structures still standing. For information about the Mallet study, contact Stephens at myotis9@msn.com or at P.O. Box 120, Sundown, Texas 79372.

Love Unbound: The Influence of First Baptist Church on Abilene, Texas (State House Press, 2008) is the first joint project from husband-and-wife historians, Rob and Tiffany Fink. The work offers a historical perspective on the relationship between First Baptist Church and the community and citizenry of Abilene, Texas. From its inception over 125 years ago, First Baptist dedicated itself to meeting the needs of Abilene. The missionary spirit led to the creation of numerous programs, mission churches, and major institutions, including Hardin-Simmons University, Hendrick Medical Center, and Hendrick Home for Children. Through its commitment to serving God through loving others, First Baptist played an indispensable role in shaping the history of Abilene, Texas.


Paul Carlson and Tom Crum have received notification that their article, "The Battle at Pease River and the Question of Reliable Sources in the Recapture of Cynthia Ann Parker" will be published in an upcoming issue of the Southwestern Historical Quarterly.
Joe Specht will present a paper at the annual meeting of the Texas State Historical Association, March 26-28, in Austin. His topic is “‘I’m a Tool Pusher from Snyder’ – Slim Willet’s Oil Patch Songs.”

Paul Carlson retired from Texas Tech University, as of August 31, 2008.

Jean Stuntz. Book Review Editor for the WTHA Yearbook, is now President-Elect of H-Net: Humanities and Social Sciences Online. H-Net is a global organization of scholars with over 100,000 members in almost 100 countries.

Betty Hobgood Director of The Swisher County Library in Tulia, Texas said that the 1907-1968 run of the Tulia Herald newspaper is being digitized in cooperation with the University of North Texas Libraries.

Recently the historic town records of Clarendon, Texas, are being digitized via a project jointly sponsored by the University of North Texas Libraries and the Burton Memorial Library of Clarendon.

UPCOMING EVENTS:
April 4, 2009. Symposium of the Texas Heritage Museum in the Performing Arts Center at Hill College, Hillsboro. The emphasis this year is on World War II. Featured speakers are Archie McDonald, Stephen F. Austin University; Kelly Crager, Texas Tech University; David Gracy, the University of Texas at Austin; Celia Stratton, Texas Tech University; David Gracy, the Stephen F. Austin University; Kelly Crager, Texas Tech University; David Gracy, the University of Texas at Austin; Celia Stratton, Curator of the 4th Infantry Museum, Fort Hood; and Joe Cheavens, Hill College. The sessions begin at 9:00 A.M. and conclude at 4:00 P.M. Gracy will be the speaker at a noon luncheon. For information call 254-659-7750 or 254-659-7754 or Earl Elam at eelam@hillcollege.edu.

April 9-11, 2009. Texas Folklore Society meeting, Nacogdoches. This is a special year for the TFS, which is celebrating its 100th year of collecting, presenting, and preserving the lore of Texas and the Southwest. For information on the meeting, membership, publications and member news, check out the web site at www.texasfolklore.org. You can also contact the office at 936-468-4407, or email us at tfs@stfasu.org.

April 17, 2009. Kick off dinner for the Excellence in West Texas History Fellowship Program, LeGrand Alumni Center, Angelo State University, San Angelo. An outstanding program is being planned. For information contact Suzanne Campbell at suzanne.campbell@angelo.edu

April 18-19, 2009. “Sing Along if You Know It,” Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Canyon. Woody Guthrie-inspired artists converge for concerts in conjunction with the exhibition “It’s Been Good to Know Yuh: Woody Guthrie in Pampa, 1929-1936.” Concert events are free of charge with museum admission. Nora Guthrie, Guthrie’s sister, and Anna Canoni, Guthrie’s granddaughter, will also be featured in a symposium April 20-23. Programs will be given by the two women regarding the life and legacy of Woody. The exhibit, which illustrates how the years Guthrie spent in Pampa formed the foundation of a life that was to influence the folk music genre for generations, will continue through July 31. Contact: Andrea Porter 806/651-2235, aporter@pphm.wtamu.edu.

April 23, 2009. The Petroleum Hall of Fame Celebration, Permian Museum, Midland. The Hall of Fame, dedicated to those who cherish the freedom to dare, inducts four individuals or teams biennially who have made outstanding contributions to the development of the petroleum industry and who have served as worthy examples of service. This year’s inductees are: George W. Bush; James C. “Jim” Henry; Johnny R. Warren; the team of C. O. “Ted” Collins, Jr. and Herb E. Ware, Jr. For more information, call 432-683-4403.

April 25, 2009. The Sunbelt Rising: The Politics of Space, Place and Region in the Americas. "Mc Cord Auditorium, Dallas Hall, Southern Methodist University, Dallas. This conference will explore the political, economic, and social transformations that have been shaping the Sunbelt into a unified region rivaling traditional centers of power in the East. For more information, contact swcenter@smu.edu or see http://smu.edu/swcenter/ Register online http://smu.edu/swcenter/SunbeltRising.htm or call 214-768-3684.

June 27-28, 2009, Texas’ Last Frontier Heritage Celebration and Buffalo Soldier Encampment, Morton, TX. Step back into the early life and times of Texas’ far western frontier as Cochran County celebrates its western frontier heritage with events at the county park throughout the weekend, including a Texas Buffalo Soldier Encampment and concluding with a community worship service and Barbecue & Soul Food Dinner on Sunday. Join the crowds on Saturday for a downtown parade, brisket dinner, and country and western music and dancing at the county park. For information, contact Dorothy Barker, jodaphil@windstream.net, (806) 266-5484, or Pat Clayton, pclayton@windstream.net, (806)266-5038.

GOING EXHIBITS
January 16 - March 14, 2009. “Jerry Bywaters, Lone Star Printmaker,” Wichita Falls Museum of Art at Midwestern State University. Jerry Bywaters’ creative works, borne primarily from his observations of life in the Southwest in the 1930s and 1940s, are compelling not only for their artistic merit, but also for the cultural, social and political history captured in the images. The exhibit, timed to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the artist’s birth, explores different facets of Bywater’s landscapes, architecture and urban themes, portraiture and genre scenes. For more contact WFMA at 940-692-0923, e-mail wfmaj@mwsu.edu or www.mwsu.edu/wfma.

Through April 5, 2009. “To Soothe the Savage Breast: Musical Instruments,” Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Canyon. The exhibit will highlight a number of interesting examples from PPHM’s permanent collection as well as private collections. The musical instruments on display will include several used by American Indians, a rare Broadwood Square Piano made in London in 1789, an aluminum bass viol dating from the mid-1930s, a violin once owned by Bob Wills, a portable pump organ used on the USS Oakland during World War II, and an electric guitar from the 1960s.


June 6 – September 13, 2009. “Going to Texas: Five Centuries of Texas Maps,” The Old Jail Art Center, Albany, Texas. For information contact Director Margaret Blagg 325/762-2269 or director@theoldjailartcenter.org

IN MEMORY….
Homer O. Gainer, 79, a Life Member of WTHA and a long-time member of the Abilene Christian University Board of Trustees, died in Houston, March 17, 2008.

Eddie Joe Guffee, 70, of Plainview passed away Saturday, June 7, 2008, in Midland, Texas. He was a WTHA member and was known for his work unearthing the particulars about the Texas-Santa Fe Expedition (1841).

Dr. Zane Mason, Professor of History Emeritus at Hardin-Simmons University passed away on Tuesday, September 16, 2008, at age 89 in Mabank, Texas. Dr. Mason received one of the first history PhD’s awarded by Texas Tech.
The WTHA would like to thank its Sustaining Members:

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