

The NEATLINE

A NEWSLETTER OF THE TEXAS MAP SOCIETY

Spring 2012

Virginia Garrett 1920 - 2012



Founder of the Virginia Garrett Cartographic History Library

Virginia Garrett, 91 years old, loving family member, distinguished map collector and philanthropist, died on April 21, 2012, in Fort Worth.

Born Virginia Williams on November 26, 1920, in Fort Worth, the middle child of three of Bertha K. and John Edward Williams, Virginia attended Fort Worth schools, graduating from North Side High School in 1937. From high school, Virginia went on to comptometer training at Burroughs Training School. From 1938-1941, she worked in the Auditing Department of Continental Oil Company in downtown Fort Worth.

A lifelong member of Rosen Heights Baptist Church, she met and fell in love with Jess Jenkins Garrett, the minister's son. They were married by Jenkins's father on her birthday in San Francisco in 1941. At the time, Jenkins was a young attorney working for the FBI on the West Coast. They lived in California until 1943, when they returned to Fort Worth, where her time was increasingly occupied caring for a growing family, which included a daughter, Dianne, born in 1943, another daughter Donna, born in 1945, and a son, Jenkins, Jr., born in 1947.

In the 1950s and 1960s, Jenkins became an inveterate collector of all things Texas, including books, manuscripts, newspapers, sheet music, broadsides, and materials in other formats. The Garretts began traveling across the country and later around the world to satisfy his collecting interests. While they were frequenting bookstores to satisfy his passion for Texana, Virginia began looking at maps and other cartographic material that piqued her interest.

From childhood, she recalled her father giving her road maps to look at to occupy her time as the family drove from Fort Worth to see her grandparents in Marlin, Texas, near Waco. She was captivated by these maps, later admitting that "maps were like puzzles to me. I was mightily impressed that someone, somewhere, had calculated how far it was from one town to the next and was able to display this graphically."

Virginia's interests, her husband's collecting, and their travels quickly infected her with the "collecting bug" too. At first she was drawn to maps that depicted Texas, remembering that her first map purchase was made some 50 years ago in a small bookstore on Paris's Left Bank. Later she focused her collecting to include maps depicting the land that would become Texas (as opposed to Texas as a political unit) and the Gulf of Mexico. Over several decades, she amassed a collection that included

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

For all still recovering from last year's fires, winter, and lack of rain, the prospect of a July sojourn to the salubrious Rocky Mountains is just what the in-house weatherman of the Texas Map Society has forecasted. However, there is a cautionary warning to all heat suffering Texans. Do not wait to register! Reserved rate hotel rooms are going fast. Airline seats are selling out early. More out-of-state registrants than expected by the organizers are already registering. Seating in the University conference center is limited. Please check out the schedule of events and registration details on website as soon as possible. We all know those who missed out on our visit to the Library of Congress collection. Regrets are poor substitutes for memories. Remember that the Rocky Mountain Map Fair immediately follows at the same place. That in itself is worth the trip. In order to contain the costs of the event, the Texas Map Society requires no charges. In fact, from our retained surplus of the last few years we are helping underwrite \$1,000.00 of the costs incurred by the Rocky Mountain Map Society for refreshments and coffee. Still needed are assistance with bus rentals for the daily transportation between the hotels and the conference center. Any wishing to help should let me, Ben, or our Treasurer Lynne know, and we will forward this to Denver. Make plans now to join both old and new friends and map enthusiasts at the Joint Meeting of the Texas and Rocky Mountain Map Societies and Western Map Fair!

Prior to our next get-together, keep in contact through the TMS web site. Register early and volunteer where you can.

<http://www.texasmapsociety.org>

—Marty Davis, TMS President 2010-2012

FROM THE EDITOR

In late April, the Texas Map Society received the sad news that Virginia Garrett had died. Virginia's donation of her map collection to UTA provided the impetus for creating what has become the Virginia Garrett Cartographic History Library in the Special Collections there. I was privileged to be able to attend her memorial service, and was affected deeply by the words that so many shared about Virginia's life. In particular, the comments from each of her adult grandchildren spoke eloquently about her love and passion for her family, her community, her church, and yes, her collections. I only wish I had heard those stories years before, so that I could have talked and laughed about them with Virginia and Jenkins, when they were both still with us. Donations in her memory may be made to the Virginia and Jenkins Garrett Cartographic Endowment, UT Arlington, Campus Box 19198, Arlington, TX 76019.

While at the memorial service I ran into an old friend and co-worker, Christina Patoski. She had known the Garretts very well for decades, and had worked with me for several years at NBC5 in Fort Worth back in the early 1980's. Last fall she had donated to UTA some of the old paper weather maps that Harold Taft and I had used on TV back then. I asked her to write up an article on them, and it is included in this edition of *The Neatline* in the My Favorite Map feature.

