

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Members,
April and May have been productive months for history preservation in our county. The historic resources survey has gotten off to a good start, and interest from the community is strong. Hats off to our preservation partners and friends such as Beaumont Heritage Society and Texas Gulf Historical Society for their successful events.

Thank you to our members for your time and service in preserving our history.

Theresa Goodness, JCHC Chair

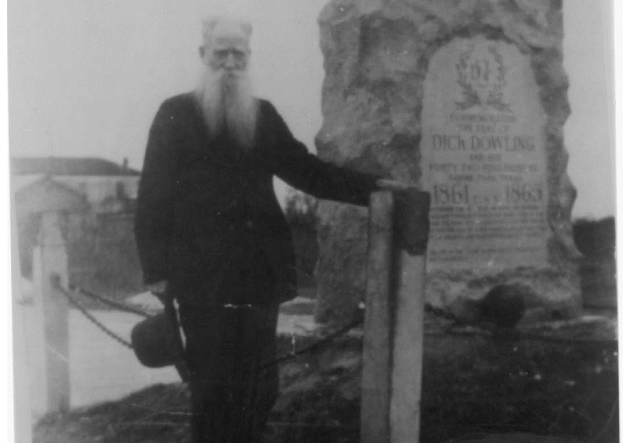


Photo identified of Rev. Edward Smith, Confederate soldier and former member of Capt. Payton Bland's Company, standing next to Dick Dowling Memorial in 1929

Photo Credit: JCHC Archives

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MAY, 2016

Special points of interest:

- * Jefferson County Fast Facts
- * Main Street Sweepstakes
- * JCHC Tidbits

JEFFERSON COUNTY FAST FACTS

\$2.50

Average weekly cost of room and board for laboring men in 1850.

\$12

Average monthly wage for farm laborers in 1850. Day laborers were paid \$1.00 per day without board and .75¢ daily with board.

576,000

Number of shingles handmade by Marvin Delano and four employees (3 male and 1 female) at Beaumont in 1850. The shingles were worth \$1,152.

JCHC TIDBITS

- The Beaumont Enterprise reported a “quiet zone” is being created in downtown which necessitates the closing of Pearl Street at the Kansas City Southern railroad tracks effective May 14, 2016. The “quiet zone” means trains will not have to sound their horns before crossing this street.
- Linda McMahan, JCHC Coordinator, has been busy updating our historical marker files.
- The CLG committee has gotten underway with oral histories for the historic resources survey. Robert and Paul Noyola gave a very interesting interview on Hispanic history in Port Arthur to Theresa Goodness, JCHC Chair. Many thanks to Sarah Bellian, Historic Preservation Officer, for allowing the use of her office and video equipment for the oral history—and for being a first rate videographer!

JCHC MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS IN 2016

May 18, 2016	Noon	Location Change***** JCHC Conference Room, Third Floor 1149 Pearl St., Beaumont, TX
July 20, 2016	Noon	JCHC Conference Room, Third Floor 1149 Pearl St., Beaumont, TX
September 14, 2016	Noon	JCHC Conference Room, Third Floor 1149 Pearl St., Beaumont, TX
November 16, 2016	Noon	JCHC Conference Room, Third Floor 1149 Pearl St., Beaumont, TX

VOLUNTEER HOURS AND MEMBERSHIP

Any work in the preservation or promotion of Jefferson County History may be counted toward your volunteer hours. JCHC meetings and travel time to and from meetings also count as volunteer hours. Members are reminded that at least 50 hours of volunteer work per year is required of each member.

Also with the number of hours, JCHC needs a general description of work performed, for example: 3 Hours – Marker Survey.

If you have any questions, please call the office at 409-835-8701 or contact Linda via email at histcomm@co.jefferson.tx.us

PRESERVATION PARTNERS

Beaumont Heritage Society
Beaumont Landmark Commission
Port Arthur Landmark Commission
Texas Historical Foundation
Beaumont Main Street
Museum of the Gulf Coast

