Did Sousa Play at Chautauqua Auditorium?

There has been much speculation about whether or not John Phillip Sousa and his band ever played in the Waxahachie Chautauqua Auditorium. So far in our Chautauqua research we have not come across any newspaper account or other documentation telling us that he did actually play there. In fact, thus far, indications seem to tell us that he did not. Here are two related items that we have found:

1) Waxahachie native Josephine Ruskin, in her research for the restoration of the Chautauqua Auditorium in the mid-1970s, stated that the U.S. Marine Band appeared in the Auditorium on November 4, 1914. “Most old-timers here remember this event, but many mistakenly believe it was Sousa’s Band.” She concludes from her research that Sousa never played in Waxahachie. (Lecture Series on the History of Ellis County, Southwestern Junior College of the Assemblies of God, May 10-14, 1976)

2) In Rose-Mary Rumbley’s book Dallas, Too (Eakin Press, Austin, Texas 1998), she describes an itinerary handwritten by Sousa himself which listed his band’s touring engagements from September 1925 to March 1926. They played matinee and evening performances, never taking a day off, and visiting almost every state in the union. In December 1925, many Texas cities were on the list, including Waxahachie, which was scheduled for December 28. However, Waxahachie was crossed out and “Korsikana” was written in for that day.

If anyone has other information that can help us answer the question of Sousa’s appearance in Waxahachie, please let us know. We are still researching!


Editors Note: The "Canceled" article above was located 6-29-02!