

THF June Newsletter 2022

Texas Historical Foundation <admin@texashistoricalfoundation.org>

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To:

- Gene Krane <genekrane@texashistoricalfoundation.org>

TEXANS PRESERVING TEXAS - JUNE 2022



A NOTE FROM THF'S NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DAVID PREZIOSI

I am very honored to have been chosen by the Texas Historical Foundation board to take over from Gene Krane as the executive director of the organization. Gene has done an amazing job leading THF for almost 20 years, and I look forward to building on her good work. It is exciting for me to



be part of a group that values historic preservation and preserving history, as I have spent my entire 26-year career advocating for the historic places that hold the stories of those who have come before us and have shaped our communities into what they are today.

In high school, I moved from New Jersey to Plano and then attended Texas A&M where I studied architecture and received a bachelor's degree in environmental design. During a study abroad semester in Italy, I discovered my passion for historic preservation and then focused on learning as much as I could about preservation. After graduating, I continued at A&M and received a master's degree in urban planning along with a historic preservation certificate.

My career started with the City of Natchez, Mississippi, where I served as the assistant city planner and preservation officer for two years and city planner for four years. In

Natchez, I worked to preserve the historic city that dates back to 1716. From there, I moved to the Mississippi Heritage Trust, a statewide nonprofit preservation advocacy organization, as the executive director. For 10 years, I helped communities across the state preserve their historic resources, surveyed more than 4,000 buildings for the National Register of Historic Places, and created historic district design guidelines for communities. I was also there during Hurricane Katrina and collaborated for two years with partner organizations to save as much of the damaged historic resources as we could. That position even took me to the nation's capital where I testified before a U. S. Congressional subcommittee on the damage from Katrina. Subsequently, I worked with partners to secure \$26 million in federal funds to provide grants through the state to help damaged historic buildings.

In 2012, I returned to Texas to become the executive director of Preservation Dallas. During my time there, I interacted extensively with city leaders to preserve Dallas' historic resources and advocated for saving endangered historic places. I also was involved with many educational efforts, which included developing an exhibit and booklet on historic architectural styles found in Dallas, creating a mobile app of walking trails in the city's downtown, and writing numerous articles on Dallas' historic buildings. The highlight of my time at Preservation Dallas was in 2020, when the organization was selected by the National Trust for Historic Preservation for the Trustee's Award for Organizational Excellence, a huge honor that recognized Preservation Dallas' nearly 50 years of outstanding achievements.

I am very excited to be working again on the state level assisting communities across Texas with grants to preserve their own history—whether that be buildings, archeological sites, artifacts, documents, or producing media pieces to help tell their local stories. The Foundation's grant program is an incredibly powerful tool to preserve the history of Texas and has been a great benefit to so many communities in the state. Lone Star history is rich and diverse and too valuable to lose. I look forward to expanding on the great accomplishments of the Texas Historical Foundation to preserve that past and help define the organization's next chapter.



**THF CELEBRATES JUNETEENTH WITH \$5K CHECK
PRESENTATION**



Left to right, THF Director Judy Davis, Dickey Museum & Multipurpose Center President Jennifer Harris, THF Director Laura Wahlquist Stockdale, and Dickey Museum Board Member Nakevia Miller celebrate Juneteenth with a THF grant.



The Dickey House is shown in 1997, before renovations began. Photograph courtesy of Preservation Texas.

One can't help but admire the perseverance of preservationists from Taylor who have labored for almost 20 years to carry out a plan to save the house of Dr. James Dickey. Their efforts are not only restoring the residence of the African American doctor, but they are helping to ensure that Dr. Dickey's legacy of service to Taylor's black community lives on.

THF directors Judy Davis and Laura Wahlquist Stockdale traveled to Taylor on June 19 to present [a ceremonial grant check](#) to the Dickey Museum & Multipurpose Center, as part of the community's Juneteenth celebration.

