

The NEATLINE

A NEWSLETTER OF THE TEXAS MAP SOCIETY

Spring 2016



Maps and Technology

Texas Map Society Spring Meeting

April 1-2, 2016 • Corpus Christi

hosted by

Texas A&M Corpus Christi

For meeting details, please see page 3.

CAPTION

Charles Parsons after Daniel Powers Whiting, *Bird's-eye View of the Camp of the Army of Occupation, Commanded by Genl. Taylor. Near Corpus Christi, Texas (from the North) Oct. 1845*, toned lithograph, 31.4 x 49.2 cm., by G. & W. Endicott, from Whiting, Army Portfolio (New York, 1847).
UT Arlington Libraries Special Collections

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Texas Map Society Members:

Time is fast approaching for our Spring Meeting in Corpus Christi. I sincerely hope you all have added it to your calendars! Besides being held in one of our coastal cities, which always has a mystique of its own, this meeting has basically been orchestrated by one of our members, Ann Hodges.

Reviewing my e-mails upon my becoming president, one of my first e-mails was from Ann, extending an invitation for us to hold our meeting at Texas A & M Corpus Christi. She said there was a map digitization project that she felt would warrant our interest. I am sure she did not realize what a “big bone” she had tackled! We are definitely going to benefit from her hard work.

This makes me realize how many “unspoken heroes” are in our Society. You do understand that all the time, effort, travel, etc. is all volunteer. Some of your board members travel several hours just to attend a meeting, taking care of TMS business. Another person we often taken for granted is *The Neatline* editor, David Finfrock. My goodness, the pleas for articles, photos, information, etc. takes time and effort even before starting to put OUR (operative word!) newsletter in printable shape. Lynne Starnes, as our treasurer, has the unenviable job of keeping track of our money, making sure everything balances, and that we are kept in budget! And then there is Ben, our secretary, who wears many, many hats, other than his TMS one. He is truly AMAZING in the juggling he does with every aspect of TMS. Thank you, each and every one for the wonderful job you all do to make our Society successful!

I hope to see each of you in Corpus Christi April 1-2! We have the opportunity to view an exhibition on surveying in Rockport on Friday afternoon. We have an opening reception at the Museum of South Texas on Friday night. Then we will have a full program on Saturday on the TAMUCC campus. So---do come & join us!

Your “beachcombing” President,
Shirley F. Applewhite

FROM THE EDITOR

As a meteorologist with KXAS-TV, NBC5 in Dallas-Fort Worth, I enjoy working with weather maps every day. But there is a downside to that occupation – spring storm season. That keeps me at work each spring, so I am unable to travel across the state to our various spring meetings. But most of you don’t face that issue. So I hope you are each able to enjoy the meeting in Corpus Christi. And I hope at least one of you will be able to take notes, and provide me with a summary of the gathering that we can use in next fall’s edition of *The Neatline*.

There is another way you can help, with **Nominations for the Texas Map Society Board of Directors**.

The Texas Map Society is looking for members that are interested in being nominated to serve on the Board of Directors. The names of the nominees will be presented at the annual fall meeting of the Texas Map Society and recommended for election by the membership. The term of service is three years.

The Board attends meetings called by the President of the Society. There are usually three meetings a year.

The Board of Directors may create such additional offices or such standing and special committees as it may deem necessary and proper in carrying out the purposes and activities of the Society.

The Board of Directors shall direct and be responsible for the financial matters of the Society.

If you are interested in being considered for nomination, please contact Brenda McClurkin (mcclurkin@uta.edu) or John Phillips (john.phillips@okstate.edu)

Always remember that all of the archived editions of *The Neatline*, and much more information on the Texas Map Society can always be found at our website at: www.TexasMapSociety.org.

- David Finfrock

The Neatline is published semi-annually by the Texas Map Society
c/o Special Collections • The University of Texas at Arlington Library
Box 19497 • 902 Planetarium Place • Arlington, TX 76019-0497

<http://www.TexasMapSociety.org>

For more information contact

David Finfrock - Editor, Texas Map Society. Email: editorTMS@aol.com

Texas Map Society members and others who helped produce this issue are: Shirley Applewhite, David Finfrock, James Harkins, Seneca Holland, Ben Huseman, Bert Johnson, Brenda McClurkin, Anna Neumann, John Phillips, Richard Smith, Pam Stranahan, and our 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.

