

Texas Heritage Museum is proud to help with historic preservation and education by being a member of the following organizations:



Member



112 Lamar Dr.  
Hillsboro, TX 76645



## Annual Membership Form

Please use a ballpoint pen.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ CCV: \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check or money order payable to Texas Heritage Museum. For your convenience, we also accept VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER & AMERICAN EXPRESS.

- Individual \$25     Family \$35  
 Business \$50     Patron \$100  
 Benefactor \$250

## Medal of Honor Memorial Brick Campaign

If you sign up for a membership with the Texas Heritage Museum today, you may also sponsor a brick at a special low price of \$75. Using the space below, tell us what you would like your brick to say. Please limit to 15 characters per line and three lines per brick. If you decide to purchase more than one brick, please attach additional information to this form.

Those wanting to buy a brick without a membership may do so at the regular price of \$100.

Yes, I would like to sponsor a brick.

-----  
 -----  
 -----

# TEXAS HERITAGE MUSEUM

HOME OF THE OFFICIAL STATE MEDAL OF HONOR MEMORIAL TO NATIVE-BORN TEXANS

## LASTING LEGACIES

### NEWSLETTER



Vol. 13 No. 1

Spring 2023

## Letter From the Dean

Dear Friends of the Texas Heritage Museum,

In December, the Hill College Texas Heritage Museum reached another milestone in the journey toward obtaining accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums. I submitted the museum's self-study report and all required compliance documentation, which consisted of over 800 pages! In January, we received positive feedback from the Accreditation Program staff on the self-study submitted. This self-study is a testament to the work of the entire Hill College community of staff, faculty, students, alumni, and community partnerships. It is such a privilege to work with such a great group of individuals. We are deeply indebted to the dozens of members of our campus community who participated in this process.

Our site visit has been accelerated by a few months to ensure that the visit will take place when the campus will be active with students. We have a long journey ahead and have many more steps to complete this year, including the following:

- The site visit, scheduled to take place on March 27 and 28
- The visiting site committee will complete their site visit report in April
- The Accreditation Commission will meet in June, at which time they will review the museum's self-study report and site-visit report and make one of the following decisions:
  - Grant accreditation (usually for 10 years)
  - Tables its decision for one year so specific issues can be addressed
  - Denies accreditation due to failure to meet multiple core standards and/or for major systemic problems
  - Defers a decision to gather additional information
- We will be notified in July of the Accreditation Commission's decision

With kindest regards,

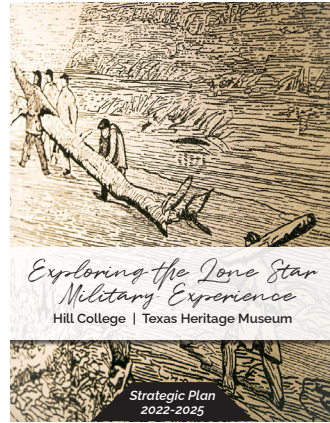
*John Versluis*  
John Versluis, Dean



John Versluis

## The Texas Heritage Museum 2022–2025 Strategic Plan

On behalf of our museum staff, I am pleased to introduce the Texas Heritage Museum (THM) 2022–2025 Strategic Plan. This plan outlines the mission, vision, values, strategic priorities, goals, objectives, strategies, and evaluation measures that will guide THM's activities during the next three years. To view this plan please go to our museum's homepage <https://www.hillcollege.edu/Museum/Index.html> and click the link.



## New Temporary Exhibit opening soon: “Currency During Wartime as Art & As Artifacts.”

We are delighted to announce the new spring temporary exhibit entitled “Currency During Wartime as Art & As Artifacts.” This exhibit will be held in partnership with the Hill College Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), Financial Fitness topic for students. This exhibit will open the last week of March and run through the entire month of April for Financial Fitness Month and will end on May 12. Please stop by the museum to see this fantastic exhibit.



