



Jumping Forward into the Past



2026
Pre-Conference
Packet





Welcome to Fredericksburg

Fredericksburg was the second German Town in Texas founded by the Adelsverein, better known as the Society for the Protection of German Immigrants, on May 8, 1846. That rich history still influences the community today from food to architecture to culture. Here you'll get a unique blend of German heritage and Texan hospitality.

THANK YOU TO OUR Conference Host Sites



National Museum of the Pacific War

The National Museum of the Pacific War (NMPW) is recognized today as a world-class, cultural institution. A Smithsonian Affiliate and accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, NMPW provides the nation's most comprehensive account of World War II in the Asiatic-Pacific theater.



Pioneer Museum

The Pioneer Museum is a combination museum and historical site of 3.5 acres located in downtown Fredericksburg. In the mid-1840s, Germans looking for a better life were reading and hearing about Texas as a land of limitless opportunity. They risked everything to get here. They tenaciously faced every obstacle and created a unique German colony in the heart of the Texas Hill Country.

Among the historic homesteads and buildings are a one-room schoolhouse, log cabin, Sunday house, bath house, barn and smokehouse, all of which showcase artifacts and architecture. Also on our grounds, the Fredericksburg Volunteer Fire Department Museum displays pieces of early 20th century firefighting equipment.



Fort Martin Scott

Fort Martin Scott welcomes visitors into a vibrant frontier story brought to life through a mix of reconstructed buildings and original structures like the historic guard house and jail.

Fort Martin Scott has earned recognition as a State Archeological Landmark and is proudly listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The fort preserves tales of soldiers, settlers, and communities who shaped the region. Every visit unlocks a window into the past, where the echoes of Texas history are waiting to be explored.



2026 Conference Hotel

Fredericksburg Inn & Suites

201 S. Washington St., Fredericksburg, TX 78624

Group rates for Wednesday and Thursday nights are \$119

Group rates for Friday and Saturday nights are \$199

Use group code **TLHA2026** to book online or call the hotel directly at 800-446-0202 and ask for the TLHA 2026 Annual Conference block.

2026 General Schedule



THURSDAY - Fieldtrips

Add a little adventure to your conference by selecting one of three optional field trips highlighting the region's rich heritage.

Evening Pub Crawl

JAN
15

Start at
9:00 AM



FRIDAY - Workshops

Roll up your sleeves for a day of hands-on discovery! Friday features half- and full-day workshops where you can learn and share historic skills that bring the past to life. After a short break, unwind at Pickled, Preserved, and Smoked—an evening of great flavors and even better company.

Evening Pickled, Preserved, and Smoked & Auction

JAN
16

Start at
9:00 AM



SATURDAY - Sessions

Saturday is packed with learning and camaraderie! Join a variety of 60- and 90-minute sessions, enjoy lunch with our keynote speaker and wrap up the day with the 1940s-themed banquet and USO show—great food, lively music, and plenty of fun.

Evening Banquet & Awards

JAN
17

Start at
9:00 AM

Fieldtrip Fun #1

Thursday, January 15th

From Frontier to Frontlines: Exploring Fredericksburg and Beyond

9:00 Meet at hotel entrance

Discover Fredericksburg's rich and varied past on this visit to three of its most significant historic sites. Begin at the **National Museum of the Pacific War** with a docent-led tour, including exclusive behind-the-scenes access to the museum's collections and living history exhibits that bring World War II stories to life. Continue to the **Pioneer Museum**, where ten historic structures and hundreds of artifacts illustrate daily life of German immigrants in early Gillespie County. Conclude the day at **Fort Martin Scott**, an early frontier post that blends original and reconstructed buildings, including the guard house and jail. As a State Archeological Landmark and National Register of Historic Places site, the fort's guided tour and walking trail provide an immersive look at military and frontier life in 19th-century Texas.

Lunch: When we are done at the National Museum of the Pacific War, we'll head a few doors down the road a few doors to enjoy lunch at Auslander.

Accessibility Info: The National Museum of the Pacific War is mostly indoor and does have an elevator if we need to go to the second floor. The Pioneer Museum will be indoor/outdoor with some uneven ground outside but is accessible for walking, though not great for wheelchair access. Fort Martin Scott will be mostly outdoors with uneven surfaces and the historic buildings are not wheelchair accessible.

