

CENTER FOR BIG BEND STUDIES

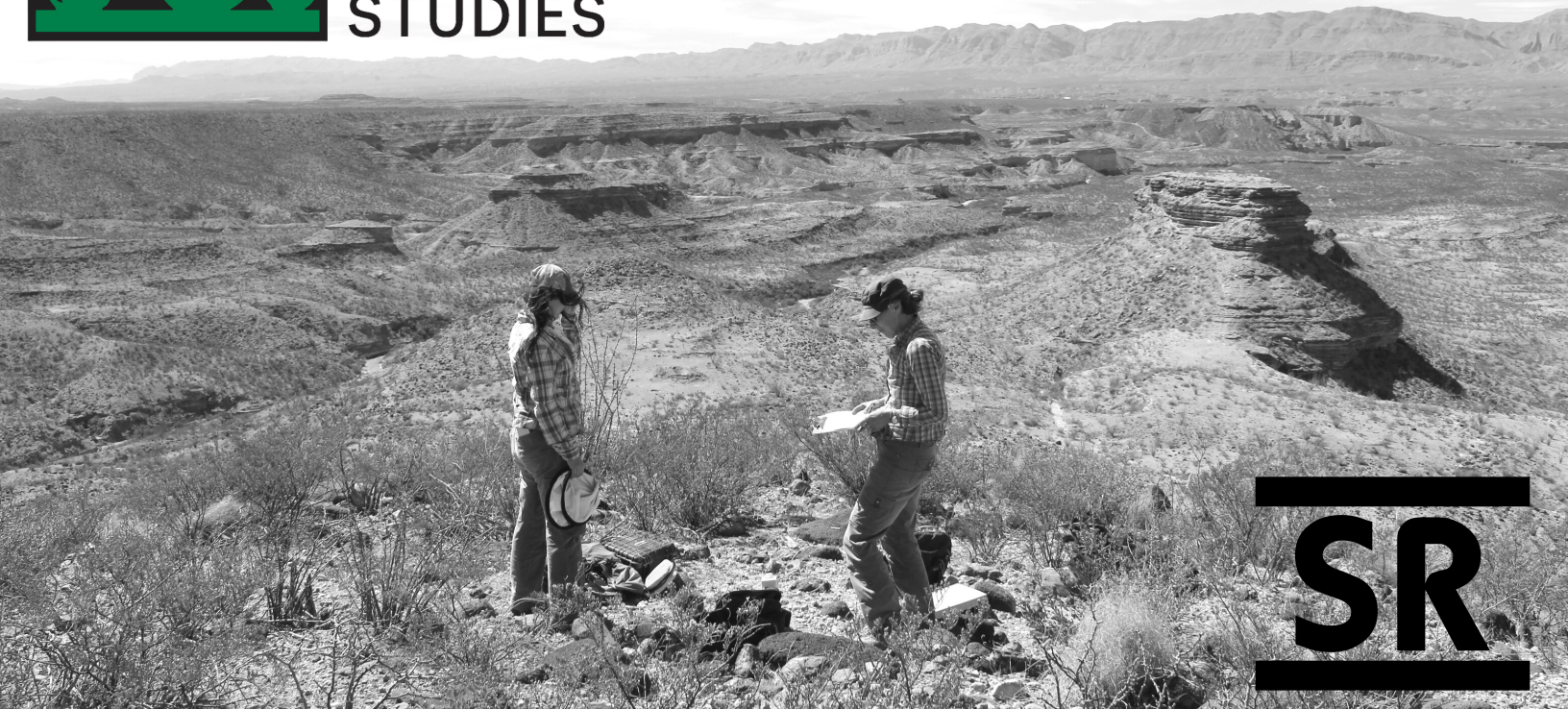
28th Annual Conference

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11-12



**CENTER
for
BIG
BEND
STUDIES**

Vic and Mary Jane Morgan University Center
Sul Ross State University
Alpine, Texas



SR

SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS MAP



1. President's Home
2. Wildenthal Memorial Library
3. Morgan University Center
4. Briscoe Administration Building
5. Morelock Academic Building
6. Academic and Computer Resource Building
7. Lawrence Hall
8. Museum of the Big Bend
9. Francois Fine Arts Building
10. Warnock Science Building
11. Ferguson Hall
12. Fletcher Hall
13. Industrial Technology Building
14. Art Annex
15. Physical Plant
16. Lobo Village Housing Complex

17. Residential Living Office
18. Graves-Pierce Gym
19. Pete P. Gallego Center
20. Tennis Courts
21. Swimming Pool
22. Outdoor Amphitheater
23. Range Animal Science Center
24. Mountainside Hall



PARKING



ENTRANCE

**For more information contact the
University Operator: 432-837-8011**

WELCOME

The Center for Big Bend Studies would like to welcome you to our **28th Annual Conference** on the history, archaeology, and culture of the Trans-Pecos region of Texas and northern Mexico. We hope you enjoy the schedule of diverse topics and student presentations. We are go glad you could join us!



Trans-Pecos Texas and Surrounding Regions

THANK YOU!

We gratefully acknowledge the generous contributions of the following CBBS members and Big Bend businesses. Our event simply would not be the same without the support of our members and our community! Thank you.

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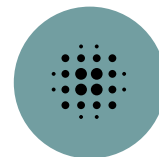
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BARBECUE & BREWERY

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DAY 1

Friday, November 11

REGISTRATION

7:30AM – 5PM

WELCOME

8:45AM

Dr. Louis A. Harveson, Associate Provost of
Research & Development

SESSION 1

9 – 10:30AM

Desert Dispatches – Mystery, Exploration, and Discovery in the Big Bend

Sponsor: David Loren Bass

Chair: Bryon Schroeder

Todd Bureau

Johnson's Ranch and the Crash: A Big Bend Mystery
and the History It Revealed

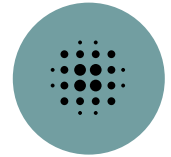
Pat Dasch

The Last Hurrah! Apollo 17 Astronaut Training in the
Texas Big Bend

Sarah Wilson

DIG: Notes on Field and Family

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SESSION 2

10:45AM – 12:15PM

***John William Spencer: His Founding of Presidio, Texas
and His Contributions to Texas***

Sponsors: Val & Tom Beard

Chair: Milo Nitschke

Milo Nitschke

C. Wayne Hanselka, Ph.D.

Max Spencer Castillo, Ph.D.

