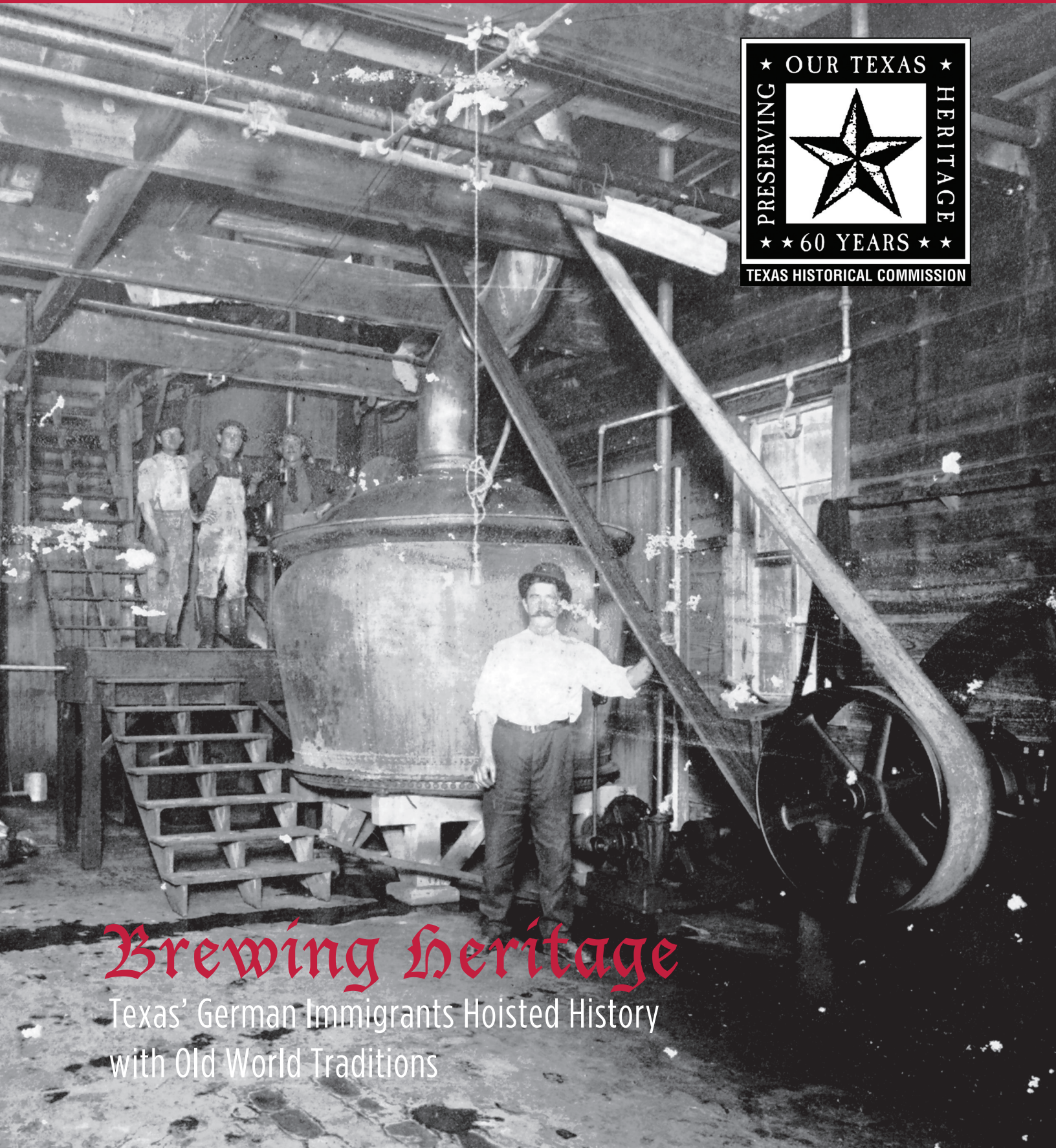


THE MEDALLION

FALL 2013



Brewing Heritage

Texas' German Immigrants Hoisted History
with Old World Traditions



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TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

THE MEDALLION

FALL 2013

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Kosmos Spoetzl and his crew at Shiner's Spoetzl Brewery. Photo: Spoetzl Brewery

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FAST FACTS

The THC's preservation programs are significant economic
catalysts throughout the state.

TEXAS HERITAGE TRAILS PROGRAM

Total Direct Travel Spending



BILLION

Heritage Traveler Spending



BILLION

Jobs Created



2012 Travel Facts

Diamond Days

THC Celebrates 60th Anniversary

By Andy Rhodes
Managing Editor, *The Medallion*

On November 17, the Texas Historical Commission (THC) celebrates 60 years of preserving the state's heritage. On that day in 1953, the 53rd Texas Legislature officially formed the Texas State Historical Survey Committee to oversee historical programs. Three years later, county historical survey committees were created to carry out preservation work at the local level.

To celebrate 60 years as a state agency, the THC has been honoring the work of preservationists throughout Texas in 2013. The agency was also on the receiving end of accolades when the 83rd Texas Legislature honored the THC in the House of Representatives with a resolution by Rep. Ryan Guillen (D–Rio Grande City).

It read in part, “the Texas Historical Commission has demonstrated more than 60 years of invaluable service to the State of Texas, preserving our history, our landmarks, and our legacy for future generations; increasing awareness of the economic impact of preservation in our communities and our state; and drawing national and international attention to the important events, the real places and the real stories, that make Texas the unique and

wonderful place that we are so blessed to call home.”