Cost: \$36 plus lunch

Fieldtrip Fun #2

Thursday, January 15th

Heart of the Hill Country: History and Heritage from Fredericksburg to Luckenbach

9:00 Meet at hotel entrance

Experience the heart of the Texas Hill Country beginning with a guided **walking tour of Fredericksburg's** beautifully preserved downtown led by local historian Michael Meskill, a descendant of the town's early German settlers. Discover the town's unique architecture, including log cabins, limestone homes, fachwerk and Sunday houses, while learning about its rich past. Then journey to **Luckenbach**, the legendary location that brings together history, music, and relaxation. Here we'll take a short guided walking tour, then enjoy lunch and a beer on the grounds at the **Midnight Munch** at the Luckenbach Feedlot. Then you'll have time to shop or unwind beneath the shade of the oaks in this one-of-a-kind Hill Country treasure.

Lunch: as a group at the **Midnight Munch** on the grounds in Luckenbach. They serve burgers, pulled pork, grilled cheese, salad, and street tacos.

Accessibility Info: The downtown tour is 1.5 miles on sidewalks, some may be uneven and the tour at Luckenbach is 20 minutes over farmland.

Cost: \$30 plus lunch

Fieldtrip Fun #3

Thursday, January 15th

A Day on the Farm: Living History at Sauer-Beckman

9:00 Meet at hotel entrance

Come visit the Sauer-Beckmann Living History Farm at LBJ State Park, located just 20 minutes east of Fredericksburg. At this farm, park rangers and volunteers use third person living history to interpret life on a working German American farm set in 1918. This visit will include a 1-hour tour of the historic buildings (1869-1918), along with a roundtable discussion between staff and field trip participants. During this visit, park rangers will also showcase their textiles program, their working kitchen, and the daily foodways of the Sauer-Beckmann Farm.

Lunch: the group will travel together to Albert Texas for lunch at Rex's Creole Kitchen. This is a foodtruck that serves brisket bar fries, smash burgers, and gumbo with rice.

Accessibility Info: The Sauer Beckmann Living History Farm tour will be indoor/outdoor with some uneven ground outside but is accessible for walking, though not great for wheelchair access.

Cost: FREE plus lunch

THURSDAY

Evening Pub Crawl

Thursday, January 15th

5:30 pm meeting place TBD

Kick off the conference with a lively Thursday evening pub crawl through Fredericksburg's vibrant downtown! We'll start by unwinding over happy hour drinks, then enjoy dinner together before continuing on to a selection of the area's finest wineries, distilleries, and breweries. Along the way, our host Ian Beard will share fascinating insights into the history of German brewing traditions that helped shape Fredericksburg's culture. It's the perfect blend of camaraderie, local flavor, and history—cheers to a great start to the weekend!

Note: We will be walking to each location.

Cost: you pay for what you eat and drink

Morning Workshops

Friday, January 16th

Living History Event Planning

Presenter: Peter Beruzuk

An interactive workshop that explores the details, experiences, fallacies, and reality of Living History Event planning and execution at the graduate level. We will discuss and compare real life examples of how to develop an event vision/concept, coordinate with Living History Sites and Local Government, conduct research/planning, event preparation/communication, execution, and follow through. The workshop will include case studies of past living history events and participants will be encouraged to provide their thoughts and experiences. * Bonus Content - We will discuss every time I have tried to drown my friends in a historical recreation! *

Cost: \$15

***Workshop registration closes 12/15

Lunch on your own

Introduction of Blackwork Embroidery

Presenter: Tereasa Cotter

Blackwork embroidery originated in Spain and became popular across Europe during the 16th century. It was especially favored in England during the reign of Henry VIII. Traditionally, Blackwork was done with black silk thread on white linen, creating striking, high-contrast designs. It was used for decorating clothing, household items, and religious textiles.

Cost: \$20

***Workshop registration closes 12/15

Lunch on your own



Morning Workshops

Friday, January 16th

Crazy for Quilting

Presenter: Ali Ascencio

Crazy quilting was a fad that swept the late Victorians off their feet, but you can see it used into the 40's and even today! Learn the basic foundations to crazy quilting and make a small quilt of your own!

