

February 16, 2019

To: The AASLH “Excellence in History” Award Committee

From: Randolph B. Campbell
Regents Professor of History
University of North Texas

I write to support the nomination of the Summer 2018 issue of the *Journal of the Texas Supreme Court Historical Society* for the AASLH Annual Meeting “Excellence in History” award. Having researched and written extensively on Texas history in general and on the history of African Americans in Texas in particular, I find the content of that issue of the journal deserving of special recognition for many reasons.

First, the issue is extremely valuable to Texas history and historians simply because it tells a story that heretofore largely has not appeared in print. A great deal of the history of what judges have handed down in applying the law to African Americans has been described at great length, but the stories of African Americans themselves as jurists are largely unknown. This history is relatively brief because Texas remained a bastion of segregation until the second half of the twentieth century, but that makes the stories of pioneer African American judges at all levels all the more significant.

An outstanding illustration of a contribution by this issue to the history of African Americans who were notable jurists in Texas is the article by John G. Browning on the career of Chief Justice Carolyn Wright. Browning opens with a reference to Charlye O. Farris (1929–2010), the first African American woman admitted to the Texas bar (1953) and the first black woman to serve as a judge in Texas (serving as county judge pro tem in 1954). Browning then shows how Farris’s legacy of “firsts” was passed on to another African American woman, Carolyn Wright. His article tells the story of how Wright became the first African American woman in Dallas to win a countywide election, the first in Texas history to win a multi-county election, and the first African American to lead a Texas intermediate appellate court as Chief Justice. He also notes that along the way, Wright was always quick to acknowledge the debt she owed to pioneers like Charlye Farris. John Browning brought impressive credentials to his work on the article, having served as the Chair of the Texas Bar Journal Board of Editors and as an adjunct law professor at SMU Dedman School of Law, Texas Tech University School of Law, and Texas A&M University School of Law.

The Summer 2018 issue of the *Journal* also offers invaluable primary source material on the experiences of African Americans as they traveled the road to joining the Texas Judiciary. Virgie A. Mouton’s account of a 1982 interview for a position as Briefing Attorney at the First Court of Appeals in Houston is an excellent example. Mouton remembered, “I was an eager

third-year law student, preparing to graduate, a wife and mother of two preschoolers. When I entered the interview room, all nine justices were seated in a semicircle facing the one lone chair on the opposite side. Judge Doyle was easily identifiable as he was the only black male justice sitting among the other eight white male justices. I felt confident as I sat in the chair facing them, although inside I felt nervous, not knowing what to expect. I felt as though I was in law school, where I was accustomed to professors asking me to recite cases and answer hypotheticals. I felt I was a law student attending class without reading the assignment, and dreading dismissal for being unprepared. To the contrary, the judges were polite and gracious. I began to feel calm once I realized that I was in the presence of my hero, Henry Doyle, the first graduate of my law school at Texas Southern University, now known as Thurgood Marshall School of Law. Prior to that interview, I had heard and read about the trials and tribulations Judge Doyle encountered while attending law school. He passed the bar in 1949, and graduated one year later in 1950 as the only member of our first graduating class. He was the namesake of the law school's Henry Doyle Moot Court Competition. He was the distinguished keynote speaker at our law school Hooding Ceremony in 1981. Judge Doyle was our law school's personal hero, our idol, a living legend engrained in the hearts and souls of our law school community."

Mouton won the position and eventually became an instructor of law and the Assistant Dean for Student Development and Academic Support at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law in Houston. To repeat, this first-person account of a major milestone in her career is an invaluable source.

Yet another example of the value of this issue is found in the article by Bill Kroger entitled, "The Time to Preserve Texas's Slave Case Records is Now." Kroger reminded readers: "The Texas slavery records that are locked away in the district and county courts for Texas counties, especially those in East Texas, need to be preserved as soon as possible. I have seen these records—slavery lawsuits over ownership, titles, transactions, defects, murders, births, escapes, enslavements, or wrongful deaths. Some of these documents are property records in the county courts; some are court papers, journals, or records in civil litigation. Some of these files contain priceless exhibits, such as titles to enslaved persons. These records are often impossible to access, at least for most people. Few are digitized, and if they are, they are impossible to search. . . . They are probably the largest untapped, unstudied, unpreserved slavery records in the United States. They are a priceless historical resource for all Americans, but especially for African Americans who want to find and understand their family histories. County officials in Texas are generally supportive of preservation—they recognize the importance of these records. But many of the east Texas counties don't have the money or skills for preservation. There should be public support—and funding—for this project, if it is to be properly thought through, planned and organized. It also would require a task force whose members bring different disciplines, expertise, and skills. Now is the time to undertake this project—to conduct a large-scale preservation of these records, so that they are saved for future generations, and become easy to access for families (and historians) to study."

The project that Kroger calls for may never be undertaken, but he is absolutely correct in issuing the call. Local court records are unmatched as a source on slavery, especially because they were created not with the purpose of commenting on or judging the institution on moral grounds but as a matter of law and property rights in a slaveholding society. Holding humans as chattel property was fundamentally wrong, and the sources Kroger emphasizes show that truth in highly revealing ways. His article joins others in this issue of the journal to offer historians an important starting point for future research.

