

A Portfolio of My Deaf History

Opuses From 1978 to Present

Steve C. Baldwin, Ph.D.

(Redone on Feb. 25, 2020)



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Introduction

This portfolio aims to compile the written history works of Dr. Steve C. Baldwin who was literally born with a history book in his hand. Each “chapter” briefly covers not just articles, books, presentations, documentaries, but also deaf sports history, plays, plus his archival and television opuses that he created and developed from 1978 (history play about William Dawes) to 2018 (brief biography about Shanny Mow). His advocacy, curricula, education and other non-history articles are not included in this portfolio. Consequently, the focus is primarily on his various works that substantially provide enlightening historical materials.

Be it written or visual work, Dr. Baldwin used his Deaf perspective to better understand his subjects, topics and themes. If that’s not enough, he would always volunteer to do archival and community work to spread the importance of Deaf history through plays, films, television and the Internet.

The appendices are as important as the chapters with accompanying pictorial collages in this portfolio. There are ten appendices that provide more substance in terms of developing school study guides, listing past Deaf interviews, selecting photographs, and sharing a bibliography that took Dr. Baldwin years to refine.

But why the *Backspace* author’s notes? Well, it took the history of a murder in 1952 from a historical Deaf newspaper to allow Dr. Baldwin to convert the tragedy into an article before developing an unsolicited screenplay that eventually led to his “deconstructed” 2015 novella. Colleagues, readers and friends have always asked how he conceived the novella and his response was always the same: Preserving the history of the murder of a deaf, pregnant, unwed farm girl whose killer was pardoned for political reasons in the early 1960s. Appendix D elaborates substantially about how the 1952 history impacted on the development of the novella.

All the history-related opuses should offer the reader and interested parties a wide spectrum of the Deaf perspective in different art, literary and social media forms. All twenty documented collages attempt to entertain the reader with a greater appreciation of the history that Dr. Steve C. Baldwin gladly shares between the covers of this personal and professional history writing portfolio. Lastly, I wish to quantify my list of achievements with a proven track record.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Baldwin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a small flourish at the end.

Selected

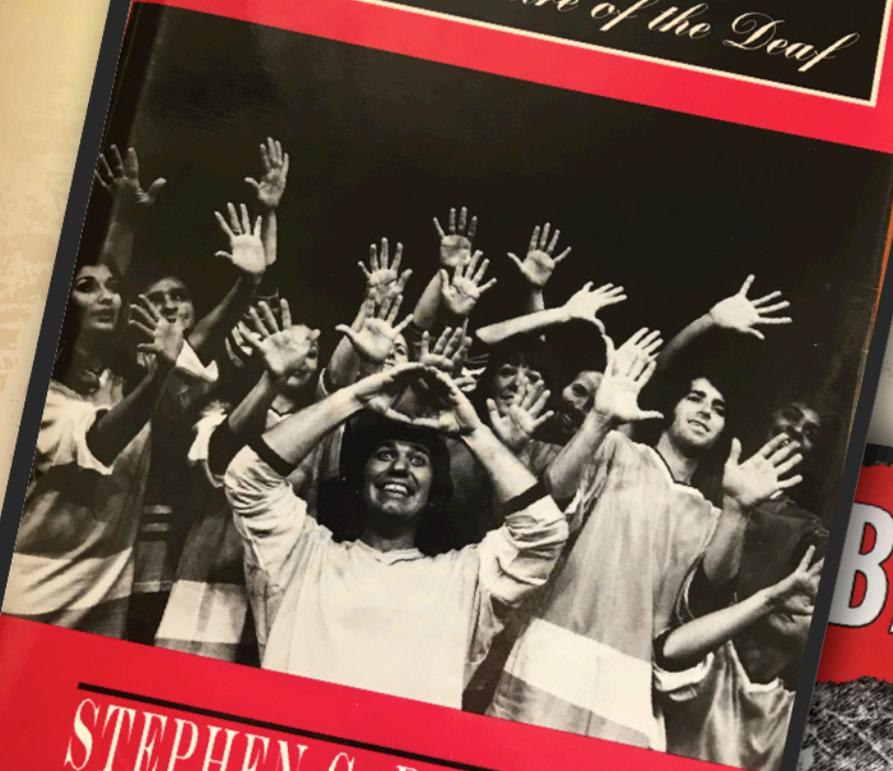
Deaf History

Publications

Prologue: The following page will show the covers of some of the 25 published articles and monographs from 1987 to 2018. The rest of the history articles are listed in Appendix A at the end of this portfolio. Two published books are also shown in the next page after the chosen articles are displayed.

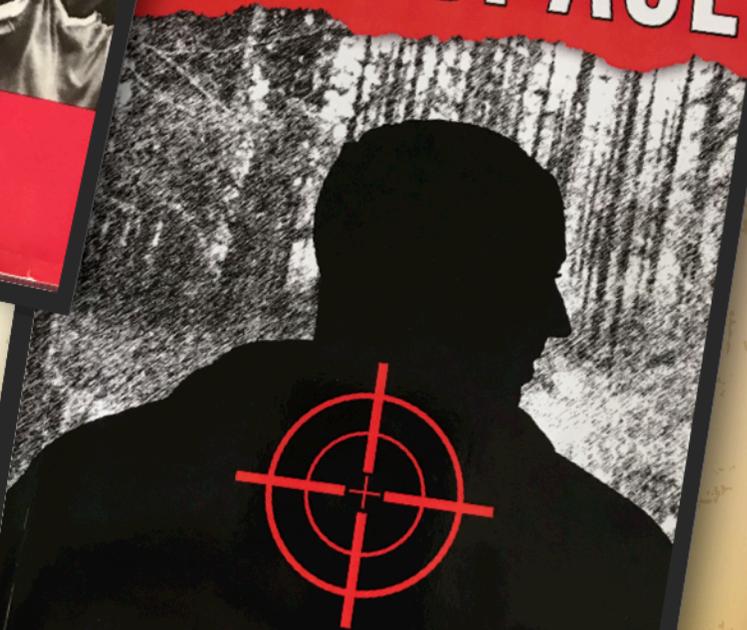
PICTURES IN THE AIR

*The Story of the
National Theatre of the Deaf*



STEPHEN C. BALDWIN

BACKSPACE



STEPHEN C. BALDWIN

Recent Deaf History Presentations

Prologue: The years from 2014 to 2016 at Gallaudet University allowed scholars, historians, writers, leaders, Bard actors and presenters to share their knowledge and experience about Deaf Theatre, Shakespearean plays and the impact that Gallaudet U. had on the American Deaf and hearing communities via historical research, published writings and performing arts.



150th_Sympo_Theatre_Impact_Baldwin2.ppt

The Impact of Gallaudet University Theatre on America and the World

by
Dr. Steve Baldwin and Dr. Bernard Bragg

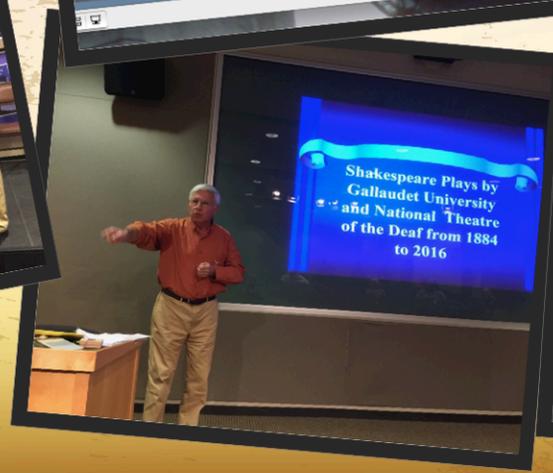
Symposium: Celebrating 150 Years of Visionary Leadership
Gallaudet University
Kellogg Convention Center
April 10, 2014

150th_Sympo_Theatre_Impact_Baldwin2.ppt

1874 production at Chapel Hall

This is one of the earliest known photos of an all-male production, which shows a pantomime, a clown and lovers, blackfaces, professor, yeoman and tableau actors on the Chapel Hall stage, which was built in 1870 for \$120,000. (Cost cited from Edward A. Fay's "Histories of American Schools for the Deaf," 1893, p.11/12.)

(Photo source: GU Archives)



150th_Sympo_Theatre_Impact_Baldwin2.ppt

"Tartuffe, the Hypocrite" by Moliere and directed by Frederick Hughes in 1951

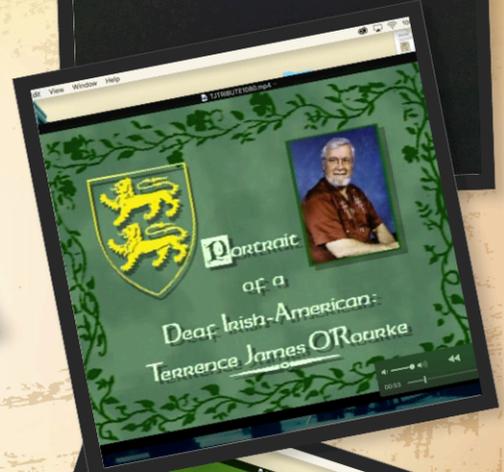
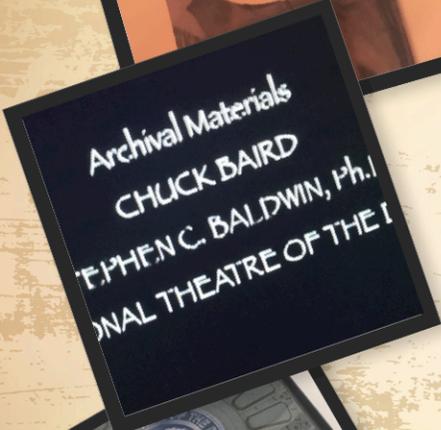
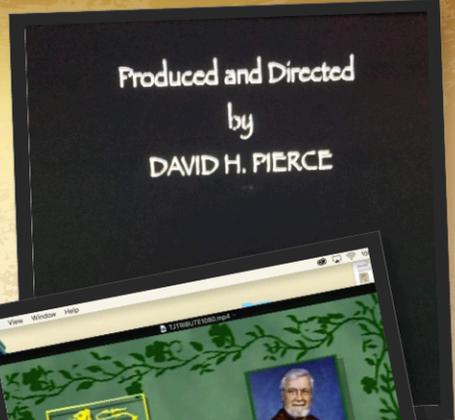
(Top photo) Gertie Galloway and Bernard Bragg in leading roles
(Photo source: B. Bragg)

(Bottom photo) Cast put on makeup and adjust their costumes backstage in Chapel Hall
(Photo source: G. Galloway)

Note: The cast traveled to Ontario, Canada, to perform for David Piekoff's deaf theatre group.

Documentaries

Prologue: David H. Pierce of Davideo Productions has worked with me on one major documentary and a few minor ones from 2007 to 2012. His expertise as a filmmaker, editor, producer, and director allowed me to develop professionally as a co-producer, researcher, archivist, TV host and writer. We earned the distinction of producing the only state association history video in America. The minor documentaries included nationally known Deaf people, such as Chuck Baird and T.J. O'Rourke (Barbara Jordan award winner) and a few local Deaf people from Austin.



History Materials on the Internet

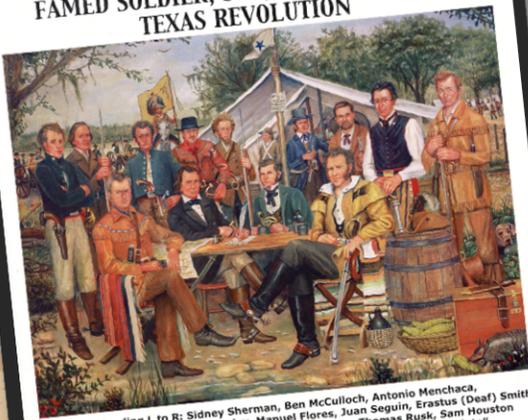
Prologue: Thanks mostly to Educational Resource Center on Deafness at Texas School for the Deaf for allowing schools and the general public across the nation to access my Deaf Smith Collection, which took me nearly 40 years to develop, publish and share. On the Internet, anyone can watch the videos, download a monograph and print several lesson plans. Go to Appendix C to view the sanctioned study guide for the Deaf Smith Collection. The comprehensive resource is at the following link:
<https://texasdeafed.org/professionals/classroom-tools/deaf-smith>.

The Deaf Texan



SPECIAL EDITION:

THE LEGACY OF DEAF SMITH: FAMED SOLDIER, SPY, & SCOUT OF THE TEXAS REVOLUTION



Standing L to R: Sidney Sherman, Ben McCulloch, Antonio Menchaca, Nepomuceno Flores, Jesse Billingsley, Manuel Flores, Juan Seguin, Erastus (Deaf) Smith, Sittling L to R: Edward Burtleson, Mirabeau B. Lamar, Thomas Rusk, Sam Houston
Painting courtesy of Henry Godines, Artist "War Council at San Jacinto"

Deaf Smith Collection

Introduction

This collection will be a valuable learning tool for Deaf students, ASL classes, interpreters, hearing programs, and other schools and programs. It is designed to be used by 4th and 7th grade teachers of Texas history. This collection was developed, researched, and edited by Steve Baldwin, a retired educator and author who taught at TSD and Director Regional Day School Program for the Deaf.

- Lesson 1: "Deaf Smith: The Great Texas Scout" video of the stage performance
- Lesson 2: "If Only This Tree Could Talk" presentation
- Lesson 3: The legacy of Deaf Smith: Famed Soldier, Spy, & Scout of the Texas Revolution

Deaf Smith Collection

- Deaf Smith: The Great Texas Scout
- If Only This Tree Could Talk
- The Legacy of Deaf Smith: Famed Soldier, Spy, & Scout of the Texas Revolution



Deaf Smith Collection

- "If Only This Tree Could Talk"
- Deaf Smith: The Great Texas Scout
- The Legacy of Deaf Smith: Famed Soldier, Spy, & Scout of the Texas Revolution



The Silent Network Returns!

There is a good possibility that depression era babies, war babies, baby boomers, rubella babies and Millennial might recall viewing some of the pioneering shows from the world's first deaf cable television network, The Silent Network (TSN).

They may have seen some of the more than 3,000 shows, including 385 episodes of "Orphan Hand", 40 episodes of "Say It with Sign", 125 episodes of "Deaf Connection" and 90 segments of its "A Good Sign."

Over 600 guests appeared on various shows until the year 2000. TSN and America's Disability Channel merged to become Kaleidoscope Television in 1994, which then evolved into a 24 hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week network in 1995. Unfortunately, in a highly competitive and saturated TV industry, Kaleidoscope television ceased to exist in 2000 after transmitting for 17 million households.

Herb Larson, the Deaf Johnny Carson, who hosted 385 episodes of "Orphan Hand" with the late actor/interpreter Lou Fant.

In 2017 by partnering with Media Data Network (MDN), a Las Vegas-based company that focuses on senior citizen needs, such as travel, health, pets, and other lifestyle issues. Not only today's senior citizens but also today's young generation of viewers, sometimes known as Generation Z, are more technically advanced compared to the past and can easily watch past and future TSN programs through its Over-The-Top TV (OTT) service, which is designed to provide deaf, hard-of-hearing and hearing people with quality information and entertainment.

Along with their grandparents, the new viewers can watch high-definition shows about life issues in general. For a minimal monthly fee of only \$5 (<http://www.artv.com>), you can use your smart TV, streaming devices (i.e. Roku, AppleTV, Chromecast), laptop, tablet, cellphone or other mobile devices to watch all the multi-cultural shows, accessible through signs, sounds and open captions. Eventually, TSN will be adding shows for children, the very grandchildren of our fellow seniors, whether deaf or hearing!

The key person behind the network revival is award-winning David H. Pierce, who runs Daveico Productions



Dr. Steve Baldwin announcing the return of The Silent Network

Sheidon I. Altfeld, founder of TSN, reviewed most of the condition with the latest technical applications. He had produced three decades earlier and commented, "If I had five more like him (Pierce), I could have ruled the world!"

DTF President Dr. Steve Baldwin and Vice President Larry D. Evans, two of the several TSN alumni who announced the revival of TSN at the DSA 2017 Houston Conference.

Fluors with the information about the revival and partnership with Media Data Network were distributed throughout the conference. (See flyer elsewhere in this publication.) DTF will definitely keep DSA abreast of TSN happenings that we all can rightfully call our own, with our language, our culture, our perspective, and our pride.

So, watch for our DSA updates on the DSA website, through emails, and future issues of New Horizons Magazine. In the meantime, if you have any important questions (for DTF or TSN), feel free to email Dr. Steve Baldwin (larryd@television.org) and/or Larry D. Evans (larryd@television.org), respectively.

Indeed, TSN has returned to the screen and now is available on both computer and mobile devices!
To watch Dr. Baldwin's announcement via video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xUW-SL8gII>
To read about the history of TSN: <https://www.television.org>
To read about Daveico Productions: <http://www.daveico.tv>
To read about artv.life and MDN: <http://www.artv.com>
To study the latest statistics about our senior population: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/facts-for-features/2016/cb-16-100.html>

(1986-1988, 2000 to present) in Seguin and San Antonio.

As a dedicated and consummate professional producer, director and more, with over 30 years of professional cable and television production, he serves as the chief operating officer for DTF, doing the captions, and adjusting the audio quality. Pierce alone remained the TSN show masters into present times.

Photo of Altfeld and Pierce in 2006. Both TV professionals spent the last 10 years seeking the right partnership: Media Data Network of Las Vegas.



Photo of Altfeld and Pierce in 2006. Both TV professionals spent the last 10 years seeking the right partnership: Media Data Network of Las Vegas.

Produced History Plays

Prologue: For the record, not that many historians would become a playwright during the course of their teaching, researching, lecturing or publishing career.

The opportunity for me to study playwriting at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center took place for three summers under the auspices of the National Theatre of the Deaf as far back as 1978. Of my 20 produced plays, three of them were history-related, which included Deaf Smith, West Texas rodeo, and a two-character study of T.H. Gallaudet and Laurent Clerc. His scripts are listed for the public on the following

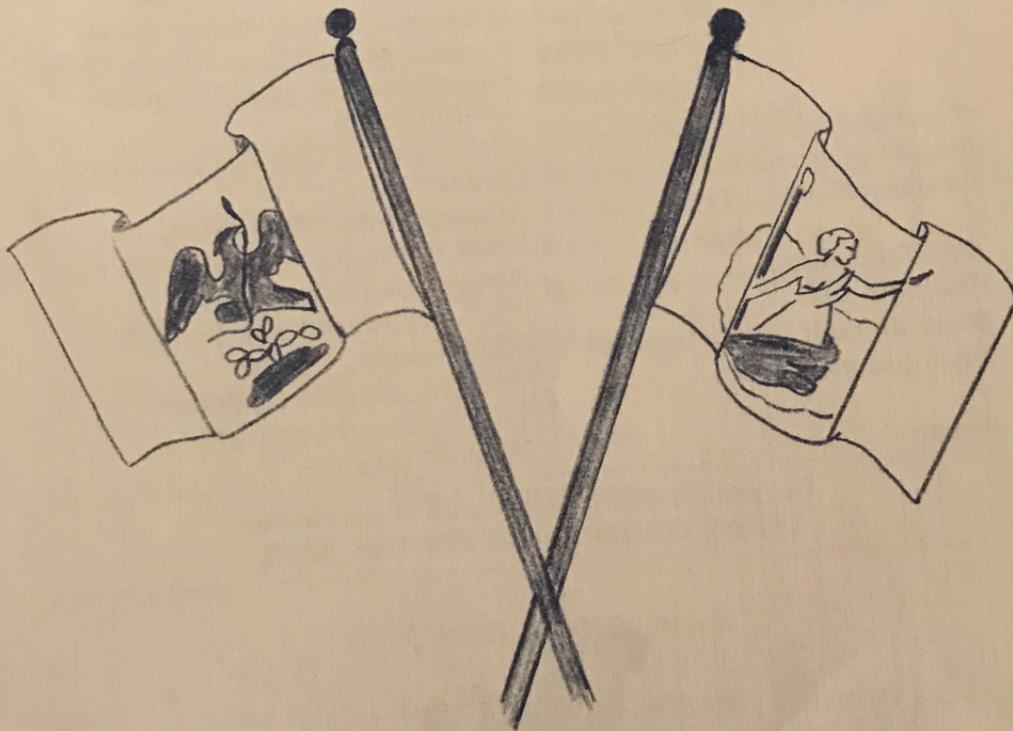
link: <https://www.rit.edu/ntid/deaftheatre/>

and on this page at

<https://awkelstone.com/introduction/deaf-playwrights-and-their-plays/>

SOUTHWEST COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF
and
HOWARD COLLEGE
presents

Deaf Smith
The Great Texian Scout



Texas Association of the Deaf Centennial Convention
Hosted by
Austin Association of the Deaf
at
Texas School for the Deaf
Austin, Texas

May 25, 1985



T. H. Gallaudet



Laurent Clerc

*T. H. Gallaudet / Laurent Clerc
Day Program*

Texas School for the Deaf
Auditorium

December 9, 1988
2:00 p.m.



HOW TO BREAK AN EVIL BRONCO

by

Stephan C. Baldwin

One-Act Melodrama developed by Spring City
Theatre for the 50th Anniversary of the
Big Spring Rodeo and Cowboy Reunion

June, 1983

Deaf Sports History

Prologue: Sadly, I know of one major book about Deaf Sports book that was written by David Stewart in 1991. There were many fine articles written by Dr. Donalda Ammons, late Art Kruger, Jack Gannon, Ken Norton, Barry Strassler, late Jack Leveque and several other late Deaf writers. With the exception of the Thomas O. Berg and Donald Padden papers in the Gallaudet University Archives, there are not that many documents about sports in general, especially when compared to other minorities. I've been fortunate to curate the Berg papers and develop PowerPoint material about the Berg-Seeger Track and Field Classic history and TSD athletes' contributions to the Deaflympics. Bottom line: We duly need more qualified Deaf sports historians.



Deaflympics Posters from Different Decades

May 26, 1924 - April 13, 2014

Tom Olof Berg

BERG SEEGER

CLASSIC

Remembering...

**Tom Olof Berg
&
Ruth Taubert Seeger**

Our medal winners and coaches

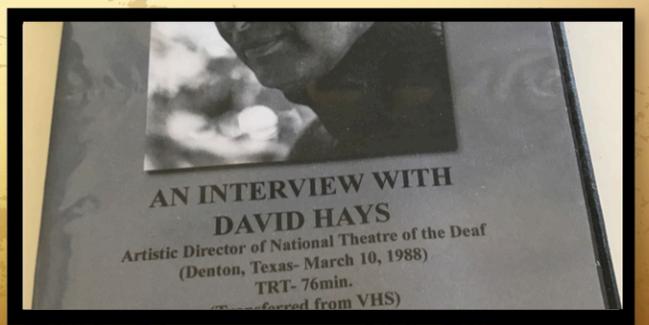
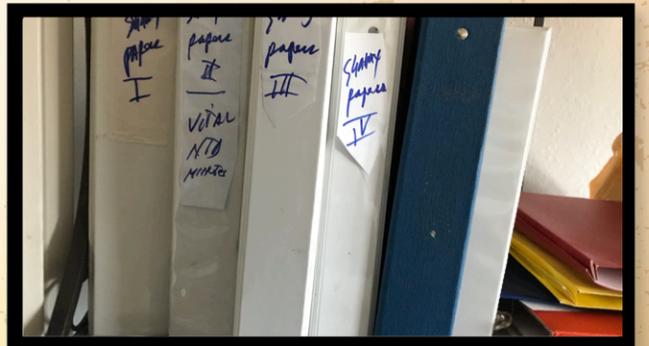
Deaf History on Television

Prologue: When I became a company member of Kaleidoscope Television in 1990, it was a rare opportunity to preserve history via that medium. In fact, I was not trained to produce, write and host about 110 Deaf Connection episodes. The founder of The Silent Network Sheldon Altfeld said that “[Steve]... took to becoming a talk show host like a duck takes to water.” That’s an overstatement at best since it was hard work and nerve-wrecking. At least half of my interviews recorded the oral history of Deaf individuals, respective national organizations and Deaf community stories and themes.

