

# The Texas State Historical Association

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November 23, 2009

I am writing to ask you to become a Life Member of the Texas State Historical Association, the oldest learned society in the State of Texas and importantly the only organization that conducts a statewide effort to teach and promote the history of the state of Texas. The cost of Life Membership is only \$1,500 and entitles you to enjoy the many benefits of membership, including copies of the *Texas Almanac* and *At the Heart of Texas*, subscriptions to the *Riding Line* newsletter and the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, discounts on Texas history books published by TSHA, and recognition on our website and in our print publications.

Far more important, however, than what you will be getting is what you will be giving back. Your membership will ensure the continuing viability of the numerous Texas history programs that the TSHA supports. To join, go to [www.tshaonline.org](http://www.tshaonline.org) and click on "Become a Life Member." The various activities of the organization and much information about TSHA are also available at its website.

Texas has the greatest history of any State in the Union but the importance of our history and its teaching to future generations of Texans is under severe threat as more schools, both public and private, at the high school and college level have begun to de-emphasize its importance to future generations of Texans.

The Texas State Historical Association for 109 years resided at the University of Texas where it enjoyed a wonderful reciprocal relationship with that institution which enabled it to develop the numerous programs, which have benefitted generations of Texans. The University of Texas chose to end this relationship three years ago but thankfully the University of North Texas has embraced the TSHA where we are now beginning a new and vital partnership. However, this period of transition and UT's consistent reduction in funding existing programs has left us critically short of funds to support the educational outreach effort to high school and college age students across Texas. With a successful membership campaign that would include you, the TSHA can continue its efforts to preserve and promote the history of our great State.

Yours,



J. P. Bryan