

# JCHC JOURNAL

JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION VOLUME 2014, ISSUE 4

## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Members,

For the 33rd year in a row JCHC members have been recognized for our contributions to historic preservation. Each of you makes a difference in our community now and for future generations who will want to know and understand our history.



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

Happy Independence Day!

Theresa Goodness, JCHC Chair

### VOLUME 2014, ISSUE 4

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### JULY, 2014

#### Special points of interest:

- \* Next Meeting.
- \* Volunteer Hours.
- \* Mini-museum
- \* CLG News

## PRESERVATION TEXAS 2014 MOST ENDANGERED PLACES LIST

Preservation Texas has published their list of the most endangered places in Texas for 2014, and No. 10 on the list is a Jefferson County location:

Pig Stand No. 41  
1955 Calder Ave.,  
Beaumont, Texas

Read about this and other endangered places at:

<http://www.preservationtexas.org/news/2014-endangered-places-list/>

## 2013 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



2013 DSA Award Certificate  
Photo Credit: Theresa Goodness

On June 23, 2014, Jefferson County Commissioner’s Court recognized the dedication and spirit of volunteerism of JCHC members. Jeff Branick, County Judge, presented in open Court the 2013 Distinguished Service Award from the Texas Historical Commission. The award was accepted by Theresa Goodness, JCHC Chair, on behalf of the membership.

This year marks the 33rd year JCHC has been recognized by THC for our service in historical preservation.

## NEXT JCHC MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS IN 2014

|                    |      |                                  |
|--------------------|------|----------------------------------|
| July 24, 2014      | Noon | JCHC Conference Room Third Floor |
| September 25, 2014 | Noon | JCHC Conference Room Third Floor |
| December 11, 2014  | Noon | JCHC Conference Room Third Floor |

### VOLUNTEER HOURS

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. (Emeritus members do not have to meet this requirement.)

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
- Landmark Commission
- Texas Historical Foundation
- Friends of Sabine Pass Park
- Beaumont Main Street
- Museum of the Gulf Coast

## JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

The City of Beaumont recently hosted a Juneteenth celebration in Tyrrell Park to commemorate the anniversary of the news arriving in Texas that President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation freeing the slaves. An estimated 10,000 people attended the event.



City of Beaumont  
Juneteenth Celebration in Tyrrell Park  
Photo Credit: City of Beaumont



Visit the Library of Congress for first person stories of former slaves in Southeast Texas:

[\*Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936-1938\*](#)

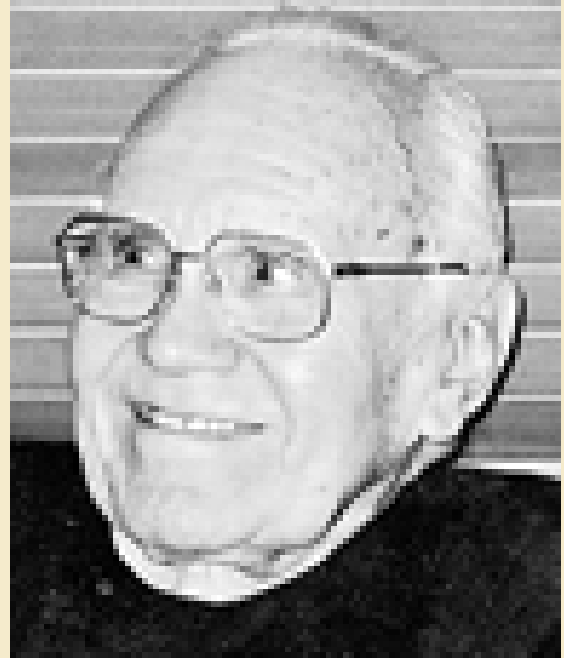
Andrew Moody, former slave in Orange County, and wife, Tildy  
Photo Credit: [Library of Congress](#)



## NEWS OF BILL QUICK'S BOOK OF SABINE PASS HISTORY

Coordinator Linda McMahan has approached Judy Linsley of the McFaddin – Ward House Museum in regards to the book manuscript of long-time member William D. “Bill” Quick. Bill died in December 2009. He was in the final stages of completing his long awaited book. Mrs. Linsley has forwarded a list of chapters completed and information available for possible additional chapters.

