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September 2018

Texas Ranger Hall of Fame Newsletter

Sponsored by the City of Waco

Official State Historical Center of the Texas Rangers

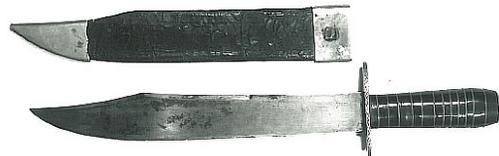
Home of Texas Ranger Bicentennial 1823-2023

Historic Bowie Knife Goes on Display

Join us on **Monday, September 10th at 10am** when the historic bowie knife attributed to Jim Bowie's brother Rezin goes on display.

In late 2017, Rudolph Gleichman donated a 17" Bowie knife believed to have been presented to Texas Ranger Captain William Y. Lacey between 1837 and 1841. The knife has characteristics linking it to both Texas and Louisiana—a "Texas clipped" point and a scabbard of a style traced to Louisiana inscribed R.P. Bowie to Capt. Wm Y. Lacey."

The famous Jim Bowie, who died in defense of the Alamo in March of 1836, was a land speculator, prospector and cotton merchant. Before the Texas Revolution he fought Comanches and prospected for silver with his brother Rezin P. Bowie (1793-1841) and likely William Lacey (1814-1892) who later joined the Texas Rangers.



Texas/Louisiana Style Bowie Knife, about 1837-1841

Attributed to Rezin P. Bowie as a gift to Texas Ranger Capt. William Y. Lacy

After his brother's historic death, Rezin enjoyed the renown of the legendary Jim

Bowie. He commissioned several "Bowie knives" which were given to military officers, acquaintances and the famous. Rudolph Gleichman acquired what is believed to be one of these and spent a decade painstakingly researching it.

Gift of Mr. Rudolph Gleichman

He ultimately decided to donate it to the People of Texas through the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum.

Master knife maker Greg Wall, a descendant of the Bowie family, has made and donated a painstakingly made replica for educational purposes to the museum. He will be there to formally present it. Licensed replicas of the knife are under discussion as a fundraiser in support of our educational and preservation programs.

Come and see this unique piece of Texas history.

DPS Museum Day in Austin



DPS MUSEUM DAY

Picture Yourself in Their Boots

Sponsored by the DPS Historical Museum
 Showcasing the
Texas Department of Public Safety

Sunday, Sept. 23, 2018

11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

5805 North Lamar Blvd.

Austin, Texas

- Vintage Uniform Dress-up Station
- Selfie Stations
- Scavenger Hunt
- CVE Big Rig
- SWAT, Texas Rangers
- Mobile Command Center
- Emergency Management
- Crime Lab
- DPS Helicopter
- Cybersecurity
- Canine Unit
- Mounted Patrol Horses
- Indoor Museum
- Plus More!



Donation of Gold Coins

Last month we appealed for donors to make possible the purchase of six gold 50-Pesos Mexican coins to make a reference set of Texas Ranger badges for the Texas Ranger Bicentennial™. Shortly after sending out the newsletter, Fred Bucy III of Fischer, Texas, graciously agreed to underwrite the purchase.

This is Mr. Bucy's second legacy for future generations of Texans. Last year he and his son Joshua sponsored the restoration of the historic c.1851 painting of Senator Sam

Houston by Charles Schnabel of which Houston said “I think more of it than all my likenesses. “

Gold *Centenario* coins were first minted for the 100th anniversary of Mexican Independence in 1921. Made until 1947, they and contain 1.2 ounces of gold. Why Mexican coins? Mexican silver and gold coins have been traditionally respected for their purity. Until 1845 the Mexican silver peso was accepted on par with the US Silver dollar as legal tender. They also symbolize the creation of the Texas Rangers under Mexico in 1823 and, like the cowboy, their multicultural heritage. Badges made from the silver 5-peso Cuauhtémoc (meaning “one who has descended like an eagle”) and the gold 50-pesos *Centenario* (meaning “Centennial of Independence”) are a treasured part of Texas Ranger tradition.



