

## Garrison Gallery Guide

I. Introductory Panel: Rangers have existed for hundreds of years in many cultures. They were militia men, usually volunteers, mustered into company service to protect homes and families from enemy incursions. The tradition is a part of both our Anglo-European and Spanish heritage. Units such as Roger's Rangers in the French and Indian Wars, and Spanish/Mexican "flying companies" in the early southwest, established the Ranger as part of American culture.

The most famous and long-lived of the Ranger organizations is the Texas Rangers. Created in 1823 to protect the "Texian" colonies, the Rangers were the primary defense for Texas from the Republic to statehood. Their primary mission, until well after the Civil War, was protection from Indian and Mexican incursions. As the 19<sup>th</sup> century drew to a close, their responsibilities changed from military protection to law enforcement, duties they continue to perform today.

II. Stephen F. Austin's Address to Colonists, ca. August 5, 1823: Since the commencement of this Colony no labor or expence has been spared on my part towards its organization benefit and security – And I shall always be ready and willing to risk my health, my property or my life for the common advantage of those who have embarked with me in this enterprise. As a proof of the reality of this declaration I have determined to augment at my own private expence the company of men which was raised by the late Gov<sup>r</sup>. Trespalacios for the defence of the Colony against hostile Indians. **I therefore by these presents give public notice that I will employ ten men in addition to those employed by the Govern<sup>t</sup> to act as rangers for the common defence. The said ten men will for a part of Lieut. Moses Morrisons Company and the whole will be subject to my orders. The wages I will give the said ten men is fifteen Dollars a month payable in property**, they finding themselves – Those who wish to be employed will apply to me without delay.

Displayed with Introduction: Six Flags of Texas (Spain, France, Mexico, Texas, United States, & Confederate); map of Indian tribes in Texas; three Lipan Apache arrows; Spanish Miquelet pistol; mounted horse with Ranger mannequin and accrements; US Military musket; Kentucky long rifle; 2 Plains rifles; Deringer pocket pistol; Flintlock boot pistol with folding knife; skinning knife; 2 powder horns; 5 powder flasks; Model 1816 musket; 3 early multiple shot pistols; dragoon pistol; 3 Henry Deringer pistols; 2 bowie knives; Witmore & Wolff percussion Kentucky rifle.

III. Colt's Repeating Pistol 1836-47: The first model of the Colt Paterson revolver, designed as a gentleman's coat pocket pistol, was manufactured from 1837-1838. This 5-shot, .28 caliber revolver had barrel lengths from 1.75" to 4.75" and a folding trigger that dropped automatically when the hammer was cocked. After the production of this first model, Colt issued two larger .31 caliber belt Patersons: the No.2 with a 2.5" to 5.5" barrel and the No. 3 with a 3.5" to 5.5" barrel.

In addition to these pocket and belt pistols, Colt also introduced a series of repeating rifles and a shotgun from 1837-1841. They had revolving cylinders that fired 6 or 8 shots depending on the model. The Colt Model 1839 Carbine was the most practical and popular of these long arms.

In 1838, Colt introduced a completely new model of his repeating pistol, the Colt Holster Model Paterson Revolver No. 5, popularly known as the "Texas Paterson." Colt sold 180 of these, along with 180 Model 1839 carbines, by contract to the Republic of Texas for naval service. These arms were later reissued to the Texas Rangers and used to great effect by Rangers such as Capt. John Coffee "Jack" Hays.

The Paterson allowed the Texas Rangers to revolutionize their tactics when fighting Indians on the Frontier. Prior to the Paterson, Rangers could only fire once from each weapon they carried before needing to reload. The Paterson, however, allowed them to fire 5 times with each pistol and 6 times with each carbine before reloading.

In 1844, Captain John Coffee "Jack" Hays learned that the State of Texas had 5-shot revolvers originally purchased for the Texas Navy that were not being used. He requested the pistols for his Ranger Company.

The weapon proved to be ideally suited to mounted combat. Hays credited the Rangers' great success in frontier battles to the multi-shot advantage Paterson revolvers gave his men. After the battle of Walker Creek, in which Hays and fourteen rangers charged and defeated nearly eighty Comanche warriors, every Ranger wanted at least one of Colt's "Patent Repeaters."

Samuel Colt developed a repeating firearm that was more reliable, less complicated, and more accurate than systems used by his contemporaries.

Although the idea of revolving weapons was not new, the revolver was not a successful firearm until Colt's invention, which was the first practical firearm with a combined automatic revolving and locking cylinder.

After the Rangers used the Paterson with great success on the Texas frontier, Sam Colt met with former Ranger Samuel H. Walker to discuss improvements to his invention. Colt worked with Eli Whitney, Jr. to manufacture this new weapon with standard parts that featured: a fixed trigger with guard, a loading lever under a nine-inch barrel, a sixth chamber, use of a conical .44 caliber bullet, interchangeable parts for easier repair.