Archival Work

Prologue: One of my proud but unnoticed achievements was establishing the Texas Association of the Deaf archives in 2008. Then came the Chuck Baird's paintings and memorabilia after he passed in February 2012. His nieces took care of his original artwork and donated them to Gallaudet University after I inventoried, photographed, protected and preserved them for nearly two years. The Thomas O. Berg family asked me to take over 11 boxes of his papers, which cover the years from 1939 to 1997, and it took me three years to organize and ship to Gallaudet University. Undoubtedly, it was the best collection from a longtime GU athletic coach. I donated my entire Deaf Smith Collection to the Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas in Austin in 2013.* In the summer of 2017, I went to Santa Fe to pick up the personal papers of Shanny Mow so I could arrange and curate his memoirs and documents, which resulted in a major article. Five years ago, David Pierce and I came across the missing masters and tapes belonging to United States of America Deaf Sports Federation. Then I took over those 15 boxes, recorded them before placing them safely in my climate-controlled storage until USADSF board resumes possession of its valuable history that covers events and leaders from 1950s to 1997. If not for our discovery and protection, those original film masters of AAAD/USADSF and Deaflympics history would be lost forever.

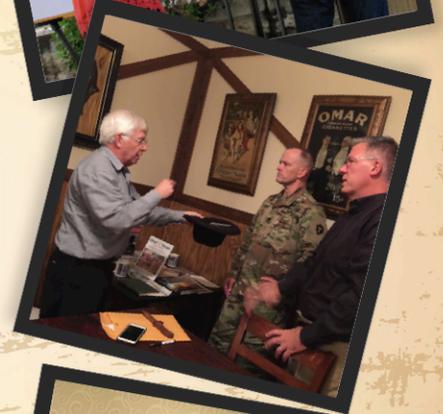
*This link shows the list of Steve's donated Deaf Smith items given to the Briscoe Center for American History
<https://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/utcah/03449/03449-P.html>



Community

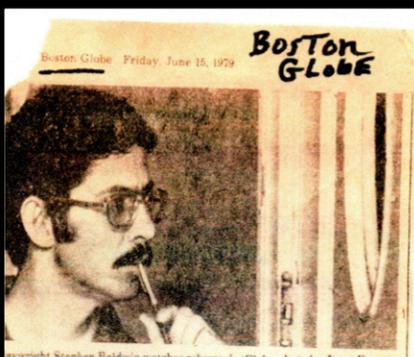
Services

Prologue: Other than doing advocacy work as an officer of Texas Association of the Deaf from 2006 to 2016, I traveled throughout the State of Texas to share the historic contributions of Deaf Smith for almost 40 years. Often at times I would grow a beard and wear a period costume to entertain school-age students and the general public. To make sure the public is aware of early Texas history, arrangements were made for the Sons of the Republic of Texas to visit TSD and that the 4th great grandson of Deaf Smith would speak to school children about Texas history. It was a pleasure giving 30 people a tour of a Shakespeare exhibit that the University of Texas in Austin had in 2016. I gave a similar tour as a docent for “Visual Shakespeare” in the Washburn Building at Gallaudet University in October 2016. In order to salvage my wife’s 50th high school class reunion, I volunteered to design, develop and print their memory book.



Selected Clippings

Prologue: The following page is a collection of selected newspaper clippings from 1979 to 2015. The write-ups and blurbs represent a good deal of issues and contributions covered in this history portfolio.



Playwright Stephen Baldwin watches rehearsals (Globe photo by Janet Knott)

ay speaks for the deaf

By Ann Knopf
Correspondent

Monday, the Supreme Court North Carolina community college required to accept a nursing applicant who had a hearing disability was otherwise qualified.

On the same day, Stephen C. Baldwin, a deaf playwright from Bridgewater, was working on his play about a deaf man. ("A Play Of Our Own—Part I" is presented at Bridgewater State College tomorrow at 8 p.m.)

Part of the play is set in a room where an anxious deaf woman is giving birth. A hearing nurse—played by Baldwin as warm and sympathetic—befriends her.

Baldwin, Monday was a day of hard work, as the court ruling struck down many ways.

Working long and hard in an effort to present a realistic portrayal of the life of the deaf, Baldwin felt he had to make the decision and was angry with himself. "The Supreme Court has ruled out of my play, I'm sorry I can't be more radical."

The Supreme Court decision represents a major setback for the deaf. Baldwin's effort is a small, defiant step in grassroots organization of the deaf.

David Hays created the National Association of the Deaf. Using the elements of sign language, dance and drama, the Connecticut company has been recognized. Unfortunately, it has not been duplicated on the East Coast.

— there are only a handful of deaf playwrights, about and largely for the deaf. Baldwin is one of the few who are about 50 years behind black in terms of spreading our message through theater," says Baldwin.

Instructor at SWCID to produce, direct

"Play of Our Own-III," a three-act play written by an instructor at the SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf of Howard College, will be performed March 12, 13 and 14 in the Howard College Auditorium in Big Spring.

Stephen Baldwin, author of the play, will produce and direct the play with a cast of SWCID staff members and residents of Big Spring.

The play examines the relationship of a hearing man, his deaf wife and her deaf parents. Off-stage readers will be used when necessary to help the hearing understand signed portions of the play.

Baldwin, who is 42 for students, is 42 for students. He is 42 for students. He is 42 for students.

Baldwin, who is 42 for students, is 42 for students. He is 42 for students. He is 42 for students.

Steve Baldwin writes another play

TAUNTON — Steve Baldwin is at it again! The 36-year-old Bristol-Plymouth High School graduate, who went deaf at the age of six has written a play.

This one, entitled "Sign and Sound a Lovin' presented at the Taunton High School auditorium night, June 6th and Saturday night, June 7th curtain set to rise at 8 p.m. on both evenings.

"Sign and Sound a Lovin'" is a one-act starring Adrian Blue, a professional mime teacher who comes to Taunton with excellent credentials.

Written by Baldwin, the play is being directed by Stephen Levine of Bridgewater State College and presented by READS (the Regional Assistance and Development Service) Incorporated for the benefit of the camp fund.

Tickets may be purchased at the door at a per person or may be purchased at Bristol-Plymouth School. For further information you may call during hours with the numbers being 822-1812 or for the 8274.

The play itself is a play for both the deaf and the hearing. Baldwin, himself, went deaf at the age of six.

A teacher the past 12 years Baldwin, who teaches the hearing impaired at Bristol-Plymouth, wrote the play three years ago.

"It was the product of my desire to express myself artistically," says Baldwin. "I think it's something that all people have an urge to do."

Baldwin's most recent play was entitled "Bodertine" and featured three hearing actors, three hearing actors and a fourth hearing actor who played the hearing main character.

"Bodertine" was presented in April by the Bristol-Plymouth High School.



Steve Baldwin, instructor at SWCID, is 42 for students.

SWCID instructor honored by W. Texas group

Steve Baldwin, an instructor at the SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf, has been notified that he will receive the West Texas Chamber of Commerce Cultural Achievement Award.

The awards ceremony will take place during the annual meeting of the West Texas Chamber of Commerce in San Angelo April 22. A slide presentation of Baldwin's work will be presented during the banquet.

Baldwin is the second Big Spring winner. Bob Lewis (Tumbleweed Smith) won the award in the late 1970s.

Baldwin, 40, is a division director at SWCID and teaches courses in drama and government. He is also a playwright and has written, directed and produced 20 plays.

He also played the role of Orin in the Dallas Theater Center's production of "Children of a Lesser God" by Mark Medoff.

Baldwin wrote and is producing "Deaf Smith," a historical play about a Texas war hero who served in the army of Gen. Sam Houston. Smith, who lost his hearing due to a series of illnesses, was one of the most trusted spies for the Texas army in the war with Mexico.

The play, which will premiere May 25 at the Texas Convention for

Entertainment 'Caught in Between' the deaf person's

By BOB CARPENTER
Staff Writer

The cast and crew brought SWCID playwright Steve Baldwin's words to life last night in a special preview performance of "Caught in Between" at the Howard College auditorium. The play, which concerns a 15-year-old hard-of-hearing girl trying to cope with her deafness, is designed for both hearing and deaf audiences.

The Herald was given a dress rehearsal viewing of the play, which is scheduled to open at 8 p.m. this Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The play was written and produced by Baldwin, an instructor at SWCID, with Helen Bonura as director. The cast is made up entirely of SWCID personnel, with the exception of Cecelia McKenzie and David Justice from the Spring City Theater.

Basically, the story is about a young girl with a hearing problem trying to make a decision on whether to attend a public school or a deaf residential institution. Her dilemma is further heightened by the pushings and pullings of her parents, friends and doctors.

Although the words contained in the play are deaf, they are applied to the hearing.

Culture award

SWCID instructor honored by W. Texas group

The Deaf in Austin, is directed by Tim Haynes, director of drama at Howard College. Baldwin received a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts to produce the play in conjunction with the state's sesquicentennial.

Baldwin is also scheduled to make a presentation during the interpreter/theatre workshop at the Texas Junior College Teachers Association Conference at Hotel Antole in Dallas Feb. 23.

Baldwin joins four other recipients selected from more than 100 nominees, according to Terri Young of the West Texas Chamber of Commerce in Abilene. Other honorees are Lewis Fulks, Abilene, noted for his dinner theater productions; Covell Jones, Granbury, an artist and sculptor; the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Canyon, for preserving social history and material culture; and Watt Matthews, Albany, for his preservation of West Texas heritage.

The Cultural Awards were established in 1966. Past recipients have included artists, musicians, authors, craftsmen, cartoonists, corporations, organizations and dramatists.



STEVE BALDWIN

SWCID instructor uses drama

by Sandy Robbins

Stephen Baldwin, instructor of the social sciences at SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf, is not only a historian, but also a published playwright.

Baldwin became interested in drama in 1976, when he wrote a full-length musical and won a scholarship to playwriting school in Waterford, Conn.

Besides the many other honors he has received, Baldwin was also the Ford Foundation and HEW deaf playwright winner, and recipient of the Stipend Award from the National Theatre of the Deaf.

Baldwin was born in Boston and graduated high school there. He received a BA degree in Early American History in 1968 from Gallaudet College in Washington



because he considers the stage as the best way to socialize a message to the hearing majority.

"Television and movies are usually an excellent medium to convey minority feelings," he explained.

Baldwin said the idea for his first play, "Borderline", came from an article he read in the newspaper about people jumping off the Cape Cod Canal Bridge.

"I took an interest in why that bridge. Why not the Golden Gate Bridge, where 300 people a year jump off? The Cape Cod Canal Bridge is only maybe five stories down," he said.

A borderline is, from an audiological

Playwright Overcame Frustration

By LORETTA FULTON
State Editor

BIG SPRING — Steve Baldwin reenacts the scene as if it happened yesterday, although it occurred years ago when he was a schoolboy in Charlestown, Mass.

The teacher called on him to answer a question in that day's French lesson. Baldwin gave a correct response to the question he thought he was to answer. However, the teacher had expected him to answer another question in the textbook. When Baldwin answered the wrong question, the instructor quickly moved on to another student.

The teacher's failure to realize that Baldwin merely had been mistaken about which question to answer infuriated the young student.

"I threw the book down, and we glared at each other," Baldwin said, demonstrating the act.

Baldwin remembers the day so well, not just because it was a frustrating experience for a school child, but because it was a microcosm of his life. It symbolized the almost insurmountable difficulty a deaf child faced trying to commu-

cate Institute for the Deaf was a good place to look for other untapped talent. Medoff later came to Big Spring and selected two of the school's students, Clifford Bodiford and Marilyn Myers, to understudy for the roles of Orin and the lead female role, Sarah Norman.

Being chosen for the play was only one of the good things that happened to Baldwin when he auditioned. The other was meeting Mark Medoff who Baldwin predicts in 10 years will be "very close to being a classical American playwright."

Additionally, Baldwin sees Medoff as a "very, very thoughtful man" and one of the few hearing people Baldwin felt totally at ease with.

Baldwin said he feels "socially isolated" with most hearing people, but referring to Medoff, he said, "I don't look at him as a hearing person."

Medoff's sensitivity and understanding of the problems of deaf persons were well reflected in *Children of a Lesser God*, Baldwin believes. In fact, Baldwin said, "I see a little bit of me in each character."

However, Baldwin said he no longer identifies personally with the characters.



Stephen C. Baldwin

A High Rising Late Bloomer

by Barry Strasser

Many people know Steve Baldwin, but their images of him would differ. Is he a Gallaudet "jock" (a hall of fame career as a long distance runner)? Is he a bookworm, relishing books on history? Is he simply a scholar, a regular on the Gallaudet dean's lists who earned a doctorate? Is he typecast as a long-time teacher and educator at various programs for the deaf across the nation? Or even among the hearing family members of the Bostonian Baldwin clan — as a combative son and grandson of a well known boxing family?

Looking at his physique and looks, one cannot imagine him as a boxer, but he got into a few scrapes as a youngster.

"High school kids wanted to challenge me, knowing my family's reputation, and so, I was forced to defend myself," Baldwin recalls. He continued, saying "I had to lick the toughest high school bully to discourage others from sneaking behind my back, knowing I couldn't hear their steps."

Or is it something else? Baldwin is a late bloomer in the deaf entertainment world, albeit a successful one. When we talk about the deaf in this field — the Brags, the Matlins, the Terrylenes, the Frelches, Boves, the Waterstreets — we often overlook the fact that

screenplay. He has won awards and honors from many organizations. To describe him as prolific would quite be an understatement.

Though nudging his sixties, Steve has no plans to slow down; his goal is to sell a screenplay for a major production. Also, he still holds his full time "real job" as a bilingual-bicultural coordinator and teacher at the Texas School for the Deaf. Students in his classes often have no clue as to his extensive background, as teacher's looks are often deceiving. He only got involved when he was well into his thirties, hence the title of "late bloomer" applies to him.

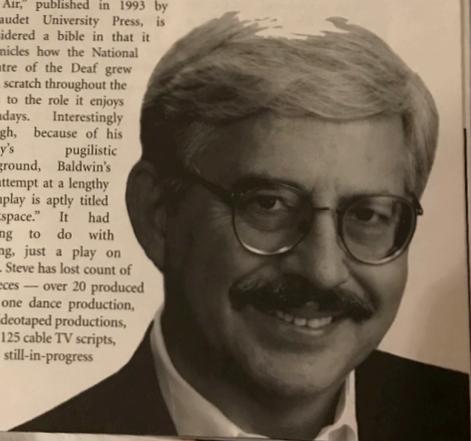
During the 60's, Gallaudet University was in the Golden Era of Deaf Entertainment. Peter Wolf, Ed Waterstreet, Don Bangs, Jane Norman, Freda Norman, Linda Bove, Juliana Fjeld, Phyllis Frelch, John Corrado, Susan Jackson and a few others all got their start while attending classes and intermingling with each other on the campus.

Baldwin is right up their alley alongside these luminaries!

Is his success in the deaf entertainment world a well kept secret? Yes and no. Baldwin is not a self promoter, seeking to get his name mentioned in the Deaf Press. Yet, in the close deaf entertainment fraternity, he is a well known figure.

Simply put, he is stellar behind the scenes — as a writer, producer, director, author and even as a scholar. A scholar? Yes, his doctorate, earned at the University of Texas at Austin in 1989, was based on a dissertation titled, "Deaf Theatre, Theory and Criticism."

An author? His book "Pictures in the Air," published in 1993 by Gallaudet University Press, is considered a bible in that it chronicles how the National Theatre of the Deaf grew from scratch throughout the years to the role it enjoys nowadays. Interestingly enough, because of his family's pugilistic background, Baldwin's first attempt at a lengthy screenplay is aptly titled "Backspace." It had nothing to do with fighting, just a play on words. Steve has lost count of his pieces — over 20 produced plays, one dance production, four videotaped productions, nearly 125 cable TV scripts, plus a still-in-progress



HISTORIAN, PLAYWRIGHT, ADVOCATE: DR. STEPHEN BALDWIN



Stephen Baldwin

utexas.edu/theatres/tad

A passion for theatre and history drew Dr. Stephen Baldwin (Ph.D. 1989) to Dr. Oscar G. Brockett's office door at The University of Texas at Austin. Brockett, a preeminent theatre historian and author of the universal text *History of the Theatre*, was head of the university's theatre history doctoral program. Headed by The Chronicle of Higher Education as the nation's best program, the timing for Baldwin's arrival at UT was perfect. As the historian reflected on it, Baldwin describes it as "one of the best decisions of my life."

Under Brockett's mentorship, Baldwin delved into the history of the National Theatre of the Deaf (NTD). Formed in 1962, NTD is the longest existing touring company in the United States, and has performed in all 50 states and seven continents. Baldwin's study led to the publication of his "definitive deaf theatre history book," *Pictures in the Air: Story of the National Theatre of the Deaf*. Baldwin traces NTD's understated beginnings to its rise to international prominence, and features contributions of renowned directors and actors associated with the company.

Baldwin's experience at UT coupled with Brockett's indelible influence served him well. He is author to 20 produced plays, including the 1985 work *Deaf Smith, The Great Texian Scout*. An avid devotee of "Deaf" Smith enthusiasts, Baldwin developed a comprehensive collection on Smith that was recently made available to the public through the Educational Resource Center on Deafness at Texas School for the Deaf.

An advocate for the Deaf and hard of hearing community, Baldwin has been a steadfast leader for the Texas Association for the Deaf (TAD). He has twice held the role of president as well as secretary. Beginning in 2004, he assumed responsibilities as the association's editor, writer and photographer. Baldwin shares, "My study at UT allowed me to use my research and writing skills to develop an award-winning newsletter, TAD-focused articles about legislature, politics, policies, advocacy and a TAD history/documentary film."

Asked for his insight for graduates looking to make their mark on the world, Baldwin offers, "My advice comes down to four words of wisdom: focus, discipline, sacrifice and appreciate. Translate: Control personal issues, party responsibly, manage your time, and thank your parents and past teachers."

Learn more about the Deaf Smith Collection, including open captioned plays with voice overs, and see excerpts of Baldwin's play at <http://tinyurl.com/pj4krr>

Finding historical value in the Texas School for the Deaf property

Posted: 12:00 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2015

By Michael Barnes - American-Statesman Staff

Was Texas Revolutionary War hero Deaf Smith really deaf? Inquiring minds from around the country have been asking that of Steve Baldwin, former president of the Texas Association of the Deaf, for years. That's because the Austinite is a widely respected interpreter of deaf history.



This 1891 map of Austin shows the 'Deaf & Dumb Institute,' as the Texas School for the Deaf was called then. ...

Miscellany

Work

Prologue: Here's a list of miscellaneous achievements related to my work as a lifelong historian...

- Dr. Baldwin established the history club at Gallaudet U. in 1966.
- He made athletic history as a long-distance runner by breaking 6 individual and relay records in yards that still stand since 1967 and holds over ten short and long cross country courses records since 1968.
- He used his history research and writing skills to successfully nominate 4 honorary degree recipients at Gallaudet U. (Wenger twins-1973, Doug Burke-1989, Ralph White-1995, Bobbie Beth Scoggins-2016 and with one more on the way.)
- He was consulted for history writing advisement by 4 biographers, one screenwriter and one documentarian for the last two years.
- He collects rare postcards, clippings and prints related to the Battle of Bunker Hill in Charlestown as well as rare prints or postcards of the historic Charlestown Bridge.

HISTORY CLUB

Historians of Gallaudet are members of the History Club, established during the first semester. This Club initiated a newsletter which contained articles on a variety of historical subjects written by members of this club who are primarily history majors. Aims of this club include:

problems of teaching the subject in deaf schools, a working relationship between the Department of History and Political Science; documentary films pertinent to history; history of the American deaf and history of Gallaudet College.

Among an historical landmark are: Mary Laff, Warren Stubbins, Anna Washburn, Stephen Baldwin, Terrell Brown, Hal Wright, FROYD BROWN

Kenneth Miles, Norma Dupluis, Jacqueline Sullivan, Van Schep, John Barry, Transmittal 1914, 1919



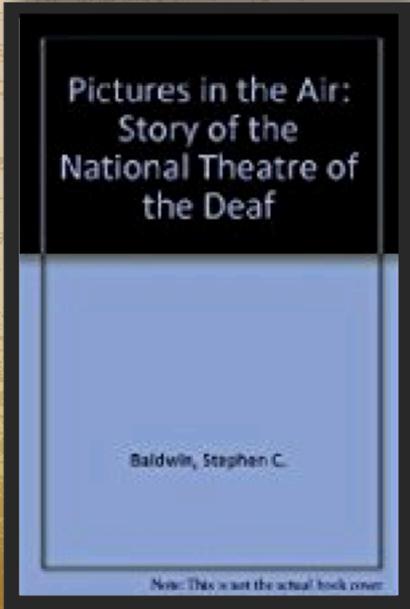
Works-in-Progress

Prologue: I have started on my “Pictures in the Air” 2nd edition a year ago and that manuscript will cover the last 27 years of NTD history. Hope to turn in the draft to GUP before the end of 2021 or early 2022. Second book has been an ongoing project for the last 10 years; it’s about my granduncle prizefighter. Have already written half of the manuscript with several family photos from 1910 to 1935! Third work has been on my mind since I received my grandfather’s journals in 1964. I have already written my outline and it will be a bit innovative in terms of structure, collaborating photos and artwork. Here’s the latest works-in-progress:

“Pictures in the Air: The Story of the National Theatre of the Deaf,” 2nd edition by Gallaudet University Press in 2022.

“Matty Baldwin: Nearly Lightweight Champ from 1902 to 1916” (Using grandfather’s journals, research, Internet and prizefighter’s personal albums as main sources.)

“Conversations Interrupted.” (Using grandfather’s diaries that covered 1912 to 1935 as a main source of information.)

