



# FROM TEJAS --- TO TEXAS



WITTE MUSEUM  
Conference On Texas |  
Texas Trailblazers Awards

May 13 -14, 2021

## Welcome to the Witte Museum's 4<sup>th</sup> annual Conference on Texas!

This year's conference focuses on transitions from Tejas to Texas – the state we live in today. We use the word “Tejas” to signify the encounter of the indigenous people and the Spanish in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. For thousands of years prior to that encounter, people lived along the rivers and gulf coast, speaking hundreds of different languages, gathering when the river bottom pecans were ripe or when the prickly pear tuna were plentiful. It is the indigenous people who taught the immigrants of the next 500 years how to understand the flora and fauna of what was then called Tejas. Today, in a predominantly urban Texas, we are recalibrating how we live on the land, shape the water, and access the night sky.

Given that the Witte Museum is where Nature, Science and Culture meet, the old and new versions of Texas are critical to comprehend as we shape the future of Texas, together. The Robert J. and Helen C. Kleberg South Texas Heritage Center will celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2022, and we hope you will help us shape a future exhibition for the Center, *From Tejas to Texas*.

We begin this year's conference with the Texas Trailblazers Awards Luncheon honoring community leader Michael Bolner and the pioneering Bolner Family of the international company Bolner's Fiesta Products. The Bolners are a legacy San Antonio family, with roots from the Canary Islands, Italy, and Mexico, who have, for generations, been highly active in the food industry and civic causes. We also thank the Bolner family for generations of support for the Witte Museum. Founder of Bolner Fiesta Products, Clif Bolner, was a long-time Witte Trustee and Chair of the Witte in 1994. Clif's son Michael Bolner is now a long-time Witte Trustee and Chair in 2009 and 2010.

During the luncheon, acclaimed author Stephen Harrigan will speak about his seminal Texas book, *Big Wonderful Thing: A History of Texas*, in which he quotes artist Georgia O'Keeffe of her first impression of the Lone Star State: “I couldn't believe it was real, the same big wonderful thing that oceans and the highest mountains are.”

This year's *Conference on Texas* panels include: Black Cowboys, Colonization of the Lower Rio Grande, the First Encounters Between the



"Mapa del Presidio de San Antonio de Béxar," Luis Antonio Menchaca, 1764  
Courtesy: Portal to Texas History, University of North Texas

Church Missionaries and the Indians, the First Texas Capital, the French in Texas, Tejano Captives Among the Comanche, the saga of Cabeza de Vaca, Useful Wild Plants, the Chandler Boundary Survey, How the Battle of the Medina Influenced the Battle of the Alamo, Women Ranchers, Juneteenth, Violence in the Hill Country, Faith Healers, American Tacos, and Space Cowboys.

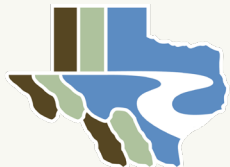
We thank *Texas Monthly* for their participation in the luncheon and the conference.

We are very grateful for the support of the Elizabeth Huth Coates Charitable Foundation, the Bolner Family, the Tex Elliott Family, Veltri and Velazquez Wealth Management of Wells Fargo Advisors, the Gloria Galt Fund of the San Antonio Area Foundation, Jefferson Bank, and Humanities Texas.

Enjoy this year's *Conference on Texas: From Tejas to Texas*. And as important, after experiencing the conference, let us know what you wish to see in a future exhibition, *From Tejas to Texas*.

Sincerely,

- Marise McDermott, President and CEO



# CONFERENCE ON TEXAS: FROM TEJAS TO TEXAS

**Featuring: Texas Trailblazers Awards**

May 13 -14, 2021 | Witte Museum

## DAY 1 - MAY 13

**11:30 a.m.**

*Check in and Registration – Feik Family Pavilion*  
*Continues all day Thursday and Friday – H-E-B Lantern*

**12:00 p.m.**

*Texas Trailblazers Awards Luncheon*  
*in Partnership with Texas Monthly*  
Mays Family Center

**Honoring:**

**Michael J. Bolner and the Bolner Family**

*Welcome*

*Mays Family Center*

**12:15 p.m.**

*Gathering at the Waters From Tejas to Texas*  
Marise McDermott | President and CEO, Witte Museum

**12:25 p.m.**

*Presentation of Award Honoring*  
*Michael J. Bolner and the Bolner Family*

**12:35 p.m.**

*Dan Goodgame* | Editor-in-Chief, *Texas Monthly*

**12:40 p.m.**

*Big Wonderful Thing*  
Stephen Harrigan | Keynote Speaker

**Session 1 | 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.**

*Black Cowboys: Limitations and Freedoms on the Wide Range*

Speakers: Mike Searles, Ron Davis

Moderator: Aaronetta Pierce

**Session 2 | 2:40 – 3:40 p.m.**

Panel A

*José de Escandón*  
*and La Colonia Nueva:*  
*Settlement on the lower Rio Grande*

Armando Alonzo

Moderator: Ricardo Romo

Panel B

*Meeting the Spanish:*  
*Los Adaes, First Spanish Capital*

Francis X. Galan

Moderator: Bruce Shackleford

**Session 3 | 3:50 – 4:50 p.m.**

Panel A

*The French Legation in Texas*

Ken Hafertepe

Moderator: Cynthia Evans

Panel B

*Marcario Leal – Tejano Captive*  
*Among the Comanche*

Joaquin Revaya-Martinez

Moderator: Francis Galan





---

Coffee  
Courtesy of *Jefferson Bank*

**1718: Texas Indians Meet the Catholic Church**  
Rebecca Simmons and Mickey Killian  
Moderator: Elvira Sanchez Kissner

