

## Looking ahead

Texas is proving once again what a resilient state it is by leading the nation in new job creation and attracting new residents at a strong pace. Whereas citizens of the state always look forward to embracing new challenges, Texas remains firmly anchored in its history and heritage. The values of work, honor, duty and innovation—those traits that the Center for Texas Studies at TCU celebrates—continue strong. We are proud to celebrate all that makes Texas distinctive.

In keeping with our mission, the Center for Texas Studies continued its programming of public history in teacher education workshops, Saturday morning “Every Person a Historian” workshops, continuing education classes and participation with the Texas State Historical Association in the “Texas Quiz Show” in 2012. But, 2012 was also devoted to creating new programming and bringing some older projects to fruition.

The Texas Legation Papers that consist of approximately 270 papers have been in the custody of TCU’s Library’s Special Collections since January of 2007, thanks to the generosity of J.P. Bryan, Mary Ralph Lowe and Chancellor Victor Boschini. During that time teachers have used the documents to teach students how to use primary sources and researchers have plumbed the collection. In the fall of 2012, TCU history Professor Kenneth Stevens will bring out the book that chronicles all of the papers. Transcriptions of all will be included, along with reproductions of many of the most important ones. Shortly after the publication of the TCU Press book, *The Texas Legation Papers*, the Center will launch a website that includes images of all of the papers, making them available via the web for students and teachers everywhere. We are most grateful to the Jane and John Justin Foundation for



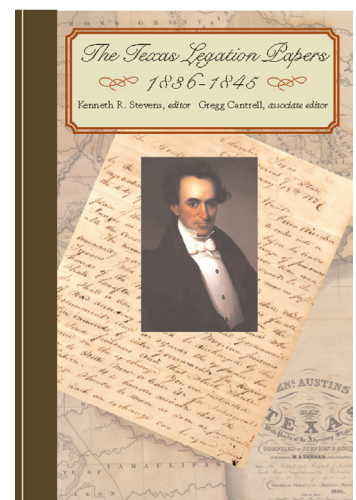
making publication of the book and creation of the website possible. As the papers are returned to the Texas State Library and Archives in Austin at the end of 2012, TCU will continue to hold a piece of Texas history.

The newest Center project is an exhibition of 70 works by Texas artists such as Theodore Gentilz, Robert Jenkins Onderdonk, Frank Reaugh, Alexander Hogue, José Arpa, Tom Lea and Dawson Dawson-Watson from the Torch Energy Collection, most of which have never been publically exhibited. The exhibition will be on view in 2014 in Austin at the Bob Bullock Museum and in Fort Worth at the Museum of Science and History. Negotiations are underway with other museums around the state as well. The exhibition will be accompanied by a book by museum curator and Southwest art specialist Michael Duty that will be jointly sponsored by the TCU Press and the Center for Texas Studies.

The Center remains grateful to those many organizations and individuals who have invested in its efforts and its mission, including the Burnett Foundation, the Amon G. Carter Foundation, Heartland Alliance, the Jane and John Justin Foundation, the Lowe Foundation, the Sommerfield G. Roberts Foundation and the Summerlee Foundation

Mary Volcansek, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

“Every person  
is a historian.”





## In Crisis, there is New Hope!

In the cyclical ebb and flow of human events, individuals find solace in the seeming stability of the past, just as the Center for Texas

Studies celebrates the past as a means for understanding the future. Since 2008, as the United States has experienced one of the country's worst economic downturns in our history, organizations, non-profits groups, and educational entities have experienced severe cuts in funding. Despite your political leanings or whether you agree with the cuts or not, the end result remains the same. Non-profits have been forced to cease operations, organizations have closed their doors, and education has suffered severe setbacks in funding. During this same downturn, TCU's endowment has also suffered, but generous alumni and supporters have graciously given for scholarships, buildings, and even a renewed Amon G. Carter Stadium.

In fact, TCU moves forward into the future from a position of financial strength as many Texas schools suffer from further financial cuts. It is a blessing for the Center for Texas Studies to operate in a situation where we do not fear budget decapitation as we look into the future. Working from such a position of security re-invigorates our mission to help others—be they teachers, students, or even the interested public. Perhaps from these dark moments, we can see the light that education can bring to us.

