



New Permanent Exhibit Opens at Brenham Heritage Museum



Brenham Heritage Museum has a new permanent exhibit! The interactive European Immigration Kiosk explores the cultural roots of the Texas hill country community, weaving stories of the European immigrants who settled in Washington County in the mid-1800s. The exhibit offers a window into their long journey from present-day Germany, Czechoslovakia, and Poland and how their distinct traditions shaped the region's culture.

Museum Executive Director David Thomas described the inspiration for the exhibit, saying "I look at the porthole, at the endless water flowing by, and imagine how an immigrant in the 19th century would have felt seeing nothing but water, potentially for 3 months. Add to that the nearly complete unknown of the new life awaiting them and we can begin to get an idea of what a complete leap of faith it was for them to make this journey."

According to TSHA, Washington County and the surrounding hill country remained largely unsettled by Europeans until 1821, when Stephen F. Austin offered land grants to 300 settlers, mostly of British ancestry, to relocate to the region. The population continued to grow rapidly after the Republic of Texas was established. With Washington County serving as the seat of government, the customs and traditions of its settler communities reverberated through the young Republic.

It was during this time that the German Emigration Company was formed and began recruiting settlers from Germany to move to the hill country. By 1847, there were over 7,000 German emigrants in Texas, establishing a regional foothold for Central and Eastern Europeans who sought economic opportunity and religious freedom. Immigration continued into the 20th century, and the cultural influence of these communities can still be felt throughout the region.

The European Immigration Kiosk and Welcome Wall opened on September 10 with support from the Texas Historical Foundation, Humanities Texas, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Be sure to visit [Brenham Heritage Museum](#) when you are in the area and enjoy a preview of the exhibit in the video below!



Video provided by Brenham Heritage Museum

Brenham Heritage Museum is an Institution-level member of the Texas Historical Foundation



In Memorium

THF Director Tom Middlebrook of Nacogdoches passed away on September 17th. Tom had served on THF's board since 2009. He was a child psychiatrist as well as a passionate avocational archeologist. In addition to his lifetime membership in the Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Dallas Archeological Societies, he also served as an archeological steward for the Texas Historical Commission and chair of the Nacogdoches County Historical Commission. Texas Historical Foundation directors and staff extend our deepest condolences to Tom's wife Sylvia, Tom's children, family, and friends.



Tom's full obituary has been posted on the Dignity Memorial website: [Tom Anderson Middlebrook \(1952-2024\)](#)

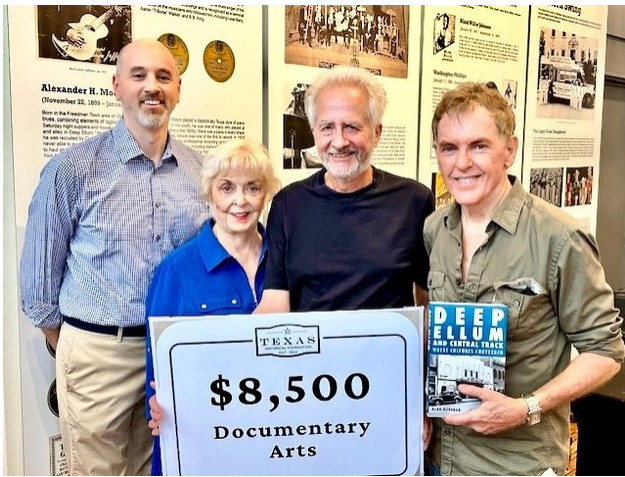
THF Featured at Upcoming Fort Worth Lecture

THF President & CEO David Preziosi will be this year's



speaker at Historic Fort Worth's 2024 Canteley Lecture and Preservation Awards on October 10 at 5:30 pm. Preziosi will speak on preserving Texas history and the work of the Texas Historical Foundation. The Awards recognize outstanding achievements in preservation projects, stewardship, and leadership in the field of historic preservation. This event is an important part of Historic Fort Worth, Inc.'s mission to preserve and promote the historic heritage of Fort Worth, Texas. For more information or to get tickets, please visit [Historic Fort Worth's website](#).

Grants Update



Documentary Arts

THF presented a grant to Documentary Arts of Dallas to produce an album of song covers showcasing the work of legendary Deep Ellum musicians, including blues pioneers Blind Lemon Jefferson and Blind Willie Johnson. The album will feature local and national contemporary musicians who will perform their renditions of the songs that shaped popular American

music for generations while using authentic, period-appropriate instruments. Stay tuned for more news about what is sure to be a fantastic album, and please visit the [Documentary Arts website](#) for more information.

Texas General Land Office

THF attended the Texas General Land Office's annual [Save Texas History Symposium](#) in Austin on Sept. 7 to present their grant. The grant supported student presenters at the event, which was titled 'Cartographic Frontiers: Putting Texas on the Map.' The symposium was fantastic and highlighted the GLO's unparalleled work in preserving our state's historic archives. We are already looking forward to next year!





Sugarloaf Pictures

THF presented a grant to Sugarloaf Pictures in Austin on September 12. The funding was provided in support of the upcoming full-length documentary film “Tonkawa: They All Stay Together.” The film, made in partnership with the Austin Film Society, is in the pre-production phase and will chronicle the tribe’s journey to reestablish themselves in their ancestral home in the

Texas hill country. We look forward to the film's release, and you can find out more information on the [Tonkawa film's website](#).

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Preservation Texas Historic Log Building Summit

Oct. 10-11, 2024 | Nacogdoches, TX

Registration is open for the 2024 Preservation Texas Historic Log Building Summit organized by Preservation Texas. The event will be on Thursday, October 10th and Friday, October 11th in Nacogdoches. The Summit will start with an opening reception and keynote address on Thursday evening at the Fredonia Hotel. On Friday, attendees will hear presentations from a range of professionals on topics involving the stewardship of log buildings. Please see the [Preservation Texas website](#) for details.





2025 TSHA Annual Meeting

Feb. 27 - Mar. 1, 2025 | Houston, TX

TSHA's Annual Meeting is the premier gathering for aficionados of Texas history, welcoming both seasoned professionals and independent scholars alike. The 2025 annual meeting will be held in Houston, and it includes 150 speakers and over 40 panels. It also offers eight banquets and receptions, immersive offsite tours, and numerous special engagements. For more information or to register, please visit the [2025 TSHA Annual Meeting website](#). Early bird registration ends today.



Ranger

Deborah Cartwright, Austin
Lias Steen, Houston

Partner

Michael Lewis, Dallas
Melissa Prycer, Dallas

Contributing

Sherie Clarkson, Mason
Pat Haddock, Sherman
Harold Prasatik, Fair Oaks Ranch
Kam, Wagert, Rockport
James Ward, Austin

Student

Darrin Hedt, Needville

Institution

Austin History Center Association
Bartlett Activities Center
Eastland County Museum
Glenwood Cemetery Historic Preservation Foundation, Houston
Layland Museum, Cleburne
LoneStar Heritage Foundation, Fredericksburg
Maner Memorial Library, Cisco
Rancho Alegre, Austin
The Williamson Museum, Georgetown

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