

# Foundations: *The Names on the Bricks*

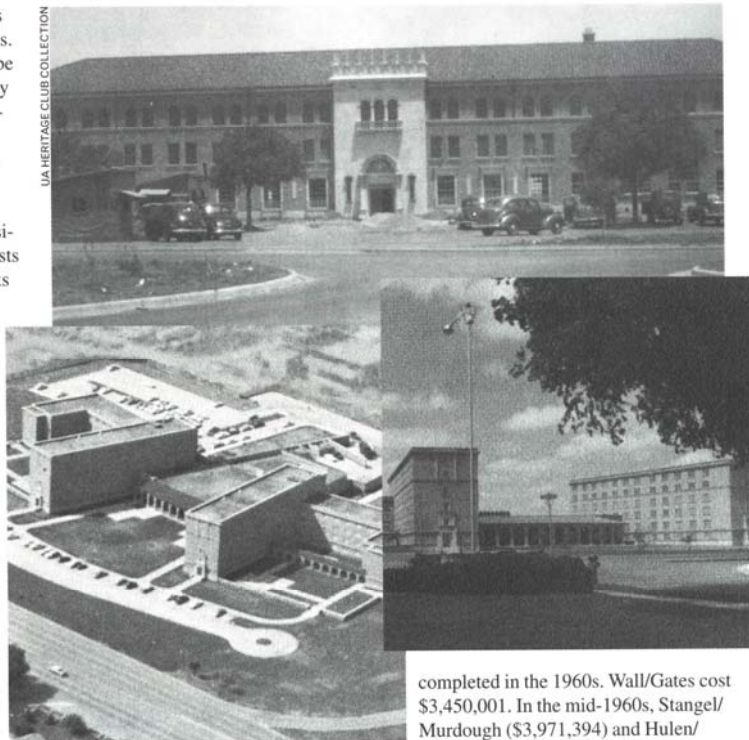
By Jennifer Spurrier, Reference Archivist, Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library  
 Photos courtesy of the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library

Today at Texas Tech University names on bricks may be found all across campus. Perhaps the most familiar names would be those found on buildings, most frequently residence halls. When perusing the reference files at the Southwest Collection/Special Collection Library, one may discover information related to university buildings. In the file "Texas Tech: Buildings" is a single sheet that lists "residence halls," "cost" and "year." It also lists 22 names that are still found on the bricks of buildings today.

In 1934, two residence halls were built. Doak Hall was built for a purported \$313,618 and West Hall for \$326,713. The significance here is not the cost of the buildings, but rather the names on the buildings. Doak Hall was named after Mary Woodward Doak, who served as the first dean of women at Texas Tech. West Hall was named after James M. West, who served as member of the board of directors for the school. Two more buildings appeared in the late 1930s. Drane Hall was completed for about \$371,428, and Sneed Hall for \$345,133. Mrs. Frank N. Drane served on Texas Tech's first board of directors. Sneed Hall was named in honor of Joseph T. Sneed Jr., who was also a board member and also served as chairman.

The next residence halls to appear were Bledsoe/Gordon (\$1,786,163) and Horn/Knapp (\$1,730,520). These halls opened in the late 1940s. William H. Bledsoe was a senator from Lubbock County who was influential in the success of Senate Bill 103, which provided for the creation of Texas Tech and its location in Lubbock. James Marcus Gordon, an original faculty member, served as the dean of liberal arts. The Horn/Knapp complex carries the names of the first two presidents. Paul Whitfield Horn served as president from 1925-1932. Bradford Knapp served as the college's second president from 1932-1938.

More residence halls were built in the late 1950s. These buildings included Weeks (\$1,730,520), Thompson/Gaston



*Clockwise from top: Sneed Hall, Wall/Gates, Hulen/Clement.*

(\$2,705,120) and Carpenter/Wells (\$2,604,351). Weeks Hall was named for Margaret W. Weeks, who served as the dean of home economics. Thompson Hall carries the name of Charles C. Thompson, a board member who also served as the chairman of the board for almost 15 years. William Thomas Gaston worked at the college from 1929-1954 in two positions, business manager for the college and secretary to the board of directors. Carpenter Hall bears the name of John W. Carpenter, who was a member of Texas Tech's first board of directors. Spencer Wells was also a board member and served as an early vice-chairman for the college.

The next round of residence halls was

completed in the 1960s. Wall/Gates cost \$3,450,001. In the mid-1960s, Stangel/Murdough (\$3,971,394) and Hulen/Clement (\$3,124,000) followed. The last residence hall addition for the decade was the Wiggins complex comprised of Chitwood/Coleman/Weymouth (\$18,000,000). C. I. Wall was an early board member. William B. Gates was an original faculty member, an English professor who later served as Graduate School dean. Wenzel L. Stangel, another original faculty member, also was a dean (agriculture). Professor James H. Murdough joined as a faculty member in 1925. Soon thereafter he became department chair for civil engineering. Gen. John A. Hulen was appointed to Texas Tech's second board. W. P. Clement served the institution in several capacities. He was a professor, the third registrar, and later director of admissions.

Dr. Dossie Marion Wiggins (Wiggins complex) served as faculty, dean, and

Texas Tech's fifth president, Richard M. Chitwood aided in the passage of the legislation that located Tech in Lubbock. He was an early board member and the first business manager for Texas Tech. Coleman Hall was named for Dr. P. C. Coleman. A medical doctor from Colorado City, Texas, Coleman never held a position at Tech, but he was very supportive of higher education in the area. Chanslor E. Weymouth served on the board of directors from 1941-1953.

This brief summary offers only a glimpse of the people memorialized on the bricks. It does not do justice to the contributions they made to Texas Tech and higher education. The achievement of each person whose name graces our buildings is noteworthy. To learn more about these early supporters of Texas Tech, visit the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library, where various materials such as manuscript collections, reference files, oral histories, and college/university records can be found. Undoubtedly, these names on the bricks will be remembered at Texas Tech not as names, but as people who led the way in creating the foundations for the university we know today. ■

Sources: SWC/SCL Reference Files, "The First Thirty Years: A History of Texas Technological College 1925-1955" by Ruth Horn Andrews

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one protested the war, (or still does) the fact remains that terrorism has ushered in a new era with different rules of engagement and all too familiar consequences. The war is here, no matter how many protesters line the streets, which is their God-given right to do. The war is now, which has connected me to the needs and nerves of parents who must watch, wait, and partake of normal things like eating, smiling, and concentrating on the task at hand. Mothers (and fathers) are the people I feel tremendously connected to. Supporting them and loved ones of military personnel doesn't mean one condones war; it means one has common sense and compassion.

While my youngest son still asks if a lot of people will die because of this war, I hug him more, we pray harder, and I imagine a greater degree of peace for him, I imagine my worst fears and best hopes.

Usually, I just imagine mothers of the various nations sitting down to talk and wonder would there really be no more war? ■

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