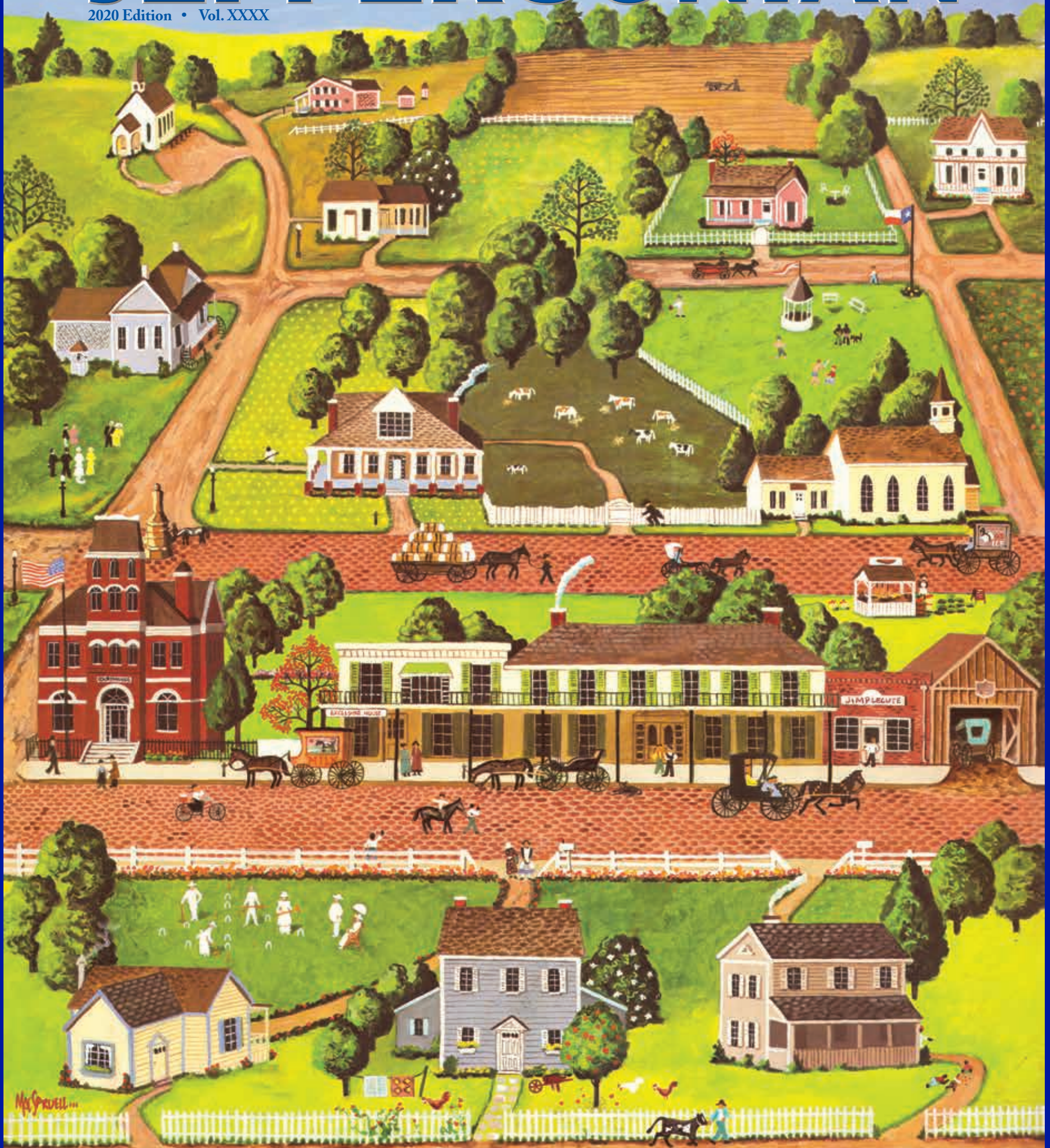


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2020 Edition • Vol. XXXX





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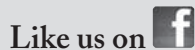
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Front Cover Artwork Provided by Mac Spruell

Mac Spruell is a self-taught artist and retired anthropology professor. Mac has been a commercial artist and also a river guide on the Big Cypress Bayou. His art is found in collections all over the world. Mac has been making art for over 65 years. He presently lives in Jefferson, Texas."

HJF

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Calendar of Events

DATES EVENTS

JANUARY

Jan. 2	Jefferson Jam Session at 205 Venue
Jan. 7	JAWGC Twelfth Night Chili Dinner / Excelsior Hotel
Jan. 11	Krewe of Hebe / Krazy Hat Party
Jan. 15	2nd Annual Chamber Gold Nail Membership Gala / Enoch's Stomp
Jan. 16	Jefferson Historical Museum Lecture Service - Houdini
Jan. 16-18	20th Anniversary Pulpwood Queen Book Club Convention / Girlfriend Weekend
Jan. 18	JAWGC Girlfriend Weekend Luncheon / Transportation Center
Jan. 19	Martin Luther King Day Parade
Jan. 20	Martin Luther King Day Youth Program
Jan. 20	Martin Luther King Day Banquet
Jan. 24-25	Jefferson Quilt Show, "Quilts on the Bayou" / Jefferson Institute
Jan. 30	Ezra Charles Concert / Excelsior Hotel

FEBRUARY

Feb. 1	Wedding Expo / Jefferson Institute
Feb. 3	Author Visit - When the Men were Gone / Jefferson Carnegie Library
Feb. 6	Jefferson Jam Session at 205 Venue
Feb. 8	Queen Mab Ball / Krewe of Hebe / Mardi Gras
Feb. 13	Wine & Cheese Chamber Mixer / Jefferson Carnegie Library
Feb. 16	Chocolate Sunday - Opera House Theatre Players
Feb. 16	Krewe of Hebe T-shirt and Poster Party
Feb. 21-23	Mardi Gras Upriver Celebration Weekend - "Holidays on the Bayou"
Feb. 22	JAWGC Mardi Gras Meat Pie Sale / Excelsior Hotel

MARCH

Mar. 13	6th Annual Route 49 Rally and Festival
Mar. 13-14	KnightLight Tavern Medieval Wine Fair
Mar. 14	Saint Patrick's Day Special Train / Historic Jefferson Railway
Mar. 17	JAWGC St Patrick's Day Supper / Excelsior Hotel
Mar. 19-20	Spring Break Special Train / Historic Jefferson Railway
Mar. 28	Annual Jefferson Carnegie Library Golf Tournament

APRIL

Apr. 2-5	18th Annual AHRMA International Vintage Motocross / Diamond Don RV Park
Apr. 3-5	City Wide Rummage Sale (Spring)
Apr. 4	History Haunts & Legends April 5 WOJO Rabbit Run/Walk - 5k
Apr. 9	JAWGC Flower Show / Excelsior Hotel
Apr. 11	Easter Egg Express Train / Historic Jefferson Railway
Apr. 16	Jefferson Historical Museum Lecture Series - TBA
Apr. 17-19	Outlaw Nationals Antique Rod Show
Apr. 18	1st Annual Thomas Jefferson Birthday Jubilee
Apr. 30	73rd Pilgrimage - "Bygone Days on the Bayou"
Apr. 30	Diamond Bessie Murder Trial / Jefferson Playhouse

MAY

May 1	Civil War Living History, "Day of Learning" / Diamond Don RV Park
May 1-3	73rd Pilgrimage - "Bygone Days on the Bayou"
May 1-3	Diamond Bessie Murder Trial / Jefferson Playhouse
May 2	Kim Lake Memorial Cooking for Kids State Championship BBQ