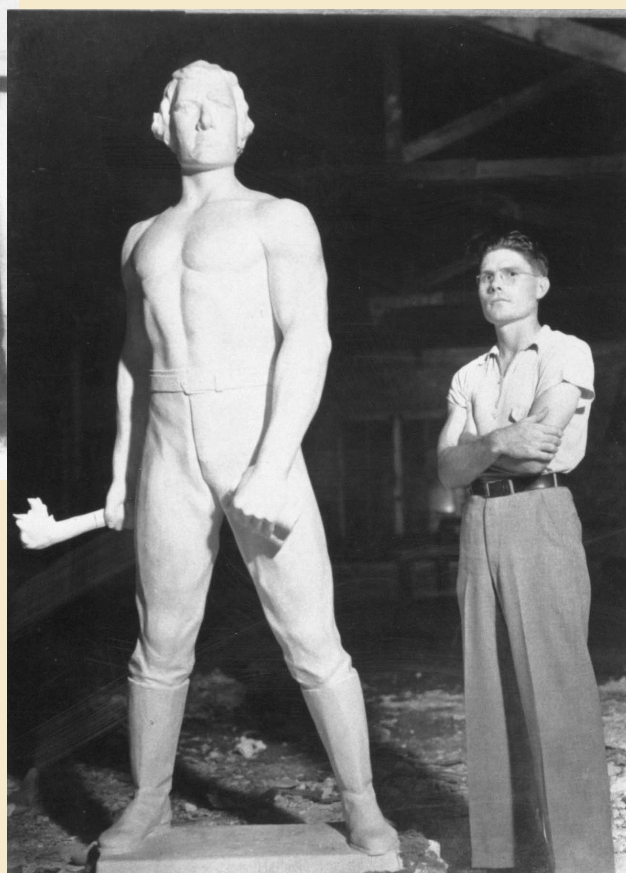
MATCHETT HERRING COE SOUTHEAST TEXAS SCULPTOR 1907— 1999



Photographs of Matchett Herring Coe
standing next to his sculpture of Dick
Dowling commissioned in 1936
Photo Credits: JCHC Archives

After the article about Matchett Herring Coe in the March, 2016, JCHC Journal newsletter, Linda McMahan located in the JCHC archives these photographs of Matchett Herring Coe standing beside both the plaster cast and the bronze cast of his sculpture of Dick Dowling which he was commissioned to create in 1936.

Although the provenance of the photographs is unknown, we believe Bill Quick would most probably have been the person who gave these photographs to the commission.



CLG COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING



CLG Meeting in China, TX
Photo Credits: Paul Prosperie



The Certified Local Government (CLG) Committee held a community outreach meeting on April 26, 2016, at the Precinct One Service Center in China, Texas. Community members from China, Nome and Bevil Oaks were invited to attend and learn about the historic resources survey project. Historic Preservation Officer, Sarah Bellian, and all of the CLG committee members were in attendance as well as about fifteen interested members of the public ranging in age from Miss Cassidy Lewis, aged four, to senior members of the China community.

Sara Bellian handed out survey packets and explained what kinds of items make up a historic resources survey, such as historic places, buildings, people, collections of photographs and memorabilia, and oral histories.

Community members asked good questions and shared stories about local history such as the World War II POW camp in China, and local rice farming and ranching. They also talked about organizing their own meetings before asking the CLG committee to come back and collect the information gathered by the community.

Kathy Lewis, an Election Judge in China, shared some early photographs of her home which was built in approximately 1904, and was the first home out on Blanch Road. She also shared a collection of newspaper articles, rodeo memorabilia, and other items of interest.

China resident, Ronald Kuebodeaux, also residing on Blanch Road, discussed his extensive collection of photographs, articles and artifacts documenting the history of China which he graciously offered to show to committee members and possibly have digitized by volunteers for the historic resources survey. Mr. Kuebodeaux had also attended a CLG committee meeting in August of 2015.

BEAUMONT LANDMARK COMMISSION

Beaumont Landmark Commission meetings are held the second Monday at 3:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, located on the 1st floor of City Hall, 801 Main Street, Beaumont, TX. Meetings are open to the public. Due to a lack of items to consider, no meetings were scheduled for April or May, 2016.

Jessie Davis is JCHC's representative on the commission.

PORT ARTHUR LANDMARK COMMISSION

Port Arthur Landmark Commission meetings are held in Council Chambers, located on the fifth floor of City Hall, Council Chambers, Fifth Floor, 444 Fourth Street, Port Arthur, TX. Meetings are open to the public. Due to a lack of items to consider, no meetings were scheduled for April or May, 2016. Les McMahan is JCHC's representative on the commission.

TEXAS GULF HISTORICAL SOCIETY SPRING MEETING



On April 27, 2016, the Texas Gulf Historical Society held its spring meeting at the McFaddin-Ward House Visitor Center. The speaker was John William "Bill" O'Neal, the Texas state historian, appointed in 2012 by Gov. Rick Perry. Dr. O'Neal is an historian, author, radio host, professor and public speaker, having written 42 books and hundreds of articles and book reviews on the American West, country music, baseball and children's books. He is past president of the East Texas Historical Association and on the board of the Texas Country Music Hall of Fame.

Bill O'Neal

Photo Credit: By Billy Hathorn - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=32102097>

Dr. O'Neal gave a very informative and entertaining presentation on Sam Houston's life and his leadership qualities. In fact Dr. O'Neal's latest book is titled, "Sam Houston: A Study in Leadership" which he describes as a biographical treatment with a focus on leadership.

