



THE STATE OF TEXAS ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE DAY FOUNDATION

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

**A STUDENT STUDY GROUP INITIATIVE PLANNING REPORT
PART B
THE TEXAS BISON STUDENT STUDY GROUP
MARCH 5, 2013**

By

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THE CONSTELLATION

The STAR DAY Foundation is pioneering and leading an effort in partnership with The Texas Bison Student Study Group (The Group) to inspire and motivate students to explore and discover the exciting history of the Texas Plains bison whose ancestors where the ancient bison of China. From time to time its fun to add a bit of legend to help students visualize history as the ancient people did all over the world to tell their stories by creating constellations and land monuments linked to their constellations that we recognize today.

The Group has proposed to pioneer and lead an effort to create a legend about the Texas Plains bison in partnership with “The Texas Astronomy Student Study Group” sponsored by The STAR DAY Foundation and organized in Midland on March 5, 2011 guided by Dr. Andrew Kerr, Director of the Marian Blakemore Planetarium and members of the West Texas Astronomy Club which meets at the Planetarium each month.



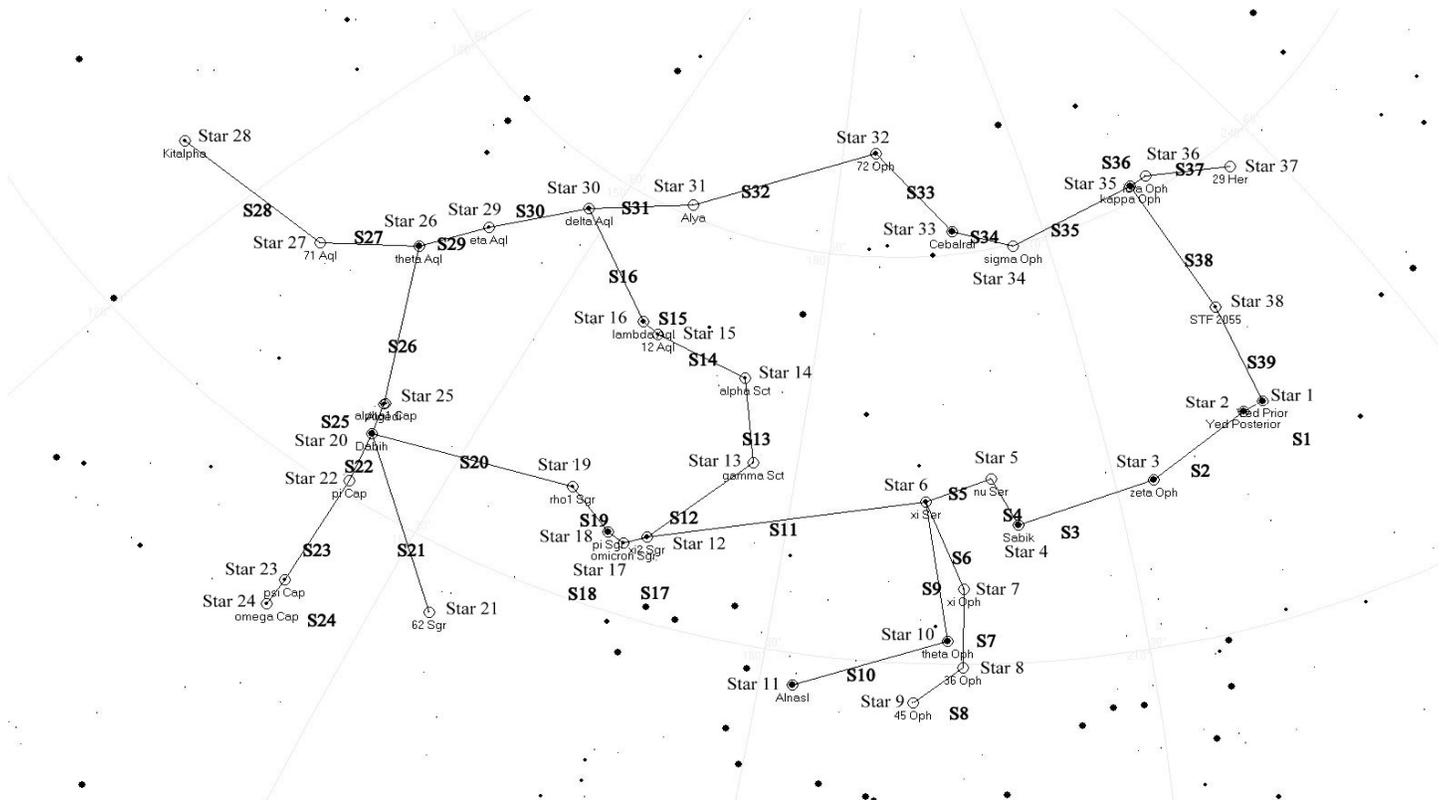
NOVEMBER 14, 2011-THE MARIAN BLAKEMORE PLANETARIUM-MIDLAND, TEXAS-Dr. Andrew Kerr, Curator (Back Row, Second From Left) of The Marian Blakemore Planetarium, and the members of the West Texas Astronomers (WTA) Club announced completion of the first phase of **THE GREAT TEXAS “OLD BLUE” BISON CONSTELLATION PROJECT (The Project).** The Project was proposed by The STAR DAY Foundation of El Paso in partnership with The Texas Bison Student Study Group (The Group) hosted by Presidio ISD Lucy Rede Franco Middle School in the City of Presidio during the 2010/2011 school year. The Group was supervised by Principal Teresa Porras with the volunteer support of science teachers as an after-school student enrichment program sponsored by The STAR DAY Foundation. The STAR DAY Foundation is planning an effort to launch “The Texas Astronomy Student Study Group” by September 12, 2012 to support the goals of The Junior PALS of Texas Corps, the youth organization sponsored by The STAR DAY Foundation. Seated Front: Love Swimming Bear; L to R: Frances Gonzales, Bruce Moore, Sara Moore, Daryl Lane, Charles Hemann, Michael Hemann, Harry Harrison, Andrew Kerr, Mike Jacquez, Dennis Edwards, Greg Johnson, Al Smith, Don Eckerty, Jim Camp. The picture was taken by WTA Club Member Craig Patterson.

