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

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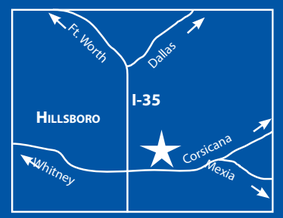
texasheritagemuseum


**Historical Research Center Hours**
Mon, - Thurs., 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Closed Winter Break**
Dec. 17 - Jan. 6

**Summer Hours**
Mon. - Thurs., 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

## Annual Membership Form

*Please use a ballpoint pen.*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone:(___)___-____ Email: _____

Name On Card: _____

Card Type: _____

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: ____/____ CVV: _____

***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 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 wishing to purchase 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. 7 NO. 2 FALL 2015


## Letter from the Dean

Dear Texas Heritage Museum Members,

Thank you all for attending the Sixth-Annual Texas Heritage Museum Banquet. We had approximately 50 people in attendance this year!

The unveiling of the Texas Gold Star exhibit was a special event during the open house. Pauline Knight Perkins, from Athens, Texas, donated her legendary and coveted Texas Gold Star medal that her grand uncle, Private James Polk Knight, received. The Gold Star remained in her family for 150 years. This Texas Gold Star is a little gem that will be displayed honorably and now can be viewed by thousands of visitors each year.

James T. Matthews, the keynote speaker, did a fantastic presentation on the upcoming 49th Hill College Press publication, *Frontier Horsemen of the Confederacy: Major's Texas Cavalry Brigade*, being released as the nation comes to the end of the sesquicentennial anniversary of the Civil War. Dr. Earl Elam, Editor and Historian of the Hill College Press, has once again produced a top-quality academic publication!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the museum staff; Derik Moore, Director of Marketing and Communications, Hill College, and his staff for all the hard work preparing for this open house and banquet.

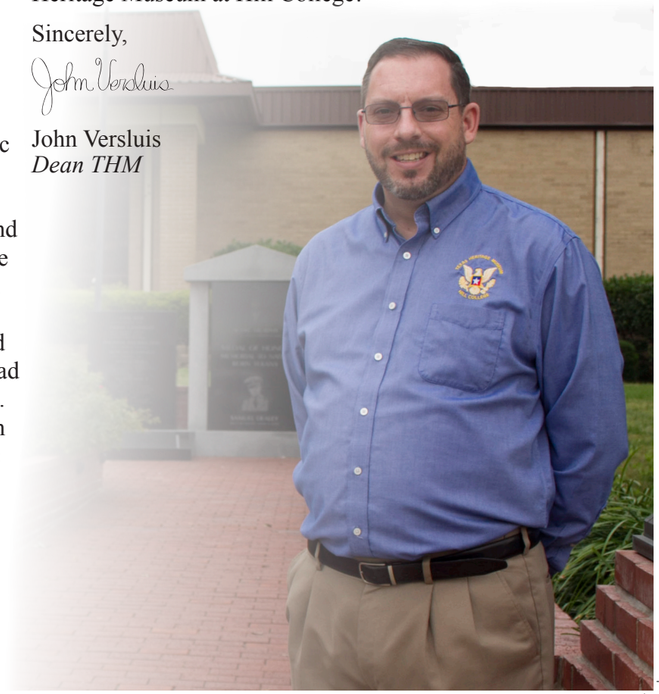
For those who were not able to make it to the museum open house and banquet, please come by and see all of the great improvements. The museum has had many new projects completed in renovation upgrades. Last year the museum finished upgrading the museum auditorium to high definition in video and sound. The Hill College faculty and students are excited about the new upgrades and enjoy having college classes in the auditorium. The museum also updated the Historical Research Center and Hill College Press with all new carpet and painted walls after a sewer leak happened over a weekend last November. I am happy to report no books or artifacts were lost in the damaged area. Collection storage was renovated with new mechanical movable shelving; which has allowed 30-percent more storage space to the room to add more collections. Lastly, the museum has replaced the old roof with a newer one. This has been a great year in major renovations to the facility, and we are proud and excited to showcase the museum to the public!
I would like to especially thank Frank Williams, Jr., Museum Lab and Exhibit Assistant; Frank Williams, Sr., Director of Physical Plant, Hill College; and his crew for all the countless hours spent on all the major museum renovations.