The Texas Map Society 2012 Spring meeting has been postponed a few months and will take place in the summer instead. For the first time, the Texas Map Society will team up with the Rocky Mountain Map Society, to present *The Mapping of North America: Westward Expansion*. Other sponsors include the Denver Public Library, and the University of Denver. The joint meeting will take place 26-27 July 2012 at the University of Denver. That will be followed by another two day event: The Map Fair of the West, on 28-29 July 2012, which will be at The Denver Public Library. Here is a link to the home page of the web site of the www.RMmaps.org.

So be sure to set aside time in late July 2012 for an exciting four day map extravaganza.

Be aware that while the paper version of *The Neatline* is restricted to only 8 pages for each edition, the online version has no such restrictions. So by checking the electronic version, you may find some articles in longer, unedited versions, and more photographs to go along with the articles. So check out the web version, even if you have a paper copy.

And remember that even more information on the Texas Map Society can be found at our website at:

www.TexasMapSociety.org

- David Finrock

The Neatline is published semi-annually by the Texas Map Society c/o Special Collections - The University of Texas at Arlington Library Box 19497 - 902 Planetarium Place - Arlington, TX 76019-0497

<http://www.TexasMapSociety.org>

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Texas Map Society members and others who helped produce this issue are: Marty Davis, Margaret Dwyer, David Finrock, Ben Huseman, Manosi Lahiri, Christina Patoski, Gerald Saxon, Gregory Schadt, Matt Walter, Walt Wilson, the Rocky Mountain Map Society, and our artist and graphics designer Carol Lehman.

A **Neatline** is the outermost drawn line surrounding a map. It defines the height and width of the map and usually constrains the cartographic images.

Virginia Garrett

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375 atlases and 900 maps, dating from the 1500s until 1900, reported to be one of the largest collections of its type in private hands.

Not only were the Garretts zealous collectors, but they were also generous and selfless benefactors and donors. In 1974 they donated Jenkins's much loved Texas collection to the University of Texas at Arlington, where it became the centerpiece of the library's Special Collections. In 1990 they donated Virginia's atlas collection, and in 1997 her map collection to Special Collections, making it a research center for those interested in studying the rich history of Texas and the Gulf of Mexico region. Today the Jenkins Garrett Library and the Virginia Garrett Cartographic History Library make up two important parts of Special Collections.

These transformational donations have allowed UT Arlington to build on these gifts by adding undergraduate and graduate classes in the history of cartography, discovery, and exploration; creating the Center for Greater Southwestern Studies; starting a Ph.D. program in Trans-Atlantic History; and sponsoring the biennial Virginia Garrett Lectures on the History of Cartography.

The Garretts have received numerous honors for their generosity, including the Philanthropic Award from the Texas Library Association, 1991; William E. Jary, Jr., Award, presented by the Tarrant County Historical Commission, 1991; American History Medal of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, 1994; Sir Thomas More Medal of the University of San Francisco's Gleeson Library, 1998; Award of Excellence in Preserving History sponsored by the Texas Historical Commission, 2003; Fellows of the Society for the History of Discoveries, 2003; and Honorees of the Historic Fort Worth, Inc., Charity Antiques Show, 2008.

Virginia Garrett's interests were not limited to maps. She was an active club and church woman in Fort Worth, including being a member of the Fort Worth Delta Gamma TCU Alumnae Chapter, Fort Worth Woman's Club (Monday Book Club and Friday Lecture Club), Women of Rotary, Tarrant County Historical Society, Faith Class at Rosen Heights Baptist Church, and was on the Board of Directors of the Scott Theater. She was a founding member of the Texas Map Society and the driving force for its creation and a longtime member of the Texas State Historical Association and the Friends of the UT Arlington Library, among other organizations.

Garrett was preceded in death by her parents, John and Bertha Williams; her brother, John Williams, Jr.; and her husband, Jenkins Garrett. Survivors: Children, Dianne Powell and her husband Boone, Donna Garrett, and Jenkins Garrett, Jr., and wife,

Marcia; grandchildren, Vanessa Vaughan, Holt Vaughan, Sarah Petty, Kate Garrett, Laura Powell and Leilah Powell; and five great grandchildren.

Donations may be made to the Virginia and Jenkins Garrett Cartographic Endowment, UT Arlington, Campus Box 19198, Arlington, TX 76019.

—Gerald Saxon



Jenkins and Virginia Garrett at a Friends of the UTA Libraries Meeting.



Tom Wilding, Bob Witt, Virginia Garrett, Jenkins Garrett, and Gerald Saxon in November, 1999.

