



# Annual Report 2014/2015



## **MISSION**

The Heritage Society (THS) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to tell the stories of Houston's diverse history through collections, exhibits, and educational programs. Ten preserved historic buildings furnished in the styles of their respective eras, a bandstand, and a museum gallery with rotating exhibitions are operated by The Heritage Society in Sam Houston Park at the western edge of downtown Houston. Collections consisting of furnishings, paintings and photographs, textiles, historical documents and artifacts, exhibits, tours, lectures, workshops, and outreach programs tell the stories of Houston from the 1820s to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century and beyond.

## **ATTENDANCE**

In 2014/2015, 15,904 people toured THS's historic buildings and museum gallery. An additional 200,000 visitors came to Sam Houston Park for festivals, charitable and athletic events, and civic celebrations during the year. Forty one percent of visitors were from the Greater Houston area and the remaining 59% of THS visitors were tourists. Thirty percent of all visitors were children ages 18 years or younger; 58% were adults ages 19 to 64; and 12% were seniors ages 65 and older.



## EXHIBITIONS

### ***Following General Sam Houston, 1793-1863, by Bernhardt Wall* (June 6 – August 2, 2014)**

The etchings for this pictorial biography of Sam Houston were made while artist and historian Bernhardt Wall was in La Porte, Texas in 1935. One of the etchings features Sam Houston entering the 1850 Nichols-Rice-Cherry House, now one of The Heritage Society's historic buildings in Sam Houston Park. The exhibition was on loan from The Museum of Printing History, Houston, and also featured a few Houston family personal objects from THS's permanent collection.

### ***Answering the Call to Serve: Camp Logan, Houston, Texas 1917-1919* (August 13 – November 15, 2014)**

The year 2014 marked 100 years since Germany invaded Belgium and Europe went to war. When the U.S. entered the global conflict in April of 1917, the country was unprepared. In an effort to mobilize the recruits for battle, Houston was awarded a temporary training site for a division of the Illinois National Guard to be named Camp Logan. Workers transformed the massive forest just west of the city limits into a military camp complete with a hospital, post office, tents to house the soldiers, a YMCA auditorium, artillery ranges and more. Today, Memorial Park encompasses most of what was Camp Logan. This exhibition featured artifacts from Camp Logan and told the story of the camp's impact on the city, including the soldiers' experiences, the race riot that occurred during the construction of the camp and the establishment of Memorial Park.



### ***Paper in Pieces, Larger Than Life: The Art of Avril Falgout* (November 11, 2014 – January 17, 2015)**

Avril Falgout began creating realistic figurative paper mache sculptures when she was 13 years old. The exhibit consisted of more than a dozen sculptures varying from doll size to life size figures. The installation was integrated with historic toys and 19<sup>th</sup> century furniture arrangements in The Heritage Society's 1868 Pillot House.





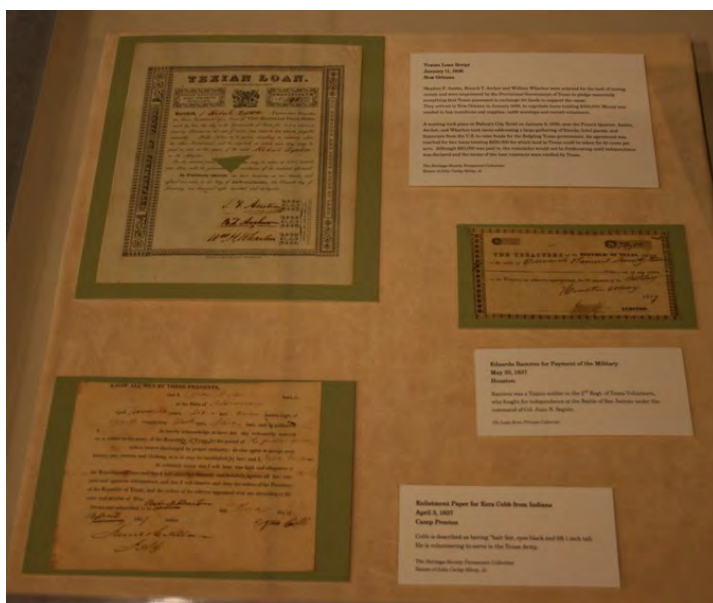
***Forgotten Gateway: Coming to America Through Galveston Island***  
(November 25, 2014 – January 31, 2015)



This exhibition by the Bullock Texas State History Museum, presented in partnership with Humanities Texas, explored the role of the Port of Galveston as a major gateway for American immigration from 1845 to 1924. The exhibit brought to light the little-known, yet rich, era of Galveston's history and importance to the growth of Texas and the American Midwest.

***Financing the Republic of Texas***  
(February 18, – May 16, 2015)

Guest curated by James Bevill, the exhibit included documents such as payments to men who served in the Texas Army, hand-written treasury warrants issued at San Felipe de Austin, salary payments to the President and Vice President of Texas (Sam Houston and Edward Burleson), and Texian Loan Scripts signed by Stephen F. Austin. The exhibit told the story of the money trail that followed the fight for Independence from Mexico, the establishment of the Republic of Texas, and Texas' annexation by the U.S. in 1845.