One of the first meetings of the Texas State Historical Survey Committee, 1953.

Recently, the THC has overseen a social media campaign called “60 Years in 60 Days,” with daily Facebook posts and Tweets about milestones in the agency's history.

The campaign continues until November 17, so there's still time to view the historical images and stories on Facebook (www.facebook.com/TexasHistoricalCommission) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/TxHistComm).

Another aspect of the campaign is a series of “Memory Lane” blog posts, featuring brief profiles of former THC employees, commissioners, and interns recalling their time with the agency and how it impacted their lives. To read these recollections, visit www.thc.state.tx.us/blog.

“It gives us immense pride to know we've helped Texans preserve the Lone Star State's compelling heritage,” said Mark Wolfe, the THC's executive director. “We're grateful for the support of Texans across the state, and we look forward to working together to save more of the real places that tell the real stories of Texas.” ★

Historical Events: 1953–2013

1953 The legislature created the Texas State Historical Survey Committee to oversee state historical programs.

1962 The first marker of the Official Texas Historical Marker Program was placed at Camp Ford in Tyler. ★ The Eggleston House in Gonzales was designated the first Recorded Texas Historic Landmark. ★ The first issue of *The Medallion* was published.

1973 The legislature revised the agency's enabling statute to give it additional protective powers, expand its leadership role and educational responsibilities, and officially change its name to the Texas Historical Commission.

1995 THC archeologists discovered the shipwreck *La Belle* off the Texas coast.

1996 The Friends of the Texas Historical Commission was incorporated by the State of Texas to help meet the need for private, charitable funds designated to preserve the state's heritage.

2005 President George W. Bush awarded the Texas Heritage Trails Program the Preserve America Presidential Award. ★ The 79th Legislature earmarked \$80 million of federal Transportation Enhancement Program funding for county courthouse preservation.

2007 The Texas Legislature transferred 18 state historic sites from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to the THC and approved a \$34 million bond to invest in improvements to the sites.

For an expanded timeline, visit www.thc.state.tx.us



Summer School

THC's Diversity Interns Continue Preservation Education

By Andy Rhodes
Managing Editor, The Medallion

Three college students—Sehila Casper, Debra Bravo Gomez, and Joel Zapata—spent the summer absorbing the real-world experiences of professional preservationists as part of the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Diversity Internship program. In the process, they learned about day-to-day activities associated with jobs and projects related to preserving Texas' history.

Each intern recently answered a series of questions about their interest in historic preservation and their plans for the future.



DEBRA BRAVO GOMEZ

Why did you decide to pursue this internship opportunity with the THC? I saw this internship as a stepping stone to a career in the archeology/geographic information system (GIS)/cultural resource management field. This opportunity gives me hands-on experience in exactly the type of work I hope to pursue in the near future. I have great respect for what the THC does for the state of Texas, and I wanted to be a part of it.

How have your past experiences (school, work, volunteer activities, etc.) prepared you for interning with the agency? I have an Associate of Science degree in archeology and am pursuing an Associate of Applied Science degree in GIS. The work I've been doing this summer involves using GIS in support of the

SEHILA CASPER

Why did you decide to pursue this internship opportunity with the THC? I am currently pursuing a Master's Degree in historic preservation, with aspirations of coming back to Texas (from Georgia) to become a preservationist. This internship allows me the opportunity to fully understand each department and the overall procedures for the Texas State Historic Preservation Office.

How have your past experiences (school, work, volunteer activities, etc.) prepared you for interning with the agency? I have always had passion for the arts and humanities.

As an undergraduate student I studied art history, and I had the pleasure of working for the Dallas Museum of Art for three years. This, coupled with my personal interests of cultural heritage and architecture, is the reason why I chose historic preservation for my graduate studies.

As a student at Savannah College of Art and Design, I have appreciated the diverse curriculum of administration, planning, and application. Having this type of foundation has made my experience at the THC all the more enriching.

What factors did you consider when choosing your major? I wanted a major where I could be a steward for my community and truly make a difference. I had a fruitful career in the hospitality industry, where I worked for



Sehila Casper, one of the THC's three Diversity Interns, is shown at the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission's office, housed in Austin's historic Gethsemane Lutheran Church.

10 years. It was a lot of fun and a lot of hard work. After re-evaluating my career path, I wanted to focus my energy on something that I truly believed in, and that was historic preservation.

Why is Texas an interesting place to pursue a career in a history-related field? My career interests are within the intangible cultural heritage for Mexicans and Mexican Americans residing in Texas. My hopes are to assist in preserving and celebrating our Mexican culture within the state.

How do you anticipate using your experience at the THC in the future? This

experience is going to be invaluable toward my future career as a preservationist. While working on the Hispanic heritage travel guide, I've had to consider the philosophical approaches of culture, work with local people, and interview them so that I may represent their ideals and communities appropriately. This inclusive way of thinking has truly taught me that we are not only working for, but with our communities!

How do you like to spend your free time? Free time, what's that? Someday soon I look forward to reading a book just for fun or painting my next painting...someday (sigh)! ★

Archeology Division, so it was a perfect match. I have also done volunteer archeological fieldwork, which I found to be a lot of fun and extremely interesting.

