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February 2023

Texas Ranger Hall of Fame Newsletter

Sponsored by the City of Waco

Official State Historical Center of the Texas Rangers

Home of Texas Ranger Bicentennial 1823-2023

Texas Rangers 200th Anniversary Badge Exhibit

In commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the Texas Rangers, the TRHFM Collections Division has installed an exhibit on perhaps the most iconic symbol of the Rangers, the circle-star badge.

For most of their history the Rangers did not wear badges but carried commissions or Warrants of Authority. The first known references to Texas Ranger badges dates to the 1870s, commissioned by private citizens and presented as tokens of appreciation for their services. The earliest authenticated circle-star Ranger badges were worn by Rangers in Ira Aten's company in the 1880s, made from Mexican 8 Peso silver coins, a tradition the Rangers continue today with five-Peso coins. The Rangers received their first state-issued badges when they became a division of the Texas Department of Public Safety in 1935—over 100 years after their founding in 1823. The current badge design, with design elements from the Texas State Seal, dates to 1961-62.



"History of the Texas Ranger Badge" details a portion of the history of the iconic symbol, the use of both silver and gold Mexican Pesos in the creation of the badges, and features badges crafted by Kevin Johnson of Johnson Bits and Spurs and Rick Lopez of Lopez Engraving, two of the silversmiths authorized by the Texas Department of Public Safety.

The exhibit is currently on display in the Morris Gallery. An exhibit on commissions, Warrants of Authority and badges from 1880s to the 1960s in the Garrison Gallery.

Upcoming Events at TRHFM

In January, the Education Division held a *Craft and Story Time Day* for children with tales of Texas Rangers and Texas History and craft projects. For over a decade, our staff has taken programs to public and private school schools and home school at the request of teachers and parents. The next *Craft and Story Time Day* at the museum in Waco will be Saturday, February 11th. Hope to see you there!



VISIT THE
TEXAS RANGER
HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM
FOR MONTHLY WESTERN CRAFTS
& STORY TIME!

JANUARY 14TH - COWPOKES!
FEBRUARY 11TH - PRICKLY FOR YOU!
MARCH 11TH - SPRING BREAK ROUND UP
APRIL 8TH - CRAFTY VARMITIS
MAY 13TH - THE SCIENCE OF CLUES

Activities are included with regular museum admission.

Hours are 10:00AM to 1:00PM
Visit www.texasranger.org for more information



- February 11: Prickly for You! A Western Valentine
- March 11: Spring Break Round Up (No Crafts and Storytime)
- April 8: Crafty Varmints
- May 13: The Science of Clues

Come to the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum for monthly Western crafts and a story time! The theme will change monthly. 10am-1pm. Activities are included with regular museum admission.

Exhibit at Fort Worth Museum of Science and History

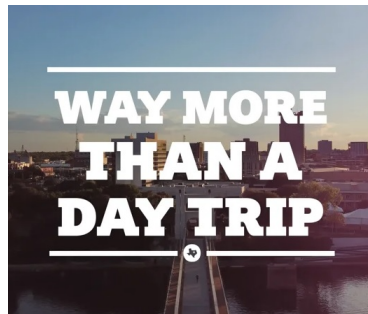
On January 13th, the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History opened an exhibit in honor of the 200th anniversary of the Texas Rangers. Organized at the request of Texas Ranger 2023, Inc., the State Bicentennial Committee, the exhibit features artifacts on loan from the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum and artifacts from the Fort Worth Museum's history collection. The two staffs coordinated closely together on a tight schedule to create an impressive presentation that premiered during the annual Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo and will be on display through the end of the year.



Some of the artifacts featured in the exhibit include a brick from Texas Ranger Captain Samuel Walker's Maryland home, a Federal Gas Riot Gun from Texas Rangers Headquarters, and a Field Negotiation Phone from Ranger John Vance, Ret.

We extend our thanks to the staff of the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History and Texas Ranger 2023, Inc.

New Waco Commercial and Promotion



The Waco Convention and Visitors Bureau has rolled out a new promotional program created by Make Something Beautiful. The videos are a rapid-paced look at the dozens of attractions, things to see and do and restaurants that make Waco unique for a community of its size. The first two versions of the program can be seen at:

<https://vimeo.com/782719968>

<https://vimeo.com/781884758>

Hopewell Middle School

In January, Educational Programs Manager Audrey Ladd traveled to Hopewell Middle School in Round Rock, TX to present programs about Texas Ranger History to more than 350 7th grade students. Hopewell Middle School has been inviting TRHFM to come speak since 2016. Audrey brought artifacts from the museum's Education Collection to give students a closer look at the



history. Marketing and Communications Coordinator Christine Rothenbush, incidentally beginning her 15th year with the Museum, assisted Audrey with programs and answering student questions. We appreciate the partnership with the teachers and administrators of Hopewell and the people of Round Rock.

