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East Texas

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Recommended Citation

(1964) "East Texas," *East Texas Historical Journal*: Vol. 2: Iss. 1, Article 10.

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EAST TEXAS

By the Editor

On November 14, 1963, the Harrison County Historical Society and the Harrison County Historical Survey Committee held a Civil War Centennial observance commemorating the establishment of the Confederate Capitol of Missouri by Governor Thomas C. Reynolds early in November, 1863.

Approximately 200 persons attending a luncheon addressed by Byron Tunnell, Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, heard a review of recent legislative achievements concerning historical preservation in Texas. Following the luncheon, the Marshall High School Band entertained with a concert which included, among other numbers, the "Missouri Waltz" and "Dixie," and the Dixie Drill Team of Fair Park High School, Shreveport, Louisiana, performed precision drills.

The remainder of the program occurred near the site of the Confederate Capitol of Missouri at the corner of South Bolivar and East Crockett Streets, where James E. Moss, Associate Editor of the *Missouri Historical Review* and the official representative of the Missouri Governor delivered an address and Mrs. L. E. Dudley of Abilene, representing the Texas State Historical Survey Committee, described achievements and objectives of the current historical marker program of the State of Texas.

Finally, a large granite marker, such as those about which Mrs. Dudley spoke, was unveiled by Mr. Moss bearing the following inscription:

Confederate Capitol of Missouri

On this site a one-story frame house served as headquarters of the Civil War State Government of Missouri in exile. From Marshall, Governor Thomas C. Reynolds and his staff directed the civil and military affairs of Confederate Missourians from November, 1863, until June, 1865. The Governor's mansion was in a one-story frame cottage then located directly west across the street.

A memorial to Texans

Who served in the Confederacy

Erected by the state of Texas 1963.

The full day's program was the climax of a week-long emphasis on the roles of Marshall, Harrison County, and East Texas in the Civil War led by the Harrison County Historical Society and its President, Colonel Chesley Adams, assisted by the Harrison County Historical Survey Committee, the Rotary Club and interested civic leaders. The *Marshall News Messenger* contributed to the observance by publishing a special historical edition on November 10, and the historical society republished an article by William R. Giese titled, *Missouri's Confederate Capital at Marshall, Texas*.

In the spring of 1864 General N. P. Banks began the Red River Campaign in an effort to crush the Confederates in Louisiana, southern Arkan-

sas, and eastern Texas. A Confederate Army under General Richard Taylor was assembled at Shreveport which consisted of troops from Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, and Texas. The Texas troops under General Taylor were General John G. Walker's division of Texas infantry and General Tom Green's brigade of Texas cavalry. General Taylor decided to make a stand at Mansfield and the Battle of Mansfield was fought on April 8, 1864.

The Texas State Historical Survey Committee, headed by John Ben Sheppard, is cooperating with the Mansfield Battle Centennial Committee in a joint commemoration program on April 4 and 5 honoring those who fought in the Red River Campaign.*

Texas is planning a muster of the descendants of the Texas troops who fought in this campaign on the court house square in Center Saturday morning, April 4. There will be a pancake breakfast beginning at 7:30 followed by a period for registration.

The registration will be followed by a program at which Allan Shivers of Austin will give the principal address. Byron Tunnell will serve as master of ceremonies. While at Center the Texans will elect a "Texas Rebel Yell Champion" to contest a Louisiana champion elected at Mansfield.

At eleven the Texans will leave for Mansfield and arrive in time to participate in a parade at noon. At two o'clock a memorial program will be given at the Mansfield Battle Park. The principal speaker will be Dr. Jay Taylor, President of Louisiana Polytechnic Institute.

Other Texans taking part in the program include the Fairfield High School Band, the Rebel Guard of the Robert E. Lee High School of Tyler, and a drill unit from the Sons of Confederate Veterans of Houston. A group from Freestone County will bring a Valverde cannon part of a battery of that name, which participated in the battle one hundred years ago.

The Shelby County Historical Society was organized some one and one-half years ago with two hundred and forty charter members and has well over one hundred members at the present time. Malcom Weaver was the organizing president, and Bennie Nix is the 1963-1964 president. The membership dues are five dollars annually.

The Shelby County Historical Society has several projects: it has established a museum which is kept open three days a week and admission is free; the society has registered fifty cemeteries in the county, and has secured some fifteen markers for Confederate soldiers, and one marker for a Union soldier; genealogy records are sought and preserved; the society along with the county survey committee has secured two medallions for historical homes, a medallion for the old court house in Center, and two medallions for old Methodist churches; local funds have made possible a large marker at the home of O. M. Roberts on Patroon Creek; a current effort is being made to secure local funds to designate the old county court-

*April 4 is the nearest week-end to the actual date of the battle, April 8.

house site at Shelbyville (Shelbyville, once the county seat, was once known as Nashville); church histories are being written; and historic communities are being located.

The Toledo Bend Dam Reservoir will inundate the site of Pendleton Crossing on the Sabine River where Texas Highway 21 joins Louisiana Highway 6. These two state highways follow, in a general way, the El Camino Real or the Old San Antonio Road, which is the oldest road in Texas. The Toledo Bend Association, because the present Pendleton Crossing will be under water, has asked the Louisiana and Texas Highway Departments for cost surveys of raising the present bridge and the highway leading to Pendleton and for a new route which would require a bridge over the lake at Sabinetown which is several miles down the river from Pendleton Crossing.