Cost: \$15

***Workshop registration closes 12/15

Lunch on your own

Dainty and Danday: Confections for Public Programs

Presenter: Kimberly Wageman-Prack, The Chisholm

Step into the world of confections with this hands-on workshop. Explore the Daintiness, purity and wholesomeness of Marth Washington Candy, craft lozenges and potato fondant and discover how portable lemonade sweetened travel. The chosen recipes do not require heat to make and are favorites with children and adults. Participants will gain hands on experience and practical strategies for incorporating historic treats into engaging programs.

Cost: \$20

***Workshop registration closes 12/15

Lunch on your own



FRIDAY

Morning Workshops

Friday, January 16th

Vocal health for Living History Presenters

Presenter: Cece Otto

In the first part of the workshop, we will talk about what healthy vocal production and projection looks like, bust myths about the voice, and see how our health and environment affect the voice both at a living history site and beyond, and I'll share some simple tips to combat vocal fatigue on those long work days.

In the second part, we will do both physical and vocal warm ups that don't require any musical ability. Each attendee will bring a monologue or a song that's 2-5 minutes long (can be sung a capella or with a backing track/instrument), and then each person will practice speaking/singing their prepared piece using the techniques discussed in the first hour. Each participant will also be given a chance to receive feedback after each presentation, as well as the chance to tweak/apply feedback in front of a supportive, live audience.

Cost: \$15

***Workshop registration closes 12/15

Lunch on your own



Afternoon Workshops

Friday, January 16th

Melodies of the Mountains: Unraveling the Rich Tapestry of the Mountain Dulcimer

Presenter: Tereasa Cotter

Embark on a captivating journey through the valleys of Appalachian culture with the Mountain dulcimer as your guide. This interactive workshop invites participants to discover the enchanting history and versatile sounds of the mountain dulcimer, an instrument deeply rooted in the heart of American folk music. Through demonstrations, discussions, and hands-on activities, we will explore its origins, evolution, playing techniques, and its significant contribution to the American musical landscape. Instruments will be provided for participants to use during the session, though you're welcome to bring your own dulcimer if you have one. Whether you are a seasoned player or a curious novice, this workshop will resonate with your love for music and leave you with a newfound appreciation for this ancient yet vibrant tradition.

Cost: \$15

***Workshop registration closes 12/15

Lunch on your own

UFO (UnFinished Object) Sewing Circle

Presenter: Katelyn Kearns, Pearce Collections Museum

Do you need time to finish that dress you're wearing to Saturday night's banquet? Do you have a problem project that could use a second pair of eyes? Do you need encouragement and company to get that one project collecting dust in the corner of your closet done? Join us for an informal sewing circle where we sit, catch up, and get some things done!

Cost: FREE

***Workshop registration closes 12/15

Lunch on your own



FRIDAY

Afternoon Workshops

Friday, January 16th

Hussy to Housewife: Sewing 101 Through the Making of a Housewife

Presenter: Allison Harrel, San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site

The housewife functionality is universal, though the names for it are plentiful, and there is no better project to learn to sew! Learn the basics of hand sewing in a historic setting, make your perfect housewife pattern and get started making your very own!

Cost \$15

***Workshop registration closes 12/15

Lunch on your own



All Day Workshops

Friday, January 16th

Introduction to Living History (Certification)

Presenter: Ian Beard, Historic Arkansas Museum

This workshop is an overview of both the ideas behind living history (aka costumed interpretation) and the practical knowledge needed to develop and execute living history programs. Through multimedia presentations, discussion questions, activities, and quizzes we'll cover the topics of Living History Definitions and Basics, Researching Your Character, Program Techniques, Living History Events, and Public Interaction. This class is the evolution of 16 years worth of Certification Workshops by the Arkansas Living History Association, and participants can earn their Apprentice Certification in the program upon completion.

Cost \$15

Lunch on your own

***Workshop registration closes 12/15

Simply Sleeves

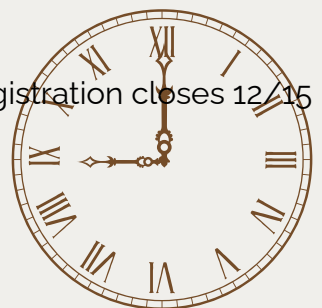
Presenter: Marna Davis

The correct sleeve style and fit can make or break the look of a historical garment. We are going to talk about how sleeve cuts changed through the 19th century (and into the early 20th century). Topics covered will be: Helps setting in sleeves, To pipe? or not to pipe?, Getting a good fit on a sleeve, Correlations between sleeve and armscye shape and shoulder lengths, Altering sleeve designs for variety and more. Bringing a muslin sloper/bodice from your timeframe is encouraged.

