



**Special Collections Division
the University of Texas
at Arlington Libraries**

Vol. XV I* No. 1 & 2 * Spring & Fall 2002

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Spring 2002

[Robert Hanks Brister Papers Reflect Education in Texas in the First Half of the Twentieth Century](#)

By Hollace Weiner



Robert Hanks Brister, ca.1912.

Hollace Weiner authors a biographical sketch and description of the The Papers of Robert Hanks Brister, a Waco school superintendent during the Great Depression, in this timely article. Brister, a prolific writer and photographer, documented his student days at Decatur Baptist College, and his experiences as a Texas soldier during World War I, as well as expounding on issues facing educators during the first half of the twentieth century in the papers.

[Naming a General and Celebrating the Infantry](#)

By Bobbie Stevens Johnson

The article, written by UTA librarian Bobbie Stevens Johnson, highlights an illustrated poem written by Barnard Elliott Bee, a Brigadier General in the Civil War. The manuscript pages are from Special Collections' Mexican War Collections and several pages of the illustrated poem are included in the article.

[Seek and Ye Shall Find an Aid](#)

By Shirley R. Rodnitzky



The column written by the Special Collections' manuscript archivist is a popular item in the Compass Rose. This issue features a description and photos from the William J. Bardin Family Papers. A longtime Arlington, Texas, resident, Bardin was a surveyor, field engineer, and superintendent of many notable built landmarks, including the Houston International Airport, Casa Manana, the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens, Arlington Downs Racetrack and countless highways and roads for the Texas State Highway Department.

[Mystery Courthouse](#)

By Shirley R. Rodnitzky

In this new feature, the Compass Rose asks for the assistance of its readers in identifying a picture from its collections. This first unknown photograph is of an unidentified, presumable Texas courthouse. Take a look and see if you have seen it before.

[Matching a Challenge Grant from the King Foundation](#)

By Gerald D. Saxon



Poirson, J. B. *Carte du Mexique*. Paris: F. Schoell, 1811.

Saxon, Assistant Director of Libraries, reports on the status of the fund raising efforts for the Garrett Endowment Fund. The article notes the many supporters, both foundations and individuals, who generously contributed to the campaign.

[The Third Coast: Mapping the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea](#)

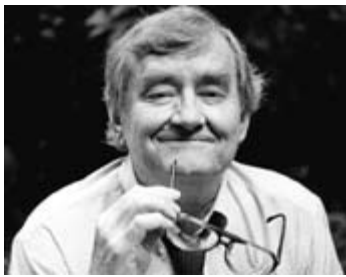
An advance notice of the forthcoming Third Biennial Virginia Garrett Lectures on the History of Cartography. The lecture series will be held in conjunction with the joint meeting of the Texas Map Society and the Philip Lee Phillips Society from the Library of Congress on October 4 and 5, 2002. Includes a list of speakers and presentations.

Fall 2002

[Thoughts on A.C. Greene](#)

By GERALD D. SAXON

In this article, Saxon pays tribute to Greene, and recounts how he met the author in 1980. Saxon outlines Green's career beginning with his service in WWII, his life as a newspaper columnists and later editorial page editor, his owning a bookstore, driving a Coke truck in Dallas, graduate studies at UT-Austin and spending a year at J. Frank



A.C. Green, 1987

Dobie's Paisano Ranch.

[Remembering A.C. Greene](#)

By CHRISTOPHER OHAN



A.C. Greene, 1987

Ohan, Greene's personal archivist and friend, remembers the author first from the papers donated to UTA's Special Collection and later as his friend and mentor. Ohan uses Green's own words to reveal the Texan's passion for this work, his views on the world and himself.

[NEH Awards Special Collections Second Grant](#)

By MAGGIE DWYER AND SALLY GROSS



Downtown Fort Worth, corner of Seventh and Main Streets, 1950

Dwyer and Gross report on the grant received by The University of Texas at Arlington Libraries from the National Endowment for the Humanities to preserve the W. D. Smith, Inc. Commercial Photography Collection housed in Special Collections. The grant will be used to re-house the Fort Worth photography firm's negatives from the 1950's. A selection of the photographs are included in the article.

[Norman Alan Cohen Collection of Texas Postal Issues Texas Sesquicentennial Series](#)

By COLIN TOENJES



Toenjes, Photograph Curator for Special Collections, describes the recent acquisition of postal issues for the Texas Sesquicentennial by the division. The collection of materials relating to the issuance of the Texas Sesquicentennial stamp in 1986, includes a number of stamp collecting cachets with cancelled stamps of numerous designs as well as items related to the stamp's release. Toenjes also writes about Cohn's collecting interests and his passion for philately.

[Courthouse Mystery Solved](#)

By SHIRLEY R. RODNITZKY



In the last issue, Rodnitzky asked readers to help identify the courthouse pictured at the left. See who came up with the identification and how the mystery was solved.

[Seek and Ye Shall Find an Aid](#)

By SHIRLEY R. RODNITZKY



*"Confederate Cavalry Returning from a Successful Raid,"
from Marcus Joseph Wright,*

Battles and Commanders of the Civil War (Washington, D.C. 1906). Battles and Commanders of the Civil War (Washington, D.C. 1906).

In her final column prior to her retirement, Rodnitzky describes the Texas Confederate Gravesite Project Records in detail compiled by Jimmy Bryan, a former UTA graduate student. In addition she list, with a brief summary, the collections in the division that contain letters, diaries, and journals by soldiers whose home was Texas, or elsewhere in the Confederacy, during the Civil War, 1861-1865.

[Seek and You Shall Find - Retirement!](#)

By SALLY GROSS

Long time archivist and author of the feature column "Seek and You Shall Find an Aid" in



Shirley Rodnitzky, 2002

the Compass Rose retired on August 31, 2002. Gross, her supervisor in the division writes about the popular staff member recounting here accomplishments.

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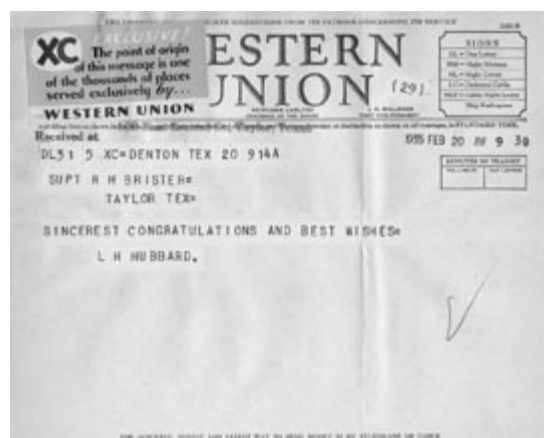
Robert Hanks Brister Papers Reflect Education in Texas in the First Half of the Twentieth Century

by *Hollace Weiner*

Special Collections of the University of Texas at Arlington Libraries announces the availability of the Robert Hanks Brister Papers. Brister (1890-1965), a Burleson farm boy who became Waco school superintendent during the Great Depression, left behind a wealth of photographs, writings, clippings, publications, and keepsakes. The materials document his student days at Decatur Baptist College, the forerunner of Dallas Baptist University. They also chronicle a Texas soldier's experiences during World War I and highlight issues facing educators during the first half of the twentieth century.



