



# THE CYCLONE



## West Texas A & M Hosts Conference

The West Texas Historical Association will hold its 96<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in Canyon, Texas on April 12-13 at West Texas A & M University. All are encouraged to attend as the association returns to the Panhandle near beautiful Palo Duro Canyon.

The program consists of 18 sessions, including joint sessions with the East Texas Historical Association and the Center for Big Bend Studies. All sessions will be held at "Old Main" on the WTAMU campus. Rooms for the sessions will be 203, 219 and 220 with exhibitors in Room 204. For those arriving early, there will be an Early Bird dinner at Joe's Tacos, 502 15<sup>th</sup> Street in Canyon.

On Friday evening the president's reception and banquet will be held at the Jack B. Kelley Student Center, beginning at 5:30 pm in the Alumni Banquet Hall. Guest speaker for the evening is Vicki Hamblen of WTAMU with a presentation on "The Hamblen Highway." The conference will conclude with an awards luncheon at noon on Saturday at the Legends Club in the JBK Student Center. Please consult our website at [www.wtha.org](http://www.wtha.org) for further conference information.



WTHA presented its first Fellows Awards to Paul Carlson, Lou Rodenberger and Arnoldo DeLeon the last time the group met in Canyon in 2008.

## Maria Baker, Texas Pioneer

by Becky Matthews

Life was difficult on the Texas frontier, and as the old saying suggests, it was especially hard on women and horses. It may be difficult to envision the lives of those early pioneers, but the life of one woman may exemplify the hardships common to many. Maria Flesher Ragle Baker was born May 19, 1841, in what is now West Virginia, one of five children born to Paulser Butcher Flesher and his wife Mary Ann Daken. The Flesher family had immigrated to the United States from Germany in 1752 and always lived on the edge of the American frontier. Paulser continued this tradition when he brought his family to Texas in 1849, eventually settling in Burnet County.

In 1852, when Maria was only ten years old, her mother died. Life became even more difficult when her father was killed in 1856 along the Austin to Burnet road near what is now Cedar Park. His killers were never known or apprehended. Maria and her two younger sisters probably then went to live with her cousin



Martha Strickling or with her oldest sister Mary, who was 18 and married at the time of their father's death. The census shows the two younger girls living with Mary in 1860. Wherever she lived, Maria stayed in the area because she married Jonathan Ragle on May 13, 1858, in Burnet County. She was 16.

History tells us that during the 1850s and 1860s settlers in the area suffered from Comanche raids and outlawry. Maria lost her father to outlaws, and in February 1863, she lost her husband to

Comanches. Jonathan and three companions were killed by Indians on their way home from a mill where they'd gone to get their corn ground. On February 25, Maria wrote to Jonathan's parents in Limestone County Alabama to inform them of the death. She tells them, "Jhonithan was Shot Seven times with Arrows and then Scalped they took all of his Clothing of him." She tells of the neighbors who were also killed. A plaintive note is sounded when she concludes, "so you see I am left alone with three little children." She asks if she may come to Jonathan's parents, as that was his wish if anything happened to him. She assures them of her ability to support herself: "Jhonithan left me plenty to live on it consists of cattle and horses I have about 40 head of cattle and 4 head of horses and corn enough to bread me 2 years I also have 300 acres of unimproved land but with all that I would be much happier if I was with you." She was living with her cousin Martha Strickling at the time. She referred to the Stricklings as the people "Jhonithan made his home with before wee were married," (cont. p. 2)

## Maria Baker

(Cont. from p1) and says they treated her “as kind as if they were my own parents.” There is no way to know what response Maria received from the Ragle in Alabama, but she remained in Burnet County.

