

# JCHC JOURNAL

JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION VOLUME 2019, ISSUE 5

## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Members,

I am very excited to announce Jefferson County has received a preliminary grant award from the [Hurricane Harvey Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund Grant Program](#) of almost \$250,000 to conduct a survey plan, historic resources survey, and a preservation plan. This has been a long term goal of JCHC, and one that is vital to identifying and preserving our history. As more information is received from THC, commission members will be notified immediately. Your help and knowledge about our county will be very important in bringing this project to fruition.

Thank you to our members for your time and service.

Theresa Goodness, JCHC Chair



Hurricane Harvey Satellite Image

Photo Credit: By ABI image captured by NOAA's GOES-16 satellite - RAMMB/CIRA SLIDER, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=61938876>

### VOLUME 2019, ISSUE 5

#### In this issue:

Fall Regional CHC Meeting	2
Hurricane Harvey Grant Award Letter	3
Center for History and Culture Fall Events	4
Preservation Texas Reception	5
Excerpt from Sabine Pass Railroads	6

### SEPTEMBER, 2019

#### Special points of interest:

- \* Jefferson County Fast Facts
- \* Area Museum Upcoming Events

## JEFFERSON COUNTY FAST FACTS

**July 30, 1960**

Date of election held for the consolidation of Nome ISD and Sour Lake ISD and to create a consolidated district named Hardin-Jefferson ISD. The voters in both districts passed the measure.

**\$48,000**

Amount paid to install landscaping, including sod, Crape myrtles, Live Oaks, Asiatic Jasmine and Pink Indian Hawthorn, as well as a sprinkler system, at the new courthouse annex in September, 1980.

**9/5/2000**

Date of filing in Official Public Records of the Jefferson County Clerk under File No. 2000033873 a Donation Easement for Conservation and Preservation Purposes for the purpose of placing an historical marker at the Lucas Gusher well site at Spindletop.

## FALL REGIONAL CHC MEETING

The [Montgomery County Historical Commission](#) is hosting a regional conference of the Southeast Texas county historical commissions on Saturday, October 5 in Tomball from 9am to 3pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet and network with your fellow CHC members from nearby counties.

This training and networking conference will include presentations from Amy Hammons and other members of the Texas Historical Commission. Each of the participating CHC's are invited to speak about their individual projects and challenges.

The event will be held at the Tomball Baptist Church, 411 Oxford Street, Tomball, TX 77375. Lunch and tours will be provided next door at the Tomball Museum. A light continental breakfast and lunch will be served for all registrants. Please register by October 1, 2019 so that we can make suitable arrangements for all registrants.

THERE IS NO REGISTRATION FEE.

Please register by email to J. K. Wagner at [hchc.janet@gmail.com](mailto:hchc.janet@gmail.com) or Larry L. Foerster at [foerster@dfcllp.com](mailto:foerster@dfcllp.com); or mail to J K. Wagner, 710 North Post Oak Road, Suite 400, Houston, Texas 77024.

If you are interested in attending this conference on behalf of JCHC, please contact our Coordinator, Linda McMahan.

## UPCOMING JCHC MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS IN 2019

Meetings to be held at Jefferson County Courthouse, 1149 Pearl Street, 3rd Floor, Beaumont, TX 77701 in the JCHC Conference Room.

- September 18, 2019
- November 20, 2019

### 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](mailto: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  
Tyrrell Historical Library

## JCHC RECEIVES PRELIMINARY GRANT AWARD FROM TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

**TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
*real places telling real stories*

July 29, 2019

Theresa Goodness  
Jefferson County Historical Commission  
1149 Pearl Street, Third Floor  
Beaumont, TX 77701

**RE: Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund Subgrant  
Jefferson County Survey Plan, Historic Resource Survey and Preservation Plan, Preliminary Award,  
\$249,913**

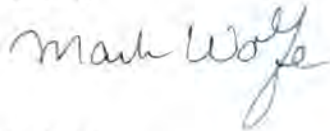
Dear Ms. Goodness:

We are pleased to inform you that the Texas Historical Commission (THC) has preliminarily awarded a Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund (HIM ESHPF) subgrant to the Jefferson County Survey Plan, Historic Resource Survey, and Preservation Plan.

THC will next begin coordination with the National Park Service (NPS) regarding your application. Subsequent steps will involve receiving NPS approval, finalizing the scope of work to be funded by the subgrant, signing a funding agreement and executing a preservation easement. It is the intent of this subgrant award to fund grant-eligible work outside of work funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). In addition, please remember that these funds cannot be used to match a grant from FEMA.