The STAR DAY Foundation officially established **THE GREAT TEXAS “OLD BLUE” BISON CONSTELLATION PROJECT (The Project)** on March 5, 2011, the birthday of Charles Goodnight (1839-1929), in partnership with The Marian Blakemore Planetarium and the West Texas Astronomers Club of Midland, Texas. The Project is being pioneered and led by Marian Blakemore Planetarium Curator Dr. Andrew Kerr, West Texas Astronomers Club Member Les Blalock and The STAR DAY Foundation President Dennis M. Kulvicki (also an amateur astronomer).

Mary Ann (Molly) Goodnight (1839-1926) with the help of her husband Charles Goodnight (1836-1929) helped save the last free-roaming Texas Plains bison from extinction in the late 1800's. The surviving 80 Goodnight bison today are now maintained by the Official State Bison Herd of Texas management team (The Team) of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at Caprock Canyons State Park in Briscoe and Floyd Counties.

The Project has been dedicated by The STAR DAY Foundation to honor and remember the life and achievements of Mary Ann (Molly) Goodnight (1839-1926) and Charles Goodnight (1836-1929) as the first Texas bison ranchers and to honor and recognize the outstanding conservation, preservation and restoration efforts of all the members of The Team at Caprock Canyons State Park over the years for their efforts to help save the Goodnight herd from extinction especially the efforts of Mr. Danny A. Swepston who was the first pioneer and leader to guide this quest at Caprock Canyons State Park. The Project is also dedicated to remembering and honoring the Spirit of the First Americans who lived in the land area now known as the Great State of Texas and who hunted Texas Plains Bison.

“Old Blue” was a unique and legendary longhorn steer that Charles Goodnight (1836-1929) used many times to lead a large herd of longhorn steers on a trail to a railhead for shipment to east coast markets. The Constellation is an attempt to adapt the story of “Old Blue” of a legendary longhorn steer on the land to a story of “Old Blue” a legendary spirit bison in the sky.