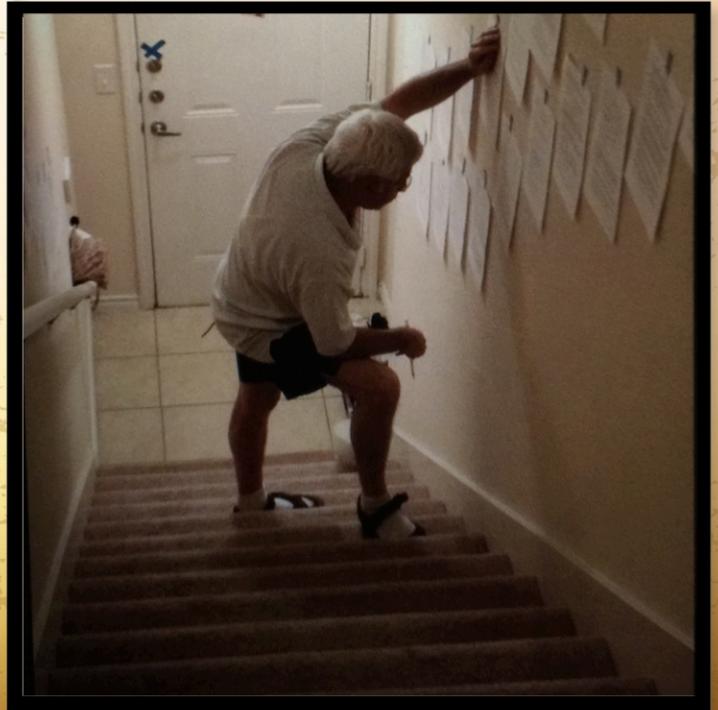
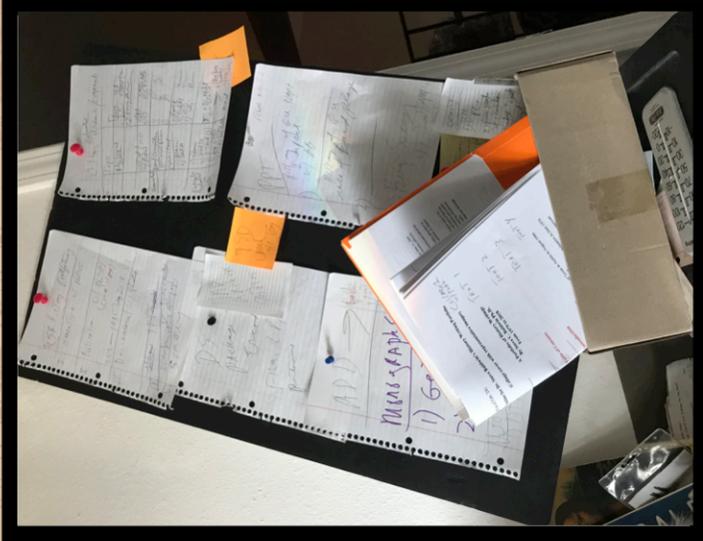


Quiet! Writer At Work!

Prologue: Photos taken by my wife Rosie when I'm holed up in different offices in several homes over the years. Every office had a necessary window. Developing storyboards is part of my technique for most of my writings.

Using a wall or a poster to tack on articles, documents, photos or scripts allows me to see the whole theme visually, manually and tactilely before organizing final drafts of my opuses.

Steve Baldwin



Appendices for the Portfolio

- A. List of Deaf History-related Articles
- B. Deaf Theatre History Bibliography
- C. Documentary Study Guide (TAD film)
- D. Two flyers
- E. The Historical Aspect of *Backspace*
- F. List of *Deaf Connection* Guests, Organizations and Topics
- G. Born with a History Book in His Hand
- H. Selected Awards Since 1985
- I. Educational Background & Contact Information
- J. In closing...
- K. Wife's Favorite Portraits
- L. More published articles from 2015 to 2020 (page 61).

**Deaf History Articles by Steve C. Baldwin, Ph.D.
(1987 to present)**

NTD Celebrates 20th Anniversary, winter issue, The Deaf Texan, Austin, Texas 1987.

Julianna Field: More Than Just a Dream, spring issue, The Deaf Texan, Austin, Texas, 1987.

The Bicentennial Birth of Deaf Smith, spring issue, The Deaf Texan, Austin, Texas, 1987.

The Bard and Deafness, fall issue, The Deaf Texan, Austin, Texas, 1987.

Bobbie Beth's Search for Drama Excellence, fall issue, The Deaf Texan, Austin, Texas, 1987.

CSD and OSD Give Impact on Deaf Cultural Movement, fall issue, The Deaf Texan, Austin, Texas 1987.

Thomas Edison: The Impact of His Deafness on His Inventions, winter issue, The Voice, Corpus Christi, Texas, 1988.

Jack Gannon: A Country Boy with a Mission, summer issue, The Voice, Corpus Christi, Texas, 1988.

Genocide and the Deaf, fall issue, The Voice, Corpus Christi, Texas, 1988.

Jogging Along with President Jordan, winter issue, The Voice, Corpus Christi, Texas, 1988.

A History of the National Theatre of the Deaf From 1959 to 1989, dissertation, University of Texas, Austin, Texas, August 1989.

Broadway 1942: Arsenic and Old Lace, The Voice, Corpus Christi, Texas, 1989.

El Sordo Rides Again: The Amazing Saga of Deaf Smith, spring issue, The Voice, Corpus Christi, Texas, 1990.

Alexander Graham Bell: No Friend of Mine, The Voice, Corpus Christi, Texas, 1991.

Pictures in the Air: The Story of the National Theatre of the Deaf, first edition, Gallaudet U. Press, Washington, D.C. 1993.

Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet: Visionary Pioneer, Hearing Health Magazine, Corpus Christi, Texas, February 1997.

Only One Cow Wears the Bell, National Association of the Deaf Monograph, Washington, D.C., December 1997.

Thou Salt Not Peddle (with Trudy Suggs), Hearing Health Magazine, Corpus Christi, Texas, Jan./Feb., 1998.

To be or not to be Deaf, Hearing Health Magazine, Corpus Christi, Texas, Sept./Oct., 1998.

Murder in Cottage Grove, Hearing Health Magazine, Corpus Christi, Texas, Nov./Dec., 1998.

Of Wine and Wisdom: A Review of Fulton Tontine, NAD Mag, National Association of the Deaf, Washington, D.C., January, 2003.

The Legacy of Deaf Smith: Famed Soldier, Spy & Scout of the Texas Revolution, The Deaf Texan, Austin, Volume 97, Special Edition, 2nd Printing, 2012. (Twenty-page monograph.)

Gertie Galloway: She's gone dancing with the wind! The Deaf Texan, Corpus Christi, Texas, Volume 99, Issue 3, Summer 2014. (Sixteen pages of historic tribute to Gertie.)

Land History of Texas School for the Deaf, Three-part series, TSD Lone Star Magazine, Austin, Texas, Fall Issue 2015 to Summer Issue 2016.

The Indelible Shanny Mow, Gallaudet Today, Washington, D.C., Spring Issue, 2018.

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- - -. *Pictures in the Air: The Story of the National Theater of the Deaf*. Washington, D.C.: Gallaudet UP, 1992. Print.
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Padden, Carol, and Tom Humphries. *Deaf in America: Voices From a Culture*. Cambridge: Harvard UP, 1988. Print.

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Powers, Helen. *Signs of Silence: Bernard Bragg and the National Theatre of the Deaf*. New York: Dodd, 1972. Print.

Schuchman, John S. *Hollywood Speaks: Deafness and the Film Entertainment Industry*. Urbana: U of Illinois P, 1988. Print.

Tadie, Nancy B. "A History of Drama at Gallaudet College: 1864 to 1969." MA thesis. New York U, 1978. Print.

(Note: This is the ultimate bibliography for scholars who wish to study Deaf theatre history from 1960s to 2016. The work took me years to develop and update.)

New note for the next section following this page: As a professional curriculum writer for most of my life and an educator, I have developed many curriculums. As the researcher, writer and co-producer of the only state association history film in NAD, I wrote this reasonably long and required curriculum for Texas School for the Deaf, which is used across Texas and America. You may skip it since it's long, but one of my best work.

Journey Through Deaf Texas

-A Study Guide for Viewers-

I. Facts about the film:

1. Premiered at the University of Texas-San Antonio Buena Vista Theater on June 11, 2009 during the Texas Association of the Deaf 45th Biennial Convention. DVDs became officially available to the public on December 3, 2012.
2. Co-producers: David H. Pierce and Stephen C. Baldwin, Ph.D. Pierce directed and edited the film and Baldwin researched and wrote the script.
3. Additional information: Film is 54 minutes long in 4:3 letterboxed aspect ratio, presented in American Sign Language with background music and yellow open English subtitles. A chapter search feature is available.

II. Synopsis:

The film chronicles the history of the Texas Association of the Deaf (TAD) and highlights most of its historical accomplishments since 1886. In addition to fighting for the rights of deaf and hard of hearing Texans, the documentary shows the triumphs, failures and insights of past modern presidents and leaders who offer wisdom and advice for the future. Their respective strategies resulted in ensuring educational rights, interpreting rights, communication rights, technology rights and accessibility rights. Additionally, the film explains clearly that the empowerment goal will always be an ongoing challenge for the Texas Deaf community and across America.

III. Vocabulary, phrases, abbreviations:

Some young viewers may need to be familiar with the following terms from the film:

citizenship	TTY	proactive
vigilance	conflict of interest	priority
barriers	apathy	oralism
symposium	audism	cultural rights
brainstorm	tedious	legislative issues
TSID	public figure	ASL
TCDHH	nitpicking	TSD
Non-profit	linguistic	discrimination

IV. Pre-film questions:

1. How many of you have heard of TAD or know the full name of the organization?
2. What is the main purpose and mission of TAD?
3. What are the current goals of TAD?
4. What has TAD achieved for the Texas Deaf community in the past 40 years?
(Most answers may be found at www.deaftexas.org)

V. Target population:

General public and educational classes such as American Sign Language, Communication Applications and Social Studies at various levels in different programs and settings.

VI. Purpose of this study guide:

To provide an outline for viewers, educators, college instructors, librarians, parents of deaf children, ASL classes, interpreter training programs, Deaf Education majors, sociologists, Deaf Culture and Deaf Studies classes, Deaf History classes, and other related programs.

VII. Outline and key topics for the viewers:

Chapter 1: Opening Sequences-Beautiful state sceneries, State Capitol, historic figures, state leaders and heroes, Texas School for the Deaf, Austin, film title and 3D logo of Texas Association of the Deaf (TAD).

Chapter 2: Background-National Association of the Deaf, evolutionary names of TAD, and past conference group photos from 1886 to 1997.

Chapter 3: Past Presidents-1891 to 2006, live footage of some presidents with their respective signatures, lively public speaking scenes, and rare photos, home movies and videos.

Chapter 4: Texas Deaf Issues- Modern past presidents comment on relevant issues like the Deaf community, fighting for their rights, educational issues, legislative bills, changing mission and goal statements of TAD, members commenting about issues, accessibility and equality issues and empowerment issues.

Chapter 5: Key Supporters-Fran Herrington-Borre, Texana Conn, Ray Vaughn, Senator Judith Zaffirini, Senator Gonzalo Barrientos, Governors Elisha Pease, William Clements, and Ann Richards, President Lyndon Baines Johnson, Justin Dart, President George H. Bush and 1990 American Disabilities Act.

Chapter 6: Legislation-Texas Legislative handbook, bills, TAD officers and leaders testifying at the State Capitol, Visual Alarm bill SB 1715, defeating “Rider 809,” Texas Commission for the Deaf, Board for Evaluation of Interpreters and “ Bill #1880.”

Chapter 7: Deaf College-SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf (SWCID) and role TAD played in its founding in 1980.

Chapter 8: Symposium on Deafness (1979), legislative and non-legislative issues, Texas Society of Interpreters for the Deaf (1963), TAD impact on NAD and other state associations and state agencies in America, and “conflict of interest” between state employees and a state association.

Chapter 9: Interpreters-Improving quality of interpreters, significance of TSID (1963 to present), and lack of quality interpreters in mainstream programs.

Chapter 10: Deaf Education- Student protests at State Capitol, society’s ignorance, Deaf majority board members, parental rights, TSD versus day school programs for the deaf, and outreach goals and activities.

Chapter 11: Technology -List of groups that helped Relay Texas become a reality and known technical devices for the deaf.

Chapter 12: Deaf Women-Role of deaf and hard of hearing women in TAD and state-at-large, successful pageants from the past, Miss TAD in 1950s, women leaders, Miss Deaf Texas winners and Kathy Walters' perspective as a pageant advocate and supporter.

Chapter 13: Publications-Outstanding TAD newsletter, *The Deaf Texan*, Jerry Hassell, past editor for 11 years, decline of deaf clubs, developing apathy in the Deaf community, and concerns about the future.

Chapter 14: Future Advice-The need to adhere and adjust TAD's mission and goals, public figure challenge, portrait of TAD board from 2006 to 2009 and an urgent need to be proactive for the education of deaf children.

Chapter 15: Closing Statements-Importance of commitment, being visible constantly to members and the public, need to be vigilant of legislative bills, TAD board must work hard, future of our deaf children, and philosophical quotes from LBJ.

Chapter 16: Credits- David H. Pierce and Steve C. Baldwin, Ph.D., co-producers with a production staff of four other people, Davideo Productions in Seguin and San Antonio. 40 individuals and groups contributed to the film in different ways, small or big. Travis County Council for the Deaf awarded TAD a grant for the development of the film.

VIII. Three Study Guides: American Sign Language (ASL), Communication Applications and Social Studies for Middle and High School programs with selected Texas Evaluation of Knowledge and Skills objectives (TEKS) and many objectives for college level programs in ASL, Deaf Culture and Deaf Studies:

1. Excerpted TEKS objectives for ASL
Subject: American Sign Language (ASL) Level I-V
2. Excerpted TEKS objectives for the HS students of ASL, Level 1:
 - (C) Detect main ideas in familiar material that is signed;
 - (D) Be able to transcribe American Sign Language (ASL) into English gloss;
 - (E) Recognize the importance of communication and how it relates to the American Deaf culture; and
 - (F) Recognize the importance of acquiring accuracy of expression by knowing the components of ASL, including grammar.
- (3) Students of ASL use expressive and receptive skills to reinforce comprehension.
- (b) Introduction.
 - (1) Acquiring ASL incorporates expressive and receptive communication skills. Students develop these communication skills by using knowledge of the language, including grammar, and culture, communication and learning strategies, technology, and content from other subject areas to socialize, to acquire and provide information, to express feelings and opinions, and to get others to adopt a course of action. While knowledge of other cultures, connections to other disciplines, comparisons between

languages and cultures, and community interaction all contribute to and enhance the communicative language learning experience, communication skills are the primary focus of language acquisition.

(2) Students of ASL gain the knowledge to understand cultural practices (what people do) and products (what people create) and to increase their understanding of other cultures as well as to interact with members of those cultures. Through the learning of ASL, students obtain the tools and develop the context needed to connect with other subject areas and to use the language to acquire information and reinforce other areas of study. Students of ASL develop an understanding of the nature of language, including grammar, and culture and use this knowledge to compare languages and cultures and to expand insight into their own language and culture. Students enhance their personal and public lives and meet the career demands of the 21st century by using ASL to participate in Deaf communities in Texas, in other states, and around the world.

(c) Knowledge and skills.

(2) Cultures. The student gains knowledge and understanding of other cultures. The student is expected to:

(A) Use resources (that may include technology) in the language and cultures being studied to gain access to information; and

(B) Use the language to obtain, reinforce, or expand knowledge of other subject areas.

(B) Demonstrate an understanding of the concept of culture through comparisons of the student's own culture and the American Deaf culture;

(5) Communities. The student participates in communities at home and around the world by using languages other than English. The student is expected to:

(A) Use the language both within and beyond the school setting through activities such as participating in cultural events and using technology to communicate.

(For Level II to IV)

(F) Use knowledge of the culture in the development of communication skills.

(2) Students of ASL gain the knowledge to understand cultural practices (what people do) and products (what people create) and to increase their understanding of other cultures as well as to interact with members of those cultures. Through the learning of ASL, students obtain the tools and develop the context needed to connect with other subject areas and to use the language to acquire information and reinforce other areas of study. Students of ASL develop an understanding of the nature of language, including grammar, and culture and use this knowledge to compare languages and cultures and to expand insight into their own language and culture. Students enhance their personal and public lives and meet the career demands of the 21st century by using ASL to participate in Deaf communities in Texas, in other states, and around the world.

2) Cultures. The student gains knowledge and understanding of other cultures. The student is expected to:

(A) Use the language at the intermediate proficiency level to demonstrate an understanding of the practices (what people do) and how they are related to the perspectives (how people perceive things) of the cultures studied; and

(B) Use the language at the intermediate proficiency level to demonstrate an understanding of the products (what people create) and how they are related to the perspectives (how people perceive things) of the cultures studied.

(A) Use resources (that may include technology) in the language and cultures being studied at the intermediate proficiency level to gain access to information; and

(A) Use the language at the intermediate proficiency level both within and beyond the school setting through activities such as participating in cultural events and using technology to communicate; and

(Levels V to VII)

(1) Levels V, VI, and VII--Advanced progress checkpoint can be offered in high school. At the high school level, students are awarded one unit of credit per level for successful completion of the level.

(A) Participate fully in casual conversations in culturally appropriate ways.

(G) Apply knowledge of culture when communicating.

(b) Introduction.

(1) Acquiring American Sign Language incorporates communication skills such as signing, attending, viewing, and showing. Students develop these communication skills by using knowledge of the language, including grammar, and culture, communication and learning strategies, technology, and content from other subject areas to socialize, to acquire and provide information, to express feelings and opinions, and to get others to adopt a course of action. While knowledge of other cultures, connections to other disciplines, comparisons between languages and cultures, and community interaction all contribute to and enhance the communicative language learning experience, communication skills are the primary focus of language acquisition.

(2) Students of ASL gain the knowledge to understand cultural practices (what people do) and products (what people create) and to increase their understanding of other cultures as well as to interact with members of those cultures. Through the learning of ASL, students obtain the tools and develop the context needed to connect with other subject areas and to use the language to acquire information and reinforce other areas of study. Students of ASL develop an understanding of the nature of language, including grammar, and culture and use this knowledge to compare languages and cultures and to expand insight into their own language and culture. Students enhance their personal and public lives and meet the career demands of the 21st century by using ASL to participate in Deaf communities in Texas, in other states, and around the world.

(2) Cultures. The student gains knowledge and understanding of other cultures. The student is expected to:

(A) Use the language at the advanced proficiency level to demonstrate an understanding of the practices (what people do) and how they are related to the perspectives (how people perceive things) of

the cultures studied; and

(B) Use the language at the advanced proficiency level to demonstrate an understanding of the products (what people create) and how they are related to the perspectives (how people perceive things) of the cultures studied.

(A) Use resources (that may include technology) in the language and cultures being studied at the advanced proficiency level to gain access to information; and

(4) Comparisons. The student develops insight into the nature of language and culture by comparing the student's own language and culture to another. The student is expected to:

(5) Communities. The student participates in communities at home and around the world by using languages other than English. The student is expected to:

(A) Use the language at the advanced proficiency level both within and beyond the school setting through activities such as participating in cultural events and using technology to communicate.

(Source: Texas Education Agency, TEKS, Subchapter C.)

IX. Target population: Middle and high school students

(2) Subject: Communication Applications

Excerpted TEKS objectives for the students:

1. Communication Process

C. Identify standards for making appropriate communications choices for self, listener, occasion, and task.

F. Recognize the importance of effective nonverbal strategies.

H. Identify specific kinds of listening such as critical, deliberative, and emphatic.

1. Interpersonal

D. Use professional etiquette and protocol in situations such as making introductions, signing on videophone, and offering and receiving criticism.

F. Participate appropriately in conversations.

1. Group communication

B. Analyze group dynamics and processes for participating effectively in groups, committees, or teams.

F. Identify and analyze leadership roles.

G. Use effective communication strategies in leadership roles.

1. Presentations

C. Research topics using primary and secondary sources, including electronic technology.

K. Make individual presentations to inform, persuade, or motivate an audience.

(Source: Texas Education Agency, Part 2,
Chapter 114, Subchapter C, Rule 114.27)

X. Excerpted TEKS objectives for Social Studies

Target population: Middle and high school students

(3) Subject: Social Studies

A. Excerpted TEKS objectives for the students in Grade 7

(1) Students use primary and secondary sources to examine the rich and diverse cultural background of Texas as they identify the different racial and ethnic groups that settled in Texas to build a republic and then a state. Students analyze the impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovations on the development of Texas in various industries such as agricultural, energy, medical, computer, and aerospace. Students use primary and secondary sources to acquire information about Texas.

(16) Citizenship. The student understands the rights and responsibilities of Texas citizens in a democratic society. The student is expected to:

(A) Identify rights of Texas citizens; and

(B) Explain and analyze civic responsibilities of Texas citizens and the importance of civic participation.

(17) Citizenship. The student understands the importance of the expression of different points of view in a democratic society. The student is expected to:

(A) Identify different points of view of political parties and interest groups on important Texas issues, past and present;

(B) Describe the importance of free speech and press in a democratic society; and

(C) Express and defend a point of view on an issue of historical or contemporary interest in Texas.

(18) Citizenship. The student understands the importance of effective leadership in a democratic society. The student is expected to:

(A) Identify the leadership qualities of elected and appointed leaders of Texas, past and present, including Texans who have been president of the United States; and

(B) Identify the contributions of Texas leaders, including Lawrence Sullivan "Sul" Ross, John Nance Garner ("Cactus Jack"), James A. Baker III, Henry B. González, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Barbara Jordan, Raymond L. Telles, Sam Rayburn, and Raul A. Gonzalez Jr., and many Deaf leaders.

(19) Citizenship. The student understands the rights and responsibilities of citizens of the United States. The student is expected to:

(A) Define and give examples of unalienable rights;

(B) Summarize rights guaranteed in the Bill of Rights;

(C) Explain the importance of personal responsibilities, including accepting responsibility for one's behavior and supporting one's family;

(D) Identify examples of responsible citizenship, including obeying rules and laws, staying informed on public issues, voting, and serving on juries;

(E) Summarize the criteria and explain the process for becoming a naturalized citizen of the United States; and

(F) Explain how the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizens reflect our national identity.

B. Excerpted TEKS objectives for students in High School

(2) To support the teaching of the essential knowledge and skills, the use of a variety of rich primary and secondary source material such as biographies, autobiographies, novels, speeches, letters, poetry, songs, and artworks is encouraged. Motivating resources are available from museums, art galleries, and historical sites.

(5) Throughout social studies in Kindergarten-Grade 12, students build a foundation in history; geography; economics; government; citizenship; culture; science, technology, and society; and social studies skills. The content, as appropriate for the grade level or course, enables students to understand the importance of patriotism, function in a free enterprise society, and appreciate the basic democratic values of our state and nation as referenced in the Texas Education Code (TEC), §28.002(h).

(23) Citizenship. The student understands efforts to expand the democratic process. The student is expected to:

(A) Identify and analyze methods of expanding the right to participate in the democratic process, including lobbying, non-violent protesting, litigation, and amendments to the U.S. Constitution;

C) Explain how participation in the democratic process reflects our national ethos, patriotism, and civic responsibility as well as our progress to build a "more perfect union."

(24) Citizenship. The student understands the importance of effective leadership in a constitutional republic. The student is expected to:

(A) Describe qualities of effective leadership; and

(26) Culture. The student understands how people from various groups contribute to our national identity. The student is expected to:

(A) Explain actions taken by people to expand economic opportunities and political rights, including those for racial, ethnic, and religious minorities as well as women, in American society.

