



THE CYCLONE



WTHA Award Recipients for 2018



Freedonia Paschall (pictured above) and Tom Alexander were named Fellows of the West Texas Historical Association for 2018.

Mrs. Percy "Ruth Leggett" Jones Best Article Award - Jessica Tharp for "Prohibition in San Angelo: The Persistence of Demon Rum."

Rupert Richardson Award for the Best History of West Texas - Janet M. Neugebauer for "A Witness to History: George H. Mahon, West Texas Congressman."

R. C. Crane Heritage Service Award – The Lubbock Heritage Society.

WTHA 2018 Fellows – Tom Alexander and Freedonia Paschall.

1864 Midnight Battle Near Fort Lancaster

by Patrick Dearen

Historians must always go where the evidence leads.

For years, I accepted as fact the account of a Civil War-era battle near Fort Lancaster. Indeed, in my 1993 book *Crossing Rio Pecos* (TCU Press), I wrote of this event and cited R. H. Williams' 1908 work *With the Border Ruffians*. Not until 2010, while researching my Richardson Award-winning *Devils River: Treacherous Twin to the Pecos, 1535-1900* (TCU Press, 2011), did I realize that documentary evidence challenges the Williams account.

According to Williams, *Border Ruffians*, 343-348, 363-373, Captain R. H. Williams and Texas State Troops, soon after capturing ten Confederate deserters near Beaver Lake in late winter of 1864, reconnoitered Fort Lancaster for Union hostiles and found only empty ruins. After ten weeks of chasing ghosts, however, a genuine threat supposedly materialized, although it



comprised not federals but 300 to 500 lawless Californians and deserters. These renegades reportedly raided both sides of the border from a base in "difficult brushy country" between Fort Lancaster and the Rio Grande. Apprised of the situation, a Major Hunter started west along the Lower Road in April 1864 with Williams and approximately 575 Rangers. Passing through the Devils country, the Ranger force arrived in the vicinity of Fort Lancaster after a nine-day march. At a wooded bluff before dawn on the eleventh day, they launched a surprise attack that killed

thirty-five renegades, severely wounded another twenty, and drove the survivors into Mexico. Fourteen Rangers fell, with eight eventually dying of their wounds. Also see J. Marvin Hunter, "Midnight Battle at Fort Lancaster," *Frontier Times* 21, No. 9 (June 1944), 367-370, which is drawn from *Border Ruffians*.

No evidence has surfaced to corroborate the *Border Ruffians* story of a Fort Lancaster-area skirmish between Texas forces and lawless Californians and deserters. Moreover, R. H. Williams clearly could not have participated in an expedition to Fort Lancaster in April 1864; see "Report of Captain R. H. Williams of Frio County," dated 23 April 1864, in "Consolidated Report of Scouts against Indians and Deserters by the Texas State Troops Commanded by Major Jas. M. Hunter, 3rd Frontier Dist., Texas State Troops, at Fredericksburg, Texas, May 14, 1864," Texas State Archives. (cont. on p2.)

Fort Lancaster

(Cont. from p1.) From the time of its publication, *Border Ruffians* was criticized for its inaccuracies; see “Book Reviews and Notices,” *The Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association* Vol. 12, No. 3 (January 1909), 240-241. For a more recent examination, see Glen Sample Ely, “Gone from Texas and Trading with the Enemy: New Perspectives on Civil War West Texas,” *SHQ* [Southwestern Historical Quarterly] Vol. 110, No. 4 (April 2007), 454-455, and Glen Sample Ely, “Skulduggery at Spencer’s Ranch: Civil War Intrigue in West Texas,” *Journal of Big Bend Studies* Vol. 21 (2009), 23-24. In *Skulduggery*, Ely suggests that “Major Hunter” was Major Sherod Hunter and equates Williams’ account with Sherod Hunter’s summer 1864 expedition west on the Lower Road. Sherod Hunter reportedly met with failure when Indians attacked his force at Fort Lancaster; see Mamie Yeary, compiler, *Reminiscences of the Boys in Gray, 1861-1865* (Dallas: Smith and Lamar, 1912), 449.

