

JCHC JOURNAL

J E F F E R S O N C O U N T Y H I S T O R I C A L C O M M I S S I O N

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- January 10, 2024
- March 20, 2024
- May 15, 2024
- July 17, 2024
- September 18, 2024
- November 20, 2024

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2023 IN REVIEW

The JCHC was pleased to be involved in a variety of preservation projects in 2023. January kicked off with a mini-museum exhibit by Dr. Steven P. Lewis titled "The Floods of Beaumont". The exhibit offered a fascinating look at the flooding events that have faced Beaumont, using illustrations such as then-and-now photography, Sanborn maps and aerial photographs.

Lectures by various JCHC appointees were given to many area preservation groups, including the Colonel George Moffett and Captain William Sanders Chapters of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, the Texas Gulf Historical Society, the Captain Nicholas Martiau Chapter of the National Society of Colonial Dames, the Dick Dowling Camp 1295 Sons of Confederate Veterans, the Port Arthur Public Library, and the Beaumont Camera Club.

Two Texas State Historical Marker applications were submitted during the regular marker cycle set forth by the Texas Historical Commission. The JCHC was pleased to receive word that both markers; a subject marker for George O'Brien Millard and a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark designation for the Temple to the Brave were approved! Currently, a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places prepared by JCHC appointee, Kate Hambright, is on the agenda for consideration by the State Board of Review.

The JCHC's involvement with cemeteries in Jefferson County continued in 2023 with not only the Third Annual Historic Magnolia

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Cemetery Tour, but three additional cemetery events. Memorial Day events held at the historic Magnolia Cemetery and the historic Evergreen Cemetery were well attended and JCHC appointees generously donated time to assist in both events.



Newly dedicated headstones in Evergreen Cemetery for Pvt. Jerry Lloyd and Sgt. George Shaw. *Photo Credit: Jen Trenbeath*

Southeast Texas Veterans Service Group giving the Honor Guard Salute at Magnolia



The historic Evergreen Cemetery's event featured not only a memorial for all fallen soldiers, but the dedication of new headstones for Private Jerry Lloyd and Sergeant George Shaw. Separately, a new headstone was dedicated on September 20th, in the historic Magnolia Cemetery for Jefferson County Deputy Sheriff John E. Hutcheson, who was killed in the line of

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duty in 1925 and was buried with an un-engraved headstone. A Historic Texas Cemetery designation is currently pending for Pear Orchard Cemetery, in the Pear Orchard neighborhood of south Beaumont. Completion of that designations is anticipated in early 2024.



The JCHC was pleased to participate in a number of educational experiences in 2023, starting with the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission's Real Places Conference in February. JCHC Coordinator, Jen Trenbeath attended the conference in person and enjoyed sessions pertaining to courthouse preservation, disaster preparedness, digital archiving, engaging younger generations with historic sites and preservation projects, tax credit and grant programs available for designated properties and many other topics dealing with preservation in Texas. She and JCHC appointee Jerrilynn Miller will be attending the 2024 Real Places Conference in April and are looking forward to the depth of knowledge that will certainly be shared.

The JCHC hosted two workshop days for appointees in July, with virtual sessions provided by the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions. The NAPC's "Summer Short Course" included expert panels from around the nation, and open Q & A sessions dealing with challenges and opportunities



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of historic preservation. November brought Preservation Texas to Beaumont, and several JCHC appointees spent the day with preservation professionals from across the state participating in workshops.

The JCHC also received the final draft of the County-Wide Historic Resources Survey and Preservation Plan, which is the culmination of a two-year project by HHM Resources and JCHC Appointees. This project will allow the JCHC to see historic resources that are in danger of being lost, as well as provide a road-map for future preservation goals. The final product will be available in 2024 and the JCHC could not be more proud of the hard work that has been done to reach this point. Funding for this project was provided by the National Park Service through the Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria Disaster Recovery Grant Program. The Texas Historical Commission received program funding to complete a state-wide preservation plan, which can be viewed at thc.texas.gov/preserve/projects-and-programs/texas-statewide-preservation-plan. The Jefferson County Historical Resources Survey and Preservation Plan will be available after its completion through our website: co.jefferson.tx.us/historical_commission.

JCHC Appointees were incredibly involved throughout 2023 in preservation across all areas of Jefferson County, and Jefferson County is fortunate to have such dedicated citizens. We look forward to 2024 and the preservation and learning opportunities that it will surely bring.

DID YOU KNOW?

