



THE STATE OF TEXAS ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE DAY FOUNDATION

**“THE
ORIGIN OF THE TEXAS PLAINS BISON
INITIATIVE”**

**A STUDENT STUDY GROUP INITIATIVE PLANNING REPORT
PART A
THE TEXAS BISON STUDENT STUDY GROUP
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By

Dennis M. Kulvicki
President

The STAR DAY Foundation

P. O. Box 640010

El Paso, Texas 79904-0010

(915) 751-2244

dennismkulvicki@thestardayfoundation.org

<http://www.thestardayfoundation.org>



THE TEXAS BISON STUDENT STUDY GROUP

“The Texas Bison Student Study Group (The Group)” initially organized at Presidio ISD Lucy Rede Franco Middle School by The STAR DAY Foundation and supervised by School Principal Teresa Porras with the volunteer help of science teachers, parents and community members as an after-school student enrichment program. The Group was organized on September 12, 2010, the birthday of Mary Ann (Molly) Goodnight (1839-1936).

The Group was organized with the following student studies and expedition goals:

GROUP GOAL 1: to provide students with the opportunity to explore and discover the history and origin of the Texas Plains bison especially the Official State Bison Herd of Texas at Caprock Canyons State Park;

GROUP GOAL 2: to research and study the culture, heritage and history of Native American people who hunted bison;

GROUP GOAL 3: to study and evaluate the feasibility of the use of Texas bison ground meat as a component of school lunch programs;

GROUP GOAL 4: to investigate and propose ways and means to raise needed funds by students in partnership with their families and others to support the conservation, preservation and restoration work of the Official State Bison Herd of Texas management team at Caprock Canyons State Park (The Park) under the supervision of the Park Superintendent; and

GROUP GOAL 5: to plan, develop and conduct “Expeditions” to visit local/regional partnering Texas bison ranches to see bison and experience bison ranching first hand and where possible The Park.

The STAR DAY Foundation shall pioneer and lead an effort to create “The Texas Bison Student Study Group Library Initiative” in partnership with teachers and librarians. The Library shall be composed of a set of core books, collection of articles, website studies and audio/video media that shall be used by students to explore and discover the goals of The Group. Some books, articles and audio/video media shall be in digital form and available free from The STAR DAY Foundation emerging website. A set of books recommended by partnering teachers and librarians shall be made available at partnering school libraries for use by students. The STAR DAY Foundation plans to republish several titles already recommended by partnering teachers

and librarians and donate these books as a “Special Student Studies Library” to partnering school libraries.

AN EXPEDITION



EXPEDITION TO THE CIBOLO CREEK RANCH-PRESIDIO COUNTY-MAY 7, 2011-Students from Presidio ISD Lucy Rede Franco Middle School (LRFMS) in Presidio County of The Texas Bison Student Study Group (The Group) gathered on a high bluff to explore and study a herd of bison located in a valley below as the bison migrated toward a watering hole located close by at a natural spring shaded by cottonwood and grey oak trees on the 30,000 acre Cibolo Creek Ranch established by Don Meliton (Milton) Faver (ca 1822-1899) in 1857 and owned today by Dr. John B. Poindexter. The expedition to the Cibolo Creek Ranch was supervised by Science Teachers Cynthia Obrero (Photographer) and Jasper Valeriano (Back Row-Right). The Expedition school bus driver was Manuel Aguilar (Back Row-4th left). The Ranch expedition was guided by Ranch Manager Robert Cavness (Back Row-3rd left), and Ranch Activities Director Mike “Sugar” Dorris (Back Row-2nd Left). Mr. Robert Cavness is an eAdvisor to The Group. The ranch may be visited at: <http://www.cibolocreekranch.com>.

The Texas Bison Student Study Group in 2010 invited State Representative Pete Gallego to author a bill to designate the Goodnight Bison Herd at Caprock Rock Canyons State Park as “The Official State Bison Herd of Texas.” The bill was signed into law by Governor Rick Perry, a 1999 STAR DAY Founder, on June 17, 2011. Governor Perry issued a Commendation Letter to honor and recognize The Group for their service achievement of merit to enhance the story of Texas for the people Texas by the students of Texas.