Panel A

***Stranger in a Strange Land: The Saga of Cabeza de Vaca***

Brandon Seale  
Moderator: Harry Shafer



Panel B

*Discovering the Lost Planet  
Underfoot – Useful Wild Plants  
of Texas*

Scooter Cheatham

*From Presidio to the Pecos: The  
Chandler Boundary Survey, 1856*

Orville Shelburne

**Lunch Program | 12:00 p.m.**  
*Sponsored by Wells Fargo - Veltri and Velasquez*

***Music Evolution from Tejano to Texan***  
 Hector Saldaña

*Lunch provided by Fresh Horizons*

Panel A

***How the Battle of Medina  
influenced the Battle of the Alamo:  
Through the Eyes  
of José Francisco Ruiz***

Art Martinez de Vara  
Moderator: Ricardo Romo

Panel A

***Juneteenth: The Evolution of an Emancipation Celebration***

Elizabeth Hayes Turner

***Violence in the Hill Country***

Nicholas K. Roland

Moderator: Carey Latimore

*with refreshments*

***Space Cowboys: A Conversation on New Texas Industries and Old Traditions***

Tom Foster, Joshua Baer and Jag Bath

*Introduced by David Dunham, Editor in Chief, Texas Monthly*

Panel B

***La Patrona: Women Ranchers in the Wild Horse Desert***

Debbie Liles, Amy Porter  
Moderator: M. M. McAllen

Panel B

***Curanderismo and Faith Healers:  
Frontier Health Care***

Jennifer Koshatka Seman

***American Tacos***

José Ralat  
Moderator: Johnny Hernandez



## Conference On Texas | Texas Trailblazers Awards FROM TEJAS TO TEXAS

*Biographies of Speakers and Abstracts of Presentations*

### Texas Trailblazers Awards Luncheon

*Honoring Michael Bolner and the Bolner Family*

**Stephen Harrigan** is the author of eleven books, including the New York Times best-selling *The Gates of the Alamo*, *Remember Ben Clayton* (which, among other awards, won the James Fenimore Cooper Prize from the Society of American Historians for best historical novel), and *A Friend of Mr. Lincoln*. He has also written a number of books of non-fiction, including the recent *Big Wonderful Thing: A History of Texas*, and a career-spanning collection of essays, *The Eye of the Mammoth*. His latest novel, *The Leopard is Loose*, will be published by Knopf in January 2022. He is a writer-at-large for *Texas Monthly*, as well as a screenwriter who has written many movies for television.

### Session 1

#### **Black Cowboys: Limitations and Freedoms on the Wide Range**

Between 1866 and 1895, approximately one quarter of all cowboys on the cattle trail were black. Many of these men learned their trade as enslaved people. Ron Davis' Project, "Before the Cattle Run" investigates the lived experiences of enslaved cowhands in Texas in the nineteenth century. An examination of personal accounts, business records, newspapers, and legal documents, explores how black cowboys performed labor, forged community, and resisted enslavement. Since the scholarship on enslaved labor in the United States centers on the cash crops of cotton, sugar, and rice, the work of enslaved cowboys is often overlooked. This study contributes to scholarship on slavery studies and Texas history. It highlights the importance of the work of enslaved cowboys to the expansion of slavery in Texas in addition to the evolution of the American cattle industry. This research opens a window into a seldom examined history, black cowboys in Texas, during the nineteenth century.

**Ron Davis** is Ph.D. candidate in the History Department at the University of Texas at Austin. He is studying under the direction of Daina Ramey Berry. His dissertation project examines enslaved cowboys, labor, and resistance in antebellum Texas. He is a twenty-four-year veteran of the U.S. military and served in various capacities through five deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. Because of these

experiences, his research interests also include exploring the lived experiences of black servicewomen and men from the Revolutionary War to Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. The U.S. Air Force honored Davis with a 4th Air Force Aircrew Excellence Award in 2010 for safely conducting air-to-air refueling with an F-16 Falcon, at night, during a complete loss of electrical power in his aircraft, among other commendations and medals.

**Mike Searles**, also known as Cowboy Mike, is a professor of United States history, African American history, and Blacks in the American West at Augusta State University in Georgia. He's written numerous publications including: *Black Cowboys of the American West: On the Range, On the Stage, Behind the Badge* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2016) and *Buffalo Soldiers in the West: A Black Soldiers Anthology* (Texas A&M University Press, 2007) with co-author Bruce Glasrud. He has also co-curated *The Black West: Buffalo Soldiers, Black Cowboys & Untold Stories* for the Booth Western Art Museum in Cartersville, Georgia.

**Moderator: Aaronetta Pierce**

### Session 2

#### *Panel A*

#### **José de Escandón and La Colonia Nueva: Settlement on the Lower Rio Grande**

Discovery of silver in Zacatecas (1546) created a frenzied lure to get rich in America that led to the movement of people to New Spain's northern frontier. Through an eastern corridor in the mining country, Spain first occupied Coahuila and Nuevo León, then Texas and, in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, La Colonia del Nuevo Santander. Imperial and religious imperatives figured importantly in the decision to establish the new colony. After much deliberation, the viceroy Revilla Gigedo commissioned Col. José de Escandón, an experienced military officer and textile owner in Querétaro, as colonizer and first governor. He first organized a military reconnaissance of the territory that extended from Texas to Tampico and then founded towns, including five in the Lower Rio Grande, where the *vecinos*/settlers engaged in extensive ranching and other activities. While later officials were critical of Escandón's work and removed him from office in 1766, he had established a nucleus of settlements that exceeded what he had originally contracted for. He is remembered as one of the most important Spanish colonizers. This presentation looks at the colonization project, Escandón's administration, and the social and economic characteristics of the *vecinos*.

