

Beyond the Parlor: Founders of the Austin Woman's Club



Mrs. Percy V. Pennybacker



Mrs. Miriam A. Ferguson
Governor of Texas 1925-1927



Mrs. Sam J. Smith
Founding President



Mrs. Dan Moody



Miss Lila Casis



Mrs. Loomis Slaughter, Historian



Mrs. Zachary T. Scott



Mrs. Paul L. Zedler

an exhibit from the
Historic Textile and
Apparel Collection
at UT Austin

Directed by
Professor Gail Chovan



352E: HISTORIC APPAREL COLLECTION & EXHIBIT MANAGEMENT







Mrs. Percy V. Pennybacker

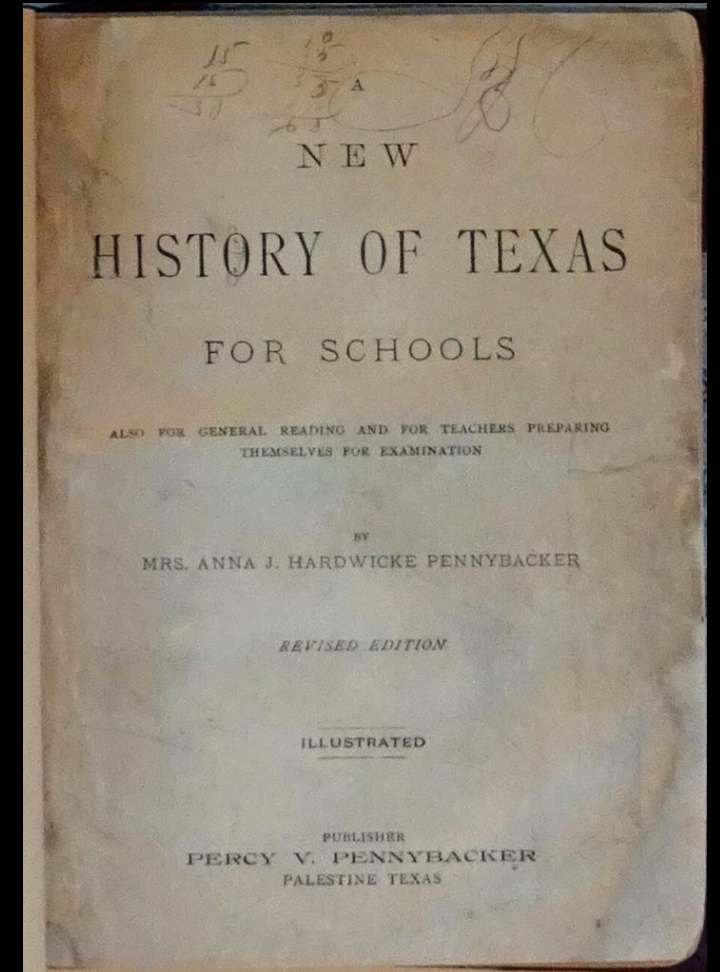
MRS. PERCY PENNYBAKER

1861-1938

Anna Hardwicke Pennybacker was a pioneering educator, author, and women's rights advocate whose influence helped shape Texas history.

A graduate of the first class of Sam Houston Normal School (now Sam Houston State University), Pennybacker went on to write and publish "A New History of Texas" in 1888, a widely used textbook in the state's schools. She founded and was a member of various women's organizations where she championed educational and civic reform. She raised funds for scholarships for female students at UT Austin as well as created a women's dormitory.

A prominent nationally recognized leader in the women's suffrage movement, Pennybacker's legacy endures in Austin through the Percy V. Pennybacker Jr. Bridge, named in honor of her and her family's contributions to Texas and beyond.



MIRIAM “Ma” FERGUSON

1865 – 1971

Miriam Amanda “Ma” Ferguson was the first female governor of Texas. Born in Bell County, Texas, she attended Salado College and Baylor Female College at Belton. Ferguson ran for the governorship in order to restore her family's honor due to her husband James Ferguson's impeachment as Texas governor in 1917. She served 2 non-consecutive terms from 1925 to 1927, and from 1933 to 1935.

During her time in office, she increased education funding, condemned the KKK, opposed liquor prohibition, and signed the Texas House Bill 134, which helped establish the University of Houston as a four-year institution. At the age of 54 in 1929, she helped found the Austin Woman's Club as a space for women to engage in and support educational, historical, and civic programs.