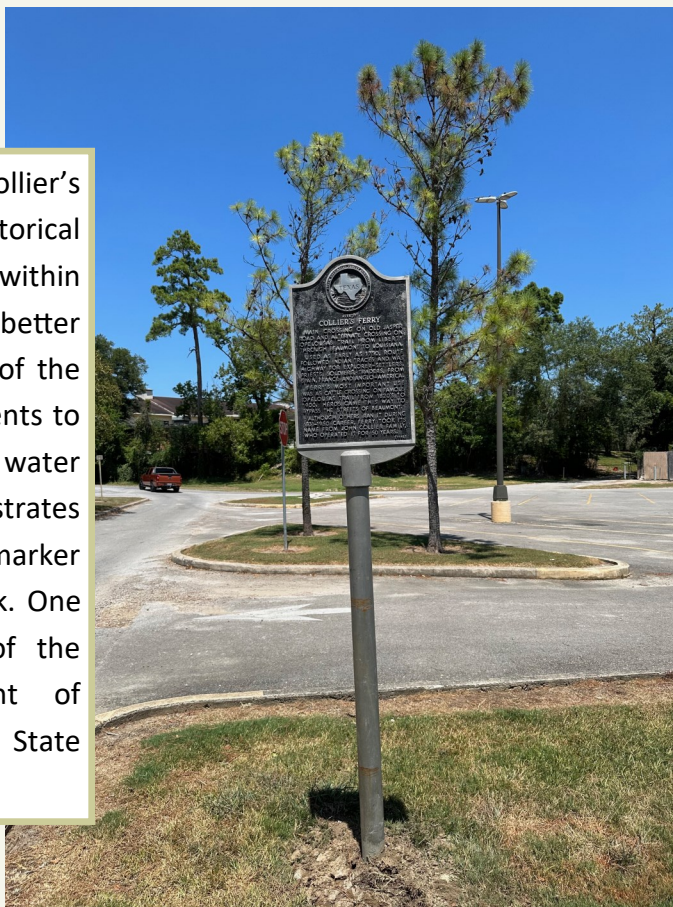
For those interested in historic preservation, the JCHC website includes information on the JCHC and the history of Jefferson County including: past issues of the JCHC Journal, Meeting Minutes, Notices of Meetings and Agendas, Digitized copies of Mildred Wright's cemetery books, Sabine Pass Cemetery Association Minutes and Map, Information on the courthouses of Jefferson County, Historical Marker Info, historic photos of Jefferson County and some Jefferson County elected officials, and more! Visit [Co.jefferson.tx.us/historical_commission](https://co.jefferson.tx.us/historical_commission) or scan the QR code!



MARKER SPOTLIGHT

Site of Collier's Ferry
5390 Pine Street
Beaumont, TX

In 2023, the Site of Collier's Ferry Texas State Historical Marker was relocated within Collier's Ferry Park to better position the marker out of the way of future improvements to the City of Beaumont water system. This photo illustrates the new location of the marker within Collier's Ferry Park. One of the responsibilities of the JCHC is the oversight of Jefferson County's Texas State Historical markers.



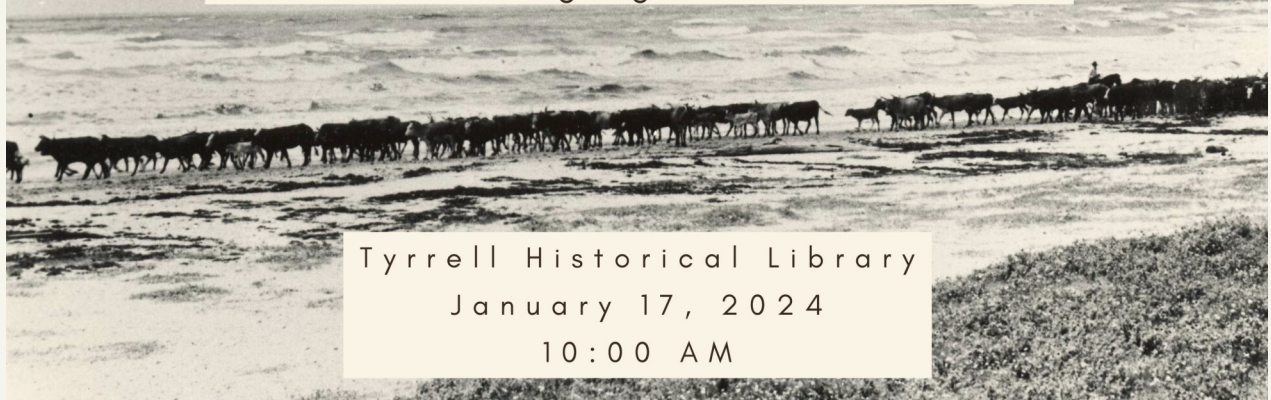
Marker Text: "Main crossing on Old Jasper Road and alternate crossing on Opelousas Trail from Liberty through Beaumont to Louisiana. Used as early as 1750, route followed Indian traces and was highway for explorer-settlers, priests, soldiers, traders from Spain, France and Anglo-America. Ferry's most important use was as cattle crossing on famous Opelousas Trail from 1820's to 1900. Herds came this way to bypass the streets of Beaumont. Although others ran it during 1831-1950 career, ferry took its name from John Collier family who operated it for 50 years." (1968)

TYRRELL HISTORICAL LIBRARY ANNOUNCES WINTER LECTURE SERIES

The Tyrrell is excited to announce our Winter Lecture Series from January to February, three guest speakers will visit the Tyrrell Historical Library to share their knowledge of Southeast Texas history! Special thanks to the Tyrrell Historical Library Association for underwriting the lecture series.

