

Parker has another special legacy. In May of 1836 the Parker settlement near the present day town of Groesbeck was attacked by a Commanche and Kiowa war party, and several family members were killed. Parker's young nephew and niece were kidnapped and later adopted into the Commanche tribe. The niece, Cynthia Ann Parker, lived among the Commanches for almost fifteen years, becoming the wife of a famous chief. Of the children she bore him, a boy named Quanah would become the most famous Commanche war chief of them all. He fought in the last significant battle between native americans and whites on the southern plains, the battle of Adobe Walls, in the early summer of 1874. Quanah's own example symbolized the transition from prairie life to the peaceful, settled life of a respected rancher. Chief Quanah became Quanah Parker. Having roots in both worlds he became the champion of native american causes and became friends of national and local leaders like Teddy Roosevelt and, I believe, Amon Carter.

When Quanah's mother Cynthia Ann was recaptured by Texas Rangers in 1860 she was brought back to this cabin in a sad attempt to reunite her with her white family. She could not make the transition back to white life and died a few years later. Years afterward Quanah visited this log house to pay respects to his mother's memory. I wonder if he knew that Sam Houston had also spent time here. Amon Carter later purchased the Parker House and kept it at his Shady Oaks Farm. After his death the Carter Foundation donated it to the Log Cabin Village in 1958. I got all this information from the Log Cabin Village's excellent guide book.

This simple log building with its unique connections between our past and our present is a fitting subject, I think, for a painting honoring Fort Worth's Sesquicentennial. Having lived here now for more than fifty years, Scott and I have had the wonderful opportunity to have met and known people like Amon Carter and Watt Mathews and Watt's sister Lucille Brittingham who died at age 104 - people who actually knew some of the great figures of Texas's past like Quanah Parker, Major Van Zandt and Charles Goodnight. Scott even had the chance many years ago to paint Ben Littlefield, one of the last surviving slaves still living in Fort Worth!

We have decided to depict the Parker cabin as it exists today in a quiet section of Forest Park strangely removed from the traffic noise of nearby University Drive. It was quite moving to visit the place on a late autumn afternoon when few people or none were there and wander from cabin to cabin talking in the sights and smells of another time there. The autumn trees in our painting always convey for Scott and me a thoughtful, almost elegaic feeling. I sat for hours sketching the Parker cabin and watched the afternoon shadows move across the ancient carved timbers as they had done for more than a hundred and fifty years.

Such light and the movement of shadows symbolize the passage of time for us. The cabin that stands before us is a tangible part of Isaac and Quanah Parker's time and Sam Houston's and Major Arnold's time as well, but it is also a very real part

of our own time. And like the living, it has a future too. Scott and I do hope that as we celebrate the vibrant, thriving city of Fort Worth as it is today, that some will pause for a moment and look at this painting and think about those whose hard work and sacrifices and pain prepared the way for us. And pay honor too, to the civic spirit that has been so special a part of Fort Worth and which made the Log Cabin Village possible. We thank Mr. and Mrs. John Roach for commissioning this painting for Fort Worth and for graciously sharing it with the people of Fort Worth as a print. And we thank Bill Motheral for donating his printing services to the project. They are perfect examples of the civic spirit of the past that is alive and well here in Fort Worth in 1999. Our painting is dedicated to the Roaches and to all the people of Fort Worth who have made contributions to our town from time to time."