

FRISCO HERITAGE TIMES



Heritage Association of Frisco

5/17/2021

Edition 3, Volume 5

Researching, Preserving, and Sharing Frisco's Rich History

A LIVELY AWARENESS OF OUR ROOTS

"As the pace of change accelerates in the world around us, Americans, more than ever, need a lively awareness of our roots and origins in the past on which to base our sense of identity in the present and our directions for the future."

This quote, from a 1973 Presidential resolution to establish May as "National Historic Preservation" month, is just as timely and relevant today as it was nearly 50 years ago.

The Heritage Association of Frisco's ongoing commitment and drive to "research, preserve, and share Frisco's rich history" continues today—in part through YOUR continued support of the programs and initiatives we provide.

So, thank you! Thank you for your encouragement, contributions, and participation. We dedicate this edition of the Frisco Heritage Times to the countless volunteer hours, heart, and in some cases, "blood, sweat, and tears" donated to maintaining this *lively awareness of our roots and origins* here in this town we love and call home—Frisco, Texas!



SAVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

Hard-core history buffs may rebuff this source, but I will shamelessly confess that the Wikipedia site explaining the origins and intentions of the **National Trust for Historic Preservation** has been very helpful and informative to this history novice as I explore our country's commitment to preserving historical sites. I highly encourage you to take a quick tour of that page (especially the HISTORY section), as well as the National Parks Service page dedicated to National historic sites preservation. Links to both pages are here:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Trust_for_Historic_Preservation

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/historicpreservation/what-is-historic-preservation.htm>

As someone who tries to balance my desires to honor and preserve my own family's rich history with the reality that not every old clipping of my Grampa Ing's editorial commentaries from 1970 needs to hold a place of honor in my shrinking storage cabinet, I gain greater admiration for the individuals and teams who painstakingly work to research and preserve artifacts and facilities that would be long gone if left to untrained and unappreciative eyes.

MAKING OUR HISTORIC MARK



Quick quiz... *How many Historic Landmarks have been researched and identified for commemoration in Frisco through the efforts of the HAF Historic Sites Committee?*

If your answer was “37” you’d be correct (and a bit of a Frisco History Nerd!) According to the HAF, nearly 40 landmarks – which includes homes, businesses, “lost” towns, schools, cemeteries and even trees (which I didn’t realize!) – have received historic markers.

Linda Sutton has served as the Chair of the HAF Historic Sites Committee for the last 4 years. The committee members are Donna Anderson, Vickie Burns, Judy Isbell, and Susanne Kerley. Linda graciously provided us with some history about the committee and the process for identifying and recording these historical landmarks. She is also eager to brag on her committee, adding that “Each member brings their special talents and it is what makes our committee so successful.”

According to Linda, “Vivian McCallum chaired the first Historic Sites Committee under the direction of Dr. Pink, who was President. Beginning early in 2000, and for the next ten years, she and her committee identified and marked the majority of sites.”



Rogers’ House Site Visit
Photo courtesy of Linda Sutton

Linda continued, “Most residences that have qualified for a historic marker are located in the historic downtown area referred to as the Original Donation—from Maple St. on the north, North and South County Road on the east, Ash Street on the south and John Elliot on the west. A sample of other non-residential landmarks include The Picture Show in historic downtown, the Grove of Spanish Oaks at Starwood, and the Fisd admin building. To date we have marked an additional six sites including the ‘lost town’ of Foncine which was a cooperative project with the Collin County Historic Commission.”



Historic Marker for Erudia,
photo courtesy of Linda Sutton

“Another ‘lost town’ receiving landmark status is Erudia,” Linda explained. “Texas Health Resources sponsored the marker, which is located in the Cobb Hill Pocket Park adjacent to the hospital’s east parking lot. Both of these markers are larger than our other markers because they had the grants and/or sponsorship of other organizations.”

