



Award Winning Author and Storyteller

David A. Bowles, author of the Westward Sagas and member of the Tejas Storytelling Association and the National Storytelling Network, enjoyed sharing what he learned from his historical and genealogical research.

David grew up listening to his parents, aunts, and uncles telling stories about his ancestors. As a child, he loved to sit on the front porch of his aunt and uncle's ranch house at the end of the day, eating fresh peaches and listening to the family stories his relatives told.

"Those stories intrigued me because they really happened—and they happened to people that were connected to me," the author said. "I wanted to know more about my ancestors and developed an early interest in history, the only subject I ever excelled in."

As an adult, Bowles wanted to share the family history with his children and grandchildren. He interviewed older relatives and acquired family pictures and documents dating back nearly 150 years. The Bible that had belonged to his Grandmother Elnora Van Cleve contained records of birthdays, marriages, and deaths all the way back to 1845.

After years of research, he started writing a series of novels about his ancestors. Although the stories are consistent with known history, he is writing the books as fiction to include dialogue and to fill in the gaps in the historical records.

David presented on the following topics:

- The Ill-Fated Santa Fe Expedition of 1841
- The First Footers of Austin, Texas
- The Last Days of the Republic of Texas
- The First Daughter of Austin, Texas