



# THE CYCLONE



## 2011 Conference at Lubbock Christian



Current WTHA President Keith Owen with past President Tiffany Fink.

The 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the West Texas Historical Association will be April 1-2, 2011 at Lubbock Christian University in Lubbock. Over

forty papers will be presented in sessions that begin Friday at 9:00 a.m. and continue through noon on Saturday at the Baker Conference Center. The entire schedule of papers is posted online at <[www.wtha.org](http://www.wtha.org)>.

Early arrivals on Thursday afternoon can enjoy a tour of Motley County and the Matador Ranch with supper included. This year's conference banquet is scheduled for the Wind Power Center on Friday evening at 7:00 p.m.. The business meeting and luncheon will be Saturday at 12:30 p.m. in the LCU Baker Conference Center. Following the luncheon there will be a closing tour of Post, Texas available including two museums, a supper buffet and a performance at the historic Garza Theatre.

Exhibitors interested in displaying items at the conference or those wishing to donate anything to the silent auction should contact Freedonia Paschall at (806) 742-3749 or e-mail [Freedonia.Paschall@ttu.edu](mailto:Freedonia.Paschall@ttu.edu). Please consult our website for further conference information.

## Obelisks Coined by Utopian Dreamer

By Hanaba Munn Welch

Utopian dreams have a way of not coming true but they still leave indelible marks on society, even on the Texas Plains.

Case in point: Curious concrete markers from the early 1900s are vestiges of the Ozark Trail -- an unlikely promotional scheme that marked a network of highways and byways with Egyptian-style obelisks to lead travelers from places like far West Texas to a Northwest Arkansas resort.

The dreamer was William Hope "Coin" Harvey (1851-1936). His resort, Monte Ne, complete with Venetian-style gondolas and canal and a Roman-style amphitheater, lay in a valley in the Ozark Mountains near Rogers, Arkansas. Harvey said the name meant "mountain waters."

Harvey spoke prophetically. Monte Ne now lies almost totally underwater, flooded since the 1960s by Beaver Lake, thanks to a dam on the White River.

On target or not, speaking prophetically was Harvey's style -- especially when he was advancing his



The Ozark Trail marker in Wellington, Texas, stands on the northeast corner of the Collingsworth County Courthouse Square, restored to look as it did in the early 20th century. In the background is Wellington's Ritz Theater, also restored to its original look. Photo from July 2005 by Hanaba Munn Welch.

own economic theories (whence the nickname "Coin") or predicting the demise of civilization.

Not a crackpot by all standards, Harvey was an early adviser to William

Jennings Bryan, whose famous 1896 "Cross of Gold" speech contains Harvey's "free silver" philosophy and concludes dramatically by characterizing the gold standard as an oppressive tool of the rich against the common man.

At 36, Bryan's position on the gold-versus-silver issue helped him win his first nomination for the presidency. At 45, his advisor, Harvey, had already been a lawyer, a silver mine owner-operator, a real estate developer, a "Wild West" Mardi Gras promoter and a seller of "Elixir of Life" tonic water of the medicine show variety. Soon he would be the owner of Monte Ne and the driving force behind the Ozark Trail Association.

Harvey's other major foray into politics was a 1932 run for the presidency on the Liberty Party ticket. The 82-year-old candidate advanced his economic theories and warned that modern civilization was bound for destruction. Yet he believed the human race could rise again, like a phoenix from the ashes. If he couldn't effect changes during his life, he believed he could participate (continued on page 2)

# From the Executive Director



Dear Friends and Members of the Association:

Please remember to register for the upcoming annual meeting April 1-2 on the Lubbock Christian University campus in Lubbock. The program committee of Michael Whitley, Glen Ely and Joe Specht have put together a great slate of presentations that range from perspectives on Dorothy Scarborough to issues revolving around health and medicine on the West Texas frontier. President Keith Owen has arranged for spacious and fully appointed session rooms in the Baker Conference Center and the American Heritage Building that are immediately adjacent to one another. Robert Hall, the annual meeting coordinator, has been working with the local arrangements committee to set up some very interesting tours of Motley County and Post City. Many thanks go to Marisue Potts Powell of Matador and Linda Pucket of Post for setting that up.

We are also expecting our friends from the East Texas Historical Association and the Center for Big Bend Studies as usual. However, this year we will also have on hand sponsored sessions from the South Texas Historical Association, the Texas Historical Commission, a presentation from the Historical Society of New Mexico, another from the Edwards Plateau Historical Association, and two papers from the 2010 Fellows from the Excellence in West Texas Fellowship Program. It will be a banquet for West Texas History lovers.