***Texas Treasures: Fine Furnishings from the 1847 Kellum-Noble House***  
(August, 2014 – May, 2015)

Exhibited in partnership with Arts Brookfield at One Allen Center, this exhibit showcased The Heritage Society's 19<sup>th</sup> century Texas made furniture, much of which reflects the craft making skills of German immigrants. Included in the display were six furniture items included in *Texas Furniture The Cabinetmakers and Their Work, 1840-1880, Volume 2*, by Lonn Taylor and David Warren.



The Heritage Society presents regular mini-exhibits of photos, documents, and items related to a variety of subjects in the rotunda display cases in Houston's historic City Hall, located across the street from Sam Houston Park. During 2014/2015, the following mini-exhibits were on view for City Hall visitors:

***Houston History in a Bottle (Summer, 2014)*** featured a collection of glass bottles ranging from soda, milk and beer bottles, to medicine bottles from Houston pharmacies, to flasks, sauce bottles, canning jars and more. Many of the bottles in this exhibit, both loaned and in the Heritage Society's permanent collection, were found as they were exposed during site preparation for building projects at downtown Houston locations.

***Sam Houston Park, 1899 – 2014 (Fall, 2014)*** showcased Sam Houston Park's 115 year history and The Heritage Society's 60 year history of caring for this beloved city park. Founded in 1899, Sam Houston Park was the first municipal park in the city of Houston. By the 1890s, social reformers nationwide began to promote an idea known as the "City Beautiful" movement. Houston's civic leaders joined the movement and encouraged the beautification of their city as well. Under the leadership of Mayor Sam Brashear, the city acquired just over 11 acres of land to establish its first park. The park was simply named City Park until 1902 when its name was changed to Sam Houston Park.



***Raise a Glass! (Winter, 2015)*** highlighted The Heritage Society's collection of antique beer steins and cut glass whiskey and wine sets. The cut glass portion of the exhibit included examples from the American Brilliant Period (1870-1900) when American cut glass patterns and designs were world-renowned.



***Camp Logan: Houston's WW1 Training Camp (Spring, 2015)*** featured a few of the artifacts and images from Camp Logan that had been a part of The Heritage Society's museum gallery exhibition. Items on display included bottles and horseshoes retrieved from the Camp Logan site, a letter describing his training experience from a soldier to his father, photos of soldiers stationed at the camp, and a special edition newspaper printed by the Houston Post specifically for Camp Logan soldiers called *Trench and Camp*.

## TOURS FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

The Heritage Society operates ten historic buildings in Sam Houston Park that are available for in-depth, docent-guided tours at specified times. The buildings tell the stories of Houston's past, from the settlers who received land grants from Stephen F. Austin to the Gulf Coast oil boom in the early 20th century.

During 2014/2015, free or reduced-price tours were provided to 1,371 students and their chaperones thanks to the generosity of the John P. McGovern Foundation. Tours for elementary students involved viewing an interactive video about pioneer life and visiting the Duncan Store, Old Place, Staiti House, and St. John Church. Children were challenged to compare and contrast pioneer life with early 20<sup>th</sup> century lifestyles as they toured these historic buildings and exhibits. Large school groups often come on multiple days and in addition to historic building tours, participate in other educational activities such as scavenger hunts in the park or visits to nearby libraries.

Some of the student and Scout groups that toured The Heritage Society during 2014/2015 included Lutheran High School North Band Camp, Deer Park High School, Westchester Academy for International Studies, Wendel D. Ley YMCA Teen Summer Camp, Morris Middle School ACE Program, Keller Middle School Summer Program, West Houston Home Educators, Home School Co-op, Houston Association for Space and Science Education, Mark Twain Elementary School, Clay Road Baptist School, New Heights Christian Academy, Parker Elementary School, St. Rose of Lima Elementary School, The Honor Roll School, John F. Kennedy Elementary School, Torah Day School, Caring Aggies Mentoring Program, St. John's School, Roosevelt Elementary School, Lakeland Elementary School, Veritas Christian Academy, Kinkaid Lower School, Herod Elementary School, First Baptist Academy; Girl Scouts Troop 291, Cub Scout Pack 1226, Girl Scout Troop 23256, Boy Scout Den 393, Girl Scout Troop 16207, and Girl Scout Troop 28236.



*Thank you for hosting a wonderful field trip. This field trip exceeded our expectations. The kids had many great experiences to share on the way back. Thank you for having great staff they were very patient and courteous. Cannot wait to experience this again next year!  
(Teacher, Roosevelt Elementary School, HISD)*

Adults visit The Heritage Society for a variety of reasons and tours are customized to their particular interest. Many of the 294 adults who were part of groups during 2014/2015 were tourists and sought information about Houston's cultural heritage. A few of those tourist groups included Presbyterian Convention visitors, American Bar Association Lawyers Alliance members, and the Estonia Fencing Team. Local groups seeking a continuing education experience during 2014/2015 included Sam Houston State University Student Teachers, Lone Star College Honors College, American Association of University Women, Bayou Bend Collection Docents, Lone Star College Continuing Education Program, Ann Poage Chapter of National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Stephen F. Austin State University Design Class, and the Jefferson Davis Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Downtown employee groups seeking cultural enrichment included those from Kinder Morgan, Health Fitness Corporation, and Chevron. Additionally, visitors from TIRR Memorial Hermann Challenge Program toured THS as a part of their physical rehabilitation program, and mentally challenged adults from Options Day Hab toured as an enrichment activity. Family groups often visit as a part of their holiday or family reunion activities and three large family groups toured during 2014/2015. The Heritage Society also conducted tours for a group of au pairs who had recently moved to Houston and for Houston City Councilmember Robert Gallegos and his staff.

