

JEFFERSONIAN

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Fall/Winter 2018

**36th Annual Jefferson, Texas
Candlelight Tour of Homes®
Pages 14 & 15**



Sam Ayer
PHOTOGRAPHY

Photo by Sam Ayer

Jefferson Map – Inside Back Cover



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President's Letter

The Historic Jefferson Foundation welcomes you to Jefferson and to another edition of the Jeffersonian. I know you will enjoy the various articles written by our local historians. This publication is made available without charge to you by the Foundation and is provided to all visitors centers and many chambers of commerce throughout Texas.

We ask that when you are in town, you support the businesses that advertise in our publication as well as those who may have missed this opportunity to let you know about their establishments. We have wonderful vendors who do so much in addition to their businesses, in support of Jefferson and the endeavors of the Historic Jefferson Foundation.

We are all planning the 36th Candlelight Tour of Homes®. I hope you begin now to make plans to attend. Details are in this edition of the Jeffersonian. It will be a wonderful pre-Christmas treat!

For a small town, we boast an unusually large number of restaurants of varying cuisines and styles from hamburgers to fine dining. We have great shopping including arts, clothing, antiques, flea market and modern merchandize. There will be entertainment in the form of music or other arts during the holiday season. Please come to stay over and enjoy all that Jefferson offers for your enjoyment.

You may want to take in and enjoy our natural setting on the Big Cypress Bayou with water sports on both Caddo Lake and Lake of the Pines in near proximity. Our park on the bayou in town features a bayou-side hiking trail and plantings that are native to our area.

If you have visited before, you know the many treasures in historic as well as newer properties in town and in the surrounding areas. We boast some of the finest antebellum architecture of East Texas right here in our small but beautiful town. It is an unusual, peaceful place and offers a great opportunity to enjoy the past with benefits of modern accommodation.

Our purpose is to preserve and promote the history of Jefferson and Marion County. Proceeds from Historic Jefferson Foundation sales go entirely into these efforts. The board of directors are all volunteers. HJF members volunteer in several ways to promote the area and our history. Won't you join us in these efforts to preserve our history and secure our future! Jefferson Texas Candlelight Tour of Homes® is our Facebook page (please like us!) and our web site is www.historicjeffersonfoundation.com. We look forward to seeing you here soon.

Laura Omer
President, Board of Directors

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Fall/Winter 2018

JEFFERSONIAN

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Calendar of Events

Dates	Event	Dates	Event
<u>SEPTEMBER</u>			
1	Jefferson Flea Market	24	Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting Ceremony
1	Labor Day Celebration at Historic Jefferson Railway	29-30	36th Jefferson Candlelight Tour of Homes
8	8th Annual Jefferson Fire Brigade Benefit Car Show	30	Jefferson Flea Market
11	Remember 9-11	30	East Texas Performing Arts - Play
14-15	Jefferson Flea Market	<u>DECEMBER</u>	
15.....	Marion County Chamber of Commerce "Golden Nail Gala"	1, 6-8	36th Jefferson Candlelight Tour of Homes
17	Friends of the Jefferson Carnegie Library Annual Membership Dinner	1-2	East Texas Performing Arts - Play
21	Jefferson Cruise Night	1-2	Jefferson Flea Market
<u>OCTOBER</u>		1	Stuff Your Stocking Bazaar
4-7	34th Norton Owners Assoc Rally & Bike Show	6-9	East Texas Performing Arts - Play
4-5	Jefferson Flea Market	14-15	Jefferson Flea Market
5-7	City Wide Rummage Sale (Fall)	15-16	Jefferson Gun & Knife Show
11-14	34th Norton Owners Assoc Rally & Bike Show	<u>JANUARY</u>	
12-14	Burn Benefit Biker Rally	4-5	Jefferson Flea Market
13	Green Egg Fest - Grilling on the Bayou	5	Krazy Hat Party - Krewe of Hebe
18	Historical Jefferson Museum - Lecture Series	17	Historical Jefferson Museum - Lecture Series
19-21	Texas Bigfoot Conference	18-19	Jefferson Flea Market
19-20	Jefferson Flea Market	20.....	Martin Luther King Day Parade
19	Jefferson Cruise Night	21.....	Martin Luther King Day Youth Program
20.....	Historic Jefferson Foundation Membership Dinner & Meeting	21.....	Martin Luther King Day Banquet
21	28th Annual Taste of Jefferson	<u>FEBRUARY</u>	
21	Marion County Fair Pageant	1-2	Jefferson Flea Market
27	F.R.E.S.H. Fall Festival	15	Jefferson Cruise Night
28	Auntie Skinner's Monster Bash	15-16	Jefferson Flea Market
<u>NOVEMBER</u>		16	Queen Mab Ball - Krewe of Hebe
2-4	Texas Sounds International Country Music Awards	23	T-shirt/Poster Party - Krewe of Hebe
2-3	Jefferson Flea Market	<u>MARCH</u>	
2-3	7th Annual Medieval Wine Faire	1-3	Mardi Gras Upriver Celebration Weekend - "Games People Play"
3	History, Haunts & Legends	1-2	Jefferson Flea Market
10	Toys for Tots "Casino Night"	15	Jefferson Cruise Night
16-17	Jefferson Flea Market	15-16	Jefferson Flea Market
16	Jefferson Cruise Night		

History of the Jefferson Carnegie Library

By Leah Cooper

The year was 1902. Jefferson had a Y.M.C.A. but it had fallen on hard times, and finally shuttered its doors. The Ladies Auxiliary was now in possession of some carpet, three rooms of furniture, a bookcase with 30 books, and \$50.00 of debt. Instead of seeing defeat, these ladies saw an opportunity. Mrs. W. J. Sedberry suggested they form a library association and use the 30 books to start a public library. On July 7, 1903, the public library formally opened. Four people attended; six books were checked out. These few library supporters brainstormed ideas for fundraisers. A ten-cent tea held at the building on Walnut Street that housed the library. \$1.00 annual membership drives. What about asking the city for \$30.00 per month in exchange for providing restroom services to visitors so that "attendants would be available to care for children, provide good fires in winter, and ice water in the summer, and a dressing room so that ladies after their long ride may tidy up before undertaking the work of spending money with merchants in the city."