(Source: Texas Education Agency, TEKS, Chapter 113.17)

XI. Post-film discussion, activities and evaluation:

A. Discussion topics-

1. What did you learn from the film?
2. What impressed you the most?
3. What advice did the TAD leaders impart?
4. Name some of the legislative issues.
5. Without TAD, what rights would be lost?
6. Name some laws they passed on behalf of TAD.
7. Why is apathy a serious problem today?
8. What public speaking techniques did the TAD leaders use in the film?
9. What is some of the advice given by past TAD presidents?
10. Who are some key people from the past who helped the Texas Deaf community?

B. Suggested activities-

1. Visit the TAD website at www.deaftexas.org
2. Invite a current or former TAD officer to speak to your class
3. Invite a former Miss Deaf Texas queen
4. Request back copies of *The Deaf Texan*
5. Attend a TAD conference or a Deaf leadership workshop or seminar
6. Join the free listserv at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DeafTexasIssues/> to learn about current legislative issues and other important topics.

C. Evaluation- List of suggested questions for the viewers. While educators may develop their own teacher-prepared test to fit the learning styles of the class, here are some post-film test questions to consider:

1. Why was NAD established in 1880?
2. When was TAD founded?
3. What were some of the past legislative issues?
4. Why did TAD fight against discrimination?
5. Texas legislature worked with TAD many times, so what were some of the laws that passed? In education? In technology? In communication accessibility?
6. Several times in the past TAD helped established a symposium so that deaf and hard of hearing Texans could outline short and long-term advocacy issues. Why did they do that and why was it important?
7. Name the deaf college that TAD helped to establish in 1980.
8. TAD also played a major role in establishing an interpreting organization in 1963. What is the name of that society?
9. Who are some of the past presidents of TAD?
10. What advice did those past presidents make for future leaders?
11. What are the other benefits of being a member of TAD?
12. What is the overall significance of TAD?

XII. The significance of critical mass:

As a special note to instructors and viewers in general, the film is an actualization of what “critical mass” is all about. The film is also in compliance with the National Agenda goal #2, which recognizes language and communication needs of deaf students at any educational level. It is a lifelong learning process from childhood to adulthood.

XIII. Final notes:

1. Dr. Steve C. Baldwin, a retired certified teacher, developed this film outline and 3-part subject study guide.
2. Educators from the Curriculum Department at the Texas School for the Deaf reviewed this study guide and made suggestions for further improvement.
3. Feedback from the DVD donors and supporters is most welcome. Email your comments, suggestions, ideas, questions or concerns to Dr. Steve C. Baldwin at dfsmithx@aol.com.

Journey Through Deaf Texas

Film © 2009 Texas Association of the Deaf

Study Guide © 2013 Davideo Productions

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The Historical Aspect of Backspace the Novella

In the spring of 1997 I was given rare bound copies of *The Silent Cavalier*, a popular national independent newspaper for deaf people that lasted from 1940 to 1952. The last issue contained a 1952 front-page murder story about an uneducated deaf farm girl who was five months pregnant. My immediate reaction was the memorable plot from the 1948 film, *Johnny Belinda*. In that movie, a deaf farm girl who had never attended school was raped, sheltered by her father and nearly murdered after giving birth. Like a typical romanticized Hollywood ending with artistic liberties, the signing town doctor saved the girl and later married her. In actuality, the 1952 victim turned out to be the antithesis of the movie and her wanton death affected the whole town. Justice was not fully served for this potential hate crime.

In the fall of 1997, founder, publisher and editor of *Hearing Health Magazine* Paula Bonillas agreed that the 1952 murder case had three vital elements: intrigue, mystery, and tragedy. She authorized me to travel to Cottage Grove, Oregon, right after Christmas to investigate the old case. I spent my nights in a town called the “Covered Bridge Capital of Oregon.” Due to the holidays, I did not expect much substantial success for my research. As luck would have it, I visited the town museum and library, historical society, newspaper archives, county courthouse, murder site and interviewed a few people who witnessed the infamous court case. I also spoke with the actual doctor who performed the autopsy 45 years earlier.

During the stopwatch-like pit stops in the quaint Willamette Valley, I talked with the victim’s younger sister via phone from my motel room. I tracked down the pardoned killer who gave me interesting details, at least from his perspective. It was almost like one unexpected subplot after another hitting me from different angles. *Hearing Health Magazine* published my story exactly a year later. But the impact of the story remained with me for years.

I confronted my benevolent artistic demons by adapting my story into an unpublished screenplay seven years later. My literary agent, David H. Pierce, made me write so many drafts that probably depleted a quarter of the Sam Houston National Forest. Unfortunately, there were no interested studios, option offers, copyright buyouts or script contest prizes. Instead of placing the screenplay into *File 13*, I took notice of the growing popularity of e-books and the appealing format and style of a novella.

As a theatre historian, it dawned on me eventually that I rewrote my crime mystery from an old article into a screenplay so that I could develop more plots in a visual and visceral sense. The growth from five pages to a hundred was exhausting after some ten years, off and on, but it was fun and challenging, too. I decided to deconstruct the story into an e-novella. It was like creating a small watercolor piece that became a blueprint for a large mural, and then downsized into a cumulative collage of narration. The biggest challenge of all was reconciling realism with my artistic imagination without sacrificing the storyline and reducing the unifying elements. In hindsight, if a writer lacks patience with his own unpublished book, then the work will lose its magical meaning for him.

One other vital contributing factor in the choice of an e-novella as a desired approach is the ever fast-paced lifestyle of the readers. The current technology and the social media transformed society into people who have no time or patience for a three-hour epic film or a 700-page novel. Nearly everyone seems to prefer a quickstep dance instead of a Blue Danube waltz.

Keep in mind that I chose Texas, my home state now after living here for 35 years, instead of Oregon as the story location. The actual characters also had their names changed into credible or composite characters. This allowed me to magnify a single essential unifying element with some universal implications. But rest assured that the tale was garnered from the same true stories that were directly and indirectly related to Backspace as appropriately documented. This final story underscores 18 years of frustrations and musings, but never without hope and faith for the central. I believe in this e-book and I hope you will, too.

(Note: Originally written for the first edition of Backspace in late 2015 for an initial e-copy with Savory Words Publishing. There's more history to the story than the novella itself! SCB)

LIST OF DEAF CONNECTION SHOWS THAT HAD HISTORICAL CONTENTS, STORIES, CONTEXTS, AND ISSUES

(Compiled by Dr. Steve C. Baldwin for this portfolio on March 2, 2018)

Noted individuals interviewed- Dr. Larry Fleischer, Dr. Glenn Anderson, Dr. Roz Rosen, Betty Bounds-Evans, Pauline Wood, Larry D. Evans, Dr. Angel Ramos, Kim Powers, Shanny Mow, Ruth Seeger, Kathy Buckley, Ray Parks, Shirley Platt, T.J. O'Rourke, Mary Beth Barber, Dr. Gina Oliva, Ralph White, Dr. Frank Bowe and others.

Noted organizations affected- American Athletic Association of the Deaf (now United States of America Deaf Sports Federation), Texas Association of the Deaf, Alexander Graham Bell Association-Oral Deaf Adults Section, National Association of the Deaf, National Fraternal Society for the Deaf, SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf, American Rodeo Association for the Deaf, American Society for Deaf Children, National Theatre of the Deaf, and American Deaf Dance Company.

List of topics covered- Children of Deaf parents, trilingual siblings, Deaf Magazines (Voice Magazine/Hearing Health, Deaf Life Magazine), Deaflympics, Deaf artists, Association of Late Deafened Adults (ALDA), American Sign Language, Deaf Studies, Deaf Actors and Dancers, Deaf Athletes, and Deaf Seniors.

Summary: The Deaf Connection episodes were produced by The Silent Network---also called Kaleidoscope Television and America's Disability Channel---from May of 1990 to January of 2000. Dr. Steve Baldwin co-produced, researched, scripted and hosted most of his 110 TV interview shows, which have historical information and value on different topics. Thanks to David Pierce and Deaf Television Foundation for providing and archiving the data and tapes for the aforementioned shows. Of course, without Silent Network founder Sheldon Altfeld there would be no Silent Network.

STEPHEN C. BALDWIN: Born with a history book in his hand

Dr. Steve Baldwin was born between the shadow of the Bunker Hill Monument and Old Ironsides in Charlestown, Massachusetts. Unlike most Bostonians who took their town's heritage for granted, Steve visited many historic homes, colonial cemeteries, and scrutinized weathered plaques and climbed some statues. Giving tours for visitors to the Bunker Hill site was something he enjoyed doing a few times while earning some pocket money. His grandfather would tell him stories about repairing and taring the masts of U.S.S. Constitution in the early 20th century at the old Charlestown Navy Yard, where Steve's father and uncle also worked the docks.

When visiting his relatives in Marshfield in the South Shore of Boston, Steve often walked and hitchhiked to Plymouth Rock, about 15 miles away. The 17th century Edward Winslow House was his favorite site, which was only two miles from the grave of Daniel Webster, the actual owner of that Pilgrim-era structure where the famous orator often did his writings, albeit heavy drinking. Best part of that South Shore town? Meeting the famous New England historian Edward Rowe Snow who personally took Steve on a canoe ride along the marshes where old Pilgrim landings and piers could be seen underneath the murky creeks.

It was not surprising that Steve declared history as his major at Gallaudet University in 1964. But GU did not offer courses in Early American history, so he registered for classes at Georgetown University and American University. While on Kendall Green, he established the first history club for all likewise majors! Imagine how happy he was when Dr. John "Stan" Schuchman arrived on campus in 1967 to offer courses in "Early American History Studies" and "History Research Methods!" They kept in touch over the years sporadically and Stan never failed to remind Steve to "be sure to document and videotape all the aging seniors before they pass away!"

With 20 years of teaching mostly social studies at different educational levels, Steve wrote his first history play, "The 'Midnight Ride' of Billy Dawes," which won him a full stipend to National Theatre of the Deaf's 2nd annual Deaf Playwright Conference in Waterford, Connecticut in 1978. From that time on, Steve wrote 20 more produced plays of which three of them were history-related productions. In Big Spring, Texas he wrote a melodrama entitled "How to Buck an Evil Bronco" (1983) for the town's 50th rodeo celebration and "The Legacy of Deaf Smith: Famed Soldier, Spy & Scout of the Texas Revolution (2012)," which was originally a play in 1985 and eventually converted from videotape to digital

and is now available online. The third short play was a two-character study called “T.H. Gallaudet and Monsieur Clerc: Coming to Terms.” The play was produced in Big Spring, Austin and Rochester in 1980s and 1990s.

In order for him to combine his love for history and theatre, Steve decided to study theatre history, theory and criticism at the University of Texas at Austin from 1985 to 1989 under America’s foremost theatre historian, Dr. Oscar G. Brockett. During that period, Hearing Health Magazine recruited Steve to write history articles about Deaf Smith, Thomas A. Edison, Alexander Graham Bell, Shakespeare and Deafness, deaf peddlers, genocide in WW2 Germany, and a 1952 murder history. After he received his doctorate in theatre history, Steve’s first book “Pictures in the Air: The Story of the National Theatre of the Deaf” was published by Gallaudet University Press in 1993. Michael Barnes of Austin American Statesman called the book a “definitive NTD history book” in 1995 and RIT’s Professor Gerald Argetsinger called the book “best deaf theatre history book in America” in 2003. As of writing this portfolio, Steve hopes to finish his second edition of NTD history book by the end of 2018.

As a biographical nutshell, this portfolio represents the result of his being born with a history book in his hand. But the story never ends, just like history, we learn, write, improve, err, write, preserve, then change the hypothesis while preserving memories, values and historical happenings.

The next page shows some of the awards given to Dr. Baldwin over the course of 40 years for his 25 published history writings.

Texas Proud



Texas Tough

THE LEGACY OF "DEAF" SMITH
Legendary Texas Scout, Spy, Soldier & Hero

Please join us as we celebrate the 225th Birthday of Texas legend, Erastus "Deaf" Smith. Step back in history to the days of the Alamo, and learn more about the man who lost his hearing at age 11, yet played a vital role in the struggle for Texas independence.

Presented and Performed by
Steven C. Baldwin, Ph.D.

Author, Educator, Leader & Hall of Fame Athlete

www.deaftexas.org/wp/

Also featuring the "Deaf" Smith displays recently exhibited in the Texas Capitol

Deaf Action Center's
Teen Leadership Summit for
Deaf & Hard of Hearing Boys

7th - 12th Grade Boys

Date: October 25, 2012

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Communities Foundation of Texas - Mabel Peters Caruth Center

5500 Caruth Haven Lane

Dallas, TX 75225-8148

\$25.00 Per Attendee - Lunch & T-Shirt Included

A pre-registration head count is required.

Please E-mail number of Students and Staff attending to: susan.giles@dactexas.org

on or before **DEADLINE: October 12, 2012**



Official
Summit
Sponsors



3115 Crestview Drive Dallas, TX 75235 P: 214.521.3658 www.dactexas.org



**Deaflympics Assembly
TSD R. L. Davis Auditorium
March 21, 2014**

"Saluting Our Past Deaflympians"

Speakers

Claire Bugen, *Superintendent*

Jack Lamberton, *USADSF President*

Dr. Bobbie Beth Scoggins, *Class of 1973*

Franna Camenisch, *Curator - TSD Heritage Center*

Tom & Heather Withrow, *Deaflympians & Artist*

Master of Ceremonies

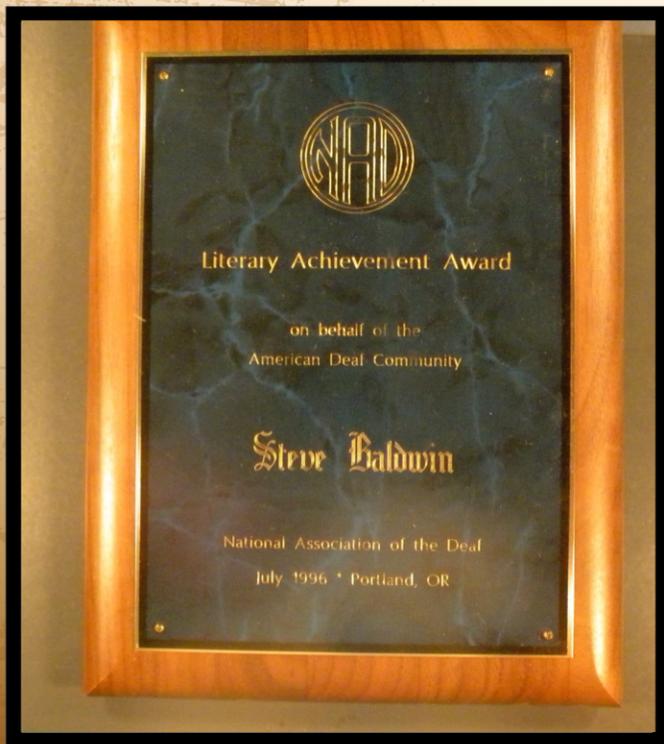
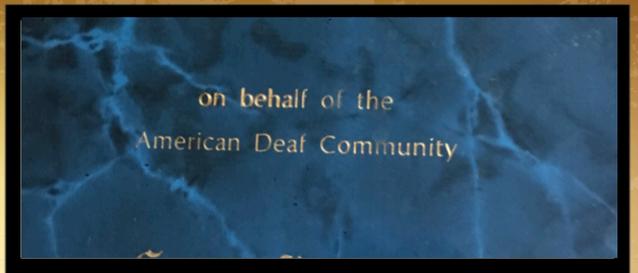
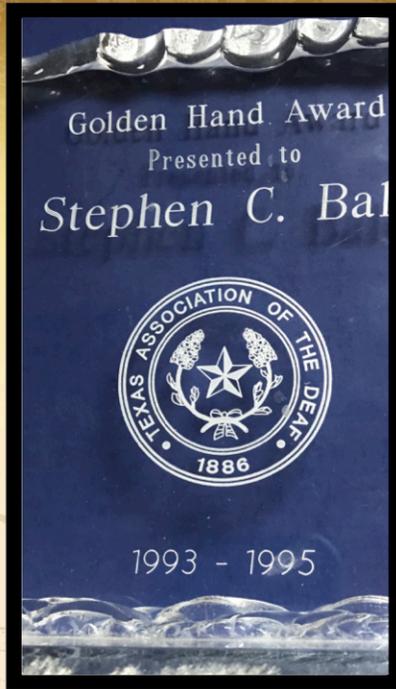
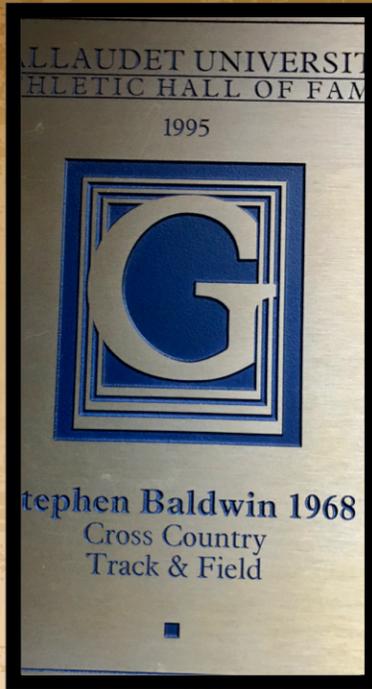
Chris Hamilton, *TSD Athletic Director*

Jesse Bailey, *TSD Athletics Specialist*

Event Coordinator

Dr. Steve C. Baldwin





Degrees in History:

Doctor of Philosophy-University of Texas at Austin in August 1989 (Theatre History, Theory and Criticism)

Master of Arts-CSUN in Special Education/Rehabilitation in June 1974

Bachelor of Arts-Gallaudet University in May 1968 (Early American History Studies in May 1968).

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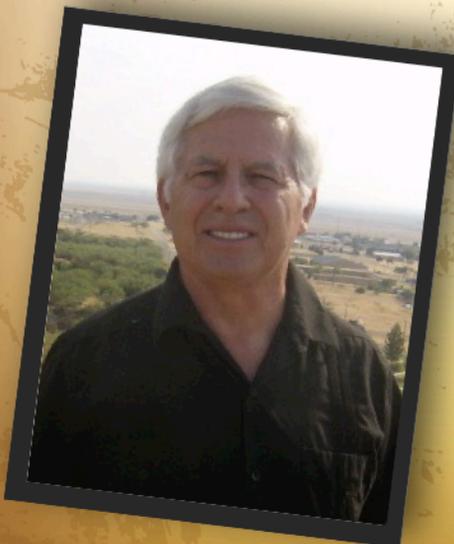
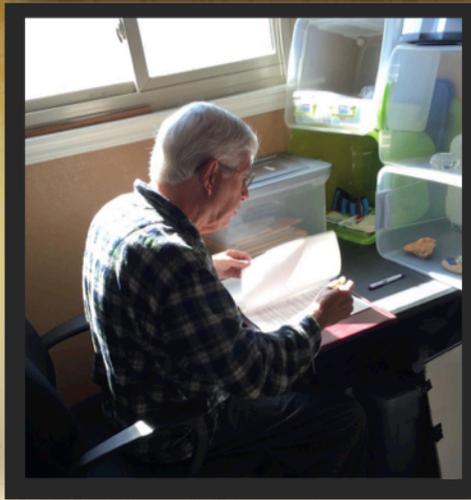
VP number: 512-410-0415

Email: dfsmithtx@aol.com

Text: 512-703-7878

Favorite Portraits

Note: Except for two pictures, my wife took all of those photos for the last collage. In closing, I'm positive that the reader, my children, my grandchildren, my colleagues and my friends will continue to understand and respect my discipline, devotion, dedication and passion for all my personal and professional history writings that chronicle my Deaf perspective for the last 40 years. And the work continues with more opuses already in the planning.



Appendix L: Latest List of Articles from 2015 to 2020

From 2015 to 2020, I wrote 3 three-part series for three different publications and two special articles for the Jewish Deaf Community Center e-newsletter. I'm adding the articles at the end of this official portfolio, which is also available on the Silent Network website.

The publications that printed my articles and series are *The Deaf Texan* (official newsletter of the Texas Association of the Deaf), *New Horizons* (official magazine of the Deaf Seniors of America), *Lone Star* (official publication of the Texas School for the Deaf), and Jewish Deaf Community Center e-newsletter.

I have one major article-in-progress about the Texas State Cemetery where many prominent legislators, literary giants, and heroes are buried and who impacted the Texas Deaf community since 1851. After 27 years, my 2nd edition of "Pictures in the Air: The Story of the National Theatre of the Deaf" will be released by Gallaudet University Press late 2021 or early 2022.

Meanwhile, go ahead and peruse my latest articles following this page.

Lone Star

JOURNAL OF THE TEXAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

Volume 136 • Number 3

www.tsd.state.tx.us

Fall 2015



2015 Homecoming
A Texas School for the Deaf Tradition

Land History of Texas School for the Deaf

Part 1-How the TSD Land Came Into Being

Centuries before Spain, Mexico and the Republic of Texas owned the land currently belonging to the Texas School for the Deaf (TSD), the Tonkawas, Lipan-Apaches, Comanches and other Native Americans settled the area and hunted plentiful buffaloes, wild cattle and trained wild horses.

By Steve C. Baldwin, Ph.D.

The school's land purchase history began in 1825 when Mexican-era Empresario (Spanish for entrepreneur) Benjamin R. Milam established his colony from north of the Guadalupe River to south of the Colorado River.



Drawing of Ben Milam (1788-1835) from a book printed in 1910.

(Photo courtesy of Texas State Library and Archives)

Most Texas historians and history buffs know Ben Milam as the face of the victorious Siege of Bexar in December of 1835, which took place three months before the fall of the Alamo and four months before the decisive Battle of San Jacinto during the Texas Revolution.

Milam was allowed to colonize up to 11 leagues (4428.4 acres per league) for six years after he received his empresario

contract from the State of Coahuila, Mexico and Texas. The contract required him to recruit 300 families in order to acquire premium land up to 5 leagues and 4 labors (177.1 acres per labor) for himself.

Unfortunately, Milam only managed to receive oaths from 65 registered families that they would obey the laws of Mexico. Thanks to his shrewd lawyer and land agent Robert M. Williamson, famous for his nickname, "Three Legged Willie," Milam continued to invest randomly in land. Such reference to a frontiersman's disability was not uncommon in those days because they were socially acceptable and collectively respectful, unlike the aura of political correctness in today's society.



Robert M. William (1806?-1859), AKA "Three Legged Willie," from a book printed in 1875. (Photo courtesy: Texas State Library and Archives)



Photo taken from the TSD Main Building showing the NW section of the school in 1894. Once called a hilltop in 1839, the State Capitol can be seen in the background. (Photo courtesy: Texas State Library and Archives)



DEAF SMITH

INCREDIBLE TEXAS SPY by CLEBURNE HUSTON

The original book jacket showing the only known painting of Erastus "Deaf" Smith (1787-1837) by artist T. Jefferson Wright who was commissioned by Sam Houston in 1836. Cleburne Huston's 1973 biography is considered as the standard work about Deaf Smith.

Milam received a contractual extension and was probably able to prove through Three Legged Willie that he earned \$10,000 in required income for the lands he sold or leased. Before he could enjoy his land holdings, a Mexican sniper shot Milam through the forehead during the Bexar siege, killing him in front of the historic Veramendi Palace where he was immediately buried in a temporary grave in its courtyard.

