

AUSTIN REMEMBERS.

“THE COLLECTIVE MEMORY OF AUSTIN & TRAVIS COUNTY”

WINTER 2015

NEW EXHIBIT: ***DIVIDED CITY*** CIVIL WAR & RECONSTRUCTION IN AUSTIN

BY MIKE MILLER



▲ PICB 07051, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library. John Scott Pickle was one of the thousands of men who joined the Confederate Army.

May 2015 marks 150 years since the end of America’s Civil War. To mark the occasion, the Austin History Center has prepared a new exhibit in the Grand Hallway and Lobby: “Divided City: Civil War & Reconstruction in Austin.” The exhibit explores how this watershed moment in American history affected our local community. Hundreds of photographs and original documents are on display to help visitors learn about and understand this period of our history and the legacy it left behind, a legacy that continues to influence our community today.

On April 12, 1861, Confederate artillery bombarded Fort Sumter in South Carolina, signaling the beginning of the Civil War. The war would last four long, bloody years, nearly ripping the country apart. Southern states seceded from the United States to form the Confederate States of America, with Texas being the 7th state to join the Confederacy. The fight to leave the Union was predicated largely on the continuation and expansion of the institution of slavery, thereby protecting the southern economy and way of life.

And yet the traditional “north vs. south” or “slavery vs. abolition” that we are often presented may be too simplistic an explanation for the realities that gripped this country. The road to the Civil War was more complex among its individual citizens. Not all southerners were secessionists; not all secessionists supported slavery; not all unionists opposed slavery. The list of variations on the stereotype can go on. **NEW EXHIBIT... PAGE 7 ►►**

Fowler Brings Creativity, Experience to AHCA Presidency

BY GEOFF WOOL



There are times when a conversation with Beth Fowler is like trying catch leaves off the back of a passing truck. Ideas flow from her with such spontaneity that you can’t capture them all, a fertile mind releasing its bounty. Ideas have been the currency that secured Fowler successful careers in both the fast-paced Madison Avenue world of advertising and book publishing, and now, she’s directed her talents and energy into promotion of the Austin History Center as the new president of the Austin History Center Association. Fowler stepped into the presidency in May 2014, taking over for 2013 AHCA President Evan Taniguchi.

If Fowler seems familiar to the occasional “Austin Remembers” reader, it might be because this newsletter is her baby, the first project she worked on after she joined the AHCA board in the summer of 2009. Or it may be through her work on the annual Angelina Eberly Luncheon, which Fowler helped resurrect in January 2010. Or maybe it’s through her years of ongoing publicity work she’s done for the AHCA. The point is, she’s no stranger to the workings or the mission of the association.

The same can be said of Fowler’s knowledge of the Austin History Center.

“When I was in 5th and 6th grade at Pease Elementary,” said **FOWLER... PAGE 8**

EBERLY LUNCHEON 2015
See the insert for more information.

FORMER AUSTIN MAYORS OFFER INSIGHT, GUIDANCE TO AHCA



Former Austin mayors (left to right) Lee Cooke, Frank Cooksey, Carole Keeton, and Bruce Todd share a laugh at the inaugural meeting of the Austin History Center Association’s Mayors Advisory Board, held November 12 at Austin’s Driskill Hotel.

Austin History Center Association, Inc.

810 Guadalupe
 Austin, Texas 78701
 512.270.0132
 www.austinhistory.net

Mailing address:
 P. O. Box 2287
 Austin, Texas 78768

The mission of the Austin History Center Association is to help the community value our past and build a better future - by supporting the Austin History Center to achieve excellence in its efforts to serve as the collective memory of Austin and Travis County.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Beth Fowler - *President*
- Robert Sullivan - *First Vice President*
- Ken Tiemann - *Second Vice President*
- Terrell Blodgett - *Treasurer*
- Geoff Wool - *Secretary*
- Evan Taniguchi - *Immed. Past President*
- Patsy Stephenson - *Member-at-Large*

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

- Monte Akers - *Charles Betts*
- Cindy Brandimarte
- Liz Bremond - *Linda Bush*
- Lynn Cooksey - *Adam Friedman*
- Robert Godwin - *Brooks Goldsmith*
- Becky Heiser - *Mary Ann Heller*
- Rita Kreisle - *Kathleen Davis Niendorff*
- Charles Peveto - *Candace Volz*
- Anne Wheat
- Mike Miller, *AHC Archivist*

AUSTIN HISTORY CENTER ASSOCIATION STAFF

- Jeff Cohen - *Executive Director*
- Allison Supancic - *Office Manager*

AUSTIN REMEMBERS.