By 1863, the Civil War was drawing men away from the frontier, which made life even more dangerous for those remaining. The *Dallas Herald* of March 11, 1863, reported the slaying of Jonathan Ragle, three of his neighbors, and a man in Lampasas. The paper expressed concern because “the next day six men were all that could be mustered to go in pursuit [of the Indians].” It reported that these men turned back before catching the raiding party because the Texans were “badly armed and poorly mounted.” It goes on to add, “Mr. Brown has come down to see if something cannot be done for their protectors, most of which have been out on the range for a month, being entirely without corn or forage. It is generally believed also, that the regiment will be removed which will leave our frontier entirely exposed to the ravages of the indians, unless something be done immediately by our Legislature.” The article expresses concern that the entire frontier might be “deserted by the settlers and laid waste by these savages.” Indeed, the frontier did recede by about ten miles during that period because of Indian raids.

Though Maria was left well provisioned, the twenty-two-year-old widow would still have led a weary life, trying to take care of children and property on her own. Years later, a distant relative, Jonathan Sanford Ater, would reminisce about those times for a WPA interview. He reported: “The homes with so many inconveniences made the household duties quite a problem. Coffee was made from parched corn, okra, diced sweet potatoes, wheat or rye. Each member had a job to do before a meal was complete. The women made the cloth, then made clothes out of it for the entire family, by hand; so you see why there were no idle people at all in those days.” Ater reported that his father was unable to serve in the war, but as a mill

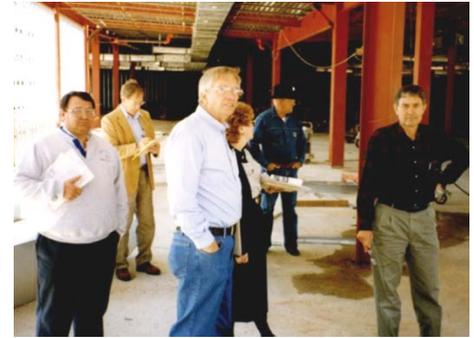
owner, contributed to the war effort by providing clothing for the widows. Perhaps Maria received his help.

On November 1, 1866, Maria’s life was made somewhat easier when she married Charles Baker. (Baker had served in the Texas Volunteers, protecting the homefront from Indians during the war.) The couple appear to have been fairly prosperous in post-war Texas. In 1870, they owned property in Burnet County worth \$1100. By 1880, the family was farming in Lampasas County, where they remained. Records only show two Ragle children, so one of the babes mentioned in Maria’s letter must have died. Son Isaac Ragle was also listed as an “idiot” in 1880 records, claiming his disability had been caused by Scrofulous Erysipelas contracted at the age of 1 ½ years. Though Isaac was able to support himself, he never married and lived with his mother throughout his life. Son William Ragle did live a long and productive life. Maria and Charles Baker had seven children, but records show that only six of Maria’s children were still alive in 1900.

Maria was widowed a second time in 1881 at the age of thirty-nine and spent her later years living with her youngest daughter. When the *Marble Falls Messenger* interviewed her in 1921, the reporter claimed that Maria’s memory was as bright as someone half her age. At that time she was living in Lampasas with her son-in-law Reverend W. H. Packer ( a Baptist minister) and her daughter Dora Packer, who taught school. Maria died in 1929, at the age of 87.

Maria Baker certainly survived many heartbreaks and hardships during her life. In her 1921 interview she recalled early lawlessness and listed names of Indian fighters, as well as those killed by Indians. The interview and the letter she wrote telling of her husband’s death are the only records available in her own voice, but certainly she endured and survived with dignity. Family was always nearby to assist when she needed them, whether sister, cousin or children. Faith also played a role in sustaining her and easing her load. She was not rich or famous, but her courage and strength could serve as an example to the generations that followed.

## Looking Back . . .



WTHA board members take a tour of the Southwest Collection / Special Collections Library building while under construction in the fall of 1995. Those pictured include Keith Owen, Fred Rathjen, David Murrah, and Paul Carlson.

The following spring, in 1996, the WTHA meeting was held in Canyon with sessions at West Texas A & M, the American Quarter Horse Heritage Center and the Panhandle-Plains Museum.



The headquarters of the West Texas Historical Association transferred to the Southwest Collection building on the Texas Tech University campus in 1997. Dr. Kenneth Davis and author Elmer Kelton were among the attendees at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new WTHA office.



