



THE CYCLONE



Sul Ross in Alpine Hosts 2012 Conference



Current WTHA President Bruce Glasrud and past President Keith Owen.

The Morgan University Center at Sul Ross State University in Alpine is the site for the 89th Annual Meeting of the West Texas Historical

Association on March 30-31, 2012. Over fifty papers will be presented in sessions that begin Friday at 9:00 a.m. and continue through noon on Saturday. The entire schedule of sessions and papers is posted online at <www.wtha.org>.

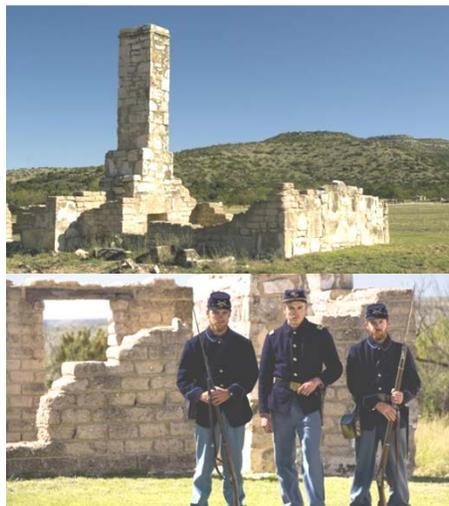
Early arrivals can ride the Amtrak train to El Paso from Alpine at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday for a trip through history, art and culture. Returning to Alpine on Thursday morning, they can then enjoy the Marfa art tour. The conference will conclude at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday with a business meeting and luncheon at Sul Ross in the Morgan University Center ballroom. Following the luncheon there will be a closing tour of Fort Davis, with a supper buffet at the Prude Ranch and a star party at McDonald Observatory.

Exhibitors interested in displaying items at the conference or those wishing to donate anything to the silent auction should contact Freedomia Paschall at (806) 742-3749 or by e-mail at Freedomia.Paschall@ttu.edu. Please consult our website for further conference information.

Fort Lancaster

By Jim Matthews

Established August 20, 1855 as part of the frontier line of defense in Texas, Fort Lancaster was situated on Live Oak Creek along the San Antonio – El Paso Mail Road near the Pecos River crossing. Companies of the First Infantry manned the post and patrolled the mail road, providing escorts for wagon trains and prospectors moving west. Between 1856 and 1860, permanent structures were completed using limestone foundations. The walls were constructed of adobe bricks, smoothed and scored to resemble masonry and the roofs were thatched with grass. On March 19, 1861 the U.S. Army abandoned Fort Lancaster following the secession of Texas. Confederate companies of the Second Texas Mounted Rifles occupied the fort until April 1862. After that only occasional



Photos courtesy of Texas Historical Commission.

patrols visited the post until after the Civil War. In 1867, it was reoccupied as a sub-post by buffalo soldiers of the Ninth U.S. Cavalry. A large force of over 900 Kickapoos, Lipan Apaches and Comancheros attacked the fort in December 1867. After a fight of over three hours, the small company of

black soldiers held the field, having suffered only three casualties. This proved to be the only incident in which a U.S. Army fort in Texas was actually attacked by Native Americans. By 1874, Fort Lancaster had been abandoned for the last time and much of the building material carried away for use by local homes and businesses. Today the Fort Lancaster State Historic Site is operated by the Texas Historical Commission and open to the public. It is located on Texas Highway 290 about thirty miles west of Ozona and ten miles east of Sheffield. The site contains the ruins of twenty-nine structures from the active period of the fort. There is also a visitor center and museum with artifacts excavated from the site. These include not only items from the fort, but artifacts from Native American encampments dating back over 1000 years.



2011 WTHA Fellow Robert Carr and new Life Director Garry Nall. Other Fellows of the Association selected in 2011 were Clint Chambers and Shirley Eoff.

2011 Awards and Grants

Mrs. Percy Jones Award for Best Article in the WTHA Year Book

2010- John Caraway, *Dallas Scarborough: Abilene Attorney and Civic Leader*

Rupert N. Richardson Award for the Best Book on West Texas

2010- Paul Carlson and Tom Crum, *Myth, Memory, and Massacre: The Pease River Capture of Cynthia Ann Parker.*

Outstanding Student Essay Award

2010- Travis Taylor, Angelo State University, *Garrison Life at Fort Chadborne, 1852 to 1861*

Holden Research Award

2010- Troy Ainsworth

ANNOUNCING TWO \$45,000 TEXAS HISTORY ELLOWSHIPS ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY

Two \$45,000 fellowships will be awarded each year for the finest scholarship on Western Texas, covering all time periods. Western, environmental, economic, and labor histories; race, cultural, ethnic, gender, and community studies; and cross-disciplinary approaches are welcome. Studies using fresh primary sources, along with new and original insights will be given the strongest consideration. **These awards are open to scholars either finishing their doctoral degrees or with Ph.D. already in hand in a field of the humanities, including scholars outside Texas.** These fellowships include \$5,000 to help publish completed works.

Our current 2011 Excellence in West Texas History Fellowship recipients are:

Nicholas Villanueva (Ph.D., Vanderbilt): *The Impact of the Mexican Revolution Upon Community & Race Relations in West Texas.*

Catharine Franklin (Ph.D., University of Oklahoma): *The Role of the U.S. Army in the Nineteenth-Century American West as Intermediary Between Native Americans & Civilians.*

Full information regarding these fellowships is online at:

<http://www.angelo.edu/services/library/wtcoll/fellowship1.html>

<http://www.angelo.edu/services/library/wtcoll/fellowship.html>

Confederate Ridgely Greathouse Honored in Matador

By Marisue Potts

Amid a colorful array of flags that flew over the Confederate States of America, on November 16, 2011, the remains of Southern sympathizer Ridgely Greathouse were honored at East Mound Cemetery near Matador, Texas.

A new granite gravestone was provided by the Stephen Wilkinson Chapter, Lubbock, of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the South Plains Genealogical Society of Lubbock, the Motley County Historical Commission, and Greathouse descendants. Offering the services of a color guard and an honor guard, the Amarillo Plemons-Shelby Camp 464 of Texas Sons of Confederate Veterans fired volleys over the grave of Greathouse. Dressed in black mourning clothes, two ladies from the Mary Plemons Yellow Rose Chapter 51 of Amarillo laid a rose near a Southern Iron Cross that marked his burial.