This is the fifth THF grant presented to the museum. To date, the Foundation has provided \$30,000 to help pay for a new roof, repair siding, the foundation, and this latest gift will help restore the original windows of the house.

"The Dickey Museum is the poster child of how an organization successfully requests funds from THF," said Davis. "By asking for assistance for a specific program and providing information on how the community supports its efforts, THF gladly approved funding—five times." Wahlquist Stockdale added, "Being able to present the check during a local celebration was great fun, but it also allowed us to personally witness how important this project is to the people of Taylor."

For more information on Dr. Dickey and his lasting impact on the Central Texas town, visit <https://dickeymuseum.org/> and <https://www.preservationtexas.org/endangered/dr-james-lee-dickey-house/>.

THE

Events

THF TO HONOR ARCHEOLOGIST DR. MICHAEL COLLINS AT OCTOBER EVENT



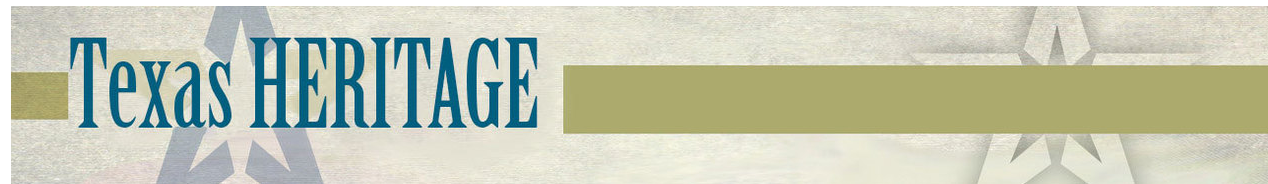
In 2017, filmmaker Olive Talley had never heard of the Gault Archeological Site, even though it was only 160 miles from her Dallas home. She learned about the Central Texas archeological deposit, now recognized as one of the most significant in the Western Hemisphere, during a National Geographic expedition to Antarctica. It was during that trip that she also first heard of Dr. Michael Collins, the driving force behind the work at the Gault Site.

Upon her return to Texas, Talley called Dr. Collins and was amazed at what she learned during their four-hour conversation. He told her that archeologists at Gault were uncovering artifacts that also exposed new theories about the settlement of the New World. Talley was convinced the story needed wider exposure and committed herself to five years of research, interviews, and fundraising that will culminate in a documentary about Gault. Mike Collins is central to the film. His journey is one of discovery, perseverance, and conviction—even in the face of skepticism by many in the archeological community.

Dr. Collins' vision and commitment will be recognized at a tribute luncheon hosted by the Texas Historical Foundation on Friday, October 28, 2022, at the Sheraton Georgetown

Hotel & Conference Center. A short excerpt of Talley's documentary will also be shown during the event. To be part of the celebration to honor this selfless native Texan whose work has changed the historical record, [see this link](#).

Also, read more about Talley's own journey of discovery in [THF's new monthly blog](#), uploaded to the THF website this week. The film's website is www.gaultfilm.com.



TEXAS SPUR MAKERS SPOTLIGHTED IN CURRENT MAGAZINE



In the early days, a blacksmith needed only a handful of basic tools and equipment to set up shop. Modern-day artisans, however, use sophisticated implements and a myriad of hand-held instruments and devices, including some that are technology driven, to craft their creations.

For spur maker Wilson Capron of Christoval, near San Angelo, that means a computer stylus for design work and a high-powered microscope to aid with intricate engraving, a far cry from the tools of the early days. And what happens when no tool can be found to do the job? Then, spur makers become engineers, creating their own implements. Capron has had to do that on multiple occasions, including designing a small chisel and a clamp, shown here, to aid in his work.

Spur makers from both long ago and today, are featured in the [latest issue of Texas HERITAGE magazine](#), which is arriving in mailboxes now. This *Texas Makers* issue also includes an article on Enid Justin, the renowned lady bootmaker from Nocona, written by THF Director Carol Lipscomb, Ph. D.



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