



Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum Newsletter

Sponsored by the City of Waco
Official State Historical Center of the Texas Rangers
Home of Texas Ranger Bicentennial 1823-2023

April 2016

FEATURED ARTICLES

- Ranger Lamkin Collection
- Letter from Homer Garrison, Jr.
- Photographs from Museum Visitors
- Recap: Ribbon Cutting
- Recap: Spring Break Round Up
- Lone Star History Conference
- Gift Shop Feature: Two New Books

Ranger Lamkin Collection

On March 14, Ms. Courtney Hurst of Monte Vista, Colorado graciously loaned the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum materials documenting the life and career of her ancestor, Texas Ranger Lem Lamkin. The collection of his personal letters, photographs and possessions is a window into the family and professional life of a Texas Ranger in the "Roaring 20s."



This loan allows the museum to gain a personal perspective on the stresses and hardships that being a Ranger placed on a man and his family. There are also touching notes and drawings from Ranger Lamkin's young children. We cannot stress enough what a valuable resource these personal letters, photographs and objects are to the museum and historians.

MILITARY APPRECIATION WEEKEND



During Memorial weekend, the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum honors our nation's heroes with Military Appreciation Weekend on Saturday, May 28 through Monday, May 30.

Planning for an exhibit highlighting pieces from the collection is underway. The Board and Staff of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum and Armstrong Texas Ranger Research Center deeply appreciate the Hurst family for sharing these materials.

Letter from Homer Garrison, Jr.

Going through the correspondence in the papers that author Charles H. Harris III recently donated to the Armstrong Texas Ranger Research

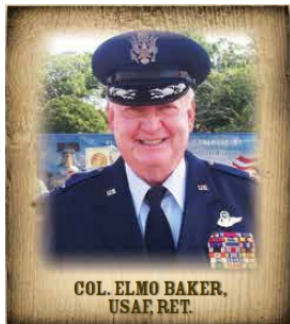
Active duty personnel, retirees and veterans will receive free admission to the Museum while their family will receive discounted admissions (with valid id or documentation - medals, service records, photographs are accepted).

SUMMER CAMP



The annual Texas Ranger Museum Summer Camp will be on Friday, June 24. More information will be available in the May newsletter.

RANGER REUNION



The 34th annual Texas Ranger Reunion, presented by the Texas Ranger Association Foundation (TRAF), will be June 3-4 in Waco.

On Saturday, June 4th the Evening Social and Banquet will feature a keynote presentation by Colonel USAF (Ret), Elmo "Mo" C. Baker. Individual tickets for Saturday night are \$50 each.

Please contact [TRAF](#) for more information and to purchase tickets.

Center, we came across a letter to Governor William P. Hobby dated July 25, 1918 from a 17-year-old in Lufkin, Texas.

"Dear Sir: Please advise me the qualifications of a man to become a ranger. I am very anxious to get into the service. Yours truly, Homer Garrison Jr."



July 25, 1918

Governor W. P. Hobby.
Austin, Texas.

Dear Sir:

Please advise me the qualifications of a man to become a ranger. I am very anxious to get into the service.

Yours truly
Homer Garrison, Jr.

The young Homer Garrison, Jr. was no doubt disappointed not to receive a commission in the Texas Ranger Force. He joined the Texas Highway Patrol when it was formed in 1930. He rapidly rose through the ranks to become the second Director of Texas DPS and the commander of the Texas Rangers. It was just 20 years after his letter to Governor Hobby!

In 1967, DPS Director Homer Garrison Jr. turned the first spade of earth for the construction of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum. After his death the following year, the main museum gallery was renamed in his honor.

LONESOME DOVE AND CHISHOLM TRAIL



True West Magazine has published two new Texas Ranger related articles.

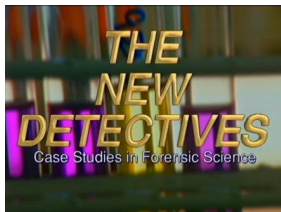
"The True History of *Lonesome Dove*" by Allen Barra is a behind-the-scenes look at one of the greatest Western miniseries.

Please [click here](#) to read the article.

"Traveling the Chisholm Trail" by Eric Moreno is a look at the historical attractions and museums, including the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum, along the infamous Chisholm Trail.

Please [click here](#) to read the article.

THE NEW DETECTIVES: SEASON 4 EPISODE 11



Courtesy of The Discovery Channel, *The New Detectives: Season 4 Episode 11 "Texas Rangers"* represents three (3) separate murder cases involving Texas Rangers.

The first case occurred in 1982 and was investigated by Retired Texas Ranger Chief Bruce Casteel. The second case occurred in 1988. It was investigated by Retired Texas Ranger Bob Connell and was later revived by Retired Texas Ranger Chief Ray Coffman. The last case occurred in 1994 and was investigated by Retired Texas Ranger Johnny Waldrip.