DATES EVENTS

May 2-3	Battle for Jefferson Civil War Reenactment
May 2-3	Naval Battle of Port Jefferson & Great Locomotive Chase
May 3	JAWGC Pilgrimage Luncheon / Excelsior Hotel
May 9	Mother's Day Express Special Gas-Powered Train / Historic Jefferson Railway
May 16-17	Historic Jefferson Train Show / Jefferson Visitor's Center
May 17	Sunday Social and Shoot-Out / General Store
May 23	Memorial Day Celebration Gas-Powered Train / Historic Jefferson Railway
May 24-25	KnightLight Tavern Honeybee Festival

JUNE

June 4-6	Big Cypress Corvette Weekend
June 7-9	East Texas Performing Arts Musical
June 20	Father's Day Express Special Gas-Powered Train Ride

JULY

July 4	Jefferson Salutes America / Otstott Park
July 4	Special Steam Train - 4th of July Celebration / Historic Jefferson Railway
July 16	Jefferson Historical Museum Lecture Series - TBA

AUGUST

Aug. 7	Meet the Speaker / Civil War Symposium
Aug. 8	Civil War Symposium

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 5	Special Steam Train - Labor Day Celebration / Historic Jefferson Railway
Sept. 12	Jefferson Antique Tractor Show
Sept. 25-27	36th Norton Owners Association Rallye / Diamond Don's Motorsports & RV Park
Sept. 26	Wings & Wheels / Cypress River Airport Fly-In

OCTOBER

Oct. 2-4	City Wide Rummage Sale (Fall)
Oct. 9-11	Jefferson Burn Benefit
Oct. 15	Jefferson Historical Museum Lecture Series - TBA
Oct. 15-17	Texas Sounds International Country Music Awards
Oct. 16	Big Foot Conference
Oct. 17	Marion County Fair / Kellyville, TX
Oct. 18	30th Annual Taste of Jefferson

NOVEMBER

Nov. 7	History, Haunts & Legends / Convention & Visitor's Center
Nov. 27-28	Christmas Express Gas-Powered Train / Historic Jefferson Railway
Nov. 30	Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting Ceremony

DECEMBER

Dec. 3-5	37th Jefferson Candlelight Tour of Homes
Dec. 4-5	Christmas Express Gas-Powered Train / Historic Jefferson Railway
Dec. 5	East Texas Performing Arts Candlelight Party
Dec. 10-12	37th Jefferson Candlelight Tour of Homes
Dec. 11-12	Christmas Express Gas-Powered Train / Historic Jefferson Railway
Dec. 18-19	Christmas Express Gas-Powered Train / Historic Jefferson Railway
Dec. 26	Christmas Express Gas-Powered Train / Historic Jefferson Railway

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Sunday 7:15 - 7:45 a.m.

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73rd Annual Jefferson Historical Pilgrimage

“Bygone Days on the Bayou”

April 30, May 1 - 3, 2020

The Jessie Allen Wise Garden Club is proudly presenting the 73rd Annual Historical Pilgrimage, April 30, May 1-3, 2020. This year's Historical Pilgrimage, Bygone Days on the Bayou, brings to mind the historical significance of Jefferson as the farthest inland port traveled by steamboat in the 1800s.

The five performances of the 66th annual Diamond Bessie Murder Trial are scheduled for Thursday, April 30, and Friday, May 1 at 7:30 PM; Saturday, May 2 at 5:30 and 8:30 PM; and Sunday, May 3 at 2 PM.

Tickets to the play will be available beginning January 2, 2020, by calling the Diamond Bessie ticket-line, 903-665-0737. For complete details, see the special Diamond Bessie story in this edition.

Tours of four historic homes, Twin Oaks Plantation, The Grove, The Terry House, and The Sagamore, are scheduled on Friday, May 1 and Saturday, May 2, 11 AM – 5 PM. Adult

tickets are \$25 each and tickets for children 12 years and younger are \$3 each. To purchase advance tickets for a discounted price of \$24 each, visit www.jeffersonpilgrimage.com. During Pilgrimage weekend, tickets will be available beginning at 9:30 each morning at Pilgrimage headquarters, The Excelsior House, 211 W. Austin Street. All tickets are non-refundable.

Twilight Garden Tours are scheduled for Friday and Saturday, 5 PM – 7:30 PM. Gardens included are Wise Manor, Lisa's Garden, Otstott Garden, and Steele Garden.

The always-popular Pilgrimage parade is scheduled for 10 AM on Saturday. Grand Marshal of the parade is Michael Riordan and wife Carla. Beginning at Lions Park, the parade proceeds down Jefferson Street to Market before turning left on Austin Street. One of the highlights of the parade will be the town skirmish featuring re-enactors in town

for The Battle for Jefferson, a Civil War re-enactment.

Tours of Jay Gould's private rail car, The Atalanta, will be hosted on Friday and Saturday, 11 AM – 2 PM, and Sunday, 10 AM – 2 PM. Non-refundable tickets are \$5.00 each and will be available at Pilgrimage headquarters.

A delectable salad luncheon, prepared and served by members of the Jessie Allen Wise Garden Club, in the Excelsior House Grand Ballroom, is scheduled for Saturday, 11:30 AM – 1 PM. Non-refundable tickets are \$15.00 each. Advance tickets are encouraged, but not mandatory.

In front of The Excelsior, on Friday and Saturday, 9 AM – 5 PM, is the garden club's not-to-be-missed heirloom plant sale.

Adjacent to The Excelsior, in William Perry Park, on Friday and Saturday, 9 AM – 5 PM, and Sunday, 9 AM - 3 PM, the garden

club hosts an excellent array of vendors for the Craft Fair Sale.

Dr. Doc Plumbob, a traveling medicine man, will be barking the finest advancement in modern medical wares, in front of Jay Gould's Car, immediately following the town skirmish and again at 2 PM on Saturday.

Sunday morning at 10 AM, Christ Episcopal Church, 703 S. Main Street across from Lions Park, hosts the Presentation of Colors Re-enactment. You will relive a captivating moment from 1861 as Miss Fannie Benners arrives on horseback to present a flag, handmade by the women of the church, to Jefferson's young men preparing to leave to fight for the Confederacy. Civil War era music is provided by Hood's Texas Brigade Brass Band from Hill College in Hillsboro, Texas.

SAVE THE DATE
74th ANNUAL HISTORICAL PILGRIMAGE,
APRIL 29 & 30, MAY 1 & 2, 2021

The Grove – The Stilley-Young House 405 Moseley

Minerva Fox lived on the Fox plantation in Marshall, Texas, where her family had farmed cotton for generations. Frank Stilley was a young man from Louisiana who had taken up residence in the riverport of Jefferson, where he plied his trade as a cotton factor. The two met, fell in love, and were married. Minerva's father paid to have a home built for them on Moseley Street in Jefferson as a wedding gift in 1861. During their time at The Grove, the famous 1872 “Bird's Eye View” map of the City of Jefferson was drawn and published by mapmaker H. Brosius, showing the house in the exact state that it exists today, surrounded by native Texas pecan trees that give the house its name.

The Stilley family lived in the residence until the death of Minerva. Frank sold The Grove to Daniel C. Rock and his wife Amanda in early 1880.

The third owner of the house was a man named T.C. Burks. He moved his family into the house, and within six month's time, moved them right back out. Deed records indicate that he let the house go back to the Rock family, who once again put it on the market.

With the next sale of The Grove, Daniel and Amanda transferred it to a family who would own the property for almost a century, and leave their distinctive mark there forever. On March 6, 1885, Charles J. (Mr. Charlie) and his wife Daphnie Finch Young purchased The Grove property.

Both were African-Americans who had been born into slavery, and were freed at the end of the Civil War. Mr. Charlie operated a barbershop on Austin Street. It had one barber chair, and the back wall was lined with shaving mugs, each with a patron's name in gold letters. The names of the patrons read like a “who's who” in the city of Jefferson: lawyers, bankers, merchants and other notable men.