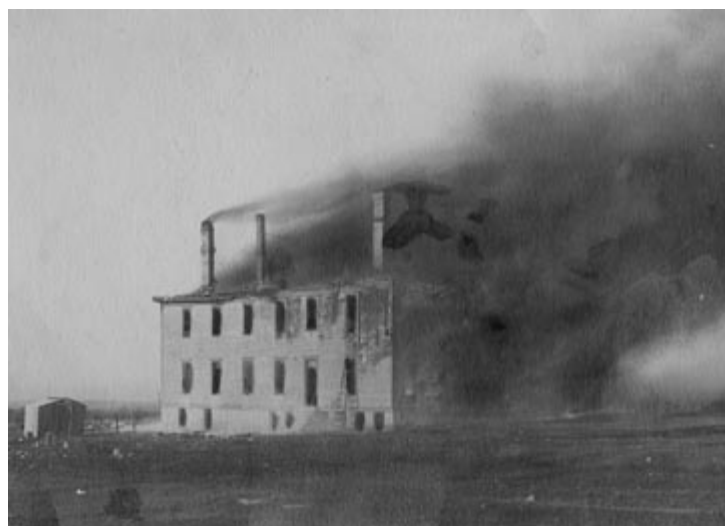
Robert Hanks Brister, ca.1912



Brister, one of nine children born to a pioneer Burleson family, was a 1912 graduate of Decatur Baptist College and a 1917 Baylor College alumnus. He taught mathematics in the small Texas towns of Miles, Ennis, and Taylor, where in 1922 he became school superintendent. From 1935 to 1944 he was superintendent of Waco public schools. During his Waco tenure, he was elected president of the Texas State Teachers Association. After his stint as superintendent, Brister worked for the Veterans Administration's Vocational Rehabilitation Service and then in the insurance industry.

A leading Texas educator in his day, Brister was described by the *Houston Post* in 1939 as a pioneer in vocational and health education. He instituted off-campus tutoring for the handicapped and brought health professionals into schools to screen for tuberculosis, poor vision, and dental decay. He lobbied for teacher pay raises and endorsed free school lunch programs in an era when Texans resisted federal aid. He advocated expanding facilities at schools for African Americans and saved several yearbooks from Waco's segregated Moore senior high.

An avid photographer, Brister illustrated his life and times through six captioned photo albums. He kept scores of professional portraits of people and places. The collection's earliest photo is an 1880s tintype image of Brister's mother, Sudie Clark Brister. Other vintage photographs capture family reunions, with several generations crowded onto the front porch of a wooden farmhouse. Most unusual is the turn-of-the-century print of a group baptism in the waters of Burleson's Little Booger Creek.



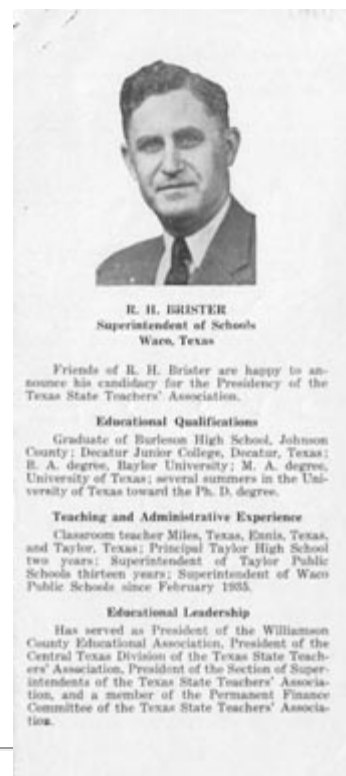
Decatur Baptist College dormitory on fire, February 22, 1912.

An Eastman-Kodak camera, protected with a worn, brown leather case, is among the collection's artifacts.

Brister was also a prolific correspondent. He saved handwritten letters from relatives describing farm conditions, typewritten correspondence from colleagues, and affectionate letters from girlfriends, including a wartime sweetheart in Nevers, France. Among the collection's WWI keepsakes are two patriotic silk handkerchiefs, presumably waved at victory parades, an Army spyglass, and a signaling mirror.

Brister was married in 1921 to Ruby "Bob" Neal, the descendant of another early Texas family. Her ties to Parker County's Eddleman banking family are explored in a section of the collection devoted to genealogies. The Brister clan, originally from Scotland, dates its Southern settlement to a 1786 South Carolina land grant.

The Robert H. Brister Papers consist of 6.85 linear feet of materials arranged in 19 boxes (14 manuscript boxes and 5 oversized boxes). The materials are available to researchers in Special Collections located on the sixth floor of the UTA Central Library. Special Collections is open Mondays from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The finding aid for the Brister Papers can be accessed online at <http://libraries.uta.edu/SpecColl/findaid/AR434.html>. For further information, contact Shirley Rodnitzky, Special Collections Archivist, 817-272-3393 , or email at rodnitzky@uta.edu.



Campaign brochure for Brister's successful run for the presidency of the Texas State Teacher's Association , 1938.

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Naming A General And Celebrating The Infantry

by *Bobbie Stevens Johnson*

Pointing to General Jackson's brigade, "standing like a stone wall," and so it was, during the first Battle of Bull Run or Manassas in 1861, that Brigadier General Barnard Elliott Bee (1824-1861) gave General Thomas Jonathan Jackson the sobriquet by which history would forever remember him. From that moment forward, Stonewall Jackson was the name of the famous Confederate general. This "naming" is the primary reason that Bee is remembered, but he made other notable contributions during his life before being mortally wounded in the very same battle that afforded him the opportunity to bestow the now well-known nickname on General Jackson.

Barnard Elliott Bee was born in South Carolina in 1824, but his family relocated to Texas in 1835, and his father, also Barnard Elliott Bee, served as Secretary of State of the Republic of Texas. After young Bee's graduation from West Point in 1845, he returned to Texas and served in General Zachary Taylor's army, which had been sent to Texas to protect it from Mexican aggression after Texas was annexed to the United States. Bee served with Taylor's army during the early part of the Mexican War and fought in the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma in May 1846. After spending some time on recruiting efforts, he returned to the front with General Winfield Scott's army and was engaged in the campaign to capture the City of Mexico in 1847. He was wounded in action during this campaign. He was later recognized for his gallantry, and his native state of South Carolina presented him with a sword of honor in 1854 for "patriotic and meritorious conduct" in the war.

Bee was a devotee of the infantry, and the University of Texas at Arlington Libraries' Special Collections is fortunate to have acquired a poem that he penned in celebration of the infantry in 1856, when he was an infantry captain. The tone of the poem is set in the first four lines:

*Our army is a motley crew
In dress and armour, duties too,
And each and all I love to see--
But most I love the Infantry.*

The first stanza concludes in the same vein, with the poet expressing admiration for all of the military, but the poet makes very clear that it is the infantry that he cherishes most:

*Though other corps are dear to me
Yet most I prize the Infantry.*

The illustrations that accompany the poem are intriguing as well. Above the first stanza, for example, are drawings of foot soldiers, one of whom is holding a rifle with a bayonet, one a shovel, and two are pushing a wheelbarrow loaded with supplies.



Our Army is a mighty Crew—
In dress and armour, duties too,
And each and all I love to see—
But most I love the Infantry.
In tented field, in Ladies bower
Alike they shine— all feel their power,
Though other corps are dear to me
Yet most I prize the Infantry.



The Engineer, with Science crowned,
For action traces out the ground.

The second stanza sets out to create contrasts with the infantry and begins:

*The Engineer, with Science crowned,
For action traces out the ground.*

Thus, while some measure the earth and draw their findings,

Artillery at distance play

Above this stanza are drawings of a surveying crew, including a cartographer, and to graphically illustrate the contrast, an illustration depicting the firing of a cannon from atop a caisson follows.