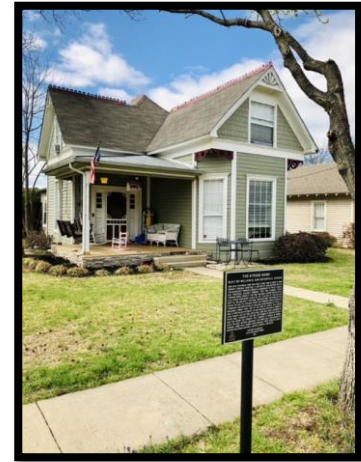
MAKING OUR HISTORIC MARK, CONTINUED

As an organization that has spent 23 years preserving Frisco's history, the Heritage Association is a proud participant in National Historic Preservation Month.

Linda Sutton provided a peek into the committee's upcoming goals moving forward. "Our goals this year include designation of four historic landmarks, two of which have already had markers placed. They are at the Folk Victorian homes of William B. Atkins, 7191 Oak Street and Dr. Isaac S. Rogers, 6974 Oak Street. The home of Dr. William L. Saye, located at 7200 Oak, has also qualified for a marker."



Linda added, "Typical historic markers placed by the Heritage Association are 16 inches wide by 14 inches high. They are cast from weather resistant aluminum with raised letters. The background is a black leatherette design with the HAF logo in the bottom left corner. Markers are placed on a pole approximately 5' out of the ground and set in cement. We are very grateful to the City Parks and Rec Department team who sets the post and markers for us."



Atkins Home Marker
Photos courtesy of
Linda Sutton

"Due to a rise in foundry prices," Sutton explained, "HAF was forced to raise the price of the markers to \$900 this year. The Heritage Association makes no profit on the markers. The property owner purchases the marker and once it is set, it belongs to them."

"A second goal is to update our historic sites map to include new landmarks and make it downloadable from our website. We are grateful to the Convention & Visitors Bureau for partnering with us on this project. We want to encourage people to use the map for driving tours of historic sites in their community.

Third, we plan to research and document residences in the Original Donation area with the goal of compiling, digitizing, and archiving our records. This research includes a driving tour with long-time Frisco resident Richard Crowder who had a paper route that gave him intimate knowledge of the homes and families we are currently documenting."



A map of and corresponding key of over 30 identified sites around Frisco can be found on the HAF website at:
<http://www.friscoheritage.org/historic-sites/map/>

Detailed information and instructions for obtaining a marker are available at <http://www.friscoheritage.org/historic-sites/historic-markers/>.

HAPPY 55TH BIRTHDAY TO THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

Iconic structures like our very own Frisco Water Tower serve locals as wayfinding tools, “Oh, they’re right next to the water tower... you can’t miss it!” and they provide inspiration for some of our favorite artwork.

In case you weren’t aware of the history of our treasured landmark, the crack HAF research team provides some background on the Historic Sites webpage. “In the early 1920s more water was needed and a deep well was dug at the site of the water tower in downtown Frisco. In 1923 the city sold \$40,000 in bonds to finance the purchase of the Frisco Water Works and in 1924 the Pittsburgh-Des Moines Steel Company placed the tower. With a 50,000 capacity it served as Frisco’s only elevated storage tank until 1985.

The raccoon skin logo of the St Louis-San Francisco Railroad for which Frisco is named is displayed on the tank.”



Artwork available at
southaustingallery.com

Preserving and protecting iconic buildings, landmarks, and other important structures has been a focus and priority for over 100 years in the United States—primarily in response to community leaders (and history/architecture lovers) who couldn’t bear to stand idly by as beautiful buildings were being bulldozed to make way for “progress.” Over the century, many national and localized efforts were organized to encourage preservation, with a few initiatives reaching federal support. One such initiative is celebrating 55 years of protecting our nation’s history. Here is more on the story of the National Historic Preservation Act:

In 1965, President Lyndon Johnson convened a special committee on historic preservation. Assessing the destruction in the United States, its chairman, Albert Rains, recalled the fate of the Parthenon, which exploded while being used as a powder magazine by the Turks in 1687.

“We do not use bombs.... to destroy irreplaceable structures related to the story of America's civilization. We use the corrosion of neglect or the thrust of bulldozers... Connections between successive generations of Americans are broken by demolition. Sources of memory cease to exist.”