The resulting 4 lb 9 oz holster revolver was named the Walker Colt to honor Samuel Walker's contribution. With the success of this pistol, Samuel Colt reformed the company, opened a factory in Hartford, Connecticut, and became a leading firearm's manufacturer for the next two centuries.

Displayed with Colt's Repeating Pistol: Can you put this Colt Paterson together interactive; Which revolver was the first to use the stagecoach engraving interactive; The

Colt Walker was the most powerful handgun until the introduction of what firearm interactive; replica wood carvings of cylinder, center rod & hammer; Colt Paterson M1839 Carbine; Colt Patented Powder Flask/Loader; French copy of the Colt capper; Colt Paterson Tool; Percussion Caps; Colt Paterson Holster Model #5 Revolver; Colt Walker Revolver; Colt Patented Powder Flask; 3 Colt Walker repeating pistols interactive.

IV. The Cowboy & Vaquero: A Ranger's Heritage: The *vaquero* (cowboy) heritage of Northern Mexico heavily influenced the clothing, language and horse equipment of Texas and the American southwest. That influence can still be seen today in items identified as typically "western."

Spanish conquistadores brought the first cattle and horses to the Americas in the 1500s. By the time the Texas Rangers were established in 1823, vaqueros had developed their own way of life well adapted to herding cattle and surviving on the frontier. Anglo-European settlers blended this culture and technology with their own horseback traditions to create the American cowboy and the Texas Ranger.

"The Texas cowboy, along with the Texas cowman, was an evolution from and a blend of the riding, shooting, frontier-formed southerner, the Mexican-Indian horseback worker with livestock (the vaquero), and the Spanish open-range rancher. The blend was not in blood, but in occupational techniques." - J. Frank Dobie, Guide to life and literature of the Southwest.

"The North American Cowboy is a unique breed. He represents a curious blend of California *caballero*, Mexican *vaquero*, Rocky Mountain trapper, Dixie Land planter, Plains Indian, and eastern cavalryman. From each comes a different shade of his personality. . .

Though altered, refined and modified to fit American ideas and changing conditions, the basic design of whatever he does or uses in the line of work or sport, is nearly always a heritage from the Mexican *vaquero*." - From Glenn R. Vernam, *Man on Horseback*.

Displayed with the Cowboy & Vaquero: Mexican Vaquero ca. 1850 reproduction clothing; shotgun chaps (armitas); Texas Ranger ca. 1880 reproduction clothing; holster; belt; bat wing chaps; Texas Ranger ca. 1900 reproduction clothing; holster; belt; bat wing chaps; Mexican felt sombrero early 20<sup>th</sup> c.; Western felt hat early 20<sup>th</sup> c.; interactive with different types of ropes to touch; Mexican reata early 20<sup>th</sup> c.; Texan riata early 20<sup>th</sup> c.; diagram of a spur; diagram of basic shank styles; Texas spurs; Mexican spurs early 20<sup>th</sup> c.; diagram of a saddle; Plains saddle ca. 1990; Mexican saddle ca. 1940.

V. The Garrison Gallery (fireplace): On December 12, 1967, at a dedication ceremony in his honor, Garrison turned the first shovel full of dirt for the foundation of the Homer Garrison Museum.

The Homer Garrison, Jr. museum gallery has grown into the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum, which includes five additional exhibit galleries, the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame, and the Texas Ranger Research Center.

Colonel Homer Garrison Jr., Director, Texas Department of Safety, 1938-1968: More than any other man in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Colonel Garrison shaped the legendary Texas Rangers into the elite investigators they are today.

Displayed on the fireplace in the Garrison Gallery: large portrait of Garrison by David Sanders; Winchester Model, 1895; 3 badges; 2 Colt Gov. models; boots; hat; 25-year service recognition plaque; Compassion Bronze #14 by Jack Bryant.

VI. Jack Hays: A Ranger Surveyor: John Coffee “Jack” Hays was born in Tennessee on January 28, 1817 and trained as a surveyor prior to coming to Texas. In 1836, Hays joined the Texas Rangers under Captain Erastus “Deaf” Smith and was later appointed the Deputy Surveyor of the Bexar District. In 1840, Hays was appointed Captain of a Ranger company.

During his thirteen years in Texas, Hays' explorations and exploits as both a ranger and surveyor would make him one of the most famous men in Ranger history.

After the Mexican war, Hays moved to California, where he settled and served as an Indian agent for the Gila River country, Sheriff of San Francisco County, Surveyor General for California, and helped found the city of Oakland. Hays died on April 21, 1883.

Displayed with Jack Hays: A Ranger Surveyor: “Jack Hays at Enchanted Rock” 1851 painting; 4 survey maps by John C. Hays; Wesson .42 cal percussion hunting rifle; 3 1/2” compass; W. & L.E. Gurley vara chain; interactive to explore the parts of a reproduction railroad surveying compass.

