



WEST TEXAS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Bankhead Highway – 1st Paved Highway To Span the U.S.

93rd Annual Meeting, April 8–9, 2016

Abilene, Texas



In Memoriam:

**L. Patrick Hughes, Austin
Harry Snapp, Denton**

Officers:

**Diana Hinton, Midland, President
John Miller Morris, Austin, Vice President**

2016 Program Committee:

**Troy Ainsworth, Chair, El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail
Association, NM.
Peggy Hardman, Socorro, NM.
Debbie Liles, University of North Texas
George Torok, El Paso Community College, El Paso.
Leland Turner, Midwestern State University, Wichita Falls.**

2016 Local Arrangements Committee:

**Austin Allison, Lubbock
John Caraway, Abilene
Rob Fink, Abilene
Tiffany Fink, Abilene
Robert Hall, Pittsburg
Freedonia Paschall, Lubbock
Joe Specht, Abilene
Lynn Whitfield, Lubbock**

Cover: An untitled 1932 oil painting by George Sanderson Bickerstaff, displayed at the Buffalo Gap Historic Village in the unincorporated Taylor County, Texas, town of the same name, near Abilene. The Lyda Hill Texas Collection of Photographs in Carol M. Highsmith's America Project, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division



West Texas Historical Association
93rd Annual Meeting—Abilene

Thursday April 7

6:15 P.M. “Lead-Off” Session for the 93rd Conference:

Baja Room

A Titanic Personality and a Time it Never Rained

- Jerod Haines, Wayland Baptist University, “The Filthy ’50s: The 1950-1957 Drought and Its Impact on the Queen City of the South Plains—Plainview”
- Bill O’Neal, Texas State Historian, Sam Houston, Texas Icon”

7:15 P.M. Early Bird Dinner

Baja Room



Friday April 8

Registration: 8:00 A.M. – Playa Area (near hotel entry and stairwell).

Vendors. Playa Area (near hotel entry and stairwell).

Silent Auction: 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. The Royal Room.
To benefit the Student Scholarship Fund – Viewing and Bidding

Session II, 9:00-10:15 A.M

Rock 'n Roll from the Key City to El Chuco

Acapulco Room

Lynn Whitfield, Texas Tech University, Chair

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

Andy Wilkinson, Texas Tech University, “Drawing the Line: the Music, Art, and
Architecture of Dow Patterson”

Robert Reitz, Dallas, Texas, “I Fought the Law and We Both Lost—The Tragic Life of El
Paso Rock 'n Roller Bobby Fuller”

**Texas Media Interpretation of the 2015 Military Vehicles Preservation Association
Bankhead Highway Convoy**

Embassy Room

Tim Chandler, Hardin-Simmons University, Chair

Hardin-Simmons students will present a multi-media presentation on their work to
document the Bankhead Highway Convoy through Taylor County in October 2015

HSU Dog-Days, Abilene Art, and Tracking the Big-Foot Wallace Gun

Robert Weaver, Texas Tech University, Chair

Cancun Room

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

Rob Fink, Abilene, Texas, “Bringing Art to West Texas: The Abilene Women’s Forum
Art Unit and the Great Depression”

Eric Joffrion, Coleman, Texas, “Hunting for Big Foot Wallace’s Gun”

Session III, 10:30-11:45 A.M.

Trails and Roads across West Texas

Acapulco Room

Glen Ely, Fort Worth, Chair

Sylvia Gann Mahoney, Fort Worth, Texas, "The Great Western Trail: Searching Fiction, Fabrication, Trail Segments, and Historical Events to Verify Its Name"

Barbara Brannon, Texas Plains Trail, "Road to Nowhere, or Great Plains Highway?: West Texas' Role in Creating Canada-to-Mexico Route in the Early Automobile Era"

Paul Chaplo, Fort Worth, Texas, "Marfa Flights: Aerial Photography of the Big Bend Country"

Central Texas Historical Association

Cancun Room

Jean Stuntz, West Texas A&M University, Chair

John Gorman, Prairie View A&M University, "Reconstruction Violence along the Brazos River"

Charles Swanlund, Blinn College, "Making Sense of Frontier Violence"

Kenneth W. Howell, Blinn College "The American Civil War: Beyond 1865"

"National History Day Competition - State Qualifiers. Cooper High School Student Essays"

Embassy Room

Rob Fink, Abilene, Texas, Chair

11:45 AM-1:00 PM

Women's History Luncheon: The Baja Room, MCM Elegante Hotel. The event is an open forum lunch for conference attendees interested in Women's History and will highlight current research trends and topics. Attendees should sign-up via the conference registration form @ wtha.org. For more information, contact Marisue.Potts@wtha.org or Cecilia.Venable@wtha.org.

