

## 2011-2012 Historical Commission Grant Recipients

1. **Allen Heritage Guild Allen Water Station Fencing \$2,000** - In partnership with the city of Allen, the Allen Heritage Guild has requested funding assistance toward the obvious first step, which entails 150 linear feet of fencing to protect the water tower foundation piling and pump facility ruins of the Allen Water Station. Currently, these are unprotected and vulnerable to vandalism. Vandals have toppled over and spray painted graffiti on some of the water tower foundation pilings. In addition graffiti has been painted on the 1872 railroad bridge, trestle, and 1874 stone dam. The Allen Heritage Guild proposal includes 150 linear feet of 8 foot, black, pvc coated chain link fencing as a preventative measure against further vandalism until such time as a Historic Preservation Master Plan for the entire Allen Water Station site is developed and implemented.

2. **Heritage Farmstead Association Odessa Replacement \$4,000**- Chuck Laenger, pioneer of the Heritage Farmstead Museum, created a teaching cow. Children learned where milk came from and how to get milk from a cow. In addition they have learned the history of the milking process as well as the health benefits of dairy foods. Twelve thousand children annually have met Chuck's creation, Odessa the cow. Unfortunately, the Texas weather and overenthusiastic children have taken their toll on Odessa. The new Incredible Milking Cow has been created by Marquis Enterprises located in Glen, New Hampshire. The cow is designed to handle thousands of young and inexperienced hands while at the same time, looking like a real cow. Using life-size measurements and a real cow as his model, an artist creates a clay cow, which is then covered in a smooth, fiberglass frame. The udder plate is made of lexan and the teats to the udders are very durable. The cow moos and a reliable pump system ensures that milk continuously flows from the udders. The Incredible Milking Cow will be custom painted and a sealant will be used to make the paint as durable as your car.

3. **Heritage Farmstead Association Farrell Portrait Conservation \$1,000**- Mary Alice Farrell lived on the farm which is located at the Heritage Farm Museum, The stately image of Mary Alice has a crack running through the middle of her face and image loss at the top and sides of the portrait, The photograph has been moved to an archival box with a curved support structure to try to prevent further damage, which has failed. With the Heritage Farmstead Museum's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year, their goal is to bring back Mary Alice to her full beauty. Several conservators have been contacted and have provided estimates. The range includes having the photograph evaluated, repairing the cracks, stabilization, humidification, flattening, repairing of paper loss and reintegration of details of the hat, framing in an historic frame and supplying digital copies of the completed project.

4. **Collin County Genealogical Society Digitizing McKinney Historical Newspapers \$4,000**- The Collin County Genealogical Society will partner with the University of North Texas "Texas Digital Newspaper Program" and be able to digitize and make available online to a worldwide audience the contents of six microfilm rolls of the McKinney, Texas newspapers. This includes the *Democrat*, from the years 1881-1908 and one microfilm roll of incomplete runs of the *Daily Gazette*, *Democrat*, *McKinney*

*Examiner* and *McKinney Gazette* (years ranging from 1886 to 1936). This is a total of 4300 newspapers pages whose content can then be found via search engines like Google or through direct searches at the Portal to Texas History Web site: The University of North Texas is the lead institution in digitizing Texas' newspapers (147 already done and available online). The largest audience for this project is Collin County historians and family researchers everywhere. Descendants of Collin County's early settlers can read about their ancestors. Students can use this historic county information in school reports. Residents can more easily read about Collin County's history and landmarks.

**5. Plano Conservancy Rotary Converter Display \$1,000**- The purpose of this request by the Plano Conservancy is to expand an existing interactive display of the simulated Rotary Converter located in the Interurban Railway Museum in Plano. The addition of an illuminated interpretive panel to an existing display that features a simulated rotary converter is prudent and fiscally sound. A panel will be placed in the area of an existing graphic panel. Light emitting diodes (LEDS) will trace the path of alternating current(AC) from a generating power plant through power transmission lines into a substation which houses rotary converter and out to the overhead lines which provides direct current (DC) to the electric motor on the rail cars. The addition of this visual interactive complements the hands on interactive located in another area of the museum. Furthermore other interactives in the electricity room will be reinforced by the new exhibit.