VII. Rangers & Surveyors: A Linked Tradition: During the early years of Texas settlement, Rangers often worked as land surveyors. Rangers were ordered to scout for raiding parties; they used these opportunities to explore remote areas of Texas for future settlement. This knowledge of the territory along with their ability to protect themselves allowed them to record the property boundaries for new landowners.

Many Texas Rangers often chose to work as surveyors to supplement their livelihood. Since the earliest rangers were often paid in land rather than cash, surveying offered the opportunity to claim choice land and gain additional funds.

In the early 1800s, land surveys were generally done to determine an individual's or land grant owner's property boundaries, terrain and water sources. After Texas became a state, surveyors also worked for railroad companies, public land offices and government agencies.

In the field, surveyors established corners and markers to create reference points allowing them to measure the distance and angles of the property lines using chains and compasses. Once established, the surveyor recorded the information in his field notes. These notes were used to create a map once when he returned to his camp or home.

Surveyors generally did not venture into the field alone. Survey parties often consisted of between 15-20 people many of whom were rangers. Parties included the main surveyor and his assistants or apprentices who would help with the chain and compass. The other men provided protection, assisted in the camp and with physical labor when establishing markers.

Surveyors working in the field would all be armed to protect themselves from attacks by hostiles or wild animals. The Comanche, in particular, hated surveyors because they believed that the surveyors and their equipment were stealing their land.

The surveyor selected and marked a witness tree to form a permanent corner reference for their survey. He chopped an "X and line" pattern into the tree with an axe and then blazed around it. Blazing is the scapping off of the bark around the mark to prevent re-growth.

Compasses, often placed on tripods, were used to find directions such as magnetic north and true north. The Comanche called compasses "The Thing that Steals the Land" and would often attack survey parties killing members and destroying equipment, specifically the compass.

Vara chains, were used to measure the distance along a line of the survey—such as between a witness tree and a monument. Early surveyors in Texas used a chain of ten or twenty vara long with each vara about 33.33 inches in length. Today, the vara has been standardized to one meter with five links equaling one vara.

On each chain, you will see three types of tags. Each diamond tag represents 2 vara, a circle with a triangular notch is 4 vara and the whole circle tag marks the center of the line.

Displayed with Rangers & Surveyors: A Linked Tradition: surveys in the Bexar district, 1841; vara chains; compasses; witness tree.

VIII. A Common Purpose, Parting of Professions, Together Again (second surveyors case): During the colonial, Republic, and early statehood days of Texas, it was not unusual for a man to combine the two jobs of Ranger and Surveyor. Early surveyors had to be able to defend themselves while mapping the frontier. Therefore, it was logical to combine the skills of surveyor and ranger.

Two of the best-known Ranger surveyors were John Coffee "Jack" Hays and George B. Erath. Erath notes in his memoirs that often more time was spent in dealing with the Indians than in surveying.

George Erath was more familiar with the geography of Central Texas than any other living man. Due to his knowledge and unswerving honesty, he was constantly called upon in matters of land dispute. He was frequently referred to as “the walking dictionary of the Texas Land Office.”

Born in 1813, this early Texas soldier, legislator, ranger and surveyor, came to America from Vienna, Austria, in 1832. He came to the Republic of Texas in 1833 and became a surveyor for Robertson’s colony. From that time through the 1840s, Erath spent much of his time as a surveyor and/or ranger.

In 1846 he surveyed and laid out the towns of Waco and Stephenville. He is remembered for his extensive work in the Central Texas area.

In his late years, his sight gone, his hearing failing, he concluded his memoirs with these words:

“I am besieged with questions ...requesting me to study up information and to explain how land came to be located... for the present generation knows nothing of the difficulties that surrounded surveying forty or fifty years ago.”

By the late 1800s, the changing duties of Surveyors and Rangers separated them into different professions.

Today, Texas Rangers and Surveyors collaborate together to solve crimes. Current Texas Rangers consult with Surveyors not to survey property, but to map crime scenes or plot the location of evidence. In addition, Rangers are again learning to use survey methods themselves.

Displayed with second surveyors case: George B. Erath sketch; surveys along Cibolo, Balcones, & Leon creeks; surveys in Bexar district ca. 1842; Jacob’s staff; 8” W. & L.E. Gurley Vernier railroad compass with tripod; Keuffel & Esser Model 12 open Vernier Transit; 8” W. & L.E. Gurley railroad compass with one minute plate; Major B. Erath-Frontiersman bronze; W. & L.E. Gurley 2 ½” replica compass; W. & L.E. Gurley brass level attachment; W. & L.E. Wye level; Young & Sons transit; Texas Ranger Sgt. Trace McDonald & Cpl. Bill Rogillio photo; W. & L.E. Gurley transit; brass construction level; W. & L.E. Gurley pocket railroad compass with telescope; dip needle; Keuffel & Esser Model E8-28 Telescopic Alidade; Magellan Meridian GPS handset; Trimble GPS equipment; surveys in the Bexar district; surveys around Menefee Survey.