Randolph B. "Mike" Campbell

Regents Professor
Department of History
University of North Texas
Denton, Texas 76203-0650
Telephone: 940/565-3402
E-mail: mike@cas.unt.edu

Home Address:
924 Imperial Drive
Denton, Texas 76209
Telephone: 940/387-3276

Education: Ph. D. - History, University of Virginia, 1966
Dissertation - "Henry Clay and the Emerging Nations
of Spanish America, 1815-1829"
M.A. - History, University of Virginia, 1963
B. S. - Education, University of Virginia, 1961

Experience: Lone Star Chair in Texas History, UNT, 2013-2015
Lone Star Professor of History, University of North Texas, 2011-2013
Chief Historian, Texas State Historical Association, 2008-2017
Regents Professor, University of North Texas, 1988-
Professor, North Texas State University, 1977-1988
Associate Professor, North Texas State University, 1969-1977
Assistant Professor, North Texas State University, 1966-1969
Instructor, Madison College, Summer 1966
Instructor, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, 1963-1964
Graduate Assistant, University of Virginia, 1961-1962, 1965

Books:

Gone to Texas: A History of the Lone Star State. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003. (Second Edition, Oxford University Press, 2012). (Third Edition, Oxford University Press, 2017).

An Empire for Slavery: The Peculiar Institution in Texas, 1821-1865. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1989. (Paperback Edition, LSU Press, 1991).

Sam Houston and the American Southwest. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1993. (Second Edition, Longman Publishers, 2001). (Third Edition, Longman Publishers, 2007).

Grass-Roots Reconstruction in Texas, 1865-1880. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1998.

A Southern Community in Crisis: Harrison County, Texas, 1850-1880. Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1983. (Reprint Edition, 2016).

Editor, The Laws of Slavery in Texas: Historical Documents and Essays. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2010.

Editor, A Journey Through Texas, Or, A Saddle Trip on the Southwestern Frontier. By Frederick Law Olmsted. The Library of Texas. Degolyer Library & William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies. Dallas: Southern Methodist University, 2004.

Editor, Texas Voices: Documents from Texas History. New York: Worth Publishers, 1997.

Co-author, Planters and Plain Folk: Agriculture in Antebellum Texas. Dallas: Southern Methodist University Press, 1987.

Co-author, Wealth and Power in Antebellum Texas. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1977.

Co-author, The Dallas Cowboys and the NFL. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1970.

Articles:

“A Sea of Blood and Smoking Ruin’: Reflections on Sam Houston and Slavery,” Southwestern Historical Quarterly, CXXII (October 2018), 134-142.

“Texas Confederate Veteran Pensions: The Curious Cases of Guy and Dora Shaw of Harrison County,” Touchstone, XXXIII (2014), 88-94.

“Fighting for the Confederacy: The White Male Population of Harrison County in the Civil War,” Southwestern Historical Quarterly, CIV (July 2000), 22-39.

“Reconstruction in Jefferson County, Texas, 1865-1876,” Texas Gulf Historical and Biographical Record, XXXI (November 1995), 10-28.

“Reconstruction in McLennan County, Texas, 1865-1876,” Prologue: Quarterly of the National Archives, XXVII (Spring 1995), 17-35.

“Reconstruction in Colorado County, Texas, 1865-1876,” Nesbitt Memorial Library Journal, V (January 1995), 3-30.

“Reconstruction in Nueces County, 1865-1876,” Houston Review, XVI (Fall 1994), 3-26.

“Carpetbagger Rule in Reconstruction Texas: An Enduring Myth,” Southwestern Historical Quarterly, XCVII (April 1994), 587-596.

“A Moderate Response: The District Judges of Dallas County during Reconstruction, 1865-1876,” Legacies: A History Journal for Dallas and North Central Texas, 5 (Fall 1993), 4-12.

"The Burden of Local Black Leadership during Reconstruction: A Research Note," Civil War History, 39 (June 1993), 148-153.

"Scalawag District Judges: The E. J. Davis Appointees, 1870-1873," Houston Review, XIV (Fall 1992), 75-88.

"Grass Roots Reconstruction: The Personnel of County Government in Texas, 1865-1876," Journal of Southern History, LVIII (February 1992), 99-116.

"The District Judges of Texas in 1866-1867: An Episode in the Failure of Presidential Reconstruction," Southwestern Historical Quarterly, XCIII (January 1990), 357-377.

"George W. Whitmore: East Texas Unionist," East Texas Historical Journal, XXVIII (Spring 1990), 17-28.

"The Slave-Hire System in Texas: A Research Note," American Historical Review, 93 (February 1988), 107-14.

"Intermittent Slave Ownership: Texas as a Test Case," Journal of Southern History, LI (February 1985), 15-30.

"The End of Slavery in Texas: A Research Note," Southwestern Historical Quarterly, LXXXVIII (July 1984), 71-80.

"Population Persistence and Social Change in Nineteenth-Century Texas: Harrison County, 1850-1880," Journal of Southern History, XLVIII (May 1982), 185-204.

"Family History from Local Records: A Case Study from Nineteenth Century Texas," East Texas Historical Journal, XIX (Fall 1981), 13-26.

Co-editor, "My Dearest Husband: A Texas Slave's Love Letter, 1862," Journal of Negro History, LXV (Fall 1980), 361-364.

"Political Conflict Within the Southern Consensus, Harrison County, Texas, 1850-1880," Civil War History, XXVI (September 1980), 218-239.

Co-editor, "The Plantation Journal of John B. Webster, February 17, 1858-November 5, 1859," Southwestern Historical Quarterly, LXXXIV (July 1980), 49-79.

Co-author, "Heads of Families in Antebellum Texas: A Profile," Red River Valley Historical Review, V (Spring 1980), 68-80.

Co-author, "Some Economic Aspects of Antebellum Texas Agriculture," Southwestern Historical Quarterly, LXXXII (April 1979), 351-378.