**Armando Alonzo** is a native of the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas and an Associate Professor in the Department of History, Texas A&M University. His research interests include Spanish colonization, land tenure, and economic history in Northeast Mexico and Texas from the colonial era to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Alonzo's current manuscript examines the region's socio-economic linkages since Spanish

settlement. His book, *Tejano Legacy: Rancheros and Settlers in South Texas, 1734-1900*, was published by the University of New Mexico Press in 1998.

**Moderator: Ricardo Romo**

### Panel B

#### **Meeting the Spanish: Los Adaes, First Spanish Capital**

This year marks the 300th anniversary of the establishment of the Spanish *presidio* (fort) of *Nuestra Señora del Pilar de los Adaes* (“Los Adaes”) at the end of the Camino Real on the border with French Louisiana in what was then Caddo Country. Unlike the celebrated Tricentennial of San Antonio a few years ago, most people have not even heard about Los Adaes, which became the first capital of Spanish Texas. The so-called *Adaeseños* (soldiers and settlers of Los Adaes) became like a different tribe in the Piney Woods on the Texas-Louisiana borderlands where trade, kinship, and peaceful ties predominated while violence seemingly raged on other frontiers. This paper examines relations between the Spanish and Tejas, one of the original city-states in the Hasinai Confederacy, particularly the critical mid-1700s when Spain attempted to expand and enforce its borders in Texas against smuggling from French traders in Louisiana, powerful Comanches from the Southern Plains, and pirates in the Gulf of Mexico. Just as the borders of Spanish Texas shifted, so too did the flow of trade, identity, and loyalty of the King’s subjects, a pattern repeated soon after the Louisiana Purchase of 1803.

**Francis X. Galán** is Assistant Professor of History at Texas A&M University-San Antonio teaching courses on Texas, Mexico, and Latin America. He previously taught at UTSA and Our Lady of the Lake University. A South Texas native, Galán received his Ph.D. in history from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, M.A. from UTSA, and B.A. from UT-Austin. His book, *Los Adaes, The First Capital of Spanish Texas*, was published in 2020 by Texas A&M University Press and a Finalist for the Ramirez Family Award from the Texas Institute of Letters for Most Significant Scholarly Book.

**Moderator: Bruce Shackelford**

## Session 3

### Panel A

#### **Curious Creole House of Diplomacy: The French Legation in Texas**

The French Legation is the oldest remaining house in Austin but more importantly the only tangible reminder of the tumultuous stay of Alphonse Dubois, the self-declared Comte de Saligny. His assignment to the Republic of Texas was a great opportunity for Dubois, as France hoped to form an alliance with Texas, which

would promote trade and even French immigration. However, the Frenchman was a fish out of water in frontier Austin. He found it a challenge to entertain in his rented “wretched wood shanty” and decided to build a “mansion of the Legation” which would be a tool for Franco-Texan diplomacy. The house that he built was a remarkable hybrid, combining features from French Creole Louisiana, Anglo-Texan features, and even a hint of French urbanity. His conflicts with rough-and-tumble Texans culminated with what was known as the “Pig War,” and his residence in the mansion was extremely brief, if he lived there at all. However, one Austin family lived in the house and cared for it for nearly a hundred years. In the 1950s the Daughters of the Republic of Texas restored that house as a museum, and in 2020 the Texas Historical Commission restored it again, giving it new life as a historic site.

**Kenneth Hafertepe** is a professor of Museum Studies at Baylor University, specializing in American architectural history, material culture and decorative arts. His two most recent books, *The Material Culture of German Texans*, and *Historic Homes of Waco, Texas*, won the Texas State Historical Association’s Ron Tyler Award for Best Illustrated Book on Texas History and Culture. His many articles include one on the Texas homes of Sam and Mary Maverick, and two on the Spanish Governor’s Palace in San Antonio. Hafertepe is working on more books about Waco, San Antonio, Texas, and the earliest professional gravestone makers in Texas.

**Moderator: Cynthia Evans**

### Panel B

#### **Marcario Leal – Tejano Captive Among the Comanche, 1847-1854**

The strange story of young Marcario Leal is an important example of indigenous practices of captivity and incorporation in the Texas borderlands of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. After offering a panoramic overview of some general patterns, Revaya-Martinez will examine the roles and statuses of captives within Comanche society and how Comanche practices of captivity and incorporation affected interethnic relations in the region.

**Joaquín Rivaya-Martínez** is an associate professor of History at Texas State University. He holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology from UCLA and is a fellow of SMU’s Clements Center for Southwest Studies. He specializes in the indigenous history of the US-Mexico Borderlands and the southern Great Plains during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Rivaya-Martínez’s scholarship involves extensive archival research in four countries, interviews with contemporary consultants, and the use of ethnographic, archaeological, linguistic, and environmental evidence. He conducts his research in close contact with members of the Comanche Nation. He is currently writing a book on Comanche captives.

**Moderator: Francis X. Galan**

## Session 4

### 1718: Texas Indians Meet the Catholic Church

Franciscans were the most common missionary in New Spain. Trained on the culture, languages and methods of conversion of native peoples, missionaries travelled north to found and serve in the San Antonio missions. Focused on evangelizing the souls and improving the lives of indigenous peoples, the Franciscan friars sought to create a better Christian society. The friars' perspective on their pastoral and administrative role is best summarized by a friar at Mission Concepcion in 1787 as "be all to all [baptized inhabitants] in order to win them all". They established physical mission sites for bands of native people and lived with them to better indoctrinate them in the faith and Spanish culture. The native inhabitants learned agricultural skills and trades and the Spanish political structures to prepare them for the time when the mission would be secularized and the land and implements distributed to the inhabitants. The friars believed that armed with faith and skills the indigenous would become loyal Spanish citizens and take their place in the community. The success of the friar's vision can be debated, but the lasting impact of the missions on San Antonio is indisputable.

