

The NEATLINE

A NEWSLETTER OF THE TEXAS MAP SOCIETY

Spring 2013

The Texas Map Society Visits Oklahoma State This Spring!



John Olberg, C. A. Maxwell, et al., *Indian Territory*, color photolithograph, by A. Hoen & Co., Baltimore, Maryland (Washington, D.C., 1889)
Edmon Low Library, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater

For more meeting information, please see pages 3 and 4.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Readers of *The Neatline* are no doubt wondering a couple of things as they peruse this issue. The first thing you are probably thinking is what the heck is up with the Texas Map Society logo and when did it change? I want to answer this and a couple more questions in my first president's column.

Over the past year, the TMS Membership Committee, chaired by Dave Murph and including Shirley Applewhite, Ben Huseman, Dianne Powell, and myself, has been working with designer Carol Lehman to come up with a new logo. The members' survey conducted a few years ago as well as comments from members had indicated that most people wanted a new logo. The two common complaints about the old logo were that it looked like the Toyota emblem and seemed devoid from a graphic perspective of what I would call its "Texasness" (though I doubt this is a word); in other words it seemed to represent an organization that could have been located anywhere in the world, rather than specifically in Texas.

Carol worked closely with the committee to give us several designs to choose from, and the committee and Carol eventually created the logo you see in this issue. The TMS board voted to approve the logo in early March, and now it is official. We think the logo is fresh, adaptable to many types or promotional products (both in print and online), and will serve the organization well for the next several years. I hope you agree.

The second question you are probably asking when reading the newsletter is where is Marty Davis? Isn't he the TMS president? Well, Marty's presidency ended on Dec. 31, 2012, after two years in office. I want to thank Marty for his able and good-hearted leadership of TMS, and, frankly, he will be a hard act to follow.

During his presidency, TMS built bridges to several organizations, but none more so than the Rocky Mountain Map Society. In June 2012, TMS joined forces with our friends in Denver to help co-sponsor "The Mapping of North America: The Westward Expansion Conference" and the "Map Fair of the West" map show and dealers extravaganza! This was an excellent meeting where all of the papers that were presented were first-rate. I am also certain that if you attended the map fair after the conference that you came home with some rare and choice maps to add to your collection.

Marty also got the ball rolling for our upcoming meeting in Stillwater, Oklahoma, on May 17-18, 2013. For the first time in its history, TMS will be venturing north of the Red River to meet in Oklahoma to make new friends there. John Phillips, a TMS member and Professor and Head of Documents and Director of the Digital Oklahoma Maps Collection at Oklahoma State University, has been working for months in planning all of the details of the spring meeting, including a program that will focus on maps of Indian Territory, forts, military roads, cattle trails, etc.

I invite all TMS members—and non-members (I like to consider these folks "as soon-to-be-members")—to make the trip to the Edmon Low Library on the impressive campus of Oklahoma State University for the spring meeting on May 17-18. John has planned an outstanding program (see page 3). Please join us in making new friends and adding new members in Oklahoma. See you in Stillwater.

—Gerald D. Saxon, TMS President 2013-2014



FROM THE EDITOR

In May, the Texas Map Society will go on the road again. This time, we will convene across the Red River, in Stillwater, Oklahoma. You can find more details on the meeting in this edition of *The Neatline*.

Rafia Mirza, who is the Librarian for Communication, English and History at UTA, recently brought this item to our attention: it seems that there is more than one Neatline now! As the webpage link at <http://neatline.org> explains, this new Neatline "allows scholars, students, and curators to tell stories with maps and timelines. As a suite of add-on tools for Omeka, it opens new possibilities for hand-crafted, interactive spatial and temporal interpretation." As Ben Huseman pointed out, "This is very cool. Sounds like someday soon we may have a bit of an upcoming battle over naming though. Neatline has long been the name of the Texas Map Society's newsletter, someone may have to change names." But whatever it's called, Ben is right. It is "very cool". Be sure to check out the link.

Be aware that while the printed paper version of OUR *Neatline* is restricted to only 8 pages for each edition, the online version has no such restrictions. So by checking the electronic version, you may find some articles in longer, unedited versions, and more photographs to go along with the articles. So check out the web version, even if you have a paper copy.

And remember that even more information on the Texas Map Society can be found at our website at: www.TexasMapSociety.org

- David Finrock

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Texas Map Society members and others who helped produce this issue are: David Finrock, Larry Francell, Jonathan Gerland, Ben Huseman, Pat Randolph, Gerald Saxon and our artist and graphic designer Carol Lehman.

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.

The Texas Map Society Visits Oklahoma State This Spring!