Williams died in 1904, and the level of his participation in producing the posthumously published *Border Ruffians* is unclear. The introduction, presumably by his editor (and younger brother) E. W. Williams, states that the volume was based largely on R. H. Williams’ diaries and notes, supplemented by “many a yarn” he related (*Border Ruffians*, xix). Of the period incorporating the alleged Lancaster battle, the author unequivocally asserts that he was drawing upon R. H. Williams’ November 1864 notes of “anything [he] could remember of importance” [*Border Ruffians*, 310; also see Tony Mandara, “R. H. Williams: The English Texas Ranger,”

Confederate Historical Association of Belgium, <http://chab-belgium.com/pdf/english/Williams.pdf>, accessed 13 May 2010).

Nevertheless, it is impossible to determine how much of the battle account stems from those early notes as opposed to recollections. Moreover, E. W. Williams, in his role as editor after R. H. Williams’ death, was in a position to interpolate, embellish, and even fictionalize without oversight on the part of his brother.

In regard to geographic matters, *Border Ruffians* is consistent with other nineteenth century descriptions of the Devils country, suggesting that R. H. Williams had firsthand knowledge. In his April 23, 1864 “Report of Captain R. H. Williams of Frio County,” he states that “the country we scout in is from the Frio to the Nueces and west of it,” a region that could well have included the Devils. His report adds an intriguing comment: “This portion of the country is becoming inflicted by bands of deserters, who are generally well armed and mounted.” [Much of the above is from Patrick Dearen, *Devils River: Treacherous Twin to the Pecos, 1535-1900* (Fort Worth, TCU Press, 2011), 184-185.]



Rhonda Weaver and Cheryl Lewis at the 2018 WTHA Conference.



Elmer Kelton and Becky Matthews at the Southwest Collection for the 1998 Elmer Kelton Exhibit Opening and Reading.

Looking Back...1998

In 1998, the West Texas Historical Association, which had recently moved its offices to Texas Tech University in Lubbock, held the seventy-fifth annual meeting in its original home, Abilene, with the conference being hosted again by Hardin-Simmons University. The conference included 24 papers presented in eight sessions. Paul Carlson was named Interim Executive Director of the association and many points of business in connection with the move to Lubbock were discussed. It was suggested the *Cyclone* be published twice a year as a professional grade newsletter. A resolution passed thanking Hardin-Simmons University for its long association with WTHA and especially for the services of its faculty members including Rupert Richardson, Ken Jacobs and B. W. Aston. Aston was honored for his 24 years of service as Executive Director. David Murrah, in making the presentation to Dr. Aston, commented that B. W. had answered “a clarion call – to be devoted to his mentor Dr. Richardson, to his university and to this organization.” During his tenure, B. W. Aston increased the assets of the West Texas Historical Association from around \$10,000 to over \$125,000.

The Painted Rocks of Concho County, Texas: A Forgotten National Monument

By Otto Goetz

[Condensed from the 1945 West Texas Historical Association Year Book]

Less than a century ago the lands along the Concho River were the hunting grounds and domain of the Comanche Indians, the "Centaur of the Plains," often disputed by the Apaches, Lipans, Kiowas and other nomadic tribes who roamed the vast tablelands of Texas, hunting buffalo or on raiding expeditions. The Comanche remained the masters, and woe to the pioneer and his family if they ventured too far into the forbidden territory.

The Indians have gone. The nomadic tribes, who subsisted almost entirely on the meat of the buffalo, had only temporary shelters or tepees, and such were these who roamed the high plains of Texas. They left us only their artifacts, implements of war, cooking utensils found on old camp or battle grounds; and aside from these, the many pictographs and petroglyphs, signs and symbols on cliffs, the walls of caves and other protected and sheltered places. These will prove themselves to be by far the most valuable heritage, a history not only of the Indian tribes but also a record of events.

