Texas Heritage Museum Annual Membership Form

☐ Individual $25 ☐ Family $35 ☐ Business $50

☐ Patron $100 ☐ Benefactor $250

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Address:_____

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

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Texas Heritage Museum
Hill College Campus
112 Lamar Drive
Hillsboro, TX 76645
museum@hillcollege.edu
(254) 582-2555

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

The Texas Heritage Museum newsletter

Lasting Legacies

Vol. 1 No. 2 Summer 2008

Letter from the Director

Over the last three months, the Texas Heritage Museum staff has completed a number of milestones. In the Galleries and Collection division, the staff has been working with Dallas Communication Inc., a film company that has developed four new films for the Texas Heritage Museum theater and exhibits entitled: *Medal of Honor Ceremony, October 26, 2007; Texas Medal of Honor Recipients; The Alamo Revisited; and an updated version of Remembering... Our Texas Heritage*. Another project completed is the construction of a new exhibit gallery to accommodate traveling and temporary exhibits. The grand opening of this new exhibit gallery will showcase "Alamo Images: Changing Perceptions of a Texas Experience," a Humanities Texas traveling exhibit. The Alamo Images exhibit will complement a new permanent exhibit on early Texas entitled "Revolution & Republic." In the Historical Research Center division, I would like to announce that we have hired Anita Tufts as the new archivist and welcome her to the Texas Heritage Museum staff. Also in the Hill College Press division, I am pleased that the 44th book will be released in the fall written by Dr. Earl Elam, Hill College Press historian/editor.

The Texas Heritage Museum is excited to add 23 new members for the month of June. If you have not joined, please consider becoming a Friend of the Texas Heritage Museum at Hill College.

We are actively seeking new ways to improve the fulfillment of the museum's mission. Together we are enhancing your experience—the Texas Heritage Museum Experience.

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

John Versluis
Director

Exciting New Additions to the Texas Heritage Museum

Texas Revolution and Republic

The newest exhibit at the Texas Heritage Museum focuses on the Texas Revolution and Republic. The exhibit charts the social and economic differences between Texas and Mexico that led to revolution and highlights major battles like Gonzales, the Alamo, Goliad and San Jacinto. Artifacts on display in this section include a pair of Mexican pistols from the Battle of San Jacinto, a selection of Bowie knives, a replica Texian uniform and gear and copies of Republic of Texas money, among others. One section showcases prominent figures of the nation, and text panels give a brief history of the Republic through statehood in 1845.

Alamo model designed and built by Bruce Baca

The centerpiece of this gallery is a model of the Alamo designed and built by Bruce Baca of Trinity, Tex. He handcrafted the materials to make a scale replica of the Alamo mission and all of its structures and painted and placed figures to accurately reproduce the famous battle. It is an excellent addition to our museum and a nice counterpart to his Gettysburg model that has been in our lobby for several years.

(continued on inside)

Museum Welcomes New Staff Member

The Texas Heritage Museum would gladly like to take this opportunity to introduce everyone to our newest staff member, Anita Tufts.

Tufts joins the museum team as the archivist and librarian for the Historical Research Center after five years of service to Hill College.

Tufts received her B.S. in agriculture from Oklahoma State University and is currently working on her master's degree in Library and Informational Science from the University of North Texas.

"I thoroughly enjoy my new position at the museum," Tufts said, "and delight in helping the patrons of the Research Center."

Tufts added she has a number of goals for the Research Center this year, including organization of the library and its resources, making everything more accessible and expanding where warranted.

Tufts and her family own a farm just outside of Hillsboro.

Anita Tufts

(from cover)

New Gallery

After several months of work, the museum is proud to announce the opening of a new gallery space that will be used for temporary and traveling exhibits. Special thanks go to our Maintenance Manager Frank Williams, Jr., who almost single-handedly renovated an old workshop into a finished gallery and new office space for our assistant curator. We plan on rotating the exhibits in this gallery every 4-6 weeks. Our hope is that we can pull out some of our collection that has been in storage, bring in interesting exhibits from around Texas and draw on and highlight local community and Hill College talent in our new space. The grand opening and reception of this addition will be July 31.

Frank Williams, Jr.

Alamo Images

The first traveling exhibit in our new gallery will be "Alamo Images: Changing Perceptions of a Texas Experience." This is an exhibit from Humanities Texas, which is the Texas affiliate of the National Endowment of the Humanities that Congress created in 1965 to support research, education and public programming. This exhibit examines public perception of the Alamo using illustrations inspired by historical documents, paintings, television, movies and even comic books. It will be on display starting at the grand opening of the new gallery July 31 and will run for three weeks. So please stop by and see it before it is gone!