Not all the ideas panned out. But Mr. Allan Urquhart had a good one when he suggested asking Scottish-American businessman and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie for help. Carnegie provided two grants totaling \$10,000. On April 15, 1907, a bid of \$8,750 was awarded to J. F. Berry of Morris County for construction. By 1910 the beautiful two-story brick building, designed by Hallett & Rawson of Des Moines, was ready for occupancy. Downstairs there were books and club rooms. Upstairs was an assembly hall, once known as an opera house and now referred to as the ballroom.

Ladies volunteered as librarians. Books were donated by individuals, civic clubs, and church organizations. From World War I through World War II, the library served many additional uses, including Red Cross activities, plays, Chautauqua assemblies for culture and entertainment, dance lessons, a youth center, and high school and college classrooms.

While the building was well used, its use as a library languished. But once again, good citizens of Jefferson saw a need and then executed a plan.

In January 1943, the new officers of the Library Board realized a better financial position was essential if library services were to continue and the number of books increased. With what I suspect was some stiff arm-twisting, the city agreed to pay \$25.00 per month and the county to pay \$15.00 and utilities. Pledges came in from individuals and organizations. Soon Miss Leila Foster became the first paid staff member, making \$6.00 per week for five afternoons. The library bought a typewriter for \$44.50.

More changes were in store when, on July 6, 1948, during a meeting held in the Carnegie Public Library, it was decided to organize a historical society and museum within the library. Things moved quickly. The officers of the Historical Society voted on October 29, 1948 to authorize repair work on the library to make room for display and protection of the historical collections. When the museum opened on April 3, 1949, it occupied the first floor of the building. The library moved upstairs.

In 1961, the City of Jefferson transferred title to the Jefferson Library Association. By 1965, the Jefferson Historical Society moved its displays to the Old Federal Building. But still the library collection consisted mostly of used and donated books. It wasn't until 1991 that efforts began in earnest to turn the library into the modern, functioning entity it is today. That must be a story for

another day. Suffice it to say that today, Jefferson Carnegie Library is an accredited member of the Texas State Library System.

If you would like to read more about the history of Jefferson Carnegie, I suggest Fred Tarpel's "Jefferson: Riverport to the Southwest" published in cooperation with The Jefferson Historical Society and Museum and "Marion County

Scrapbook" by O. Bailey. The latter is a selection of articles that ran in the Jefferson Jimplecure from 1981 to 1984. It was edited and prepared by History Projects Group of Jefferson Carnegie Library. Best of all, step into our library and experience for yourself one of the four remaining Carnegie libraries in Texas that is still operating as a library.



JEFFERSON CARNEGIE LIBRARY



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jeffersoncarnegielibrary.org

Circulation Desk & Reservations: cdjcl1907@hotmail.com

Library Administrator: CarnegieLibrary@sbcglobal.net

Hours

Mon-Thur: 10am-6pm • Fri: 10am-5pm

Sat: 10am-3pm • Sun: Closed

Events

- Annual Friends of Library Dinner – September 17th, 6:00pm
- Jefferson Eggfest – October 13th from 10:00am to 2:00pm (or until food runs out)
- American Girl Tea
- Golf Tournament
- Author Events
- Children's Events – pre-school hour, Breakfast with Rudolf, and more

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65th Annual Diamond Bessie Murder Trial

By Bobbie Hardy

Jefferson's 72nd Annual Historical Pilgrimage presented by the Jessie Allen Wise Garden Club is scheduled for May 2-5, 2019. In 1955, the Diamond Bessie Murder Trial became an eagerly-anticipated addition to the Pilgrimage celebration, and 65 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 from a wealthy New York shoe-manufacturing family and was blessed with stunning beauty. 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



Diamond Bessie Moore



Abe Rothschild

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 fourth year. Ms. Parsons holds a Master's Degree in Vocal Performance from Baylor University. The role of Abraham Rothschild will be played for the 18th year by David Ham. Joining Mr. Ham for the second year will be Zachary Venable who holds a degree in Music Education from LSU, Baton Rouge. Accompanying the stars of our show for the 31st 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 and James Dreesen as bailiff and court reporter.

Tickets for the 65th annual performances will be available beginning January 2, 2019, by calling Beth Crawford on the Diamond Bessie ticket-line, 903-665-0737. The cost per ticket is \$20.

Show times are Thursday, May 2 and Friday, May 3 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, May 4 at 5:30 and 8:30 p.m.; and Sunday, May 5 at 2 p.m.

