



Texas Ranger Hall of Fame Newsletter

Sponsored by the City of Waco

Official State Historical Center of the Texas Rangers

Home of Texas Ranger Bicentennial 1823-2023

December 2016

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New Sign and Monument to the Texas Rangers

On July 6, 2012, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) broke ground on the I-35 Brazos River bridge project in Waco. TxDOT replaced the ageing Brazos River bridge with spans reminiscent of the 1869 Waco Suspension Bridge.

To make way for a new frontage road, TxDOT needed to remove the well-known Texas Ranger Museum sign. It was constructed in 1992 with generous financial support from the Cooper Foundation. For a quarter-century it was a scenic backdrop for visitors to take pictures at the museum



Holiday Schedule

The Museum is closed on Christmas and New Year's Days to enjoy time with our families. We will reopen at 9:00 am the day after.

'Tis the season for gifts! The Museum Gift Shop asks that all orders be placed by Saturday, December 17th for guaranteed Christmas delivery. Thank you!



Original Monument Sign

A much higher freeway and access road grade meant that a taller sign would be needed to be visible from I-35. The City of Waco contracted with Tangram Design of Denver, CO and subcontractor Harbinger Sign of Plano for a replacement. The resulting design is respectful of the Texas Ranger heritage and in keeping with the beautiful Brazos Riverfront. The design

was enhanced after input from the Waco City Council, Texas Rangers, and Waco Historic Landmarks and Preservation Board.



End of Year Donations

As the year comes to an end, please remember the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum for your 2016 tax-deductible donations. The Museum can accept donations of cash, stocks, and in-kind services.

For more information, please contact Christine Rothenbush, Marketing and Development Coordinator, at (254) 750-8631. Thank you.



Prestwick Students Visit TRHF

The Museum was a part of the itinerary for Prestwick students. Their journey to Austin and Waco was featured in an article in the *Little Elm Journal*.

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



Joaquin Jackson

The article, "The Lasting Influence of Texas Ranger Joaquin Jackson" by Mark Boardman for *True West*



Artist's concept of new monument sign.

The new sign will be completed in December, a monument to a state symbol that will help millions more visitors find us in the years ahead.

New Badges and Commissions Exhibit



We are pleased to announce the completion of a new exhibit, *Behind the Symbol: Texas Ranger Badges and Commissions*. Honoring Texas Rangers, past and present, this exhibit focuses on the iconic circle-star badge that is known worldwide and the commissions carried since the 1830s.

"With symbolic handcrafted metal badges pinned above their hearts, a Warrant of Authority neatly folded in their pockets or saddle-bags, and the cold-steel devotion to duty tucked into the scabbards at their hips, iconic Texas Rangers of days long past were ready to protect and serve citizens of the Lone Star state. - Bob Alexander

Magazine, compares the lives of two famous Texas Rangers: Joaquin Jackson and Frank Hamer.

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



Business Card Holder

The perfect stocking stuffer has arrived! New business card holders feature the badge engraved in leather around a stainless steel exterior and a gray felt-lined interior case.

\$8.95 each

Please call (877) 750-8631 or email thestore@texastranger.org to purchase one today. Sales from the Gift Shop benefit the preservation and education activities of the Museum.

Please order by Saturday, December 17th for guaranteed Christmas delivery.



Education Center

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

- McLennan County District Attorney
- Texas Department of Public Safety
- Texas Rangers
- NAACP

Quick Links



The Museum's exhibits committee worked with Custom Creation and Pony Allen Studios, both of Austin, Texas on the design of the exhibit cases.

Support for this new exhibit was made possible by the generous donations from Ram and the Fiat-Chrysler Automobiles Foundation.

Bluntzer Brand Book

Laura Greenwood, Texas Ranger Hall of Fame Board member, has donated an important piece of Texas ranching history to the Armstrong Research Center.

