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

AAMG
Association of Academic Museums & Galleries

American Alliance of Museums
Member

Texas Association of Museums

Texas Lakes Trail
Texas Historical Commission
Texas Heritage Trails Program

Texas Heritage Museum
Hill College
112 Lamar Dr.
Hillsboro, TX 76645

Hill College

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.

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Texas Heritage Museum
Home of the Official State Medal of Honor Memorial to Native-Born Texans

Lasting Legacies
Newsletter

Vol. 11 No. 1 Winter 2020

Letter from the Dean

Dear Friends of the Texas Heritage Museum:

As we go through these challenging times due to the pandemic, please know our thoughts and prayers go out for the health and safety of you and your family. On July 27, we reopened the museum galleries to accommodate for Hill College's fall courses to be taught in the museum theater and for the public to visit. Exhibit openings and group tours are not being offered during this time. The Historical Research Center remains closed to the public. However, we are conducting research by mail and email to our patrons.

While the museum was closed over the summer, Frank Williams Jr. painted all the columns in the museum lobby! We thank Frank for all his hard work. The lobby now has more color and depth to highlight exhibits!

Please note that we have not solicited patron membership dues for 2020. If you have already paid dues for this year, thank you for your generosity and continued support. We will resume our regular financial solicitation for patron memberships in January 2021.

John Versluis

Our staff has taken extra precautions to ensure the safety of students, staff and guests in the museum, including regularly sanitizing all building surfaces, providing hand sanitizer, and requiring masks and social distancing. Please come out and visit the museum and take part in the holiday gift shop sale this year!

With kindest personal regards,

John Versluis

John Versluis, Dean

Museum Dean Completes AAMG Presidential Term

John Versluis, Texas Heritage Museum's dean, recently completed a three-year term as president of the Association of Academic Museums and Galleries (AAMG), the nation's leading educational and professional organization for academic museums, galleries, and collections. Versluis is the first history museum director (non-art museum director) to serve as the organization's president.

During his term, Versluis:

- helped solidify a sustainable, standalone annual conference;
- coordinated AAMG's first-ever virtual conference after the pandemic hit this year;
- contributed to significant institutional membership growth; and
- aided in reprinting and distributing the AAMG Professional Practices for Academic Museums & Galleries manual to members and their supervisors.

Versluis now serves as AAMG's Immediate Past President and Mountain Plains Regional Co-Representative.

"John's service on AAMG's board has brought notoriety, as well as awareness to Hill College and Texas Heritage Museum and all it has to offer," said Hill College President Dr. Pam Boehm. "We are very proud of his accomplishments, and he has represented the college and city of Hillsboro well."

AAMG
Association of Academic Museums & Galleries

Texas Heritage Museum Shares Artifacts in Recognition of Gold Star Mother's Day

Since June 23, 1936, the last Sunday of September has served as a Mother's Day that is reserved for a special group of mothers—mothers of United States Armed Forces men and women who have died during a conflict or war in which the US is engaged.

This year the Texas Heritage Museum recognized Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day by sharing artifacts from its collection, including a Gold Star flag, Gold Star jewelry worn by the mothers of WWI service men, and a Gold Star pin.

Gold Star pins were custom-made in different styles and sizes prior to 1947 when the US Congress designated the current version of the Gold Star lapel pin as the official symbol of a family member's sacrifice. The pin, displayed in the museum's Texans at War 1939-1945 Gallery, was custom-made at the Armstrong Jewelry Store in Waco for a local WWI Gold Star Mother, Minnie Barr.

Gold Star Mothers, Waco, Texas

Sgt. Clarence W. Barr

Gold Star Mother's Pin

Minnie Barr Gold Star

Her son, US Army Sgt. Clarence William Barr, born in Waco Nov. 16, 1895, was a 22-year-old farmer in Aquilla when the US engaged in WWI. Barr registered for the war on June 5, 1917, and was deployed to France with Company D, 359th Texas Infantry, 90th Division sometime in June 1918.

Barr was killed in action during the Meuse-Argonne Battle on Nov. 2, 1918, nine days before WWI ended. He was buried in the Argonne-American Battle Cemetery and was re-interred in the Arlington, Virginia National Cemetery in 1921.

Barr's younger brother, Reagan Barr, a US Army Corporal in WWII, donated the pin to the museum in 1994. He died in 1995 at age 86.

Spotlight Donations

Civil War Grouping Donation

Angie Vail, former Hill College faculty member, recently donated a Civil War grouping from her husband Harold's side of the family. Harold was a former Hill College staff member.

This Civil War grouping is from John Cook Brown, a Captain of the 65th Pennsylvania Regiment, 5th Cavalry, Company "L""Cameron Dragoons." In March 1862, during a skirmish near Williamsburg, VA, Brown was on a reconnaissance party with six cavalrymen when they were cut off from their regiment by 100 confederate soldiers. Brown was shot in the arm and his comrades fought off the confederates until reinforcements saved them from being captured.

This regiment fought in over 40 skirmishes and battles during the war with a loss of 293 men during service. One officer and 76 enlisted men were killed or mortally wounded, and six officers and 210 enlisted men died of disease.

Capt. Brown

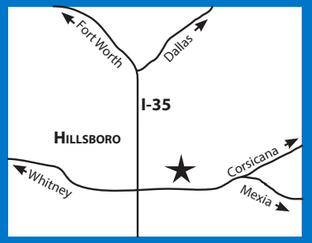
Capt. Brown's Sword

Discharge Papers

Fall/Spring Hours

Gallery & Collections
Mon. - Fri., 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Historical Research Center
The Center is closed due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, you may call or email, and we can still assist you with your research virtually.



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texasheritagemuseum