IX. The Strength Behind the Symbol: Texas Ranger Badges & Authority: The circle-star Texas Ranger badge is one of the most widely recognized symbols of Texas and the Texas Rangers. This symbol has not always been a part of Texas Ranger history.

Rangers on the Frontier, 1823-1873: The Texas Rangers were established as a paramilitary force to protect the farms, ranches and settlements of the Texas frontier from enemy raids. These rangers were called into action as the need arose and disbanded when the threat ended.

During this time Rangers did not use badges. From 1823 to 1873, the Rangers protected settlers from enemy raids. Indians fighting to dislodge settlers from their lands and Mexicans fighting to regain control of lands north of the Rio Grande did not recognize the authority of the Rangers. So there was no need to wear a badge or carry documents establishing their authority.

So how do we know who the early Rangers were? Although few records have survived, rangers were listed on military-style muster rolls and pay vouchers. In addition, some letters of appointment, discharges and commissions have survived.

Frontier Law Enforcement, 1874-1901: With the end of Civil War Reconstruction, the Texas Legislature reorganized the Rangers into two groups: The Frontier Battalion (1874 – 1901), which operated state-wide and the Special Forces (1874 – 1881), stationed in the Nueces Strip and Rio Grande Valley.

Both groups were under the command of the Adjutant General and given military powers to subdue hostile Indian bands and protect the Texas borders from raids, as well as basic police powers to protect settlements from lawlessness.

The first reference to Rangers using badges appeared during the frontier law enforcement era as they changed from a paramilitary to a law enforcement organization. They were often based in or near towns and wanted badges for identification and as a symbol of their authority.

How did the Ranger get a badge? The State of Texas did not supply the Rangers with badges. Instead, the few Rangers who wore them before 1900 either commissioned a jeweler or metalworker to make them or placed an order with a police supply company. The earliest known authentic Texas Ranger badges were simple circle-star designs with stamped markings. This badge design required limited skills and could easily be made from plentiful Mexican five and eight peso silver coins which served as round blanks.

How did a Ranger identify himself? Beginning in the 1880s, Rangers began carrying a Warrant of Authority and a Descriptive List. These documents, often carried in leather wallets, were used to physically identify the Ranger and provided proof of the Ranger's authority to local government or other law officials.

The State Ranger Era, 1901-1935: By 1901, the Indian Wars had ended and the Texas frontier was essentially closed but the Rangers were still needed. The Texas legislature reorganized the Rangers into a new "State Ranger" force with full police powers. This allowed the Rangers to face challenges such as gangsters, organized crime and prohibition.

Although the State did not yet issue badges, Rangers wanted and needed them so people would recognize them as law enforcement officers. The sources for badges and the

variety of designs increased. Rangers selected their badges based on personal taste, availability and cost. Many badges from this era carry the inscription “State Rangers.”

The DPS Era, 1935 to Present: In 1935 the Texas Rangers were made a division of the newly formed Texas Department of Public Safety. This new agency brought together the various state law enforcement agencies including the Rangers, the Highway Patrol and the Crime Lab. For the first time the State of Texas issued Rangers badges.

The Badges of the Department of Public Safety: Since the formation of DPS, there have been only three official styles of the Texas Ranger badge. The first style, introduced shortly following the formation of DPS in 1935, was a shield overlaid with a circle-star design. This badge was replaced in 1957 by a blue enameled circle-star design that was based loosely upon an early Texas flag. This design proved unpopular with all branches of DPS including the Rangers and was replaced by the current style in 1962.

Col. Homer Garrison, Jr., long-time head of DPS, approved the design for the current badge made from silver Mexican cinco (five) peso coins. The design was inspired by early circle-star Ranger badges and is decorated with wreaths of olive and live oak leaves from the Great Seal of Texas.

In addition, one personalized style has also been approved. This badge, which must be authorized by the Chief of the Texas Rangers, has the same circle-star shape as the current badge with different design elements including the name of the ranger.