See you in Lubbock,  
Tai Kreidler, Executive Director

## Obelisks Coined

(continued from page 1) posthumously in civilization's rebirth. To that end, Harvey planned to build a 130-foot-tall obelisk at Monte Ne to house a time capsule with examples of inventions to record human technological progress and also his own treatise explaining the reasons for mankind's demise.

Harvey didn't expect an artificial lake to cover the area. Instead he expected cataclysmic events like earthquakes and volcanic eruptions to level the terrain, leaving visible only the tip of his obelisk. A plaque at the top was to have said, "When this can be read, go below and discover the cause of the death of a former civilization." But the only obelisks ever built were the far-flung ones Harvey first suggested in 1913 as markers for the Ozark Trail system -- typically 20-odd feet tall and inscribed at their points with "O.T." In Monte Ne, center of his empire, the soaring obelisk never came to be.

Why was Harvey so enamored of obelisks? Perhaps because they represented all things Egyptian and something of an antithesis to all things English. Harvey was no anglophile. "Harvey despised England . . . particularly their banking system, which he saw as the agent that had infected and corrupted America's own," reads a 2002 treatise written by someone identified only as R.T.J. at: <http://users.aristotle.net/~russjohn/history/montene.html>. In the English banking system, Harvey saw a plot to rule the world.

Harvey's own plea was for a structured society -- one that would function as efficiently as Pharaoh's Egypt when Joseph was in charge, albeit with nationalization of major industries to replace taxation as a way to fund the operation of the government. A cap on personal wealth was part of Harvey's plan. No one in his ideal system would own more than 100 acres or have a net worth of more than \$50,000 in cash. Harvey's version of socialism reflected the times just as Franklin Delano Roosevelt's measures for dealing with the woes of the Great Depression played off the same thinking.

In some cases, Utopian dreams were much more than talk as in the case of Clarendon, a Panhandle settlement started as a Methodist utopia of sorts in 1878, predating Harvey's Monte Ne by more than two decades. Even so, some of the cowboys in the area thought it less than perfect, nicknaming it Saints' Roost for its no-alcohol policy.

But so it is with Utopian dreams. They exist in all their perfection only in the minds of their inventors and on paper. But the late 19th- and early 20th-century, attempts to create perfect places made things happen. Cities grew, highways developed along certain routes, people maintained hope for better times to come. Sometimes all it took

OZARK TRAILS WEST	
NAZARETH	20 MI
DIMMITT	37
BOVINA	70
FARWELL	88
CLOVIS	93
PORTALES	112
ELIDA	133
KENNA	144
ROSWELL	210
MESCALERO	300
TULAROSA	318
ALMAGORDO	333
EL PASO	429

Tulia marker, photo by Holle Humphries.

then and all it takes now to catch people's fancy is the ring of a slogan, like FDR's "New Deal" or Lyndon Johnson's "Great Society."

Better yet, sometimes all it takes is a powerful symbol imbued with historical greatness and a hint of mystery -- something like an obelisk.

## Civil War Sesquicentennial

This year marks the beginning of the Civil War sesquicentennial. From Virginia to Arkansas to Pennsylvania, states, museums and battlefield parks will commemorate the important anniversary. Below is a list of technology resources that will help Civil War enthusiasts keep up with activities. It's almost enough to make those of us who remember the Civil War Centennial start to Twitter.

**National Parks Service ([nps.gov/civilwar](http://nps.gov/civilwar))** contains a calendar of events at different national battlefield parks; also contains historical information about the war.

**Facebook's Civil War Sesquicentennial network** connects people and organizations interested in the commemoration.

**Twitter@civilwarwp** sends tweets about war-time events on the day they happened 150 years ago. Information is taken from state archives, military records, memoirs, letters, and newspapers.

**The Civil War Trust ([civilwar.org/150th-anniversary](http://civilwar.org/150th-anniversary))** gathers sesquicentennial news and maintains a calendar of upcoming events.

**The Civil War Times/ America's Civil War magazines ([historynet.com/sesquicentennial-partnerships](http://historynet.com/sesquicentennial-partnerships))** has links to partner websites, including the National Archives, the Smithsonian, The Gettysburg Foundation, and many state-level sesquicentennial committees.