THE GREAT TEXAS “OLD BLUE” BISON CONSTELLATION STAR MAP

The Great Texas “Old Blue” Bison Constellation is composed of 254 stars, one for each Texas County. The Constellation is illustrated above by 38 generally visible framework stars high in the sky in the southern sky in September. The 38 framework stars form 39 constellation segments as depicted in the diagram. The Constellation represents a Texas Plains Bison named “OLD BLUE” roaming free across the night sky forever. Each star trailing “OLD BLUE” represents the historical spirit of each Texas Plains Bison that roamed free on the land that is the State of Texas today over thousands and thousands of years. Each spirit bison is a member of The Great Texas “Old Blue” Bison Herd. A new “Old Blue” legend has now emerged. “Old Blue” as depicted by The Constellation shall rise on each “Texas Blue Moon” night in the future and lead The Herd across the night sky to new feeding grounds in one of four (4) Sky Valleys around the celestial sphere to the east of The Constellation. The first Sky Valley just east of The Constellation has been designated by The Group as The Mary Ann (Molly) Goodnight Sky

Valley and is the home of The Great Texas “Old Blue” Bison Herd of spirit bison.

THE STORY

The Constellation was planned and developed in 2011 as an initial activity of The Texas Astronomy Student Study Group sponsored by The STAR DAY Foundation in partnership with Dr. Kerr and the WTA Club. The story of the origin of The Constellation began a few years earlier in 2007 in Culberson County.



FEBRUARY 16, 2011–CULBERSON COUNTY HISTORIC MUSEUM-VAN HORN–Dennis M. Kulvicki (left) visits Robert Stuckey, the Curator of the Culberson County Historical Museum located in the historic Clark Hotel in Van Horn, to formally announce **THE GREAT TEXAS “OLD BLUE” BISON CONSTELLATION PROJECT** as an activity of the “Texas Bison Student Study Group (The Group)” organized on September 12, 2010 at Presidio ISD Lucy Franco Middle School under the supervision by School Principal Teresa Porras and sponsored by The STAR DAY Foundation primarily as an after-school student enrichment program. Robert has been a Board Member of The STAR DAY Foundation since 2007 and pioneered and led numerous historical initiatives in partnership with The STAR DAY Foundation. Robert is also an eAdvisor to The Group.

The Texas Blue Bison sculpture illustrated in the photograph was donated in 2007 to the Culberson County Historical Museum located in the historic Clark Hotel in Van Horn by the Marian Blakemore Museum Planetarium of Midland. Mr. Larry D. Simpson, owner and editor

of The Van Horn Advocate, pioneered and led the donation effort with Mr. Frank Cahoon of Midland. The **Texas “Baby Blue” Bison Sculpture** was painted by artist Karen Winkler of the Children’s Museum of the Southwest Museum of Art of Midland in a scheme featuring celestial planets and stars. The Texas “Baby Blue” Bison sculpture was sponsored by the family that owned the Longfellow Ranch in Culberson County which was purchased by Jeff Bezos, founder and owner of Amazon.com to establish the Blue Origin launch facility. The Texas “Baby Blue” Bison sculpture was created by the Marian Blakemore Museum Planetarium to symbolize space as the last frontier of Texas being pioneered and led by the Blue Origin launch facility in Culberson County set to launch people into space from Culberson County. Dr. Andrew Kerr, Curator of the Marian Blakemore Museum has volunteered to pioneer and lead the effort to create The Great Texas “Old Blue Bison” Constellation in partnership with the West Texas Astronomer Club membership which meets on the second of each month at the planetarium.



FEBRUARY 20, 2013–CULBERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM, VAN HORN–The STAR DAY Foundation is pleased to announce that Patricia Golden, Vice President of the Culberson County Museum Board in Van Horn, Culberson County, has volunteered to be THE OFFICIAL TEXAS “BABY BLUE” BISON GUARDIAN in support of the goals of The Texas Bison Student Study Group. She is also an eAdvisor to The Texas Bison Student Study Group.