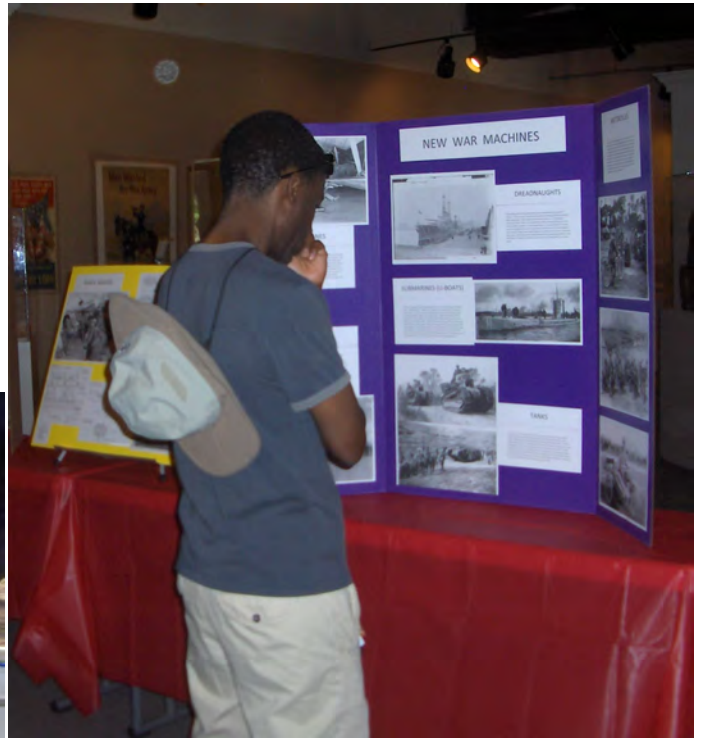
The Heritage Society is a popular venue for cultural outings for seniors groups. Many of these groups use Harris County's free precinct buses and make THS one of the stops on their day trips. During 2014/2015, some of the seniors groups that visited included Discovery Women of Northwoods Presbyterian Church, Seabrook United Methodist Senior Center, Lakewood United Methodist Church Serendipity Class, Wesley Community Center, City of Webster Recreation Program for Seniors, Tallowood Baptist Church Seniors, Lone Star Senior Continuing Education Program, Village of Meyerland Retirement Center, Precinct 4's Fun for Seniors Program, Sacred Heart Church, and Bentwater Antique Club. During 2014/2015, 154 seniors came to The Heritage Society in these seniors tour groups.

For park visitors who don't have time for a docent-guided tour or who come to the park when the tour office is closed, free cell phone audio tours are available. They can dial a number on their cell phones and listen to a brief commentary about each building. During 2014/2015, 1,855 different individuals took the opportunity to learn about Houston's history through The Heritage Society's free cell phone tour program.



## PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES

***Remembering Our Soldiers Heritage Family Day*** was held on Sunday, October 5, 2014 in conjunction with the *Answering the Call to Serve: Camp Logan, Houston, Texas 1917-1919* exhibit. Seventy eight visitors attended the event. While viewing the exhibit many completed the exhibit scavenger hunt to be eligible for a drawing of World War I books and DVDs. There was an educational exhibit about the geography of the war, new weapons introduced in the conflict, and the various animals that played a critical role in the war effort. Staff from the Battleship Texas State Historical Site had a mini-exhibit about the last surviving dreadnaught that participated in both WWI and WWII and encouraged guests to



participate in a WWI era deck cleaning exercise called “holystoning”. Vintage WWI songs played both inside the museum gallery and outside on Connally Plaza. Craft activities included making WWI medals and poppies, and coloring small WWI war posters.

### ***Remembering the Republic Heritage Family Day***

***Day*** was held on Sunday, March 1, 2015 in conjunction with the *Financing the Republic of Texas* exhibit. Sixty one visitors attended the event. Attendees enjoyed musical entertainment provided by the Celtaire String Band. Guests received a printed narrative history of Republic of Texas currency and reproduction bills, a 2015 Houston History calendar compliments of the Houston City Controller and

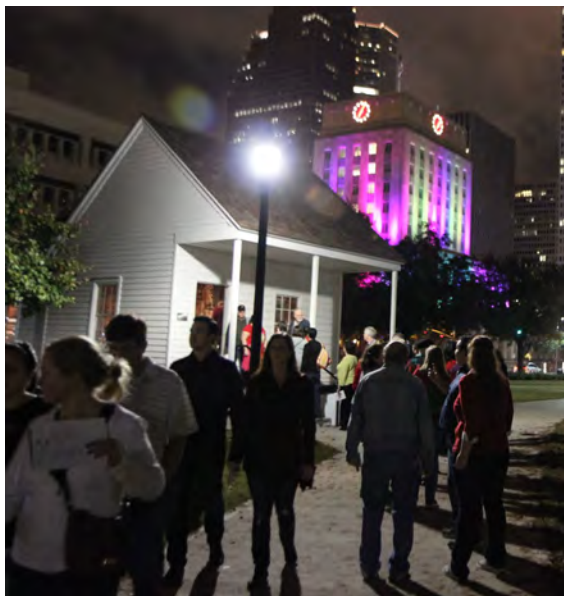


Houston Metropolitan Resource Center, and a miniature Texas flag. Maps on display for the event included the Sesqui-centennial Map of Texas, Austin’s Colony, Houston/Galveston area circa 1836, and 1844 Republic of Texas. Children’s craft activities were tissue paper bluebonnets and Texas tin foil art.



