

TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH

A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room (FTxR)
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VISIT THE FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM WEBSITE

www.friendsofthetexasroom.org

Monday, July 25th, 2022, Meeting

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the FTxR Officers and Board of Directors have decided to conduct our 2022 quarterly Monday meetings virtually at 7:00 pm using the ZOOM platform.

Attendees will be able to attend the business meeting conducted by President Mister McKinney, watch the speaker's presentation, and ask questions. To join the 7:00 ZOOM meeting on July 25th, click on the following URL:

<https://bit.ly/FTXR-Hayes07-25-22>

Donald Hayes to Speak at July 25th Meeting



Donald Hayes

Join the FTxR on July 25th, 2022, at 7:00 pm for "An Evening with Pearland Historian Donald Hayes." FTxR President Mister McKinney will interview long-time Pearland resident Mr. Hayes on the history of this vibrant community which dates to its founding in 1894. Pearland recently celebrated its 125th anniversary. Mr. Hayes, Second Vice President of the Pearland Historical Society, has been active in the initiative to renovate Pearland's historic railroad depot for possible use as a museum.

INSIDE THIS EDITION OF THE *TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH*

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MINUTES OF THE APRIL 25TH, 2022, GENERAL MEETING

President Mister McKinney called the April 25th, 2022, meeting to order at 7:00 pm. He began the evening’s business by introducing the 2022 FTxR officers and directors and thanking them for their time, expertise, and passion for supporting the Friends of the Texas Room.

After highlighting some of the FTxR projects and contributions for the Houston Metropolitan Research Center, he asked that the Minutes of the January 31st General Meeting (printed in the *Texas Room Dispatch*) be read and approved. Members voted to accept the Minutes by unanimous consent, and the motion to accept the Minutes was seconded.

Next, Mister McKinney introduced the evening’s speaker George Slaughter who spoke on the history of Houston’s Spring Branch neighborhood. After Mr. Slaughter answered questions from attendees, Mister McKinney brought the evening to a close.

2022 FTxR QUARTERLY MEETING DATES AND SPEAKERS



January 31st: Michael Bludworth on Houston’s Early Aviation History

April 25th: George Slaughter on the History of Spring Branch

July 25th: Donald Hayes on the History of Pearland

October 24th: Jeff Lindemann on Mid-Nineteenth Century German Emigrants’ Journey from Bremen, Germany to Houston, Texas

SANDRA LORD AND DEBE BRANNING RECEIVE THE 2021 FTxR JULIA IDESON AWARD FOR *THE GHOSTS OF MARKET SQUARE PARK*

After graduating from Smith College in Massachusetts, Sandra Lord adopted Houston as her new home and founded Discover Houston Tours, the city's first and longest continually operating public guided tour company. To date, Discover Houston Tours has conducted nearly 5,000 tours for 61,000 visitors from around the world. Co-founder of the Professional Tour Guide Association of Houston, Lord has published over 100 articles on Houston history and has researched and designed over 100 itineraries for historical and cultural walking and bus tours. With co-author Debe Branning, Lord recently published *The Ghosts of Houston's Market Square Park*. In addition to her writing, she now owns and operates Houston Walks.



NEWS FROM THE TEXAS ROOM

By Emily Scott

HMRC Returns to In-Person Programming by Terrin Rivera

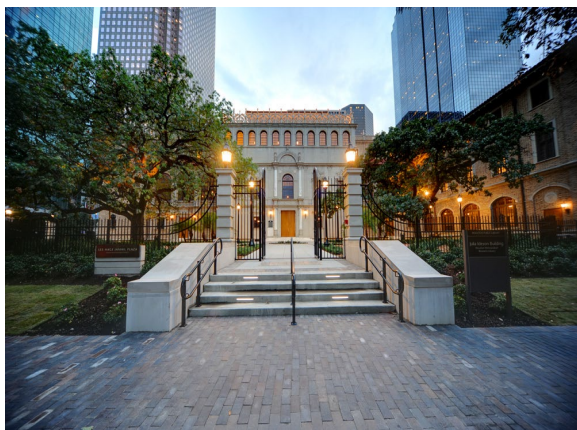


Photo of Texas Room by Joel Draut

After nearly two years, we are happy to announce that we are returning to in-person programming and extending our open hours!

With the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, HMRC had to get creative with its programs! When closed buildings, quarantining, and social distancing became the new normal for the daily life of Houstonians, holding in-person programs was no longer an option.