The STAR DAY Foundation shall create a Texas “Baby Blue Bison” plush cloth sculpture and supporting children’s book as a “Donation Premium” for parents of Texas 4th grade students to help tell the story of the Texas Plains bison. The donation proceeds of this donation premium shall be used to republish books and donate these books to partnering school libraries supporting Texas Student Study Groups.

THE CELEBRATIONS

To commemorate the migration of The Herd across the night sky led by “OLD BLUE” from one Sky Valley to the next Sky Valley on the night of a Texas Blue Moon, The STAR DAY

Foundation shall plan, develop and conduct “THE TEXAS BISON STAR SYMPHONY CONCERT (The Concert)” featuring music, song and dance as a fundraising event. The event shall feature noted Texas musicians, singers and partnering school band and choir students. In addition, the theme of The Concert shall always feature a tribute in music, song and dance of Native America Indians who hunted Texas Plains Bison over the ages. On that night students and adults across Texas may wish to join-in as “Texas Bison Star Riders in the Sky” to dance and run with The Herd. The first concert shall be planned for Friday, July 31, 2015 at 8PM in a hosting Texas city in partnership with a Television Station. Tickets to attend the live event shall be offered as a Donation Premium. The STAR DAY Foundation shall seek to partner with one or more PALS of Texas Partners to produce and present the live concert and a live Internet fundraising event. A DVD audio/video recording of The Concert shall be offered at The STAR DAY Foundation’s website as a Donation Premium.

THE FOUNDATION



“THE FINAL ACT”

February 19, 1846 – Austin- At the wood-planked capitol building of the Republic of Texas at Hickory (8th) and Colorado streets in Austin, Travis County. Norman Price, Artist. Print courtesy of the University of Texas American History Collection at Austin.

On Thursday, February 19, 1846, two great Texas politicians met in front of the wood-planked Capitol building of the Republic of Texas in the City of Austin, Travis County to conduct one of the most important peace time flag services in the history of the United States. Dr. Anson Jones (1798-1858), the last President of the Republic of Texas, lowered the Lone Star flag of the Republic of Texas for the last official time at 12 noon and witnessed the flag of the United States being raised over the State of Texas, the 28th state of the Union, as James Pinckney Henderson (1808-1858) was sworn in as the first Governor of the State of Texas to the cheers of a few thousand Austin residents and visitors.

The entry of Texas as the 28th state of the United States was a leading factor in the Republic of Mexico declaring war against the United States in 1846. Governor James Pinckney Henderson was formally invited by the first State of Texas Legislature to take a leave of absence from his duties as Governor and lead the State of Texas volunteers into battle which he did as an

outstanding leader of men. Governor Henderson was formally honored by the United States Congress with commemorative sword for his feats of valor during the Mexican War.

The STAR DAY Foundation was organized in 1999 as a Texas nonprofit 501(c)3 organization with mission to pioneer and lead a statewide effort to carryout the legislative intent of the STAR DAY bill (Senate Bill-1656 -76th State Legislature) in partnership with Texas schools and other organizations to inspire a greater appreciation for the history of the state. The bill was proposed by a Galveston County Dickinson ISD Junior High School student. The bill was sponsored by all 254 Texas counties by formal memorial resolutions presented to the State Legislature in 1999. The bill simply states that all Texas public schools shall celebrate the birthday of the State of Texas on the 19th of February each year with appropriate and patriotic programs to inspire a greater appreciation of the history of the state.

To support this mission The STAR DAY Foundation invites Texas Junior High and Middle School Principals to annually organize and maintain a “Texas STAR DAY Student Study Group” in partnership their history teachers, librarians and students with a goal to explore and discover the founding and founders of the State of Texas to enhance classroom instruction. Each Texas STAR DAY Student Study Group is encouraged to plan, develop and conduct an annual “SPIRIT OF STAR DAY CELEBRATION” on the birthday of the State of Texas at their school featuring a school band/choir concert of appropriate and patriotic music and presentations as a service achievement of merit school community birthday gift for our state by the students.