Mrs. Miriam A. Ferguson
Governor of Texas 1925-1927



MIRIAM A. FERGUSON

Candidate for Governor

SECOND TERM

SUBJECT TO THE ACTION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY, JULY 24, 1926



1. Read what Fergusonism has done for Texas.
2. A man who will not read both sides of a question is dishonest.—Markus Lincoln.
2. Do not send a boy to jail.
4. The State is now on a cash basis, and there is money in the Treasury.
4. The penitentiary is paying its way.
6. Taxes have been reduced.
7. No strikes or lynchings.
8. The schools are being run economically and efficiently.
9. The income have been taken out of jails.
10. Mercy and forgiveness is extended to the friendless and unfortunate.
11. All these a woman Governor has brought to Texas.
12. Why change?





MILDRED PAXTON MOODY

1897 – 1983

Born in Abilene, Texas, Mildred Paxton Moody was married to Dan Moody, Texas Governor, making her the First Lady of Texas from 1927 - 1931. She received a BA in English in 1917 from Simmons University and then an MA from the University of Texas. She later returned to Simmons as a teacher. She additionally received a Journalism degree from Columbia University in New York. As both a journalist and preservationist, she realized the financial challenges faced by woman's organizations and subsequently joined the AWC so it could be preserved and decorated by appointed regents.

An active member of the Austin Junior League, Red Cross United Fund and Settlement Club, she was also instrumental in the decoration and continued preservation of the Governor's mansion.



Mrs. Dan Moody





Miss Lila Casis

MISS LILIA CASIS

1869 - 1947

Lilia Mary Casis was born in Kingston, Jamaica in 1869. After the death of her father, she moved to Texas in 1890 with her mother and sister. In 1894, Miss Casis entered the University of Texas in Austin and completed her bachelor's degree in one year followed by a Master's degree in Romance languages. Affiliated with the UT Austin for the rest of her life, as she served as an instructor (1897), adjunct professor (1899), and associate professor (1908). She was appointed a full professor in 1916 and served as dean of women from 1919 to 1921.

In addition to teaching, she was an active community member participating in the YMCA, YWCA, University Ladies Club, and American Association of University Women. Miss Casis was made an honorary life member of the Texas State Historical Association. Her legacy remains in Casis Elementary School, the eponymous school, that was formed supporting neighborhood students as well as those with physical disabilities.





