

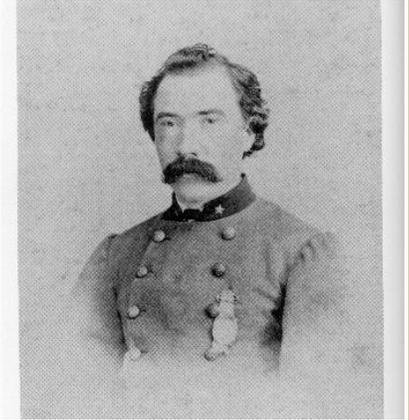
JCHC JOURNAL

JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION VOLUME 2013, ISSUE 5

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Members,

The 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Sabine Pass, also known as Dick Dowling Days, was a resounding success! Due to the meticulous planning of DDD Chair, Mike McGreevy, and the assistance of many others, over 300 reenactors participated in this the largest living history commemoration in our county in many years.



Richard "Dick" Dowling

Dick Dowling Days 2013 was dedicated to the memory of our departed friend, Bill Quick, who founded the Friends of Sabine Pass Battleground, and worked tirelessly during his lifetime to preserve the history of Sabine Pass.

Many thanks to our members who assisted in registering reenactors, photographed the event, or attended the memorial service and other events.

Theresa Goodness, JCHC Chair

VOLUME 2013, ISSUE 5

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OCTOBER, 2013

Special points of interest:

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

CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS

The CLG Chair, Ramona Hutchinson, has submitted a Letter of Intent to the Texas Historical Commission for the upcoming grant

year.

We intend to apply for a grant to perform the first part of a historical survey of the county which would be a

“windshield survey”.

Hopefully our grant application will meet with a favorable reply from THC.

JCHC SPEAKS OUT ON TYRRELL PARK COMMUNITY BUILDING



Tyrrell Park Community Building
Photo Credits: Leslie McMahan



On Tuesday, August 27, 2013, the Beaumont City Council held a meeting to discuss budgetary matters and capital projects for the upcoming 2013-2014 budget year.

Theresa Goodness, Chair, Ron Ellington, Immediate Past Chair, Ramona Hutchinson, CLG Chair, and Linda McMahan, JCHC Coordinator, were in attendance to lend our support for the restoration of the historic Tyrrell Park Community Building.

Theresa Goodness and Darlene Chodzinski, Beaumont Heritage Society Director, each addressed city council with remarks concerning the important history of the building and the need to act quickly to save the structure, which no longer has an intact roof.

Councilman Jamie Smith also spoke in support of placing the restoration on the capital projects list. The City has acted to remove to protective storage any elements which might be damaged by weather or vandals, pending restoration of the building.

Ron Ellington and Ramona Hutchinson visit the park frequently and have been vigilant stewards of the building. Many thanks to both of them for alerting the commission to issues at the site.

NEXT JCHC MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS IN 2013

October 10, 2013	Noon	JCHC Conference Room—Third Floor
December 5, 2013	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

PRESERVATION PARTNERS

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

HARDIN COUNTY MUSEUM GRAND OPENING BY PAUL PROSPERIE



Something new is afoot in Hardin County. Our neighbors to the north have opened a well-constructed museum that will not only benefit Hardin County but all of Southeast Texas. I was on hand at the ribbon-cutting ceremony at 830 Maple Street in Kountze, Texas, and was definitely not alone in the celebration. Many locals pitched up to see just what the determined members of the Hardin County Genealogical Society and Library (HCGS) had established. All I can say is that they have done a fantastic job. I know that loads of hard work went into the creation of this treasured site.

The museum is located in the old Hardin County State Bank building, which was built circa 1916. Purchased in 2009 by the HCGS, the building's renovation was undertaken by its volunteers and funded through donations, grants, and proceeds from book sales.

The second floor of the museum houses the Hardin County Historical Commission. It has been refurbished and transformed into a grand meeting place for its members.

Overall, the museum is an excellent venue for anyone looking for historical information on Hardin County. The people I met there seemed eager to promote their vast heritage, and I for one place high value on the work they are doing. I look forward with great anticipation to hearing more about the developments in Hardin County and rediscovering this part of Southeast Texas.