Displayed with The Strength Behind the Symbol: Discharge Letter of Texas Ranger H. A. Robblis; muster roll, Feb. 1848; Republic of Texas Treasury Warrant, 1836; Honorable Discharge, 1885; Republic of Texas Treasury Warrant, August 14, 1844; Republic of Texas currency ca. 1836-1845; 1880 Monthly Return Frontier Forces Company C; 1st Lieutenant Commission, John McNelly, May 12, 1884; Mexican Ocho Reales, 1894; The Earliest Known Texas Ranger Badge; Identification Wallet, ca. 1918; Badge of Special Ranger M. L. Davis, ca. 1934; Texas State Ranger Badge, ca. 1910-1930s; Texas Ranger Badge, ca. 1918-1935; State Ranger Texas Badge, ca. 1915-1934; State Ranger Texas Badge, ca 1930s; Texas Ranger Badge, ca. 1919-1933; Texas State Ranger Badge, ca. 1897-1902; State Ranger Badge, ca. 1919-1933; Texas Ranger Badge, ca. 1930s; Warrant of Authority, Cleveland C. Hurst ca. 1915; Commission, M.D. “Kelly” Rogers, Sept 1, 1951; Identification Wallet, 1952; DPS Wallet with ID card & Personalized Badge; Texas Ranger Badge, #23, 1st DPS style, ca. 1935-1957; Texas Ranger Captain’s Badge, 1st DPS style, ca. 1935-1957; Texas Ranger Badge, 2nd DPS style, ca. 1957-1962; Texas Ranger Sr. Captain’s Badge, 3rd DPS style, ca 1962-present; Texas Ranger Sergeant’s Badge, 3rd DPS style, ca. 1962-present; Texas Ranger Captain’s Badge, 3rd DPS style, ca. 1962-present; Mexican Cinco Pesos, 1948; Texas Ranger Badge, Company “F.”

X. The Colt Revolver – A Study from 1848-1900: During the 1800s, the Colt Company revolutionized firearm technology through the development of the first practical repeating pistol. Information about these revolvers, known as the Colt Paterson and the Colt

Walker, can be found in the Colt's Repeating Pistol 1836-1848 exhibit also in this gallery.

The technological advancements of firearms developed by Colt would not end with repeating pistol. During the 1800s, the Colt Company continued to improve and advance revolver technology. This exhibit looks at the development of the Colt revolver from the Dragoon through the New Service Model Revolver.

Displayed with The Colt Revolver: First Model Dragoon, 1848-c.1850; Second Model Dragoon, c.1850-1851; Third Model Dragoon, 1851-1861; Third Model Dragoon Revolver with Detachable Shoulder Stock; Colt Model 1848 Pocket Revolver, 1847-1850; Model 1849 Pocket Revolver; Model 1851 Navy or Belt Revolver; Model 1855 Sidehammer Pocket Revolver, 1856-c.1873; Model 1860 Army Revolver, 1860-c.1873; Model 1860 Army Revolver with Canteen Stock Attachment; Model 1861 Navy Revolver, 1861-c.1873; Colt M1862 Pocket Navy, 1861-c.1873; Colt Model 1862 Police, 1861-c.1873; Model 1862 Conversion; Model 1861 Navy Conversion; The Model 1871-1872 "Open Top Frontier" Rimfire Revolver; Single Action Army Model Revolver, 7 ½" barrel; Single Action Army Model Revolver, 4 ¾" barrel; Single Action Army Model Revolver; Bisley Model Single Action Revolver; Model 1877 "Lightning" Double Action .38 Caliber Revolver; Model 1877 "Thunderer" Double Action .41 Caliber Revolver; New Army and Navy Revolver; Colt New Service Revolver, 1898-1944.

XI. The Fence Cutting Wars Diorama: The 1880s were changing times in Texas. As more people moved west, the open range began to be fenced by both farmers and ranchers trying to protect their grazing land and water.

Free range supporters and rustlers waged war on the barbed wire fence, resorting to threats, intimidation, and murder.

The State Legislature passed a law in 1884 making it a felony to cut a fence. The Texas Rangers were called in to help stop the fence cutting and to protect people and property from harm.

Barbed Wire: The first patent for wire with added points was issued in 1868, but it was not until 1874 that a practical method for attaching barbs to wire was invented. Barbed wire provided an economical and efficient method to keep animals out of crops and in their pastures. There are over 530 patented barbed wires with approximately 2000 variations.

XII. What's In Stock? Firearms of Rangers: Settlers to the Mexican region known as Tejas faced attacks from hostile Indians. The Mexican government lacked troops to protect them. In 1823, Stephen F. Austin asked for and received permission to form companies of "men...to act as rangers for the common defense."

Rangers engaged in skirmishes with bands of Comanche, Karankawa, Waco, Tehuacani and Tonkawa Indians. Ranger companies, recruited from throughout Texas, were called up as needed and disbanded when danger had passed.

**Early Ranger Equipment:** Throughout the early Ranger service, volunteers provided their horses, equipment, arms and ammunition. Most early Rangers had little training. They used weapons brought with them for hunting and personal protection which were often very ineffective against the fighting tactics of the Indians. By 1837, Rangers were required to have a rifle, a brace (or set) of pistols, and 200 round of ammunition.