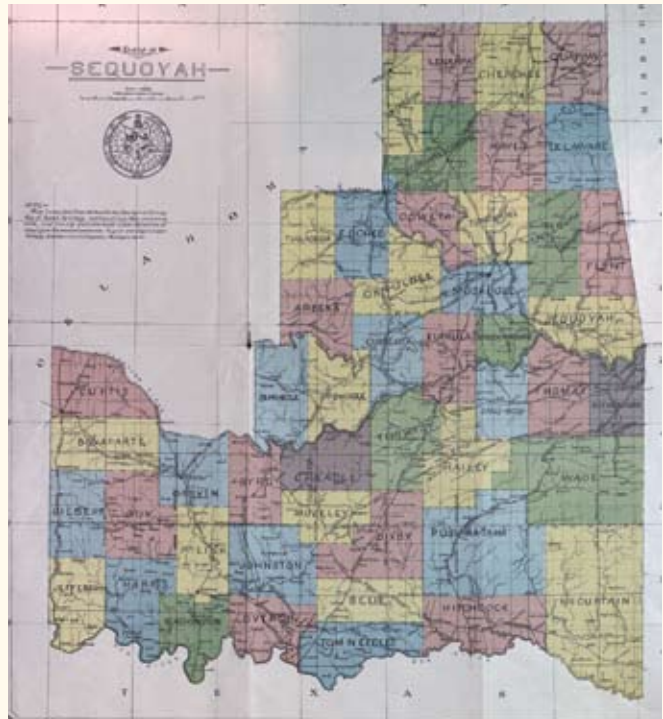
By Ben Huseman

For the first time, the Texas Map Society's Spring Meeting will be held in Oklahoma. TMS member **John B. Phillips**, Professor and Documents Librarian at the Edmon Low Library at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, and others, with the support of **Sheila Grant Johnson**, Dean of Libraries at OSU, have planned what promises to be a fascinating program for the benefit of TMS members and all those interested in the cartographic history of our wonderful neighboring state.

The fun begins on Friday, May 17, with a special \$25 afternoon field trip to the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center in Enid for a tour and presentation by archivist **Aaron Preston** titled *The Opening of the Cherokee Outlet: The Largest Land Run In History*. Beforehand, registrants and TMS members will be able to pick up their information packets on the 2nd floor of the Edmon Low Library at OSU in Stillwater beginning at 12 pm. Late registrations will also be taken at that time. The bus for Enid will begin loading at 1:00 pm on the east side of the library. After the tour, the bus will return to the same spot at approximately 5:45 pm. Later that same evening, there will be a reception at the Peggy Helmerich Room on the 2nd Floor of the Low Library. During the reception, **John Phillips** will present *Oklahoma Maps: Paper to Digital* and there will be a tour of the map room and the scanning area, as well as a viewing of maps on display.

The Saturday program begins at the Edmon Low Library, 2nd floor, at 8:30 am. There will then be an opportunity for those arriving late to pick up packets or register late, before introductory remarks at 9:00 a.m. by our host **Sheila Grant Johnson**, Dean of Libraries at OSU. Dr. **Stephen Hoffenberg** will present *Cartography of the Indian Country*, followed by Dr. **Mary Jane Warde** on *Indians and Indian Territory Maps: The Early Years*. During lunch, recent TMS President **John Martin "Marty" Davis** will entertain us with *How to Get to Texas through I.T.* After a break, **Margaret** and **Gary Kraisinger** of Kansas will continue with *Cattle Trails Through Indian Territory, 1846-1897*, followed by Dr. **Bill Corbet** with his presentation *Opening the Wilderness: Military Roadbuilders in Indian Territory, 1825-1860*. Once again there will be a traditional TMS *Cartographic Corner* or *Show and Tell Session*, where Oklahomans and TMS members display and talk about their favorite maps. We encourage those who bring maps to contact John Phillips ahead of time by calling 405-744-6546 or by emailing him at john.phillips@osu.edu.

To register at the early rate of \$100, you must register by May 15 by visiting the Texas Map Society events web page at <http://www.texasmapsociety.org/events.html>, clicking on the



D. W. Bolich., *State of Sequoyah*, chromolithograph (St. Louis: August Gast Bank Note & Litho. Co., 1905). The University of Texas at Arlington Library Special Collections

word "register" and following the directions to register and pay with a credit card. Or, you can download the registration form, fill it out, and send it with a check payable to Texas Map Society to:

The Texas Map Society
5556 Caruth Haven Lane • Dallas, TX 75225

A group of rooms have been reserved for TMS members at the rate of \$98 at the Atherton Hotel, a beautiful Georgian-style building located at University Avenue and Hester Street on the OSU Campus. For reservations, call 405-744-6835 or visit the web site at <http://athertonhotelatosu.com>.

Surely Texans will benefit to learn about the history of that "mysterious" territory that appears to the north on most of our own maps, just as Oklahomans may wonder why most Texas-history fans are so preoccupied with those big spaces to the south and west. Here is a chance for us to make new friends, learn from each other, and put our states in a greater regional context! After all, both regional and global perspectives are OK in the Texas Map Society, because maps allow us to travel the entire world and beyond.

Indian Territory Maps: The Early Years

A joint program of the Texas Map Society and Edmon Low Library, Oklahoma State University

PROGRAM

Presentations at the Edmon Low Library, Oklahoma State University

FRIDAY, MAY 17

12:00-1:00 p.m.

Early Registration and Gathering for Trip to Enid, Edmon Low Library, 2nd Floor

1:00-1:30 p.m.

Load Bus for Enid, East Side of Library

1:30-2:45 p.m.

Trip to Enid

2:45-4:15 p.m.