The Young family soon established themselves as leaders of the African-American community in Jefferson. In 1902 when Daniel Alley deeded the space for an African-American cemetery, Mr. Young was one of the Trustees for Cedar Grove Cemetery Association. As a trustee, he was able to secure a plot for his family at the front entrance to the cemetery. Daphne Young planted the gardens on The Grove property, and tended them for many years.

Charlie died on New Year's Eve 1938, and his wife followed in 1955 at the age of 91. Her funeral was held on the front porch of The Grove so that she could “be near her garden one last time.”

The house then passed to Louise R. Young, the couple's oldest daughter, who had earned a college degree and became a teacher in the Jefferson Independent School District. Louise never married. On March 27, 1983, Miss Louise died at the age of 96, having spent her entire life at The Grove. Her estate put the house up for sale, and The Grove was left for the first time in almost one hundred years without a Young family member in residence.



The property passed briefly to Colonel Daniel and Lucile Grove, but upon an illness they sold to Patrick Hopkins and his sister, who started the restoration process on the house and opened it as a restaurant for a number of years in the 1990s.

The current owners, Mitchel and Tami Whittington, purchased the house in March of 2002, and continued the job of restoration and preservation.

The Grove today stands as a landmark to the history of Jefferson: its Greek Revival structure illustrates the classic architecture of the time, while the Creole Architecture influences demonstrate the close ties that the city had to

Louisiana and New Orleans. The house contains an armoire that belonged to the Stilley family and a number of items from the Young family. The house also features many antiques from the families of Mr. and Mrs. Whittington.

The Grove is listed on the National Register of Historic Places by the Department of the Interior, is a Texas Antiquities Landmark, and has been designated as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark by the Texas State Historical Commission. It is the only house in Jefferson to have been awarded all three of those historical designations.

The Terry House 404 North Walnut

The W. S. Terry House is one of Jefferson's oldest homes. Built circa 1850, it was designated a Texas Historic Landmark in 1966. The original three-room, Greek Revival cottage was



constructed of pegged heart pine, locally milled, and features 14-foot ceilings, with porches to the front and back. What is said to be Jefferson's first claw-foot bathtub continues to stand today in the Terry House guest bathroom.

The house was home to various members of the Terry family for over 140 years. The original owners were Mary and Benjamin J. Terry. A physician and noted civic leader, Dr. Terry was mayor of Jefferson in 1861 and was later to become Grand Master of the Masonic Lodge of Texas. In 1862, the Commissioner's Court of Marion

County appointed Dr. Terry to take possession of all powder, lead, shot and caps that were found in quantities in the county for use by the Confederate Army.

Upon Dr. Terry's death in 1873, his brother, Richard S. Terry, inherited the property. Richard, also a physician, owned and operated a grocery and supply store located at Lafayette and Walnut streets. Known to be an avid hunter, Dr. Terry enjoyed hearing the baying of his hounds in the Walnut Street neighborhood which was quite common during those early years.

Upon Richard's death in 1893, his son, William S. (Will) Terry, inherited the house from his father. Approximately 19 years later, Will was elected sheriff of Marion County and according to the December 21, 1922, Jefferson Jimplecute, Sheriff Terry made history when he took a stand to stop a parade by the Ku Klux Klan in Jefferson. After Will's death, the estate was

divided and his daughter, Dorothy Terry Davis, inherited the house. She was to make it her home for some 86 years.

In 1995, the house was converted to a commercial property and operated as an antique store by Patricia and Roy Canfield for the following ten years.

Betty and Leonard Whittington purchased the house in 2005, and through respectful remodeling, returned it to a lovely family residence. In 2011, Ann Tillman, Betty's sister, purchased the house and enhanced it further including extensive landscaping that was featured on the Twilight Garden Stroll during the 2014 Pilgrimage.

Current owners, Jennifer and Raymond Sanders, purchased the house in 2016 and have since continued its thoughtful restoration and preservation as a historic Jefferson landmark.

The Sagamore 412 East Dixon

The Sagamore House was built in 1852 and is a premiere example of a Texas frontier cottage built in Greek Revival style. The home originally consisted of a main house with two large rooms and two bedrooms.

Original Frontier Houses had two rooms on either side of the central or dog trot. According to an 1868 rendering, the Sagamore dog trot was never open. The kitchen and bathrooms were housed in out-buildings, which were eventually moved to the main house and attached to it.

In the early years, the property changed hands several times. One of the early owners was R. H. (Henry) Scott and his wife, Elizabeth Anne. He was a partner in the first commercial ice plant in Texas. Mr. Taylor, a relative of Lady Bird Johnson, purchased the home from Thomas Brownrigg in 1878, but sold it the following year. By 1886, the Banta family purchased the property and an 1906 rendering says it was the home of Mary Jane Banta. Mrs. Banta's son, Albert D.,

sold the house in 1921.

According to photographs, the property deteriorated over the years until Hubert and Ruth Scantlin purchased the house in the 1940s. These two visionaries saw the potential in this structurally strong, but poorly maintained home, and went to work to preserve it. The foundation of heavy beams and wide boards, held together with wooden pegs, ensured the soundness of the structure. The main support, a heavy cypress beam as sound as the day it was installed, had slipped off its moorings. Once the problem was corrected, new life was breathed into the cottage. The Scantlins vowed the house would "sag no more." The name stuck.

In 1993, following Mrs. Scantlin's death, Richard and Montae Johnson of Dallas purchased the property. The Johnsons began an extensive restoration that was a tribute to Ruth Scantlin's work and a proper setting for many of Mrs. Scantlin's antiques. The Johnsons provided period furniture and accessories from their personal collection. In 1997, the Johnsons added

the guest house to the property.

In 2003, the Johnsons deeded the property to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, which used a portion of the home as the parsonage until it was sold in July of 2004 to Tom Clift and Gary Slade. They continued to update the property, ever mindful to preserve the integrity of this unique historic treasure.

This 167-year-old home's original heart-of-pine floors remain. The large front rooms feature 13-foot ceilings, six-inch mahogany crown moldings and two exquisite Angle lamps. The backyard is graced by 150-year-old pecan trees. Over the years, the Sagamore has been



lovingly restored and expanded. It is listed on the national Register of Historic Places and is a Registered Texas Historic Landmark.

Current owners, Christie and Steve Woodson, continue to preserve this beautiful historic home.

Twin Oaks Plantation 2620 FM 134

This Southern Colonial Greek Revival home, with details reminiscent of the Parthenon, is located on a historic 1813 Spanish land grant located between the Big Cypress and the Little



Cypress rivers next to one of the early roads to Jefferson.

The six-acre grounds were originally a part of a cotton plantation that later became a pecan plantation. Through the years, the original structures burned leaving the property vacant. Tom Hicks, the previous publisher of the Jefferson Jimplecute, acquired the property and it continued to lay vacant for several years.

In 1969, Judge William J. Cornelius purchased the property from Hicks and began construction on the house. At almost completion, it was

destroyed by fire. In the early 1970s, Judge and Mrs. Cornelius replicated Twin Oaks from "D'Everaux" in Natchez, Mississippi. It continued to be their home until 1986, when Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Randle purchased the property. In 2010, the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Alan Yarbrough of Mansfield, Louisiana, purchased Twin Oaks Plantation for family and future generations completing extensive renovations bringing it to its current 19th century glory.

Reflecting a passion of antiquity, the home is filled with intricate architecture, custom molding, and woodwork styles from that era. Twin Oaks has been filled with exquisite antiques from around the world. Many pieces date back to the 1800s. The doors in the home were purchased and brought back from the John Keim Mansion, built in 1900, in Louisville, Ohio. The newel posts were duplicated from the mansion as well. The stunning draperies that cascade over the extra large windows give the final touch to each spectacular room.

