



THE STATE OF TEXAS ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE DAY FOUNDATION  
***THE TEXAS BISON STUDENT STUDY GROUP JOURNAL***

# ***“The Charles and Mary Ann Goodnight Home”***

By

Carol A. Winn



“The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to celebrate the recent restoration of the home of Charles and Mary Ann Goodnight.

Charles and Mary Ann Goodnight played a seminal role in the history of the State of Texas; Charles was a pioneering rancher and cattleman; Mary Ann was his touchstone and helpmate and was beloved as the woman who saved the Texas Plains bison from extinction.

This remarkable couple built an equally remarkable home in 1887; situated on 30 acres in the Texas Panhandle, the 2,900-square-foot building has been painstakingly returned to its original state and is now a part of the Goodnight Historical Center.

An outstanding example of Folk Victorian architecture, the home features a first-floor wraparound porch, a parlor, a receiving room, a master bedroom, Mr. Goodnight's office, and a tradesman's office; across the dog-run are the dining room and the kitchen; upstairs are the Parson's Bedroom, a quilting room, and two other bedrooms that open onto the second-story porch.

This extraordinarily crafted home overlooking Palo Duro Canyon is a powerful tribute to the legacy of the Goodnight family; it includes the original stained glass windows and sliding doors, and on its grounds is a bronze sculpture that was donated to honor Mary Ann Goodnight for her role as the savior of the Texas Plains bison.

The Goodnight family was one of the most revered families in all of Texas, and the preservation of this architectural treasure as part of the Goodnight Historical Center is indeed worthy of commemoration.”

NOTE: The photograph was extracted from an article published in the *LubbockOnline Edition* of the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal* on July 10, 2012 contributed by the Morris News Service entitled-“*Renovation Winds down at historic Goodnight Cattle Ranch.*” The text of the eArticle is the text of Texas Senate Resolution 882 authored by State Senator Kel Seliger on May 13, 2013 during the 83 Regular Session of the Texas Legislature. Senator Kel Seliger along with State Representative Tom Craddick were sponsors of “THE SPIRIT OF STAR DAY 2013 CELEBRATION” hosted by The STAR DAY Foundation which was conducted in the Texas State Capitol Rotunda on STAR DAY, February 19, 2013 dedicated to remembering the 167<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birthday of the Great State of Texas. The event featured a SPIRIT OF STAR DAY 2013 School Band Concert performed by the Midland ISD San Jacinto Junior High School Band, “The Spirit of STAR DAY 2013 Service Achievement of Merit (SAM) Award” presentations and recipient speeches. Three (3) schools participated with nearly 300 students and others attending bringing service achievement of merit SPIRIT OF STAR DAY birthday gifts for our state. At the request of The Texas Bison Student Study Group, Senator Kel Seliger authored Senate Concurrent Resolution 10 to designate September 12<sup>th</sup> as “THE MARY ANN (MOLLY) GOODNIGHT DAY.” State Representative Ken King authored House Concurrent Resolution 51 at the request of The Texas Bison Student Study Group to designate March 5<sup>th</sup> as “THE CHARLES GOODNIGHT DAY.” State Representative Ken King also authored House Resolution 473 to designated February 19, 2013 as “PANHANDLE DAY” at the State Capitol. The Charles and Mary Ann Goodnight Home in Goodnight is now owned by The Armstrong County Museum in Claude ([armstrongcountymuseum.com](http://armstrongcountymuseum.com)). Armstrong County Museum Chairwoman Montie Goodin and her volunteers pioneered and led a multimillion dollar

conservation, preservation and restoration campaign beginning in 2005 to open the 1887, 2900 square foot, two-story home for public tours on October 5, 2012. Ms. Goodin was born in the home! Ms. Goodin volunteered in 2005 to be an eAdvisor for “The Texas First PALS Student Study Group” sponsored by The STAR DAY Foundation. She nominated Mary Ann (Molly) Goodnight (1839-1926) and Charles Goodnight (1836-1929) for induction into “The First Pioneers and Leaders of the State (PALS) of Texas Hall of Honor” as the first Texas Panhandle ranch family. The inductions took place during “THE SPIRIT OF STAR DAY 2006 CELEBRATION” dedicated to remembering the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birthday of the Great State of Texas! The STAR DAY Foundation is launching “THE OFFICIAL STATE BISON HERD OF TEXAS FUND” on September 12, 2013, “The Mary Ann (Molly) Goodnight Day” at Caprock Canyons State Park, to help raise funds to support the conservation, preservation and restoration work of the Official State Bison Herd of Texas management team under the supervision of the Park Superintendent in partnership with families of Texas K-12<sup>th</sup> grade students and others as an annual STAR DAY service achievement of merit birthday gift from the students and the people of Texas.

**Editor’s Note:** Carol A. Winn is the School Librarian at the Humphrey’s Highland Elementary School in Amarillo, Texas. She is the author of the children’s book “*Buffalo Jones-The Man Who Saved America’s Bison.*” Ms. Winn has volunteered to act as an eAdvisor to The Texas Bison Student Study Group. She is pioneering and leading an effort to organize a Texas Bison Student Study Group in Amarillo with plans to conduct an “Expedition” to visit Caprock Canyons State Park to explore and discover the Official State Bison Herd of Texas.

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