

HOG AND SNAKE

NEWSLETTER OF THE GRADY MCWHINEY RESEARCH FOUNDATION

THE GRADY MCWHINEY RESEARCH FOUNDATION IS DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP RELEVANT TO 19TH CENTURY AMERICAN HISTORY, CIVIL WAR HISTORY, TEXAS HISTORY, AND GLOBAL MILITARY HISTORY.

WWW.MCWHINEY.ORG

SOUTH 14TH AND SAYLES BLVD., ABILENE, TX 79697

JANUARY 2003

FROM THE PRESENT

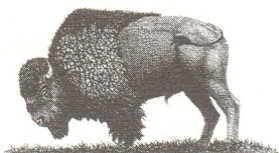
The year 2002 was a year of wise adjustments and changes for the Foundation. We hope to make each year more memorable than its predecessor. We continue to offer events that, in all we do, are educational, fun, and have a special emphasis on history.

FROM THE PAST – 2002

We want to personally thank each of our guests in their support of last year's events. The highlights:

Fiction as History – An informal discussion with Stephen Harrigan, author of *The Gates of the Alamo*, and Alan Huffines, author of *The Pilgrim Shadow*, sponsored by Raymond and Gloria McDaniel. McMurry University donated the use of its Mabee Room. The original Courthouse of Taylor County, located inside Buffalo Gap Historic Village, was the subsequent evening setting for a dramatic reading, lively discussion, and book-signing.

Our yearly May Fundraiser featuring the Texas Fiddlers, raffles, an outside dinner of ranch roast rib eye with all the trimmings at Perini's, a live auction, and a concert by "Red Steagall and the Boys in the Bunkhouse." We are grateful to Farm and Ranch Healthcare of Fort Worth for the sponsorship of the Fundraiser.



BUFFALO GAP HISTORIC VILLAGE EVENTS – 2002

An intimate dinner at Perini's Steakhouse with "The Gentleman of the Canebrake," the Honorable David Crockett, late Congressional Representative from the state of Tennessee, who gave his life for Texas' independence (and was suitably resurrected by Jeff Bearden). It was sponsored by Dr. B.B. and Peggy Trotter to raise funds to replace the roof on the Knight-Sayles Cabin in the Buffalo Gap Historic Village.

The barbecue dinner theater comedy, *Smoked Hamlet*, directed by Charlie Hukill, performed under the stars of three cool summer nights inside Buffalo Gap Historic Village. Dr. Chuck Etheridge of McMurry University adapted the play from the work of William Shakespeare. Our thanks to the special performers who donated their time.

The Glorious 4th! – A day-long fest with free admission in honor of the 226th anniversary of our nation's independence, on July 4, 2002, featuring a flag raising and reading of the Declaration of Independence by a Revolutionary War soldier.

From Horses to Horseless Carriages: 50 Years of Transportation on the Texas Frontier – Living history demonstrations, a chuck wagon display, a 1915 Model T touring car display, and an 1890s bicycle display, all in various areas of the Village.

A Preview Dinner at Perini's, followed by three nights of macabre literature readings by lantern light in the Courthouse with Edgar Allen Poe (portrayed by Mr. Steve Abolt).

Christmas at Buffalo Gap! – A fun-filled day for the family, with caroling, baking contest, cake walk and auction, reading of "The Night Before Christmas," living history demonstrations, and Christmas shopping.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE – EVENTS FOR 2003

In February, you won't want to miss the "Magic Lantern Show" – a glass slide "projection" show done with an oil lamp, the type of apparatus that was used to tour the country with slide shows in pre-movie days.

In April, the "Defending Freedom – A Time Line" event will give us a living history demonstration of the Taylor County citizen-soldier.

The annual McWhiney Foundation Fundraiser is scheduled for the beginning of May. Red Steagall will be the MC. There will be a raffle, dinner under the stars, an auction, and live entertainment. It will be held at the Buffalo Gap Historic Village.

In late May, we are going to host another barbecue dinner theater, this time based on Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and portraying the stealing of the county seat from Buffalo Gap (never heard of this? Then plan to attend!) It will be performed by members of the McMurry Fine Arts Department, under the direction of Charlie Hukill.

VILLAGE MATTERS

The staff worked hard together to have the bank exhibit opened to the public for Labor Day weekend.

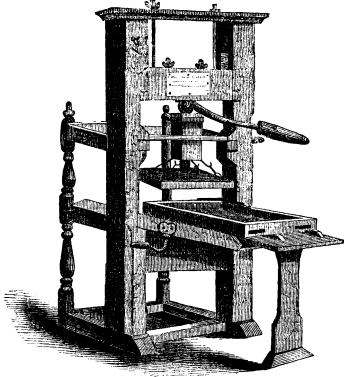
The Village's audiovisual presentation was relocated to the "exhibit" hall next to the Mercantile in order to free up the bottom floor of the Courthouse for interpretive programs and to help better manage the flow of visitors through the site. Visitors now can view the film prior to stepping out on the grounds.