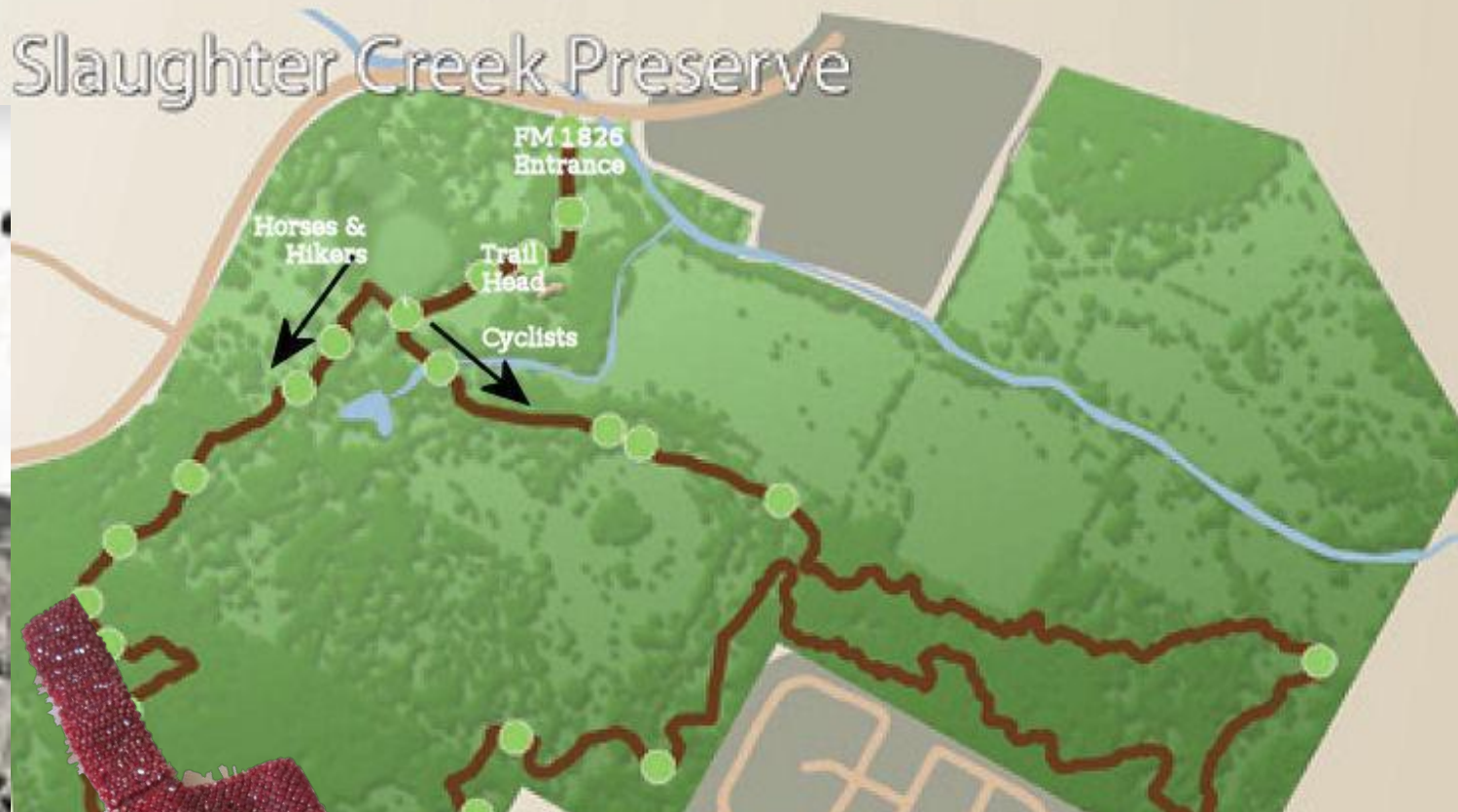
Mrs. Loomis Slaughter, Historian

MRS. LOMIS SLAUGHTER

1889 - 1977

Born Johnie Trotter in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, she married Lomis Slaughter in Texas in 1912. She became the wife of the respected Austin grocery store and meat market owner and was a dedicated wife and mother to their three children, Lomis Jr, George Owen and Lois Elizabeth. Mrs. Slaughter supported the American Association of University Women, was one of the founding members of the Austin Woman's Club and held the position of historian. As a couple, the Slaughters participated in volunteering and social events, and Mrs. Slaughter was known as an active member of the community.

The Slaughter family legacy lives on in the naming of Slaughter Lane in South Austin near Slaughter Creek. According to city documents, the Slaughter family first moved to the area about the time Texas became a republic.





Mrs. Zachary T. Scott

MRS. ZACHARY SCOTT, SR.

1888 – 1984

Born Sallie Lee Masterson to Robert B. and Anna Masterson in Fort Worth, she moved to Austin in 1909 after her marriage to Dr. Zachary Scott. As an active community member and devoted mother to her three children, including the actor Zachary Scott, she sought to preserve as well as uplift women's voices. She was a founding member of the Austin Woman's Club.

She died on 15 November 1983, in Austin, Travis, Texas, United States, at the age of 95, and was buried in Austin Memorial Park Cemetery. Sallie Lee's legacy, rooted in our city's culture and civic life, is well-documented documentation Austin History Center where among the Scott family papers can be found her personal diaries dating back to 1907 and 1908.





Mrs. Paul L. Zedler

MRS. PAUL ZEDLER

1908 -2006

Empress Zedler was a pioneer and a trailblazer. Born in 1908, she spent her early years earning multiple educational degrees from distinguished universities including Columbia University as well as a PhD from the University of Texas at Austin. She became well-known throughout the state and the nation as an authority in child psychology with a special emphasis on the recognition and treatment of dyslexia.

Beyond her academic accomplishments, she married Paul Zedler in 1928 and the following year, she became a founding member of the Austin Woman's Club. Years later, her daughter, also named Empress, became a member as well. Dr. Empress Zedler left a renowned legacy with her many accomplishments and awards in the fields of child psychology and education.

EMPRESS YOUNG AWARDED BATTLE OF FLOWERS PRIZE

Empress Young of Abilene won first place in the Battle of Flowers Contest to determine the best speaker to deliver an address before the meeting of the Battle of Flowers Association in San Antonio on April 21. The first place carried a prize of \$100. Her subject was "Pioneer Women."

Miss Young won over four other speakers, William Ryan, Marion Olson, Joyce Cox, and Ed Gossett. All spoke on subjects appropriate for a San Jacinto occasion.

Each speech was written by the speaker and was between ten and fifteen minutes in length. The contest is a yearly one, sponsored by the Battle of Flowers Association of San Antonio.

The judges were Dr. J. B. Wharey, Dr. L. L. Click, Mr. Steinberg, Mrs. Powell and Mrs. Buckholz.



EMPRESS YOUNG