Hidden in the Archives

By Samantha Bruer, Architectural Archivist

As archivists, we pride ourselves in providing discoverability and access to records that people may not know exist. However, even archivists sometimes find new, unexpected treasures within our collections. During a recent project to digitize a small portion of the [architectural drawings](#) from the [Maurice J. Sullivan Papers](#), our Senior Imaging Technician, Barbara, and I discovered a drawing that is likely the oldest in HMRC's

Stephen Fox Architectural Archives. Mixed in with additions and alterations to Christ Church Episcopal Church by Sullivan from the 1950s are two older drawings. The first is a small "[Sketch showing improvements to Christ Church Houston Tex.](#)" by Silas McBee and J. A. Tempest. The architects of the current iteration of the church initially intended to add a cloister to the church, but the building partially collapsed. The architects then designed the structure we all know today.

The real treasure of this project is the second old drawing mixed in with Sullivan's work—a [plan for additions to the original building](#) by Brooklyn-based architect, Henry Congdon. According to the church's history featured on their [website](#), in 1876 Congdon made alterations to the original 1859 building designed by Edwin Fairfax Gray. Known for his work in church architecture, particularly Episcopal (apt given his father was an Episcopal priest), Congdon was elected a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1867 and practiced architecture until his death at age 88 in 1922.

I have not been able to pinpoint any additional works of Congdon's in the Houston-area, but Gray may be a familiar name to some. The state engineer for several years, he was the son of William Fairfax Gray, who was active in various clerkships in the Texas Republic's legislature and a founding member of Christ Church. Edwin Gray is also of note as the first commander of the Houston Light Guards. Both Grays are buried in Glenwood Cemetery.

Condon's beautiful plan drawn in ink on linen, along with many others, is now available to researchers digitally on the [Houston Public Library Digital Archives](#).

Programs and Events Update

July

July 26th at 12:00 PM – Adult Summer Camp – Virtual Edition: HMRC presents Houston True Crime

In this presentation, HMRC will give an overview of Houston True Crime research. This will include a spotlight on a few infamous true crime cases in Houston as well as a look at the HMRC resources that patrons have used when researching true crime cases.

August

Date TBD - Archives Watch Party: Construction

HMRC is continuing our program series, "Archives Watch Party." Each month, archivists curate a selection of films from the HMRC collections around a certain topic. This

month's topic will be architecture! The watch parties can be viewed on Facebook and YouTube.

HPL History Research Centers Present: Inside the Walls: History of the Astrodome - The Making of a Houston Landmark – 8/5/22 at 10:00 AM

Join us for a real-time virtual presentation about the creation of the Astrodome, one of the most well-known landmarks in Houston's history. The presentation will feature photos from the Houston Metropolitan Research Center's special collections showing early promotional ads, construction of the dome, and the lavish interiors that were available only to the elite.

September

Date TBD – Consider the Source

What is a primary resource and what can it teach me? Whether it is a map, an advertisement, a diary or a photograph, primary resources are valuable tools for anyone conducting historical research. Learn from an archivist how to examine and interpret original documents from HMRC's vast collection in this presentation available on Facebook and YouTube.

Date TBD - Archives Watch Party: Emergency

HMRC is continuing our program series, "Archives Watch Party." Each month, archivists curate a selection of films from the HMRC collections around a certain topic. This month's topic will be "Emergency" in observance of National Preparedness Month. The watch parties can be viewed on Facebook and YouTube.

Date TBD - Milsaps Collection Overview

The Milsaps (or Circle M) Collection is a Legacy Collection of the Houston Public Library. Donated to the Houston Public Library by Major John E. T. Milsaps during the early 20th Century, it contains materials of widely differing subject matter. Milsaps made his career in the Salvation Army, where he served as an officer until he retired at seventy with the rank of major. Throughout his career, he traveled widely and collected books everywhere he went. This presentation about his life and some of the books in the collection can be viewed on Facebook and YouTube.

HMRC Presents: Aquatic Book Rescue – 9/8/22 at 5:30 PM

HMRC will be hosting a workshop on water damaged books and documents. Whether the water damage comes from rain, flooding, or extensive humidity, the effect on your important records can be severe. This workshop will cover typical sources of water

damage and how to prevent and respond to this damage. There will also be a practical demonstration on how to properly care for books and documents that are still wet.

October

Date TBD - Archives Watch Party: Halloween

HMRC is continuing our program series, "Archives Watch Party." Each month, archivists curate a selection of films from the HMRC collections around a certain topic. This month's topic will be "Halloween." The watch parties can be viewed on Facebook and YouTube.

