Texas Heritage Museum Annual Membership Form

☐ Individual $25 ☐ Family $35 ☐ Business $50
☐ Patron $100 ☐ Benefactor $250

Please use a ballpoint pen.

Name:_____

Address:_____

Phone:_____

Email:_____

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

NAME ON CARD_____

CARD TYPE_____

EXPIRATION DATE_____ SSC#_____

CARD NUMBER_____

SIGNATURE _____

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 want 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
Hill College Campus
112 Lamar Drive
Hillsboro, TX 76645
museum@hillcollege.edu
(254) 659-7750
www.hillcollege.edu/museum

The Texas Heritage Museum's mission is to explore Texas and Texans during wartime and how those experiences affect us today.

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

TEXAS LAKES TRAIL
TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION TEXAS HERITAGE TRAILS PROGRAM

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS

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

Lasting Legacies Newsletter

Vol. 3 No. 2 Spring 2012

Letter from the Director

Dear Friends of the Museum,

I am proud to tell you about the Texas Heritage Museum's exciting spring semester. First of all, the museum hosted its third annual membership banquet on April 26. The banquet included the unveiling of the museum's newest sculpture, a figure group entitled "West Texas Pioneer Family." The statue weighs more than 2000 pounds and could not have been assembled without the expertise of Frank Williams, Jr., THM lab and exhibit assistant. Tom Sale, Hill College art instructor, was invaluable in the conservation of the statue. This beautiful sculpture now resides in the museum lobby and was created by the late Granville W. Carter. Carter was a well-studied artist having attended more than five art schools around the world, was a national Academician, an honor awarded to only 50 sculptors in the entire United States, and was a member of numerous art societies including the National Sculpture Society, America's oldest organization of professional sculptors whose members have created most of the country's finest sculptures including the Lincoln and Jefferson memorials.

Also at the banquet, the Texas Heritage Museum presented the 2011-12 museum service awards to John Murphy and Brown Holden. Murphy, a past museum advisory board member, has spent the past 15 years assembling 57 volumes of American veteran stories and history. Holden has been working in the Historical Research Center indexing the vertical files using the British Oxford University archival system and was our in-house civil engineer in assembling the "West Texas Pioneer Family" statue.

Greg Solomon, president and CEO of the Hillsboro Area Chamber of Commerce presented the "Best of the Best" first place award for Best Historical Attraction 2011 to the Texas Heritage Museum. This award was presented by the East Texas Tourism Association who visited attractions in the following cities in North Central Texas: Denison, Sherman, Mesquite, Terrell, Greenville, Henderson, Tyler, Jacksonville, Cleburne, Hillsboro, Ennis, Bonham, DeSoto, McKinney and Frisco.

Dr. Earl Elam spoke during the festivities as well, on the much-anticipated Hill College Press publication on the 36th Division, due to be out in late summer.

Finally, the Hill College History Department and THM have once again teamed up for their second History Trails Trip entitled "Conquering the Rockies." I encourage everyone to sign up and attend this wonderful learning journey. See inside for more information.

Thank you for your continued support of the Texas Heritage Museum at Hill College.

Sincerely
John Versluis
John Versluis
Director THM

Historical Research Center Volunteers

The Texas Heritage Museum welcomed Katelyn Gant this semester as a work study student. Gant is a graduate of Aquilla High School and a freshman history major at Hill College.

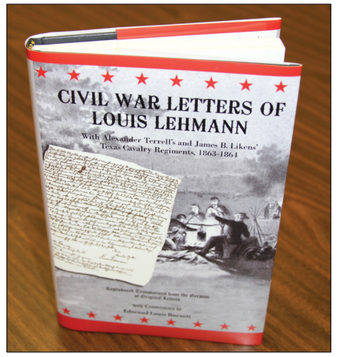
"I enjoyed working at the museum!" Gant said. *"I was able to learn things about the museum field, worked and sew great people, and was around history all day."*

Katelyn Gant

TEXAS HERITAGE MUSEUM
HILL COLLEGE

Hill College Press Explores Variety of Topics

The press was pleased to release, in March 2011, "Civil War Letters of Louis Lehmann," a translated collection of more than 20 letters, originally written in German at combat and bivouac areas in southeast Texas and Louisiana in 1863 and 1864 by Louis Lehmann to his wife, Friedericke, on their farm near Brenham, Texas. Lehmann was a Confederate conscript who had no quarrel with the Union but who was loyal to his adopted homeland to which he had migrated with his parents in 1849. He served as a private, first with Alexander Terrell's Texas Cavalry Regiment, then with that of James B. Likens. Lehmann was captured by Union forces near Marksville in Louisiana in May 1864, and nine weeks later was released in a prisoner exchange. His original letters were kept by Friedericke. She died in 1875, and a daughter of the couple later took them with her when she went, in the 1890s, to live permanently in Germany. The letters, revealing much about



cavalry positions and conditions and life at the homestead near Brenham, were kept by family members in Germany. Only recently, in 2011 as this book went to press, through the efforts of its author, Edmund Louis Burnett, a great grandson of Louis Lehmann, were the letters returned to Texas where they now are permanently preserved in the THM's Historical Research Center. Copies of this unique and well-received book are available in the museum's Gift Shop and through Amazon.com.