# The Border Post of Phantom Hill

by C. C. Rister

*[Reprinted from the 1938 Year Book.]*

In the eastern part of Jones County, on the south bank of the Clear Fork of the Brazos River, stand about twenty lone rock chimneys and the decaying ruins of three stone buildings. These are the remains of the once famous frontier post of Phantom Hill, or as it was commonly designated in the records of the War Department, The Post on the Clear Fork of the Brazos. The morning reveille has long ceased to sound; and the evening guns, warning Indians of the White man's tenure, have hushed their ominous voices. Although at one time an important government post, no American flag floats above its silent ruins today; and the curious passer-by fails to find on the site a fitting memorial. The enterprising farmer who owns the land on which the old fort stood, uses the arsenal, which is still intact, as a part of a cow lot; he quarters his pigs in the tumbled-down commissary (once the best building on the hill); and he reserves the guard-house for his own home.

Manuscript records in the federal archives at Washington reveal the details of the history of The Post on the Clear Fork of the Brazos. Shortly after we acquired the Mexican Cession in 1848, travelers began to make their way across western Texas toward the California gold fields. When they passed the border settlements the hostile Indians destroyed their caravans, murdered the emigrants, and took away as booty all their equipment. Then, too, many times the bleaching bones of the argonauts were left on the uncharted prairies and deserts as mute evidence of the dangers of Western travel. In order partially to guard against these dangers, the federal government sent Captain R. B. Marcy in 1849 with a detachment of eighty men to survey a route from Fort Smith, Arkansas, to New Mexico and California. On his way out via the Canadian River, he established a route which was later known as the Albuquerque Trail, and on his return journey he passed along the frontier of Texas and surveyed what the War Department named the Marcy Trail. A short time later, in planning a line of forts for the protection of the Texas border settlements, the return route was adopted.



Fort Phantom Hill today. (photo courtesy Fort Phantom Foundation.)

The second post on this line south of the Red River was Phantom Hill. Brevet Lieutenant Colonel J. J. Abercrombie with companies C and G of the Fifth Infantry arrived on the Clear Fork in the early evening hours of November 14, 1851, as the first unit of federal troops to occupy Phantom Hill. This force was augmented two days later by the arrival of companies B, E, and K of the same regiment.

A situation which might have proven embarrassing, yet which did not (because of the isolation of the post), was that the land upon which the post was located was not owned by the federal government. On August 3, 1851, a large tract of land including the Phantom Hill site was sold to A. C. Daws for the sum of fifty dollars. This, as will be noticed from the date of the establishment of Phantom Hill, was but three months before the first troops arrived.

In beginning construction work at the post, adequate building material constituted a serious handicap. The surrounding country was a vast prairie, except for a dense growth of scrub oak covering a sandy ridge on the north bank of the Clear Fork and bigger timber along the stream. But this was unsuitable for anything except fuel. Trees for building purposes were not found less than six miles from the post, and these had to be hauled in ox-drawn wagons. But a good stone quarry was found on the east bank of Elm Creek about

two miles from the fort. However, the erection of stone buildings required time and skilled masons. Consequently several months were to elapse before the place was to assume the appearance of a regular army post. Most of the buildings were "jacals" (consisting of upright poles interlaced with boughs and daubed with mud).

A suitable water supply was another draw-back. For a time both the soldiers and horses drank the brackish and unsanitary river water (unsanitary because decaying carcasses of buffaloes were in its silt-filled bed). A short time later a spring was found on the brow of the hill near the post and this furnished water for the men until the warm dry summer months when it became necessary to look about for a more permanent supply. As a final solution, a large number of wagons were used to haul water in barrels from a well about four miles distant.

Still another handicap, and probably the most serious one, was the absence of a post garden. Because of a lack of vegetables in the diet, the soldiers suffered physical ailments. On this point Brevet Lieutenant Colonel W. G. Freeman, inspecting the post in 1853 noted, "Scurvy also prevails to some extent, owing to want of vegetable diet, and as a prevention, Dr. Taylor recommends that pickles be added to the ration." Still another novel way to supply this deficiency was resorted to during the early spring. Surgeon Alexander B. Hanson reported in 1852 that diminutive species of allium (onion), which the men call "wild onion" was abundant early in March, but did not last long; and, as the men had been many months without fresh vegetables, they availed themselves freely on this luxury. Scurvy, intermittent fever, dysentery, colds, and pneumonia were common ailments.

Colonel Abercrombie remained in command of the post until April 27, 1852, when he was succeeded by Lieutenant Colonel Carlos A. Waite. On August 24, 1853, four companies of troops were withdrawn for duty elsewhere, and the sole company remaining was joined, on September 23 of the same year, by Company I of the Second Dragoons. These

men, numbering one hundred and thirty-nine, formed the garrison until its abandonment on April 16, 1854. On September 24, 1853, Major H. H. Sibley took command, but he was withdrawn in the following March, leaving the fort in command of Lieutenant W. H. Lewis; Company C, Captain T. H. Fowler, and Second Lieutenant B. Wingate; Company E, First Lieutenant W. W. Burns, and Second Lieutenant C. W. Lear, and Second Lieutenant D. C. Stith.