**Rebecca Simmons** is Executive Director of Las Misiones, the organization charged with the preservation and conservation of the four San Antonio Spanish Colonial mission churches. She also serves as Director of El Camino de San Antonio Misiones, a program of the Archdiocese of San Antonio. A graduate of Austin College and Baylor University School of Law she is a former trial and appellate judge who has authored and presented numerous articles on a variety of legal topics. Long fascinated by the missions, Rebecca continues to study their history and continuing contribution to San Antonio.

Native Americans occupied South Texas for thousands of years prior to European contact. In the 1700s the world of the Native Americans here changed drastically. The Natives were forced to accept changes in their old ways. Changes that were brought about by the influence of the advancing Europeans and by the disturbances caused by the warlike tribes which had weaponized the horse. The Indian missions built under the Spanish rule were often the last hope for survival for the small bands that had traditionally occupied these lands. Throughout most of the century, Natives were recruited into the Catholic mission system, hopefully to be "reduced" into Spanish citizens. However, the sponsorship by the Spanish of the mission concept came to an end with the virtual disappearance of candidates for missionization in the 1780s. The Natives of the mission period did not become extinct, rather, some of the mission builders survived, and today, their descendants number in the thousands.

**Mickey Killian** was born in San Antonio, Texas, raised near San Juan Capistrano Mission, and is the sixth generation of his family to live in proximity to the mission. He graduated from Brackenridge High School in San Antonio, Texas, and

graduated from The University of Texas at the Permian Basin with a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree in Accounting in 1977. In 1980, he became a Texas Certified Public Accountant, and was employed by the United States Treasury Department. He has been involved in genealogical and historical research regarding the San Antonio missions and mission families since his retirement in 1997.

**Moderator: Elvira Sanchez Kissner**

## Session 5

### Panel A

#### *Stranger in a Strange Land: The Saga of Cabeza de Vaca*

When Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca shipwrecked on the Texas coastline in November of 1528, he entered a land more "strange" than he could have ever imagined. He embraced the strangeness, however, and integrated himself into the communities of Native Americans that took him in. As a keen observer of cultural practices, Cabeza learned to imitate the Native American communities with whom he lived in order to survive and, eventually, to thrive. Using Cabeza de Vaca's own account and combining it with the work of scholars who have studied the rock art of the regions that Cabeza de Vaca passed through, we will discuss discrete ways (consciously or not) in which Cabeza de Vaca began to model his behavior after the behavior of some of the most important figures in early Texas and Mexican native mythologies. Using these techniques, we will show how Cabeza de Vaca and his companions were able to rise from shipwrecked starving slaves to the leaders of a Native American spiritual movement that carried Cabeza de Vaca all the way across the North American continent and into Spanish Mexico – but ultimately into conflict *with* that civilization and his own view of his role in it.

**Brandon Seale**, born in Abilene and raised in San Antonio, currently serves as the President of Howard Energy México, a director of the *Texas Lyceum*, and Honorary Commander for the *Inter-American Air Forces Academy*. With degrees in Philosophy, Law, and Business, he writes and records stories about the Texas-Mexico borderland, which he publishes in podcast form as *A New History of Old Texas*. Brandon and his wife, Susana, also take immense pride in the fact that their four children mix Spanish and English with a kind of innocent ease that horrifies outsiders, but that fellow San Antonians don't seem to notice.

**Moderator: Harry Shafer**



## Panel B

### **Discovering the Lost Planet Underfoot – Useful Wild Plants of Texas**

Texas is the hub of a botanical domain spanning the southern United States and northern Mexico. This region contains a vast reserve of self-regenerating botanical resources that can be used to improve our lives in the future. The Useful Wild Plants Project brings to light every use ever made of Texas's 5,000 species of vascular plants along with thousands of new applications. It reaches back to ancient times when prehistoric peoples subsisted predominantly on plants and strides forward to current scientific discoveries in phytochemistry, medicine, nutrition, genetics, crop and product development, and more. While proposed expeditions to put a colony on Mars or to find a verdant new planet to colonize are in the popular media, there is a whole new planet right under our feet – the vast undiscovered wealth of the plant kingdom. Botanical studies are being phased out at an alarming rate, and our inattention to these disciplines imperils our chances for a safe and productive future. A resurgence in plant exploration is urgent and essential. Scooter Cheatham will speak about this visionary work that draws from the past and present to set up the “next economy on planet Earth” for the future in which all life can thrive.

**Scooter Cheatham**, founder and president of EarthFit and Useful Wild Plants, Inc., is director of the Useful Wild Plants Project and lead-author of the *Useful Wild Plants of Texas, the Southeastern and Southwestern United States, the Southern Plains, and Northern Mexico*. He is also an architect and design professional working in ecologically aware design, economic botany, botanical literacy, education, and community action. He holds advanced degrees in architecture, design, and community and regional planning and has extensive experience leading interdisciplinary programs. His architectural and landscape projects focus on minimizing human impact and maximizing protection of the native flora, fauna, and geology.