Texas Map Society • 2016 Spring Meeting PROGRAM

FRIDAY, APRIL 1

1:00 pm

Tour of Exhibit “A Surveyor’s Maps of Aransas County”

By veteran surveyor **Jerry Brundrett**

Aransas County History Center

801 E. Cedar St. at Church St., Rockport

For more information see TMS website

or call 361-727-9214.

Note: Last entrance at 3:00 pm.

4:00 pm

Private Group Tour of the Art Museum of South Texas

1902 North Shoreline Boulevard, Corpus Christi

5:00 pm

Reception at Hester’s Café

Art Museum of South Texas

SATURDAY, APRIL 2

University Center

Texas A&M University Corpus Christi, 6300 Ocean Drive

See TMS website for directions to Turtle Cove parking lot and University Center

8:30-9:15 am

***Continental Breakfast and Late Registration
or Packet Pick-Up***

University Center, outside the Jetty Room (room 123)

9:15-9:30 am

Opening Remarks

Shirley Applewhite, TMS President

Ann Hodges, Head, Special Collections and Archives,
TAMU-CC

MEETING LOCATIONS AND PARKING

Parking will be free of charge on campus on Saturday at the Turtle Cove parking lot, located just south of the University Center (building number 31). The sessions will be held in the Jetty Room of the University Center (31). The room is in the corner of the building just to the left of The Cove food court, as you are facing The Cove.

The Mary and Jeff Bell Library is number 21 on the campus map. Special Collections is located on the second floor, directly above the building entrance.

<http://www.tamucc.edu/about/campusmap.html>

9:30-10:30 am

***A Surveying Dynasty and its Legacy:
The Blucher Collection and its Digitization***

Ann Hodges, Head, Special Collections and Archives
(Mary and Jeff Bell Library, TAMU-CC)

Rick Smith, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
(Conrad Blucher Institute, TAMU-CC)

Audrey Garza, Library Associate II
(Special Collections and Archives,
Mary and Jeff Bell Library, TAMU-CC)

10:30-10:45 am

Break

10:45-11:45 am

***Learning on the Job: Student Accomplishments
and Experiences Digitizing the Blucher Collection***

Son Nguyen, Graduate Research Assistant
(Conrad Blucher Institute, TAMU-CC)

Lillian Reitz, Undergraduate Research Assistant
(Conrad Blucher Institute, TAMU-CC)

Bryan Gillis, Undergraduate Research Assistant
(Conrad Blucher Institute, TAMU-CC)

11:45 am - 12:45 pm

Lunch

Legacy Room (room 145), TAMU-CC University Center

Walk or golf cart transport to Mary and Jeff Bell Library

1:00-2:00 pm

Visit to Special Collections and Archives

Mary and Jeff Bell Library

2:00-2:45 pm

Dessert Reception

(adjacent to Special Collections and Archives)

Return to Jetty Room in the University Center

3:00-4:00 pm

A Surveyor’s Stories: Mapping South Texas

Ron Brister, Principal, Brister Surveying,
Corpus Christi, Texas

4:00-5:00 pm

The Map That Bombed the Chinese Embassy

Walter (Walt) E. Wilson, Captain, U.S. Navy (Retired)

5:00-5:15 pm

Closing Remarks

Mapping a History of South Texas Lands

By Anna Neumann , Dr. Richard Smith, and Seneca Holland

The Conrad Blucher Surveying Collection (CBSC) is a major research, cultural, and educational resource located at the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMUCC) Mary and Jeff Bell Library. This collection, created by Felix A. von Blücher, his son Charles F.H. von Blücher, and grandson Conrad M. Blucher, contains thousands of maps and survey documents of ranches, coastal lands, counties, town sites, residential subdivisions, and other south Texas features. The maps, field books, and legal documents of the CBSC are part of a larger collection known as the Charles F.H. von Blücher Family Papers. These papers, which span the years from 1819 to 1977, were donated to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi by the Blucher Family, and their Executor, on December 2, 1996. On March 9, 2010, Dr. Gary Jeffress (Director of the Conrad Blucher Institute for Science and Surveying), Dr. Thomas Kreneck (then Director of the Jeff and Mary Bell Library Special Collections), and Dr. James Gibeau (Endowed Chair for Geospatial Studies at the Harte Research Institute) collaborated to digitize the last installment of the Charles F. H. von Blücher Family Papers, the Conrad Blucher Surveying Collection, in hopes of preserving and providing the public with an alternate way to view the deteriorating documents.