Furniture includes an 1873 Hazelton Brothers rosewood square grand piano from New York. After being fully restored with an added digital player system, it can be found in the parlor. Accompanying the piano, is a pre-1877 Wooten-type desk, which was patented on February 6, 1877, by Henry H. Wiggers of Cincinnati, Ohio. Across from the piano, you will find an 1870 gilded pier glass European sideboard.

In the library, there is a unique large pre-civil war Victorian double partner's desk. Along with an 1800's ornate ebonized, heavily hand-carved sideboard. The library houses Mrs. Yarbrough's lavish vase collection that includes a pair of French hand-painted vases from the 1800s.

Guided by docents through the home, visitors will be amazed and charmed by the numerous unique and magnificent antique pieces filling Twin Oaks Plantation.



66th Annual Diamond Bessie Murder Trial

By Bobbie Hardy

Jefferson's 73rd Annual Historical Pilgrimage presented by the Jessie Allen Wise Garden Club is scheduled for April 30, May 1-3, 2020. In 1955, the Diamond Bessie Murder Trial became an eagerly-anticipated addition to the Pilgrimage celebration, and 66 years later, this unique adaptation of the last stages of the nationally-famous trial of Abraham Rothschild for the 1877 murder of the beautiful Diamond Bessie, traditionally plays to sold-out audiences.

Bessie Moore, alias Diamond Bessie, was the daughter of a Watertown, New York, shoemaker. Abraham Rothschild was the handsome son of a diamond-wealthy family. Both made tragic decisions that adversely affected their lives.

Abe and Bessie were married in Danville, Illinois, in early January 1877. Shortly thereafter, they headed south by rail, eventually traveling on Jay Gould's new Texas & Pacific Railroad. After several days in the old Capitol Hotel in Marshall, Texas, the couple arrived in Jefferson. This is where our production begins.

Mrs. Lawton Riley, the playwright, mixed tragedy and humor with fact and conjecture to create this exciting and captivating drama which is staged in Jefferson's historic Playhouse, located on the corner of Henderson and Market streets. The setting, once a Jewish synagogue, has a distinct resemblance to the courtroom where the real drama played out over 140 years ago.

Jefferson, the historic little town on Big Cypress Bayou, has its share of ghost stories. You will witness the best one of all when Diamond Bessie rises from her grave to spy on the re-enactment of her own sensational murder trial.

Our dedicated and distinguished returning cast of characters includes Kimberly Parsons who will be playing the role of Diamond Bessie for the fifth year. Ms. Parsons holds a Master's Degree in Vocal Performance from Baylor University. The role of Abraham Rothschild will be played for the 19th year by David Ham. Joining Mr. Ham for the third year will be Zachary Venable who holds a degree in Music Education from LSU, Baton Rouge. Accompanying the stars of our show for the 32nd year will be organist Glenda Abraham.



Other returning cast members include Jim Finstrom as Defense Attorney Dave Culberson; Bill Gleason as Prosecuting Attorney George Todd; Mitchel Whittington as Sheriff John Vines; Mary Spearmon as Jennie Simpson; Brooke Bradley-LaFleur

and Sheila Langbartels as Isabella Gouldy; Charlie Horn and Dave Little as Antonio A. Morelli; Jack Rasberry, David Ham and Doug Thompson as Justice Bankstead; Skip Torrans as Judge Estus; Bubba Haggard and Joey Romano as Sam the gravedigger;

Will Baldwin as Jim; Michael Martin as the janitor; and Steven Coleman as bailiff and court reporter.

Tickets for the 66th annual performances will be available beginning January 2, 2020, by calling Beth Crawford on the Diamond Bessie ticket-line, 903-665-0737. The cost per ticket is \$20.

Show times are Thursday, April 30 and Friday, May 1 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, May 2 at 5:30 and 8:30 p.m.; and Sunday, May 3 at 2 p.m.



Diamond Bessie Moore



Abe Rothschild

For additional Diamond Bessie information, please visit www.jeffersonpilgrimage.com or www.diamondbessieplay.com.

Jefferson's Annual Civil War Symposium

By Weldon W. Nash, Jr.



On Saturday, August 8, 2020, the Jefferson Historical Society and Museum will sponsor the Ninth Annual Civil War Symposium in Jefferson, Texas. This program will feature four historians and authors who are well versed in Civil War history. This year's symposium will continue the tradition of prior years and will focus on the Trans-Mississippi Department of the Confederacy.

Topics will include actions, participating military units, prominent personalities and leaders and critical events in the Trans-Mississippi theater.

The Eighth Annual Civil War Symposium that was held at the City of Jefferson Convention & Visitors Center in August 2019 was a very successful event having over 100 attendees. The Symposium was preceded with a Friday evening Speakers Reception at the Excelsior House Ballroom at which 55 people attended. The symposium started on Saturday morning with a presentation by Dr. Michael Parrish revealing why Yankee leaders wanted to capture Louisiana and Texas so much. The other morning speaker was Dr. Gary Joiner relating the saga of Union Admiral David Dixon Porter and the Mississippi Squadron during the Red River Campaign.

Attendees enjoyed a Bar B-Q luncheon at the Visitors Center that was catered by Jefferson's own Riverport Bar B-Q who has been named one of the top 50 Bar B-Q joints in the state by Texas Monthly magazine. After lunch and during coffee breaks, attendees

were free to visit and browse with Civil War book vendors. Another popular feature during breaks was viewing the Civil War artifacts on display by noted Civil War collectors such as Joe Walker of Waco.

The first afternoon lecture was presented by Dr. Jeff Kinard who related the story of the Trans-Mississippi Texas Brigade lead by a Frenchman, General Camille de Polignac, who was called "General Polecat" by his Texans. The final speaker of the day was Mark Christ presenting the sagas of several unfortunate leaders in Confederate Arkansas that contributed to Confederate defeat. The Symposium closed with a wrap-up session by the speakers, a silent auction and a raffle of Civil War books and memorabilia and a grand prize of a rare, framed Don Troiani print of Lee's Texans.

A tradition of the Jefferson Civil War Symposium each year is the publication of a book related to Jefferson or the Civil War era. Each Symposium attendee receives a copy of the book. The 2019 book was "May God Have Mercy On Us...", *Twenty- Days of the Cane River Campaign in Louisiana*. This book brought together all the elements of the war that occurred along the Cane River in Louisiana in 1864 as the Confederate Army pursued the retreating Union Army. For the most part, the book's story is told through the words of the people who suffered through and survived the month of hell that took place from Grand Ecore down to Alexandria. Previous books published

for the Symposiums include *Civil War Veterans of Jefferson's Oakwood Cemetery*, *Antebellum Homes of Jefferson*, *Postbellum Homes of Jefferson*, "It is Naber Against Nabor, Sun against Father..." *Civil War Letters from Jefferson, Texas*, *Jefferson's Civil War Veterans and Their Reconstruction Era Occupations*, *A History of Jewish Citizenry in Jefferson, Texas* and *The Civil War Letters of David R. Garrett*, *Detailing the Adventures of the 6th Texas Cavalry, 1861-1865* containing the letters of a soldier in Ross' Texas Cavalry Brigade. These books are available for purchase at the Museum and will also be offered at the 2020 Symposium.

The Ninth Annual Civil War Symposium on Saturday, August 8, 2020 will be held at the City of Jefferson Convention & Visitors Center, 305 E. Austin Street, Jefferson, Texas. The registration fee includes a catered lunch,

four presentations and vendor exhibits. The program will include our traditional raffle of Civil War books and ephemera and a grand prize of a framed Don Troiani print. There will also be a silent auction of Civil War collectables and rare books. For a nominal additional fee, Symposium attendees may also enjoy the Speakers Reception on Friday evening to be held at a separate location in downtown Jefferson. The reception includes refreshments, light hors d' oeuvres and entertainment. All proceeds will benefit the Jefferson Historical Society and Museum, a not-for profit 501 (c) 3 entity, for operation and maintenance of the Museum.