### **From Presidio to the Pecos: The Chandler Boundary Survey, 1856**

The 1846 treaty that ended the Mexican-American War described a new boundary between the two countries that was to be marked through a joint boundary commission effort. For surveyors, the most challenging section of the boundary would be along the Rio Grande through the remote canyons from Presidio downstream to the mouth of the Pecos River. Two American parties surveyed this section in 1852 and 1853. Their resulting maps are part of a set never published but housed in the National Archives. A comparison of the original boundary maps with modern maps show that the survey parties produced accurate maps where they had open access along the river, but in the canyons they resorted to rough sketches of the river trace after rapid descents in boats; their results ranged from excellent to ridiculous.

The short, guarded and self-serving final reports of the survey party leaders reveal little of the problems they faced. Key to a more accurate and nuanced understanding of what the surveyors encountered and accomplished the discovery of the 167-page daily journal kept by Dr. C. C. Parry, surgeon-botanist-geologist for the 1852 party. Parry's journal is our window on adventure, near disaster, and true accomplishment.

**Orville B. “OB” Shelburne Jr.** is a retired petroleum geologist living in Austin, Texas. Degrees from Baylor University and the University of Wisconsin led him into a long career that began in the Oklahoma oil fields in 1959 when oil was selling for three dollars a barrel. He and Rita, his wife of sixty-four years, and their three children moved many times, living in places as diverse as New Orleans, LA, Anchorage, AK, New York City, and Casper, WY. He retired from Mobil Oil in 1992 where he had led the company's Worldwide Exploration and Production Services Center in Dallas. Upon retirement in Austin, Shelburne was able to turn his attention to a project that had piqued his interest for many years—the 1852 and 1853 United States-Mexico boundary surveys in the Big Bend area. His work draws on in-depth professional knowledge, meticulous mapping and research skills, and a firsthand knowledge of the area enriched by many years of exploring the backcountry of the Big Bend with his family. Publication of his master's thesis and doctoral dissertation brought his important early work on geological studies in Texas and Oklahoma to the attention of experts and now this project will make an important piece of nineteenth-century history and scientific discovery accessible to a wide variety of readers. Shelburne continues to be active in rediscovering and documenting the early history of this fascinating region. He recently assisted Ray Stephens in mapping historical Trans Pecos trails for *Texas: A Historical Atlas* (Stephens, 2010), indulging his love of mapping and his ongoing interest in the history of the nineteenth-century Trans Pecos area.

**Moderator: Lynn Marshall**

## **Session 6 – Box Luncheon** 🍷

### **Music Evolution: South Texas Music was Always Un Poquito de Todo**

The preservation of Texas music history – its origins, sounds, fashions and stories – reveals that it was rich and diverse from the beginning, as vast as the state. Often, it was a culture clash. Music reflected the transformation of the landscape, from largely rural and agricultural to largely urban. Texas music was shaped by political upheaval and war, ethnic and racial diversity, technology, Hollywood images, poverty and, yes, prejudice. South Texas, in particular, is a musical melting pot unlike any other where musical genres – country and western swing music, blues, Mexican rancheras and corridos, German polka, jazz, big band and boogie-woogie – coexisted and sometimes cross-pollinated. South Texas is the birthplace of conjunto, Tex-Mex, Tejano and San Antonio's fabled West Side sound.



**Hector Saldaña** is curator of the Texas Music Collection at The Wittliff Collections at Texas State University in San Marcos. He is an award-winning journalist and has reported on the Texas music scene for nearly 30 years. Saldaña is a rock musician and recording artist and founder of the Krayolas.

## Session 7

### Panel A

#### ***How the Battle of Medina influenced the Battle of the Alamo: Through the Eyes of José Francisco Ruiz***

Best known as one of two Texas-born signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence, José Francisco Ruiz's significance extends far beyond that single event. Born in San Antonio de Béxar to an upwardly mobile family, Ruiz underwent a dramatic transformation from a conservative royalist to one of the staunchest liberals of his era during the war for Mexican independence. Steeped in the Spanish American liberal tradition, his revolutionary activity included participating in three uprisings, suppressing two others, and enduring extreme personal sacrifice for the liberal republican cause. He was widely respected as an intermediary between Tejanos and American Indians, especially the Comanches. As a diplomat, he negotiated nearly a dozen peace treaties for Spain, Mexico, and the Republic of Texas, and he traveled to the imperial court of Mexico as an agent of the Comanches to secure peace on the northern frontier. When Anglo settlers came by the thousands to Texas after 1820, he continued to be a cultural intermediary, forging a friendship with Stephen F. Austin, but he always put the interests of Béxar and his fellow Tejanos first. Ruiz had a notable career as a military leader, diplomat, revolutionary, educator, attorney, arms dealer, author, ethnographer, politician, Indian agent, Texas ranger, city attorney, and Texas senator. He was a central figure in the saga that shaped Texas from a remote borderland on New Spain's northern frontier to an independent republic.

**Art Martinez de Vara** is a historian, author and attorney. He holds a Master of Arts in History from Sam Houston State University and a Doctor of Law and Master of Arts in Theology from St. Mary's University. As author of several books on colonial, Mexican and Republican Texas, he is the winner of the 2014 Presidio La Bahia Award, the 2016 TSGS Grand Prize Book Award, the 2021 Conservation Society of San Antonio Publication Award and the 2021 TOMFRA Book Award. He is managing partner of the Martinez de Vara Law Firm, which specializes in civil and governmental litigation. He resides in Von Ormy, Texas, where he served as Mayor from 2008 – 2015.