Sabrina Spencer, DSW, LCSW

Joe Aureliano Spencer, Jr., Attorney & Counselor at Law

Roberto Rafael Spencer, MD

Olivia Elizabeth Spencer Grado, Owner Seguros

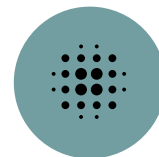
Grado/Insurance

Frank X. Spencer, PE., RPLS

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

12:15 – 2PM

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SRSU STUDENT POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Espino Mezzanine

1 – 3PM

*Sponsors: Todd Bureau &
David Rogers, West Texas National Bank
Advisor: Kendra DeHart*

Sul Ross State University undergraduate students enrolled in HIST 3311—The History of the American West—explored projects from the vast collections housed at the Archives of the Big Bend and selected projects that interrogated the concept of the “frontier” in West Texas under direction of their professor, Dr. Kendra K. DeHart. Drawing from their scholarly analysis of “Old vs. New” Western History as well as their detailed course and archival work, students critically analyze if Fredrick Jackson Turner’s emphasis on the “frontier” accurately describes the region’s history and cultural identity in the early twentieth century. Topics investigated include the early history of Sul Ross State University, the border violence incurred in the region from the perspective of a local resident, the original landowners of the Big Bend prior to the creation of the national park, and the policies of school segregation and the possibilities of racial cooperation within the far West Texas region.

“Frontiers of the Big Bend”:

SRSU History Students’ Poster Presentations

Justin Corbett & Buddy Imboden

The “Frontier” University: Discrepancies of Identity and History by Justin Corbett & Buddy Imboden

Arron Luna & Esteban Ramos

A Frontier “Stained with Blood”: A Recollection of the Violence in the Big Bend Region from the Perspective of Harry Warren

Felipe Gonzales, Mark Metevier, & Matthew Wheeler

The Frontier Families of the Big Bend: The Original Landowners

Victoria Peebles & Samuel Valadez

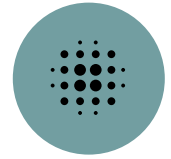
School Segregation on the Frontier in the Early 20th Century

McNair Scholar Poster Presentation

Tina Neufeld

Geochronologic analysis of multiple occurrences of fault-related calcite on a variable-slip-direction fault in Big Bend National Park, Texas.

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SESSION 3

2 – 3PM

West Texas Geography & Infrastructure

Sponsors: Greg & Leslie Gossett and Bill Wright

Chair: Erika Blecha

Mark L. Howe

Dam Site Possibilities on the Rio Grande in the Big Bend District
(Lajitas to Devils River) – 1941 to 1953

Michael S. Yoder

Transportation Geography of the Greater Big Bend Region: An
Update on Two Binational Freight Corridors

SESSION 4

3:15 – 4:45PM

West Texas Historical Association Session

Sponsor: Texas Mountain Trail

Chair: Becky Matthews

Jim Matthews

Fort Terrett and the First Line of Frontier Defense in Texas.

John Eusebio Klingemann

Revolutionary Big Bend: Conflict along the U.S.-Mexico Border

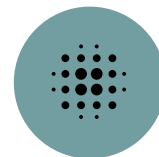
Leland Turner

The Ranch in the History of Texas: The Trans-Pecos.

RECEPTION

4:45 – 5:45PM

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DAY 2

Saturday, November 12

REGISTRATION

8AM – 4PM

SESSION 5

8:30 – 10:00AM

Tracing the Comanche Trail N and NW of the Trans-Pecos

*Sponsors: Art & Dianne Tawater
Chair: Tai Kreidler*

Holle Humphries

Part One: "All But Vanished: Problems of the 'Disappeared' Comanche Trail North of the Texas Trans Pecos Area"

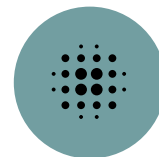
Austin Allison

Part Two: "The Comanche Trail Traced Across the Llano Estacado Into New Mexico"

Jim Crownover

Part Three: "Finding Gholson Spring: Pivotal Water Source of the Comanche Trail in the Texas Panhandle"

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DAY 2

Saturday, November 12

SESSION 6

10:15 – 11:45AM

Tales of the West Texas Frontier

Sponsor: Julia Main

Chair: David Keller

Donna Gerstle Smith

True Stories of Unglamorous Maladies: Frontier Medicine at Fort Davis and Other Army Posts in the 19th-Century American West

William F. Haenn

Conduct Unbecoming an Officer and a Gentleman: The 1877 Court-Martial at Fort Clark, Texas

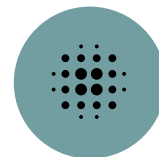
William V. Scott

Screwworm Eradication in West Texas: Seen through the Eyes of the Canon Ranch

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

11:45AM – 1PM

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SESSION 7

1 – 2:30PM

Center for Big Bend Studies Research

*Sponsors: Andy & Mary Cloud,
Linda Duncan, and Ken Durham*

Chair: Bryon Schroeder

Bryon Schroeder

Bellicose or Benevolent? The Link Between Indigenous architecture and conflict in the Big Bend region

Erika Blecha

Biographic Rock Art and Indigenous Violence in the Big Bend

David Keller

Historic Preservation in Big Bend National Park

SESSION 8

2:45 – 3:15PM

Film Screening – This is San Esteban

Sponsors: Bryan Jameson & Carol Macaulay-Jameson

Chair: Devin Clarke

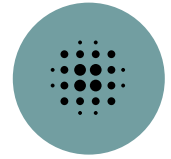
Devin Clarke

Telling the story of San Esteban from an non-archeologist's perspective in the summer of 2021

BREAK & SILENT AUCTION CLOSURES

3:15 – 3:30PM

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SESSION 9

3:30– 4:30PM

Odds & Ends

*Sponsors: Joe Lennihan and
Paul & Molly Yeager
Chair: Erika Blecha*

Tai Kreidler

Playing Real Polo: Western College Kids, Horse Soldiers,
and Cowboys

Marc Callis

The New “It” in Mimbres Classic Ware? Mimbres
Polychrome, and Its Possible Influence on Ramos
Polychrome, 1075/1100–1300 AD

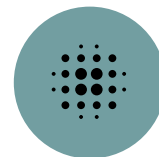
RECEPTION

4:30– 5:30PM

BANQUET, by reservation

5:30PM

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER

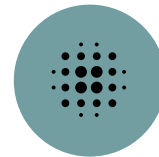
6– 8PM

C. J. Alvarez, Ph.D.
Border History, Desert History



Our Keynote Speaker is an Associate Professor with the Department of Mexican American and Latina/o Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Alvarez is an environmental historian who writes about deserts, the built environment, and the U.S.-Mexico border. He received his doctorate in history from the University of Chicago, and studied art history at Harvard and Stanford.

His Keynote Presentation will explore the history of political borders and environmental boundaries in the region we know today as the Big Bend. It will focus on the political and environmental history of the region, but is also intended to challenge the audience to think in more expansive ways about the artificiality of borders, the independence of the non-human environment, the connections and dislocations between political borders and environmental boundaries, and what we mean when we talk about “History” itself.



ABSTRACTS OF PRESENTATIONS

Biographic Rock Art and Indigenous Violence in the Big Bend

Erika Blecha

In 2018 the Center for Big Bend Studies of Sul Ross State University began a thorough investigation and documentation of over 200 petroglyphs (glyphs) pecked on small, vesicular basalt boulders located in the Sierra Vieja breaks, near the Rio Grande in far west Texas. The most common themes depicted on the boulders are Indigenous intergroup conflict and historic brands. The anthropomorphic and zoomorphic figures depicted in combat bear similarities to the Biographic Rock Art Tradition more commonly seen throughout the Great Plains. The proximity of these glyphs to a series of sites we interpret as defensive, gives insight into the interactions and social/political influences of pericolonial Indigenous peoples in the Big Bend ca. AD 1600-1880. This paper will discuss the evidence of Biographic Rock Art and pericolonial Indigenous violence along the Big Bend Rio Grande corridor.