Jake Sheffield, one of the youngest members of WTHA, and Dr. Kenneth Davis at the 2010 Friday night banquet.

# Lawrence and Sonja Clayton: Ranchers, Ranching Historians, Academicians, and Folklorists

By Kenneth W. Davis

*[Editor's Note: Article condensed from the 2006 WTHA Year Book. In spite of the age difference, Kenneth Davis and Lawrence Clayton became close friends, almost like brothers. It is therefore fitting to remember Kenneth Davis by reprinting his tribute to Lawrence and Sonja Clayton. This article is dedicated to the memory of these three fine people.]*

Rudyard Kipling said that there are ninety and nine ways of writing poems about tribal history and that each and every one of them is correct. There may not be that many ways to write history, but there are many differing approaches and styles used to record key events in the development of the American West. Lawrence and Sonja Clayton, ranchers, ranching historians, folklorists, and academicians exemplify the rich variety of ways of providing accounts of contemporary as well as earlier history of the ranching industry in Texas. They were hands-on historians whose active work as owners of a working ranch served them well in their chronicles of cattle and horse raising culture in the area around Abilene, Albany, and Throckmorton, as well as in other parts of Texas and the Southwest.

Sonja Irwin Clayton grew up on or near ranch land that has been in the Irwin family for more than 150 years. The brand is the J Lazy C. Sonja had a keen appreciation for the history of the ranching way of life and for local history. When she was in high school she had the role of Lottie Deno in the famous "Fort Griffin Fandangle," an outstanding example of folk history. For many years Sonja and Lawrence were on the committee to judge floats in the annual parade held in conjunction with the "Fandangle."



Lawrence Clayton and Ken Davis

After Lawrence's death in 2000, Sonja moved back to Albany where she once again participated in the "Fandangle." She played the role of a grandmother. Her granddaughter, Ashley Mitchell, was also in the "Fandangle." And for a number of years, the Clayton's youngest daughter, Lea Clayton Hutt, was a dancer in the program.

Sonja, Ashley and Lea thus helped chronicle the history in which Sonja's family, the Irwins, had a significant role. Although he was not a full-time cowboy, J. C. Irwin, Sonja's father, worked for Watt Matthews on the historic Lamshead ranch and knew working cowboys all his life. Sonja's cousin, Morris Ledbetter, a rancher and oilman in Albany, was widely respected as a master oral historian. From her father and mother and from the Ledbetter family Sonja acquired a vast store of regional history. She was a natural-born raconteur. She delighted in telling stories of her parents and relatives and of their friends and neighbors in the Fort Griffin/Albany area. Later in life when she had earned two college degrees, she became also a more formal historian thanks in part to the example Lawrence provided. She was for a time a public school principal, but the major part of her

career was spent in work at the Educational Services Center in Abilene. This job required her to travel in fifteen counties in the Abilene area and gave her access to lore and living history of numerous ranching and farming communities.

In retirement, Sonja worked as a volunteer docent at the Old Jail Museum in Albany. She was the active manager of the J Lazy C, as well as executrix of two estates—her father's and her cousin Morris Ledbetter's. She knew the ranching business well. She also served on the Board of Directors of the West Texas Historical Association and of the Texas Folklore Society. And, like most ranch women, she was a magnificent cook and ever a gracious hostess. Lawrence, too, was a good ranch cook who, from his own chuckwagon, served chuckwagon meals to students attending the Western Heritage event held yearly on the Hardin-Simmons University campus. Any working ranch would have been glad to hire him as cook.

Lawrence Clayton was not born into the ranching tradition as was his future wife Sonja Irwin. Instead, he was the son of a successful merchant and banker and was raised in Laredo and Rusk, Texas. Not until he married into the Irwin family did he have much exposure to the ranching traditions of which he would become a major chronicler. Like Sonja, he was a well educated academician. He had a baccalaureate degree from Hardin-Simmons, a master's from Stephen f. Austin State University, and another master's degree from the University of North Texas and a Ph.D. in English from Texas Tech University. The University of North Texas and Texas Tech University recognized him as a distinguished alumnus.