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

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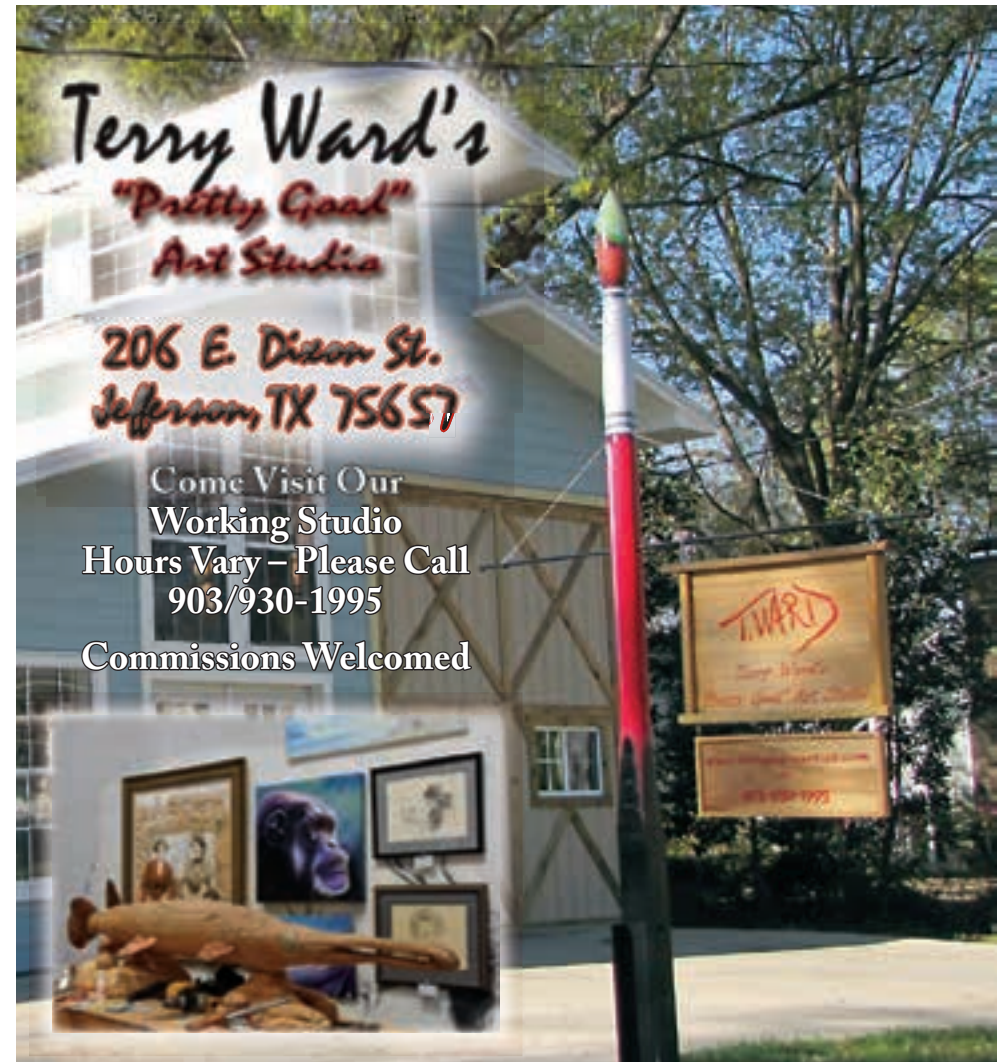
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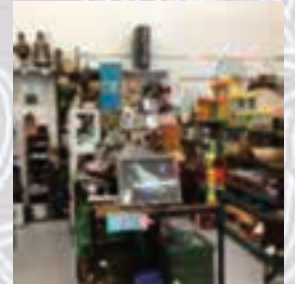


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 Saturday 5:30 pm, Sunday 9:00 am

Reconciliation (Confessions):
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 Sunday 8:15 - 8:45 am

The Historic Cumberland Presbyterian Church welcomes you!

The Cumberland Presbyterian Church is the largest historic church in Jefferson. It has been restored and adapted to serve its members, friends, the community and Jefferson's many visitors who want to worship, serve God and create good memories in historic Jefferson. Built in 1872, at the height of the steamboat era, the church structure is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and it is included in the Historic American Buildings Survey. It is a recorded Texas Landmark.

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Thursday, Dec. 6
Friday, Dec. 7
Saturday, Dec. 8

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Jefferson's 36th Annual Christmas Candlelight Tour of Homes® November 29th – December 1st & December 6th - 8th

NEWS FLASH! THIS IS NOT FAKE NEWS! CHRISTMAS IS ON THE WAY

The 36th Annual Jefferson Christmas Candlelight Tour of Homes is on track to be one of the best ever. The Historic Jefferson Foundation, which sponsors the event, has received permission from the Weather Channel to get cooler temperatures at the end of November and beginning of December than the present 102 degrees in downtown Jefferson, which could melt Rudolph's "nose so bright." Let's get down to basics.

The Tour covers two weekends, Thursday, Friday and Saturday on the

weekend of November 29th through December 1st and December 6th through the 8th. Thursday tours are from 3pm to 7 pm and Friday and Saturday tours are from 4pm to 8 pm. The Tour this year will feature three beautifully decorated historic homes: "The Magnolias" built in 1867, "The W.S. Terry House" built in 1850 and "The Old Presbyterian Manse" built in 1839. Also, on the tour this year is the Jefferson Historic Museum's incredible R.D. Moses T&P Railroad Depot Model Train Display. The Train display was transferred to the museum from Fort Worth in 2012, by the Moses family. This 14 by 48 - foot HO scale model railroad display took over 30 years to create

and features hundreds of train cars, buildings and characters typical of West Texas in the 1950s.