In late 1843 or early 1844, Capt. Jack Hays acquired surplus Colt Paterson revolvers and carbines for his company from the Texas Navy. At the battle of Walker Creek, Capt Hays and his Rangers armed with these new firearms rode into a surprised Comanche band and fire their multi-shot weapons. This offensive tactic would change Indian warfare and the revolver would become a standard Ranger firearm.

**Ineffectiveness against the Indians:** Early Rangers had little success in stopping Indian raids. Warriors would wait until the rangers, who had to dismount to fire their weapons, were reloading before attacking quickly on horseback with lances and bows. This situation changed when Capt. Jack Hays acquired Colt Paterson revolvers and rifles for his company.

After Texas joined the United States in 1845, Mexico declared war and attempted to reclaim Texas. Many Rangers left state service and joined the U.S. Army as volunteer scouts and guerrillas.

In 1846, Samuel Walker, Captain of the newly formed Mounted Rifle Regiment, was sent to Washington to receive his commission, recruit men for the unit, and contract for firearms. Walker and Samuel Colt discussed improvements to the Paterson Revolver and Colt received a government contract to manufacture 1000 of the Colt Walker revolvers.

**Conversion to Percussion Firearms:** The percussion ignition system was introduced in the 1820s and used priming caps rather than loose powder and flint to ignite the ammunition. This highly effective system, which was usable in wet and windy conditions, saw little use in Texas until the Mexican war. This can be attributed to the expensive and inconsistent supply of percussion caps on the frontier.

With the annexation of Texas to the United States, many Texans felt it was the US Army's responsibility to protect the Texas frontier. The US Army, unfamiliar with Texas, refused to believe that Indian Raids were a severe problem and to send additional troops to the area. For that reason, Texas organized Ranger units to protect the frontier settlements from Indian attacks and continuing raids across the Mexican border.

**Scarcity of Weapons and Ammunition:** Following the Mexican War until the mid 1850s, money and equipment including weapons and ammunition were scarce. Many veteran Rangers left Texas and new Rangers could not afford the Paterson or Walker revolvers.

Through negotiations with the US Army, many Rangers were carried weapons from Army arsenals held in Texas. Typically, they were furnished with surplus 1840 Springfield rifles and single-shot muzzle loading pistols.

**The Revolver Returns:** By 1855, the Texas economy had recovered and records indicate that most Rangers owned at least one Colt Revolver, usually a Dragoon or 1851 Navy model. Many also used modern long arms such as the Colt revolving carbine and the new Sharps breech-loading carbine.

In 1861, many Rangers enlisted in the Confederate Army, but Texas still needed frontier protection. Against orders from the Confederacy, the Texas Governor authorized creation of the Frontier Regiment to defend Texas settlers from Indian and criminal attacks.

The Frontier Regiment spent much of their time fighting the Comanche who used the disorder and shortage of men to push the line of settlement back more than 100 miles. Men in the Frontier Regiment were exempt from the Confederate draft until the end of 1863 when they were all mustered into Confederate Service and sent to protect the coast. After the Frontier Regiment joined the Confederate Army, the Governor authorized the formation of the Frontier Organization to replace it.

During Reconstruction (1864-1869) Texas was prohibited from forming government authorized Ranger units. Instead, "Minute Men" companies were raised in frontier counties who served as needed.

In 1870, after Texas was readmitted into the United States, the state organized the Frontier Forces, which saw little action. In 1871, the state disbanded the Frontier Force and re-created the less formal "Minute Men" companies who served throughout the 1870s.

In 1874, The Texas legislature formed the Frontier Battalion. Initially composed of six companies with 75 men, the Frontier Battalion was created to range the frontier and uphold the laws and peace of Texas. Later that year, The Special Forces, under the command of Captain Leader McNelly was created to augment the Frontier Battalion and to provide protection in the Nueces Strip. Over the next three decades the Battalion would be plagued by funding shortages which resulted in manpower reductions. By 1900, the cuts were so severe that the Battalion only included 18 men.

**Establishing a Standard:** When the Frontier Battalion was created in 1874, the State took measures to standardize the firearms carried by Texas Rangers. The State offered free ammunition if Rangers carried .45 caliber Colt's pistols and .50 caliber Sharp's rifles. Those men not having rifles or pistols could purchase them from State stores at cost.

The creation of the Frontier Battalion marked a change in the mission of the Texas Rangers to include law enforcement authority for the first time. Despite the end of the Civil War and Reconstruction, tensions continued between Confederate and Union sympathizers. These conflicts would result in a series of feuds throughout Texas. From

1874-1877, Texas Rangers intervened in the Sutton-Taylor Feud in DeWitt and Clinton counties, the Mason County War, the El Paso Salt War, and Horrell-Higgins Feud in Lampasas and Burnet Counties.

In 1876, Ranger Lieutenant Lee Hall, who worked some conflicts associated with the Sutton-Taylor Feud, asked for Winchesters and breech-loading shotguns to replace their old Sharps rifles.

