

Westward Ho! Spring 2006 Meeting Set for Davis Mountain Area

By Kit Goodwin

The Program Committee is working with the folks at the Museum of the Big Bend at Sul Ross State University, Larry Francell and Liz Jackson, to plan our Spring Meeting in Alpine and Fort Davis. Presentations are scheduled to begin on Friday afternoon, March 31st, and continue on Saturday, April 1st. We have also made arrangements for lunches,

dinners, and entertainment at Alpine, Fort Davis, Marathon, and the McDonald Observatory. A chartered bus will depart from the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex on Thursday, March 30, returning on Sunday after the meeting, and will include a stop in Midland at the Haley Library to see a preview of their map collections. Onboard the bus, members David Buisseret and Dennis Reinhartz will be directing

activities. We will be headquartered in Fort Davis at the Limpia and Veranda Hotels, each a unique treat in themselves.

The Trans-Pecos region is touted as being “pure Texas” and has been described as an “earlier west Texas with rugged mountainsides, wide vistas on the high desert region of the Chihuahuan

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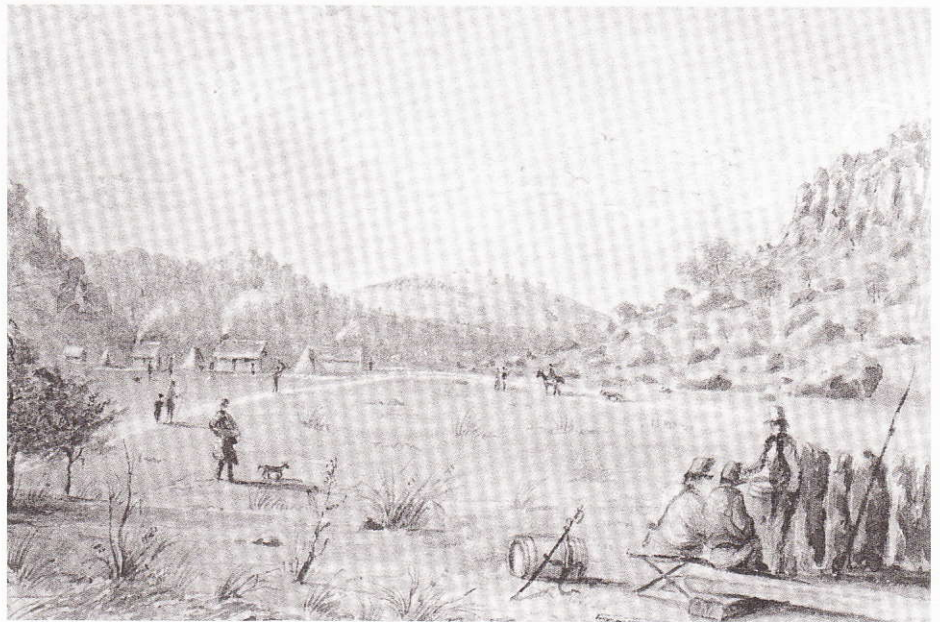
“Fort Davis” from *Fort Davis and the Texas Frontier Paintings* by Captain Arthur T. Lee, *Eight U. S. Infantry* published in Fort Worth for Amon Carter Museum of Western Art by Texas A&M Press, in 1979.

Westward Ho!

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Desert and pristine skies where you can still see the Milky Way with the naked eye.” In this venue, the committee has garnered a slate of presenters and topics on the West that include:

- Mary Williams, historian of Fort Davis, who will talk on the scouting maps prepared by the officers and men of the fort;
- Paul Wright, geographer at Sul Ross and historian on the geography of far West Texas, who will talk on the changing boundaries of the region’s counties;
- Lonny Taylor, retired museum director of Winedale and the Smithsonian, who will address the resources and research on the region;
- Richard Francaviglia, UTA geographer and historian, talking on W. K. Gordon in the west;
- Jay Tillapaugh of Marfa, an expert on the First Cavalry and Fort D. A. Russell, speaking on the history of the military unit;
- Larry Francell, director of the Museum of the Big Bend, who will look at the William Emory boundary surveys;
- Larry Francell and Matt Walter, the Museum of the Big Ben, who will take us all on a private guided tour of Historic Fort Davis, one of the best preserved and restored nineteenth century army posts in the country;
- Dr. Victor Morgan, president of Sul Ross State University, and Pete Gallego, state representative, who will be our Saturday luncheon host and speaker.