The economic downturn presents a providential time for the Center for Texas Studies to reload and prepare for new opportunities. During the last few years, the Center has been laying the groundwork for new traveling art and history exhibitions, for new books, and for a broad range of other new public programming. You will learn of some of these things as we move forward into the

future. And while the Center may appear as a calm duck sitting on a pond, below the water level—or outside of the public's view—our webbed feet are furiously churning. Have faith that we are not simply resting upon our laurels. So, while we look forward always with some trepidation, we truly believe that we can take solace in understanding our past.

We would like to offer thanks to the generosity of the many individuals and foundations who support our teacher-education and community history workshops. Without your help, we would not be able to give back to the community.

*Gene Allen Smith, Ph.D.*



*Quentin McGown leads TCU Extended Education students on a tour of historic Pioneer Rest Cemetery.*

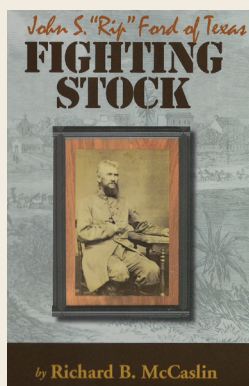


## Biography Series to highlight Looscan, Benavides

The Texas Biography Series, a joint project of the Center for Texas Studies at TCU and the TCU Press, continues to win acclaim for its biographies of important Texans. The first volume in the Series, Light Cummin's *Emily Austin*, won the prestigious Liz Carpenter Award from the Texas State Historical Association for the best book on Texas women's history. Carl Moneyhon's *Edmund J. Davis* was a finalist for the Texas Institute of Letters' best scholarly book award. And most recently, Richard McCaslin's *Fighting Stock: John S. "Rip" Ford of Texas* was awarded the A. M. Pate, Jr. Award in Civil War History by the Fort Worth Civil War Roundtable. Congratulations to these three TCU authors for jobs well done!

The goal of the Biography Series is to publish cutting-edge scholarly biographies of historical Texas figures who either have no biography or no quality modern biography. The first several titles in the Series have been underwritten by a generous grant from the Houston Endowment. In 2011, the Center received an additional grant from the Carl and Florence E. King Foundation and the Summerlee Foundation, ensuring that the Series will continue

into the future. As we go to press, two more books are under contract: Dr. Laura McLemore of LSU-Shreveport is nearing completion of her biography of the Houston clubwoman and historical preservationist Adele Briscoe Looscan, and Dr. Jerry Don Thompson of Texas



A&M International University is well into his research for his biography of Santos Benavides, the only Mexican American Confederate general. Series editor Gregg Cantrell is in conversation with several other potential authors and is always on the lookout for scholars with interesting projects.

## Editor Takes the Reins of TSHA

In March of next year, I'll be honored to be inaugurated as the incoming president of the Texas State Historical Association. The TSHA is the oldest continuously operating learned society in the state, having been organized in Austin on March 2, 1897. By my count, I'm the seventieth president of the Association, a list that includes several famous Texans, including former governor and senator Oran M. Roberts (the first TSHA president), U.S. Senator John H. Reagan, and Ambassador Alexander Watkins Terrell. It is a longstanding tradition of the TSHA to alternate its presidency between academic and non-academic members, and as an academic Texas historian, it's a particular honor for me to take my place among the list of my fellow Texas historians who have served as president—a list that includes my friends Robert A. Calvert, Alwyn Barr, Randolph B. Campbell, Jerry D. Thompson, George N. Green, Robert Wooster, Frank de la Teja, and Walter Buenger. I'm also following in the footsteps of several presidents with Fort Worth and TCU ties, including the late Jenkins Garrett, a famed Fort Worth lawyer and philanthropist; Ron Tyler, who also served as the Association's executive director for two decades; the late Ben Procter, who taught in the TCU History Department for half a century; and current TSHA president Watson Arnold, who in addition to his successful surgical practice at Cook Children's Hospital also earned a PhD in History from TCU several years ago. I began attending TSHA annual meetings when I was in graduate school at Texas A&M; the upcoming conference will be my twenty-seventh consecutive annual meeting, during which time I've served on virtually every standing committee and several ad-hoc ones, including seven years on the board of directors.

