

THE MEDALLION

FORT WORTH'S FRONTIER HERITAGE

Cattle, Centennial, and Conservation
Mark Cowntown's History

WILL ROGERS
MEMORIAL COLISEUM
1936

... But Seriously

Music Icon Phil Collins Discusses His Notable Alamo Collection

Against all odds, British rock n' roll legend Phil Collins owns one of the largest collections of Alamo artifacts in the world.

The Grammy award-winning artist discussed his lifelong fascination with the Alamo and his career as a world-renowned rock star at a recent event hosted by the Dallas Historical Society. Texas Historical Commission member and Secretary Diane Bumpas introduced Collins, who spoke for nearly an hour in an interview-style format with Lindalyn Adams, a Lifetime Trustee of the Dallas Historical Society and a trustee with the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission.

Collins' presence on the intimate Hall of State stage with an audience of several hundred preservationists offered a marked juxtaposition to his familiar role at concerts in massive stadiums filled with screaming fans. As a drummer and lead vocalist with the rock band Genesis, Collins gained worldwide success in the 1970s and 1980s with hit songs such as "Misunderstanding," "That's All," and "Invisible Touch." Collins is perhaps even better known for his subsequent solo work, including number-one hits such as "In the Air Tonight" and "Against All Odds," and chart-topping albums "No Jacket Required" and "...But Seriously."

On the Hall of State stage, he claimed his unprecedented involvement in an event of this nature was directly related to his close friendship with Adams.

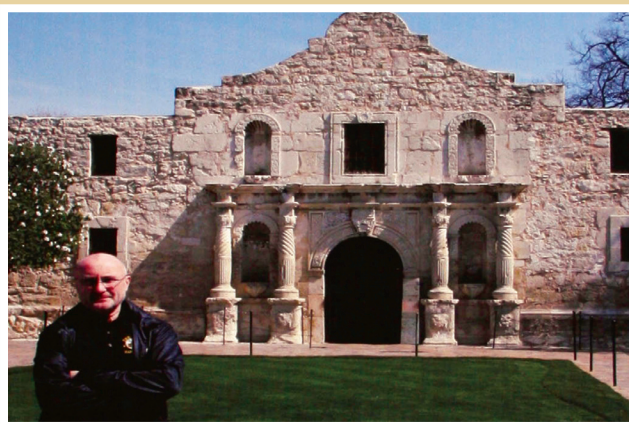
"I'm here tonight because of Lindalyn," Collins said. "I don't claim to be a historian, I'm just an English drummer who loves the Alamo."

Collins recalled first meeting Adams while vacationing in the Virgin Islands nearly 30 years ago. Upon realizing their shared passion for Texas history, the two became fast friends, despite Adams being unaware of Collins' international fame.

"When he said he was from a band called Genesis, I told him it was nice for him to be involved with a religious musical group," Adams said, prompting laughs throughout the crowd. "It was an instant friendship."

Collins addressed the question most people immediately ask upon learning about his extensive artifact collection: How did he become so interested in the Alamo?

He explained that he developed a fascination with the battle and its legendary defenders while watching the "Disneyland" TV series



Above: Musician Phil Collins owns one of the world's largest collections of Alamo-related objects. Opposite: Collins (center) speaks with Lindalyn Adams and Dallas businessman Angus Wynne III.

with Fess Parker as Davy Crockett (1954–55) on a small black-and-white television in the corner of his boyhood living room. Collins was under the impression he was perhaps the only child who knew about this compelling aspect of

Texas heritage, especially in faraway England.

"I thought it was my little secret. I took every opportunity to dress up like Davy Crockett when I was little, and I still do from time to time," Collins quipped. "As life went on, I found that millions of people knew about the Alamo and were interested in its history. Who knew?"

Decades later, Collins remembered the Alamo while on tour with Genesis in 1975. With several free days on his schedule, he traveled to San Antonio to see the mythical site that captivated him as a youngster.

"I remember rounding the corner and seeing this special place for the first time—it was mind-blowing, and it really made a big impression on me," he said.

Collins began collecting Alamo-related objects while touring throughout the U.S. in the late 1980s, when he discovered several stores specializing in historical items. The fateful object that drew Collins into his hobby was a saddle belonging to John William Smith, the last messenger from the Alamo who went on to become San Antonio's first mayor.

"I got serious at that point and started to collect," he said. "That's what I spend my money on now. I've found that the more interest you show in a subject, the more stuff comes your way."

Many items have come Collins' way from the History Shop on Alamo Plaza in San Antonio. While pursuing his passion for adding to his collection, Collins befriended store proprietor Jim Guimarin, who restores and sells documents and objects related to the Alamo and Texas history.

Collins recalled speaking with Guimarin several years ago about the History Shop's proximity to the Battle of the Alamo and the possibility of undiscovered objects located beneath the store.

"To make a long story short, I bought the place and we started digging. And by 'we' I mean the royal we," Collins said. "We didn't discover anything of major significance, but we found several fire pits and hundreds of horseshoes and musket balls."

At the Dallas event, Collins followed his discussion with Adams by participating in a brief question-and-answer session, where he addressed several issues related to his collection. He said it is safely kept in museum-quality cases in the basement of his Switzerland home, and although he acknowledged several of his favorite items—William B. Travis' Bowie knife and a snuffbox—he largely downplayed the significance of any specific items.

When asked if he felt "bad about taking these things out of Texas," Collins paused before plaintively replying, "You know, I never

sell these items—I just give them a good home. I'll make sure the collection is properly taken care of and remains in good hands. My mother instilled values in me and my wife is a spiritualist, so I'll be sure to do the right thing."

Event organizer Jack Bunning, executive director of the Dallas Historical Society, confirmed that Collins is taking proper care of the objects and he hopes to someday seek opportunities to display Collins' Alamo-related items in Texas.

"I've really enjoyed working with him, and we were honored to host his discussion and hear this fascinating story," Bunning said. "He has a special friendship with Lindalyn, and I think everyone saw his strength of character at our presentation."

As the event came to a close, Collins thanked attendees and reminded them that although he is not a local resident or historian, he feels a strong connection to Texas as a result of passionately researching and devoting efforts to a significant aspect of the state's heritage.

"I can hold my own with the Alamo enthusiasts, but sometimes it gets a bit heated. There are so many differing opinions about this important battle," he said, adding, "I'm very serious about it." ★

This article was written by Andy Rhodes, managing editor of The Medallion.



Keeping Tabs on TAM

The Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Archeology Division serves as the statewide coordinator for Texas Archeology Month (TAM), assisting local event hosts with publicity. To help organizers promote their events, the THC provides free materials that include the TAM Calendar of Events (printed and online versions), the TAM poster, a 40-page manual called "How to Plan and Manage an Archeology Fair," and brochures on a variety of archeological topics. To order materials, contact Donna McCarver at 512.463.6090 or donna.mccarver@thc.state.tx.us.

