

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Members,

For Memorial Day the Beaumont Enterprise published an article about Evergreen Cemetery which has been the resting place of many soldiers from the African-American Community, including veterans of World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. An Historic Texas Cemetery designation was given to Evergreen Cemetery in 2001 thanks to the efforts of former JCHC member, Sandra Wilturner. More research is needed to identify all of these veterans, such as George Shaw, about whom JCHC member, Kate Hambright has recently located quite a bit of information.

Thank you to our members for your time and service.

Theresa Goodness, JCHC Chair



Texas Historic Cemetery Marker - Evergreen Cemetery
Photo Credit: JCHC archives

VOLUME 2021, ISSUE 3

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JULY, 2021

Special points of interest:

- * Jefferson County Fast Facts
- * Courthouse Mini-Museum Exhibit
- * Area Museum Online Resources

JEFFERSON COUNTY FAST FACTS

January 4, 1960

Date of Commissioner's Court Resolution to create a committee to work with Port Arthur Chamber of Commerce and other official groups to achieve a solution to the threat of hurricane winds and tides.

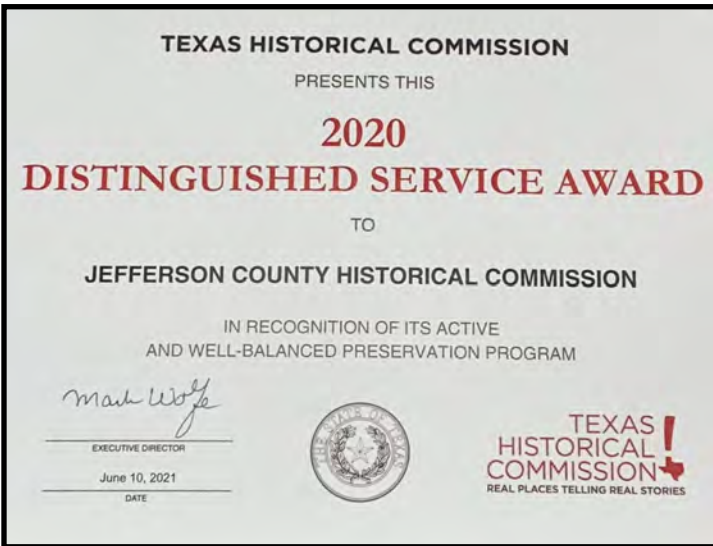
\$15,372

Amount paid on 9/8/1941 by Jefferson County out of the Airport Construction Fund for 102.48 acres of land out of the William Carroll League for land owned by the Estate of P.H. Wiess, Deceased, for the County Airport.

\$135.00

Monthly salary approved by Commissioner's Court on 4/18/1932 to be paid to Oscar Gallier as Assistant County Tick Inspector.

JCHC RECEIVES 2020 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



THC 2020 Distinguished Service Award Certificate
Photo Credit: Linda McMahan

The Jefferson County Historical Commission was awarded the 2020 Distinguished Service Award (DSA) by the Texas Historical Commission.

“Our preservation partners faced great challenges from the pandemic, but they redirected their efforts and ensured that history programming and preservation projects continued in communities across Texas,” said THC Executive Director Mark Wolfe. “The Jefferson CHC has demonstrated remarkable resiliency and innovation, and we are happy to honor its extraordinary volunteers with the 2020 Distinguished Service Award.”

Before the June 22, 2021, Commissioner’s Court meeting, Judge Jeff Branick announced the award, complimenting JCHC members on our dedication to historic preservation and recognizing our commission for being a multi-year recipient of the DSA Award.

Congratulations to JCHC members!

UPCOMING JCHC MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS IN 2021

Meetings to be held at Noon at the Agriculture Auditorium, 1225 Pearl Street, Suite 200, Beaumont, TX 77701. (All meetings subject to cancellation under state and federal COVID-19 guidelines.)

