



## An ETHA Pine Cone Profile

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**Tim Seiter**

Highland Village, TX X



I can't remember if Tim found me, or I found him. At the time we were both doing research into Spanish East Texas. My research included the Bidai Indians and Tim's work on the Karankawa was growing. He impressed me from the beginning with his smarts and good humor, but also his energy and tenacity. Since then, one of his articles has graced the cover of the *Southwest Historical Quarterly*. When someone's IQ is matched by their EQ it makes for a strong combination. | Gary L. Pinkerton

**Q: Where do you live?**

A: I grew up in a suburb south of Houston called Friendswood, and now I'm living in a suburb north of Dallas called Highland Village.

**Q: How long have you been part of the East Texas Historical Association?**

A: For five years—since 2019.

**Q: What convinced you to join?**

A: Initially, I was looking for publication locations and discovered the *East Texas Historical Quarterly* after reading Francis Galan's excellent 2009 article "The Chirino Boys: Spanish Soldier-Pioneers from Los Adaes on the Louisiana-Texas Borderlands, 1735-1792." I decided to join the organization afterward, and Gary Pinkerton soon invited me out to attend the annual meeting. Thanks to the kindness of members such as Gary and Francis, as well as folks like Jonathan Gerland, I felt very happy with my decision.

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

A: The community without a doubt. I've been a professional historian for half a decade now, and every time I end up at the Fredonia Hotel, I meet a wonderful array of like-minded researchers. For instance, at the last conference I met Bennett Kimbell and had the good fortune to read his thesis "The Southeast Baluarte at Presidio San Sabá" which I utilized heavily while writing my manuscript, "Wrangling Pelicans: Military Life in Eighteenth-Century Spanish Texas."

**Q: What is there about history that attracts you?**

A: The drama. I never get tired of reading real life soap operas. Fortunately, Spanish Texas is chock full of such telenovela-esque stories.

**Q: How do you usually pursue history?**

A: I try to keep all of my histories as accessible as possible, so I enjoy writing popular-facing articles and creating online archives and helpful historical websites. Most of my energy, however, is spent on book length projects and academic articles. I have recently been trying to slow down time so I can manage to write everything I want, but unfortunately time keeps moving faster rather than slower.

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

A: When I was eighteen, I decided to drop out of school and began to do some backpacking and hitchhiking. I ended up walking a large portion of the Appalachian Trail and the Pacific Crest Trail. Those experiences were incredibly formative—they also made me realize how good I had it when I was in college. After a few years of bumming around, I decided to go back to school and thanks to some excellent professors (Andrew Joseph Pegoda and David Rainbow specifically), I decided to pursue a PhD in history.

**Q: What is your favorite historical period or historical movement? Why?**

A: Eighteenth-century Texas without a doubt. Compared to nineteenth-century Texas, it's incredibly understudied, and in my totally unbiased view, is far more interesting.

**Q: Who is your favorite historical person? Why?**

A: There are two historical figures that have particularly grabbed my interest. The first is María del Rosario, a Karankawa leader that had far more power than previously believed. In my next book project, *Persistent Peoples: A History of the Karankawas*, I devote an entire chapter to her. The second historical figure is Rafael Martínez Pacheco, the interim governor of Texas in the late eighteenth century. I argue that Martínez Pacheco did a great deal to stabilize the Spanish presence in Texas. He accomplished this goal by realizing that the region was Native ground and by providing tribute to numerous groups to establish or reinforce treaties. Martínez Pacheco has a colorful past in Texas and is best known for inciting a mass desertion which ultimately ended with Presidio San Agustín de Ahumada being burned to the ground.

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

A: I enjoy air conditioning, television, and browsing the internet so much that any time before the 1980s is off the table. I'll say 1993 that way I could watch X-Files in-sync with when it was first released.

**Q: What else would you like others to know about you?**

A: I'm an avid gardener, rock climber, and video game player.