**Moderator: Ricardo Romo**

### Panel B

#### ***La Patrona: Women Ranchers in the Wild Horse Desert***

Ranching has long been an important part of the history of Texas dating back to the arrival of the early Spanish explorers and settlers who brought cattle, horses, sheep, and goats to the area. Yet, the story has remained a largely male story. This presentation will examine the significant roles that women played in ranching in Spanish Texas. For some women, frontier conditions as well as inheritance and property laws provided opportunities to own ranches in Spanish Texas. In fact, several Tejanas inherited large ranches which the women operated and expanded in some cases. Yet, the opportunities came with challenges. Economic problems, lack of heirs, changing political control, and instability from independence movements tested the ranchers. The stories of these women ranchers provide a lens through which we can see both the opportunities and the limits of women's public roles in Spanish Texas communities.

**Amy M. Porter** is a Professor of History at Texas A&M University-San Antonio where she teaches classes on early America and Texas. She received her Ph.D. in History from Southern Methodist University. Porter's research examines women in the Spanish borderlands. Her 2015 book entitled *Their Lives, Their Wills: Women in the Borderlands, 1750-1846* was co-winner of the Fabiola Cabeza de Baca prize from the Historical Society of New Mexico. She has published research in *The Handbook of Texas Online* as well as in other books and journals. Dr. Porter is currently co-authoring a textbook for Mexican American Studies.

Martha Alice Loring was one of many early ranchers living along the western perimeter of Texas. At least twice widowed, she continuously succeeded where others did not. This short examination of her life using records found in local government depositories show how little we know about women's activities from the 1850s through the 1880s and how much more we need to research to make sure more women are included in the narrative.

**Deborah Liles** is an assistant professor and the W. K. Gordon Chair of Texas History at Tarleton State University. She earned her PhD at the University of North Texas, where she examined the antebellum livestock trade and its relationship to the institution of slavery. Recent books include two co-edited anthologies, *Texas Women and Ranching: On the Range, At the Rodeo, In the Community* (Liz Carpenter Award winner), and *African Americans in Central Texas History: From Slavery to Civil Rights*, and a new book that benefits the W.K. Gordon Center's educational program, *Thurber*. Her former co-edited book, *Women in Civil War Texas: Diversity and Dissidence in the Trans-Mississippi* won 2016 Liz Carpenter Award for best book on Texas Women's History and the Ottis Lock Award for book of the year. Current projects include *Oliver Loving: Dean of the Texas Cattle Trails*, (A&M Press) a biography of a slave-owning cattleman, and "The Beefmasters: Confederate Contractors, Texas Cattlemen, and Civil War Trade," (LSU Press) a study of the

lucrative livestock trade throughout Texas during the Civil War.

**Moderator: M. M. McAllen**

## Session 8

### Panel A

#### ***Juneteenth: The Evolution of an Emancipation Celebration***

On June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger, commanding officer of the District of Texas, arrived in Galveston on a steamer from New Orleans to assume command over the Union forces in Texas. He issued five General Orders, the most important of which was General Order No. 3 stating, "The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor." Since that time, freedpeople have appropriated the nineteenth of June not only to observe emancipation and honor former enslaved people, but also to recognize black Union soldiers, veterans of foreign wars, and black elected officials. Juneteenth celebrations began in 1866 and have continued every year thereafter even spreading to other states and countries. One of the most important Juneteenth celebrations occurred with the opening of the Texas Centennial Exposition in Dallas in 1936. For African Americans, the highlight of the exposition came with the dedication of the Hall of Negro Life, which through its exhibits shaped the historical narrative toward racial equality. Its very presence constituted an act of subversion-even defiance-against normative conceptions of black culture and history.

**Elizabeth Hayes Turner** received her Ph.D. in United States history from Rice University in 1990. She is currently Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus and Professor of History at the University of North Texas. She is the author of *Women, Culture, and Community: Religion and Reform in Galveston, 1880–1920* (Oxford, 1997), *Women and Gender in the New South, 1865–1945* (Wiley, 2009), and is co-author of *Galveston and the 1900 Storm: Catastrophe and Catalyst* (Univ. of Tx, 2000). Turner has authored thirteen anthology chapters/articles and coedited six anthologies, including *Texas Women: Their Histories, Their Lives* (Univ. of Ga., 2015), *Lone Star Pasts: Memory and History in Texas* (Texas A&M, 2007), and two revisions of *Major Problems in the History of the American South* (Cengage, 1999 and 2012). In 2003 she was a Fulbright Lecturer to the University of Genoa, Italy. In 2011 she was awarded the William P. and Rita Clements Center Fellowship for the Study of Southwestern America, Southern Methodist University, and was elected a Fellow of the Texas State Historical Association. She retired from UNT in 2014 and is currently working on a history of Juneteenth, Texas' emancipation celebration.

## ***Violence in the Hill Country***

In the nineteenth century, the western frontier of Texas was the site of one of America's longest conflicts between white settlers and native peoples. It was also the setting for a vicious civil war amidst the nationwide bloodshed of 1861–1865. The Texas Hill Country functioned as a kind of borderland within the larger borderland of Texas itself, a vast and fluid area where, during the Civil War, the slaveholding South and the nominally free-labor West collided. As in many borderlands, the Hill Country was marked by violence, as one set of peoples, states, and systems eventually displaced others. Analyzing patterns of violence in the Texas Hill Country helps us examine the cultural and political priorities of white settlers and their interaction with the century-defining process of national integration and state-building in the Civil War era. Roland traces the role of violence in the region from the eve of the Civil War, through secession and the Indian wars, and into Reconstruction. Revealing a bitter history of warfare, criminality, divided communities, political violence, vengeance killings, and economic struggle, Roland positions the Texas Hill Country as emblematic of the Southwest of its time.