The special committee took stock of the situation, then delivered a report to the 89th Congress. Published in 1966 by Random House at *With Heritage so Rich*, it became a rallying cry for the preservation movement. Up until that time, the National Park Service's Historic American Buildings Survey has documented 12,000 places in the United States. By 1966, half of them had either been destroyed or damaged beyond repair. The HABS collections, the committee wrote, looked like a “death mask of America.” The federal government needed to take the reins, said the authors. Federal agencies needed to make preservation part of their missions.

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NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT, CONTINUED

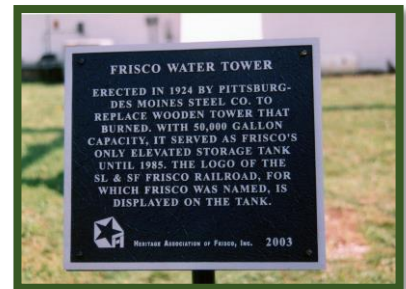
Before the year was out, Congress passed the National Historic Preservation Act. It was the most comprehensive preservation law the nation had ever known, establishing permanent institutions and creating a clearly defined process by which preservation would be carried out in the United States.

With the passage of the act, preservation in the United States became formalized and professionalized. The National Historic Preservation Act was tied to a growing awareness of the past and of community identity. Many communities realized that there was an unexpected economic force behind preservation. The act helped foster heritage tourism, attracting visitors who wanted to experience the past in ways that no book or documentary could match. The distinctive character of old architecture and historic districts became a powerful draw for town and city-dwellers alike, and antidote to anonymous suburbs and strip malls.

SOURCE: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/historicpreservation/introduction.htm>

Frisco Water Tower
Historic Marker, 2003

Protecting and preserving our stories, our iconic structures, and our artifacts is at the very core of all the work the Heritage Association of Frisco volunteers do—for the sake of history and the love of our community. We are grateful for the vision and heart demonstrated by so many who walked this path before us and we appreciate all of you for your ongoing support.



Artwork by Kim Guthrie
available at
Fineartamerica.com

Just for fun, we're sharing a few examples of how the Frisco Water Tower has inspired artists over the years:



"Her Sleepy Town" by Jeb Matulich
(co-owner of Tumbleweed TexStyles)



Artwork by Diana Moya
available at
Fineartamerica.com

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Diana Kyle

This month's spotlight shines on our very own "Gold Star" VIP Volunteer and Board Member Diana Kyle!

Diana moved to Frisco 4 years ago from Fullerton, California where she worked as a college professor for more than 20 years. She, like so many Frisco residents, relocated to Frisco to be near family. In her case, it was her daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren who drew her to our community.

It didn't take Diana long to seek out and connect with the Heritage Association of Frisco. She explained in our interview, "I have been a member of HAF since the second week I arrived in Frisco in 2017."

We hope you enjoy this introduction to Diana and that it gives you some insight into her tireless dedication to the Heritage Association.



Diana with granddaughter Madeline enjoy some quality time at Painting with a Twist.

Q: What is it about preserving history that appeals to you? Why is it important to you?

Diana: *I think it is important to preserve history because it links us to the roots of our past. A deep understanding of our past helps us know and interpret the unique qualities and events in our past that shaped the current time period. Whether the history is about a person, a family, a home, a city, a county, etc., it all is part of our lives today. Personally, I think that we must understand our past through preservation so we can navigate and move forward to the future. Its many levels shape our identity.*

Q: Do you have a special memory of an heirloom or artifact from your family? If you do, what is the item and what is its significance to you?

