



THE PIG & SNAKE

News from the McWhiney Foundation

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

November 1999

Volume 3, Number 1

Letter from the Executive Director

Many months have past since last you heard from me, and I apologize for this lack of attention. My only excuse is to say that since we last spoke, the McWhiney Foundation has grown enormously. You are now supporters of a fully integrated history education endeavor that has few parallels. Let me explain.

We held our first Future of Confederate History symposium in September 1998. Many of you were there. Since that time, much has transpired. In June, 1999, Dr. Robert F. Pace joined the faculty at McMurry University as Associate Professor of History. He also assumed the position of Director of Educational Programs for the McWhiney Foundation. Dr. David Coffey took the position of Historian-in-Residence at McMurry University and assumed the position of Director of Operations for the foundation.

Robert's foundation duties include oversight of future symposia, the development of pedagogical components for the McWhiney Foundation Press, management of the McWhiney Collection, development of electronic media resources, and other educational components of the foundation's mission. David's foundation duties include management of our commercial enterprises--The McWhiney Foundation Press and the Buffalo Gap Historic Village.

In short, the foundation has received much needed reinforcements. Let me now describe the various programs of the Grady McWhiney Research Foundation.

The McWhiney Foundation Press

Started in 1996, the publishing arm of the foundation will publish its twentieth title this spring. We are a member organization of the Texas A&M University Press Consortium, and have enjoyed strong sales of the popular Civil War Commanders and Campaigns series. The new titles are now available in cloth as well as paper editions. Next year we will also publish two books outside the series. One is an edited collection of essays from noted historians that deal with the history of the region along the Clear Fork of the Brazos River in Shackelford and Throckmorton counties, Texas. The second project, yet to be titled, will be an edited volume of more than one hundred letters written by a private in the 5th South Carolina Cavalry. Direct any questions about future titles and acquisitions to David.

Future projects will include an anthology of Grady McWhiney's essays on Confederate leaders, which will mark his return to writing after several years. In addition, his *Civil War Primer* will be reworked and released as a Civil War era workbook for the textbook adoption market. Anyone who teaches U.S. History Survey and finds the treatment of this period of history frustrating should welcome the *Civil War Primer* as a useful supplement to their survey text.

November 1999

The Buffalo Gap Historic Village

The acquisition of this facility in September 1999 revealed the depth of support we have in the community. Established back in the 1950s as a tourist museum, the Buffalo Gap Historic Village grew under the ownership of private individuals until it encompassed nineteen buildings from 1875-1923, a store, and more than 9,500 books and artifacts. During those years, it became a cultural and tourist icon in the region, and claimed some 17,000 visitors a year. We are greatly honored to have been entrusted with this major donation.

Our plans are to continue to operate it as a heritage tourism attraction. In addition, we hope to expand the programming of the facility to include teacher training workshops, internships, and living history interpretations. We also hope to refocus the retailing operation to more of a historical museum store focus.

Several observers have questioned the propriety of taking on this challenge. Obviously one of our biggest chores will be to make the facility self-supporting and profitable. Although we certainly understood these concerns, the board of the McWhiney Foundation saw the acquisition of the Buffalo Gap Historic Village as being a great boon to the heart and soul of our mission—excellence in history education. Now we have a rural, tranquil facility in which to train teachers and students while advancing the issues keen to the McWhiney Foundation. This will also allow us to begin to support a public history emphasis in our educational programming.

The McWhiney Collection

As you know, Grady's papers and personal library comprise the bulk of the collection. We are making great strides in getting his papers in order and useable to researchers, and plan to have an index and abstracts available within a year. To that end, we have hired Cameron Buchanan to serve as collection manager, tasked with getting the facility in order.

We have increased our holdings with the acquisition of a scattering of Civil War letters in the collection, include one written from Vicksburg, several written by a member of the 34th Iowa Infantry, and an extensive series written by a soldier in the 24th Texas Cavalry.

If you have papers or research that you think would find a suitable home in our collection, we would love to have it. Historians often photocopy documents at various repositories but find them no longer useful after the book they were writing is completed. These materials would be wonderful for our collection, so keep us in mind.

Educational Programs

This new component will fully begin to flower in the coming year. We did not receive funding to conduct a second Future of Confederate History symposium, but we were able to bring Forrest McDonald to Abilene in October to present a series of public lectures. We received a grant to conduct a symposium on April 11 dealing with issues in Texas History. It will be open to the public but will be aimed at public school teachers. This will be our first such event held at Buffalo Gap Historic Village.

We are now heritage tourism partners with the Texas Forts Trail, an initiative of the Texas Historical Commission. As part of that, we have been asked by a significant donor to create a squad of 1850s U.S. infantry for promotional and demonstration duty in the area. This will be a great teaching and educational tool, and will expand our public outreach while helping us to promote our various endeavors within the foundation.

In addition, we will develop web-based teaching aides to enhance the usefulness of the Civil War Campaigns and Commanders series for teachers. We will also be posting a number of other useful items on our internet site, such as a series of maps showing where Texas troops served during the Civil War. Also, we hope to have our book and artifact collection searchable at this site. If you have interesting research or information that you think might be appropriate for the site, do not hesitate to contact us. We should have the site up and running under our own domain name, www.mcwhiney.org, by the end of the academic year.

All things considered, it has been a very busy year. Thank you again for your indulgence this last year. In the meantime, send me your news and correct surface and e-mail addresses.

