

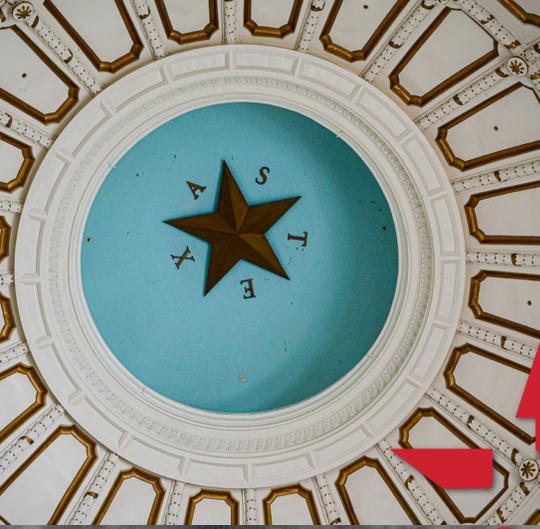


# ANNUAL REPORT

HERE'S A GLANCE AT OUR WORK IN 2025



**OUR MISSION** IS TO FOSTER APPRECIATION, UNDERSTANDING, AND TEACHING OF THE RICH AND UNIQUE HISTORY OF TEXAS, WHILE ENCOURAGING RESEARCH, PRESERVATION, AND PUBLICATION OF HISTORICAL MATERIAL THAT CONTINUES TO SHAPE OUR STATE.



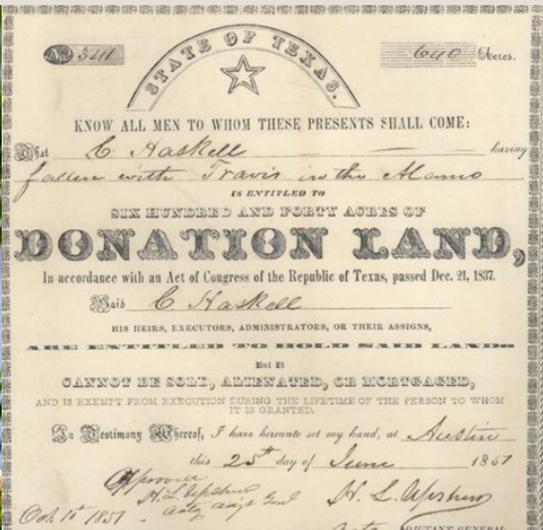
**TSHA** is the oldest learned society in our state. Organized in Austin on March 2, 1897, the founders of TSHA brought lay and professional historians together to document and celebrate the state's complex and diverse history. Today, TSHA follows the path laid out by its founders, sharing Texas history and stories of events and people from all walks of life with individuals and organizations across the state, nation and globe. It supports educational materials and other scholarship that follow the tenets, methods and practices advocated by the professional historical community.

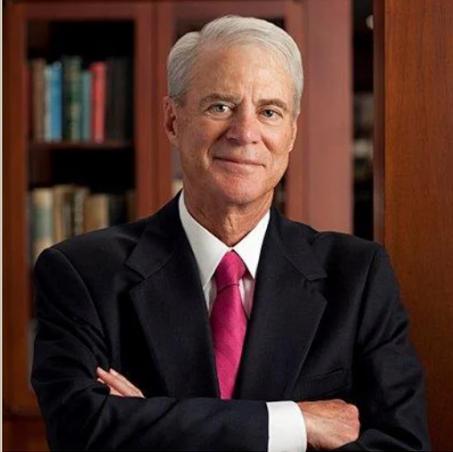
Over the last five years, the Texas State Historical Association (TSHA) has demonstrated consistent reliability, transparency, and responsible stewardship of resources. During this period, the association has successfully managed grants, endowments, and membership contributions with clear record of accountability and impact.

In recent years the Association earned the Platinum Seal of Transparency from Candid (formerly GuideStar), which is the highest recognition of public information regarding our goals, strategies, capabilities, achievements, and impact.

TSHA undergoes annual independent audits, maintains oversight from a dedicated finance committee of the board, and follows nonprofit accounting best practices. These measures ensure that funds are managed with precision and aligned with the priorities of our mission.