Linda will share several suggestions for the future of Bill’s manuscript at the next JCHC meeting to be held Thursday, July 24, 2014. Your suggestions and assistance in completing this important piece of Jefferson County history will be greatly appreciated. As most of you know, Bill’s love was for the people and history of Sabine Pass. This book contains much of that history.



William D. “Bill” Quick

Photo Credit: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/beamontenterprise/obituary.aspx?n=william-d-quick-bill&pid=137140835>

## COURTHOUSE TIDBITS

While going through files and boxes in the Historical Commission library, a crumbly, torn picture of the Bench and Bar of Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas, 1902 was discovered.

Bradley Davis, member of the Historical Commission Advisory Council, has pieced the picture together and is working on a special frame to contain the picture. Mr. Davis works in the Courthouse and has saved many historical artifacts during previous restorations that had been put in the trash. At present, he is one of two County employees painting the halls on the first and second floors of the Courthouse. Next time you are in the Courthouse, please visit the completed second floor and see how the Courthouse looked in its grandeur.

## TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION HOSTS TRAINING WEBINARS

### Texas Historical Commission Offers Free Summer Webinars

AUSTIN, Texas —

Join the Texas Historical Commission (THC) this summer for three, free online workshops. On July 8, the THC's Museum Services Program and Texas Heritage Trails Program are partnering with the Texas Association of Museums to present a webinar on the effective use of images in interpretive storytelling. The THC's Historical Markers Program is hosting webinars on July 22 and August 14 about conducting research and applying for an Official Texas Historical Marker.

“Selecting Strong Imagery for Interpretive Stories” is a one-hour webinar about how to best choose photographs, maps, and other images to incorporate into compelling stories. Instruction will include such examples as exhibit panels, display case text, object labels, signage, outdoor waysides, brochures, and other interpretive printed pieces. It will also touch on the basics of graphic design and composition.

Taking place on Tuesday, July 8, from 10–11 a.m., the webinar is primarily designed for people who work or volunteer for museums, historic sites, tourist destinations, and other organizations that seek to increase traffic to tourism sites in and around their communities. It accompanies a previous series of six workshops about using storytelling in interpretive writing, which were held around the state in June. The instructor for the workshops and webinar is Erin McClelland, an Austin-based independent interpretive specialist who works with small- to medium-sized museums. To register, visit [www.texasmuseums.org/selecting-strong-imagery.html](http://www.texasmuseums.org/selecting-strong-imagery.html).

The historical marker webinars will be conducted by THC staff on Tuesday, July 22, from 2–3:30 p.m. and Thursday, August 14, from 2–3:30 p.m. They are part of an annual series of statewide marker workshops that provide an overview of important historical research fundamentals. Participants walk through a sample Official Texas Historical Marker application and narrative, and are presented information on such topics as historical significance and integrity, primary and secondary sources, research tools, writing the narrative, and the roles of the THC and county historical commissions (CHCs) in the application process. An RSVP is required for participation. To reserve your space, please email [history@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:history@thc.state.tx.us) or call 512.463.5853.

Space is limited for all the webinars. For more information, contact the THC's History Programs Division at 512.463.5853, or visit [www.thc.state.tx.us](http://www.thc.state.tx.us).

Credit: [Texas Historical Commission website](http://www.thc.state.tx.us)

## MUSEUM OF THE GULF COAST OPENS TIME CAPSULE

In July, 1994, members of the Museum of the Gulf Coast decided to gather items for a time capsule to be opened in twenty years. This week the public was invited to the opening of a new exhibit at the museum “Fifty Years, Fifty Objects” which features items from Port Arthur’s past. The opening also celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the museum and the fiftieth anniversary of the Port Arthur Historical Society which runs the museum with Lamar Port Arthur.



