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Under The Lone Star

The Official Newsletter of the Texas Historical Foundation

The Texas Historical Foundation sends good wishes to all our supporters for a wonderful 2022....and thanks those who gave so generously to the organization's year-end campaign.

[Donations help THF carry on its mission of preserving the Lone Star past.](#)

Grants Spotlight

Historic Log House Gets a New Roof—Thanks in Part to THF



As the town of Dripping Springs, outside of Austin, explodes with people and construction, there sits an 1854 log cabin built by Dr. Joseph Pound and his wife Sarah—a reminder of a far simpler time in Central Texas. A good water supply and other abundant natural resources made the area ideal for the family, which would eventually grow to include nine children.

According to the [Pound House website](#), “four generations of family occupied the farmstead over a period of 130 years, until 1983. The family never modernized the home.” Because of that, the structures on the farmstead provide a unique opportunity to experience rural life in Texas in the mid-19th century. The site is on the National Register of Historic Places and is a Texas State Landmark.

But historic structures require regular maintenance. When the roof of the log cabin needed repair, the Friends of the Pound House Foundation [turned to the Texas Historical Foundation](#) and received a \$5,000 grant in October 2021 to assist with the roof replacement, using historically appropriate material.

Jenny Pack, executive director of the nonprofit, said that the cedar shingle roof of the structure had been compromised, causing moisture, leakage, and mold. Assistance funds were needed to replace the roof and remediate the mold, thereby preserving the building and the collections inside.

“These repairs were essential for the building to be operable and open to the public, so it wasn’t a project we could spend years slowly saving money toward,” said Pack. She continued, “Rather than launching a large capital campaign, we focused on grassroots fundraising efforts, inviting community involvement and sourcing grants. The support we have received has surpassed expectations, and the project is fully funded and ready to begin.” Completion of the work is expected this spring.

In addition to the THF grant, the Friends of the Pound House Foundation worked diligently to raise other funds to complete the work. They gained support from the local community through public grants and private contributions. In October, the group partnered with a new local business, Dripping Springs Pumpkin Fest, to host a fall event on the grounds of the historic site.

When asked why they approached the Texas Historical Foundation, Pack replied, “THF epitomizes one of the best qualities of the Lone Star State in that they support, preserve and protect sites, stories, and pieces of the past in order to retain the traditions of yesterday for the people of today. THF’s support of our nonprofit makes possible our mission of preserving the history of Dripping Springs, and we are grateful.”

In 1992, the Friends of the Pound House received another THF grant that was used to stabilize the farmstead’s masonry and a two-sided fireplace.

Texas HERITAGE

Upcoming Magazine Will Spotlight the Borderlands of Texas



Before she met and married rancher and steamship owner Miffin Kenedy, Petra Vela Kenedy, born in Mier, Mexico, had given birth to eight children and managed her own rancheros. During her 33-year marriage to Kenedy, she would serve as an advisor to her husband on business affairs and regional politics, providing him insight into a land and people important to his success. Petra Kenedy’s multi-faceted life and the impact she yielded, especially in South Texas, will be examined in the upcoming issue of [Texas HERITAGE magazine](#).

A subscription to the publication comes with every THF membership.

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Website Update

Architect Henry Trost was an Inventor?



Henry Trost is known across the state as the architect of such gems as El Capitan in Van Horn, pictured above, and the Gage Hotel in Marathon. But he was also an inventor, as documented in this month’s THF blog.

[Check it out now](#)

THF Road Trip

The German Heritage of Historic New Braunfels



THF directors held their first quarter meeting on January 20-22 in New Braunfels.

The area’s German heritage was front and center, especially when the group toured the Sophienberg Museum. Staff greeted the Foundation board wearing dirndls, the traditional feminine dress of German-speaking countries and regions. An exhibit featured historic dirndls, dating back to circa 1900.

Long-time local sausage makers also gave a demonstration of the traditional production methods their families have used for generations. The makers reported that the craft is being handed down to the next generation, who participate in all aspects of the family business.

THF celebrates the heritage of communities across the state by traveling to a different destination for each of the organization’s quarterly meetings, so directors can meet local preservationists and learn about their projects and interests.

Celebrate Black History Month in February!



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