Our ability to deliver on commitments—whether administering major foundation grants, sustaining restricted program endowments, or expanding statewide outreach—has strengthened the trust of both new and long-standing partners. This proven track record over the last five years reflects not only sound financial management but also the integrity and stability of the association itself.





**T**he Texas State Historical Association (TSHA) and the University of Texas at Austin share a 129-year partnership rooted in the University’s founding leadership. Together, we’ve built world-class collections at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, elevated UT’s role as a steward of Texas history, and reached generations through publications and education.

In the past six months, TSHA has reinvigorated its publishing arm. The Press is producing award-winning titles with five new works in progress, while the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* is strengthening under new leadership. The *Texas Almanac*, the official State Book of Texas, secured an additional \$150,000 in legislative support and expanded circulation. The *Handbook of Texas* now surpasses 28,000 entries with over 6.2 million annual pageviews.

Education programs are thriving: Junior Historians of Texas operate in 26 chapters, the Walter Prescott Webb Historical Society has grown to ten, and more than 60,000 students participated in Texas History Day, with H-E-B’s major sponsorship. The state legislature committed \$2 million in grants to support the students, teachers, and judges who participate in our education programs.

Events are drawing larger audiences and revenue, while membership has rebounded from just over 2,200 to 4,700, with a goal of 7,500 by year’s end. Financial stability has returned, with a \$431,000 profit in 2023, positive projections for 2025, a \$2.2 million endowment, and four consecutive clean audits.

TSHA is on a strong trajectory. With renewed staff capacity, growing partnerships, and legislative backing, we remain committed—together with UT Austin—to preserving and promoting Texas history for scholars, teachers, students, and citizens statewide.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. P. Bryan". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**J. P. Bryan**  
Executive Director





## NEW STAFF



### **BRETT REGAN**

Managing Editor, *Texas Almanac*

Brett joined the TSHA staff in October 2024 and is currently the managing editor of the *Texas Almanac*. Brett lives in Austin, TX, and has a strong editorial background across multiple industries, including sports journalism and corporate marketing. Originally from Kansas, he has a journalism degree from Kansas State University.



### **SOFIA TREVIÑO**

Associate Editor, *Texas Almanac*

Sofia was born and raised in Brownsville, TX. She graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a bachelor of journalism degree and minored in rhetoric and writing. She joined the Texas State Historical Association as the assistant editor for the *Texas Almanac* in 2024.



### **SOLOMON WEINER**

Membership Specialist

Solomon 'Sol' is a sixth-generation Texan with a diverse heritage. Originally from San Antonio, he grew up primarily in Dallas. Sol has worked for more than a decade in politics, cultural resource management, and media production. His work has taken him across Texas and much of the southern and southwestern U.S.



### **EMILY LASKOWSKI**

Managing Editor, *Southwestern Historical Journal*

Emily graduated from the University of Texas with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. She has served as an editor, managing editor, deputy editor, and freelance writer for several newsstand magazines and trade publications since 2013. Prior to her editorial career, Emily led communications for a variety of corporate, nonprofit, and statewide organizations.



### **KIMBERLY PEÑA**

Director of Education Services

Kimberly earned her Bachelor's degree in History from Cameron University in 2008 and her Master's degree in Education Policy and Leadership from the University of Texas at Arlington in 2018. Kimberly spent 15 years in public education serving as a secondary history teacher, instructional coach, and social studies coordinator before joining the team at TSHA.



# HISTORY IN REAL LIFE

## ANNUAL MEETING



**T**SHA Annual Meeting is Texas history’s premier gathering, bringing together scholars, educators, and enthusiasts to explore the state’s rich past. With almost 600 attendees and a wealth of panels, receptions, and offsite tours, it’s the ideal event for those passionate about Texas history and culture.

The TSHA Annual Meeting was held in Houston at the Royal Sonesta Houston Galleria from February 27 to March 1. The conference offered scholars, students, teachers, and history enthusiasts a chance to engage with the incredible history of Texas. Our next Annual Meeting will be held in Irving from March 5-7, 2026.

