This year marks the 100th anniversary of Baylor's first homecoming, which was held November 24 – 25, 1909, during the week of Thanksgiving. The purpose of the two-day fall event was "to give an opportunity for the joyful meeting of former student friends, an occasion when former classmates could again feel the warm hand-clasp of their fellows, recall old memories and associations, and catch the Baylor spirit again." Homecoming was to be "purely social and fraternal," with no fundraising to occur. That year, Wacoans also

The 1909 homecoming began with a band concert on the campus, followed by an alumni reception in Carroll Library hosted by President S. P. Brooks and the faculty. That evening, Rev. George W. Truett gave a homecoming address in Carroll Chapel, and a late-evening "old time soiree" was held in nearby Georgia Burleson Hall. Thursday began with class reunions, and at 2:00 p.m., the first Baylor homecoming parade moved down 5th Street. The procession was led by the Baylor band and featured distinguished guests, alumni, trustees and faculty riding in automobiles and carriages decorated in green and gold. Members of the senior class were in caps and gowns, and members of the Women's Literary Society rode in tallyhos. Male students were on foot, and the football squad marched in uniform. At 3:30 p.m., a football game between Baylor and then cross-town rival Texas Christian University was played on Carroll Field (now the site of the Bill Daniel Student Center). Baylor won by a score of 6 – 3.

Although Baylor's 1909 homecoming did not immediately begin an annual tradition—the second homecoming was not held until 1915, the celebration was among the first planned collegiate homecomings in the United States with the defining title of "homecoming." Sic 'em, Bears!
Bill (BA ’80) and Kathy Wardlaw are exceptional supporters of Baylor University. From serving on university boards to holding athletic season tickets, they actively support Baylor in many capacities. A partner with Wardlaw Claims Services in Waco, Bill is a past chair and current member of the Library Board of Advisors, serves on the Executive Steering Committee and is a true friend and advocate of The Texas Collection.

The Wardlaws recently demonstrated this by establishing the Wardlaw Fellowship Fund for Texas Studies. According to Bill, this gift was made to help explore the riches of The Texas Collection, and it is his hope that it will “provide support for visiting scholars researching Texas history, enhance the visibility of The Texas Collection and possibly pass along some of the same passion I have for the unique and fascinating history of Texas.” The fund promotes and extends research on the history, culture and literature of Texas by providing a stipend to a visiting scholar or researcher who intends to use the extensive resources of The Texas Collection at Baylor University. To learn more about the fund, visit our Web site: www.baylor.edu/lib/texas.

In addition to financial support, the Wardlaws have contributed several local history items to the archives. The Texas Collection is most grateful for the kindness and encouragement of the Wardlaws. They have generously endowed the collection and are encouraging a new generation of scholars and researchers to discover the history and heritage that is Texas.

For more information on supporting The Texas Collection or Baylor Libraries, you can e-mail Trey_Hagins@baylor.edu or phone 254.710.1982.

EXHIBIT HIGHLIGHTS HOMECOMING CENTENNIAL

Join The Texas Collection as we celebrate the centennial of Baylor’s first homecoming for alumni and friends with an exhibit highlighting homecoming traditions such as the annual parade, bonfire and football game. The exhibit takes place from October through November 2009 and is open to the public.

From The Director

Hello, faithful readers! When I came to this position in 2003, who could have predicted The Texas Collection would have the honor of helping Baylorites rediscover the beautiful village of Independence—the historic home of our university for over four decades and yet so little known by both Baylor folks and the public.

The new historic preservation work down in Washington County has stirred interest among visitors and tourists. We are currently busy with some great projects:

• Our mobile scanning equipment will soon enable us to access and make available for researching some of the unique, digitized holdings on early Texas. With the assistance of local citizens and organizations of Independence, exciting archival materials are surfacing for consideration and professional handling.

• One of our most ambitious goals is the nomination of the village of Independence for national recognition by the National Register of Historic Places. The Texas Collection is carrying out a comprehensive documentary photography project with the assistance of retired Baylor photographer Chris Hansen.

• Recent research in the Texas State Archives and various state agencies has yielded little-known information about both early and later Independence for the forthcoming National Register nomination.

• The Texas Collection recently assisted in submitting the National Register nomination for the Seward Plantation, located just outside Independence. Much credit on this matter goes to Dr. T. Michael Parrish and his graduate students in the Department of History at Baylor.

Please visit our Web site from time to time to read about our current and ongoing work in Independence. As always, I am grateful for the faculty, staff and student assistants who make this place tick. They deserve much credit for our successes. The people of Independence have also been generous in their encouragement and support.

- Thomas L. Charlton

WARDLAW GIFT ESTABLISHES FELLOWSHIP FUND

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Wa r d l aW giFt es t aBl i sHe s Fe l l oWsHi p Fu n d
during their research.
intriguing and unusual stories” that assigned writers discover
program’s host, says the shows will include some of the “most
producer and first proposed the series to showcase the holdings
T reasures of The T exas Collection,” that will air on KWBU-
The T exas Collection is planning a public radio series, “The
ra d i o da y s: tHe te x a s co l l e c t i o n o n npr
onsite visit to the campus will benefit from the updated
information about upcoming events. Individuals who plan an
page provides views of our exhibits and detailed
edu/lib/texas, which was launched earlier this year. The News
and Exhibits page provides views of our exhibits and detailed
in Texas using the state’s records. First published in 1849, the De
Cordova map was important because it provided a detailed
account of settlement in Texas, where boundaries inside the
territory were rapidly changing following the 1845 annexation
to the United States. This 1854 edition features the newly
formed counties of Madison and Hill.
Because of its popularity and influence on subsequent Texas
cartography, De Cordova became known as “the man who put
T exas on a map.” Pocket maps like the De Cordova work were
invaluable to immigrants in their travels. He also wrote several
books that were influential in attracting settlers to Texas and
was a founder of Waco.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT:
JACOB DE CORDOVA’S MAP OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, 1854

