

The Heart of Texas

Newsletter of the Central Texas Historical Association

Fall 2015

CTHA NEWSLETTER

Greetings! CTHA proudly announces the publication of its first newsletter, “**The Heart of Texas.**” Published twice a year, the newsletter will update members on Association events and activities.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear CTHA Members,

As we approach the conclusion of our first year, I want to share with you some of the Association’s highlights. Together, we have accomplished a great deal in a short period. CTHA has been recognized as a 501 (C) (3) non-profit charity under the IRS Tax Code and has achieved tax exempt status from the State of Texas.

The Association’s membership has reached forty-seven members, and continues to increase each month. By this time next year, I project that combined membership levels will double, especially as CTHA gains the attention of scholars and the general public.

The Association is financially sound with revenues generated from membership dues and from the generous donations of the East Texas Historical Association, active members, and from the proceeds of *A Lone Star Reader* edited by Kirk Bane and Charles “Chuck” Swanlund. Both Kirk and Chuck have graciously given the royalties of their book to the Association. These funds will be used to supplement CTHA activities and create future scholarly awards.

The Association held its first public event this past October at Washington-on-the-Brazos. The 2015 Fall Educational Symposium was a great success. Numerous sponsors and members helped to make this a memorable event, including Blinn College Division of Social Sciences, Blinn College Food Services on the Bryan

campus, Star of the Republic Museum, Washington on the Brazos State Park Association, Texas A&M University Press, W. W. Norton & Company, Gail and Charles Swanlund, Houston and Anne McGaugh, and all the attendees who braved the inclement weather.

We are in the process of gathering articles and book reviews for our forthcoming annual journal, *Central Texas Studies*. The journal is scheduled for release in December 2016. At present, the editors of the journal plan to include six to eight scholarly articles and approximately 20 plus book reviews in the first volume. There will also be a couple of special features, including sections such as “Central Texans from the Past,” “Announcements” and “Dust Jacket.”

CTHA’s website is active. The website contains a wealth of information, and I encourage all members to review it at www.centexhistassn.org.

In closing, I want to express my sincere gratitude to the members of the CTHA Board of Directors for their guidance and patience. The Board has provided much wisdom and advice on all phases of the Association’s development. Additionally, I want to thank all those who have joined CTHA and share in its mission to preserve the history and culture of the greater Central Texas Region for posterity. A dedicated membership is the lifeblood of any organization and CTHA is fortunate to have a strong and growing group of founding members.

The past year has been a wonderful time in my professional life, and I thank you for your support. The future of the Central Texas Historical Association holds great promise, and I am looking forward to facing the challenges of a new year.

Sincerely,
Kenneth W. Howell
Executive Director



2015 Fall Symposium (October 24, 2015)

2015 FALL SYMPOSIUM

The 2015 Fall Symposium was held on October 24, 2015, at Washington-on-the-Brazos. The theme of the symposium was cultural diversity in the Republic of Texas, 1836 to 1845. Despite inclement weather, more than thirty-five attendees gathered to hear Carolina Castillo Crimm, James C. Kearney, Mary L. Scheer, and James L. Haley, lecture on various aspects of Tejano, German, Women, and Native American history. The symposium was the first public event sponsored by CTHA.

CTHA FEATURED MEMBER



Dr. Larry Watson currently serves as President of the CTHA. He received his Ph.D. in History from Texas A&M University, and has taught at Blinn College for more than 25 years. Dr. Watson plays an active role in the Blinn Community; he has served as president of both the Faculty Senate and

the college's Professional Association. Larry is a longstanding Board Member of the Brenham Heritage Museum. He has published articles in *The Journal of Texas Baptist History* and the *Senior Musician*. Dr. Watson is also the author of *Challenge to Ministry: The History of the First Baptist Church, College Station, Texas, 1920-1998*. Additionally, he is co-editor of the popular anthology, *Readings in United States History*, now in its seventh edition. Larry has made numerous professional presentations to such organizations as the East Texas Historical Association, the Southwest Social Science Association, and the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. CTHA members are fortunate to have such an energetic and active president.

CTHA RISING SCHOLAR

This special feature is dedicated to highlighting the accomplishments of promising young scholars. The students selected for recognition are enrolled in either an undergraduate or graduate program at one of the many Central Texas institutions of higher learning. Furthermore, the students must be in the process of pursuing a degree related to the CTHA mission; majors such as history, geography, archeology, political science, anthropology, museum studies, and other relevant degrees are well suited for this purpose. For this issue, the Association is proud to select Kelli Cooks, a sophomore at Blinn College—Bryan, as the first Rising Scholar.

Kelli is from Hammond, a small community in Central Texas. Her homeschool education enabled Ms. Cooks to pursue many interests, including computer technology, musical theatre, and the opportunity to visit numerous historical sites and museums. While studying at Blinn, Kelli has earned distinction as an





(Twelve/Hachette, 2013) by University of Texas professor Bill Minutaglio and Steven L. Davis, curator at the Wittliff Collections, Texas State University. Solidly researched and skillfully written, their study provides a chilling portrait of the city in the period leading up to the assassination of President Kennedy.

Should you have any questions about *Central Texas Studies*, do not hesitate to contact me. When it appears next December, I believe you will be impressed!

CTHA LEADERSHIP

An active Board of Directors is essential to the success of any organization. CTHA is fortunate to have such a dedicated and distinguished group of leaders serving on its Board. When you see them at CTHA events, please take a moment to introduce yourself. They welcome your ideas and suggestions. Our current Board is listed below.

Serving Until 2019

Ty Cashion, *Sam Houston State University*

Charles “Chuck” Swanlund, *Blinn College*

Houston McGaugh, *Star of the Republic Museum*

Serving Until 2018

Lynn Burlbaw, *Texas A&M University*

Brandon Franke, *Blinn College*

Charles “Chuck” Grear, *Central Texas College*

Serving Until 2017

Bruce Glasrud, *Retired, Sol Ross University*

T. Michael Parrish, *Baylor University*

Carolina C. Crimm, *Retired, Sam Houston State University*

Blinn College Member

Diane Lovell, *Blinn College*

MEET THE EDITORIAL BOARD

A scholarly journal is vital to the reputation of any learned society. To ensure high academic standards, the Managing Editor has assembled a team of notable scholars to serve on the Editorial Board. This group guarantees that *Central Texas Studies* achieves its intended purpose – to preserve the history and culture of the greater Central Texas region.

Editorial Board members include:

Tom Britten, *University of Texas Rio Grande Valley*

Walter Buenger, *Texas A&M University*

Ty Cashion, *Sam Houston State University*

Rebecca Czuchry, *Texas Lutheran University*

Joseph G. “Chip” Dawson, *Texas A&M University*

Yvonne Frear, *San Jacinto College*

Charles Grear, *Central Texas College*

Jennifer Lawrence, *Tarrant County College*

Alex Mendoza, *University of North Texas*

Gene Preuss, *University of Houston*

Erik Prout, *Texas A&M University*

Bernadette Pruitt, *Sam Houston State University*

Mary Scheer, *Lamar University*

Thomas Stephens, *Blinn College*

Kenneth Stevens, *Texas Christian University*

Keith Volanto, *Collin College*

Kyle Wilkinson, *Collin College*

Cary Wintz, *Texas Southern University*