THE HERITAGE SOCIETY'S  
**52<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
 Candlelight  
 Tour**

The **52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Candlelight Tour** was held on December 13 and December 14, 2014. Nearly 2,600 people attended the annual event, chaired by Ayse and Grant McCracken. The tour's theme, "A Year of Firsts," featured the opening of the c. 1866 Fourth Ward Cottage and the first Candlelight Tour Art Market. FROWbiz provided the characters inside the historic buildings with scenarios from Houston's past. Roaming the park were Pecos Bill, the Yellow Rose of Texas and others from Houston



Livestock Show & Rodeo's History Live Speaker's Bureau. Musicians and singers such as the St. Thomas Pipe & Drum Corps, Houston Boychoir, and Houston Bronze Ensemble filled the park with the joyous sounds of the holiday season. The Heritage Society gratefully acknowledges the following 52<sup>nd</sup> annual **Candlelight Tour** sponsors: FROWbiz, Brookfield, Evelyn & John Boatwright, Chevron, The Events Company, Houston Parks & Recreation Department,



Mayor's Office of Special Events, The City of Houston through Houston Arts Alliance, AlliedBarton Security Services, Fiesta, Ayse & Grant McCracken, Melange Catering & Events, Isla & Tommy Reckling, and Joanne E. Zumbrun. Preced-



ing **Candlelight Tour** on December 7, was the annual *Holiday Tea* where guests learned about tea traditions brought to Texas by Russian immigrants. Rosinka Tea & Wine sponsored the 2014 *Holiday Tea*.





## LECTURES

### ***Building Arts Lecture: Lighthouses of Texas—Science, Engineering, and the Sentinels of the Sea*** by Steph McDougal (August 27, 2014)

Constructed between 1852 and 1918, the early lighthouses provided crucial aid to navigation and safety along the Texas coastline. At first consisting of simple lamps mounted on temporary wooden structures, lighthouses soon took the form of large brick or iron towers at major ports and smaller wooden buildings atop cast iron stilts in the bays and estuaries. These were often supplemented with manned lifesaving stations for rescue during shipwrecks. Though these early lighthouses were gradually replaced with automated structures, their design included fascinating elements of 19<sup>th</sup>-century navigation and lifesaving technology. In her presentation Steph McDougal discussed this technology and other elements of lighthouse design as explored in her book, *Lighthouses of Texas*.



### ***Building Arts Lecture: Preserving Wood Elements—Millwork in Historic Houses and Buildings*** by Gary Cernok (November 19, 2014)

Admired for their beauty and craftsmanship, wood elements such as doors, windows, moldings, shutters, and other architectural details – collectively known as millwork – add ornamentation and function to historic homes and buildings. Without proper

maintenance these elements deteriorate and require repair or replacement over time. For more than 30 years Gary Cernoch has repaired and replicated woodwork in historic Texas buildings using traditional tools and machinery. Some projects he has worked on over the years include the 1889 Sealy Mansion in Galveston, the 1925 Simon Theater in Brenham, and The Heritage Society's own 1866 Fourth Ward Cottage. For this Building Arts Lecture, Mr. Cernoch provided an overview of the production of wood millwork found in many of Houston's historic buildings and the techniques used to preserve and replicate them.

### ***Building Arts Lecture: Preserving a Landmark—Foundation Stabilization at the Kellum-Noble House*** by Patrick Sparks (February 25, 2015)

Foundation stabilization at the 1847 Kellum-Noble House was preceded by extensive monitoring and planning that began in 2006. Sparks Engineering carefully designed a solution that will ensure the house remains sound in Houston's soil. Patrick Sparks of Sparks Engineering Incorporated, spoke about the development and design of the project, including the preservation challenges involved with the treatment of a 168-year-old masonry building.



***Building Arts Lecture: Repair and Preservation of Log Buildings***  
by Rodger Lee and Monte Parks (May 27, 2015)

Log construction has long been replaced by more modern methods of wood framing. It is still possible, however, to construct log buildings using the old fashioned tools and techniques used on the Texas frontier. Rodger Lee and Monte Parks of Jesse H. Jones Park and Nature Center discussed the wood species, tools, and techniques used in 19th century log construction. Mr. Lee and Mr. Parks have used these tools and techniques to build and maintain a replica 1820s homestead at the Jesse H. Jones Park and Nature Center.

Mr. Lee and Mr. Parks also used these techniques to make a repair on The Heritage Society's own 1823 Old Place. Their team of volunteers cut, hewed, notched, and installed a cedar log to replace a deteriorated beam on the historic building. The demonstration was free and open to the public.