I'll be taking the reins of the TSHA at perhaps the most exciting time in the 106-year history of the organization. Six years ago the Association severed its century-long ties with the University of Texas, eventually relocating to its new home on the campus of the University of North Texas. This was a very challenging time, as the TSHA faced not only the prospect of replacing the financial support long provided by U.T. but also of finding a new executive director. But with the steadfast support of its members and benefactors, and the leader-

ship of a dedicated board and new executive director (and Fort Worth native) Kent Calder, the Association has emerged from this difficult period stronger than ever. We are now about to launch the first-ever Comprehensive Fundraising Campaign, which will raise \$10 million over two years. In the meantime, the Association continues to publish the Southwestern Historical Quarterly and the Texas Almanac; maintain and enlarge the Handbook of Texas Online; operate its education programs including Texas History Day, the Webb Society, the Junior Historians program, and teacher workshops; and of course hold its annual meeting, which attracts some 700 Texas historians and history-enthusiasts each year. In recent years, the TSHA has collaborated with the Center for Texas Studies at TCU on two teacher workshops, and since 2007 the Center has hosted the Association's regional tournament of its Texas Quiz Show program for elementary and middle-school students. With sixteen full-time employees and a million-dollar annual budget, the TSHA is one of the largest and most active historical societies in the nation, dwarfing even most of the national historical organizations in the scope of its operations. I will be very busy in the coming year!

I hope that readers of this newsletter will join us at the Renaissance Worthington Hotel in downtown Fort Worth Feb. 28-March 2, 2013, for a weekend of stimulating presentations and fellowship with other Texas History aficionados. For further information on the Texas State Historical Association and its upcoming annual meeting, visit: [www.tshaonline.org](http://www.tshaonline.org). See you in Fort Worth next spring!

Gregg Cantrell

Erma and Ralph Lowe Chair  
in Texas History

Editor, Texas Biography Series

First Vice President, TSHA



## Community History Workshops Going Strong

In our ongoing effort to help everyone be his or her own historian, the Center organized nine free Saturday morning workshops in 2012 with the generous support of the Summerlee Foundation and the Sommerfield G. Roberts Foundation both of Dallas. Speakers share the ups and downs of their research experiences, highlight underutilized historic resources, and reveal their most fascinating discoveries as part of this series to encourage all Texans to work toward preserving our past.

This year writer Bob Ray Sanders explored the photographic legacy of Fort Worth African-American photographer, Calvin Littlejohn. Professor Jane Kucko demonstrated how women—and some men—have expressed themselves

through quilting over time and how to care the valuable heirlooms they produced. Tom Kellum exposed the stories behind wanted posters from around the nation collected by the local sheriff's department and housed at the Tarrant County College District Archives. These presenters and others like them share the Center's goal to promote the importance of history to Texas and Texans' identity.

Community History Workshops are held one Saturday a month from January – May and September – December at 10:30 AM in the Tandy Lecture Hall at the Fort Worth Public Library. For a complete schedule of upcoming events visit [www.texas-studies.org/PublicHistory.htm](http://www.texas-studies.org/PublicHistory.htm)

## Extend Your Texas Education

Through TCU's Extended Education program, the Center for Texas Studies offers courses specially crafted for folks that love all that makes Texas distinctive. In Spring 2012, "The Military Legacy of Texas," led by Maj. Bob Gill, Tyler Alberts, Robert Coalter, John Kalvelage, and A. T. Chinworth introduced participants to the extensive, but sometimes overlooked, twentieth-century military history of the state. Also, perennial-favorite Quentin McGown offered an evening orientation and Saturday tour of historic sites highlighting Fort Worth's nineteenth-century roots.

During the fall 2012 semester, Quentin returned to teach the third in his three-course survey of the history of Fort Worth. Attendees learned about the post-World War II growth of the city, local organized crime, social issues, development patterns, architecture, the arts and initial efforts toward the central city and downtown renaissance.

In "Collecting Early Texas Art for Fun and Profit," Morris Matson shared his expertise with beginners anxious to distinguish a hidden masterpiece from a department store decoration and explored how homegrown artists have captured, portrayed, and integrated themselves into Texas history and culture. TCU history professor Dr. Ken Stevens covered fresh ground in "Lone Star Diplomacy: The Foreign Relations of the Republic of Texas," exploring how the new republic's government struggled against Mexican efforts to reconquer it, battled hostile Indians, and developed diplomatic relations with the United States and other nations.