Confederate States of America \$100 Bank Note dated April 6, 1863

## WWI Uniform Grouping of Louis William Benkendorfer (Benkley): Recent Donation from Frank Jasek

Louis William Benkendorfer (Benkley) was born on November 04, 1892, the son of Louis and Emilie Benkendorfer. The family farmed near the community of the City of West, Texas. Louis William was one of eight children. In the fall of 1917, he started his service in World War I as a private in the Regiment 144th Infantry Company “E” at Camp Bowie, Fort Worth, Texas. This unit went overseas with the 36th Division, arriving in France in July, 1918. In October 1918, the regiment became a part of the 4th French Army and participated in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive (Champagne). German artillery, gas attacks and machine gun fire took a large toll on the advancing Texas unit during this offensive. The 144th Infantry suffered 369 casualties in the war, the second largest toll of the infantry regiments in the division. Louis was then transferred, promoted to a Corporal, and reassigned to the 23rd Infantry Company “A” Regiment, which was assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division. He then returned to the United States in August 1919. He married Della Havemann on August 15, 1920, in Waco, Texas. They were married for 60 years; Louis passed away on November 10, 1980. If you have more information on Louis William Benkendorfer (Benkley) contact us at the museum!

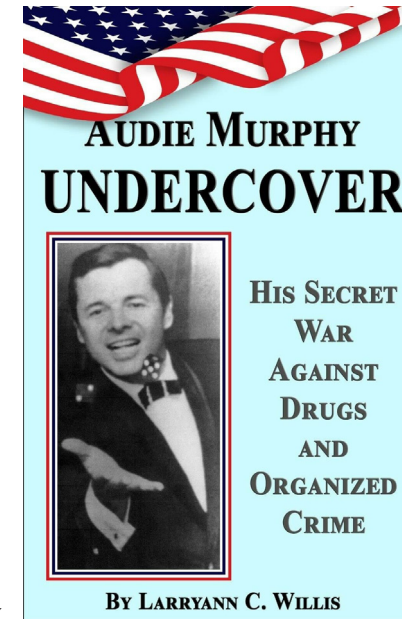


Louis William Benkendorfer (Benkley) 2nd Infantry Division WWI Uniform grouping

## Historical Research Center Audie Murphy Archival Files

We are excited to grow our Audie Murphy Archival Collection in the Historical Research Center! Melissa D. Marks, a researcher for the Audie Murphy Research Foundation, recently donated a portion of her Audie Murphy collection to the museum. Richard Rodgers, who is the webmaster for Audie Murphy Research Foundation, has also provided a large number of digital files to the THM of Audie Murphy photos, movie files, and past foundation newsletters for the archives as well.

We have been working with Larryann C. Willis, Executive Director of the Audie Murphy Research Foundation. She has authored the most recent book on Audie Murphy, *Audie Murphy Undercover: His Secret War Against Drugs And Organized Crime*. This book answers a lot of questions that have never been tackled by other authors or thoroughly researched. Under careful research for over 25 years and actively being written for a year, this book addresses what Murphy was really doing after the war ended and up until his sudden death. The Texas Heritage Museum has this autographed book for sale in our gift shop for \$24.95 hardback and \$16.95 softback.



Exceedingly rare color photo of Audie on location during the filming of “To Hell and Back” donated by Melissa D. Marks

## Contacts

### John Versluis

Dean of Texas Heritage Museum  
[jversluis@hillcollege.edu](mailto:jversluis@hillcollege.edu)

### Mary Ann Schneider

Assistant Curator/Archivist  
[maschneider@hillcollege.edu](mailto:maschneider@hillcollege.edu)

### Rosa Santos

Museum Receptionist & Collections Registrar  
[rsantos@hillcollege.edu](mailto:rsantos@hillcollege.edu)

### Deloris (Rica) Acevedo

Museum Collections Assistant  
[dacevedo@hillcollege.edu](mailto:dacevedo@hillcollege.edu)

### Frank Williams, Jr.

Lab Exhibit Assistant  
[fwilliamsjr@hillcollege.edu](mailto:fwilliamsjr@hillcollege.edu)

## Hours

### Touring the Museum

Hill College Fall/Spring Semester Hours

Mon. – Thurs. 8 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Fri. 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

### Hill College Summer Semester Hours

Mon. – Thurs. 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

## Historical Research Center

Historical Research Center will be available by appointment only by calling 254-659-7750, or you may also visit our website at [www.hillcollege.edu/Museum/Divisions.html](http://www.hillcollege.edu/Museum/Divisions.html)



## Texas Heritage Museum

Hill College Campus  
112 Lamar Dr.  
Hillsboro, TX 76645  
[museum@hillcollege.edu](mailto:museum@hillcollege.edu)  
254.659.7750  
[www.hillcollege.edu/museum](http://www.hillcollege.edu/museum)