**38 PANELS**

**112 SPEAKERS**

**17 EXHIBITORS**

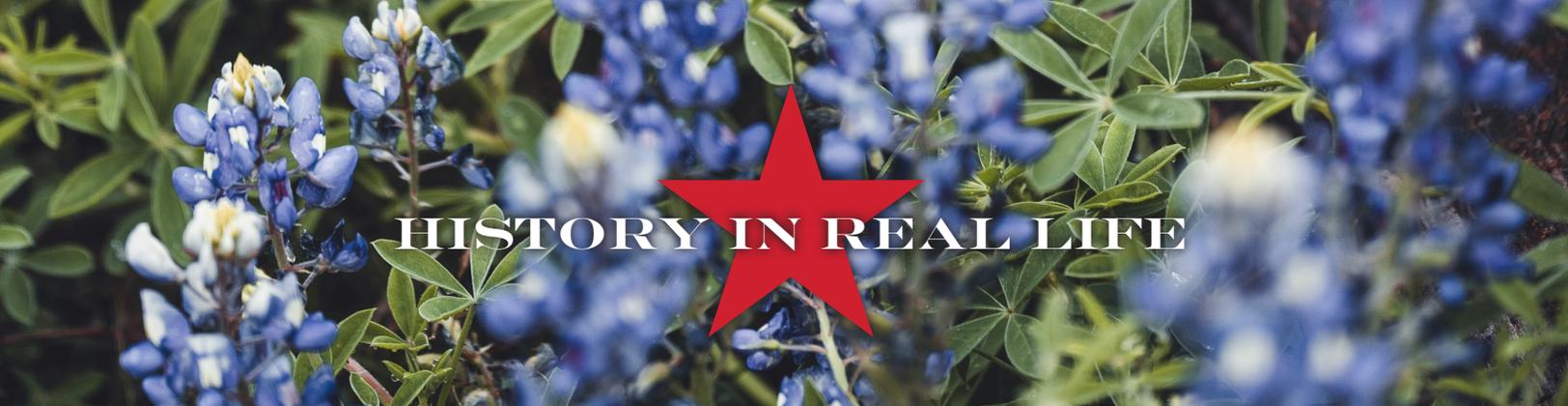
**570 ATTENDEES**



## TEXAS REVOLUTION RENDEZVOUS

**T**exas Revolution Rendezvous is the leading conference dedicated to exploring the pivotal years of the Texas Revolution and early Texas history. Delve into topics ranging from Mexican sovereignty to the Republic of Texas, with expert-led discussions that promote scholarship and public awareness of this transformative era.

The inaugural Texas Revolution Symposium was held in San Antonio on April 25-27. The Menger Hotel offered a perfect location for this event. We hosted 85 attendees for our candlelight period dinner and 114 for the symposium. As a bonus, the Witte Museum, the Ralston Family Collection at the Alamo and the Briscoe Western Art Museum offered free admission to all Rendezvous attendees. Each guest also received a commemorative Fiesta Medal! The event was a huge success and will continue to grow each year. We look forward to hosting the 2026 Texas Revolution Rendezvous at the Menger Hotel on April 17-19, 2026.



# HISTORY IN REAL LIFE

## 2025 AWARD WINNERS

### Mary Jon and J. P. Bryan Leadership in Education Award

Dusty Williams, Howe ISD  
Christina Marie Villarreal, Ph.D., University of Texas El Paso

### John W. Crain Texas History Education Award

Lisa Mouton, Bryan ISD

### Kate Brooks Bates Award for Historical Research

James Aalan Bernsen  
*The Lost War for Texas: Rebels, American Burrites  
and the Texas Revolution of 1811* (TAMU Press)

### Mary M. Hughes Research Fellowship

Hannah Shepherd  
*Crossing Borders, Facing Barriers: Immigration Policy and  
British Indian Immigrants in Early 20th-Century El Paso*

### Larry McNeill Fellowship in Texas Legal History

Justice John G. Browning  
*Forgotten Firsts: Chronicling Texas Black Legal Pioneers*

### Ron Tyler Award for Best Illustrated Book

Victoria Henness Cummins & Light Townsend Cummins  
*Making the Unknown Known: Women in Early Texas Art,  
1860s–1960s* (TAMU Press)

