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THF Director Donation Facilitates Texas Legal Research

THF Chairman Emeritus Marshall Doke, Jr., a Dallas attorney, recently donated 106 volumes of the [official decisions of the Texas Supreme Court dating back to 1846](#)—in their original leather binding—to the Bryan Museum in Galveston, [a THF member museum](#). Because of his generous contribution, the legal opinions of the state's highest court will be available to the public for research in the museum by appointment.



Bryan Museum Curator Carol Wood unloads boxes containing volumes of Supreme Court decisions that date to the mid-1800s. Photo supplied by Marshall Doke, Jr.

Irrigation Ditches Date Back to San Antonio's Early Settlement

Acequias are gravity-fed Spanish Colonial irrigation ditches, with control gates, that were used in the 1700s to bring water to the fields and crops of early settlers in Bexar County.

San Antonio's Espada Acequia system is still operational today, 286 years after it was first begun. Archeologist Clint McKenzie of the University of Texas at San Antonio will write about acequias in the upcoming issue of [Texas HERITAGE magazine](#). Here, the author explains the way these irrigation canals operate.

By relying on gravity, these agricultural waterways always flow from higher to lower ground, typically following elevation contours. As a result, acequias do not follow straight lines, often crossing the landscape in curving lines to follow the slope downward. These canals are able to cross a major elevation change by use of an aqueduct, which serves as a bridge to move the water past an obstacle that otherwise would inhibit its function.

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Espada Acequia, Piedras Creek Aqueduct, Spanning Piedras Creek east of Espada Road, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. Historic American Engineering Record (Library of Congress).

Grant Deadlines Announced

To date, more than 290 historic preservation projects have received funding from the Texas Historical Foundation. [Proposals are reviewed quarterly](#); upcoming deadlines for THF grant consideration are:

DECEMBER 1
ANNOUNCED MID-JANUARY

MARCH 1
ANNOUNCED MID-APRIL

JUNE 1
ANNOUNCED MID-JULY

SEPTEMBER 1
ANNOUNCED MID-OCTOBER

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS

\$1.6 Million
GIVEN SINCE 1990

291 Projects
RECEIVED FUNDING

143 Issues
OF TEXAS HERITAGE MAGAZINE
AND COUNTING

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