These names are mentioned to show that none of the celebrated officers commonly mentioned in the folklore of the country were ever stationed at Phantom Hill. Local residents have heard that Robert E. Lee, Albert Sidney Johnston, Joseph E. Johnston, George Thomas, and other men who became famous at a later time were stationed here. Space does not permit presenting available records to show the various assignments of these men during the tenure of Phantom Hill as a regular army post; but it may be successfully proven that each was stationed elsewhere. Lieutenant Colonel Robert E. Lee was in command at Camp Cooper for a time following the abandonment of Phantom Hill, and undoubtedly later visited its ruins many times in his reconnaissance along the frontier, but he was never stationed there. Indeed, he did not come to Texas until the year following its abandonment as a regular army station. As to Colonel Albert Sidney Johnston, he was never given a regular station at Phantom Hill, but he visited it from time to time as paymaster of the frontier posts. Then, finally, it is quite probable the Joseph E. Johnston and George Thomas, and even Earl Van Dorn, had occasion to visit the post in their days of service along the frontier; but official records prove that each was stationed elsewhere during its period of troop-tenure.

But Lieutenant Colonel Carlos A. Waite and Major H. H. Sibley later arose to positions of considerable importance in army circles. Waite was in command of the Department of Texas when it was taken over by the Confederacy, and in 1862 Sibley led an expedition into New Mexico. It should be stated, too, that the two children buried near the post were not the offspring of Robert E. Lee, for indeed Lee's family remained at Arlington, Virginia, during this period; but—as is

indicated plainly on the headstone of the common grave of the two—they were the children of Lieutenant Burns.

It is customary to picture the frontier soldier as a romantic figure, engaged in a continuous round of exciting adventures. But early manuscript records of the Adjutant General's Office, War Department, prove to the contrary. The isolated officers and men had advantages of a well-ordered environment, and their duties in protecting the border settlements from the constant forays of Indians called for arduous service, sleepless nights, long hours of weary marching without seeing friends or foes, enduring pangs of hunger when food was not to be had, or parching thirst while crossing arid wastes were a few of their drab experiences. In fact, those who joined the army seeking adventure, were generally disappointed; they found discomfort and hard service instead.



Photo courtesy of Fort Phantom Foundation.

The post on the Clear Fork of the Brazos was one of the loneliest stations along the entire Texas frontier. Both officers and men disliked its exacting duties, and desertion among the men was common. Perhaps isolation and poor transportation facilities also accounted for faulty equipment as is indicated in Colonel Freeman's report of 1853:

"The troops have only fatigue clothing. A small quantity of the new pattern has arrived for two of the companies (B and C) and invoices of a full supply for the whole command has been received. Four of the companies are partially armed with percussion muskets, the fifth (B) in part, with musketoons, though an invoice for a supply of muskets, to replace this indifferent arm, has been received."

The battalion could not be reviewed or exercised owing to the large number of raw recruits who had joined a fortnight before, and the few old soldiers in the ranks. In some companies there were not a half dozen instructed men under arms—three detachments (all old soldiers) being absent

on escort and without arms—there being none in the company stores for issue. Brevet Colonel Waite reported that "small requisitions have been made for arms, etc., which have not been complied with. We now have fifty-five recruits without arms."

Phantom Hill was supplied from the Austin Depot, in which service twenty-four wagons, twelve horses, ninety-three mules and twenty-six oxen were used. Troops were often detailed to accompany supply trains. Surveying and reconnoitering detachments, and parties for the pursuit of raiding Indians were frequently sent out from the post. On long marches the men were issued rations of flour, coffee, sugar, and bacon; and because of having to eat bread which they must cook (mixed with water from prairie ponds, many times stagnant), stomach trouble was a common ailment. They were provided with Dutch ovens. These had folding handles which enabled them to carry them handily on their backs or tied to their saddles. As an experiment, they were first given hardtack; but they complained that it would soon become stale, so finally they were ordered to cook their own bread.