Untitled pencil sketch from *Fort Davis and the Texas Frontier Paintings by Captain Arthur T. Lee, eight U. S. Infantry* published in Fort Worth for Amon Carter Museum of Western Art by Texas A&M Press, in 1979.

Presentations will take place at Fort Davis National Historic Site and in Alpine at Sul Ross State University.

Other events still in the planning stage include a bus sightseeing tour on Friday morning in the area of the Scenic Loop Drive from Fort Davis. The tour will take us through Limpia Canyon past Mts. Locke and Fowlkes and the McDonald Observatory and into Madera Canyon, past Mount Livermore and Sawtooth Mountain, providing striking views of the Sierra Viejo Mountains along the Rio Grande to the south. We’ll take in the Davis Mountain State Park and Skyline Drive and a few other areas. We will have a chuck wagon dinner with entertainment at the Fort Davis home of members Marty and Yana Davis on Friday evening and travel to the famed Gage Hotel in Marathon for dinner on Saturday night. **[Hint:** Be sure to walk down the halls and take a peek at the fabulous Texas maps on the walls.] Also in the works is a display of nineteenth century engineering and surveying instruments.

For those electing to ride the bus, transportation in and around Alpine, Fort Davis, and Marathon will be included, and for those bringing their own cars, there will be plenty of maps and directions for all the attractions and events in this area where the original El Paso-San Antonio section of the Butterfield Company’s Overland Stagecoach Line road is still in daily use! Fort Davis is the highest town in Texas at an elevation of 5050 feet and is part of the high desert region known as the Chihuahuan Desert. The mountain setting of Fort Davis is surrounded with a unique mixture of alpine and desert flora and fauna and enjoys an unusual moderate climate. Spring will have cool nights and moderate days in the 60-70 degree range. More detailed information will be posted on the web site at <http://libraries.uta.edu/txmapsociety/> as it becomes available and registration information will be sent out after the first of the year.

Mark your calendar for Thursday, March 30th, through Sunday, April 2nd, and join us in West Texas!

Annual Fall Meeting Travels to Washington, D.C., and the Library of Congress

By David Buisseret, Carolyn Kadri, and Brenda McClurkin

Full 2005 marked a departure from our normal meeting schedule for the map society. Rather than meeting at The University of Texas at Arlington Libraries, our home host, this year we traveled to Washington, D.C., where we had unique opportunities in our nation's capital. We met with another map society, visited the Library of Congress, attended a seminar, and enjoyed the fabulous museums and galleries on the Washington Mall.

We began our out-of-state adventure with dinner on Thursday evening at the popular Hunan Dynasty Restaurant on Pennsylvania Avenue where we visited with members of the Washington Map Society. WMS also graciously invited us to attend their meeting after dinner at the Library of Congress where our own David Buisseret was guest speaker. His talk, titled "A Kaleidoscope of Maps: Some of Interest to a Historian," was engaging and entertaining—as always!

Friday morning we headed back to the Library of Congress where the TMS sponsored the very first symposium on the Waldseemüller world map of 1507. Hosted by the Geography and Map Division of the Library of Congress, the purpose of the symposium was to address issues surrounding the document, which brought together John Hébert, head of the Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress; Dr. Seymour Schwartz, noted author and map collector; and John Hessler, mathematician and map specialist, Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress. The audience participated in a question-and-answer session following the presentations. The proceedings were video taped, and plans are underway to make it available through the Library of Congress web site in the near future.