Co-author, "Slave Property and the Distribution of Wealth in Texas, 1860," Journal of American History, LXIII (September 1976), 316-324.

Co-author, "The Slave-Breeding Hypothesis: A Demographic Comment on the 'Buying' and 'Selling' States," Journal of Southern History, XLII (August 1976), 401-412.

Co-author, "Wealthholding and Political Power in Antebellum Texas," Southwestern Historical Quarterly, LXXIX (July 1975), 21-30.

"The Productivity of Slave Labor in East Texas, 1850-1860," Louisiana Studies, XIII (Summer 1974), 154-172.

"Local Archives as a Source of Slave Prices: Harrison County, Texas, as a Test Case," The Historian, XXXVI (August 1974), 660-669.

"Planters and Plain Folk: Harrison County, Texas, as a Test Case, 1850-1860," Journal of Southern History, XL (August 1974), 369-398.

"Human Property: The Negro Slave in Harrison County, 1850-1860," Southwestern Historical Quarterly, LXXVI (April 1973), 384-396.

"Slaveholding in Harrison County, 1850-1860: A Statistical Profile," East Texas Historical Journal, XI (Spring 1973), 18-27.

"Texas and the Nashville Convention of 1850," Southwestern Historical Quarterly, LXXVI (July 1972), 1-14.

"Henry Clay and the Poinsett Pledge Controversy of 1826," The Americas, XXVIII (April 1972), 429-440.

"The Whig Party of Texas in the Elections of 1848 and 1851," Southwestern Historical Quarterly, LXXIII (July 1969), 17-34.

"The Spanish American Aspect of Henry Clay's American System," The Americas, XXIV (July 1967), 3-17.

"The Case of the 'Three Friends': An Incident in Maritime Regulation during the Revolutionary Era," Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, LXXIV (April 1966), 190-209.

Chapters in Books:

"Fighting for the Confederacy: The White Male Population of Harrison County in the Civil War," in Robert Wooster and Ralph Wooster (eds.), Lone Star Blue and Gray: Essays on Texas and the Civil War. Second Edition. Denton: Texas State Historical Association Press, 2015.

"Antebellum Texas, 1846-1860," in Bruce A. Glasrud, Light Townsend Cummins, and Cary D. Wintz (eds.), Discovering Texas History. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2014.

"After the Surrender: The Postwar Experiences of Confederate Veterans in Harrison County, Texas," in Charles D. Gear (ed.), The Fate of Texas: The Civil War and the Lone Star State. Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2008.

"Human Property: The Black Slave in Harrison County, 1850-1860," in Bruce A. Glasrud and James M. Smallwood (eds.), The African American Experience in Texas, An Anthology Lubbock: Texas Tech University Press, 2007. (Reprint of a 1973 article)

"History and Collective Memory in Texas: The Entangled Stories of the Lone Star State," in Gregg Cantrell and Elizabeth Hayes Turner (eds.), Lone Star Pasts: Memory and History in Texas. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2007.

"The First African-American Public Officials in Texas: Voter Registrars in 1867," in Donald Willett and Stephen Curley (eds.), Invisible Texans: Women and Minorities in Texas. Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2004.

"Sam Houston: Unionism and the Secession Crisis in Texas," in James C. Klotter (ed.), The Human Tradition in the Old South. Wilmington, DE: Scholarly Resources Inc., 2003.

"Slavery in the Natchez Trace Collection," in Katherine J. Adams and Lewis L. Gould (eds.), Inside the Natchez Trace Collection: New Sources for Southern History. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1999.

"Statehood, Civil War, and Reconstruction, 1846-1876," in Walter L. Buenger and Robert A. Calvert (eds.), Texas Through Time: Evolving Interpretations. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1991.

"Antebellum Texas: From Union to Disunion, 1846-1861," in Light T. Cummins and Alvin R. Bailey (eds.), A Guide to the History of Texas. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1988.

"Planters and Plain Folks: The Social Structure of the Antebellum South," in John B. Boles and Evelyn Thomas Nolen (eds.), Interpreting Southern History: Essays in Honor of S. W. Higginbotham, Editor of The Journal of Southern History, 1965-1983. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1987.

Encyclopedia/Dictionary/Handbook Entries:

"Euline Williams Brock," in the *Handbook of Texas Online*, 2018.

"Marilyn McAdams Sibley," "Margaret S. Henson," "Anne Brindley," "Elma Merle Mears McClellan Duncan," "Jim Berry Pearson," and "Theodore Z. Robertson," in the *Handbook of Texas Online*, 2017.

"Slocum Massacre," in the *Handbook of Texas Online*, 2015.

"George Ruble Woolfolk," in the *Handbook of Texas Online*, 2014.

“Sam Houston,” Entry in Timothy J. Lynch, Ed., The Oxford Encyclopedia of American Military and Diplomatic History. New York, Oxford University Press, 2012.

“Sam Houston,” in Paul S. Boyer (ed.), The Oxford Companion to American History. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001.

“Edward Burleson,” “August Pierre Chouteau,” and “Sam Houston,” in John A. Garraty (ed.), American National Biography. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

“Sam Houston,” in Donald Frazier (ed.), The United States and Mexico at War: Nineteenth Century Expansionism and Conflict. New York: Macmillan, 1998.