Hidden in a tree near the Veramendi Palace, another sharpshooter shot and injured Erasmus "Deaf" Smith, the famous guide, spy and scout for the Texian army when he was on a roof investigating the enemy's positions in San Antonio de la Bexar. In those days his first name was pronounced in a long "e" vowel with popular respect, "Deaf," as pronounced in the word "deef."

Like the early European pioneers of San Antonio, such as Jim Bowie, Deaf Smith received his

dual citizenship status for marrying a Castilian widow, Guadalupe "Lupe" Ruiz de Duran, unlike his bachelor friend Milam who served with distinction in the Mexican army south of the border during the 1820s.

After Deaf Smith learned about the death of his friend "Old Ben," he penned a 16-line poem, which was not published until 1933. Two months before Smith was shot, Three Legged Willie, another personal friend, wrote a letter of recommendation for Smith to General Stephen F. Austin on October 15, 1835, vouching for his scouting skills.

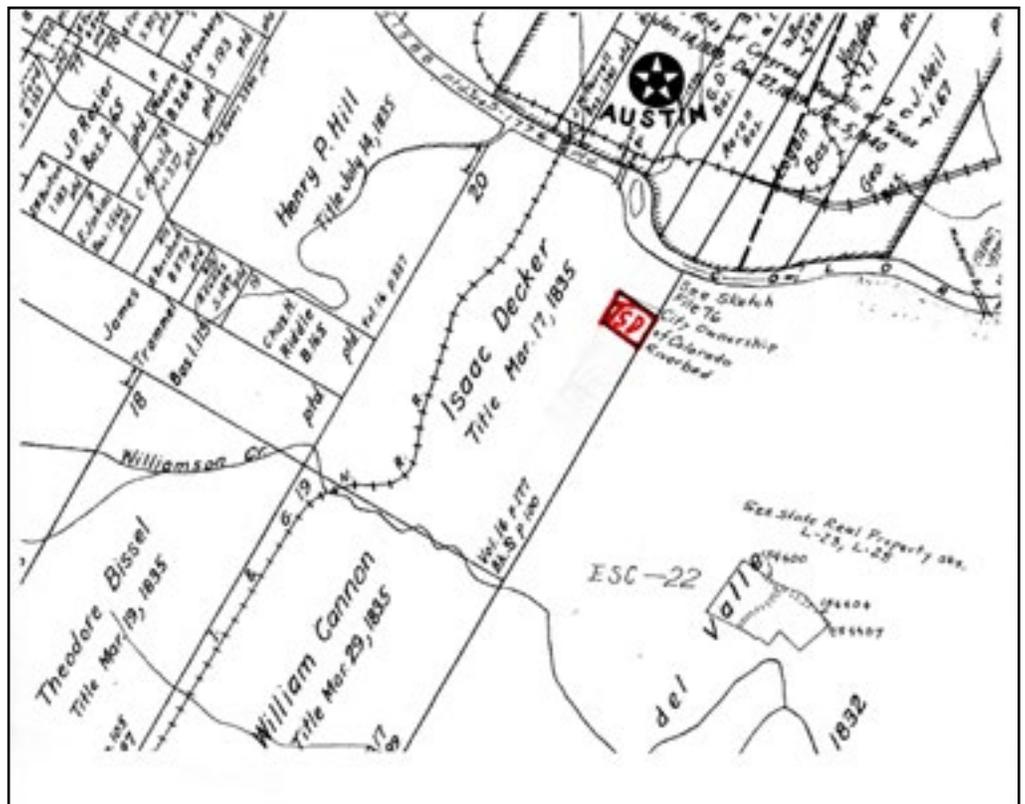
Already known for his legendary scouting and spying feats in different campaigns during the Texas Revolution, Deaf Smith cemented his fame by playing a pivotal role in the Battle of San Jacinto. He and six members of his spy company destroyed Vince's Bridge, which was a strategic move that led to the 18-minute battle victory. The action prevented any Mexican troop reinforcement or escape by Generals Cos and Santa Anna. A year and seven

months later, Deaf Smith would never know that some of the San Jacinto veterans had a role in the early planning and purchasing of the TSD's land history.

On November 30, 1837, Deaf Smith died of tuberculosis or consumption in Richmond, Texas and the location of his gravesite is probably underneath a busy intersection. Republic of Texas President Sam Houston went into personal mourning for one month and it was he who, a year earlier, commissioned Deaf Smith's only life portrait by noted artist T. Jefferson Wright.

Ever the eloquent lawyer and shrewd land agent, Three Legged Willie Williamson kept Milam's Colony intact for the heirs of Ben Milam by selling leagues, tracts and parcels during the lean years of the Republic of Texas. One of the first buyers and colonists for the TSD land was Isaac Decker who purchased 4428.4 acres for \$1839 on March 17, 1835.

Read part II of this article in our next issue.



This 1939 map showing Decker League is more accurate, especially with current railroad tracks as a geographical landmark. Note author's inserted approximate location of TSD. (Map courtesy: Texas General Land Office)



Lone Star

JOURNAL OF THE TEXAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

Volume 136 • Number 4

www.tsd.state.tx.us

Winter 2015-2016

TSD Signing Choir

Bringing the holiday spirit to TSD

Land History of Texas School for the Deaf

Part 2- TSD's land evolves from Decker's League from 1835 to 1858

In Part 1 we learned how Deaf Smith's personal and military friends played an initial role in the purchase of TSD land from 1825 to 1835. Dying in November of 1837, Smith never lived to see how Texas went from an infant republic to a state in 1845. Gradually Decker's League shrank from 4428.4 acres to 57.7 acres by 1858. TSD land changed owners four more times since 1838 before Texas purchased the land for deaf students through legislative action with a check for \$5500 on March 5, 1858.

By Steve C. Baldwin, Ph.D.

Based on current Texas General Land Office maps, documents and various online sources, Decker's League, as it was known in Travis County since 1840, stretched from the southern banks of the Colorado River across from early Austin down to what is now Stassney Lane. Today you could get a sense of the perimeter of Decker League if you were to travel by car down the present day I-35 corridor before turning toward the western part of Stassney Lane, paralleling Williamson Creek. Then at the intersection with Manchaca Road, you would head farther north until reaching South Lamar and turning east onto West Riverside Drive. Finally you would stop at South Congress within close proximity of the Ann Richards Bridge on the west side of the Colorado River.



Isaac Decker. Photo taken by Carolyn Thomas Sorenson in "Find A Grave" website.

Decker's League was like a big dot on the whole map of Milam's Colony, which originally stretched westward from Bastrop along the Colorado River almost to Lake Travis. Then going down south the colony paralleled Route 281 toward the Guadalupe River before reaching the Boerne area and turning east on Route 46 toward New Braunfels. Finally the rough boundary of the colony was completed by heading back north to Bastrop.

Isaac Decker cultivated the future school property for only three years before he decided to sell his league for \$2021 on June 18, 1838 to David and Daniel Browning. His main reason for giving up his prime land for a meager profit was due to Native Americans, the original dwellers of Central Texas, trying to defend their territory. Decker moved his family to safety in present-



Captain James G. Swisher was one of the signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence. He fought with Deaf Smith in the Siege of Bexar in December of 1835. Swisher sold land that later became part of TSD. (Source: www.txindependence.org)

day Montgomery County, north of Houston, where he married at least 5 times, sired 22 children and became a wealthy entrepreneur.

Similar to modern-day land brokers, the Browning brothers sold a parcel of land covering 1266 acres to Mathew Cartwright, who then sold the same acreage to Captain James Gibson Swisher on May 4, 1853 for the sum of \$4018.

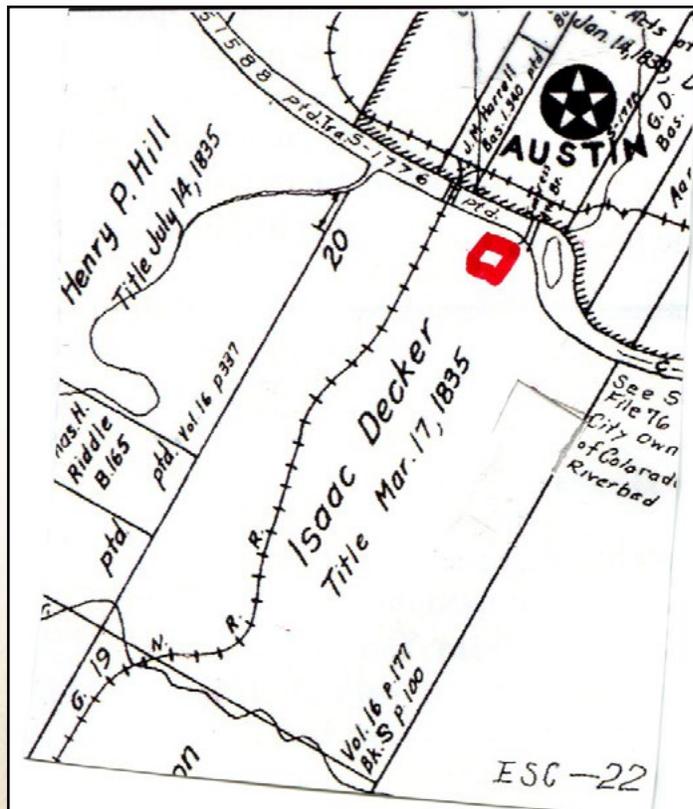
In December of 1835 Captain Swisher fought with Deaf Smith and Ben Milam at the Siege of Bexar where they defeated General Martin Perfecto de Cos, the husband of General Santa

Anna's sister. Four months later, Captain Swisher's son, John Milton Swisher fought in the Battle of San Jacinto with his uncle, Henry H. Swisher. The pioneering Swisher family eventually had a determining role in selling parcels of their family property that became TSD's land in South Austin from 1853 until the turn of the century.

While operating his Colorado River ferry business (that once charged the school \$93.50 for the crossings in 1857), Captain Swisher sold 26.6 acres to P.B. Calhoun for \$780 on February 24, 1854. Then, on May 11, 1855 Swisher sold 31.1 acres of his property for \$665 to Dr. Samuel K. Jennings, a friend and business partner. Like

the Browning brothers doubling their investments, the holdings of Jennings and Calhoun increased handsomely, nearly four times the original land price in just three years.

In 1857 the deaf school's Board of Trustees rented 57.7 acres of the combined Jennings and Calhoun properties for \$450 a year. Subsequently during the 7th legislative session under Governor Elisha Pease the State of Texas purchased the rented lands for \$5500 on March 5, 1858. According to the land deeds, the State of Texas gave \$3000 to Jennings and \$2500 to Calhoun, thus becoming the last owner since the Republic of Texas was formally established on March 2, 1836.



This 1939 map #77438 of Travis County showing Decker League is more accurate, especially with current railroad tracks as a geographical landmark. Note: Author's insertion of approximate location of TSD in red box is estimated. (Map courtesy: Texas General Land Office)

Read part III of this article in our next issue.

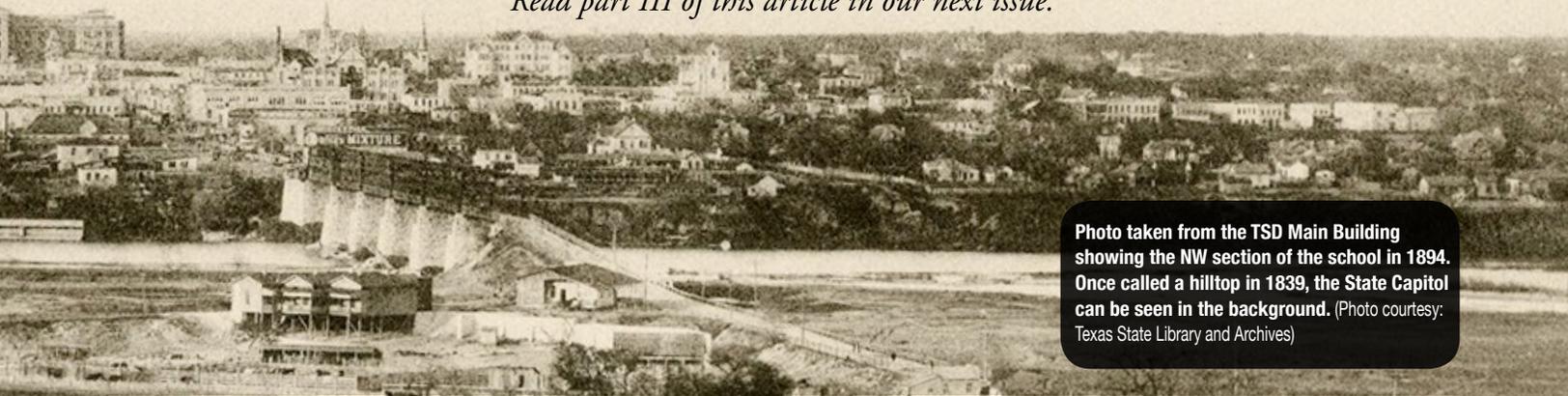


Photo taken from the TSD Main Building showing the NW section of the school in 1894. Once called a hilltop in 1839, the State Capitol can be seen in the background. (Photo courtesy: Texas State Library and Archives)

Lone Star

JOURNAL OF THE TEXAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

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Spring 2016



TSD Mathletes!

Middle School Math Team Competed at NTID/RIT

Land History of Texas School for the Deaf

Part 3- Governor Pease, Tom Green and the Texas Rangers

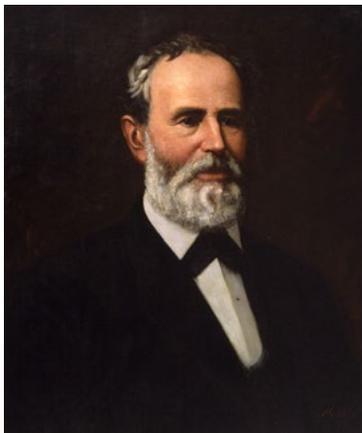
Part 2 focused on how the TSD land size was divided up by 6 different private owners, namely Captain Swisher, the Browning brothers, the Calhouns, and Dr. Jennings, going from 4428.4 acres to 57.7 by 1858. It was the enlightenment of Texas Governor Elisha M. Pease and the staunch support of TSD board member Tom Green and a couple of Texas Ranger contemporaries who justified the significance of deaf education on TSD campus, even with minimal state money.

By Steve C. Baldwin, Ph.D.

The key player in the historic purchase of the TSD's land was the 5th Texas governor, Elisha M. Pease, who was also a Texas Revolution veteran. Besides being once considered as a presidential candidate running against the Republican Party of Abraham Lincoln, Pease was an advocate of public education. It was his idea to establish the early Permanent School Fund (PSF), which was originally meant to finance so-called "eleemosynary" schools (charitable institutions) for the blind, deaf and insane. Evidently, it took the selling of public domain to finance and develop state institution lands: selling more land to buy less land for institutions as well as future universities.

About 100,000 acres of state land was sold to support each institution. State legislators designated these lands as "deaf and dumb asylum lands, using the terms used at that time to describe schools for the deaf. Some of these lands were located as far north of Abilene as Jones, Stephens, Tom Green and other West Texas counties. The monies received from private citizens and railroad companies helped

support the school until 1912. In 1875, one land buyer paid \$216 for 160 acres, or \$1.35 an acre, for a piece of the Deaf and Dumb Asylum land in Comanche County. The buyer only needed to pay 1/10 in advance and was given up to ten years for the rest. It is most likely that the \$5500 payment for the school's land came from that PSF, which started in 1856. In accordance with the davemanuel.com inflation calculator, that would be equal to \$157,142.86 in 2014.



Elisha M. Pease, who served as governor from December 21, 1853 to December 21, 1857 and he played a key role in purchasing the TSD land. Portrait hangs in the rotunda among past governors and is property of the Texas Preservation Board

As one of Texas' most productive governors, the twice-elected popular Governor Pease made sure that no politics got in the way of his educational and financial reforms. There is also a strong possibility that Pease was aware of the American School for the Deaf, the first deaf school established in 1817, as he grew up 21 miles from Hartford, Connecticut. He worked there in the post office before moving to Texas in 1835. Before he died of a stroke in 1883, Pease observed and noted how politicians and newly transplanted Americans had a "greed for land."

In 1857, among the five members of the school board of trustees who voted to purchase properties from Jennings and Calhoun was a

fellow soldier of Deaf Smith by the name of Thomas Green. He was the TSD's board secretary as well as the Texas Supreme Court clerk from 1847 to 1861. He fought in the Battle of San Jacinto with the artillery corps alongside Ben McCulloch. In William H. Huddle's 1886 famous painting, "The Surrender of Santa Anna," Green is seen standing near wounded



An aerial view of TSD during the 1960s. Note the old undeveloped track adjacent to South First and campus buildings located between the field and Newton Street, which parallels South Congress and Elizabeth Street borders south of the campus. (Photo courtesy: Austin History Center. PICA #01358c)

General Houston and Deaf Smith. Eventually Green became a Confederate general whose head was blown off by a cannon ball in the Red River campaign against invading federal gunboats in April of 1864.

Two school superintendents, Henry McCulloch (the historic Ben McCulloch's younger brother) who served from 1876 to 1879, and John S. "Rip" Ford, whose term followed immediately until 1883, were both decorated Civil War veterans. They served loyally as members of the Ranger Company under the ultimate Texas Ranger, Captain John Coffee "Jack" Hays. Ford was a war doctor, who routinely mailed missives with R.I.P. comments to Confederate soldiers' next-of-kin. McCulloch was a career military officer who became a brigadier general and was forced to resign as he was considered inept as a deaf school superintendent. In many of his biographies, Ranger Hall of Famer Hays gave credit to Captain Smith for training him well as a legendary Ranger leader.

On March 17, 1837, exactly two years after Isaac Decker purchased his league, Hays served under company leader Deaf Smith when the Rangers became involved in a Laredo skirmish against a larger Mexican Calvary. Smith's controversial command led to his resignation after President Sam Houston reprimanded him for the unauthorized border fight. Nonetheless, this unique connection is yet another way of knowing that the two Texas Ranger contemporaries of Deaf Smith were destined to become part of the school's history as superintendents.

Upon purchasing 57.7 acres to establish the deaf residential school, which was initially authorized by legislative action on August 26, 1856, the State of Texas became the eighth owner of the property within a span of 10 years. It wasn't until the 1880s that the last ten acres were gradually purchased from private owners who bought their lots from the Swisher family, thus finalizing the school's current campus size of 67 acres. Thanks went mostly to the school's fifth school superintendent, William A. Kendall, for his shrewd land dealing. Kendall was

also a professional modern-day realtor, akin to Three Legged Willie. By 1926 the school's land value was estimated by TSD Superintendent Thomas M. Scott to be worth \$100,000, which seemed unusually low before the Depression.

In 2001, the school's student center, which was originally built in 1980 as a cafeteria, was renamed the Deaf Smith Center as a small tribute to

the man. Despite having a cookbook, a county, streets, the Republic of Texas \$5 bill, peanut butter and an elementary school named after him, the old Texian scout never, during his lifetime, fully claimed, certified and petitioned for most of his war bounties. According to Kevin Klaus, the Texas General Land Office information specialist, it appears that in the mid-19th century, Smith's heirs were able to claim some of their famous ancestor's military headrights (legal land grants for service). In retrospect, Deaf Smith was rich in Texas patriotic legacy, but poor in cash and land.

After 1836, with the unique Deaf Smith bond as a unifying historic thread, his contemporaries from the Texas Revolution helped solidify the Texas heritage of the school's land. From the colorful character Three Legged Willie to one-armed John "Rip" Ford to proactive Governor Pease and the entrepreneurial Swisher family, they must have had Deaf Smith on their mind during the school's historical land business.

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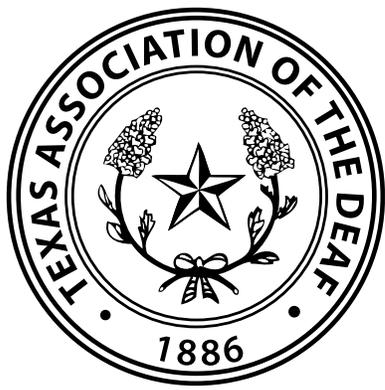
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The Deaf Texan

The Official Publication of the Texas Association of the Deaf

Spring 2020

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Photo Credit: Robert Ballengee, Austin, TX

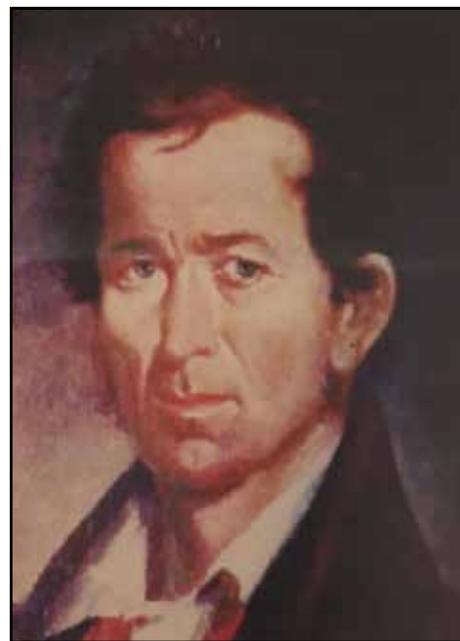
Still Seeking Deaf Smith A Forty-Year Adventure

In 1980, a Yankee from Boston moved to Big Spring, TX to become a founding faculty member of Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf. Then former TAD president Larry D. Evans shared an incredible tale about Erastus “Deaf” Smith, another Yankee who settled in Texas 160 years earlier. Steve Baldwin became so enamored by Smith’s feats that he drove 400 miles to visit a tiny museum in the Texas Panhandle, thus commenced his forty-year research journey.

PART ONE: State Capitol Exhibit, Deaf Wax Sculptor, Statewide Tour, Donating My Deaf Smith Collection to the Briscoe Center for American History

By Steve C. Baldwin, Ph.D.
NAD Region 3 Representative
Deaf History & Culture Section Board Member

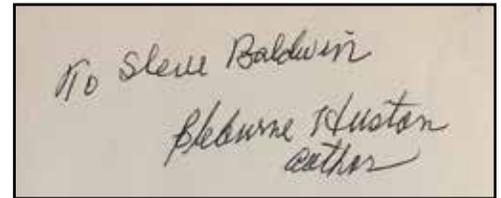
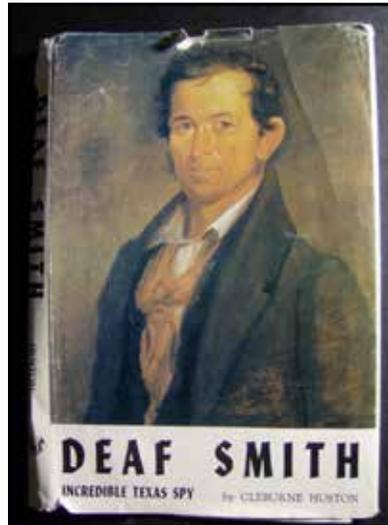
Call my adventure a forty-year journey when I sought more information about Erastus “Deaf” Smith in 1980. As a trained historian, I saw the basic need to separate the facts from myths. But there’s no need to cover the period from that time until 2011 because the “breadth and depth” about Deaf Smith was already published by *The Deaf Texan* (TDT) in 2012. That “monograph” as Dr. Jean Andrews, a retired professor emeritus from Lamar University termed it, is an essential part of my complete collection. Without *Texas School for the Deaf* (TSD) and *Educational Resource Center on Deafness* (ERCOD), the TDT Special Edition, a remastered video of my 1985 play about Deaf Smith, a videotaped pantomime, a PowerPoint presentation (look for link within Part 1), and free lesson plans, the whole package would not be available for your curious perusal. Thanks primarily to TSD Superintendent Claire Bugen, Diana Poepelmyer, David Coco, and David Pierce for making my Deaf Smith collection digitally available for Texas and the nation. (Readers can download the Deaf Smith booklet and other programs in the link provided elsewhere in this introductory part. Plus, Grant Laird Jr.’s excellent PowerPoint presentation about Deaf Smith.)



