

# JCHC JOURNAL

JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION VOLUME 2016, ISSUE 4

## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Members,  
Recently Commissioner Brent Weaver, Precinct No. 2, contacted county departments requesting items to be placed in a 50 year time capsule to be kept in a glass and wood case at the Pct. No. 2 Service Center. JCHC contributed a copy of our May, 2016, newsletter and a photo of all our members taken at the May meeting.

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

Theresa Goodness, JCHC Chair



1931 Jefferson County Courthouse cornerstone re-used from 1892 Courthouse. Found inside were copies of Enterprise and Journal, dated 6/25/1892, copy of Louisville and Nashville Railroad timetable, some religious texts, and minutes of the 47th annual convention of the East Texas Methodist Episcopal Conference

Photo Credit: Linda McMahan

### VOLUME 2016, ISSUE 4

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### JULY, 2016

#### Special points of interest:

- \* Jefferson County Fast Facts
- \* Scavenger Hunt
- \* Emeritus Member Honored

## JEFFERSON COUNTY FAST FACTS

**\$.89**

Cost to County per cubic yard of oyster shell purchased by 2400 cubic yard barge load to pave county roads in Precinct 2 in 1916.

**\$3.00**

Daily per diem for county commissioners who attended court sessions in 1916.

**8/1/1916**

Date of Commissioner's Court Order lifting quarantine of animals due to Anthrax provided County Health Officer issued Certificate of Good Health for any animals to be shipped outside county.

## JCHC EMERITUS MEMBER HONORED



Yvonne Sutherlin receiving Daughters of the American Revolution Award for 40 years of membership

Photo Credit: Port Arthur News

According to an article in the Port Arthur News, JCHC Emeritus member, Yvonne Sutherlin, was honored on Sunday, June 12, 2016, by members of the Captain William Sanders Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution for her forty years of membership in that organization. Her forbears John Wilkerson, III and Robert Fleming Tynes of South Carolina served in the American Revolution.

Yvonne Sutherlin's service in preserving our county's history cannot be overestimated and includes serving as JCHC Chair, Marker Chair, and Historic Preservation Officer for the City of Port Arthur.

Congratulations to Yvonne for this well deserved recognition!

## JCHC MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS IN 2016

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 [hstcomm@co.jefferson.tx.us](mailto:hstcomm@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

## JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S COURTROOM RESTORATION

In the January, 2016, edition of the JCHC Journal appeared an article describing the extensive termite damage in the Jefferson County Commissioner's Courtroom and other District Courtrooms. The Commissioner's Court authorization of \$437,000 to restore this court and certain District Courtrooms has yielded beautiful results. For the first time since restoration began early this year, Commissioner's Court was held Monday, June 27, 2016, in the fully restored courtroom instead of in the Jury Impanelling Room. County staff and members of the public remarked on the quality of the restoration, the harmonious view of the bench where members of the Court sit, and the beauty of the polished wood.

The architectural firm Shepley Bulfinch and carpenter David Weston are to be congratulated on such a fine job, and the Court commended for not only recognizing the value of preserving our priceless history, but also taking the concrete steps necessary to do so. Job well done!



Restored Jefferson County Commissioner's  
Courtroom Bench  
Photo Credit: Theresa Goodness

Restored Jefferson County Commissioner's  
Courtroom Bench detail of wood inlay  
Photo Credit: Theresa Goodness



## JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S COURTROOM RESTORATION CONTINUED



Restored Jefferson County  
Commissioner's Courtroom  
Walls  
Photo Credit: Theresa Good-  
ness

Restored Jefferson County Commissioner's  
Courtroom  
Restored and polished benches  
Photo Credit: Theresa Goodness



Restored Jefferson County Commissioner's  
Courtroom  
Original Light Fixture  
Photo Credit: Theresa Goodness





# CLG COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING

## HAMSHIRE-FANNETT AREA



Framed photograph of John Perry Landrum, a Fannett area Constable killed in 1907 by Tom Jackson, a man Landrum had arrested twice, who was sentenced to 2 years in prison for manslaughter. Found on the wall of JP Precinct 4 Building, in Fannett, TX

Photo Credits: Theresa Goodness

The following is an excerpt from the minutes taken by Sarah Bellian of our CLG meeting held on June 7, 2016, at the J.P. Precinct 4 Building in Fannett.

“We had some trouble getting the word out for this meeting. At least two people who attended the China meeting and expressed interest in attending this meeting did not attend. JCHC members in attendance – Linda McMahan, Theresa Goodness, Bruce Hamilton, and Sarah Bellian.

Also in attendance –

Fred Renkema ... has a collection on the area including very old abstracts, specifically related to Dutch settlement and early farming. Renkema is the grandson of early settler Nicholas DeYoung who came to Chicago in 1897 with some of his siblings from the Netherlands. DeYoung bought 24 acres from Coke along with 103 Dutch families. When the 1915 flood hit with a 17 foot storm surge the Winnie and Hamshire Fannett areas were completely submerged. Most of the families abandoned their vegetable farms in the area, but the DeYongs returned and became dairy farmers. DeYoung was called by W.T. Block “father of the Texas fig industry” and there was fig processing at several sites locally. Mr. Renkema is also involved in the 100th anniversary of the Lions Clubs of Southeast Texas (Beaumont and Port Arthur) which is upcoming and possibly an organization to be commemorated with a marker.”