Greathouse died on the Matador Ranch in 1902 and was buried as a pauper in an unmarked grave. Little known was his involvement in the Chapman Affair of 1862, a scheme to outfit a schooner to sail in Pacific waters with the intent of operating under a letter of marque from Jefferson Davis. The plan was to redistribute gold bound for the Union into Confederate coffers to buy much needed supplies and armament. Greathouse was convicted, pardoned, re-arrested and sent to a prison in New York harbor, but he escaped to Canada. Under a general amnesty for war criminals, Greathouse was pardoned a second time. He returned to the states and many years later ended up on the Matador Ranch reduced to the lowly position of a prairie dog poisoner and varmit killer.

["Ridge Greathouse, Patriot or Traitor?"] will be the subject of a presentation by Marisue Potts at the WTHA conference in Alpine.]



Photo of ceremony by Carla Moore.

Unionist Sentiment of the Northwest Texas Frontier

By Floyd F. Ewing, Jr.

[Condensed from the 1957 Year Book. Floyd F. Ewing, Jr. served as a history professor and Dean of the Graduate School at Midwestern University. He was the president of WTHA when this article was published.]

As the nation moved toward the secession crisis in the winter and spring of 1860-1861, the residents of the northwestern Texas frontier were aware that a dangerous division existed among themselves in their attitude toward that issue. The depth of their division was described in the statewide vote of February 1861, when sixty-one per cent of the voters in the northwestern counties declared against secession. [The counties considered are Lamar, Grayson, Collin, Cooke, Denton, Montague, Wise, Jack and Young.] Votes in counties bordering on the northwestern hinge, although not so conclusively antagonistic to secession, nevertheless exhibited similar Unionist tendencies.

A long series of events solidified the frontier population's latent Unionist sentiment into open opposition. Initially, Sam Houston's stand in the national senate on the controversial Kansas-Nebraska Act and the views expressed in the bitterly-contested Houston-Runnels gubernatorial campaigns of 1857 and 1859 had defined the political alternatives available. The outbreak of strife in Kansas and the debate aroused by the Dred Scott decision further emphasized the emerging issues, inflamed tempers, and turned growing tendencies into firm political convictions.

Nearer at hand, local issues and incidents intensified and personalized the political division. Individuals came to be identified in their Secessionist or Unionist views, and communities consciously separated into opposing, suspicious alignments that secession and war would translate into open armed strife between former friends and neighbors.

Evidence that the coming struggle on the frontier was nearing dangerous proportions appeared by 1850, largely as a by-product

of the Houston-Runnels campaign of that year. Newspaper editors took up the causes of the candidates they supported, and the anti-Houston press flailed the opposition vigorously with such terms as "free-soilers," "abolitionists," and "Black Republicans." A contingent of openly pro-Union newsman retaliated in defense of the opposing views, and formed, as a result, a convenient base for rallying support to their cause.

Ministers assumed the argument, belaboring the issues from their pulpits, and an increasing number of openly abolitionist sermons condemned the institution of slavery and aroused the wrath of slave holders within hearing. Congregations, denoting themselves Free-Soil or Anti-Slave branches of their respective denominations, broke away from the established communion in order to preserve and promote their militant abolitionism. In Dallas, in August 1859, a committee of citizens passed a resolution condemning the preaching of free-soil doctrine in their midst, and asked all churches in the area to deny the use of their pulpits to abolitionist ministers.

The principal offender in Dallas, Parson Solomon McKinney, refused to yield to the pro-slave element; the people, incensed by his "free sentiments and abolitionist doctrines,"

"... determined to rectify the matter in its very incipiency and prevent, as far as possible, a recurrence of such [advocacy] in their midst. Hence they resolved to 'mobilize' the preacher—in plain words, to give him his walking papers."¹

When the good parson refused to be intimidated, he and a fellow minister,

Parson Blount, were arrested and jailed. Before they could be brought to trial, however, the two escaped and disappeared from view.

To add to the ire of the aroused pro-slavery faction, itinerant peddlers of Unionist-abolitionist tracts and pamphlets appeared, and some book dealers distributed like materials from their shelves. Aroused citizens in Anderson County raided offending book stores and held public burnings of the undesired literature; vigilante committees then were appointed to prevent further violations and thereby "to preserve the peace and harmony of the county." To the east, Jefferson citizens dealt summarily with an "Arnold," whose opinions were hostile to the South. Arnold was "'encouraged' ... to leave for parts more congenial to his tastes. It is presumed that he left immediately, if not sooner, as a coat of tar and feathers would most probably have been his next award."²

A Dallas editor highlighted the growing anger of pro-secessionists, yet admitted the strength of Unionist-abolitionist sentiment, in the following summary of the events of 1859.

"...the free-soil element in Texas is sufficient to have had preponderance in the election [Houston over Runnels], and to have materially affected it upon the grounds that Sam Houston was friendly to the success of Black Republicanism."

He continued, however, by maintaining optimistically that the mass of opinion still was "sound" on the slavery issue:

"Whenever these emissaries of the abolitionists have commenced their operation, the citizens have arisen en masse and expect them from the country, as in the case of [Parsons] McKinney and Blout in Dallas; the free-soil Methodists in Fannin; the free-soil editor, Banks, in Quitman; Palmer, in Cooke; and some in Bastrop."³

As the year 1860 progressed, the northwest was upset by incidents more serious than the political debate that had characterized the preceding year.



Opponents of "Black Republicanism" found it increasingly convenient to place the blame for untoward happenings at the doors of their nonconformist neighbors. Abolitionist complicity was charged in the increasingly severe Indian attacks and in the forays of white renegade-Indian horse thieving bands that plagued outlying communities. Persistent rumors spread the information that the frontier depredations were inspired, and in part directed, by Kansas Free-Soilers of the John Brown mold, and that Kansas officials condoned and abetted their activities. Other reports told that New Englanders again were financing an abolitionist conspiracy patterned on the Kansas model, and that their final purpose was to seize the northwestern counties of Texas as a center for abolitionist-Union activities according to the editor of the *Texas State Gazette*, who insisted that he held proof of his assertions,

"...Indian attacks were to be encouraged, towns and mills were to be burned, pro-slavery sympathizers were gradually to be pressed out of the region, and invading bands of free-soilers under notorious [Kansans] Lane and Montgomery, were to finish up the work."⁴

A belief that the agitation of abolitionists among the slave population was beginning to bear fruit posed an equally serious threat. In Collin County, S. N. Drake and S. A. Winslow were punished on the charge of inciting a Negress to burn her master's house, and of plotting to aid her escape to the North. Other accusations were that Free-Soilers were arming Negroes, providing them with poisons to be used against their owners, and, generally, with inciting them to rebellion and escape. Reprisals, often more swift than just, were visited on suspected Negroes, and a number were lynched or shot for actual or imagined misdeeds.⁵

Spring and summer of the year of Lincoln's election provided a climax to the preceding months of indecision and anxiety as "The Great Scare of 1860" seized the imagination of the people. On March 10, two entire blocks of downtown Dallas, comprising some twenty-five business establishments, were consumed in a raging fire. In the weeks immediately following, other fires, seemingly incendiary in character, occurred at Pilot Point, Kaufman, Black Jack Grove, Waxahachie,

and Gainesville; and on July 8, destructive fires occurred simultaneously in Dallas, Denton, and Collin counties. The exact cause of the fires was never determined, but blame fell naturally on the abolitionists, including such fugitives as Parson McKinney and his Negro followers, and tremendous excitement resulted.

