



# THE PIG & SNAKE

News from the Executive Director

“Who are the Pigs, and who are the Snakes?”

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## First Board Meeting

The First Annual Board of Directors Meeting occurred on May 16-17 at the Trey Deuce Farm near Cranfills Gap, Texas. Robert Maberry, Jr., hosted the two-day event. We discussed a number of issues related to the foundation, including issues relating to the responsibilities and roles of board members and the creation of committees to oversee efforts such as Fund Raising, Institutional Mission, Public Relations, Membership Issues, Grants and Programs, and Budget Issues. Board members volunteered to lead various committees and set short and long range goals.

By now, Foundation members who were selected to serve on a committee or in some other capacity have been notified. At the board meeting held during the Southern Historical Association Meeting (5-8 November), committee chairs will be expected to make reports. This meeting will be held at 3:00 P.M., Thursday afternoon, in the **McWhiney Suite (Room 1258)** of the Radisson Hotel in Atlanta.

## Jerry Coffey Memorial Prize

Between the Board Meeting and dinner (supper in some parts), around 4:00 P.M., an informal reception will be held in honor of Dr. Richard Bruce Winders, the first recipient of the Jerry Coffey Memorial Prize, which is the first book award sponsored by the McWhiney Foundation. This \$250 cash prize and plaque, funded by the family of Jerry Coffey, is awarded to the outstanding book published the previous year on 19th Century military history. The first years' prize recipient was chosen by David Coffey. In subsequent years, David will be assisted by prize committee members including Tom Mays and Bruce Winders. Each year, the winner will rotate onto the committee for the following year's pick. See this years' SHA program for an ad describing the prize.

## Symposium at McMurry University

Many of you received a letter describing an event on October 18 at McMurry University on the future of Confederate history. This program has been moved to the first weekend of October 1998 to allow the foundation to get promotions literature, etc., in place.

On October 25, 1997, the McWhiney Foundation will sponsor a workshop to discuss the future of Fort Phantom Hill, Texas, an 1850s army post north of Abilene. The owners of the property want to use it for educational purposes, and have asked us to advise them by sponsoring an event in which our members and invited experts from across the state will come to McMurry and share their ideas on potential projects and appropriate uses for the site. The Summerlee Foundation of Dallas gave us \$2,750 to underwrite the cost of the event.

### The McWhiney Scholar's Program

Two students have been working part-time for the Foundation since May. They are Josh Winegarner (junior/Spearman, Texas) and Amy Wilson (senior/Clovis, New Mexico). Since Doc and I have both found them absolutely indispensable, we have decided to institutionalize their positions as "McWhiney Scholars" instead of merely being hired hands. This gives them a line on their vita and gives us goodwill points with the local administration.

Amy Wilson will be in Atlanta to coordinate foundation events. She will host the receptions, make dinner reservations, call the concierge for whatever we need, etc.

### Doc is an Abilenian

For those of you who do not know, Grady McWhiney has moved to Abilene. He has accepted the position of Distinguished Scholar in Residence at McMurry University. The school has donated 1,100 sq ft of space to house Doc and his entire library, and has hired--for us--Tracy Shilcutt as Collections Manager. She is responsible for organizing Doc's books and getting the library in working order, as well as helping the Foundation in a number of other ways. The books remain property of the foundation; they are not part of McMurry's holdings.

Doc's new address and phone numbers are:

1218 Highland Ave

Abilene, Texas 79605

(915) 677-1880 (Home)

(915) 691-6681 (McMurry)

Call him and see how he is doing. He appears to like Abilene very well, and is amazed that such a town still exists in the United States . . . .

### The Ryan Place Purchase Continues to Grind Along

For those of you who have not been keeping up with this saga, we made an offer to Ryan Place Publishers to purchase the Commanders and Campaigns series with an 1 August deadline to reach an agreement. They failed to meet our requirements. However, one of the partners assures us that they are willing to sell for our asking price of \$25,000, but the Foundation has not been contacted in any official way by Ryan Place. It has been my reaction, then, to treat such information as mere rumor and innuendo. I will assume they will be back in touch when they are ready to deal, and we then negotiate a new price. In the meantime, all McWhiney Foundation members should proceed with their dealings with Ryan Place as though they are a separate and discreet entity--which they remain.

### Don't Forget the Party . . . What About a Field Trip?

I look forward to seeing you all Thursday afternoon at the Southern. The party will be held in **Room 1258**. Any donations to the party (food, beverage, or cash) will be appreciated. Is anyone organizing a field trip this year? Amy Wilson will be on hand to coordinate, if someone wants to take the lead . . . .