Jacob De Cordova’s Map of the State of Texas is considered the
most influential map during Texas’ early statehood period. Created
through a partnership between De Cordova and Robert Creuzbaur,
this map effectively served as a promotional tool to attract immigrants to the newly formed state.
A native of Jamaica, De Cordova saw the potential for a land
boom in Texas immediately following the Mexican War. He
traveled to cities such as New York and Philadelphia, actively
promoting immigration to Texas. De Cordova became a
successful land agent and employed Creuzbaur, draftsman for the
General Land Office in Austin, to help compile a map of
Texas using the state’s records. First published in 1849, the De
Cordova map was important because it provided a detailed
account of settlement in Texas, where boundaries inside the
territory were rapidly changing following the 1845 annexation
to the United States. This 1854 edition features the newly
formed counties of Madison and Hill.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEB SITE

edu/lib/texas, which was launched earlier this year. The News
and Exhibits page provides views of our exhibits and detailed
information about upcoming events. Individuals who plan an
onsite visit to the campus will benefit from the updated Parking
Services page that will direct them to current university parking
policies and provide information useful in obtaining visitor
parking permits. Researchers will want to visit the Research
and Resources page to learn more about available resources
and how to arrange for access prior to visiting The Texas
Collection. From there, researchers can find information on
How To Find Materials. In addition, the Research Grants page
provides potential researchers and scholars with information for applying for some financial aid to support their travel.

¡Viva Texas! is also archived online and can be accessed shortly
after it is mailed. A Baylor at Independence page is under construction, and our plan is to have it up by the end of the year. Check us out, and be sure to bookmark us in your favorites!

RADIO DAYS: THE TEXAS COLLECTION ON NPR

The Texas Collection is planning a public radio series, “The Treasures of The Texas Collection,” that will air on KWBU-FM 103.3 later this year. Wacoan Mary Landon Darden is the producer and first proposed the series to showcase the holdings of The Texas Collection. Darden, who will also serve as the program’s host, says the shows will include some of the “most intriguing and unusual stories” that assigned writers discover during their research.

Two pilot episodes were taped in mid-July. The first is an
introduction to The Texas Collection, and the second focuses on Independence, Texas—birthplace of Baylor University—and Washington County. Additional topics have been assigned, including the 1953 Waco tornado, the Texas Cotton Palace and documentary photographer Fred Gildersleeve.

“CHARMING NELLIE” IDENTIFIED

Joseph B. Polley’s A Soldier’s Letters to Charming Nellie was originally published by the Neale Publishing Company in 1908 and reprinted in 1984. A century after its original release, the volume was edited by Richard McCaslin, chair of the History Department at the University of North Texas, and republished for the “Voices of the Civil War” series by the University of Tennessee Press. The identity of “Charming Nellie,” however, was unknown.

During a research visit to The Texas Collection in early June 2009, McCaslin came across a 1908 letter in the Frank B. Chilton papers written by Polley to Chilton about Polley’s book:

. . . I cautioned them [the publisher] to be sure and send me the very first copy out of press, in order that I might forward it to Charming Nellie and give her a grand surprise at seeing her likeness, as a girl, in the book. You probably know the lady—Mrs. Frank Holt, who lives on Bay Prairie, on the edge of the Caney valley lands...

Both Chilton and Polley were Confederate veterans who had served in Hood’s Texas Brigade during the Civil War. Additional information about Polley and Mrs. Holt will be available in “Who Was Charming Nellie?”, a research note by McCaslin in a forthcoming issue of the Southwestern Historical Quarterly.
PRO TEXANA SOCIETY:
AN ANNUAL FUND TO HELP SUPPORT THE TEXAS COLLECTION

Thank you for investing in The Texas Collection at Baylor University. Since the last issue of Viva Texana!, your generous contributions have arrived with encouraging notes and heartfelt good wishes. The Texas Collection is grateful for its many friends and supporters and humbled by your gifts. On a regular basis, this column will let you know what is being accomplished by your giving.

The mission of this library and archival center is to collect, preserve and make available to the public a wide array of materials about Texas, and this fund is vitally important to helping fulfill our mission. Become a member of the Pro Texana Society, an annual excellence fund, and support the important work of The Texas Collection at the beginning level of $50 or at the $100, $500, $1,000 or higher levels. This library and archival collection was built by generous patrons, and with your support, we will continue the preservation and the promotion of The Texas Collection. If you are interested in joining the Pro Texana Society, send a check payable to Baylor University and indicate “Pro Texana Society” in the note field. Mail to John S. Wilson, The Texas Collection, Baylor University, One Bear Place #97142, Waco, Texas 76798-7142.

If you have questions about the Pro Texana Society, feel free to contact John Wilson at 254.710.3457 or e-mail John_Wilson@baylor.edu.

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Phone: 254.710.1268            Fax: 254.710.1368
Visit our Web site at:  www.baylor.edu/lib/texas

The Texas Collection Offers
Quadrangle Note Card Series

On October 23, Baylor’s Burleson Quadrangle and several of its historic buildings will be honored with Texas Historical Markers during Baylor’s Centennial Homecoming Celebration. To commemorate this event, The Texas Collection created a series of note cards featuring all four of the quadrangle buildings.

Each set of 4”x6” note cards with envelopes contains three prints of the Carroll Library, Burleson Hall, Old Main and the Carroll Science Building as pictured here.

Note cards will be available for purchase at the Armstrong Browning Library Gift Gallery (254.710.4966).