***Finger Noontime Lecture: Oveta Culp Hobby—Colonel, Cabinet Member, Philanthropist***  
by Debra Winegarten (June 19, 2014)

Debra Winegarten detailed the lifetime of stellar achievement of Oveta Culp Hobby from her service as director of the Women's Army Corps and the first Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare to her career as the head of a media empire.

***Finger Noontime Lecture: The History of the Chinese Community in Houston***  
by Dr. Edward Chen (July 17, 2014)

Dr. Chen described the journey of Chinese immigrants to Houston and Texas in the 19th century, the expansion of the community after World War II, and the growth of the city's Chinese population in recent times.

***Finger Noontime Lecture: Camp Logan—Houston's World War 1 Training Camp***  
by Louis Aulbach and Linda Gorski (August 20, 2014)

Years of research by archeologists/historians Louis Aulbach and Linda Gorski resulted in the publication of their book about Houston's WW I training camp. Now the site of Memorial Park, Camp Logan played an important role in training and preparing more than 44,000 soldiers to deploy overseas during the war.

***Finger Noontime Lecture: The History of the Port of Houston — A Story of Sheer Will*** by David Falloure (September 18, 2014)

David Falloure presented an inspiring account of the people, events, and global forces that transformed a meandering backwater into one of the busiest ports in the world. The lecture was presented in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the opening of the deep water Houston Ship Channel.

***Finger Noontime Lecture: The History of the Greek Community in Houston***  
by Dr. Constantina Michalos (October 16, 2014)

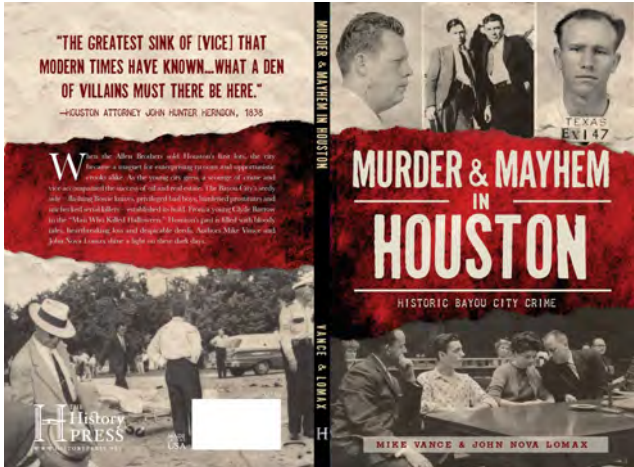
Dr. Michalos discussed how the first recorded Greeks arrived in Houston in 1885 and how through their hard work and perseverance, built the foundation for one of the largest Greek communities in America.





***Finger Noontime Lecture: Dimond Knoll Archeology Site*** by Dr. Jason Barrett  
(November 20, 2014)

Dr. Barrett's presentation explored the dynamic cultural and environmental factors that characterized the Houston area prior to the arrival of Europeans. Archeological findings at Dimond Knoll, a prehistoric site on a low floodplain mound along the banks of Cypress Creek in northwestern Harris County, shed new light on the prehistoric heritage of the Houston area, providing evidence for recurring visitation by mobile foraging groups spanning a period of more than ten millennia.



***Finger Noontime Lecture: Murder and Mayhem in Houston*** by Mike Vance (January 15, 2015)

From the moment the Allen Brothers hawked their first town lots, Houston developed a reputation as a can-do town of business where real estate fortunes were made and oil men burnished their colorful reputations. There is another side to the Bayou City, however, a seedier side of flashing Bowie knives, privileged bad boys, hard-bitten prostitutes and unchecked serial killers. In his lecture, Mike Vance explored some of the more interesting stories recounting Houston's bloody and colorful past.

***Finger Noontime Lecture: Old 300—Gone to Texas*** by Dr. Paul Spellman (February 19, 2015)

Dr. Spellman chronicled the stories of the families who first colonized Mexican Texas. Known as the Old 300, these mostly Anglo-American families were attracted to Texas by Stephen F. Austin and the special contract that he and his late father, Moses Austin, had made with the Mexican government. Inspired to write the book by a group of descendants of the Old 300, Spellman's research led him to the Texas Land Office and to his ultimate goal to tell the stories of the families beginning ten years before they moved to Texas and how natural disasters, war, and other factors influenced their decisions to settle in Texas.

***Finger Noontime Lecture: How to Spend Your Way Out of a Debt Crisis: Lessons from the Republic of Texas*** by James P. Bevill  
(March 19, 2015)

Mr. Bevill related the role that money and finances played in financing the Texas Revolution and in founding the Republic of Texas and its subsequent annexation by the United States.

***Finger Noontime Lecture: Fourth Ward Cottage: A Building Worth Saving*** by Emily Ardoin (April 15, 2015)

The Heritage Society's Buildings Curator Emily Ardoin described the evolution of the modifications to this building and the history of its ownership and residents.



She also described the cottage's preservation and interpretation, much of which was developed from the extensive research Randy Pace conducted in the early 2000s.

***Finger Noontime Lecture: The San Jacinto Memorial Building: 100 Years of Educating Houston*** by Grace Cynkar  
(May 15, 2015)

Ms. Cynkar gave the history of this 1914 building which housed the city's first junior high school, became San

Jacinto Senior High School in 1926, and later served as the site for various educational institutions such as Houston ISD's High School for the Visual and Performing Arts, University of Houston, and Houston Community College.