**Nicholas K. Roland** is an Army veteran and holds a Ph.D. in United States history from the University of Texas at Austin. His first book, *Violence in the Hill Country: The Texas Frontier in the Civil War Era*, was published by University of Texas Press in February 2021. In addition to his writings on Texas during the Civil War era, he has published essays on the 1936 Texas Centennial Exposition, German Texans, modern naval history, and country music singer George Jones. He is currently a historian at the Naval History and Heritage Command in Washington, D.C.

**Moderator: Carey Latimore**

### Panel B

#### ***Curanderismo and Faith Healers: Frontier Health Care***

Teresa Urrea (1873-1906) and Don Pedro Jaramillo (1829-1907) practiced *curanderismo*—a Mexican and indigenous faith healing practice—in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands amidst rapid social and political transformations in both Mexico and the United States. Porfirio Díaz's program of order and progress coincided with similar modernizing projects in the United States such as railroad construction, industrialization, and a variety of progressive reforms. By examining the lives and healing practices of Teresa Urrea and Pedro Jaramillo, this presentation will shed light on the knowledge and intimate practice of *curanderismo* in the U.S.-Mexico borderlands over the turn of the twentieth century within the overlapping contexts of race, state-building, and institutionalized/professionalized medicine in the American Southwest and northern Mexico. This presentation will suggest that *curanderismo* as practiced by Urrea and Jaramillo contributed to the vitality of racially diverse communities in need of healthcare as well as religious and political inspiration during this transformative period.

**Jennifer Koshatka Seman** received her PhD from Southern Methodist University and is currently a Lecturer in History at Metropolitan State University of Denver where she teaches courses in U.S. and Latin American history. Jennifer's first historical monograph, *Borderlands Curanderos: The Worlds of Santa Teresa Urrea and Don Pedrito Jaramillo*, came out on University of Texas Press in 2021. Seman has also published articles in scholarly journals including "Laying-on Hands: Santa Teresa Urrea's Curanderismo as Medicine and Refuge at the Turn of the Twentieth Century" in *Bodies and Their Care in an American Secular Age*, Special section of *Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses* (2018) and "'How do I know...prayers don't do more good than...pills': Don Pedrito Jaramillo, Curanderismo, and the Rise of Professional Medicine in the Rio Grande Valley, 1881-1900," in *Journal of the West* (2015).

### **American Tacos**

There have been tacos in Texas since it was Tejas. Early taco recipes called for frying. In Mexico, those were and continue to be called *tacos dorados*. *Taquitos* and *flautas* are among the *tacos dorados*. In Texas, they're called *crunchy*, *crispy*, and *old-fashioned* tacos. *Puffy* tacos are included in that category. In the mid-20th century the *Brownsville Herald* newspaper declared that the original taco must be fried. They became staples of Tex-Mex. What originally was meant to refer to freshly frying corn tortillas for tacos moved to industrial, commodity packaged shells available on supermarket shells and used at Tex-Mex restaurants across the state. *Puffy* tacos, sometimes referred to as *San Antonio-style* *puffy* tacos, however, must be made from raw corn masa discs. The presentation will focus on these essential Texan tacos, how they've developed, and where the future might lead them.

**José Ralat** is the author of *American Tacos: A History and Guide* (University of Texas Press, 2020)—the first national survey of review U.S. taco styles—and the *Texas Monthly* taco editor. He is the first journalist in the country to hold that title. José has written for the *Dallas Observer*, *D Magazine*, *Eater*, *Vice*, *Cowboys & Indians*, and *Gravy*. His *Eater* article on the fried Kansas City-style taco appeared in *Best American Food Writing 2020*. José lives in Dallas.

**Moderator: Johnny Hernandez**

## **Session 9**

### **Space Cowboys: A Conversation on New Texas Industries and Old Traditions**

**Jag Bath** is the CEO of FAVOR and Chief Digital Officer, H-E-B. In less than five years, under his leadership, Favor has launched in over 200 Texas cities with more than 100,000 Runners on its platform, who have completed over 40 million deliveries to-date. Jag also led Favor to become the first U.S. on-demand delivery company to achieve profitability, and in February 2018, he led the sale of Favor to H-E-B – one the country's largest privately held companies – making Favor the first business to be acquired by H-E-B in its now 115-year history. Today, he is also the Chief Digital Officer at H-E-B and oversees H-E-B's digital strategy, roadmap and team, including Product & Design, Technology and Commerce. Jag joined Favor with a 20-year track record of scaling startups from early stage to successful mature companies, with a focus on product innovation and revenue creation. His previous companies include RetailMeNot, Inc., Gilt Groupe and WeightWatchers.com.

**Joshua Baer**, founder and CEO of *Capital Factory*, helps people quit their jobs and become entrepreneurs. He is the founder of Capital Factory, a coworking community and mentorship-based accelerator designed to help startups find their first investors, customers and employees. Josh founded his first startup in 1996 in his college dormitory at Carnegie Mellon University and now teaches a class at the University of Texas for student entrepreneurs. He was recently recognized as a Henry Crown Fellow and Braddock Scholar at the Aspen Institute, a member of the National Committee on US-China Relations Young Leaders Forum, and an Eisenhower Fellow. Josh lives in Austin with his wife Amy and three children.