“Slavery in Texas,” “Antebellum Texas,” “Harrison County,” “Marshall,” “George W. Whitmore,” “Rachel Hamilton Hornsby,” “Reuben R. Gaines,” Andrew P. McCormick,” “Thomas H. Paschal,” “Davis M. Prendergast,” “John B. Rector,” “Wesley B. Ogden,” “Chauncey B. Sabin,” “Ezekiel B. Turner,” “Moses B. Walker,” “Titus H. Mundine,” “Stephen Powers,” “William E. Jones,” and “Mortimer H. Goddin,” in Ron Tyler (ed.), The New Handbook of Texas. Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1996.

“The Owsley Thesis,” in Charles R. Wilson and Wiliam Ferris (eds.), Encyclopedia of Southern Culture. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1989.

“Slavery in Texas,” in Randall M. Miller and John David Smith (eds.), Dictionary of Afro-American Slavery. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1988.

Book Reviews:

Southwestern Historical Quarterly (12)

Journal of Southern History (8)

Journal of American History (4)

Journal of the Early Republic

Journal of Interdisciplinary History (3)

American Historical Review

Maryland Historical Magazine

The Historian (2)

Teaching History

East Texas Historical Journal (6)

Kentucky Historical Register (4)

West Texas Historical Association Yearbook

Military History of the Southwest

Social Science Quarterly

Concho River Review

Georgia Historical Quarterly

Arkansas Historical Quarterly (2)

Agricultural History

Mississippi Quarterly

Great Plains Quarterly

Texas Books in Review

Papers to Scholarly Societies and Symposia:

“A Sea of Blood and Smoking Ruin’: Reflections on Sam Houston and Slavery,” Awards Luncheon Address, Annual Meeting of the Texas State Historical Association, March 2018.

“Texas Confederate Veteran Pensions: The Curious Cases of Guy and Dora Shaw of Harrison County,” Annual Meeting of the Texas State Historical Association, March 2014.

“Gone to Texas’: As A Historian,” Annual Meeting of The Philosophical Society of Texas, February, 2012.

“The Search for a ‘Usable Past’ for Texas: Looking to the South and the West,” Meeting of the East Texas Historical Association, February 2008.

“Writing Gone to Texas: The Search for a ‘Usable Past’ for the Lone Star State,” Eighteenth Texas History Forum, The Alamo, February 2006.

“After the Surrender: The Postwar Experiences of Confederate Veterans in Harrison County, Texas,” Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Social Science Association, New Orleans, March 2005.

"Who Fought For the Confederacy: Harrison County, Texas, as a Test Case," Annual Meeting of The Philosophical Society of Texas, Denton, December 2004.

"History and Memory in Texas: The Entangled Memories of the Lone Star State," Symposium entitled "Early Texas Art: Regionalist or Mainstream?" at the Meadows Museum, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, November 2004.

"GTT: Writing A History of Texas," East Texas Historical Association, September 2004.

"Slavery in the Texas Revolution," San Jacinto Symposium, Houston, April 2003.

"The First African-American Public Officials in Texas: Voter Registrars in 1867," Symposium entitled "The African-American Experience in Texas: The Nineteenth Century," at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, February 2002.

"Reconstruction in a Multi-Ethnic Community: Colorado County, Texas, 1865-1876," East Texas Historical Association (Spring Meeting), February 2002.

"Harrison County in the Civil War: A Rich Man's War and Poor Man's Fight?" East Texas Historical Association, September 2000.

"Who Fought for the Confederacy: Harrison County, Texas, as a Test Case," Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association, April 2000.

"Reconstruction in a Multi-Ethnic Community: Colorado County, Texas, 1865-1876," Social Science History Association, October 1997.

"Senator Sam Houston: Unionist," Symposium entitled "Sam Houston: A National Perspective," Sam Houston State University, May 1996.

"Self-Conceived Members of the Master Race: The Richard Thompson Archer Family of Claiborne County," Biennial Historic Natchez Conference, February 1996.

"Slavery in Texas during Annexation, 1845," Symposium entitled "The Challenge of Statehood," University of Texas at Arlington, October 1995.

"Like Sensible and Enterprising Citizens: Conservative Leadership during Reconstruction in Dallas County, 1865-1876," Southwest Social Science Association, 1995.

"Carpetbagger Rule in Reconstruction Texas: An Enduring Myth," Presidential Address at the Texas State Historical Association, 1994.

"Writing Women's History from County Records," East Texas Historical Association, 1993.

"Sam Houston v. the 'Whipsters and Demagogues': Practical Leadership in Times of Crisis," Spring Meeting of the East Texas Historical Association, 1993.

"Grass Roots Reconstruction: The Experience of Six Texas Counties, 1865-1876," Southwestern Social Science Association, 1993.

"Scalawag District Judges: The E. J. Davis Appointees, 1870-1873," Texas State Historical Association, 1992.

"Editing Locus: An Historical Journal of Regional Perspectives," Missouri Valley History Conference, 1991.

"Slavery in Texas During the Civil War," Symposium entitled "This Fiery Trial: The Civil War," North Harris County College, 1990.

"Using Census, Court, County, and Similar Records," Conference on Women and Texas History, 1990.

"Writing About Slavery in Texas, Why and How," Annual Meeting of the Texas State Historical Association, 1990.

"George W. Whitmore, East Texas Unionist," Annual Meeting of the East Texas Historical Association, 1988.

"Writing County History," Annual Meeting of the Texas State Historical Association, 1988.

"Grassroots Reconstruction: The Personnel of Local Government in Texas, 1865-1876," Annual Meeting of the Southern Historical Association, 1987.

"Slavery in Texas During the Civil War," Texas Sesquicentennial Civil War Symposium, Sponsored by Civil War Round Table Associates, 1986.