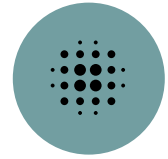
Erika received her B.A. in Anthropology from the University of California at Berkeley and an M.A. in Archaeology from the University of Montana. While in school, her research interests extended from Mesoamerica to reservation-era archaeology, and federal management of archaeological sites in wilderness areas. She has been a professional archaeologist since 2009, working as an archaeological field technician, crew chief, GIS specialist, and now, project archeologist. She loves to travel and has conducted archeological work throughout the central coast of California (where she is from), Nevada, Montana, and Wyoming, as well as Belize, Honduras, and along the coast of Peru. Erika is currently researching the spatial and iconographic patterns of the boulder petroglyphs, as well as, Indigenous violence. Her interests include GIS, paleoethnobotany, hunter-gatherer lifeways.

Johnson's Ranch and the Crash: A Big Bend Mystery and the History It Revealed

Todd Bureau

Through the focal point of the only documented aircraft crash at Johnson's Ranch in 1932, this presentation will focus on the unique personal, cultural, and military aviation histories associated with a truly storied place, now but a remote marker and campsite on the River Road in Big Bend National Park. A forgotten photograph of a curious metal assembly found walking the area fifteen years ago, leads to a search and rediscovery of the part, and the subsequent tying of it to the specific aircraft and crash. The story of the pilot, who later went on to be a German POW and a Brigadier General in the Air Force, helps illuminate a fascinating tale of survival, perseverance, innovation, and satisfaction in a pivotal era of the Lower Big

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Bend as well as geopolitically. Cross-cultural exchange and technological development not common for a remote location characterized this unique chapter and location in the years leading up to World War II and establishment of the National Park. The presentation will consist of a number of slides and draws on earlier oral histories of key figures as well as contemporary investigation, that highlight the human story as well as that of critical aircraft innovation.

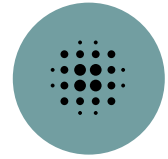
Todd spends his time divided between Hope, Alaska on the Kenai Peninsula, and the Chihuahuan desert of Terlingua, Texas on the border; B.A. French and History, M.A. French Literature, jumped the academic ship Literature and fled to the wilds when it docked at Dissertation; with a fundamental inclination for the natural world and the privilege of choosing it, started a small group tour operation in Alaska and directed it for a delightful 25 year livelihood/life; in a place of limited roads and long distances, became a commercial pilot and aircraft mechanic for that livelihood, shamelessly rationalized for that life; continuously cherished dance with French and Spanish, teaching and traveling, with Italian the new partner; retirement activities of furious outdoor play, ponder, and doing oral histories; pre-Covid gave fact-based talks on psychedelic therapy in anticipation of impending FDA approvals, as a means to reduce stigma; Ongoing passion humbly aiding efforts to nudge from the throne, the purely materialist approach of science, the one that denies the subjective, through discussions on consciousness and mystical experience via presentations, conferences, and publications. Closely associated with the Pari Center in the wee medieval hamlet of Pari, Italy. It's all pretty darned joyous.

The New "It" in Mimbres Classic Ware? Mimbres Polychrome, and Its Possible Influence on Ramos Polychrome, 1075/1100-1300 AD

Marc Callis

The Classic pottery of the Mimbres region occupies a special position among the pottery types of the ancient North American Southwest - one cannot deny the sheer artistry and iconographic power of Mimbres Classic Black-on-White, especially those pieces that comprise the latter portion of its final phase, known as Mimbres Classic Black-on-White Late Style III. Late Style III itself takes an interesting turn towards its tail end, when potters add a tan, yellowish, or reddish paint to the Classic Mimbres Black-on-White designs, creating something novel: Mimbres Polychrome. Mimbres Polychrome vessels constitute a scant amount of the total number of Mimbres vessels - less than one percent (Shafer 2003, 184). Though the time span during which they were produced was short, and their numbers few, they are far more interesting - and important - than either their numbers or time span would suggest. Mimbres Polychrome, despite its relatively small numbers, does not constitute a blip in a sequence of

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Mimbres Classic wares that both precedes it and continues after it. Rather, once the Mimbres Classic people start making Mimbres Polychrome, they only stop once they make a major break with a century and a third of tradition, and cease making Mimbres Classic ware - or anything even remotely like it -- altogether around 1130 AD. After that, Mimbres Polychrome experienced a hiatus until, along with the earlier, Viejo Period polychrome types of northern Chihuahua, it helped give rise to that late 13th century polychrome tradition that so characterizes the apex of the Casas Grandes System (and is my personal favorite pottery type of the entire ancient Southwest!), Ramos Polychrome.

Shafer, Harry J.

2003 Mimbres Archaeology at the NAN Ranch Ruin (Albuquerque: The University of New Mexico Press).

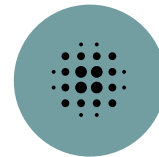
Marc Callis has a master's degree in history, and has worked as a tour guide, museum professional, archaeologist, and adjunct professor (in other words, he is a full-fledged participant in the 21st century academic gig economy!). He writes and lectures regularly about the American Southwest. He is the author of several articles, including an article in the Spring 2015 issue of the "Journal of Arizona History" entitled "The 1782 Apache Assault on San Agustin del Tucson." He has also authored a book on the Tucson Presidio entitled "Tucson's Spanish Colonial Fort: Presidio San Agustin del Tucson, and the People who Shaped its History, 1691-1856;" and another consisting of fantasy stories entitled "The Esoteric Order of Dagon: Tales in the Tradition of HP Lovecraft, Set in the Great American Southwest." His latest article appears in the Summer 2021 issue of "Southwestern Lore" (Colorado Archaeological Society), and is entitled "Ik' WAY: The Mayan Origins of the T-Shaped Doors of the North American Southwest."

The Last Hurrah! Apollo 17 Astronaut Training in the Texas Big Bend

Pat Dasch

This presentation will highlight the West Texas mission-specific field training for the Apollo 17 crew, the last of the Apollo missions to the lunar surface, flown 50 years ago, in December 1972. All Apollo astronauts participated in field training in the Texas Big Bend region as part of their intensive geological education. As flight crews were identified, mission-specific field training was conducted in West Texas, beginning with the only mission-focused field training outside a NASA center for the Apollo 11 crew in February 1969 on the Circle C Ranch belonging to the Cowan family in the Quitman Range. The crews of Apollo missions 12 and 13 also trained for lunar surface excursions in West Texas. Apollo 17 lunar surface explorers Jack Schmitt and Gene Cernan participated in numerous geology field excursions in the Big Bend, culminating in a final lunar rover field excursion rehearsal conducted at Sierra Madera in March 1972.