The poet goes on to assign some credit to the dragoons, who sometimes clear the way with their "sharp advance, the pistol shot," but the stanza concludes with yet another tribute to the infantry as the writer describes what happens after the dragoons clear the way:

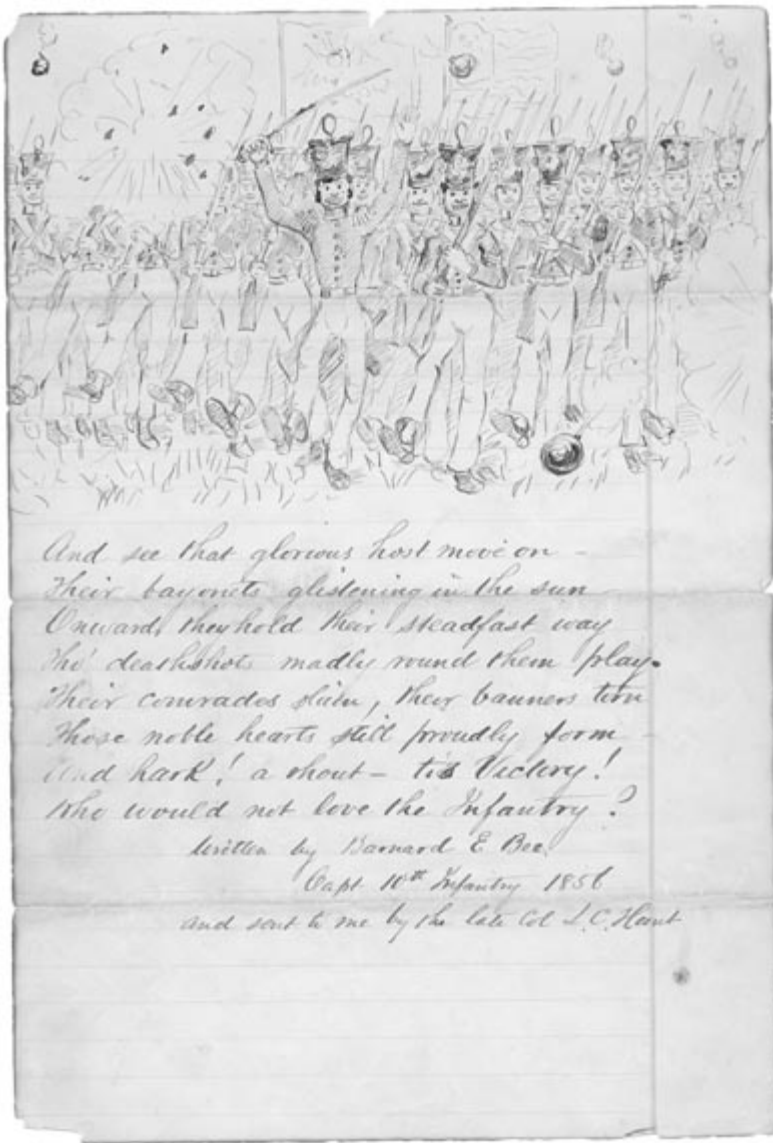
*The foe advances light and free,
Who meet him then? The Infantry!!!*

The illustration depicts two heavily-armed dragoons with an infantryman waiting near a tree.



It is, however, in the final stanza that we see the most moving salute to the infantry. This stanza is appropriately illustrated with a drawing of a company of infantry. After describing how the infantry holds steadfastly despite the fact that their comrades are slain, and their banners are torn, the poet writes:

*The noble hearts still proudly form
And hark! A shout—tis Victory!
Who would not love the Infantry?*



Indeed, few have probably loved the infantry as did Barnard Elliott Bee. Bee's untitled poem can be found in Special Collections' Mexican War Collection (GA 43).

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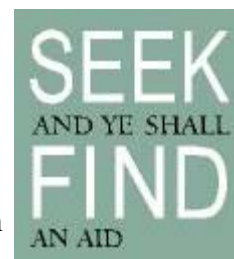
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Seek and Ye Shall Find by Shirley Rodnitzky



The William J. Bardin Family Papers were recently processed and UTA graduate history student, Nigel R. Parker, created the finding aid. Information about the collection came from a variety of sources, and a summary of the content and organizational structure is in the collection's guide. Completing our collections' processing makes them easier to use and provides the staff with a valuable resource to assist users. Unprocessed collections, however, are almost always available for research. Exceptions include materials restricted by the donor, materials that require repair or preservation treatment, or extremely large collections for which there is no comprehensive inventory.

If the following collection would aid your current research, please request the finding aid by name and collection number when you visit the library. The collection finding aid described here and in all future articles are available on the Internet, linked to the Web version of *The Compass Rose* from the Special Collections homepage at:
<http://libraries.uta.edu/SpecColl/comprose.html>

For those without internet access, a photocopy of any finding aid in Special Collections may be requested by mail or telephone for a small photocopy and mailing fee. Please contact:

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William J. Bardin Family Papers (AR433), 2 boxes plus oversize folders (.75 linear ft.)

William J. Bardin, 1905-2002, longtime resident of Arlington, Texas, donated his papers in 1994 to Special Collections. His father, James P. Bardin, moved with his parents to Johnson Station, Texas, from Tupelo, Mississippi, in 1878. James and his wife Beatrice Putman grew up in Johnson Station, a settlement established by Middleton Tate Johnson in the 1840s at Marrow Bone Springs (also called Mary Le Bone Springs) located about three miles south of the present Arlington City Hall. Johnson Station was one of three towns established in the county before 1876. The businesses and many of the residents later moved to Arlington after the railroad survey created a more direct route between Dallas and Fort Worth and missed it by three miles.

The Bardins were married in 1903. In 1910, they purchased a 133-acre farm where they lived and raised their children. Their farm was located at what is now the corner of Cooper Street and Bardin Road, a quarter mile south of Interstate Highway 20.

William J. Bardin, born in 1905 at Johnson Station, was the first of five children. He attended Johnson Station and



Students at Sublett School, 1912. Bill Bardin is seated on the first row, far left.

The family papers focus primarily on William J. Bardin, Beatrice Putman Bardin, Arlington Downs Race Track, and the Bardin family farm. They include correspondence, legal documents, photographs, maps, newspaper clippings, newsletters, programs, an oral history transcript, land abstracts, and memorabilia, 1893-1995. Correspondence, photographs, and newspaper clippings document the life of Bardin's mother, Beatrice Putman Bardin, an early Tarrant County teacher. Mrs. Bardin attended Tarrant County schools and was one of the first students enrolled at Arlington College. She taught at Pantego, Rendon, Keller, and Johnson Station schools. She was a longtime PTA member and served for ten years as school board trustee and secretary for the school board.



Arlington's famed mineral well, formerly located at the intersection of Main and Center Streets, ca.1940s.

photographs and newspaper clippings about Arlington Downs Racetrack as well as a 1936 blueprint of the track.

Documents that reveal and record Arlington history are valuable and difficult for Special Collections to find and acquire. William Bardin's commitment to preserving the family's history also preserved a part of Arlington's history.

[A Finding Aid for the [William J. Bardin Family Papers](#) is now available online.--webmaster]

Arlington schools and graduated from Arlington High School in 1924. His graduating class is credited with choosing the high school's colors (green & white) and mascot (Colts). After graduating from North Texas Agricultural College, Bardin took a surveying job with the Tarrant County Engineering Department, which began a fifty-year career in construction as a surveyor, field engineer, and superintendent. Among the landmarks he helped create were the Houston International Airport, Texarkana Federal Prison, Casa Manana, the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, Arlington Downs Racetrack, and countless highways and roads for the Texas State Highway Department.



Arlington Downs Racetrack, 1935.