The goal of this project was, and is, to provide online access to the thousands of map and field book indices, maps and plats, field book pages, and job folder documents contained in the CBSC, increase use of the collection (specifically by scholarly and lay historians, archeologists, cultural resource managers, and the professional surveying community), georeference maps with associated metadata searchable through the Texas Digital Library, and decrease the wear and tear on the collection through physical interaction with the original documents. To accomplish this goal, ten student workers, two faculty directors - Dr. Richard Smith, Assistant Professor of Geographic Information Science, and Seneca Holland, Instructor of Geographic Information Science - and two library personnel - Ann Hodges, Librarian and University Archivist, and Audrey Garza, Library Associate I - work on the Historic Map Scanning Project.



A survey of the King Ranch by Felix von Blücher done in 1871.

The project is broken into two sections: large maps and job folder documents. The detailed scanning procedures and acquisition of the two sections vary, but, generally, are very similar. To start, a team of five students transport the large maps in eight metal map case drawers in a van from the Natural Resource Center (an on campus building that houses the Historic Map Scanning Project office) to the Mary and Jeff Bell Library; where they meet Audrey Garza. Once at the library, the maps are carefully taken out of the van and into the library, up to the Special Collection and Archives Department. Here, the scanned maps are carefully removed from the map case drawers and placed into their original folder envelopes. Then, unscanned maps are taken out of their folder envelopes and placed into the map case drawers to be taken back to the Natural Resource Center.

To scan the large maps, the procedures are fairly straightforward. The maps are dusted off with a paint brush, scanned through a forty-two inch large format scanner, which is cleaned before use and after every ten maps, and then saved to a nearby computer to be checked for any potential errors that occurred

Continued on page 5



Students and library personnel transporting maps to and from the NRC and Mary and Jeff Bell Library. From left to right: Daniel Linan, Audrey Garza (Library Associate I), Na Lin, Bryan Gillis, and Michael McKeever.

Mapping South Texas Lands *continued*

during digitization. After all the maps of a folder have been scanned, they are cataloged onto an online database. The maps' title, author, date, map scale, customer name, image, and various other topics of interest are documented during this process.

The job folder documents follow a similar acquisition, scanning, and cataloging process. However, the job folder documents are stored in crates and require fewer student workers during trips to and from the library. In addition, these documents are scanned on a tabloid sized flatbed scanner and are cataloged based on a different set of criteria. These criteria include the documents' title, author, date, classification, image, and a few other topics.

While the Historic Map Scanning Project is continually making progress in terms of scanning the CBSC, the long term goal is to have a searchable online database that the public can access from remote locations. Currently, our onsite database consists of the completed Blucher Map Collection (6,859 maps), a partially scanned Green Map Collection (3,017 maps), and job folder documents (12,135 documents at this point). In addition to the online database, scanning of the Blucher field books will soon commence. Continuing to branch into different parts of the CBSC will further increase the public's access to information, while also preserving the collection. Increasing the public's ability to remotely access as many CBSC documents as possible will result in an immeasurable increase of resources and knowledge, primarily seen in scholarly activity and the work of practicing surveyors and geographic information scientists.

The Conrad Blucher Surveying Collection is a treasure for retracing and reshaping how South Texas has changed over the past 200 years. This project would not have been possible, though, without substantial grant funding from the Ed Rachal Foundation. Over the past two years, their generosity has provided the resources to hire nine additional student workers, greatly increasing the rate of scanning and cataloging. Through their generosity, the Historical Map Scanning Project continues to grow and expand, providing us all with not only the opportunity to glimpse the past, but a chance to map our future.