Photos courtesy of Maggie Dwyer, UT Arlington Library.

Texas Map Society Joint Meeting with Rocky Mountain Map Society in Denver

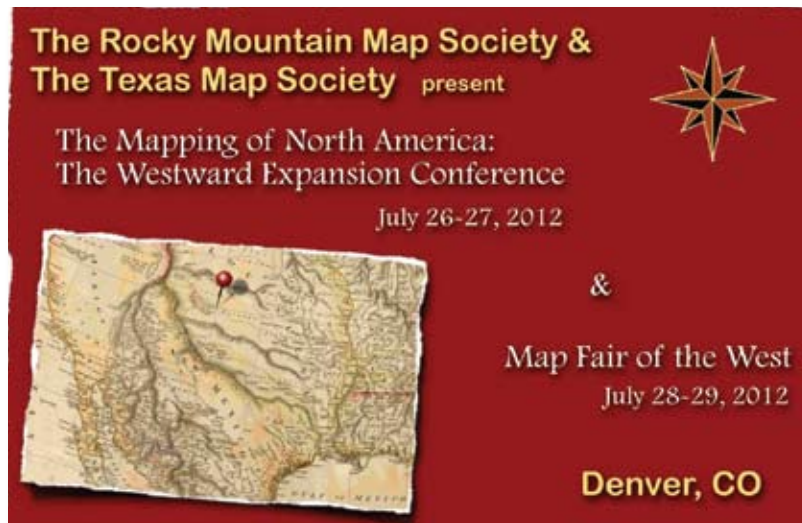
By Ben Huseman

In lieu of our usual Spring Meeting, the Texas Map Society (TMS) meets together with the Rocky Mountain Map Society (RMMS) this July 26-27 in Denver. The theme of this special joint conference to be held at the University of Denver is “The Mapping of North America: The Westward Expansion.” Immediately following the conference will be the Rocky Mountain Map Fair, located at the Denver Central Library. Our marvelous RMMS and Denver hosts have done all the work this time, with the TMS providing two of our own members – Professors John Miller Morris, Jr., and Imre J. Demhardt – to add to the exciting schedule of outstanding speakers.

The festivities begin with an optional pre-conference tour to Colorado Springs, Garden of the Gods, and Pike’s Peak on Wednesday, July 25. The tour lasts about ten hours, including bus time leaving from the Brown Palace Hotel at 7:45 am to Colorado Springs and return arrival at 6-6:30 pm. The \$100.00 per person charge includes the bus tour, train ticket for the Pikes Peak Cog Railroad, lunch at the Garden of the Gods, and the services of the professional driver/guide. For more information about the tour and signing up for it see:

http://www.rmmmaps.org/2012-Conference/Pikes_Peak_Tour.html.

The program begins on Thursday, July 26 at 9:00 am at the University of Denver with opening remarks from our hosts, followed by keynote speaker Philip Burden, Hertfordshire, England, map dealer and author of *The Mapping of North America*, who will discuss early maps of westward expansion. Senior Cartographic Librarian Dr. John Hessler of the Geography and Map Division of the Library of Congress will talk on the foundations for early representations of America. Other Thursday speakers and their topics include Dr. Stephen Hoffenberg on “The Trans-Appalachian West of Lewis Evans,” William J. Warren on Sir Alexander Mackenzie, and Dr. Margaret Wickens Pierce on the Public Land Survey in the Upper Great Lakes. The final speaker of the day, Dr. Imre Demhardt, will talk (and no doubt apply his Teutonic humor) on German explorers Balduin Möllhausen and F. W. von Egloffstein, who traveled extensively in the American West. Quite possibly by the evening reception, also held at the University of Denver, TMS members should be – like Möllhausen and Egloffstein along the Colorado River in



Arizona in the 1850s -- , drinking Rhine wine, toasting the natives, and merrily singing German folk songs!

As long as the previous night’s celebrations are not too indulgent, Friday, July 27, begins with a buffet breakfast from 7:30-9:00 am at the University of Denver, followed by opening remarks. The first presentation of the day titled “New Work with Digital Tools for Historical Maps” should

prove quite interesting as the speaker will be David Rumsey, deservedly renowned for his extensive historical map collection and digital expertise. Dr. Angel Abbud-Madrid of the Colorado School of Mines will talk on the mapping of the US-Mexico border, and RMMS Founder and First President Wes Brown and Dr. Susan Schulten of the University of Denver share their expertise on Colorado cartography. Dr. John Miller Morris of UT San Antonio unites the Texas and Colorado contingents with a perfectly selected topic on the cartography of the Fort Worth and Denver City Railroad. At the end of the afternoon, Dr. James Ackerman of the Newberry Library in Chicago concludes by addressing an old favorite of many of us: the twentieth-century American road map. TMS members will be on their own to make their evening dinner arrangements from a fine selection of restaurants in the area or they can instead attend a baseball game and eat a hot dog.