- 7/07/2021
- 9/15/2021
- 11/17/2021

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

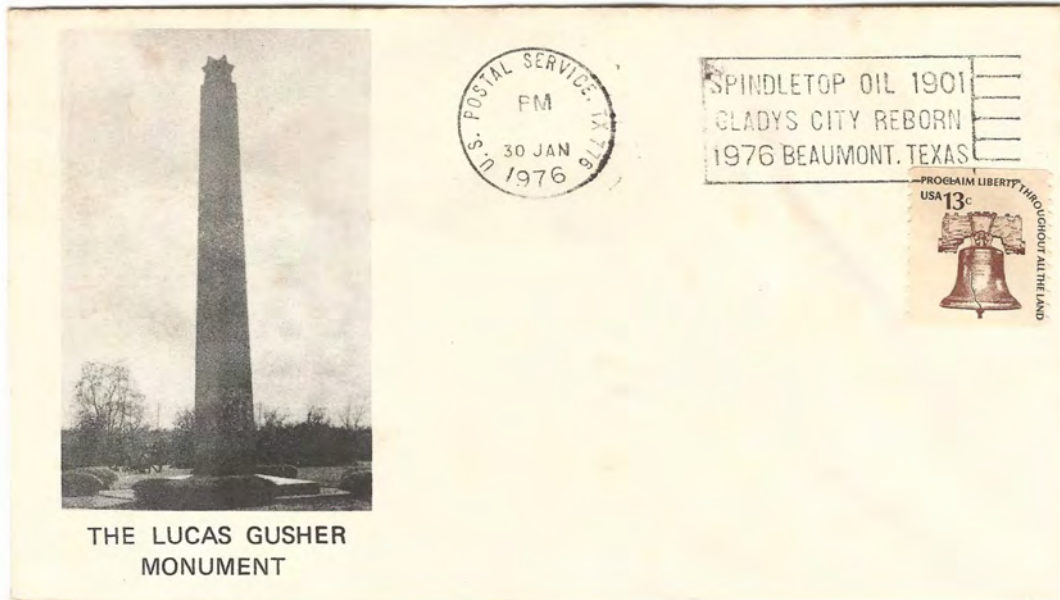
needs a general description of work performed, for example: 3 Hours – Marker Survey. If you have any questions, please call the office at 409-835-8701 or contact Linda via email at histcomm@co.jefferson.tx.us

PRESERVATION PARTNERS

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

SPINDLETOP POSTAL COVERS

BY LES MCMAHEN



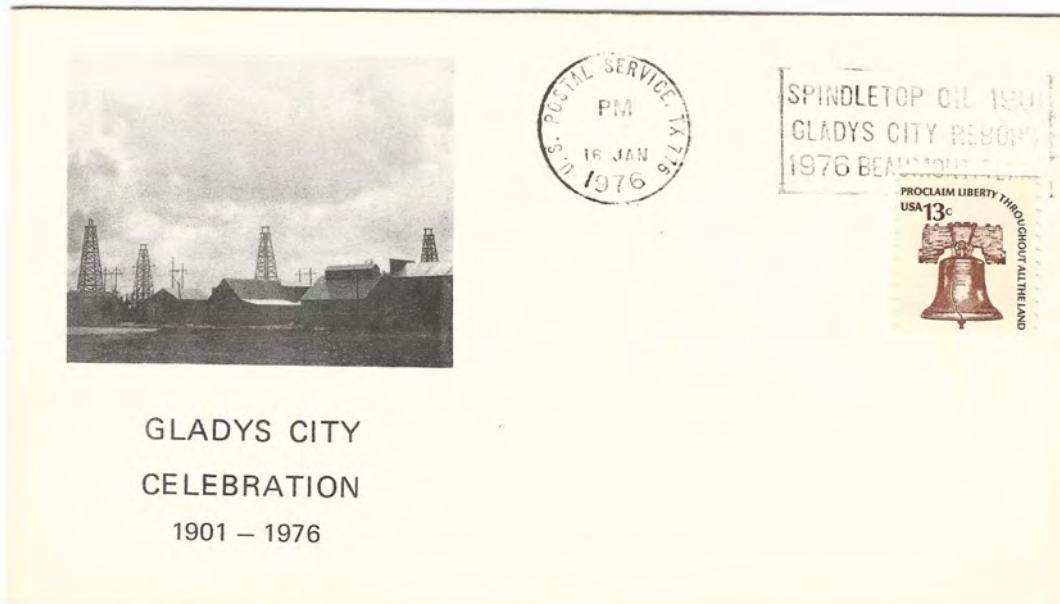
THE LUCAS GUSHER
MONUMENT

At left, two postal covers sponsored by the Beaumont Philatelic Society in 1976 as a "Beaumont, Texas Bicentennial Project". Both have the slogan postmark -

Spindletop Oil 1901
Gladys City Reborn
1976 Beaumont, Texas

and were available at the time of the Bicentennial. I have had the Lucas Gusher Monument envelope in my collection since 1976, and recently purchased the Gladys City Celebration envelope from a postal covers dealer in Texas.