We stand today before these paintings, these puzzling designs, wondering what thought or idea the maker wished to convey to his fellow men, or what occurrence he intended to commemorate for posterity.

Nowhere else in Texas did the Indians leave such an extensive record, or shall we call it outdoor picture gallery, as on the cliffs of the Concho River north of the town of Paint Rock, forty-two miles east of San Angelo. They are known as the "Painted Rocks of Concho County."

Archeologists and ethnologists are recreating the ancient history of the Mayas, Toltecs, Aztecs, Incas and the other more highly developed nations of North, Central and South America

from the hieroglyphics and symbols of the excavated monuments and temples. But in the history of America north of the Rio Grande are by far too many century-long blank pages. Perhaps Painted Rocks and the many other pictographs and petroglyphs throughout the country could supply the missing chapters.

There is no telling how many nations or tribes passed by the Painted Rocks, how many sojourned in its vicinity. Painted Rocks was the southern gateway to the *Llano Estacado*, the Staked Plains, the great buffalo hunting grounds. Since the majority of Indian tribes subsisted on the meat of the buffalo, travel by the Painted Rocks was not an occasional occurrence, but constant. Moreover from the many ceremonial illustrations on the face of the cliff, we are justified in assuming that Painted Rock and its vicinity was a sanctuary free from combat and strife within its sacred precinct.

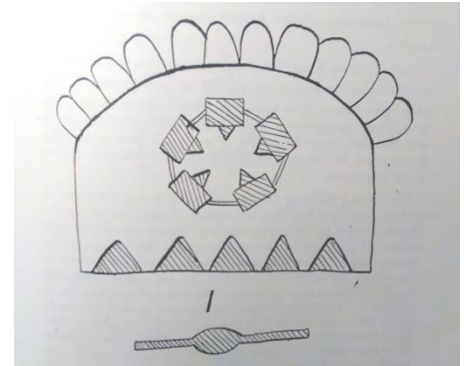
The importance of the Painted Rocks picture inscriptions is emphasized by the monument erected by the State of Texas on the brow of the cliff. It reads:

FOR OVER HALF OF A MILE THE FACE OF THE CLIFF BELOW IS COVERED WITH MORE THAN 1,500 INDIAN PICTOGRAPHS, BY FAR THE GREATEST ASSEMBLY OF INDIAN SIGNS IN THE STATE OF TEXAS.

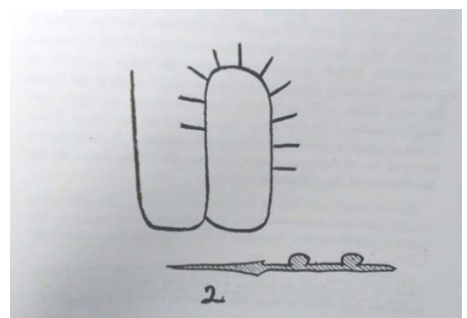
Our knowledge of the interpretation of these signs is still in its infancy. So far we lack standard rules and precepts to guide us; therefore, our present explanation is more or less speculative. Nevertheless they may be regarded as plausible solutions based on today's knowledge of the Indian's manner of expressing their thoughts.

First of all, the Painted Rocks of Concho County are a vast storehouse, an archive library of historical

information in the lives of the aborigines, written in signs, symbols and figures not yet properly understood. When once correctly interpreted they will supply the missing pages in our continental history. There are pictures of the face of this cliff which permit one interpretation, even though we are not able to identify them with any specific event on account of the multiplicity of similar instances to which they might apply.



In Figure Number 1 we have the joint meeting of five tribes; they are represented in the council by the orators. The upper three tribes have been given an unlimited hunting ground to the north, while the two tribes to the lower part of the picture take the southern region, including the mountain range shown at the bottom. The treaty among five tribes might apply to any of the many alliances among the tribes during the last two decades of the eighteenth century.



