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**PIONEER HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF BENT COUNTY RECEIVES
SAVE OUR HISTORY GRANT FROM HISTORY®**

***HISTORY and Baja Broadband Support Preservation Initiative That Links the Pioneer Historical Society of
Bent County and True Blue***

Las Animas, August 7, 2009—HISTORY today awarded the Pioneer Historical Society of Bent County in Las Animas a \$10,000 *Save Our History* grant to partner with the Las Animas High School, True Blue for “Hands-on History: Teaching Bent County History Through Museum Management” to educate students and the community about caring for their heritage through the proper handling, preservation, cataloguing, research and exhibition of historic artifacts. The Pioneer Historical Society is one of 11 history organizations nationwide that received *Save Our History* community preservation grants. These grants fund innovative preservation projects designed to bring communities together, actively engage children in the preservation of their local history and communicate the importance of saving local history for future generations.

HISTORY, with the counsel of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors (RPA) and American Association of State and Local History (AASLH), created the *Save Our History* Grant Program as an extension of the *Save Our History* philanthropic initiative and is committed to inspiring and motivating local communities to learn about and take an active role in the preservation of their past through projects involving artifacts, oral histories, sites, museums or landmarks that exist in their own neighborhoods. In four years, nearly 2,000 historic organizations, representing all 50 states and the District of Columbia have applied for funding through the *Save Our History* Grant Program. To date, HISTORY and its cable partners have given over \$1 million dollars to fund community preservation projects across the country.

The Pioneer Historical Society is committed to engaging youth at every level of museum management at the John W. Rawlings Heritage Center. Under the direction of a curator, students will initially learn about researching historic artifacts and exhibit design. A conservation specialist and the curator will provide students and interested community members on how to clean, mark, store and care for an artifacts covering textiles, paper & photographs, glass/ceramics, natural objects, metal and wood in order to prepare for the move to the new facility and exhibition. As a final project, the students will install the exhibits they have designed from their research and the Pioneer Historical Society will host an open house to showcase their work.

In addition to this project, HISTORY is also awarding *Save Our History* grants to historic organizations in Alaska, Alabama, Florida, Illinois, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. “HISTORY receives stacks of applications for *Save Our History* grants,” said Dr. Libby O’Connell, SVP, Corporate Outreach and Chief Historian, HISTORY. “(Organization) demonstrated the creativity and commitment to preservation and education that we believe is fundamental to giving our past a bright future.”