Sonja Clayton (left) at the 2004 WTHA meeting.

In part because of the influence of his father-in-law, he became interested in many aspects of the lore of the American West and of ranching in particular. Lawrence Clayton said that four men changed and influenced his life: his grandfather, his father-in-law, Sonja's cousin Morris Ledbetter, and George Peacock, the long-time and highly respected general manager of the Nail Ranch at Albany.

Lawrence was the academician first, and then became fully absorbed in the world of ranching in all its aspects. He was as interested in the gear of working cowboys—or as he preferred to call them “mounted herdsmen”—as he was in the fiction poetry, drama, lore and formal history about them. Sonja Clayton was a skilled photographer whose pictures of working cowboys along the Clear Fork are valuable archival materials that will benefit future historians of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century American West. Her photographic talent influenced Lawrence to become a successful photographer. Pictures the two of them took are in several small books they published. Some of their other photographs are in a book Lawrence did in collaboration with Professors Jim Hoy and Gerald Underwood: *Vaqueros, Cowboys and Buckaroos*, published by the University of Texas Press, is considered a major treatise. It focuses on the gear, tack and work

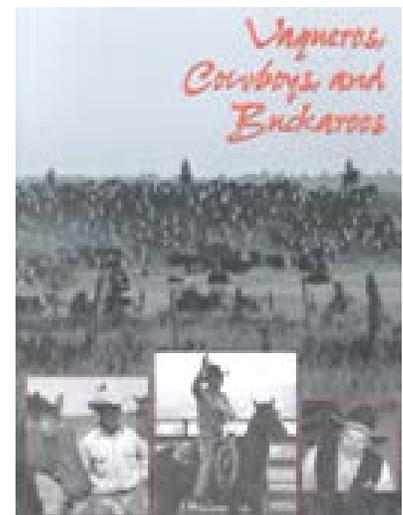
practices of the three major groupings of mounted herdsmen in America.

Historians of the distant past must rely on the writings of earlier scholars, as well as on various artifacts preserved in museums and elsewhere. In his writing of history, Lawrence used many of the traditional methods long employed by other academic and popular historians. But he brought something else to the writing of the history of the contemporary American ranching industry. He brought the wisdom and understanding that comes also from firsthand experience as a working cowboy and rancher. In his academic career he was a Professor of English who taught courses in the literature of the American West among other fields. He was also an able administrator who for many years was Dean of Liberal Arts at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene. He was highly competent in traditional modes of literary and historical research, but what he enjoyed most as a researcher was being a day worker on ranches in the Albany/Throckmorton area. He said that the days he spent working on ranches in the Abilene area were genuine research days. His skill as a working cowboy won him the respect of full-time cowboys and ranchers. His experience as a day worker also gave him knowledge of the equipment cowboys and ranchers used and gave him insight into the personalities of these members of America's best known and liked folk occupation group.

Lawrence's interests in ranching were not limited to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century; he felt that he needed to know about cattle herding down through the centuries. He knew about cattle raising tribes in Africa as well as about the development of American ranching from traditions in South and Central America.

Lawrence Clayton's writing style evolved as he focused his research on the cowboy/ranching way of life. He

was certainly influenced by Sonja's remarkable skills as story teller and oral historian. He was also influenced by her cousin Morris Ledbetter's verbal skills in recounting his thorough knowledge of family history and of local history. From Watt Matthews, Dean Peacock, and many other ranching people through Texas, he learned to use what every successful writer must use: details, details, details. In his own writings and in his collection of lore and local history, Lawrence was consistent in his belief in the importance of vivid, detailed narration that rang true. He also understood the importance of the visual as is evidenced in the photographs he and Sonja took. *Historic Texas Ranches*, perhaps his best known book, is illustrated by noted water colorist J. U. Salvant of Austin. This book had several printings and is still available in a handsome paperback edition. The second book on ranching history, *Contemporary Ranches of Texas* is illustrated with remarkable black and white photographs done by the state photographer of Texas, Wyman Meinzer of Benjamin. *Vaqueros, Cowboys, and Buckaroos* is also generously and effectively illustrated with photographs done by the Claytons, Jim Hoy, and Gerald Underwood.