The THC looks forward to working with you on this emergency preservation project. If you need additional information or have any questions, please contact the HIM ESHPF Coordinator, Lisa Hart, in the Architecture Division at 512-463-6000.

Sincerely,



Mark Wolfe  
Executive Director



## CENTER FOR HISTORY AND CULTURE OF SOUTHEAST TEXAS AND THE UPPER GULF COAST FALL EVENTS

**From Thursday Night Lights to Black Man in the Huddle" The integration of American Football - Book Talk with Authors Robert Jacobus and Michael Hurd - September 24th, 2019**

Join us the week before Homecoming to hear noted authors Robert Jacobus and Michael Hurd as they discuss their books "Black Man in the Huddle" and "Thursday Night Lights: The Story of Black High School Football in Texas". Both authors tackle the difficult topic of the integration of football in the 1960's, including Lamar, as it relates to Southeast Texas and the Golden Triangle. There will also be a Q and A panel from former local African American football players that can give a first hand account of the events surrounding that time. Plummer Room, Library 8th floor 5:30pm to 7:30 pm - Open to the Public

**"Lamar 100 Project: A Centennial History Show and Tell" Digitization Day at Gladys's City! - October 5th, 2019**

Come join us for a History Show and Tell! This event will include both a story swap and a digitization drive, as part of which we'll ask community members to share their memories and memorabilia with our group of volunteer historians, archivists, and curators. We will help identify treasures from the attic and make sense of old letters and family lore, while also doing some oral histories and photographing LU heirlooms. Our goal is to collect stories from the community to incorporate in our centennial celebrations. Event is from 1pm to 5pm and open to the public!

**"Frontiers of Science: U.S. Expansion and the Making of American Science." - Book talk and Lecture with Author Cameron B. Strang - October 10th, 2019**

Join us for a Book Talk and Lecture by noted Author Cameron B. Strang. Cameron is an Assistant History Professor at the University of Nevada in Reno. He is also one of the recipients of our 2019 Summerlee Book Prize. He will be discussing his winning book, *Frontiers of Science: Imperialism and Natural Knowledge in the Gulf South Borderlands, 1500-1850*. Cameron will be available to sign books, and books will be available for purchase. Student Session 2pm to 3pm Landes Auditorium 101; Evening Session 5pm to 7pm Reaud Executive Event Space - Open to the Public

**Noir Fiction Panel Discussion with Author Lisa Sandlin and Speaker Jim Sanderson - October 22nd, 2019**

Mark your calendars! Join author Lisa Sandlin as she hosts a panel discussion and book signing event on campus about writing noir fiction set in Southeast Texas. There will be a student session from 2pm to 3pm and an evening session from 5pm to 7pm that is open to the public. Stay tuned for location details!

**"From an Emergency University to a First Class Institution". Book Talk and Lecture with Author and Co-Winner of the 2019 Summerlee Book Prize, Merline Pitre. - October 28th, 2019**

Author Merline Pitre will be discussing her winning book, *Born to Serve: A History of Texas Southern University*. She will also be signing books. Event is free and open to the public! Student Session 2pm to 3pm Landes; Public Session 5pm to 7pm Reaud Executive Event Space.

**Jazz/Poetry Night with Lamar Alum and Poet, Dave Oliphant - November 7th, 2019**

Join us for "jazzy" night of poetry with Dave Oliphant. He will be reading some of his jazz poetry that is in many ways about various towns in our region. Dave is picking out a set list for a student jazz combo who will perform between each of his poems. Event will be held from 5pm to 7pm. Stay tuned for more details on the location! This event is free and open to the public.

Credit: [Lamar University website](#)

## PRESERVATION TEXAS RECEPTION AT STEDMAN FRUIT COMPANY BUILDING

Please join us in downtown Beaumont on Friday evening, September 20 from 6:00-7:30 pm for a Preservation Networking Reception and Lecture featuring architectural historian Stephen Fox at the historic Stedman Fruit Company Building. The event is free and open to the public. Wine and cheese will be served.



Stephen Fox, Architectural Historian

Please register [online](#) for this free event.

Mr. Fox will give a talk on The 20th Century Architectural Heritage of Beaumont and the Golden Triangle. The region abounds in important architecture, from the magnificent Gates Memorial Library in Port Arthur, designed by New York architects Warren and Westmore who also designed Grand Central Station in New York..... to the Administration Building at Lamar University (1959, Stone & Pitts), a midcentury modern landmark..... to the Creole vernacular domestic residences of Louisiana-based architect A. Hays Town (1903-2005)

Mr. Fox is an architectural historian and a lecturer at the Rice School of Architecture. He is also a lecturer at the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture of the University of Houston and a Fellow of the Anchorage Foundation of Texas. Fox's work is focused on architecture of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, especially the architecture of Houston and Texas. In his scholarship he examines the ways that architecture engages such social constructs as class identity, cultural distinction, and regional differentiation.