Cost \$25

Lunch on your own

***Workshop registration closes 12/15



FRIDAY

All Day Workshops

Friday, January 16th

Improving Your Impression, One Step at a Time: Turn Shoe Workshop

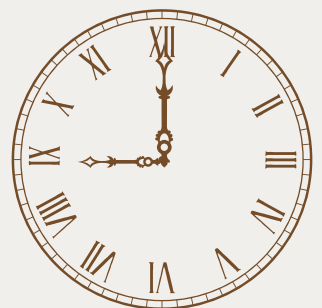
Presenter: Cody Mobley, Texas Historical Commission

This workshop will instruct attendees in the period appropriate methods of creating 1800-1870 appropriate turn shoes. This includes slippers, mules, side laced gaiters, and pumps for men, women, and children. Attendees will learn how to pattern, assemble, and finish a pair of shoes as part of the workshop. The instructor will provide patterns, soles, and glazed leather for foxing. Attendees will be required to provide fashion fabric, lining, and notions (quantity and recommendations will be provided by instructor). It is recommended that all attendees be proficient in handstitching (whip, prick, back, and buttonhole stitches) and be familiar with "Every Lady her own shoemaker" (<https://archive.org/details/1856-every-lady-her-own-shoemaker>).

Cost \$75

***Workshop registration closes 12/15

Lunch on your own



Pickled, Preserved, and Smoked.

Friday, January 16th

Join us for a relaxed evening of conversation and camaraderie as we unwind after a full day of workshops. This informal gathering offers the perfect opportunity to connect with friends and colleagues.

Everyone is encouraged to bring something to share. If it's pickled, preserved, or smoked all the better, or bring something special from the part of Texas you call home, or just bring a dish you'd like to share. We welcome all types of food; main dish, side, dessert, snack, or drink.

Silent and Live Auction @PPS

We're excited to bring back the TLHA Conference Auction. Attendees are encouraged to donate living history items they've made or items they no longer need but still have plenty of life in them.



Here's a short list of items we've had in the past to help you brainstorm.

- Period shoes
- Drop spindle
- Books
- Fire starter
- Quilt
- Bonnet
- Clothing
- Tools

Auction items can be dropped off at registration when you check in.

Sessions

Saturday, January 17th

From Buffalo Bill to Smoke Signals: Indigenous History and Representation in the 20th Century (90 min.)

Presenter: J. Albert Nungaray, Log Cabin Village

The history of Indigenous peoples in the 20th century and our representation in media and beyond has shaped not only our lived experiences but the ways in which we are perceived by the general public. This presentation aims to show the ways in which our cultures have persevered, influenced the 20th century development of the United States, and the ways in which our representation has shaped our sociocultural understanding of Indigenous Peoples as a whole. Furthermore, this presentation aims to provide information on how to best portray Indigenous Peoples at historic sites and events alike.

Preserving the Past—Inspiring the Future: The LoneStar Heritage Foundation Initiative (60 min)

Presenters: Robin Barnes and James McCrae, LoneStar Heritage Foundation

This presentation will introduce a significant plan to establish a Multicultural Living History Heritage Center in Fredericksburg, Texas. The goal of the LoneStar Heritage Foundation is to create a vibrant, immersive "living classroom" dedicated to interpreting the diverse cultural narratives of Texas, including indigenous, Mexican, German, African-American, and frontier histories.

The initiative is centered on collaboration, specifically seeking a strong partnership with the Texas Living History Association (TLHA). The Foundation invites TLHA members to endorse the project, participate in planning, and utilize the center as a dedicated venue for living history demonstrations, interpretive programs, and educational events. The presentation concludes by framing the center as a shared legacy, ensuring that the stories of all Texans are heard and experienced authentically for future generations.