Session IV, 1:00-2:15 PM

The Challenges of Writing and Publishing Women's History

Acapulco Room

Marisue Potts, Mott Creek Ranch, Chair

This panel will feature—

Shelley Armitage, Walking the Llano;

Barbara Brannon, The Paragraph Ranch;

Rosa Latimer, The Harvey Houses;

Leland Turner, Texas Women Ranchers

Local Leaders in the Building of Early Lubbock

Cancun Room

Monte Monroe, Texas Tech University, Chair

Jennifer Spurrier, Texas Tech University, "Frank Wheelock, a Man of Firsts"

Jack Becker, Texas Tech University, "Isham Tubbs, Forgotten Founder of Lubbock"

Paul Carlson, Ransom Canyon, Texas, "W. E. Raynor and the Founding of Lubbock"

New Research on Cornelia Adair and the JA Ranch

Embassy Room

Light Cummins, Austin College, Chair

Alex Hunt, West Texas A&M University, "Cornelia Adair: New Archival Findings"

Robin Boedeker, West Texas A&M University, "The Wadsworth Family Papers at the Library of Congress"

Dollie Lookingbill, West Texas A&M University, "James W. Wadsworth, Jr. and the JA Ranch"

Session V, 2:30-3:45 PM

The Bankhead Highway in Texas

Acapulco Room

Joe Specht, McMurry University, Chair

Dan L. Smith, Fort Worth, "The Bankhead Highway in Texas"

April Garner, Texas Historical Commission, "Driving Tourism along the Bankhead Highway"

Dale Rankin, Tuscola, Texas, "Abilene Courts: Past, Present, and Future?"

Bovine Hockey Pucks and Sports in West Texas

Cancun Room

William Tydeman, Texas Tech University, Chair

Leland Turner, Midwestern State University, "Murdo Mackenzie: the Brazil Years"

Bob Brinkman, Texas Historical Commission, "First and Ten: Football Origins of West Texas Colleges"

Troy M. Ainsworth, Los Lunas, New Mexico, "The Intercollegiate Athletic Association that Never Was: The Staked Plains Conference, 1929-1930"

"National History Day Competition - State Qualifiers. Cooper High School Student Essays"

Embassy Room

Rob Fink, Abilene, Texas, Chair

Session VI: 4:00-5:15 PM

East Texas Historical Association

Acapulco Room

Chuck Parsons, Luling, Texas, Chair

Milton Jordan, Georgetown, Texas, "J. Mason Brewer and the Lore of the Black Cowboy"

Richard Orton, Nacogdoches, Texas, "The Upshaws of County Line"

Scott Sosebee, Stephen F. Austin State University, "Lone Star Suburbs: A Fresh Look at the Suburban Process in the Lone Star State"

Scams, Fallen Doves, and Border Issues

Embassy Room

Cecilia Venable, University of Texas at El Paso, Chair

Bill Neal, Abilene, Texas, “Skullduggery, Secrets, and Murders: The 1894 Wells Fargo Scam that Backfired”

Timothy E. Nelson, Las Cruces, New Mexico, “The Best Whorehouse in ‘Little Texas’: Afro-Frontierism and the Greater Borderland, 1912 to 1930”

Richard Hancock, Norman, Oklahoma, “A Practical Solution to Illegal Immigration”

Projects and Resources of the Center for Big Bend Studies

Cancun Room

Tom Crum, Granbury, Texas, Chair

William A. Cloud, Sul Ross State University, “Prehistoric Caches in the Big Bend: Some Meant for Retrieval, Others Not”

Richard W. Walter, Sul Ross State University, “Potters of the Big Bend”

Roger D. Boren, Sul Ross State University, “Discovering the J. Charles and Ellen A. Kelley Memorial Library”



West Texas Historical Association

Founded 1924

Friday Evening

- 6:00 PM Reception Honoring President Diana Hinton in the multi-purpose room of the Johnson Building at the Hardin-Simmons University campus
- 6:30 PM Banquet Multi-purpose room – President Diana Hinton, Presiding.
- 7:00 PM Keynote Speaker, Glen Ely, Awarding Winning Historian and Author.

**“The Butterfield—A Lifetime of Tracking the Trail
Across West Texas”**

Glen Sample Ely is a Texas historian and documentary producer. Ely earned his Ph.D. from Texas Christian University. In 1999, the Texas Historical Commission honored him with its Award of Excellence in Preserving History. Ely was a co-founder and board member of the Excellence in West Texas History Fellowship Program that awarded eight post-doctoral fellowships totaling \$360,000. He is the author of *Where the West Begins: Debating Texas Identity*, published by Texas Tech University Press, which won WTHA's Richardson Award for best book in 2012. His newest book, just published by University of Oklahoma Press, is a 25-year study entitled *The Texas Frontier and the Butterfield Overland Mail, 1858-1861*. One recent review called this "A monumental work crafted with great care."