The bottom floor of the Courthouse is back to being a courthouse and county judge's office. While the detailing of the furnishing plan is still being completed, the courtroom and office are clear of exhibits and do have period furnishings. The sheriff's office will be the next furnishing project. A student with the McMurry Public History Program is researching trials that took place in the courtroom with the idea of recreating one such trial as part of the site's living history program.

The McMurry Physics Club has taken on a project to restore the telegraph system in the railroad depot to working condition. When completed, visitors will be able to send a telegraph message from the depot across the Village to a receiver. The club is also exploring with staff a proposal to restore the period telephone exchange to working order and to reconnect all period phones on the site.

PRESSING HISTORY

The McWhiney Foundation Press plans to publish five books in the first half of the year, including the first two books in our new Military History of Texas Series. They are *The Finishing Stroke: Texans in the 1864 Tennessee Campaign*; and *The Wings of Change: The Army Air Force Experience in Texas During World War II*. We're also scheduled to publish three more books in our popular Civil War Campaigns and Commanders Series.



COLLECTING HISTORY

The McWhiney Research Collection has expanded its holdings through the acquisition of the Texas Division Research Collection of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. The 320-plus rare and out-of-print volumes on the history of the Confederacy and the Civil War have been fully accessioned and integrated into the collection. Many of these volumes are not available anywhere else in the region.

PRESENT PRIORITY NEEDS

The Buffalo Gap Historic Village needs funds to restore and/or renovate its historical buildings. A preservation architect has submitted an evaluation and estimate for all the structures.

The 1880 Boone House, once restored and renovated, will be able to generate future revenue for the Village by housing visitors. Cost: \$225,000.

Funds needed to restore the 1905 Nazarene Church within the Buffalo Gap Historic Village: \$70,000.

This is a key revenue source, since it is a popular site for weddings.

Restoration of the 1880 Marshall Tom Hill House, the first lumber-constructed house in the region: \$100,000.

Roof heating and cooling system for Mercantile and Interpretive Center: \$20,000

In addition, the McWhiney Foundation Press seeks \$25,000 to underwrite continued production of books of state, regional, and national interest.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President: Dr. Grady McWhiney
- Vice President: Dr. Donald S. Frazier
- Secretary: Dr. Robert F. Pace
- Dr. Bob Maberry Dr. Anne Bailey
- Dr. Stephen Hardin Mr. Mike Stevens



MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITY!

We offer you the chance to become a member of the Buffalo Gap Historic Village and to "Capture a Piece of the Historic West Texas Frontier." Just fill in the following form, designating your choice of membership by checking the appropriate box and including your check; then mail them both in the enclosed return envelope. If you just wish to make a donation toward the funding of our priority needs, you may also use this form; simply mark the amount of your donation on the last line of the form.

- Standard One-Year Membership: \$20**
Personalized membership card(s) • Unlimited free admission • Invitations to exclusive Buffalo Gap Historic Village events and member-only receptions • 10% off in BGHV Mercantile and on all custom and mail orders • Priority registration for museum events and Fundraisers • Custom-ordered BGHV pen • BGHV newsletter subscription.
- Scout (Senior: 65 & Up; Military: Active Duty): \$15**
Includes the above benefits; applicable to one person.
- Pioneer (Family): \$30**
Standard benefits for two adults plus their minor children or two grandchildren.
- Settler: \$250**
Standard member benefits plus a discount on purchase of McWhiney Foundation Press Books, a hardback copy of *Buffalo Gap Historic Village*, a family pass, and a \$15 gift certificate.*
- Trail Blazer: \$500**
Standard member benefits plus a discount on purchase of McWhiney Foundation Press Books, a hardback copy of *Buffalo Gap Historic Village*, two family passes, two \$15 gift certificates, and a reduced rental fee for private parties held at the Buffalo Gap Historic Village.*
- Founder: \$1000 (Limited to a 2-year membership)**
All Trail Blazer benefits plus a free meal ticket (for cardholder and guest) to our spring Fundraiser and an exclusive dinner with our Executive Director.*

* For a limited time, if you join at the Settler, Trail Blazer, or Founder level, you will also receive a free copy of Dr. Grady McWhiney's book *Battle in the Wilderness: Grant Meets Lee!*

Name _____

State _____ Zip _____

Address _____

Phone number (____) _____ - _____

City _____

Donation Amount _____