For information on registration, contact the Museum at 223 W. Austin Street, Jefferson, Texas 75657, (903)-665-2775

www.jeffersonmuseum.com.

Registration for the symposium will open in May 2020.



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CHRISTMAS DELAY? SOURCES RELATE DISCONTENT IN THE NORTH POLE

NEWS FLASH!

Unnamed sources in the North Pole have revealed to our news staff that Mrs. Santa Claus may be threatening to delay Christmas this year because of a not-so-private, long running argument with her significant other (Santa). Apparently, she has long wanted to go to the JEFFERSON CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT TOUR OF HOMES in beautiful downtown Jefferson, Texas and is finally putting her foot down this year (2020). Our ace undercover reporter secretly taped this not-so-friendly conversation.

MRS. CLAUS: “Santa, you know I’ve been asking you to take me to the Jefferson Christmas Candlelight Tour of Homes for over thirty years. It’s just the most beautiful event. They have lavishly decorated homes done up in Christmas finery, old fashioned Christmas carols, horse drawn carriage rides, train rides, riverboat tours, gourmet restaurants, antique and gift shops and the enchanted forest with over 100 decorated and lighted Christmas trees. We could even stay at a great bed and breakfast.”

MR. CLAUS: “I know, Honey. But you know how busy I get this time of year. I’ve got inventory issues and the elves start getting testy. Next year, I promise.”

MRS. CLAUS: “Don’t “Honey” me, Santa. You say that every year. It’s always “next year.” Look, I’ve already got it marked on

my calendar. We’ve got two weekends to work with. December 3rd, 4th and 5th (Thursday-Saturday) and December 10th, 11th, and 12th (Thursday – Saturday) and we can even order our tickets online at JeffersonCandlelight.com or by calling 903-665-7064. And, if we order early we can get a discount!”

MR. CLAUS: “We can’t order the tickets early because I don’t know what day we’ll be there.”

MRS. CLAUS: “No problem, Chubbycakes. We can also purchase them when we get there at the Murphy Building, 116 West Austin in Jefferson. Does that mean we’re going?”

MR. CLAUS: “Actually, if you look in your Christmas stocking, you just might find a couple of tickets to...the JEFFERSON CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT TOUR!”

MRS. CLAUS: “This is the best Christmas ever. Give me a hug!”

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The Jefferson Historical Museum – Onward and Upward

By Weldon W. Nash, Jr.



THE PAST

The Museum building was constructed in 1890 as a Federal Courthouse and Post Office in the Romanesque style popular at that time period. The building remained in use until 1961 when the Federal Court was moved elsewhere and the Post Office was moved to a nearby new building. In 1965, J.A.R. Moseley, a prominent attorney in Dallas and a native of Jefferson, purchased the building and deeded it to the Jefferson Historical Society and Museum for use as the museum. Since that time, the Museum has accumulated an impressive collection of artifacts and antiques related to Jefferson, Marion County and Texas through the generosity of local citizens and others. Moseley donated his stellar Texana book collection and his fine art collection now displayed in the Moseley Art Gallery of the Museum.

The initial large collections donated to the Museum included over 300 items donated by Mrs. Lillie Warner McDonald, more than 600 primitive antiques donated by Mrs. Dolly Bell Key and rare books and art donated by J.A.R. Moseley. The Museum's holdings also include a collection of Caddo Indian pottery, a collection of rare East Texas folk pottery and the extensive McDonald gun collection. Some of the historically significant artifacts displayed in the Museum include original documents signed by Sam Houston, the bell from the steamboat Mittie Stephens, the original Reconstruction Presidential Pardon of Sam Moseley, Esq., and a dress worn by Lady Bird Johnson when she was the First Lady. The Museum also has an impressive research library consisting of books on local history and genealogy.

The Museum building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1969 and is also a Recorded Texas Historical Landmark.

In the past three decades, The Jefferson Historical Society and Museum has made necessary improvements and repairs to the building to maintain its historical integrity and usefulness as a museum. In 1989, a comprehensive Masterplan was prepared by Bratz-Thacker Architects of Longview, Texas. The Masterplan included survey results and recommendations for repair and improvements to the existing building. A major renovation of the museum building was implemented in 1990 based upon the Masterplan. In 2009, the Museum implemented a complete building exterior renovation project that included restoration of the exterior brick walls and wood windows and doors. After some heavy storm damage in 2013, the building roof system

was completely replaced. A new building lightning protection system was also installed in 2013.

In 2012 the Museum was gifted a large model railroad from the family of R.D. Moses in Fort Worth, Texas. The Museum designed and built a replica Texas & Pacific depot building to house the model railroad. The cost to move the model railroad from Fort Worth to Jefferson was \$31,000. The cost to build the depot building was \$85,000. The funds for construction were raised primarily in Jefferson. Also, the Museum received many donations of materials and labor from local citizens such as the wall framing materials, floor finishes, wood windows and electrical labor. The new model railroad exhibit has been a positive addition to the Museum, bringing additional visitors to the Museum.

THE PRESENT

In 2016, the Museum engaged Quimby-McCoy Preservation Architecture, LLP of Dallas to perform a comprehensive Accessibility Study to evaluate the Museum for compliance with state and national accessibility requirements. The completed study indicated that the major accessibility issues were lack of an elevator to access all floors of the building and lack of an accessible building entrance.

In 2017, the Museum engaged McCoy Collaborative Preservation Architecture, PLLC of Dallas to provide architectural and engineering services for adding an elevator and accessible ramp to the Museum. These services were completed in January 2018, resulting in complete Bidding and Construction Documents for the new elevator and ramp. The Museum received bids in late 2018 for the work from contractors who specialize in historic preservation and restoration projects. The Museum Board subsequently awarded a construction contract for the project. The work commenced in December 2018 and the project was completed in late 2019. With the new elevator in place, the Museum will be moving onward and upward in providing its visitors with a pleasant and informative experience in their visit to the Museum.

The elevator construction work required

the renovation of some existing spaces which resulted in the relocation of several existing exhibits. The Museum's manager, Cheri Smith, used this as an opportunity to critically evaluate the exhibits and to combine and rearrange them into more comprehensive, and sometimes expanded, presentations. As an example, the large room on the third floor will be repurposed into a tribute to rural Marion County in the 1800s featuring a farmhouse look with a kitchen area, family area and bedroom. The kitchen will showcase items used in a farmhouse such as a churn, dough bowls, woodstove, oil lamps, canning and primitive kitchen utensils. The other areas will display the primitive rope bed with feather mattress and antique quilts and other primitive handmade country furniture such as a cradle, rocking chair and side chairs. This exhibit will be an educational tool for our school tour groups.

The third floor Black History room will be expanded to also include a portion of the landing. Featured items and displays include the very rare Milligan Frazier folk pottery, Mr. and Mrs. Blake's educational endeavors and successes, information on Dr. Speed, the 1902 Hamp Walker String Band and local barber Charlie Young and his daughter. The Museum is seeking additional Black History stories and memorabilia from Marion County to add to the exhibit.

Exhibit revisions and additions in the Basement will include a new quilt/sewing room to display the Museum's extensive quilt collection, a future farming tools display area, a general store exhibit and improved exhibits of the Kelly foundry, a tool shop and a leather shop. The existing spinning, weaving room will be reworked, and the Mittie Stephens steamboat bell and steamboat history area will be improved.

THE FUTURE

As mentioned above, The Jefferson Historical Museum contains thousands of antiques, artifacts and works of art, many of which are rare and of historical significance. The Jefferson Historical Museum is one of the top tourist attractions in Jefferson and continues to get high ratings through Trip Advisor. The Museum is a unique, small town, "old-fashioned" museum in which visitors spend hours going through the exhibits.