John Hébert detailed the circumstances leading to the acquisition of the Waldseemüller map in May 2003. He explained that from about 1992 a sale had seemed possible since the German authorities, realizing the symbolic importance of a map on which the name "America" very early appeared, put no obstacle in the way of its purchase. Hébert noted the map's remarkable condition was due to the fact that it had never been assembled but had been kept in its 12 separate sheets in the Wolfegg Castle in Baden-Württemberg. He went on to explain that there were still a good many questions that needed to be studied concerning the document. In terms of the map's production, scholars had to explain why, if 1,000 copies of these woodblock sheets were printed, only this one now survived. They also needed to work out the relation of this map to those of Ptolemy and had to explain the means of transmission from the Atlantic ports to the printers in a distant corner of Lorraine. Many in the audience had ideas about these questions, but it was generally agreed that serious answers would only be found by a prolonged study of the local German archives. [Editor's note: Hébert has published in *Coordinates* (the online publication of the Map and Geography Roundtable of the American Library Association) an article discussing the acquisition of the map titled, *The Map that Named America: Martin Waldseemüller's 1507 World Map*. The article may be viewed online at: <http://www.sunysb.edu/libmap/coordinates/seriesb/no4/b4.pdf>]

Seymour Schwartz, doctor, author, and map collector, who has written a book (soon to be published)

about Waldseemüller and his map, explained that there were indeed many historical problems associated with it. One of the main worries concerned its date, a theme closely studied by the paper expert, Elizabeth Harris, with whose conclusions he generally concurred. Its owners, the princes of Wolfegg, lived near Saint-Dié where the map was apparently composed in the learned circle of the Gymnasium Vosagense. Just how its information reached these scholars is unclear, however. Schwartz put the map into its contemporary context, explaining that many problems still surround other printed maps of the early sixteenth century.

John Hessler, map specialist at the Library of Congress, offered a presentation concerning his primarily mathematical analysis of the map. He emphasized that Waldseemüller was a land-surveyor, who in his 1513 map of the Rhine area used the newly-invented "Polimetron." In his analysis, Hessler proposed to use such techniques as polynomial warping, projection modeling, and regression analysis. The audience urged him to apply such techniques uniformly over the map and not just where they seemed to give an interesting result. Many of those who attended were familiar with the attempt to analyze the "Maps of the Ancient Sea Kings," where the selective use of mathematical techniques had given rise to conclusions that have not been widely accepted. Hessler emphasized that this was very much a work in progress, and map enthusiasts will be curious to read his eventual conclusions. [Editor's note: Hessler has published in



Coordinates a study of the map titled, *Warping Waldseemüller: A Cartometric Study of the Coast of South America as Portrayed on the 1507 World Map*. The article may be viewed online at: <http://www.sunysb.edu/libmap/coordinates/seriesa/no4/a4.htm>]

After lunch in the Montpelier Room of the Library of Congress, attendees visited the conservation lab of the library. Staff reviewed with members some of the techniques involved in repairing, restoring, and conserving some of the rare treasures housed at the library. Among the rare items shown and discussed by the staff were George Washington's diary, a photograph album of images of the U.S. Capitol Building

under construction, a broadside draft of the U.S. Constitution with George Washington's handwritten notes, and a bronze cast of Abraham Lincoln's hands. Afterwards, TMS members had the opportunity of viewing, with John Hébert as their guide, the American Treasures Exhibition on the second floor of the Jefferson Building.

Saturday morning, the group met again at the Library of Congress for a truly memorable behind-the-scenes tour of our own nation's premier library. TMS members were divided into small groups, and staff members took them through a number of areas of interest. One of the first stops was in the standard storage areas for the map collections where maps were laid out for our inspection. We viewed not only Texas maps but selections from other collections including a complete collection from the Sanborn Insurance Company and the Nirenstein Atlases. Next on the tour was a visit to the scanning station where we learned how cartographic materials are scanned and

the digital files are produced for online exhibits, custom orders, and requests for digital files. The last and most exciting area was the vault where John Hébert had placed a number of rare and important items for us to view. Among the treasures were the sketchbook of Jedidiah Hotchkiss who was cartographer to General Stonewall Jackson, a Thomas Jefferson survey, an 1842 map of Texas upon which the English ethnologist William Bollert made copious notes, a rare small globe, and a most unusual map on bark done by Mexican indigenous peoples drawn during the time of Hernan Cortez. Apparently prepared for distribution to the heirs of the owner, the map depicted the home, fields, and orchards. The area denoting the orchards included symbols noting which trees came from Spain.