- Beth Fowler - *Editor/Creative Director*
- Clutch Creative - *Layout & Design*
- Geoff Wool - *Public Relations*
- Robert Godwin, Anne Wheat - *Photographers*

From the Archivist

Recently, I received a comment from a visitor exploring our “Backwards in High Heels” exhibit. While she had mostly positive things to say, she did mention that the lighting in the building created many “dark” spots that made it hard to see in some areas. Sadly, her comment is too true, and it is an issue we have known about (and tried to address) for many years. But, this is also a good opportunity to remind you that in 2012, the citizens of Austin approved a bond package that includes funding to make some long delayed and necessary improvements to the former Austin Central Library, now the Austin History Center building. This year we will be meeting with an architect to discuss the long list of needs and devise a plan to make as many improvements to the building as the funds will allow, including an overhaul of the lighting to bring it up to contemporary exhibit standards. The AHCA will be playing a pivotal role in this process as we look for outside funding and grants to help stretch the bond dollars. One such effort is a grant application filed with the Texas Historical Commission for the restoration of the fresco paintings on the 9th Street porch loggia. The partnership between the city and the AHCA in protecting this historic landmark building dates back to the founding of the organization, and I am thankful for all that the AHCA and its citizen members have done to help protect this wonderful historic space.



▲ Other candidates for restoration include the historic ironworks around the building, including the transoms and doors at the 9th street entrance.



▲ An architectural vision, donated by Taniguchi Architects, illustrates a proposed connection between the Austin History Center and the John Henry Faulk Library building forming the new Austin History Center campus. Plans call for the AHC to expand into the Faulk building after Austin’s new Central Library opens in 2016.

And, speaking of buildings, we are moving ahead with plans for expanding the Austin History Center into the John Henry Faulk Library building when Austin’s new Central Library opens in 2016 in the Seaholm district. In fact, we are already taking over parts of the building as we move some collections into the basement of the Faulk due to lack the space in our building. I often get questions about what will happen to our current building, and I realize that perhaps we have been remiss in clearly communicating the vision and plans for our expansion.

While I cannot share every detail about these plans, I will try to present the big picture. Our intention is to keep our current building as the cornerstone for our expanded presence. The plan is to create a “campus” comprised of the 1933 building, the Faulk building, and some kind of physical connection between them. The broad vision is to turn the current Austin History Center building into more of a museum/visitor center space, with expanded and interactive exhibits, and meeting and classrooms for educational outreach. The archives – both collections and research – would move to the Faulk building. We also plan for public space in the Faulk building, such as an auditorium, and exhibits to enhance the visitor experience. There are many more ideas and details, too many to cover here. There will be plenty of opportunities for the public to comment on the project, and I would love to hear from you about the current building and our plans for the future.

-Mike Miller

Book Festival Patrons Embrace AHCA

Waterloo Press, the publishing arm of the Austin History Center Association, was once again represented at the 2014 Texas Book Festival in October. Besides the sale of books, posters, notecards, and other Waterloo Press products, the book festival provided a valuable public awareness opportunity for the AHCA.



◀ AHCA President Beth Fowler (left) and volunteer Carole Friedman take a break outside the AHCA booth at the 2014 Texas Book Festival.

▶ AHCA board members Charles Peveto and Dr. Brooks Goldsmith at AHCA's Texas Book Festival booth.



American Friends of Attingham stop by the AHC

▼ The historic heart of downtown Austin continues to attract groups like the American Friends of Attingham, which toured the Austin History Center and surrounding area in September 2014. The historic heart of Austin runs along Guadalupe St. and includes the Travis County Courthouse, Wooldridge Square Park, the Austin History Center, an iconic moonlight tower, the Hirshfeld house and cottage, and the Remond Block.



New to the AHC

NEWLY PROCESSED COLLECTIONS—

Since release of the Fall 2014 newsletter, staff at the AHC have processed more than 15 unique manuscript and photograph collections, and over 35,000 items, which are now available for viewing. Here are a few collections recently completed:

AR.2014.039 – Austin American-Statesman

Photographic Morgue

This collection from Austin's daily "newspaper of record" contains hundreds of thousands of photographic negatives that document newsworthy events in Austin from September 1958 to November 1982. The photos capture many local, state, and national politicians, including many featuring Lyndon and Lady Bird Johnson. Also included are images from political events, local elections, high school and college sporting events, fashion shows, beauty contests, "ballyhoos," social clubs, wives clubs, Greek associations, country clubs, visitors to Austin, check presentations, groundbreaking, and other milestone events, fires and car wrecks, annual Austin events and other features.