If you missed the printed calendar deadline this summer, you can still send your event description for the online calendar, which is posted at www.thc.state.tx.us/archeology/aatam.shtml. TAM event descriptions for this year's online calendar can be sent through October 22. To post information, contact TAM Coordinator María de la Luz Martínez at 512.463.9505 or marialuzm@thc.state.tx.us.

Celebrate Archeology During October Events

"People love archeology."

That was the comment submitted by a Texas Archeology Month (TAM) event organizer in response to a survey sent by the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Archeology Division in fall 2009. Offered since 1989 as part of the THC's mission to preserve the state's archeological resources and increase the appreciation of scientific archeology, the celebration is an enduring vehicle that is used to tell the real stories of Texas' archeological past. TAM is sponsored by the THC in association with the Texas Archeological Society, the Council of Texas Archeologists, and the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network (TASN).

TAM takes place in October, drawing thousands of people each year to about 100 diverse activities

around the state. These include archeological fairs, frontier festivals, talks and presentations, simulated archeological digs, historical reenactments, exhibits, Native American crafts, tours and park interpretations, conferences, artifact viewing and identification, and many other types of events.

During the past two years, about 60 counties have hosted at least one TAM event. Over the next few years, the THC hopes to expand the celebration into underserved sections of the state so more people can enjoy the educational and fun-filled events in their communities. In preparation for the October 2010 celebration, the THC encouraged TASN members to organize activities in their counties and provided suggestions for new TAM events to managers at select THC historic sites.



Left: A volunteer shows a young participant how to record "finds" in one of Camp Swift's Archeology Fair dig boxes. Above: Fourth-grade students admire points at the Museum of the Coastal Bend at The Victoria College.

All of this year's activities are listed in the TAM 2010 Calendar of Events (see sidebar for related information). Similar TAM promotions are planned during fall 2010 and spring 2011 in preparation for TAM 2011.

"Nearly one quarter of all Texas counties had a TAM event in October 2009," said State Archeologist Pat Mercado-Allinger, "but because Texas

is so large, there is plenty of room for growth."

Speaking about the importance of TAM in her area of the state, a TAM organizer noted, "This is a great event for our community. We feel it is very important to reach the people of our region, especially the youth. These are our future

who will someday inherit our history." ★

This article was written by Maria de la Luz Martínez of the THC's Archeology Division.

Recovered artifacts at Fort McKavett State Historic Site include these bottles, which reflect the diversity of consumable goods available on the frontier.



Underwater Advance

THC Welcomes Borgens as New State Marine Archeologist



Amy Borgens, new state marine archeologist

A new state marine archeologist has surfaced in the Texas Historical Commission (THC) waters. Amy Borgens, formerly employed as a nautical archeologist at the PBS&J engineering firm in Austin, recently succeeded Steve Hoyt as the THC's marine archeologist.

Borgens has worked in the field of Texas maritime archeology since 1997, beginning with her work as an artifact photographer, radiographer, and conservator at the Conservation Research Laboratory at Texas A&M University. Borgens has been associated with several notable Texas shipwreck projects, including the *Belle*, the Pass Cavallo Wreck (early 19th-century sailing vessel), *USS Westfield*, an unidentified Civil War blockade runner (believed to be *Will-o'-the-Wisp*), and *Neches Belle*.

Borgens earned a bachelor's degree from Purdue University in fine arts. She received her master's degree in anthropology from Texas A&M University with a specialization in nautical archeology. She specializes in shipwreck archeology, artifact photography, artifact illustration, historical research, and conservation.

Borgens also worked with the departing Hoyt, who had been responsible for the preservation, protection, and investigation of shipwrecks in all state-owned waters since 1998. He created a marine component of the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network in 2001 and supervised eight volunteer marine stewards.

During his tenure at the THC, Hoyt participated in a number of major marine archeological projects, conducting surveys at Sabine Pass and in Matagorda Bay.

"Steve was a great Texas state marine archeologist, and we will miss his expertise in nautical archeology and his dedication to protecting and preserving Texas maritime history," said Jim Bruseth, the THC's Archeology Division director. ★

No Stone Unturned in Quest to Confirm Revered Texas Ranger's Grave

Mystery has always surrounded legendary Texas Ranger James Coryell. No one really knows what he looked like. Questions remain about how he died. Was he scalped? And where, exactly, is he buried? Now, 173 years after his death, a mystery woman may hold the key to answering these questions—at least that's what archeologists at the Texas Historical Commission (THC) are hoping.

Coryell, for whom Coryell County is named, died in 1837 in an Indian attack. But it is in nearby Falls County where the THC is investigating a gravesite it has reason to believe may be that of the famous lawman and hopes to soon confirm this suspicion.

Coryell was one of the earliest Texas Rangers in the Republic of Texas. Born in Ohio in 1796, Coryell ventured to New Orleans and eventually made his way to San Antonio, where he hooked up with some other well-known Texas transplants, James and Rezin Bowie. In 1831, the three men conducted an expedition for the San Saba Mine, ultimately participating in the famous Bowie Indian fight facing more than 160 Caddo, Waco, and Tehuacana Native Americans. By the mid-1830s, Coryell was based out of the frontier station Fort Milam and operated with various Ranger companies. He owned more than 1,100 acres of land at the intersection of what is now Coryell Creek and the Leon River.

The possible Coryell grave site, nothing more than a strikingly unusual cluster of rocks, is located near an African American cemetery on land owned by the Summerlee Foundation of Dallas, headed by THC Commissioner John Crain.

“We hope to verify some of the differing accounts of how James Coryell was killed, which range from being scalped to being felled by an arrow. Archeological research can help to solve these and other mysteries.”

— *Jim Bruseth*
THC Archeology Division Director

“We knew it was important property from a historical standpoint,” Crain said. “And we knew that there was a cemetery nearby where slaves and former slaves had been buried.”

The property was once the site of the small community of Sarahville de Viesca, whose approximately 200 residents headed east in advance of the Mexican army during the 1836 “Runaway Scrape.” Coryell joined them and was reportedly instrumental in organizing their retreat. He returned several months after the Battle of San Jacinto and promptly signed on as a Texas Ranger. Later, the former Sarahville site was purchased by Churchill Jones, who operated a large cotton plantation and had many slaves, most of whom were buried in a nearby cemetery known as Bull Hill.

“Its age and proximity to the Sarahville site, a colonial capital, and the Jones plantation made it a significant cemetery,” said THC Archeology Division Director Jim



Bruseth. “The graveyard is one of the oldest in Falls County, and we may soon learn that one of its earliest graves is that of legendary Texas Ranger James Coryell.”

A historical marker was dedicated on the site in July 2010. Much of the research for the marker was conducted by Sharon Styles from California, whose ancestors are buried at the cemetery, and former THC Preservation Fellow Nedra Lee for her master's thesis with the University of Texas. Lee later received a Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowship in part based on her work at Bull Hill.