"Slavery and Society in Nineteenth Century Texas," Annual Meeting of the Organization of American Historians, 1986.

"The Academic Historian as a Resource for Museums," Annual Meeting of the Texas State Historical Association, 1985.

"Planters and Plain Folk: The Social Structure of the Antebellum South," to Symposium entitled Interpreting Southern History: A Symposium in Honor of Sanford W. Higginbotham, Editor of the Journal of Southern History, Rice University, 1983.

"War Makes Its Widows by the Thousands: Theophilus and Harriet Perry of Marshall, Texas, 1861-1865," Spring meeting of the East Texas Historical Association, 1982.

"Harrison County: The Economics of Plantation Agriculture," To Symposium entitled Texana II: Cultural Heritage of the Plantation South, Jefferson, Texas, 1981.

“Reconstruction and ‘Redemption’ in Harrison County,” Annual Meeting of the Texas State Historical Association, 1980.

“Roots in East Texas, Family History from Local Records,” Annual Meeting of the East Texas Historical Association, 1977.

“The Biography of a Nineteenth Century Southern Community: Harrison County, Texas, 1850-1860,” Meeting of the Harrison County Historical Society, 1976.

Co-author, “County Tax Records: Assessing an Untaxed Source,” Annual Meeting, Southwestern Social Science Association, 1976.

Co-author, “Southern History from Local Archives: Antebellum Texas,” Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Social Science Association, 1974.

Co-author, “Age and Sex Distribution of Texas Slaves, 1860,” Annual Meeting of the Texas State Historical Association, 1973.

“Slavery in Harrison County, 1850-1860,” Semi-annual Meeting of the Texas State Historical Association, 1971.

“The Whig Party of Texas in the Elections of 1848 and 1851,” Annual Meeting of the Texas State Historical Association, 1969.

Session Chair/Discussant: Professional Meetings:

Discussant: “The Evolution of Slavery Studies in Texas,” Annual Meeting of the Texas State Historical Association, March 2017.

Chair and Discussant: “Andrew J. Torget’s *Seeds of Empire: Cotton, Slavery and the Transformation of the Texas Borderlands, 1800-1850*,” Annual Meeting of the East Texas Historical Association, October 2016.

Chair: “New Perspectives on Slavery in Early Texas,” Texas State Historical Association, 2012.

Discussant: “Editing Historical Journals in Texas,” East Texas Historical Association, 2010.

Chair: “The War on Poverty at the Grassroots,” Texas State Historical Association, 2009.

Chair, “Civil Rights, Race, Gender, and Political Activism in Texas: Lessons Learned from Robert ‘Bob’ Calvert,” Texas State Historical Association, 2007.

Discussant, Session entitled "What's New in Texas History? Fifteen Years after Texas Through Time, 1990-2005," Texas State Historical Association, 2006.

Chair, Phi Alpha Theta Session, Texas State Historical Association, 2005.

Discussant, Session entitled "Writing Texas History Textbooks," East Texas Historical Association, 2005.

Discussant, Session entitled "Gone to Texas: A History of the Lone Star State," Texas State Historical Association, 2004.

Chair, "Writing Texas Biography," Texas State Historical Association, 2003.

Commentator, "Communities in the Reconstructed South," The Historical Society, 2002.

Commentator, "Violence and Segregation: South Africa and the American South," The Historical Society, 1999.

Chair, "African-American Issues during the Civil War and Reconstruction in Texas," Texas State Historical Association, 1999.

Commentator, "Economic and Political Development in Nineteenth-Century Texas," Southwestern Social Science Association, 1998.

Discussant, "The New Handbook of Texas Project," Texas State Historical Association, 1996.

Chair, "Hanging Time in the Confederacy," Texas State Historical Association, 1996

Commentator, "Restructuring the U. S. Labor Market in the 19th Century," Southern Labor Studies Conference, 1995

Chair, "Planter Families in East Texas: Nineteenth-Century Fact and Twentieth-Century Fiction," East Texas Historical Association, 1995.

Chair and Commentator, "Southern Honor Under Siege: Dissent and Violence in Civil War Texas," Southern Historical Association, 1991.

Chair, "Demography and Historical Databases," Southern Historical Association, 1989.

Chair, "The Civil War Era in Texas," Southwestern Social Science Association, 1989.

Chair, "Reconstruction in East Texas," East Texas Historical Association, September 1986.

Discussant, "Texas in Transition: A Sesquicentennial Forum," Lyndon Baines Johnson Library, April 1986.

Chair, "Frontier Violence in Texas," Southwestern Social Science Association, March 1985.

Discussant, "Slaveholding and Non-slaveholding in the Southwest," Southwestern Social Science Association, March 1984.

Lectures, Workshops, and Consultant Work:

Lecture and document-based Workshop on Slavery in Texas for teacher institute sponsored by Humanities Texas, Denton June 2017.

Advisory Consultant to Texas Historical Commission, 2016-2018.

Keynote Address: "Sam Houston: Practical Leadership in Times of Crisis," Teaching of History Conference, University of North Texas, September 2014.

Lecture and document-based Workshop on Slavery in Texas for teacher institute sponsored by Humanities Texas, Dallas, October 2013.

Presentation: "Texas Confederate Pensions: The Curious Cases of Guy and Dora Shaw of Harrison County," at Dedication of Harrison County Courthouse Museum, September 2013.

Lecture and Workshop Session: "Emerging from Reconstruction," Workshop for Texas History Teachers, sponsored by Humanities Texas, Austin, February, 2011.

Lecture: "Woodrow Wilson and Idealism in American Foreign Policy," Teaching of History Conference, UNT, September 2010.