Diana: *I have several special memories of an heirloom from my family. My grandmother was very secretive about her age and didn't talk a lot about her family when she was a child. When I was a young mother, she visited me and, little did I know, this would turn out to be a very special time for us. She shared with me a lot of her personal history, stories, and the difficulties she had with her father who was a Choctaw Indian. She also shared wonderful stories of her Choctaw grandmother teaching her and her siblings Indian songs and games. We looked in her Bible where she had written some of the information but the older (and secret) family information was written in her prayer book. This prayer book was not something my mother or aunts and uncle knew about. As you might have already guessed, because I was the "one" that Mama shared this family treasure with, I felt very special and blessed. Her handwriting in the book and the smell of her crocheted hankies bring back memories of her and this special day. This prayer book is a treasure to me.*



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT, CONTINUED

Diana Kyle

Q: Is there a particular Heritage Association of Frisco project that you are most proud of? What was it and why?

Diana: *The Griffin Flyer Project came about when Susanne Kerley was going through files and found an old flyer that was yellowed and in pieces. Yes. We all could easily see that the document was very old and in rough shape.*

Donna Anderson, Susanne Kerley, and I set out to find out all we could about this document. It turned out that it was what may be the only remaining flyer used to sell lots in the "Griffin Addition" in Frisco about the same time as the original lots were sold by the Blackland Townsite Company in 1902.

This discovery led to a great deal of research which was used to apply for a grant from Collin County Historical Commission. The grant funds were used to conserve the document and share the information in a small exhibit in the museum. One of my favorite experiences during the research phase of the project took place at the Collin County Land Office. There, I was able to see the original records of land allocated to individuals in Frisco when Texas became a state. It was exciting.



Diana and fellow "investigator" Susanne Kerley celebrate at the 2018 Collin County Historical Commission's Preservation Awards. Susanne received the "Excellence in Historical Education" Award that evening. Photo courtesy of Heritage Association of Frisco.

Q: What do you do as a member of the HAF? What projects have you worked on?

Diana: *At the Heritage Association, I am on the Board and I digitize the historical*

collections that belong to the Association (photographs, artifacts, documents, etc.) I have worked on a number of projects since I have been with the Association including Shawnee Trail and Cowboy Day, writing a grant to conserve a historical document from the early 1900s, help prepare materials for an exhibit project, and I help when and where help is needed.



Editor's Note: Diana was being a bit humble when she explained what she does for the HAF! She is a ROCKSTAR Volunteer, accumulating nearly 333 hours of service to the Frisco Heritage Museum and our team! Congrats on your Gold Star AND THANK YOU for all you do!

PRESERVING HISTORY—ONE HERO AT A TIME

HERITAGE COLLECTION SPOTLIGHT:

Diana Kyle
holds the
WWI uniform
jacket worn by
Frisco resident
Sgt. Sam Lane.



Dozens of small moth holes
are examples of the damage
to Sgt. Lane's uniform that
HAF hopes to repair.

*Photos courtesy of
Brad Sharp*



Sgt. Sam Lane during World War I.

In The History of Frisco 1902-1976, Sammy Lee Vaughn tells the story of her father Sam Lane, and his service in WWI, as well as to our community:

"During WWI, Sam had the privilege of being chosen as chauffeur to President Woodrow Wilson when the president was in France. At the signing of the peace treaty, Sam was the personal bodyguard for President Wilson." Sammy goes on to share that her father served Frisco on the School Board and was Mayor in the mid-1940's.

SOURCE: Frisco Bicentennial Society. The History of Frisco 1902-1976, book, April 1976; Frisco, Texas.

(<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph769378/>: accessed May 18, 2021), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Frisco Public Library.

PRESERVING HISTORY—ONE HERO AT A TIME

HERITAGE COLLECTION SPOTLIGHT: WWI Veteran Sgt. Sam Lane's Uniform

Restoring a 100-year-old uniform is no easy task and takes the special skills and care of professionals who understand and appreciate the value of such treasures. Repairs such as patching holes, resewing hems, and replacing fabrics worn away—first by wear and then by time—require a delicate touch and deliberate process. The Heritage Association of Frisco is eager to find ways to raise the funds needed to bring these honored artifacts back to their original glory.