Hardin County Museum
Grand Opening

Photo Credits:
Paul Prosperie



INVITATION TO REGIONAL COMMISSION MEETING

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen: We at the Hardin County Historical Commission would be honored if you will join us in a regional meeting of area commissions. The meeting is to be held in Kountze, Texas at 830 Maple Street on Saturday, October 19th at 11:00 am. We will furnish lunch and a program in the Legion Hall/County Seat Entertainment building located next door to the Museum of Hardin County in which our offices are located. We will be pleased for you to tour our offices and the museum while you are here.

The central goal of the meeting is to provide an opportunity for fellowship and a platform in which to network in our common goals of historic preservation within our Southeast Texas area. We would appreciate a member of each commission giving us an insight on projects they are working on along with advice and information that might be helpful to the entire group.

We request that each commission advise their members of this meeting and provide an RSVP message back to us by October 10th. Please RSVP by email or phone to 409-246-3447 ext "O"

Thank you for all the good work you do in your respective counties and please join us on the 19th.

HARDIN COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION, J A McKIM, III, Chair

DICK DOWLING DAYS 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF BATTLE OF SABINE PASS BY PAUL PROSPERIE

The 150th anniversary of Dick Dowling Days has come and gone; but for all who witnessed or participated in the event, the memories of this successful weekend will last a lifetime. Many hours were spent in preparation and planning by a handful of people who should be commended for their unyielding determination. One person, JCHC member, Michael McGreevy, in particular, went above and beyond the call of duty. We salute him.

The big highlights of the weekend were the scenarios and battles commemorating the sesquicentennial of the Battle of Sabine Pass. The JCHC-sponsored memorial service was particularly special this year, as Ed Cotham, the keynote speaker, was joined by Texas State Representative James White, who read his resolution to the Texas House of Representatives honoring the 150th anniversary of the battle .

This event was the biggest in Dick Dowling Days' history, with over 300 re-enactors participating in the festivities and many more spectators enjoying the living history celebrations. Thank you to all who got involved. Your contribution is greatly appreciated.



Dick Dowling Days 2013 Photographs

Photo Credits: Paul Prosperie



AREA MUSEUM UPCOMING EVENTS

Museum of the Gulf Coast

Temporary Exhibits

- *Requiem for Steam: Railroad Photographs of David Plowden*

October - December 2013

Credit: <http://www.museumofthegulfcoast.org/rotating-exhibits.html>



Museum of the Gulf Coast
Photo Credit: museumofthegulfcoast.org



Chambers House
Photo Credit: chambershouse.org

Chambers House

The Beaumont Heritage Society welcomes visitors to the Chambers Historical House Museum. The House is open for tours Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Saturday tour hours are from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Admission fee is \$3.00 for adults, \$2.00 for senior citizens and \$1.00 for students. Groups of 10 or more, please call (409) 832-4010 for reservations.

Credit: <http://www.chambershouse.org/>

McFaddin Ward House

October 17 @ 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Join us for our next community picnic event and neighborhood tour! Picnickers are invited to dine al fresco on the museum grounds and enjoy the sounds of "The Community Quartet," a local jazz ensemble. The event is free and open to everyone. Free first-floor tours of the museum will be offered, and information on the "Our Town" project will be available for those interested in touring what would have been the McFaddins' neighborhood to learn about the businesses and homes.

Credit: <http://mcfaddin-ward.org/events/>



McFaddin Ward House
Photo Credit: mcfaddin-ward.org

**JEFFERSON
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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/>



Sabin Pass Battleground
Union Casualties
Commemorative
Marker

Photo Credit: Leslie McMahan

Jefferson County Historical Commission

Executive Board 2013 - 2014

Chairman, Theresa Goodness

Vice-Chairman, Les McMahan

Secretary/Treasurer, Paul Prosperie

Immediate Past Chairman, Ron Ellington



Sabine Pass Battleground
Interpretive Panel
Photo Credit: Texas Historical
Commission

**JCHC MINI-MUSEUM
OCTOBER 2013**

JCHC is seeking a replacement exhibit for the mini-museum.

Please contact Linda McMahan, JCHC Coordinator, if you have any suggestions.