Tour of Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center and Presentation
The Opening of the Cherokee Outlet: The Largest Land Run in History
Aaron Preston, Archivist

4:15-4:30 p.m.

Load Bus

4:30-5:45 p.m.

Trip back to Stillwater

7:00-9:00 p.m.

Evening Reception
Peggy Helmerich Room, 2nd Floor Edmon Low Library
Oklahoma Maps: Paper to Digital
John B. Phillips, MLS and MA
Tour of Map Room, Scanning Area and Viewing of Displayed Maps

SATURDAY, MAY 18

8:30-9:00 a.m.

Registration and Continental Breakfast
Edmon Low Library, 2nd Floor

9:00-9:30 a.m.

Opening Remarks
Sheila Grant Johnson
Dean of Libraries and Clerico
Family Chair for Library Excellence

9:30-10:30 a.m.

Cartography of the Indian Country
Stephen Hoffenberg, MD

10:30-10:45 a.m.

Break

10:45-11:45 a.m.

Indians and Indian Territory Maps: The Early Years
Mary Jane Warde, PhD

12:00-1:30 p.m.

Lunch and Presentation
How to Get to Texas Through I.T.
John Martin "Marty" Davis
JD, BBA and CPA

1:30-1:45 p.m.

Break

1:45-2:45 p.m.

Cattle Trails Through Indian Territory, 1846-1897
Margaret and Gary Kraisinger
MA, MS and MA

2:45-3:00 p.m.

Break

3:00-4:00 p.m.

Opening the Wilderness: Military Roadbuilders in Indian Territory, 1825-1860
Bill Corbett, PhD

4:00-5:00 p.m.

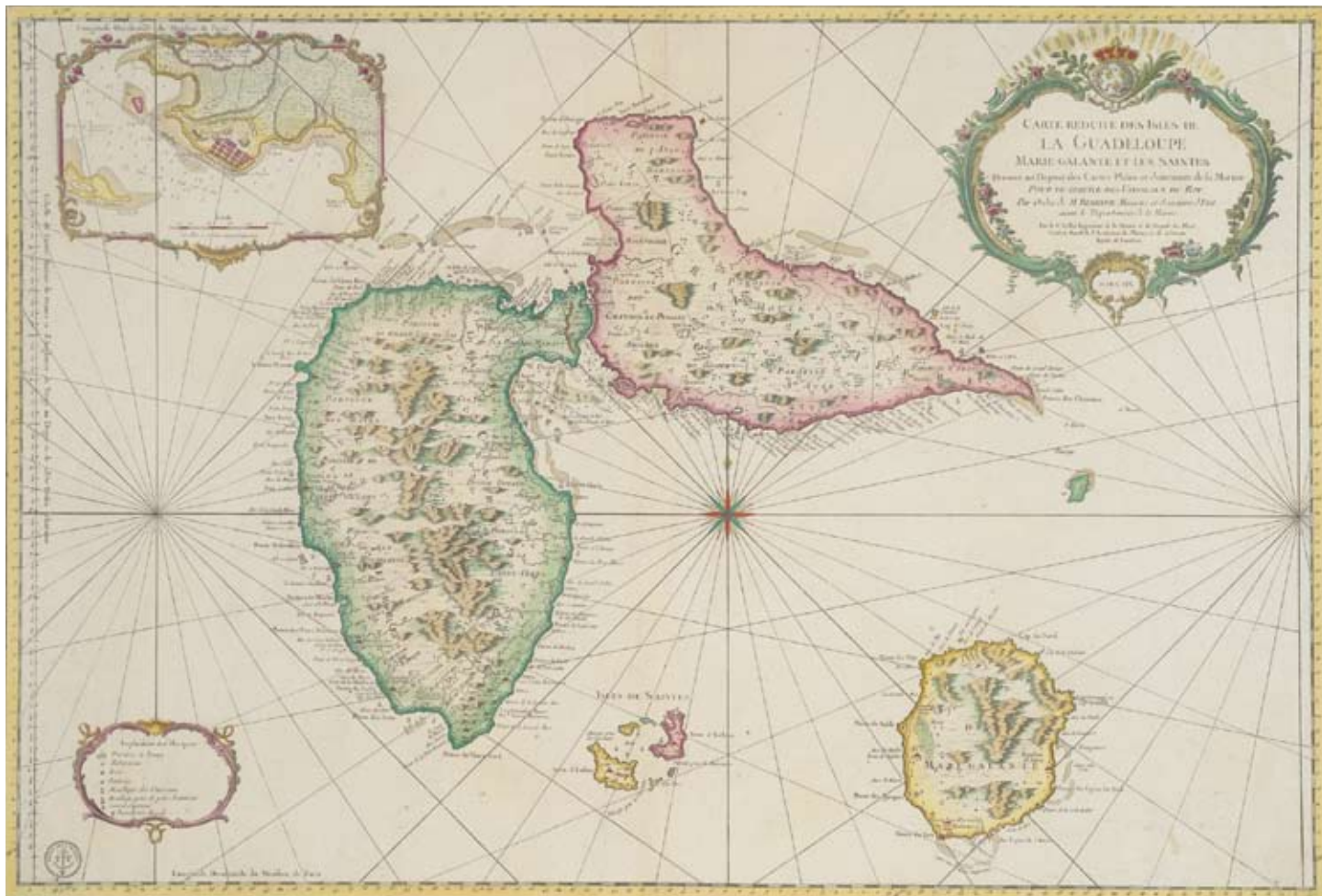
Cartographic Corner: A Show and Tell Session
hosted by **John B. Phillips** and **Ben Huseman**
A session where Oklahomans and TMS members display and talk about some of their favorite maps.