Researching the cemetery's history led to a book written in 1936 by historian Frank Simmons in which a slave named Tom Broaddus is recorded as saying “there was a grave just off the south line of



From far left: A Broaddus family gravestone at Bull Hill Cemetery; a modern Texas Rangers badge; stones were placed atop the reported Coryell gravesite; the grave shaft lies nearly five feet below ground.

TXDOT

of slaves bringing rocks to place on top of the collapsed grave.

“I thought: this could be big,” Bruseth said. “We may have found the needle in the haystack.”

Since then, Dr. Doug Owsley of the Smithsonian Institution has agreed to assist with any forensic investigations, including skeletal and DNA analysis. This is where the mystery woman enters the picture.

“We have to find a descendent for DNA testing,” said Bruseth. “Coryell died childless, so the DNA has to trace back from his mother, through a female line, to a female descendant living today. Right now, we don’t know who she might be.”

The THC has put out word that it is searching for relatives of James Coryell and has, in fact, heard from two out-of-state families (albeit without the correct

lineage). Additionally, the THC needs permission from relatives to exhume the grave.

“We hope to verify some of the differing accounts of how James Coryell was killed, which range from being scalped to being felled by an arrow,” said Bruseth. “Archeological research can help to solve these and other mysteries.”

Of the many strange coincidences in this story, one in particular returns to the 1836 historical account of Frank Simmons. In it, he describes how Coryell was removing honey from a beehive when the fatal Indian attack occurred. Today, not 50 yards from the site of what may be Coryell’s final resting place, an active hive buzzes with honeybees in a gnarled, old oak tree on the outskirts of Bull Hill Cemetery. ★

This article was written by Debbi Head of the THC’s Marketing Communications Division.

the lot” that he had been told was Coryell’s. Broaddus detailed how, at some point, the grave collapsed and slaves brought in rocks to place on top of it to “keep his spirit at rest.” A prominent headstone in the Bull Hill cemetery bears the family name Broaddus.

In late spring 2010 when Crain was clearing brush around the old cemetery to install a new fence, he noticed an unusual cluster of rocks and recalled Broaddus’ story. Work was halted, and over several days Bruseth and a team confirmed through shallow digging, soil testing, and X rays that a grave shaft approximately five feet deep lay beneath the rocks. It is clear that the rocks had been transported from elsewhere as there are no natural rocks in the soil at the cemetery, supporting Broaddus’ description

If you have information about a living relative of James Coryell, please contact the THC’s Archeology Division at 512.463.6096.

FORT WORTH'S FRONTIER HERITAGE

Look Beyond Tourist Districts to Kick Up City's Rough-and-Tumble History

"For education, go to Dallas; for entertainment, come to Fort Worth."

That was the unofficial slogan attributed to Billy Rose, producer of Fort Worth's 1936 Texas centennial celebration, an appropriately rough-and-tumble event compared to the glitzy official exposition at Dallas' Fair Park.

The Fort Worth facilities constructed for the city's Frontier Centennial—including the Will Rogers Memorial Center and the short-lived Casa Mañana dinner theater complex—were spearheaded by Amon Carter, renowned civic booster and publishing magnate. Carter, armed with a competitive spirit, was determined to draw attention and crowds away from the Dallas centennial exposition, according to Doug Harman, former president of the Fort Worth Convention and Visitors Bureau and board member with the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Texas Lakes Trail Region.

"Carter was furious that Dallas received the official centennial event," Harman explains. "He felt that Fort Worth needed a monumental facility like the Will Rogers center to overshadow Dallas."

The Will Rogers Memorial Center—a colossal Art Deco tower, coliseum, auditorium, and show barns—would eventually become the centerpiece of Fort Worth's Cultural District, which now features world-class destinations such as the Kimbell Art Museum, the Modern

Art Museum of Fort Worth, the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, and the Amon Carter Museum.

"Amon Carter played a very significant role in Fort Worth's cultural history. He was an enormously influential businessman and a strong booster of the

community," Harman says. "He deserves a lot of credit for setting in motion some of the momentous events that made our city what it is today."

As part of Fort Worth's Frontier Centennial celebration,



Carter helped bring Broadway producer Rose on board for a \$100,000 fee to organize and stage an outlandish event that would rival Dallas and “teach those dudes over there where the West really begins,” according to Kenneth Ragsdale’s book *Centennial ’36*.

Rose’s spectacle was anchored by an extravagant dinner theater known as Casa Mañana, featuring the world’s largest revolving stage surrounded by a moat, elaborate fountains and arches, and what was billed as the world’s longest bar. The performances were just as vibrant, including outrageous musical revues and burlesque shows. To promote the event, Rose reportedly claimed, “The exposition in Dallas will show the progress of art, education, and culture during the last 100 years, but my exposition will show just the opposite if possible.”

Though Casa Mañana was considered a successful component of Fort Worth’s Frontier Centennial, it was ultimately a fleeting aspect of the city’s cultural landscape. The structural limitations of the hastily constructed plywood facilities coupled with the onset of World War II led to its early demise, and the entire complex was razed in 1942.

What remains of Fort Worth’s centennial extravaganza, however,

is the magnificent Will Rogers Memorial Center. Carter played a major role in securing funding for the center’s construction, dedicating it to the memory of his close friend Will Rogers, the famous cowboy performer who died in a 1935 plane crash. The stately Art Deco buildings remain significant attractions in the district,

appropriately representing Fort Worth’s culture with rodeos, livestock shows, and theatrical events.

“The cultural district is really centered on Amon Carter’s barns and the complex that grew up around

them for the centennial,” Harmon says, adding that the nearby Kimbell, Modern, and Amon Carter museums were built on parking lots created for the 1936 event.

“This is the heart of our culture, with cowboys at the center—right where they should be.”

— Clara Rudell
Will Rogers visitor center



Opposite: Will Rogers Memorial Center; Portrait of Amon Carter, Amon Carter Museum.



Right: Bronze bust of Will Rogers, Will Rogers Memorial Center.

Further Fun in Fort Worth

Many Fort Worth visitors have experienced the prestigious museums in the Cultural District and the historic Cowtown elements of the Stockyards District. However, the city offers dozens of other cultural attractions that don’t often receive the attention of their high-profile counterparts. The following destinations provide a well-rounded perspective on the city and its vibrant heritage.

The **McFarland House** was constructed on a bluff in the Quality Hill neighborhood several miles away from downtown’s often-uncivilized activities. Originally built for a Galveston family, it was purchased by cattleman William Eddleman, whose daughter, Carrie McFarland, lived in the home primarily on her own for 75 years.