Until the price of gold skyrocketed, Captain and Sr. Captain badges made from *Centenarios* were the norm. Today the Texas Department of Public Safety issues gold-plated badges for the higher ranks. But the few Texas Rangers who achieve the current ranks of Captain, Staff Captain, Major, Assistant Chief and Chief can request authorization to have badges made from the *Centenario* coins.

The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame is honored and grateful to be the steward of the Texas Ranger Bicentennial™. Special permission has been granted us to have a reference set of badges made in honor of the Texas Ranger Bicentennial™.

Kevin Johnson, a master artisan from Clarendon, Texas, is one of two authorized makers to the Texas Rangers. He is generously donating a set of badges for all ranks—silver and gold-plated. Mr. Bucy’s donation of *Centenarios* enables him to make the solid gold badges as well.

Thanks to their master craftsmanship, and extraordinary generosity, Kevin Johnson, and Fred and Joshua Bucy, are giving future generations flawless examples of 21st century shining stars.

Benjamin Gibson Colt Model 1851 Navy Revolver

In August the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum accepted the donation of a Colt Model 1851 Navy revolver, together with leather holster, ammunition belt, and other artifacts relating to 19th century Texas Ranger Benjamin Major Gibson. The items, along with information about this little-known Ranger, were generously donated by Ranger Gibson’s great grandson, Mr. Charles Teal Gibson. Mr. Gibson is delighted to have his family treasure become a part of the museum collections.

According to Director, Byron Johnson, artifacts like this are rare. "Few able-bodied men were available for Texas Ranger service during the Civil War. Many were teenagers, old men, or partially disabled confederate veterans recovering from wounds. Consequently, few Texas Ranger artifacts from this era have survived; Benjamin Gibson's Colt Navy is an important vestige of history from an almost forgotten era. We are grateful to Charlie Gibson and his family for its gift to the People of Texas."



Left to Right: Byron A. Johnson, Director, receives the Colt revolver from donor Mr. Charles Teal Gibson

Before joining the Rangers (then the Texas State Troops), Benjamin Gibson gained a reputation as a notable Indian fighter in the area around Blanco and Llano counties. No doubt, this fighting experience would prove useful when he enlisted for a period of three years in the Frontier Regiment. The Frontier Regiment was organized to protect frontier settlements from raiding Indian attacks during the period of the Civil War. The frontier settlements were particularly vulnerable during this time, as young men from all across Texas left to fight for the Confederacy.

In 1862 Benjamin Major Gibson enlisted in Company K with Col. J.E. McCord's Frontier Regiment at Camp San Saba in McCullough Co., Texas. Col. McCord favored bold attacks into Indian Territory and his men would have seen many engagements with Indian parties. In later life, Benjamin Gibson married and had nine children, residing in Llano County until his death in 1904.

Bicentennial Book Signings

Our thanks to Captain Jack Dean, authors Darren L. Ivey, Donaly Brice, Bob Alexander and Jan Devereaux, and historian Doug Dukes. They have generously donated their time to sign books and speak to visitors over the summer months at both the TRHFM in Waco and the Leon Valley (suburb of San Antonio) Public Library.



Left to Right: Capt. Jack Dean, Bob Alexander, Doug Dukes

In Memoriam: Carl A. Weathers



We are sad to note the passing of Texas Ranger Captain Carl Weathers, 78, after a long illness. Capt. Weathers was born in Indian Gap, Texas and served in the US Army. His law enforcement career spanned 40 years as a police officer, Texas Highway Patrol officer, and a Texas Ranger. He served in companies "A" in Houston and "C" in Lubbock attaining the rank of Captain.

He was a pioneer in the use of hypnosis in Texas to induce crime victims and witnesses to recall such details such as license plate numbers. His involvement in notable cases included the Republic of

Capt. Carl Weathers (1940-2018)

Texas Standoff in the Davis Mountains, and the Branch Davidian siege in Elk.

Please [click here](#) to read his oral history interview.



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Education Center

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

Texas Rangers

- Hypnosis In-Service Training
- Leica Scanner Training
- SRT - Special Response Team

Baylor School of Education

Waco Center for Youth

NAACP

**ENJOY
\$2.00 OFF**

Expires 10/31/2018

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.

Newsletter Compiled by Christine Rothenbush, Marketing & Development Specialist

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