What factors did you consider when choosing your major? I chose archeology because there's always something new to learn and every project is like a puzzle. The fun is in trying to piece it together. It's the only thing I have ever really wanted to pursue as a career. GIS was just an added bonus I discovered along the way. Luckily, I love maps—and what better way to show spatial relationships?!

Why is Texas an interesting place to pursue a career in a history-related field? Texas has a very rich and diverse history. I did not realize how much so until I started going through the archives in support of my summer



Debra Bravo Gomez at the Archeology Division

project. I have learned quite a bit about my hometown area (Mission) and the rest of Texas so far this summer. It's definitely been an eye opener!

How do you anticipate using your experience at the THC in the future? I plan to build on my experience at THC by continuing to do GIS work and hopefully obtaining a job with a cultural resource management firm conducting archeology/GIS projects. This opportunity has given me great insight into what goes into cultural resource management in Texas. It has also highlighted how important the work really is.

How do you like to spend your free time? I love movies, photography, and doing anything outdoors—preferably in or near water. ★

JOEL ZAPATA

Why did you decide to pursue this internship opportunity with the THC? Mainly, I wanted to participate in expanding the historical knowledge of Mexican Americans/Tejanos/Chicanos and bringing this often-ignored history to the public.

How have your past experiences (school, work, volunteer activities, etc.) prepared you for interning with the agency? I have been actively volunteering with my communities (including El Paso and Austin) since I was a teenager. What I've noticed at the THC is that history is told from a community perspective. In this, I think hearing the voices of my surrounding community, when volunteering in charitable organizations or in historical preservation organizations, helped me understand the agency's mission.

What factors did you consider when choosing your major? As a freshman in

college, I wanted to choose a major that I would be passionate about for years to come and that would positively influence the world around me. As a history major, I focused on the stories of Mexican-origin people on the border. I did this because these stories, especially the stories of working-class border people, are too often omitted from most storylines.

I became passionate about this history since I am often adding to untold stories instead of simply repeating and rewriting history. My hope in studying, researching, and writing this history is that it will help people understand their history—or more importantly, know that they too have a history even if it is not usually included in textbooks.

Why do I say this? Because from my own upbringing in rural Texas, I did not learn a single significant historical fact about my own history—the history of Mexican Americans—until college. Most individuals do not go to college, or do not go to a college where the history of Mexican Americans is told.

Why is Texas an interesting place to pursue a career in a history-related field? Texas is a place where many people and cultures meet—sometimes clashing, sometimes collaborating. Few places in the United States are more diverse and have a more complicated history. This keeps Texas history interesting, and the research of it never-ending.

Internship Info

The THC's Diversity Internship program was created to build interest in and awareness of historic preservation, specifically among students from underrepresented ethnic groups. Internships can include, but are not limited to, practical experience in archeology, architecture, community development, historic preservation, economic development and planning, communications, and administration.

The Diversity Internship program is funded solely by private gifts. To make a donation to this important and beneficial program, please visit www.thcfriends.org/special-projects/thc-diversity-internship.

For more information about the THC's paid and unpaid internship programs, visit www.thc.state.tx.us/about-us/jobopenings/internship-program.

How do you anticipate using your experience at the THC in the future? At the THC, I have learned ways to research history outside the normal academic box of research. This gives me new and important tools as a historian.

How do you like to spend your free time? I like to walk my dog, jog, bike, longboard, read, and go to concerts. ★



Joel Zapata and Sehlia Casper in Austin

Brewing Heritage

Texas' German Immigrants Hoisted History with Old World Traditions



By Andy Rhodes

The Medallion Managing Editor

In the mid-1800s, Germans arriving in Texas were only a few decades removed from the first Oktoberfest in Bavaria. On October 12, 1810, the citizens of Munich were invited to the royal wedding of Crown Prince Ludwig and Princess Therese, spawning an annual event celebrating German culture with food, music, and naturally, beer.

In Texas, many German immigrants gravitated to an area roughly between Austin, Houston, and San Antonio—now part of the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Texas Independence Trail Region—where they continued the customs of their homeland. The region's fertile prairies and natural springs were reminiscent of the German countryside, where families had spent centuries perfecting the craft of brewing lagers, often based with water from limestone-tinged artesian springs.

These practices were easily adapted in southeastern Texas, allowing brewers to use time-honored family recipes and

methods to create traditional beers in their new communities. Although dozens of regional breweries were officially documented in the late 1800s, only a few survived to become significant businesses retaining historic legacies to this day.

From operational breweries to adaptive reuse projects to historical parks, the following destinations—along with a sampling of the state's Oktoberfest celebrations—provide heritage travelers a taste of Old World German culture in the modern-day Independence Trail Region.



SHINER SPOETZEL BREWERY

www.shiner.com • 316.594.3383

When discussing historic Texas breweries, most people immediately mention “the little brewery in Shiner.” And for good reason—the 104-year-old brewery is known across the state and nation for its venerable beer, which can be traced to founder Kosmos Spoetzl’s centuries-old family recipes.

“Kosmos was quite a character—it’s said his hat was always tilted off to one side because he kept his secret recipes under there,” says Anne Raabe, public relations representative with Spoetzl Brewery. “We’re still using the same recipes he brought to the brewery nearly 100 years ago.”

Spoetzl was born in Bavaria, where he attended brewer’s school, and later moved to Cairo, Egypt for a job as head brewmaster at Pyramid Brewery. Health issues led him in search of an agreeable climate, and he ultimately moved to the San Antonio area, where a sizable German population was seeking authentic beers from the Old World.