The Rocky Mountain Map Fair opens Saturday, July 28, at 10:00 am at the Denver Central Library and continues throughout the day until 5:00 PM. Sixteen international antiquarian map dealers are planning to participate this year, and they will be exhibiting thousands of authentic rare maps. The map dealers hail from a variety of exotic and familiar places including Regensburg, Germany; Fort Worth, Texas; New York City; Santa Fe, New Mexico; Hertfordshire, England; San Diego, San Francisco, and La Jolla, California; Cheyenne, Wyoming; Salt Lake City, Utah; Halls, Tennessee; Denver, Colorado; Sedona, Arizona; Glen Allen, Virginia; Portland, Oregon; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Ormond Beach, Florida. TMS members will not want to miss the free 2:00 PM lecture on “Political Development of the Trans-Mississippi West in Period Maps” by map expert Christopher Lane of the Philadelphia Print Shop. The Fair continues Sunday between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm. TMS members should plan to



take in as much as they can and not miss Denver resident and TMS member Don McGuirk's free lecture on the "Sea of the West," a cartographic fantasy that endured for much of the eighteenth century.

Hotels for the Conference include the landmark Brown Palace Hotel and the Comfort Inn Downtown, located next to one another and within six to seven blocks of the Denver Central Library, the Colorado State Capitol Building, the Colorado History Museum, and the Denver Art Museum. The registration fee includes two days of presentations, lunches, coffee breaks, Thursday and Saturday night receptions, bus transportation on Thursday and Friday mornings from the hotels to the Conference Center and back to hotels each evening, and admission to the Map Fair on Saturday and Sunday. Before June 1 the registration fee is \$285, but after that time it is \$335. Note that the Denver International Airport is 25 miles from the downtown area, so also expect to pay for ground transportation to the hotels.

TMS members should explore the joint conference website for more information at <http://www.rmmaps.org/2012-Conference/index.html> or by linking to it through the Events page of our own website at: <http://www.texasmapsociety.org/events.html>. Register at: <http://www.rmmaps.org/2012-Conference/registration.html> and make hotel reservations at: <http://www.rmmaps.org/2012-Conference/hotels.html>.

Do both as soon as possible because seating is limited and so are hotel rooms at the lower rates! It should be a great map festival.



Upper left:
Brochure announcement for the Fort Worth and Denver City Railway Co. from 1904.
UT Arlington Library Special Collections

Lower left:
Josiah Gregg, *A Map of the Indian Territory, Northern Texas and New Mexico Showing the Great Western Prairies*.
Color cerograph, 33 x 40 cm.
printed by Sidney E. Morse and Samuel Breese, New York, from Gregg, *Commerce of the Prairies...* (2 vols.; New York: H. G. Langley, 1844).
Virginia Garrett Cartographic History Library, UT Arlington

2011 TMS Fall Meeting in Arlington

By Walt Wilson

The University of Texas at Arlington's Library hosted the Saturday October 8 meeting, beginning with a tasty continental breakfast in the 6th Floor Parlor. President Marty Davis then welcomed everyone and highlighted the exciting events on tap for the day including an evening excursion to Dallas' Old City Park, as well as future tips to Denver, Colorado and Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Marty offered special thanks to Treasurer Lynne Starnes and the Summerlee Foundation, Secretary Ben W. Huseman and all those who worked behind the scenes to make this event possible.

The theme of the morning sessions was *The Mississippi River in Maps and Images*. It was no surprise that Sam Haynes introduced Robert A. Holland, the author of a book of the same name (Rizzoli, 2010), as the keynote speaker.

Professor Holland illustrated his talk with many of the 50 maps that appear in his book. Bob touched on modern attempts to tame the river through flood control and artistic depictions that promote commercial ventures. The bulk of his talk centered on the region's great early maps of discovery and efforts to locate and colonize the Mississippi River valley.

The accuracy of early maps depicting the mouth of the Mississippi was limited by technology, but political and economic incentives also played important roles in determining the location of rivers and borders. Professor Holland showed that although some maps (e.g., Coronelli's) were more accurate than others (Franquelin, 1684), the French were eager to extend their claim on Louisiana and preferred a map that plotted the mouth of the Mississippi in Texas. In fact, when LaSalle "mistakenly" landed at Matagorda Bay in 1685, he was at the approximate location of the Mississippi as plotted on the Franquelin map.

Delisle's famous map of 1718 that first names Texas ("Mission de los Teijas") also had a purpose beyond pure scientific information: the business of colonization.