Son and My clean and scan the maps, while Anna checks for errors at the computer. Left to right: Anna Neumann, Son C. Nguyen, and My Sutharos



Daniel Linan (left) cleans the job folder documents, while Bryan Gillis (right) scans them.



Son D. Nguyen is the lead programmer for the database that contains the metadata of all the documents that get scanned.

Map Exhibit in Rockport, Texas

By Pam Stranahan

The History Center for Aransas County is hosting an exhibit of maps that will be of interest to all members of the Texas Map Society. As President of the Friends of the History Center, I invite you to attend.

"A Surveyor's Maps of Aransas County" will include early maps of Aransas County and Texas as well as surveying tools. Stories of some of the county surveyors, Percival, Griffith and Brundrett, will be related. Replica maps from the 1700 and 1800's will also be displayed.

The History Center is located at 801 E. Cedar St. in Rockport and would be an easy drive for members of TMS when they are attending the Spring 2016 meeting in Corpus Christi. There will be a special tour for TMS members at 1 pm on Friday, April 1st.

But if you are unable to attend at that time, the exhibit is regularly open to the public every Friday and Saturday from 10 am - 2 pm. The exhibit has been open since January 30th and will end on April 2nd.

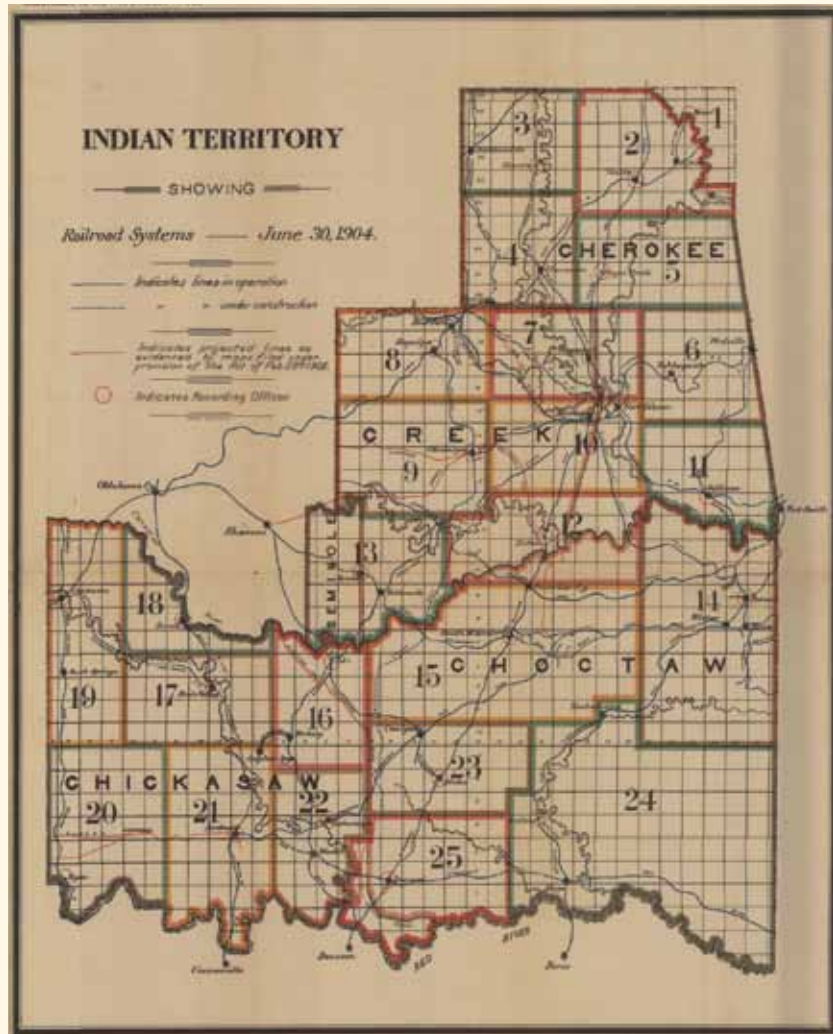
See our web site for more information on the Center
www.aransashistorycenter.org .