Portrait by T. Jefferson Wright,
commissioned by Sam Houston,
in 1836.

Deaf Smith by Steve C. Baldwin, Ph.D., *continued*

For this inaugural part of the series, we need to recognize two historians and one wax sculptor who inspired me. Before all three gentlemen passed away, I met and communicated with the definitive biographers Cleburne Huston and Robert Swaim, Jr. A native Texan, Huston published his authoritative Deaf Smith biography in 1973, and Swaim wrote his major biographical article earlier in the *Deaf American Magazine* in 1969. Swaim, a deaf writer from New York, lamented the fact that Huston beat him to the punch by getting his book published first. Unfortunately, Swaim never had his manuscript published after I offered him constant encouragement and constructive ideas for his dream book in the 1980s.



Dr. Baldwin purchased this book for \$17.50 in the fall of 1980. It has the author's rare signature. The pages are worn out from continuous use. Anyone can purchase the same history book for up to \$50 on *Amazon* now.

Photo credit: Steve Baldwin

Don Baer, a deaf wax sculptor from California, had his big dream come true when we displayed his amazing full wax figure of Deaf Smith at the Texas State Capitol from April 18 to 20, 2012. Seven years earlier, July 2005, Don politely requested my assistance related to Smith's physical attributes. He even sent me examples of different hair colors and photos of Smith's facial features, piece by piece, week after week while he developed his artwork. After I approved his final head sculpture from a historical perspective, I donated a period jacket, hat, and rifle. Those were the same costumes and props that came from my 1985 play about Deaf Smith. Presently, the Deaf Smith wax figure is permanently on display at the California School for the Deaf in Fremont. Don passed on December 10, 2013. His wonderful sister Jennifer Baer said the trip to Texas was an extraordinary achievement and fond memory for her terminally-ill brother. TSD and Deaf Television Foundation (chartered in 2007) literally made his dream trip possible.



Wax sculptor Don Baer contacted me in January of 2005 & asked for Deaf Smith's precise physical description. Two years later he sent me 20 photos showing the progress of the bust. This photo is one of them. Five years later he displayed the wax figure in the basement rotunda of the Texas State Capitol from April 18 to 20, 2012. It was his dream come true before he passed 20 months later.

Photo credit: Don Baer

Deaf Smith by Steve C. Baldwin, Ph.D., *continued*

Driving Don's costumed mannequin throughout Texas was not exactly like a waltz across the Lone Star State. My estimated total miles were about 2100. Sometimes driving Deaf Smith felt like driving a hearse, especially on rural roads fraught with road kills, hungry vultures and jaywalking tumbleweeds. The three-city tour was exhausting, and only three sponsors helped with the touring expenses, including Humanities Texas. In addition to two venues in Austin, the touring exhibit landed in Dallas, Beaumont, and Big Spring. My favorite stopover was performing before 200 deaf and hard of hearing students in Dallas on October 25, 2012. With the help of Grant Laird, Jr., I did a disappearing act by changing quickly into my suit and tie by emerging from the back after my staged performance as Deaf Smith ended within minutes. The Houdini trick delighted the surprised audience of wide-eyed teenagers. (Look at the photo that shows my act.)



Don Baer stands beside his Deaf Smith wax figure on April 19, 2012. The large background banner was constructed by Allen Hamilton. The cast iron fireplace dog was loaned to the exhibit by Marilyn Swanson-Rogers. The fake flowers came from Rosie Serna. Hundreds of people had their photo taken in front of Deaf Smith during the three-day exhibit.

Photo credit: Steve Baldwin/Jennifer Baer



Ribbon cutting business for the opening of the Deaf Smith Exhibit at the Texas State Capitol on April 18, 2012. From left to right: Larry D. Evans (TAD president), Steve Baldwin (organizer), Blaine Brunson (COS from Lt. Governor David Dewhurst's Office), Don Baer (wax sculptor), Claire Bugen (Supt. of TSD), Sericia Jackson-Stemper (Miss Deaf Texas), Paul Rutowski (Master of Ceremonies), Matt Adams (Deaf Smith knife sculptor).

Photo credit: Rosie Serna



In this photo Baldwin performed the role of Deaf Smith before 200 deaf & hard of hearing students at the Mabel Peters Caruth Center in Dallas. The host of the event on October 23, 2012 was *Deaf Action Center*. The student covering his ears asked Baldwin if Deaf Smith could talk or yell. Well, he got the answer quite clearly and loudly.

Photo credit: Grant Laird, Jr.

It was time for me to ship the Deaf Smith mannequin back to Don Baer in November of 2012. Eventually, I donated my 24-year papers to the Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin in early 2014. The nationally known history research center was the same library that had only ONE thin folder about Deaf Smith when I visited there 30 years earlier. Now they have a thick file of historical information for researchers. (There's a link below that lists what I donated to the Briscoe Center. Check it out.)

End of my journey? Well, it never happened. The descendants of Deaf Smith and new discoveries started me on another adventure about the "eyes of the Texian army" that Republic of Texas President Sam Houston called "A man more brave and honest never lived" in November of 1837. Henceforth, the adventure resumed with renewed curiosity and energy.

Part 1 suggested links you must check out:

Deaf Smith Collection via TSD/ERCOD

<https://tx50000592.schoolwires.net/Page/522>

Grant Laird Jr.'s PowerPoint Presentation that which I have endorsed

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-FTvAiKs_eg

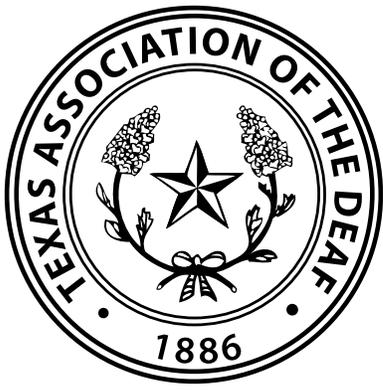
The Briscoe Center for American History: file information about Deaf Smith as donated by Dr. Steve Baldwin in January of 2014

<https://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/utcah/03449/03449-P.html>

Plus, NAD Deaf History and Culture Section. Join our section!

<https://www.nad.org/members/sections/deaf-culture-history-section/>

Editor's Notes: The exhibit, tour, and collection earned Dr. Baldwin four major awards and citations. If you have any questions related to Deaf Smith for Dr. Baldwin, email them to Editor Dr. Patti at tadeditortdt@gmail.com by July 20, 2020. Watch for Part 2 in the *The Deaf Texan* summer issue.



The Deaf Texan

The Official Publication of the Texas Association of the Deaf

Summer 2020

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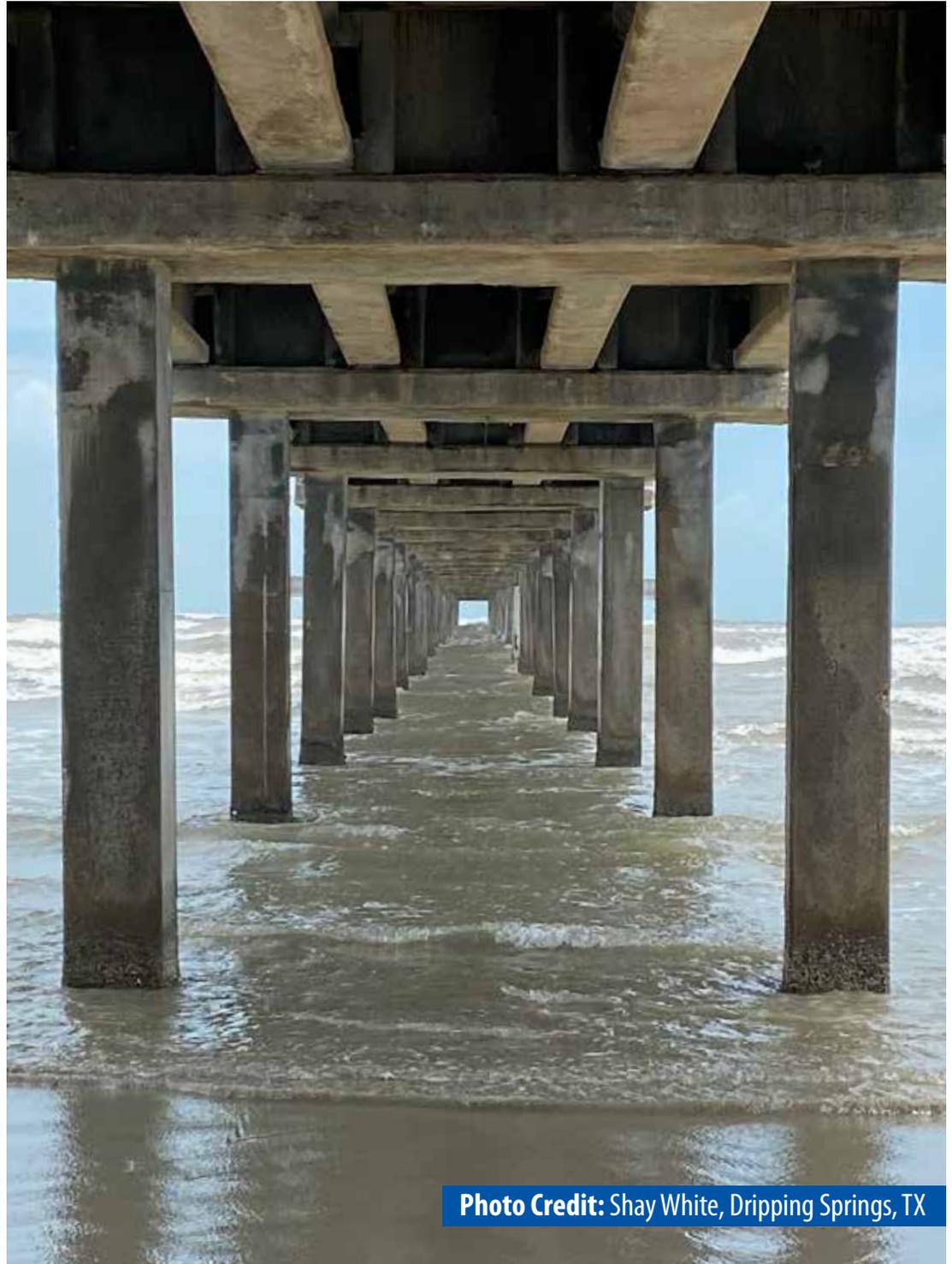


Photo Credit: Shay White, Dripping Springs, TX

Still Seeking Deaf Smith A Forty-Year Adventure

Part One focused on two early Deaf Smith biographers, one deaf wax sculptor, statewide Deaf Smith exhibit & tour, and a wealth of free resources.

PART TWO: Deaf Smith descendants, Smith family Bible, Alarum the dog, statue issue, new discoveries with rarely published images and photos!

By Steve C. Baldwin, Ph.D. (SCB)
Deaf Culture & History Section
NAD Region 3 Representative

“I assumed that I closed the book on my Deaf Smith Collection and my four decades of research when I gladly donated my materials to the Briscoe Center of American History at the University of Texas in Austin in the fall of 2013.” SCB

Before that donation of my research documents took place, TSD Superintendent Claire Bugen was one step ahead when she made sure that the Statewide Outreach Center at TSD (formerly ERCOD) preserved and promoted the collection as a free educational online resource for the state and nation. Since I was a longtime certified history teacher, she asked me to develop professional lesson plans to meet the Texas History curriculum requirements. Then David H. Pierce, president of Silent Network and CEO/Founder of Davideo Productions, tasked me with extra paperwork, writing 333 captions for the remastered Deaf Smith video. It was a very long process, indeed. (Look for the special blurb about the 35th anniversary of the film and play with exclusive images elsewhere in this issue of *The Deaf Texan*.)



Chris and Andy Hull present an enlarged framed copy of the Smith family Bible pages to TSD Superintendent Claire Bugen on November 18, 2017. The unique gift is on display in the Pease Building Conference Room.

Photo credit: Steve Baldwin

Two and a half years after donating the Deaf Smith Collection, I got an unexpected email from my friend Benna Timperlake of Corpus Christi. Benna is a past president of the American Society for Deaf Children and a former executive director of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Center in Corpus Christi. Her oldest daughter Genelle Sanders, a current doctoral student at UT-Austin, used to be an editor of *The Deaf Texan*. Even more surprising is that Benna is a first cousin of Dr. Christopher Kilpatrick Hull, a descendant of Deaf Smith! Benna, whose maiden name is Hull, has followed my Deaf Smith stories in *The Deaf Texan* for years. She connected me with Dr. Christopher K. Hull, a doctor of orthopedic, from Fort Worth. What a delightful surprise!

“Henceforth, the second phase of my adventure begins with Deaf Smith’s fourth great grandson!” SCB

Dr. Chris Hull and I finally connected via emails on July 18, 2016. I gave him a quick fun quiz on his family history, and he passed with flying colors. His bloodline corresponds directly from the Deaf Smith family tree maternal side, especially from his maternal grandmother, Lois Farnsworth Kilpatrick, whose mother was Sarah Roach Farnsworth (1874-1968). Sarah is a direct descendant of Deaf Smith’s 4th daughter named Simona Smith Fisk (1829-1890) from the Smith-Fisk bloodline in San Antonio. Sarah Farnsworth was a prominent three-term president-general of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT). She contributed significantly toward the Texas Centennial Celebration in 1936, with numerous historical markers, plaques, monuments and tombstones that also recognized her historic family and great grandfather

Captain Smith. See photo showing the two female descendants Farnsworth and Kilpatrick with actor Wayne. Wayne!)



Actor John Wayne chats with Deaf Smith descendants Sarah Roach Farnsworth (next to his right) and Lois Farnsworth Kilpatrick (standing immediately to his left). Wayne was filming his epic 1960 film “The Alamo” on location in Brackettville, Texas, when he took a break to talk with members of the Daughters of Republic of Texas. (Two ladies on right are unknown. Maybe DRT members.)

Photo courtesy: Dr. Chris Hull and Andy Hull

After we exchanged familiar and new information, Dr. Hull expressed an interest in visiting TSD and speaking to the students from elementary to high school. Already a member of the Sons of the Republic of Texas (SRT) since 2007 and a 7th generation Texan, he made it a point to travel to school programs and talk about “Captain Smith.” (Deaf Smith was a Captain of the Texas Rangers briefly in late 1836.) Dr. Hull visited TSD twice, and a third visit this past spring was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic. He’s an excellent history speaker, and the teachers were in awe of his educational approach and ability to adjust his material with different age groups. They loved his period costume, his beard, and of course, numerous weapons and tools. Interestingly, his go-to personal interpreter was Mrs. Melody Hull, his own sister-in-law, who worked as a classroom interpreter in San Antonio for many years. (Check out this article about Dr. Hull’s public classroom presentation that took place earlier this year: <https://www.reporternews.com/story/news/education/2020/03/05/alamo-history-comes-alive-eastland-county-elementary-students/4965924002/>)



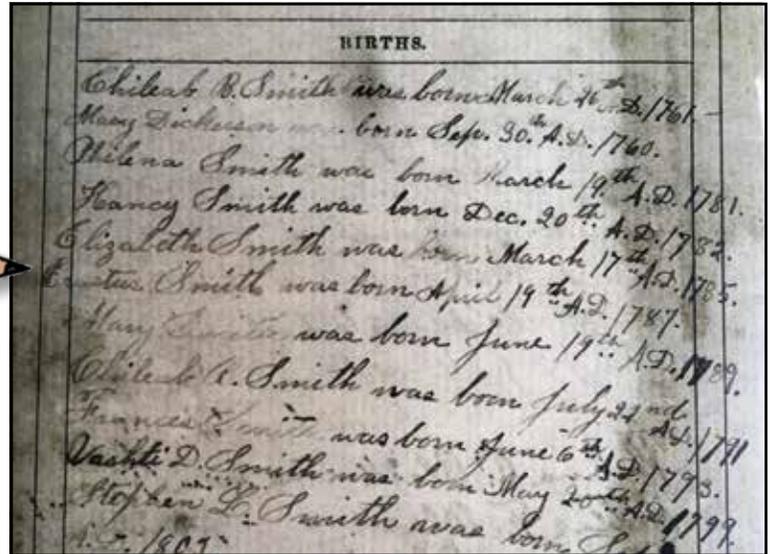
Chris Hull in full period costume standing next to the Deaf Smith wax figure banner in the TSD Elementary Library in April 2018.

Photo credit: Steve Baldwin

“Dr. Hull’s passion for educating school-age students about Texas history and his famous ancestor garnered him respect from members of SRT and me.” SCB

Out of all the research information we exchanged with each other for the last four years, I would like to share some new details about Deaf Smith. Dr. Hull and his brother Andy Hull of San Antonio gave me an excellent copy of a professional research project about Deaf Smith, which contains 22 rare documents and a rich family tree information. Would you believe that they also acquired copies of pages from the Smith family Bible listing vital birth and death records that was located in Houston? (Deaf Smith’s sister Mary and baby brother, Stephen lived in Texas before they passed in mid-19th century.) Because of that impressive genealogy work, the Brothers Hull went a notch above the Cleburne Huston’s definitive 1973 biography about

Deaf Smith. A copy of that priceless booklet was also donated to the Briscoe Center at UT, which I still use to extend my research to the Smith family in the Haddam, Connecticut as well as Massachusetts, my home state. Consequently, there were new questions about Captain Smith's actual birthplace! Not Dutchess County, NY, as the historically stated for a long time on historical markers? Stay tuned about this challenging new research. History never dies, right? We had also hoped to find the 1822 church marriage record between Deaf Smith and Guadalupe Duran. Such a document might reveal the actual birthplaces of the married couple. Unfortunately, the Archdiocese of San Antonio does not have a copy from the Mission San Francisco De La Espada Catholic Church (founded in 1690), which is now a World Heritage Site.



Close-up shot of the Smith family Bible page that lists the birth dates of Deaf Smith's parents and siblings from 1761 to 1802. Pencil tip points to Captain Smith's birthdate of April 19, 1787.

Photo credit: Steve Baldwin

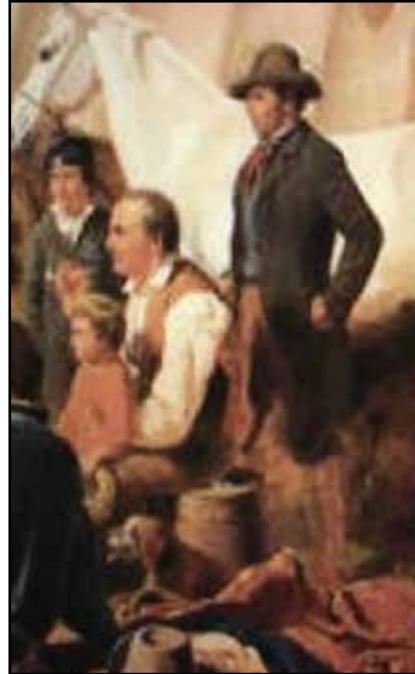
“Texas historians and artists often pointed out that Smith had a faithful hearing dog that alerted him of dangers during hunting, scouting, and surveying trips.” SCB

Perhaps the most interesting discovery was a painting that Dr. Hull tracked down from the *Handbook of Texas* to an art museum in Wyoming. I thought the Brothers Hull were joking that Deaf Smith's hearing dog may have taken part in the Battle of San Jacinto in March 1836. Maybe, but who knows for sure? William Tylee Ranney (1813-1857) was a self-taught western artist who was a fellow soldier with Deaf Smith when they captured and guarded General Santa Anna. In his 1853 painting entitled "Advice on the Prairie," one can see the incredible likeness of Deaf Smith wearing a red scarf with his small beagle named "Alarum" at his feet. The Oxford English Dictionary states that word "alarum" is "used as a call to arms or warning of imminent danger." Remember the expression, "Sound the alarm!"? Interestingly, another self-taught artist is Henry M. Godines (1949-present) depicts Deaf Smith with a bloodhound.

(See the cropped image from his large painting “War Council at San Jacinto.” Prints of his full painting are available at \$22 each.)

Our latest collaboration includes a campaign to add the statues of Deaf Smith and his son-in-law Hendrick Arnold (a freed slave who married Smith’s stepdaughter Martina), among other proposed trail of figures in the Alamo Plaza. We sent letters to president Dr. Michael Duchemin of the Briscoe Western Art Museum in San Antonio and implored him to honor Smith and Arnold with deserving statues. He has not responded and our request for a meeting fell on deaf ears after eight months of waiting. Naturally, we will continue to keep TAD, the Texas Deaf Community, and some legislators informed about our endeavor related to the statue matter at the Alamo Plaza.

Maya Angelou (1928-2014), a popular Black-American poet once said, “There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you.” Well, in my case, it’s more about the joy of finding new historical information about Deaf Smith who impacted the course of Texas history from 1821 to 1837.



LEFT: Close-up shot of a larger painting by William Tylee Ranny who was a fellow soldier of Deaf Smith in the Battle of San Jacinto in early March of 1836. The 1853 painting “Advice on a Prairie” shows a likeness of Deaf Smith with his dog “Alarum.”

RIGHT: Here’s another close-up cropped photo of Henry Godines’ painting called “War Council at San Jacinto” that shows Deaf Smith standing prominently with his dog. Noted late 19th century Texas painters William Huddle and Henry McArdle depicted the same Deaf Smith facial features, which were obviously copied from T. Jefferson Wright’s life portrait of Deaf Smith in 1836.

“We are reminded constantly that history never dies due to new research discoveries that continue to educate, inspire and motivate us.” SCB

See y’all for Part 3 with a few more bombshells of new information about Deaf Smith!

Editor’s Note: Watch for Part 3 with more exciting new Deaf Smith information and photos in *The Deaf Texan* fall issue.

Recognizing the 35th Anniversary of the Deaf Smith Play That TAD Introduced to Texas

By Stephen C. Baldwin

Who would believe that 35 years has passed since the long one-act play called “Deaf Smith: The Great Texian Scout”. This is still recognized and talked about by several people? Some of the 700 audience members who witnessed the 45-minute play on May 25, 1985 during the centennial celebration of TAD at TSD might recall the experience. We almost forgot that Texas was kicking off its 150th anniversary at the same time. It was a triple whammy: TAD, Texas and a world premiere for the play!

As the producer/playwright sitting in the back of the R.L. Davis Auditorium, I saw Superintendent Dr. Vic Galloway standing up abruptly after the curtain bow and signing conspicuously, “Is that all?” Maybe he thought the play would last three hours long, just like an old Eugene O’Neill (1888-1953) verbose drama. Unfortunately, while welcoming the conferees, the late TAD President Jerry Hassell plum forgot to tell the audience that the play will be a short one without an intermission. Since it was a Saturday night, we



Act I, Scene 3 shows General Santa Anna (Rodrigo Zapata) asking the Texians to turn in Deaf Smith while a Mexican Soldier #1 (Haden Lambert) stands guard.