Amplissimae Regionis Mississippi seu Provinciae Ludovicianae... Engraving (hand colored), 47 x 57 cm. (Nuremberg: Johann Baptist Homann or Homann Heirs, ca. 1720-1781). Virginia Garrett Cartographic History Library, UT Arlington

The French were promoting economic development, mining of natural resources, and legitimizing claims to eastern territories, including the Carolinas.

Consistent with these early efforts, cartographic initiatives along the America's Great River basin through the centuries have all used and misused maps for more utilitarian economic, military, and political purposes. As an ironic aside, Bob noted that books on maps that focus on specific areas (e.g., *Chicago in Maps*, Rizzoli, 2004) are more likely to be successful than those that address more diverse geographical areas.

Christopher Morris, Associate Professor of History at UT Arlington headlined the next presentation on *Mapping the Mississippi for Science: Mapmakers as Hydrologists, from Delisle to Fisk*. In this entertaining and informative presentation, Chris made a powerful argument for a more holistic approach toward making and using maps.

Beginning with the earliest maps of the Mississippi and continuing through modern, digital maps, Professor Morris demonstrated how the river constantly moves. For example, many modern

observers believed that the omission of the river delta south of New Orleans on early maps was just another inaccuracy. It is more likely that the delta simply did not exist during the time of La Salle, which perhaps offers a more benign explanation of his "confusion" about the location of the Mississippi in the 17th Century.

Chris demonstrated how a single map can be a frozen abstraction that fixes something in place and disguises the fluid reality that changes over time. An unfortunate side-effect is the perception that what is, always was, and should always continue to be just as it is. As a result, well-meaning engineers and officials have attempted to prevent loss of property and lives by keeping the river in place. These efforts have uniformly ended in disaster and created more problems than they solved.

A more successful approach uses historical and modern mapping techniques to help engineers visualize a changing river. Chris presented a convincing argument that maps can and should reflect the reality of a constantly moving river. It is possible to map but not "fix" the river by using a systematic approach that re-imagines the Mississippi as a system that is sometimes wet and sometimes dry. Professor Morris is collating his discoveries and ideas into an eagerly awaited book, *Big Muddy, An Environmental History of the Mississippi* (Oxford University Press).

After everyone enjoyed the UT Arlington-catered lunch, President Marty Davis introduced the fast-paced afternoon sessions. Ben Huseman in his role as Cartographic Archivist, was the first of four North Central Texas University representatives to discuss their Map Collections: *Past, Present, and Future Directions*. The University of Texas at Arlington Library's Special collections began in the 1960's, but received a tremendous boost in the 1970's and again in the 1990's through the generosity of Jenkins and Virginia Garret (who was in attendance). Other benefactors have included Lewis &

Virginia Buttery, Murray Hudson, and Dennis and Judy Reinhartz.

Many of the past and current staff members have also assumed prominent roles in the Texas Map Society and in documenting the history of Texas as reflected in its maps. This UTA tradition continues today as students continue to research the architectural history of small Texas towns. UTA also has an active outreach program through local and remote exhibits, lectures, and scholarly publications.

Current initiatives include collaborative efforts that enhance access and understanding of special collection resources. UTA is an active partner with the University of North Texas Portal to Texas History, particularly with its collection of railroad maps, color charts, bird's eye city views, and Caribbean Island maps.

Next, Dr. Russell Martin, Director of the DeGolyer Library Special Collections, Southern Methodist University, described the library's 10,000 cartographic resources as "rare as rubies and common as dirt." Everett Lee DeGolyer, a prominent oilman and geophysicist donated his collection of works on law, geology, oil and gas, the history of Mexico and the American West to establish his namesake Library at SMU. His son, Everett Junior, enhanced the collection in 1974, with the donation of numerous transportation and railroad history assets.

There are now six people on staff at the Library which also has a good catalogue of Western Americana and business history. Of the 10,000 cartographic resources, about 6,500 date from the 19th century or older, including one from the 16th century. Other resources include early printed maps, manuscript maps of Texas towns, town plans, and land grants, as well as promotional maps, highway and railroad maps associated with business and petroleum history. The library is now digitizing items such as photos and banknotes that are unique to its collection.

The next presenter was Dr. John S. Wilson, Director of the Frances C. Poage Map room & The Texas Collection at Baylor University's Carroll Library. John has been with Baylor since 1987, but the Carroll Library and its Texas Collection have been around since 1903 and 1923,

respectively. Through the initial generosity of Dr. Kenneth H. Aynesworth and an endowment originated by Congressman Poage, the Texas Collection now fills three floors of the Carroll Library, and four floors in the Morrison Constitution Hall. The collection has 132,000 volumes 14,000 sheet maps, 3,600 oral history tapes/transcripts, and over 4,300 archival collections.