Much of Lawrence's writing about ranching history is the result of personal interviews with ranch

owners, managers, and, of course, working cowboys. The interviews provided freshness, authenticity, and credibility to his books that cannot be had in some so-called documentary histories. The cumulative effect of his interviews parallels the genuineness that his having worked side-by-side with cowboys provided. Future historians who consult the books he did will benefit from the sense of immediacy his conversations with ranching people added. Some of those conversations were witty. From a rancher near Throckmorton, for example, Lawrence received advice about going into the horse raising business. The rancher told Lawrence that if he ever wanted to start raising horses, he should first flush twenty dollar bills—one a day—down the commode until seeing the bills disappear caused no pain. Then, the rancher said, is a man ready to raise horses. Lawrence and Sonja did raise a few horses.

The breadth alone of Lawrence Clayton's writings about the American West establishes for him a significant place in the roster of prominent historians. The variety of subjects of the more than twenty books and pamphlets he did either alone or in collaboration with Sonja and others tells much about his thorough engagement with the ranching culture, which he believed to be a yet viable way of life.

He did not limit his interest to his own writings; he also helped other authors. In his role as enabler, he encouraged many literary scholars who focus on the fiction, poetry and drama inspired by America's true folk heroes: ranchers and cowboys. He served as president of the West Texas Historical Association, the Texas Folklore Society, and Southwest and Texas Popular Culture Association and the Western Literature Association. He was a member of the founding Board of Directors of The National Cowboy Symposium and Celebration. In his

leadership roles, he encouraged students to write about the American West. One of his students, Mrs. Darlene Bellinghausen, for example, began to read papers at professional conferences because of Lawrence Clayton's encouragement. She later became president of the West Texas Historical Association. She is but one of many whose professional careers were enhanced by the support Lawrence offered.

He did not limit his encouragement to his graduate students; he was also generous in urging his friends and colleagues to present their research at scholarly meetings and to publish their findings. He encouraged Sylvia Mahoney in her writing of *College Rodeo From Show to Sport*. He was also instrumental in helping humorist Curt Brummett become a published author. And, of course, countless numbers of students who studied with him at Hardin-Simmons learned to appreciate their western heritage.

The American West which so engages many of us has produced some giants in the fields of historical writing, as well as in imaginative literature and folklore studies. The names of J. Frank Dobie, Walter Prescott Webb, Roy Bedicek, Ernest Wallace, Curry Holden, Elmer Kelton, C. L. Sonnichsen, Tom Lea, Paul Carlson, and Joe Franz come to mind immediately. I am no prophet, but I believe that in time, Lawrence Clayton will be included in this distinguished group. Lawrence and Sonja Clayton left a significant heritage for which succeeding generations will be grateful. The two of them set worthy examples for contemporary and future historians and folklorists to follow.



Lawrence Clayton, Elmer Kelton, Preston Lewis and Kenneth Davis at the 1996 WTHA banquet.

## In Memory. . .



**Kenneth Waldron Davis** died on January 24, 2019 in Lubbock, Texas. He was born June 15, 1932 in Salado, Texas. Davis graduated from Texas Tech University in 1954. He received his M. A. and PhD. from Vanderbilt University, where he was a Woodrow Wilson Fellow. Ken was Professor Emeritus at Texas Tech University, where he taught for close to forty years in the English Department. He specialized in nineteenth-century British literature and British Renaissance literature, but also taught courses in folklore, and was a lifetime member of the Texas Folklore Society. He was one of only fourteen members to be named a Fellow of the Texas Folklore Society. He will be remembered for not only entertaining members with his "News from Old Bell County" stories at Hootenannies over the years, but more importantly for bringing many new members to the organization. He was also a Fellow of the West Texas Historical Association and served as president of that organization. He constantly promoted WTHA and was responsible for bringing many new member to the organization. Ken was a long-time member of First Christian Church in Lubbock, Texas. He taught the Upper Room Sunday school class for many years, and was an Elder Emeritus. He is preceded in death by his parents Claude P. & Minnie Bell Davis, and his sister, Patricia Davis Love. Davis donated his body to the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center School of Medicine.

