

Like 11 Share

Share:

Tweet

-
-
-
-

[View as Webpage](#)



August 2019

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

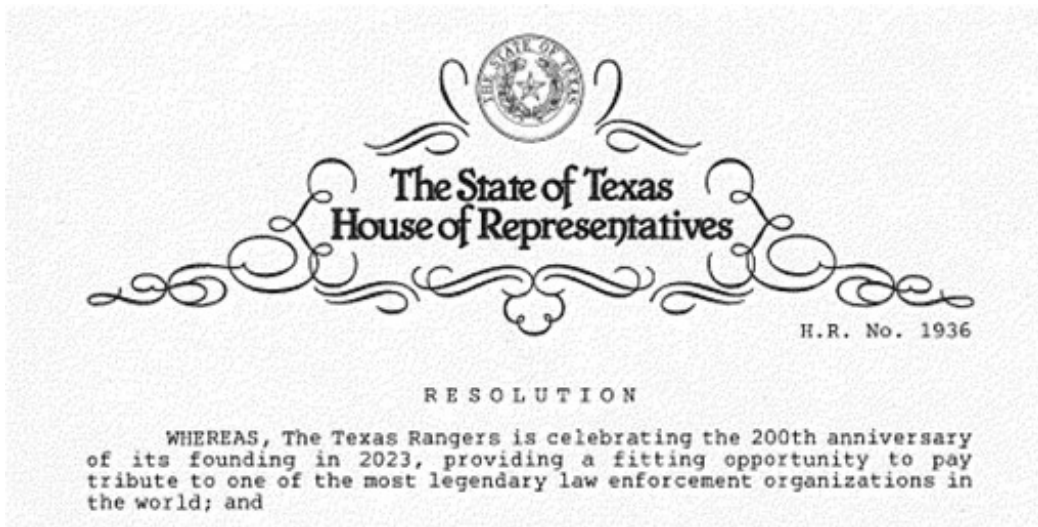
Texas House Bicentennial Resolution



In 2023 the Texas Rangers will commemorate the 200th anniversary of their founding. They are the oldest law enforcement organization on the North American continent with statewide jurisdiction , having served under five flags.

In 2013, the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum was appointed steward of the **Texas Ranger Bicentennial™** to publicize, assist and coordinate events statewide for the anniversary.

In May, the Texas House of Representatives of the 86th Legislature in Resolution H.R. 1936 commemorated the 200th anniversary of the Texas Rangers and the service of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum as the official historical center of the Rangers. Much more to come as we approach this landmark anniversary in American law enforcement.



Texas Ranger Simpson Crawford's Artifacts



Benny Busbee with Texas Ranger Simpson Crawford's Colt .45 Revolver.

Benny Busbee, the great-grandson of Texas Ranger Simpson Crawford, generously presented the Museum and the People of Texas with his great-grandfather's Colt SAA .45 caliber revolver, Winchester 1873 Rifle and personal effects. Ranger Crawford's stock saddle was previously donated by his granddaughter Helen Crawford. The exhibits team at the Museum is currently preparing an exhibit that will feature these artifacts, along with Ranger Crawford's saddle.

Texas Ranger Simpson Crawford

Born in Kentucky in 1824, Simpson Crawford served in the U.S. Army during the Mexican War. He fought at the Battle of Vera Cruz, and participated in the advance to Mexico City.

Having seen Texas in the war, he relocated his family to Titus County in 1852 settling on a 320-acre farm. In 1855, he moved to the Keechi Valley to try his hand at the more lucrative cattle trade. Beginning with 500 head, he eventually acquired over 3,000 acres of land and cattle, prospering with the expansion of the railroads after the Civil War.



The donation of artifacts belonging to Texas Ranger Simpson Crawford.

Simpson Crawford served as a Texas Ranger in 1860 under Captain J.J. Cureton, patrolling the frontier for Comanche and Apache raiding parties. The frontier settlements were particularly vulnerable during the Civil War period, as young men from across Texas left to fight for the Confederacy.

After his Ranger service and a successful life in cattle and land trading, Simpson died in 1908.

Artifacts from Rangers of this period are rare, and we are grateful to donor Benny Busbee for his generous gift of these items to the Museum.

Education in Action Brings 5,000+ Students



Education in Action is a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering young people to be informed and active leaders in their communities. One of their programs is **Discover Texas Field Trips**, which offers students structured field trips to supplement what students are learning in the classroom. The visits are matched to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) standards and include Texas Ranger history.



In 2018, working with our Education Coordinator Audrey Ladd, the organization brought more than 5,000 children from the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex to the Museum in Waco. According to Education in Action's annual report, the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum was the 3rd most popular destination after the Texas State Capitol and the Bullock Texas State History Museum, just ahead of the Alamo.

Discovering the Legend : Texas Ranger Matt Cawthon



Discovering the Legend is a series of TV programs about Texas Ranger history, artifacts and art, and modern Ranger duties. It is produced in cooperation with the Texas Rangers, City of Waco, historians, and donors, as part of our mission to disseminate knowledge and inspire an appreciation of the Texas Rangers.

This episode features an interview with retired Texas Ranger Matt Cawthon, who served in Company "F" in Waco. He discusses his career in Texas DPS, his specialized sniper training, and his memories of working in the field.

Please [***click here***](#) to watch the interview.

Our two final summer ***Texas Ranger Talks!*** programs are on this Saturday, August 3rd and Saturday, August 17th. Admission to the presentation is included with general museum admission. Presentations are at 10am and 2pm.

