

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

HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATIONS

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- July 16, 2025
- September 17, 2025
- November 19, 2025



Beaumont United NJROTC lead color guard, Ensemble member singing and Mrs. Dora Nisby, Historic Sacred Spaces board member during National Anthem. *Photo Credit, Katherine Leister*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Historical Marker Dedications	1-3
Marker Spotlight:	4
Upcoming Events	5

The spring saw three new historical markers dedication in Jefferson County! On April 26th, the Historic Texas Cemetery marker for the Pear Orchard Cemetery was dedicated, with a lovely service hosted by Historic Sacred Spaces, honoring those interred in the cemetery, as well as the builders of the Pear Orchard neighborhood. Descendants of the Hebert family and other community members were in attendance.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)



Pear Orchard Cemetery HTC Marker

Photo Credit: Kate Hambright

The marker for George O’Brien Millard, located at the southeast corner of Pearl and Bowie Street in downtown Beaumont, was dedicated on May 2, 2025 with descendants of George O’Brien Millard, members of the JCHC, and representatives from Beaumont Main Street and the City of Beaumont in attendance.



(Continued on page 3)

The sun shines over the newly installed George O’Brien Millard historical marker, installed next to the 1912 statue of Mr. Millard.

Photo credit: Jen Trenbeath

(Continued from page 2)

On June 12, 2025, a dedication was held for the historical marker recognizing the Temple to the Brave as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark. As a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL), the Temple will be protected with an additional level of review to ensure that any future changes comply with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards of Rehabilitation. The Temple to the Brave was built in 1932 by the Col. George Moffett Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, funded by the citizens of Beaumont, as a memorial to all those who have served in all wars.

**The Presentation of
Colors**

***Photo credit:
Theresa Goodness,
2025***



Temple to the Brave

***Photo credit: Kate
Hambright, 2023***

Two additional historical markers will have dedications in 2025, an additional Recorded Texas Historic Landmark marker at the former Sprott Hospital and a subject marker for Pandit Mehar Chand, an man who immigrated from India and moved to Beaumont in 1918. Announcements will be made for each dedication as the plans are finalized.

MARKER SPOTLIGHT: BEAUMONT: LUMBER MILL CITY OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY



The newly installed replacement historical marker, located now at the Downtown Event Centre on Crockett Street, after the original marker washed away during Hurricane Harvey. *Photo Credit: Kate Hambricht*

Beaumont, situated in forests, was a timber town at birth, and marked this site "Steam Mill Square" on its original plat. By 1840, Lucien Hopson had a saw pit on a canal to the south, floating in logs and floating out lumber. Hand-powered shingle and sash mills were soon operating. In the 1850s, steam mills were initiated. Pre-1861 mill firms included Phillips, Ross & Alexander, Otto Ruff, and A. J. Ward. After the Civil War (1861 -65) brought ruin, the mills helped the city recover. Bremer Lumber, Goldsmith & Reagan, Long & Long, and Pipkin & Haltom were operating by 1870. Beaumont Lumber Company, Olive & Sternenberg, Reliance, and the Smyth Brothers (Eagle Mill) were here by 1877. Later came Adams & Milmo, Globe Planing Mill, Industrial Lumber, Miller Vidor Lumber, Neches Lumber, the Southern Land & Lumber Company, and Texas Tram & Lumber Company. About 1900, tycoon John Henry Kirby bought several of the Beaumont mills. By the 1920s nearby forests were depleted. Log-floating on the Neches gave way to hauling by railroad, and the city mills were phased out in favor of mills in the woods.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 27—September 6— Historic Photos of Port Arthur, Museum of the Gulf Coast, 700 Procter Street, Port Arthur. For more information visit museumofthegulfcoast.org

July 17— Heritage Happy Hour at Taluka Trades, 2398 Laurel, Beaumont. 5:30 p.m. For more information visit beaumontheritage.org/events

July 24- “Are We Ever Through Playing?” Exhibit Opening, Chambers House Museum, 2240 Calder, Beaumont. 4:30 p.m. For more information visit beaumontheritage.org/events

July 31— Teacher Appreciation Happy Hour, McFaddin-Ward House Visitor Center, 1906 Calder, Beaumont. 5:00 p.m. For more information visit mcfaddin-ward.org/events

August 2— Echoes of Legacy— Dr. Victor Hebert, great-grandson of Usan Hebert. West Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church, 3605 Waco, Beaumont. 4:00 p.m. For more information or to RSVP call 409-782-9538

August 7— Agatha Babino: A Narrative of the Formerly Enslaved, Opening Night Reception, John Jay French House 3025 French Road, Beaumont. 5:30 p.m. For more information visit beaumontheritage.org/events

August 20- Herring Coe Sculpture Exhibit, Tyrrell Historical Library, 695 Pearl Street, Beaumont. 4:00 p.m.



1931 Jefferson County Courthouse Roof— a rarely seen aerial view from 2009 repairs.

GET IN TOUCH

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