## NEWS AROUND WEST TEXAS



**Gilbert and LaVonne Carlton at the 2011 WTHA Saturday Luncheon.**

**Gilbert Carlton** recently made a generous donation to WTHA in honor of his wife **LaVonne**, a long-time friend and supporter of the organization, who passed away in September 2016.

**Paula Sue Hatfield**, Chair of the Scurry County Historical Commission, was presented the Preservation Advocacy Award for her hard work to save the Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Railway station from demolition.

**Bruce A. Glasrud** is compiling a two volume book tentatively titled *We Did It: Biographical Studies of African American Women in Texas History*. He needs some more help. Even though a significant number of WTHA members have already committed to writing a chapter for this book, he would like to encourage a few more to write on one of the women from his proposed list or even suggest additional subjects. The chapters will include 1000 to 2500 words, few quotations, and a Further Reading section. To see the list or find more information, contact [bglasrud@outlook.com](mailto:bglasrud@outlook.com).

**Suzanne Campbell** made a presentation to the San Angelo Genealogical and Historical Society General Meeting on George B. Jackson - Former Slave, Businessman, Rancher, and Entrepreneur of San Angelo.

**Panhandle - Plains Historical Museum** Guns, glory and games! The Center for the Study of the American West and Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum invite you to attend "Red Dead University," a new exhibit located in the Alexander Gallery. "Red Dead University" will encourage academic gameplay of the video game Red Dead Redemption II and the exhibit will feature artifacts from the Wild West, the setting for the game. The exhibit will be open throughout 2019 and is available during regular museum operating hours. "What watching westerns at the movies or on TV was to one generation, RDRII is to the upcoming generation," said CSAW director Alex Hunt. "This game not only relates to popular understanding of western history and mythology, it also has the potential to reshape our understanding of the American West." Based in 1899, RDRII follows outlaw Arthur Morgan and his struggles to adapt to a world "that don't want us no more." Throughout the game play, players' decisions mark them as "white hat" or "black hat," their deeds influencing future gameplay. The historical setting of RDRII immerses players in history, culture, and adventure.

The **L7 Ranch** Headquarters of Terry County was named one of the Most Endangered buildings by Preservation Texas at its recent "Summit" in Austin. **Mary Jane Jackson**, Chair of the Terry County Historical Commission, was there representing the county. **Holle Humphries** of the Texas Plains Trail and the Quanah Parker Trail who had been working with Jackson and Terry County was also in attendance.

### Looking Back . . . 50 Years

The forty-sixth annual meeting of the West Texas Historical Association was held on May 16-17, 1969 at the Inn of the Golden West in Odessa. The Permian Historical Society hosted the conference beginning with a social hour at the Ector County Library on Friday.



**C. L. Sonnichsen**

Speaker for the dinner session was Dr. C. L. Sonnichsen from the University of Texas at El Paso. He spoke on "The Revolt Against the Western Novel" arguing that western literature was under attack by professors and scholars who refuse to take it seriously.

Papers were presented in three sessions on Saturday with 66 members attending in the morning and 78 in the afternoon. Dr Escal Duke of Angelo State College presided over the noon business meeting in the absence of President John Berry, who was ill. The Chuck Wagon Gang served a western barbeque atop the Phillips building in Odessa.

Dr Rupert Richardson presented a report of the affairs of the Association noting that because of rising publication costs, a larger paid membership would be desirable. He also suggested moving the annual meeting to March or April because of the growing number of conflicts in May.

**UPCOMING:**

*April 9, 2019* - Reception Honoring **Olive Price Holden** at the Southwest Collection / Special Collections Library, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., with remarks at 5:00 in the Formby Room. Holden died in 1937, leaving as a legacy the Olive Price Holden Memorial Endowment, to underwrite the purchase of books for the SWC/SCL. For information call 806-742-3749.

