

The Heart of Texas

Newsletter of the Central Texas Historical Association

Spring/Summer 2016

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear CTHA Members,

CTHA officially began to accept members in June 2015. As we move closer to the end of June 2016, I wanted to take a moment and reflect upon the accomplishment of the Association. I would argue that we have had an amazing year. For an organization in its first year of operation, CTHA has achieved the following milestones: The Association currently has seventy-five (75) members; has held two successful symposiums; has co-sponsored an additional conference; and has co-sponsored several speaking engagements with Blinn College's Division of Social Sciences. Our Managing Editor, Dr. Kirk Bane, has labored over the past months to ensure that the first issue of the Association's journal, *Central Texas Studies*, arrives to members on time and contains articles, special features, and book reviews that will be of interest to the membership.

CTHA is proud of its work with other regional history associations in the state. Association members have participated in three different joint sessions—two with the East Texas Historical Association, and most recently, one with the West Texas Historical Association. We want to thank ETHA and WTHA for inviting our members to share papers related to the history and culture of Central Texas at their meetings.

CTHA is financially secure at this time, in large part, due to the generous donations from Association members and officers, Kirk Bane and Charles Swanlund. As many of you know, they along with Scott Sosebee, Executive Director of the East Texas Historical Association, are the authors of *A Lone Star Reader*, 2nd edition (Kendall Hunt, 2015). Professors Bane and Swanlund have donated their portion of the royalties to CTHA. When you see them at our sponsored events, please take the time to thank them for their generosity.

Of course, as with any organization, CTHA has experienced some growing pains. Most recently, our Book Review Editor, Dr. Debbie Liles, has resigned her position. Dr. Liles did an amazing job for us for the short time that

she served as the Book Review Editor. It has been an honor to have the opportunity to work with her, but the editorial staff fully understands Dr. Liles' decision to devote more time to her many worthy research projects. We wish her all the best and look forward to working with her in other roles within the Association. At this time, CTHA Managing Editor, Dr. Bane will assume the duties of the Book Review Editor. If you would like to join our list of reviewers, please contact him at this time (kbane@blinn.edu).

The future of CTHA is promising. The Association is scheduled to hold its 2016 Fall Symposium, titled "Frontier Violence: Depredations, Outlaws, and Rangers," on October 22 at the Central Texas College campus in Killeen, Texas. More information regarding the meeting, including registration, will be posted on the CTHA website by the end of May 2016. Additionally, we are making plans for the first CTHA Annual Conference, slated to take place in Brenham, Texas, in the spring of 2017. Dr. Charles Gear has agreed to serve as the Chair of the Program Committee. More details will be posted regarding our annual meeting at the beginning of the July 2016. Finally, the first issue of the CTHA journal is on schedule and will be mailed out in December of this year. Kirk and I are excited about the inaugural issue and believe that our members will find it a worthy representation of the association.

In closing, I want to thank all the members of CTHA for making the association a success. The members are the lifeblood of any organization, and we are fortunate to have an outstanding group of people involved in CTHA. I look forward to seeing you at future Association events.

Sincerely,
Kenneth W. Howell
Executive Director

2016 SPRING SYMPOSIUM

“Texas Identity: The Search for an Elusive Spirit”



The CTHA held its Spring Symposium on Saturday, April 2, 2016, at Blinn College – Bryan Campus. In attendance were 75 members and guests. A group of distinguished scholars presented various topics on the Texas identity, examining such issues as the state’s regional distinctiveness (southern, western, or other), its identity as reflected in popular culture, and the continuing quest for a new metanarrative.

Among the featured speakers presenting at the symposium were **Walter Buenger** (Texas A&M University), **Ty Cashion** (Sam Houston State University), **Don Graham** (University of Texas at Austin), **Rebecca Sharpless** (Texas Christian University), and **Mitchel Roth** (Sam Houston State University). There were nine additional speakers presenting in breakout session during the afternoon, including **Kevin Fontenot** (Tulane University), **Kyle Wilkison** (Collin College), **Charles Grear** (Central Texas College), **Debbie Liles** (University of North Texas), **Charles Swanlund** (Blinn College), **Paul Spellman** (Wharton County Junior College), **Houston**

McGaugh (Star of the Republic Museum), **David Lintz** (Redman Museum in Waco, Texas), and **Ronald Goodwin** (Prairie View A&M University).