Early ticket purchasers get a discount and can purchase online at jeffersoncandlelight.com. If purchased by November 28, 2018, adult tickets are just \$22.50 each. After that date the cost is \$25 per adult and \$2 for children under 10. Groups of 15 or more can get discount tickets of \$20 each.

REMEMBER – Jefferson has many great places to stay including B&Bs, historic hotels and modern motels but they fill up early – so book ASAP. There will be much

to see and do with carriage rides, music and our Enchanted Christmas Tree Forest sponsored by the Jefferson Lions Club. Also, please come with an empty stomach because we have numerous great restaurants to fill up your tummy before you go shopping in all of our wonderful businesses filled with Christmas goodies and antiques. For more info see our website JeffersonCandlelight.com or call 903-665-7064.

Your tickets include access to all tour homes and the model railway exhibit and are good for both weekends. Plan about 30 minutes per home and allow 15 minutes between homes.

THE OLD PRESBYTERIAN MANSE

Located at 401 E. Delta Street, the Manse is registered as the oldest house in Jefferson. The one-story raised cottage is one of the most notable examples of the Greek Revival style in East Texas. It features an elegantly carved sunburst over the entrance, 14 foot high ceilings with rich crown moldings and original heart-of-pine floors. Originally a two-room home, begun in 1839, the Manse is largely of cypress wood. Ceilings and interior and exterior walls are of this durable material. In approximately 1850, three rooms were added forming a U-shaped structure. Sometime after 1936, a sixth room was enclosed to form a rectangular shape. Most recent modification to the north section complete the current configuration.

This home was first owned by Gen. James Harrison Rogers, Esquire. He invited students to read the law in this home. General Rogers was an important figure in the writing of Texas' secession documents which were signed at the home now named Secession Hall just one block away. Yet, he is remembered not for his important legal work,

but for owning this old home. His family kept it until his death in 1903 when it was purchased by the Cumberland Presbyterian Church for use as its pastors home. From this time onward it became known as the Presbyterian Manse or the Old Manse.

Even after it suffered some deterioration, the Old Manse was important to the town of Jefferson. While it was owned by the church until the early 1950's, it was not always the pastor's residence. During the depression years when housing was in short supply, the Manse is said to have been used as a board-house and later as two apartments.

The Jessie Allen Wise Garden Club purchased the Manse in the early 1950's, doing much to restore the property. During their ownership, the Manse served as museum and headquarters for the annual Historical Pilgrimage. In 1971 when the Garden Club saw the opportunity to buy and preserve the Excelsior House Hotel, they sold the Manse to Mr. and Mrs. Martin Jurow, a well-known movie producer (Breakfast at Tiffany's and Pink Panther series). They made the Manse their second home from 1971 until 1994,

then sold it to then CDR Laura Pace Omer, NC, USN, in the autumn of 1994.

Captain Omer continued on active duty for 13 years of ownership during which time she undertook significant renovations including re-building fireplace chimneys. Her cousin Gordon Bingamon, AIA, brilliantly designed the kitchen and the bath, installed in 1997. Numerous other projects were

completed between residents in the years until 2007 when CAPT Omer retired from Navy after 30 years of service and moved into the Manse.

Captain Omer's parents were young adults in Marion County and married in Jefferson in 1924. Laura still has a number of Pace relatives in the area.



THE MAGNOLIAS

The Magnolias was built in 1867 by Jefferson co-founder Daniel Nelson Alley as a dowry for daughter Victoria Kate Alley. Upon completion of the home, Alley and his wife Lucy Ann were its first occupants. After Mr. Alley's death in 1868, Lucy Ann continued to live at The Magnolias until her daughter Victoria married local attorney M.L. Crawford in 1873, at which time Mrs. Alley deeded the home over to Victoria.

The Magnolias was designed in the classic Greek Revival style, popular in Texas where it was also known as the Southern Colonial style. Its outstanding architectural features include a colonnaded, full-width front gallery, supported by 6 fluted Doric columns which were hand-hewn from local Cypress. Shuttered front windows span the distance from floor to near the ceiling, where they are capped with lovely molded architraves. The main entrance is outstand-

ing, with an unusual segmental arch-shaped transom and wide paneled architrave, which is carved from the plane of the front façade to form a recessed opening.

Inside, there is a continuing presence of unique architectural features. The large central hall is divided into two parts by an ornate wooden elliptical arch, and at the back hall are steep stairs leading to the second floor, accented with hand-turned balustrades. Floors in the home are wide heart pine; ceilings are wide-beam hand-hewn cypress.

Even with all its lovely and elegant features, the home bears clear evidence of the practical necessities of the post Civil War period. Twin gun cabinets are discretely built into the walls on both sides of the front entrance, to allow the home owners to have their weapons at the ready should unwelcome Reconstruction Era intruders attempt to invade the home. It is said that one of these gun cabinets originally opened from the back and side, into a secret crawl space leading to the attic for lookout purposes.

Originally, the house contained 4 main rooms, 2 on each side of the central hall. The kitchen was a separate building outdoors. Around 1872, a gabled rear ell was added to the house to create a large indoor kitchen and dining room. This addition made for ceilings that are 15 feet tall in the rear quarters, while those of the original structure are 12 feet tall.