The STAR DAY Foundation since 2000 has planned, developed and conducted a “SPIRIT OF STAR DAY CELEBRATION” in odd years in the Texas State Capitol Rotunda

beginning at 12 noon featuring an invited School Band/Choir concert and featured speakers. The event is sponsored by the State Senator and State Representative of the invited school band. “THE SPIRIT OF STAR DAY 2013 CELEBRATION” was sponsored by State Senator Kel Seliger and State Representative Ken King. The Midland ISD San Jacinto Junior High School Band/Choir presented “THE SPIRIT OF STAR DAY 2013 CONCERT.” Three Texas school participated with nearly 300 students, parents, teachers and others in attendance.

THE FUND



The Seal of "The Official State Bison Herd of Texas Fund" was designed by Thomas S. Cleveland, a well known United States Mint coin designer/illustrator. Cleveland is owner of "The Artist Within School" in Cypress, Texas. He is the designer/illustrator of the Seal of The Fund and The Fund Donation Coins.

The State of Texas Anniversary Remembrance (STAR) Day Foundation of El Paso, Texas announced on STAR DAY, February 19, 2013 at "The SPIRIT OF STAR DAY 2013

CELEBRATION” conducted in the Texas State Capitol Rotunda to celebrate the anniversary of 167th birthday of the State of Texas the organization of “The Official State Bison of Texas Fund (The Fund).” The Fund shall seek to pioneer and lead a statewide, long-term effort to raise funds in a collective and collaborative permanent savings account managed by The STAR DAY Foundation in partnership with families of Texas K-8th grade students (nearly 3.6 million families) and others.

The Fund’s annual interest shall support the presentation of annual grant in September by The STAR DAY Foundation to the Official State Bison Herd of Texas management team at Caprock Canyons State Park under the supervision of the Park Superintendent to support conservation, preservation and restoration work to save, maintain and expand the herd for the people of Texas as an annual service achievement of merit birthday gift from the K-8th grade students and their families for the State of Texas.

The Fund was proposed by “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 Porrás 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 WEBSITE

The STAR DAY Foundation is pioneering and leading an effort to establish a maintain a resource website to share the story of The Fund and the conservation, preservation and restoration work of the Official State Bison Herd of Texas management team at Caprock

Canyons State Park with the people of Texas and friends of Texas worldwide. The STAR DAY Foundation shall invite parents of Texas K-8th grade students to make an annual direct donation to The Fund at the website as a gift in the name of their child as a birthday present for the State of Texas in an amount equaled to their child's age in dollars (AID). **“The Fund AID (Age In Dollars) Program”** shall designate donating families as “The Family Pioneers and Leaders of the State (PALS) of Texas Volunteers” and their children as “The Junior PALS of Texas Volunteers.” In addition adults making a direct donation or making a donation to request a donation premium shall be designated as “The PALS of Texas Volunteers.” Businesses supporting The Fund shall be designated as “The PALS of Texas Partners.”

The website shall also feature a “Donation Premium Center” to provide families and others to make donations and receive unique gifts for their children and themselves for their donations at different donation giving levels. These Donation Premiums shall feature art works, jewelry, children's books, candy, cookies, coins and many other items. The proceeds of each Donation Premium shall be placed in The Fund.

THE eADVISORS

The STAR DAY Foundation has invited a number of professionals in various fields to volunteer and act as eAdvisors in support of the goals of The Texas Bison Student Study Group and the objectives of various research survey initiatives proposed by The Texas Bison Student Study Group as their schedules permit. The following professionals have volunteered as members of “The Texas Bison Student Study Group eAdvisors Council”:

Dr. Andrew Kerr-Dr. Kerr is the Director of the Marian Blakemore Planetarium in Midland, Texas and is Team Director of “THE GREAT TEXAS “OLD BLUE” BISON

CONSTELLATION PROJECT” in partnership with the West Texas Astronomy Club. He is planning to pioneer and lead an initiative to create a Planetarium Program sponsored by The STAR DAY Foundation to tell the story of The Constellation, the Goodnight family and “The Official State Bison Herd of Texas” at Caprock Canyons State Park. The Planetarium Program shall be offered free to other Texas Planetariums for presentation to the public during the months of September and March.