**Moderator: Tom Foster** | *Texas Monthly* Journalist

**Introduced by David Dunham**, Editor in Chief, *Texas Monthly*

NOTES:

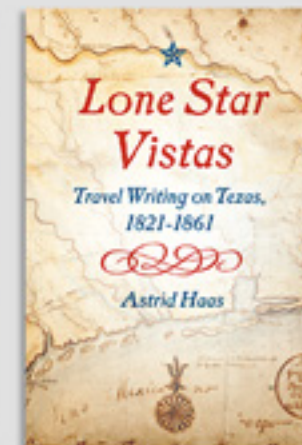
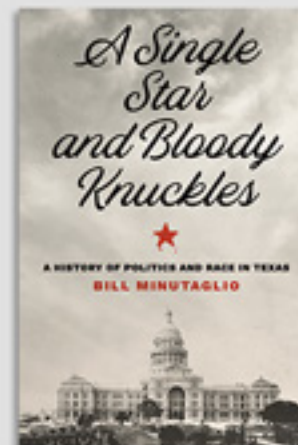
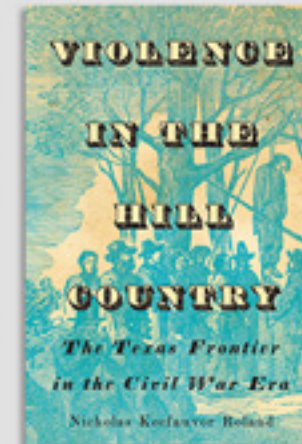
NOTES:





NOTES:

# Texas on Texas



30% off and free shipping  
with code EXSABF

*Offer valid through June 18, 2021.*

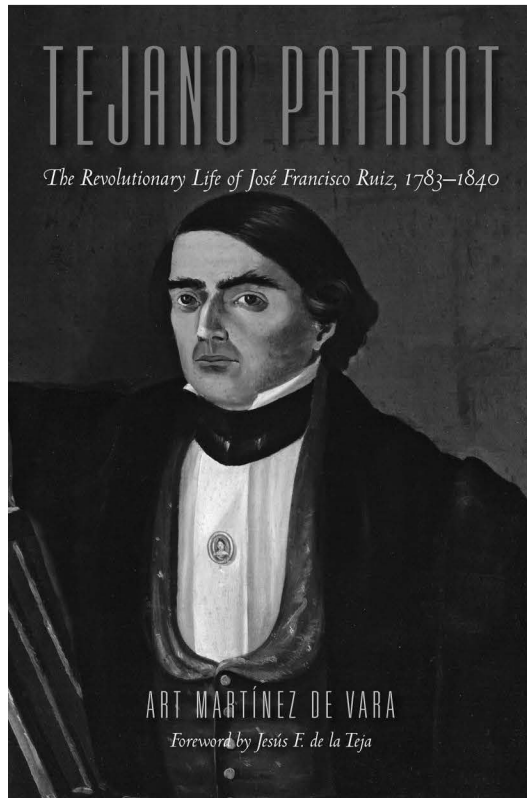


UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS PRESS

[www.utexaspress.com](http://www.utexaspress.com)



# Now Available from the Texas State Historical Association



Art Martínez de Vara's *Tejano Patriot: The Revolutionary Life of José Francisco Ruiz, 1783-1840* is the first full-length biography of this important figure in Texas history. Best known as one of two Texas-born signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence, Ruiz's significance extends far beyond that single event. He had a notable career as a military leader, diplomat, revolutionary, educator, attorney, arms dealer, author, ethnographer, politician, Indian agent, Texas ranger, city attorney, and Texas senator. He was a central figure in the saga that shaped

Texas from a remote borderland on New Spain's northern frontier to an independent republic.

Available now in paperback (978-1-62511-058-9) or ebook (978-1-62511-059-6) from LegacyofTexas.com or your favorite bookseller. 269 pages, 9 photos, 6 maps, bibliography, index.



Texas State Historical Association  
PO Box 5428  
Austin, TX 78763  
[www.tshaonline.org](http://www.tshaonline.org)

## Menu

### Southwest Steak Salad

Tenderloin of Beef Seasoned with Uncle Chris' Gourmet Steak Seasoning, Crisp Summer Greens, Roasted Corn, Confit Baby Tomatoes, Grilled Asparagus, Farmer's Cheese, and Cool Avocado Lime Vinaigrette

Fresh Baked Assortment of Local Artisan Rolls and Creamy Butter

### Dessert

#### Sweet Tooth Cheesecake Brulee

Bolner's Fiesta Products Sweet Tooth Topping on Vanilla Cheesecake on Classic Graham Cracker Crust Topped with Caramelized Cocoa, Cinnamon and Vanilla.

Catering by Catering by Rosemary's.

---

## TEXAS TRAILBLAZER AWARDS SPONSORS

### PIONEER LEVEL

Mary Pat and Mike Bolner (2)  
Bolner's Fiesta Products  
Elizabeth Huth Coates Charitable Foundation  
The Gloria Galt Fund of the San Antonio Area Foundation  
Tex Elliott Family  
C.H. Guenther & Son, LLC

The Will Smith Foundation  
Valero Energy

### EXPLORER LEVEL

La Brasada Foundation  
(Donnell Family)

### NATURALIST LEVEL

The Bank of San Antonio  
Frost  
Lee Michaels Fine Jewelry

Jefferson Bank

Amy Rhodes

Peggy Walker

Veltri and Velasquez

Wealth Management of

Wells Fargo Advisors

### UNDERWRITING

Missy Finck

as of May 3, 2021

## THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS

Elizabeth Huth Coates Charitable Foundation

The Gloria Galt Fund of the San Antonio Area Foundation

### TEXAS TRAILBLAZER LUNCHEON SPONSOR:



### BOX LUNCH SPONSOR:

Veltri and Velasquez Wealth Management of



### INVITATION SPONSOR:

Michael Bolner

### SPEAKER SPONSOR:

The Tex Elliott Family

### VIDEO SPONSOR:



### SCHOLARSHIP SPONSOR:



### COFFEE SPONSOR:

Jefferson  
Bank