

Friends Care

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Moviemakers film documentary in Motley County

Whistling Boulder Productions completed an 8-day, whirlwind, jam-packed filming schedule in Motley County to capture local events, oral histories, compelling firestorm stories and other personal interviews.

The husband and wife team of Marianne and Doug Leviton filmed Foothills Saturday Night on August 20, 2011, followed by four days of oral histories and "walk-about" with descendants of early-day pioneers, culminating on Wednesday morning before Old Settlers at Mott Creek Ranch where a re-enactment of the founding of Motley County was performed by local volunteers.

The Motley-Dickens Old Settlers Reunion parade and memorial program was filmed followed by rodeo events, including the Ranch Horse competition and Shetland Bronc Riding contest. The Matador Ranch Cowboy Reunion was filmed on Saturday, August 27, where about 18 Matador Ranch (ex and current) cowboys gathered to swap tales at the Roaring Springs Community Center.

The production phase of this 3-phase project was funded by grants from the City of Matador, 4-B Tax Board, a Humanities Texas grant; and donations from residents and former residents of Motley County. A Texas Historical Commission Partnership Tourism grant will fund a portion of the editing phase. Friends of the Historic Motley County Jail will submit a grant to Humanities Texas for the spring cycle to request additional funding for editing costs and to complete the production phase costs of the oral histories.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are required by our Bylaws to set an Annual Meeting of the Membership and Board of Directors.

The Agenda for this meeting:

- 1. Election of new directors**
- 2. Election of officers**
- 3. Financial Report**
- 4. Work plan – Phase III**

Membership Meeting set for Friday, November 18, at 6:00 p.m. at the Motley County Library Annex

The membership of our group has grown to about 100 members. Please make plans to attend, especially if you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors.

Friends receive federal tax exempt status

We have been notified by the Department of Treasury, Internal Revenue Service, that as of March 30, 2010, the Friends group is exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Contributions to the Friends group are now deductible under section 170 of the Code. We are now eligible to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code. We are now classified as a public charity under the Code section.

In the past, we have existed under the tax exempt status of Market Matador. Now that we are our own tax exempt entity, we can operate as an exempt organization on our own.

To Market Matador: Thank you for taking us under your wing while we organized our program.

Additionally, the Friends of the Historic Motley County Jail is exempt from the Texas sales and use tax, effective October 3, 2011, as a 501 (c)3 organization.

Continued from Page 1 ... Media Grants

The first phase consisted of a pre-production trip in June to film the buffalo herd at Caprock Canyons and the Quanah Parker Celebration in Quanah, Texas. This included interviews with the direct descendants of Quanah Parker. This phase was funded by the Friends group and former residents of Motley County through a Challenge Grant.

The production trip included about 20-plus interviews, including a hair-raising night in the jail with a paranormal group from Fort Worth. The Texas Spirit Seekers have conducted about eight investigations since 2008 on the historic jail, finally concluding that the jail is "haunted."

"We are still in the process of investigating this site," Lead Investigator Lance Brooks said. "At this point we can say that there is enough evidence to conclude that this location is haunted."

The purpose of the video documentary is to provide a format for a self-guided tour at the historic Motley County Jail and to videograph oral history interviews for the purpose of preserving them in a media database for future production.

The documentary will be produced in five chapters, consisting of an overview of the historical sites in Motley County; a narration with video and photographs of the early-day history of Indian tribes and the story of Quanah Parker; the organization of the county; life in the jail; and a chapter on ghost stories by investigators and local residents with compelling stories. The stories will be viewed in a play-back system at the jail.

Phase III of the project will consist of the editing phase with a projected date of completion in March 2012. The Friends group will seek funds from Humanities Texas in the spring grant cycle to help defray editing costs for the documentary.

Editor's Note: A grant request for \$3,096.00 was submitted to Humanities Texas on September 15, 2011, to cover the shortfall in the Spring Cycle funding. The application submission was for \$7,000.00, but was only partially funded at \$4,000.00.