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Pat Dasch worked in the space program at NASA Headquarters in Washington, DC, and championed public advocacy of space exploration as editor-in-chief of *Ad Astra* magazine, and later as the Executive Director of the National Space Society. She has published numerous articles and several books on space exploration and has appeared on CNN, Fox News, NBC, and the BBC to discuss the space program. She received a B.A. Hons. in American Studies from the University of East Anglia, U.K. and undertook research at Oxford University, U.K., and the Lunar and Planetary Institute in Houston, TX. Since retiring to Alpine she has served as the founding Research Director for the Rio Grande Research Center at SRSU, and provided editorial assistance to CBBS for several years.

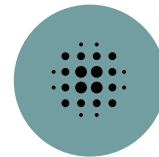
Conduct Unbecoming and Officer and a Gentleman: The 1877 Court-Martial at Fort Clark, Texas

William F. Haenn

Two days after Christmas 1922, in San Antonio, Texas, a husband of sixty years, the father to nine children, just a month and a few weeks past his ninetieth birthday, late Captain of the 10th U.S. Cavalry, Thomas Little ... FELL DEAD! Nearly half a century earlier, on an ill-fated evening spent in the frontier Army town of Brackett, Kinney County, a single reckless act of transgression brought his otherwise commendable military career to an ignominious and unseemly end, guilty of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman. In vain he spent the remainder of his life attempting to remove the stain on his character. Captain Little's court-martial at Fort Clark in 1877 was instigated by Colonel William R. "Pecos Bill" Shafter after he learned of Little appearing, in uniform, on Brackett's main street arm in arm with a prostitute and accompanying her to a house of ill-fame, bringing reproach and discredit upon the U.S. Army. A court of nine officers heard the damning evidence and their sentence of dismissal from the service was upheld by General William T. Sherman and President Rutherford B. Hayes. Included in this poignant narrative are the human failures of revenge, prejudice, and despair.

Bill Haenn retired from the U.S. Army as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1993. He is the author of the bestselling book, "Fort Clark and Brackettville Land of Heroes," a photographic history for Arcadia Publishing's Images of America Series. His contributions to the military history of the Lower Pecos and Big Bend regions include two feature articles for *ON POINT: The Journal of Army History* (Bullis's Medal of Honor Fight at the Pecos River and a Brief Unit History of the Seminole Scouts) along with an innovative analysis of two photographs taken at Fort Davis, Texas in 1887, published in *The Journal of Big Bend Studies*, Vol. 25. As a speaker he has previously contributed several dynamic presentations at the Annual Conference of The Center for Big Bend Studies. The Texas Historical Commission honored Bill in 2011 with their "Award of Merit" in recognition of his prodigious historical documentation, continued leadership, preservation and heritage tourism promotion of the natural and built environment of Historic Fort Clark, Brackettville, Texas.

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Dam Site Possibilities on the Rio Grande in the Big Bend District (Lajitas to Devils River) – 1941 to 1953

Mark L. Howe

A field reconnaissance report by the International Boundary Commission (IBC) in 1942 showed dam site prospects of the entire Big Bend section of the river. In this reach of the Rio Grande, dam sites have long been known to exist in Santa Helena, Mariscal and Boquillas Canyons. Geological field investigations in October 1941 and previous stereoscopic aerial photo and topographical map investigations examined the aspect of dam locations in the Big Bend region with a report of results. Additional geological field investigations in the Big Bend in 1949 to 1953 mapped many of the geological structures and rock layers of the region by the recently renamed IBC to the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC). Pictures found in a photo album at the IBWC in El Paso, showed drill site work for geological core samples in the U.S and Mexico from 1949 to 1950. This paper will discuss the reports for these prospective dam locations in the Big Bend region and the geology and people who completed this project.

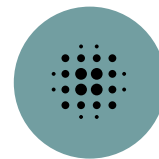
Mark L Howe is the Cultural Resources Specialist at the United States Section, International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) in El Paso, Texas. He has a MA in History from the University of Texas – El Paso and is currently a PhD student in Geography at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, New Mexico. He writes on the archeology and history of the IBWC and the Borderlands from San Diego to the Gulf of Mexico.

Part One: “All But Vanished: Problems of the ‘Disappeared’ Comanche Trail North of the Trans Pecos”

Holle Humphries

The system of trails used by Comanches travelling south through the Texas Trans Pecos area on their raids into Mexico is commonly referred to as the “Comanche ‘War’ Trail”. Although portions of it appeared drawn on maps in the Trans Pecos area of Texas as early as 1850, and on several military maps of the 19th c., the Comanche Trail actually was far more extensive in scope. Yet, the upper portion of the trails used by the Comanches north through the Texas Panhandle and northwest across the Llano Estacado of New Mexico have received little attention. There are geographical, historical, and political reasons for this omission. The purpose of this session’s research group will be summarized as an effort to rectify this oversight by creating a comprehensive map of the entire scope of the Comanche Trail—to include its routes north of the Trans Pecos area of Texas.

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Holle Humphries is the facilitator for the Quanah Parker Trail, a public history project of the Texas Plains Trail Region, one of ten cultural heritage trails of the Texas Historical Commission. She holds a PhD in the Fine Arts from Texas Tech University. A former art educator at the K-12 and university level, she regularly makes presentations about public art and public history to scholarly and community groups, and is a contributor about these topics to national, state and local books, journals, newspapers and broadcasts for television, radio and Web-based media.

Part Two: "The Comanche Trail Traced Across the Llano Estacado Into New Mexico"

Austin Allison

Several tendrils of the Comanche Trail sprawl across the Llano Estacado, but one of the most well-travelled branches often goes overlooked by modern researchers. The trail that extended from Bosque Redondo near today's Fort Sumner to Punta de Agua at Lubbock's Lubbock Lake Landmark represented a route from the hubs of New Mexico to the Llano Estacado and places beyond. This trail was at one time well-watered and dense with wildlife, but is today mostly dry and largely devoid of any remnants of the wildlife that once lived there. It is still possible to record the trail via historic sites such as Casas Amarillas, Laguna Salado, and other places that remain as markers on the trail. This presentation will highlight this portion of the trail via historic maps and drone imagery that surveys these sites from an entirely new perspective.

Austin Allison is an assistant librarian at the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library at Texas Tech University. He has published articles in the Journal of the West, the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, and the Southwestern Archivist. He maintains research interests in historic water sources of Texas, early land settlement and speculation on the South Plains, and utilizing drone technology to evaluate landmarks from the sky.

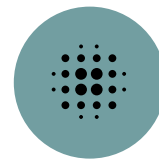
Part Three: "Finding Gholson Spring: Pivotal Water Source of the Comanche Trail in the Texas Panhandle"

Jim Crownover

Within the network of Native American trails and landmarks, very little "boots on the ground research" has been conducted of actual location of trails, springs and landmarks that can be mapped to acceptable tolerances. This presentation describes one method and success story of locating a valuable long-serving spring that served both Americans and U.S. Military on their navigation of the Llano Estacado in the 19th century.