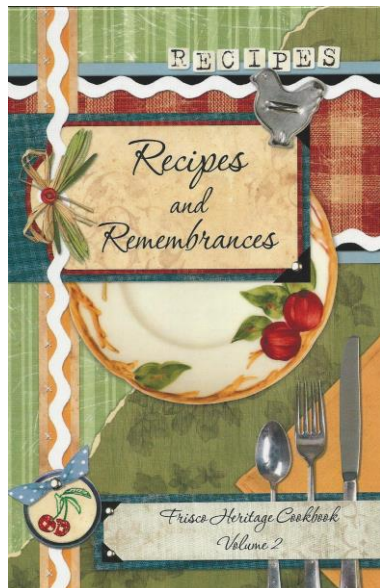


The HAF has received estimates from professional restoration specialists who would repair, patch, and preserve the uniforms in the collection. Based on those estimates, it is determined that the cost for preserving a single uniform like Sgt. Lane's would be around \$2400-2500. We calculate that the entire military collection would cost about \$20,000-25,000, although we don't have a quote for the whole collection of uniforms at this time.

If you know of anyone who would be willing to donate or sponsor the restoration of one or more vintage uniforms, please let us know! We would love to find some creative partnerships for this initiative!

You too can own a part of Frisco's history and support the on-going efforts of the Heritage Association of Frisco by purchasing FRISCO The First 100 Years. Frisco's second comprehensive history book, is available for purchase at the deep discount price of \$20. You can pick one up in the welcome center of the Frisco Heritage Museum, but staff can only accept cash, or a check made payable to *Heritage Association of Frisco*.

FROM THE KITCHEN...



Recipe photos courtesy of
Heritage Association of Frisco

This month we pulled some fun summertime recipes from the Frisco Heritage Cookbook, Volume 2! The recipes are all submitted by members of our HAF Historic Sites Committee: Susanne Kerley, Linda Sutton, and Judy Isbell. Thank you ladies for not only your hard work on the committee, but for helping us kick off summer with some delicious treats!

LUSCIOUS LEMON BARS

Susanne Kerley

Crust:

1 C. soft butter
½ C. powdered sugar

1 dash salt
2 C. flour

Combine ingredients and press into a 9 inch x 13 inch pan and bake 15 minutes at 350 degrees.

Lemon filling:

4 beaten eggs
6 T. lemon juice

¼ c. flour
2 c. sugar

Pour the egg and lemon juice mixture into the dry ingredients and mix. Pour this filling over the baked crust. Bake at 350° for 25 minutes or until set. Cool and sprinkle powdered sugar over the top. Cut into squares to serve.

LEMONADE PIE 🕒

Linda Sutton

1 c. Eagle Brand milk
1 (6-oz.) can frozen pink
lemonade (or regular)

1 bowl Cool Whip
1 graham cracker or vanilla wafer
pie crust

Stir lemonade into milk, fold in Cool Whip and pour into pie crust. Place in freezer for several hours.

Note: Add well drained crushed pineapple & chopped pecans as a variation.

Do you have a favorite summertime recipe? Share it with us on our Facebook page.

You can pick up your own copy of the Frisco Heritage Cookbook, Vol. 2 at the Heritage Museum Visitor's Center. The books are \$20 each while supplies last.

HILL COUNTRY COLESLAW

Judy Isbell

1 (10-oz.) pkg. finely shredded
coleslaw mix
2 cups fresh corn (3 ears)
6 - 7 sliced scallions, green and
white part
1 ½-2 ounces crumbled blue
cheese

1 C. packed cilantro leaves,
chopped
½ C. shredded carrots (optional)
salt and pepper to taste
½ C. ranch dressing

Place coleslaw mix in a large bowl. Using a sharp knife, slice corn kernels from the cob and place in a colander. Boil 2 cups water and pour over the kernels to blanch. Let cool completely. Add the corn to the cabbage. Add scallions, blue cheese, cilantro and carrots, if using. Gently toss and season to taste with salt and pepper. When ready to serve, add chilled ranch dressing and toss to combine.

PARTNERING WITH AMAZON!

You may already be familiar with the Amazon Smile program where non-profit groups can partner with the retailer, providing an opportunity for customers to support their favorite charitable organization every time they shop with Amazon.