**6. Heritage Association of Frisco Preservation of Historical Videos \$2,500**- The Heritage Association of Frisco has a collection of oral histories with the older citizens of Frisco which spans two decades. These historical videos need major updating. The scope of this project includes: digitizing and reformatting archival footage-viewing, editing technical flaws and interruptions, compression and authoring, written summaries, creating a library system of logging each video, labeling and printing a master file, and a PowerPoint summary and overview of the complete collection with key history points including a summary of each story. By updating of these videos, family descendants can research genealogical information, and the general public can study specific historical topics. Also the school children who come to the museum can watch a presentation that may seem as if the person for who their school is named or perhaps one or both of their deceased grandparents is brought to life in video.

**7. Young Family Cemetery Association Gravestone Preservation \$2,500**- The purpose of this project is to have preventive conservation and repairs of grave markers. Preventative conservation will involve leveling of tilting bases, replacement of loose or detached monuments, and resetting of footstones and cleaning of biological debris from stones deemed stable enough for such cleaning and most likely to benefit. Repairs will include reattaching broken pieces of markers deemed appropriate candidates for such treatment. Some markers that are so far deteriorated that repairs are futile will receive a "replacement" granite rectangle with the surname engraved. These repairs will be conducted based upon estimates from Vandagriff Monument Company. After the markers are repaired and reset, a cleaning event will take place using the recommended product D/2. The product is available only through Cathedral Stone.

**8. Bear Creek Cemetery Foundation Grave Marker Repair \$2,000-** Bear Creek Cemetery contains about 180 marked graves, including some that are only marked with bois d'arc posts of field stones. Many, many stones that are broken, crooked, leaning or fallen are in need of cleaning. Thanks to the excellent marker restoration workshop held in April 2011, sponsored by the Collin County Historical Commission, members of the Bear Creek Cemetery Foundation now feel confident to clean, repair, and level a number of the smaller stones, but professional help is needed for the damaged large heavy stones. The Foundation has an open-ended proposal from Texas Cemetery Restoration LLC. These repairs will not only improve the appearance of the cemetery, but also extend the life of the stones. The memory of the early settlers of the Empire Community must live on.

**9. Bear Creek Cemetery Foundation Fencing \$4,000-** Bear Creek Cemetery is fenced on three sides with a barbed wire fence. These fences are on the north, west and south sides. The cemetery now has an iron fence along most of the east side along County Road 544. The Bear Creek Cemetery Foundation needs to continue this fence section for sixty more feet along the east side to the north east corner of the cemetery. This portion is currently overgrown with brush and trees. The broken-down barbed-wire fence along the south side of the cemetery also needs to be replaced (160 feet). The Foundation needs a total of 220 feet of iron fence and a number of bids have been solicited. This would definitely improve the appearance of the cemetery and would greatly help toward the preservation of the cemetery, the memory of the people buried there and the history of the Empire Community in Collin County. The cemetery is the only physical representation of the original Empire community that was located west of Nevada.

### **Emergency Grant Recipient**

**1. Allen Heritage Guild Security Doors: Heritage Village Churches \$2,500-** The Allen Heritage Guild is the "shepherd" of the Allen Historic Village. Since the Village is in a remote part of the downtown with no nearby residences, the buildings are not always under the watchful eye of the citizens of Allen. The Allen Christian Church is one example of the chance of vandalism. Before the church was renovated, there were several cases of vandalism inside the church. After the renovations, there have been attempts to get in through the back door. The second example of the opportunity for vandalism is the weather beaten, decaying, wooden back doors of the St. Mary Baptist Church. For the Allen Christian Church, the Allen Heritage Guild proposes installation of a wrought iron and glass security door with two locks. This door would be installed several inches from the current wooden door. For the St. Mary Baptist Church, the Guild proposes replacement of the wooden back doors with fiberglass doors. The fiberglass doors are stronger and will withstand exposure to the weather far better than wooden doors. The installation of the new back doors will improve the security of the two churches and history of Collin County can be preserved.