

JCHC JOURNAL

JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION VOLUME 2016, ISSUE 5

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Members,
 We are excited to host Dr. Kerry Nichols, East Texas Regional Archeologist, with the Texas Historical Commission, for a presentation on Wednesday, October 12, 2016 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., in the Jury Impaneling Room at the Jefferson County Courthouse.



Artifacts found at 2011 Spindletop site excavation
 Photo Credit: Theresa Goodness

Dr. Nichols will be discussing a prehistoric and historic chronological and cultural background for Southeast Texas Archeology, as well as significant recent cultural resource management projects in our area to include McFaddin Beach, Luce Bayou and possibly others.

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

Theresa Goodness, JCHC Chair

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SEPTEMBER, 2016

Special points of interest:

- * Jefferson County Fast Facts
- * Scavenger Hunt
- * The Oaks Historic Neighborhood Association Meeting

JEFFERSON COUNTY FAST FACTS

\$10.00

Cost to county to send groceries to family of Mary Manning in October, 1916, who were sick and in destitute circumstances.

\$250.00

Monthly salary in September, 1916 of County Road Engineer.

\$400.00

Price of highest offer in September, 1916 to purchase the county's Cadillac automobile which Commissioner's Court had put up for sale.

JCHC TIDBITS
FROM COORDINATOR, LINDA MCMAHEN

- Currently working on adding to the JCHC inventory of our library books and maps, which is estimated to be complete by October 1, 2016. The completed list will then be shared with JCHC members and on our website.
- Also working on our Cemetery master list. If anyone locates a “new” cemetery, please check with the office so we can include it in our files. If you have pictures to share, that would be helpful also.
- The JCHC Conference Room is on temporary loan to Judge Branick to be used as a research law library for the public.

JCHC MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS IN 2016

September 28, 2016	Noon	Ben Rogers Regional Visitor’s Center
November 16, 2016	Noon	JCHC Conference Room, Third Floor 1149 Pearl St., Beaumont, TX

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

NEDERLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

Linda McMahan and Paul Prosperie attended the Nederland Historical Society meeting on September 1, 2016, where Glenn Koelemay and Sherrill Nero Duncan shared their family history of early pioneer days in Nederland.

Maarten Koelemay established Koelemay Dairy after he and his family arrived in Nederland from Holland in 1898. He needed workers to help him on his farm and was able to hire Acadienne pioneers from Nova Scotia. Sherrill Nero Duncan is a descendant of one of the original families from Nova Scotia.

W.T. Block's website has an interesting history of the Koelemay family which can be found [here](#). Also the University of Texas San Antonio online collection has a lovely studio photograph of [Mr. and Mrs. Marteen Koelemay](#) and a photograph of the exterior view of the [Koelemay home](#) from around 1910.



Photographs of Nederland Historical Society's September Meeting at Marion and Ed Hughes Public Library
Photo Credits: Paul Prosperie

SEPTEMBER AT THE CLIFTON STEAMBOAT MUSEUM AND EVENT COMPLEX

Beaumont Camera Club Exhibit and Opening Happy Hour

Monday, September 12 at 6 PM - 8 PM

The Clifton Steamboat Museum will be displaying a temporary exhibit by the Beaumont Camera Club featuring photos of Texas. Join us for our Opening Night Happy Hour Monday, September 12 from 6-8pm. The cost is \$5 or free for museum members. Wine, beer, coffee and water will be available. This exhibit will be on display from September 12 - November 11, 2016. The museum is open on Mondays from 8:30 - 11:00 am or by appointment for tours.

Story Time at the Clifton

Friday, September 23 at 10am

Join us at the Clifton for Story Time. You and your child will have the opportunity to enjoy story time, sing songs and color. This is a free event.

Smithsonian Museum Day Live!

Saturday, September 24, 2016 from 10am - 2pm

Enjoy free Saturday admission to the Clifton Steamboat Museum as we participate in the annual Smithsonian Museum Day Live! The first floor of the museum will be open from 10AM-2PM, Saturday, September 24, 2016.

Paint in the Pub

Thursday, September 29 from 6pm to 8pm

Join us for an adult art class and enjoy a glass of wine. Each month will be a different project. This month you will have a choose of football or candy corn door hanger.

Spots limited. Admission is \$35. You must pay in advance to reserve your spot. We will provide the wine, you bring snacks and FRIENDS!