The Group proposed in 2012 two bills. The Group invited State Senator Kel Seliger to

author a bill (SCR 10) to designate September 12th as “The Mary Ann (Molly) Goodnight Day” to honor and remember her life and achievement as the woman who saved Texas’s bison. The Group invited State Representative Ken King to author a bill (HCR 51) to designate March 5th as “The Charles Goodnight Day” to honor and remember his life and achievements as one of the first bison ranchers in Texas.

A COMMENDATION LETTER



THE STATE OF TEXAS GOVERNOR

*To all to whom these presents shall come,
Greetings: Know ye that this official recognition is
presented to:*

Pioneers and Leaders of the State (PALS)
Texas Junior Legislators Program
Lucy Rede Franco Middle School
Presidio Independent School District

I am pleased to congratulate you, the STAR DAY Foundation honorees, on your contributions to House Concurrent Resolution No. 86 of the 82nd Texas Legislature, designating the Texas State Bison Herd at Caprock Canyons State Park as the official state bison herd of Texas.

Students, your participation in this legislation played an important role in highlighting the important economic and cultural role bison have played in the history of the Lone Star State. Educators, I salute you for encouraging your students to learn about Texas history, to become involved in the leadership of our state and to follow through with their goals.

First Lady Anita Perry joins me in extending best wishes.



In testimony whereof, I have signed my name and caused the Seal of the State of Texas to be affixed at the City of Austin, this the 21st day of July, 2011.

Rick Perry
Rick Perry
Governor of Texas

THE ORIGIN OF THE TEXAS BISON INITIATIVE

The Texas Bison Student Study Group (The Group) uses numerous website contents as student studies text, photographs and audio/video resources to support its student study activities to explore and discover the origin of the Texas Plains Bison.

The first phase of “The Origin of The Texas Plains Bison Initiative” introduced on September 12, 2012. The Texas Bison Student Study Group conducted a research survey of Texas archeological sites that featured ancient Texas Plains Bison fossils. Two interesting sites have been surveyed in partnership with eAdvisors of The Texas Bison Student Study Group.

Andy Cloud, Director of the Center for Big Bend Studies (CBBS) of Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Brewster County is pioneering and leading an effort with his staff and colleagues to discover and explore archaeological sites in the greater Big Bend region. Their work attempts to bring to life the behaviors and activities of past inhabitants, including some of the first people of Texas. Since faunal/animal remains represent items on the ancient menus, they are a part of CBBS studies and include bison remains uncovered at several sites (e.g., Logan’s Terrace site on the Nature Conservancy’s Independence Creek Preserve). The CBBS is also endeavoring to revisit an important site (Bonfire Shelter) in the Lower Pecos region where bison were run over a cliff edge at two different times in the past, initially by Paleoindians (ca. 10,200 years ago) and then again by Lake Archaic peoples (ca. 2,600 years ago). Through these various research projects they are learning how bison played a role in past peoples’ lives. Such research of bison will include both radiocarbon and comprehensive DNA analyses if appropriate research funding is secured. Mr. Cloud has provided The Texas Bison Student Study Group a variety of discovered fossil bone illustrations that may be used to construct an artistic rendition

of what an ancient Texas Plains Bison might have looked like. This work will continue.

A second ancient Texas Plains Bison site is actually located in the Caprock Canyons State Park. Park Ranger Le'Ann Pigg, an eAdvisor, has recommended to The Texas Bison Student Study Group that "The Lake Theo Site" would be an outstanding research survey site. Initial archeological work in the 1974 revealed a rich fossil site illustrating ancient Texas Plains Bison during the Folsom people era. The site was used as an ancient Texas Plains Bison butchering and camp site as discovered by initial research work sponsored by The Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Amarillo, Texas. The Texas Bison Student Study Group has acquired research survey articles from The Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum illustrating the research work that was conducted.