The Indian tribe living in the vicinity of the post was the Southern Comanche (Penateka), although Lipans, Kickapoos, and Kiowas were occasional visitors. These tribes were largely nomadic. Their lodges were speedily erected wherever they stopped, and were made of a few poles cut upon the spot or carried with them, and scantily covered with skins, blankets, or pieces of muslin procured from the whites. In an article written for *Hunters Magazine* in 1911, Mrs. Emma Johnson Elkins, who lived for a time at the post, tells an interesting story of a visit of hostile Comanches to Phantom Hill. She stated that on one occasion the alarm was sounded. "Then," she says, "the soldiers were soon out in battle array. The whole tribe of Northern Comanches was coming in sight, the head chief, Buffalo Hump, in the lead, followed by his subordinates; then came the warriors, squaws and papooses, 2,500 in all. Seeing the preparations for their reception, it was too much for the noble red men and they passed on with scowls and angry looks, going in a westerly direction." Federal records are silent as to Indian attacks on the post, although they tell of frequent visits, on which occasions the Indians would beg, steal, and make

themselves generally a nuisance, even to the extent of firing on the soldiers from ambush.

The name Phantom Hill, as was previously stated, was not the official designation of the post. However, it was so commonly used as virtually to make it that. There are various theories as to why it was so called. One is that the summer mirage causes the hill to stand out sharply but that it gradually assumes its normal appearance when approached; some ascribe its name to its lonely site; but probably the most interesting is thus given by Mrs. Elkins: "On a bright moonlight night a group of officers and party of men were encamped a short distance from the new post when one of the party seeing a tall white figure on the hill (probably an Indian with a white blanket around him), exclaimed: 'A ghost!' Another said, 'A Phantom on the hill!' This name was unanimously adopted." Available War Department records do not throw light on the controversy. One merely states that the "Post of the Clear Fork of the Brazos" was known locally as "Phantom Hill."

Another disputed point is in connection with the destruction of the post. Who burned Phantom Hill? One writer has it that Indians burned the post after it was evacuated by the federal troops in order to rid themselves of this white man's menace; another states that it was destroyed by Confederate soldiers; and still a third asserts that it was burned by its own men the first night after abandonment. The third is correct. A traveler who visited the post in 1858 stated that there was nothing left on the hill but the lone chimneys and wrote that it was burned after abandonment. But why or by whom, he does not say. Mrs. Elkins states that the first night after the soldiers had marched out from the post, a soldier by the name of Scullion, together with a slave belonging to Mr. T. N. Gibbins (probably Lieutenant Givens) returned and burned it to the ground. She states that the soldier was subsequently tried and convicted of the charge. Her account was in part substantiated in 1858 by W. L. Ormsby, who tells of its destruction (quoted later).

The military history of Phantom Hill does not entirely end with its evacuation in 1854. Four years later a contract was awarded to John Butterfield to conduct a mail service for the United States

government from the Mississippi Valley to the Pacific. The two eastern terminals of the line were St. Louis, Missouri (or a point about one hundred and fifty miles west of St. Louis) and Memphis, Tennessee. These two lines converged at Fort Smith, Arkansas, and formed one which then crossed the Red River near Preston, thence traveled southward via forts Belknap, Phantom Hill, Chadbourne, and on westward through New Mexico and Arizona to San Francisco. Many times troops used to protect government mail were quartered temporarily at Phantom Hill where there was a stage station under the care of a Mr. Burlington and his wife.



Photo courtesy of Fort Phantom Foundation.

An interesting description of Phantom Hill is thus given by W. L. Ormsby, special correspondent to the New York *Herald*, when he visited it on October 2, 1858, as the first passenger going west over the Butterfield line:

"Our next stopping place was at Phantom Hill, a deserted military post, 74 miles from Fort Belknap and 56 miles from Fort Chadbourne, on the road between the two. It was, I believe built in 1851 or 1852, and after being occupied for some time was destroyed by fire by the soldiers in 1853 [1854], on the occasion of their being ordered to some other post. Over half a million dollars worth of property was destroyed at the time; yet after a pretended investigation, no conclusion was arrived at as to the cause of the diabolical deed. It was said that the officers and men were heartily disgusted with the station, and wished to make certain of never going back, that as they were leaving the fort, one of the principal officers was heard to say he wished the place would burn down, and that the soldiers, taking him at his word, stayed behind and fired the buildings. Two things are pretty certain; first, that the officers did not like the place; and second, that whether accidentally or not, it burned down just as they left it. Most of the chimneys are still standing, and as they

reflected the light of the full moon as we drove up it might well become the title of "Phantom Hill." There are ruins of from 40 to 50 buildings, including an observatory and magazine; the latter was built entirely of stone, and was so little injured that Dr. Birch took it for a company store-house; the stable is also a fine stone building, so that altogether, Phantom Hill is the cheapest and best new station on the route. There is a fine well, 80 feet deep and 20 feet in diameter, which, when we passed, had 17 feet of water in it. One of the houses whose walls are nearly perfect is used by the station men. Mr. Burlington and his wife we found here all alone, hundreds of miles from any settlement, bravely stopping at their post on Phantom Hill, fearless of the attacks of blood-thirsty Indians-- as brave a man as ever settled on a frontier, and a monument of shame to the cowardly soldiers who burned the post. The fort is now needed to protect the frontier, and should form one of a great chain of military stations along the overland mail route, which needs all the protection that the government has promised."