Carol A. Winn-Ms. Winn is the Librarian of the Humphrey’s Highland Elementary School in Amarillo, Texas. She shall advise The STAR DAY Foundation in support of the objectives of “The Texas Bison Student Study Group Readers Are Leaders School POST Library Initiative.” She is also planning an “Expedition” to Caprock Canyons State Park for 4th grade students and others in partnership with parents. Ms. Winn is a noted author of the children’s book “*Buffalo Jones-The Man Who Saved America’s Bison*”. Ms. Winn is conducting research on a book devoted to telling the story of the life and achievements of Mary Ann (Molly) Goodnight (1839-1926).

Teresa Porras-Ms. Porras is currently an Administrator with the Presidio ISD in Presidio, Texas. On October 16, 2006, as Principal of Presidio ISD Lucy Rede Franco Middle School she pioneered and led the initiative sponsored by The STAR DAY Foundation to establish “The Texas Silver Student Studies Group.” The Group has had the opportunity to explore and discover the history, science, technology and engineering principles of silver mining by visiting the Shafter Silver Mine located just 19 miles north of the school on several occasions. The Shafter Silver Mine is now owned by the Aurcana Corporation of Vancouver, British Columbia Canada. The mine has recently been reopened and is producing silver. Governor Rick Perry, a

1999 STAR DAY Founder, issued a Commendation Letter to honor and recognize The Texas Silver Student Study Group for their successful legislative initiative (HCR 102) in 2007 that designated “Silver” as “The Official Precious Metal of Texas.” Ms. Porras on September 12, 2010 pioneered and led the initiative sponsored by The STAR DAY Foundation to establish “The Texas Bison Student Studies Group.” The Group has had the opportunity to conduct an “Expedition” to the Cibolo Creek Ranch in Presidio County just north of their school on May 11, 2011 to explore and discover Texas bison and Texas Bison ranching. Governor Rick Perry, a 1999 STAR DAY Founder, issued a Commendation Letter to honor and recognize The Texas Bison Student Study Group for their successful legislative initiative (HCR 86) in 2011 that designated the Goodnight Herd of Texas Plains bison at Caprock Canyons State Park as “The Official State Bison Herd of Texas.”

Andy Cloud- Mr. Cloud is Director of the Center for Big Bend Studies (CBBS) of Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Brewster County. He 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.

Juanita Pahdopony- Professor Pahdopony is an Assistant Professor of Arts and Humanities, a Tribal College Fellow and Dean of Academic Affairs of The Comanche Nation College in Lawton, Oklahoma. She is a member of the Comanche Nation. Professor Pahdopony shall share a Comanche historical perspective to build and strengthen cultural bridges of understanding between Texas students and the students of the homelands of the Comanche Nation through art, music, dance and writings. She shall pioneer and led an effort to share the culture, heritage and history of the people of the Comanche Nation well known as great Texas' Plains bison hunters.

Robert Cavness- Mr. Cavness is the Ranch Manager of the Cibolo Creek Ranch in Presidio County, Texas. He manages a 30,000 acre ranch featuring a Texas Bison Herd.

Patricia Golden-Ms. Golden is the Vice President of the Culberson County Museum Board in Van Horn, Culberson County. She has also volunteered to be THE OFFICIAL TEXAS "BABY BLUE" BISON GUARDIAN in support of the goals of The Texas Bison Student Study Group.

Le'Ann Pigg-Ms. Pigg is the Park Interpreter and Volunteer Coordinator at Caprock Canyons State Park (The Park). Ms. Pigg shall help coordinate "Expeditions" to The Park by partnering schools supporting a Texas Bison Student Study Group. She is also The Park's eNewsletter editor.

Allen Cooper-Professor Cooper is the Director of The Australian Centre for Ancient DNA at the University of Adelaide in Australia. He is also ARC Future Fellow at the School of Earth

& Environmental Science Professor. Professor Cooper and his colleagues are conducting DNA research studies on the ancient bison of China and other North America sites. His research agenda and overviews of his published scientific works shall be shared with The Texas Bison Student Study Group.