Jim Crownover is a veteran Conservationist with USDA Soil Conservation Service (NRCS). He is a founding board member of the West Texas Trails Association, and member of the West Texas Historical Association, Texas State Historical Association, Texas Map Society and Caprock Canyonlands Archaeological Society. A specialist in conducting boots-on-the-ground field research and GPS/GIS Technology, he has assisted principal investigator Todd Smith and other researchers in verifying the geographical location and scope reach of the 1871 Battle of Blanco Canyon, a running battle through Crosby and Floyd Counties, led by chief adversaries Col. Ranald S. Mackenzie and Quanah Parker. Currently, he has been working on map research projects incorporating ArcGIS in reexamining historic maps

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Historic Preservation in Big Bend National Park

David Keller

Starting in 2017, the CBBS has conducted preservation efforts in Big Bend National Park on a number of historic structures including the Sam Nail Ranch, the Sublett Farmhouse, the Dorgan House, and the Alvino House--the park's flagship vernacular adobe structure. This presentation discusses those efforts with a focus on adobe testing and preservation techniques as well as an overview of the work conducted and proposed next steps.

David W. Keller is Project Archaeologist at the Center for Big Bend Studies where he has conducted professional archeological and historical research for the past twenty years. He has also conducted historic preservation work with a focus on adobe construction on private lands, in Big Bend National Park, and Fort Davis National Historic Site. He is the author of numerous archeological and historic preservation reports as well as three books on regional history: *Below the Escondido Rim: A History of the O2 Ranch in the Texas Big Bend*, *Alpine: Images of America*, and *In the Shadow of the Chinatis: A History of Pinto Canyon in the Big Bend*.

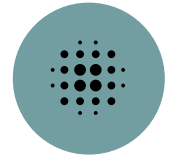
Playing Real Polo: Western College Kids, Horse Soldiers, and Cowboys

Tai Kreidler

In the 20th Century two college polo teams, one from the University of Arizona and the other from New Mexico Military Institute, burst onto the national scene and stole the limelight from the vaunted Ivy League and Left Coast powerhouses. New York and Long Island specifically are considered the birthplaces of American polo--the oldest sport. However, the first match may have been played in the west with cavalry, cowboy, ranching, and college teams soon dominating what otherwise has been characterized as a "Yankee" sport.

Tai Kreidler is a faculty member at the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library at Texas Tech University and the Executive Director of the West Texas Historical Association.

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John William Spencer: His Founding of Presidio, Texas, and His Contributions to Texas

Milo Nitschke

C. Wayne Hanselka, Ph.D.

Max Spencer Castillo, Ph.D.

Sabrina Spencer, DSW, LCSW

Joe Aureliano Spencer, Jr., Attorney & Counselor at Law

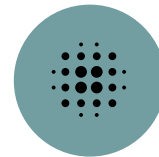
Roberto Rafael Spencer, MD

Olivia Elizabeth Spencer Grado, Owner Seguros Grado/Insurance

Frank X. Spencer, PE., RPLS

From 1848 to 1898, John William Spencer led or participated in many efforts to develop the Presidio area. He, along with Benjamin Leaton and John Burgess, completed a land survey and obtained a patent for the establishment of an organized community on the United States side of the Rio Grande known as the City of Presidio. He was the first to establish a sustainable economy based on ranching and farming that supported the City of Presidio, City of Ojinaga, Presidio County, and the military at Fort Stockton and Fort Davis. He was an extraordinary person who was intelligent, fearless, a visionary, a doer-of-things, a rancher, farmer, prospector, miner, flour mill operator, general store owner, wagon freight train operator, and leader of the community. He has left a legacy that heretofore has largely been overlooked in favor of other remarkable people of the epoch and area. With respect for the contributions made by other great women and men of the time, the historical contributions made by John William Spencer to Presidio, Presidio County, and Texas are worthy of public acknowledgement and recognition.

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Milo Nitschke

Milo D. Nitschke was born in North Dakota in 1952. At twenty years of age, he enlisted in the United States Air Force and served a four-year tour as a psychiatric ward technician working at the Air Force Drug Abuse Center, and Wilford Hall Medical Facility both located at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. Milo holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and a Master's Degree in Business Administration, with a concentration in Finance and Economics from the University of Texas at San Antonio. In 1975 he married Marta Alicia Spencer Castillo of Presidio, Texas, the fifth-generation descendant of John William Spencer and Maria de Jesús Baeza Carrasco. Milo is retired after a career in financial administration in both the private and public sectors. Milo and Marta live in San Antonio, Texas. They love to travel and have traveled to many places on the globe. They have no children.

C. Wayne Hanselka, Ph.D.

C. Wayne Hanselka was born in 1941 in Victoria, Texas. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in 1966, Master of Science degree in 1968, and Ph.D. in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences in 1973 from Texas A&M University. His Ph.D. field research was done in the La Junta valley in southern Presidio county.

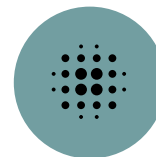
He taught 2 years in the Presidio Independent School District (1970-1972) and was a Professor in the Range Animal Science Department at Sul Ross State University from 1972 - 1976. He joined the Texas Agricultural Extension Service in 1976 and held the position of Professor and Extension Range Specialist in the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management at Texas A&M University for 34 years. He was based at the Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Corpus Christi, Texas, retiring in 2008.

Since retirement, he has been a natural resource consultant with TRM International/Grazing Land Management in Corpus Christi, working with producers, agencies, agri-industry, and other land managers on natural resource and land management issues. A major area of concentration has been programming in "Total Ranch Management" involving consulting, short courses, field days, etc. for Uniones Ganaderos, Governmental Agencies, Universities, etc. in several states in Mexico.

Dr. Hanselka has published several articles and books on ecosystem science and management, and he coauthored with Howard G. Applegate the book "La Junta de los Ríos del Norte y Conchos."

He married Lillian Burgess, a great-granddaughter of John D. and Tomasita Burgess, in 1968 at Presidio. They have three children - Kenneth, Kevin, and Elizabeth, six grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter. He and Lillian live in Corpus Christi, Texas

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Max Spencer Castillo, Ph.D.

President Emeritus University of Houston-Downtown Professor Educational Psychology, University of Houston (Retired).

Dr. Max Spencer Castillo was the fourth president of the University of Houston-Downtown (UHD) from 1992 to 2009. He served the longest term as president of UHD as of his retirement date on July 31, 2009. President Castillo served for 17 years, and his long tenure provided the foundation for the university to grow as it responds to the needs of its city.

Dr. Castillo has served as a leader in the education field as he has served on numerous boards to include the American Council on Education (ACE), the International Association of University Presidents (IAUP). He served as Chairman of the Council of Public University Presidents and Chancellors (CPUPC) in Texas, as president of the Association of Texas Colleges and Universities (ATCU), on the boards of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), the Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education (TACHE), and the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AACU). He has forged partnerships in the international arena, at the Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Tamaulipas in Tampico, Mexico, and with the Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara.

