

## **THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY**

**September 2014 – Week 3**

**Air Date: September 14 – September 20 (Sunday – Saturday)**



### **TITLE: THE CRASH AT CRUSH**

SEPTEMBER 1896 AND A PUBLICITY STUNT ENDS IN DISASTER.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

SEPTEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>, 1896. NORTH OF WACO. TO BOOST RIDERSHIP, RAILROAD PROMOTER WILLIAM CRUSH IS STAGING THE CRASH OF TWO STEAM TRAINS FOR A CROWD OF ONLOOKERS. THE SPECTACLE DRAWS 40,000 TO A HASTILY BUILT RAILSTOP, APTLY NAMED . . . CRUSH.

AT 5PM, ENGINES 999 AND 1001 START DOWN THE TRACK. MOMENTS LATER . . . THEY COLLIDE! THE BOILERS EXPLODE, WOUNDING SIX SPECTATORS AND KILLING TWO.

DESPITE THE DISASTER, THE PUBLIC LOVES IT. SCOTT JOPLIN EVEN WRITES A TUNE CELEBRATING THE EVENT.

THE “CRASH AT CRUSH” OCCURRED 118 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

LEARN MORE AT SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG OR CALL 800-998-4GLO.

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Allen Lee Hamilton, "CRASH AT CRUSH," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/lc01>), accessed September 04, 2014. Uploaded on June 12, 2010. Modified on February 4, 2014. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.