BEAUMONT HERITAGE SOCIETY HERITAGE HAPPY HOUR TOUR OF MAGNOLIA CEMETERY

Beaumont Heritage Society hosted their Heritage Happy Hour at Magnolia Cemetery on Thursday, April 28, 2016. A tour of the cemetery was held with graveside docents telling the compelling stories of some of Beaumont's earliest citizens. JCHC members, Paul Prosperie and Mike McGreevy, were two of the docents discussing the lives and grave markers of citizens such as Catherina Jeanette Stengele, a milliner and successful businesswoman, born in Holland in 1866, who died in 1909, and Confederate soldier, William A. Fletcher, author of "Rebel Private: Front and Rear— Memoirs of a Confederate Soldier".

The successful cemetery tour resulted in 94 paid attendees and 18 new memberships, and was so well received an encore tour may be held in the fall.



Photographs of Beaumont Heritage Society's Happy Hour at Magnolia Cemetery

Photo Credits: Alicia McKibbin



Photograph of Catherina Stengele's memorial
Photo Credits: [Find a Grave website](#)



AREA MUSEUM UPCOMING EVENTS

Museum of the Gulf Coast

The Texas State Quilts April 9 - June 4, 2016

The Texas Department of Agriculture Quilts will be on display, including the 2014 quilt "Gifts of the Gulf". Our Family Fun Day April 9th will include special guests and demonstrations of spinning, weaving, and quilting. Local textile aficionados are encouraged to submit their work for exhibition by March 30th.

Credit: [Museum of the Gulf Coast website](http://museumofthegulfcoast.org)



Museum of the Gulf Coast
Photo Credit: museumofthegulfcoast.org



Chambers House
Photo Credit: chambershouse.org

The Chambers House Museum

Tour hours are Tuesday – Friday 10 am – 3 pm and Saturday 10 am – 2 pm. Please call 409-832-4010 to reserve for groups of 10 or more.

Credit: [Chambers House Museum website](http://chambershousemuseum.org)

McFaddin Ward House

Free Lecture

May 12, 2016 6:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.

Adventures in Collecting Antiques by speaker and Antiques Roadshow Appraiser, David Lackey.

Credit: [McFaddin-Ward House Museum website](http://mcfaddin-wardhousemuseum.org)



McFaddin Ward House
Photo Credit: mcfaddin-ward.org

**JEFFERSON
COUNTY
HISTORICAL
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Linda McMahan, Coordinator



*To preserve and
promote history within
the County.*

We're on the web!
[http://co.jefferson.tx.us/
Historical_Commission/](http://co.jefferson.tx.us/Historical_Commission/)

Tyrell Park Community
Center: Roof Damage

Photo Credit:: Theresa
Goodness



Jefferson County Historical Commission

Executive Board 2016 - 2017

Chairman, Theresa Goodness

1st Vice-Chairman, Les McMahan

2nd Vice-Chairman, Paul Prosperie

Secretary/Treasurer, Linda McMahan

Brenda Jackson

CELEBRATE MAIN STREET SWEEPSTAKES

FROM THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

2016 marks the 35th anniversary of our Texas Main Street Program, which began with four cities in 1981 and is now 88 strong. To celebrate this milestone we're offering a weekend getaway for two to one of our Main Street cities! By May 31st, enter to win a weekend getaway to Denton, a Main Street city since 1989. Don't miss your chance to wine, dine, and dance your stay away in Denton! [Prize Package](#)

The weekend getaway to Main Street Marshall will include:

Lodging: Two-night stay for two at Best western Premier

Dining: Lunch or dinner for two at [Hoochie's Seafood](#), Lunch or dinner for two at [Mellow Mushroom](#), Lunch or dinner for two at [Cartwright's Ranch House](#), Lunch or dinner for two at [Lone Star Attitude Burger Co.](#)

Touring: Private tour of the restored [1896 Courthouse on the Square](#) (Denton County Courthouse), including the bell tower, provided by the Denton County Office of History and Culture

[Ghosts of Denton Tour](#)—a 90-minute walking tour of Denton's haunted history, led by professional storyteller and history buff, Shelly Tucker (reservations required)

[Kwest Guide to the Denton Square](#)—iPhone users are encouraged to download this free app for a self-guided tour of the eclectic, independent, history-filled shops and restaurants on Denton's courthouse square. From coffee to candy to concerts, this Kwest app has everything you want and more!

[Denton Town Square Walk Around](#)—explore the history of Denton's courthouse square and other city landmarks with the THC's free Town Square Walk Around mobile tour, part of the [Texas Time Travel Tours app](#).

Credit: Texas Historical Commission's webpage [Celebrate Main Street Sweepstakes](#)