The same applies to Figure Number 2, a council of ten chiefs who emerge from the conference with a single mind and purpose. The knotted, joined-

together rope at the top signifies the indissoluble union entered into, while the double calumet at the bottom the illustration refers to the harmony and unanimity of the deliberations.

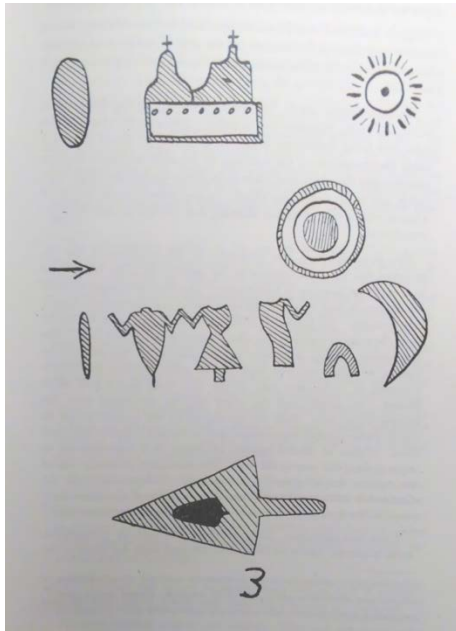


Figure Number 3 can be definitely identifies as referring to the massacre of the two Franciscan monks and 17 soldiers at the San Saba Mission forty miles southeast of the Painted Rocks on March 16, 1758.

The three figures joined, the heads apparently having disappeared through erosion represent left to right, a priest in his chasuble, the other two being Franciscan monks in their habits; above them is a crude representation of the mission; to the right of this is the sun, showing that the attack was made in or about the middle of the day; below this is the Comanche shield; on the bottom of the picture is a spear with a clot of blood, showing that the killing had been accomplished.

This dastardly deed was prompted by the suspicion of the Comanche that the establishment of the mission in 1756 (which was to convert the Apaches to Christianity) signified an alliance between the Spaniards and Apaches, the latter being the Comanches' hereditary enemies. On March 2, 1758, the Comanches stole 62 horses from the mission pastures, the attack occurring two weeks later. The Comanches, gaining admission to the interior of the mission by making friendly overtures, induced the priest,

Alonzo de Giralda Terreros, to accompany them to the fort three and a half miles distant. No sooner had the priest left the compound than the Indians killed him. This was the signal for the general attack in which Padre Joseph Santiestevan and seventeen soldiers lost their lives. Miguel de Molina escaped by hiding in a log house and at night making his way to the fort. The chronicler evidently was of the opinion that all three Franciscan monks had perished. To the Comanches this was a great victory over the allies of their enemies, the Apaches, hence its commemoration on inscription cliff.

There are more than 1,500 of these painting or pictographs, some in groups, others by themselves, ranging from the crude to the more symmetrical and artistic. They can be classified as representing commemorations of treaties; meetings of the buffalo herds; the pictographs record of the transition period from the prehistoric to the coming of the Spaniards, the missionaries, and the Christian influence; the coming of the God-dog, the horse; the long stick spitting fire from its throat (the white man's gun); the abduction of children to be adopted into the tribe; the coming of the longhorn Texas steer; soldiers represented by pennants.

The ever-present symbol of the sun in its varied forms comes close to our frequent reference to the Deity; although the sun in itself is not with all tribes the supreme divinity, it is the all-creative force without whose energy there could be no life. And still with the western Indians the rain god or goddess occupied and almost equal rank, for on his or her benevolence depended the replenishing of the grasslands which provided pasture for the buffalo. So we see the sign of the rain in its diversified forms intermingled with the many ceremonial scenes illustrating dancing priesthoods or members of the different clans supplicating the deities for the life-sustaining rains.

Some of the paintings are made even earlier, almost obliterated drawings. No doubt but that the cliff

has been used as a recording place for events from time immemorial.

Many of the pictographs have been damaged by erosion or abrasion, and too many by man himself, who seems to be impelled by an irresistible urge to carve or paint his name or initials upon anything which attracts public attention.