As a result, the McFarland House remains in pristine condition, with impressive decor including white mahogany, intricate chandeliers, Victorian color schemes, and elaborate woodwork. The home hosts dozens of events annually such as weddings, reunions, corporate gatherings, and anniversary parties.

Sister property **Thistle Hill** hosts similar events and public tours in a slightly different atmosphere. According to site manager Brian Rhodes, Thistle Hill represents the “one-upmanship” common in Fort Worth at the time, with a prominent location slightly higher than neighboring properties, more land than surrounding homes, and stunning views.

Rhodes explains that Thistle Hill’s innovative features (including an indoor garden space and inter-room communication system), open atmosphere, and European styling reflect the cultural trends of the time.

“Houses like this were used in a completely opposite approach than they are now—people lived and worked on their ranches in the

– Continued on page 10

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country during the week, and escaped to the city on weekends to spend time with friends and relax,” he says. “These days, people leave the city to enjoy the quiet life on a rural ranch.”

In addition to these house museums, Fort Worth offers several lesser-known yet equally compelling heritage attractions throughout the city. They include:

■ **The Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame.** Located in one of the Stockyard District’s historic barns, this museum features eye-catching exhibits with cowboy and Chisholm Trail memorabilia, a sizable antique carriage collection, and a hall of fame honoring dozens of famous cowboys and cowgirls from Texas.

texascowboyhalloffame.com
817.626.7131

■ **Sid Richardson Museum.** Located in the historic Sundance Square District, the museum offers tours of its remarkable Western art collection, including paintings of the Old West by Frederic Remington, Charles M. Russell, and other artists in the collection of legendary Texas oilman and philanthropist Sid W. Richardson.

www.sidrichardsonmuseum.org
888.332.6554

■ **Fort Worth Water Gardens.** Designed by New York architects Philip Johnson and John Burgee to depict a miniature mountain scene, the recently enhanced water gardens offer visitors and residents a cool urban respite with flowing water on terraced steps on the south end of downtown.

1502 Commerce St.
817.871.5757

■ **Downtown Marker Program.** Nearly two dozen bronze markers, known as the Heritage Trails, are scattered throughout downtown, providing a historical tour of the people and events that shaped the city’s history, including topics such as Gamblers & Gunfights, JFK, Cynthia Ann Parker, and Architectural Diversity.

fortworthheritagetrails.com



Doug Harman views the exhibits at the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame.

Clara Rudell, manager of the Will Rogers Memorial Center’s visitor center and a longtime member of the Tarrant County Historical Commission, proudly proclaims, “this is the heart of our culture, with cowboys at the center—right where they should be.”

Rudell points out the notable architectural elements throughout the complex, including the coliseum’s innovative girder support system allowing unobstructed views, and the nearly 200-foot tall tower that was designed “just for looks, really.” Upon approaching the bronze bust of Will Rogers, Rudell relates a popular local legend associated with rodeo cowboys at the coliseum. For decades, they’ve rubbed the statue’s nose in an attempt to bestow Rogers’ good fortune on their performance; as a result, the nose bears a notable dent, seemingly from the vast number of thumb interactions.

“It’s such a great story, but I have to admit the truth,” Rudell says. “The dent is really there from when they installed the statue. They accidentally dropped Will on his nose.”

Rudell encourages visitors to experience the Will Rogers Memorial Center’s charms by walking among the buildings to

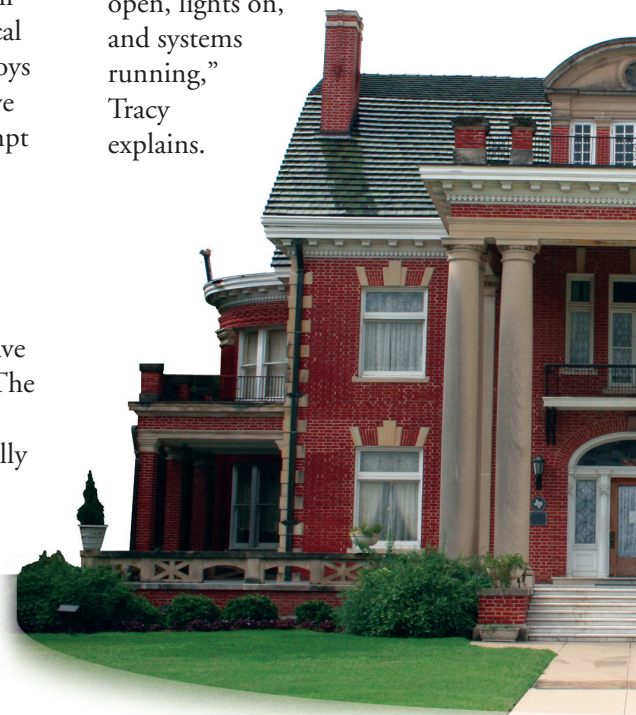
witness the Art Deco architecture or attending a free weekend horse show or rodeo at the coliseum. For an event calendar, visit www.fortworthgov.org/publicevents/wrhc/.

Conserving Cowtown’s Collective Past

Nearly a mile to the east of the Cultural District lies the 1899 McFarland House, headquarters of Historic Fort Worth, Inc. (HFW). Inside, HFW staff members pursue citywide preservation efforts, appropriately surrounded by the historic detailing and furnishings of this grand Queen Anne-style Victorian mansion.

HFW Executive Director Jerre Tracy explains that the organization, established in 1969 to prevent further demolition of the city’s significant historic structures, remains dedicated to preserving Fort Worth’s heritage through stewardship and education programs. HFW also owns and operates the nearby 1904 Thistle Hill mansion, making it and the McFarland House available to heritage tourists and local residents to demonstrate the importance of historic preservation.

“These were both unwanted properties that we helped restore and now maintain by keeping the doors open, lights on, and systems running,” Tracy explains.



“By hosting tours and events at these properties, we’re helping people understand the dynamics of preserving historic structures in Fort Worth.”

HFW also maintains an archival collection of historic property files in the basement of the McFarland House, allowing residents and visitors to research data about many of the city’s residential and commercial structures. The collection contains documents related to HFW’s Most Endangered Places program, an annual listing of historic properties and sites that raises awareness of the organization’s preservation efforts.

“It’s really unique because it’s a localized program as opposed to an initiative at the state or federal level,” Tracy explains. “We’ve been able to help save a good number of properties, and people are really starting to take notice.”

A notable property on the 2010 list is the Ridglea Theater, a 1950 single-screen theater on Camp Bowie Boulevard west of downtown featuring distinctive Spanish-Mediterranean architecture, including a red-tile roof and a 70-foot stone tower serving as a gateway to the adjacent Ridglea neighborhood. Inside, terrazzo flooring and colorful murals add to the theater’s stylish flair, securing its reputation as a

popular entertainment destination throughout the 1950s–70s. Though it remains open as a rock concert venue, the Ridglea is in danger of losing its historical integrity due to a proposed major commercial property renovation.