Saturday April 9

Registration. 8:00 – 11:00 A.M

Silent Auction. 8:00 to 10:00 A.M. The Royal Room. Bidding will close at 9:30 AM

Session VII: 8:15-9:30 A.M

Education, Atomic Energy, and Military Medicine in West Texas Cancun Room

Rob King, Texas Tech University, Chair

Suzanne Campbell, Angelo State University, “Hardin-Simmons University and the Manhattan Project”

Duncan Knox, Texas Tech University, “Applied Pressure: Vietnam Medical History Through the Eyes of American Veterans”

John Caraway, Cisco College, “One College, Two Campuses: Seventy-five Years of Cisco College”

Native American and Pioneer History in West Texas

Acapulco Room

Bruce Glasrud, San Antonio, Chair

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

Jodella K. Dyreson, Penn State University, “Hunting for the Indian Wars at the U.S. Army War College Archives; or, How to Research West Texas History while Living in Central Pennsylvania”

Jean Stuntz, West Texas A&M University, “Hijinks on the High Plains

Moments on the South Plains of Texas

Embassy Room

Linda Puckett, Garza County Historical Commission, Chair

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

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

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

Session VIII: 9:45-11:00 A.M

Native Americans in West Texas

Cancun Room

Penny Clark, Lamar University, Chair

Sherry Robinson, Albuquerque, New Mexico, "Traders, Raiders, and Scouts: Lipan Apaches on the West Texas Frontier"

Holle Humphries, Lubbock, Texas, "Quanah Parker was Never Here—Or Was He?": Revealing Comanche Haunts and Trails Little Known to Texans of the High Plains Today"

James Hays, Brownwood, "Four Fights at Salt Mountain"

Cattle, Sheep, and Wildlife Management

Acapulco Room

Debbie Liles, University of North Texas, Chair

Montie Guthrie, Santa Anna, Texas, "Before Barbed Wire: John S. Chisum in Coleman County"

Laura Cannon, Texas Tech University, "LULAC and Los Tasinques: LULAC's Civil Rights Strategy and Conflicting Responses to the Del Rio Sheep Shearers' Strike of 1934"

David Todd, Conservation History Association of Texas, "Data, Maps, and the Desert Bighorn Sheep"

Researching Texas History at Midwestern State University

Embassy Room

Leland Turner, Midwestern State University, Chair

Kristen Johnson, Midwestern State University, "Fort Hood Free Grazers: Government Grasslands and the Central Texas Cattlemen's Association

Alex Van Allen, Midwestern State University, "Two Decades in Still Images: the Photographs of Charles A. Fuhs"

Philip Chisum, Midwestern State University, "Professional Baseball is Through in Wichita Falls: the 1957 Spudders Baseball Season"

Session IX: 11:15 A.M.-12:30 P.M

Hide Hunters- A Hands-on History: The Methods, Materials, and Mooar

Peggy Kelton, Permian Historical Society, Chair

Acapulco Room

Henry B. Crawford, of Lubbock, Texas, and Michael McCormack, of Abilene, Texas, will discuss the background history of buffalo hunting on the South Plains of Texas in the late Nineteenth Century, particularly the hunting acumen of John Wesley Mooar, and demonstrate the use of various buffalo-hunting tools, implements, and weapons.

Genealogy, DNA, and History: Best Practices, Current Trends and New Breakthroughs

Suzanne Campbell, Angelo State University, Chair

Embassy Room

Susan Ball, San Angelo Genealogical and Historical Society, "Whose Genes are You Wearing?": DNA Basics and More"

Texas Cattlemen

Cancun Room

Bill Neal, Abilene, Texas, Chair

Norman Wayne Brown, Snyder, Texas, "Cattle King Clay Mann's Secret Past"

Deborah Liles, University of North Texas, "Before Freedom Came: Slaves and the Livestock Industry in Texas"

Chuck Parsons, Luling, Texas, "John Wesley Hardin: A Trail Driver?"

Saturday Awards and Business Lunch: 12:30–2:00 PM. Baja Room

- Mrs. Percy (Ruth Leggett) Jones Best Article Award
- Rupert Richardson Best Book Award
- Elmer Kelton Best Fiction Award
- Best Student Essay Award
- R. C. Crane Heritage Service Award
- Student Scholarship
- Election of officers

Presidential Address:
WTHA President Diana Hinton

2:00 PM Saturday Afternoon Tour of Abilene

Back Page: "Longhorn steer, raised at Abilene State Park, Abilene, Texas." c 1980. Photographs in the Carol M. Highsmith Archive, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.