The focus of the collection continues to be Texas and Texas-related subjects that document the development of the region from the early North American explorations to the present. In addition to rare early maps of Texas, the collection is rich in maps of ranching and ranchers, railroads, soil surveys, USGS and DMA maps that feature Texas as the prominent element.

Dr. Wilson admitted that Baylor has sometimes been known as the "Vatican of Texas History," since they hold a lot of it and don't let anybody know. He and others at Baylor are working to correct that perception. Recent efforts have included exhibits such as *Come to Texas* and *Mapping it Out* featuring railroad promotions and cartographic history of Texas.

The Library is actively scanning, digitizing and cataloguing its holdings at the rate of 450-600 maps per month, with 2,000 maps completed as of October 2011. Additionally there are 2 full time archivists, plus 20 students each semester, 3 grad students and about 5 other full timers who are working to improve access to the collection. They also host a distinguished speaker series and about 5500-6000 researchers per year.

The final presenter was Edward Hoyenski, Collection Manager for the University of North Texas' Special Collections at the Willis Library. As the host of the previous day's field trip, UNT was fresh on the minds of all the attendees. The UNT Special Collections are scattered, and can be categorized as a collection of collections. Their music collection is the 3rd largest in the U.S. They also have a very large repository of U.S. Government documents, including many scientific and technical items.

UNT also holds many uncatalogued maps and has a rare book room. They now have a cataloguer for the rare book and

map room and the Government documents are card-catalogued by agency. However, there is no individual dedicated to maps and there is no accurate count of the maps in the various collections that are estimated at 3-5,000 total.

As demonstrated during the field trip and through the experience of most members, UNT is most known for its Portal to Texas History digitization efforts. In conjunction with its 180 partners, the portal provides a searchable online archive of maps, books, newspapers, and photographs that provide researchers unprecedented access to original source documents.

The final session *Cartographic Corner: A Show and Tell* was an opportunity for members to share interesting maps in their collections. Bob Rodriguez brought some colorful Tourist Maps of Paris from the early 20th Century showing Paris Monuments and metro/subway systems.

Henry G. Taliaferro brought a manuscript Spanish map dated between 1804-06 showing the area from New Orleans, the border of Texas at Sabine, and as far as west as the San Antonio River.

Mary Heard had an almost-pictorial map of Acapulco Bay and a map of the Valley of Mexico, that literally showed how they drained the swamp.

John Phillips, from Oklahoma State University brought a 1903 Atlas Map of Oklahoma and Indian Territory (pps. 55 & 56), hoping to identify the source.

Murray Hudson brought a small collection of 10 thematic maps that included strip maps, Colton's Civil War maps that appeared in Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, a rare Mollinger bird's eye view of New Orleans, and a fascinating 1858 map of the River from New Orleans to Natchez

Ben Huseman showcased some of UT Arlington's maps of the Mississippi Basin including Lloyd's 1863 very large strip map of the lower Mississippi river, Bellin's 1744 version of Delisle's map, an 1855 print of DeSoto discovering the Mississippi River, a post war reproduction of the Union canal to bypass and attack Island No. 10, and an 1895 Pike Map from a book by Nicholas King.