The photographs depict the Bardin family and schools in Tarrant County communities, ca. 1880s-1920s, namely Arlington, Fish Creek, Johnson Station, Keller, Rendon, and Sublett. Arlington High School 1920s class reunion materials and early photographs of classes and football teams are included. Other items of interest are a Southern Arlington Land Use planning map, which shows Bardin family land holdings; newspaper clippings concerning Arlington, Johnson Station, and Fort Worth history; an unpublished history of the Witness Tree, a Tarrant County landmark; a transcribed oral history with William J. Bardin; and

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Mystery Courthouse



Charles R. Stripling operated the Stripling Farm Dairy, established in 1902, in North Fort Worth at 2201 Hanna Drive. Among the preserved items in his small collection of documents and photographs in Special Collections are views of the farm, a portrait of Stripling, a scene at Baylor College in Belton, Texas, and an unidentified, presumably Texas courthouse. At the lower left side of the photo is a building sign partially obscured by tree limbs, which appears to say "Hodges Family Grocery." It covers a larger painted sign, the last two letters of which are "A" and "C." Photos that we have of Texas county courthouses do not match this one. It is possibly an early structure that burned and was reconstructed in a newer architectural design. If you can identify this courthouse, or have an identified photo of the courthouse, please call or write Shirley Rodnitzky in Special Collections, (817) 272-7512, or email rodnitzky@uta.edu

Courthouse Mystery Solved! Bob Brinkman of the Texas Historical Commission, History Programs Division, identified the unknown courthouse as the Williamson County courthouse in Georgetown, Texas, built 1877-1878. The architect was F. E. Ruffini and John Didelot was awarded the building contract. The courthouse was completed and turned over to the county, September 2, 1878. Unfortunately, it showed signs of deterioration as early as 1903. Considered not only unsafe but inadequate, it was condemned in 1908 by the commissioners court who noted that the building had a defective foundation and walls. Construction of the present building was completed in 1911 by W. C. Whitney of Beaumont. It was designed by Charles H. Page of Austin.--webmaster 5/29/02

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Matching a Challenge Grant from the King Foundation

by Gerald D. Saxon

Many readers of the *Compass Rose* will remember that the UTA Libraries have been raising a \$700,000 endowment to support the work and collection of the Virginia Garrett Cartographic History Library, a part of Special Collections. In April 2001, the Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation of Dallas approved a challenge grant of \$75,000 for the endowment, with the proviso that the match be raised by April 1, 2002.

Library staff and university/UT System development staff started strategizing on how best to raise this match shortly after being notified of the King Foundation challenge. A multi-pronged plan was discussed and ultimately implemented.

First, the officers and Advisory Council of the Friends of the UTA Libraries agreed to raise at least \$10,000 from Friends' members. This would be done through a mail and telefund campaign. The Friends' campaign was coordinated by library and development staff members, and was a resounding success. In addition to the Friends, former library staff members were also included in the campaign. This part of the matching campaign raised \$25,060 from Friends' members and former staff. UTA President Robert Witt and Library Director Thomas Wilding had both thrown down the gauntlet to the Friends before the campaign, agreeing to match Friends' donations up to \$10,000 with university and library sources. Witt and Wilding have had to make good their promise!

Second, a few select foundations were solicited for matching funds. The Dodge-Jones Foundation of Abilene and the Amon Carter Star-Telegram Employees Fund of Fort Worth responded positively, each giving grants in the amount of \$20,000 toward the Garrett Endowment and the King Foundation challenge. The Abe Zale Foundation of Dallas also gave \$3,500, thanks to the effort and support of George and Julie Tobolowsky of Dallas.

Last, some businesses and law firms were also contacted, with Comerica Texas and Strasburger/Price Law Firm responding, giving \$5,000 and \$3,000 respectively. Marty Davis, a donor himself and a principal in the firm of Davis, Clark and Company of Dallas, was instrumental in seeking these business gifts.

On behalf of UTA, its Libraries, and Special Collections, we want to thank all of the people, foundations, and businesses that have made the King Foundation match possible. Indeed, the generosity of everyone mentioned above has allowed the library to raise \$96,560, more than \$20,000 over the challenge amount. As a result, UTA has raised in pledges and donations \$431,560 towards its goal of \$700,000 for the Garrett Endowment.

Thanks to the Following Individuals and Organizations For Helping UTA Meet the King Foundation Challenge

Individuals

Alexander, Julie
Bleuler, Gordon G.
Bradshaw, Madelon
Buttery, Lewis
Campbell, Connie
Cash, Floyd L.
Clark, Lloyd

Gratton, Ramona
Green, George
Greene, A. C.
Hedrick, Lila
Hudson, Jenny
Hughes, William
Hull, Gene
Jensen, Mary Louise

Nissen, Daisy
Penson, Mary
Perry, Mary
Philp, Kenneth
Rainone, Jean K.
Rapoport, Bernard
Reinhartz, Dennis
Rencurrel, Dorothy

Womble, Joe
Wood, Betty
Wright, George
Yarbrough, Betty

Businesses, Organizations,

Cogdell, Thomas J.
Davis, John Martin
Duke, Charles
James Emery
Findlay, Robert C.
Finfrock, David
Forbes, John M.
Francaviglia, Richard
Garrett, Kenneth
Gordon, Jr., Mrs. W. K.
Grammer, Sally

Jones, Ray Lynn
Kahle, Jean
Kauth, Daniel
Kennedy, Thomas J.
Kyle, Donald G.
Leonard, Martha V.
Martin, Mark D.
Moncrief, William A.
Morris, Don W.
Nedderman, Wendell

Rodnitzky, Jerry
Saxon, Gerald D.
Sheets, John
Stallings, William B.
Teague, Gordon
Van Dam, Ernest F
Van Siclen, Mary Ann
Wang, John
Wilding, Tom
Witt, Robert

Foundations

Amon Carter Star-Telegram
Employees Fund
Comerica Texas
Dodge Jones Foundation
Strasburger/Price Law Firm
George & Julie Tobolowsky
UTA Administration
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A.C. Greene, often called the "dean of Texas letters," died at his home in Salado, Texas, on April 5, 2002. He was the author of more than two-dozen books, hundreds of articles, and the individual to whom news and other media organizations turned for quotes about, and analysis of, the Texas experience. He was seventy-eight. A.C. and UTA had a long history together. In the 1970s, the library's Special Collections acquired a small portion of his personal papers. This acquisition proved to be the first in a series of accessions that would bring the bulk of his papers to UTA. What follows are two reminiscences about A.C.: the first by Gerald Saxon Associate Director of Libraries t UTA ad a close friend of A.C. for more than twenty years, and the second by Chris Ohan, the individual who process A.C.'s papers at UTA and developed a close relationship with the Texas author and Judy, his wife.

Thoughts on A. C. Green

BY GERALD D. SAXON



A.C. Greene, 1987

A. C. Greene always used to say that he was raised in a library. His maternal grandmother, Maude Cole, was head librarian at the Carnegie Library in Abilene, Texas, when he was growing up, and she often took care of him while she was at work. At a young age, A. C. found the library a place of adventure and escape. He often talked (and wrote) about quiet summer afternoons in the reference room in the basement of the library, and his rummaging around among old newspapers, atlases, and books left an indelible mark on him.

I guess it was appropriate that I first met A. C. in a library--the old Central Dallas Public Library at 1954 Commerce Street. It was 1980 and I was then oral historian for Dallas Public and working in the Texas/Dallas History Division. I had read many of A. C.'s books about Dallas and was a bit awestruck when he came to the reference desk for some assistance. We struck up a conversation and immediately I realized how much a character he was. I can't recall what he was looking for that day, but I do remember that I came away from this first meeting knowing that he

was a West Texas original—a man with a flair for the dramatic, an ability to tell a story, and a penchant for self-promotion.

I worked for Dallas Public for six years, and A. C.'s and my paths crossed many times in that period. I got to know both him and his wife Betty and visited with them at their house fairly often. He regaled me with stories of his life—a life rather hard to categorize. He talked about growing up in Abilene, his parents and grandparents, his service in WWII, his life as a newspaper columnist and later editorial page editor, his owning a bookstore, driving a Coke truck in Dallas, graduate studies at UT-Austin and spending a year at J. Frank Dobie's Paisano Ranch to write *A Personal Country*, and on and on. I also had the pleasure to interview A. C. a number of times, both for oral history purposes and for cable television. He always remembered incidents in his life in detail—minute detail—and he could answer questions in easily digestible sound-bites.

