

April 2017

Texas Ranger Hall of Fame Newsletter

Sponsored by the City of Waco

Official State Historical Center of the Texas Rangers

Home of Texas Ranger Bicentennial 1823-2023

WORLD WAR I EXHIBIT OPENS

April 6, 1917 will be the centennial of the United States' entry into the Great War. In commemoration, our exhibits team completed the installation of our newest exhibit, "Texas Rangers and World War I". The Texas Rangers had already been engaged for years on the border with Mexico, particularly dangerous during the Mexican Revolution, and their workload only increased after America joined the conflict. Overtures from Germany for an alliance with Mexico heightened the distrust and fueled the violence. They added chasing and apprehending draft evaders and deserters to their long list of duties. One Texas Ranger was killed in East Texas by deserters from the US Army. Controversial "Loyalty Rangers"—untrained, local civilians, not regular Texas Rangers—were signed up to keep an eye on their communities and monitor unpatriotic individuals. The new exhibit tells the story with artifacts, illustrations and photographs from those days.



"We think it came out well. Come on over to Waco and take a look!" - Rusty Bloxom, Research Librarian of the Armstrong Texas Ranger Research Center and lead of the WWI exhibit committee.

Remembering the Sutton-Taylor Feud

In 1868 DeWitt County in south Texas was an area of close-knit extended families including that of Texas Ranger Creed Taylor and local sheriff William Sutton. Arguments between the Suttons and Taylors erupted in shootings and lynching, a feud that ultimately took 35 lives and involved outlaw John Wesley Hardin. In 1877 Texas Ranger Captain Jesse Lee Hall rode into the county seat of Cuero with his Rangers and ended the violence.

Some years ago Mrs. Cynthia Salm, a descendant of the Suttons, loaned the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame materials associated with families involved in the feud. In March she visited and donated the collection to the people of Texas, along with additional documents and personal effects. Stories of several generations, from Reconstruction to World War I, are told in the pocket watches, lace, clothing, silver teas sets, children's toys, Civil War-era sheet music and family Bibles. A World War I Service Flag displayed in the new "Texas Rangers and World War I" exhibit. We are grateful to Mrs. Salm for this legacy.



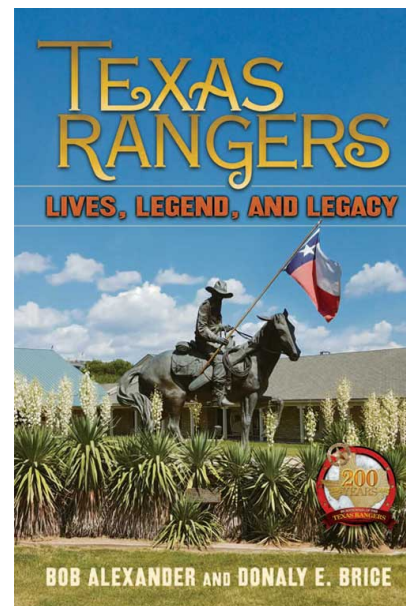
For more information on the Sutton-Taylor Feud, please [click here](#) to visit the Handbook of Texas Online.

NEW RANGER HISTORY BOOK

Texas Rangers: Lives, Legend, and Legacy is the first comprehensive single-volume history of the Texas Rangers published since the 1935 book *The Texas Rangers: A Century of Frontier Defense* by Walter Prescott Webb. It is especially fitting that this publication is the initial book on the "recommended readings" for the Texas Ranger Bicentennial.™

Noted authors Bob Alexander and Donaly E. Brice explain the origins of law enforcement on the Texas frontier and how it has adapted through three centuries and shaped the history of the State. This work includes a look at the current duties of the Texas Rangers.

Published by the University of North Texas Press, it will be available from the museum gift shop at the end of July. Watch for future book recommendations as part of the Bicentennial readings series.



REGISTER FOR SUMMER CAMP

Kids, come discover the challenges of life on the Texas frontier! In partnership with the Texas Top Guns Frontier Battalion Company "D" re-enactment organization, the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum will host its Texas Ranger Day Camp on Friday, June 16th from 8:30 a.m. until Noon. Campers will have the opportunity to interact with Nineteenth Century Rangers as they perform such tasks as making rope, tooling leather and cooking on a Dutch oven. The program will culminate in a performance by the Top Guns!



Registration is open to all children entering the fourth, fifth and sixth grades; registration closes June 12. Campers are requested to wear closed-toe shoes and sunscreen; water and a snack will be provided. \$25.00 per camper. Please call (254) 750-8631 to register.

DAN RATHER VISITS TRHFM

During spring break and on Saturday, March 18th, Dan Rather visited the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum with his grandson.