Lecture: "Benjamin Franklin: American Revolutionary," Denton Public Library, Program as part of Traveling Exhibit on Franklin, June 2009.

Lecture: "The Importance of Slavery in Texas," Farmers Branch Historical Park, February 2009.

Lecture: "Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass on Slavery and Race," Denton Public Library, February 2009.

Lecture and document-based Workshop on Texas from 1850 to 1865 for teacher institute sponsored by Humanities Texas at Trinity University, June 2008

Lecture and document-based Workshop on Slavery in Texas for teacher institute sponsored by Humanities Texas at the University of North Texas, June 2008

Lecture: "The Political Leadership of Theodore Roosevelt: Progressive Reform for Conservative Purposes," North Central Texas College Conference on American Leadership, April 2008.

Lecture: "Frederick Law Olmsted's Journey Through Texas," Farmers Branch Historical Park, May 2008.

Lecture: "Benjamin Franklin—Innovator," Teaching of History Conference, UNT, September 2008.

Lecture: "Practical Leadership in Times of Crisis: Sam Houston in Texas, 1832-1861" at Texas History Conference sponsored by Region VI, Education Service Center, Huntsville, January 2008

Lecture: "The Market Revolution," Teaching of Texas History Conference, UNT, September 2007.

Lecture: "Sam Houston," Teaching of History Conference, UNT, 2006.

Five Presentations: "Stephen F. Austin," "Sam Houston," "Thomas Jefferson," "Elizabeth Cady Stanton," and "John D. Rockefeller" for American History Institute at the Region 10 Education Service Center, Richardson, Texas, 2006; 2007.

Lecture: "The Radical Abolitionists," Teaching of History Conference, UNT, 2004.

Workshop: "The Biographical Approach to Teaching the Antebellum Period of United States History," Victoria Independent School District, 2004.

Lecture, "Sam Houston and the Secession Crisis in Texas," Winfield Lecture, Chappell Hill, Texas, 2004.

Lecture: "Gone To Texas: A History of the Lone Star State," Nesbitt Memorial Library, Columbus, Texas, 2004.

Luncheon Address, "Writing Gone to Texas: The Search for a Usable Past," Phi Alpha Theta Texas-Northeast Regional Conference, Denton, 2004.

Lecture, "Sam Houston in Texas," Blinn College Distinguished Lecture Series, Brenham, Texas, 2004.

Panelist, "The Eyes of Texas Revisited," Program for NT Exes/Gulf Coast, Houston, 2004.

Lecture, "Texans and Their History in the New Millennium," Clements Center Visiting Scholar Series, Southern Methodist University, 2003

Lecture, "Teaching History with Meaning," TEA-Sponsored TEKS Institute, Austin, 2003.

Lecture, "Teaching History with Meaning," TEA-Sponsored TEKS Institute, Dallas, 2003.

Lecture, "The Biographical Approach to History: Richard M. Nixon," Social Sciences Council, Richardson ISD, 2002.

Lecture, "Teaching History with Meaning," TEA-Sponsored TEKS Institute, San Antonio, 2002.

Lecture, "The Slave Family in Texas," Teaching of History Conference, UNT, 2001.

Lecture, "Booker T. Washington in Historical Perspective," AP Teachers Institute, Texas Christian University, 2001. **Same lecture to in-service workshop for teacher in the Garland Independent School District, 2001.

Lecture, "Juneteenth: The 'Day of Jubilee' for Texas Slaves," workshop entitled "Teach Across Texas Times" at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 2001

Lecture, "Slavery in Texas, 1821-1865: A Brief Overview with Emphasis on the Lower Brazos River Valley," Symposium entitled "Viewing the Past Through Different Lenses: The African-American Legacy in the Lower Brazos Valley," Lake Jackson, 2000.

Lecture, "The Non-Radical/Anti-Radical Nature of the New Deal," AP Teachers Institute, Texas Christian University, 2000.

Lecture, "Slavery in Texas: A Brief Overview," Forum on "Blazing Trails to Freedom: The Underground Railroad in Texas," Huntsville, 2000.

Consultant, Hill College History Complex, Museum Exhibit on Texans in the Civil War, 1999.

Lecture, "Sam Houston in Texas: Practical Leadership in Times of Crisis," to Phi Alpha Theta (history honor society), Texas A&M University, Commerce, 1999. *Same lecture to "General Sam Houston Birthday Celebration," Huntsville, 1999. **Same lecture at Farmers Branch Historical Park, 2000. **Same Lecture to Peters Colony Historical Society, Carrollton, 2001. **Same Lecture to teachers in Denton Independent School District, 2001.

"Slavery and the Cotton Economy of Antebellum Texas," Luncheon Address to the annual American Cotton Conference, American Cotton Museum, Greenville, 1998

Lecture, "Slavery in the Republic of Texas," Symposium on "Texas during the Republic," Galveston, 1998.

Lecture, "The Conditions of Slave Life in Bowie County, Texas," Texarkana Museums System, Texarkana, 1998.

Lectures on the Biographical Approach to History using Theodore Roosevelt as an illustration, in-service workshops for teachers in the Garland Independent School District and the Birdville Independent School District, 1996. **Same lecture to Advanced Placement Institute at UT Dallas, 1996. **Same lecture to teachers in Plano Independent School District, 2001.

"The World of Community History," Keynote Address to Conference on community history, University of Texas at Arlington, 1994.