In 1914, the upstart Shiner Brewing Association hired Spoetzl to take the helm of its small brewery. He encountered a potential business challenge four years later, when Prohibition forced him to remain in operation by brewing “near beer” and selling ice.

“Stories around here said that Kosmos could be a forgetful fellow, and he may have occasionally forgotten to remove all the alcohol during



Cecile Spoetzl was once the nation’s only female brewery owner.

the near-beer brewing process,” Raabe says.

After Kosmos died in 1950, his daughter Cecile was named company president. She was the only female brewery owner in the nation, according to the Handbook of Texas. Cecile was known throughout the region for her entrepreneurial efforts, including the use of polka bands, parades, and local radio stations to promote the brewery.

In 1968, Kosmos’ nephew Gus assumed the role of brewmaster. Current brewmaster Jimmy Mauric, a 35-year veteran of Spoetzl, has his hands (and kettles) full, with a major expansion that will nearly double the little brewery’s production to 1.2 million barrels annually. Spoetzl currently produces nearly 720,000 bottles and cans of beer daily (80 percent are Shiner Bock),

and distributes in 44 states.

“We’re Texas’ oldest independent brewery, and we know how important that history is to our product and community,” Raabe says. “We’re proud to say that every single drop of our beer is produced right here in Shiner, Texas.”



Visitors enjoy beer samples in Shiner’s tasting room.

SAN ANTONIO

According to the Handbook of Texas, one-third of San Antonio’s population was of German descent by 1880. Not surprisingly, demand for beer was sky-high.

In 1855, William Menger opened the **Western Brewery** on Alamo Square; historians now consider it to be Texas’ first commercial brewery. By 1878, it was the state’s largest brewing operation.

Menger hired Charles Degen as brewmaster, and, according to **Menger Hotel** spokesman Ernesto Malacara, he incorporated a “magic secret ingredient” to enhance the beer’s flavor and popularity.

“He’d use a little bit of Mexican candy called a *piloncillo* while brewing, and it set it apart from other traditional German beers at the time,” Malacara explains. “It was also pretty potent—people sometimes couldn’t find their horses,

Opposite: Shiner residents of German descent taste-tested Spoetzl’s beer. Far left and below: The Spoetzl Brewery’s current kettle room and entrance.



**Oktoberfest
Ist Wunderbar!**
For Oktoberfest info, contact
Independence Trail Executive
Director Seneca McAdams
at 281.239.9235 or info@
texasindependence
trail.com



Left: The Menger Hotel's Ernesto Malacara reads the site's historical marker. Above: the Menger's lobby in the late 1890s.



so they'd just stay at the tavern and sleep on a bench. That's what gave Menger the idea to build a hotel at this site."

He adds that Menger's brewery and tavern became an important gathering place to discuss politics and business transactions. Many of San Antonio's early land and cattle deals were reportedly settled at the site over a beer and a handshake.

"It was a man's word at that time—you didn't always have to draft official contracts," Malacara says.

The entrance to the brewery's underground fermentation and storage area was marked by a large cottonwood tree (a plaque in the hotel's courtyard notes its former location), and the water was sourced and cooled from an *acequia* dug by Spanish friars in the mid-1700s. The cellar was filled with soil during a 1940s hotel renovation, and its three-foot thick stone walls still lie beneath the lobby.

About a mile north of the Menger, a different historic brewery has found new life as a successful adaptive reuse project. **The Pearl Brewing Company** opened as the San Antonio Brewing Association in 1883, and began producing a recipe from Bremen, Germany that came to be known as Pearl beer (a brewmaster noted the bubbles in a freshly poured glass resembled pearls).

According to the Handbook of Texas, Pearl was the state's largest brewery by 1916, with a capacity of 110,000 barrels per year. It was the only brewery in San Antonio to survive Prohibition, primarily due to the determination of Emma Koehler, widow of the company's former president.



San Antonio's Pearl Brewery complex

The brewery closed in June 2001 (Miller Brewing Company in Fort Worth assumed production), but its historical legacy remains a significant San Antonio entity as the Pearl Brewery complex.

In 2002, Silver Ventures purchased the property and began an extensive renovation project with local architecture firm Ford, Powell & Carson (a recent recipient of the THC's Texas Treasure Business Award). Jeffrey Fetzer, a senior associate and project manager when he was with the firm, has overseen the renovation and restoration of the historic buildings.

Fetzer notes that the campus' oldest structures—the magnificent Second Empire-style brewing house and stately brick stables—date to 1894, and a new building was added roughly every decade until 1981. Many are being renovated as environmentally friendly restaurants, retail establishments, and offices.

"What's fascinating is that each building tells a different part of the brewery's evolving history based on when, where, and how it was built," Fetzer says. For example, he says Prohibition shifted use of the complex to ice and soda, but when it ended, there was a surge in brewery activity and related construction.

Fetzer adds that a project highlight was restoring the brewery's 1930s smokestack, on which he discovered glazed terra cotta letters spelling Pearl and Pride. Research revealed that Pearl had once brewed a variety of beer named Texas Pride, so he suggested the lettering be highlighted on the smokestack.

Fetzer and his crew have performed similar research on the brewery's other structures by studying historic photos, original drawings, and company archives.