In retrospect, it is interesting to note that at the time, the *Clarksville Standard* and later Ed Bates, historian of Denton County, suggested a quite logical explanation for at least a part of the fires. Apparently a new kind of phosphorus match, the "prairie match," subject to spontaneous combustion in hot, humid weather, had just come on the market. Probably the new match was the culprit; Mr. Bates recalled that the July 8 conflagration in Denton, which originated in a general merchandise store on a sultry Sunday afternoon, seemed to have begun at the counter where matches were stored. Irate north Texans, however, provided their own explanation: the fires undoubtedly were incendiary in nature and abolitionist in origin.

Strangely, the election of Lincoln in November 1860, produced a period of relative quiet which seems to have stemmed from cautious indecision. Unionists and Secessionists alike watched intently the movement of the deep-South states toward secession and argued vigorously as the time neared for Texans to make their own decision. Immediately prior to the gathering of the Secession Convention, a document, proposing that if Texas seceded, the pro-Union counties in the northern part of the state should unite in the formation of a new state, circulated widely in North Texas. Fortunately, no overt action occurred when the approval of the resolution for secession became known. Too, some shifting of families along the frontier was noticed as those of minority views sought more congenial areas, the other outspoken Unionists disappeared to make their way to northern lines. Nevertheless, few instances of troubled relations were recorded for the year 1861.

Latent animosities, however, were forced to the surface by the passage in April 1862, of the Confederate Conscription Act. During the first months of the war, service in the Army of the Confederacy had been voluntary, and persons of neutral or Unionist convictions had gone unmolested in their avoidance of

service. The legalization of conscription, however, made all men between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five subject to military service for a period of three years or for the duration of the war. Thus Union sympathizers, and those who for any reason desired to avoid military service, were forced to take a positive stand.

Some Unionists escaped active service by securing appointments upon special details near home, some by election or appointment to political office. These, however, required an oath of allegiance to the Confederacy, and some refused. To avoid [the draft] some left the state immediately and made their way north, hiding at times in the woods and hills to escape conscript officers, provost marshals, vigilance committees, and mobs, until compelled or enabled to slip out of the county and get into the Union lines for safety.⁶

Others besides outright Unionists disliked the Conscript Act. To many, the measure seemed to continue the spirit of planter domination so resented on the frontier. By the terms of the law, one white man was exempt from military service for each six slaves owned; thus the wealthy slave owner and his sons were given an opportunity to remain out of uniform. In addition, all men had the privilege of hiring a substitute; in practice, only the wealthy could afford the cost. Once again, the planter class seemed to have gained the advantage, and to many frontiersmen, the conflict had become "the rich man's war but the poor man's fight."

An immediate result of the antagonism toward conscription came in the organization of the Peace Party or Peace Association in the northwestern counties. That society, centered in Cooke County, was described variously as a well-organized group some seventeen hundred strong composed of all classes of people, and as a rather insignificant group of "more importance at a distance than at home. . . never comprised of more than one man of any standing, being mostly made up of refugees and suspected persons"⁷

The Peace Association was a secret group having a sign, password, and grip, and three separate degrees of membership; its full purposes were revealed only as a member passed from degree to degree. To initiate, the organization was described simply as a peace party; a party to keep

down jayhawking and to protect the families and property of men who were in the service. When a sufficient number of men in both armies had become members, initiates were told, the Association would force a cessation of war and a restoration of the Constitution and the Union.

Members of the second degree, a more select group, were sworn to support the Union and to oppose the Confederacy "by every means" in order to reinstate the Constitution as rapidly as possible. In addition, they were pledged to go to the relief of any member arrested, to kill any who betrayed the secrets of the society, and to follow implicitly and without hesitation the commands of the third degree leaders.

Only a few members attained the third degree and learned the full intent of the society, which, according to confessions of several leaders, was to effect a complete Unionist conquest of the North Texas area as a preliminary to Federal invasion. Their plan was to rise up in the night on a prearranged date, seize the military stores at Gainesville and Sherman, and proceed with the conquest. No person's life or property was to be respected unless he had the sign, password, and grip; families of southern sympathizers were to be slain; property would be taken and retained; and the region was to be held by force until the arrival of Federal troops.⁸

Fortunately, the plot was revealed before an actual uprising occurred. Newton Chance, one of the men approached for membership, reported the movement to the military commander at Gainesville; Chance was induced to accept the proffered membership, and the essentials of the conspiracy were learned. Scores of persons accused of complicity were arrested by local vigilance groups, others were driven into hiding, and the association was shattered.⁹

Reprisals, heightened by existing neighborhood animosities, began at once. In Cooke county, an extra-legal citizens' jury of twelve men, operating under the unusual procedure of requiring only a two-thirds vote for conviction, sentenced and provided for the execution by hanging of forty men; two others of the accused were killed in mob violence. In Wise County, a similarly constituted citizens' group of fifty found five association members guilty of treason and hanged them; Denton County had one accused man slain by a mob; and

Grayson County citizens were induced by Captain J. W. Throckmorton to surrender their prisoners to Confederate authorities. As a result, all eventually were released.

The stringent measures enforced against the Peace Association ended any immediate threat of organized Unionist resistance in the settled areas, but it by no means spelled the end of factional hostilities or of anti-Southern activity on the part of the discontented. The method of the resistance protest was indicated by the action of the Texas legislature in January 1862, in passing a measure providing imprisonment for from two to five years for persons convicted of "discouraging the people from enlisting in the service of the State or the Confederacy or disposing the people to favor the enemy."¹⁰ Further evidence that lawlessness, dissention, and defection were on the increase came in July when General Ben McCulloch issued a decree establishing martial law in the Texas Military District.



The True der Union Monument in Comfort, the only monument to the Union erected by a southern state.