However, a chance visit to a Louisiana museum by two Board members and a critical comment by a visitor made the Museum Board and Staff aware of what was missing in the museum. The visitor made the comment that the museum and its precious contents were second to none, but nowhere in the museum nor in Jefferson could one find a succinct, complete history of Jefferson. The Museum Board and Staff determined that the overall history and "The Story of Jefferson" needed to be presented to the thousands of visitors who are drawn to Jefferson by its

sense of history and place. And, what better place to tell our story than the Jefferson Historical Museum?

Consequently, the Museum is planning a renovation of the First Floor Exhibit space to tell the actual story of Jefferson, why it was settled where it was, why it prospered, it's immense contribution to Texas history, why it declined and how it has made a comeback as a tourist destination. With its high-tech graphics and interactive displays, it will be educational for visitors, residents and schoolchildren. One of the most important facts that the story will tell is how many different ethnic groups from many different countries contributed to Jefferson's successful history. Our story will tell the importance of Jefferson in the 19th Century and will also relate the number of prominent historical figures from Jefferson that contributed to the growth and prosperity to our state and nation. Upon viewing this story, Jefferson's local children and adult residents will certainly experience pride in their community's heritage.

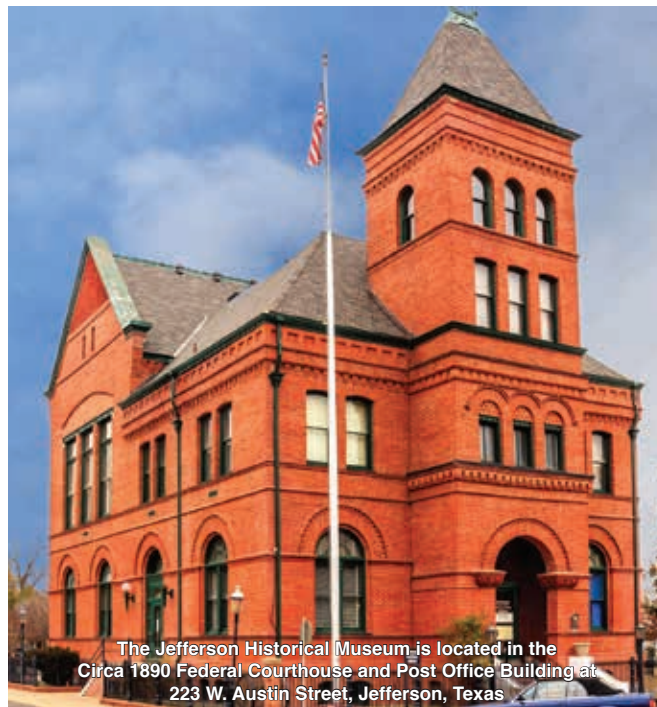
The Museum recognized that to properly and effectively produce a museum exhibit that told the intriguing history of Jefferson in a professional and effective manner, a museum exhibit designer would need to be hired. After a thorough search and several interviews, the Museum selected MuseWork LLC, an exhibit planning and design firm from Austin, Texas. MuseWork had an impressive portfolio of design work for museum exhibits, including the nearby Harrison County Historical Museum.

On February 7, 2018, MuseWork completed and delivered the Conceptual Design for the exhibit renovation of the Museum's First Floor. This design will use the Museum's collection of authentic artifacts and historic photography, along with innovative exhibits to tell Jefferson's story through an engaging mix of videos, vignettes and interactive displays. The Exhibit Renovation Plan in the lobby of the museum that illustrates the proposed Exhibit Renovations.

The next phases of the exhibit renovation include the Design Development Phase and the Pre-production, Fabrication and Installation Phase. In the DD Phase, MuseWork will prepare the detailed drawings, sketches and other deliverables necessary for a contractor or workshop to fabricate and construct the exhibits. This phase will take approximately 18 months and has a budget of \$250,000. The final phase of the work includes the fabrication and delivery of displays, production of art and photographs, construction of large exhibit structures, purchase and delivery of related equipment and components and final installation of all elements, including Museum artifacts being utilized in the exhibits. This phase will take approximately 6 months and has a budget of \$350,000.

Currently, the Museum is continuing its fundraising to meet the budget goals of the First Floor Exhibit Renovation. The Museum will also identify specific fundable components of the exhibit renovation design giving naming rights to supporting sponsors for components such as special displays, theaters, interactive kiosks and films.

Perhaps when you return to visit Jefferson, you will be able to experience the exciting new First Floor Exhibit that tells our story and then be able to ascend to the upper floor exhibits in our new elevator.



The Jefferson Historical Museum is located in the Circa 1890 Federal Courthouse and Post Office Building at 223 W. Austin Street, Jefferson, Texas

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Growing Up Jefferson

By John Taylor



Back Door Friends Are the Best, Except When They Aren't

Jefferson Elementary had been in session almost a month when October arrived, and that first few weeks of Miss Irby Smith's Third Grade had been quite an adjustment to our way of doing things. It seemed the carefree days of story hours, pictures drawn in Nifty tablets and always coloring green in the health chart had given way to cursive writing, multiplication tables and an extra hour of instruction in the afternoons. This was real school, big-time education and the people in charge were serious about it. I can't remember Miss Smith smiling until after Christmas, but maybe she did and we didn't see it. We did get an extra recess in the afternoon, so that was nice, but if you hadn't finished your work, you had to stay in with the other slow kids. So, right off the bat, in a shock to my system and becoming the subject of the recess grapevine, it happened to me. Whatever social activity I was engaged in that caused my confinement was not well conceived, considering my mother, a second grade teacher was in the same building. My hope that she wouldn't venture all the way down to our end of the hall was dashed inside a minute. I can still see her face upon the discovery. Anyway, lesson learned and I'm positive it only happened once. I'm a little surprised I didn't have to wear a tracker, but I got off with a warning and probation.

A book by Ray Bradbury, *Something Wicked This Way Comes*, described some months as good and some as bad. For example, June was a good month, "almost perfect," because school was out and "September was a billion years away." September was a bad month, because school had started. October was a good month; you had been in school for four weeks or so, "just jogging along" and already planning for Halloween. Another reason might be that it was one month closer to Christmas, although to an eight-year-old, two months away might as well have been forever. And stores didn't put Christmas decorations

out until after Thanksgiving, so it was barely a thought. But to me, October was better than good. August was good because it was my birthday month, and the aforementioned Christmas was December so it was, too. But as far as regular months went, I liked October. I still do.

Fall in East Texas, or Autumn if you like that word better, was more than dates on a calendar—it was a feeling. Still is. You knew when Fall had arrived, you could sense it. September was still too hot, but those cool nights we began to get in October promised its coming. It came with that first morning you walked outside and had to go back for a jacket, the smell of burning leaves on a hazy, misty evening, and the much anticipated new car shows we attended at Blain Chevrolet and Farr Lester Ford. Those orange, spindly Spider Lilies appeared all over town almost overnight and still do. They flourish today in the same flower beds at my childhood home on East Walker as they did in the 1950's and remain my connection with memories of then. Our baseball bats and gloves had been in the closet for over a month, and sandlot football games occupied us after school, maybe at Mrs. Eloise Gamble's vacant lot on Jefferson Street or anywhere else that didn't have grass burs. That was the same vacant lot Bill Ford and I had traversed in our ill-fated hooky attempt in kindergarten. We had been warned not to get grass stains on our jeans, but still did until the first frost took care of that and the grass became brown and crisp. We didn't have as much time to play after school and never on Mondays because that was Cub Scout day. But the days grew shorter pretty quickly because we didn't have Daylight Savings Time then, or even know what that was. As the shadows lengthened and the chill set in, we still played and ran—ran until the cold we breathed made our throats and lungs hurt. But it was a fun hurt. It seemed that we little kids got cold quicker, but still refused a jacket when we played. Many years later, we found that big girls had a charming yet disarming propensity to get cold quicker also. Mostly it happened when we boys were around. But I'll save that story for another time.