2015 Fall Meeting Texas and Beyond

By Brenda McClurkin

Members of the Texas Map Society gathered at UT Arlington's Central Library on Friday evening, October 2, 2015, to begin the fall meeting themed *"Texas and Beyond."* Friendships were renewed over cocktails and hors d'oeuvres in the sixth floor atrium. The group then walked to the neighboring UTA Planetarium for an out-of-this-world experience, to view *"From Earth to the Universe."*

After a continental breakfast on Saturday morning, President Shirley Applewhite welcomed attendees and provided introductory remarks. Four speakers shared interesting, well-researched presentations throughout the day: Houston map collector Frank Holcomb, *"The United States and Texas Too;"* Garland petroleum geologist Helmuth Schneider, *"The Stable Cadastral Map System of the Austrian Empire, 1820-1830;"* John Phillips, Director of the Oklahoma Digital Maps Collection and Professor Emeritus at the Edmond Low Library, OSU, *"Maps Printed for Congress, 1817 to Present: Highlighting the U.S. Congressional Serial Set;"* and Mylynka Cardona, UTA 2015 Ph.D. candidate, now with the General Land Office in Austin, *"Quite a Fashionable Tour: Gender and the Mapping of Africa in the Mid-Nineteenth Century."* After closing remarks, the meeting adjourned late in the day, all looking forward to the spring meeting in Corpus Christi, April 1 and 2.



Indian Territory Showing Railroad Systems, June 30, 1904. Color photolithograph by Julius Bien & Co., New York, from "Eleventh annual report of the Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes" in Annual reports of the Department of the Interior for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1904. Indian affairs, Part II, Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes, Indian inspector for Indian Territory, Indian contracts. Serial Set 4799 58th Congress, 3d session House Document 5 (Washington, D.C. Government Printing Office, 1904), p. 198. McCasland Collection, Edmond Low Library, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater

Tripoli di Barbaria, Paolo Forlani, 1568



Paolo Forlani, *Tripoli di Barbaria*, printed by Bolognini Zaltieri, and published by Giulio Ballino in his *Civitatum AliquotInsignorum*, (Venice, 1568).

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My Favorite Map *continued*

The North African coast, also called the Barbary Coast, is linked in history with the terrors inflicted by rapacious maritime raiders known as the Barbary Pirates. This was not always so. In the late medieval period and early Renaissance, there was much peaceful trade between North Africa and Europe. Piracy occurred, but it was a private criminal enterprise, and more pirates were European Christians than North African Muslims. What caused this to change so dramatically?

Americans associate the year 1492 with one man: Columbus. In Spain, for whom he sailed, however, Columbus was a footnote. The overwhelming event was the expulsion of the last Muslim conquerors from Spain, parts of which they had ruled since 711. Al Andalus was seen by its Muslim overlords as a semi-paradise compared with the more barren North Africa; moreover, it was home for nearly 800 years. Their expulsion was traumatic, and a flood of embittered refugees spread along the North African coast. Privateering surged, with Spanish vessels as a favorite (but by no means only) target. Tripoli was among the ports used as a base, an especially troublesome one due to its proximity to the narrow seaways around Sicily and Malta.

After a few years, the Spanish had enough. Spanish troops and ships began working their way along the North African coast, evicting the pirates and local rulers and building strong castles from which to keep the locals from reverting to their old ways. In 1510, Don Pedro Navarro and his army captured Tripoli. They subdued the city and began erecting fortifications. In 1523 they turned it over to the Knights of St. John, who had recently been evicted from their stronghold on Rhodes. A tiny handful of highly skilled warriors in a hostile land, the knights continued to strengthen the fortifications. They maintained their presence, albeit with some difficulty, until 1551, when an Ottoman army evicted them and established the authority of the Sultan. The Ottomans cared little about suppressing piracy, and Tripoli reverted to its former ways. The heyday of the Barbary Pirates had not yet arrived, but it was not long in coming.