The Colt Monitor: A Rare Piece of “Roaring Twenties & Gangster Era” History and Technology



Research into history and artifacts at the TRHFM is ongoing, and new discoveries are intriguing discoveries are made each year. In 2022 Collections Assistant Eric Richard began to look into a rare firearm in our collection known as a Colt Automatic Machine Rifle R80, better known as a Colt Monitor.

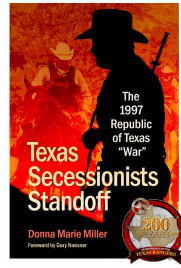
It was a special version of the World War I Browning Automatic Rifle developed for J. Edgar Hoover's FBI and law enforcement to counter violent and well armed criminals such as John Dillinger, "Pretty Boy" Floyd and "Machine Gun" Kelly. Apocryphal stories claimed that the museum's Colt Monitor was owned by legendary retired Texas Ranger Captain Frank Hamer, known for the pursuit of the Barrow Gang ("Bonnie and Clyde"). Oral history held that this was the Colt Monitor used by lawman Ted Hinton in the 1934 ambush that ended the crime spree of Bonnie and Clyde.

The original objective was to document the history of this particular rifle, but it developed into a detailed investigation into the history of these fascinating rifles. While some of the history attached to our Monitor are true, others are not, and more questions were raised about its history. To read Eric's research report,

[Please click here.](#)

Book Signing for *Texas Secessionists Standoff*

On April 27, 1997, followers of Richard McLaren and his "Republic of Texas" militia held Joe and Margaret Ann Rowe hostage inside their own home at the Davis Mountain Resort, near Fort Davis, Texas. They demanded the release of jailed militia members Jo



Ann Turner and Robert Jonathan Scheidt. McLaren's demand initiated a seven-day standoff with local law enforcement and the Texas Rangers that came to be called the "Republic of Texas War."

As the 25th anniversary of the event approached, author Donna Marie Miller wanted to preserve the history of this infamous seven-day standoff with the Texas Rangers. She interviewed both Retired Captain Barry Caver and retired Ranger Jess Malone about the event. The book was accepted into the Bicentennial Publications program of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum which recognizes 18 books of significance to Texas Ranger history.



On December 30th, TRHFM hosted a book signing and author presentation on the standoff in the Davis Mountains. Author Donna Marie Miller, Ret. Capt. Barry Caver, incident commander, and Ret. Ranger Jess Malone, lead negotiator, presented firsthand accounts and signed copies of books purchased that day. The museum gift shop has copies of the book available for purchase. WCCCTV was on hand to film the presentation for a future "Discovering the Legend" episode and for a transcription into a PDF to be accessible on TRHFM website.

New Logo Towel with Clip

Great for use by the BBQ grill, on the golf course, in a diaper bag, and so much more!
Available in white, gray and red.

\$12.95 + Tax



To shop more items available for purchase, please visit our [Gift Shop online](#) or in person 9am to 4:30pm daily. You never have to pay admission to shop. Sales from the Gift Shop benefit the preservation and education activities of the Museum. Please call (254) 750-8631 or email thestore@texastranger.org to order. We ship worldwide. Thank you!

Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Bicentennial™ Support

Contribute to the TRHFM in honor of the Texas Rangers Bicentennial™ in 2023.

With a \$100 contribution, you will receive:

1. A limited-edition enameled bronze pin featuring a Texas Ranger Bicentennial™ seal
2. A certificate signed by an active or distinguished retired Texas Ranger
3. Your name or family name on the online roster of Bicentennial Supporters™
4. A one-time-use family admission ticket (admits 4) to the Museum.

\$90 of the contribution qualifies as a charitable contribution. The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame is a 170(c) government-owned nonprofit.

Please [click here](#) to learn more about the program.



Texas Ranger Hall of Fame Bicentennial Pin

Trademarked by the Texas Dept. of Public Safety
Designed by the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and
Museum



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ENJOY
\$2.00 OFF

Expires 2/28/2023

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.

Newsletter Compiled by Christine Rothenbush, Marketing & Development Specialist

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