Other Happenings at the THM

New Films in the Theater

The museum staff has been working with a professional film crew to update the existing films in our theater and create new ones. We just finished a short video on the Battle of the Alamo that will accompany Bruce Baca's Alamo model in the Texas Revolution and Republic section, plus a longer tribute to native-born Texas Medal of Honor recipients which specifically covers Fred Ferguson, Audie Murphy, Samuel Dealey and Hillsboro native James Harris. This was filmed in conjunction with our memorial dedication that took place last October and includes war footage and interviews with family members. We are also updating the introduction video to include some of our newer exhibits and additions.

Kids Kollege on the Hill

The Texas Heritage Museum was happy to once again participate in Hill College's Kids Kollege program this summer. July 7-11 THM hosted 15 kids ranging from 6th-8th grade. Activities included museum tours and games, projects on Texas veterans and a blacksmithing demonstration by Ken McElroy of Austin, where kids made and took home their own "artifacts".

THM's intern, Garret Gohlke, helping Kids Kollege students

Continued Intern Support

This is the third year Garrett Gohlke has worked at the museum for the summer, and we are thrilled to have him back again. He recently transferred from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton to Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls to study radiation therapy. He has helped accession old collections, update the computer database and organize museum storage and will continue working through mid-August.

Forthcoming Publication of HCP

Kĭ´tikĭti´sh: The Wichita Indians and Associated Tribes in Texas, 1757-1859

At the dawn of history on the Southern Plains, people speaking a language classified as Wichita, one of the languages of the Caddoan linguistic family, inhabited a vast territory, extending from the drainage of the Arkansas River in Kansas, south to the river areas of northeastern Oklahoma. The Spanish explorer Coronado in 1541 called them Quiviras. They numbered in the tens of thousands. By the middle of the eighteenth century they were known to Frenchmen and Spaniards who entered the region as Ousitas, Touacaras, Taovayas, and Yscanis. The Ousitas' name for themselves was Kĭ´tikĭti´sh, meaning "racoon eyed," denoting the appearance of males who adorned the area around their eyes with tattoos.

These people spoke the same language, were divided into multiple divisions, made their homes in villages of grass thatched lodges, earned their living farming crops of corn, melons, squash, and pumpkins; used all parts of the buffalo which, until they obtained horses, they hunted on foot and engaged in trade with neighbors. The area they occupied was of great strategic importance to the nations that competed for political hegemony in the region: France, Spain, and the United States. By the 1750s, most of the Ousitas—the name originated with French traders and was Anglicized to Wichitas—and their associates had migrated to the Red River and had established villages along it and at other sites in north central Texas. Although declining in population, because of warfare with Comanche, Lipan Apache, and Osage neighbors and the ravages of white men's diseases, they played a significant role in activities of Frenchmen, Spaniards, and Americans who explored, exploited the natural resources, and colonized north and central Texas. They were known in the nineteenth century as Taovayas (Tawehash, Toyash, etc.), Tawakonis, Wacos, and Wichitas.

This book is the story of the relationships of Wichitas and their associates with other people in the region. It is a story never before told in as much detail. Of necessity, because the Indians themselves left no written records, it is a story told from the records of white men. The period of Wichita history in Texas ended in 1859 when a few hundred Tawakoni and Waco remnants still in Texas were moved by U.S. authorities to the Wichita Reservation on the Washita River in Indian Territory. They were joined there by several hundred Kichais and Wichitas who were already in the territory. In 2008, more than 2,300 descendants of the tribes, calling themselves the Wichita & Affiliated Tribes: Keechi, Tawakoni, Waco, and Wichita, perpetuate their heritage in an attractive cultural center and conduct governmental affairs at their headquarters in Anadarko, Oklahoma.

The book will be for sale in the gift shop of the Texas Heritage Museum this fall. The photograph below, taken in a Wichita village in the 1890s, is used courtesy of the National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Wichita Lodge

Texas Heritage Museum Hill College

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Museum Hours

Mon. - Thurs. 8 - 4:30
Fri. 8 - 4
June - Aug. Sat. 10 - 5
(galleries only)

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Share the Experience

Don't forget to visit our gift shop on your next visit. Whether you love history or just love Texas, we have great gifts for all ages.

In the Know

Did you know that 947 people visited the museum this past quarter and 70 people used the Historical Research Center?