In addition to its Endangered Places program, HFW oversees several additional heritage and cultural endeavors, including a popular local artist showcase called Preservation is the Art of the City and other fundraising programs such as an antiques show, holiday events, garden tours, and the Designer Showhouse (this year featuring the stunning mid-century modern Chiles home in the Westover Hills neighborhood, October 2–24).

“One of our primary missions is to make history come alive in Fort Worth,” Tracy says. “We hope visitors and residents experience some of our programs to get a real sense of the significant sites all across this wonderful city.”

For additional information about heritage tourism destinations in the Fort Worth area, order a free copy of the THC’s *Texas Lakes Trail Region* travel guide by calling 866.276.6219 or visiting www.thc.state.tx.us. ★

Article and photos by Andy Rhodes, managing editor of The Medallion.



On the cover: The Will Rogers Memorial Coliseum.

*Left: Thistle Hill mansion;
Above: interior of the 1899
McFarland House, headquarters
of Historic Fort Worth, Inc.*

■ **The Western Currency Facility Tour and Visitor Center.** This facility showcases U.S. paper currency, where visitors can see billions of dollars being printed during a free 45-minute tour, explore interactive exhibits, and view an informative theater film.

www.moneyfactory.gov
866.865.1194

■ **The Texas Civil War Museum.** One of the largest Civil War museums in the country with more than 15,000 square feet of exhibits, the museum contains three major galleries: a Civil War collection, Victorian dress collection, and United Daughters of the Confederacy Texas Confederate collection.

www.texascivilwarmuseum.com
817.246.2323

■ **Oakwood Cemetery.** The final resting place for some of Fort Worth’s most notable residents, Oakwood features tree-lined meandering paths with graves including John Peter Smith (the “Father of Fort Worth”) and William “Gooseneck” McDonald, who owned the city’s first African American bank.

www.oakwoodcemetery.net
817.624.3531

■ **National Multicultural Heritage Museum.** Featured in the THC’s forthcoming *African Americans in Texas: A Lasting Legacy* travel booklet, this museum highlights the important contributions of the state’s ethnically diverse cowboys and other prominent African Americans, such as the Buffalo Soldiers, the Tuskegee Airmen, and Bessie Coleman.

www.cowboysofcolor.org
817.534.8801

■ **Fort Worth Museum of Science and History.** Though the museum itself is not considered a lesser-known attraction, its recent dramatic renovation is news to many visitors, who can enjoy the enhanced exhibits (including the relocated Cattle Raisers Museum), innovative theater experiences, and inviting design.

www.fwmuseum.org
817.255.9300

Cycles of History

Heritage-Themed Bike Tours Rolling Through Texas

While bicycling is not foremost on the minds of many preservationists, an increase in history-themed rides around the state is making some take notice. The activity is surging in popularity as a sport, recreational pursuit, and sustainable mode of transport, and several events now offer riders a closer look into historic places and events. With Texas' rich history, temperate weather, country roads, scenic landscapes, and diverse regions, the state is poised to reap huge rewards as cyclists seek out authentic encounters with the past.

Former Texas Forest Trail Region coordinator Kathleen Seal conducted a survey of participants at East Texas cycling events in 2008, revealing that more than 20 percent of riders preferred routes featuring historic sites. While other route characteristics ranked higher—such as the availability of restrooms, water and food, and scenic views—more participants preferred historic sites than bicycle repair shops. This

surprising outcome may result from the fact that most road bikes are expensive, fine-tuned machines, and the people who ride them for miles tend to either have support from event organizers or be self-sufficient in dealing with minor repairs such as flat tires.

The economics of bicycling can shed some light on its enthusiasts' needs and desires. People who spend money on costly bikes often escape city traffic for less-crowded rural routes—where many of Texas' historic treasures happen to be located. Like all travelers, they impact local communities by purchasing food, drinks, lodging, and goods. According to a 2003 survey of road cyclists by the Outdoor Industry Association, 41 percent of respondents had a household income of \$40,000–\$79,000, while 24 percent had a household income of more than \$80,000. Twenty-seven percent of those surveyed were 45 or older.

Recognizing the potential of this market in Texas, some heritage tourism professionals are tailoring events and routes for cyclists. Beth Nobles, executive director of the Texas Mountain Trail Region, has spearheaded

cycle-friendly initiatives in Far West Texas by connecting and marketing hotels, restaurants, hardware stores, and other businesses offering services cyclists need, as well as promoting heritage routes featuring historic and cultural sites.

“Experiencing a place on a bicycle is fundamentally different than in a car, in a way that will put you closer to its history,” Nobles says. “In a car you're limited by the box you're traveling in, but on a bike your view is not impeded. Your experience is much closer to that of the early Native American, the stagecoach driver, the early cowboy and rancher, the Buffalo Soldier, the farmer taking his wares to town to sell by wagon. You're higher and slower on a bike than you are in a car. You're facing the elements—the wind, the dust, the hot and cold temperatures.”

Along for the Ride

Margaret Hoogstra had never given much thought to cyclists as a heritage tourism market prior to 2008. That fall, the Texas Forts Trail Region executive director received a call from Kevin Kelly of the Jacksboro Chamber of Commerce, who said Roby Christie of the Wichita Falls-based Hotter'N Hell Hundred (HHH) ride was interested in creating a new ride based on the Forts Trail. One of the largest endurance cycling events in the nation, HHH consistently draws more than 10,000 participants each August for a grueling ride of 100 miles. Christie, who owns property near Jacksboro, had seen the blue heritage trail signs and thought a multi-day ride along the entire Forts Trail might be fun. Hoogstra was intrigued, and talks began.





Bottom, left: Cowboy coffee is served in Throckmorton. Above: Fort Griffin provides a needed rest stop. Right: Cyclists pose in front of the Shackelford County Courthouse, Albany. Photos by Beth Nobles.

Initial conversations revealed a perfect partnership. Christie and his organization Wichita Falls Streams and Valleys provided the experience of producing a large cycling event, including route selection and ride support, while Hoogstra and the Texas Forts Trail Region offered regional knowledge, local contacts, marketing, and publicity experience. A steering committee was formed that included partners from various counties, communities, and state agencies.

Focus was narrowed to the northeast quadrant of the Forts Trail region, and a three-day route took shape featuring three frontier forts—Fort Richardson, Fort Griffin, and Fort Belknap—plus the historic downtowns of Albany, Throckmorton, and Graham. The group committed to producing an annual ride for at least three years.

The modest goal for the first year was at least 100 paid cyclists. “Two days before the event we were heartbroken,” recalls Hoogstra. “I was so embarrassed and dismayed that we really only had around 30. But, as they say, ‘The show must go on.’ Our goal became to make it the best ever event for those 30 cyclists.”