An inventory of the collection can be found online at: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/aus-hc/00442/ahc-00442.html>.



▲ AS-65-48529-07, Austin American Statesman Collection, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library. Lucille Ball and Gov. John Connally at the Headliners Stag Lunch and Award Party, February 6, 1965.

AR.1993.002 – The Austin Light Records

The Austin Light was a bilingual English/Spanish newspaper published in Austin between 1980 and 1990. The first issue appeared on January 30, 1980 and was issued by the Texas Publishers Company. *The Austin Light* specialized in local politics. The staff of *The Austin Light* considered it to be a tri-ethnic publication serving the Hispanic, African-American, and Anglo communities of Austin. In 1987, Tony Tucci and Perry Lorenz bought *The Austin Light*. Due to financial difficulties, the paper was forced to suspend publication, with its last issue appearing on June 11, 1990. The research files of *The Austin Light* newspaper were given to the Austin History Center by Tony Tucci in January 1993. The collection includes correspondence, creative works, printed material, and photographs that document the newspaper's publications and general business throughout its history.

An inventory of the collection can be found online at: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/aus-hc/00436/ahc-00436.html>.

AR.1992.003 – Leonard Eck Papers

Leonard T. Eck and his family came to Austin from Cedar Falls, Iowa in the late 1870s. Upon arrival he purchased a jewelry and mercantile business from Sweeney and Combs and the family lived above the store at 101 East 6th Street. Later he had a business at 1200 South Congress Avenue, which, according to the November 27, 1938 *Austin American-Statesman*, was the first store building in South Austin. Eck died in 1925. The collection consists of records dating from 1882 to 1949 concerning Eck's real estate holdings and businesses as well as some personal legal materials and a few items belonging to other family members.

An inventory of the collection can be found online at: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/aus-hc/00423/ahc-00423.html>.

AR.2008.012 – Brenda Malik Video Collection

Brenda Gooden Malik, born Brenda Alice Mims on March 24, 1951, worked as a television news anchor, journalist and producer based in the Austin area. A native of Austin, Malik attended the University of Texas, St. Edwards University, and Huston-Tillotson University. While at UT, she began her broadcast career as a news anchor/reporter/producer for KTVV-TV (now KXAN-TV), and soon transferred to KTBC-TV, where she anchored and produced several talk-show programs, including a daily show, "Newscene." In 1979, Malik began working as an aide for Austin City Council member Jimmy Snell. In 1982, she joined the staff of Austin Community Television, where she and her husband, Hameen Abdul Malik, produced a popular weekly dance program for African-American youth, "Jam City." This collection represents Malik's work and focuses on recordings of cultural and civic events and activities of the African American community of Austin, including footage of the Miss Black Austin Pageant from 1983 to 1989, an interview with musician James Brown, and episodes of "Jam City."

An inventory of the collection can be found online at: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/aushc/00419/ahc-00419.html>.

AR.2003.007 – Central East Austin Community Organization, Inc. Records

Central East Austin Community Organization, Inc. (CEACO) was established in the mid-1970s to promote self-development, safety, health, and self-sufficiency for low income and at-risk children, youth, and adults through basic needs assistance, workforce development support services, health education, and youth development programs in Travis County, with a primary focus in East Austin. The collection contains records from the organization's board of directors and from program areas such as administrative, marketing, and finance. The documents highlight the activities of the organization from 1994 until its closing in the early 2000s.

An inventory of the collection can be found online at: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/aushc/00432/ahc-00432.html>.

Leffingwell Celebrates 175 years of Austin



▲ Outgoing Austin Mayor Lee Leffingwell addresses a December 9 gathering at the Austin History Center to mark Austin's 175th birthday. The AHC is featuring a collection of sketches and photos depicting the evolution of downtown Austin.



▲ C00494, Russell Chalberg Photo Collection, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library. This view of South Congress from the 1910s shows the Eck store and property on the west side.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS—

The AHC recently acquired the **photo archive of David Grant**, a local photographer and half of the Grant-Guerrero photo studio partnership. The newly acquired photo archive augments a small collection already in the AHC archive from the other partner in the business, Charles Guerrero. Grant and Guerrero's photography business primarily focused on portraits of state and city government officials, local business people, University of Texas officials, and musicians. The collection consists of negatives and proof prints ranging in date from approximately 1975 to 2005.