His support and admiration for the Rangers earned him their unreserved affection and loyalty. This letter shows that Homer Garrison Jr.'s enthusiasm for the Rangers started long before he began his service to the State of Texas.

Photographs from Museum Visitors

On February 25, the museum welcomed members of the National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century (CDXVIIC) as part of their 78th State Conference. The State Conference was hosted by the Peter Folger Chapter CDXVIIC, based in Waco. This organization unites members "... in a communion based on their interest in American history, their love and respect for this nation and a mutual desire to work together in harmonious fellowship to achieve the goals of the Society." Presently, more than 11,000 women are members or juniors members of CDXVIIC. The group toured the museum and had an opportunity to speak with Texas Ranger Patrick Pena. The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum is grateful to CDXVIIC for their continued efforts in preserving American history for future generations.

Please [click here](#) to watch the episode.

JOHN W. DENDY



We are saddened to announce the passing of Texas Ranger John W. Dendy. 1930 - 2016

Please [click here](#) to read a biography on his life and career.

PAUL TORRES



Our best wishes and appreciation go to Paul Torres, Plant Manager, who retired in March after 25 years with the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and the City of Waco.

Paul supervised maintenance and repairs for the museum/hall of fame/research center, Texas Rangers Company "F" Headquarters and the offices of the Texas Ranger Association Foundation.

LSHC AUTHORS



Left to Right:

- Patricia Lee (in costume), Historian, Peter Folger Chapter
- Texas Ranger Patrick Pena, Company "F"
- Sherry Johnson, guest from Woodville MS and member of the Natchez, MS Colonial Dames chapter
- O'Levia Neil Wiese, Division IV Chairman of the Colonial Dames 78th State Conference
- Vivian Dodgen, Treasurer, Peter Folger Chapter
- Reginald Hardy, Chief of Volunteers, Central Texas Veterans Health Care System

Photograph is courtesy Katherine Wood.

Recap: Ribbon Cutting

On March 19, the Texas Ranger Museum Board, City of Waco and Texas Society of Professional Surveyors (TSPS) dedicated the new *Jack Hays* and *Texas Ranger Surveyors* exhibits. During the early years of Texas settlement, Rangers often worked as land surveyors exploring and mapping remote areas of Texas for future settlement. There was a personal incentive as well; since the earliest rangers were often paid in land rather than cash, surveying offered the opportunity to claim choice land.





The following authors have been invited to the Lone Star History Conference:

Alexander, Bob
 Baker, Jr., John
 Baker, Terry
 Barr, Mike
 Bossenecker, John
 Brice, Donaly
 Brown, Norman
 Caldwell, Clifford
 Collins, Michael
 Cox, Mike
 DeArment, Robert
 DeLord, Ron
 Devereaux, Jan
 Dixon, Kemp
 Dukes, Doug
 Egloff, Fred
 Ernst, Bob
 Gatto, Steve
 Gilbreath, West
 Glasrud, Bruce
 Griffin, Jim
 Harris, III, Charles
 Jennings, Nathan
 Johnson, Dave
 Krasinger, Gary
 Krasinger, Margaret
 Lindsey, Ellis
 Lodbill, Jerry
 Lull, Robert
 Miller, Rick
 Neal, Bill
 O'Neal, Bill
 Parsons, Chuck
 Plyant, James
 Sadler, Louis Ray
 Spellman, Paul
 Turk, David
 Weiss, Jr., Harold
 Willett, Jim

The authors will be available to autograph their books. All book sales will be handled by the Texas Ranger Museum Gift Shop.

Please [click here](#) for a complete list of speakers and presentations.

EDUCATION CENTER

Left to Right: Hank Whitman, Retired Chief of the Texas Rangers and Chairman of TRHFM Board; Deidra Emerson, Assistant City Manager for City of Waco; Mayor Malcolm Duncan, City of Waco; Paul T. Carey, RPLS, LSLs, President, TSPS

At the dedication, Paul T. Carey, President of TSPS, read a proclamation from Texas Governor Greg Abbott recognizing March 21-26 as National Surveying Week. Renowned Texas artist Gary Crouch donated *Measuring Space & Time*, a signed and framed print honoring early Texas surveying, to thank TSPS for their support of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame.



Paul T. Carey, RPLS, LSLs, President, TSPS, unveils *Measuring Time & Space* by artist Gary Crouch.

Funding for the new exhibits was made possible by a grant from the Fiat Chrysler Automobiles Foundation. TSPS graciously donated a collection of early surveying equipment to the Museum.

