



Endowment Assists Small Town Preservationists

Small towns face many hurdles when it comes to historic preservation, namely limited resources of both people and money. That said, there have been huge success stories in small communities, most noticeably the restoration of the Charles Goodnight House in the tiny community of Goodnight, where \$3 million was raised to save the 1887 home of the cattle rancher and trailblazer.

The Texas Historical Foundation [Jeanne R. Blocker Memorial Fund](#), established in 1990 by the family of a woman whose love of small towns led her to support those communities by purchasing and restoring local historic structures, has helped kick start and sustain numerous projects across the state. Upon Jeanne Blocker's death, her family sold some of her restored buildings, the proceeds of which were used to establish a THF endowment that has assisted rural preservationists for more than three decades. [Recent gifts](#) from the Jeanne R. Blocker Memorial Endowment include:

- > [San Augustine Legacy Group, Inc.](#), received funds for labor and construction materials to refinish the downstairs floors at the circa-1870 Lewis Railroad Hotel in San Augustine that provided lodging to African-American railroad workers in the early 20th century (East Texas).
- > [Friends of Cibolo Wilderness](#) in Boerne (Central Texas), used a grant to complete interior and exterior rehabilitation and repair a historic rainwater system and faulty HVAC system at the 1850's Herff-Rozelle Homestead. See photograph above.
- > In South Texas, the [Starr County Historical Foundation, Inc.](#), Rio Grande City, won a grant to repair and upgrade the fire sprinkler system and clean and fix gutters on the 1899 La Borde House.
- > The [North Texas Society of History and Culture \(Tales 'N' Trails Museum\)](#), in Nocona, used their Blocker allocation to install a museum security system.

If you or your family wants to create a lasting legacy to a departed loved one—or a living matriarch or patriarch—[contact the Texas Historical Foundation](#) to talk about the opportunities.

Director Spotlight

Bernie Sargent Leaves Big Boots to Fill in El Paso



Work brought Melissa and Bernie Sargent to El Paso, but the friends they made and the mission they took on kept them there for 35 years. Along the way, they embraced the city's blended culture and together gained a reputation as stalwart promoters of the expansive Borderland history.

Life brings change, though—sometimes sooner than expected—and now, after almost four decades in their West Texas home, the couple has left to be closer to family, settling recently near Conroe. Humidity and a lush landscape have replaced their beloved desert surroundings. But according to Bernie, who served on more than 40 community boards, El Paso will never be in their rearview mirror. In fact, the Sargents will be grand marshals of the city's upcoming July 4th parade. They will also continue to pursue their love of history through a planned podcast called *Texas History A to Z* that explores their new home, their old one, and places in between.

Before the couple packed their boxes, the El Paso ABC affiliate interviewed Bernie—a [Texas Historical Foundation scholar director](#)—an appointment he proudly mentions. It's a segment worth your time.

[Check it out below](#)



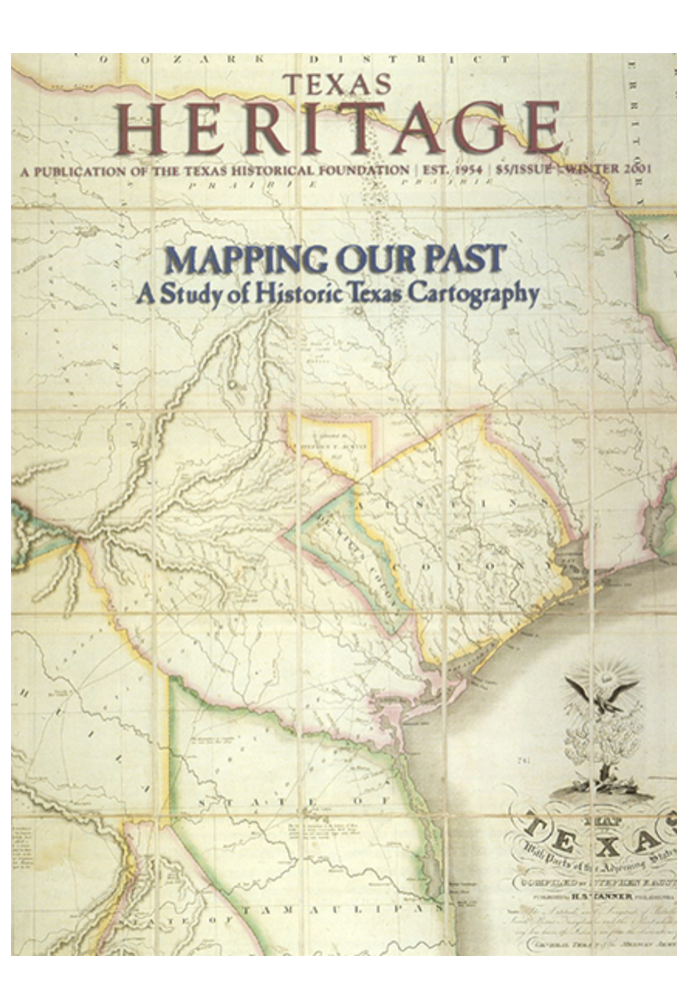
Texas HERITAGE

Special Issues of Texas HERITAGE Uploaded to Website

Each volume of the award-winning Texas HERITAGE magazine is meant to inform readers about Lone Star history and timely preservation issues.

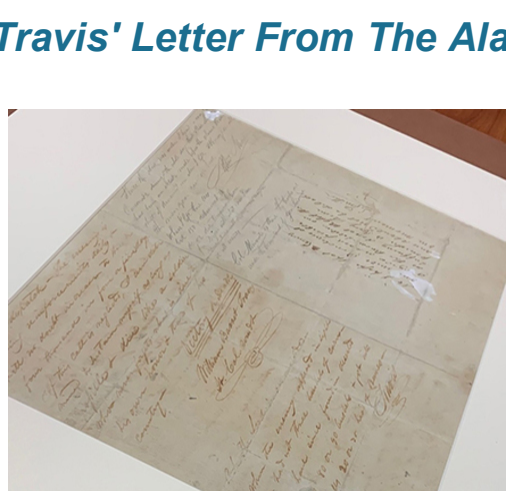
However, some volumes are *enhanced*—larger in scope and size in order to showcase information and images never before seen by the public. Special issues have focused on Texas maps, early currency, and historic flags. Now, some of those editions have been uploaded to the THF website, so that the information and beautiful accompanying artwork can be shared with history lovers around the world.

[Use this link](#) to find those special issues on the revolving carousel appearing on the left side of this web page. If you have ideas for other topics that might be worthy of more in-depth attention, let us know.



Out and About

Travis' Letter From The Alamo Makes Rare Public Appearance



During a recent Texas State Library and Archives Commission reception, the letter that William B. Travis, commander of the Texan army at the Alamo, wrote on February 24, 1836, asking for outside assistance, was shown to the public. According to agency personnel, to protect the document, it only leaves the vault every seven or eight years—and always with a state trooper on hand for security.

Website Update

Lipan Burial Site Threatened

Recently, the city of Presidio transferred ownership of **El Cementerio del Barrio de los Lipanes** (Cemetery of the Lipan Neighborhood) back to the Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas. The story was featured in the [Volume 1 2022 issue of THF's Texas HERITAGE magazine](#) and is available for all to read by clicking the button below.

A copy of the award-winning magazine is sent to all Foundation members each quarter. [Join THF now](#) to get the latest Lone Star history and preservation news delivered right to your mailbox.

If that article is of interest, we encourage you to spend a little more time on the website, and check out the [new blog post](#) to learn even more about Borderland resources.



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