After Christmas, Halloween was probably our favorite holiday. We didn't get a day off from school which seemed a little restrictive and unfair. Looking back, though, I can understand the reluctance of our school officials to endorse holidays that they perceived as pagan celebrations, witchcraft, ghosts and the like. But, we did have a big Halloween night where we went trick or treating and received large quantities of sugar. Actually, it would have been a good idea to close school the day after Halloween to let the sugar fueling those hyperactive revelers flush out. The weeks at school leading up to the main event seemed to be a jumble of things black and orange, PTA Halloween carnivals complete with spook

houses, Sadie Hawkins dances and football games.

Halloween night usually saw my cousin Drulaine and I off to an early start of trick or treating before it got dark. Any seasoned trick or treater knew that our teachers were generally pretty profitable houses to visit, as well as the preacher's, your neighbors and certainly any relatives. The bag filled quickly with suckers, popcorn balls, cookies, apples, gum and Tootsie Rolls, the official Halloween Candy of the 1950's. Thank you very much that circus peanuts did not make the officially approved Halloween candy. I had overdosed on however many my fifty cents allowance would purchase one Saturday afternoon in a fit of depression after the Brooklyn Dodgers had lost the 1956 World Series to the hated New York Yankees and I had sworn off them. Now we were not too much into costumes because (1) no one in town sold them, and (2) no one in town could afford them. Generally, we were pirates, cowboys or the occasional soldier, firearm optional. I do remember one costume I had, and it was probably sewn by my grandmother. I was a lion, mane, tail and all. First crack out of the box, someone stepped on my tail and nearly pulled it off. My mother emptied her purse for a remedy and came up with a Band-Aid. Mothers always carried Band-Aids, string and one of those mini-flashlights with batteries in their purses back then. Maybe that had something to do with the threat of an atomic bomb, but I'm not sure. But that Band-Aid held the tail in place until some smart guy remarked, "Looks like someone got a tiger by the tail!" All I could come back with was, "I'm a lion." My witty repartee was not developed when I was eight apparently.

Maybe I've gotten old. I mean I'm not yelling at kids to stay off my yard or anything. Well, not yet anyway. But it seems to me that there has been a trans-generational shift as far as trick or treating. It's not for me anymore and I rarely if ever participate. I know, that does sound sort of crabby. But our dog Maggie appreciates not being disturbed by our front door visitors, aged from 2 to 22, costume optional with a plastic sack from the Dollar Store held open in I suppose a universal sign for, "Give me something." I might even be a little fearful to ask what the trick might be if I run out of candy. At least in my days of serious trick or treating, we had rules. Unwritten, maybe, but always in effect.

- If the porch light is off, don't go to the door.
- Always wear a costume and carry a bag designated for Halloween.
- Always say "Thank you" after receiving your treat.
- Don't trick or treat if you are old enough to drive yourself.
- Don't trick or treat if you use your

natural facial hair as part of your costume.

- Don't trick or treat if you prefer to get cigarettes, alcohol or money.
- Panty hose on your head does not qualify as a mask unless you are robbing a bank.

The reason we younger kids went trick or treating early was so we could hurry home to see the big kids in costume that came to our doors. My house only had two doors, a back door out of the kitchen that led to the garage and driveway, and a front door we hardly ever used. Honestly, our front door was a little spooky to me in itself. We had an old house and this door was at least close to being the original. It was heavy, opened with a knob and locked with a key which we hadn't seen in years. Of course, no one locked the door to their houses then, so no big deal. And it had an etched glass panel with a woman's likeness that always gave me pause. Who was that woman and why is she looking at me when I walk through that foyer? Give her a pointed hat and she could have been a witch. Like I said, spooky. But on Halloween night, we would turn on the front porch light and wait for the ghosts, witches and gypsies to appear. Now my dad was pretty practical when it came to Halloween treats, pragmatic even. He wanted the biggest bang for his buck and we did have lots of trick or treaters, being a teacher's house. He would bring two or three boxes of gum home from the drugstore, most likely Juicy Fruit, Wintergreen, and Spearmint. Each box had ten packages with five sticks. He would further divide that into two sticks per visitor and that was their bounty. Not generous, but times were tough and he was trying to get a new business off the ground. But he also had, for the more adventurous, a washtub filled with ice water and apples for apple bobbing. Each apple had a coin inserted, mostly pennies, a few nickels and dimes, and one or two quarters. If you don't know what apple bobbing was, I can't help you. But it was wet and cold, no one drowned and we provided a towel. It was always a popular stop on the Halloween circuit. After watching all that gum fly out the front door, I thought I had the hang of it and begged to do it by myself with no one else in the room. Apparently the tide on my handing over treats was still out. The first guest we had was a big kid and when he said, "Trick or Treat," I panicked. My mind raced, I felt dizzy, I couldn't remember what I was supposed to do. So I gave him the whole box. He was very appreciative. I returned to my parents who promptly asked where was the rest of the gum. After the reveal, the conversation became, "Turn off the porch light, Edward. Halloween's over."

I tried to blame it on the witchy woman who lived in my front door, but they weren't buying it. I'll bet that big kid still comes back every Halloween.

The Postman Always Rings Twice, Unless You Don't Have a Bell

After Halloween, the front door with the scary woman in the glass went back to being mostly unused. That disuse was compounded even more in about 1957 when my parents added a den, bathroom, carport and a workshop for my dad onto the rear of the house. Then we had doors seemingly everywhere-- from the new den to the carport, from dad's workshop to the carport, and another one from his workshop into the backyard. About the time I entered junior high, that became my room and dad built a workshop in the backyard where the garage used to be. Those extra doors to the outside from my future room were to come in handy several times in the years to come, but all I knew then were they were doors that didn't have any glass or etchings on them. And, as you've read on these pages before, I'll save the story with the doors for another time. My room became known to my friends and me as the peninsula room because it was surrounded on three sides by the outdoors. We didn't have central heat and air then, although I did have an air conditioner installed in the wall. I had a natural gas space heater that my mother wouldn't allow to be used on winter nights for fear of asphyxiation. Maybe one day she saw one of those spontaneously flame out or something, but I never did. Regardless, I piled on blankets and suffered through those

cold winter nights and it seems it got a lot colder then, too. Many was the morning I wiped ice off the inside of the window before I got dressed. Yeah, I know, no one felt sorry for me then either.

That same year my dad came home with the news that Jefferson was getting home mail delivery for the first time. Before that, people picked up their mail at the red-bricked Federal Building located on West Austin Street although you entered the post office up the stairs on Market Street. We had a box with the same number of one I use today at the new (1962 new) post office and I suppose some people got their mail by General Delivery. And, of course, there were the rural routes then also. Regardless of the year, I was pretty sure this was an indication that Jefferson, my hometown, was in the midst of the throes of progress and would soon catch up with Shreveport and even Dallas. I had cousins that lived in those cities with home delivery and now we had it, too.

As proof of my prediction of an imminent population boom for our city, soon after that, around 1960, came the announcement that Jefferson and the surrounding area were to receive rotary dial telephone service. No more would we have operators that when I picked up a phone and asked for 92 (my dad's store) or 176 (my grandmother) I would hear, "John Thomas, is that you? Are you okay? It sounds like you have a cold. Are

you still making straight A's in school?" The familiarity was nice and I was always polite, but I really wanted to talk to whomever I was calling before I forgot why I was calling. The day soon came for our numbers to be assigned (ours was Mohawk 5-____). The prefix was an Indian tribe so that was pretty cool even though the nearest tribe of Mohawks was in New York state and Canada. Colored phones came for only a few dollars extra a month. Now my mother, who if not a schoolteacher could have made an enviable salary as a telemarketer, chose avocado green for the one in their bedroom. If you've read my story about cars, you might remember my dad had a preference in car color for non-committal beige, sensible without being flashy. So, for the new den, he picked.....you guessed it, beige. I was hoping for an additional wall phone in the kitchen with an extra-long cord in case I needed to engage in a private conversation, or better yet, one in my room. My room, at that time, was in the front guest bedroom which, in case you were wondering, didn't have a space heater I was allowed to use either. And, correct you are again, it never got a phone.

