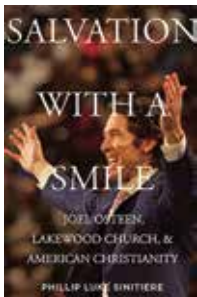


News Updates & Books *by Barbara Eaves*

BOOKS

The Texas State Historical Association is releasing two books. One is a reprint edition of *Stephen F. Austin, Empresario of Texas*, Gregg Cantrell's path-breaking biography of the founder of Anglo Texas. Cantrell portrays Austin as a borderlands figure who navigated the complex cultural landscape of 1820s Texas, then a part of Mexico. (Texas A&M Press, \$30.) The other, *Washington on the Brazos: Cradle of the Texas Republic* by Richard B. McCaslin, is the story of the Texas Republic that begins and ends at Washington, now a state historic site that commemorates its role in the Texas Revolution and Republic. Earlier, Washington was a center of political power, a thriving river port, and a haven for freed slaves and German immigrants. (Texas A&M Press, \$15.95.)



Salvation with a Smile: Joel Osteen, Lakewood Church and American Christianity by Philip Luke Sinitiere, visiting assistant professor of history at Sam Houston State University. How did Joel Osteen become one of the most recognizable Protestant leaders in the country? Sinitiere excavates the life of Lakewood Church founder John Osteen to explain how his son Joel expanded and

fashioned his congregation into America's largest megachurch. Extensively well researched, the book is the first devoted to Lakewood and situates the church in the context of American religious history. (New York Press, \$35.)

Allie Victoria Tennant and the Visual Arts in Dallas, by Light



Townsend Cummins. Many recognize the iconic bronze Native American figure at the Hall of State at Fair Park in Dallas, but few know much about its sculptor, Allie Victoria Tennant. Cummins traces the life of this pioneering female artist who succeeded in a male-dominated profession to advance Texas regionalist art before World War II. (Texas A&M Press, \$35.)

NEWS

The Texas State Historical Association's *Handbook of Texas*, a 26,000-entry digital project, is generating supplements focused on Houston, Tejano history, and African American Texas. All need ideas and contributions from scholars, historians, and writers. All acknowledge the support of Randolph "Mike" Campbell, Texas chief historian, and Stephen Cook, chair of the TSHA Handbook Committee. The *Handbook of Houston*, a joint project between the Houston History Alliance and TSHA, is the first city-centric handbook. It showcases Houston's development, people, places, and diverse cultural heritage under the direction of

Lindsay Scovil Dove, M.A., University of Houston, lscovil@houstonhistoryalliance.org. The *Handbook of Tejano History* is supported by Tejano Monument, Inc., and the UT-Austin Department of History. Project co-directors are Emilio Zamora, Ph.D., at UT-Austin and Andrés Tijerina, Ph.D., at Austin Community College. The *Handbook of African American Texas*, now past 1,100 entries, covers African Americans in the state dating back to Cabeza de Vaca's 1528 expedition. The project is directed by Merline Pitre, Ph.D., Texas Southern University. www.tshaonline.org/handbook.

The Heritage Society has made two interesting diaries available for researchers. The first was kept by E. S. Perkins, a New York preacher who arrived in Houston just before New Year's Day, 1839. His letters written to family and friends and recorded in a small book contain some of the earliest descriptions of the city. The second, written by J. L. Watson, recounts his journey from St. Louis down the Mississippi River to New Orleans and then west to Houston, where, in 1886, he bought a newspaper that became the *Houston Post*. He acquired one of the first linotype machines for the paper and later became wealthy promoting its use throughout the country. Contact Wally Saage, 713-655-1912.



In 2011, The San Jacinto Museum of History displayed an 1841 Tyron Flintlock Rifle, one of only five thought to remain of the 850 shipped to President Mirabeau Lamar to outfit the Santa Fe Expedition. Lamar had sent the expedition's traders to New Mexico to divert some of the profitable trade traveling over the Santa Fe Trail and, if possible, to establish Texas's jurisdiction over the region. The traders got lost, encountered hostile Indians, and, three months later, finally reached Santa Fe where they met armed resistance from New Mexico's governor. The Texians were ordered to surrender and their muskets were carted off and supposedly destroyed. After a heated diplomatic controversy, New Mexico released the Texians a year later. "As frequently happens when a rare artifact gains media attention (as in 2011), people search their attics and collections for similar items," said curator Liz Appleby. "In this case, Tom O'Neal learned that a previously undocumented Tyron musket had been in his family for generations!" O'Neal has placed the musket on a five-year loan for display at the San Jacinto Museum of History.