Daniel Irvin "Dan" Rather, Jr. was born on October 31, 1931, in Wharton, Texas. In 1953, he earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from Sam Houston State University. Rather is most famous as the anchor of the *CBS Evening News* from 1981-2005 and as a correspondent for *60 Minutes* from 1968-1981 and 1999-2006.



Our thanks to Mr. Rather for letting us photograph his visit. For more on Dan Rather's career, please [click here](#).

RANGER PENA ENTERTAINS VISITORS

On Saturday, March 11th, Texas Ranger Patrick Pena, Company "F," entertained visitors with presentations on the modern duties of the Texas Rangers including how he became a Texas Ranger. After the presentations, Ranger Pena spoke one-on-one with our visitors and posed for photographs. Thank you, Ranger Pena!



Left to Right: Alyssa (age 10), Ranger Pena, Haley (age 9).

MAKING THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum was recently mentioned in *The New York Times* when journalist Jeremy Egner looked at the history of Texas based TV series. In the section about TV show *Walker, Texas Ranger*, he tells readers to "Visit the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum in Waco and you'll find fascinating artifacts and plenty of lore surrounding the mythic, still active law enforcement group."



Please [click here](#) to read the article.

Howard Blount expresses "Why am I Wild About Waco, Texas?" in his article for *Roadtrip Planet*. Mr. Blount declares, "Homestead Heritage Craft Village, Waco Mammoth National Monument, the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame, Dr Pepper Museum and Magnolia Marketplace at the Silos are great reasons to be wild about Waco!"



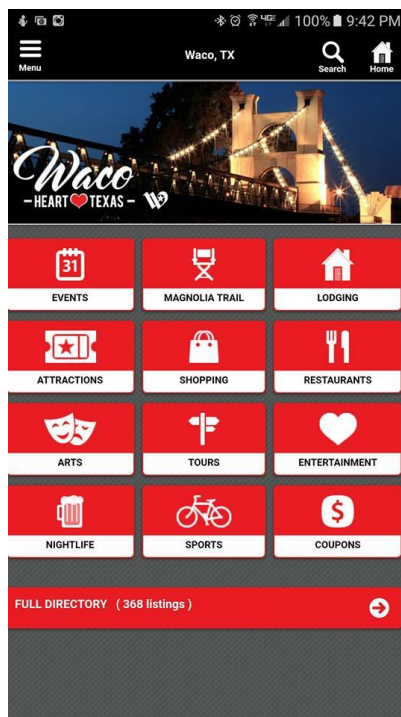
Please [click here](#) to read the article.

NEW OFFICIAL MOBILE APP FOR WACO VISITORS

The number of tourists visiting Waco increased 316% in 2016, from 600,000 to 1.9 million. To assist travelers the Waco Convention & Visitors Bureau created a free mobile app guiding visitors to lodging, attractions, shopping, restaurants, walking tours, public transportation and more. It is available for Android and iPhone.



To find the app, go to the [Play Store \(Android\)](#) or the [App Store \(Apple\)](#). Search for "waco tx," or just "waco" and look for the heart icon with a W in the middle.



The Waco Convention & Visitors Bureau is a department of the City of Waco.

In MEMORIAM: JOE A. BROWNFIELD

The board and staff of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum note the passing of Joe Alex Brownfield, 93, on March 29th. A community benefactor and history buff, he donated a gallery in 1985 in memory of his son, Joe Troy Brownfield.

The Joe Troy Brownfield Gallery houses modern case files and equipment of the Texas Rangers and tells the story of how forensic science has evolved over the decades.

We remember Mr. Brownfield's generous support of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum and offer the family our condolences.



QUICK LINKS



- [Website](#)
- [Gift Shop](#)
- [Knox Center](#)
- [Education Center](#)
- [Education Programs](#)
- [Research Center](#)
- [Distinguished Service](#)
- [Museum Video](#)
- [Texas Ranger Bicentennial](#)
- [Bicentennial Video](#)
- [Texas Ranger Association](#)
- [Foundation](#)

EDUCATION CENTER



The following groups utilized the Education Center for programs in March:

- Texas Rangers
- DPS Criminal Investigative Division
- Texas Workforce Commission
- Department of State Health Services
- AFP
- NAACP

YOUR SUPPORT



Please remember the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum for your tax-deductible donations.

For more information, please contact Christine Rothenbush, Marketing and Development Specialist, at (254) 750-8631. Thank you.

Newsletter compiled by Christine Rothenbush, Marketing & Development Specialist

STAY CONNECTED:



SAVE \$2.00

Save \$1.00 off regular adult admission for up to two adults.

Coupon not valid on discounted senior or military admission. No cash value.

The museum is open 9am to 5pm with the last guest admitted at 4:30pm. The museum is located off I-35 and University Parks Drive in Waco, Texas.

For more information, call (254) 750-8631 or visit www.texasranger.org.

Offer Expires 05/31/2017.