I left Dallas Public for UT-Arlington in 1986, and in many ways A. C. followed. As head of UTA's Special Collections Division, I found that A. C. and UTA already had a relationship. In fact, UTA had acquired a small cache of his personal papers in the

late-1970s. Knowing his importance to Texas letters as a lightning rod for discussion and even criticism, I approached A. C. about the possibility of UTA acquiring ALL of his personal papers. A. C. shared my desire to see his papers preserved and relished the idea that researchers would have access to them for generations to come. As a writer and historian, he knew that his legacy would only be preserved if his writings, correspondence, diaries, photos, manuscripts and whatnot were housed in an archives and made available for everyone to study and use. His second wife, Judy, heartily agreed.



*A.C. Greene (left), John Graves and his wife, and Betty Greene
at a Texas Institute of Letters dinner*

With this in mind, UTA acquired the bulk of the A. C. Greene Papers in 1993 and 1998, and these papers have been processed and are available for use, thanks largely to the support of the A. H. Belo Foundation. The papers are housed in more than eighty boxes and take up forty-four feet of shelves. It seems A. C. was not only a prolific author, but he was also an inveterate collector and a dedicated letter-writer and diary keeper. The finding aid for his papers is on the UTA Libraries' website and can be found at: <http://libraries.uta.edu/SpecColl/findaids/AR409.htm>

A. C. was working on placing the remaining portion of his collection at UTA shortly before his death. In fact, he called me to his home in Salado two weeks before he died, where we discussed his desire to make sure the balance of his papers come to Arlington so that his collection can be complete. While we may have lost A. C. and that unmistakable West Texas swagger he had, we have not lost his voice—it lives on in his books, newspaper columns, oral interviews, magazine articles, and personal papers. We will never forget you A. C.



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This page last update on Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Remembering A.C. Greene

BY CHRISTOPHER OHAN



A. C. Green, 1987

I met A.C. Greene under rather strange circumstances in the fall of 1996. That year, as a rather naive graduate research assistant at the University of Texas at Arlington, where A.C. had deposited a large quantity of his personal papers, I was assigned the task of processing his papers for the University Library's Special Collections Division. I felt overwhelmed upon opening the door to a room where some 60 sizeable boxes of Greene material were housed. It was my duty to go through every box, read every piece of printed material, and determine the value of each artifact (including a mailbox as well as a box filled entirely with stones, bricks, and various types of nails)—in other words, I was supposed to bring order to what seemed chaos.

So for several months A.C. Greene was a mass of information that I had to decipher, that I had to understand and, if possible, reduce to the words of an archival finding aid. This was no easy task. This was a man whose very birth seemed filled with symbolic meaning. According to a Greene family tradition, when A.C. was born in Abilene in 1923, his body was so battered and blue that doctors assumed he could not live. The baby was "dumped on a stack of old newspapers." This was, of course, divine foreshadowing. A.C. would spend his life in words, as a journalist and writer. From the very beginning, A.C. was surrounded not only in words, but also in the activities and life that newspapers report.

In his book *A Personal Country* (1969) he speaks of himself as he narrates a grand tour of West Texas. He writes,

I am a product of the place in ways obvious and ways intricate. It has stuck to me a great deal more than just by adding a nasal drawl to everything I speak and causing my tongue to say "piller" for "pillow," or "git" for "get." It has entered my values and judgments, given me many of my moral standards, and shaped (maybe warped) my ambitions.

A.C. became more than just a reporter. He was also more than a historian. Whether as a child investigating parts of the Butterfield Trail on family outings, or as an adult living through a heart transplant, A.C. Greene's historical narrative was personal. He wrote history, not about himself, but about the places, people, and things he personally experienced.

I worked in that room for four months, slowly discovering A.C. within his works and artifacts, before I actually met the flesh and blood man. Submerged in those treasures, I came to know his mind and his spirit. He constantly transported me into his past through intimate personal descriptions. One account from *A Personal Country* demonstrates his ability to combine an account of the past with his own experience. He writes,

The main bridge over the Brazos . . . was located at the forgotten town of Brazos. It was a swinging bridge, a frightful span swung from cables about three inches thick, suspended between two pairs of towers and reaching across an impressive width of river. . . . My grandmother refused to ride in a car across this devil, as she called it. She walked over, and did that only after the bridge was cleared of vehicles. As it was a rather long bridge, walking created its own traffic problem. Later, years later, a massive steel and concrete bridge was constructed over the Brazos a few miles south of the swinging one, but the first time she came to the new one she walked over it, too, just to be sure.

A traditional historian might talk about the slow progress of modern construction or engineering into West Texas, but very few would capture the feeling of it the way A.C. Greene did.

For two years I processed A.C.'s collection. By early 1998 both he and Judy had become valued friends, and I had become A.C.'s personal archivist. He and I spent countless hours in his Salado office pouring over the paper and artifacts that made up his world, his museum. As a historian myself I'll tell you that our kind can be an ornery and stubborn bunch. A.C., however, was one of the gentlest people I've come across. But ask him about the validity of saving a newspaper advertisement or catalog, and he could turn into a beast. You've guessed it, A.C. rarely threw anything away. In his words, everything in his collection was at least valuable and at best priceless.

A few years ago, A.C. asked me to transport a storage room of his "material" from Dallas to Salado. As I loaded a U-Haul truck, I remember thinking that so much of the material seemed like junk. But for A.C. Greene the truck contained priceless "artifacts" collected over a period of seventy-five years of living, writing, and experiencing Texas. When the cargo arrived in Salado, it was a homecoming of sorts for A.C.. What truly did appear to the casual observer as old junk was transformed into historical artifact—into a museum collection of sorts—as A.C. recounted the history of each piece. As he spoke, the historian in him emerged. It was not a historical style that would stand in modern academia—those "damn prissy professors" as A.C. sometimes called them—but one that has more in common with the story telling of the ancient historians Homer or Herodotus.

For A.C. knew something that most of those prissy folks don't know; perhaps this line from A.C.'s original manuscript version of *A Personal Country* explains it best.

Feet before ours have walked where we walk now, and feet to come will walk upon this spot. How far back does time go and how much time survives for us to find and carry with us or send to a museum to label and display? The world is time's museum and we are the exhibits in it, showing at once all the time there has been.

Interesting enough, this line did not make it into the final book. To hear A.C. recount a tale was to step into his museum, to understand his view of the world where he was an observer as well as a participant.

Those who knew A.C. knew him as a talker. His passion, however, was the written, not the spoken word. He said,

I try to write for an imaginary person. Like I'm talking to somebody. . . . I do so much of my writing in the first person . . . because I feel like I'm addressing someone. I'm not addressing a large group, and I don't write like I talk when I do address large groups. But there are so many things that you can do when you're talking. You can shade your voice, you can cut your eyes. . . . I don't like to [give] talk[s] even though I've done . . . hundreds. . . . But when you write you have to put more of your own feelings into it because you can't wink or you can't look aside. . . .

Even though he left the reporting business in the late 1960s, he never stopped describing the world as he saw it through his own experience. He said,

I still want to be sure that if somebody reads one of my books a hundred years from now or two hundred years from now, they can understand the man that wrote the book the same way that somebody might read it today and understand the man.

He wanted to continue working to the end. In 1996 he commented, "I hope that if I have to die suddenly that it will be sitting right here at the keyboard...because I've got all kinds of things I'd love to finish." He wanted to exit this world the way he entered it, with words wrapped around him, reporting on life as he saw it.

A.C. said, "Historical writing is an exercise in private experience." I'm convinced that if you want to know A.C. Greene all you have to do is read his books—enter his museum, if you will. In A.C.'s world we were all artifacts in his private museum. Some were rarer than others but the value was inherent in the way he saw other inhabitants in that

museum. One admirer called A.C. "a wonderful touchstone in a world of diminishing absolutes." Throughout his life, A.C. retained the lost art of blending emotion with critical interpretation. His life is literally there for all of us to see. Although A.C. is no longer here physically, his words, his life, his museum, will continue as long as his books are being read and his personal papers are accessible to the public.