"Not a week goes by that someone doesn't show up on our campus to tell us stories about when they or their relatives once worked here," Fetzer says. "One of Silver Ventures' mantras is to celebrate Pearl by showcasing its history without making it too over-the-top or garish. We want it to be tastefully appropriate and subtle, but still leave a lasting impression."

Less than a mile away on the same stretch of the San Antonio River, another brewing behemoth presided over the landscape. **The Lone Star Brewery** complex dates to 1895, when the castle-like structure—now housing the San Antonio Museum of Art—was constructed with the assistance of James Wahrenberger, a German-trained architect. By 1900, the





German immigrant Heinrich Kreische, a stonemason, constructed this brewery in 1855 near La Grange.

brewery had become the state's largest, helping earn San Antonio the title "the Milwaukee of Texas."

Lone Star thrived until Prohibition, when it was unable to succeed with its non-alcoholic beverage called Tango (It was advertised to make the palate "dance with joy"). The massive facility was closed, and was largely used for storage until the San Antonio Museum Association acquired the property in the 1970s.

"Our previous directors had the foresight to purchase the complex back when this wasn't the most desirable part of town," says Gary Marriott, director of marketing for the **San Antonio Museum of Art (SAMA)**. "With the recent opening of the Riverwalk's Museum Reach, we're experiencing tremendous growth around here."

Visitors can view world-class art while walking through the historic brewery's remarkable structures, including towering turrets and brick outbuildings. Tours dedicated

to the Lone Star Brewery's history and related German heritage are conducted for groups of at least 10 by request.

"Our varied collection of worldwide cultures allows us to connect the past and the present, and we're privileged to be in buildings that provide these same links," says Judith Ely, SAMA docent coordinator. "What better place to talk about the ancient Egyptians' love of beer than in an old brewery building?"



SAN ANTONIO MUSEUM OF ART

www.samuseum.org • 210.978.8138

Clockwise from left: The San Antonio Museum of Art has repurposed the former Lone Star Brewing complex to house artwork and offices.



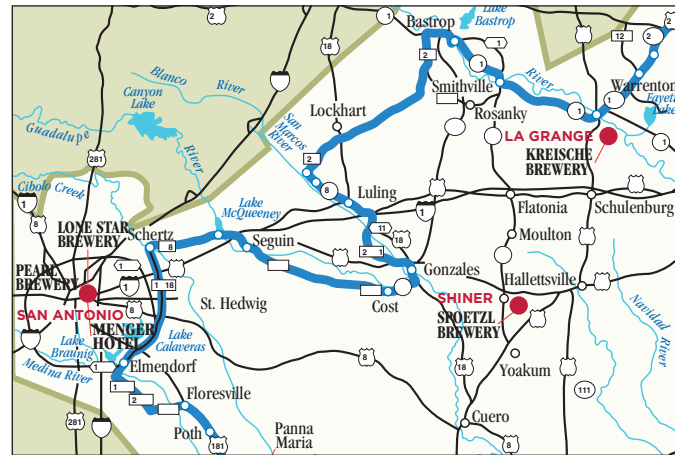
LA GRANGE KREISCHE BREWERY

www.tpwd.state.tx.us • 979.968.3144

About 100 miles northeast of San Antonio lay the ruins of the once-prosperous **Kreische Brewery**, just outside the Main Street community of La Grange. Now part of Texas Parks and Wildlife's (TPWD) Monument Hill and Kreische Brewery site, the ruins tell the story of German stonemason and brewmaster Heinrich Kreische, who purchased 172 acres on a scenic bluff overlooking the Colorado River in 1849. Six years later, he was awarded the design and masonry work for the Fayette County Courthouse, giving him the financial means to expand his impressive home and ultimately construct the brewery.

"This is one of Texas' earliest breweries, and at one time it was the third-largest operation in the state," explains Duncan Grigsby, site specialist with TPWD. "It's pretty brilliant the way he developed and constructed this facility—there's an amazing dedication to his craft."

For example, Grigsby points out the gravity-based water filtration system, starting with a natural spring



source and moving downhill through a series of specially engineered stone-based filtration systems toward the brewhouse. There, Kreische oversaw the brewing process by enforcing German purity laws—the only permissible ingredients were water, barley, and hops—and ensuring the lager, known as Kreische's Bluff Beer, was developed with extreme attention to detail.

"People would pull up their horse and cart to the vault, and they'd literally roll out the barrels," says Grigsby.

He adds that when a new batch of lager was ready, Kreische would raise a flag high on the bluff with the German phrase *Frisch Auf!* (meaning Freshen Up!) to proudly advertise its availability.

"This site remains a testament to his craftsmanship, and it represents the pride he and other German immigrants took in their heritage while starting their new lives in Texas," Grigsby says.

For information about additional heritage tourism destinations in the area or other German settlements in Texas' Hill Country region, visit www.texasimetravel.com. ★

Travel Through Time

Bankhead Highway Blazed Path Across Texas

By Leslie Wolfenden
THC Historic Resources Survey Coordinator

For many Texans, driving along an interstate highway is a thoroughly modern experience, with gridlocked traffic, ongoing construction, and views of large-scale new development along the roadside.

However, historic maps show the routes traversed by some of today's modern interstate highways closely resemble the paths of the country's earliest paved highways from the 1920s. In some locations, the heritage of our modern highways dates back even further, following railroad lines, stagecoach routes, and even trails from the Spanish Colonial era and earlier.