5:00-5:15 p.m.

Closing Remarks

2012 TMS Fall Meeting in Arlington

By David Finrock



Jacques Nicolas Bellin the elder (1703-1772) et al. *Carte réduite des Isles de la Guadeloupe, Marie Galante et les Saintes...* Copperplate engraving (with hand coloring) on paper, 60.5 x 87.5 cm., 1759, from Bellin, *Hydrographie Française* (2 vols.; Paris: Bellin, 1756-1765), vol. 2, plate 78.

Since I had to be at work, I missed the presentations on *The Pearls of the Antilles, Maps of the Caribbean Isles* at the Virginia Garrett Lectures on Friday, October 5, 2012. But I was careful not to miss the map exhibit on the same theme in the Special Collections library. The Fall meeting of the Texas Map Society took place the next day, on Saturday, 6 October 2012, and during every break, I took the opportunity to examine the dozens of wonderful Caribbean maps on display.

The TMS meeting began after a continental breakfast, with an introduction by President **Marty Davis**. In addition to detailing the plans for the day, he announced the time and place for the next meeting in Stillwater, Oklahoma in May 2013. **John Phillips** then jumped up and made a humorous presentation of an Oklahoma “Passport” to Marty to ensure that he would be allowed to cross the Red River with no legal ramifications.

The two morning presentations were by the two co-winners of the Jenkins and Virginia Garrett Endowed Fellowship in the

History of Cartography at UTA. Both of these outstanding graduate students gave fascinating presentations.

Justin Dellinger spoke on “*La Balise and the Mouth of the Mississippi River.*” A seemingly inconspicuous little community/fort/port of only several hundred inhabitants appeared over and over on maps of the 18th and 19th centuries, equated with New Orleans in importance. It was inhabited chiefly by fishermen, river pilots, and their families. The pilots were critical to helping ships navigate to and from the port of New Orleans through the shifting passages, currents and sandbars of the river’s delta front. La Balise was vulnerable to seasonal hurricanes and was destroyed and rebuilt several times on the mudflats of the Mississippi Delta.

Thomas Weiss, spoke “*On the Genealogy of Map Distortions Using Twenty-First Century Technology to Identify Trends among Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century Maps of the Trans-Mississippi West.*” He used free downloadable software called Map Analyst (available at <http://mapanalyst.org/>) which is a “software

application for the accuracy analysis of old maps. Its main purpose is to compute distortion grids and other types of visualizations that illustrate the geometrical accuracy and distortion of old maps.” Mr. Weiss demonstrated how it could be used to establish control points on different maps, compute the distortion grids, and use that information to determine which maps were clearly based on earlier published maps, and which were using new cartographic data, thus placing those maps in various “genealogical “families”.

After a break, **James Bruseth**, former director of the Archaeology Division of the Texas Historical Commission, and now curator of the La Belle exhibit at the Bob Bullock museum in Austin, led us in a fascinating exploration of *“How Maps Doomed a Seventeenth Century French Expedition and Enabled a Twentieth Century Shipwreck Discovery: The Story of La Salle’s Ship La Belle.”* He detailed the maps available to La Salle at the time, and took explanations of the route from Henri Joutel’s journal of the expedition. These, along with La Salle’s statement that his earlier exploration of the Mississippi put the mouth of the river at 28 degrees 20 minutes, led to the expedition finding itself in Matagorda Bay rather than at the Mississippi Delta. Mr. Bruseth went on to show the recovery of the La Belle shipwreck, and described future plans for restoration and display. More details are available at the following link:

www.toonaripost.com/2012/08/us-news/rebuilding-a-ship-to-remember-history/

Over a sumptuous barbecue lunch in the atrium of the UTA library, President Marty Davis conducted a business meeting, which included the election of new officers and Board members for the Texas Map Society. The results are shown in the Officers and Board Members listing in this newsletter.

Afterwards, the program resumed with *“Cartographic Collections and Digitization Efforts: Three Universities.”* Each representative took about 30 minutes to discuss current and future projects in digitizing historical map collections. These included the following individuals:

Kathy Weimer, Associate Professor and Curator of Maps for the University Libraries and the Cushing Memorial Library and Archives, Texas A&M University.

Vince Lee, Archivist, Special Collections, University of Houston.

Richard Oram, Associate Director and Hobby Foundation Librarian, Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin.

These three presentations concluded with a Q&A session, during which Dr. **Imre Demhardt**, Professor and Garrett



Detail: John Ogilby (1600-1676) *Urbs Domingo in Hispaniola* Copperplate engraving on paper (hand colored), 29.5 x 36 cm., from Ogilby, *America: being the latest, and most accurate description of the New World* (London: Ogilby, 1671).