Information provided by Sarah Hearn Wells, Sarah@CliftonSteamboatMuseum.com

CLG COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING

PORT NECHES



Author Elton Gish

Photo Credits: Paul Prosperie

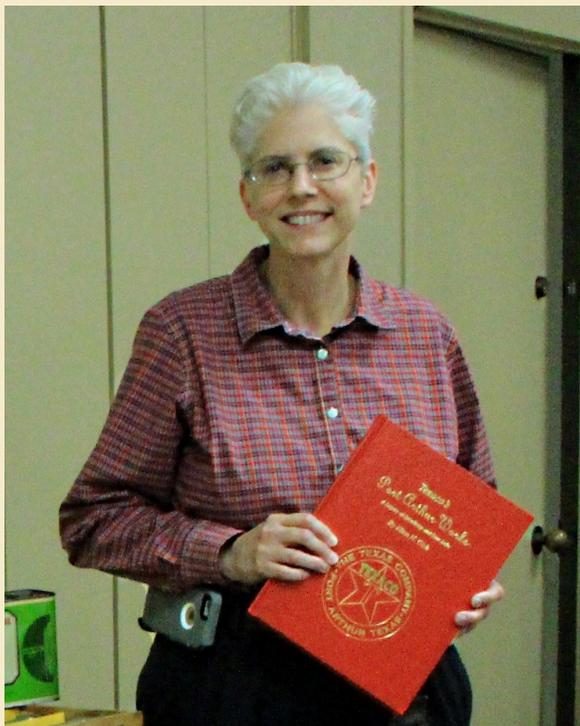
On Tuesday, September 13, 2016, the CLG committee held a committee outreach meeting at Hebert Library in Port Neches. The speaker was Elton Gish, a retired Chemical Engineer from Texaco, who authored a book about Texaco's history entitled, *Texaco, Port Arthur Works*.

Mr. Gish gave a fascinating history of Texaco's Port Arthur Works and Port Neches plant, complete with historic photographs he recovered from Texaco's records room. With the blessing of the plant manager at the time, Mr. Gish rescued pallets of historic photographs and negatives, some of which were used in an onsite museum. A number of these fascinating photographs can be viewed and appreciated in his book, some dating to the earliest days of the Texas Fuel Company which became Texaco.

In addition to the presentation Mr. Gish brought a sampling of his extensive Texaco memorabilia collection of cans.

Part of the extensive collection of Texaco memorabilia owned by Elton Gish

Photo Credits: Paul Prosperie



Theresa Goodness holding her copy of *Texaco, Port Arthur Works* authored by Elton Gish

Photo Credits: Paul Prosperie



BEAUMONT LANDMARK COMMISSION

Beaumont Landmark Commission meetings are held the second Monday at 3:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, located on the 1st floor of City Hall, 801 Main Street, Beaumont, TX. Meetings are open to the public.

At the last meeting on June 13, 2016, an item was considered for a request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to allow a metal carport in the front yard at 2639 Louisiana.

Jessie Davis is JCHC's representative on the commission.

PORT ARTHUR LANDMARK COMMISSION

Port Arthur Landmark Commission meetings are held in Council Chambers, located on the fifth floor of City Hall, Council Chambers, Fifth Floor, 444 Fourth Street, Port Arthur, TX. Meetings are open to the public. Due to a lack of items to consider, no meetings are currently scheduled.

In one item of note, in July, 2016, the Port Arthur City Council appointed a replacement to the Landmark Commission after receiving a letter of resignation from Peter Kaatrude, a former longtime JCHC member and Chair who recently resigned as Dean of Library Services at the Gates Memorial Library, Lamar State College-Port Arthur.

Les McMahan is JCHC's representative on the commission.

THE OAKS HISTORIC DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING

Every second Monday at 7:00 p.m. this historic neighborhood association meets at the McFaddin-Ward Visitor's Center.

Some of the association's past projects include sponsoring landscaping for Pecos Blvd. and Beech Street; providing Art Bike Racks along Calder Avenue; and raising funds to establish in conjunction with the City the Ida Reed Dog Park at Louisiana Street and Seventh Street.

The association's current project is sponsoring landscaping for the newly finished Seventh Street.

BEAUMONT HERITAGE SOCIETY HERITAGE HAPPY HOUR TYRRELL HISTORICAL LIBRARY

Beaumont Heritage Society hosted their bi-monthly Heritage Happy Hour at the Tyrrell Historical Library on Thursday, August 25, 2016. The event highlighted the accomplishments and philanthropic activities of Captain W.C. Tyrrell who purchased the building in 1923 after the First Baptist Church congregation moved to another location. Captain Tyrrell donated the building to the City of Beaumont to be used as its first public library which opened in 1926 and was the city's main library until 1974. A large addition to the library was completed in 2010.