D. Frazier

McWHINEY FOUNDATION FASHION

Now you can own Pig and Snake apparel. Many of you saw the shirts at the Southern. Now, you can own them. We have polo style or long sleeve, and would consider making ties. Send size, style and color preference and other fashion inquiries to David Coffey at (915) 793-4682 or e-mail him at dacoffey41@aol.com.

McWHINEY'S LAST STUDENTS EARN PhDs.

Dr. Grady McWhiney's last student, David Coffey, successfully defended his dissertation; *The Soldier Princess: The Life and Legend of Agnes Salm-Salm in North America, 1861-1867*; and was conferred the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from Texas Christian University in June of 1999. Grady McWhiney and Gene Smith (a Foundation Fellow) were both on David's dissertation committee.

Dallas Cothram, another of McWhiney's students, was also successful in defending his dissertation, a military biography of General Joe Shelby, and was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from Texas Christian University in May of 1999.

Please join with me in congratulating David, Dallas, and Grady for their hard work and dedication to the history profession and all academia. We look forward to seeing great things from David and Dallas.

ADDRESS CHANGE:

Grady McWhiney
3566 Winston Road
Fort Worth 76109
(Phone number is unchanged)

November 1999

McWHINEY FOUNDATION PRESS UPDATE

We're still getting a feel for the publishing business (there's a lot more to it than meets the eye) but thanks to our patient friends at Texas A&M University Press, we've managed to make a nice start. As a member of the Texas A&M Press Consortium, we are now marketed worldwide and backed by an experienced publishing team.

During our first full year of operation, we've focused on the continuation of the popular Civil War Campaigns and Commanders Series. The series made a strong return in 1998 with David Coffey's *John Bell Hood and the Struggle for Atlanta*, for which Coffey garnered an invitation to the Texas Book Festival in Austin as a featured author, and Clyde Wilson's *James Johnston Pettigrew and His Men at Gettysburg*. This summer, the series continues with the release of Terrence Winschel's *Vicksburg: Fall of the Confederate Gibraltar*. Also this summer comes the second edition of Perry D. Jamieson's highly successful *Death in September*. And for the first time in the series, this year's titles will come in cloth editions as well as the traditional paper treatment. This fall we will issue our eighteenth and nineteenth titles: Steven Woodworth's *This Grand Spectacle: The Battle of Chattanooga* and Ari Hoogenboom's *Rutherford B. Hayes: "One of the Good Colonels."* For the year 2000 we plan to release our twentieth title *Jefferson Davis's Greatest General: Albert Sidney Johnston* by Charlie Roland.

While we remain dedicated to the Campaigns and Commanders Series, we are looking to expand our offerings to include individual works within our areas of attention. For example, you can expect a new collection of essays from Grady McWhiney in the near future and a U.S. Civil War survey (Grady McWhiney's *A Civil War Primer*) suitable for adoption in your U.S. History courses.

We also hope to launch a new series devoted to Texas military history. We are quite pleased with our progress but we can do much better. We encourage you, as Fellows, to promote the McWhiney Foundation Press, to adopt our titles for your classes, and to persuade your local bookstores to carry our books. Every little bit helps.

PACE MOVES TO ABILENE

This past June, Robert Pace, a McWhiney Foundation Fellow and board member, moved to Abilene to accept an Associate Professor position in the McMurry University Department of History. Pace's relocation to Abilene (from Farmville, VA) is a tremendous asset to the McWhiney Foundation. His presence on campus will enable him to assist in the daily operations of the Foundation.

Utilizing his extensive web training, one of Pace's first responsibilities will be to update and then maintain the Foundation website (currently at <http://www.mcm.edu/academic/depts/grady/gmrfhome.htm>) - but will be www.mcwhiney.org by the beginning of the year 2000.

If you have any suggestions for the website or just want to talk with Robert, he can be reached by phone at (915) 793-3865 or via e-mail pacer@mcmurryadm.mcm.edu. His new home phone number is (915) 695-4982, and his address is 5317 Hunters Circle - Abilene, TX. - 79606.

BOOK PRIZE: 20 ENTRIES

Publishers entered some twenty books for consideration for The Third Annual Jerry Coffey Memorial Book Prize. The selection committee is David Coffey, McWhiney Foundation Press, Abilene; Bruce Winders, The Alamo, and Tom Mays, Quincy University, Quincy, Illinois. The Jerry Coffey prize this year went to Tracy Power for his book *Lee's Miserables*.

Please mention this prize to your colleagues. We had some thirty-five entries last year, and would like to see more. The prize is awarded to the best work on Nineteenth Century Military History, including superior fiction, published in the previous academic year. The deadline is May 1st.

Four copies of the work should be forwarded to:

The Grady McWhiney Research Foundation
Jerry Coffey Book Prize
Box 637
McMurry University
Abilene, Texas
79697

SUPPORTERS

Our annual giving campaign has met with enthusiastic but limited success. Twenty-one supporters are currently enrolled, with the top donation being \$1,000.

As you can imagine, donations are even more critical now. If you know of anyone who might be interested in contributing to the work of the McWhiney Foundation, have them contact us at (915) 793-3862. All donations are tax deductible, and we will send a receipt.

MCWHINEY COLLECTION THANKS YOU!

Many thanks to all of you who have contributed books and other research materials to the McWhiney Collection. If you have old photocopies of manuscripts, microfilm rolls, etc., that you would like to be shed of, consider sending them to us. They would be put to good use.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our second McWhiney Foundation symposium will be held April 11, 2000. The topic this time will be Texas and U.S. History, and is partially underwritten by the Summerfield G. Roberts Foundation.