The map is Paolo Forlani's *Tripoli di Barbara*, published in Venice in 1568, measuring 8 x 11 inches. The inscription declares it to be "a true design of the port of the city and of the fortress" made in 1567. It is one of the earliest

obtainable plans of Tripoli. The most notable feature is the lengths recorded for each segment of wall around the castle and city. They appear to be measurements, not estimates, since they are not rounded off. I am familiar with most plans of Tripoli for the period 1550-1835, and I have not seen another with this information. I can only speculate that the information was provided by sources (human or documentary) associated with the Knights of St. John. The Republic of Venice had been their closest ally in the siege of Rhodes, and such ties can endure.

The second feature is the barren interior of the city, unlikely to have been an accurate picture by the year 1567. Murad Agha, the first Muslim governor, immediately began to repair the walls and castle. His successor, Dragut Reis, began an intense building program of both civil and military works. One of the few landmarks shown inside the walls is San Giorgio Marzuqillo, the church of the knights. Tradition says Dragut chose this church to have converted into his personal mosque, which would have occurred by the time this map was made. Another is "L'Arco Antico." This is the arch of Emperor Marcus Aurelius (121-180 AD), one of the few remnants of Roman Tripoli; the arch was even then respected for its antiquity by all parties. A third rare feature is a string of named out-lying towers to the east of the city to provide an outer line for detection and defense. No other map of Tripoli that I have seen offers this information.

This map is a product of the Lafreri "School," a term loosely applied to a group of Italian cartographers, engravers, etc. working in Venice and Rome circa 1540-1580 (although some plates were used into the next century). Their work is often found in composite custom-assembled atlases, occasionally referred to as IATO (Italian Assembled to Order) atlases. This map was made by Paolo Forlani. Although prominent in his field, most of his work appeared in atlases made by others: Bolognini Zaltieri, Giovanni Camocio, and Ferrando Bertelli of Venice and Claudio Duchetti of Rome. This particular one was published by Giulio Ballino in his *Civitatium Aliquot Insigniorum, etc.*, printed for him by Zaltieri. The map was issued three times between 1567 and 1569. Each copy is fairly rare and quite different from the others.

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

Map Exhibit in San Antonio, Texas

By James Harkins

I want to share an announcement with you on a collaborative map exhibit between the Witte Museum and the Texas General Land Office.

The exhibit is entitled *Mapping Texas: From Frontier to the Lone Star State*. The program will begin on April 29, and run through September 5, 2016. The exhibit will be in the Russel Hill Rogers Texas Art Gallery located at the Witte Museum, and is included with the regular price of admission to the museum.

<http://www.wittemuseum.org/exhibitions/exhibitions/south-texas-heritage-center/russell-hill-rogers-texas-art-gallery>

Explore a stunning collection of rare Texas maps from the collections of the Texas General Land Office, the Witte Museum and the private collection of Carol and Frank Holcomb. See four of the original maps used by Stephen F. Austin for his colony in what was then Mexico, as well as a selection of rare maps dating from the 1600s to the late 1800s that reveal the shifting boundaries of Texas that affected all maps of the United States and Mexico. The exhibition also features important artifacts and documents relating to and complementing these significant maps.

Please share this information with members of the Texas Map Society, the Society for the History of Discoveries, students studying cartography, and anyone else that you think would be interested. I hope that you will all will be able to visit the Witte to see what we've been working on.



Stephen F. Austin and James F. Perry, *Connected Map of Austin's Colony*, 1837, manuscript, Map #1943, Map Collection, Archives and Records Program, Texas General Land Office, Austin, Texas.

Mapping Texas: From Frontier to the Lone Star State

A Collaborative Exhibit between the Texas General Land Office and the Witte Museum, April 29 - September 4, 2016

A new exhibit at the Witte Museum in San Antonio covering nearly three hundred years of Texas mapping opens **April 29, 2016** in the Russell Hill Rogers Gallery of the Helen C. and Robert J. Kleberg South Texas Heritage Center.

Over forty rare maps from the collections of the Texas General Land Office, the Witte Museum, and the private collection of Frank and Carol Holcomb, of Houston, will be exhibited to the public. Many of these maps are on display for the first time. The fragile nature of the items on display makes this a once-in-a-generation exhibit to visit. This curated collection, dating from the sixteenth through the nineteenth century, traces the changing physical and political boundaries of Texas. It also includes artifacts and original documents relating to the creation of the select maps.