Hoogstra was happy to discover that those who participated included eminent riders representing cycling communities throughout the state. She refers to them as the “scouts” who would spread the word back home. With the focus on quality over quantity, Hoogstra was thrilled to see the scouts having the time of their lives and receiving the royal treatment from small towns along the route. Reenactors fired starting guns at Fort Richardson and worked the rest stop at Fort Griffin; Throckmorton residents provided chuck wagon cooking and a liar’s contest; the Mineral Wells Kiwanis Club flipped burgers and staffed a rest stop.

The small group lent itself to camaraderie and one-on-one attention. “At the end of the ride, every one of them said, ‘You’ve got something here. You have the beginnings of something we’ll talk about and help you promote, and we definitely want to come back,’ ” proclaims Hoogstra. “I think it was such a natural benefit of heritage tourism and reaching that new audience that, frankly, we hadn’t really thought about.” ★

This article was written by Rob Hodges of the THC’s Marketing Communications Division.

Roll with It

Beth Nobles notes that heritage bike routes are interpreted with cyclists in mind, but can be enjoyed by everyone. “The information and the experience also await the motorist, the motorcyclist, the horseback rider, the walker, too,” she says. With that in mind, here are some events and routes around the state:

■ The second annual **Texas Forts Tour** will take place over Columbus Day weekend, October 8–11. More information can be found at www.texasfortstour.com.

■ To learn more about the Texas Mountain Trail Region’s cycle-friendly initiatives and heritage bike routes such as “**El Capitan to El Capitan**,” visit www.texasmountaintrail.com/bike.

■ The **LBJ 100 Bicycle Tour** (www.lbjbicycletour.org) at the Stonewall Unit of the Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park is a one-day event that occurs every spring with features that have included rest stops at historic schoolhouses and a tour of the LBJ ranch led by Luci Baines Johnson.

■ Schulenburg has two single-day rides in the spring—**Steeple Chase Bike Tour** and **Texas Dance Hall Ride**—that showcase Fayette County’s painted churches and historic dance halls.

■ **Bike Friendly Oak Cliff** is a bicycle advocacy group in South Dallas that has presented a history-themed ride series for cyclists and non-athletes alike, including one that traces Dallas’ music history.

■ The **National Preservation Conference in Austin** (October 27–30) will offer a three-hour bike ride featuring the Texas State Capitol, the first freedmen’s community west of the Mississippi River, a historic biergarten, and more.

Plaques Honor Archeological Stewardship

As Texans gather during October to celebrate the state's archeological heritage (see story, pages 4–5), they may want to consider if properties in their region are eligible for a Historic Texas Lands Plaque. The plaque is awarded by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) to landowners who have taken the necessary steps to identify archeological sites on their property designated as a State Archeological Landmark and are permitting major research, or have established a conservation easement preventing unwanted development on the property.



Two Historic Texas Lands Plaques were unveiled earlier this year—at the site of historic Presidio La Bahia in Goliad County and to Mr. and Mrs. Al Johnson of Rockport. Both properties represent distinctly different yet significant aspects of the state's history.

The Presidio La Bahia plaque was presented in April to Newton Warzecha, director of the presidio and representative of the Catholic

Diocese of Victoria, which owns the property.

“This plaque not only serves the purpose of thanking participating landowners, we hope it encourages others to take notice of sites on their land and take pride in their role of stewardship,” said Jim Bruseth, director of the THC's Archeology Division. “Sites like this one help tell the real stories of Texas and preserve them for future generations.”

As a representative of the diocese, Warzecha has worked to protect and preserve the archeological integrity of the site and has helped document, conserve, and curate the important collection of material remains resulting from the archeological excavations that took place during the 1960s restoration. Recently, Warzecha helped orchestrate the complete renovation of the museum's interior. In 2008, he encouraged the diocese to acquire a State Archeological Landmark designation on the property.



Above, from left: A Historic Texas Lands Plaque is mounted at the entrance to Jack Skiles' property in Val Verde County; Frank and Evelyn Sprague of Hamilton County also participate in the Lands Plaque program.

Presidio La Bahia is the third and final location for the Spanish presidios bearing this name. Established in 1721 in Victoria County and moved to its present location in Goliad in 1749, the third location of Presidio La Bahia, along with its accompanying mission, Our Lady of Loreto Chapel, served to establish a strong Spanish presence in an area considered frontier territory.

The other recent Lands Plaque was presented to the Johnsons in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the protection and preservation of archeological resources on their land in Aransas County. Beginning in the late 1990s, the Johnsons have allowed scientific archeological investigations to be conducted at a Civil War-period salt works located on their property.

The investigations revealed previously unknown information about a facility that likely provided salt for the area, including the nearby community of Lamar. The salt works would have been a critical element of survival in what was then a remote location. Additional research on the property has focused on the remains of a pre-historic Native American site, which is being investigated by one of the THC's archeological stewards.

The state of Texas contains more than two million archeological sites, with more than 90 percent on privately owned land. To learn more about protecting archeological sites with a Historic Texas Lands Plaque contact the THC's Archeology Division at 512.463.6096 or visit www.thc.state.tx.us. ★

This article was written by Adriane Reams of the THC's Marketing Communications Division.

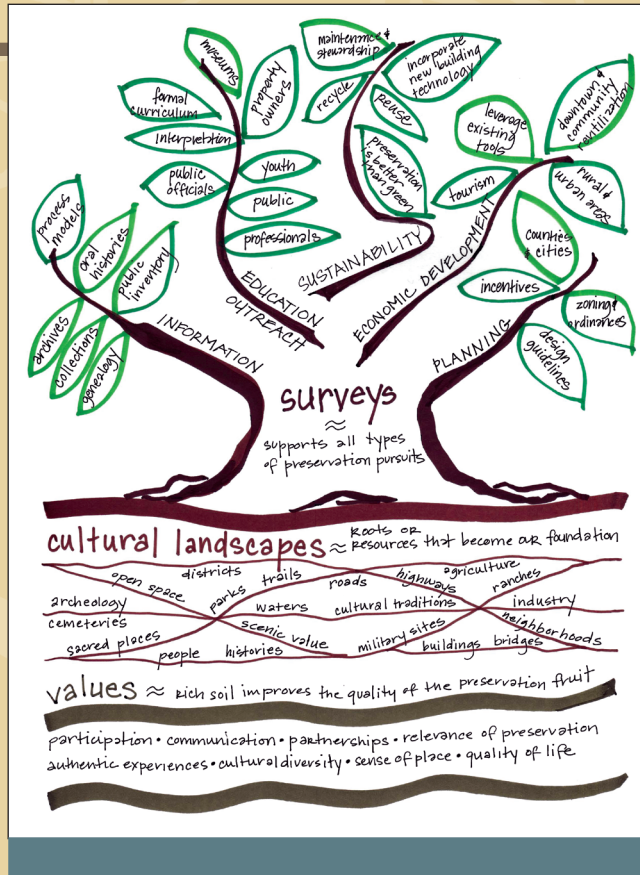
Help Shape Texas' Future with the Statewide Preservation Plan

One of the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) key responsibilities as a State Historic Preservation Office is to develop a Statewide Preservation Plan. Every 10 years, the agency reaches out to Texans to help preserve, protect, and leverage our state's historic and cultural fabric for the betterment of our communities.

