

JCHC JOURNAL

JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION VOLUME 2018, ISSUE 1

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Members,

Once again we greet a new year with a renewed focus on preserving the important history of Jefferson County, especially after a disaster like Tropical Storm Harvey.

We will discuss our annual goals at the January meeting, and learn about the status of the Caroline Hinchee House from Steven Lewis, and hear a report from Bruce Hamilton on the Real Places 2018 Conference and Certified Local Government Workshop.

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

Theresa Goodness, JCHC Chair



VOLUME 2018, ISSUE 1

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JANUARY, 2018

Special points of interest:

- * Jefferson County Fast Facts
- * Mini-Museum Exhibit: South Park Alumni Association

JEFFERSON COUNTY FAST FACTS

1/26/1918

Date Commissioner's Court discontinued paying monthly rental fee of \$35 for building used as an armory in Port Arthur. Troops had been moved to a training camp in Fort Worth. The armory in Beaumont was also closed.

\$200

Amount county paid in 1918 to settle claim of damages for a mule belonging to George A. Baird that was killed after falling from a county bridge in Precinct No. 2.

\$25

Amount of monthly salary paid in April, 1918, to Mrs. Joe Babin for services performed at county jail annex or hospital. This is equivalent to \$435 in 2018.

JCHC TIDBITS

- We received an inquiry through the Friends of JCHC Facebook page asking for photos of Beaumont from the 1950's. If any members have photographs they would like to share, please discuss with Jen Trenbreath, our Website Committee Chair.
- Please turn in any remaining volunteer hours for 2017. JCHC has an annual report due soon, and your volunteer hours documentation is vital to our ability to submit an accurate and complete report on our activities to the Texas Historical Commission and to the Jefferson County Commissioner's Court.
- Jefferson County Commissioner's Court is considering applying for a grant from the Golden Pass Hurricane Harvey Recovery Fund to pay for sealing the outside of the historic courthouse. There was some leakage from several windows on the upper floors which caused some water intrusion affecting several floors below. The damage was not extensive, but needs to be addressed.

UPCOMING JCHC MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS IN 2018

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

1/17/2018 at Noon

7/18/2018 at Noon

3/14/2018 at Noon

9/19/2018 at Noon

5/9/2018 at Noon

11/14/2018 at Noon

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.

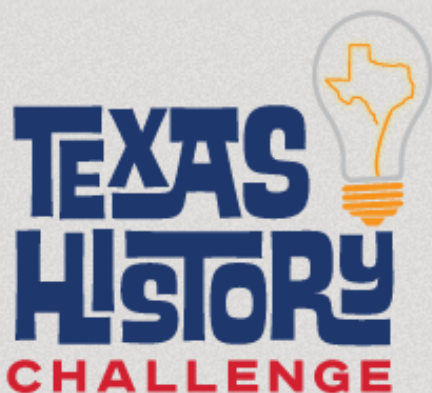
Also with the number of hours, JCHC needs a general description of work performed, for example: 3 Hours – Marker Survey.

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

TEXAS HISTORY CHALLENGE



The Texas State Historical Association is launching a new online monthly Texas history quiz contest, the [Texas History Challenge](#).

Each month new quizzes are unlocked which focus on a different Texas history topic. An adult prize and a student prize will be awarded each month to the highest score in each category.

Register online now to test your Texas history knowledge and win a prize! Credit: [TSHA website](#)

TEXAS STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES COMMISSION NEWS

[World War 1 Records Available Through Texas Digital Archive](#)

In observance of the 100th Anniversary of the United States' entrance into World War I, the Texas State Library and Archives Commission has digitized a series of collections featuring archival holdings from the First World War through the Texas Digital Archive.

The Frank S. Tillman Collection: Major Frank S. Tillman was a veteran of the Thirty-Sixth Division, items contained in this collection include printed material, diaries, rosters, lists of wartime deaths, and assorted material produced between 1915 and 1939, documenting and describing the participation of Texas soldiers in World War I.

General John A. Hulen Papers: Records from this series include papers documenting the military career and life of Brigadier General John A. Hulen, who commanded the 72nd Infantry Brigade (1917-1919) and the 36th Infantry Division of the Texas National Guard (1922-1935). Highlights include correspondence, photographs, and scrapbooks, dating 1887-1960.

36th Division Association Papers: The Thirty-Sixth Division Association was founded in January 1946 at a meeting in Brownwood of veterans who served with the Thirty-sixth Infantry Division during World War II. The papers include correspondence, reports, military records and scrapbooks, dating 1857-1954. Records relate to Texans' experience during World War I, railroads in Texas, and the San Jacinto Monument.