Mapping Texas: From Frontier to the Lone Star State focuses on important phases in this region's cartographic history, including European discovery, western expansion of the United States, the settlement of the frontier through empresario contracts with the Mexican State of Coahuila y Texas, the limits of the Republic of Texas, and the new boundaries created within the State of Texas. The exhibit will also show the changing boundaries of San Antonio and Bexar County.

European cartographers in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries imagined the Americas as a vast territory to be claimed and colonized despite the existence of indigenous communities. Their imagination led to the production of early maps of the region that included mythical place names, depictions of indigenous peoples, and approximate representations of the coastal boundaries of North America. As colonization expanded, contested claims between European powers fueled further exploration and the rendering of more accurate maps that depicted landscapes we recognize today.

In the first decade of the nineteenth century, the Prussian geographer and explorer Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859) published a map to accompany his essay on his scientific expedition through New Spain (Mexico). He composed the 1811 "Carte Générale du Royaume de la Nouvelle Espagne" from archives in New Spain and Washington, D.C. This work formed the basis for subsequent mappings of the southwest for many years. Although there is relatively little information on this document regarding Texas specifically, Humboldt's map shows the Province of Texas's contested borders extending beyond the Sabine River, which, he admitted, had not been accepted by the U. S. Congress. The question of the confines of Texas remained unsettled for nearly a decade after this map's publication.

The mapping of the United States' western expansion is an important part of *Mapping Texas: From Frontier to the Lone Star State*. After its independence from Great Britain, the United States sought to spread its ideals of liberty "from sea to shining sea." No mapmaker illustrated this more than John Melish (1771 -1822), whose 1816 "Map of the United States" showed the U. S. territory

extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. Melish's map, issued in 24 separate editions between 1816 and 1823, played an integral part in the delineation of the boundaries between Spanish and American territories in the 1819 Transcontinental Treaty (also known as the Adams-Onís Treaty).

Mexico's 1821 independence from Spain opened the door for further settlement of its northern frontier, leading to a proliferation of new maps of the territory. Stephen F. Austin, often referred to as the "Father of Modern Texas" for his contributions to the establishment of the *empresario* system and Anglo immigration to Texas, has been given a special space in this exhibit. Although most Texans are familiar with his work as an *empresario* (the person responsible for bringing new settlers into the Mexican granted lands), Stephen F. Austin deserves recognition for his work as one of Texas's first mapmakers. For the first time ever, three of Austin's most important maps are featured together representing his contributions to the cartographic history of Texas. The earliest of these is an 1825 edition of his 1822 map, which accompanied the petition for the confirmation of his *empresario* contract with the Mexican authorities. Prominently featured in this exhibit is Austin's 1837 "Connected Map of Austin's Colony, 1833-1837," which depicts the original land grants issued within Austin's Colony. This map became the model for subsequent land ownership maps housed at the Texas General Land Office. The third of Austin's maps displayed is the 1840 edition his 1830 Map of Texas.

Texas's 1836 independence from Mexico introduced not only a new form of government to the region, but also contested territorial claims. The Republic of Texas redrew its southern border at the Rio Grande River, following its course due west and then north to its mouth in present-day Colorado, giving Texas its largest territorial extent. To the east, Texas and the United States used previously established treaties (primarily the Adams-Onís Treaty) to set their borders. This led to a new series of surveys being made between 1838 and 1841. *Mapping Texas: From Frontier to the Lone Star State* exhibits, for the very first time, the manuscript drafts of the surveys of the Texas-U.S. Joint Boundary Commission. Three different sheets, over fourteen feet wide, trace the Sabine River from its mouth in the Gulf of Mexico to Logan's Ferry in the north, near present-day Logansport, LA. A second set of maps follows the surveys on a straight line due north from Logan's Ferry to the Red River. The boundaries established by these surveys were recognized when Texas entered the Union in 1845.

Mapping Texas: From Frontier to the Lone Star State includes maps of Bexar County and the city of San Antonio, bringing the cartographic history of Texas into the late nineteenth century. Please join us in this celebration of the more than 300 years of mapping Texas and experience this once-in-a-generation opportunity to enjoy many of the rare maps curated from three prominent Texas map collections.