During the first phase of the Initiative, The Texas Bison Student Study Group discovered that an ancient Chinese bison was the ancestor of the Texas Plains Bison. "*The Encyclopedia of the Great Plains*" edited by David J. Wishart, an online educational resource used by The Texas Bison Student Study Group. It simply stated that: "*Bison first appeared in the fossil record in China and later spread into North America across the Bering Land Bridge into modern Alaska, reaching the Plains during the Pleistocene (730,000 TO 128,000 years ago).*" "**The Great Arc of Historical Migration**" of the ancient bison of China to the Great Plains of Texas is an epic story to explore and discover! If scientifically proven, the ancient bison of China would be the ancestors of our Texas Plains bison!!!

The second phase of Initiative shall explore this hypothesis and discover the scientific work upon which the statement was made as an international collective and collaborative student studies partnership with teachers, librarians, students and scientists in China, Canada

and the United States. The proposed second phase of the Initiative shall be launched on October 1, 2013 shall feature the following objectives:

INITIATIVE OBJECTIVE 1: The STAR DAY Foundation shall pioneer and led an effort to invite teachers and students in China, Canada, Alaska, the Upper States of the Continental US along “The Great Arc of Historical Migration” to organize a Bison Student Study Group to explore and discover the hypothesis in their respect areas in partnership with The Texas Bison Student Study Group;

INITIATIVE OBJECTIVE 2: The STAR DAY Foundation pioneer and lead an effort to invite scientists engaged in DNA research studies and other disciplines to volunteer and act as Science eAdvisors in support of the Initiative to share with teachers, librarians and students their research agenda and their published works with overviews as their schedules permit; and

INITIATIVE OBJECTIVE 3: The STAR DAY Foundation shall pioneer and lead an effort to document and share the findings and the contributed overviews of Science eAdvisors with the objective to present their work as supporting student study resources in The Texas Bison Student Study Group Journal at The STAR DAY Foundation’s emerging website at <http://www.thestardayfoundation.org> .

INITIAYIVE OBJECTIVE 4: The STAR DAY Foundation shall launch the initiative on October 1, 2013 as an activity of “2013 China National Day Celebrations” across Texas to promote and enhance cultural, historical and scientific exchanges among teachers, students and others. October 1, 2013 marks the celebration of the 64th anniversary of the birthday of the Peoples Republic of China.

INITIATIVE OBJECTIVE 5: The STAR DAY Foundation shall invite a Junior High or Middle School in Beijing, China to join the quest and assist in conducting a research survey of University Departments and Museums that may already have collections of ancient Chinese bison fossils with a goal to create a composite artistic image of what the ancient Chinese bison may have looked like as it began to migrate across the Bering land bridge to Alaska.

President of The STAR DAY Foundation Dennis M. Kulvicki shall be visiting Caprock Canyons State Park on September 12, 2013 to announce the launching of the second phase of “The Origin of The Texas Plains Bison Initiative” on October 1, 2013 and shall visit and survey “The Lake Theo Site” guided by Park Ranger Le’ Ann Pigg.

The STAR DAY Foundation notes the recent State of Texas Senate Resolution 90 authored by Texas Senator Rodney Ellis, a 1999 STAR DAY Founder, during the 83rd Texas Legislature. Third Second Call Session to support “The China National Day Celebration” ON October 1, 2013 in his Senate District.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 90

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize the 2013 China National Day Celebration; and

WHEREAS, This special occasion is being observed September 28, 2013, with a multi-arts show at the Cullen Performance Hall on the campus of the University of Houston; and

WHEREAS, The celebration will be attended by community leaders, local elected officials, and diplomats, and it will honor the 64th anniversary of the People's Republic of China with performances from a wide variety of artistic disciplines; and

WHEREAS, The Chinese-American community, both in Houston and across the country, has played an important role in the relationship between the United States and the People's Republic of China; it is truly fitting that this bond be recognized at the 2013 China National Day Celebration; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 83rd Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby extend to the organizers and sponsors of the 2013 China National Day Celebration best wishes for a successful and memorable event; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared in honor of this important occasion.

The STAR DAY Foundation shall also plan, develop and conduct activities to support the observance of “The 2013 China National Day Celebration” in El Paso County. The STAR DAY Foundation shall invite Junior High and Middle School teachers of Texas History and United State History to explore and discover the life and achievements of Wellington Lee Chew (1921-1978) who has been inducted into “The First Pioneers and Leaders of the State (PALS) of Texas Hall of Honor as the “First Chinese-American” to be admitted in the Texas Bar. The STAR

DAY Foundation has enclosed the Induction Bookmark illustrating the story of his life and achievements.