**Adopting the Winchester 1873 Rifle:** By late 1875, Rangers were familiar with the effectiveness of the new Winchester 1873 rifles. Many decided to replace their Sharps rifles with the new Winchesters. The earliest purchase of Winchester 1873 rifles would be on December 10, 1875. Men of Company D serving under Captain Dan W. Roberts asked permission to pick up a case of these firearms in Austin. Additional Winchesters would come to the Rangers in 1876, after Captain Leander McNelly's Special Forces returned stolen cattle to the King Ranch. Captain King, in appreciation, gave the company 30 Winchester Carbines and ammunition.

Although the state would continue to support the Sharps for several years, the Rangers themselves would begin the gradual changeover to the Model 1873 Winchester. The state would continue to furnish only .50 caliber ammunition for the Sharps until the 1880s, but the men who switched to the Winchester willingly paid the \$40 for each rifle and furnished their own ammunition.

**Use of Other Firearms:** Although the State provided ammunition and sold certain firearms on a payroll deduction basis, some Rangers preferred other weapons. Smith and Wesson, a competitor to Colt, manufactured two popular handguns carried by Rangers – The Schofield and the Frontier Double Action.

Following the Civil War, many military leaders urged research on new smokeless gunpowder. A problem with black powder was that when burned it released a large amount of smoke that interfered with vision. In addition, black powder did not always burn completely leaving residue in the firearm barrels which caused jamming and misfiring of weapons.

Although slow to implemented throughout the west, its successful use in the Spanish American War (1898-1899) and the War in the Philippines (1899-1901) would propel it into wide spread use throughout the US.

**Smokeless Powder:** By the 1880s, several stable types of smokeless powder using nitroglycerin were available, but existing firearms were unable to withstand the greater explosive force of smokeless powder. In 1894, Winchester inventors solved the problem and released the Winchester Model 1894 Level Action Rifle specifically made for the smokeless powder ammunition.

Tensions along the Texas-Mexico border escalate to violence following the 1910 Mexican Revolution and the discovery of the "Plan of San Diego" which called for the

aggressive “liberation” of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California and Colorado from the United States. By 1915 and the start of World War I, tension and violence lead to the overnight creation of new Ranger companies and a state home guard called the “Loyalty Rangers.”

Some of these Ranger companies, including both Anglo and Hispanic Texans, were charged with keeping raiders out of Texas. Many were vigilante groups that caused unnecessary death and violence. In 1919, after the end of World War I, Texas Representative Jose T. Canales of Brownsville demanded a legislative investigation into the various Ranger companies. The result was a reduction of the regular force to 68 men and a tightening of qualifications for service.

Use of the Submachine Gun: Submachine guns (hand-held, fully automatic weapons using large pistol ammunition) originally were developed for the trench warfare of World War I. Introduced at the end of WWI, the submachine gun, which became famous during the Prohibition and Depression eras, were used by both law enforcement and criminals. Submachine guns, like the Thompson, often were marketed to police agencies as an “anti-bandit” firearm.

Hollywood movies have made the .45 ACP caliber Thompson submachine gun, with its distinct drum magazine, the most famous of the submachine guns. However others, such as the Browning automatic rifle (BAR), the Reising model 50 and the Reising model 55, were also popular. The Texas Rangers began using submachine guns against organized crime in the Texas oil boom towns of the 1920s.

Following a 1934 State investigation into government corruption during the Ferguson administration, a panel recommended the formation of the Texas Department Public Safety headed by an independent Public Safety commission. This new department would bring together the Texas Rangers and the Highway Patrol along with the newly created Intelligence, License and Weights, Crime Lab and Communication Divisions.

Issued Equipment: When the Department of Public Safety was organized, firearms and other equipment were transferred from the Adjutant General’s Office and the Highway Department to the new department. Rangers now had the option to carry weapons issued by the Department of Public Safety if they chose which included the Colt 1911 pistol, the Smith and Wesson Revolver, and the Winchester 1894 .30-30 rifle . Over the years, issued weapons have been modernized and changed. Today’s issued weapons include the Sig Sauer P226 pistol, Ruger mini-14 Automatic Rifle and the Remington 12 gauge Shotgun.

