



Texas Ranger Hall of Fame Newsletter

Official State Historical Center of the Texas Rangers

Sponsored by the City of Waco

June 2013

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A Ranger Commission

First Lieutenant Joel Robison

The Tobin and Anne Armstrong Texas Ranger Research Center recently received a generous gift from the family of Margaret Hickman. Mrs. Hickman, of Thurmont, Maryland, donated a Ranger Commission for First Lieutenant Joel Robison signed by President Sam Houston, The Republic of Texas on December 22, 1836. Joel Robison moved to Texas with his parents and sister in 1831 and settled near Columbia in Brazoria County. With his father, he served in Captain Henry Stevenson Brown's company at the Battle of Velasco on June 26, 1832. Later, Robison would become a volunteer Indian fighter in the company of Captain John York. Robison is purportedly the last messenger to ride out of the Alamo on February 24, 1836. At the Battle of San Jacinto, he was a private in Captain William Jones Elliot Heard's Company "F" of Colonel Edward Burleson's First Regiment, Texas Volunteers, and was one of the party that captured Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna.



June 15th Event

In partnership with the Texas Archive of the Moving Image (TAMI), the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum will screen "Tales of the Texas Rangers: The Texas Department of Public Safety and the Texas Rangers On Screen." The



video montage will be exhibited on Saturday, June 15th at 1:30 p.m. in the Hall of Fame rotunda and will include DPS training films and reels from the mid 20th Century. Standard museum admission fees apply.

Please [click here](#) to preview a Texas Ranger training video about safe burglary investigations.



Lone Ranger Celebration

Hi Yo, Silver! Away!
Celebrate your inner Lone Ranger!

Saturday, July 6th and
Sunday, July 7th

Bring your The Lone Ranger movie ticket stub or wear a mask to receive FREE admission to the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum.

See a reproduction of Armie Hammer's cowboy hat!

Limit 2 free admissions per group or family.



Museum Supports
West ISD

Margaret & Martin Hickman, and Mrs. Hickman's mother Charlotte Lloyd present a Ranger Commission for First Lieutenant Joel Robison, signed by President Sam Houston to Shelly Crittendon, Collections Manager at the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum.

Mrs. Hickman, the great-great-great granddaughter of Robison, was accompanied on the trip to Waco by her husband Martin and her mother Ms. Charlotte Lloyd who is the great-great granddaughter of Robison. The Ranger Commission was formally presented to the Museum on May 3, 2013. The text of this important historic document follows:

*SAM HOUSTON,
PRESIDENT, IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF
THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS.*

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:

Know ye, that reposing special trust and confidence in the patriotism, valor, fidelity, and abilities of Joel Robison I do appoint him first Lieutenant of Rangers in the Army of the Republic of Texas, to bear date from the fourteenth of December of the present year.

He is therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the duties of first Lieutenant of Rangers by doing and performing all manner of things thereunto belonging. And I do strictly charge and require all Officers, Soldiers, and others, under his command, to be obedient to his orders, as first Lieutenant of Rangers.

And he is to observe and follow such orders and directions from time to time, as he shall receive from me, or the future President of the Republic of Texas, or his superior officer set over him, according to the rules and discipline of the Army. This Commission to continue in force during the pleasure of the President of the Republic of Texas, for the time being.

Given under my hand at Columbia this twenty-second day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six and in the first year of the Independence of the REPUBLIC OF TEXAS.

*By the President,
Sam Houston*

*William S. Fisher
Acting Secretary of War*

On May 13th, the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum donated a rental of Knox Center to the West High School Athletic Booster Club Banquet. The event was attended by over 400 West, Texas residents. The event included an award and scholarship presentation ceremony for students and a fundraiser to replace destroyed athletic uniforms with new ones.

The Waco Convention Center donated 75 linens to cover the tables. Weed Thorns Catering donated the meal.

The board and staff of the Texas Ranger Museum were honored to give the student athletes affected by the recent tragedy a memorable and fun evening.