Mob violence, springing from the suspicions and fears of both factions, flared into action all too frequently. Typical of the unrest of the period is the series of events which occurred in Jack County during 1863 and 1864. There, where the secession vote had failed by almost four to one, H. A. Hamner, former Parker County resident and editor of *The White Man*, was "swung to a cottonwood limb" for his Unionist views. In the same period, in 1863, Allen C. Hill, a man of questionable character, was killed in an outbreak of violence that was to be visited on his wife, a son, and six daughters in the ensuing years. A principal complaint against the family was that they were suspected of

harboring Unionist sentiments. Similar charges, and similar punishments, were aimed at other more influential residents. According to Mrs. Huckabay, Jack County historian who has recorded the acts of proscription in her area, "Union men were in great danger, and citizens from the best families who were considered Union sympathizers, had to flee for their lives."¹¹

Negroes also, when suspicion arose regarding their loyalty, were subjected to the violence of the time. Denton County officials secured a temporary leave for a service man in order that he might serve as executioner of an "incited" Negro charged with attempted assault on the soldier's wife; another was hanged for attempted poisoning of "war widows" whose husbands were in the service.

Southern sympathizers, on the other hand, were faced by a threat from an opposite source. As the war progressed, the fringe of the frontier became the gathering place of a furtive, migratory population of Unionists, pacifists, and deserters, intermixed with the ever-present scattering of renegades. They congregated across the Red River in Indian Territory, in the back country of Denton and Wise counties where Union sentiment was strong, farther west along the Wichita River, and to the south on the headwaters of the Concho. From those stations, they were able to commit scattered depredations, and more serious, to keep outlying communities in constant fear of their disastrous raids.

Wise County was the center from which bands under leaders named Fox and Parnell caused serious concern among Confederate sympathizers. Fox was described by his detractors as a "renegade and leader of a gang of robbers," and Parnell, formerly a Denton County resident, was accused of having returned from the Union service to organize dissenters in the area into a guerrilla force. Colonel Bourland, the Confederate commander in Wise and Denton counties, conducted a campaign against the dissident forces which drove them westward out of his immediate territory. There they were set upon by the frontier battalions under Captains Barry and Fossett, and forced to remove, with other fugitives at Cole's settlement on the Concho, to the safety of Union lines in New Mexico. The significance of the movement is indicated by Barry's claim

that over one hundred persons, including several family groups with personal belongings, had congregated on the Wichita River, and that when the collected bands moved westward from Cole's Settlement in May 1864, they numbered some five hundred individuals and took with them forty loaded wagons.¹²

Deserters from Confederate forces and from the frontier battalions formed a high percentage of the refugee-renegade bands. Many Unionists, apparently, were in the frontier battalions as a means of avoiding military service. Charles A. Goodnight maintained that "fully half of Jack Cureton's rangers were in fact Union sympathizers," and Captain Berry believed that many of the trouble-makers in Wise and Denton counties were deserters from the battalions of McCord and Bourland in the northwestern counties. In Parker County, the leader of a state militia detachment, J. A. Luckey, was found guilty of turning Unionist and of trying to incite his men to desertion.¹³

The number of deserters and the fear of reprisals from the refugee bands increased in the last months of the war when Federal invasions on the Texas coast required the calling of several frontier battalions into active Confederate service and when Confederate military fortunes seemed on

the decline. Frontier commanders were hard-pressed to keep their commands operative, and courts martial of captured deserters consumed so much time that commanders adopted the expedient of turning prisoners over to the departmental headquarters for punishment.

A concerted move against the deserters occupied the final weeks of the war in northwest Texas. Troops under Colonels Pickett and Earhart in Wise County were alerted to pursue a band of deserters reportedly moving westward in an attempt to reach New Mexico. The deserters were apprehended on the Wichita River in April 1865, and were surrounded and captured. They were interned at the Confederate military post at Buffalo Springs to await trial, but were released when news was received of the end of the war.

Complete harmony returned slowly to the northwestern frontier. Soon, however, the arrival of new settlers, the migration of the most affected, and the need for common action against the Indians, preoccupation with economic problems, and the rising hostility of southern Democracy against the misdeeds of the Reconstruction era began to soften the hatreds of the war years. By the end of Reconstruction, militant Unionism had

begun to give way before the force of the rising "Solid South."

¹ *The Dallas Herald*, August 17, 1859.

² *The Dallas Herald*, January 18 and 25, 1860.

³ *The Dallas Herald*, October 26, 1859.

⁴ *The Texas Gazette*, September 22, November 10 and December 1, 1860

⁵ *The Dallas Herald*, February 29, 1860; Mattie Davis Lucas and Nita Holsapple Hall, *A History of Grayson County, Texas* (Sherman, 1936), 97; Cliff D. Cates, *A Pioneer History of Wise County* (Decatur, 1907), 123; *The Standard* (Clarksville), July 14, 1860.

⁶ Charles W. Ramsdell, "The Frontier and Secession," *Studies in Southern History and Politics* (New York, 1914) 22.

⁷ A. Morton Smith, *The First One Hundred Years in Cooke County* (San Antonio, 1955), 38; *The Standard* (Clarksville), November 1, 1862.

⁸ Thomas Barrett, *The Great Hanging at Gainesville, Cooke County, Texas in October, A. D. 1862* (Gainesville, 1885), 6-8; Ed F. Bates, *History and Reminiscences of Denton County* (Denton, 1918), 107-108; Cates, 131.

⁹ W. Henry Miller, *Pioneering in North Texas* (San Antonio, 1953), 81-82.

¹⁰ *Texas State Gazette*, January 18, 1862.

¹¹ Ida Lasiter Huckabay, *Ninety-four Years in Jack County* (Austin, 1949), 96.

¹² James K. Greer, *Buck Barry: A Texas Ranger* (Dallas, 1923), 174.

¹³ J. Evetts Haley, *Fort Concho and the Texas Frontier* (San Angelo, 1952), 109; Greer, 171-172.

Major George H. Thomas on the Trail of Indians in 1860

by R. C. Crane

[Reprinted from the 1944 Year Book]

In the summer of 1860 the heated political campaign was rapidly bringing on the lowering clouds of war, and many of those officers who were to distinguish themselves in the armies of North and South were doing duty at the army camps, forts and garrisons on the frontier of Texas.

General Robert E. Lee, then a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army, was for the time in command of the Department of Texas in the absence of General Twiggs the regular commander. Under his command at the time were such notable officers as W. J. Hardee, E. Kirby Smith, Earl Van Dorn, John B. Hood, Fitzhugh Lee and N. G. Evans who made names for themselves as officers in the Confederate armies; and George H. Thomas, George Stoneman, S. P. Heintzman, W. H. French, S. D. Sturgis,



George H. Thomas, courtesy National Archives.