While the filmmakers were able to film all five chapters August 20-27, 2011, only three chapters will be edited without additional funding.

The three chapters selected to edit will be the Motley County Overview; the Comanche presence and Quanah Parker in Motley County; and the Ghostbusters chapter.

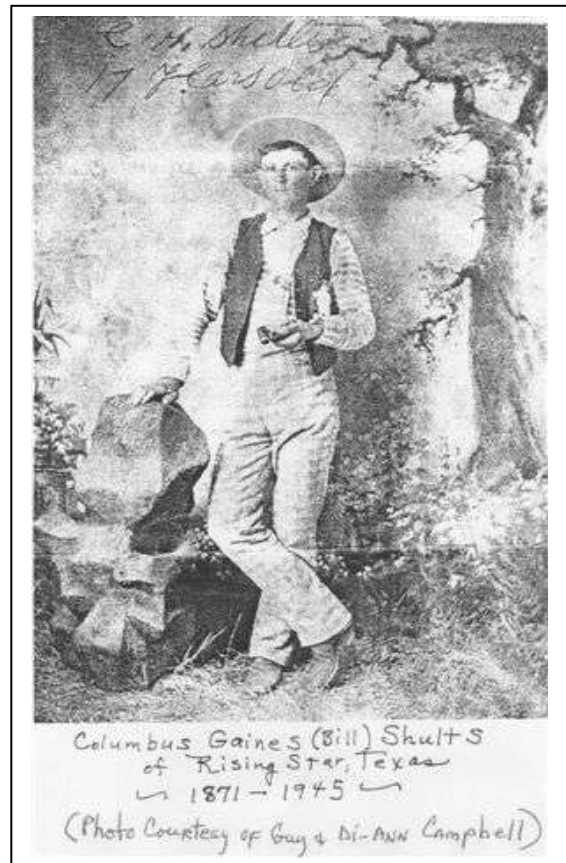
"I think these might have the broadest appeal," Director Marianne Leviton said. "I will start on the Ghostbusters chapter, hopefully, it will be posted on the website before Halloween."

**Check out the website at:
www.historicjail.org**

Up The Trail With The Matadors in 1889

By Ron Bailey

NOTE: Matador Ranch cowboy, Columbus "Bill" Shults wrote the following poem about a trail drive he made with the Matadors in 1889. According to the payroll records of the Matador Land and Cattle Company, Shults went to work on the Matador Ranch in 1888. Shults left the Matadors in 1890 and moved to Rising Star, Texas, where he married and lived most of the rest of his life. He was a rancher and business man. Descendants of Bill Shults still live in and near Rising Star until this day. His father was Wade Shults, and, according to family tradition he (Wade) was one of the Texas Rangers who recaptured Cynthia Ann Parker from the Comanche people on the Pease River in 1860. Cynthia Ann Parker was the mother of Comanche Chief Quanah Parker. The Doan's store mentioned in the poem was near present day Vernon, Texas, and was the last place to buy supplies before crossing the Red River into the Indian Territory. It was located on the Western Cattle Trail. The Western Cattle Trail intersected the Chisholm Trail in present day Oklahoma.



The Old Chisholm Trail

By Columbus Gaines (Bill) Shults
(Dedicated to The Old Trail Blazers Association)

I went up the Chisholm Trail in 1889
About as gay a cowboy as ever tossed a line.
H.H. Campbell of Matador chose Long John Smith, Bob Harper, and Old George Fore
To handle those cattle and cowboys twenty four.

We crossed the Red River at old Doan's Store,
With four thousand steers and two hundred more.
Now we are across Red River on the Indian side,
On a trail set out by the government two miles wide.
We were to stay on it and the Indians outside.

The grass had burned off early in the spring,
With the new grass as pretty a sight as a fellow'd ever seen.
We grazed the cattle across the trail out in the Indian land.
This was the way we treated Old Uncle Sam.