**THE STAR DAY FOUNDATION
FIRST PIONEERS AND LEADERS
OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
HALL OF HONOR**



**WELLINGTON YEE CHEW
(1921-1978)**

Wellington Yee Chew was born on December 10, 1921 in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico. His name at birth was Yee Yen Quen. His father, Yee Wing Chew, who was known as Antonio Yee Chew and his mother, Sun Far Wong, who was known as Herlinda Chew, were merchants in Ciudad Juarez.

In February 1922, the Chew family immigrated to the U. S. at Calexico, California. Though the family was eligible to immigrate to the U. S. as a Merchant family, the Chinese Exclusion Act prohibited their entry except at two ports of entry, the closest being Calexico. Wellington's parents opened the New China Grocery store in downtown El Paso and expanded that operation to three stores in the next ten years.

Wellington had the opportunity to visit relatives in Southern China in 1928 and 1936. Wellington spent a year in China and studied at the Ling Nam University in Canton, China. When Wellington returned he attended El Paso High School. Both of his parents died in 1937, within six-months of each other, leaving their eight children to care and raise each other. Wellington earned his "E" on the track where he was a star hurdler and won the City Championships in that event. In his senior year he was elected as the President of the National Honor Society. He graduated in January 1941.

He entered Texas A&M University and was in the Corps of Cadets. In 1943, he left Texas A&M and enlisted in the U. S. Army. After completing Infantry Replacement training at Camp Wolters, Texas in October 1943, he became a naturalized U. S. citizen. He was one of the first and very few Chinese who were able to naturalize prior to the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act. The Act was repealed in December 1943.

On about June 10, 1944, he landed on Utah

Beach and was assigned to Company B, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Division as a replacement infantryman. He was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge on July 11, 1944. He fought in four campaigns: Normandy, Northern France, Central Europe and Ardennes. By the time he fought in the Battle of Herten Forest and the Battle of the Bulge, he was a Staff Sergeant and Squad Leader. He was awarded the Bronze Star and twice refused battlefield commissions. Upon his return home, Wellington enrolled in Texas Western College and met and married Patricia Howe. She was a graduate of Ysleta High School. Their first son, David Wellington, was born in September 1947. The following year, the Chew family moved to Dallas where Wellington began law school at Southern Methodist University on the G. I. Bill. He was graduated and admitted to the State Bar in 1951. He was the first Chinese-American lawyer in Texas.

Returning to El Paso in 1951, he began his legal career. In the interval, two daughters, Linda Yee Chew and Patricia Barrie were born in 1952 and 1954, and a second son, Brian Keith in 1961. Patricia, his wife, returned to college after Brian was born to earn a Bachelors' and later a Masters of Education. She retired as the Principal of Travis Elementary School.

During his 26-year legal career, he maintained a wide-ranging and multicultural practice. He was a highly regarded trial lawyer, handling criminal defense, personal injury, immigration and civil service cases. He was named as one of the Legal Legends of Texas of the 20th Century by the *Texas Lawyer* magazine. He was a dedicated civic and community leader. He was appointed to the El Paso City Civil Service Commission and served as its chairman during the Bert Williams administration. He was on the board of the El Paso County School Board and was the last President of that Board. He also served on the Dell City School Board. He was a founder of the Northeast Democratic Club.

Wellington died in El Paso in October 1978. His wife passed away in 1981. His three oldest children are all lawyers in El Paso. David is the Chief Justice of the 8th Court of Appeals; Linda is Judge of the 327th District Court; and Patricia is in private practice. His youngest son, Brian, is an Information Systems analyst in Atlanta, Georgia.

NOTE: The picture and text illustrating this bookmark were kindly provided by Chief Justice David Wellington Chew. Wellington Yee Chew (1921-1978) was inducted into The First PALS of Texas Hall of Honor on Sunday, February 19, 2006 during the celebration of the 160th birthday of the State of Texas in El Paso.

THE STAR DAY FOUNDATION

P. O. Box 640010

El Paso, Texas 79904-0010

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