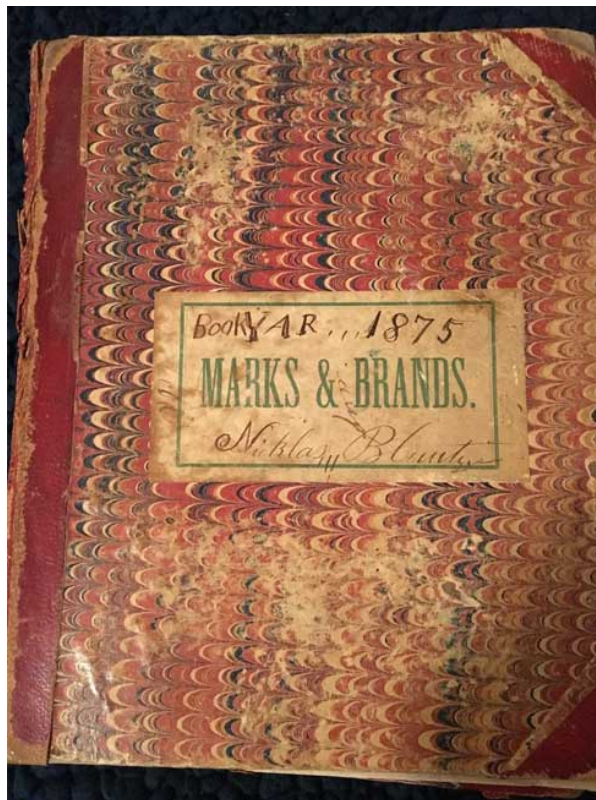
Laura's ancestor, Nicholas Bluntzer, immigrated to Texas in 1842 at age 7 from Alsace, France near the German border. His family settled near Victoria, Texas in an area beset by Indian raids. In response the US Army established forts and launched retaliatory campaigns. As a young man, Bluntzer joined an expedition under Col. Robert E. Lee as a guide and was wounded by an arrow.



In 1859 he relocated to Nueces County with wife Justina and entered the cattle business. The cattle trade held great promise, but the Nueces Strip between the Rio Grande and Nueces Rivers was a war zone. It was thinly populated and home to hundreds of thousands of cattle and horses. Raids by Indians, rustlers and outlaws were a daily occurrence.

The lawlessness and bloodshed intensified during Reconstruction. In response, in 1875 Governor Richard Coke created a Special Force of Texas Rangers with orders to use any means to pacify the Nueces Strip. Bluntzer experienced the violence first hand. In 1878 his ranch was raided by Kiowa, the herders killed and horse herd stolen. The Rangers were a welcome countermeasure.

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Over 40 years Bluntzer owned ranches in Coleman, Frio, Nueces and Atascosa counties. From 1875 to 1880 he drove cattle to railheads in Kansas and Nebraska. He also owned packing houses in Nuecestown and Oso processing beef and vegetables grown on his 1,200 acre farm.

In 1875, the year the Special Force was born, Bluntzer used a small "Marks and Brands" book from a New Orleans stationer to keep track of his cattle. He recorded the cattle he traded, their brands, ears markings and value. It is a rare reminder of the turbulent times in the Nueces Strip.

Thanks to Laura Greenwood and the Bluntzer family this piece of history now belongs to the People of Texas.

Texas Rangers on the Fort Worth Walk of Fame

The renowned actor, musician and cowboy poet Red Steagall hosts an annual *Cowboy Gathering and Western Swing Festival* in the historic Fort Worth stockyards. This year the Texas Rangers and Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum participated in an induction ceremony on October 29th for three legendary Texas Rangers.



Texas Rangers Captain Leander McNelly, Lieutenant John Barclay Armstrong and Captain Francis Augustus "Frank" Hamer were inducted into the Walk of Fame. Medallions commemorating the inductions were presented to Texas Rangers Company "B," including Major Grover Huff, Lieutenant A.P. Davidson and Ranger Michael Don Stoner. TRHFM Advisory Board member and author Bob Alexander accepted the medallions for exhibit at the museum.



The museum is grateful to Mrs. Clara Wallace Holmes of the Texas Trail of Fame for coordinating the event.

For more information about the Red Steagall Festival, please visit <http://redsteagallcowboygathering.com>.

Big Texas Christmas Present

Time for the 7th annual Big Texas Christmas Present!

Big 95 has teamed up with the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame & Museum to help Compassion Ministries! Compassion Ministries helps those who are homeless or on the verge of homelessness into permanent housing and employment. They also provide a transitional housing facility, financial training, and other services. Compassion Ministries needs gift items and donations for children, teens, and adults this holiday season.



Saturday, December 10th, from 1-3pm, Big 95, and Compassion Ministries will be accepting donations at the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum. For each item donated, you will receive one free admission pass to the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum. You can get a list of donation suggestions at compassionwaco.com. Help us wrap up the Big Texas Christmas Present with the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame & Museum, Compassion Ministries and Big 95!

For more information visit:

www.compassionwaco.com

www.kbgo.com

www.texasranger.org

**Save
\$2.00**

Save \$1.00 off regular adult admission for up to two adults. Coupon not valid on discounted senior or military admission. No cash value.

The museum is open 9am to 5pm with the last guest admitted at 4:30pm. The museum is located off I-35 and University Parks Drive in Waco, Texas.

For more information, call (254) 750-8631 or visit www.texasranger.org.

Offer Expires: January 31, 2017