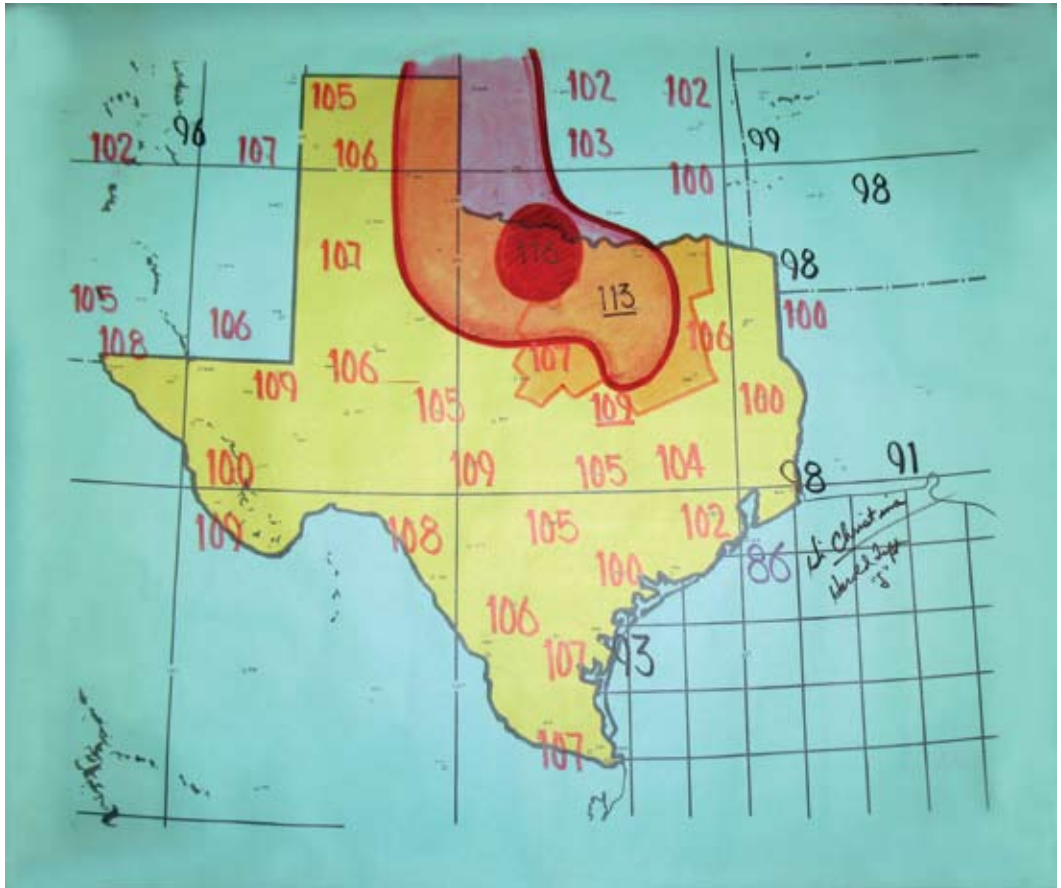
MY FAVORITE MAP by Christina Patoski

The Great Texas Heat Wave of 1980 peaked on June 26 when the thermometer hit 113 degrees, the hottest day on record in Dallas-Fort Worth. I will never forget it because my air conditioning unit had died and box fans didn't provide enough relief to make my garage apartment comfortable. I was spending as much time as I could at KXAS-TV, Channel 5 where I worked in the newsroom as a writer, editor and occasional producer.

For several months, I had been saving the paper weather maps after each evening's broadcast was over, with the permission of the late, great Harold Taft, of course! He could have cared less—he was always looking forward. After each newscast, the paper maps were moved off the set and pushed through two nails on a backstage wall where they piled up until someone had time to toss them in the trash.

It bothered me to see the maps just thrown away like worthless pieces of paper. Those beautifully hand-drawn weather maps were like works of art to me. They were skillfully executed. I saw drama and pathos in them. No two were alike. I could understand how expendable they might become to someone who had been making them every night for as many years as Harold had. But, I thought some of them were worth keeping, for posterity if nothing else. I'm pretty sure Harold thought I was a kook for wanting to save them.

For each broadcast, the on-air meteorologist used wide magic markers and chalk to draw and hand-color



Texas weather map hand-drawn by Harold Taft on 26 June 1980 for broadcast on KXAS-TV.

the temperatures, the fronts, and the weather patterns on large, blank paper maps that were printed on thin light blue paper. Every newscast featured a U.S. map and a Texas map. Depending on the weather, the maps changed dramatically every day. The graphics could be breathtaking on their own, weather forecast or not. When it was hot, like it was in 1980, the map colors were super bright, with big swaths of magenta and red, and huge colored arrows wildly swooping across the paper and careening into an upper low.

Harold and the other staff meteorologists, including *Neatline* Editor David Finrock, each had their own distinguishable mapping style. It was pretty easy to tell who had drawn which map. Then, there were the meteorological symbols that were routinely used in those days to illustrate the weather. Viewers knew what they signified back then, but

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If you would like to submit an article about your own favorite map for a future issue of *The Neatline*, contact the editor David Finrock at editorTMS@aol.com.

My Favorite Map *continued from page 8*

it's been so long since they've been used to describe weather on television, they're all but forgotten today.

I didn't realize it then, but it was the end of an era in television meteorology and the maps would soon be relics of the past. By the mid-1980s all the stations had switched to electronic graphics; the paper maps were obsolete. Harold had no choice but to go with it, even though I think he dragged his feet a little. He was never big on razzle-dazzle.

In the world of television meteorology, Harold Taft was a pioneer and a giant. He was the first television meteorologist west of the Mississippi River, a position he held for 42 years. I got to know him off-camera when I started working with another broadcast legend, Bobbie Wygant. She and I often worked into the wee hours of the night because there were fewer distractions and we had full access to all of the editing equipment. Harold routinely cruised through the deserted newsroom on his way to do his nightly weather report on Bill Mack's WBAP midnight radio show. Sometimes Harold practiced on his cornet in one of the empty offices. He was always friendly, but when it came to weather, he was strictly business. Bobbie always addressed him as "Colonel". He was, indeed, a colonel in the Texas Air National Guard.