A Monument to the Texas Rangers

To the State of Texas Painted Rocks is not only a monument of America's yesteryears, but also a reminder of the deeds of its most valiant fighting men, the Texas Rangers.

Histories and biographies have been written about the deeds and exploits of the Texas Rangers. Their most outstanding commanding officer, Major John Coffee Hays, is frequently eulogized for his personal courage, valor and brilliant leadership. Hays' participation in the driving out of the Mexican General Woll and his army from San Antonio, the engagements and battles at the Pedernales, Bandera Pass and Enchanted Rock, as well as the later services rendered by him and his men in the Mexican War, are all well authenticated. However, the greatest and last battle fought by him and his men with the Indians, the Great Battle of the Painted Rocks, so far cannot be confirmed by any official record in the state archives.

Reasons for this may be the destruction by fire of the records in the Adjutant General's office in 1855, and the later fire of the state capitol in 1881 which destroyed many official documents. Even more likely it was because the battle took place in May or June 1846, when the United States was already at war with Mexico. Hays and his men entered the service of the

United States army within a few days after the battle of Painted Rocks. One may conclude that inasmuch as Texas was in a state of turmoil and agitation with Texans of all ranks and professions flocking to the colors, the incident of the Painted Rocks battle might have been entirely overlooked.

All three leaders, Hays, McCulloch and Gillespie, later enlisted under General Zachary Taylor; Gillespie lost his life across the Rio Grande; and after the conclusion of the war Hays moved to California and became sheriff of San Francisco County.

Fortunately, however, we have the story of E. M. Harrison, one of the participants in the battle, as verified by another veteran of Jack Hays' command, who in 1914 came for a last look at the former battlefield and to visit the graves of his comrades.

Jim Dunn, a tenant of Judge Orland Sims who owns Painted Rocks, was host to the old veteran during his stay, and to Dunn the old man related his impression of the engagement. There are a few discrepancies in details between the two accounts. Harrison gave the number of Comanches as 600 Comanches. Dunn's statement is 400 mostly Comanches, perhaps some of the Kiowa allies. Harrison says 100 Indians, including their war chief, were killed. Dunn's version is that their losses were heavy, including their war chief. Harrison has only one Ranger wounded, while Dunn's guest says four died, two of whom are buried at the Painted Rocks. The Dunn version is by far more reasonable to accept than Harrison's. Both agree the battle lasted over two days.

It was the spring of 1846, while Hays and the two Ranger companies under Captain Richard Addison Gillespie and Captain Ben McCulloch were encamped above Castroville on the Medina River, that the Federal troops under General Zachary Taylor marched from Corpus Christi to Brownsville. Hays, hearing of this, rode to the latter place to offer his services and those of the Rangers under his command to aid in the Mexican War. During Hays' absence from camp, a strong band of Comanches

raided the section west of San Antonio. When Hays was notified of the Indian depredations, he hastily returned to camp and the next morning after his arrival started with Gillespie's company of almost forty men and two trailers, Placido the Tonkawa chief and a Cherokee by the name of Bill Chism, in pursuit of the marauders. Emory Gibson and E. M. Harrison were members of Captain Gillespie's company.



Hays and his men took the route via Bandera Pass to the Enchanted Rock, both places being the scene of former battles with the Comanches. The scouts having determined that the Indians were heading for the Painted Rocks of the Concho River, the Rangers took a short cut to that locality, arriving there in advance of the Indians.

Shortly thereafter the Indians came, a straggling bunch apparently in no hurry, nor had they any expectation of being pursued. After the first desultory exchange of bullets and arrows, more and more Indians constantly arriving, Hays realized that the Rangers were in danger of being overwhelmed by the great number of their enemies. He ordered his men to take shelter in a willow thicket north of the risen Concho River and east of the Painted Rocks. The protection of this grove with its dense undergrowth together with the fact that the Indians had only bows, arrows, and lances while the Rangers were armed with rifles and Colts, prevented the total annihilation of Hays' men.