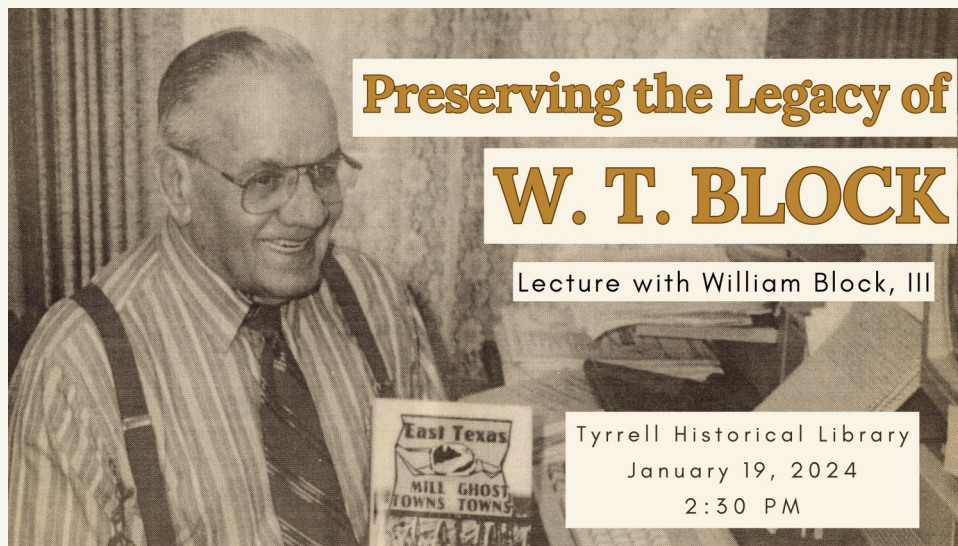
The Legacy of the Early Gulf Coast Cowboys

Lecture and Book Signing with author Tom Linton



Tyrrell Historical Library
January 17, 2024
10:00 AM

- ◇ **January 17, 2024 @ 10:00AM: The Legacy of the Early Gulf Coast Cowboys with author Tom Linton.** Join author Tom Linton for a lecture on his book "The Legacy of the Early Gulf Coast Cowboys," which follows the stories of ranchers and cattlemen from Texas's earliest days. In his talk, Linton will shed light on the prominent, but often overlooked, ranchers and cattlemen in Southeast Texas's history, many of whom rivaled more famous West Texas ranchers. A book signing will follow the event.



Preserving the Legacy of W. T. BLOCK

Lecture with William Block, III

Tyrrell Historical Library
January 19, 2024
2:30 PM

**January 19, 2024
@ 2:30 PM:**
*Preserving the
Legacy of W. T.
Block, Jr. with his
son William Block,
III.* Join William
Block for a lecture
on the work and
legacy of his
father, William T.
Block, Jr., a
prominent
Southeast Texas

historian and writer. Block was a Southeast Texas native and wrote 9 books on East Texas history, including "East Texas Mill Towns & Ghost Towns," "Sour Lake Texas: From Mud Baths to Millionaires," and "A History of Jefferson County, Texas: From Wilderness to Reconstruction." Block also wrote a local history column for the Beaumont Enterprise and was a member of the Texas Gulf Historical Society.



Acadian History and Genealogy

Lecture with Genealogist Donald Hurtubise

Tyrrell Historical Library
February 9, 2024
10:30 AM



February 9, 2024 @ 10:30 AM: Acadian History and Genealogy with genealogist Donald Hurtubise. Join genealogist Donald Hurtubise for a lecture on Acadian history and genealogy. The lecture will be of particular interest to genealogists and those with Cajun heritage or family ties to Louisiana.

HISTORICAL MARKER MAP

Have you ever wondered where all the historical markers are in Jefferson County? Thankfully, The Jefferson County engineering department created an interactive GIS map of the historical markers in Jefferson County. The map can be found at co.jefferson.tx.us/eng/Engineering.html and selecting "historical markers" or using this QR code.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◇ January 13, 2024– 10:00 a.m. The 123rd Spindletop Anniversary at the Spindletop- Gladys City Boomtown Museum.
- ◇ January 17, 2024—10:00 a.m. Tyrrell Historical Library and THLA Present "The Legacy of the Early Gulf Coast Cowboy".
- ◇ January 18, 2024– 6:30 p.m. The McFaddin-Ward House Lecture Series "Restoration and Operations of the World Famous Big Boy Engine".
- ◇ January 18, 2024– 5:30 p.m. The Beaumont Heritage Society's Heritage Happy Hour at the Edison Museum.
- ◇ January 19, 2024– 2:30 p.m. Tyrrell Historical Library and THLA Present "Preserving the Legacy of W.T. Block".
- ◇ February 9, 2024– 10:30 a.m. Tyrrell Historical Library and THLA Present "Acadian History and Genealogy".
- ◇ February 15, 2024– 6:30 p.m. The McFaddin-Ward House Lecture Series "The Artistry and History of Ranching Leatherwork, Silver and Saddlery".
- ◇ February 22, 2024– 6:30 p.m. The McFaddin-Ward House presents "Music at the McFaddins" featuring Western Bling.

GET IN TOUCH

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