But back to our mail delivery. I was an only child. I had lots of friends, but sometimes they were doing things with their families and couldn't play. That would lead to boredom and sometimes a little loneliness, I suppose. Regardless, I was very excited

about having home mail delivery. Honestly, it probably didn't take much to excite me. We had two mailmen in town, Bill Bennett and Bill Terry, and Bill Terry was to be ours. These were walking routes with a bag of mail over their shoulder like I had seen in the city. I suppose my dad had told Bill Terry how excited I was to have a mailman because he wrote me a letter so I would get something that first day. And at the bottom he had done a free-handed sketch of Bill Bennett and himself in uniform with their mailbags over their shoulders, looking back and waving. I even wrote him back and we sort of became pen pals. Just think about that for a minute. It didn't take much of his time to make a child happy. I doubt he ever knew how I looked forward to 11:30 every day I was home to see him walk up those front steps to our black mailbox with mail in his hand. It didn't matter if it was addressed to me or not. I was glad to see him, my new friend, and he was glad to see me. For all I know, the spooky woman in the glass was smiling because I never paid any attention to her again. I imagine Bill Terry never thought I would remember that first letter I ever received for over sixty years either, much less write about it and share the memory with you.

Abraham Lincoln once said, "No man is so tall as when he stoops to help a child." Mr. Bill Terry, to me, you were my giant.

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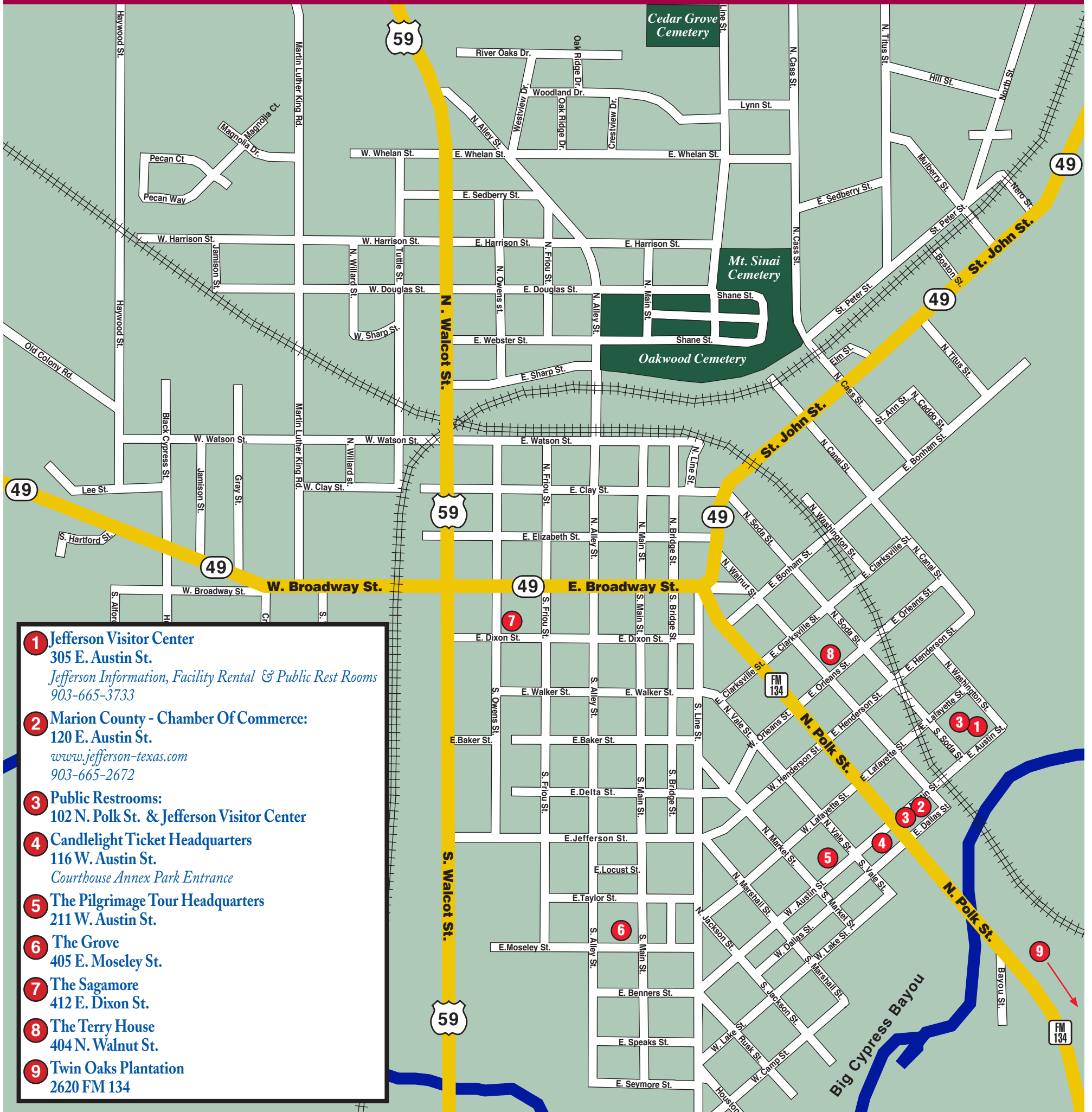
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- 3** Public Restrooms:
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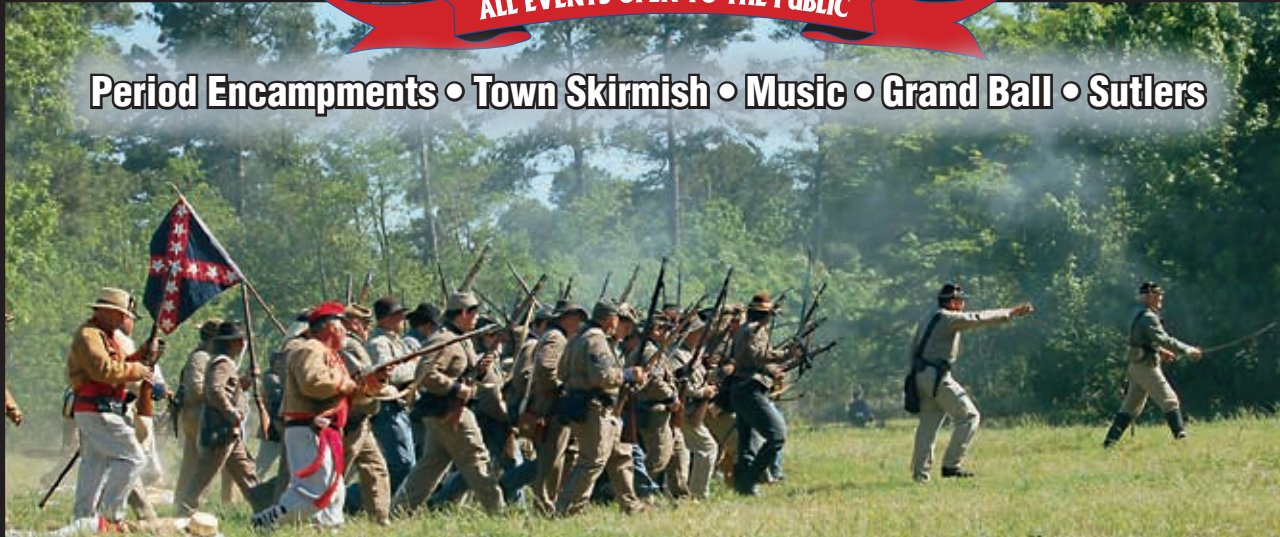
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