Endowed Chair on the History of Cartography, made an important announcement. He is leading an effort to begin a companion piece to the tremendously successful *Handbook of Texas*. This will be a decades-long project to document the cartography of Texas, in a similar fashion to how the *Handbook* detailed Texas history. It will begin by finding “best practices” for digitizing the map collections that are already in place at various universities and institutions around the state.

The Fall meeting of the TMS concluded with the *“Cartographic Corner: A Show and Tell Session.”* Following up on the previous day’s program, Dr. **David Buisseret** displayed and described a map of Port Royal, Jamaica, and concluded by asking Ben Huseman if UTA Special Collections had a copy of the map. When Ben admitted that they did not, David said “Well, you do now”! But the highlight was when Dr. Imre Demhardt made his “mystery presentation”. He rolled a cart into the room, with a box draped with a cloth to conceal it. Imre described the unusual six sheet *Atlas des ganzen Erdkreises* that was printed in Weimar in 1803 by Christian Gottlieb Reichard. Only 19 of these “atlases” were actually sold. And then with a flourish, he revealed the six sheet (facsimile) atlas, for probably the first time in history, assembled as it was intended into a cubic representation of the globe. All of the TMS members gathered around for a closer look at this true cartographic curiosity.

Following the conclusion of the meeting, many attendees then adjourned to a lavish reception hosted by TMS members **Max Gross** and **Bob Schutze** at the Beaux Arts Gallery in Dallas.



TMS SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBERS

Dave Murph

Cartographic Interests: In discussing his interest in history and maps, Murph explained, “I have long been fascinated with maps. One of my special interests here has resulted from being involved for many years in the search for Champ d’Asile, the 1818 French fort on the lower Trinity River founded by former Napoleonic officers. It has not yet been located but, on my part, has led to an interest in and some familiarity with Spanish and French maps of this area in this time period. The search has now been expanded to find the Spanish outpost Atascosito which was also in the same vicinity. The Texas Historical Commission has been a valuable partner in this adventure.”

Background: Dave Murph grew up in Fort Worth. He received his BA at the University of Texas at Austin, a Master of Divinity at Lexington Theological Seminary in Kentucky, and a Ph.D. in History from TCU. As a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) minister, he served congregations in Fort Worth, New Orleans, and Richardson, Texas, before becoming Director of Church Relations at TCU in 1992. He retired from this position in 2009. Murph is married to wife Jean, and they have two children, Marilyn, who lives in Austin, and Dan in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Comments: Murph has been literally thrown into TMS work since he joined the organization a couple of years ago at the encouragement of John Crain of the Summerlee Foundation. The TMS and Murph seem to be made for each other!

For the past year, Dave Murph, a member of the TMS Executive Board, has been chairing the organization’s Membership Committee in an effort to produce a new logo (many members believe the old logo has gotten stale and looks a lot like the logo for Toyota cars) and redesign the membership brochure. The committee is nearing the end of this work, but is also developing strategies to attract new members while retaining the members we have.

The TMS and its meetings have been a great place for Murph to exercise and expand his interest in history, geography, and cartography, and he, with an impressive set of talents and skills, has helped lead the TMS. As Murph said recently, “It’s great working with people who have common interests and an outstanding learning experience to become acquainted with some of the best map collections around and to hear presentations from experts.”

Welcome to TMS Dave. We hope to hear you talk at a future meeting about FINDING Champ d’Asile and some of the maps that made this possible.

- Gerald D. Saxon

Pat Randolph

Cartographic Interests: Travel Maps, Tourist Maps.

Background: I have been fond of maps since the summer when I was 13 years old. My two brothers and I spent six weeks on a fabulous Travel Camp adventure. We left St. Louis on a big bus with a dozen other teenagers and traveled to northwestern Montana and then back to Missouri. We all had folded maps and we watched for road signs that clued us in to the numerous areas we passed.

While in college I studied geography and collected maps and hung them in my dorm room. My room-mate shuddered each time she entered our room and she often said, “Pat, you have a boy friend so why don’t you put his picture there instead of all those strange maps?” She wasn’t a map person, didn’t even enjoy travelling, and especially didn’t enjoy the maps on our wall.

But my interest in maps never wavered. Fortunately I have been able to travel all over the world. And as I make travel plans, the maps I study add to the excitement of the areas, the views, and the towns I will be visiting. The maps show me lakes and rivers that we plan to cross, mountains and deserts in the areas, and museums holding priceless historic items. Though a few trips have had some challenging upheavals, maps have kept us on the proper route. My maps of those trips are precious souvenirs, along with the journals I kept while covering the spaces away from home. The maps hold three chapters: 1) anticipation, 2) travel, and 3) a lifetime of memories.

Comments: I don’t ever recall using the comment at the conclusion of a trip: “Oh, it’s good to be home.” I love my home and my family. But as I conclude a trip, my mind is already unfolding a new map and I’m planning my next vacation adventure. A family member has announced an upcoming wedding in North Carolina, so to see her walk down the aisle, I soon will be unfolding a new state map to fill me in on all of the travel information I will need.