Jeff Courts, in the persona of Captain Tyrrell, regaled the attendees with stories about his family life, business dealings, and his legacy in the city, such as his donations to the city of the Tyrrell Historical Library building and land for Tyrrell Park.

Tyrrell Historical Library
Photo Credit: Theresa Goodness



Photographs of Beaumont Heritage Society's
Happy Hour at the Tyrrell Historical Library
Photo Credits: Paul Prosperie



DICK DOWLING DAYS 2016

A memorial service was held in Sabine Pass on Saturday, September 10th, both to commemorate the 153rd anniversary of the Battle of Sabine Pass, and to honor those who fought and died there. Bruce Hamilton, Dick Dowling Camp #1295 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV) Commander and JCHC member, spoke on the battle history and also gave recognition to historian Bill Quick for his timeless research on the battle, and Sabine Pass in general. Dena Lambert, President of the Dick Dowling Chapter 404 of the UDC, read the roll call of the Davis Guards, while Brian Shajari played the bagpipes.

Dick Dowling Days
Ron Strybos, left and
Bagpiper, Brian Shajari, right
Photo Credit: Paul Prosperie



Dick Dowling Days
Brian Shajari, Bagpiper
Photo Credits: Paul Prosperie



AREA MUSEUM UPCOMING EVENTS

Museum of the Gulf Coast

Wildlife October 8 - January 14, 2017
Free Family Fun Day

Artists Vicki McMillan of the Woodlands (featured in 2014's prestigious Birds in Art) and local artist and Lamar State College Port Arthur art professor Albert Faggard will share the stage in a celebration of fur, feathers, and scales with a special focus on environmental issues affect the creatures we share our world with. Credit: [Museum of the Gulf Coast website](http://www.museumofthegulfcoast.org)



Museum of the Gulf Coast
Photo Credit: museumofthegulfcoast.org



John Jay French House Museum
Photo Credit: Theresa Goodness

The John Jay French House Museum

Pumpkin Walk

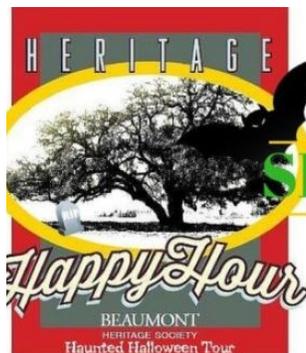
October 15 @ 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

On Saturday, October 15th, the Beaumont Heritage Society is hosting our annual "Pumpkin Walk" on the grounds of the historic John Jay French Museum from 6 pm – 9 pm. Use your creativity to decorate or carve a pumpkin and enter it in our contest (scroll to the bottom of the page for entry form)! The "Best" pumpkin in several categories will be selected by ballot and prizes will be awarded, so gather your friends and family to come vote...

Credit: [John Jay French House Museum website](http://www.jayfrenchhousemuseum.org)

Chamber House Museum

Haunted Halloween
Heritage Happy Hour
October 20, 2016
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.



Heritage Happy Hour Haunted Halloween Tour

Photo Credit:

[Beaumont Heritage Society website](http://www.beaumontheritagesociety.org)

**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/)

Captain W.C. Tyrrell Farm
which was located at
Fannett Road and Brooks
Road.

Photo Credit: JCHC
Archives



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

SCAVENGER HUNT

HOSTED BY THE MUSEUM OF THE GULF COAST



CHECK IN at the Museum of the Gulf Coast to sign up and see the Scavenger Hunt List.

CHECK OUT historical sites in Jefferson County. When you find a site, document your visit with a photograph!

CHECK OFF items by delivering your answers and photographs to the Museum of the Gulf Coast. THE FIRST TO CHECK OFF ALL 30 SITES WILL RECEIVE A PRIZE! PARTICIPATION IS FREE AND OPEN TO ALL AGES!

• THE HUNT BEGINS -

• August 22 (9:00 am) — October 1, 2016

BONUS CATEGORIES:

SHUTTERBUG— Awarded for the best photographs.

HUNT HISTORIAN— Awarded for providing additional information about the marker site or historical photographs we haven't seen before.

SOCIAL MEDIA SUPERSTAR— Like and Share! If your Facebook post (tagging the Museum of the Gulf Coast) gets more likes or shares than any other Scavenger Hunt post, we'll have a special prize for you!

For more information, email bellianse@lamarpa.edu or call 409-984-6446.