Through the assembly of this collection of photographs, correspondence, and other documents the Texas State Library and Archives Commission invites researchers, scholars and other interested parties to learn the stories of the brave men and women who answered the call to serve their country and honor those who gave their lives through the ultimate sacrifice. The Texas Digital Archives is accessible online at <https://tsl.access.preservica.com/>. Credit: [TSLA website](#)

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION NEWS

- THC is now accepting applications for the 2018 Preservation Scholars Program, a paid internship opportunity. The goal of the program is to build interest in, and awareness of, careers in historic preservation, specifically among underrepresented cultural, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups. More information, along with the eligibility requirements and application, can be found online on the [Friends of the Texas Historical Commission website](#).
- **Disaster Response Workshops for Historic Cemeteries are being conducted by the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training**

What Will We Learn?

The workshop consists of two full days of instruction, combining classroom lectures with hands-on demonstrations and field work at local cemeteries. Instructional topics include: preparing for disaster; post-disaster safety and re-entry; vegetation hazards and removal; marker stabilization; stone monument cleaning; monument resetting; and adhesive stone repairs.

Who's Leading the Workshop?

The National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT), widely considered one of nation's leaders in historic preservation technology and cemetery preservation, led the curriculum development. On-site instructors include NCPTT staff conservator Jason Church; Rusty Brenner of Texas Cemetery Restorations LLC; Joe Ferrannini of Grave Stone Matters; and Joseph Keefe of Bartlett Tree Experts.

What Does It Cost?

Because of generous grant funding and other support from many partner organizations, registration for the two-day workshop is only \$35 per person and includes lunch on both days. Many thanks goes to the Texas Cultural Emergency Response Alliance (TX-CERA), the Department of the Interior's National Park Service, NCPTT, Friends of NCPTT, the National Endowment for Humanities, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

Where and When?

The two-day workshop will be offered twice – once in Houston (February 5 & 6) and again in Corpus Christi (February 8 & 9).

Where Do We Register?

For the Houston workshop: <https://www.ncptt.nps.gov/events/texas-disaster-response-workshop-for-historic-cemeteries-houston/> (Look for the green "Register Now" button)

- Credit: [National Center for Preservation Technology and Training website](#)

AREA MUSEUM UPCOMING EVENTS

Museum of the Gulf Coast
Gulf Coast Community Art Show
Feb. 8 - March 31, 2018

3rd Annual COMMUNITY Art Competition

Children and Adults will have the opportunity to compete for prizes and exhibit their work with professional artists at the Museum. This year's theme is "Texas Strong". In the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, we'd like to fill our gallery with all of the positivity we can!

Accepting Entries NOW until Feb. 3.

Credit: [Museum of the Gulf Coast website](#)



Museum of the Gulf Coast
Photo Credit: [museumofthegulfcoast.org](#)



Photo Credit: [Beaumont Heritage Society website](#)

Beaumont Heritage Society

Projects: Langham House

In 1898, the Langham family built their home at 1561 Park Street. Their daughter, Ellen, married William French (son of David French, son of John Jay French) and they lived there for a time.

The house has been designated a Historical Cultural Landmark and is eligible to be on the National Register of Historic Places. The house was facing demolition, but was donated by the owner, Ms. Brenda Wilridge, to the Beaumont Heritage Society.

The Heritage Society partnered with Beaumont Main Street's Save and Secure program to move it temporarily to the corner of Royal and Park. It has been purchased and placed just one block away and restored.

Credit: [Beaumont Heritage Society website](#)

McFaddin-Ward House Museum

Tour Information:

- Guided Tours: \$5 per person
- Military Personnel: Free
- Children must be 8 years and older to take the tour
- Large group tours will be suspended January - June, 2018 during the reconstruction of our front porch.

Credit: [McFaddin-Ward House Museum website](#)



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

**JEFFERSON
COUNTY
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

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Linda McMahan, Coordinator

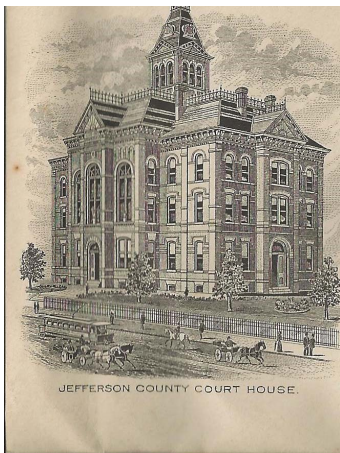


*To preserve and
promote history within
the County.*

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

Etching of 1893 Jefferson
County Courthouse

Credit: County Clerk's
Office Stationary from the
period



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

JCHC MINI-MUSEUM SOUTH PARK ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

An exhibit featuring memorabilia from the South Park Alumni Association is scheduled to be installed this month.

The text for the historical marker installed in 1988 at the now demolished building states:

“Built by the South Park Independent School District in 1922-1923, this structure also housed classes of South Park Junior College for ten years. Renamed Lamar Junior College in 1932 and Lamar University in 1971, the college institution moved to its own campus in 1942. South Park High School remained at this location until 1986, when it was merged with West Brook High School and this facility became a junior high school. South Park High School represents both the past and future of education in Beaumont.”