



TEXAS  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

## Texas Historical Markers Mediation Exercise



The State of Texas has commissioned more than 13,000 Historical Markers to recognize various historical events, people, places, and cemeteries. Individuals and organizations can apply to obtain new historical markets for a \$100 application fee to the Texas Historical Commission. Often the brief historical description leaves much unsaid, and leaves historical interpretation to the applicant, or as many Native Americans say, to the victors.



Texas Historical Marker #6187, on the campus of Collin County Community College highlights the outcome of an Indian raid, without noting the raider's identity. The City of Plano hopes to establish a park and memorial at the site.

See "PreserVing a Brut al Piece of Hst ory" DMN12/30/2004.

### Muncey Massacre

McBain Jameson and Jeremiah Muncey settled in this vicinity in 1840 and 1842. While hunting in late 1844, William Rice and Leonard Searcy came to Muncey's hut and found the savagely slain bodies of Jameson, Muncey, Mrs. Muncey, and a small child, and recognized signs of an Indian raid. The men sped out to their own sons, who were hunting nearby. Young Searcy was found safe, but Rice had been killed. Two Muncey boys disappeared, never to be found. Another was at Throckmorton settlement. That was the last tragic Indian raid in Collin county. (1976)

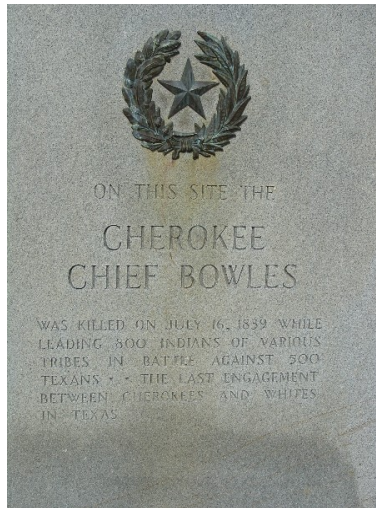
On the other hand, many Texas Historical Markers celebrate Euro-American outlaws, like this one in Mesquite.

### Scyene Meeting Place Marker 6879

In the 1840s, settlers held public meetings under a tree at this site. Beginning in the 1850s, several successive 2-story frame buildings stood here and housed Masonic Lodge, church, elections, and social activities. Scyene Meeting Place housed one of the first public school sessions in Dallas County. **In her girlhood, outlaw Belle Starr was a pupil in that school.** In 1872, Texas & Pacific Railroad bypassed Scyene and the town dwindled. The Woodmen of the World and other groups continued to meet in the community building, and school was held here until 1927. Bicentennial project donated by **Mesquite** Historical and Genealogical Society.



## Interpreting of the History of Cherokees in Texas



The 83 year-old Cherokee Chief Bowles (Chief Duwali) and about 800 others, including 600 women, children, and elderly, from various tribes were killed in the Battle of the Neches on July 15-16, 1839.

Unlike Texas' first President Sam Houston, Mirabeau B. Lamar, the second president of the Republic of Texas, refused to honor the agreement Texas' first president Sam Houston had with the Cherokee. He ordered the Texas Secretary of War to remove the Indians from East Texas. With no more than 26 guns, the village could not withstand the assault from the Texas militia. The result was a massacre and removal of all survivors to Oklahoma.

*The official site marker simply reads:*

"Cherokee Chief Bowles was killed on July 16, 1939 while leading 800 Indians in Battle against 500 Texans ... the last engagement between Cherokees and whites in Texas."

The marker fails to mention that the Cherokees of East Texas had maintained positive relations with Mexican and American settlers in the area and had long been in negotiations with the Mexican and Texan governments to legalize their lands in the ever changing political landscape. Bowles had already agreed to relocate once the corn crop was harvested, but was surprised by the Texas army a few weeks prior to harvest.

**The American Indian Cultural Society maintains an alternative sign at the site:**



*Their primary alternative marker reads:*

"We have personally taken on the responsibility of preservation and maintaining this sacred ground. Helping to preserve it as a memorial and sanctuary to all who wish to HONOR and RESPECT the ancient traditions, beliefs, and customs of all American Indian people.

"This place is now and forever considered sacred ground. The spirits of the men, women and children slain here can still be felt. Their blood and tears forever stain the land."

*"On this land," another alternative marker focused on Chief Bowles (which of course, is not what Duwali was known as among his own people), states:*

"On this land the Texas Cherokee and 13 associated bands, led by Chief Bowles (Duwali) , Chief Gatnuwali, Chief Big Mush, and 5 other Chiefs , with many men, women and children perished, along with the burning of a Delaware village on 16 July 1839. "

See: <http://www.paulridenour.com/bowles.htm>



## Lipan Apaches Attempt to Complete the Historical Record

Numerous Texas Historical Markers refer to the Lipan Apache. Including this one at the site of Fort Duncan:



### Fort Duncan

“Established March 27, 1849, by Capt. Sidney Burbank with Companies A, B and F First U.S. Infantry. Name honors Col. James Duncan, a hero of the Mexican War.

Fort served as a frontier outpost near trail of California emigrants. Base of operations against hostile Lipan Apache Indians.

In 1851 it became the headquarters of the First Infantry. By 1854 the Garrison included units of mounted rifles and First Artillery....

“In 1868 Fort Duncan was regarrisoned by the 9th Infantry and Headquarters Company of the 41st Infantry under Col William R. Shafter – Seminole Negro scouts. Organized here August 16, 1870, played a large part in ridding western Texas of Indians....”

Descendants of the survivors of the Lipan Apache Band of Texas have designed several traveling alternative historical markers in order to balance the historical record.



This Land which is now West Texas is the traditional homeland of the Lipan Apache.

In 1540, people from Europe came looking for gold then started colonizing the land for themselves.

They say they came looking for FREEDOM and LIBERTY but afforded little of this to the Indians.

In 1832, immigrant settlers overthrew Mexico's rule and in 1845, the U.S. accepted Texas as its 28th state. As part of statehood, Texas assigned the U.S. Government the responsibility and duty to remove the LIPAN APACHE and other Texas Indians from Texas.

On May 18, 1873, the U.S. 4th Cavalry led by Col. Mackenzie crossed into Mexico near Quemado, Texas and assaulted the Lipan Apache and Kickapoo villages at El Remolino.

Scouts had reported the men were away so little resistance was expected.

The villages were burned to the ground and many woman and children were killed.

29 Apache women and children were taken POWs and forced from their homeland to Oklahoma and New Mexico. Assaults on Lipan Apache continued into the early 1900s by U.S. and Mexican forces as well as civilian renegades. Because hostilities by these governments and renegade settlers the Lipan Apache had to go underground and many still remain here on the land the Creator placed them on. Lipan Apache today have celebrations on May 19<sup>th</sup> to celebrate their survival in spite of overwhelming odds.

Descendants of the Survivors  
Lipan Apache Band of Texas

Designed by Richard A. Gonzalez