



THE CYCLONE



2020 Meeting Canceled Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

For the first time since World War II, the West Texas Historical Association canceled its annual meeting and presentation of papers due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation which led to the closing of most group venues for a period of months during 2020.

The global pandemic called a halt to all in-person activities at colleges and universities across Texas and the nation. Throughout the rest of 2020, many meetings and even conferences were held virtually using an online platform.

How this will affect future operations of the Association is yet to be determined. The 98th annual meeting of the West Texas Historical Association is scheduled for April 9-10, 2021 in Abilene, Texas.



Clint Chambers and Paul Carlson receive the Rupert Richardson Award for the Best History of West Texas for *Comanche Jack Stillwell: Army Scout and Plainsman* from Austin Allison at the 2019 annual meeting..

Katie Parks, African American Writer and Community Volunteer

by Alwyn Barr

Katie Parks was born in 1922 to the Toliver family in Hubbard, Texas where she graduated from high school. She moved to Lubbock for work and more education. With Texas Tech segregated at that time she attended business colleges and worked part-time. She married James Parks in 1949 and raised a son and three daughters.



She joined the non-nursing staff at Methodist Hospital in 1966 and later became a Unit Manager. She retired to care for her sick husband in 1983. After his death she became an Outreach Specialist and coordinated the Storks Nest program in the School of Nursing at the Health Sciences Center of Texas Tech.

As a member of St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church she taught Sunday school, (cont. p.2)

Katie Parks

(continued from p. 1) ushered, and was active in a Food Voucher Committee, a mission group, and visiting ill church members. In the Lubbock community she volunteered at Meals on Wheels, the American Cancer Society, and the State Department of Human Services. She also became a member of the NAACP and the PTA and served on the boards of the Make a Wish Foundation, the Juneteenth Committee, the MLK Committee, the Early Settlers Roundup, the United Neighborhood Foundation, Volunteers in Service to America, and the Chatman Hill Association. Later she served with the Lubbock Arts Commission, the Community Health Center of Lubbock, the Lubbock County Historical Commission, and the Lubbock Centennial Corporation. In recognition of her service she received more than two hundred awards, including attention at the state and national levels.

In addition Katie became a writer. She published *Why? A Collection of Inspirational Messages* in 1977. It reflected her childhood, African American history, and religion. In 1986 she published two volumes. *Inspirational Dramas and Quotations* included twenty-seven plays about positive and negative attitudes. *Parks Fiction* focused in four stories about people who chose false goals that produced unfortunate results. Perhaps her most important volume, *Remember When? A History of African Americans in Lubbock*, appeared in 1999. She wrote or co-authored seventeen of nineteen chapters.

Eight co-authors contributed to the volume.

Katie Parks' thoughtful and compassionate life ended when she died on June 10, 2008.

In Memory . . .

Margaret Ann Tate Waring

passed peacefully from this world October 20, 2020 in Comanche.

She was born in Dallas to George Preston and Nima McArthur Tate as an only child. She graduated from Comanche High School in 1950 as valedictorian. She was a graduate of the University of Texas with her lifelong goal to be a library director. Along with influential community members, she began the local library in Comanche and worked to build it up for 56 years. She leaves behind an architecturally significant building and a strong collection to serve the public in the future.

She was an active member of Texas Library Association, Texas State Historical Association, West Texas Historical Association, and a past president of Texas Folklore Society. She was a lifelong member of St Matthew Episcopal Church. Her hobbies were collecting rare books and gathering virtually anything related to local history to preserve it.

She is survived by her two sons Sam of Austin TX, and Chris of Hurst TX and two grandchildren. She was pre-deceased by her former husband, Joe, and her youngest son Joe Paul.



WTHA member, colleague and friend, **David Gracy**, passed away on September 26, 2020. Born in Austin in 1941, he

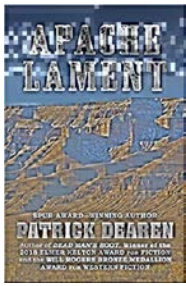
attended Sewanee Military Academy in Tennessee. He went on to earn a BA and MA in History at the University of Texas and a PhD at Texas Tech University. He had been an archivist at the Southwest Collection before going to on to statewide, national and international acclaim in archival and historic preservation work. He worked as Director of Texas State Archives and later joined the University of Texas' Graduate School of Library and Information Science as full professor and ultimately as the Governor Bill Daniel Professor in Archival Enterprise. He is survived by his wife Laura and three children as well as grandchildren.



Dr. Robert Carr of Lubbock passed away September 14, 2020. Dr. Carr was a longtime member of the WTHA, and a prominent public

historian who served on and chaired the Lubbock County Historical Commission for many years. He worked closely with local professional and public historians to preserve the cultural legacy and historical memory of Lubbock and the South Plains. On many occasions he would get "boots on the ground" with colleagues, friends and other historians in tracking old trails, climbing historical redoubts, and cataloging old Lubbock County schools. He was well-known and popular doctor of pediatrics who practiced medicine for over 40 years. He will be sorely missed.