Photo Credit: Les McMahan



GLADYS CITY
CELEBRATION
1901 - 1976

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

According to the Texas State Historical Association, more than 60 Texas students in grades 6-12 competed in the Virtual National History Day contest which ran from June 13 –19, 2021. The theme for 2021 is Communication in History: The Key to Understanding.

Nominees for 2021 Teacher of the Year from Texas:

- Monica Blackshire, Shotwell Middle School

Winners from Texas include the following:

- Senior Individual Exhibit, First Place, Carter Holton from New Caney, Texas; *The 1900 Storm*
- Junior Individual Website, Third Place, Grant Gillum from Dripping Springs, Texas; *Selling Space: The Significance of Propaganda during the Space Race*
- History in the Federal Government, Special Award, Ayumi Vazquez, Izumi Vazquez, Thao-Nhi Tran, San Antonio, TX; *The Stories They Tell: Communicating the Daily Realities of Rural Americans during the Great Depression through FSA Photography*

NHID
NATIONAL
HISTORY DAY®

National History Day logo

Credit: [National History Day website](#)

AREA MUSEUM UPCOMING EVENTS

Museum of the Gulf Coast

Music Hall of Fame

More than 82 musicians are featured in the Museum's Music Hall of Fame. The rich cultural crossroads of the Gulf Coast has created a unique mix of musical talent representing nearly every genre including rock, blues, swamp pop, soul, pop, western swing, jazz, and country.

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



Museum of the Gulf Coast

Photo Credit: museumofthegulfcoast.org



John Jay French House Museum

Photo Credit: Theresa Goodness

Beaumont Heritage Society

We are excited to announce that Camp Lookinback 2021 will be held July 13th – 16th! Camp Lookinback is a fun and educational four-day summer camp held on the grounds of the historic John Jay French museum. Children, ages 6-11, experience another time in Texas history while in a safe and enriching environment. Each day, children will get to perform hands on activities related to the 1800s. Camp Lookinback is fun for both boys and girls!

Registration is required and SPACE IS LIMITED to 45 CHILDREN and filled on a first come first serve basis. Cost per child is \$75.00 for Non-Members and \$65.00 for BHS Members.

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

McFaddin-Ward House Museum

The McFaddin-Ward House is currently offering free self-guided audio tours. These tours are available for the 1st floor of the McFaddin-Ward House, Carriage House, and Gardens from Wednesdays – Saturdays, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Credit: [McFaddin-Ward House Museum](http://McFaddin-WardHouseMuseum.org)



McFaddin-Ward House Museum

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

**JEFFERSON
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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/)



Spare Beaumont 1977
Mini-museum display
Photo Credit:
Linda McMahan

Jefferson County Historical Commission

Executive Board 2021 - 2022

Chairman, Theresa Goodness

1st Vice-Chairman, Bruce A. Hamilton

2nd Vice-Chairman, Don Smart

Treasurer, Linda McMahan

Secretary, Jen Trenbeath

**JCHC MINI-MUSEUM
SPARE BEAUMONT 1977**

The Jefferson County Historical Commission is proud to announce the opening of a new exhibit housed in the Jefferson County Mini-Museum located on the first floor of the Jefferson County Courthouse. The exhibit will be on display through June 15, 2021.

The exhibit, entitled “SPARE Beaumont 1977”, consists of 47 photographs and postcards. SPARE is an acronym for Survey and Preservation Analysis of Resources and Environment. “One of the primary purposes of this survey was to recognize and identify distinctive architectural resources within the community and determine their importance suggesting priorities for their preservation.”

The exhibit consists of selected then-and-now comparisons of the 1977 survey sites and what, if any, structures exist there today. Dr. Steven P. Lewis, a member of the Jefferson County Historical Commission, visited all 542 of the sites and made a comparison photograph of each. If a postcard exists for a site, a copy of the postcard is included.

There were four SPARE Beaumont Surveys. Lewis has done then-and-now comparisons for the 1977 and 1989 surveys. The number of sites for each year are:

1977.....542
1989.....546
1990.....727
1991.....780

Statistics of SPARE Beaumont 1977:

Number of addresses.....542
Number of addresses demolished.....357
Number of sites intact.....185
Percent of addresses demolished.....65.9%
Percent of addresses intact.....34.1%

For additional information on the exhibit, Dr. Lewis may be reached at historylewis48@gmail.com