- Another interesting acquisition is **early records from the East Avenue/2nd Street Baptist Church**. As the name implies, this was a small church located at 2nd and East Avenue (what is now I H-35). These records, donated by the family of the last secretary of the church, include old church registers, meeting minutes, and related materials about the early operations of the church.

- The AHC also acquired the **papers of Freddie B. Dixon**, a pastor at Wesley United Methodist Church from 1973-1994. Under Dixon's leadership, Wesley United Methodist Church was the founding institution for the Austin Area Urban League. Dixon went on to become the director of community affairs at the University of Texas' Division of Diversity and Community Engagement and then the special assistant to the vice president of the same office. The records span the years from the 1970s to present and document his involvement with Wesley, the Austin Area Urban League, the East 11th Street Village Association, and various other community organizations that he was involved with through the years. There are also materials concerning his father, Bishop Ernest T. Dixon, Jr.

- Lastly, the AHC acquired the **records of the Johnson/Long Dance Company**, founded by Darla Johnson and Andrew Long in 1990. The dance company sought to inspire people to creatively form a more humane world through interdisciplinary artistic, cultural and educational opportunities. Photographs, newspaper clippings, press releases, and other marketing materials document the performances of Johnson/Long Dance Company and their work with the Austin Independent School District from 1990 to 2004. ●

HOW'D THEY DO THAT?

TALES OF RESTORATION TAKE CENTER STAGE AT EBERLY LUNCHEON

On January 23rd, Austin's historic Driskill Hotel comes alive with stories of rebirth, restored purpose, and a genuine appreciation for second chances. While that might sound like the makings for a traveling evangelical tent show, the focus of this event is buildings – historic Austin buildings that, in some cases, have literally been through the fire and emerged stronger and more beautiful than ever.

Join the Austin History Center Association Friday, January 23, as an A-list of Texas' best architectural historians take the stage at the Driskill, itself a restored classic, for the annual Angelina Eberly Luncheon, the AHCA's signature fundraiser. Preaching the gospel of preservation will be people who have dedicated their lives to rehabilitating older homes and other iconic properties, giving them a functional future while maintaining a critical link to the past.



DISCUSSION TOPICS

The focus of discussion will be on some of the landmark Austin properties these renovators have helped restore, including:

Texas Governor's Mansion

The night of June 8, 2008, an unknown arsonist threw a Molotov cocktail at the Abner Cook-designed Greek Revival executive mansion, heavily damaging the structure and many of the home's contents. A four-year, \$25 million restoration effort restored the mansion to its previous luster aided by 200 AHC photographs for the Historic Structures Report.

Hirshfeld House and Cottage

Two blocks south of the Governor's Mansion sit the Hirshfeld Cottage (built in 1876) and House (built in 1886). The homes harken back to a time when downtown Austin was primarily residential. The restored houses currently serve as home for the Office of Governmental Relations for the Texas A&M University System.

Walter Tips House

In the summer of 1975, this historic two-story frame Victorian home was uprooted from its 7th St. location and rolled 33 blocks down Congress Ave. to the corner of South Congress and Oltorf, where it sits today. The home was restored and became the South Austin office for Franklin Savings Association.

Walter Tips Building

In 1978, Franklin Savings Association preserved another Walter Tips property, this one the Victorian Italiante-styled Tips Company Building at 710 Congress Ave. The restored building became Franklin Savings' home office and a bellwether for revitalization of Austin's signature avenue.

Driskill Hotel

Built in 1886 by cattle baron Jesse Driskill, this hotel has become synonymous with Austin's political, business, and entertainment vibrancy. Over the years, the hotel has expanded and been preserved a number of times to maintain its original grandeur.

TICKETS

Tickets to the Angelina Eberly Luncheon can be purchased online at www.AustinHistory.net, by phone at **512-270-0132**, or at the **AHCA office** in the O. Henry Room of the Austin History Center, 9th and Guadalupe st.

Proceeds from the Angelina Eberly Luncheon go to the Austin History Center Association, supporter of the Austin History Center archives for Austin and Travis County.



2015 LUNCHEON PANELISTS



Charles Betts, longtime executive director of the Downtown Austin Alliance and current member of the AHCA board. In 1975 when Betts was president of what was then Franklin Savings, he led the effort to move the historic Walter Tips house down Congress Ave. to its current placement at South Congress and Oltorf streets. Betts also led the effort to restore the Tips building at 710 North Congress Ave.