## WORKSHOPS

### *The Best Little Workshop in Texas (June 16, 2014)*

The theme for the 8<sup>th</sup> annual professional development workshop for 7<sup>th</sup> grade Texas History teachers was *Texas: Rich in Resources, Rich in History*. Three speakers each presented a different aspect of this theme followed by a strategy and resource session for each presentation. Participants received primary resource documents and teaching tools in support of the speaker's presentation. The presentations included *Natural Resources: Making Use of the Land* by Buck Cole, Texas General Land Office; *Transportation: Keeping Texas Moving* by Jim Parsons, Preservation Houston; and *Texas Oil: Greasing the Economic Wheels* by Judith Linsley, McFaddin-Ward House. A record breaking 60 teachers attended the 2014 workshop.



## OUTREACH

During 2014/2015, a costumed volunteer presented the Pioneer Trunk Show to 918 children and adults at six locations. The trunk shows were presented at Aldine Middle School, Galena Park ISD, Fielder Elementary (Katy ISD), St. John's School, St. Francis Episcopal Day School, and the City of Houston Waterworks Festival.

THS staff members presented outreach programs on Texas Decorative Arts and Houston History to 250 adults in the community. The presentations took place at Gardens of Bellaire Retirement Community, En Amie Review Club, One Allen Center, Galena Park ISD, Academy for Life-long Learning at Lone Star College, Weekley Family YMCA, New Neighbors Book Club, and Thomas A. Glazier Senior Education Center.





## PRESERVATION



Work to stabilize the foundation of the **1847 Kellum-Noble House** began in late 2014. By the end of the 2014/2015 program year, foundation stabilization was complete and subsequent phases were in progress. During foundation excavation, members of the Houston Archeological Society (HAS) volunteered their time to sift through removed soil and recover artifacts ranging from pieces of pottery and other household items to an intact ink bottle and slate pencil. HAS members are processing the artifacts to be archived with the State of Texas, some of which will be loaned back to THS for display in the house. HAS also recovered plaster chips with remnants of paint, which were analyzed and used to select new interior paint colors. Plaster repair and painting were underway by June, 2015. Subsequent phases of the project will encompass window repair, a new roof, reconstruction of the deteriorated second-floor gallery and columns, exterior brick re-pointing and repair, and new HVAC equipment.

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## PRESERVATION

The new interpretive design for the **c. 1866 Fourth Ward Cottage** was finalized and installed during 2014/2015. Interpretive panels tell the stories of the neighborhood, the residents, and the design and construction evolution of the building. Display cases showcase items recovered during rehabilitation of the building, including an 1870s woman's waistcoat. Features such as the ghost of a removed staircase, layers of paint and wall coverings, and evidence of other alterations are highlighted with a scavenger hunt to tell the story of the cottage's rich past. This architectural archeology exhibit, which was planned in lieu of a traditional house museum interpretation, is a first for The Heritage Society. The project received a *2014 Honor Award* from Preservation Texas and a *2015 Good Brick Award* from Preservation Houston. The building opened for regular tours in January 2015.





## COLLECTIONS

The Heritage Society's collections include nearly 23,000 items carefully preserved and used to tell the stories of Houston and Houston's place in Texas History. A few of the items added to the collections during 2014/2015 are featured below.

### ***American Federal Period Mahogany Chest of Drawers, c. 1825***

Donated to The Heritage Society by Frank Carroll, this chest has graduated drawers inlaid with satinwood banding and original brass hardware. The case rests on feet characteristic of the Hepplewhite, Sheraton, and Federal styles.



### ***Staiti Family Golden Oak Sideboard, c.1905***

This golden oak sideboard belonged to Henry and Odelia Staiti and is pictured in several of the family's



photos of the dining room of their home in the Westmoreland addition in Houston. Donated to The Heritage Society by a descendant of the Staitis, Ewell H. Jackson, III, the sideboard has joined numerous other family items in the Staiti House.

### ***Perkins Diary, c. 1838***

This handwritten diary chronicling the immigration to Texas in 1838 of New Yorker Erastus S. Perkins was accepted into The Heritage Society's permanent collection in May, 2015. The diary provides a first person account of Houston's early years and of his journey as he became one of the city's leading merchants.



### ***Tin Paneled Food Safe, c. 1885***

Food safes with perforated doors were ubiquitous furniture items in 19<sup>th</sup> century Texas homes. Used for storing meat and baked goods, they were normally placed in the kitchen or kitchen porch, and were more commonly made of pine. This rare walnut example with punched tin panels in the doors was donated to The Heritage Society by Jann Whaley.

## VOLUNTEERS

During the 2014/2015 program year, 739 volunteers contributed approximately 5,860 volunteer hours, valued by Independent Sector of America at \$ 135,190, to The Heritage Society. Volunteers served as museum guides, tour guides, guest speakers and curators, actors, entertainers, ticket sellers and takers, and helped with children's events and programs. Volunteers also helped survey, photograph, and catalog collections and library items, and served as board and advisory council members.