### Coral Horton Tullis Memorial Prize

Holly M. Karibo  
*Rehab on the Range: A History of Addiction and Incarceration  
in the American West* (UT Press)

### Randolph B. “Mike” Campbell Award

1st Place: Lewis Fisher, *Brackenridge Park*  
2nd Place: Sylvia Gann Mahoney, *Great Western Trail*  
2nd Place: Ahmed Deidan de la Torre, *Allen Brooks*

### H. Bailey Carroll Award for Best Article

Frank de la Teja  
*“Slavery and Antislavery in the Hispanic World and Texas,  
1789–1827”*

### John H. Jenkins Research Fellowship in Texas History

Todd Copelan  
*“Baylor University, Slavery, and Ann Freeman”.*

### Lawrence T. Jones III Research Fellowship in Civil War Texas History

Daniel Caponio  
*“Straining Rebel Lines: How Apache Raids Engendered  
Confederate Defeat in the Desert”*

### Catarino and Evangelina Hernández Research Fellowship in Latino History

Laura Narvaez  
*“She Who Controls the Meetings: Addressing Intersectional Issues  
in Chicana-Led Conferences in Texas, 1971 – 1977”*

### Al Lowman Memorial Prize

Tara Martin López  
*Chuco Punk: Sonic Insurgency in El Paso* (UT Press)

### Liz Carpenter Award for Best Book on the History of Women

Victoria Henness Cummins Light Townsend Cummins  
*Making the Unknown Known: Women in Early Texas Art,  
1860s–1960s* (TAMU Press)

### Gail and Chuck Swanlund Award for Best Texas History Anthology

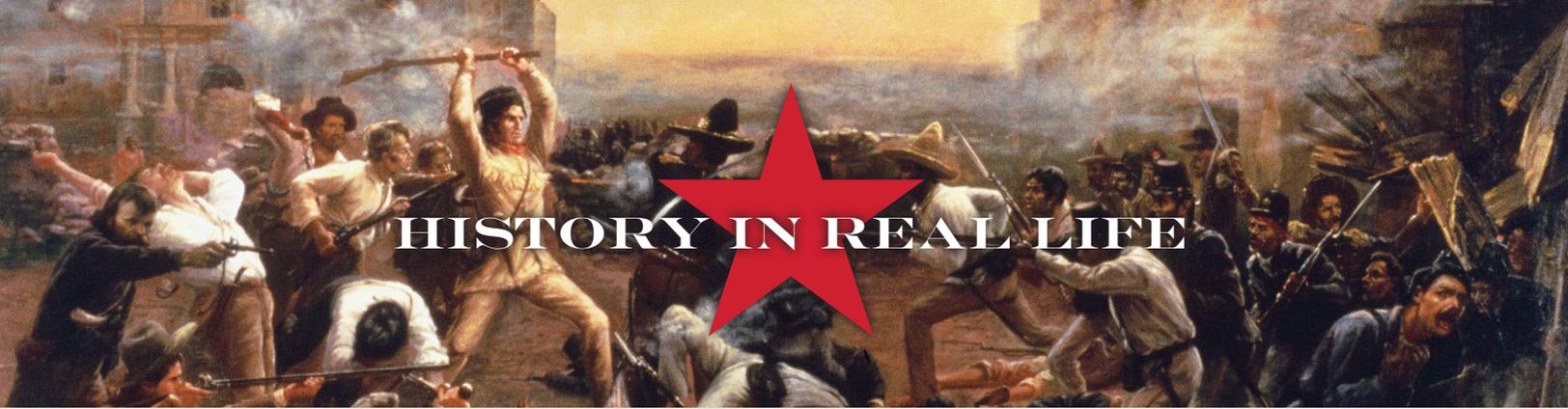
Brandon T. Jett and Kenneth Howell  
*Steeped in a Culture of Violence: Murder, Racial Injustice  
and the Other Violent Crimes in Texas, 1965–2020*