Framed history of Morey, location of the sawmill town of Odelia,  
Found on the wall of JP Precinct 4 Building, in Fannett, TX  
Photo Credits: Theresa Goodness

## 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. The next meeting is scheduled for July 11, 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 are currently scheduled. Les McMahan is JCHC's representative on the commission.

## JCHC MEMBERS



Jefferson County Historical Commission photograph taken at May, 2016, membership meeting

Members from left to right, First Row: Jimmy Sparks, Brenda Jackson, Jessie Davis, Paul Prosperie, Jen Trenbeath, Bruce Hamilton, Don Smart

Second Row: Theresa Goodness, Sarah Bellian, Bill Cummings, Steven Lewis, Les McMahan, Linda McMahan, Mike McGreevy

Photo Credit: JCHC Archives

# BEAUMONT HERITAGE SOCIETY HERITAGE HAPPY HOUR TOUR OF MILDRED BUILDING

Beaumont Heritage Society hosted their bi-monthly Heritage Happy Hour at the Mildred Building on Thursday, June 16, 2016. Many area residents enjoyed the opportunity to tour this iconic Mediterranean Revival style apartment, commercial and garage center built by Miles Frank Yount in 1929-1930 for \$700,000 and named for his daughter, Mildred Yount. Mr. Yount was known as the godfather of Beaumont due to his generosity in meeting the City's payroll one Christmas during the depression. He died suddenly at the age of 53 on November 13, 1933, on the eighth anniversary of Spindletop's second discovery.



Photographs of Beaumont  
Heritage Society's Happy  
Hour at the Mildred Building  
Photo Credits: Beaumont  
Heritage Society



Mildred Building  
Texas Historical Marker  
Photo Credit: Beaumont  
Heritage Society





## AREA MUSEUM UPCOMING EVENTS

### Museum of the Gulf Coast

*Rocket to the Moon* July 9th 10AM-2PM

Free Family Fun Day

Activities, Free Planetarium Shows, Space Crafts, Space Games, and a free screening of the movie "Wall-E" at 12 p.m.

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



Museum of the Gulf Coast  
Photo Credit: [musemofthegulfcoast.org](http://musemofthegulfcoast.org)



John Jay French House Museum  
Photo Credit: Theresa Goodness

### The John Jay French House Museum

Heritage Happy Hour

August 18 @ 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Heritage Happy Hour is an on-going partnership between the BHS and Giglio Distributing Co. Each event highlights an historical exhibit, time period, or landmark, as well as craft beer or brewery that is being showcased by Giglio Distributing Co. The event is expected to take place every other month and the location will be subject to change as we highlight historical landmarks throughout our city.

Credit: [John Jay French House Museum website](http://johnjayfrenchhousemuseum.org)

### McFaddin Ward House

Current Visitor Center Exhibit

*Glitter and Gleam: Selections from our Reserve Collection*

Examples of jewelry belonging to Ida Caldwell McFaddin and Mamie McFaddin-Ward from the turn of the 20th century.

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



McFaddin Ward House  
Photo Credit: [mcfaddin-ward.org](http://mcfaddin-ward.org)



**JEFFERSON  
COUNTY  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION**

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E-mail:

histcomm@co.jefferson.tx.us  
Linda McMahan, Coordinator



*To preserve and  
promote history within  
the County.*

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

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Jefferson County  
Commissioner's  
Courtroom, Termite  
Damage found prior to  
restoration

Photo Credit:: Theresa



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

## SCAVENGER HUNT

HOSTED BY THE MUSEUM OF THE GULF COAST



☒ CHECK IN at the Museum of the Gulf Coast to sign up and see the Scavenger Hunt List.

☒ CHECK OUT historical sites in Jefferson County. When you find a site, document your visit with a photograph!

☒ CHECK OFF items by delivering your answers and photographs to the Museum of the Gulf Coast. THE FIRST TO CHECK OFF ALL 30 SITES WILL RECEIVE A PRIZE! PARTICIPATION IS FREE AND OPEN TO ALL AGES!

### • THE HUNT BEGINS -

• August 22 (9:00 am) — October 1, 2016

BONUS CATEGORIES:

☐ SHUTTERBUG— Awarded for the best photographs.

☐ HUNT HISTORIAN— Awarded for providing additional information about the marker site or historical photographs we haven't seen before.

☐ SOCIAL MEDIA SUPERSTAR— Like and Share! If your Facebook post (tagging the Museum of the Gulf Coast) gets more likes or shares than any other Scavenger Hunt post, we'll have a special prize for you!

For more information, email [bellianse@lamarpa.edu](mailto:bellianse@lamarpa.edu) or call 409-984-6446.