Dealey Herndon, former executive director of the State Preservation Board and project manager for two of Texas' most notable preservation projects: restoration of the Texas Governor's Mansion and the preservation and extension of the State Capitol. Herndon is Trustee Emeritus of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington, D.C.



Candace Volz, president of Volz O'Connell Huston, an architecture and interior design firm. Her historic interiors projects range from privately-owned historic residences to publicly-owned historic sites. Analysis of historic interiors and replicating/restoring original furnishings and finishes are her strengths.

John Volz is vice president of Volz O'Connell Huston. He shares his preservation expertise with a number of non-profit organizations in Texas and nationally, including serving on the board of the Historic Preservation Education Foundation.



Wayne Bell, first state restoration architect with the Texas Historical Commission; first chairman of the Historic Landmarks Commission; founder of the Historic Sites and Restoration branch of the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife; initiator of the master's degree program in historical preservation at the UT School of Architecture.



Peter Flagg Maxson, formerly of the Texas Historical Commission and project manager for Texas landmarks such as the Sam Bell Maxey House in Paris, TX; the Fulton Mansion in Rockport, and Austin's Hyde Park neighborhood. He also has served as a past president of Preservation Austin and the Austin History Center Association.

SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION

To learn more about the following sponsorship opportunities, visit www.AustinHistory.net or call Jeff Cohen at 512-270-0132.

\$10,000 ANGEL SPONSOR

Benefits of Global Sponsor *plus...*

- Company logo or individual name recognized in all 3 AHCA Newsletter Issues
- Full table of 10 Eberly Luncheon tickets
- 2 tickets for other AHCA premium events

\$5,000 GLOBAL SPONSOR

Benefits of Premium Sponsor *plus...*

- Designated table sponsor with *exclusive* table signage naming you or your company
- Name recognized on Eberly Luncheon invitation
- Sponsorship name recognized *prominently* online at AHCA's Eberly Luncheon Sponsors page.
- Champagne "Behind the Walls Tour" (for 10) at AHC or another premium event
- Company logo or individual name recognized in 1 AHCA Newsletter issue
- 2 Eberly Luncheon tickets
- 2 Tickets for other AHCA premium events

\$2,500 PREMIUM SPONSOR

Benefits of Designated Sponsor *plus...*

- Designated table sponsor with individual table signage naming you or your company
- Individual or company name recognized & thanked from podium at Eberly Luncheon
- Sponsorship name recognized *prominently* online at AHCA's Eberly Luncheon Sponsors page.
- Color logo on Eberly Luncheon program
- Name recognition & signage at *all* premium events
- 2 Eberly luncheon tickets
- 2 tickets for another AHCA premium event

\$1,250 DESIGNATED TABLE SPONSOR

Benefits of Friendship Sponsor *plus...*

- Name recognized on Eberly Luncheon Signage, day-of event
- Designated table sponsor with individual table signage naming you or your company
- Individual or company name recognized & thanked from podium at Eberly Luncheon
- Sponsorship name recognized *prominently* online at AHCA's Eberly Luncheon Sponsors page.
- 2 Eberly Luncheon tickets

\$500 FRIENDSHIP SPONSOR

- Name recognized in Eberly Program and signage

►►...**NEW EXHIBIT** In the years leading up to the Civil War, through the war years, and during the Reconstruction period after the war, Austin can be considered both typical and atypical of the southern experience. It presents a unique microcosm of the complexity of the southern people of this period.

In 1860, Austin boasted a population of 3500, which included about 1000 slaves and only about a dozen free blacks. These numbers clearly reveal that slavery was a part of Austin, and as the tensions mounted, Austin harbored its share of secessionists. Men such

IN THE YEARS LEADING UP TO THE CIVIL WAR, THROUGH THE WAR YEARS, AND DURING THE RECONSTRUCTION PERIOD AFTER THE WAR, AUSTIN CAN BE CONSIDERED BOTH TYPICAL AND TYPICAL OF THE SOUTHERN EXPERIENCE. IT PRESENTS A UNIQUE MICROCOSM OF THE COMPLEXITY OF THE SOUTHERN PEOPLE OF THIS PERIOD.

as John "Rip" Ford led a parade down Congress Avenue in January 1861 to protest the election of Abraham Lincoln as United States president. John Marshall, publisher of the *Texas State Gazette*, and Oran Roberts led the call for Texas to secede to protect their way of life, but Austin was also home to many who, though not necessarily supporters of Lincoln, had fought for Texas' independence and statehood and

loved the state and the country. Men such as Elisha Marshall Pease, Sam Houston, George W. Paschal, Eugene Bremond, and John H. Robinson were ardent Unionists struggling against the secession, and yet some of them were slave owners.

