

FRONTIER *Texas!*

Spirit Guide Biographies



Pedro Vial

Born in France, Vial came to San Antonio in 1784 and was selected by Governor Domingo Cabello y Robles to gather information about the Comanches. One of the first non-Indians to explore the area and record his findings, he spent the summer of 1785 in the Comancheria, traveling through the areas of present-day Baird and Throckmorton. His later explorations took him throughout the Southwest and he lived for a time among

the Comanches.

Vial is played by Michael Marco, who has appeared in the TV series "Walker, Texas Ranger," as well as movies such as "Servicing Sara," "The Confession Room," "Playing Dead," and "The Photograph."



J. Wright Mooar

Born in Vermont in 1851, he followed the western migration. During 1870 in Kansas, he hunted buffalo as food for the railroad crews laying track. As an experiment, he shipped two dozen buffalo hides to his brother in New York City to see if any of the area tanneries would buy them. They did, ordered more, and the great American buffalo slaughter was on. By 1876, the herds in Kansas had been exterminated. Mooar moved

to Texas, using The Flat at Fort Griffin as well as Rath City as bases, and then settled in a dugout on Deep Creek as he hunted buffalo for his crews to skin. He is reputed to have killed 20,000 buffalo during his life. After the buffalo were gone, he established a ranch. Mooar's partner, Pete Snyder, had created a trading post in the area that grew into the town of Snyder, Texas.

Mooar is played by Stephen Bruton, who has had film roles in "The Alamo," "A Star Is Born," "Heaven's Gate," "Michael," "Miss Congeniality," and other movies, as well as television roles in "Matlock," "Amerika," "Night Stalker," and "Murder In Travis County."



Cynthia Ann Parker

She was only 10 or 11 years old living at Fort Parker in Limestone County when a large group of Indians raided the fort, killing several people and taking five captives, including Cynthia. She remained with the Comanches for the next 25 years and married Peta Nocona, a respected warrior. They had three children, one of whom would become the great chief Quanah Parker. In a battle on the Pease River in 1860, several members of

her band were killed and she and two Comanches were captured in a raid by Texas Rangers, who believed at first that she was an Indian, but then saw her blue eyes. She was eventually returned to her family and Anglo life, which she resented and resisted. Her small daughter, Topsanna, died. Cynthia made several attempts to return to the Comanches but was made to live in a world she didn't know or like until her death, about 3 years after her capture.

Cynthia Parker is played by Amy Jones, who has performed in commercials, movies and TV in programs such as "The Practice," "History's Mysteries" and "Resurrection Blvd."



Elizabeth Clifton

Born in Alabama in 1825, she married a free black in 1842. They came to Texas and established a ranch and the Carter Trading House, a boarding house near Fort Belknap. In 1857, her father-in-law and husband were both murdered. She later married an Army lieutenant, who disappeared 8 months later. Her boarding house prospered once the Butterfield Overland Mail began stopping at Fort Belknap. She married one of her ranch hands, who was murdered 18 months later. In 1864, she was captured in the Elm Creek Raid, along with two granddaughters. She was rescued in 1865 and ended up in Fort Griffin with her granddaughter Lottie, where she would lose yet another husband.

Elizabeth Clifton is played by Kit Gwin, who has performed on stage and has appeared in a number of movies, including "Graduation Day" and "Dr. T and the Women," as well as TV shows such as "Walker, Texas Ranger."



George Reynolds

Born in Alabama in 1844, his family soon moved to East Texas where they farmed for 12 years before moving west, eventually settling on the Brazos in Stephens County. At 15, George was riding pony express-type mail deliveries through hostile Indian territory and later fought with the Confederate Army during the Civil War. After the war, he and two other men drove a herd of cattle to New Mexico, reportedly the first herd over what would become the Goodnight-Loving Trail. While fighting Indians in 1867, he took an arrow in the stomach and lived with the arrowhead in his body until it was surgically removed 16 years later. He married into the Matthews family in 1867, and established ranching operations throughout West Texas and drove cattle through the western states and Canada. At his death in 1925, the Reynolds Cattle Company owned several hundred thousand acres of rangeland across West Texas and the Panhandle.

Reynolds is played by Robert Lott, who has had film roles in "Varsity Blues," "The Only Thrill," "No Small Ways" and "The Life of David Gale." His television work includes "Two For Texas," "A Face To Kill For" and "Walker, Texas Ranger."



Britt Johnson

Born a slave in Tennessee in 1840, he came to Texas with his master, Moses Johnson. As a reward for his loyalty and hard work, Britt was appointed foreman of a ranch in Young County and had his own horses and cattle. In 1864 during the Elm Creek Raid, Indians killed Britt's son and took his wife and two daughters captive. His attempts to find his family became the source of legend. In 1865, he was able to secure their freedom and the family returned to Texas. He used his renown to build a business as a freighter between Weatherford and Fort Griffin. He died heroically in 1871 defending a wagon train he was leading through Young County when it was attacked by Kiowas.

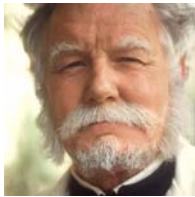
Johnson is played by C. Anthony Jackson, who has appeared in "Walker, Texas Ranger," "The Big Story" and "Midnight," as well as many TV commercials and industrial films.



Esihabitu

A visionary Comanche leader whose life spanned early days on the warpath to meeting the President in Washington, D.C. That meeting convinced him that the war with the Whites couldn't be won and he worked for a peaceful resolution. He was known from the Red River to the Hill Country, first as a raider and later as one who would negotiate the return of captives from various Indian bands. He inscribed his signature as a pictograph at Paint Rock, where it can be seen today.

Esihabitu is played by Richard Ray Whitman, who has appeared in movies such as "Indian Graffiti," "Lakota Woman," "My Heroes Have Always Been Cowboys" and "Oklahoma Passage."



Randolph Marcy

A career Army officer born in Massachusetts in 1812, he explored the Southwest in the 1840s and 1850s for the Army on mapping and research expeditions. He plotted a trail from Fort Smith, Arkansas, to Santa Fe, and in 1851 he assisted in selecting sites for the forts that would later protect the frontier. His writings were some of the first recorded information on travel through the West.

Marcy is played by Garrett Schenck, who has appeared in many commercials and industrial productions as well as TV series such as "Walker, Texas Ranger" and "Dallas." His movies include "Necessary Roughness" and "Frequent Flyer."



The Trail Guide – Buck Taylor

Actor and water color artist best known for his role as gunsmith-turned-deputy Newly O'Brien in 113 episodes during the last eight seasons of CBS's *Gunsmoke* television series (1967-1975). In recent years, his painting specialty is the American West, and each year, he creates the posters for several Texas rodeos. Taylor lives with his second wife on a ranch near Throckmorton, Texas.

For more information contact a professional museum educator at 325-437-2800.