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

Sincerely,

John Versluis

John Versluis
*Dean THM*



## Meet and Greet

The Texas Heritage Museum would like to introduce you to the Fall semester 2015 work-study student, Salvador Juarez.

His favorite part of the museum is The Forgotten War. Juarez attended a presentation given by the Dean of THM, John Versluis, where "he gave the whole background of it" and he "finds it real interesting."

Juarez is a sophomore at Hill College. His plans are to continue his education to receive a bachelor's degree in criminal justice at the end of the Spring 2016 semester.

*Salvador Juarez*

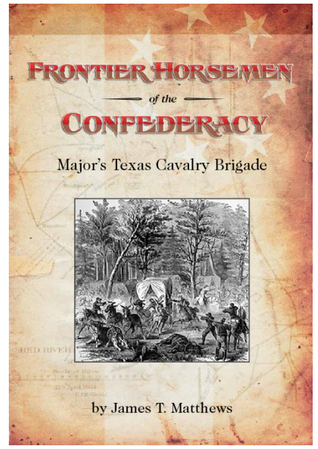
THE TEXAS HERITAGE MUSEUM'S MISSION IS TO EXPLORE TEXAS AND TEXANS DURING WARTIME AND HOW THOSE EXPERIENCES AFFECT US TODAY.

# Sixth-Annual Membership Banquet

Nov. 19, 2015

# Hill College Press Releases 49th Imprint

Being released as the nation comes to the end of the sesquicentennial anniversary of the Civil War, *Frontier Horsemen of the Confederacy: Major's Texas Cavalry Brigade* by James T. Matthews covers a little publicized brigade of cavalrymen, some of whom were veterans of the Confederacy's efforts to take and hold Arizona during 1862.




The book is neither a biography of Major nor a definitive account of the combat experiences of the brigade. Instead, it is the first historical narrative to provide general details of important actions in which the brigade, sometimes dismounted, was involved in association with other Confederate brigades in confronting the enemy.

The often-changing command structure of the brigade's regiments to meet practical offensive and defensive needs is discussed. Insight is also provided about the courage and pathos of men in battle and the hardships of army life in that conflict.

The author, James T. Matthews, is an active member of the West Texas Historical Association and has edited the annual newsletter of the association with his wife, Becky, for many years. He holds a master's degree in history from Texas Tech University. He also, pursues a professional career with the Boy Scouts of America and currently serves as Service Area Coordinator of the Alamo Council in San Antonio.

The book is hardback, 184 pp., illus. (maps and photos), color dust jacket, and is available for purchase for $21.59, tax included, in the Gift Shop within the Texas Heritage Museum at Hill College.

# Athens Family Donates Rare Civil War Artifact

One of the rarest Civil War artifacts ever donated to the Texas Heritage Museum at Hill College was unveiled at the museum's Annual Membership Banquet on Nov. 19 during the open house.

Athens resident Pauline Knight Perkins traveled to Hillsboro in June to donate her legendary and coveted Texas Gold Star medal that her grand uncle, Private James Polk Knight, recieved while serving in the Texas First Infantry during the Civil War era.

"The Texas Gold Star medal is so rare that only nine were ever made," Perkins said. "They were to be handed out to nine outstanding members of the famous Hood's Texas Brigade in early February 1865 by Col. Frederick Bass at the request of Gen. Robert E. Lee."

Although nine Texas Gold Star medals were crafted, no one knows what happened to the remaining eight. The story about how the Texas Gold Star medals were created is legendary in itself. Gen. Lee received a small package from an unknown "young lady of Texas" in January 1865 which contained the nine gold stars that were made after melting down one of her gold keepsakes.

The Texas Heritage Museum has a large collection of Hood's Texas Brigade memorabilia. "We want students of history to see the star and recognize its historical value and appreciate the contributions that were made," Perkins said.

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