Throughout its history spanning over 140 years, The Magnolias has withstood many tests of time and circumstance, and consequently it has seen good times and bad. Victoria Alley Crawford died in 1874 giving birth to her first child. Tragically, the child lived for only about a month. Two years later, Victoria's widower sold the home to local bank president W.B. Ward who was also one of the promoters of the East Line and Red River Railway. The home changed hands frequently for several generations thereafter. Through the years, The Magnolias was home to a number of prominent Jefferson residents, and it served as a civic and social center. The oldest chartered women's club in Texas, "The 1881 Club", was organized in the home in October, 1881. In 1955, the Martha McCraw Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution was organized at The Magnolias. At one point, the home was divided into small apartments, housing several families simultaneously.

Recognizing the home's historic value and outstanding architectural features, new owners restored it to its rightful place as a single family dwelling. Thankfully, during more recent generations, The Magnolias has been respectfully maintained and preserved so as to continue its long legacy of warm and stately presence within the town of Jefferson. Current owners of The Magnolias are Alan and Teresa Ponder.



TERRY HOUSE

According to the Texas Historical Marker of the Terry House, the home was built before 1850, making it one of the oldest houses still standing in Jefferson today. Its architectural design is classic Greek Revival, with fourteen-foot ceilings and original heart of pine floors throughout much of the house. One of the most unique features of the home is that the master bath is host to the very first claw foot tub in Jefferson.

One of Jefferson's most renowned citizens was Dr. Benjamin Jordan Terry whose family were the first inhabitants of the home. It is not known if Dr. Terry originally bought or built the house, but Whittington's Terry House remained in the Terry family for over

a century. Dr. Terry was a physician, and served as the mayor of the city in 1861. In 1862, the county Commissioners Court appointed Terry as a member of a committee to take possession of all powder, lead, shot, and caps that were found in quantities in the county for use by the Confederate Army. Dr. B.J. Terry died in 1873 and is buried by his loving wife Mary C. Mayberry Terry in Oakwood Cemetery.

Dr. and Mrs. Terry passed the property to his brother, Dr. Richard S. Terry who was also a physician, and a wholesale & retail dealer in groceries and supplies on the corner of Walnut and Lafayette Streets in Jefferson in 1883. Richard was an avid deer hunter, and it became quite common to hear the

baying of hounds around the Walnut Street neighborhood. Richard trained his deer hounds to run in pairs by placing a short, small rod about two feet long between the collars of the dogs to get them in the habit of running as a team, rather than in single file or just helter-skelter, as they were inclined to do when on the scent of a deer.

Keeping the home within the family, Dr. Richard Terry passed the house to his son and daughter-in-law, Will S. and Julia B. Terry. On November 5, 1912, Will was elected as the County 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.

The estate was divided after Will Terry's death, and his daughter Dorothy Terry Davis (married to John Harper Davis) inherited the house built of pegged heart of pine lumber. She lived there off and on for some eighty-six years. In 1929, Mrs. Davis added beautiful knotted pine walls to the den. When the Dorothy was no longer able to live alone, she moved to an assisted living facility.

Still another Terry – William S. Terry, Jr., Dorothy's brother, who served Jefferson as the Marion County Health Officer for Marion County in 1941, and kept the office at least through 1949, looked after her interests in the house. As customary for the Terry family, Dr. Terry's wife, Lucille, put her own mark on the city's history when she became a member of the Jessie Allen Wise Garden

Club. Mrs. Terry was president of the Garden Club when in 1961 it purchased and rescued the Excelsior House Hotel, one of Jefferson's most prized historic properties. Under Mrs. Terry's leadership, the Garden Club began restoring the hotel to its grandeur today.

In 1966, the State Historical Survey Committee designated the W.S. Terry house as a Registered Texas Historic Landmark.

In 1991, Billy and Patricia Canfield purchased the home from the estate of Dorothy Davis for the purpose of opening an antique store in the house. The house was stripped of all cabinetry and plumbing to make room for the items in the store.

The house was purchased in 2005 by Leonard and Betty Whittington, who restored the structure back into a beautiful home, including adding a kitchen to the enclosed side gallery, decorating the house with family antiques and collections, including a 1926 Chickering Grand Piano, and installing a stunning crystal Schonbek chandelier in the entry hall.

In 2011, Ann Tillman purchased Terry House from her sister Betty Whittington's estate. She brought beautiful landscaping to the house, and it was not only given the Garden of the Month distinction by the Jessie Allen Wise Garden Club, and was featured in the Twilight Garden Stroll during Pilgrimage 2014.

The current owners are Raymond and Jennifer Sanders.



THE TEXAS & PACIFIC RAILROAD MODEL TRAIN DISPLAY JEFFERSON HISTORICAL MUSEUM 223 W. Austin Street

139 years after the original Texas and Pacific Railway Company completed tracks to Jefferson, the R.D. Moses Texas & Pacific Model Railroad was relocated from Fort Worth to its new home in Jefferson, Texas. The late R.D. Moses and his friend Jack Luck spent over 30 years creating and building this fabulous HO scale model railroad that depicts the Texas & Pacific Railway in West Texas in the 1950s. It was housed in a 14 x 48-foot building in Moses' backyard in Fort Worth, Texas. This superb model railroad was published in the May 2002 Model Railroader magazine. Even before this publication, Moses' model railroad was known both locally and nationally as one of the best in the hobby. It created in miniature the wide-open spaces of West Texas with buttes, outcroppings, mesquite trees, mining camps, oil wells, cow towns and ranches. The intricate design and craftsmanship in the scenery is masterful. The main line track on the layout has 193 feet of rail that curves around mountains and emerges from valleys. With their whistles and horns blowing and bells clanging, the model trains roll by and disappear, and then reappear from behind scenic objects.

