

## **2014-2015 Grant Recipients**

**Eleven applicants requested \$38,991.82**

**The Collin Count Historical Commission approved nine grant applications on June 26 for \$24,000.**

### **1. Allen Heritage Guild Traveling Trunks Containing the History of Allen Requested \$2,000 Grant \$2,000**

During the 2014-2015 school, the Allen Heritage Guild will create traveling trunks to be used by the third graders in the Allen Independent School District. The trunks will be checked out by each campus to be used in the study of the history of Allen. The grade level may invite Heritage Guild volunteers to come and help with this study. The trunks will focus on the importance of farming, the cultural heritage of Allen and the impact of several important citizens of Allen. The information on the traveling trunks will also be given to home school groups in the area. Each trunk will be decorated with pictures from the Heritage Guild's archives. A binder of historic references and pictures will be included. The students will also have the opportunity to work on their map-reading skills using a variety of maps of the city. The students will be able to grind their own corn and comb cotton. Artifacts such as butter churns and cotton picking bags will be used to give students an idea of what it was like to live on the farms in this area.

### **2 Anna Area Historic Preservation Society Lair Cemetery Restoration Project Requested \$5,241.82 Grant \$3,700**

The Lair Cemetery Restoration Project was created to preserve a vital Collin County legacy: the Lair Cemetery. The Lair Cemetery, near Anna, has been in existence since 1855 with the last burial in 1986. The cemetery is approximately 65 feet square. The Lair Cemetery was named for Dr. William Dixon Lair, who was elected to the Texas State Senate twice. In 1995, a vandal drove a car through the cemetery breaking several of the monuments/markers and doing considerable damage to others. There are flowers, trees and bushes which have been neglected and overgrown. Fencing needs to be repaired and possibly totally reconstructed. Lair Cemetery has many markers that have been broken and others have deteriorated over time. There are many steps to have this project complete but work on the markers takes precedence due to the extensive damage. The Anna Area Historic Preservation Society plans to restore the many grave markers which would include at least twenty-one. Restoration of the markers will be a great step in restoring the appearance and notoriety to the Lair Cemetery.

### **3. Bear Creek Cemetery Foundation Restore Damaged Markers Requested \$4,000 Grant \$3,800**

The Bear Creek Cemetery, near Nevada, contains about 180 marked graves, including some that are only marked with bois d' arc posts or fieldstones. Many markers are broken, crooked, leaning, fallen, and are in need of cleaning. Due to a Collin County Historical Commission workshop in 2011 the Foundation has been able to clean, repair and level a number of the smaller markers. Sixty-seven of the largest and most prominent markers were leveled and repaired in the last three years as a result of three grants from the Collin County Historical Commission. Now the group would like to repair at least 25 of the worst of the remaining damaged markers. Many of these are tablet markers that

are lying flat on the ground and broken in pieces, with missing or broken bases. In this condition, the engraving is deteriorating much faster than if they were properly upright.

**4. Cemetery Association of Murphy Marker Repair, Cleaning and Identification Plaques Requested \$2,500 Grant \$2,500**

The Association has identified twenty markers in need of cleaning or repair. It is very attune to the weathering and disintegration of many markers in the Decatur-Maxwell-Murphy Cemetery. The North Texas Grave Tenders, LLC will restore the markers to their original readability through marker cleaning. The Cemetery Association of Murphy would like to continue marking graves that have unreadable markers with ten aluminum black and silver identification plaques. If a marker is not able to be repaired due to it being chipped or broken, then an aluminum plaque with exact verbiage, including spelling errors is placed on the site.

**5. Wylie Historical Society Brochure for a Self-Guided Walking Tour Requested \$1,200 Grant \$1,100**

The brochure will feature a series of photographs and vignettes highlighting the architecture and local history of downtown Wylie. A street-level map will guide users from site to site. Members of the public will be able to pick up a brochure by visiting downtown merchants, city offices, or downloading from online sites. In terms of content, Wylie Historical volunteers will provide the research, photographs, and written summaries, which a local artist will use to create the final product. Some of this research is already complete, thanks to the Society's collaboration with Collin County Historical Commission on the Historic Asset Survey. Physically, the proposed brochure is a color, legal-size, four panel document. The timeline for this project is divided into four development phases: research, strategy, design, and implementation. This is an excellent way for visitors to learn about Wylie with a brochure and walking tour.