Dr. Castillo holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts degree from St. Mary's University in San Antonio, and he earned a doctorate from the University of Houston. Prior to becoming president of UHD, he served as president of San Antonio College from 1982 to 1992.

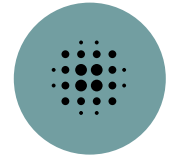
Dr. Castillo is fluent in English and Spanish languages.

Sabrina Spencer, Doctor of Social Work (DSW), Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)

Sabrina Spencer, DSW, LCSW, ACSW is a licensed clinical social worker with a Doctor of Social Work degree from Walden University. She also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology with a minor in Sociology from Texas A&M University and a Master of Social Work degree from Our Lady of the Lake University. Her professional areas of expertise include crisis/disaster/trauma, trauma exposure and traumatic stress, death and end of life, trauma-informed care, culture/diversity/inclusion, clinical practice, and the intersection of policy and practice. She completed her doctoral research study on social work crisis interventions with traumatic death survivors.

Dr. Spencer has practice experience in the behavioral health and medical fields. She practiced for four years as a social worker in an acute unit of a psychiatric state hospital. Her practice experience also includes six years as a clinical social worker in the emergency department of a county hospital and pediatric burn center with the highest-level certifications as a trauma, stroke, heart, and neonatal facility. She is currently the pilot of a behavioral health therapy program for trauma survivors at the same facility. She is the sole provider of Trauma Survivors Therapy at the facility, where she offers clinical social work therapy with a variety of evidence-based modalities effective for trauma survivors. Her practice includes numerous speaking engagements and educational forums in her areas of expertise.

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Joe Aureliano Spencer, Jr., Attorney & Counselor at Law

Joe A. Spencer, Jr. is an El Paso attorney providing legal services covering Criminal Law, Criminal Defense, Civil Litigation, and Plaintiff Litigation. He is admitted to practice in the Northern District of Oklahoma as well as in the U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit and Seventh Circuit. The following U.S. District courts, Western District of Texas, Northern District of Texas, Southern District of Texas, and the U.S. Supreme Court. He was selected to Super Lawyers for the years 2019 - 2022. This peer designation is awarded only to a select number of accomplished attorneys in each state. The Super Lawyers selection process takes into account peer recognition, professional achievement in legal practice, and other cogent factors. Prior to becoming an attorney, he studied at Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law. He graduated in May of 1989. After passing the bar exam, he was admitted to legal practice in November of 1989.

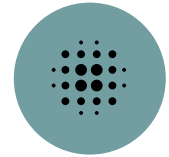
Mr. Spencer is known as a litigator who has represented over 100 defendants charged with murder or capital murder. To date none of his clients have received the death penalty. His cases have been featured on Dateline, Crime and Law and many Podcasts throughout the country. He is frequently asked to speak at continuing legal education seminars for attorneys. He is the current president of American Inns of Court and past president of the Mexican American Bar Association. He has received numerous awards and is recognized as the Criminal Defense Lawyer of the year including the Chingon Award by the El Paso Criminal Law Group. Mr. Spencer is fluent in English and Spanish languages.

Roberto Rafael Spencer, MD

Roberto Spencer, MD is a Diagnostic and Interventional Radiologist who provides diagnosis and aid in the treatment of conditions through the use of medical imaging to gather information about the structure and function of the human body that may be unavailable without surgery. The imaging uses penetrating radiation, such as X-rays, CT scans, and PET scans to diagnose diseases, as well as using ultrasound and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans. Dr. Spencer has over 40 years of experience in the medical field. He graduated from University Of Colorado School Of Medicine in 1981.

Dr. Spencer received his Bachelor of Science Degree in 1973 from Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas. During the year 1973-74 he did postgraduate work in biochemistry at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado. From 1976 to 1981 he attended the University of Colorado School of Medicine Denver, Colorado receiving his medical degree. After receiving his medical degree, he served as a Resident in Radiology at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, Albuquerque, New Mexico. In 1983-84 he served as the Chief Resident, Radiology, University of New Mexico, School of Medicine, Albuquerque, New Mexico, and in 1984-85 he was a Lecturer in Radiology at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, Albuquerque, New Mexico (6 months pediatric/general; 6 months CT/ultrasound).

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Dr. Spencer is a member of the honor societies of Phi Eta Sigma, Gamma Sigma Delta, Phi Kappa Phi. He has memberships in the American Medical Association, Radiological Society of North America, and American College of Radiology.

He has completed numerous Publications in Scientific Journals.

Dr. Spencer was born in 1951, in Presidio, Texas. He married Cynthia Sue Hanna in 1977. They have three children Vanessa Kirsten, born 1982, Sabrina Rachel, born in 1983, Lindsey Anne, born in 1987.

Dr. Spencer is fluent in English and Spanish languages.

Olivia Elizabeth Spencer Grado, Owner Seguros Grado/Insurance, Ojinaga, Mexico

Ms. Olivia Elizabeth Spencer Grado and her husband José Grado own and operate Seguros Grado/Insurance in Ojinaga, Chihuahua, Mexico. Elizabeth was born in Chihuahua and raised in Presidio, Tx. She attended Incarnate Word High School and College in San Antonio, Texas, and married Dr. José de Jesús Grado Leon. They have two daughters and six grandchildren. She has been very active in the Ojinaga Community serving in The Local Red Cross as Chairman for many years and also in Lion's Club International and Parent's School Boards. Her professional background includes being General Manager of Gladstone S.A. de C.V. a Maquila Company for almost 24 years.

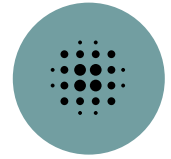
Ms. Spencer Grado is fluent in English and Spanish languages.

Frank X. Spencer, PE., RPLS

Mr. Spencer is a Senior Vice President and Co-owner of FXSA, Inc. which he and his wife, Rebecca Tercero Spencer founded in 1979. FXSA, Inc is a Hispanic, Woman owned civil engineering firm. The firm has been in business over forty-three years, specializing in civil engineering, surveying, and mapping, subsurface utilities engineering, commercial aerial drone services, LiDAR, construction management, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS), delivering responsive practical, innovative, and cost-effective solutions to land use and economic development projects.

Mr. Spencer is a Texas Registered Professional Engineer, member of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers, and a Texas Registered Professional Land Surveyor. Mr. Spencer is a graduate of St. Edwards High School in Austin, Texas, and a graduate of Texas A&M University in 1970 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering.

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Mr. Spencer was selected to Chi Epsilon the National Civil Engineering Honor Society. This honor is bestowed on civil engineering students who exemplified the principles of "Scholarship, Character, Practicality and Sociability" in the civil engineering profession".

Mr. Spencer was selected to Tau Beta Pi the National Engineering Honor Society, the only engineering honor society representing the entire profession. The nation's second oldest honor society founded in 1885 to mark in a fitting manner those who have conferred honor upon their Alma Mater by distinguished scholarship and exemplary character as a student in engineering.