J. H. King, R. S. Granger and H. J. Hunt, who were to distinguish themselves in the armies of the Union. General Albert Sidney Johnston was the Colonel of the regiment in which Lee was then serving (the Second Cavalry), but had been called away to command the forces sent to quell

the threatened Mormon uprising and had not returned to Texas. Only a few months earlier General Lee while at home in Virginia on furlough, had been called into active service by his old Mexican War Commander, General Winfield Scott, then in command of all United States forces, to take the field and put down the threatened John Brown raid at Harper's Ferry.

Many of the officers serving in Texas at the time under General Lee had distinguished themselves during the Mexican War and were then serving as lieutenants, captains and majors, though they had been brevetted to higher ranks for various meritorious services during that war. General Lee himself had been brevetted Lieutenant Colonel for exemplary services during the war.

Under the terms of the treaty of peace with Mexico, made at the close of the war

between the two nations, the United States obligated itself to protect Mexico from the raids and incursions of the Indians from the United States into Mexico. That became a more difficult task than protecting its own citizens from Indian raids, for the simple reason that the Indians had well marked trails into Mexico over which they brought cattle and horses out of Mexico by the thousands at one time. The Indians were much more willing to desist from raiding the frontiers of Texas than they were to forego plundering the Mexicans, because the latter people were much the richer, and because to plunder the Mexicans had been handed down to them for more than a hundred years as one of their tribal rights.

In 1860 our government was endeavoring to keep the Indians within the confines of their reservations in the Indian Territory. Of course, the five civilized tribes were giving no trouble, but the Kiowas and the Comanches especially were giving almost constant trouble. They roamed almost at will over all of Northwest Texas and made frequent raids into the settlement in the counties of the frontier, leaving trails of blood, rapine and plunder behind them. There were no settlers to the north or west of Brown and Coleman counties and few of them in those counties.

In the summer of 1860 General Thomas, then the junior major in the Second Cavalry, was stationed at Camp Cooper on the Clear Fork of the Brazos on the south line of Throckmorton County, in command of one company of about fifty-five men.

Both Lee and Thomas were natives of Virginia, the first of a noted family, the latter of an obscure family. Lee was about eight years older than Thomas, but both were graduates of West Point, where they studied Rall's *Constitutional View*, which taught that the United States was a Union of sovereign states which had the right to withdraw from that Union at any time they became satisfied that the terms and conditions on which the Union had been formed had been violated. Both had served through the Mexican War and had been brevetted for gallantry and meritorious conduct. From about 1852 until 1855, while Colonel Lee was Superintendent and Commandant at the West Point Military Academy, Lieutenant Thomas was instructor of artillery and cavalry; and then Albert Sidney Johnston became Colonel of the regiment, R. E. Lee, Lieutenant

Colonel, and W. J. Hardee, Earl VanDorn and George H. Thomas majors. The Second Cavalry was sent to the frontier posts of Texas.

Prior to 1860 a fringe of forts and military posts had been established in West and Northwest Texas, beyond most of the fixed settlements. Along the line of these outposts protected by soldiers, had been established in September 1858, the longest stage line in the world, the Butterfield or Southern Overland Stage line for mail and passengers, running from St. Louis, Missouri, to San Francisco, a distance of over 2,700 miles. This line entered Texas at Preston Bend on the Red River near Sherman, and ran thence in a westerly and southwesterly direction, past Fort Belknap in Young County, Camp Cooper in Throckmorton County, Fort Phantom Hill in Jones County, passing about seven miles to the west of the present city of Abilene, then southwest to Fort Chadbourne in the northwest corner of Runnels County, which was a division point on the line, and thence westward past Fort Bliss, at El Paso.

Under these circumstances and conditions, Major George H. Thomas, under date of August 31, 1860, made an interesting report to the Commanding officer of the Department of Texas, Colonel Robert E. Lee, with headquarters at San Antonio, of one such excursion or reconnaissance in which he tells of a brush with a band of Indians. Major Thomas tells of leaving Camp Cooper on the morning of July 23, with a detachment of two commissioned officers, including himself and Lieutenant Lowe, the regimental adjutant, the hospital steward of the post, one non-commissioned officer, and twelve privates, the regimental band, one non-commissioned officer and seven privates of company D, Second Cavalry, and three guides viz: Mr. Jones, the post guide, and two Delaware Indians, Doss and Solomon.

He tells of traveling over the stage line to the Colorado River, where he was joined by Lieutenant Fitzhugh Lee from Camp Colorado in Coleman County, with a squad of about 30 soldiers from another company of the Second Cavalry, and of then going on west to the headwaters of the main Concho River, and of being met, near the mouth of Kiowa Creek, by Captain Johnson from Fort Mason with a squad of about fifty more cavalymen.

Major Thomas then tells of dividing his forces and of scouting for several weeks over a section of country now known as Sterling, Glasscock, Irion, Tom Green and Reagan Counties, and the south edges of Mitchell and Howard Counties, in a careful search for Indians, their trails and camps. His command passed over the ground where San Angelo is now located but they found no Indians, nor even any signs of them. Major Thomas described valleys, streams, vegetation, springs, and sites for military posts, and wrote of the locations of stage stands, especially one at the crossing of Grape Creek. But not a human being did the party see, except for the keepers of the stage stands, with whom they talked. These keepers knew nothing of any Indians in the region. Failing to find any Indians or fresh Indian "signs," Thomas dispersed his forces, sending Lieutenant Lee and Captain Johnson with their men back to their respective stations, while he took the stage road for Camp Cooper. But let him speak for himself:

"Not discovering any recent Indian signs, and our supplies being barely sufficient to last the several detachments to their posts, the command was here turned back, August 20th. Captain Johnson with the Fort Mason detachment, was sent along the North Concho to its mouth and thence direct to Fort Mason; Lieutenant Lee, with B Company detachment, took the route along the valley of the North Concho and South Concho, to their junction with the Colorado, and thence to Camp Colorado direct; and the detachment from this post turned into the mail road, near the crossing on the North Concho, camping that night near the Grape Creek mail station. On the opposite side of Grape Creek is a beautiful position for a small cavalry post, on a gravelly hill, overlooking the creek and shaded with fine large live oak trees. The water of Grape Creek is sweet and permanent, and there is excellent grazing along the valley, wood sufficient for fuel, but no timber fit for building.

"On the morning of the 25th instant, about fourteen miles east of Mountain Pass, one of the Indian guides (Doss) discovered a fresh horse trail crossing the road."