Texas State Genealogical Society Donates \$5,000 to Save Texas History

By The Texas General Land Office

The Texas General Land Office (GLO) is proud to announce the donation of \$5,000 from the Texas State Genealogical Society to the Save Texas History Program. The funds will be used for the continued conservation of important Republic of Texas records in the Texas General Land Office Archives. With this most recent donation, the Texas State Genealogical Society has contributed a total of \$50,000 to the Texas General Land Office's conservation efforts since 2009.

"The Texas State Genealogical Society has been a great partner with the Texas General Land Office when it comes to conserving early records of our ancestors," said Commissioner George P. Bush. "It is because of the help of the Texas State Genealogical Society, and other groups like them, that the Save Texas History program has been a success. I hope that other non-profits, individuals, foundations, and the private sector will be inspired to make their own donations to the Save Texas History program so that the General Land Office can continue to conserve historic documents for future generations."

The Texas State Genealogical Society is working to adopt the entirety of the Clerk Returns Collection of the Texas General Land Office, comprised of fifty boxes of documents. Clerk Returns were created by clerks for the local county board of land commissioners during the 19th century to record information associated with the issuance of a land certificate. A copy of each return was then sent to the GLO and was used to confirm the legal issuance of the land certificate and to check for fraud. Today, the collection is primarily used by genealogists. Clerk Returns contain the name of every person to whom a certificate was given, the amount of land granted to each person, the time of their emigration to the country, and the name(s) of the witness(es) who endorsed the claimants.

"The Texas State Genealogical Society is pleased to continue our ongoing support of this project that preserves and provides access to these important and unique records not previously available to family historians. This donation raises our total commitment to this project to \$50,000," said John Wylie, former Texas State Genealogical Society President.

About the Texas State Genealogical Society

The TSGS is organized and operated as a non-profit tax-exempt 501(c)3 corporation. The mission of TSGS is to research, record, accumulate, reproduce, distribute, and circulate genealogical and historical material; assist in making such material available to those who are, or may be encouraged to be, in family and Texas history; perpetuate the memory of Texans and their ancestors; stress the importance of accuracy through the careful documentation of research; make donations by acquisition or memorial to research collections which are open to the public; disseminate knowledge by sponsoring conferences, workshops, and seminars; publish useful research



for genealogists; and, sponsor awards for recognizing the efforts of individuals and organizations. Please visit the Texas State Genealogical Society online at, <http://www.txsgs.org/>

About Save Texas History

Created in 2004, the Save Texas History program is a statewide initiative to rally public support and private funding for the preservation and promotion of the historic maps and documents housed in the GLO Archives, and serves as a resource for teaching and digitizing Texas history.

If you would like to donate to the Save Texas History program to adopt a document or collection, assist with archival acquisitions, develop educational programs, or support digital projects, please visit SaveTexasHistory.org.

New Method to Reveal Details in Antique Maps

By David Finfrock

A recent article in *Discover Magazine* discusses new methodology to provide more insight into antique maps that have been darkened, smudged, or have otherwise become indecipherable over the years.

A new multispectral imaging technique dubbed **The Lazarus Project**, is bringing old maps and texts back to life. This technique is providing new insight into details of the 1491 world map by Henricus Marcellus. This method has been so successful, that plans are underway to use it on many other historic maps. Read more about it in Discover Magazine here:

<http://discovermagazine.com/2016/janfeb/74-shedding-light-on-ancient-maps>

You can learn more about The Lazarus Project at their website:

<http://www.lazarusprojectimaging.com/>

There has even been a TED Talk by Dr. Gregory Heyworth on the subject:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y9DsAmzNkVw>



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SAVE THE DATE

The Texas Map Society Fall meeting will be held this year in conjunction with the Virginia Garrett Lectures, **November 11-12** with the theme

“Profiles in Cartography: Selected Mapmakers and Their Maps of the Southwestern Borderlands.”

There will be all-day lectures on Friday as well as lectures on Saturday morning concluding with visits to the **North Texas Book & Paper Show**, which will be held **November 11-13**.

Please help us keep our signals straight! Send updates of your contact information (email address & physical address) to huseman@uta.edu or to



Ben Huseman

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