The aim of the Texas Historic Roads and Highways Program is to clarify the links between our modern highways and their antecedents, and to explain the evolution of our roadways over time. The Texas Historical Commission (THC) and the Texas Department of Transportation jointly administer the program, established by the Texas Legislature in 2009 with the goals of identifying and commemorating historic highways in Texas, and producing a series of interpretive publications to encourage heritage tourism. Current work on the Texas Historic Roads and Highways Program is made possible by Federal Transportation Enhancement Program funds provided by the U.S. Federal Highway Administration.

The inaugural effort of the Texas Historic Roads and Highways Program, now underway, is the preparation of a historic context detailing the development of the Bankhead Highway and other named highways in Texas. The program's primary focus is the Bankhead, a transcontinental roadway that travels across the state from Texarkana



These photos show activity on the Bankhead Highway in North Central Texas (top) and Redwater (bottom).

to El Paso, roughly following the routes of historic highways U.S. 67 and U.S. 80.

“This in-depth study of the historic Bankhead Highway will invoke memories of a time when automobile traffic was far more about adventure rather than speed,” said THC Commissioner Tom Alexander. “Opened nearly a century ago, it blazed a vital new pathway across the Lone Star State.”

Since August, a team of professional historians and architectural historians has been conducting a series of public meetings and field survey trips to document historic buildings and structures along the Bankhead Highway. Several meetings remain to be held (see below),

and program staff will continue to receive input and materials until Spring 2014.

“The Bankhead Highway played a major role in helping to build and grow many of our local communities, and this project reminds us all that transportation infrastructure is truly the underpinning of our daily lives,” said Rep. George Lavender (R–Texarkana). “It connects family and friends, helps ensure that goods and services get to market, and that first

responders can effectively serve their communities. As a member of the House Transportation Committee, I appreciate this effort to document and record the historic impact of our highways.”

Anticipated program outcomes include a survey report that identifies, documents, and evaluates historic resources along the Bankhead Highway, an upgraded version of the THC's online Historic Sites Atlas, and the development of an online portal to distribute information to the public. For additional information about the program, contact Leslie Wolfenden at 512.463.3386 or leslie.wolfenden@thc.state.tx.us. ★

PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

Midland	Nov. 6, 2013	5:30–7:30 p.m.	Haley Memorial Library & History Center 1805 West Indiana St.
Van Horn	Nov. 7, 2013	5:30–7:30 p.m.	Hotel El Capitan 100 East Broadway St.
El Paso	Dec. 3, 2013	5:30–7:30 p.m.	El Paso Community Foundation 333 North Oregon St.

Mission 254

National Register Program Seeks Listings for Every Texas County

By Gregory Smith
National Register Coordinator, THC

The James and Susannah Cunningham Homestead, featuring an 1855 dogtrot house with a stone kitchen added in 1873, is believed to be the oldest house in Comanche County. The 1914 Brooks County Courthouse in Falfurrias, designed by master architect Alfred Giles, has served as the center of county government for nearly a century. Pittsburg's central business district features more than 60 historic buildings, reflecting the city's development from the 1860s through the 1960s.

What do this Antebellum home, county courthouse, and downtown district—hundreds of miles apart from each other—have in common? They were all recently listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and were the first such listings in Comanche, Brooks, and Camp counties.

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of cultural resources deemed worthy of preservation, and includes more than 3,000 listings in Texas. Listing affords properties a measure of protection from the impact of federally funded projects, as well as access to technical expertise and grant funds to facilitate preservation.

Income-producing properties are also eligible for federal tax benefits for sympathetic rehabilitation work. Listed properties reflect the diversity of Texas' rich cultural heritage and association with significant events and persons, and highlight the distinctive architectural character of the state.

33 to Go

Residents and property owners in the following Texas counties—the only counties in the state without a National Register listing—are encouraged to identify and nominate their local historic treasures. For nomination information, contact the THC's Gregory Smith at greg.smith@thc.state.tx.us or 512.463.5853.

Bailey	Foard	Scurry
Baylor	Gaines	Sherman
Borden	Hansford	Sterling
Castro	Haskell	Stonewall
Childress	Jim Hogg	Swisher
Cochran	King	Terry
Coleman	Lamb	Titus
Crane	McMullen	Upton
Crosby	Moore	Ward
Delta	Parmer	Yoakum
Duval	Reeves	Zavala



Since 1969, the Texas Historical Commission (THC) has assisted with the preparation and processing of National Register nominations. Most of these were initiated at the local level by property owners, county historical commissions, preservation groups, and Texas Main Street and Certified Local Government programs.

However, 33 Texas counties have no properties listed in the National Register. Each of these counties has properties that meet the criteria for listing, which could include historic houses and residential neighborhoods, county courthouses, schools, city halls, religious buildings, downtown districts, and archeological sites.

The National Register program in Texas is driven by local initiative, and THC staff works with all applicants who wish to gain national recognition for the historic properties they value, as long as they meet at least one of the National Register criteria and retain a good degree of integrity.

"We invite residents and property owners in these 33 counties—along with every Texas county—to identify and nominate their local historic treasures," said Terry Colley, the THC's deputy executive director. ★



From top: Recent National Register listings in Texas include the Cunningham Homestead in Comanche County, Pittsburg's Commercial Historic District, and the Brooks County Courthouse in Falfurrias.