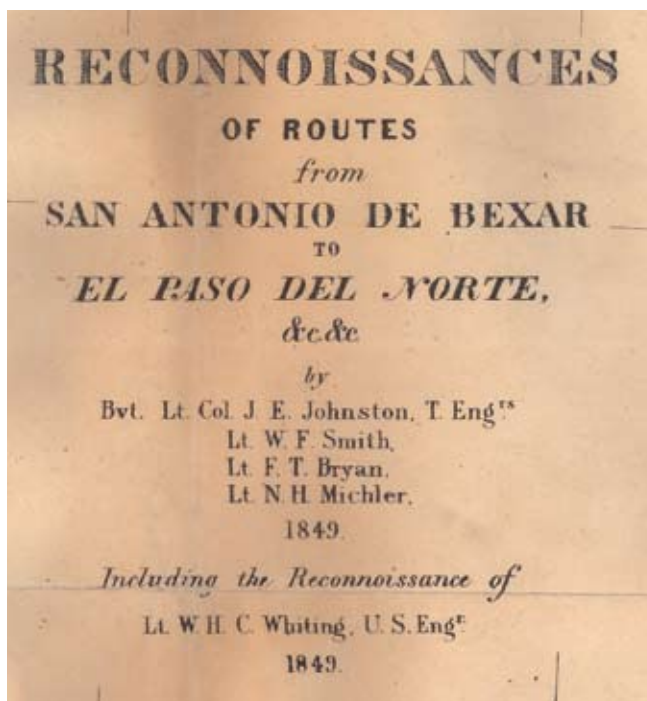
Please consider writing a Spotlight article on yourself or on another deserving member of the Texas Map Society. Follow the format above and send it to editorTMS@aol.com to have it included in the next edition of *The Neatline*.

Reconnoissances of Routes from San Antonio de Bexar to El Paso del Norte, Lt. Col. Joseph E. Johnston, Topographical engineers, 1847.

The end of the U.S. – Mexican War and the subsequent discovery of gold in California was the prime motivator for a survey of potential roads across west Texas to El Paso. General William Worth, with several officers from the Corps of Topographical Engineers at hand, dispatched Lieutenant William H.C. Whiting and Lt. William F. Smith, T.E. to seek an adequate route. Their outbound from trip San Antonio, which took them as far south as Presidio, was not satisfactory; however, on their return trip they passed north of the Big Bend looping around south of the Davis Mountains. They deemed this route acceptable, and on their return General William Harney, the new commanding officer for Texas, ordered Whiting to accompany Lt. Col. Joseph Johnston on a second survey.

This turned into a major production. Besides the engineers laying out the route there was an escort of First Infantry. Major Jefferson Van Horne and six companies of Sixth Infantry, on their way to establish a garrison at El Paso, Fort Bliss, were also on the march. Captain Samuel G. French of the Quartermaster Department commanded a contingent assigned to create an actual road. Following along was an immigrant train headed for the gold fields.

General Harney, with little fore knowledge of the conditions in west Texas, assigned Lt. Francis T. Bryan, T.E. to survey a route originally explored by Texas Ranger John “Rip” Ford and Major Robert Neighbors, Federal Indian Agent for Texas. Ford and Neighbors, leaving from San Antonio, traversed the Pecos River at Horsehead Crossing and traveled through Guadalupe Pass on the way to El Paso. Captain Randolph Marcy and Nathaniel Michler, T.E. surveyed a route through Indian Territory across north central



Texas to the Big Spring, and then on to the Pecos at Horsehead Crossing, creating a terminus at Fort Smith, Arkansas.

The map produced from these endeavors is short on topography, showing only the geography along the line of march and a bare outline of boundaries. However, it is the seminal map for establishing the two major routes across far west Texas; the Lower, or Military Road, and the Upper Road. The true value of the work compiled by Johnston and his men would only come clear when incorporated into Lt. Gouverneur K. Warren's massive map of the West that accompanied the *Pacific Railway Surveys*, 1854.

Just as one might stand in the ruts of the Santa Fe Trail at Fort Union, New Mexico, the visitor to Fort Davis National Historic Site can walk almost a mile of the undeveloped and original Lower Road. Here one can imagine the overland stage on its way to California and Forty-niners pausing for rest and water on their way to the gold fields.



Detail of Guadalupe Pass

If you would like to submit an article about your own favorite map for a future issue of *The Neatline*, contact the editor David Finrock at editorTMS@aol.com.

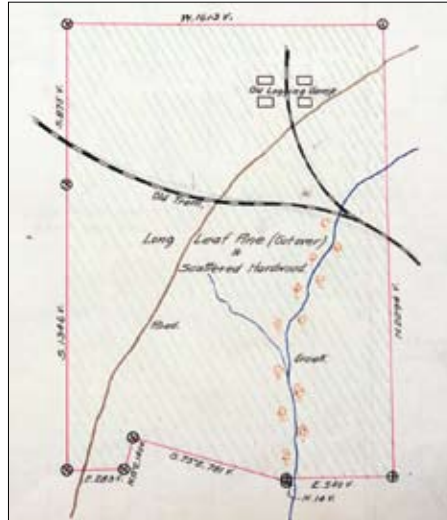
Houston Oil Company of Texas

1910 Forest Management Maps at The History Center

By Jonathan Gerland, Executive Director, The History Center, Diboll, Texas

Since maps come in all shapes, sizes, colors, and purposes, I was asked to share something of interest from our collections in East Texas, a forested region still strongly influenced by our natural resources. As a public history research center, we are particularly interested in the enduring value of records. Every record has a reason for its creation, and it is especially significant when records contain information that actually increases in usefulness as time passes, perhaps even exceeding the importance of the original intended purpose. An example of this in our holdings is a collection of several thousand forest maps created by the Houston Oil Company of Texas in 1910.