Check out the Spring 2013 schedule on <http://www.lifelong.tcu.edu/> and reserve your spot today!



*The program for the Texas State Society Breakfast in Washington, D.C. on March 29, 2012 was a presentation on the book **Lone Star Leaders**, authored by James Riddleberger and Anthony Champagne. From left, Doug Centilli, Past President of the Texas State Society and Chief of Staff, Congressman Kevin Brady; Jim Riddleberger; Anthony Champagne; and Barry Brown, First VP of the Texas State Society and Chief of Staff, Congressman Michael Burgess.*





# Program News

## Southern Conference on Women's History Comes to TCU

In June 2012, almost two hundred historians from across the U.S. met on the TCU campus for the Ninth Southern Conference on Women's History, sponsored by the Southern Association for Women Historians (SAWH). The SAWH, founded in 1970, is a scholarly organization that encourages and recognizes research on women in the U.S. South. The previous eight meetings, held triennially, have occurred from Houston to Richmond, and conferees enjoyed being where the South meets the Great Plains. In two and a half days, the guests benefited from a variety of panels and presentations on various aspects of southern U.S. history as well as Texas hospitality.

The Center for Texas History sponsored the opening talk by University of Florida historian Juliana Barr.

Barr, a native of Lubbock who holds the Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, is the author of *Peace Came in the Form of a Woman: Indians and Spaniards in the Texas Borderlands*, which won five major prizes, including the First Book Prize from the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians. At TCU, Barr spoke on her current research on La Dama Azul, a vision of the

Virgin Mary that appeared to a Spanish nun in the 1620s and declared the need to instruct natives in New Mexico. Barr's excellent presentation was a grand beginning to the conference.

Numerous Texans held assorted spots on the program, including TCU graduate students Amanda Bresie and Catherine Murtagh, presenting on their dissertation research. Ten TCU Ph.D. students assisted in the meeting, which was coordinated by Rebecca Sharpless and Gregg Cantrell, both from the De-

partment of History. Specific Texas topics highlighted in presentations included those on women planters, by University of North Texas student Nicholas Nelson; second-wave feminism in Texas, by Nancy Baker, Sam Houston State University; the 1977 National Women's Conference held in Houston, by Ellen Fout of Collin College; Texas Populists and gender, by Gregg Cantrell, Erma and Ralph Lowe Chair of Texas History at TCU; the National American Woman Suffrage Association in Texas, by Jessica Brannon-Wranosky of Texas A&M-Commerce; the emergence of conservative women in 1950s Texas, by student Mercy Harper of Rice University; and gender in the Desk and Derrick Clubs in Texas, by Cecilia Gutierrez Venable, of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. The conference concluded with a barbe-



cue dinner at the Amon Carter Museum of American Art, featuring the Texas swing band Shoot Low Sheriff. The weather remained unseasonably (and happily) cool, and guests reveled in dinner on the plaza and the spectacular view of downtown Fort Worth as well as access to the museum collection. TCU proved to be a superb conference site, and the coordinators are grateful for the role of the Center for Texas History in the success of the meeting.



## Students Shine in Quiz Show

The Center for Texas Studies hosted the 2012 Texas Quiz Show regional tournament on TCU campus April 14. Teams of three representing area middle schools answered questions about all things Texas to earn the right to represent the Dallas-Fort Worth region in the finals. Sloan Creek Middle School from Lovejoy ISD and Harpool Middle School from Denton ISD, the first and second place winners, moved on to the statewide contest held at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum's Texas Spirit Theater in May. Community television stations rebroadcast the competition locally. The state champions won trophies, bragging rights, and the honor of being the best and brightest. The quiz show provides teachers with an exciting tool to promote Texas History Month as required by the Texas Legislature. The Texas State Historical Association sponsors the event in conjunction with Texas History Day (an affiliate of National History Day), a yearlong education program that culminates in an annual state-level history fair for students in grades six through twelve. For more information visit <http://www.tsha-online.org/supsites/quizshow/index.html>



TCU Box 297201  
Texas Christian University  
Fort Worth, TX 76128

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 2143  
Fort Worth TX 76129