Recap: Spring Break Round Up

On March 12 during our annual Spring Break Round Up, visitors were entertained by Texas Top Guns, a reenactment group from Palestine, Texas. They set up an 1800s Ranger camp, cooked biscuits on coals and "arrested" visitors. Lieutenant Jamie Downs, Company "F," presented on the modern duties of the Texas Rangers including his missions on the Texas-Mexico border. He recalled a time when a Mexican drug cartel scout was pretending to fish in the Rio Grande. When he left his fishing rod to go to the truck and call in the "all clear," Lt. Downs went to his fishing rod and released the catfish that he caught while away from his post. Members of the Homestead Heritage group brought various fibers for visitors to feel and spun fibers into yarn, which will be used to weave clothing.



The following organizations were guests of the Capt. Bob Mitchell Education Center in March:

- Historic Waco Foundation
- Prehistoric Texas Trails
- Baylor University School of Education
- Texas Rangers In-Service School on Hypnosis

QUICK LINKS

- [Website](#)
- [Gift Shop](#)
- [Knox Center](#)
- [Education Center](#)
- [Education Programs](#)
- [Research Center](#)
- [Distinguished Service](#)
- [Museum Video](#)
- [Duvall PSA](#)
- [Texas Ranger Bicentennial Bicentennial Video](#)
- [Texas Ranger Association Foundation](#)



Forward to a Friend

JOIN OUR LIST

Join Our Mailing List!



A special thank you to our Spring Break Round Up volunteers and participants: Lt. Jamie Downs, Donna Arispe, Jana Busby, Christina Stopka and Texas Top Guns.

Lone Star History Conference

Join us April 29-May 1 for a weekend jam-packed with presentations on Texas Ranger history by leading historians and active-duty Texas Rangers! Scheduled speakers include: Texas Rangers Assistant Chief Frank Malinak and Lieutenant Wende Wakeman, the first female lieutenant in the Texas Rangers service; Bill O'Neal, State Historian of Texas; David S. Turk, historian of the U.S. Marshals Service; and Jim Willett, historian of the Texas Prison Museum.

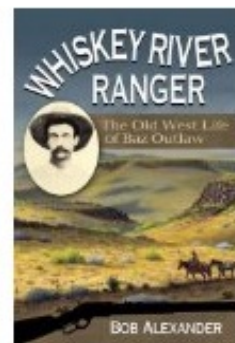
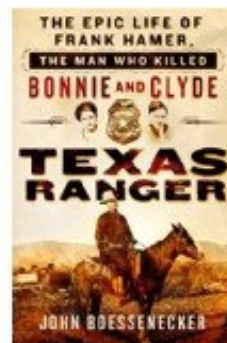


During the conference many Texas Ranger historians will be available to autograph copies of their books available in the museum store.

For a schedule of events, please [click here](#).

Gift Shop Feature: Two New Books

Two new books are making their debut at the Lone Star History Conference. The books will be available for order in the Museum Gift Shop beginning May 1st.



Sales from the Gift Shop benefit the preservation and education activities of the Museum. Please call (877) 750-8631 or email thestore@texasranger.org to reserve your copy. Thank you!

Texas Ranger: The Epic Life of Frank Hamer, the Man Who Killed Bonnie and Clyde

By: John Boessenecker

"Frank Hamer, last of the old breed of Texas Rangers, has not fared well in history or popular culture. John Boessenecker now restores this incredible Ranger to his proper place alongside such fabled lawmen as Wyatt Earp and Eliot Ness. Here is a grand adventure story, told with grace and authority by a master historian of American law enforcement. Frank Hamer can rest easy as readers will finally learn the truth behind his amazing career, spanning the end of the Wild West through the bloody days of the gangsters."

—Paul Andrew Hutton, author of *The Apache Wars*

Whiskey River Ranger: The Old West Life of Baz Outlaw

By: Bob Alexander

"Captain Frank Jones, a famed nineteenth-century Texas Ranger, said of his company's top sergeant, Baz Outlaw (1854-1894), "A man of unusual courage and coolness and in a close place is worth two or three ordinary men." Another old-time Texas Ranger declared that Baz Outlaw "was one of the worst and most dangerous" because "he never knew what fear was." But not all thought so highly of him. In *Whiskey River Ranger*, Bob Alexander tells for the first time the full story of this troubled Texas Ranger and his losing battle with alcoholism."

*Book descriptions are courtesy University of North Texas Press and Thomas Dunne Books.

Composed by Christine Rothenbush,
Marketing & Development Coordinator

**Save
\$2.00**

Save \$1.00 off regular adult admission for up to two adults. Coupon not valid on discounted senior or military admission. No cash value. The museum is open 9am to 5pm with the last guest admitted at 4:30pm. The museum is located off I-35 and University Parks Drive in Waco, Texas.

For more information, call (254) 750-8631 or visit www.texasranger.org.

Offer Expires: May 31, 2016