Chartered in July 1901 and capitalized at \$30 million, the Houston Oil Company of Texas was then the largest corporation in the state and soon acquired title in fee to nearly 800,000 acres of timber lands in East Texas. The leader of the project, with borrowed eastern capital, was the colorful native Texan John Henry Kirby, who also simultaneously organized Kirby Lumber Company, capitalized at \$10 million. Since discovery of the nearby Spindletop oil field near Beaumont was only a few months old, Kirby easily represented the timber lands as potentially productive oil lands that would also yield immediate and



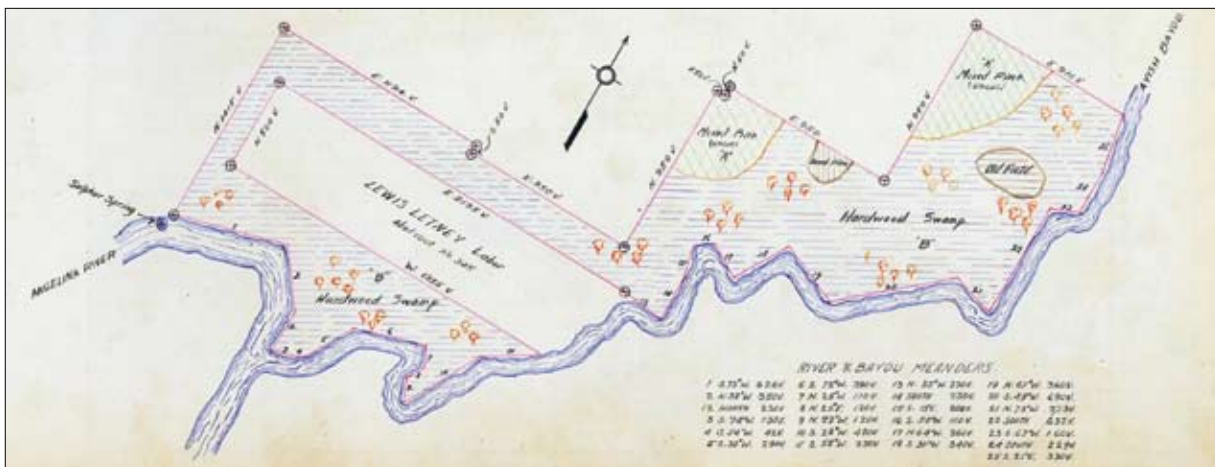
This September 1910 map of Tyler County Abstract 233, a 640 acre section, shows an “old logging camp” and logging railroad (old tram). Not surprisingly, the long leaf pine here was already cutover. Pine regeneration was noted as “inferior” and “poor,” and foresters designated the land as best adapted to “grazing and farming.”

steady income from the sale of timber to the lumber company.

In 1910 Houston Oil produced a series of forest management records known as timber recruises. Bound in six volumes containing thousands of sheets measuring approximately 11 inches by 15 inches,

the records contain information about the timber resources of Houston Oil’s properties. Most of the sheets contain colored maps that graphically represent such things as forest types (pines or hardwoods) and the quality and quantity of the timber. The information was used in planning and managing the harvest as well as the regrowth or adaptability of the cutover lands. Still today, more than a century later, forest mapping is one of the most important management and operational tools available to forest managers.

Hand drawn in 1910, the Houston Oil maps graphically represent the property boundaries and the types, volume, and condition of timber resources at that time. Green denotes pine forests, orange identifies hardwoods, blue is used for water features, brown identifies wagon roads, black is used for the railroads, and property boundaries are drawn in red. Each sheet includes information about total acreage of each tract as well as harvested projections of merchantable timber amounts of specific areas within each tract as well as notes about regeneration. On the backs of some of the maps are records of timber harvests between 1910 and the early 1920’s, some even noting which logging camp harvested the trees.



A sulphur spring is noted in the Angelina River near the confluence with Ayish Bayou in this map of Jasper County Abstract 632 for September 1910. Although the old growth cypress here had already been cut, the field notes stated abundant quantities of pine and hardwoods remained. The area represented in the map is now under the impounded waters of Lake Sam Rayburn.