"We started preparing for the newest version of the plan in early 2010 and we've had overwhelming ideas, feedback, and participation from preservationists across the state," says Tracey Silverman, the THC's agency planner. "We're trying to emphasize that this is not the THC's plan, but rather a plan to guide all Texas preservation efforts." Silverman notes that more than 1,000 people responded to the online preservation survey and hundreds attended planning forums in nine different cities.

Silverman explains that Texas' 2020 preservation vision can be viewed metaphorically as a tree. The soil is nourished with values such as diversity and inclusion, stewardship and sustainability, participation, and partnerships. The roots are our state's historic and cultural resources, the places and spaces that make up our heritage and demonstrate our relationship with the land and our communities. The trunk is a solid base of information, a comprehensive statewide survey and inventory of our historic and cultural assets.

Silverman says, "from this foundation of knowledge, the sweetest



While gathering input for the Statewide Preservation Plan, the THC is comparing its preservation vision to a tree with various elements representing soil, roots, trunk, and growth.

fruit will grow," such as economic development and community revitalization, policies and incentives, educated residents and decision makers (young, old, and everyone in between), and the sustainable use of resources.

The plan's goals respond to this vision in a practical and measurable way. Each goal is supported with outcomes, actions, best practices, case studies, and resources for more information. The plan's goals are:

- Survey the state's historic and cultural resources and provide inventory to the public online by using modern location-based technology (GIS applications).
- Shift perspective of preservation to emphasize people's interaction

and relationship with the land and place (i.e. cultural landscapes).

- Cities and counties implement preservation policies and incentives to effectively manage their historic assets.
- Communities leverage preservation-based and traditional economic development tools for the purpose of revitalizing their historic neighborhoods.
- Cultivate political commitment for historic preservation.
- Texans learn and experience their history through formal education, recreation, and everyday interaction with historic places.
- Build a broader and stronger preservation community by connecting and integrating preservation into related fields and activities.

Silverman says the plan will be available on the THC's website in December 2010, so there is still time to share thoughts on the vision and goals and contribute local success projects and action ideas. The THC has developed a Statewide Plan blog (www.texasplan.wordpress.com) to discuss, learn, share, and collaborate as the plan is created. This site will exist online as a dynamic information resource, evolving as people interact and contribute to it. Frequent participation will help make this plan a success, so Texans are encouraged to call, email, or leave a comment or question on the blog to help shape the future of preservation in the Lone Star State. ★

Perry Presents THC's Governor's Award to Brownsville Preservationists

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) recognized Frank and Mary Yturria of Brownsville with the prestigious Governor's Award for Historic Preservation on July 13 at a reception at the Texas State Capitol. Gov. Rick Perry presented the award. The Governor's Award is the THC's highest preservation honor and was created to recognize the outstanding achievement of an individual or organization in preserving Texas' prehistoric and historic heritage.

"Many in South Texas know Frank Yturria, and his wife, Mary, for the many years they have devoted to public service in Brownsville and throughout the Rio Grande Valley," Gov. Perry said. "I am proud to present the Yturrias with this award for their work in preserving our rich heritage and for giving Texans a window into our state's celebrated past."

The Yturrias have been tireless and determined supporters of historic preservation in South Texas and Mexico for more than 50 years. One of their many contributions includes spearheading efforts to preserve Palo Alto Battlefield, now a National Historic Landmark, and working to secure funding to establish the recently completed Palo Alto Visitors' Center. The



Texas Gov. Rick Perry (center) presented the THC's prestigious Governor's Award for Historic Preservation to (foreground) Mary and Frank Yturria of Brownsville.

Yturrias also spent years securing and assembling the land for the Resaca de la Palma Battlefield.

"We are honored by this prestigious recognition," said Dr. Frank Yturria. "Mary and I are dedicated to preserving Texas' history and we hope we've made an impact on protecting the state's cultural resources for the enrichment of future generations."

Frank Yturria served as a THC commissioner from 2001–2007 and has authored three books, including his most recent *The Patriarch*, which is a history of his family and its influence on the origins of South Texas.

Mary Yturria currently serves on the U.S.-Mexico Bi-National Board of Philanthropy, is a past member of the Texas Historical Foundation Board, and is an active member of the Texas Audubon Society. She is the founder of the Brownsville Community Foundation and the Historic Brownsville Museum, and she served as a commissioner of the Cameron County Historical Commission.

Historical Marker Workshops Continue Across Texas

Join the Texas Historical Commission (THC) at one of the ongoing historical marker workshops held throughout the state this fall. The workshops provide an overview of important historical research fundamentals that can help comprise a successful marker application. The workshops are free and intended for historical marker sponsors and county historical commissions. Occurring through October, the workshops will teach participants to utilize the historical marker web pages on the THC's website to assist with the application process.

One of the most visible programs of the THC, historical markers commemorate diverse topics from the history and architecture of houses, commercial and public buildings, religious congregations and events that changed the course of local and state history, to individuals who have made lasting contributions to our state, community organizations and businesses, military sites and more.

For more information on the upcoming marker workshops, contact the THC's History Programs Division at 512.463.5853, or visit www.thc.state.tx.us to register.



Hispanic Genealogical Society of Houston Hosts Conference

The Hispanic Genealogical Society of Houston will host the 31st annual Texas State Hispanic Genealogical and Historical Conference September 24–26 at the Hilton Houston Hobby Airport Hotel.

This year's conference features topics covering themes such as: Monterrey Archives and Protocolos, Tejano Leadership, Guerra Family History and Genealogy, Beyond the Alamo: Forging Mexican Ethnicity in San Antonio, and genealogy workshops. In addition, there will be a tour of the San Jacinto Monument, Museum Freedom Trail, and the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research.

For more information visit www.hispanicgs.org/houston.

Texas Book Festival Celebrates Lone Star Culture in October

The 2010 Texas Book Festival, scheduled to take place October 16–17 on the State Capitol grounds in Austin, showcases more than 200 of the nation's most accomplished authors. Featured books chronicle Texas' cultural spectrum, including politics and history, memoirs and biographies, travel and music.

The festival offers author panels, book readings, cooking demonstrations, and book signings. Founded in 1995 by Laura Bush and a group of interested volunteers, this year's festival commemorates 15 years of celebrating authors and their contributions to the culture of literacy, ideas, and imagination in Texas.

For more information, visit www.texasbookfestival.org.