**6. Stoney Point Cemetery Association Restore Monuments Requested \$5,000 Grant \$2,700**

Stoney Point Cemetery Association is led by a volunteer board. Stoney Point Baptist Church is located on the west corner of the Stoney Point Cemetery. The church no longer has regularly scheduled church services. The Association is the caretaker of the cemetery. The Collin County Historical Commission has conducted cemetery workshops which have helped the Association get ideas to improve Stoney Point Cemetery. Monuments are in pieces and sinking into the ground, and markers need to be leveled and cleaned. Rusty Brenner of Texas Cemetery Restoration LLC will repair the most critical markers and volunteers will assist.

**7. Heritage Farmstead Museum of Plano Restore the Blacksmith Shop Requested \$6,550 Grant \$2,700**

The Heritage Farmstead Museum would like to restore the condition of the Farmstead's Blacksmith shed so that it can once again be fully utilized in all tours, special programs and annual events of the museum. The equipment necessary to meet the demands of a large, 1890's farm included a forge, an anvil, basic hammers, a few tongs, and an assortment of punches, chisels, hardies, a vise and a drill press. The farmer's blacksmith

outfit was relatively affordable and easily acquired as a catalog purchase of Sears and Roebuck or Montgomery Ward. It is towards this agrarian focus and farm shop model that the museum desires to move. In order to restore healthy air circulation the existing wheel coal forge will be replaced with a period appropriate metal hooded coal forge that is vented to the exterior. Also the modern lighting will be replaced with fixtures more in keeping with the period being interpreted.

**8. The Murphy Historical Society Restoration of the Murphy Family Cemetery Requested \$5,000 Grant \$4,000**

The Murphy Historical Society plans to focus on the Murphy Family Cemetery, which is in desperate need of repair. The Murphy Family Cemetery is located on North Maxwell Creek Road on what was once the William Andrew Murphy farm and this cemetery contains less than thirty graves on approximately half an acre. Murphy's namesake, William and Dorothy started the cemetery in 1872. Twenty-five of the twenty-seven stones need preservation work. The large granite tombstones for William and Dorothy Murphy, Dr. William and Dorothy King, and J.L. and Susan Moulden are leaning and are in danger of breaking. Restoration includes leveling, cleaning, and resetting the major stones that are in danger of falling. The restoration requires the use of large equipment and has a \$4,000 minimum limit. Heavy equipment will be utilized in the cemetery to remove, repair, clean, and reset the stones.

**9. The Plano Conservancy Cemetery Restoration Workshop and Tour Requested \$3,000 Grant \$1,500**

The Plano Conservancy plans to conduct a cemetery restoration workshop in partnership with Texas Cemetery Restoration. For those not interested in attending the eight hour cemetery restoration workshop, they will be offered historical tours of Old City Cemetery. The participants in the workshop will learn the most up to date methods of sensitive maintenance repair and restoration of historical grave markers. The targeted audience includes Historians, Historic Preservation groups, Cemetery Associations and Genealogists. Estimated attendance would be 250 people and this workshop could evolved into an annual event.

## **Rejected Grants for 2014-2015**

1. The Heritage Guild of Collin County Grant Request \$2,500 Grant denied.  
A request was made to update the current version of 3.0. The purpose would be used to catalog parts of the collections of The Heritage Guild and use the software to maintain volunteer and membership records. Upgrading software would include an upgrade to Version 5.0, one year support plan, multi-media capability and networked version for 2-5 users. Hardware would include a new windows version, 1 GHz Processor, 1024 X 788 Color Monitor, MS Word 2007 or above, CD ROM Drive, and 400+ MB hard drive. As stated in the grant application funding will not be granted to fund day-to-day operating expenses, supplies and other operating costs of the organization's daily operations. In addition the grant application was incomplete with no signatures and nothing written on the W-9 form.

2. The Plano Conservancy for Historic Preservation Grant Request \$2,000 Grant denied.  
The description of the audio digitization and preservation of the Plano Conservancy for Historic Preservation's oral history collection was not clear. Information was needed about what would be digitized in the collection. The budget was \$3,000 for the project with money coming from private donations and the Collin County Historical Commission. As stated in the grant application and at a mandatory grant workshop, a proposed budget must made for the project, project or program. By failing to have a budget, the grant is denied.