Also noted are cultural as well as topographical features. Cultural features include the locations of churches, graveyards, schools, houses, barns, railroads, wagon roads, bridges, ferries, turpentine stills, various other wood camps, and even an "old money camp." Topographic features include noteworthy hummocks, hills, ridges, rock ledges and outcrops, swamps, sloughs, and even an "old crater." Locations of various springs and artesian wells are also noted. Some maps also note particular areas where timber was damaged by turpentine operations, which scarred and weakened

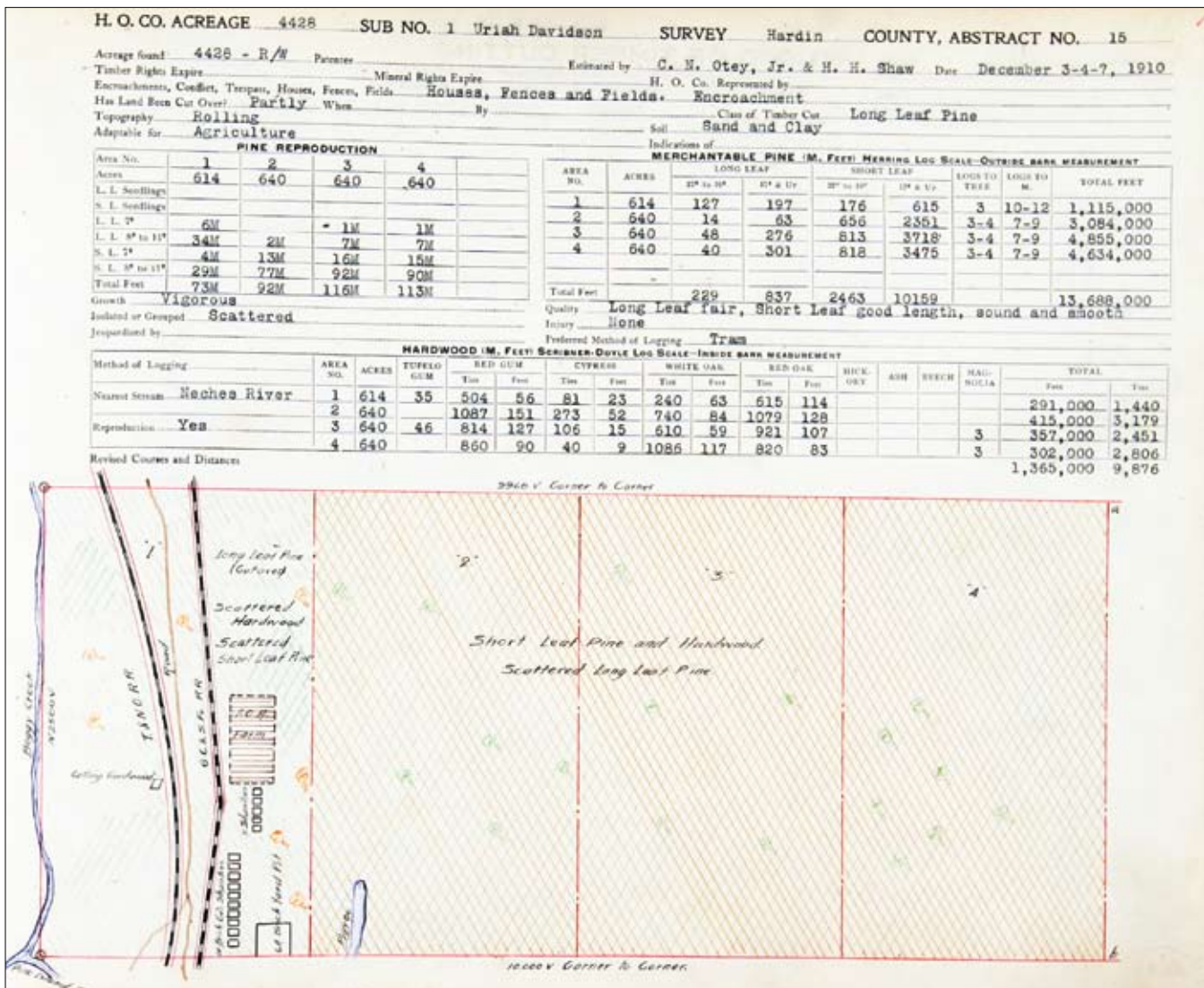
the bases of pines, or due to fires or "old hurricane or windfalls."

Although considerable amounts of timber had already been harvested on Houston Oil's lands by 1910, much of the timber remained "virgin," according to the maps. This is significant, because these records give us a rare picture of the extent and species identification of the virgin forest (before commercial harvesting and corn row type replanting). Particularly significant are the growth densities and locations of the long leaf pine, a superior native species that was most prized by the early industry but was not replanted

because other species, although inferior in some ways, generally grow faster and thus were seen as quicker returns on investment. Because the extent of the virgin forest is revealed in these records, they remain increasingly valuable to historians as well as foresters, representing both private and public land owners, who seek to return their lands to a more natural state.

For more information about the Houston Oil Company of Texas Timber Recruits of 1910, a finding guide to the collection can be found at the link below:

"<http://www.TheHistoryCenterOnline.com>" www.TheHistoryCenterOnline.com/guides/h,



The shanties of a brick making operation are noted in this sheet for a 4,428 acre tract in southeastern Hardin County (Abstract 15), near the confluence of Boggy Creek and Pine Island Bayou in December 1910. Note the various kinds of information included in the Recruise.



TMS Officers and Board Members

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