Celebrate 60 Years of the THC

Friends Organization Seeks Support to Continue Preservation Legacy

By *Rebecca Borchers*
Executive Director, Friends of the Texas Historical Commission
Chief Development Officer, Texas Historical Commission

For 60 years, the Texas Historical Commission (THC) has been at the forefront of preserving Texas' greatest cultural treasures. From shipwrecks to battlefields, charming Main Street communities to majestic county courthouses, the THC has led the way in protecting Texas' many historic resources.

As the THC enters the next chapter of its commitment to preserve the real places telling real stories, we need your support.

Make a commitment to historic preservation, heritage tourism, and education in Texas by joining the Texas Heroes to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the THC!

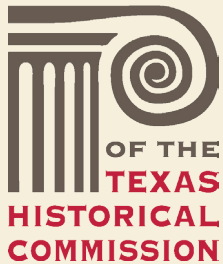


We need your support to continue safeguarding our fathers', mothers', grandparents', and great-grandparents' legacies. Each place and story we save together ignites the wonder of a Texan that follows.



Your gift to the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission will have an immediate impact on the programs, preservation, and services the THC provides.

FRIENDS



To make a gift, please complete and submit the form at right or visit www.thcfriends.org.

Don't wait another day. Support the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission to help give Texas history a boost, and restore some of our most treasured objects and stories for all generations to explore. ★

Cut and mail to P.O. Box 13497, Austin, TX 78711

Yes! I want to preserve the real places telling the real stories of Texas!

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Please indicate how you prefer to be recognized.

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State: _____ Zip: _____

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- I would like my receipt sent via email.
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Please make checks payable to the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission.

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Card #: _____

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- Honor of: _____ Memory of: _____

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Gifts to the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. For more information, please visit www.thcfriends.org.

Plantation Planning

Descendants, Area Preservationists Shape Levi Jordan Site's Future

By *Andy Rhodes*
Managing Editor, *The Medallion*

The Levi Jordan Plantation near Brazoria has experienced a tremendous transformation over the past several years. What was once a neglected homestead is now a nearly restored historic structure with interpretive plans taking shape in preparation for regular visitation in 2015.

Recent preservation efforts at the site—one of the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) 20 state historic sites—focused on stabilizing the building and slowing the deterioration that threatened its survival. The process began with adding new concrete beams and piers to provide foundation stability with minimal visual impact.

Afterward, the wood siding was removed, the timber frame was repaired and reinforced, and new siding was installed. All the original wood windows were removed, preserved, and reinstalled. The roof structure was reinforced and received new cedar shakes (shingles).

Interpretive planning for the site began late last year and included a review of all available historic materials and the creation of a strategy for further research on the site. Earlier this year, a meeting was held for area residents and others interested in the history of the Levi Jordan Plantation and its role in telling the real stories of Brazoria County's past. Forty-five stakeholders—including descendants of the Jordan family, members of the Brazoria County African American community, academics from Prairie View A&M University, archeologists, and representatives of local heritage organizations and museums—attended a



An event was held at Levi Jordan Plantation last year to celebrate the site's stabilization project.

day-long workshop to assist in identifying vital aspects of the site's history and how these could best be communicated to future visitors.

"Work on the plan is ongoing, and will culminate in a finalized Interpretive Master Plan late this year," explains Brett Cruse, sites supervisor with the THC's Historic Sites Division. "This plan will lay the groundwork for developing exhibits and programs to highlight the site's compelling history."

The plantation's origins date to 1848, when Jordan, an Arkansas planter, acquired more than 2,200 acres of land west of the San Bernard River in Brazoria County and relocated his family and his agricultural operation to Texas. Upon

taking possession of his land, Jordan left perhaps a dozen enslaved workers there to begin construction of residences while he relocated his family. The main plantation house was a two-story, four-room, wood-frame Greek Revival style home. It was completed in the mid-1850s. The workers also built several slave quarters and a sugar mill.

Jordan died in 1873 and management of his agricultural empire fractured as it transitioned to his grandchildren's generation. By the late 1880s, the slave quarters area of the plantation was abandoned, and over the next few decades the structures deteriorated. With time, the structural foundations, tools, and personal items left behind by the former plantation inhabitants became a wealth of archeological information related to the African American experience in 19th-century Texas. ★

LEVI JORDAN PLANTATION STATE HISTORIC SITE

7234 FM 521, Brazoria, TX
979.345.4656
www.visitlevijordanplantation.com

NOTE: The site is not open daily to the public during its current development planning phase. However, staffers open the site on the first Saturday of each month between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. for interested guests. In addition, the site is open for reserved tours.

Applications for 2014 Historical Markers Accepted Until November 15



The deadline to submit a historical marker application is November 15. Pictured: a subject marker in Terlingua.

The THC is accepting applications for subject historical markers, designated Historic Texas Cemeteries (HTC), and Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks (RTHLs). Applications must be submitted to the appropriate County Historical Commission (CHC), and the deadline for CHCs to forward applications is November 15, via email, to markerapplication@thc.state.tx.us. Thematic priorities for 2014 are industry, business, and commerce as well as RTHLs.

RTHLs are properties judged to be historically and architecturally significant, and must be at least 50 years old. The THC will approve up to 180 new applications; up to 20 additional markers will be approved through the Undertold Stories marker program.