"The station is directly in the trail of the Northern Comanches, as they run down into Texas on their marauding expeditions. To leave this and other stations on the route so exposed is trifling with human life, and inviting an attack of the helpless defenders on the mail. As I have already said, there will be designing white men as well as Indians, whose cupidity must be overawed by adequate military protection. Let but this be afforded, and I predict for the mail route a complete success, as well as a rapid settlement of the many fertile and desirable spots along the line."

The overland route was abandoned with the approach of the Civil War, and the new Confederate line of defense (running north and south) was farther east. During the period of the great struggle very little is known about Phantom Hill. But with the dawn of peace the eager settlers again sought the broad expanses of the western part of the state and settled near it. Hardy cattlemen reoccupied their deserted ranches, the larger number of which were in ruins and once more it became necessary to throw out along the frontier a line of forts. Although Phantom Hill did not form one of the main units in this new line, it was used as a sub-post. On June 5, 1871, a

company of troops were sent out from Fort Griffin, a post located on the Clear Fork of the Brazos, about fifteen miles north of the present town of Albany. These troops were under the command of Captain Theodore Schwan of the Eleventh Infantry. The purpose of the sub-post, (in addition to guarding the mail line) is found in a special order issued November 24, 1871:

Captain Theodore Schwan, Eleventh United States Infantry, with Company G, one non-commissioned officer, and four privates of the Cavalry and two Tonkawa Scouts, is to occupy Phantom Hill, leaving Fort Griffin on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January, 1872. . . . The detail of one non-commissioned officer and six privates to guard the mail station at Mountain Pass, Texas, will therefore be furnished from the Infantry company, for the time being, stationed at the sub-post of Phantom Hill.

Mountain Pass was the first stage station south of Phantom Hill on the road to Fort McKavett. It was located in a precipitous pass of a range of mountains about thirty miles distant. Here a detachment from Phantom Hill was attacked in 1874 by a force of seventy-five Comanche and Kiowa; and after a sharp engagement, lasting one and one-half hours, the Indians were driven away with six killed and several wounded.

With the cessation of Indian attacks and the coming to western Texas of thousands of immigrants, Phantom Hill became a thriving frontier town. Saloons, gambling halls, a hotel, and shops arose on the abandoned sites of officers' quarters and barracks. When the survey of the Texas and Pacific Railroad was run through Texas, the people of this bustling little town began to talk of a good shipping point for their rapidly expanding business enterprises; and with the organization of Jones County, they hoped that Phantom Hill would become the county seat. But as so often happens in the rapid settlement of a frontier, another town, nearer the center of the county, was chosen, and Phantom Hill was abandoned. Merchants and professional men loaded their goods and household effects into freight wagons and moved to Anson or other nearby towns.

With the rapid development of the country in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, the cowboy and farmer took the place of the soldier and freighter. They knew and cared little about the smut-scarred chimneys and ruins scattered over the hill, so the glamorous days of the post were soon forgotten. Then, too, the rapidly changing tides of immigration swept from the vicinity those frontiersmen who were acquainted with its early history. Today there are many

who are interested in preserving traditions of the past, but little has been done to make possible their worthy intentions. Some gifted at writing have done more in this respect than folklorists and patriotic societies. No memorial erected at Phantom Hill would be more fitting than a poem written by the poet-ranchman, "Larry" Chittenden, the first stanza of which reads:

On the breezy Texas border, on the prairies far away.

Where the antelope is grazing and the Spanish ponies play;

Where the tawny cattle wander through the golden incensed hours

And the sunlight woos a landscape clothed in royal robes of flowers;

Where the Elm and Clear Fork mingle, as they journey to the sea,

And the night-wind sobs sad stories o'er a wild and lonely lea;

Where of old the dusky savage and the shaggy bison trod,

And the reverent plains are sleeping 'midst drowsy dreams of God;

Where the twilight loves to linger, e'er night's sable robes are cast,

'Round grim-ruined, spectral chimneys, telling stories of the past,

There upon an airy mesa, close beside a whispering rill,

There to-day you'll find the ruins of Old Fort Phantom Hill.