THE STATE OF TEXAS ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE DAY FOUNDATION

APPENDIX

The APPENDIX contains bookmarks to provide an opportunity for students to explore and discover the life and achievements of Mary Ann (Molly) Goodnight (1839-1926) and Charles Goodnight both inducted in 2006 into The First Pioneers and Leaders of The State (PALS) of Texas Hall of Honor established by The STAR DAY Foundation in 2000.



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



MARY ANN (MOLLY) GOODNIGHT
(1839-1926)

Accomplished Texans who serve as positive role models for young people deserve special recognition, and Mary Ann "Molly" Goodnight, Armstrong County pioneer and wife of Charles Goodnight embodied the strength and spirit that has made Texas an enduring example to the rest of the country.

Molly Goodnight was born September 12, 1839, in Madison County, Tennessee; she moved with her family to Fort Belknap, Texas, in 1854; after the death of her parents, she worked as a schoolteacher and took care of her five brothers.

She met Charles Goodnight in the mid-1860s, and they married in 1870; the couple settled in Pueblo, Colorado, where Charles had already established a ranch; drought and the Panic of 1873 caused the family to return to Texas, where Charles received backing from Irish investor John George Adair, who became his partner.

The Goodnights founded a ranch in the Texas Panhandle based in Palo Duro Canyon; Molly became doctor, nurse, spiritual comforter, sister, and mother to the ranch hands who worked there, but her most important role was wife and helpmate to the most famous rancher on the High Plains.

She became interested in the plight of the baby bison left behind by the commercial hunters who had ravaged the great bison herds that roamed the Plains; recognizing that the extinction of the bison was imminent, she encouraged her husband to establish the Goodnight bison herd, which has since become the Official State Bison Herd of Texas and is now located at Caprock Canyons State Park.

Known as the Mother of the Panhandle of Texas, Molly helped establish Goodnight College, and the town of Goodnight is named in honor of her and her husband; Molly died in 1926, and her headstone reads "Mary Ann Dyer Goodnight, One who spent her whole life in the service of others."

NOTE: The photograph (PA-653) is used with permission from the Amarillo Public Library's collection. The above text is the text of Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 10 authored by State Senator Kel Seliger and sponsored by State Representative Ken King during the 83rd Regular Session of the Texas State Legislature. SCR 10 designated September 12th as "The Mary Ann (Molly) Goodnight Day" in Texas to honor and remember her life and achievements. She is truly deserving of this signal honor for her pioneering work alongside her husband and her visionary leadership efforts of saving a herd of Texas' Plains bison that is now "The Official State Bison Herd of Texas" at Caprock Canyons State Park for the people of Texas. The bill was proposed by The Texas Bison Student Study Group (The Group) sponsored by The STAR DAY Foundation of El Paso, Texas as an after-school student enrichment program hosted by Texas schools 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; to research and study the history and culture of Native American people who hunted bison; to study and evaluate the feasibility of the use of Texas bison ground meat as a component of school lunch programs; to investigate and propose ways and means to raise needed funds 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 under the supervision of the Park Superintendent; and to plan, develop and conduct "Expeditions" to visit Caprock Canyons State Park and local/regional partnering Texas bison ranches to see bison and experience bison ranching first hand. The STAR DAY Foundation shall invite Texas Junior High and Middle School history teachers, librarians, homeschooling families and others to plan, develop and conduct an annual "Mary Ann (Molly) Goodnight Day" classroom student studies activity to inspire and motivate students to explore and discover her life and achievements as an outstanding conservation, preservation and restoration historical role model as the woman who saved Texas Plains bison for the people of Texas now known as "The Official State Bison Herd of Texas, A State of Texas Treasure!" The STAR DAY Foundation invites Texans and Friends of Texas worldwide to volunteer and join the long term effort of The Group to raise donations to support the conservation, preservation and restoration work of the Official State Bison Herd of Texas management team at Caprock Canyons State Park as an annual STAR DAY birthday gift for the State of Texas.