BBQ as History (60 min)

Presenter: Dr. Bob Wettermann, USAF Academy

This session explores barbecue in its historical context, and outlines potential possibilities for its inclusion at your next interpretive event.

Fence Me In: How to Make Woven Wire Fence (60 min)

Presenter: Bruce Thiele

This 60 minute presentation is structured to combine historical context, technical demonstration, and audience participation surrounding the Kitselman Duplex Ball Bearing Woven Wire Fence Machine. The goal is to engage attendees with a balanced approach of storytelling, hands-on set up, and mechanical insights.

Sessions

Saturday, January 17th

Telling the Story of German Immigration to Texas at the Pioneer Museum and Vereins Kirche (90 min)

Presenter: Everlyn Weinheimer, Pioneer Museum

The presentation will start with an overview of the economic climate in Europe that led to limited prospects for the working class, and the concurrent situation in the Republic of Texas that led to a need for people to settle and develop the land. As emigrants began to arrive, they had an immediate need for accommodations. Log cabins met the immediate need, and later memories of the old country led to fachwerk structures, limestone homes, and eventually second homes such as the Sunday Houses. The buildings on the Pioneer Museum complex are representative of these various stages of development and we use them to tell the story of German immigration to Texas.

Commemorating Independence: The Texas Centennial of 1936 in Historical Memory (60 min)

Presenter: Tim Ross, Sam Houston Memorial Museum
& Republic of Texas Presidential Library

This presentation will look at the Texas Centennial Celebrations of 1936 and how they have impacted the historical infrastructure of Texas. The centennial celebrations caused a boom in tourism, economic development and new construction across cultural heritage sites in Texas. This presentation is being done to analyze the centennial celebrations considering ongoing 190th anniversary of Texas Independence and the 250th anniversary of American Independence. This presentation will give a historical retrospective for the upcoming 200th anniversary of Texas Independence and things to consider for cultural heritage professionals and volunteers.

The Children of Sam Houston (60 min)

Presenter: Thomas Manthei, Sam Houston Memorial Museum
& Republic of Texas Presidential Library

Presentation on the unique and interesting lives of Sam Houston's eight children, most of whom lived well into the 20th century.

Cutting a Rug, A Dancing Guide to Lindy Hop (90 min)

Presenter: Ali Asencio

Learn some dance moves before the USO dance! This class will go over the basic steps of Lindy Hop to cut a rug.

Sessions

Saturday, January 17th

"Truth to Posterity" Interpreting the War of the Rebellion for Reenactors (90 min)

Presenter: Rhett Kearns, Pearce Collections Museum

This interpretive panel will discuss the methods and techniques of interpreting the War of the Rebellion (1861-1865) as a living historian. Here you will learn how to find facts, bust myths, and discover resources that will assist you to be a credible source of accurate information on this subject.

Teaching the Teachers: How to Connect With Your Local History Teachers (60 min)

Presenter: Nicole Shadle, San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site

Teachers are the backbone of history education for children. But how do you develop a relationship with them? Come learn strategies for connecting with and supporting teachers in your local districts to help foster their knowledge of your site.

The Sam Houston Memorial Museum & Republic of Texas Presidential Library: 90 Years of Legacy (60 min)

Presenter: Colton Sheffield, Sam Houston Memorial Museum & Republic of Texas Presidential Library

A presentation of the history of the Sam Houston Memorial Museum from 1936-2026, with a focus on the preservation work performed in the 1930s by Sam Houston State University and the Houston Descendants regarding the Historical Buildings and Collections.

Dolly Delirium (60 min)

Presenter: Marna Davis

A look at how dolls can invoke discussion in living history presentations. Dolls as material culture can entice young audiences to linger longer, and older audiences to reminisce and relate. Victorian era dollies, just like Barbie, had access to ALL the accessories, and were often a starting point for children to learn skills that would serve them later as adults, from sewing, building furniture, creating tea parties and more. Elsa Dee and AliHa will bring out some of their favorite things, and we will talk about good, better, best for doll material culture.

History is Messy (60 min)

Presenter: Kimberlee Beruezuk

How do you talk about politically incorrect topics or sensitive topics at historical sites? Murder, Rape, Incest, Slavery, Forced Removal, Invasions, Racism, Forced Sterilization, Imprisonment, Medical Experimentation, Kidnapping . . . Learn strategies to teach the whole story, not just the politically correct one. Learn why it is important to tell the whole story.