As winsome as is this poem, it tends to preserve inaccuracies. In the second stanza the writer mentions the legend "This old fort was first established by the gallant soldier Lee," and speaks of strange phantoms who flit through the weeping mesquite vale, also in harmony with the lore of the region. In the last stanza, he marshals the spirits of "Lee and Johnston and Mackenzie, Grant and Jackson, Custer, too" to await their last review. Yet the spirit of the poem is curiously in harmony with that which seems to hover about the place. The journalist, Ormsby seemed to feel its influence in 1858; and others have been similarly impressed. Its romantic past will probably continue to stimulate poets and writers to live in the glamorous days of the past, and in doing so a memorial will be created of an enduring kind in the hearts of West Texans.

*[Fort Phantom Hill Today: The Fort has been open to the public since 1972 and is presently owned and operated by the Fort Phantom Foundation. The 22 acre site north of Abilene was contributed to the Foundation in 1997 by Mr. and Mrs. Jim Alexander. As Rister noted, the fort was burned in 1854, but visitors can still explore three original stone buildings--an intact*

*stone powder magazine, a stone guardhouse and an almost-intact commissary or warehouse. More than a dozen stone chimneys and foundations from the original fort still stand.]*



**Carl Coke Rister** served as the editor of the *West Texas Historical Association Year Book* from 1925 to 1929. He was born on June 30, 1889, in Hayrick, Texas, graduated

from Simmons College (now Hardin-Simmons University) in 1915, and earned a master's degree from George Washington University in 1920. Rister returned to teach at George Washington University while working on his Ph.D., which he received in 1925. He then taught at Simmons College. Next, Rister taught at Oklahoma University for twenty-two years, serving as professor of history, chairman of the history department, and research professor of history. His work in southwestern military, Indian, and oil history garnered him notable reputation in his field. In 1951, Rister began teaching history at Texas Technological College. He died unexpectedly of a heart attack on April 16, 1955, in Roitan, Texas, and was buried in Lubbock.

#### IN MEMORY. . .

**Sharleen Wells Formby Rhoads**, 92, of Plainview, died on December 8, 2010, in Lubbock. Born Sept. 30, 1918, in Ohio, she moved as a young girl to Hendersonville, N.C. She graduated as valedictorian from Montivello College in Alabama, with a degree in English. From college, Sharleen went to work at the Pentagon as a secretary to Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower. Leaving Washington, D.C., she enrolled at the University of Texas, where she met "the most eligible bachelor in the state of Texas," Marshall C. Formby. The two married on September 8, 1946. The Formbys put a series of radio stations on the air, the first being KPAN in Hereford, followed by stations in Tulia, Kermit, Colorado City, Snyder, Temple and Tyler. They established the Marshall and Sharleen Formby Foundation in the Southwest Collection of Texas Tech Library System. Marshall preceded her in death in 1984. In March 1994, she married Harvey Rhoads and moved to Midland. To summarize her life, she was a giver - a giver of time, a giver of love. Those wishing to honor her memory may send a gift to the **Marshall and Sharleen Formby Scholarship Fund, c/o Southwest Collection, Texas Tech University, Box 41041, Lubbock, TX 79409-1041.**

## NEWS AROUND WEST TEXAS



**Paul Carlson, Tom Crum, and Peggy Hardman** presented papers at the joint WTHA session and the Center for Big Bend Studies in November 2010. **Bruce Glasrud**, Association Vice President presided. **Leland Turner** from Weatherford, Oklahoma presented in a separate session on the history and influence of Roy Orbison.

**Paul Carlson and Tom Crum's** new book *Myth, Memory and Massacre: The Pease River Capture of Cynthia Ann Parker* was recently published by Texas Tech University Press. The book not only examines the recapture of Parker but also takes a critical look at how and why stories of the battle became legend.

**Ty Cashion**, Sam Houston State University history professor, has been named a recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award at Austin College, his undergraduate alma mater. The award was presented at ceremonies on the college's campus on October 22, 2010.

Director of the Baylor College of Medicine [BCM] Archives, **JoAnn Pospisil**, participated in the *Texans Head to Foot* exhibit which can be seen at San Antonio's Institute of Texan Cultures until May 1. The exhibit features the hats and shoes of about 40 famous and inspiring Texans such as BCM's Dr. Michael DeBakey and also including George Strait, Ann Richards, Dr. Red Duke, Lady Bird Johnson, Michael Dell, Red McCombs, Joaquin Jackson, Dan Rather, and many more.

