



# THE CYCLONE



## WTHA in Amarillo for April 9-11, 2015

The upcoming Annual Meeting of the West Texas Historical Association is scheduled for **April 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015** in Amarillo, Texas. The meeting will be held on the campus of the Amarillo College. The hotel we are using in Amarillo is the **Staybridge Suites** located at 36 Western Plaza Drive in Amarillo, Texas 79109. **You can make reservations by calling (806) 367-9660. Be sure that you tell them you are part of the WTHA Conference so that you will get the WTHA rate of \$85.00 per night.** The program Committee is planning a full slate of interesting and informative presentations which will start early morning of Friday April 10<sup>th</sup> and continue to noon on Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup>. Per our tradition, the President's reception and dinner will be held on Friday night. The 5:30 P.M. reception is planned for the Bivins House, one of the first homes in Amarillo. The event will be hosted by Beth Duke, Executive Director of Center City Amarillo. Dinner will be held at 7:00 P.M. at the Polk Street Methodist Church, which is a few blocks away. Bus transportation for the conference will be provided by the Amarillo Convention Bureau. For more information, contact Robert Hall, Annual Conference Coordinator at [Robert.J.Hall@ttu.edu](mailto:Robert.J.Hall@ttu.edu). **Special Tours will be offered on Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday afternoon, April 11<sup>th</sup>.**

## West Texas Trails Meeting

Partial reprint of an article by Carol Campbell of Matador.

The inaugural meeting of the West Texas Trails met on October 25, 2014, in the Hope Community Center at Quitaque, **hosted by the Comanchero Canyons Museum and the West Texas Historical Association (WTHA).** The conference moderator was former WTHA president Marisue Potts, Matador, and WTHA Executive Director Tai Kreidler of the Southwest Collection, Texas Tech University.

About 80 guests from New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas attended the all-day meeting with a packed program including presenters from Silverton, Quitaque, Lubbock, Amarillo, Seymour, Granbury, Crowell, Floyd County, and Happy, Texas.

The keynote speaker was Dr. John Miller Morris, a Panhandle native from Clarendon, Texas, who currently is an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science and Geography at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

The title of his keynote presentation was "Trails to Destiny." He began by comparing West Texas trails to city trails: "wide open spaces to city grid lock; and pump jacks to car jacks"; but eventually

he took the audience on trails from our past into our future.

Following the keynote presentation, "The Quitaque Connections" featured Jerry Leatherman, Silverton, who spoke on the 1841 Texan Santa Fe Expedition where 327 men (270 were soldiers and the rest were merchants, politicians, and teamsters) with 20 huge laden wagons with a wide range of supplies, horses, and oxen, left Austin, Texas, to find a western trade route to Santa Fe, New Mexico

A presentation by brothers Bob Saul, Fort Worth, and Jim Saul, Quitaque, told the story of an old wagon road on their property. Known on surveyors' field notes and abstracts as "The Old Indian Trail," this trail extends onto the plains and parts of it are still visible today.

Duane Johnson, Crowell, spoke on the "Comanche Plunder Trail, and Neal Odom of Happy, whose great grandfather worked for Col. Goodnight, spoke on the Comanchero Trails, internet blogging and web technology. Dolores Mosser of Lubbock spoke to the group on "The Pastores' Trail of Living Water."

Following a barbecue lunch at the Tri-County Center, the group toured the new Comanchero Canyons Museum in Quitaque.

The afternoon program kicked off with "Carson's Military Trail to Adobe Walls," by Alvin Lynn, Amarillo. "The Mackenzie Trails" by Sam Watts of Floyd County and Granbury followed with a discussion on archival maps.

A third presentation, "Chihuahua Trade Trail" by Victoria Scism offered clues on how this crew chief documents their finds along an often faint trace. More information was forth-coming by Claude Hudspeth of San Angelo on using GPS, photographs, and software programs to document a trail.



Special Guest Speaker  
Dr. John Miller Morris – UT San Antonio.

# TOUR OF ALIBATES FLINT QUARRY

This Year is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Monument and the WTHA will tour there on **Thursday April 9, 2015.**

**Plan to join us for this tour.**

(Excerpts from Texas Beyond History Website)

Along the sloping canyon rims of the Canadian River Valley in the Texas Panhandle are signs of an industry that has spanned the course of human history in North America. Small pits and literally tons of stone manufacturing debris bear mute testimony to perhaps 13,000 years of quarrying a brilliantly colored stone known as Alibates flint. So prized was the material that prehistoric hunters traveled—or traded—over distances of a thousand miles or more to obtain it. Projectile points and other tools made of Alibates stone have been found in sites as far north as Montana, as far south as Central Mexico, and east to at least the Mississippi River.

Archeologists for years have puzzled over the scale and range of prehistoric activities that created these remarkable sites. It is likely that some workers in search of flint merely picked up exposed chunks or

cobbles lying on the ground. In fact, knappable cobbles of Alibates have eroded down the Canadian River



into western Oklahoma and as far east as Fort Smith in Arkansas. Other more enterprising Native workers chiseled boulders directly from the bedrock. Their quarrying activities left holes ranging from small depressions to broad pits ranging from 5 to 20 feet across and up to 2 feet deep. But what catches the eye for hundreds of yards beyond the pit perimeters are the quarry waste piles and tool-making debris blanketing the hillslopes: thousands of quarried chunks, tested cobbles, flakes, and tools in various stages of completion.(end)

Also, we will visit several local area museums and the **1874 Adobe Walls Battle Site.** Lunch is included. For information about tours - see [WTHA.ORG](http://WTHA.ORG) or email [robert.j.hall@ttu.edu](mailto:robert.j.hall@ttu.edu).

## Fall Is Membership Renewal Time.

There is still time to update your WTHA membership for 2014/2015. You can download a renewal form at [www.wtha.org](http://www.wtha.org) or simply renew online electronically. For more information regarding membership status email [wthayb@ttu.edu](mailto:wthayb@ttu.edu) or call 806-742-9076. See below for current membership rates.

## Women's Luncheon Planned

Cecelia Venable of Corpus Christi, Marisue Potts of Motley County and others are planning a Women's History Luncheon with a special speaker at 11:30 AM, Friday April 10th at the Amarillo Annual Conference. Everyone with an interest in Women's History is invited. If you would like to assist in planning please contact them at:

[marisue.potts@wtha.org](mailto:marisue.potts@wtha.org);  
[Cecilia.venable@wtha.org](mailto:Cecilia.venable@wtha.org).

## THE CYCLONE

*A Newsletter for members of the West Texas Historical Association*  
Published twice a year by the West Texas Historical Association, Lubbock, Texas. Browse back issues of the Cyclone at [www.wtha.org](http://www.wtha.org)

## WEB PAGE

*A Website for members of the West Texas Historical Association*  
Editor: Lynn Whitfield

The site lists association news, conference updates, and membership forms for new members. Members are encouraged to submit professional and organization news and photographs. Please send those to [Lynn.Whitfield@ttu.edu](mailto:Lynn.Whitfield@ttu.edu) or [wthayb@ttu.edu](mailto:wthayb@ttu.edu).

## SOCIAL MEDIA

*The WTHA Facebook is maintained for the benefit of members and affiliates who are interested in West Texas history.*

Editor: Wes Sheffield [wes.sheffield@wtha.org](mailto:wes.sheffield@wtha.org)

## MEMBERSHIP

Members receive *The West Texas Historical Review*, 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.

New members can join electronically at [www.wtha.org](http://www.wtha.org) or they can obtain information at [wthayb@ttu.edu](mailto:wthayb@ttu.edu).