



THE CYCLONE



WTHA Award Recipients for 2019

Mrs. Percy "Ruth Leggett" Jones Best Article Award - Weston Marshall for "Saving NASA's Apollo Program."

Rupert Richardson Award for the Best History of West Texas - co-authors Paul H. Carlson and Clint Chambers for *Comanche Jack Stillwell: Army Scout and Plainsman*.

New Officers for 2019

President – Kevin Sweeney
Vice President – Becky Matthews

New Board Members

Helen Cozart, Eastland
Robert Hall, Pittsburg
Debbie Liles, Weatherford
Leland Turner, Wichita Falls



2018-19 President Jean Stuntz

Fort Croghan

by Jim Matthews

Fort Croghan was part of the original line of forts established by the U. S. Army following the Mexican-American War to protect settlers along the frontier in the new state of Texas. Established on March 18, 1849 by Company A, Second Dragoons, the fort was located in a valley at the head of Hamilton Creek, a site that is now within the city limits of Burnet, Texas. The original site chosen was in use by a company of Texas Rangers under Henry E. McCulloch. For health reasons, the fort was relocated across Hamilton Creek. In October, it was named Fort Croghan in honor of Colonel George Croghan who had recently died of cholera. The colonel was the nephew of Captain William Clark and General



George Rogers Clark. Soldiers began the construction of the post using local limestone and oak logs and shingles freighted in from Bastrop.

The fort proved to be an ideal location for providing produce and livestock. Soldiers even shipped surplus commissary goods to some of the other forts recently established. Companies of the Eighth Infantry soon joined the Second Dragoons assigned to the

post. Both regiments rotated companies between Fort Croghan and the other posts on the frontier. At one point, the fort served as the headquarters for the Second Dragoons. In 1852 – 1853, Captain Henry H. Sibley, later a Confederate general, commanded the post. Another future Confederate general, George Pickett, served there as a lieutenant in the Eighth Infantry during that period.

Settlement in western Texas progressed at a faster rate than expected, and by 1852 the army already had begun to build forts further west on the new frontier. The garrison at Fort Croghan was reduced in 1853 and the post was finally abandoned in 1855. As settlers moved into the newly formed Burnet County they began to make use of the old (continued p. 2)

Fort Croghan



The Adjutant's Office/Powder House, one of two original buildings remaining at Fort Croghan.

(continued from p. 1) post buildings as living quarters or for building materials. As the city of Burnet grew, the post was forgotten until little was left other than the building foundations.

In 1957, local residents began an effort to preserve some of the history of the original settlement period. The only fort building still intact by that time was the Adjutant's office, but other period structures still existed and were in vital need of preservation. Under the supervision of the Burnet County Heritage Society, structures from the 1840s and 1850s were relocated to the fort grounds and period artifacts were collected for display. By 1967, three buildings had been completely restored and were opened to the public as the Fort Croghan Grounds and Museum. Today the museum is open from April to October in Burnet. Special celebrations include Fort Croghan Day on the second Saturday in October and Christmas at Old Fort Croghan on the second Saturday of December.

In Memory . . .

William Edmund Tydeman, III, of Lubbock passed away April 29, 2019. He was born on September 1, 1942 in Rockville Center, NY. He was the devoted husband of Leslie Dutton. Bill was a life-long voracious reader, promoter of humanist values, and zealous scholar. He served as director of the Southwest Collection at Texas Tech and was an active member of WTHA. He loved sports, especially basketball and golf. He was an avid bird watcher and devotee of photography.



Mary Ellen "Dude" Barton passed away on May 10, 2019 in Matador, Texas. Barton was the youngest of nine children. Dude grew up riding horses and helping her brothers and sisters work cattle on the sandy river bottom. As a teenager she entered local and regional rodeos and excelled in roping, barrel racing, and, at the Will Rogers Coliseum in Fort Worth, the event Musical Chairs by Horseback. She was a life-long farmer and rancher on the North Pease River in Motley County. She was a founding member of the All Girls Rodeo Association and a National Cowgirl Hall of Fame honoree.



Former Motley County Judge **Ed D. Smith**, humorist, writer, community leader and friend, died June 19, 2019. He was born February 1, 1942, at McDonald Camp on the Matador Ranch. He worked as a cowboy for Matador Ranch, Swenson Ranch, Reynolds Cattle Company, 6666 Ranch and Pitchfork Ranch. He was a friend to history and a strong supporter of the Motley County Historic Jail and the Motley County Historical Commission.



Elaine Jones Lewis, 89, passed away in the morning hours of June 22, 2019. Elaine was born in Tokio, Texas on July 16, 1929. She was employed by James

E. Rodgers and Company as a bookkeeper and following a brief retirement from there, she joined her husband, Clyde R. Lewis in his second career for M & C Lumber Company, serving as bookkeeper and assisting in the start-up of the kitchen and housewares department. She then served as the Executive Secretary for the Hamlin Chamber of Commerce for 12 years, retiring due to declining health at the age of 85. Always active in the community, she was named Hamlin's Woman of the Year in 2010.