August 3rd **Captain Richard Sweaney, Retired**

August 17th **Texas Ranger Jake Burson, Co. "F"**

Please note:** Dates and speakers are subject to change. Keep an eye on our [website***](#) and [***Facebook page***](#) or call 254-750-8631!

Lt. Thomas' Interview with Wacoan Magazine



Kevin Tankersley interviewed Co. "F" Lieutenant James Thomas for the article, "Having a Drink with James Thomas," in the ***Wacoan Magazine***.

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

To watch an interview with the Lt. Thomas for our ***Discovering the Legend*** TV program, please [click here](#).

In both the article and TV interviews, he discusses his career and the role of the Texas Rangers in modern law enforcement.

New TSRA Calendar Coming in 2020



In mid-July, photographer Robert Langham and his associate Dr. Loyd Sneed visited the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum. Together with the Collections Department, they selected notable firearms and artifacts from the collection to photograph for the ***Texas State Rifle Association (TSRA)*** 2020 Calendar. If you bought one of the calendars last year, you may remember the photographs of the pistols, boots, spurs, and badges of such famous Texas Rangers as Frank Hamer and Jack Hays.

We are pleased to work with the Texas State Rifle Association on this project again, and with the talented Mr. Langham.

Be on the lookout for the upcoming TSRA 2020 calendar later this year!



Texas Ranger Bicentennial Anniversary Tribute Rifle Just Released

To support the educational and preservation programs of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame, the State has authorized the licensing of selected commemoratives. One of these is a Model 1866 Commemorative rifle by America Remembers recalling the Winchester "Yellow Boys" known for their bright brass receivers.



"This Tribute proudly celebrates the honor, courage, sacrifice, and service of the legendary Texas Rangers. What began as a call to action on the frontier has spawned a legacy of dedicated lawmen who have adapted to the times and continue to shape the future of American law enforcement. This is your chance to own a piece of Texas history, American history, and an enduring testament to the strength and integrity of those who sacrificed all to preserve law and order."



Only 500 commemoratives are available at \$2,495, with a portion benefiting the Museum.

To order, please [***follow this link***](#) .

Flags Donated for use in the Education Center

We want to thank the Sterling C. Robertson Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and the Waco Village Chapter of the Children of the Republic of Texas for their generous donation of standing flags for the TRHFM Education Center.

The new Texas and American flags will now be available for use by Texas DPS and all the local community nonprofits who use the Education Center for meetings, trainings and other programs.



Left: Audrey Ladd accepts flags from DRT representative Susan Merritt and CRT representative Emery Black. Joining them are Emery's sister Parker and mother Marsha.
Right: Emery Black is sworn in as the new Historian by Susan Merritt.

Following the presentation of the flags, Emery Black was sworn in as the Historian for Waco Village Chapter of the Children of the Republic of Texas. Emery is a cousin of the notable Cynthia Ann Parker.

If your nonprofit organization is interested in learning more about the Education Center as a possible meeting or event space, please visit our [website](#).

In the Press: *Cowboys & Indians* Feature



On July 2nd, Stephen Hunt published a feature on the Museum for ***Cowboys & Indians*** online magazine.

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

In the Press: *National Parks Traveler*



On July 26th, Jim Stratton published a feature on the Waco Mammoth National Monument that included a highlight of TRHFM for ***National Parks Traveler*** online magazine.

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

New Downtown Waco Mural

A major component of the booming art scene in Waco are the many new murals appearing around town. The newest mural includes historic icons in Waco - to the top right is the original Museum sign and our "Texas Ranger" bronze sculpture by artist Don Hunt.

To find the location of this and other murals in Waco, please visit the Waco & The Heart of Texas' [mural page](#) . To see photographs of the artists working on the various murals, please see Waco Tribune Herald's [photo gallery](#) .



Artist Tony Bryant brings images of Waco's past to life on the side of Ambold's Key, Lock & Alarm building on Franklin Avenue. Photograph courtesy Jerry Larson, *Waco Tribune Herald* .

Texas Ranger Bicentennial™ Partners Program

Be part of the Texas Ranger Bicentennial! The Texas Rangers will commemorate their landmark 200th anniversary in 2023. With a \$100 contribution, you will receive:

1. A limited-edition enameled bronze pin featuring the official Texas Ranger Bicentennial™ seal
2. A certificate signed by an active or distinguished retired Texas Ranger
3. Your name or family name on the online roster of Bicentennial Partners™
4. A one-time-use family admission ticket (admits 4) to the Museum.

\$90 of the contribution qualifies as a charitable contribution. The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame is a 170(c) government-owned nonprofit.

Please [click here](#) to learn more about the program.



Official Texas Rangers Bicentennial Pin
 Trademarked by the Texas Dept. of Public Safety
 Designed by the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and
 Museum



Quick Links

[Website](#)

[Gift Shop](#)

[Knox Center](#)

[Education Center](#)

[Education Programs](#)

[Research Center](#)

[Active Texas Rangers](#)

[Distinguished Service](#)

[Museum Video](#)

[Texas Ranger Bicentennial](#)

[Bicentennial Video](#)

[Texas Ranger Association Foundation](#)

[Facebook](#)

Education Center

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

DPS Highway Patrol

Daughters of the Republic of Texas

Children of the Republic of Texas

Hill Country Community Action Association

Waco Center for Youth

Baylor University School of Education

NAACP

**ENJOY
\$2.00 OFF**

Expires 9/30/2019

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.

Newsletter Compiled by Christine Rothenbush, Marketing & Development Specialist

Confirm that you like this.

Click the "Like" button.