The Stedman Fruit Company Building was  
constructed in 1923

Photo Credit: Tyrrell Historical Library





## EXCERPT FROM RAILROADS OF SABINE PASS BY LESLIE MCMAHEN



Shown is an early day passenger train between Sabine Pass and Beaumont. Since there were no turning facilities at Sabine Pass, the train was pulled backwards to Sabine Pass and pushed back to Beaumont.

Photo credit: Les McMahan collection

### **Undocumented Railroad**

There are undocumented stories of a railroad, said to be the Eastern Texas Railroad, beginning at Sabine Pass and running through what is now downtown Port Arthur and on to what is now Port Neches. The road was purported to be 18 miles long. However, an October, 1862, report from J. Kellersberg, a Confederate Officer, included a reference that the Eastern Texas Railroad was 4 miles distant from Grigsby's Bluff (Port Neches). The Eastern-Texas Railroad was completed about 1860 and ran in a near straight line between Beaumont and Sabine Pass, and paralleling what is now West Port Arthur Road (Spur 93) for much of the distance. The 1840 Delano map of Jefferson County shows what is most likely a wagon road in the location alleged to be that of the purported railroad, and an 1847 document and a 1923 map bear out the route as being a wagon road.

## AREA MUSEUM UPCOMING EVENTS

### Museum of the Gulf Coast

*"An Impressionable 55 Years" Celebrating a Career Through Art*

Douglas Jackson Art Show and Art Sale at the Museum of the Gulf Coast is Underway. The Show is from August 3, 2019 - October 26, 2019

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



Museum of the Gulf Coast

Photo Credit: [museumofthegulfcoast.org](http://museumofthegulfcoast.org)

### Chambers House Museum

Haunted Heritage Happy Hour  
October 24, 2019 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Come wander the halls of the historic 1906 Chambers family home with a one of a kind look into the past. Guests of all ages will enjoy a peek into the lives of departed Chambers family members portrayed by costumed actors. Our dearly departed will be present for one night only, so make plans to see them during this brief special appearance! Giglio Distributing Co. will be showcasing seasonal craft beer, with wine and non-alcoholic beverages also available. Join us for this fun and spooky evening! .

Credit: [Beaumont Heritage Society website](http://Beaumont Heritage Society website)



Photo Credit: [Beaumont Heritage Society website](http://Beaumont Heritage Society website)

### McFaddin-Ward House Museum

Fall Picnic October 17, 2019 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

The McFaddin-Ward House is ironing out details for it's first community picnic in more than a year. "This year's Fall Picnic promises to be bigger and better than ever," says McFaddin-Ward House Director, Allen Lea. "The Curse and the Cure is entertainment for the evening. We'll have food from the 4H Club and various food trucks. We will have a variety of activities for children, including face painting and hopscotch, and we are even working on a trackless train!

Bring your entire family and some friends. Bring picnic supplies, food, ice chests, and cold beverages. It's the best way to pass a great time. See you there! Credit: [McFaddin-Ward House Museum](http://McFaddin-Ward House Museum)



McFaddin-Ward House Museum

Photo Credit: [McFaddin-Ward House Museum website](http://McFaddin-Ward House Museum website)



**JEFFERSON  
COUNTY  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION**

1149 Pearl Street  
Third Floor  
Beaumont, TX 77701

Tel: 409-835-8701

E-mail:

histcomm@co.jefferson.tx.us  
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/)

---

Jefferson County Historical Commission

Executive Board 2018 - 2019

Chairman, Theresa Goodness

1st Vice-Chairman, Bruce A. Hamilton

2nd Vice-Chairman, Les McMahan

Treasurer, Linda McMahan

Secretary, Jen Trenbeath

**JCHC MINI-MUSEUM  
“CONSTITUTION WEEK”**



“Constitution Week” DAR Exhibit  
Photo Credit: Theresa Goodness

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Beaumont Chapter is sponsoring an exhibit in the Courthouse mini-museum during the month of September in honor of Constitution Week to be celebrated September 17 – 23, 2019.

This chapter has been very active in communicating the importance of the Constitution in our community. The materials used will be DAR sponsored. They include a large poster board of the Constitution and various DAR brochures such as the American Creed, pledge of allegiance and other patriotic items. Also included are a number of student artworks illustrating some of the constitutional amendments.

The DAR is a non-political organization. They will not display any items promoting any political party.