Andrew C. Baker's article, "From Rural South to Metropolitan Sunbelt: Creating a Cowboy identity in the Shadow of Houston," which ran in the July 2015 issue of *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, won the Western History

Association's Michael P. Malone Award for the best article on territorial history in North America appearing in a periodical. Baker, now assistant professor at Texas A&M-Commerce, was a Ph.D. student at Rice University when the article was published.

Stacey Eisenstark has joined Texas A&M University Press as acquisitions editor for natural resource science, agriculture, and the environment. She brings six years of editorial experience at the University of California Press. Director of TAMU Press, **Shannon Davies** formerly devoted full time to acquisitions in these areas.



SPARK School Park Program celebrated the opening of seven new parks in the area. Council member Eleanor Tinsley began the program to create parks on school grounds in 1983. Today over 150 unique parks serve the needs and of the nearly 300,000 people who live nearby. Houston Endowment, a supporter of the program, found that the parks are well-maintained, promote community involvement, and offer a great way to get residents, particularly young people, outdoors.

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD) is celebrating its centennial. Created by city ordinance on March 15, 1916, the department originally managed approximately 750 acres of parkland. Today, the HPARD system includes 370 developed parks and more than 220 greenspaces totaling over 37,851 acres. The May 14 grand opening of renovated Gragg Park will include the installation of a time capsule to commemorate the department's 100th anniversary. www.houstonparks.org.



Preservation Houston believes that showcasing the year's best historic preservation projects and the people who make them happen helps foster a preservation ethic for Houston. To that end, since 1979, the group has presented the Good Brick Award to outstanding projects. In February, Preservation Houston presented fifteen 2016 Good Brick Awards and, on Saturday and Sunday, April 30 and May 1, from noon to 5:00 p.m., these winning homes and businesses will be open to visitors.



Barry Moore, FAIA.
Photo courtesy of Gensler.

Barry Moore, FAIA, Gensler senior associate architect, won Preservation Houston's President's Award for outstanding personal contributions to preservation in Houston. Among his recent Houston projects are the Julia Ideson Building and Willow Street Pump Station, and the Texas Quilt Museum in La Grange. Its "next-generation" member group, **Pier & Beam**, honored the **McGovern Centennial Gardens & Cherie Flores**

Garden Pavilion for their architectural significance and impact on Houston. Taking home these trophies were **Hoerr Schaudt** and White Oak Studio (landscape architects) and

Bohlin Cywinski Jackson (pavilion architect). Finally, Preservation Houston's two AIA Houston Awards went to **Sesquicentennial Park** (TeamHouston with 3/D International and Ray + Hollington) and **The Astrodome** (Lloyd, Morgan & Jones and Wilson, Morris Crain & Anderson). www.preservationhouston.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROFILE OF A HOUSTON OIL FAMILY: PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE STAITI/REISNER FAMILY COLLECTION will be on display through July 2 at The Heritage Society. The exhibition captures the lifestyle of this prosperous young Houston oil family making the most of this nascent industry.



THE 16TH ANNUAL SAN JACINTO SYMPOSIUM will be held on Saturday, April 9 and feature six speakers who will concentrate on the often-overlooked roles of people of African descent from the sixteenth century to annexation in 1845. The United Way Community Center, 50 Waugh Drive, Houston, TX 77007, will host the event. www.sanjacintoconservancy.org.

THE BATTLE OF SAN JACINTO annual commemoration will be held on Thursday, April 21 at 11:00 a.m. at the San Jacinto Monument. It is open to the public.

THE SAN JACINTO DAY FESTIVAL AND BATTLE REENACTMENT will be held Saturday, April 23 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and promises a full day of family fun — food, craft demonstrations, quilting, a petting zoo, and more. The battle reenactment is at the actual time of the battle, 3:00 p.m., at the San Jacinto Battleground.

THE BRYAN MUSEUM will launch a new exhibit, *La Cruz Blanca* (The White Cross) in the late spring. The emergency aid group organized by Leonor Villegas de Magnón and others in Laredo and El Paso during the Mexican Revolution (1910-1920) treated wounded Mexican soldiers. The museum is partnering with the University of Houston Special Collections to present this inspirational cross-border history. The *San Jacinto Diorama* was unveiled last fall featuring a seventy-square-foot display with more than 1,200 hand-painted miniature soldiers depicting the entire Battle of San Jacinto. www.thebryanmuseum.org



National Trust for Historic Preservation

THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION will hold its PastForward Conference in Houston November 15-18, 2016, at the Hilton Americas. Visit www.PastForwardConference.org.