NEWS AROUND WEST TEXAS



Patrick Dearen's recent historical novel, *Apache Lament*, received the Elmer Kelton Award for Fiction from the Academy of Western Artists at a banquet in Fort Worth on April

9, 2020. The novel is based on the 1881 battle that ended the Indian Wars in West Texas. Patrick drew upon recently recovered audio interviews from 1946 with a Texas Ranger who participated in that fight, which occurred in the Sierra Diablo near Van Horn on January 29, 1881. These interviews, digitized from SoundScriber discs, are in the holdings of the N. S. Haley Memorial Library in Midland.

The Museum of North Texas History sponsored a book signing on Saturday, October 17th. The book, *Historical Markers of Wichita County, 1936-2020*, was co-edited by **Becky Trammell** and **Elizabeth Hawley**, of the Wichita County Historical Commission. The book, which has been a multi-year project, grew from Wichita County receiving its 100th Texas Historical Commission Marker. Each marker gives a "snap-shot" of a person, place or event that has had an impact on the county. The book highlights each of those markers and includes historic pictures gleaned from a variety of sources.

James Coryell's grave has been confirmed by archeologists for the Texas Historical Commission in the Bull Hill Cemetery near Marlin, Texas. Coryell was an early pioneer and Texas Ranger who was killed in a skirmish with Caddo Indians near Fort Milam in 1837. You can contact Texas Historical Commission Archeology at archeology@thc.texas.gov.

West Texas A&M University's **Center for the Study of the American West** has won the 2020 Autry Public History Prize from the Western History Association for its "Red Dead University" project. The Autry Public History Prize is awarded annually for media exhibits, public programs or written works that contribute to a broader public reflection and appreciation of the past or serve as a model of professional public history practice in the history of the North American West. CSAW officially received the prize, which includes \$1,000 as well as certificates for key personnel, on Oct. 16. "Red Dead University" was an exhibit that allowed museumgoers to play "Red Dead Redemption II," a video game set in the Old West, and compare the artifacts found in the game to their real-life counterparts. The project was a collaboration with the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum. In addition to the exhibit, which was on view March 5 to Dec. 31, 2019, CSAW hosted a number of public events related to the project and coordinated student and faculty research projects focused on the game, on topics such as ludomusicology (the study of music in video games), ecology and cultural representation.

Dana Gholson Cook's new book, *Gholson Brothers In the Thick of It: True Stories of Early Texas as Told by Two Who Lived It* tells the tale of her great-grandfather and his brother. Sam and Frank Gholson were born in the Republic of Texas and were two of the first Texas Rangers while still in their teens. Their stories range from gut wrenching to heartwarming, and every account in this book is from participants or eyewitnesses. Sam and Frank and their father Albert were involved in Indian fights and were early Texas cattlemen. Albert died young, leaving three children. His two older sons lived to a ripe old age,

Sam in New Mexico and Frank in his rock home in central Texas, which has been beautifully restored. The home is a monument to the Texas frontier and the stories are a treasure trove of Texas history.

UPCOMING:

March 4 – March 6, 2021. The Texas State Historical Association will hold their meeting online this year. It will include informative sessions featuring the research of Texas history scholars, a presentation of awards and fellowships, a silent auction, and special events.

March 25 -27, 2021 – The Historical Society of New Mexico at the Hilton Santa Fe Historic Plaza Hotel, 100 Sandoval St., Santa Fe, NM. As 2021 is the bicentennial of the "official" opening of the Santa Fe Trail in 1821, the conference will highlight papers and sessions related to the history, development, impact, and usage of the Trail.

April 1 -3, 2021 – Texas Folklore Society, Granbury, TX. We're moving! Our new host institution is Tarleton State University and our new home office will be located in Granbury, Texas. Mark your calendars for a Family Reunion Style Annual Meeting and a chance to see our new office.

Looking Back . . .

75 years ago

Once again, the annual meeting was canceled for 1945 due to shortages caused by war. Plans were made by the executive committee to resume regular meetings in 1946. The secretary-treasurer reported that membership had continued to hold steady and the committee discussed ideas to recruit despite the isolation caused by war. During that year, funds were used only for publication and correspondence.

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

The 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 return a completed official application by May 30th.
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 these letters should be from a teacher, counselor or employer. The second should be a personal recommendation from someone other than a family member.
5. The scholarship recipient must be willing to have name announced via WTHA website & Facebook page.

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
806-834-4479

THE CYCLONE

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Editor: Jim Matthews at jjmatthews2@att.net.

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 ASSOCIATION

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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.