Deaf Smith video title cover was designed by Davideo Productions for the remastered 2009 video entitled “Deaf Smith: The Great Texian Scout”

figured that everyone wanted to head for 6th Street and have a grand time after a long day of celebrating the 100th anniversary of TAD. Needless to say, we received a nice round of applause, and no tomatoes were thrown at the talented cast.

Another unforgettable memory involves the thievery of all the theater weapons—pistols, rifles, and swords—that were “safely” locked in the property room down in the basement near the girls’ dressing room. After I discovered the personal stage props missing the next day,

Deaf Smith: The Great Texian Scout, *continued*

I went straight to see Dr. Galloway. There was no time to find replacements around Austin, so the Superintendent ordered the school woodworking teacher, Barney Heintschel to make the props (thanks to Carl and Joanne Brininstool for helping me get his name right). Barney worked all night long making new wooden weapons with 30 hours left before curtain time. We were able to paint the wooden weapons, either black or brown, but nothing really fancy or realistic. The actors were good troopers, and the audience did not laugh at the amateurish wooden “kiddy props.” If you don’t think I know who stole those props, I have a few suspects in mind . . . someday I may solve the mystery when I see a fake sword or flintlock rifle adorning someone’s fireplace mantle. Sherlock Holmes is alive and well!



In Act 1, Scene 4 in the San Antonio Plaza, there is an intentional fire seen from afar destroying the buildings as Guadalupe Smith (Jacklene Giacona), Hendrick Arnold (Mike Walker), Deaf Smith (James Dees), Texian #1 (Luis Duos), and Texian #2 (David Bledsoe) watch in horror.

When you watch the 2009 remastered video on the TAD website, keep in mind that the play was taped with only one camera in Big Spring, Texas, during a final dress rehearsal in the Spring of 1985. You can see the actual theater weapons, such as the swords, Bowie knives, and pistols. Plus, you can see those same weapons in the adjacent screenshots of the play. By the way, Texas Commission on the Arts gave me a grant of \$1500 for those weapons, to be used in producing this historical play/video.

Speaking of the video, it is now available in open captions and offstage voicing. Just go to the TAD website, click on “Resources.” Next, click on the category called “History.” At the bottom of that page, you will easily see the red highlighted “Deaf Smith” label. Unlike paying for Netflix while staying at home during the coronavirus pandemic, you can enjoy your popcorn and soda pop in the comforts of your home while watching a free bilingual movie in ASL with captioned and spoken English.

The play was performed publicly two more times elsewhere. One theater in Jackson Heights, New York, produced the play for school-age children. Unbeknownst to me, the director changed one scene from a folk dancing action into a cathouse instead! Those immoral Yankees (with a sly smile from me)! That was a lesson for me to remind producers not to amend the script

Deaf Smith: The Great Texian Scout, *continued*

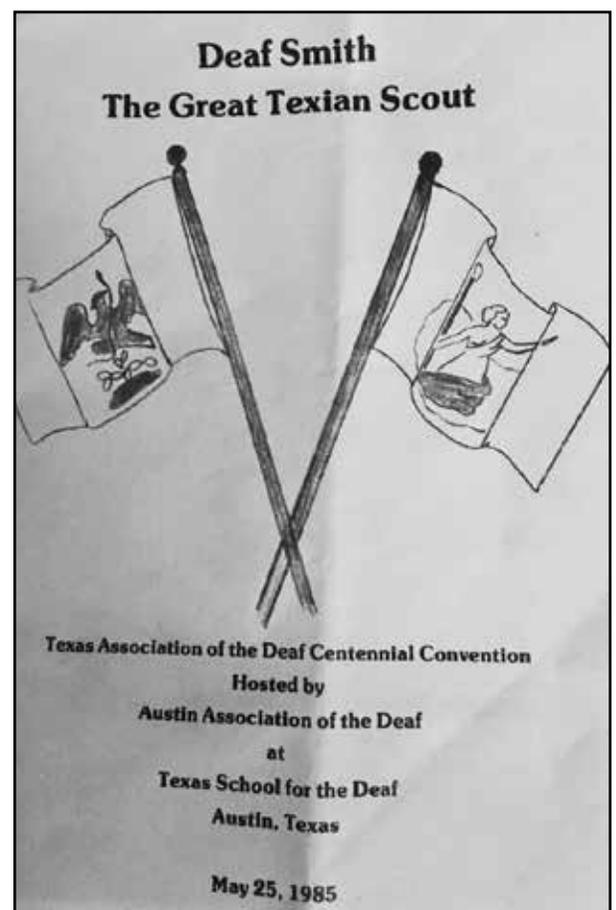
without permission. Now I'm laughing after thinking about it after 35 years later. The passage of time is indeed a good leveler or forgiver.

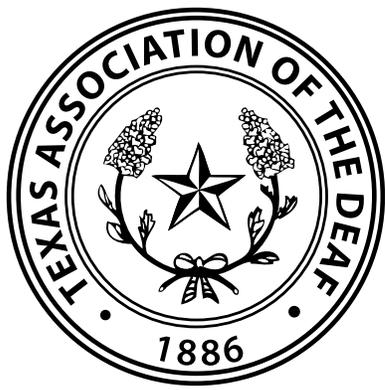
Let me close with some fantastic news about my history play. I just learned from noted dramaturg and author Willy Conley of Gallaudet University that "Deaf Smith: The Great Texian Scout" is one of the plays chosen for his new anthology book. He selected produced works by deaf playwrights in America from the 1930's to early 2000's. The book will be published in England and released in late 2021. As a theatre historian, I believe this work will be the first such literary book that will focus *exclusively* on deaf plays by deaf playwrights by a deaf author.

Most common non-commercial plays are written, performed, briefly toured, then gradually faded away from the public consciousness. In a sense, it also all depends on the mood, taste, and attitude of the playgoers and society. As fate or luck would have it, this play "The Great Texian Scout", is now preserved by TSD, TAD, UT, GU Archives, and in a deaf play anthology book. TAD can look back with pride knowing that after 35 years, our state once hosted a world premiers. More importantly, the legacy of Deaf Smith lives on.

This 1985 playbill cover documents the fact that TAD sponsored the long one-act history play as part of its centennial celebration on May 25, 1985. Late Edwin Easley was the general chairperson who invited and sponsored the SWCID/Howard College cast and crew of 40 people from Big Spring.

Photos & screenshots credit: Steve Baldwin





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Photo Credit: Kristy Perkins, Austin, TX

Still Seeking Deaf Smith A Forty-Year Adventure

Part Two: Deaf Smith descendants, Smith family Bible, Alarum the dog, SA statue issue, new discoveries with rarely published images and photos!

PART THREE: Old and new books, TV mini-series, ENT doctor, Richmond TX, Deaf Smith Oak tree, and a spooky story!

By Steve C. Baldwin, Ph.D. (SCB)
Deaf Culture & History Section
NAD Region 3 Representative

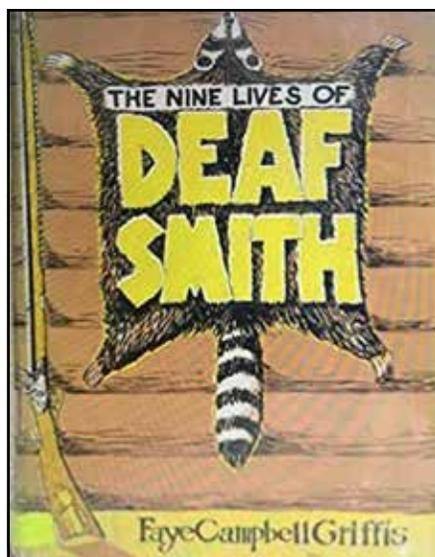
During the last ten years, my latest story about Deaf Smith evolved into different happenings.

For the last 35 years, I have wondered how my wife Rosie M. Serna, a native Texan, knew about Deaf Smith's dog. She was 14 years old in 1961 when she attended TSD. That was 12 years before Texian Press of Waco released Cleburne Huston's definitive biography about Deaf Smith in 1973. As a day student, Rosie had to stay in the school library after attending a Girl Scout meeting. Her thoughtful Upper School librarian, Geraldine Moursund (1909-1991) showed Rosie a book that impacted her life. In those days, hearing teachers spoke orally and fingerspelled sloppily, excruciatingly slow, yet understandably tolerable. After she told Rosie a narrative story, she showed her an exquisite drawing of a sitting dog and Smith in buckskins. She gladly allowed Rosie to check out the book for two weeks. Unfortunately, Rosie cannot recall the exact book title or all the contents, yet described the cover and drawing quite clearly. Intrigued about the book, I decided to track it down on the Internet.



TSD librarian Geraldine Moursund (1909-1991)

Lo and behold, I found the book! The exact title is “The Nine Lives of Deaf Smith” by Faye Campbell Griffis (1907-1974), published by Banks Upshaw of Dallas in 1958. I now recall reading this juvenile book in the Big Spring Public Library in 1980 and vaguely remember the same drawing that Rosie described. Even more surprising is that Huston listed Griffis’ book among his authoritative book’s main sources five years later.



1958 book cover of
“Nine Lives of Deaf Smith”



Author Faye Campbell Griffis
(1907-1974)

My reason for bringing up notable books about Deaf Smith, nonfiction or fiction, is three-fold. I have read countless articles, books, and watched deaf blogs and vlogs about Deaf Smith during the last decade. I wanted to see what else is new, old, or even questionable. Yet I do not bother to critique the materials or presentations because they do not impact my work or Huston’s or Griffis’. However, if there is a major issue involving plagiarism, I will address the matter, to preserve Smith’s legacy. One such national deaf magazine copied a substantial part of the 2012 *TDT* Deaf Smith edition without permission in April of 2012. It is legally known that stealing ideas or articles is a felony. Social media is a field day for plagiarists as we well know. Nevertheless, some of the deaf vloggers I have watched do not always do their homework. That’s my pet peeve when they are unprepared, sloppy, or overdramatic. By the same token, I take note of hearing writers who missed or misrepresented some facts. Thirdly, I read four new Texas history books from 2015 to 2020, thus, keeping myself informed of the latest historical perceptions about Deaf Smith.

Although those hearing writers are qualified historians, I lament the fact that some are either ignorant or inadequate to some extent. My evaluation tool is using the research feature in my e-book that helps me count the number of times they mention Deaf Smith. Then I would scrutinize the content and context of each reference. Since I have no space to report on each chosen book, I encourage the reader to look for the unique boxed insert that lists the four books, the number of times Deaf Smith is mentioned, and my brief comment about each book. Check it out!

Yes, there have been movies about Deaf Smith, too. According to David H. Pierce, a film, TV, and cable historian, there have been about nine movies and one dramatic video featuring Deaf Smith for the last 105 years. Pierce often referred films about Deaf Smith to me for review over the years for my own academic benefit.

Please do not believe in that infamous 1973 spaghetti western movie entitled “Deaf Smith and Johnny Ears.” The film is historically and notoriously inaccurate. In fact, there is a movie poster of that film hanging in the Deaf Smith Student Center at TSD that would make the namesake spin in his grave (I have repeatedly asked an ignorant past director of student life to remove the movie poster, but my signs fell on his deaf eyes). However, I must admit that the great versatile actor Anthony Quinn (1915-2001) did an impressive job playing Deaf Smith. He performed far better than Alan Arkin, who played the deaf-mute John Singer in the 1968 film called “The Heart is a Lonely Hunter.”

There was a TV mini-series presented on the History Channel in the spring of 2015. The movie is based on Stephen L. Moore’s historical 2015 novel called “Texas Rising.” As temporary editor of *The Deaf Texan* for just one issue, I selected Larry Evans and David Myers to review “Texas Rising” with me after five episodes. For the record, Rotten Tomatoes panned the film with a pathetic rating of 19%, which coincided with thumbs-down from Evans, Myers, and other movie critics. However, I gave the film a passing grade for two reasons: 1) the Emmy-award winning actor Jeffrey D. Morgan portrayed Deaf Smith superbly as a non-signing hard of hearing character, thus earning my standing ovation, and 2) the character Deaf Smith was portrayed prominently and substantially throughout the series when compared to past commercial films since 1915. Of all nine-known hearing-written films about Deaf Smith, minor or major, superficial or realistic, this History Channel special earned my two thumbs up for giving quality time about the pivotal military contributions of Deaf Smith toward the founding of the Texas Republic.

An ENT Doctor and his Innovative Theory.

Four years ago, I received an unexpected email from Dr. Norman Wendell Todd, Jr. At that time, he was a professor at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia. Although he specialized in head and neck surgery, he has a vested interest in the early hearing loss detection

and intervention in babies. By force of habit, I called him my ENT (Ear, Nose, Throat) friend. He tracked me down through TSD and requested my assistance for his research paper that he was developing about Deaf Smith. Definitely interested, I was all eyes, ears, and throat!

Dr. Todd asked me all the right questions: “Did Smith have tinnitus issues?” “Did his writings reflect the hearing loss he had?” “What was his speech shape?” “Considering his sensory abilities, is it possible that he could not hear the musket ball because of his ‘cookie-cut shaped’ audiogram?” You bet I had to brush up on my audiological knowledge.

Although most of the Deaf Community wouldn’t care less about the pathological, audiological, and medical aspect of deafness, it was understandable that Dr. Todd was adding a new dimension about Deaf Smith that we didn’t think of before! From a pragmatic point of view, it helps to have a unique researcher on our side of Texas history.

I provided him with all the historical information related to Deaf Smith’s speech ability (per testimonies from the scout’s contemporaries), his mannerisms, and relatively few personal documents that we have on record. Because I have two hard-of-hearing siblings, I could see the correlation between their speech ability and writing skills. Dr. Todd went beyond my Deaf Smith collection at the Briscoe Center. He mined the Library of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas at the Alamo and prowled the halls at Trinity University for more information about Deaf Smith. Much to our delight, he discovered a thesis written by Lawrence D. Williams (1919-2004) that noted Smith’s sensory abilities! (Because of the pandemic, I couldn’t easily obtain that paper, as it was not online, and only available through an interlibrary connection, which requires time and patience.)

For all Dr. Todd’s hard work, he developed a major scientific paper that also required me to brush up on my college physics and advanced math skills before scrutinizing the shape and speed of a Mexican-fired musket ball! Before his presentation at a national medical conference last year, he shared his Deaf Smith research paper with me. Without question, he put in quality time for his hypothesis about the correlation between the musket ball and Smith’s hearing loss. Even a field test of firing an early 19th-century rifle from X-number of yards was developed as an interesting critical method. There were six complicated graphs to peruse, but nothing I can do to correct them other than suggest that he modified two minor historical facts, which was my department anyway.



Dr. Baldwin & Dr. Todd point to Deaf Smith in the vast painting by Henry A. McArdle (1836-1908), which is located in the Senate Chamber of the Texas State Capital.

Indeed, it was generous and thoughtful of him to acknowledge my collection at the Briscoe Center and for giving him a grand tour of the state capital. By showing him the vast paintings by Huddle (“Surrender of Santa Anna”) and McArdle (“The Battle of San Jacinto”), I emphasized that both painters interviewed veterans of the 1836 battle that described the heroics and hearing loss characteristics of Deaf Smith. What could be better than utilizing true witnesses for the two historically accurate paintings?

Even though some ignorant people think Deaf Smith was a fake deafened person, the majority and Dr. Todd proved otherwise with his scientific approach. Indeed, it was my pleasure to encourage and work with him. Furthermore, we need more innovative doctors like him. He indeed makes my journey worthwhile.

Visiting Richmond, TX for the Latest on Deaf Smith’s Missing Grave.

Over the past 40 years, I visited Deaf Smith’s last town four times. Maybe one time in every ten years I would stop by Richmond, Texas. If I’m driving on Interstate-10 heading for Houston or to Galveston for research (Leroy Colombo information) or to the TAD Convention (1993), I usually visited the Morton Cemetery, where the Mother of Texas,



Close-up of the famous Deaf Smith stone marker that has been moved several times around Richmond, especially next the Lamar monument in the Morton Cemetery.

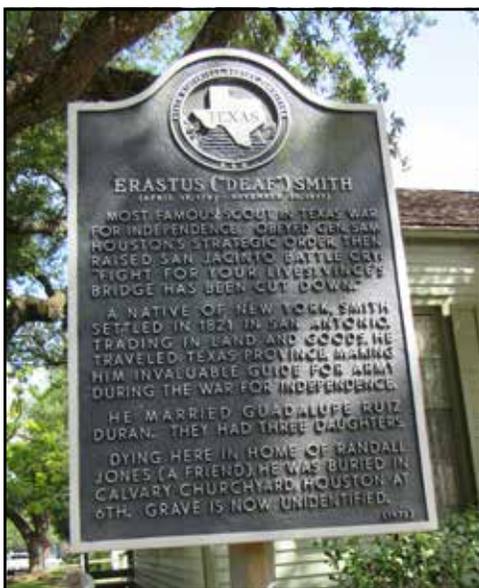
Jane Long, and the Father of Education, Mirabeau B. Lamar are buried. Believe it or not, a fake granite marker for Deaf Smith once was placed next to the Lamar monument. By fake, I mean it was not genuinely a grave maker, nor an exact gravesite, since Smith's gravesite has been lost since 1853 (Sowell, 81). That marker had a merry-go-around history and was basically designed to attract tourists since the 1930s when the Daughters of the Republic of Texas placed both the marker and a monument on or near the county courthouse. Thanks primarily to Mrs. Sarah Roach Farnsworth (1874-1968), Deaf Smith's great-granddaughter, for sharing this rock marker and monument information.

Just a block away from the impressive Fort Bend County Museum, I met a true professional curator named Chris Godbold, who gave me a quick tour of the museum before our 45-minute meeting. This visit is one of those rare times when the host secured an interpreter for me without my requesting one. He answered all my questions and more. Then I donated copied documents that the museum didn't have, albeit a hard copy of the 2012 Special Edition *TDT* about Deaf Smith that he genuinely appreciated.



Steve with curator Chris Godbold in the Fort Bend Museum in December 2018.

The visit could not have been more productive as we discussed the latest research on the long-lost gravesite of Deaf Smith, which I assumed to be located only a half a block away underneath the intersection of 6th and Houston Street, there in Richmond. Godbold explained that an archaeological dig took place two years earlier with GPR equipment in the basement of a house on Block 90, lots 1-3. He even showed me an old town map of pre-1835 gravesites, which I requested. Unfortunately, those 2013 archaeologists found only "tree roots and pipes" in the dig.



Texas historic marker in front of the house is where archaeologists investigated the basement for the missing gravesite of Deaf Smith and came up with only pipes and tree roots. The SE part of the intersection of 6th and Houston Street has been considered as the Deaf Smith's burial location.

Our meeting took place on December 17, 2015, when I purchased the 2nd edition book, "History of Fort Bend County", that originally came out in 1904. The author, A.J. Sowell, was the son of pioneer parents, and much of what was written there was from mostly oral history since 1824! This is the book that details Smith's apparent hearing loss, mumbling speech, and anti-social demeanor. The book also reminds me of what author Huston told me in 1981: "There are too many Smiths that I have to go through!" Upon checking the book's index, I counted 35 Smiths, and Deaf or Capt. Smith was listed 14 times for a total of 25 pages out of 418! Modern Texas historians do not give Deaf Smith that many references. That's why history books written by first-generation historians provide us more authentic information through eyewitness accounts and reliable oral or signed history. For example: the late Frank Clark, a deaf La Vista resident in San Marcos, TX told me in my videotaped interview that William Huddle's wife became an art teacher at TSD because the state still owed him money after he died in 1892, for his 1886 painting "Surrender of Santa Ana" which hangs in the Texas Capitol. Mrs. Huddle taught for over 40 years at TSD.

Be sure to stop by the Fort Bend Museum and buy the book "History of Fort Bend County," for only \$37 whenever you are halfway from your planned destination. And check out the Deaf Smith display, too.

Deaf Smith Oak Tree is No More!

The *TDT* 2012 Special Deaf Smith Edition contains a full-page story about the historic live oak tree that Deaf Smith used to climb and watch for Mexican army movements beyond the western part of Cibolo Creek during the fall of 1835. With permission from the pioneering Scull family, on whose land the Deaf Smith Tree stood, and the guidance of Texas Forest Service, I received 11 freshly sawed logs and many limb-wood pieces. One such log or two earned \$360 for the TAD in a fundraising event in Big Spring during the 2013 TAD Convention, where Larry Evans notched his 3rd presidential title.

Fast forward to six years, TSD woodworking teacher Allen Hamilton and his student Craig Hall presented a beautifully crafted gavel to the TSD Governing Board on October 19, 2019. The process of converting a live oak log or two into a work of art was hard, intensive, frustrating, and dangerous at times. Hamilton had received a couple of Deaf Smith logs from me to use

when he built the backdrop for the award-winning Deaf Smith exhibit in the basement of the Rotunda at the Texas State Capitol in April of 2012. It took a TSD team of six students and three staffers to make that one-of-a-kind historic gavel a reality that provided a memorable history lesson that will last them a lifetime.

Sadly, the officially recognized Deaf Smith Oak Tree is no more. The Texas Forest Service at Texas A&M in College Station informed me that lightning struck and destroyed the aging 300-plus-year-old tree. Then it dawned on me that I had no official proof that my remaining logs came from the historic tree. After submitting my request for an official authentication, I received their letter on March 19, 2019! In retrospect, the TSD meeting gavel is now a priceless relic, and let's hope the board chairperson pounds the gavel ever so gently.



Close-up shot of TSD senior Craig Hall holding the remarkably crafted gavel that was presented to the TSD Governing board in late 2018.

Photo credit: TSD Lone Star Magazine, fall issue, 2018.)

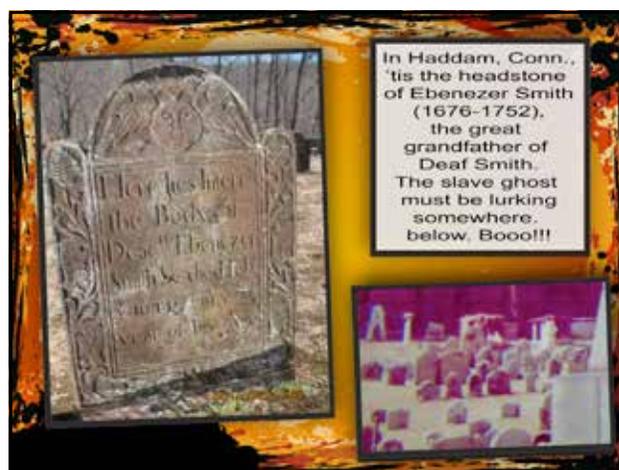


Letter from the Texas A & M Forest Service verifying that the logs and limb wood sent to Dr. Steve Baldwin are indeed from the Deaf Smith Oak Tree.

The Deaf Smith story within the next five years and my absurd predictions.

How does one end this series? With the exception of Williams' thesis (1964) at Trinity University in San Antonio, which I am resolved to get my hands on, my journey finally sees the light at the end of the tunnel. One thing for sure: printed and digital copies of this series will be sent to Briscoe Center of American History for updates on my research. Secondly, the TSD-Texas School for the Deaf SOC-Statewide Outreach Center (formerly ERCOD-Educational Resource Center on Deafness) and GU-Gallaudet University Archives and Collections will also be privileged to receive my most updated materials for their respective educational and archival websites.