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Norman Alan Cohen Collection of Texas Postal Issues Texas Sesquicentennial Series

By COLIN TOENJES



United States Postal Service's promotional sheet for the Sesquicentennial stamp.

Arlington for the permanent home for his Sesquicentennial Collection," said Saxon. "After looking at his collection, I told him UTA would be interested."

Cohen first became interested in collecting stamps through the inspiration of a grade school teacher in the early 1940's. With the encouragement of his father, Cohen joined the American Philatelic Society and even wrote a column on stamp collecting for his school newspaper. While in college and through the early years of his business career, Cohen moved away from stamp collecting to focus on his career and personal relationships. He once again became an active collector in 1960, thanks to some medical advice. "My family doctor told me I had to have a hobby because I couldn't work all the time," quips Cohen. He has been extremely active in stamp collecting in Texas. He has served as first president and a co-founder the Dallas Collectors Club, founder of the Nimitz Chapter of the Universal Ship Council Society, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Texas Philatelic Association, a member of the American Philatelic Society for over 50 years, and is still a very active member of the Park Cities Dallas Philatelic Society.

Cohen was also instrumental in the creation of the central focus item of this series, the Texas Sesquicentennial Stamp. The idea

Special Collections is proud to announce the acquisition of the Texas Sesquicentennial Series of the Norman Alan Cohen Collection of Texas Postal Issues. The collection, consisting of 14 binders and two boxes, contains materials relating to the issuance of the Texas Sesquicentennial stamp in 1986. These materials include an extensive collection of stamp collecting cachets with cancelled stamps of numerous designs, primarily cancelled Texas Sesquicentennial stamps, blocks of unconcealed Texas Sesquicentennial stamps, and numerous items related to the Texas Sesquicentennial stamp's release, including press releases, clippings of articles from philatelic publications, correspondence between Norman Cohen and others interested in the stamp, and programs and other memorabilia from events and philatelic conventions held throughout the Texas Sesquicentennial year of 1986. The Texas Sesquicentennial commemorated 150 years of Texas independence from Mexico.

The Norman Alan Cohen Collection was originally brought to the attention of Dr. Gerald Saxon, Associate Director of Libraries, through the efforts of a previous Special Collections benefactor. "Mr. Cohen called me and said that Gordon Bleuler, a donor to Special Collections and a world-class stamp collector and friend of Mr. Cohen's, had suggested to him that he consider the University of Texas at

was initiated by former State Representative Chris Semos, an associate of Cohen's. Semos made a presentation to the Postmaster General, William Bolger, which resulted in the announcement that there would be a Texas Sesquicentennial stamp. Cohen worked with the Texas Sesquicentennial Commission in Austin on the format of the stamp. On working with the Commission, Cohen says, "The professionals there were totally lacking of philatelic knowledge and so we had to guide them. It was a fun experience."



Texas Sesquicentennial cachet.

The development of the Texas Sesquicentennial stamp design came to a critical phase at a meeting in Austin to discuss the format of the stamp. At this meeting were Norman Cohen, the members of the Sesquicentennial Commission, legendary author James Michener, a retired postmaster, former Health and Welfare Secretary Wilbur Cohen, and two University of Texas deans. "Michener led the whole [meeting], held it under control, and was generally a friend of the stamp collector," reminisced Cohen about the 1984 meeting, which produced the design for the Texas Sesquicentennial stamp and the design for a stamp honoring Admiral Chester Nimitz, who was born in Fredericksburg, Texas, and under whom Michener had served in the Pacific theater during World War II. This meeting also inspired Cohen to build the Texas Sesquicentennial series of his Collection of Texas Postal Issues. Says Cohen about the inspiration for the collection, "It dawned on me that if I concentrated with the information at my fingertips, I could build a great accumulation and assortment of stuff."

Even though Cohen has been involved with stamp collecting for much of his life, he finds his enjoyment in the construction of the collections. Rather than keeping and maintaining them himself, he prefers the completed collections to be accessible to others who share his interest in philately. "I do not enjoy owning them after they are formed. I just enjoy building them."



Texas Sesquicentennial cachet.

The bulk of the series consists of envelopes printed with Texas-related images with Texas Sesquicentennial stamps affixed and cancelled, many with First Day of Issue cancellations, which are highly prized among stamp collectors. Cohen designed and printed a large number of these envelopes, known as cachets, while obtaining others from fellow philatelists. Cohen is very pleased with the cachet designs he created and printed: "I had co-authored a book on the Texas Centennial, and used the format of the material that I had accumulated as a basis for many of the cachets and pictorials and so on." The cachet designs range from famous Texas historical and political figures to landmarks and

significant Texas historical moments, to symbols uniquely associated with Texas heritage, such as the bluebonnet, the longhorn steer, and the Texas flag, and include some unique hand-drawn cachet designs.

Also of interest are the widely varying cancellation marks used by the Post Office on the stamps. While many are simple cancellations, others possess intricate designs commemorating numerous special events and philatelic conferences that were held during 1986, ranging from the Texas State Fair in Dallas to the Homecoming Whoop-T-Do in Iowa Park. As a part of gathering this collection commemorating the Sesquicentennial, an associate of Cohen had a cachet with a Texas Sesquicentennial stamp on it cancelled at the post office in the county seat of each county in Texas and then gathered them for Cohen to include in his collection.

Overall, the Texas Sesquicentennial series of the Norman Alan Cohen Collection of Texas Postal Issues captures a special moment in Texas history from a unique perspective and is a fascinating study for anyone interested in the Texas Sesquicentennial.



Texas Sesquicentennial cachet.

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Courthouse Mystery Solved!

By Shirley Rodnitzky

Bob Brinkman of the Texas Historical Commission, History Programs Division, successfully identified our photograph of an undocumented courthouse published in the Spring 2002

Compass Rose, as the Williamson County courthouse in Georgetown, Texas. He said that it is one of the best views of this courthouse he has seen. The specific photo date cannot be determined but can be narrowed down to between 1878 and 1909. Brinkman verified that Reverend J. H. Hodges, an Episcopal minister, owned Hodges Grocery, which is barely visible in the lower left-hand corner of the image. His active business life, as documented through the Georgetown newspaper, was 1875-1909.



The courthouse architect was F. E. Ruffini. A bid of \$27,400 by contractor John Didelot was accepted, and the contract awarded in October 1877. The courthouse was completed and turned over to the county, September 2, 1878. Unfortunately, it showed signs of deterioration as early as 1903. Considered not only unsafe, but inadequate, the building was finally condemned in 1908 by the commissioners court who noted that it had a defective foundation and walls. W. C. Whitney of Beaumont constructed the fourth and present Williamson County courthouse in 1911 at a cost of \$115,000. Charles H. Page and Brother of Austin designed the plans and specifications.

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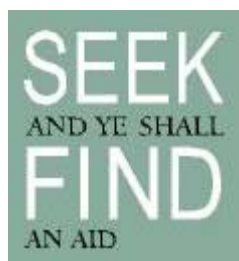
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**Special Collections Division
the University of Texas
at Arlington Libraries**

Vol. XV I* No. 2 * Fall 2002



BY SHIRLEY R. RODNITZKY

The Texas Confederate Gravesite Project Records, compiled by Jimmy R. Bryan, were recently processed. UTA graduate history student, Nicholas B. Gilliam, created the finding aid.

Information about the collection came from a variety of sources, and a summary of the content and organizational structure is in the collection's guide. Completing our collections' processing makes them easier to use and provides the staff with a valuable resource to assist users. Unprocessed collections, however, are almost always available for research. Exceptions include materials restricted by the donor, materials that require repair or preservation treatment, or extremely large collections for which there is no comprehensive inventory.