This Mountain Pass is the old stage, mail road crossing of what is now known as Mulberry Canyon, only a few miles east

of Fort Chadbourne. It is notable that Major Thomas does not mention this old fort, either in going or returning, though it was occupied by soldiers at the time, and though, according to his own statements, he must have passed by it in traveling. And it is almost certain that soldiers of his own regiment were stationed there at the time.

The course of the road was to the northeast rather than east, as stated, as it ran from Fort Chadbourne to and past Fort Phantom Hill; and 14 miles, by the mail road which he was traveling, would have placed Major Thomas and his force to the west of where Buffalo Gap is now located.

But the Indian trail has now been discovered, and Major Thomas will continue his narration:

“As soon as the packs could be arranged, and our wagons dispatched with the remains of our baggage to this post, with the teamsters, hospital steward, and a private of the band, both too sick to ride, I followed the trail with all of the remainder of the detachment and the three guides, in a west northwest direction, for about forty miles that day, traveling as long as we could see the trail after nightfall. On the 26th, about 7 a.m., the Delaware guide (Doss) discovered the Indians, eleven in number, just as they were preparing to leave camp, he and their spy discovering each other about the same time. Giving the signal agreed upon, the party moved on at once in a gallop for a mile and a half before coming in sight of their camp, which was located on the opposite side of a deep ravine (running north, and I presume, into the Clear Fork), impassable except at a few points. Here we lost considerable time searching for a crossing, and only succeeded finally in getting over by dismounting and leading our animals.”

This “deep ravine” is said by old timers in the vicinity to be what is now known as Big Stink Creek in Nolan County, which rises to the mountains and runs north about five miles and empties into Sweetwater Creek.

But the soldiers are hot on the tail, and Major Thomas may continue:

“In the meantime the Indians being already mounted and having their animals collected together, had increased their distance from us by, at least, half a mile. As soon as the crossing was effected and the men remounted, we pushed them at full speed for about three miles and a half

further, pushing them so closely that they finally abandoned their loose animals and continued their flight, effecting their escape solely from the fact that our animals had become completely exhausted from the fatiguing pace at which the pursuit had been kept up. As we were gradually overhauling them, one follow, more persevering than the rest, and who still kept his position in rear of the loose animals suddenly dismounted and prepared to fight, and our men, in the eagerness to dispatch him, pressed upon him so thickly that several of his arrows soon took effect, wounding myself in the chin and chest; also private William Murphy, of Company D, in the left shoulder, and privates John Zito and Casper Siddell of the band, slightly, each in the leg, before he fell, pierced by twenty or more shot. Private Hugh Clark of Company D, who had dismounted for the purpose of shooting him with his carbine, was kicked and stunned by his horse, seeing which, the Indian rushed upon him with his lance and tried to kill him, but was so weak from the effect of his wounds that he inflicted only a slight wound. Chief Bugler Hausser also received a slight lance wound in the left breast. By this time the main body of the Indians, who were mounted on their best animals, were, at least, two miles from us, retiring at a rapid rate, and it being impossible to overtake them on account of the completely exhausted condition of our animals, the pursuit was discontinued. It affords me pleasure to be able to testify to the good behavior of the whole party, small as it was. Could we have possibly overtaken the whole of the Indians, I am satisfied that few, if any of them, could have escaped, although this was the first time most of the men had ever encountered hostile Indians. The captured animals, being collected together and counted, numbered in all twenty-eight. I will take this occasion to express my warmest thanks to Lieutenant Lowe for the kind and skillful manner in which he attended to the two wounded men—Clark and Murphy—who under his treatment were soon in a condition to be moved carefully, although the weather had become very disagreeable and rainy. About 4 p.m. the party moved back to the Indian camp of the night before, and encamped for the night, an express having previously been sent back for my spring wagon to meet us on the

road. On the 27th, we made about fourteen miles; rained several times during the day with a heavy mist at night. August 28, had made about fourteen miles when we were met by the express with my wagon and the hospital steward; and, after preparing a pallet of blankets for Murphy and Clark, made about fourteen mile further, and encamped near the overland road. Night very damp and foggy. August 29, made about thirty miles on the overland road; clear, bright day and night. August 30, reached Camp Cooper about 6 p.m., having marched nearly the whole day through the rain, arriving just in time to be able to cross the Clear Fork [before it became unfordable from the rise].”



Ruin of a house at the site of Camp Cooper.

Major Thomas says that they traveled, after striking the Indian trail about forty miles the first day, and about a mile and a half the second day before they reached this “deep ravine,” in following these Indians. To fit the descriptions of Major Thomas on the ground as it lies now-a-days, it would require only about 25 miles to cover the distance. Possibly Major Thomas used elastic terms in stating his facts; possibly the ground has shrunk in the last eighty-four years on account of exposure to the elements! His express, sent out after his wagon, must have overtaken the wagon before it reached Camp Cooper, as the latter was at least 75 miles away; and the wagon had not had time to reach camp and return within the time allowed.

The report of Major Thomas of this reconnaissance with its incidental chase of eleven Indians, and its fight with one Indian, was duly made to Colonel Robert E. Lee, then the Commander of the Department of Texas, and with his well known courtesy Colonel Lee endorsed in modest language his commendation of the actions of Major Thomas; and thus the entire incident was buried in the archives

of the War Department and in its never-read printed volume of reports and actions for the year in which it occurred.

To the ordinary reader, after this narration, several questions might suggest themselves. For instance: (1) How did the commanding officer happen to take along the regimental band; and were these bandmen armed with guns or just with their band instruments so that they might entertain the entire party while in camp on the prairies of West Texas? (2) How did it happen that Major Thomas stopped his entire force of twenty or more men to “dispatch” one lone Indian, armed only with a lance and a bow and arrows, while the ten other Indians were riding away to safety? (3) After being out for more than a month “hunting” for wild Indians and returning to his camp in leisurely fashion, with a good night’s rest for his horses, would it not appear somewhat strange that his horses would become so fagged out after chasing the Indians that morning about five miles—according to his statement so that it was impossible to follow the body of the Indians any further? (4) And does Major Thomas’ explanation make a satisfactory explanation? He seems, from his account, to have been entirely satisfied to stop and dispatch the one Indian who was “more persevering than the rest,” and let the others go. But they recovered twenty-eight horses which were presumable stolen.

This lone Indian, facing the oncoming squad of twenty or more United States soldiers led by a major who afterwards became renowned as a general—“the rock of Chickamauga”—realized that he and his companions would in all probability be overtaken and that the odds were against them; and he thereupon deliberately counted the cost and sacrificed his own life that his companions might go on to safety; and he reckoned well, for his pals were saved. That character of action if it had been done by an American soldier in France, would have been acclaimed an act of supreme heroism and its actor would have gone down in the annals of the war as one of its heroes. But he was

just an Indian—only “more persevering than the rest.”