**The Fort Chadbourne Foundation** has published its first book, *Fort Chadbourne: A Military Post - A Family Heritage* by Ann Pate. There are two versions of the book available: a Leather Bound Collectors Limited Edition (100 copies) and a hard cover edition. Contact the foundation at 325-743-2555 or email <fortchad@taylortel.net> for more information.

**Centennials:** The Crosbyton-South Plains Railroad opened on April 10, 1911, between Lubbock and Crosbyton. The line was purchased by the Santa Fe in 1915. The rails of the Santa Fe-controlled Pecos & Northern Texas Railway coming from Coleman reached the Augustus siding, about five miles south of Post on April 30, 1911. Tracks from Post arrived at Augustus the next day, May 1. Rail service was provided by construction forces in a limited manner until the line formally opened on December 1, 1911.

**Peggy Hardman and Robert Hall** will represent the West Texas Historical Association in a joint session for the New Mexico History Conference in Ruidoso on May 5-7, 2011. They will talk about new perspectives on the Bosque Redondo. The session will be chaired by **Bruce Glasrud**.



**Wes Sheffield with tombstone.**

The Marlow Museum, in Marlow, Oklahoma has exhibits placed by local residents, featuring local history and color. Many artifacts relating to the Marlow brothers and family are on display. Included is the contract signed by members of the family giving the rights to the movie "The Sons of Katie Elder," based on the story of the Marlow brothers. Visitors will also find the original tombstone of Alfred, Boone, and Lewellyn. The original 1889 Marlow Brothers headstone was moved from the Finis Cemetery, Jack County, TX, to the museum several years ago.

### CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

The CYCLONE invites submissions of short articles (500-750 words) about historic sites on private land or in out-of-the-way places. Short articles about archeological digs or about activities at local museums or historical societies are also welcome. Photos are a plus.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

*April 15-17, 2011. Center for the Advancement and Study of Early Texas Art (CASETA), 9th Annual Symposium on Early Texas Art, Dallas.*

*April 18-21, 2011. Week of the Young Child, Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Canyon. Three to five-year-olds experience PPHM with role players, storytellers and hands-on activities. Each day has a theme: Monday is Nature Day, Tuesday is Indian Day, Wednesday is Cowboy Day and Thursday is Art Day. The themes expose the children to all the museum has to offer, but on their level. Kids move from station to station listening to stories, making crafts and participating in hands-on activities. Admission and programs are \$2 per child. Reservations are required. Chaperones and parents are free of charge. For reservations, call Millie at (806) 651-2249 or email mvanover@pphm.wtamu.edu. Reservations must be made by Wednesday, April 13.*

*April 20-23, 2011. Southwest/Texas Popular & American Culture Association Conference, San Antonio.*

*April 21-23, 2011. Texas Folklore Society meeting, Embassy Suites, San Marcos, Texas. For more information, consult the TFS website <www.texasfolkloresociety.org>*

*April 30, 2011. Fort Concho Frontier Day, San Angelo. Come and celebrate the region's agricultural and ranching heritage with special displays, exhibits, living history, pancake breakfast, 1800s Base Ball, booths for vendors and children's activities. There is no charge for this half-day event beyond the fee for the pancake breakfast.*

*April 30, 2011. 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Ranch Day, National Ranching Heritage Center, Lubbock, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Learn about how life was sustained on the Plains. Assist in thatching a roof, building a log cabin and making mud bricks. Other activities include: Chuck wagon food samples, horseback riding, pioneer crafts demonstrations and much more.*

*July 23, 2011. National Cowboy Day at Fort Concho, San Angelo. San Angelo and Fort Concho are celebrating the National Day of the Cowboy. To mark the event Fort Concho will host special programs & entertainment, living history demonstrations, and 1800s Base Ball.*

THE WEST TEXAS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES  
A SCHOLARSHIP FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN THE STUDY OF THE  
HISTORY AND CULTURE OF WEST TEXAS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$750

Eligibility:

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 complete an official application by May 1, 2011.
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.

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

**THE CYCLONE**

*A Newsletter for members of the West Texas Historical Association*  
Editors: Jim & Becky Matthews

Published twice a year by the West Texas Historical Association, Lubbock, Texas. Members also receive the *Year Book*, published each fall, containing articles, news notes, and book reviews about West Texas history. Annual membership fees are \$10 for students, \$20 regular, \$25 family, \$35 sustaining, \$20 institutional/library. All back issues of the *Year Book*, published since 1925, are available for \$15 each.

**Browse back issues of the Cyclone at our website <[www.wtha.org](http://www.wtha.org)> maintained by webmaster Lynn Whitfield.**



On line? Visit our Web Site  
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