Date TBD – Instagram Takeover: Politicians!

For one day each month, HMRC will "take over" the Houston Public Library

Instagram account to post videos and photos offering a behind the scenes look at our collections. This month's takeover will be on the different collections we have from politicians. This can be viewed on the HPL Instagram page "Stories."

HMRC Presents: Where's the Book on my House? – 10/14/22 at 2:00 PM

Curious about your home's history? Don't know where to start? The Houston Metropolitan Research Center's Architectural Archivist will give a basic overview of how to research a historic property in Houston, highlighting useful materials in HPL and HMRC collections. As part of Hispanic Heritage Month, this edition of the program will focus on Magnolia Park using resources and examples from the neighborhood to illustrate the information your research can uncover.

HMRC Presents: Spiritualism in Houston – 10/27/22 at 2:00 PM

The religious movement of Spiritualism traces its beginnings to 1848 with the Fox sisters of Hydesville, New York, who began communicating with a spirit via knocks. Although the movement was more prevalent in the north, there were advocates for the existence of psychical events in Texas as well. In this program we will hear about some of the people and events associated with the movement in Houston.

FTxR 2021 Membership Benefits

Photograph Reproductions

Each 2021 member of the Friends of the Texas Room is allowed up to five photographic reproductions at half-price this year. Send your requests to:

Photo.Reference@houstontx.gov

Texas Room Hours



Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Wednesday: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Thursday: 12:00 noon – 7:00 pm

Friday: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Saturday: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Sunday: Closed

WHAT OUR FRIENDS ARE DOING

Please contact Jeff Lindemann, editor of the *Texas Room Dispatch* (lindemann@SBCglobal.net), with information about your volunteer service at the HMRC and about projects you are working on that utilize HMRC resources.

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM POLICIES

The FTxR policies relate to the Houston Metropolitan Research Center which includes the Collections of the Archives and Manuscripts Department, the Texas and Local History Department, and the Special Collections Department of the Houston Public Library.

A. Contributions

From time to time, the Friends of the Texas Room will purchase and contribute to the Houston Metropolitan Research Center of the Houston Public Library items that will enrich and enhance the above-named collections and ensure their preservation.

All such contributions will be purchased by the Friends directly and then given to the Library with specific stipulations as to how such contributions are to be used by the Library to enhance and ensure the preservation of the HMRC collections.

The Friends will give no money directly to the Library.

The Friends will not buy expendable supplies for the Library.

The Friends will not fund Library personnel.

B. Relationship to Administration and Staff

The Friends of the Texas Room is not to be involved in the administrative or employee actions of the Center, except that the Friends can question policies which, in its opinion, negatively impact the ability of the Center to provide service to the public.

CULTURAL MATCHING GIFTS

Are you or your spouse working for or retired from a corporation which makes cultural matching grants or volunteer involvement awards if you give to or do volunteer work for a cultural institution?

Will your employer match your gifts to cultural institutions that qualify under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code?

The Friends of the Texas Room has such a qualification. Send your corporation's cultural matching funds form with your check for membership in FTxR. If you volunteer your time as an officer of FTxR or in the Texas Room or HMRC, keep track of your hours and turn them in to your corporation so that the FTxR may obtain a grant from your corporation's program. This is "found money" for FTxR and can be used towards making a difference to the Texas Room and HMRC.

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM: WHO WE ARE

Mission: The Friends of the Texas Room seeks to support the collections of the Texas and Local History Department, the Archives and Manuscripts Department, and the Special Collections Department of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center of the Houston Public Library.

2022 Board of Directors (Officers and Directors):

President: Mister McKinney

Vice President: Susan Teich

Secretary: *Open Position*

Treasurer: Frank Jones

Directors: Jim Bailey, Nancy Burch, Anthony Cavender (Julia Ideson Award Chair), J.J. Gonzalez (Membership Chair), Carol Haddock, Rebecca Harris, Jeff Lindemann (*Texas Room Dispatch* and Website Editor), and George Slaughter.

HOW TO CONTACT THE FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM

Membership applications, dues, donations, and mail for Board Members should be sent to the following address:

Friends of the Texas Room
P. O. Box 27827
Houston, Texas 77227-7827

HOW TO CONTACT THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH

Submissions and comments for the *Texas Room Dispatch* should be emailed to the editor, Jeff Lindemann, at lindemann@SBCglobal.net.