Prior to his passing in 2009, R.D. Moses established and endowed a Family Trust to ensure that his T & P Model Railroad would continue in existence. He stipulated that the model railroad be donated to a worthy, non-profit organization that would continue to maintain and operate it for years to come. After several months of consideration of proposals from New York to California, the

Moses Family Trust chose Jefferson as the best location and new home for the R.D. Moses Texas & Pacific Model Railroad. After all, Texas is a much better location for a T & P Model Railroad than New York!

The Jefferson & Cypress Bayou Model Railroad Club was instrumental in getting the Moses T & P Model Railroad to Jefferson. They brought it to the attention of the Jefferson Historical Society and Museum and suggested that if the Museum were to acquire the layout, then the club would commit to operating and maintaining the layout. In July 2011, the Jefferson Historical Society and Museum accepted the donation of the Moses T & P Model Railroad. The Museum Board felt that the Moses T & P Model Railroad would be an asset to the Museum and would add to the other railroad related tourist attractions in Jefferson.

The first task after accepting the model railroad was to move the model railroad from the Moses house to Jefferson. What a challenge that was! It was quite a feat to dismantle, crate and move a 14 x 48-foot model railroad without damaging the beautiful scenery. Displays Fine Art Services, a company that specializes in moving large museum art, was engaged to perform the move. Their contract included crating the model railroad into two sections, moving it from the existing building, temporarily storing it and finally delivering the model railroad to Jefferson. The spectacular moving event occurred in September 2011 and was broadcast on TV news in Fort Worth.

The Jefferson Historical Society and Museum constructed a replica early 1900's Texas & Pacific Railroad Depot on the Museum property to permanently house the Moses T & P Model Railroad. Construction began on the building in January 2012 and

was completed in four months. The depot building is a simple, wooden depot-style building with board-and-batten siding and bracketed eaves, approximately 22 x 55 feet, which is sized to accommodate the model railroad plus have space for visitors to view the model railroad.

The challenge for the Museum was to raise the funds required to move the model railroad and construct the new depot building. Museum supporters, the Moses Family Trust, Jefferson's citizens and local organizations donated funds and the local building community donated labor, materials and

building systems required for the construction of the new building. The Grand Opening of the R.D. Moses T & P Model Railroad at the Museum occurred in May 2012. Since its opening, over 15,000 visitors of all ages and from all over the world have enjoyed this fabulous model railroad exhibit which is open daily year-round.

The Jefferson Historical Society and Museum and the Jefferson & Cypress Bayou Model Railroad Club are excited to share the beautiful R.D. Moses T&P Model Railroad with the 2018 Candlelight Tour of Homes attendees.



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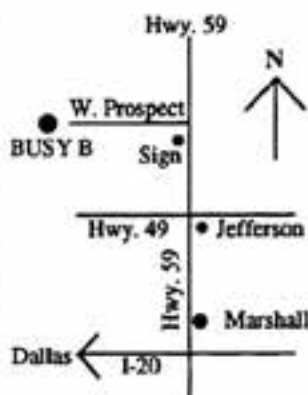
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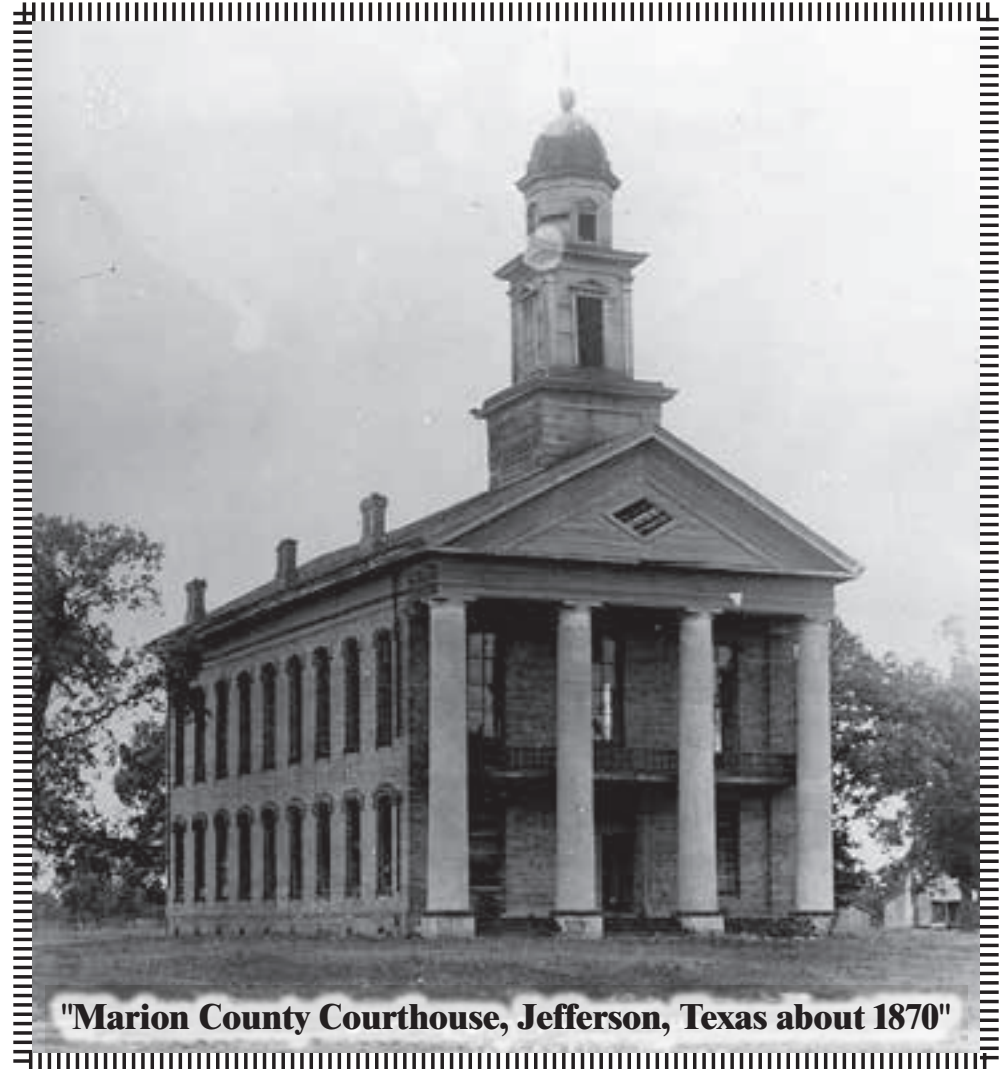
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"Marion County Courthouse, Jefferson, Texas about 1870"