Unfortunately the time capsule did not weather the years unscathed. Groundwater and possibly chemicals in the groundwater infiltrated the capsule and destroyed most of its contents. Undaunted, museum director, David Beard, promised a new time capsule would be constructed of better materials and water barriers, and would this time be buried above ground water level. The new time capsule will be opened to mark the fifty year anniversary

of the Museum of the Gulf Coast in 2044.

## OPEN HOUSES TO HIGHLIGHT MID-CENTURY TEXAS BRIDGES

**AUSTIN, Texas** —The Texas Historical Commission (THC) is working closely with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Historic Bridge Foundation (HBF) to engage Texans in conversation about historic bridges. This month and next, the groups will co-host three open houses around the state to discuss bridges constructed between 1945 and 1965, a period marked by innovative designs and experiments with concrete and steel.

Texas retains about 15,000 bridges built during the post-World War II period, and the THC, TxDOT, and HBF are seeking input about which structures best represent that era’s important technological advances. Through extensive surveys, TxDOT identified more than 100 bridges eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NR). Unlike metal truss structures, most mid-20th century bridges cannot be moved to new locations when roadways require widening or reconfiguration. Through a forthcoming agreement between the THC, TxDOT, and HBF, plans are underway to identify the most significant of the NR-eligible bridges and what steps might be taken to mitigate the loss of others in the future. Public input is a critical part of the project. The three open houses will offer the public an opportunity to view photos of the historic bridges, ask questions of those involved in the process, and provide input about significance and future steps. Additional information is available on both the THC and TxDOT websites. The events will take place on Tuesday, July 29, at the Emmie Seele Faust Memorial Library in New Braunfels; Tuesday, August 5, at the Grapevine Visitor Information Center in Grapevine; and Thursday, August 14, at the Moody Mansion in Galveston. For more information about the open house events, please visit [www.thc.state.tx.us/learn/historic-bridges-texas](http://www.thc.state.tx.us/learn/historic-bridges-texas). Credit: [Texas Historical Commission website](http://Texas Historical Commission website)

## AREA MUSEUM UPCOMING EVENTS

### Museum of the Gulf Coast

#### Music Legends

More than sixty 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, soul, pop, western swing, jazz and country.



Museum of the Gulf Coast  
Photo Credit: museumofthegulfcoast.org



Chambers House  
Photo Credit: chambershouse.org

### 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 will be permanently placed just one block away and restored.

### McFaddin Ward House

#### Mondays at the Museum

The McFaddin-Ward House and LoveYoga are excited to bring you Mondays at the Museum. The McFaddin-Ward House will open up its lawn on the last Monday of the month for a little bit of yoga and a lot of scenic surroundings. Join us on the east lawn of the museum for a donation-based session. It all starts at 6:45 pm!



McFaddin Ward House  
Photo Credit: mcfaddin-ward.org

**JEFFERSON  
COUNTY  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION**

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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/>

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Pipkin Park marker  
Photo Credit:  
Theresa Goodness



Jefferson County Historical Commission

Executive Board 2013 - 2014

Chairman, Theresa Goodness

Vice-Chairman, Les McMahan

Secretary/Treasurer, Paul Prosperie

Immediate Past Chairman, Ron Ellington

**“WHISPERS OF THE PAST”  
JCHC MINI-MUSEUM  
JULY 2014**

The Jefferson County Historical Commission is sponsoring an exhibit by Bruce Hamilton housed in the Mini Museum. The exhibit, entitled “Whispers of the Past,” contains various pieces of Jefferson County History such as the wooden box which held the launching bottle for “M. V. Cape Faro” used by Mrs. John H. McGregor for the Pennsylvania Shipyards, Beaumont, January 17, 1944; souvenir cup and saucer from the Jefferson County Courthouse; and a small light tan zipper case with “Rita

Ainsworth” stamped in gold.

Thank you, Bruce, for sharing these special pieces of Jefferson County history. If you have a collection you would like to place in the JCHC Mini Museum, please contact Linda (409 835 8701 or [histcomm@co.jefferson.tx.us](mailto:histcomm@co.jefferson.tx.us)) for more information.