If the following collection would facilitate your research project, please request the finding aid by name and collection number when you visit the library. The collection finding aid described here and in all future articles will be available on the Internet, linked to the Web version of *The Compass Rose* from the Special Collections homepage at:

<http://libraries.uta.edu/SpecColl/comprose.html>

For those researchers without internet access, a photocopy of any finding aid in Special Collections may be requested by mail or telephone for a small photocopy and mailing fee. Please contact: Brenda McClurkin, Manuscript Archivist at: 817-272-7512 ; or email: mcclurkin@uta.edu . [Rodnitzky retired August 31, 2002.--webmaster].

Jimmy R. Bryan, compiler
Texas Confederate Gravesite Project Records
(AR429), 6 boxes (2.5 linear ft.)



Grave marker for William John, Texas Confederate veteran of Civil War. Holding File, Texas Confederate Gravesite Project, AR 429.

Jimmy Bryan received his M.A. in history from the University of Texas at Arlington. His primary interests are the U. S. Civil War and Texas history. Bryan collected the material for this project with the intention of publishing a book listing all Texas Confederate soldiers' gravesites with as much information as possible about each veteran. Records were obtained from county historical societies, historians, descendants of Confederate veterans, and the Texas State Archives, 1988-1990.

The collection includes correspondence from contacts who submitted information, lists by county of Confederate veteran gravesites, surname lists of Confederate veterans with sources cited, rosters of selected units, and lists of veterans buried in Texas originally from Georgia and Virginia units. A map of Williamson County, 1986, shows the location of all cemeteries within that county.

A number of published sources that Bryan purchased from historical societies for this project were also donated with the records. These publications were cataloged individually and are available for research in Special Collections.

Included are works about Confederate veterans and cemeteries specifically in Bandera, Denton, Fannin, Henderson, Houston, Hunt, Johnson, Lampasas, Montague, and Rusk counties.

Special Collections preserves a number of manuscript collections and documents from early Texas families that contain letters, diaries, and journals by soldiers whose home was Texas or elsewhere in the Confederacy during the Civil War, 1861-1865. Most of the documents are contemporary; a few are recollections by participants written after the war. A brief descriptive list of collections and manuscripts follows. It does not include collections that contain civilian documents from this same period or letters and documents of Union veterans.



*"Confederate Cavalry Returning from a Successful Raid," from Marcus Joseph Wright, **Battles of the Civil War** (Washington, D.C., 1906).*

Buster Family Papers: Reminiscences of Capt. Claudius Buster, Twentieth Regiment, Texas Infantry (Elmore's).

James Allen Duncan Family Papers: Diaries, letters, and military documents of 2nd Lt. James Allen Duncan, Eighth Kentucky Cavalry.

Gaffney Family Papers: Letters from Private Charles J. Gaffney, Twenty-third Regiment, Texas Cavalry (Gould's Regiment, DeBray's Brigade).

L. H. Graves Diary: Diary of 2nd Lt. L. H. Graves in Capt. J. W. Throckmorton's Company K, Sixth Texas Cavalry, Ross's Brigade, and a muster roll of Company K.

Ben King Green Papers: Autobiography of Corp. J. H. King who served with Capt. Sam Bell Maxey's Ninth Regiment, Texas Infantry, Company I.

Mary Autry Greer Papers: Recollections of Private George Monroe Autry with Company K, Thirty-fourth Regiment, Mississippi Infantry.

Mary Martha Hackney Transcriptions of Price Family Papers: Letters of 1st Lt. Benjamin Franklin Price who fought with the Third Texas Cavalry Regiment, Company E.

Samuel H. Holbrooks Letters: Samuel H. Holbrooks was a private in Company B, Seventeenth Consolidated Texas Dismounted Cavalry.

William Edmonson Jones Papers: Military reports of Brig. Genl. Jones, commander of the Seventh Virginia Cavalry.

McKinney-Milam Family Papers: Civil War diary of Lt. George Scott Milam, Sixth Texas Cavalry, Company D, Ross's Brigade and letters from George Scott Milam and his four brothers to their parents, Jefferson and Eliza Milam.

B. B. (Buckley B.) Paddock Family Papers: Letters from Capt. B. B. Paddock, Company K, Wirt Adams's Regiment, First Mississippi Cavalry, to his wife, Emmie Harper Paddock.

Marshall S. Pierson Family Papers: Letters from 2nd Lt. Marshall Pierson, Seventeenth Texas Cavalry, Polignac's Brigade.

Mollie A. Roberts Letters from William F. Howe: Corp. William F. Howe was with Company H, Fifteenth Infantry Regiment.

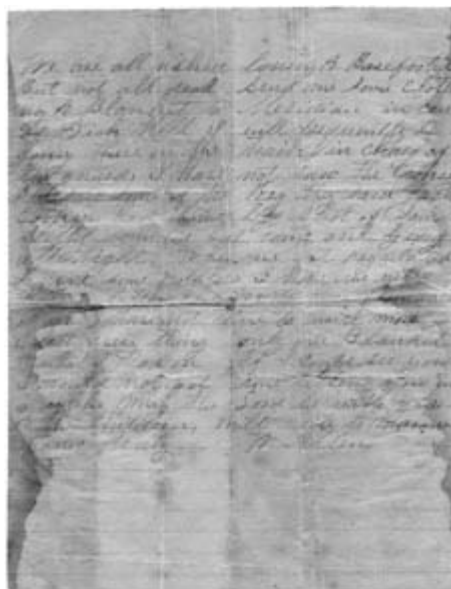
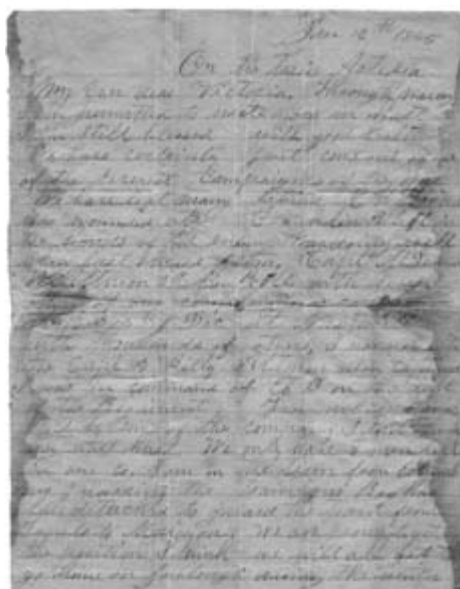
Robertson Colony Collection: Letters and diaries of Elijah Sterling Clack Robertson. He was commissioned Brig. Genl. of the Twenty-seventh Brigade, Texas State Troops in 1860 and was appointed aide-de-camp to Gen. Henry McCulloch, First Regiment, Texas Cavalry (First Mounted Riflemen), in 1862.

Styles-Vincent-Day Family Papers: Carey Wentworth Styles was a colonel in Company E, Twenty-sixth Regiment, Georgia Infantry.

Taylor-Darby Family Papers: Military documents and correspondence of Private Duncan William Henry Taylor, Company B, Twenty-third Texas Cavalry.

Terrell Family Collection: Biographical information on Alexander W. Terrell, a major in the Thirty-seventh Regiment, Texas Cavalry, Arizona Brigade (later Terrell's Cavalry).

James Madison Trussell Family Papers: Letters of John F. H. Trussell, a private in Company K, First Regiment, Mississippi Infantry (later Company I, Thirty-seventh Regiment, Mississippi Infantry) and Sgt. William H. Allen, with Adair's Company, Mississippi Volunteers.



William H. Allen to Victoria Trussell Allen [wife], January 12, 1865.
From the Trussell Family Papers, GA 66/17.

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See and You Shall Find - Retirement!