*April 11, 2019* - **Literary Lubbock 2019** hosted by Texas Tech University Press from 5:30 to 8 p.m. The event will be in the McKenzie-Merket Alumni Center, located at 2521 17th St., Lubbock TX 79409. It will feature a reception, seated dinner and signing/visiting with authors.

*April 25-28, 2019* - **Marfa Myths** in Marfa, Texas. Marfa Myths is an annual music festival and a multidisciplinary collaboration between Ballroom Marfa, a nonprofit cultural arts space, and the New York-based record label Mexican Summer. Since it began four years ago, in a West Texas town internationally recognized for its art and culture, Marfa Myths has showcased a diverse roster of under-the-radar talent. Expect the same this year, with acts like Khruangbin and Cass McCombs. Don't miss the art exhibitions around town. Contact [info@marfamyths.com](mailto:info@marfamyths.com)

*April 26-27, 2019* – **Central Texas Historical Association**, Temple, TX, Hilton Garden Inn. The conference will include 18 sessions with a Friday night banquet and Saturday awards luncheon. For further information visit <https://www.centexhistassn.org/annual-conference>.

*April 26-27, 2019* - **W. K. Gordon Industrial Conference**, Tarleton State University, Stephenville. Texas's first industrial history conference! Learn about the history of Texas industries ranging from livestock, banking, grain milling, railroads, airlines, towns and more! Reception on Friday, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm, W. K. Gordon Center, Thurber TX. Program on Saturday, 8:00 a.m.–2:45 p.m., will be held at Tarleton State University.

*April 26-27, 2019* – **Texas Map Society**, Dallas, TX. The conference includes a wine and cheese reception and a tour of the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum. For information visit the website at <https://texasmapsociety.org/events/>

*April 26-28, 2019* – **Texas Folklore Society**, McKinney, Texas, at the Sheraton McKinney Hotel. This year marks the Society's 110th Anniversary, so this conference should be a momentous celebration beginning with the Hootenanny.. For additional information visit <http://www.texasfolkloresociety.org/events>.

*April 26-29, 2019* - **Great Western Trail Days Celebration & Longhorn Show** Coleman, TX. Saturday, 6:00 – 10:00 pm at the Bill Franklin Center for a fabulous evening featuring a true Texas BBQ brisket meal and presentation on the history of the Great Western Trail by Dr. Monte Monroe, Texas State Historian, followed by an amazing performance by The Western Flyers-Texas' finest western swing and vintage country fiddle band. For more information go to-- <https://greatwesterntraildays.com/>



**Travis Roberts, Jennifer Spurrier and Troy Ainsworth present a WTHA session at the East Texas Historical Association meeting in 2008.**

*May 15-18, 2019* – **Society of Southwest Archivists**, Tucson AZ, Tucson Marriot University Park. The conference includes a variety of workshops and education sessions. For additional information go to <https://2019cima.southwestarchivists.org/>

*June 1, 2019* - **Fiesta 1888 A Celebration of Alpine History**, highlighting Historic Murphy Street. 4-10pm on Murphy St. Photographs/History of Murphy St and Families/Events of Interest \*Storytellers \*Video interviews \*Music \*Food \*Dancing \*Historic Exhibits. A first event celebrating Alpine history in collaboration with Sul Ross State University Archives, Center for Big Bend Studies, Historic Alpine, Museum of the Big Bend, Brewster County and Texas Historical Commissions, Texas Mountain Trail, BJ Gallego, David Keller, Betty Gaddis Yndo and other interested historians. Businesses on Murphy Street will be open with their histories displayed and storytellers available.

*October 16-19, 2019* – **Western History Association**, Las Vegas, NV, Westgate Hotel. Go to <https://www.westernhistory.org/2019>.

## 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 30<sup>th</sup>.
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

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Editor: Jim Matthews at [jjmatthews2@att.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.wtha.org).