We didn't do this very long until the Indians they got mad.
They stampeded our cattle the worst we ever had.
We rounded up our cattle, it took three days or four,
Strung them out and counted them, they had stolen seventy or more.

Long John Smith got excited and said, "Boys what will we do?"
We said, "Get some soldiers, the government will furnish them to you."
He went to Fort Reno and brought some soldiers back.
We got along with the Indians then, but we stayed on the track.

We grazed those steers through the Kiahwa (sic), to Comanche, Chickasaw, Creek,
And the Seminole,
Down in Sac-and-Fox where they had been sold.
We delivered them to the Turkey Tracks on the fourth of July,
Rounded up our saddle horses and bade the boys goodbye.

We had been on the trail four months stealing Indian grass,
Fattening our cattle so they would pass.
We came back to Oklahoma City, it was a month or two old.
She was nothing but a shack town and damnable hole.
It had every nationality, thieves, robbers, murderers, thugs,
But the soldiers were handling them and putting them in the jug.
One of our boys went in a gambling house to play a little roulette.
They got his money away from him and hasn't got it yet.

We camped north of the City on Cottonwood Creek,
Rolled out our bedding and all went to sleep.
We woke up next morning, the sun was in our face,
Rounded up our horses, gave them a little space.

Now we crossed the prairie as fast as we could go.
Crossed the Washita River at Anadarco.
We bought some U.S. blankets from an Indian that day,
Took them back to camp and inspected them but had to throw them away.
They were covered with gray-backs, a million I would say.

Now we leave Anadarco which is nothing but an Indian shack.
When we go to Fort Reno, we turn the soldiers back.
We leave Fort Reno, for Childress we are bound.
We boys will be happy when we get to our home town.

When we are at Childress, camped out two miles or three,
All went to town that night the sights for to see.
Some of the boys got to drinking, put on a little show.
Doug Starks ran them out of town, he was the sheriff and a good one, you know.

Now we are back at headquarters all safe and sound,
With our saddles hanging under the commissary shed and our bedding on the ground.
We elbowed on our bedding, the boys all gathered round,
To listen to tales of our adventures, while lying there on the ground.

Even H. H. Campbell and his wife and son Harry from the White House came down
To listen to our stories as they were passed around.
I've been to a lot of gatherings since then and before,
But I will never be in one that I will enjoy any more.
If you want to be happy, go on the trail.
Come back to headquarters and listen to the tales.

Added Later:

This is no story it is History and truth.
It all happened in the days of my youth.

The Last Verse, C.G.S.

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BUNDY HAL & DIXIE CAMPBELL
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GUY & DI-ANN CAMPBELL
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GEORGE & PENNY KLINE
ALAN & DAWN KOPETZKY
STAN & JUNE LEVELL
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KARMEN MCCULLOCH
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RAYNITA MURPHY
DALE NANCE
SANDRA PARKER
JOAN PATTON
JESSE & CARON PERKINS
GERALD & PENNY PIPKIN
NEAL & CAROL PIPKIN
MARISUE POTTS
JIM POWELL
TRUITT READ
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JUDY RENFRO
TANYA RIPPETOE
JIM & BETTY ROBERTS
TOM & LINDA ROY
BETTY RUDDER
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J.D. & D'ANNA RUSSELL
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ANN SPARKMAN
RICHARD STAFFORD
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LORETTA THOMPSON
RONNIE VANDIVER
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VADA WATT
WILLIAM "BUTCH" WAYBOURN
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Joe and Virginia Taylor of Circle Dot Ranch and local residents Deanie Edwards and Roy Hobbs are pictured here waiting for instructions where a re-enactment of the founding of Motley County was performed by local volunteers at Mott Creek Ranch.

**Friends of the Historic MC Jail
P.O. Box 582
Matador, TX 79244**