"Sam Houston v. the 'Whipsters and Demagogues': Practical Leadership in Times of Crisis," Regents' Faculty Lecture, University of North Texas, 1993. Same lecture at Lamar University (1993), Regional Conference of Phi Alpha Theta at Nacogdoches (1993), Cooke County Heritage Society (1993), Rosenberg Library in Galveston (1994), Dallas Historical Society (1995).

"Topics in Texas History, 1821-1876," to In-Service for Richardson I.S.D., 1993

Consultant to Jones Farm 1820s Homestead Project at George Ranch Historical Museum in Fort Bend County, Texas, 1993, 1995.

Panel Discussion, Sam Houston Bicentennial Celebration, Sam Houston State University, 1993.

"Sam Houston's San Jacinto Campaign: A Triumph of Practical Leadership," to University of North Texas President's Council, 1993, to Friends of the Marshall Public Library, 1993, and to Tyrrell Historical Library Association (Beaumont), 1993.

"Sam Houston and the Secession Crisis in Texas," Lecture to Teaching of History Conference at the University of North Texas, 1992. Same lecture to Richardson I.S.D. Social Sciences Council, 1993. Same Lecture to Brazos Valley Civil War Roundtable, 1994.

"Local Sources for the History of Women in Texas," Lecture to Teaching of History Conference at the University of North Texas, 1991.

"The Civil War in Harrison County," Lecture in Marshall, Texas, at celebration of 150th Anniversary, 1991.

"The Importance of Slavery in Texas," Address to conference entitled "African-American History in Texas: Preserving and Sharing the Precious Legacy," Dallas, 1990. Also delivered to convocation at Lamar University in 1990, to the Dallas Historical Society in 1990, to the Historical Society of Denton County in 1990, to an Honors Convocation at Wayland Baptist University in 1992, to a workshop for history teachers at Corpus Christi in 1992, at Grayson County College in 1992, at in-service for teachers in Round Rock I.S.D. in 1993, and to teachers in the Denton Independent School District in 2002.

"The Context of Town and Community History," Workshop at annual meeting of East Texas Historical Association, 1989.

"The Portrayal of Slavery in Huck Finn" and "The Historical Context of Whitman's Leaves of Grass," Lectures to NEH Institute in Department of English at University of North Texas, 1989. As follow up to this institute, the lecture on slavery in Huck Finn was given at Irving Nimitz High School, Lewisville High School, a workshop for Dallas ISD teachers, Berkner High School, and a conference of high school social studies supervisors in Austin in 1990.

"Antebellum Texas, 1846-1861," Lecture to Texas History Institute at University of North Texas, 1989, 1991.

"Writing Local History," Workshop at annual meeting of Texas State Historical Association, 1989.

"Grassroots Reconstruction in Texas, 1865-1876," Lecture to Teaching of History Conferences at University of North Texas in 1988, 1989, and University of Texas at Austin in 1989.

"Research in Local History: Materials and Methods," Lecture to Institute of Texas Studies, University of Texas, 1988, 1991.

"The Slave Family in Antebellum Texas," Kathryn Stoner O'Connor Lecture on Texas History, Victoria College, 1988.

"The Slave Hire System in Texas," Eighth Annual J. Milton Nance Lecture, Texas A & M University, 1987.

"Slavery in Texas," Lecture at Phi Alpha Theta initiation meeting, East Texas State University, February 1986.

"Slavery in Texas," Lecture at Phi Alpha Theta initiation meeting, Wayland Baptist University, 1985.

"Teaching the U.S. Survey: The Biographical Approach," Conference on the Teaching of History sponsored by American Historical Association and North Texas State University, 1984.

Lectures on the biographical approach to the teaching of history for public school in-service workshops. Richardson, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1989. Garland, 1984, 1986. Carrollton/Farmer's Branch, 1988.

Consultant to Project 150, an exhibition on Texas History to be presented by a consortium of museums and historical associations as part of the state's sesquicentennial celebration, 1984.

"The Peculiar Institution: Negro Slavery in Antebellum Texas," Lecture to Symposium, "The South Reconsidered: New Perspectives in Southern History," North Harris County College, 1983.

"Slavery in East Texas," Lecture in a series on the historical heritage of East Texas, Henderson County Junior College, 1983.

"Richard M. Nixon: Representative of Cold War America," Lecture of Institute on History of the United States Since World War II, North Texas State University, 1983 - 1989.

"The Peculiar Institution: Negro Slavery in Texas," lecture in a series entitled The Texas Experience to 1865. Houston, 1983. Dallas, 1983. San Antonio, 1984. Tyler, 1985.

"Research Methods in Texas History," Graduate Institute Seminar, University of Texas at Austin, 1983.

"Antebellum Texas: Economic, Social, and Political Developments," Lecture to Institute of Texas Studies, University of Texas at Austin, 1980.

Consultant to Texas County Records Inventory Project, North Texas State University, 1979-1980.

“The Legacy of the Southern Plain Folk,” Lecture to Symposium on Plain Folk of the South at Enterprise State College, Enterprise, Alabama, 1979.

“Recent Research and the Teaching of Southern History,” Conference on the Teaching of History sponsored by the American Historical Association and North Texas State University, Fall, 1978.

“Reconstructing the Lives of the ‘Inarticulate,’ History from Local Records,” Lecture to Kingsbury Lyceum, North Texas State University, 1977.

“The Peculiar Institution: Negro Slavery in Texas,” Lecture to Institute of Texas Studies, University of Texas at Austin, 1974, 1976, 1978, 1980, 1982, 1984, 1986, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1994.

Advisory Committee on Museum of Antebellum Texas Agriculture, Winedale Farm near Round Top, Texas, 1972-1973.