For two days the Indians, yelling their blood-curdling war whoop made charge after charge, sweeping by the Rangers' position, and sending arrows and spears into the thicket in a vain attempt to wipe out the little force.

Cool-headedly Hays' men refrained from shooting until the Indians came within rifle range. Then they would send a well-aimed volley into the cavalcade, taking a terrific toll.

Exhausted by their vigil, having been kept on the alert by prowling Indians who under cover of darkness crawled close to camp, more to harass than to offer actual combat, ammunition and food running low, the Rangers awaited the dawn of the third day with some anxiety.

With the first graying light the Comanches renewed the attack more vigorously than on the previous days. Sweeping by the thicket on the swift ponies, they sent showers of arrows and lances in the Rangers' leafy fort, their terrifying war whoops enhanced by rage over their failure to exterminate a foe so insignificant in number compared to their own. They had ascertained the strength of the Ranger forces by counting the hoof prints in the trail; the discovery that they outnumbered the Rangers by more than ten to one exasperated and spurred the Comanches to greater effort.



At times the Indians descended directly on the thicket as though they intended to break through the underbrush in an attempt to annihilate the Rangers, but their well directed deadly fire from rifles and Colts brought the Comanches to a sudden stop amidst their fallen comrades and stampeding horses. Undaunted, however, the attack was renewed under the leadership of the fearless and courageous chief.

The chief was mounted on a superb horse, his head adorned with the horns of a buffalo with the heavy tuft from the animal's forehead almost covering his face, the ends of the strands of hair decorated with silver ornaments. A buckskin garment profusely painted

with signs and symbols and fringed on edges and seams, reached to his hips. He carried a long shield covered with buffalo hide which protected his entire body. The chief's valiant and reckless conduct elicited admiration from the Rangers. Many rifles selected him for a target. He seemed to have a charmed life, but this came to an end as he half turned in his saddle to urge his warriors, thus exposing the side of his body, still holding the shield in front of him. Major Hays took instantaneous advantage of this, and sent a bullet through the unprotected side. The chief tumbled from his horse mortally wounded. The Indians rushed forward to claim the body, but the Rangers' concentrated fire forced the warriors to retire. Now came an incident neither inspired by a command, consultation or hint. One of the Rangers mounted a horse, tied his rope to the saddlehorn, rode out and lassoed the dead chief around the neck and dragged him into the thicket. The Comanches, astonished by the white man's audacity, at first offered no resistance but finally rushed frantically forward to recover the body. Again the Rangers' deadly fire made them abandon the attempt.



The death of their leader ended the battle. The Indians lost about one hundred men; the Rangers killed at Painted Rocks and afterwards succumbing to wounds were four. The Comanches retired to the north. Hays broke camp; the exhaustion of his men, shortage of ammunition and provisions, and the expectation that the Comanches would return in greater numbers to avenge the defeat prompted him to retreat at once.

Arriving at the Medina River camp, Hays left the following morning for Austin where he was commissioned to raise a regiment of Rangers to serve under General Taylor in the Mexican War. The distinguished services rendered by Major Hays and the Texas Rangers in the war with our southern neighbor, in which the gallant Captain Gillespie lost his life, are well authenticated in many historical works.

The last historical date connected with the Painted Rocks and surrounding communities was the election held near Mullins Crossing in 1879, commemorated by a monument near the cliff bearing this inscription:

CONCHO COUNTY
CREATED FEBRUARY 1, 1858
ORGANIZED MARCH 11 1879
NAMED FOR THE RIVER WHICH
THE SPANIARDS CALL THE
CONCHO RIVER BECAUSE OF
THE MANY SHELLS THAT THEY
FOUND IN IT. PAINT ROCK, THE
COUNTY SEAT.