The Texas Map Society extends our appreciation to the Head and staff of the Geography and Map Division of the Library of Congress and to the Washington Map Society for a most memorable meeting!

A Friendly Reminder....

Dues for 2005 are due and payable January 1, 2006. Notices will be mailed to all current members whose dues have not been received by January 15th. If you have questions or comments, please contact Kit Goodwin at 817-861-1425 or, goodwin@uta.edu or, to the address noted below. To renew your membership, please send your check in the amount of \$25.00 payable to The Texas Map Society to:

Kit Goodwin
Texas Map Society
1701 Silver Leaf Drive
Arlington, TX 76103

THE NEATLINE is published semi-annually by the Texas Map Society, 1701 Silver Leaf Drive, Arlington, Texas 76013. For more information contact: Kit Goodwin, Editor, Texas Map Society, phone: 817-861-1425 or email: goodwin@uta.edu

Texas Map Society members who helped produce this issue are David Buisseret, Carolyn Kadri, Brenda McClurkin and George Tobolowsky.

A Neatline is the outermost drawn line surrounding a map. It defines the height and width of the map and usually constrains the cartographic images.

A Favorite Map

By David Buisseret

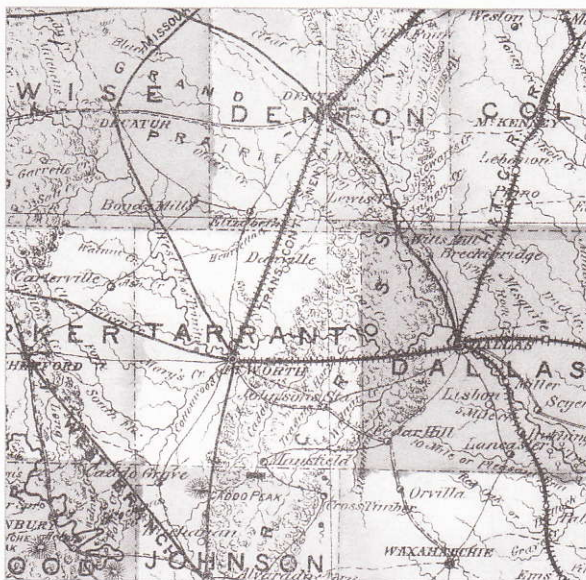
The maps produced of Texas in the latter half of the nineteenth century are exceptionally abundant and often amazingly detailed so that the only way to appreciate the astonishing amount of information that they contain is to analyze one closely at the local level. By the 1860s and 1870s, the familiar county configuration has emerged although no railroads may yet be discerned. Railroads are prominent in the map published by M.V.

Mittendorfer, *A. R. Roessler's Latest Map of the State of Texas*

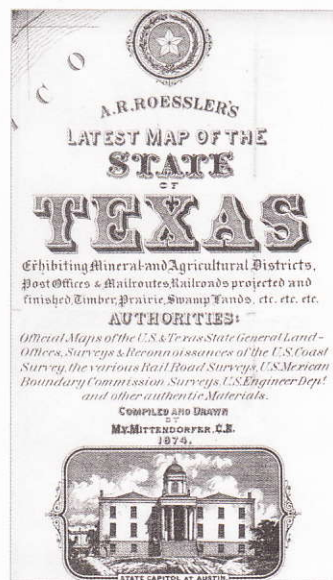
(New York: 1874), and it is this map I have chosen for close analysis of the Arlington section. Anton Roessler (?-1893) was a Hungarian geologist, based in Austin, who was secretary of the Texas Land and Immigration Company of New York. He, therefore, had a good reason to set out the various attractive features of Texas and writes that his map shows "Mineral and Agricultural Districts, Post Offices and Mailroutes, Railroads projected and finished etc."