The Heritage Association of Frisco is set up as one of the organizations you can support with your Amazon purchases! You simply start at ***smile.amazon.com*** and you will still find the same Amazon you know and love, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the price of eligible purchases to HAF!

Signing up is easy!

Here is how to sign up for AmazonSmile:

1. Visit smile.amazon.com
2. Sign in with your Amazon.com credentials
3. Choose a charitable organization to receive donations, or search for the charity of your choice
4. Select your charity – ***Select Heritage Association of Frisco*** (location: Frisco, TX)

Start shopping!

Add a bookmark for smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

We will have more information in the near future introducing another exciting partnership with Amazon regarding our Heritage Association of Frisco merchandise.

Be on the lookout for that announcement in the next couple of months!

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CELEBRATIONS AND COMING ATTRACTIONS...

Third Sundays are BACK!

Mother Nature had other plans for our Third Sunday activities in May, but we will rally forth and try again in June!



Advance ticket reservations are required for Dr. Silver's lecture. You can go to Eventbrite.com and search for the Frisco Heritage Museum or for Dr. Charles Silver lecture and you should be able to find the event. Tickets are limited due to space, so sign up soon.

Official Proclamations don't happen by accident!
 Thank you to the team who pulled together the information and attended the May 4th Frisco City Council meeting to receive the celebratory Proclamation recognizing May as "Historic Preservation Month."



KUDOS! And many thanks also go out to Vaughn Lohec and Donna Anderson for their diligence on acquiring a grant to continue the translation work on the Wollenreich letters!



From the Heritage Association of Frisco Board of Directors

If you have not paid your annual dues, or you would like to support the work of HAF by becoming a member, please visit our website at www.friscoheritage.org. There are two ways to complete and submit your membership application.

1. Fill out and submit an [online application](#) at www.friscoheritage.org and pay through PayPal.
2. [Download](#), print it, fill it out and mail it along with your check to:

**Heritage Association of Frisco,
 PO Box 263
 Frisco, TX 75034**

FRISCO HERITAGE TIMES

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Dear Heritage Association of Frisco members and friends,

Hello everyone. I hope that you are doing well. The HAF Board continues to meet monthly on Zoom and we're scheduling a mini-board retreat in June here in town to explore our vision for the future and related programming.

We will still have our Monthly Membership Meeting via Zoom in June. Our goal is to be able to meet in person in the Heritage Museum in August.

On Tuesday, May 4th, Mayor Cheney and Council recognized the Heritage Association and the Historic Sites Committee to honor May as National Historic Preservation Month with a Proclamation.

Just a reminder to you all to plan a visit to the Heritage Museum to see the wonderful new exhibit "Fleeing to Frisco". Please make every effort to visit the Museum and enjoy this amazing story. Our country was built on immigration. This exhibit tells the story of the Wollenreichs and their journey from Nazi Germany to "Freedom" here in Frisco, Texas.



HAF members accepting the Proclamation are (L-R) Donna S., Linda Sutton, Susanne Kerley, Vicki Burns, Donna Anderson, Kamal Bansi, Brad Sharp. Also pictured is Yvonne Brown, who, along with her husband, own the I.S. Rogers house and started the recent renovations.

In the last Newsletter, I mentioned that the Heritage Association had applied for a grant from the Collin County Historic Commission to have the letters from the family to be professionally translated from the Old German Sutterlin Script so that the story will continue. I am pleased to announce that we were approved for the Grant.

On May 23, 2021, at 2:00pm, Dr. Charles Silver will present his own "flight to freedom" at the Frisco Heritage Museum. Dr. Silver's story is another compelling example of surviving Nazi Germany—in his case as an infant. We hope you can take advantage of this remarkable program.

As always, I would like to encourage you all to renew your membership and help us to continue to research, preserve and share Frisco's rich heritage. If any of you have an interest in becoming more involved, please let us know. We are always looking for members to help us explore the past and imagine the future together. Please take care and be safe.

Historically yours,

Donna Schmittler, President, Heritage Association of Frisco