Conservation Assessment Program Applications Available for Museums

Heritage Preservation is currently celebrating the Conservation Assessment Program's (CAP) 20th year of helping museums obtain general collections assessments. CAP funds a professional collections assessment for small to mid-sized museums of all types.

In addition, CAP funds historic buildings assessments for institutions with buildings that are 50 years or older. The assessment process helps museum professionals better understand and improve their institutions' policies and procedures, learn conservation and historic preservation best practices, and forge relationships with conservators and historic structures assessors.

In 2010, 107 museums in 40 states were selected to participate in CAP, including the Williamson Museum in Georgetown. The 2011 CAP applications will be mailed on September 3 to museums on the CAP mailing list and will also be available on Heritage Preservation's website (www.heritagepreservation.org). To be added to the CAP application mailing list, or for more information, please contact CAP staff at cap@heritagepreservation.org or 202.233.0800. ★



Sabine Pass: A Battle Beyond Belief

On September 8, 1863, the Civil War came to Sabine Pass, Texas, where Lt. Richard “Dick” Dowling and his charge of fewer than 50 Confederate soldiers—a group of Irish men named for Jefferson Davis known as the Davis Guards—fought and defeated a Union force of 4,000.

The feat was impressive, as the Union troops outnumbered the Davis Guards by nearly 100 times. Despite these odds, the Confederate troops fired on the advancing gunboats with impressive accuracy, resulting in a fatal explosion from a direct shot to the boiler of the *Sachem*, and causing the *Clifton* to run aground from a precisely fired cannon. By the end of the battle, Dowling’s men had captured 300 Union prisoners and two gunboats.

Situated along the Sabine River and the Gulf of Mexico, within view of the Sabine Pass lighthouse across the river in Louisiana, Sabine Pass served as a valuable seaport for Texas during the Civil War. Abraham Lincoln identified Sabine Pass as a strategic point for invading Texas, with hopes of impeding the trade and supply lines coming from Mexico.

The Union expedition planned to move through Sabine Pass into Houston and Galveston, but because of Dowling’s efforts, those troops never made it into Texas.

The Davis Guards battled from within Fort Griffin (not to be confused with the 1870s U.S. Army fort of the same name near Abilene, also a THC historic site), an earthen fort with six large cannons that the Confederates used with great effect and accuracy. Later, these men were recognized with distinction and awarded silver medals, the only

ones known to be authorized by the Confederacy.

“The defeat of the Union troops has been attributed to the design of Fort Griffin and Dowling’s weapon and target training that sharpened accuracy against the encroaching Union gunboats,” explains Brett Cruse, sites supervisor with the THC’s Historic Sites Division. Cruse adds



Sabine Pass Battleground State Historic Site
6100 Dick Dowling Rd., Port Arthur, TX 77640
512.463.7948
www.visitspb.com
Open: Daily, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

that erosion, waterway expansion, and hurricanes have contributed to the disintegration of the fort and battle site over time.

Today, Dowling and his men are remembered at Sabine Pass Battleground with a stately bronze statue of Dowling and an interpretive pavilion illustrating the story of this battle of unfavorable odds. In addition to the state historic site, statues of Dowling have been erected in his birthplace (Tuam, Ireland) and his final resting place (Houston).

The 58-acre site is also the host location for the annual Dick Dowling Days event coordinated by the Friends of Sabine Pass Battleground and featuring a reenactment of the battle. This living history program will take place September 11–12, 2010, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Sabine Pass Battleground (for more information visit www.visitspb.com).

Because of hurricanes and inclement weather at Sabine

Pass, this will be the first year Dick Dowling Days will be held since 2005. The event this year will honor the late William “Bill” Quick, a long-time supporter of Sabine Pass Battleground and one of the founders of the Friends of Sabine Pass Battleground. Quick served as the first president of the organization.

Sabine Pass Battleground is open year-round and offers free admission. Visitors can enjoy the rolling green landscape, waterfront view, fishing, picnicking, and birding in addition to learning about this significant chapter of Texas history. ★

This article was written by Sarah Tober of the THC’s Marketing Communications Division.



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Our Mission

To protect and preserve the state's historic and prehistoric resources for the use, education, enjoyment and economic benefit of present and future generations.

County Historical Commission TIPS & TOOLS



Pictured at Canton's regional planning forum for Texas' Statewide Preservation Plan are (from left): Van Zandt CHC Marker Chair Elvis Allen, THC Deputy Executive Director Terry Colley, and Van Zandt CHC Chair Lawrence Greer.

In addition to their county service, many County Historical Commission (CHC) appointees provide volunteer hours to other organizations. Since detailing volunteer hours is a priority for CHC annual reporting and a requirement for Distinguished Service Award eligibility, several CHCs have asked for recommendations on how to determine what hours count toward this annual total for CHCs.

The following examples of service should be documented so the hours can contribute to the whole of what your CHC reports to the Texas Historical Commission:

- CHC meetings and conferences (including travel), as well as time spent preparing for meeting content.
- County commissioners court meetings (including travel) or other meetings when representing the CHC.
- CHC work done at home, i.e., research for CHC projects, mailings, phone calls, etc.
- Presentation preparation and/or participation in preservation-related educational opportunities.

- Presenting history or preservation-related programs or speeches for schools, civic clubs, etc.
- Traveling between events representing the CHC (time spent for personal stops en route should not be included).
- Appearing on local media to promote the CHC or preservation in general.

If you are representing another volunteer organization in addition to the CHC for any of the above items, this time may still contribute toward your total CHC volunteer hours.

Work hours that should not be counted:

- Research for personal projects that happen to be history-related. Researching your family genealogy is typically performed for personal interest rather than as a county service.
- Working at/for a CHC event in which you are paid personnel or are making money. For example, if you own or are employed by a concessioner and work a history festival, you would be participating as an employee, not as a volunteer.



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WHERE ON EARTH...IN TEXAS

Where on Earth? You tell us! Write to the Texas Historical Commission, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276. You also may fax your answer to 512.463.6374 or email it to medallion@thc.state.tx.us. The first three people who correctly guess the site will be named with the answer in the November/December issue of *The Medallion*. The first correct mail answer will be counted, even if correct emails and faxes arrive first. Limit one prize annually per contestant.

Want a clue? This lintel, carved from an eight-ton block of Texas limestone, resides over the massive front doors of a Far West Texas cultural facility.



Answer to the photo from the last issue: The building pictured at left is the Woodbine Hotel in Madisonville. The 1904 hotel was a lavish social center catering to drummers (traveling salesmen), and it remains

a popular lodging destination.

Congratulations to the first three readers who submitted the correct answer: Jalinda Carroll of Allen, Bonne Hendrix of Madisonville, and Lysie Seawright of Spring. They will receive prizes from our Texas Heritage Trails Program, the THC's regional tourism initiative, as a token of our appreciation for taking part in the fun. Thanks to all participants! ★

