



# East Texas

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## Historical Association

### **Pine Cone Profiles – May 2022**

#### **Troy Marler**

*The Pine Cone Profiles are a monthly feature of the East Texas Historical Association, focusing on one of our members.*

Imagine clutching a piece of pottery from a dig on Mt. Zion in Jerusalem or hearing Governor Earl K. Long speak at a rally in midcentury Louisiana or finding the marker of a Revolutionary soldier in the oldest graveyard immediately east of the Sabine — what a wide range of experiences for a single person! But he’s done them all, our Pine Cone Profile for May: Troy Marler. A firm devotee of history in all its aspects, Troy is just as eclectic in his sharing: he’s presented videos to photo groups, hunted down documents for family members, and revived the old-time tales that made early Texians smile. During our 2021 meeting this past October, Troy brought to life Texas CCC camps and the African Americans who participated in them. Loving every bit of history he can experience, here is our Pine Cone Profile: Troy Marler, in his own words.

#### **Where do you live?**

I live in Historic Montgomery, Tx, between Conroe and Navasota. Montgomery is about the same age as Houston and home to the designer of the Lone Star Flag, Dr. Charles Stewart.

#### **How long have you been in East Texas Historical Association?**

I have been involved with ETHA about 8 years.

### **What convinced you to join?**

I really did not need any convincing to join the association. I was also acquainted with Bill O'Neal and Chuck Parsons from other historical associations, and I highly respect them and their work.

### **What is there within ETHA that has kept you a member?**

I have certainly enjoyed emphasis on the history of the East Texas area. Its history, culture, food etc. are very similar to where I was raised in Central Louisiana.

### **What is there about Texas that attracts you?**

I was attracted to Texas because of its history and its expanded vocational and other opportunities. I have found here, for the most part, forward thinking and progressive people that I like to be around. Texas, along with my native state of Louisiana, probably have the most colorful histories of any of the states, in my opinion.

### **How do you usually pursue history?**

I am very eclectic in my reading; history in one form or another is about all that I do read. I read everything from well-respected historians, ranging from Revolutionary War to Civil War, Wild West, Texas, Louisiana, early Christian origins, and a lot in between. I haven't read a fiction or even historical fiction in probably 40 years or more. I just find historical non-fiction so real and interesting that I cannot get around to anything else. I do have an interest in archaeology and participated in a dig on Mt. Zion in Jerusalem that was sponsored by the University of North Carolina. That was a special event for me.

In addition to a wealth of historical books on these various subjects, I also subscribe to various magazines such as Wild West, True West, and journals from the Wild West Historical Association, to which I belong. Of course, I always look forward to the East Texas Historical Journal. I do watch some documentaries if they are not too Hollywood.

I have made a presentation to the East Texas Historical Association and to the Texas Folklore Society. I enjoy the research and preparation necessary for these. I also further my interest in history by belonging to several historical associations

and I try to attend their annual conventions. These include ETHA, the Texas Folklore Society, the Central Texas Association, the Wild West Historical Association, and the Sons of the American Revolution of which I am a member.

And yes, I do love exploring old graveyards. I suppose that really started when I was working on my B.A. degree at Northwestern State Louisiana in Natchitoches, La. Since Natchitoches was the oldest permanent settlement in the Louisiana Purchase, then it has the oldest graveyard as well. This graveyard is located just outside the entrance to the University. I visited it then and every time I am in Natchitoches. It is chock full of history and has graves of Civil War generals from both sides. John Sibley and many others are there. It even has a Revolutionary soldier who I guess got down the Red River someday.

**Why do you love history? Has there been anything in your personal life that led to this? What was it?**

My love of history started during my time in Louisiana. I even got to hear three-time governor "Uncle" Earl Long in one of his last stump speeches before he passed away. He was very colorful, to say the least.

Also, while at Northwestern State I had a history professor who really made history come alive for me. He would take a certain period and work in many political events of that time. We knew the positives and negatives of the presiding president along with the conventions, including the pennants, slogans, etc. We knew what music and styles were prevalent during that period. He really made it flow.

**What is your favorite historical period or historical movement and who is your favorite historical person? Why?**

Difficult to say what would be a favorite historical period or movement. It would probably be the Revolutionary War period. Beating the odds for independence and maintaining it even 50 years later was such a critical achievement.

Again, hard to say a favorite historical person, as there could be so many. It would have been a real joy, I believe, to have been around Benjamin Franklin—I think he would have been very enlightening and a lot of fun as a storyteller. In Texas, it would be Sam Houston, hands down! He was right ahead of his time in the conduct of the war and in his views on secession.

**If there is one event in history at which you could be present, what would it be?  
Why?**

My favorite event in history to have been present at would have been at Appomattox, at the signing with Lee and Grant. After four years of such an uncivil war, that would have really been an experience.