Since this *Deaf Texan* issue is distributed between Halloween time and the 183rd anniversary of Smith's death in Richmond, I'm reminded of a true ghost story related to Deaf Smith's ancestral family in Haddam, Connecticut. That's where Smith's family originally came from, especially his grandparents and their parents. It so happened two years ago that I communicated about a business matter with a professional commercial artist named Karen Kratzer of Haddam Neck, Conn. Much to my surprise, she had heard about Deaf Smith! Then she explained that the Smith family plot, which goes as far back as 1753, actually borders her backyard! She emailed me about a slave named Smith that always walks by her yard, creepily and solemnly, at Halloween time! Since Stephen King lives only 112 miles away in Maine, he ought to check out this story for his next book!



Picture from Haddam, Connecticut of the headstone of Ebenezer Smith, great grandfather of Deaf Smith. Is there a ghost here . . .???

As I now peer into my crystal ball, I can see the Texas Historical Commission and Texas Historical Association discovering Deaf Smith's missing gravesite after spending over one million dollars for the excavations, expected legal fees and compensation for the City of Richmond while obtaining DNA samples from the Hull brothers. *The Deaf Texan* newsletter will get the scoop before the New York Times does! Dramatically and without warning, the Republican Texas legislature motions that Deaf Smith's remains must be reburied in the Texas State Cemetery

to compensate for the expenses. The chosen plot will be situated within proximity to the graves of Stephen F. Austin, "Big Foot" Wallace, Edward Burluson, Randal Jones (reinterred from Richmond!), Benjamin McCulloch, Jose Navarro, and Susanna Dickinson, just seven of Smith's fellow contemporaries of the 91 citizens and soldiers who fought for Texas Independence and are buried there. There will be fervors, protests and lawsuits, but without the destruction of public property or shops on 909 Navasota Street in East Austin. After a Democratic governor vetoes the bill, a compromise is reached. The chosen reburial site will go to La Vernia, Texas, on the Scull family farm where the Deaf Smith oak tree was located. The lonely stump now has the company of its famous climber and scout six feet below the ground.



Dr. Baldwin with representative of the Texas Forest Service, Mark Duff, on the Scull family property in La Vernia, Texas in 2011. They are holding a replica of the flag that was used during the Battle of San Jacinto. The flag was also used as a personal prop in the 1985 Deaf Smith play. The Smith Oak has been reduced to a stump, due to inclement weather, drought, and lightning.

By the way, this ongoing coronavirus epoch and my self-quarantined life seem to instigate some funny things to this writer's mind. At least, I hope the readers enjoy the humor, imagination, and the three-part series.

All other contents in the series are historically real. The journey ends on this single page.

In closing on a personal note, my special thanks to *TDT* editor Dr. Patti Singleton and layout artist Kari Graves for making the Deaf Smith series possible and allowing me to conclude my forty-year journey about Texas' most famous scout and spy.



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Stephan P.A. Kugel: A Jewish Deaf Long-Distance Deaflympian



By Stephen C. Baldwin, Ph.D.

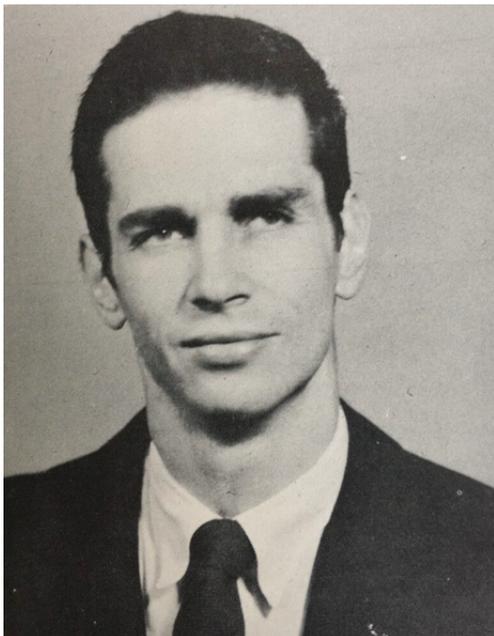
Generational World War II babies like myself often read about Olympic athletes. My heroes were Jesse Owens (defied Hitler, won four gold medals), Jim Thorpe (“world’s greatest athlete”), Wilma Rudolph (overcame early childhood polio), Billy Mills (improbable winner in 10K), and Abebe Bilal (barefoot marathon runner). If a Millennial reader knows three of those five famous hearing Olympians correctly, that’s a passing

grade. Unless you follow the Maccabiah Games (established in 1932) in Israel, how many of you know well-known Jewish Olympians? Anyone? Of course, who can forget Mark Spitz, the seven-gold medal champion swimmer in the 1972?

Regardless, I know one Jewish Olympic track star that I've read about in the early 1960s. Gerry Ashworth is his name. Why him? His name was prominently mentioned in the Boston Globe newspaper as a champion sprinter who broke world records in the 60 and 100-Yard-Dash. As the second leg for the American 4X100 meter relay team, which included "Bullet" Bob Hayes, Ashworth and his teammates won the gold medal and broke the world record in 39.0. But why mention Ashworth, a Massachusetts native? Uniquely, he was the only non-Black sprinter that won the gold as a Jewish-American who also graduated from Dartmouth, an Ivy League college. In short, his feat was a relatively rare triple whammy of a breakthrough. By the way, he's not deaf.

Nonetheless, my interest in the remarkable athletic achievements of Ashworth led me to write about another Bay State native. Sheldon Freedman, the famous Jewish deaf sprinter and a long jump champion from the 1950s. (Freedman was recently featured in the December JDCC e-newsletter, Issue #223.)

Gradually, I thought of another notable Jewish deaf runner: Stephan P.A. Kugel. In fact, several readers and friends who personally knew Kugel requested a story about this champion long-distance runner from Gallaudet University (GU). It's a pleasure to write about Kugel who passed away more than seven years ago in North Carolina. Yet his legacy never aged.



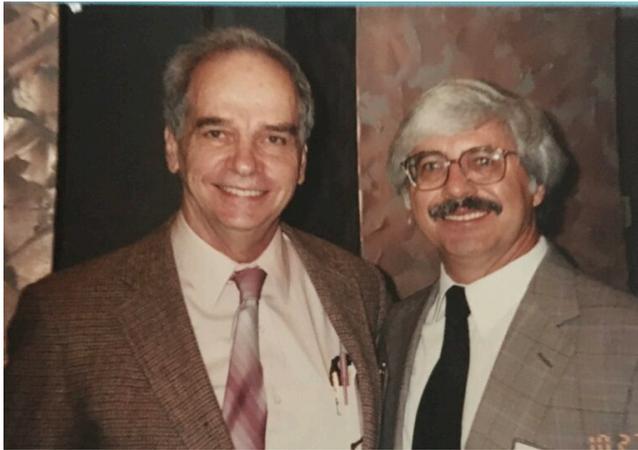
Stephan Percy Aristide Kugel (1934-2013) was a born German Jew who lived in Charlottenberg, about five miles west of Berlin before the nefarious Nazi regime took over. According to the 1940 US Census Report, his parents, Erwin and Hilda (nee Gassmann) Kugel immigrated to New York City with Stephan, his older deaf sister Renate, and brother Peter, all five were Holocaust survivors. A

product of the NYC Public Schools and Clarke School for the Deaf in Northampton, Mass., Steve eventually graduated with a biology degree from GU in 1957. In between two deaf residential school teaching stints, he was an ITU printer like many deaf had done in the olden days before the cold-type technology affected their lives adversely. Yet his legacy as a long-distance runner endured over the years, though many have never heard of him.

Based on research by Wayne Langbein and Karen Sanfacon, two dedicated records keepers, Kugel set short-course cross-country records from 2.9 to 3.1 miles at GU. His record for the two-mile run of 9:52.1 in 1957 was not broken until ten years later and it ranks third among GU's best times. Based on Dr. Frank Carnovsky's history of the Mason-Dixon Conference (disbanded in 1978), Kugel had the distinction of winning the Mason-Dixon cross country individual crown and the two-mile run championship, thus becoming the 5th athlete to accomplish the feat during the years from 1936 to 1978.



The late notable Tom Clayton, a versatile coach and mentor at GU, once took me aside in Krug Hall to talk about Kugel as a runner. “Steve, Kugel had an interesting race strategy. He always starts in the back of the pack, then eventually moves up to the front and wins his race easily.” Clayton added another anecdote: “Kugel was a flat-footed runner!” In that case, it is not easy walking or running with fallen arches, which often induces some pain, and eventually tendinitis. However, some photos show Kugel cruising comfortably toward the finish line in first place with a well-placed leg pronation from hip to toe. As the adage goes, “no pain, no gain.”



Alfred “Sonny” Sonnenstrahl, the current Deaf Seniors of America president, reminisced about growing up with Kugel in NYC. Sonny recalls, “Stephan and I used to jog and run together

from 92nd Street to Times Square to catch a movie, then head back home.” “Too tired to run again, I took the train and Stephan ran instead and Steve ended up waiting for me at the end of my rides! That’s a distance of about three miles!”

Kugel’s last official race took place between August 25 to 30, 1957 during the 8th Deaflympics Summer Games in Milan, Italy. According to Deaf sports writer Barry Strassler, who spoke with the late legendary Coach Tom Berg decades ago, Kugel did not have enough essential opportunity to practice. Yet he won the silver medal in the 10,000 meter-run in a sub-par time of 33:03.8, but placed only 7th in the 5000-meter run, his strong event. According to the United States of America Deaf Track and Field (USADTF), Kugel’s hand-timed performance was good enough to be ranked as the #10 all-time 10,000 meter run by USADTF. Eventually, he was inducted into the 2000 USADTF Hall of Fame and the 1995 GU Hall of Fame for athletes.

This writer Steve, met Steve, the distance man just once 25 years ago on October 27, 1995, during the Gallaudet University Hall of Fame induction ceremony in the Kellogg Conference Center. After taking a photo of us together, I shared it with his college friends many years later. They all commented that he was not always a smiling man on the personal level. By all accounts, he was a brooding type, taciturn, and mostly unsmiling. However, based on the archived photos that I have studied, he brought countless smiles and admiration among fans watching him coasting in his victorious dual meets on the home campus.

Now we know the history about two Jewish Olympians, one deaf and one hearing. Let's watch for some outstanding Jewish athletes during the 32nd Olympiad Summer Games in Tokyo in July and the 24th Summer Deaflympics in Brazil during December this year.

Meanwhile, be sure to take your vaccine for COVID-19 if we want to watch those Games.

In closing, here is my wishing you all a happy, healthy, safe, and peaceful year of 2021.

Source: Stephen C. Baldwin, Ph.D., Region 3 Representative of Deaf Culture & History Section of NAD.

Filed Under: **Jewish Deaf Tidbits**

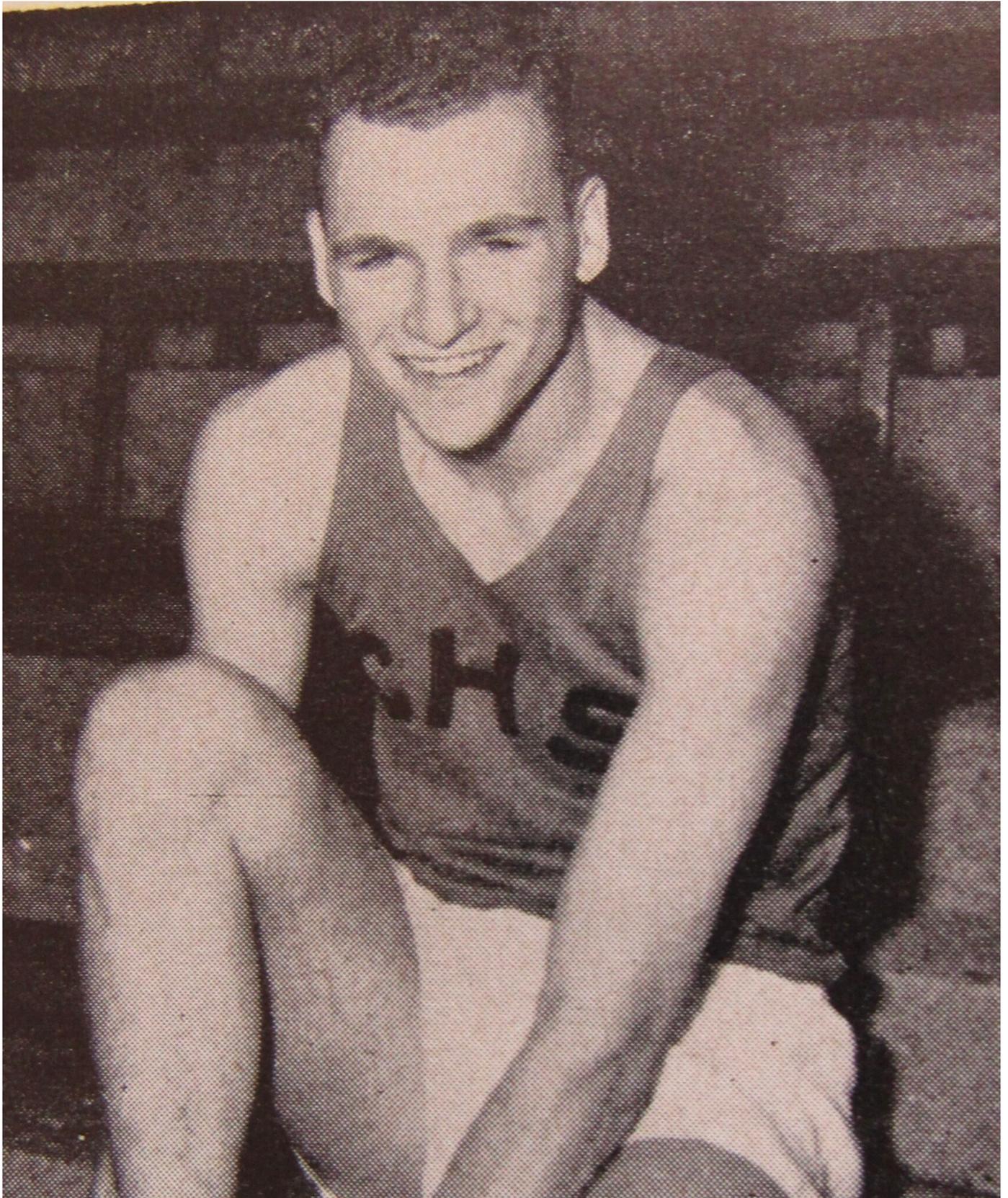
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The Forgotten Jew Track Star



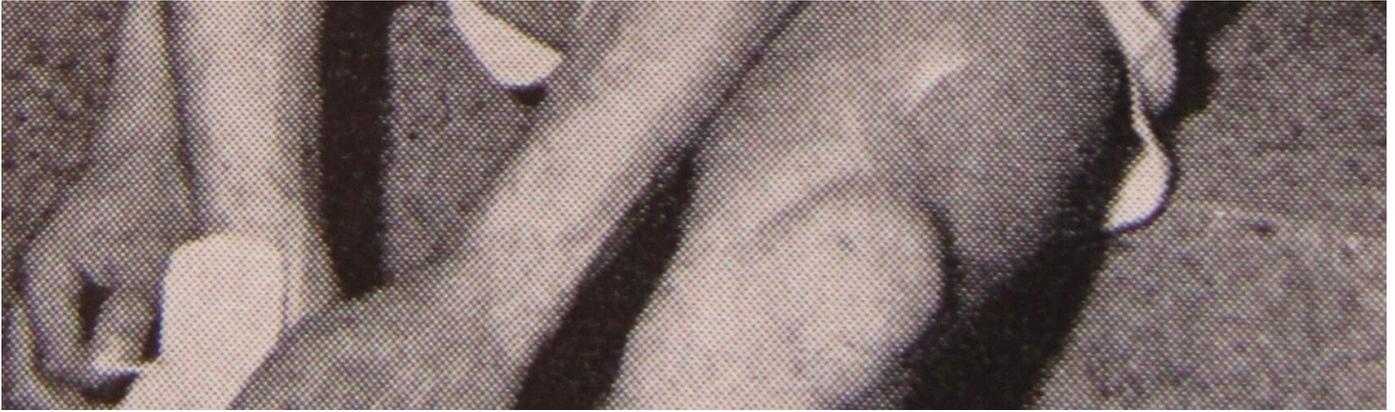


Photo: Arnold laces up for another track event for Chelsea High School in 1955. Since then, his four individual and relay records are still standing. From The Silent Worker, a cover story by legendary sports editor Art Kruger, page 27, November 1957.

Steve C. Baldwin, Ph.D.

Nov. 11, 2020

[EDITOR'S NOTE: the author and Sheldon Freedman were schoolmates at Horace Mann School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Boston, MA.]

When I received the online November edition of the JDCC News (established August 1992), I was delighted to see the main feature about Jews in the Deaflympics. I know Rafael Pinkhasov Pinchas since I bought an autographed copy of his "The History of the Deaflympic Games" book on April 9, 2015. Rafael met me in the Gallaudet University Archives and Deaf Collections room, and somehow, he knew I was a Deaflympian for the USA in 1965 and 1969. He didn't have to twist my arm to buy his 425-page book. In fact, I still use the book for historical reference and research. I definitely enjoy all the incredible photos and memories, statistics, and stories about the past Deaflympics up to 2014.

Indeed, I was more delighted to see the name and photo of my friend

Sheldon Freedman of Boston, Massachusetts. Actually, he lived in Chelsea, right across Mystic River and Tobin Bridge, which connects my hometown Charlestown, only a 0.19749 nautical mile away. In fact, I used to swim across that river until the water became polluted, especially with ship rats swimming faster than me. Those were the daring, dangerous days of reckless and foolish youth!

Anyway, I met Sheldon in the late 1960s, and his brother David was my classmate at the Horace Mann School (established in 1869), the first deaf day school in America. Sheldon was a legendary track and field star in the New England Deaf community's eyes and minds. He and David were on the "A" team of the Boston Deaf Club basketball team, and I played for the "B" team in the early 1960s. Watching the brothers David and Sheldon fast breaking up and down the court was like watching a 60-yard indoor dash! Yes, they were blazingly fast!

How fast was Sheldon, and how far did he jump? His record at Chelsea High School (CHS) in the long jump was 22 feet and 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches, which still stands since 1955! His record for the 220-yard dash at 22.5 stands strong after 66 years! As the anchor leg in 1955, he helped set two relay records, the 4x220 and mile relay for CHS. It is no wonder that the immortal Art Kruger called him "The Schoolboy Sensation of Massachusetts" in the 1957 August magazine of The Silent Worker. With Sheldon on the team for three years, CHS track and field team never lost a dual meet!



Photo: Besides being a record-breaking short distance runner, Arnold was a champion Deaf world and high school record holder in the long jump. His best jump was 22 feet and 4 ½ inches. From Chelsea High School Online Yearbook 1954



Photo: Arnold's senior class photo in the local newspaper. From Chelsea Record newspaper clipping, June 2, 1955.

As mentioned in Rafael's article, Sheldon became the first American Jew to win a "complete set of medals," meaning the gold, silver, and bronze in the 1957 deaf summer games in Milan, Italy. He earned gold as an anchor leg for the 4×100 relay team, silver as the third leg on the 4×400 relay team, and a bronze in the 100-meter final. But what happened in his favorite event, the 200-meter dash? Despite breaking the world deaf record at 22.7 in the third heat, he placed a disappointing 5th in 23.4 in the finals. And he didn't even do well in the long jump. His best jump was better than the silver medal winner. In fact, he set the Deaf American record at 22 feet, and 4 ½ inches before the International Games for the Deaf took place in Italy.

Later he told me in 1967 that he was injured, which explains his sub-par performances. Under the circumstances, his excuse was a gross understatement. After all, he got three medals, broke a couple of records, and has been out of competition since he graduated from CHS two years earlier and practiced on his own with his father's help! There were no track clubs, and he took part in some Olympic Development meets in South Boston that I used to partake in as a long-distance runner in the summer of 1967. Plus, he had a full-time job as a hot-type printer with an ITU card and had a family to support.

Memories aside, I want the readers to know that Sheldon was the Carl Lewis of his time and how the passage of time tends to make the past hall of fame voters overlooked his achievements on the dirt track. However, Chelsea High School didn't forget Sheldon's amazing track and field feats when they inducted him into its athletic hall of fame in 1986. What about the old American Athletic Association of the Deaf (AAAD)? Didn't they ever induct Sheldon before they changed to the United States of America Deaf Sports Federation (USADSF) in 1997? Nope. Not yet.

More than half a century later, I decided to nominate Sheldon for the

USADSF Hall of Fame for athletes. I nominated him in 2004 and again in 2011 and had plenty of documents to vouch for his qualifications. Believe it or not, Sheldon didn't make the cut when the longtime hall of fame chair D. Cole Zulauf, a 1991 USADSF inductee, announced the Class of 2012 USADSF Hall of Famers. Five years later, I attended a USADSF board meeting, which took place in Austin, and explained why Sheldon deserved to be in the hall of fame. I argued that the voting system was grossly outdated and cumbersome, with over 30 voters from over 32 different sports! That's the voting system's biggest flaw. I personally doubt that most of them ever read my 30-page nomination portfolio. There was no action by the USADSF board until they revived the hall of fame business in 2020. Has the board finally reformed the voting system? More importantly, will there ever be light at the end of the tunnel for Sheldon, the forgotten track star?

Was I experiencing systemic racism? That's a moot query. According to my friend and America's foremost Deaf sports writer and sports historian Barry Strassler, there are about 38 American Jews enshrined in the AAAD/USADSF Hall of Fame for athletes, writers, and leaders. I personally know nearly half of the inductees, and each one deserved the honor, particularly Art Kruger, Alex Fleischman, Larry Fleischer, and several others.

Why not Sheldon Freedman, the first true multi-event track and field star in modern times that was evidently the high point man for three years in high school when there were no educational support services? What do we call it? Injustice? Or basically an overlooked super track star? Definitely forgotten in the present times. But let's not give up hope.

By the way, Sheldon will be 85 years old on May 6, 2021. He lives in Lynn, Massachusetts, and has retired for a long time as a printer. After his open-heart surgery eleven years ago, he seems to be doing just fine since I last touched base with him on November 3, 2011.

After an absence of seven years, USADSF finally named six inductees on October 20, 2020, posted on social media. No, Sheldon is not one of them. In foresight, perhaps a little donation to USADSF with a note saying, "In honor of a true forgotten track star named Sheldon Freedman," will help. Hint, hint! Needless to say, a little harmless benevolent publicity machine will surely help my third nomination campaign on Sheldon's behalf. Nevertheless, wish me luck for my third attempt for Sheldon Freedman and pray that it is a realistic charm! Thanks to the recent JDCC e-newsletter, I'm able to jumpstart my nomination, which is like a shot in the arm for me, albeit the badly needed vaccine against COVID-19. Shalom!

Dr. Baldwin is a retired educator who lives in Austin, Texas. He authored two books, and a third one is due in 2021. A writer of over 100 published articles and 37 produced plays, Baldwin also holds five long-distance records and several cross-country marks at Gallaudet University. Currently, he represents Region 3 as a member of the Deaf Culture & History Section of NAD.)

Source: Steve C. Baldwin, Ph.D.

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