It is a tradition with apparently good basis, that Major Thomas was much more outspoken in his sympathy for the South in its attitude toward Secession, than was General Lee, before the war broke out. But on March 16, 1861, Lee was promoted out of the Second Cavalry, to be Colonel of the First Cavalry; and Colonel Albert Sydney Johnston and Majors Hardee and Van Dorn who were Major Thomas’ superior officers in the regiment, having resigned to join the Confederacy, Major Thomas became the Colonel of the regiment on May 3, 1861; and on August 17, following, he became a Brigadier General of Volunteers.

Major Thomas had fought Indians in Florida, and had been brevetted for gallantry in action; he had fought through the Mexican War and had been twice brevetted for gallantry in action; he afterwards fought through the War Between the States and received the thanks of Congress for defeating General John B. Hood and driving him out of Tennessee, coming out of that war a Major General. But a careful check of his military record fails to disclose where he was ever wounded in action but the one time, and that was when he stopped with his squad of soldiers to “dispatch” the lone Indian, while his companions made their escape. Shortly after that action, Major Thomas went on a long furlough, and was on that furlough when his rapid promotion commenced in April, 1861.

The life of General Lee is well known. He also was on furlough when the war began. He was called to Washington in the winter of 1860-61 by the Commanding General, Winfield Scott, when the lowering clouds of civil war were becoming ominous, and it is well authenticated that he was tendered supreme command of the United States military forces by General Scott and declined. Then he resigned his commission in the United States Army to join his fortunes with his native state of Virginia.

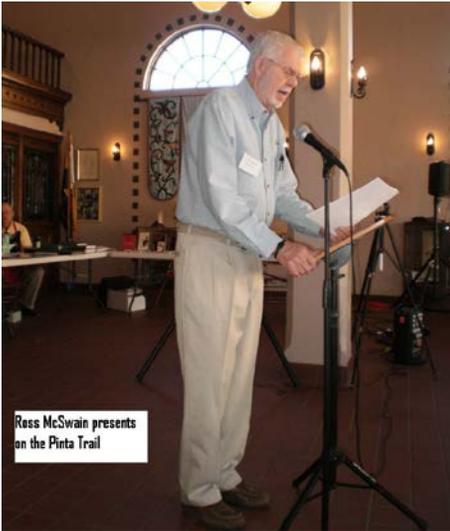
[All quotes are from Thomas’ report to Colonel Lee, dated headquarters, Camp Cooper, August 31, 1860, is found in the Report of the Secretary of War, being House Exec. Dec., (no. N). 36th Congress, 2nd Sess. (Washington, 1860), Vol. II, pp. 22-25.]

In Memory...

Long-time WTHA member **James Irving Fenton**, 78, of Lubbock passed away on May 26, 2011. Jim was a dedicated teacher and writer. He graduated with a Ph.D. in history from Texas Tech University. He wrote his dissertation on the environmental history of the Llano Estacado and went on to research and write on various West Texas topics that included the famous Tom Ross murder trial of the 1920s. He was a frequent patron at the Southwest Collection archives and a good friend of the association. He was a retired public school educator.

Allen Grady Hatley Jr. passed away on July 17, 2011, in Boerne, Texas. He was born June 24, 1930, in San Antonio. Hatley earned a bachelor’s and master’s degree in geology from Texas Tech University and worked as a geologist, negotiator and manager, spending nearly 30 years of his career in the international petroleum industry. He began a second career, graduating in 1988 from the Middle Rio Grande Law Enforcement Academy in Uvalde, Texas, at the age of 58, then retired from law enforcement in 1998. Hatley then started a third career as an award-winning freelance writer. He wrote extensively on western, Texas history and the petroleum industry. He was a frequent speaker and lecturer on his research and participated in educational exchanges in Texas and New Mexico. He also contributed articles for many western and military magazines.

NEWS AROUND WEST TEXAS



Ross McSwain presents a paper on the Pinta Trail at the Edwards Plateau Historical Association meeting.

WTHA board member **Ross McSwain** of San Angelo has announced the publication of his memoir, *Wornout Memories*, a family story that covers his long career as an award-winning journalist while covering some 54 counties of West Texas for the San Angelo *Standard-Times*. Since retiring from the newspaper in 1991, he has written nine non-fiction books about his beloved homeland, its people, places and things. He also shares his experiences in farming and ranching during the brutal 1950s Seven Year Drought, operating a feedstore and hatchery, truck driving and working in international marketing behind the Iron Curtain. The book is available at www.rossmcswain.com, and is priced at \$24.95 which includes shipping, postage and state tax. He can be contacted at yonder11@suddenlink.net.

J'Nell Pate co-authored a book with Dominick J. Cirincione, *Texas Sesquicentennial Wagon Train*, a photo book by Arcadia Publishing, released on August 22. This is the 25th anniversary of the wagon train that took six months to make its way around Texas back in 1986 to celebrate the 150th birthday of Texas.

Cirincione took the photos back in 1986, and Pate wrote the captions and chapter introductions. The train took six months to make a sort of zig-zag circular tour of Texas and came within about 100 miles of every community in Texas so that everyone could see the train if they wanted to. It is estimated that 10,000 people rode with the train at least one day, and many thousands saw it.

J'Nell Pate had a second book out in November, *Arsenal of Defense: Fort Worth's Military Legacy* published by the Texas State Historical Association. The book tells the entire military history of Fort Worth from its beginnings as a fort in 1849 to the present with chapters on the military base, defense plants, and even three pilot training fields and an army base in World War I, as well as the tremendous military activity in Fort Worth in World War II. This book is the result of many years of research.

A new book by **Patrick Dearen**, *Devils River : Treacherous Twin to the Pecos: 1535-1900* has recently been released by TCU Press. For more information contact Patrick Dearen at patrickdearen@msn.com.

Donald Whisenhunt recently announced the publication of his new book, *Veterans of Future Wars: A Study in Student Activism*. The Veterans of Future Wars (VFW) was a short-lived student movement that appeared in response to the bonus paid to World War I veterans in 1936. The new book is published by Lexington Books.

Jean Stuntz has recently published a chapter on the Southern Plains in *Women on the North American Plains*, just out from Texas Tech University Press.

The Spring 2011 issue of the *Concho River Review* includes **Joe W. Specht's** "'We'll Never See the Likes of It Again' – Elmer Kelton's Oil Patch Memories and *Honor at Daybreak*." Specht reprised the essay for the Chautauqua Lecture series at the Texas Frontier Heritage and Cultural Center in Buffalo Gap on January 14, 2012.