*Candlelight Tour*, THS's most significant educational program, would not have been possible without the volunteers who gave their time and talents for two evenings in December, 2014. FROWbiz Entertainment scripted scenarios, recruited, trained and costumed the actors who performed in the historic buildings; Volunteers from Houston Livestock

PUTTING THE TOOLS OF THEATRE  
**FROWbiz**  
INTO THE HANDS OF BUSINESS

Show & Rodeo's History Live Speakers Bureau strolled the park portraying characters from the region's past; Chevron again provided volunteers to work as helpers in Santa's Workshop, and the Gamma Sigma Sigma and Hannah No. 9 sororities served on the front lines at the event box office. In addition to these groups, many talented musicians and singers brought the park to life with their beautiful holiday sounds. Performing this year at *Candlelight Tour* were Shimmer Flute Choir, Cy-Fair High School, Atascocita High School, Christ the Redeemer



Ringers, Houston Boychoir, St. Vincent DePaul Choir, St. Edith Stein, St. Basil's School, Houston Liederkrantz, The Mission Bells, Holy Ghost Church Affinity Choir, Saint Thomas Episcopal Pipe & Drum Band, Houston Bronze Ensemble, and Houston Storytellers.



Coinciding with National Volunteer Week, THS recognized its many volunteers at a reception in the Museum Gallery on April 12, 2015. Volunteers Debra Bryant, Elise Daulley, Becky Marsh, David Marsh, and Dee Reiher were acknowledged for their 20+ years of service and Margaret Burgess, Connie Byers, Jerrie Stobb, Gamma Sigma Sigma Sorority, Jesse Jones Park, and FROWbiz were acknowledged for their five years of service. In addition to these individuals, two new volunteer groups, Houston Archeological Society and Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo's History Live Speakers Bureau, were thanked for their contributions to The Heritage Society's programs. Refreshments were compliments of Phoenicia Specialty Foods, Trader Joe's and Whole Foods Market, Montrose.





## FUNDRAISING



***An Evening of Heritage*** was held underneath a clear tent with Houston's beautiful downtown skyscrapers as the backdrop on December 9, 2014. The dinner was chaired by THS board members Townes Pressler, Jr. and Mark Worscheh, and raised \$158,000 to maintain THS's historic buildings. With 110 people in attendance, UH Honors College History Professor Orson Cook recalled stories of Houston's early deal makers and deal making. The evening also featured an exquisitely prepared meal by Chef Bryan Caswell, proprietor of the acclaimed Reef, Little Big's and El Real restaurants, who was on hand to introduce each course. ***An Evening of Heritage*** was sponsored by 1001 McKinney, Aquinas Companies/Fannin Partners, Baker Botts LLP, Credit Suisse, Kayne Anderson Energy Funds, Lime Rock Partners, Norton Rose



Fulbright LLP, Post Oak Energy Capital, LP, Pressler Petroleum Consultants, Inc., Quantum Energy Partners, RBC Richardson Barr, Thompson & Knight LLP, Thompson & Knight Foundation, Tudor, Pickering, Holt & Co., Vinson & Elkins LLP, Wells Fargo, and Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP. The Heritage Society extends its special thanks to Chris Wagner, Richard Flowers and The Events Company, Young Presidents' Organization, Francisco + Co., Megan Lawrence, and Mequet Werlin for their roles in making ***An Evening of Heritage*** such a memorable evening.

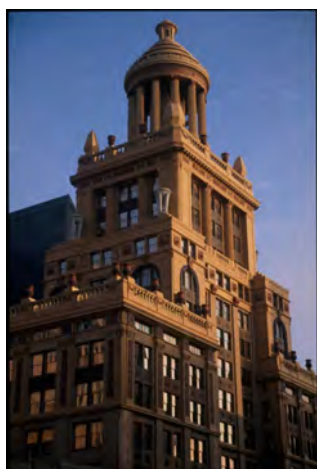




The Heritage Society launched the ***See Irreplaceable Places (SIP)*** series in February, 2105, with a reception at the 1912 James L. Autry House in Houston's historic Courtlandt Place. With Houston Mayor Anise Parker's help to kick off the SIP series,



receptions continued in March, April, and May at historic houses and buildings in the Houston Heights, Glenbrook Valley, and downtown Houston. Nearly 200 guests had the opportunity to see these buildings and to hear about their roles in Houston's past. THS extends thanks to Mary and Murray Air, Bart Truxillo, Cy Clark, and Dougal Cameron for sharing



the stories of their beautiful historic buildings. Special thanks also go to Cameron Management, Morton's, and Houston Business Journal for their support of the Spring SIP series. The events raised more than \$14,000 toward general operations.



The Heritage Society's young professionals group, ***Young Houstonians for Old Houston (YHOH)***, organized three events during 2014/2015 to bring Houston's history to life for our city's younger generations. The group's mission is to inspire members to take an interest in the city's historic



treasures and invest in its heritage and future.



Through a variety of social and educational events they are working to make history fun and relevant in today's Houston.

d'oeuvres were served and guests had the opportunity to learn about the Kellum-Noble House collections and the house's role in education during our city's earliest days.



On October 25, 2014, YHOH members boarded a *double decker bus* to tour historic downtown Houston. The tour included Sam Houston Park, Market Square, and stops along the way at OKRA Charity Bar and La Carafe.

On April 25, 2015, YHOH challenged Houston history buffs and knowledgeable novices alike to decipher a set of clues and use the answers to find and photograph historic objects that told intriguing stories about Houston's past. The happy and clever winner of the third *Young Houstonians Scavenger Hunt*, Elizabeth Stuart, won two tickets to the 2015 Free Press Summer Fest. YHOH events raised more than \$3,600 to support The Heritage Society's general operations.