The Painted Rocks of Concho County on whose face the important events in the history of the aborigines are portrayed is indeed one of America's outstanding landmarks. The picture chronicles on the cliff reach into the by-gone ages, the continent's yesteryears, illustrate the transition period from Indian domination to White Man's coming and rule, ending with the victory of the Texas Rangers to whose memory the Painted Rocks should be dedicated.



Following the 2018 conference in San Angelo, members of the WTHA enjoyed a tour of the pictographs near the town of Paint Rock.

In Memory . . .

Capy Alexander, wife of Tom Alexander, passed away on August 20, 2018 in McKinney. Capy was born in Kiowa, Oklahoma on September 14, 1941 to Cecil and Margaret Stamps. She grew up in Borger, Texas and attended college at Texas Tech University. She then continued her studies at North Texas State University. In her professional career she worked as the Assistant Director of Public Relations for Neiman Marcus; Administration Manager for the Episcopal School of Dallas; Human Resources/Recruiting plus New Business Development for Electronic Data Systems (EDS); and edited ten books and two television scripts for her husband, Tom. Capy served as President of both the Gillespie County Republican Women and Republican Women of Kerr County. As a member of the Texas Federation of Republican Women she was a Board Member for nine years, served as a convention delegate for six years, and Chairperson of various committees. She was the recipient of the 10 Outstanding Republican Women Award in 2009. For the National Federation of Republican Women she served as Convention Delegate in both 2005 and 2009. She was a long and faithful member of the Episcopal Church. At St. Peter's in Kerrville, TX she was a leader in the Choir, founder and long-time President of the St. Jerome Guild (Parish Library) and known for her gracious spirit, warm smile and greeting for everyone. Upon moving from Kerrville to Wylie, TX in 2017, she became a member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in McKinney.

Ramona Roberts of Plainview passed away October 17, 2018. She was an enthusiastic collector of Hale County history. Monte Monroe of the Southwest Collection stated that she built and maintained "one of the finest collections of regional history and genealogy in all of the Texas Panhandle, if not West Texas." Ramona donated over 650 boxes of historical material to the collection at Texas Tech.

NEWS AROUND WEST TEXAS



Monte Monroe, Texas State Historian.

Governor Greg Abbott has appointed **Monte L. Monroe**, as the Texas State Historian for a term expiring in 2020. Monroe will be responsible for increasing public knowledge about the rich and diverse history of the state, encouraging the teaching of Texas history in public schools, consulting with state leaders to promote Texas history, and making presentations on Texas history topics.

He is the archivist of the Southwest Collection at Texas Tech University. Formerly editor of the *West Texas Historical Review*, he has taught and published widely on Texas history. He serves on the Texas Historical Records Advisory Board, the boards of the West and East Texas Historical Associations, is chair of the Texas State Historical Association Archives Committee, serves on the Executive Advisory Committee for the Handbook of Texas Women Online, and is a former board member of the Texas Map Society. He is a founding board member of the Humanities Center at Texas Tech, president of the Rotary Club of Lubbock Foundation, former president of the Downtown Rotary Club, and president of The Meriwether Society. He was Secretary General of the Pan American Taekwondo Union, an International Master Instructor and International Referee in Taekwondo, and officiated that sport at the Seoul and Barcelona Olympic Games. Monroe received a Bachelor of Arts from Stephen F. Austin State University and a Master of Arts and PhD. in history from Texas Tech University.

Suzanne Campbell, long Time Director of the West Texas Collection archive at Angelo State University, retired last summer. A good friend, colleague, and member, a WTHA Fellow, and past board member Campbell was one of the linchpins for West Texas research.

WTHA President **Jean Stuntz** and Board Member **Barbara Brannon** attended the two-day Texas Historical Commission quarterly meeting July in Amarillo.

Nicole DeGuzman is the new Executive Director of the Scurry County Museum in Snyder, Texas. She left her last assignment in Minnesota for the temperate climes of West Texas. You can contact her at scmdirector@snydertex.com.