Over the objections of then-Governor Houston, Texas secessionists held a convention in January 1861 to decide Texas's fate. The convention passed an Ordinance of Secession that, when put to a vote, was overwhelmingly passed by Texas citizens. Travis County was one of a handful of counties that voted against secession, bolstered by the strong Unionist sentiment in Austin. In March, the convention reconvened and officially adopted the measure to leave the United States and join the Confederate States. Within a month, Texas would be at war.



▲ **AR.M.013(G-26), Gethsemane Papers, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library.** Union forces camped on the Capitol Grounds in 1866

Though Travis County voted not to secede, once the war began, its citizens actively supported the Confederate cause. When the call to take up arms came, men flocked to join Confederate units. Shortly after the firing at Ft. Sumter, Austinites formed the Austin City Light Infantry Company. Men also joined noted military units such as the Tom Green Rifles, Travis Rifles, Austin City Light Artillery, Travis Confederate Guards, Terry's Texas Rangers, and Hood's Texas Brigade. In all, hundreds of men from Travis County found



▲ **PICB 06010, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library.** Rev. Handy Williamson, a former slave in Travis County, was one of the thousands of blacks in the area who, denied freedom until June 19, 1865, had to form new lives as freedmen and women in a society that often denied them even the most basic rights.

themselves fighting – and some dying – in battles all over the South. Not all men joined willingly, however. The Confederate States began ordering conscriptions in April 1862 and expanded the eligible ages as the war progressed. In all, over 90,000 Texans served in Confederate military units.

Many Unionists refused to serve and tried to flee the state. Those that were caught were treated harshly, including two mass hangings in Houston and Gainesville that likely discouraged others from attempting to flee. Most Unionists in Austin, including those who left the state, attempted to live out the war in obscurity. A few, however, joined Union forces and fought against their southern brethren. A number of Austinites were part of the federal forces fighting at the Battle of Palmito Ranch, the last land action of the Civil War. Most notably, Andrew Jackson Hamilton fled Austin and ended up in Washington D.C., then later, New Orleans, where he was named the provisional military governor of Texas.

LIFE WAS HARD FOR THOSE WHO REMAINED IN AUSTIN DURING THE WAR. THOUGH NO BATTLES WERE FOUGHT HERE, AUSTIN WAS MOSTLY CUT OFF FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD.

Life was hard for those who remained in Austin during the war. Though no battles were fought here, Austin was mostly cut off from the rest of the world. Early in the war, Austin relied on news reports out of New Orleans to keep the government and citizenry informed. After Union forces captured New Orleans, news was hard to come by, and the reports that made it to Austin were often inaccurate, leading to a general sense of unease during the war. Additionally, the Union blockade of Texas caused a shortage of consumer goods, such as clothing, food, currency, and household goods. By the end of the war, there were more than 500 indigent families living in Austin.

Despite the lack of military aggressions in the area, Austinites always feared an invasion as it was the seat of government. News reports of Union forays into Galveston, South Texas, and along the Red River led to the formation of a home defense cavalry unit. Also, slaves were pressed into efforts to fortify the town and on May 30, 1862, the Austin City Marshall declared the city under martial law.

Union forces arrived in Austin in **NEW EXHIBIT... PAGE 8 ►►**

►...NEW EXHIBIT June 1865, officially bringing the war to a close. The Reconstruction period lasted about 9 years and Austin was home, at times, to the U.S. Military 5th District, federal troops, and constitutional conventions as Texas struggled to redefine its government so it could re-enter the Union and to work out how the newly freed slaves could enter the greater society. This period was marked by much political turmoil, with many of the antebellum disagreements being rehashed. Many former secessionists tried to take over the Reconstruction policymaking and set out to deny the newly freed blacks as many rights as possible. Reconstruction unofficially ended, at least in Texas, in 1874 with the election of Richard Coke as governor under the new state constitution. Unfortunately, most of the few political, economic and social gains acquired by freed blacks during Reconstruction would be lost as Texas, as well as other Southern states, began to enact what would come to be known as Jim Crow laws, which were designed to limit the rights of African Americans and the access they had to public services. For too many, the Civil War would last for another 100 years, culminating in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. ●

☛...FOWLER the native Austinite, “we lived not far from what is now the Austin History Center but at the time was Austin's main library.” Aboard her bicycle, ‘Trusty,’ Fowler would ride to the library and spend hours reading and participating in children's activities. But it wasn't until she'd left Austin to pursue a career, then returned, that she developed a passion for the building, what's inside, and what it stands for.