There were a number of exhibitors at the meeting, including **Texas A&M University Press**, **West Point Society of Central Texas**, **Wendish Society & Museum**, **Star of the Republic Museum**, and **Red Men Museum & Library**. On The Border: Mexican Food Restaurant catered the event.

There were over 20 colleges and universities represented at the event, counting presenters and attendees. Our luncheon speaker was **David Shi**, co-author of *America: A Narrative History* and past president of Furman University. His presentation on the dynamics of race relations in American history was well received by all in attendance.

CTHA expresses its appreciation to all its members who attended the event. Your continued support allows the Association to provide quality programs. Please see additional photographs of the event at the end of the newsletter.

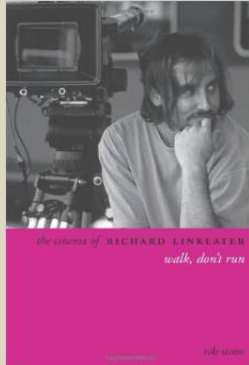
MANAGING EDITOR'S CORNER



Richard Linklater ranks as one of cinema’s most exciting independent filmmakers. Born in Houston in 1960, he attended Huntsville High School, Bellaire High School, and Sam Houston State University, where he played baseball. In 1985, Linklater founded the Austin Film Society. He has helmed some twenty motion pictures, including *Slacker* (1991); *Dazed and Confused* (1993); the *Before* trilogy (1995, 2004, 2013); *Bernie* (2011); and, shot over a twelve year period, the pioneering *Boyhood* (2014). He frequently works with fellow Texans Ethan Hawke and Matthew McConaughey.

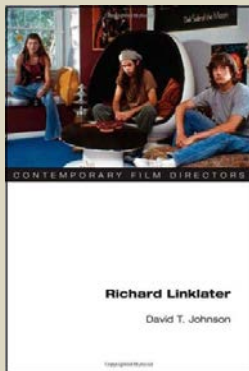


While I have not seen his latest effort, *Everybody Wants Some!!* (2016), set on a Texas college campus in the 1980s, it has garnered rave reviews. For example, Brian Truitt (*USA Today*) calls it “a winningly retro slice-of-life look at a weekend in the life of some Texas ballplayers seeking girls, tunes and identity.” And Bilge Ebiri (*Village Voice*) asserts that “the experience of watching this film is one of reflective



exuberance. It’s a movie about people who arrive sure of themselves and depart in the quiet confidence that all they know is that they know nothing.”

Two film scholars, David T. Johnson (Salisbury University, Maryland) and Rob Stone (University of Birmingham, United Kingdom) have written insightful commentaries on the Lone Star auteur, who still calls Texas home. Cinephiles will enjoy Johnson’s *Richard Linklater* (University of Illinois Press, 2012) and Stone’s *The Cinema of Richard Linklater: Walk, Don’t Run* (Wallflower Press, 2013). Until next time, keep on reading!



Kirk Bane
Managing Editor

CTHA FEATURED MEMBER

Dr. Yvonne Frear is the CTHA Featured Member for this edition of *The Heart of Texas*. Dr. Frear, CTHA Second Vice President, has played a vital role in the formation of the Association. She is Department Chair

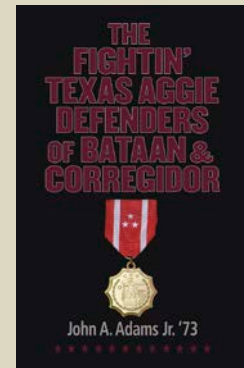
for Behavioral and Social Sciences at San Jacinto College Central, where she also teaches African American history, United State history, and distance-learning classes. Her essay on African Americans in Texas have appeared regionally, nationally, and internationally in *Lone Star Past: Memory and History in Texas*, in *Major Problems in Texas History*, and in *Schriftenreihe des Fahberichs Betriebswirtschaft der HTW (Yearbook of the Department of Business Administration)*. Dr. Frear has published several encyclopedia articles and book reviews regarding African American women and Texas history. Her current research examines African American youth and the sit-in movement in Texas.



CTHA FEATURED PUBLICATION

The CTHA featured publication is from one of our newest members, **John A. Adams, Jr.** In April 2016, Adams published *The Fightin’ Texas Aggie Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor* with Texas A&M University Press.

