

Pan American Round Tables of Texas
56TH Biennial Convention
State Board Meeting

Lana Harper, Historian
March 26, 2011-March 22, 2013
Eagle Pass, Texas 78852

ACTIVITY REPORT

On March 26th, 2011, I was installed as Historian at the State convention in McAllen. Since that time I have been actively involved with fulfilling the duties and responsibilities of my elected position. I can truthfully say that I am so honored and happy to have been selected to serve and that for the years I have been a member of the Pan American Round Tables, having served at the State level is one of the highlights. Following is a summary of my activities which are part of my responsibilities as Historian.

On March 22-23, 2012, I attended the Annual Board of Directors Meeting at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Laredo, Texas. While visiting with several of the State Directors, and namely Past State Director Berta Garcia, it was mentioned that since the State Convention was to be held in Eagle Pass that it would be of interest if we could locate the birthplace of Florence Terry Griswold. I was informed that the location was outside Eagle Pass, near Carrizo Springs, Texas and on the Pendencia Creek.

Coincidentally, my husband, Bryan Harper, is from Crystal City, Texas, which is located a few miles from Carrizo Springs, and at one time, he taught school in Carrizo Springs. Having grown up and worked in that area he knows people whose families have been there for years. While driving home, it then became clear to me that my mission as PARTT State Historian was not only to record our history in a scrapbook, but to locate the birthplace of Florence Terry Griswold.

The journey to finding the location is quite extensive in that many hours were spent locating property deeds in Dimmitt County and Maverick County. When speaking to Jack Van Cleve from Uvalde, Texas, who is ninety-five years old, and had ranched the property for years, he informed us that there was a well on the Weather's Ranch, currently owned by a Dr. Taylor. He said that the well was built by the Terry family where their home was built.

In the process of finding the location, it was necessary to obtain permission from the present day owners of the property to allow us to enter the premises. At first, they were skeptical as to why we were interested and like most land owners cautious as to whom they allow on their property. They were told to review our Organization at our website. Once they had researched our history and realized we were for "real" Dr. Taylor contacted my husband and told him he would meet us at the location and take us to the well.

It was a clear, but cool Friday morning, in early November, that we went to meet Dr. Taylor at his ranch. After trudging through mesquite bushes, sticker burs, husiache and cactus we finally reached the site of the well. Dr. Taylor was very gracious and told us we could take photos and pick up as much of the broken glass and metal that we wanted.

While researching the location of the well, it was established that several decedents of the Terry family still live in Eagle Pass and Piedras Negras, Coahuila Mexico. We were also able to obtain copies of some of the legal documents that Florence's father wrote when he practiced law in Eagle Pass at the Maverick County Court House. The location of her grandmother's home which was became the family's boarding house was also determined.

Perhaps the next phase of this mission would be to apply for a Historical Marker to be placed at the site of Florence Terry Griswold's birthplace. This, of course, would be a decision made by the State Board.

On August 12, 2012, I attended the State Director's Meeting that was held in San Antonio, Texas. At the meeting, I reminded the Table Directors to send me information for the State Scrapbook and also provided information regarding the State Convention in Eagle Pass.

On September 18, 2012, I sent letters and e-mailed the Table Directors a reminder to send me information for the State Scrapbook. In November, I sent a postcard inserted in a letter about the Convention to the Table Directors asking that they please bring their Table Scrapbooks for display at the Convention.

In working with Mary Ann Palka, Webmaster and Isabel Vezzetti, Communications Chairperson, it was possible for me to facilitate the need for Tables to send photos by downloading the pictures posted on the PARTT website and use them for the State Scrapbook. I would like to suggest that we revisit our process of Tables sending photos to several State Directors/Committees and perhaps use this process to streamline our gathering of information.

In closing, I would like to thank you for your assistance by sending photos and information for me to use in the State Scrapbook. Serving as the Pan American Round Tables of Texas State Historian has been a very rewarding experience. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lana Harper
PARTT Historian

**FOLLOWING PAGES ARE A PICTORIAL
STORY OF THE SEARCH FOR THE WELL.**



The well located at the site of the Terry homestead where Florence Terry Griswold was born.



The Custom's House purchased by Florence Terry Griswold's Grandmother for her residence. It later became her Aunt's Boarding House.



The bridge over Pendencia Creek



Pendencia Creek as it looks today.