Business Meeting & Keynote Address

Saturday, January 17th

Rhino Tanks and Sticky Bombs: GI Ingenuity in World War Two

By Dr. Robert "Bob" Wettemann, Jr.



Dr. Robert "Bob" Wettemann, Jr. is an Associate Professor of History at the United States Air Force Academy and author of *Privilege vs. Equality: Civil Military Relations in the Jacksonian Era, 1815-1845* and numerous articles and book chapters on U.S., military, and public history.

He recently enjoyed a sabbatical as Historian-in-Residence at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico, where he conducted a review of their living history programming and consulted with the National Scouting Museum.

His forthcoming book, ***Rhino Tanks and Sticky Bombs: GI Ingenuity in World War Two***, explores the junction of innovation and technology among GIs in the Second World War, and is available for pre-order.

Bob is an avid living historian and has spent the last thirty years volunteering at local, state, and national parks, participating in a wide variety of interpretive events.

Note: The business meeting and keynote address happen during lunch. Box lunches including gourmet sandwiches or salads, along with chips, dessert, and drinks which will be provided. Vegetarian options are available. You can check out the choices [here](#).

If you have a dietary restriction that isn't addressed in the choices please let us know and we'll do our best to accommodate you. Email info@texaslivinghistoryassociation.org

Banquet & Awards

Saturday, January 17th

This year's Saturday evening event offers something extra special—a USO-style musical performance by renowned musician and historian Cece Otto. It's the perfect chance to show off those new lindy hop skills you picked up earlier in the day!

Rather than a formal sit-down banquet, enjoy a meal served hors d'oeuvre style, paired with period punch and plenty of lively conversation. Everyone is encouraged to dress for the occasion in their best late 1930s to early 1940s attire for an evening of music and dancing.

An American Songline: Bringing American History to Life Through Song

By **Cecelia Otto**

Cecelia "Cece" Otto is a classically trained singer and historian who has performed in venues all over the world both as a soloist and in ensemble. She earned an Interdepartmental Dual Master's Degree in Vocal Performance and Composition

from the Lamont School of Music at the University of Denver. In 2013, she completed her cross-country musical journey *An American Songline*, performing 30 concerts of historic vintage music on venues along the Lincoln Highway.

Cece then went on to create other historical programs such as *The Songs of World War I*, which was endorsed by the World War I Centennial Commission in Washington DC; *Centennial of Suffrage*; and *Prohibition: 90 Years of Temperance, Temptation & Song*.

She has written books and recorded albums based on her research and is on the board of directors for Association for Living History Farms and Museums (ALHFAM).

For this event she will entertain us with a USO-style musical performance of popular World War II-era songs, and she is very excited to be making her THLA conference debut.



Food & FAQs

THURSDAY

- Breakfast:** Included at the hotel
- Lunch:** Everyone on fieldtrips will eat together but the cost of lunch is not included in the fieldtrip pricing
- Dinner:** On your own
- Pub Crawl:** You pay for what you drink

Please let us know if you have dietary restrictions and do not see an option that works for you.

FRIDAY

- Breakfast:** Included at the hotel
- Lunch:** On your own
- Dinner:** Plenty of food will be available at Preserved, Pickled, and Smoked but if you're really hungry stop and grab a bite before or after

We'll do our best!

Email:
info@texaslivinghistoryassociation.org

SATURDAY

- Breakfast:** Included at the hotel
- Lunch:** Lunch is included at the business meeting/keynote address
- Dinner:** A full meal will be provided party style

FAQs

- Attire: most folks wear comfy casual modern, some people wear period dress the whole time, others only part of the time
- Dress for the weather! You'll likely be outside at least part of the time. Umbrellas and hats are always a good idea too.
- Parking: plenty at the hotel, street parking at the Pioneer Museum and National Museum of the Pacific, please car-pool when possible



Conference Registration Opens

Wednesday, November 5th

Workshop Registration Closes

Monday, December 15th

Conference Registration Opens

Wednesday, December 31st

All members and
presenters should
have received emails
with discount codes.

If you did not, please
email
[info@texaslivinghistory
association.org](mailto:info@texaslivinghistoryassociation.org)

