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Annual Membership Form
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Yes, I would like to sponsor a brick. ____________________________________________
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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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Please make check or money order payable to Texas Heritage Museum.
For your convenience, we also accept VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER & AMERICAN EXPRESS.

Vrsilus has made new scholarly discoveries providing further insights into the U.S. intervention into Russia 1918-1920 and has presented his research at national history conferences. He is also a member of the Apollo 11 Preservation Task Force officially designating the artifacts left behind at Tranquility Base on the moon as Cultural Properties.

He also serves as an Association of Academic Museums peer reviewer for the Museum Assessment Program.

The Association of Academic Museums and Galleries has over 1,100 total members, including 450 institutional members, throughout the United States. It was founded in 1980 to promote and support academic museums and to help its constituent members achieve their educational missions.

Today AAMG serves as an advocate for all types of academic museums.
Civil War Relics from 1862

Laguna Park resident Mike Stell has graciously donated several Civil War relics from the Battle of Valverde (New Mexico, 1862) to the Texas Heritage Museum at Hill College in Hillsboro.

Some of the relics that are now on display at the museum include belt buckles, uniform buttons, assortments of horse saddles and tack, nails, bullets, bullet casings, some glassware – and a Confederate cannon ball found on the black mesa.

“Mr. Stell’s donated items are part of an educational piece that will help illustrate to visitors that there actually were Civil War battlefields and skirmishes that took place in the western portion of the United States,” said John Versluis, Dean of the Texas Heritage Museum. “In fact, the Battle of Valverde was the largest and westernmost battle of the Civil War campaign in New Mexico territory.”

Stell said he was 8 years old when he and his father first visited the battle site looking for anything they could find that would date back to the Battle of Valverde. “My grandmother would give us a coffee can, and we would go out – sometimes twice a day after it rained – and looked for items,” Stell said. “We didn’t have a metal detector back then, but I wish we would have had one.”

The Battle of Valverde was actually a two-day battle from Feb. 20-21, 1862. The majority of the fighting between the Union and Confederates took place at a ford of Valverde Creek in New Mexico territory.

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Stell thought if he could take Fort Craig, that would take care of his supply problems, but he soon retreated his men because he had received word that additional Union forces were called in to help defend Fort Craig.

Within the next four months – and even after occupying Santa Fe, N.M. – the Confederates would have to retreat back to Texas. Total casualties from the Battle of Valverde included 202 for the Union and 187 for the Confederates.

‘The Daytripper’ Season Seven Finale Episode on Hillsboro

On Feb. 18, “The Daytripper” came to Hillsboro to film and the Texas Heritage Museum at Hill College was one of the locations picked by the producers to showcase. They were truly amazed and repeatedly said that “we were at the top of one of the best museums that they have ever filmed in the seven years they have been producing the show.”

They had a great time as they filmed touring the museum. All exhibits were filmed and the highlights will include an introduction in the lobby, the Texas Revolution, the Civil War Milton Holland exhibit (first Texan to receive the Medal of Honor who was African-American), the Audie Murphy exhibit in WWII and the Vietnam tunnel exhibit.

Richie Lozan, one of the producers and editor of “The Daytripper,” directed the filming at the museum and told me his uncle received the Medal of Honor. Well, his uncle was Mike C. Pena, a native-born Texan, who received the Medal of Honor from the Korean War, which was awarded posthumously in 2014, by President Obama. We added his name with four others last year for the unveiling of the new addition to The Medal of Honor Memorial to Native-Born Texans during the 50th anniversary celebration. Richie was amazed that we already had his uncle’s name placed on the memorial, and he was truly grateful and taken aback.