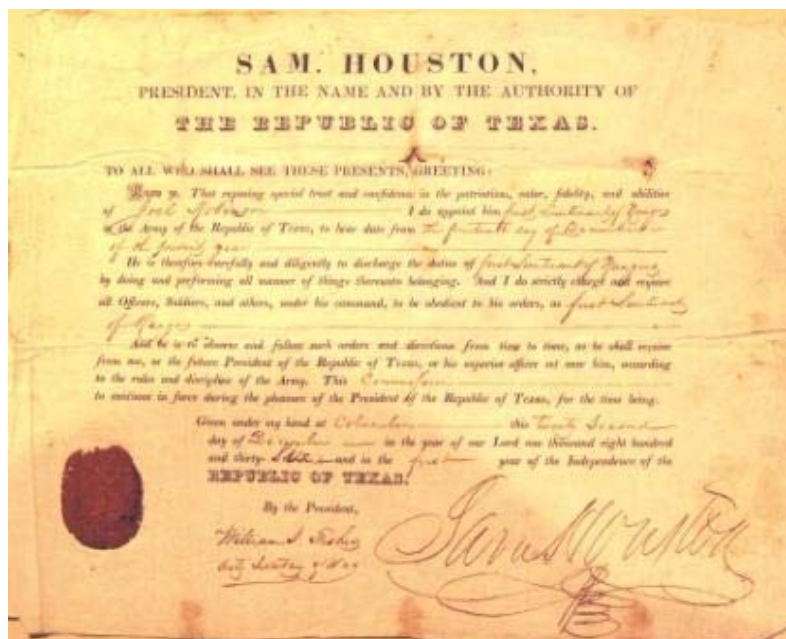
Arberdeen Student Visits TRHF

We are excited to hear about Cordell Vitense's upcoming visit to the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum. Cordell is helping the citizens of West, Texas in their recovery efforts. While in Texas, he plans to visit the museum. Please [click here](#) to read about this caring young man.



Spindletop Charities, Inc. Grant

The Tobin and Anne Armstrong Texas Ranger Research Center received the second installment of a



Ranger Commission for First Lieutenant Joel Robison, signed by President Sam Houston, December 22, 1837.

Aten Exhibit

Highlighting the History of the Three Aten Brothers

An exhibit on the Aten brothers was recently installed by the Collections Department to coincide with the Lone Star History Conference. This exhibit features artifacts and photographs related to Ira, Cal and Eddie and their families. Ira was the first brother to become a Texas Ranger, and was soon followed by Cal and Eddie. The brothers were famous in their day for being brave and fair arbiters of justice. Bob Alexander, an author and researcher, was instrumental in contacting the Aten descendents about loaning the artifacts and family photos.



Ira Aten taken 1885
A. Boyd Round Rock, Tex.

Rookie Texas Ranger Austin Ira Aten appears unassuming and naïve in this studio portrait. By the end of his career, he lived through five well-documented gunfights. [Courtesy of Jeri and Gary Radder]

grant from Spindletop Charities, Inc. in memory of their board member Robert E. Rose. The grant funded the construction of Spindletop Tower, which features rotating displays of rare documents, books and photographs from the collections of the Armstrong Texas Ranger Research Center. The Center's staff appreciates the generosity and support from Spindletop Charities, Inc.



Lucile Garrett Plane

The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame is sad to note the passing of Lucile G. Plane, 98, of Gatesville, Texas, on May 11, 2013. Lucile was a former member of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum Board, a patron, and the first female warden in the modern Texas Department of Corrections.

To read her oral history, please [click here](#).



Click It or Ticket

In May, the 12th annual Texas Click It or Ticket seat belt enforcement campaign kicked off at the LBJ Presidential Library and Museum in honor of the 45th anniversary of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act signed by President Lyndon Johnson. Enacted in 1968, this important life-saving law required that all new



Company "D" Texas Rangers. Standing, L to R: Jim King, Baz Outlaw, Riley Boston, Charley Fusselman, Tink Durbin, Ernest Rogers, Charles Barton, and Walter Jones. Seated, L to R: Bob Bell, Cal Aten, Frank Jones (note watch chain), J. Walter Durbin, Jim Robinson, and Frank Schmid. [Armstrong Research Center]

Joseph Trobaugh II of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, Cal Aten's great-grandson loaned the Museum a Colt Single Action Army 1885 Revolver and a pair of spurs owed by Cal Aten. Tucked inside the gun's grip is a note written by Cal describing the history of the gun taken from outlaw Alvin Odle in 1889. Also on exhibit are branding irons from the 8N Ranch, loaned by Mark Lane of Amarillo, great-grandson of Cal Aten. Gary Radder, Ira Aten's grandson, and his wife Jeri, of Alamo, California were generous enough to loan the Museum Ira Aten's sheriff's Journal from his time in Dimmit, Texas, his discharge papers and a framed arrest warrant for outlaw John Odle, signed by Governor Sul Ross. Captain Frank Jones' pocket watch given to Eddie Aten from Captain John R. Hughes has been loaned to the Museum by Donald Yena of San Antonio.