In 1998, Mr. Spencer established a branch engineering office in El Paso. Since opening the El Paso office, he has expanded his business practice and FXSA, Inc., is now headquartered in El Paso. His success and contributions to the community have been recognized by various entities. In 1990 The El Paso Small Business Administration El Paso District awarded Mr. Spencer the Small Business Person of the Year Award. In 2006 the El Paso, Texas, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce awarded Mr. Spencer the Future 15 Business Award.

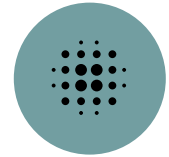
Mr. Spencer is a member of The Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) which leads collaborative efforts to identify and resolve national security infrastructure-related challenges. Founded in 1920, SAME unites public and private sector individuals and organizations from across the architecture, engineering, construction, environmental and facility management, cyber security, project planning, contracting and acquisition, and related disciplines in support of national security.

Mr. Spencer is fluent in English and Spanish languages.

Bellicose or Benevolent? The Link Between Indigenous Architecture and Conflict in the Big Bend Region

Bryon Schroeder

Bryon became the Director of the Center for Big Bend Studies in 2020. He received his Ph.D. in archaeology from the University of Montana in 2015 focused on high-altitude hunter-gatherer sites in the Wind River Range of the Middle Rocky Mountains. He also holds both a B.A. and M.A. in archaeology from the University of Wyoming where he studied hunter-gatherer conflict, violence, and Identity. He has worked throughout Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, Montana, the Central Coast of California, and Texas. In Texas, his research interests focus on collector collaboration, ancient human and plant DNA, and the distribution of ancient maize and he has ongoing excavations at several of the large rockshelters and cave in the Big Bend region.



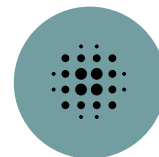
Screwworm Eradication in West Texas: Seen through the Eyes of the Canon Ranch

William V. Scott

In the early 1920s the Canon Ranch near Sheffield was devastated by the outbreak of screwworms that would affect livestock operations throughout the country, but especially the American Southwest. The Canon Ranch's sheep operations seemed to be hit the hardest. The ranch would employ many various attempts to eradicate this plague, including policing the pastures, riding the rough range to doctor infected livestock, and quarantining of animals. The remote location of the ranch isolated the care procedures of the animals, in the late twenties the ranch erected a Sheep Hospital Shed to aid the ranch in attentive care and health of the Canon's infected animals. The Canon Ranch would actively be fighting screwworm infestation in the Trans-Pecos of West Texas through 1955. While other regions of the country were aided by New Deal Programs that would minorly work related to screwworms like the Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA), and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), but the research on the Sterile Fly after World War II, would be the catalyst that finally put the screwworm in check. The Sheep Hospital Shed has since been relocated to the National Ranching Heritage Center (NRHC) in Lubbock, where it stands as a reminder of West Texas ranching ingenuity against a devastating parasitic invasion.

William V. Scott is a native San Antonian, and seventh generation Texan. William is a passionate historian and with research interests in Environmental History, Borderlands, and Military History in relation to the U.S., Mexico and Latin America. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in History from Texas A&M University - San Antonio, Masters of Arts in History at the University of Texas at San Antonio and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in History at Texas Tech University. William's research, "Fort Ewell, Texas: A Forgotten Borderlands Post of the Nueces River, 1852-1854," was published in Texas State Historical Association's Touchstone, and other publications include the topics of Tejano Ranching Women in the Spanish and Mexican Borderlands, and the U.S. Mexican Joint Boundary Commission. William also worked on a GIS project for Bexar County as part of the San Antonio Tricentennial and has written numerous articles for the Handbook of Texas Online. William is a member of numerous historical organizations and is a Living Historian - Reenactor traveling to many notable landmarks across Texas and beyond. William gives historical talks and school demonstrations throughout the year, in addition to volunteering his time with the San Antonio Livestock Exposition, Inc. and Shriners International; William continues to raise cattle on his family ranches in South Texas with wife, Julia and daughters Lilly and Cora.

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True Stories of Unglamorous Maladies: Frontier Medicine at Fort Davis and Other Army Posts in the 19th-Century American West

Donna Gerstle Smith

In the 19th century, the average lifespan of an American was 48. Dying young was a fact of life. Soldiers in their 20s died of diarrhea or pneumonia. There were no clean water systems, no antibiotics. Army laundresses and soldiers' wives died in childbirth or from TB. Children died of measles or diphtheria, or from ingesting a bottle of medicinal "laudanum" that had no childproof cap.

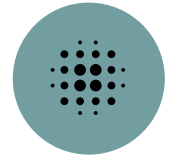
Disease killed more soldiers on the frontier than hostile raiding parties - yet no one had heard of viruses or bacteria. Common medications included opium and "medicinal" whiskey. Best treatment for venereal disease was mercury.

Find out why one soldier was buried headless. Learn about the different cemeteries at Fort Davis, what they called "PTSD," and why scurvy was a problem at frontier army posts even though the British navy knew how to prevent it. Before baseball players wore gloves, a baseball injury might end in finger amputation.

Hear some true stories of people who lived at frontier Fort Davis and 40 other army posts in the American West. These are genuine accounts, taken from old letters, diaries, and U.S. Army primary source records at the National Archives.

Donna Gerstle Smith worked for the National Park Service for almost three decades as a Park Ranger and as Park Historian. Her fascination with history began while researching for her SRSU master's degree thesis under Dr. Wayne Sheehan and Ms. Judy Parsons in 1997, when Fort Davis National Historic Site was about to begin restoration of its 1876 army hospital. The topic of her completed thesis: "Army Physicians, 19th-Century Medicine, U.S. Army Medical Department, and 1880s Medical Care of the Sick and Wounded at Fort Davis." She is grateful that Dr. Sheehan and thesis committee member/historian Neil Magnum inspired her, that Dr. Sheehan found her a grant to spend 10 days at the National Archives in D.C. and at the National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, and that her brother Tom Gerstle bought her an airplane ticket to get there. She encourages other master's degree students in history to write a thesis and do original research to contribute to the field.

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West Texas Historical Association Session

Fort Terrett and the First Line of Frontier Defense in Texas

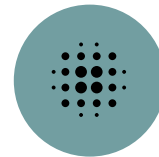
Jim Matthews

In 1849, following the war with Mexico, the United States Army established a southern and western line of defense in Texas consisting of nine forts to further several different strategic initiatives that included securing the disputed area along the Rio Grande, providing protection from the Comanches for settlers moving further west and guarding the stage and mail lines to the California gold fields. By 1851, some of these outposts had already become obsolete due to the continuing westward movement of settlement in Texas. As one of his first duties, the newly appointed department commander, General Persifer F. Smith, conducted a tour of inspection to evaluate the original outposts and choose sites for a more westerly line of posts to effectively provide defense. He personally chose the site for Fort Terrett at the headwaters of the North Llano River along the San Antonio - El Paso stage road.