Jefferson Ordnance Magazine

Jefferson, Marion County, Texas (c. 1863)

In 2014 The Jefferson Ordnance Magazine was listed by Preservation Texas as one of the “Most Endangered Places” in Texas because of its potentially catastrophic proximity to an eroding Big Cypress Bayou stream bank.

In 2017 the Historic Jefferson Foundation with the approval of the Texas Historical Commission and the financial help of many generous donors hired local contractor L. W. Oney to physically relocate in one piece the entire 60,000 lb. structure to a secure foundation approximately forty feet away from the stream bank.

Constructed as part of a network of sites for transportation of ammunition for the Confederate war effort, the Jefferson Ordnance Magazine is perhaps the only remaining example of a Civil War-era powder magazine in Texas. Strategically constructed on Big Cypress Bayou circa 1863, what was a transportation advantage had become a liability as erosion of the banks of the bayou had advanced to within eleven feet of the modest structure. The changing landscape threatened to cause the collapse of this important site listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Ten feet square and nearly fifteen feet tall, this brick building was constructed with walls one foot thick at its lower level. The walls include air spaces that formed a ventilation system to keep the interior brick dry and inside temperature stable. More than 90% of the structure is original, with careful repairs undertaken in 1992. Serving a supply network linking Shreveport, Marshall and Tyler, the ordnance magazine in Jefferson was once part of a complex of buildings on the edge of town that have all but vanished. Both architecturally and archeologically significant, the preservation of the Jefferson Ordnance Magazine will teach lessons about how to best address changing landscape conditions at an environmentally vulnerable historic place.



Growing Up Jefferson

“I Can’t Believe I Ate the Whole Thing”

By John T. Taylor



When I recall a memory of the family dinner of the 1950’s and 60’s, I can see parents and children sitting at a bountiful table, sometimes with candles. There is a turkey or ham in the center that Father is preparing to carve. Surrounding it are bowls of potatoes and other vegetables that Mother has picked from her garden. All are dressed rather formally, as if they had just returned from church to this meal that had been prepared. After Father blesses the food, all engage each other in spirited conversation, anxious to share their feelings and plans for the future. Perhaps they even discuss current events. Regardless, this is a happy family, enjoying each other’s company. It also is a scene from *Father Knows Best* with Betty, Bud and Kitten filling the children’s chairs. Or perhaps *The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet* with David and Ricky. Perhaps this image captures your family dinner, but it doesn’t quite describe mine. Read on.

Meals at my childhood home on East Walker Street could be trying at times. Admittedly I was a picky eater. Also, I ate with my left hand and held a fork as I might a shovel. Although my parents let this potential faux pas slide, my high school girlfriend did not. She, probably thinking I had been raised by wolves, pointed out the proper way to use utensils. Although embarrassing, I was able to correct that oversight, although I did notice she would glance at my grip on occasion, probably checking for reversion. I ate one food at a time, usually in the order of meat first, potatoes next, then what was left. On occasion, I would mix a couple of vegetables, having a particular fondness for the palate of colors baked beans and cream-style corn made together on my plate. And I ate slowly, leaving me alone at the table after my parents had finished quite often, my dad mumbling something like “life’s too short for this” as he made his way to the den to watch the news. This actually served me well as I will tell you later.

Now all this time at the table alone gave flight to my imagination. I could imagine myself as a chef, having my own restaurant, waiting my own tables, preferably each placed in front of a television. As almost anyone can tell you, this fantasy was not inspired by the Club Café or the Colonial Restaurant, local restaurants where we occasionally dined. My menu was a work in progress and somewhat limited, consisting mostly of Wolf Brand chili, with or without cheese and Fritos. But I did think I would like to cook, being able that way to

eat only what I liked and what I wanted. I mean, how hard could it be? Now it wasn’t very long before necessity forced that chore on me, having left my home in Jefferson and entering the world of apartment living and bachelorhood. Again, at first, my menu was somewhat limited, consisting of entries in the *Cookbook Every Bachelor Must Own*—scrambled eggs and bacon, spaghetti with meat sauce and garlic bread (toasted bread and butter sprinkled with garlic powder), fried Spam with or without cheese, and ham and cheese sandwiches, fried, toasted or plain. I eventually acquired a grill and expanded my repertoire to steaks, chops and a baked potato. By this time, it was teach yourself to cook or be destined to dine on peanut butter and banana sandwiches with beer for the rest of your life. And, as much as I enjoyed that meal, forever seemed like a long time. I did not become the cook that I occasionally am today overnight. There were many errors and lessons learned along the way. If any of you are thinking about starting a cooking career or becoming a bachelor, I would like to share with you some of the lessons I have learned.