The Aten Brothers Exhibit in Taub Hall.

The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum is grateful for the generosity of the various Aten family members and other lenders and the hard work of

vehicles come equipped with safety belts.

Taking a cue from LBJ's leadership, Texas has made seat belt safety a major priority and is proud to be one of the most buckled up states in the union. As part of the Click It or Ticket initiative, law enforcement officials across the state will be looking for and ticketing unbuckled drivers and passengers in an effort to raise safety awareness and prevent fatalities.

Please [click here](#) for more information on the campaign.



TxDOT Exhibit

Interested in the history of the Texas Department of Transportation, back in the days when it was known as the Texas Highway Department? Please [click here](#) to check out this informative online exhibit, entitled "From Pioneer Paths to Superhighways," at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.



Quick Links

- Website
- Gift Shop
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- Research Center
- Education Center
- Educational Programs
- Museum Video

Bob Alexander in making this exhibit possible.

Recap: Lone Star History Conference II
A Conference Celebrating Texas Ranger History

On May 10-11th more than 250 enthusiasts attended Lone Star History Conference II, the fourth Texas Rangers history conference at the Hall of Fame and Museum. It was developed by authors Bob Alexander and Jan Devereaux of Maypearl and Doug Dukes of Austin. Among the popular topics were sessions on the Frontier Battalion and Special Force, current Texas Ranger weapons and operations, qualifications to be a Texas Ranger, the U.S. Marshals and the Texas Rangers, Texas Ranger firearms and the three 1880s Aten brothers who were Texas Rangers. Presenters included Texas Ranger Chief Kirby W. Dendy, U.S. Marshall Service's historian David S. Turk, Texas Ranger Jason Bobo of Company "F," and other authors and researchers. In attendance were the descendants of the three Aten brothers, including exhibit artifact lenders: Joseph Trobaugh II (great-grandson of Cal Aten), Joseph's brother John Trobaugh (great-grandson of Cal Aten), Shirely Aten Roberts (granddaughter of Cal Aten) and Shirley's son Mark Lane (great-grandson of Cal Aten).



A special thanks to our 2013 sponsors: 2J Old West Writin' Company, Ben E. Keith Distributors, Coryell Museum & Historical Center, The Cowboy Bank-Maypearl, Crinkstuff! Rare Books, David's Food Stores, Fairfield Inn & Suites-Waco North, HLCO Electric Cooperative, Inc., San Saba County Historical Museum, "Sugar Moon" music ensemble, True West Magazine, University of North Texas Press, Wedding Oak Winery, Wild Horse Media Group.

New Texas DPS Airplane
Named in Honor of Ranger Doherty

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) today commissioned its newest airplane, a Pilatus PC-12 NG, at a ceremony in Austin. The aircraft was named in honor of Texas Ranger Bobby Paul Doherty, who was killed in the line of





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duty in 1978.

The aircraft, which accommodates two pilots and seven passengers, can reach an altitude of 30,000 feet and a speed of 322 mph. It features state-of-the-art equipment, including an L-3 camera system with an infrared/color video camera, and an AeroComputer mapping system with the ability, for example, to map the area around a fire or assist in search and rescue. In addition, the plane is equipped with a variety of radios enabling communication between several agencies.

The *Bobby Doherty* ultimately will be stationed in San Antonio, with primary duties of supporting local agencies along the Texas-Mexico border.

Please [click here](#) for more information.

Summer Camp

[Register Now](#)

Texas Ranger Hall of Fame Summer Camp!

The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum will host a summer day camp on Friday, July 19th and Saturday, July 20th. The two-day camp will run from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. each day.

Campers will have the opportunity to step into the boots of a 19th century Texas Ranger and learn about skills critical to survival on the frontier. Day two of the program will provide an opportunity for campers to learn about the duties of the modern Texas Ranger, including their work as Crime Scene Investigators.



Camp Registration is open to all children entering fourth and fifth grade. Scouting groups are welcome based on availability. Cost is \$25.00 per camper.

www.TexasRanger.org

Call (254) 750-8631 to register today!
Deadline to register is Friday, July 12th.



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: July 31, 2013

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