By Sally Gross



Shirley Rodnitzky, 2002

Regular readers of the *Compass Rose* are familiar with the regular feature, "Seek and Ye Shall Find an Aid," written by Shirley Rodnitzky, the Special Collections Historical Manuscript Archivist. She has written this feature about newly processed collections as well as other articles over the years. The feature in this issue as well as the article on the Arlington Garden Club are her last as Shirley retired from the University of Texas at Arlington Libraries on August 31, 2002.

Shirley took early retirement so that she could have time to spend on all those things that she never had time to do when she was working. She has two grandchildren, John and Macy Rodnitzky, with whom she plans to do some babysitting. She also wants to get back to her watercolor painting, something she has put aside for several years. And she wants to work on redecorating her house.

Shirley was born in Chicago and graduated from the University of Illinois Champaign/Urbana, where she met her husband, Dr. Jerry Rodnitzky, who was a graduate student in history. Jerry accepted a teaching position at The University of Texas at Arlington; they were married and moved to Arlington in 1966. They have two children, Mark and Joan, and Shirley was a stay-at-home mom for about ten years.

During this time Jerry told Shirley about a course in archival management being taught in the History Department by Larry Sall, now the Director of the University of Texas at Dallas Library; he thought she might find it interesting. She took that course and really enjoyed it, but when she finished there were no jobs immediately available. However, in 1978 another faculty wife told her that there was a half-time position available in Special Collections. Shirley called J. C. Martin, who was then director of Special Collections, and she was offered the position as a Library Assistant II. The position was for public service at the Special Collections service desk. Even though Special Collections was not very busy at that time, Shirley was told that she could not do any other work at the desk except to sit there and wait for someone to come in. To occupy herself and to learn more about the collection, Shirley read the cards in the card catalog!

A little later there was an opening in the archives area. Bob Gamble, then head of archives, needed a Library Assistant III to process Texas labor collections. However, Shirley did not want to work full-time because her children, although in school, were still young. Shirley and Bob reached a compromise, and Shirley began working $\frac{3}{4}$ time. Eventually, as her children became older, she went to full time. She processed collections as well as supervised up to five students, who were also processing collections. Eventually Jane Boley, who retired four years ago from Special Collections, transferred to the archives; she became interested in processing and Shirley taught her the procedures.

Later Shirley transferred back to the Special Collections area and dealt with many different areas of the collections. Sometimes it was processing, sometimes it was cataloging sheet music, graphics, maps, or manuscript collections, and sometimes it was a newspaper project. Shirley especially enjoyed these assignments as they were project oriented, and she could feel a sense of accomplishment when they were done. And it also allowed her to become familiar with all the different formats in Special Collections.

In 1988 Shirley decided to enroll in the library school at North Texas; she graduated in 1991. She only took one class

a semester, and, then to finish up, she took a leave of absence and took five classes her last semester. She received a UTA Libraries Staff Association scholarship while in library school.

In 1989, the first year of existence of the Academy of Certified Archivists, Shirley became a member of the charter group of certified archivists. In 1992 the position of Archivist was added to the employee classification at UTA, and Shirley's position was reclassified to that level.

Shirley has been involved, along with other Special Collections staff, in the creation of the *Archives and Manuscripts Processing Manual* [available online at <http://libraries.uta.edu/SpecColl/processman/title1.htm>] in order to have consistent practices in the processing of collections. She has been the one to keep it up-to-date.

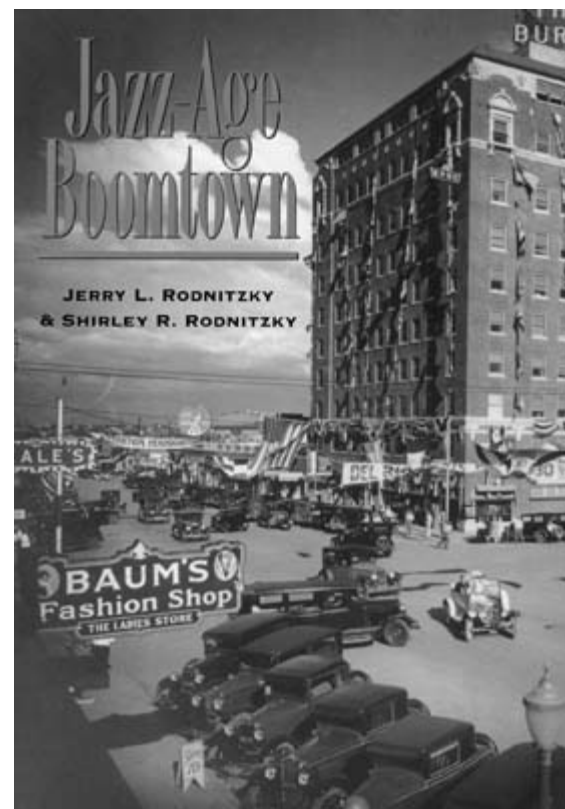
Shirley also produced the 2nd edition of *A Guide to Manuscript and Archival Collections in Special Collections Division at the University of Texas at Arlington Libraries* [available online at <http://libraries.uta.edu/SpecColl/findaids/guideIntr.htm>] Through much diligence Shirley was able to track down every collection that Special Collections had by checking and rechecking holding files, accession records, and the unprocessed shelflist. This guide is now on the Web as well as available at the Special Collections service desk. Shirley has continued to keep this document up-to-date as new collections are received. She said that working on that has made her familiar with all the collections in Special Collections, not just the ones that she worked on.

When asked, Shirley said that she had three favorite collections that she had processed. The first is the Trussell Family papers. These papers document one American family from 1831 to 1962 as they moved across the frontier from South Carolina to Kentucky to Tennessee to Alabama to Mississippi and finally to Texas. The collection also has a wide variety of types of material: correspondence, diaries, legal documents, financial records, literary works, printed materials, photographs, and artifacts.

The Henry W. Benham Family papers [available online at <http://libraries.uta.edu/SpecColl/findaids/AR388.htm>] was especially interesting since Benham was a prominent figure in U.S. history. He was in the U.S. Army Corps of Topographical Engineers and served in both the Mexican American War and the Civil War. He also invented the method of laying pontoon bridges by simultaneous bays as well as a trenching tool. The collection came in somewhat poor condition, and Shirley helped win a contest by the Conservation Division of ICI for repair and preservation treatment of part of the collection. This was very satisfying to her.

The Basil Clemons Photograph collection [available online at <http://libraries.uta.edu/SpecColl/findaids/AR317.htm>], which concentrates on the town of Breckenridge, Texas, in the 1920s and early 1930s, was the third collection she mentioned. Shirley knew little about photographs when she began processing the collection but learned as she proceeded. She was fascinated by the photographs of everyday life in a small Texas town and the changes it experienced when oil was discovered, and she would go home and tell her husband about them. Eventually he came to see them, and together they decided to do a book featuring the photographs from the 1920s. Jointly they selected the images to use and then Jerry wrote the captions. This resulted in the book, *Jazz Age Boomtown*, which was published in 1997 by Texas A&M University Press.

Shirley says that she enjoyed writing the articles for the *Compass Rose*. One of her favorites was the article on the Jenkins Garrett Postcard Collection in the Spring 1999 issue [available online at <http://libraries.uta.edu/SpecColl/crose99/postcard.htm>]. She enjoyed doing the research on the history of postcards, interviewing Jenkins Garrett on how he developed the collection, and becoming familiar with the collection. As a hobby Shirley



*Cover of **Jazz-Age Boomtown** (Texas A&M University Press, 1997), book co-authored by Jerry and Shirley Rodnitzky about Breckenridge, Texas, using the photographs of Basis Clemons.*

herself collects postcards that show maps of states.

We thank Shirley for all her contributions to Special Collections over a twenty-four year period. She has done a lot to contribute to the unit's successes, and she will be missed by both the staff and researchers of Special Collections. Most of all we wish her a long and happy retirement.

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