Historian and beloved Big Bend resident **Lonn Taylor** died June 26, 2019 at the age of 79. Jeff Davis County Justice of the Peace Mary Ann Luedecke said, "It is a huge, huge loss for the area. He was such an amazing historian and always had a fun story and could make us all chuckle about it." Taylor moved to Fort Davis with his wife Dedie in 2002 after retiring from the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History where he was a curator for 20 years.



John Vaughan, former site director of Fort Concho, died at his home Wednesday, June 26, 2019. Vaughan, a native of Winchester, Tennessee, came to San Angelo in 1979 after successfully heading a restoration project of 26 buildings in the Old North Hull Historical District of Montgomery, Alabama. Vaughan brought his skills in carpentry and bookkeeping to West Texas to help transform Historic Fort Concho. He supervised major property acquisitions while initiating restorations on the post buildings.

NEWS AROUND WEST TEXAS



The WTHA Facebook page has reached 14,664 likes. Quite an achievement through the volunteer efforts of **Wes Sheffield** the Facebook Editor. Remember to forward news and information about the region and individual achievements to Wes (wes.sheffield@wtha.org).

The last military-Indian battle in Texas is the focus of **Patrick Dearen's** new historical novel, *Apache Lament*, which was released by Five Star Publishing. The novel explores the January 29, 1881 battle between Texas Rangers and Mescalero Apaches in the frozen Sierra Diablo north of present-day Van Horn. For background, Dearen drew upon not only official Ranger and U.S. Army records, but also a pair of 1946 audio interviews that J. Evetts Haley conducted with former Ranger Bill Roberts. Dearen, a Spur Award winner, is a three-time recipient of WTHA's Elmer Kelton Award for Fiction and has also received the Richardson Award.

The *Tombstone Epitaph* has been featuring articles by **Norm Brown** of Scurry County concerning West Texas. In August, the *Epitaph*, a monthly newspaper, carried Brown's article *Wife of a Panhandle Sheriff*. Sophia Western Stockton married sheriff Ed Connell, a prior Texas Ranger and sheriff of Deaf Smith County. He also was employed as a security officer for the XIT outfit. Sophia wrote her memoirs a few years before she died and tells of the remoteness, hardships, sickness and

death while doctors and medicines were 50 miles away. Brown's new book, *Manhunter In Indian Country* from Eakin Press, was released in August.

Deborah M. Liles and **Cecelia Gutierrez Venable** have written *Texas Women in Ranching: On the Range, at the Rodeo, and in Their Communities*, telling the stories of women involved in the business. The first women involved in cattle raising were in South Texas and Mexico. *Texas Women in Ranching* explores a variety of roles women played on the western ranch. The essays here cover a range of topics, from early Tejana businesswomen and Anglo philanthropists to rodeos and fence-cutting range wars. The names of some of the women featured may be familiar to those who know Texas ranching history—Alice East and Frances Kallison, for example. Others came from less known families. In every case, they proved themselves to be resourceful women and unique individuals who survived by their own wits in cattle country.

UPCOMING:

June 8, 2019 - January 11, 2020. "An Ageless Craft: Historic and Modern Pueblo Pottery" exhibit at **El Paso Museum of Archaeology**. The exhibit displays the work of potters from nineteen of the twenty one pueblos including Maria Martinez of San Ildefonso, the Nampeyo family of First Mesa (Hopi) and Albert Alvidrez of Ysleta del Sur. Experience the continuation of age-old pueblo traditions through over 280 beautiful works of art from the Museum's permanent collection, El Paso Archaeological Society's collection, and items on loan from the private collection of Albert Alvidrez (former Governor of Ysleta del Sur Pueblo). For more information contact Director Jeff Romney 915-212-0421.

February 19-22, 2020 - 41st Annual Southwest Popular / American Culture Association Conference, Hyatt Regency Hotel / Conference Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Register for the conference at <http://southwestpca.org/conference/conference-registration-information/>.

February 27-29, 2020 - Texas State Historical Association Annual Meeting, AT&T Conference Center 1900 University Avenue, Austin, TX. Register for the meeting by visiting <https://www.tshasecurepay.com/annual-meeting/>.

Looking Back . . .

75 years ago



R. C. Crane Judge R. C. Crane was completing his twentieth year as president of the Association. Walter Prescott Webb attended the executive committee meeting and made suggestions on the organization of WTHA, commending the professionalism of the Year Book. The 1944 annual meeting was canceled due to World War II gasoline and tire rationing and manpower shortages. The Year Book was still published, featuring W. C. Holden's research on "Coronado's Route Across the Staked Plains."

10 years ago



B. W. Aston Ty Cashion spoke on "The End of Texceptionalism: The Lone Star Mind and Notions of a Usable Past" The program included 63 presenters in 21 sessions, with 120 people attending. B. W. Aston, J'Nell Pate, and Fred Rathjen were named Fellows of the Association.

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.

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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
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.