Displayed with What’s In Stock?: Flintlock .65 caliber Pistol with folding bayonet; Equipment of Texas Ranger Samuel Johnson; Joseph Manton English Dueling Pistol; Colt Model #5 Paterson (Replica); Model 1842 Military pistol; Model 1840 US Springfield Percussion Musket; Colt Navy 1851; Colt Revolving 1855 Carbine; Colt 1st Model Dragoon; Walker Colt Revolver (Replica); Henry Rifle; Spencer Carbine; Sharps Carbine; Colt M1860 Army; Remington New Model Navy; Smith and Wesson 3rd

Model; Colt Model 1860 Army Richards-Mason Conversion Revolver; Winchester Model 1866; Sharps "Old Reliable", .45 Caliber Rifle, ca. 1876; Colt Single Action Army Revolver, 7.5" barrel, manufactured 1876-1898; Winchester 1873; S&W 1st Model "Frontier" Double Action ca. 1881-1913; S&W Schofield Single Action, ca. 1875-1877; Colt Bisley Model Single Action Army; Winchester Model 1894 Carbine; Winchester Rifle Model 1895; Winchester Model Shotgun 1897; Colt Model 1911, .45 ACP; Remington Model 8 Semi-automatic Rifle; Auto-Ordinance 1921 over stamped 1928 US Navy model Thompson submachine gun with carrying case; Remington Model 11-48, 12 gauge Shotgun; Ruger mini 14 automatic rifle; Colt New Service Revolver, ca. 1920-30s; Smith & Wesson M19, .357 magnum Revolver; Smith & Wesson M586, .357 magnum Revolver; Sig Sauer P220 45 ACP pistol, DPS#182979, Issued 1992-1998; Sig Sauer P226 .357 Sig caliber Pistol.

XIII. The 1920's: For almost a century the Rangers primary mode of transportation was the horse. Even after the advent of the automobile, Rangers on Scout, particularly in West, Texas would often take a train or automobile to a rail head. When they reached the end of the road, they would pick the horses and mules necessary to get into the territory they were assigned to scout.

A 1920's Ranger Camp in the Big Bend country or the Panhandle looked like a Ranger camp of the 1880's. A Ranger might prefer an automatic pistol to a revolver, but the basic food, clothing and equipment changed little over the years.

"We carried a .30-06 Winchester that shot your government cartridge. Just like the United States government soldiers used. And we used that. And most of us carried the .44 Smith and Wesson. I switched over to the automatic. I liked the automatic and went to carrying the automatic." - Lee Trimble, Oral history, May 23, 1979

"The food? Well it was just what we could. It was just sow belly. We had sow belly and we had frijole beans and the bread that we would make ourselves. We would cook that in this cast iron pot. And that would be our meal. We did our own, yes, did our own cooking." - Lee Trimble, Oral history, May 23, 1979

Displayed with The 1920's: Winchester Model 1895, .30-06 Lever Action Rifle; Colt Model 1911, .45 ACP pistol; Smith & Wesson Model 1917, .44 Caliber Double Action Revolver and tooled leather holster and belt; saddle 1870-1900.

XIV. The Winchester Level Action Rifle: A Study from 1860-1900: The story of Winchester firearms began in 1847-1849 with the invention of the lever action Hunt Repeating Rifle and its "rocket ball" ammunition. Rocket ball rounds were hollowed out bullets containing powder backed by a cork wad with a flash hole to allow for ignition from separate primer. The priming and loading systems would develop further with the Jennings Repeating Rifles (c.1848-1851) and the Smith-Jennings Repeating Rifles (c.1851-1852)

In 1854, Horace Smith and Daniel B. Wesson registered a patent for a lever action repeating Pistol that featured a toggle and link lever action, a front loading magazine and a metallic cartridge. Although included in their patent, Smith and Wesson abandoned the metallic cartridge concept due to production problems and returned to the rocket ball ammunition. They did however improve the rocket ball by adding a primer to the ball and replacing the cork wad with a brass base cap.

In 1855, Smith, Wesson and other investors such as Oliver F. Winchester reorganized into the Volcanic Repeating Arms Company. Although Smith and Wesson both left the company by 1856, the company manufactured a lever action Navy pistol and a lever action carbine both in .41 caliber. By early 1857, poor sales of the volcanic forced the company into receivership.

In April 1857, the Volcanic Repeating Arms Company was bankrupt. Winchester, who was the principal creditor of the company, acquired the assets and patents which he used to organized the New Haven Arms Company. This new company continued making Volcanic firearms and expanded the line to include a .31 caliber pistol. Despite the limited success of the company, Oliver F. Winchester sought ways of improving these firearms.

In 1860, B. Tyler Henry, who had joined the Volcanic Repeating Arms Company in 1856, was granted a patent on the Henry Rifle which used a .44 caliber metallic cartridge also developed by Henry. The Henry rifle was manufactured by the New Haven Arms Company until 1865 when the company was renamed the Henry Repeating Rifle Company. The company only retained that name until May 1866 when it was again renamed to the Winchester Repeating Arms Company.

Displayed with The Winchester Rifle: Volcanic Lever No. 1 Pocket Pistol; Henry Rifle; Model 1866 Carbine; Model 1873 Rifle; Model 1873 Carbine; Model 1886 Rifle; Model 1892 Rifle; Model 1894 Carbine; Model 1895 Carbine.