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM
2022 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
Membership Year: 1/1/2022 – 12/31/2022

Mail with dues to:

P.O. BOX 27827 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77227-7827

Or apply and pay with PAYPAL online at: www.friendsofthetexasroom.org

DATE: _____

Check applicable: _____ RENEWING APPLICATION _____ NEW APPLICATION

FIRST PERSON: _____ SECOND PERSON AT SAME ADDRESS (if applicable): _____

first name, middle, last name

first name, middle, last name

MAILING ADDRESS (include street or P.O.): _____

CITY/TOWN: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP +4: _____

TELEPHONE, FAX, EMAIL

FIRST PERSON:

SECOND PERSON (if different)

HOME: _____

HOME: _____

OFFICE: _____

OFFICE: _____

FAX: _____

FAX: _____

E-MAIL: _____

E-MAIL: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (please check category)

_____ **Benefactor \$500**

_____ **Patron \$250**

_____ **Sponsor \$100**

_____ **Donor \$50**

_____ **Family \$30**

_____ **Individual \$20**

_____ **Senior \$10**

_____ **Student \$10**

NOTE: Friends of the Texas Room is a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization operating under IRS Code 501(c) (3). Membership and additional contributions over and above membership are tax deductible to the extent of the law. Is your gift eligible as a “matching gift” from an employer or other entity? If so, please give the name and include the appropriate form.

Additional contribution: \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: (Membership plus contribution): \$ _____

VOLUNTEER INTERESTS: Please check below to volunteer for FTR activities or library services:

___ **COLLECTIONS VOLUNTEER:** Be trained and increase your own knowledge about research techniques.

___ **NEWSLETTER:** Writing articles about materials in the collections or reporting on related activities.

___ **MEMBERSHIP:** Maintain up-to-date membership list and send out renewal notices.

___ **HOSPITALITY:** Meeting room preparations, greeting people, refreshments when needed, etc.

___ **PROGRAMS:** Help develop programs or special seminars or workshops.

___ **PUBLIC RELATIONS:** Developing posters, displays, news releases, handouts, etc.

___ **SPECIAL PROJECTS**

___ **OTHER:** _____

2022 Call For Entries



Julia Ideson

Award

**Houston Public Library
Friends of the Texas
Room**

Deadline: May 1, 2022

This is a call for entries for the annual Julia Ideson Award sponsored by the Friends of the Texas Room at the Houston Public Library. The award commemorates the Houston Public Library's first director, Julia Bedford Ideson (1885-1945), and it recognizes distinguished projects that document Houston and Texas history and culture.

THE RESOURCES OF THE LIBRARY'S TEXAS ROOM/HOUSTON METROPOLITAN RESEARCH CENTER MUST BE USED, TO A SIGNIFICANT EXTENT, IN THE CREATION OF THE ENTRY.

In 2022, the call for entries is for published books documenting Houston and Texas history and culture.

The Julia Ideson Award and a prize of \$500.00 will be presented to the winner by the Friends of the Texas Room at its annual meeting on October 31st, 2022. For additional information, visit www.friendsofthetexasroom.org or contact Anthony B. Cavender at Anthony.cavender@pillsburylaw.com (713-276-7656).

Eligibility: A book based scholarly research completed within the past five years (2014-2019) documenting local Houston and/or Texas history and culture USING THE RESOURCES OF THE HOUSTON METROPOLITAN RESEARCH CENTER SIGNIFICANTLY, BUT NOT NECESSARILY EXCLUSIVELY.

2022 Entries: As described above.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH EACH ENTRY:

1. Name, address, telephone number and e-mail of the person submitting the entry/nomination.
2. Name, address, telephone number and e-mail of the person(s) or organization responsible for the project, if not the nominator.
3. Briefly describe the entry.
4. LIST THE SPECIFIC RESOURCES OF THE TEXAS ROOM / HMRC USED IN THE PROJECT AND HOW SUCH RESOURCES WERE UTILIZED.
5. Explain how the project contributes to a better understanding of local or Texas history/culture.
6. Submit **three copies** of the entry.

Submission:

Entries must be submitted in the name of the person(s) or organization responsible for executing the project. Submitting an entry constitutes agreement to the terms of eligibility and also serves as agreement that the Friends of the Texas Room may publicize the award and accompanying details about the recipient(s). **All physical entries become the property of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center.**

Send entries to:

Friends of the Texas Room
P.O. Box 27827
Houston, TX 77227-7827