Professional Associations -- Memberships and Service:

Southern Historical Association

Membership Committee, 1995

Program Committee, 1987-1988

Ramsdell Prize Committee, 1979-1981

Board of Editors, Journal of Southern History, 1980-1984

Texas State Historical Association

Chief Historian of the TSHA, 2008-2017

Editor, Southwestern Historical Quarterly, 2005-2017

Strategic Planning Committee, 2004

Governance Committee, 2003

President, 1993-1994

First Vice President, 1992-1993

Budget Committee, 1992-1993

Second Vice President, 1991-1992

Centennial Anniversary Committee, 1991-1996

Long-Range Planning Committee, 1989-1990

The New Handbook of Texas Advisory Committee, 1988-1999

Program Committee, 1982-1984, 1989-1990 (Chairman), 1990-1991

Executive Council, 1988-1991, 1994-1996

Fellows Committee, 1985-1986, 1986-1987, 1987-1988

Advisory Editor, The New Handbook of Texas, 1984-1996

Editorial Advisory Board, Southwestern Historical Quarterly, 1975-1980, 1987-1996

H. Bailey Carroll Award Committee, 1974-1979

Executive Nominating Committee, 1973, 1994, 2007

East Texas Historical Association

Chamberlain Prize Committee, 1983-1984, 1991-1992

Fellows Committee, 1985-1986, 1986-1987, 1988-1990, 1994-1995, 1996-1997

Board of Directors, 1987-1990

Summerlee Commission on Texas History, 1989-1991

Special Service to Department of History, College, or University:

Supervisor of Teaching Fellows and Teaching Assistants in Department of History, 1975-1979

Faculty Coordinator for Texas County Records Inventory Project, 1980-1981

Editor, Institutional Self-Study for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, 1983-1985

Director of Center for Studies in Local History, 1988-1995

Co-editor of Volume I of Our National Heritage: Essays in American History before 1865. Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company, 1989, Revised edition, 1993; Third Edition, [as Our Nation's Heritage] New York: American Heritage Custom Publishing Group, 1995, Fourth Edition, 1997, Fifth Edition, 1999. New Edition published by Thomson Learning Custom Publishing, 2002.

Member of Steering Committee and co-chair of section on Educational Programs, Institutional Self-Study for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, 1993-1995.

Member of College of Business Administration Dean Search Committee, 1995-1996.

Coordinator of Teaching of History Conference, 1996-1999.

Faculty Handbook Revision Task Force, 1997.

Advisory Committee for Selection of Regents Professors, 2000-2001.

Committee on the Organizational Structure of Engineering at UNT, 2001.

Sunset Review Committee, Bill J. Priest Center for Community College Education, 2004.

College of Arts and Sciences Strategic Planning Committee, 2005-2006.

Advisory Committee, Marie Roberts Fisher Distinguished Professorship, 2005-2007.

Regents Professor Selection and Review Committee, 2006-2009

Editor of Volume I of American Legacies: Readings in American History to 1865. Cengage Learning, a division of Wadsworth. 2010. [New reader for the Department of History.]

Faculty Advisor to UNT Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, 2017-

Honors:

Phi Beta Kappa, University of Virginia Chapter, 1966

Phi Eta Sigma, University of Virginia Chapter, 1958

Phi Kappa Phi, University of North Texas Chapter, 1975

H. Bailey Carroll Award from the Texas State Historical Association for best article in Volume LXXIII of Southwestern Historical Quarterly. 1970.

North Texas State University Student Activities Union "Favorite Professor" Award, 1973

Charles W. Ramsdell Award from the Southern Historical Association for best article in Journal of Southern History for 1973-1974

North Texas State University Student Government Association "Honor Professor" Award, 1977

Sallie M. Lentz Award, Harrison County Historical Society, 1981

C. K. Chamberlain Award - best article in Volume XIX of the East Texas Historical Journal.

Fellow of the East Texas Historical Association, 1982

Fellow of the Texas State Historical Association, 1985

Toulouse Scholar Award, University of North Texas, 1988

H. Bailey Carroll Award from the Texas State Historical Association for best article in Volume XCIII of the Southwestern Historical Quarterly, 1991.

Coral H. Tullis Memorial Prize from the Texas State Historical Association for most important book on Texas published in 1989.

Summerfield G. Roberts Award from the Sons of the Republic of Texas for best historical or creative writing on the Republic of Texas in 1989.

Friends of the Dallas Public Library Award from Texas Institute of Letters for most important contribution to knowledge by a Texas author in 1989.

Ottis G. Lock Award from East Texas Historical Association for Best Book, 1990.

Texas Historical Foundation Book Award for 1990.

C. K. Chamberlain Award from East Texas Historical Association for best article in volume XXVIII of the East Texas Historical Journal.

University of North Texas Student Association Honor Professor, 1993.

Ottis Lock Award from East Texas Historical Association - outstanding university teacher, 1995.

C. E. Berly Award from the Texas Gulf Historical Society for best article in the Texas Gulf Historical and Biographical Record, 1996.

Outstanding Academic Book for 1998 award from Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries for Grass-Roots Reconstruction in Texas, 1865-1880.

Elected to The Philosophical Society of Texas, 2000.

Elected to Texas Institute of Letters, 2002.

University of North Texas Student Government Association "Honor Professor" Award, 2003.

Annual Award for Best Book on Texas in 2003 from The Philosophical Society of Texas, 2004.

University of North Texas Student Government Association "Honor Professor" Award, 2005.

University of North Texas Eminent Faculty Award, 2013.