To learn more about Official Texas Historical Markers, RTHLs, and HTC designations, visit www.thc.state.tx.us or contact the THC's History Programs Division at 512.463.5853. ★

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION TO LAUNCH COLD WAR ORAL HISTORY SERIES

Unknown oral histories of the Cold War abound in Texas, and before they become lost to history, the THC hopes to document as many as possible by providing attendees with the necessary skills to conduct their own oral history recordings through a series of workshops occurring throughout the state.

“When the Lone Star State Met the Iron Curtain: Recollections of Texas in the Cold War” is a THC initiative to interpret and preserve the history of the varied roles Texans played in the Cold War from 1946–1991. The project goal is to honor the memories of Texans who served in the armed forces as well as those who made contributions on the home front. Initial funding is made possible through the support of The Summerlee Foundation located in Dallas, which previously contributed to the THC's award-winning Texas in World War II oral history workshop series.

Because of the potentially high number of first-person perspectives on this time period, the THC will offer free regional oral history training workshops in 12 communities across the state over the next two years to assist the agency in gathering information. A new THC web page dedicated to the project will also be created where workshop updates will be posted.

For more information, contact the THC's military historian, William McWhorter, at 512.463.5833 or email william.mcwhorter@thc.state.tx.us. ★

WIN A THC HERITAGE TOURISM TRIP THROUGH TIME!

The THC has been preserving the real places that tell the real stories of Texas for nearly 60 years, and will celebrate its official 60th anniversary on November 17.

In conjunction with the anniversary and the agency's many accomplishments over the years, the THC will focus on its award-winning Texas Heritage Trails Program and accompanying website, TexasTimeTravel.com. A sweepstakes promotion is being offered in which people can celebrate the anniversary by entering a drawing to win a “behind the scenes with the THC” heritage tourism trip, guided by knowledgeable THC staff and destination partners.

The winner, to be randomly selected on November 17, will receive a guided, four-day, expense-paid trip for two in the Texas Heritage Trail Region of their choice. The itinerary, to be developed by the THC, will showcase programs and sites such as historic Main Street districts, restored county courthouses, military sites, and more throughout the region.

To participate, visit the THC's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/TexasHistoricalCommission and “like” the page to get started. All travel must be completed in April 2014.

Visit texasmetravel.com to start planning your own trip, and learn more about the heritage travel regions of Texas and all they have to offer. For more information, contact the THC's Public Information & Education Department at 512.463.6255. ★

Documenting History

Plan in Advance for Effective Event Photography

By Amy Hammons, County Historical Commission Outreach Coordinator

The phrase “a picture’s worth a thousand words” certainly applies to the images that document a historic place or an event celebrating Texas history. Texas Historical Commission staff recently posted a helpful photography guide on the agency’s website (search the words “photo tips”). These tips are summarized here as a “Top 10” list for taking high-quality photos at CHC events or other community heritage celebrations.

TOP 10 PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS

10. Select several people to take pictures of the event; different eyes and vantage points will result in valuable options. Encourage them to take horizontal and vertical-orientated photos.

9. Take two types of pictures—those that document the event, and others that show how the community responds to, or engages in, the event.

8. Check the image resolution setting on your camera. The rule of thumb for printed images is 300 dots per inch (dpi), a size that will enable a variety of uses for the images.

7. Know the order of activities and the circulation of those participating in the event so you can determine what vantage points you’ll need for photographers. Remind them to get close enough to the subject or activity to fill the viewfinder frame (avoid large



This photo from the THC’s archives shows good lighting and engaged participants at a marker dedication for Friona Schools near Amarillo.

areas of sky, grass, walls, etc.) since image quality is lost if cropping is needed later.

6. Peruse the event location for unobstructed views of the audience and presenters.

5. Once you find the unobstructed views, notice the background, and determine what will enhance the image (avoid cluttered or bland backdrops).

4. You may not be in control of the lighting, but you can select a photography location based on the lighting conditions and use a camera with settings that can be manipulated. Avoid low-light areas, which may produce blurry photos, and high-sun conditions that result in glare or shadows.

3. Photographing speakers often results in pictures with closed eyes, moving hands, and awkward facial expressions, so increase the number of pictures taken for improved acceptable image options. Be sure to approach the podium or stage to photograph the speaker from close range.

2. Audience pictures are effective if they show a lively group of individuals and contain enough background to provide clues about the event. Draw attention to the fact you’re about to take a photo (count to three, ask them to pose) to avoid images of solemn-faced people.

1. Capture the fun and engaging aspects of your event; identify activities and moments during your event that can express the positive energy and emotions surrounding the celebration. ★

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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.



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories

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WHERE ON EARTH...IN TEXAS

Know your Texas history? Put your skills to the test by identifying the pictured site! The first three people who correctly identify the location will receive a prize and be named in the next issue of *The Medallion*. Send your answer to: *The Medallion*, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276 or email to medallion@thc.state.tx.us. Limit one prize annually per contestant.

Need a clue? This vault, located inside a structure in the Texas Brazos Trail Region, survived an 1885 fire; the current building was constructed around it. Name the building.



Answer to the photo from the last issue: The site pictured is the 1915 Garza Hotel in Post, 36 miles southeast of Lubbock. Congratulations to the first readers who correctly identified the site: Sherry Creech of Clifton, Zora Evans of Georgetown (a Post native who reported that her father, N.C. Outlaw, was an attorney there for many years), and Darla Thomason of Dickens. Thanks to all participants! ★