Michael Grauer, curator of art at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum for the past 31 years, and curator of Western heritage for the past 15 years has taken a new position as the McCasland Chair of Cowboy Culture and Curator of Western Art at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. Grauer commented, "I have spent over half my life in this institution. Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum and the Panhandle-Plains region is under my skin and fingernails, in my blood, and in my bones, and I wish this fine museum only the best.

Donald Beard, superintendent of Caprock Canyon State Park presented "The Texas State Bison Herd - An American Icon" at the Texas Tech University Library Croslin Room on July 24. The presentation was hosted by Texas Tech Friends of the Libraries.

Wheeler County reports that **Dr. Elizabeth Louden** will work on compiling an architectural assessment of the historic stone school house. **Ada Lester** of the Wheeler County Historical Commission reported that it is very gratified in taking the first step in the preservation of one Wheeler County's more important historic

structures. Dr. Louden is recently retired from the Historic Preservation Office at Texas Tech University however, she continues to actively work on various projects through the region. Last year she conducted a laser scan documenting Snyder's Santa Fe Railway Depot and the famed Star House which had been Quanah Parker's home.

Henry Crawford, the Comanchero "face" of Comanchero Canyons Museum and living history interpreter, shared a very special program on buffalo hunting August 16 at the Comachero Canyons Museum. A collector of a vast array of tools, arms, and knowledge, Henry has represented time periods from the mountain man era to the Civil War period. He has participated in events at Comachero Canyons Museum, Caprock Canyons State Park, Lubbock Lake Landmark Museum, and the Ranching Heritage Center, among others. "If you have ever been to Ranch Day and spotted a soldier molding bullets, cooking a cow's tongue or chinking the log cabin, that was probably Henry Crawford. He's been doing living history demonstrations at the National Ranching Heritage Center since 1990." From the Summer 2018 Ranch Record.

L. Patrick Cox recently published a biography on Tom Sealy of Midland, Texas, an influential attorney who played a major role in the prosecution of Nazi war criminals and the modernization of our state through his leadership in education, law and business.

Nicholas Roland recently published "Empire on Parade: Public Representations of Race at the 1936 Texas Centennial Exposition" *Reassessing the 1930s South* from LSU Press. It discusses the myth that the Hall of Negro Life was the first exhibit of its kind at a world's fair, and situates the Hall within the politics of Dallas in the 1930s.

Paul Carlson Best Student Essay Award

Eligibility requires that the essay, ranging from 10 to 14 pages in length, be written by a student enrolled in a college or university and be sponsored by a faculty member of that institution. A cover letter from the sponsor and a one-page abstract of the paper must accompany the manuscript. The winner of the award will receive \$250.00 plus a \$50 grant to offset travel to the annual WTHA conference.. The essay will be included on the program of the annual meeting of the Association and will be published in the Review. Submission Due Date - **January 10, 2019.**

SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO-

Student Essay Award
c/o Executive Director,
WTHA
Box 41041
Texas Tech University
Lubbock, Texas 79409

Or, By Email to- wthayb@ttu.edu

THE CYCLONE

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WEB PAGE

This site lists association news, conference updates, and membership forms for new members. Members are encouraged to submit professional and organization news and photographs.

Editor: Lynn Whitfield at Lynn.Whitfield@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 at wes.sheffield@wtha.org.

WEST TEXAS HISTORICAL

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Join the West Texas Historical Association

Throughout its distinguished history, the West Texas Historical Association has encompassed a wide range of both professional and non-professional historians, from lawyers to ranchers to teachers. Although their interests vary, members share a common desire to preserve the rich history of West Texas. All members receive the *West Texas Historical Review* and the *Cyclone*.

Membership Levels

Student	\$ 10
Regular	\$ 30
Institutional	\$ 25
Family	\$ 35
Sustaining	\$ 50
Life	\$ 500
Sponsoring	\$1000

To join mail your check to: West Texas Historical Association, Texas Tech University, Box 41041, Lubbock, TX 79409-1041 or register online at www.wtha.org.