### Kay Bailey Hutchison Award for Women’s Achievements in Texas History

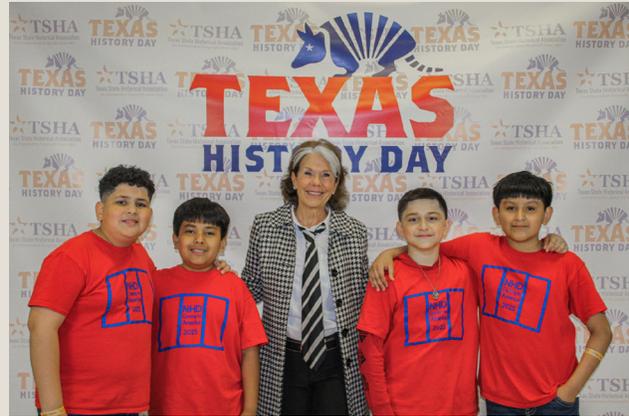
Opal Lee  
Joanne King Herring

### Lynna Kay Shuffield Memorial Award

Emily Rena Williams  
*“Infinite Poem”*



# HISTORY IN REAL LIFE



**T**exas History Day is an affiliate of National History Day. THD, a yearlong education program, culminates in an annual state-level history competition. It provides an opportunity for students, (Junior Division, grades 4-8 and Senior Division, grades 9-12), to demonstrate their interest in, and knowledge of, history through creative and original papers, performances, documentaries, web sites, or three-dimensional exhibits.

As many as 60,000 students are involved in Texas History Day each year. The TSHA has held Texas History Day at the Bullock Texas State History Museum and on the University of Texas at Austin campus for many years, including in 2025. Students must first compete at one of twenty regional competitions in early spring. They can advance to the state competition in Austin in April, and the national contest at the University of Maryland at College Park in June.

## TEXAS HISTORY DAY AWARDS

### 1ST PLACE

Brinkley Benoit

Junior Individual Documentary

*"The Great IDEA: Speaking for Those Who Cannot Speak for Themselves"*

### 1ST PLACE

Cassidy McCarthy

Junior Individual Website

*"The West Virginia Mine Wars: Justice in the Coal Field"*

### 3RD PLACE

Joy Xia Julia Choi, Miranda Wang, Parisa Gopal, and Sara Bangale

Senior Group Documentary

*"The Pentagon Papers: War, Truth, and Press Freedom"*

### SPECIAL AWARD IN PHYSICAL SCIENCES & TECHNOLOGY

Caleb Dixon, Hashaam Sheikh, and Javi Guerra (Lake Belton)

Junior Group Documentary

*"The Destroyer of Worlds: How the Atomic Bomb Questioned Scientists' Rights and Responsibilities"*

**1,041 STUDENTS   260 TEACHERS   200 JUDGES   20 VOLUNTEERS**

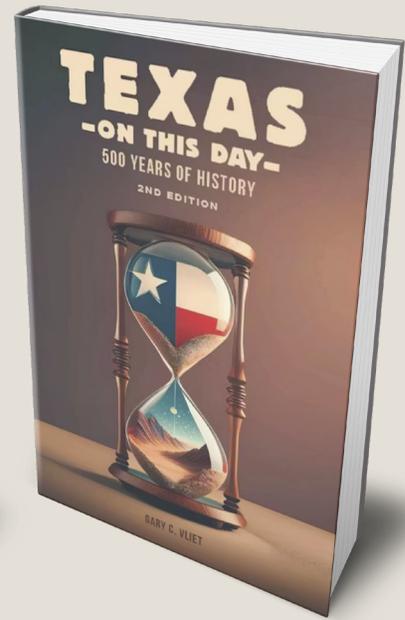
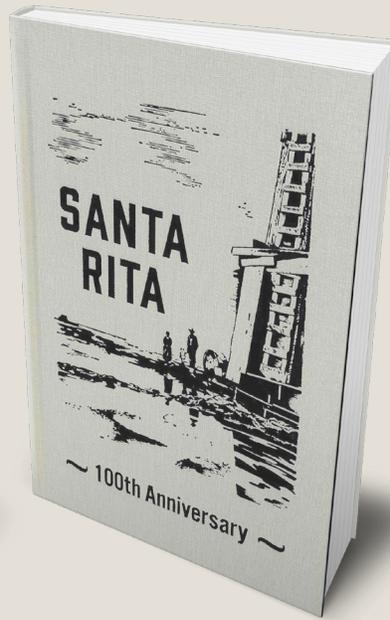
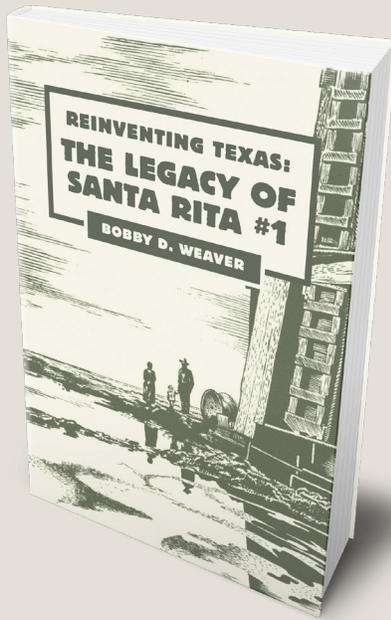