This work is a welcome addition to the historiography of World War II and the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets. The following description of the Adams’ book comes from the Texas A&M Press website:



By any measure, the battles of Bataan and Corregidor were among the most intensely fought and devastating episodes in the World War II Pacific theater. Beginning in early 1942, the Japanese Imperial Army invaded the Philippines in an attempt to control the Pacific region and expand its sphere of influence. The defense and last stand of Filipino and

American allied forces marked the largest surrender in their respective military histories. Their efforts slowed the Japanese advance but only at great cost.

John A. Adams Jr. provides a new and compelling exploration of these pivotal events by recounting the history of Bataan and Corregidor through the eyes of 89 soldiers and officers who were former students and citizen soldiers from the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. All were products of the Corps of Cadets, and indeed no other institution could boast of such a large deployment in the opening of the war.

While many words have been written on Bataan and Corregidor, none have taken the approach of collective biography as *The Fightin' Texas Aggie Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor* does here. As a result, this book is not only a new contribution to the history of World War II but also stands to be a landmark publication on the history of Texas A&M University.

JOHN A. ADAMS JR. '73 is the author of *Keepers of the Spirit: The Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M University, 1876–2001* and *Softly Call the Muster: The Evolution of a Texas Aggie Tradition*. He resides in College Station.

OTHER CTHA MEMBER ACTIVITIES

At the 2016 Spring Meeting of the **East Texas Historical Association** held in February at the Holiday Inn & Suites, Beaumont, Texas, CTHA organized a joint session, titled “Tales of Violence, Loyalty, and Agriculture in the Greater Central Texas Region.” **Charles Swanlund**, Blinn College, presided over the session, which included the following presentations: **John Gorman**, Prairie View A&M University, “Reconstruction Violence along the Brazos River and Byways of Central Texas,” **Charles Grear**, Central Texas College, “Comal County: A Case Study in German Texan’s Loyalty during World War I,” and **Rebecca**

Sharpless, Texas Christian University, “Forgotten Roots: Wheat and the Development of Dallas County.” Many of our members were present at the meeting, and we enjoyed great fellowship between sessions and during other planned ETHA activities.

Charles Swanlund, Gail Swanlund, and Kenneth Howell represented the CTHA at the 2016 **West Texas Historical Association Annual Meeting** in Abilene, Texas. In the CTHA Joint Session, Charles presented a paper on frontier violence, and Kenneth presented a paper on the long Civil War in Texas. This was a great meeting and many CTHA members attended the event, learning more about the rich history of West Texas.



2016 FALL SYMPOSIUM

The 2016 Fall Symposium of the CTHA will be held October 22, on the Central Texas College Campus in Killeen, Texas. The title of the symposium is “Frontier Violence, Depredations, Outlaws, and Rangers.” Featured speakers will be **Donaly Brice, Stephen Moore, Bill O’Neal, Henry B. Crawford, Chuck Parsons, Bob Alexander, and Carol Taylor**. Presentations will focus on various aspects of frontier violence and defense during the nineteenth century, including the *Great Comanche Raid, Frontier Defense during the Republic Era, Texas Gunslingers, The Texas Rangers, John Wesley Hardin, and Ben Bickerstaff*. For more information on how to register for the event, please visit the CTHA website at www.centexhistassn.org.

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE 2016 SPRING SYMPOSIUM



Ron Goodwin, “A Long Struggle: The African American Odyssey for an Equitable Voice in Texas”



Rebecca Sharpless, “Texas Women in History”

Ty Cashion, “A Texas Metanarrative for the 21st Century”



Exhibitor’s Hall



Walter Buenger, “Making Sense of Texas and Its History”



Debbie Liles, “Southern Roots, Western Foundations: Slavery and the Cattle Industry in Antebellum Texas”

Luncheon Speaker, David Shi, “A More Perfect Union: The Dynamics of Race in American History”



Don Graham, “Race and Identity in the Diner Scene in *Giant*”





Mitchell Roth, “The Texas Prison Rodeo: Where Texas Tough Met Popular Culture”



Kyle Wilkison, “Cotton Pickers v. Cowboys”

Charles Grear, “They Seem to Think We Are Half-Wild Savages: 19th Century Thoughts on the Development of Texas Identity”



Kevin Fontenot, “Stout and High: Country Music Remembers the Alamo”



Paul Spellman, “Iconic Lawmen: The Image of the Texas Ranger”



Symposium Luncheon

Charles Swanlund, “Three Mostly Forgotten Texans Who Helped Shape Modern Baseball”



Houston McGaugh and David Lintz, “History at Risk”