I didn't take every single weather map that was left on the nails. I did on-the-spot curating and selected the ones that appealed to me graphically. I knew that that particular day in June 1980 was a special one, so I made sure to ask Harold to autograph that map. And he even included a musical note, because of

my appreciation of his abilities with the cornet, right below the signature.

Over time, I selected about eighty weather maps to carry home. I gave a few to friends. I hung up one of the wilder ones in my living room for a while. But, I rolled up most of them and stored them in the attic.

When last year's summer temperatures looked like they might break the 1980 record, I pulled down the weather maps to check on them. I called up David Finrock and took the maps up to the station for him to see. It was a trip down memory lane for him because he recognized some of the maps as his own handiwork.

I knew there was a better place than my attic for the maps, but I wasn't sure where. My first thought was the UTA Map Collection because I knew they would be well taken care of and that they would be made available to anyone who was interested in seeing them. I had known Virginia and Jenkins Garrett for almost fifty years, having grown up with their son, Jenkins, Jr. I even spent time at the Garrett's home in the early years of their collecting, when their historical books and maps were still stashed in the upstairs bedrooms. But, I wasn't sure these flimsy TV weather maps would pass muster at UTA.

David and I met with Ben Huseman at UTA to show him the maps, and they never came back home with me. The maps are all now part of the Virginia Garrett Map Collection and are being digitized by the Digital Projects Unit in conjunction with the University of North Texas library.



Putting Texas on the Map

Matt Walter, the Curator of the Cartographic Collection at the Museum of the Big Bend in Alpine, Texas, has just published *Putting Texas on the Map*. This booklet was printed on the campus of Sul Ross State University and features 27 maps from the Yana and Marty Davis Map Collection at the museum. Walter, also the Historian at the Museum of the Big Bend, uses these maps to tell the early history of Texas, from the time of the arrival of the Spanish up through the end of the U.S. Civil War. All the maps are printed in full color, with two pages devoted to each one.

These booklets can be purchased in person at the museum gift shop or by contacting Noemi Acosta, the Assistant to the Director at the Museum of the Big Bend, via email at: nacosta@sulross.edu or telephone at 432.837.8143.

The price is \$25.00, including shipping and handling.

Meeting of the West Texas Historical Association

By Matt Walter

The West Texas Historical Association met in Alpine, TX, March 30-31, 2012. At the same time Brewster County was commemorating its 125th anniversary (or Quasiquicentennial) as a county, having been created by the Texas legislature in 1887. Matt Walter, the Historian and Curator of the Cartographic Collection at Sul Ross State University gave a PowerPoint presentation to the WTHA on Friday, the 30th. He used eleven maps from the Yana and Marty Davis Map collection, donated to the Museum of the Big Bend, to show the changing nomenclature, political demarcations and boundaries of today's Brewster County, from the time of the Spanish Empire through the Mexican period, the Republic of Texas period, and the American period. This map shows Foley and Buchel counties, which were also created in 1887, but which ten years later were merged into Brewster County, making it the largest county in Texas.



Map Experts Find Clues to the Lost Colony



A transmitted light image shows a symbol underlying a paper patch that was applied to a late 16th-century map of present-day Virginia and North Carolina. The symbol may represent a fort associated with the Lost Colony, researchers say.

From recent reports in the news media, including this one from MSNBC:

"A new look at a 425-year-old map has yielded a tantalizing clue about the fate of the Lost Colony, the settlers who disappeared from North Carolina's Roanoke Island in the late 16th century.

Experts from the First Colony Foundation and the British Museum in London discussed their findings Thursday at a scholarly meeting on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Their focus: the "Virginea Pars" map of Virginia and North Carolina created by explorer John White in the 1580s and owned by the British Museum since 1866."

Follow these links for the complete story:

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/47288500/ns/technology_and_science-science/

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/04/us/map-markings-offer-clues-to-lost-colony.html?_r=1

Save the Date

Texas Map Society Fall Meeting
October 6, 2012

UTA Library
Arlington, Texas

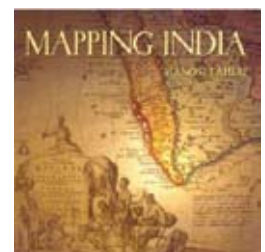
Mapping India

By Manosi Lahiri

My book *Mapping India* has recently been released in New Delhi, India. It is an illustrated book of maps of the last 500 hundred years: maps that tell the story of the changing fortunes of the subcontinent. I believe it will be of interest to you and your membership who are interested in historical cartography

You can learn more about the book through a five minute long video on YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BhODHjFVqmY>



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