Lieutenant Colonel Henry Bainbridge with companies of the First Infantry officially established the fort on February 2, 1852. Although the site had been strategically chosen, troops abandoned the post only two years later in February 1854. It was quickly replaced by sites even further west along the stage road including Fort Davis and Fort Lancaster. Yet the site did not remain abandoned. Later in the same year of 1854, Peter Reiman, a German immigrant, established the Fort Terrett Ranch using some of the stone buildings of the post as his headquarters. Since that time the ranch has been in constant operation under a series of owners including Samuel Maverick, Charles Schreiner and William Noel. Parts of the old fort buildings are still used by the current owner, former professional pitcher, Nolan Ryan.

Jim Matthews is the Editor of the West Texas Historical Association Newsletter –The Cyclone. He is a published and award-winning scholar on U.S. Cavalry exploits in West Texas and the southwest. He is a longtime WTHA member and retired executive with the Boy Scouts of America.

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West Texas Historical Association Session

Revolutionary Big Bend: Conflict along the U.S.-Mexico Border

John Klingemann

The combative phase of Mexico's Revolution of 1910 altered the lives of borderlanders along the stretch of U.S.-Mexico border in the Big Bend. From 1910 to 1920, conflict at Ojinaga and other locations in the Big Bend and northern Mexico contributed to widespread change as revolutionary forces waged conflict against federal troops. This paper will examine two conflicts that took place at Ojinaga and the resulting changes they brought to Big Bend landscape.

John Eusebio Klingemann, a native of Terlingua, Texas, graduated from Sul Ross State University before pursuing a doctoral degree at the University of Arizona. Upon completion of his graduate studies, John returned home to the Lone Star state and accepted a position at Angelo State University. A recipient of the García Robles Fulbright Fellowship to Mexico, his dissertation focused on revolutionary movements in the 20th century. He currently serves as the Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities and the Director of the Mayer Museum. Klingemann has published more than 20 book chapters, journal articles, short stories and translations, and he has made more than 80 presentations at professional conferences.

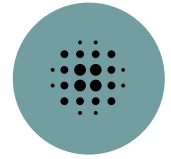
The Ranch in the History of Texas: The Trans-Pecos

Leland Turner

Texas is sometimes defined as being born from hide and horn. Certainly, ranching has been central to the story of Texas history if not the actual engine of the Texas economy. However, ranching was the economic reality in the Big Bend region. In the 1870s and 1889s Anglo cattle ranchers filtered onto the desert mountain ranges of the Trans-Pecos. Their migration was in response to a growing U.S. demand for beef. West of San Antonio and southeast of El Paso those Anglo-Texans encountered a border region already populated, though sparsely, with various Mexican villages somewhat oblivious to the political delineation which the Rio Grande River represented. Initially it was a land dedicated to sheep production. However, soon it became a region of beef production. This project, "The Ranch in the History of Texas," of which the Trans-Pecos is an important element, is meant to address the role of both mythology and economics in the history of the state.

Turner is an Associate Professor of History at Midwestern State University. He specializes in the history the American West, Texas, cattle economies, and the consequent Wild West mythology. A 2007 Fulbright Fellowship to Australia enabled Turner to complete his manuscript, "Outback by Southwest: King Ranch Cattle in the Australian Grasslands" is under consideration by the University of Oklahoma Press. His present borderlands research is a continued effort to consider transnational cattle economies and their historic importance.

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DIG: Notes on Field and Family

Sarah Wilson

Photographer Sarah Wilson's grandfather gave her three black metal boxes filled with faded Kodachromes the year before he died. The images featured rock formations, bone fragments, skulls, and landscapes from his annual digs in West Texas. These were his teaching slides from when he was a professor of geology and paleontology at the University of Texas. In 1949, Dr. John A. Wilson was the first director of UT's Vertebrate Paleontology Collections and was the first paleontologist to discover early mammal fossils from the Cenozoic era in Big Bend National Park.

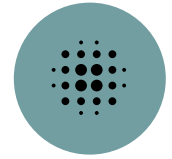
Holding the slides up to the light, Sarah saw that she and her grandfather photographed some of the exact same desert landscapes, from the same vantage points, only fifty years apart. This shared connection ignited an adventure and a long-term project, featured in the pages of her upcoming book, DIG: Notes on Field and Family.

Wilson now joins paleontologists in the field every year, searching for bones and photographing the stark desert landscapes featured in those 35mm transparencies. She's eager to share her story and her grandfather's history, accompanied by a photographic slideshow of West Texas landscapes, prized fossils from UT's collection, and Sarah's visual meditations on Deep Time.

Sarah Wilson is a photographer, cinematographer, documentary film producer and co-founder of Go-Valley, an Austin-based production company. A graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, she balances documentary films and editorial photography assignments with personal and public art projects. Sarah has been on assignment for The New York Times Magazine, Time, The Atlantic, Mother Jones, and several other publications including Texas Monthly, where she is featured on the masthead. Her photographs are in the permanent collections of the Harry Ransom Center and the Museum of Fine Arts Houston and she's won awards at photo festivals in the US and abroad.

A self-proclaimed amateur paleontologist, Sarah looks forward to packing the car and hitting the open road for her annual digs in the West Texas desert.

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Transportation Geography of the Greater Big Bend Region: An Update on Two Binational Freight Corridors

Michael S. Yoder

Transportation infrastructure is a fundamental topic in public policy circles, especially as it impacts local, regional and national economic development. Likewise, the movement of freight is an ever more crucial component of supply chains of all kinds of goods, from commodities like agriculture, construction materials and petroleum, to automobiles and parts. Given the shifting nature of long distance trade, freight transportation corridors are of growing interest to policy makers and private-sector stakeholders. Some regions enjoy favorable proximity of population centers to sources of commodities and manufactured goods, while others are more spread out and less well connected. This paper examines two emerging and intersecting freight transportation corridors of the Greater Big Bend Region linking Texas and northern Mexico. First, the Texas Pacifico Railroad links Fort Worth and Presidio, and a Ferromex rail line links Ojinaga to Chihuahua and the port of Topolobampo. Second, Ports-to-Plains is the planned expansion of Interstate Highway I-27 to link Coahuila, Durango and Sinaloa in Mexico to Del Rio, Eagle Pass, San Angelo, Lubbock, and ultimately the Canadian border. The research finds that public-private partnerships are crucial to the anticipated success of the two corridors. Marketing of each corridor on both sides of the border is essential to capturing public and private infrastructure funding as well as interest on the part of shippers, given the competition with already established corridors beyond northern Mexico and West Texas.

Michael Yoder is a Geography Research Fellow at the University of Texas at Austin, and Adjunct Instructor at University of Central Arkansas (UCA) and Texas A&M International University (TAMU). He holds a Ph.D. in human geography from Louisiana State University (1995) and M.A. in agricultural geography from the University of South Carolina (1989). He was Associate Professor of Geography at TAMU, 1995-2008, and Associate Professor of Geography and Director of the Master of Science Degree in Community and Economic Development at UCA, 2010-2017. His current research focuses on the geography of economic development, including freight transportation infrastructure and logistics in North America, and related policy. He serves on the Transportation and Traffic Advisory Board of the City of New Braunfels, Texas.

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