“When I was writing ‘The Spirit of Missions,’ a book about the spread of early Texas and Austin churches, I developed a first-hand appreciation for the History Center – the wealth of information, the photos, the staff people's knowledge – it just became a huge passion,” said Fowler.

“Passion” might be code for “full-scale assault” in Fowler-speak. Since becoming president, Fowler has initiated a redesign of the AHCA website, www.AustinHistory.net. She also has led efforts to restructure the sponsorship packet for the Eberly Luncheon fundraiser, increase grant applications and launch an annual high-end member recruitment event at Austin's Headliner's Club. And that's on top of the work she was already doing for AHCA.

“When I have anything to do that is a passion for me, I can go to the millionth degree to hopefully make it better,” said Fowler.

“That's what I'm all about is making it better somehow. And I can't even stop it. The ideas come whether I want them to or not. I don't know where they come from. They just flood. And they flood in so many directions – cards, books, phrasings, film ideas. But if they're being channeled, I'll go to the nth on the History Center, and am happy to, and don't even think about it. For me, it's like breathing.”

Others working alongside Fowler might find themselves short of breath, if not inspired by the new president's commitment.

“For better or worse, I've always been a person who can catch on fire and go for it,” said Fowler. “In advertising someone might walk in your office and say ‘I need you on a pitch.’ And that means that for at least a week, you have a whole separate job on top of your job, and then you make the pitch to get new business. There is no eating or sleeping, there's just food brought in and everyone's in a bullpen working on ideas and ways to reach a common goal. It's a pattern that's really foreign to a lot of people and sounds so suspect, but it's what I call the project paradigm. You bust and then collapse and refresh and then you go along for awhile until the next big slam hits, and then you do it again.”

For the AHCA, the big pitch is coming within the next two years as Austin vacates the John Henry Faulk library building and moves the main library to new digs closer to Lady Bird Lake. An existing

City Council proclamation gives the over-capacity Austin History Center first dibs on the Faulk building, but bond money will have to be approved by voters to make the expansion possible. Fowler sees the work being done today by AHCA members as laying the groundwork for the challenge that lies ahead.

“The view of where we're going is three to five years out,” said Fowler. “But right now, we're in what I consider a repackaging and relaunch for the History Center. It's got all this product news that's about to hit, which is the expansion, but we have to put the pitch together now.”

Fowler figured she'd be part of the team working on the pitch, but not its leader.

“The last thing I thought I'd be doing this year is being president of the Austin History Center Association,” she said. “That was not in my plan. But it's such an honor and now it's so much fun because the wheels are turning. All the new stuff is coming, the expansion and changing of the building, all the stuff is happening. It's a perfect time for me to be enjoying this function, but it was so unanticipated.”

Like some of those ideas that occasionally pop into her head. ●

Quiet Little Corner?

The distinguished building at 9th and Guadalupe might have been Austin's Central Library at one point, but for those who ever wonder what goes on in the Austin History Center these days, the following stats highlight some of the center's achievements during the last fiscal year (October 2013 – September 2014):

VISITORS	39808
REGISTERED RESEARCHERS <small>(People who visited the Reading Room)</small>	3649
QUESTIONS ANSWERED	10272
DONATIONS	163 (160 LINEAR FEET)
ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS PROCESSED	59
ITEMS PROCESSED	161,126
PROGRAMS, TOURS, PRESENTATIONS	83 (REACHING 2855 PEOPLE)

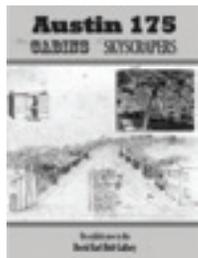
Forsyth Strikes a Chord with Headliner's Crowd

Who knew Guy Forsyth was an Austin history buff? It sure came across that way as Forsyth held court at the first annual meet & greet fundraiser at Austin's tony Headliner's Club. The 2005 Austin Music Award winning "Best Male Vocalist" weaved together music and commentary for an attentive audience primed for the historically relevant tone Forsyth took with his performance. His set featured songs by contemporary masters as diverse as Marty Robbins and Leadbelly, with background information on the artists and the occasional Austin historical reference sprinkled in for flavor. ●



◀ Austin singer/songwriter Guy Forsyth performs at the AHCA's meet and greet event at Austin's Headliner's Club.