# HISTORY IN REAL LIFE

In June 2024 the TSHA finalized a joint project with the University Lands office at the University of Texas at Austin, to sponsor the publication of three books celebrating the history and 100th anniversary of the Santa Rita #1 oil well.



## Legacy OF TEXAS

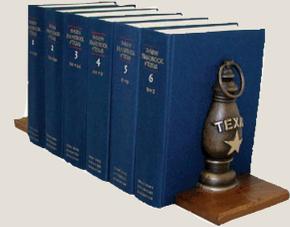


A new TSHA Press book, *Reinventing Texas: Legacy of the Santa Rita #1* by Bobby D. Weaver, provides the history of the well, the Permanent University Fund (PUF), and the impact on Texas and education. We've published two limited editions 100th Anniversary reprints of Martin Schwettmann's *Santa Rita: The University of Texas Oil Discovery* (1943 & 1958). It is noteworthy that the 1943 version of *Santa Rita* was the second book ever published by TSHA Press. At Schwettmann's suggestion UT Professor Walter Prescott Webb helped obtain the original Santa Rita drilling rig in 1940, which has been reassembled and displayed on UT campus since 1958.

# HISTORY IN REAL LIFE



The Handbook of Texas project began in 1939 as an effort led by University of Texas Professor Walter Prescott Webb to preserve Texas history and create “the most useful book that has ever been published in Texas.” The Handbook of Texas Online launched in February 1999 and was among the first digital encyclopedias accessible for free on the Internet to the general public.



**28,026 ENTRIES**   **6,890,723 PAGEVIEWS**   **3,735,133 USERS**   **230 COUNTRIES**

## RANDOLPH B. CAMPBELL AWARD WINNERS

The Randolph B. “Mike” Campbell Award is given annually to the authors of the two best new entries published in the Handbook of Texas. Entries must have been published in the preceding year to be eligible for consideration. In 2025 there was a tie for 2nd place and we had three winners of the award.

**AHMED DEIDAN DE LA TOREE** ★ **SYLVIA GANN MAHONEY** ★ **LEWIS F. FISHER**



The *Texas Almanac*, officially designated the State Book of Texas by the 89th Texas Legislature. The *Texas Almanac 2026-2027* is now available for preorder and includes feature articles on the Exploration of Spanish Texas and Space Exploration. The *Texas Almanac* is now available for purchase at Amazon, Barnes&Noble, Buc-ee’s, McCoy’s Building Supply, and the Legacy of Texas online store.



Texas Talks, is our series of live, interactive webinars featuring leading experts across a wide range of historical fields—from the Civil War to Women’s History and beyond. Each session offers a dynamic blend of expert presentations and audience Q&A, providing fresh perspectives and deeper insights into the people, places, and events that shaped Texas history.

**FEBRUARY:** El Camino Real de los Tejas, Steve Gonzales  
**MARCH:** Christopher Wickham and Daniel Gelo  
**MAY:** The Barber, The Astronaut and The Golf Ball  
**JUNE:** Historical Eli Jackson Cemetery and Ranch  
**JULY:** The Witte Museum

**AUGUST:** Texan in Blue, Rick McCaslin  
**OCTOBER:** Well of Deception by Cynthia Massey  
**NOVEMBER:** Texas Tejanos  
**DECEMBER:** Texas Almanac