# MAJOR DONORS 2014/2015

## **\$50,000—\$175,000+**

Brookfield Office Properties\*  
The Brown Foundation, Inc.  
The Fondren Foundation  
The Hamill Foundation  
Houston Endowment Inc.

## **\$25,000—\$49,999**

Anchorage Foundation of Texas  
Janice H. Barrow  
Evelyn & John Boatwright  
The City of Houston through Houston Arts Alliance  
The Elkins Foundation  
William Stamps Farish Fund  
Melburn G. and Susanne M. Glasscock Foundation  
Houston Parks and Recreation Department\*  
Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Houston  
The Jan & J. Venn Leeds Foundation  
The Robert & Janice McNair Foundation  
Kelly & John Weinzierl  
The Wortham Foundation, Inc.  
Joanne E. Zumbrun

## **\$10,000—\$24,999**

Aquinas Companies  
Baker Botts, L.L.P.  
Minnette & Peter Boesel  
Boulevard Realty  
Cameron Management\*  
Chevron  
The Clayton Fund  
Credit Suisse  
Marvy Finger Family Foundation  
FROWbiz\*  
Gensler/Jo & Jim Furr  
R. Maynard Holt, III  
The Hood-Barrow Foundation  
Houston Antiques Dealers Association  
Kayne Anderson Energy Funds  
Lime Rock Partners  
Mrs. Fred Lummis  
John P. McGovern Foundation  
Norton Rose Fulbright  
H. Russell Pitman  
Quantum Energy Partners  
RBC Richardson Barr  
Vivian L. Smith Foundation  
Vinson & Elkins  
Wells Fargo  
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

## **\$5,000—\$9,999**

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Central Bank  
Alice Collette & Scott Warren\*  
ExxonMobil Foundation  
The Greentree Fund  
George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation  
Houston Architecture Foundation  
Houston Business Journal\*  
The Lee and Joseph D. Jamail Foundation  
John Steven Kellett Foundation  
Reinette & Stan Marek  
Mobhill, LLC  
The Orange Show Foundation  
Otter Island Foundation  
Post Oak Energy Capital  
Pressler Petroleum Consultants, Inc.  
Gail Rosenthal  
The Summerlee Foundation  
Thompson & Knight Foundation  
Thompson & Knight LLP

## **\$1,000—\$4,999**

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AlliedBarton Security Services\*  
Art Colony Association  
Sonja & Craig Beaty  
Liz Bellamy  
Michael Bingham  
Betty & John Cabaniss  
Dougal Cameron  
Betty T. Chapman  
Cy Clark  
Carolyn & Platt Davis  
Patricia & David Dewhurst  
Phyllis & Howard Epps  
Fiesta\*  
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Marion S. Hargrove  
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Lauren & Ross Levine  
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Morton's The Steakhouse\*  
Rodney E. Nathan  
Next Level Management Solutions, LLC  
PM Realty Group L.P.  
Pritchard Industries Southwest, Inc.  
PROS  
ThyssenKrupp Elevator Americas  
Mayor's Office of Special Events\*  
Melange Catering and Special Events\*  
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Mark Worscheh  
Brenda & Randall Wright  
Ted Zwieng

*\* includes in-kind gifts*

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\* *Executive Committee*

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David Thomas  
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Sheryl Tyler  
*Staff Docent*

Carol Watson  
*Development Director*

Gary White  
*Staff Docent*



## **LOOKING TO THE FUTURE**

On May 20, 2015, The Heritage Society board of directors approved the organization's 2015-2020 strategic plan. The plan outlines broad institutional goals in the following areas: educational programs and exhibits, diversity and audience development, stewardship of historic buildings and collections, fundraising, marketing, governance, and finance. In each of these areas the broad goals are followed by more specific objectives.

Yearly operational plans are being developed to address goals and objectives by priority, subject to both funding and staffing realities. These annual operational plans will provide a mechanism for measuring progress of the five years of this plan, and an opportunity to re-evaluate or re-prioritize goals as circumstances warrant.

The overall goals of the plan are:

The qualitative growth of THS's educational mission (e.g. new and diverse programs, technology options, programs relevant to current and future audiences)

The development of new and increased support to provide for the quantitative growth of the mission (e.g. new members and donors, revenue generating opportunities such as expanded rentals and gift shop, new food service, etc.)

A physical expansion to enable THS to more effectively achieve its mission (e.g. additional historic building(s), new museum building, etc.)

The Heritage Society has sought a balance between achieving the highest standards of educational programming and stewardship, and equity in dealing with the needs and diversity of 21<sup>st</sup> century audiences, members, and supporters.

The Strategic Planning Committee, known as the Vision 2020 Committee, consisted of the following board members: Evelyn Boatwright, *President, Board of Directors*, Caroline B. Hurley, *Vice President, Board of Directors*, Stephen Lucchesi, *Chairman, Buildings Committee and Chairman, Strategic Planning Sub-Committee*, Rodney Nathan, *Treasurer and Chairman, Development Committee*, Martha Williams, *Chairman, Vision 2020 Committee*, and Ted Zwieg, *Co-chairman, Development Committee*.