▶ Jay and Kathie Femal (left), owners of Austin Business Furniture, celebrate the wedding plans of Dr. Anne Ames and "Condo Joe" Bryson.



NOW ON DISPLAY: "Austin 175— From Cabins to Skyscrapers"

The walls of the David Earl Holt Gallery at the Austin History Center hold fascinating views reflecting the evolution of downtown Austin over the course of the city's 175-year history. The collection of 19th century drawings and 20th and 21st century photographs is the Austin History Center's tribute to the city's 175th birthday, which was marked on December 27. The exhibit is free and open to the public through March 22.



AUSTIN HISTORY CENTER ASSOCIATION

BECOME A MEMBER

*Help promote community awareness
and use of the Austin History Center.*

Visit austinhistory.net or email director@ahca.net to receive more information about the benefits of membership or to purchase gift certificates.

Fill in the application below and mail with your payment to:
Austin History Center Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 2287, Austin TX, 78768

MEMBER INFORMATION

Please check one:

- New Member
 Renewing Member

Date _____

Name _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES (Check one)

- Eberly Brigade \$1,842 per year
 Pease Society \$1,000 per year
 Archivist \$500 per year
 Curator \$250 per year
 Collector \$100 per year
 Friend \$50 per year

PAYMENT INFORMATION

- Check enclosed (payable to: Austin History Center Association)
 Please charge my account:

Amount to charge \$ _____

Card # _____

Security Code _____ Exp. Date _____ Visa Mastercard

Billing address _____

Signature _____

- Destroy card information after transaction
 Keep card information on file

You Need to Get Out More

BY GEOFF WOOL

Eight years after her passing, the spirit of former Texas Governor Ann Richards was alive and holding court at Scholz Beer Garten on September 3 as the Austin History Center hosted its annual Beer Garden Social. As part of its "Backwards In High Heels" tribute to women from Austin who broke through barriers to succeed in politics, the social paid tribute to Richards, whose big personality and trademark white bouffant provided more than ample material for the evening's entertainment. Esther's Follies stalwart Shannon Sedwick's portrayal of Richards, both as a candidate (singing the Ann Richards campaign theme song) and as an after-life mentor to gubernatorial candidate Wendy Davis (played by Ellana Kelter), brought smiles and laughter to the beer garden crowd, many of whom wore Ann Richards masks provided by the AHC. Austin-based author Spike Gillespie recited haiku based on famous Richards quotes, and AHC Archivist Mike Miller engaged the crowd with Austin beer garden history and Ann Richards trivia. ●



▲ Austin actresses Shannon Sedwick (left) and Ellana Kelter portray former Texas Governor Ann Richards (Sedwick) and candidate for governor Wendy Davis (Kelter) in a sketch at the Austin History Center's Beer Garden Social.

▲ Former Texas Land Commissioner Bob Armstrong (left), his wife, Linda, and former Austin Mayor Frank Cooksey enjoy a laugh at the AHC's annual Beer Garden Social.

SAVE THESE DATES

AUSTIN HISTORY CENTER (AHC) - 810 Guadalupe (at 9th)

Open Tue.–Sat. 10am – 6pm & Sun. 12pm – 6pm

JANUARY 14

Opening reception for Divided City: Civil War & Reconstruction in Austin, 6:30pm.

JANUARY 23

Angelina Eberly Luncheon at Driskill Hotel. Coffee Mixer, 11:30am. Luncheon and panel, 12 noon.

MARCH 5

Amplify Austin for AHCA – Day of philanthropy

MARCH 22

Last day for *Austin 175: From Cabins to Skyscrapers* photo exhibit in the David Earl Holt Gallery, AHC

MAY 13

AHC Beer Garden Social – The Music of the Civil War

MAY 29

Austin History Center Association Annual Meeting

Visit AustinHistory.net for more specific information about these and other upcoming events.

Austin History Center Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 2287

Austin, Texas 78768

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
Austin, Texas
Permit No. 1545

AUSTIN HISTORY CENTER
■■■ ASSOCIATION ■■■



www.austinhistory.net