Laura Horner, who is working on a Masters Degree in the Texas Tech University Museum Science program, has joined the WTHA staff as the Editorial Research Assistant. She takes the place of Mr. **Robert Weaver** who graduated and gone on to join the staff of the Southwest Collection. Ms. Horner is from Cypress, Texas. She graduated from Sam Houston State University this past spring and was mentored by **Ty Cashion**, who has been a WTHA officer and board member.

The **Texas Aviation Heritage Foundation Incorporated (TAHFI)** is being re-activated and it will resume its goal of promoting aviation research and history in Lubbock and West Texas. **TAHFI** was founded in 1997 when Reese AFB closed and was primarily responsible for bringing Silent Wings Museum from Terrell, Texas to Lubbock in 2002. **John McCullough** is TAHFI's newest board member and is also the Secretary for the organization.

Diana Davids Hinton's article, "The Seventeen-year Overnight Wonder: George Mitchell and Unlocking the Barnett Shale," will be published by the *Journal of American History* in a special issue on the petroleum industry to appear in June 2012.

Ramona Roberts of Plainview has been honored with the inaugural Historical Preservation Award presented by the Hale County Historical Commission.

WTHA YEAR BOOK editor **Monte Monroe**, Texas Tech University, announces the addition of an eight-member editorial review board, beginning with this year's publication. Members include **Tom Britten**, University of Texas-Brownsville; **Ty Cashion**, Sam Houston State University; **Arnoldo De Leon**, Angelo State University; **Harry Hewitt**, Midwestern State University; **Jorge Iber**, Texas Tech University; **Garry Nall**, Amarillo; **J'Nell Pate**, Azle; and **Jeff Shepherd**, University of Texas-El Paso. The review board should do much to reaffirm that our journal is peer reviewed. In fact, it should boost membership rolls and paper submissions to the journal.

Jean Stuntz has just published *The Alamo and the Zombies* with Yard Dog press. You can buy it at http://yarddogpress.com/the_alamo_the_zombies.htm for only \$6.00. It is a story for history buffs with a sense of humor and for 7th graders, suitable for young adults as well as adults.

Hutchinson County Museum announces the completion of its "Extreme Makeover," thanks to the work of staff, volunteers, community service workers, and generous donors.

Historical Artifacts and Photographs Sought for River Valley Pioneer Museum (Canadian, Texas) Historical artifacts and original photographs directly related to the history of Hemphill County and Canadian are being sought. Bill Green, retired curator of Canyon's Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, is overseeing an exhibit redesign project at the River Valley Pioneer Museum. To learn more or to discuss a donation of historical artifacts or photographs, please contact the museum at 806.323.6548, by email at info@rivervalleymuseum.org, or by mail at 118 North 2nd Street, Canadian, TX 79014.
<http://rivervalleymuseum.org>

UPCOMING:

April 14, 2012. San Jacinto Symposium, "Linking the Present to the Past: Preserving a Great Texas Battlefield". 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., The Houston Club, 811 Rusk, Houston, TX 77002. \$55 covers speakers, lunch, valet parking in The Houston Club Building, exhibits, book dealers and fellowship with Texas history buffs. <https://www.friendsofsanjacinto.com/sites>.

April 27-28, 2012. Texas Pathways: El Camino Real and the Southern Route to California – Trails that Shaped the Face of Texas, Hilton Garden Inn, 500 North IH 35, Austin Texas 78701 \$99 per night, single or double. Reserve by April 1st to ensure room-rate. Call (877) 782-9444 and mention "National Trails Symposium" when making reservations.

CALL FOR PAPERS:

The Cyclone seeks articles about historic sites on private land or in out-of-the-way places. The articles should be 500-750 words, written in popular rather than scholarly style. Photos are a plus. We also welcome short articles about local museums or historical societies or about archeological digs. Please query the editors with your ideas: Jim & Becky Matthews, 4230 Briarcrest, San Antonio, TX 78247 or email jbmatthews2@juno.com.



Golda Foster, Monte Monroe and Harold Jobs at the Edwards Plateau Historical Association meeting.

In Memory...

Long time member **Bob Fee** was a retired rancher and fan of West Texas history. He was plain spoken, forthright and a friend of the National Ranching Heritage Center, the West Texas Historical Association and the Southwest Collection. Fee passed away on September 12, 2011. On July 14th, he and Tai Kreidler visited Fee's childhood home town of Colorado City to tour the community and capture Fee's recollections of the town.

Julius DeVos of Fredericksburg, passed away at the age of 88 on August 21, 2011. Services were August 25 and interment was at the Hilda Cemetery, near Mason. Memorials should be made to the Hilda United Methodist Church... condolences may be sent to the family ONLINE at: masonfuneralhome.net.

A longtime luminary from Post has died. **Giles McCrary** was an oilman, investor, philanthropist, rancher and world traveling art collector, just to name a few of the hats he wore. He was the mayor of Post from 1969 to 1991. He served in the Army during World War Two, service which included the liberation of a concentration camp. McCrary was a major benefactor of the arts and to education, particularly to Texas Tech. McCrary was 91 years old.

WEST TEXAS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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The West Texas Historical Association Announces

A Scholarship for Those Interested in the Study of the History and Culture of West Texas In the Amount of \$750

Eligibility:

Scholarship is open to both high school seniors with a proven interest in history and historical research and undergraduate college students with a proven interest in history and historical research who also are declared history majors

1. Applicants must complete an official application by **April 15, 2012**.
2. All applicants must have a minimum of a 3.0 (B) grade point average.
3. All applicants must provide a current transcript to the scholarship committee.
4. Applicants must forward two letters of recommendation to the scholarship committee. One of the letters should be from a teacher, counselor or employer. The second should be a personal recommendation from someone other than a family member.

Notification:

All applicants will be notified upon completion of the evaluation process.

Contact:

Scholarship Committee, West Texas Historical Association
Box 41041, Lubbock, TX 79409-1041

THE CYCLONE

*A Newsletter for members of the West
Texas Historical Association*

Editors: Jim & Becky Matthews

Published twice a year (February and August) by the West Texas Historical Association, Lubbock, Texas. Members also receive the *Year Book*, published each fall, containing articles, news notes, and book reviews about West Texas history. Annual membership fees are \$10 for students, \$30 regular, \$35 family, \$50 sustaining, \$25 institutional/library. All back issues of the *Year Book*, published since 1925, are available for \$15 each.

Browse back issues of the Cyclone at our website <www.wtha.org> maintained by webmaster Lynn Whitfield.