In the Arlington section of his map, he shows many more railroads coming into Fort Worth than yet existed. Even the line from Dallas had not quite arrived in 1874. Johnson Station, roughly midway between Fort Worth and Dallas, was where Colonel Johnson had been trying to establish a plantation at a point where two mail-coach lines crossed. A post office is shown here as well as at Cedar Hill and Waxahachie. "Trading Horse Creek" (or, better, Trading *House* Creek), ran north through Johnson Station to the Trinity River. It kept this name for many years until in the 1920s it was renamed Johnson Creek. Today, only the small tributary running through the University of Texas at Arlington is still known as Trading House Creek.

To the west of this creek we see Caddo Creek, soon renamed Village Creek, with its tributary of Rush Creek. To the east is Walnut Creek, which has kept that name. The memory of the Caddo seems to have been systematically obliterated, for



Detail and title cartouche from *A. R. Roessler's Latest Map of the State of Texas* compiled and drawn by M. V. Mittendorfer. Published in New York by Ed W. Welke & Bro., 1874.



Caddo Peak (to the west of Mansfield) has become Comanche Peak, and Caddo Grove (to the west of that) no longer exists. Curiously, too, the memory of Bird's Fort, north of the Trinity River near the "T" of Tarrant County, also seems to have been lost in spite of its importance in the early history of these parts. On the other hand, parts of the Cross Timbers may still be found roughly where Roessler puts them.

When this map was drawn, the days of Johnson Station were numbered, for Arlington would soon emerge as a stop on the railroad line immediately to the north of it. Once this depot had been established, merchants began to abandon Johnson Station, and farmers would go to the railroad depot in order to unload their bales of cotton onto the trains. This map, then, catches the area at a very specific time, leading one into a variety of discoveries. When we consider the abundance of unstudied maps of this kind, it is clear that there is still much work for researchers.

[**Editor's note:** This map along with a number of other regional maps was examined by Dr. Buisseret for his forthcoming book, *A Cartographic History of Arlington and the Dallas-Fort Worth Area* (Arlington: University Publications, 2006).]

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George Tobolowsky, 2004-06
3201 maple Avenue, Suite 100
Dallas, Texas 75201
Phone: 214-855-0630
tobge@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENT

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500 North Akard Street
Dallas, Texas 75201-6659
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jdunn@munsch.com

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Katherine (Kit) Goodwin, 2006-08
1701 Silver Leaf Drive
Arlington, Texas 76013
Phone: 817-861-1425
goodwin@uta.edu

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4555 FM 1801
Mineola, Texas 75773
Phone: 903-569-8787
applewha@netscape.net

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2705 Swiss Avenue
Dallas, TX 75204
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No Email

John English, 2006-08

13111 Tosca
Houston, TX 77079
Phone: 713-895-8080
jake1@pdq.net

Ben Huseman, 2006-08

1410 Charlotte Way
Carrollton, TX 75007
Phone:
BenHuseman@aol.com

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2417 Winston Terrace West
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Phone: 817-923-4535
maps@americamaps.com

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David.finfrock@nbc.com

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Texas General Land Office
P. O. Box 13873
Austin, Texas 78711-5217
Phone: 512-463-5217
Fax: 512-463-5098
joan.kilpatrick@glo.state.tx.us

Monte Monroe, 2006-08

Southwest Collection, Box 41041
Lubbock, TX 79409-041
Phone: 809-742-9020 x277
monte.monroe@ttu.edu

Gregory Schadt, 2004-06

1511 Tatum Drive
Arlington, TX 76012-2331
Phone: 817-252-1776
ogs_eco@sbcglobal.net