We jump ahead about 100 years to a World War II subject in the next book being prepared for publication by HCP. It is the story of a young soldier's service in the 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion, a unit normally attached to the Texas 36th Infantry Division, during the invasion of Southern France in August 1944 and to the end of the war which found him, on May 8, 1945, at medieval Fischhorn Castle near the village of Zell am See in Austria near the German border. The soldier, Sergeant Rufus Lester Leggett, served with the reconnaissance company of the battalion and was in the vanguard of action with the Seventh Army, usually reconnoitering ahead of a 36th Division unit, in the Allied drive north from the coast of France and then east to the Rhine River and into Germany. Leggett assisted in guarding the second-ranking Nazi leader, Hermann Goering, who surrendered at the castle to a task force of the 36th Division and took a few photographs of Goering and American officers. After being discharged, Leggett completed his education and then re-entered the U.S. Army and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1967. He worked on this book for years, but it remained unpublished when he died in 2008. The press is pleased to have the opportunity to present an edited version of his writing with the goal of having copies for release later this year.

Among other projects on the HCP horizon is a follow-up (or sequel) to "Texas Burial Sites of Civil War Notables," by James A. Mundie, Jr., et al, published by HCP in 2002. The new work, the product of a decade or more of work by Mundie and co-authors Dean Letzring and John Luckey in all the counties of Texas, will expand the coverage of notables and continue into the era of Reconstruction. Supported in part by a $10,000 grant from the Summerlee Foundation, the work is expected to be released in 2013. Another tentative, not-yet-scheduled project, but for which there have been requests is a reprint (or new edition with revisions) of Bill Winsor's "Texas in the Confederacy: Military Installations, Economy and People," originally published by HCP in a limited edition in 1978. The work, long out of print, merits attention again as the nation, in various quarters, North and South, commemorates the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. Comments from readers of this newsletter about a new edition of the work are invited.

HCP continues to pursue its mission of producing quality books dealing with aspects of Texas and Texans during wartime, producing in limited quantities works that may not meet the vast market demands of other publishers but which merit publication and which enhance the education of an inquiring public and the interest of select groups of scholars.

Hill College Press (continued)

THM Receives Smith Grant

The George G. and Alva Hudson Smith Foundation has awarded $2240 to the THM for the purpose of purchasing conservation supplies to treat and preserve artifacts in case of a natural disaster. The THM is entrusted by the public to care for the collection and minimize risk to the collection being preserved for future generations.

The Smith Foundation was established in 1992, by the late Ruth Smith Moorman in memory of her parents, George Gilliam Smith and Alva Hudson Smith. The mission of the foundation is to enrich the lives of citizens of Hill County.

"Conquering the Rockies" with THM

The Hill College History Department, in conjunction with THM, will be offering a trip through the Rocky Mountains as a summer I course. Along the way, students will be immersed in the rich history of the American Indians, explorers, mountain men, miners and pioneers of the Wild West as they travel through Indian territory, mining camps, ghost towns, mountain passes and canyons.

"Cool off this summer while we conquer the Rockies!" History Instructor Kathleen Miller said.

Those wishing to adventure through the Rockies will have a choice of registering for the academic course or the continuing education course. The academic course will include a research project and regular course study throughout the summer session. The field trip will leave from the museum at Hill College, in Hillsboro, on June 11, and return on June 17. Included in the cost is tuition, transportation, hotel accommodations, meals and admission fees for attractions along the way.

"Come journey with us to the Rocky Mountains in Colorado and New Mexico while reliving history," said Texas Heritage Museum Director John Versluis.

For more information, contact Miller at (254) 659-7907 or Versluis at (254) 659-7751.

Texas Heritage Museum Hill College

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I-35 Exit 368
Hillsboro, TX

Museum Hours

Mon. - Thurs. 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Fri., 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Historical Research Center Hours

Starting Aug. 15
Thurs., 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Fri., 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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In the Know

From Sept. 1, 2011 through April 30, 2012, the museum had 4817 visitors and 109 patrons conducted research.