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



**CHARLES GOODNIGHT
(1836-1929)**

The names of certain individuals stand out boldly in the history of the Lone Star State, and for more than a century, the life of famed rancher Charles Goodnight has inspired generations of Texans.

Born on March 5, 1836, to Charles and Charlotte Goodnight in Macoupin County, Illinois, young Charles Goodnight joined his family in 1845 on the 800-mile journey to Milam County, Texas, where the boy arrived riding bareback on a white-faced mare named Blaze; from an early age, he learned the virtue of hard work, laboring as a farmhand, racing as a jockey, and hauling freight with teams of oxen.

Mr. Goodnight entered into a partnership with his stepbrother, John Wesley Sheek, in 1856 to raise 400 head of cattle in the Brazos Valley; in the late 1850s, he met Oliver Loving, and together the two young men drove a herd to the gold rush camps in Colorado before the Civil War; during the 1860s, he worked as a scout for the Texas Rangers, taking part in the Comanche wars and fighting outlaws along the Colorado and Brazos River.

After his service with the Rangers, Mr. Goodnight returned to the cattle business, and in 1866, he, Mr. Loving, and 18 cowhands drove a herd from Fort Belknap, Texas, to Fort Sumner, New Mexico, and the route they forged became known as the Goodnight-Loving Trail, one of the most heavily trafficked cattle trails in the Southwest; Charles Goodnight is also credited with inventing the chuck wagon during that legendary drive.

In 1870, he married Mary Ann "Molly" Dyer, a schoolteacher, and the couple settled in Colorado for several years before returning to Texas; in 1876, he entered into a partnership with John G. Adair to set up the JA Ranch along Palo Duro Canyon, with Mr. Goodnight serving as resident manager and part owner of the operation; over the next 11 years, he increased the ranch's herd and expanded its range

and helped establish law and order in the Panhandle; he pioneered the use of many new techniques and inventions, including artificial watering facilities, barbed wire fences, and the development of Hereford bulls through crossbreeding; he also created one of the first western sidesaddles, for use by his wife.

From 1887 to 1926, Charles and Molly Goodnight lived in a spacious, two-story ranch house on the Goodnight Ranch near the Salt Fork of the Red River; when his wife became distressed at the decline of the southern herd of native bison, Mr. Goodnight took up their cause, breeding them on his ranch and shipping buffalo to Yellowstone National Park and to zoos on the East Coast and in Europe; he also raised other animals and performed agricultural experiments with the encouragement of botanist Luther Burbank.

Molly Goodnight died in 1926, and Charles Goodnight followed her three years later at the age of 93, and they are buried together in the Goodnight Cemetery, not far from the ranch they called home for nearly 40 years; the descendants of the Goodnights' buffalo live on as the Official State Bison Herd of Texas at Caprock Canyons State Park, and the legacy of Charles Goodnight, pioneer, cattleman, and naturalist, will endure as long as the Lone Star shines bright over Texas.

NOTE: The picture has been drawn from the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Canyon, Texas. The above text is the text of House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 51 authored by State Representative Ken King and sponsored by State Senator Kel Seliger during the 83rd Regular Session of the Texas State Legislature. HCR 51 designated March 5th as "The Charles Goodnight Day" in Texas to honor and remember his life and achievements. He is truly deserving of this signal honor for his pioneering work alongside his wife and his visionary leadership efforts of saving a herd of Texas' Plains bison that is now "The Official State Bison Herd of Texas" at Caprock Canyons State Park for the people of Texas. The bill was proposed by The Texas Bison Student Study Group (The Group) sponsored by The STAR DAY Foundation of El Paso, Texas as an after-school student enrichment program hosted by Texas schools. The STAR DAY Foundation shall invite Texas Junior High and Middle School history teachers, Texas homeschooling families and others to plan, develop and conduct an annual "Charles Goodnight Day" classroom student studies activity to inspire and motivate students to explore and discover his life and achievements as an outstanding conservation, preservation and restoration historical role model.

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