- When you are popping popcorn the old-fashioned way, always remember to put the lid on the skillet. All the popcorn is almost impossible to catch in a bowl when it pops.

- The first time you deep fry anything, go ahead and prepare for a fire. You might even have the fire department on stand-by. Interesting factoid, even though grease burns with a flame, water will not put it out. Not even close.

- Grease you have used to pop popcorn or fry spam is hot. It will burn you and leave a mark. So will the skillet.

- Always peel avocados (this was much later in my culinary journey), and also remember they have pits.

- So do black olives. I gave three or four

blenders new homes before this discovery.

- The use by dates on milk and assorted other products are your friend. Use them.

- It is hard to prepare a picnic lunch for a date with a vegetarian. Fried Spam does not qualify. Neither do ham and cheese sandwiches. Peanut butter and banana sandwiches with beer are OK. Lots of beer is better.

- If you decide to eat healthy and buy a head of lettuce and a tomato, do not store it in your vegetable crisper so you might forget you bought it. Four months later, your girlfriend might discover it, scream and flee your apartment.

- And, finally, always clean up after you cook. Do not leave dirty dishes in dishwasher if you are to be gone over a week. You will thank me for this later.

My parents and I ate our meals at the kitchen table, except for the special occasions like birthdays and holidays when the adults ate in the dining room and the kids at the card table. Breakfast was a big deal to my dad and we usually had a big one. But the advent of November brought my dad’s favorite—oatmeal. And everyone at the table got a big bowlful. Now to me it looked like wallpaper paste and had just about as much flavor, but even though I could feel it swelling in my mouth and threatening to shut off my air intake, I suffered it bravely. And I did this with all the other seemingly disgusting foods my father loved, for he was the ultimate master of the Taylor menu. Now although I would tolerate, mostly because I had no choice, his fondness for turnip greens (although I was able to skate by on pot liquor and white bread), smothered liver, carrots, and asparagus, I finally had to make a stand. When it came to green string beans, I had to get off the bus. Green string beans would never be served in my fantasy restaurant. And to this day, I can’t tell you if it was the smell, the color, the texture or the stringy parts that wrapped around your teeth and tongue and felt like something alive wiggling its way to your stomach. It became a war of wills, of parental control versus a child’s right of refusal. That right is in one of the more obscure Articles of the Constitution, or maybe the Declaration of Independence, I’m not sure. What I am sure of is it did not appear in the Ed and Thelma Taylor Rules for Child Behavior that I had apparently agreed to upon my birth and without advice of an attorney. They used all the old tried and true methods—encouragement (“you’ll belong to the Clean Plate Club”), guilt (“there are starving children in China who would love those green string beans”), and demand (“we can’t afford to waste food in this house. Your father and I both work to put food on your table.”) I had an answer for

each of those but I quickly learned they were better kept to myself. And, finally, the coup de grace, “you will sit at this table until those green string beans are gone.” I realized that meant no television, no baseball, and no bicycle. I must have experienced most of the stages of grief in the next minute or two. Now even at that early age, I could parse words in a way that would make one of our former Presidents proud. The distinct word in that ultimatum was until those green string beans are “gone,” not until those green string beans are “eaten.” Now, remember I told you about how my eating slowly played into this drama. And my place at the table was only about ten feet to the bathroom. So.....those green string beans became “gone” by commodal burial at sea. Now this plan worked well the first couple of times but that success soon led to carelessness. That fateful third time, in my haste to cover my deception, one telltale green string bean somehow found its way not into the commode but on the floor next to it. And soon thereafter, I was asked by my mother to explain how it possibly could have gotten to the bathroom all the way from the kitchen table. And, after mulling over a few potential reasons in my head that bordered on incredulity, I could only offer, “I got nothing.”

As a result of that episode, we had green string beans every day at lunch for what seemed to be like the rest of my pre-pubescent life, but was actually only two or three days. And my mother sat with me at the table while they were “eaten,” not “gone.” Much to my surprise and probable relief, they weren’t that bad, and I think I developed a taste for green string beans, seasoned with pepper and some ham. And the older I got, the more I tried other vegetables and things my dad insisted on and I found for the most part I liked those, too. People are like that in a way. I have lived a lot of years, consumed a lot of vegetables, and encountered a lot of people who liked the things I did and a lot of those who didn’t. But sometimes those I thought I might not like or agree with surprised me when I had a chance to actually experience them, not totally unlike those green string beans. At least they became tolerable. Not always, though, sometimes they still reminded me of spinach. Or rutabagas.

I still like to cook, and if I had a restaurant, I would gladly include green string beans on the menu. I feel sure my cooking will be confined to my own kitchen, however. As a matter of fact, I have a roast in the oven right now that I need to tend to and I have to think of a vegetable to accompany it. I know what you’re thinking, and I agree. Let’s go with Brussel sprouts.

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