The San Augustine Historical Association, under the leadership of President Steve C. Kardell, is protesting the suggestion of a change in the location of the Sabine crossing. President Kardell says, "It, therefore, behooves all citizens of Texas and Louisiana in our march for progress, not to let a possible small savings [the cost of the two routes has not been definitely established] in construction cost, destroy or lose sight of an historical location so significant to the heritages of both Texas and Louisiana. While it is not our aim to stand in the way of progress, we feel that we must, at all cost, preserve not only the memory of historical events, but also the historical sites that have and will continue to reward and give us the will to progress. Granted, since there is to be a lake, the site of Pendleton must be inundated, but we can at least let future travelers have as their first sight of Texas and Louisiana the original route of El Camino Real."

The Rusk County Historical Society is also functioning as the historical survey committee for the county. Regular monthly meetings, open to the public, are held in the courthouse.

The committee is locating and marking graves of Confederate soldiers. Thirty-four Confederate graves were marked before the beginning of the Civil War Centennial, and four markers are now on order.

Perhaps the most interesting and gratifying project of the society is a weekly thirty minute radio program, "History Over the Coffee Cups," given each Friday morning at 8:30. This program emanates from a large round table in a corner of the Courthouse Coffee Shop and is given over Station KGRI in Henderson. Mrs. Carl Jagggers has been serving as moderator and the regular panelists are Mrs. Mary Frank Dunn, Mrs. Gordon Brown, and Judge C. M. Langford.

These programs have concerned old settlers, old cemeteries, Trammell's Trace, Texas regiments in the Civil War, with emphasis on Rusk County companies, old Millville and its empresario, Jesse Walling, early schools, old community names, and the Regulator and Moderator War. The third

grade from Central Elementary School gave the program in September. Each child told something about Rusk County or about Henderson.

Mrs. Carl Jagers is secretary of the Committee.

The Gregg County Historical and Genealogical Society has functioned also as the Gregg County Historical Survey Committee. The officers of the Gregg County Society are: Mrs. Paul B. Belding, President; Miss Dolly Northcutt, Vice-President; Mrs. Frances Brestow, Secretary and Treasurer; and Eddie Woods and Mrs. Mildred Thompson, Publicity Chairmen. The society membership has been divided into several committees: Archives and Artifacts; Gregg County History; Personal Interview; Publication; and Publicity.

The society has been successful in collecting interesting material concerning Gregg County families and the history of the county.

The following is a small part of the society's inventory:

- 1 Copy Family Story of James and Sarah Elder Holloway, by Mrs. T. W. Swiley
- 2 Copies Kilgore News Herald, August 18, 1963:
 - Special Feature by Mrs. Rogers Lacy, Longview, Texas.
 - Early Kilgore Families and Historical Notes of Pioneers.
 - History, Teachers and Students Recollections of Alexander Institute.
 - Part of the 1860 Census of Rusk County, Texas, copied by Rev. John Wilkins.
 - General John Gregg, and Historical Facts about East Texas.

Incomplete Folders On:

1. Gregg County, Texas
 2. Longview, Texas
 3. Early Schools in Gregg County
 4. Social Life
 5. Clubs
 6. Miscellaneous Pictures
 7. Elderville
 8. Peatown
 9. Danville
 10. Robbery of the Clemons Bank 1894
 11. Gregg County 1873-1963 from Longview News, July 21, 1963
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The annual Jefferson historical pilgrimage, which each year turns the clock back to the day when this small city was a glamorous city of stern-

wheelers and wagon trains, will be held this year on April 10, 11, and 12.

The pilgrimage is sponsored by the Jessie Allen Wise Garden Club and is considered second only to the Natchez pilgrimage in historical interest in the Deep South.

This year's three-day event will feature visits to stately homes reflecting back to the time Jefferson was the fifth largest city in Texas. There will be two tour tickets with five homes on each ticket. The price of each is three dollars plus tax. Students coming in groups will be admitted for half price.

Spectators may visit the Historical Museum, and the old Excelsior House where President Ulysses S. Grant and other notables once stayed overnight. The onetime private railroad car of rail king Jay Gould will be open to the public. Again this year there will be five performances of the Diamond Bessie Murder Trial play.

Jefferson was a major inland port city in the years following the Civil War but faded from prominence when the water level of the Red River dropped and steamboats were unable to journey up Big Cypress Bayou.

The days of glory and prestige of this old town are relived, however, each spring when thousands of visitors, during the historical pilgrimage, tour the old homes and landmarks.

The James Haggard Chapter of the Colonial Dames of the XVII Century in Nacogdoches awards a scholarship annually to an outstanding history student at Stephen F. Austin State College. The scholarship is based on need, character, and professional promise. The chapter finances its projects by a tour which includes Nacogdoches homes, some modern and some historical, and historical places in and around Nacogdoches.

The 1964 tour will be on May 2 beginning at nine-thirty in the morning. The five homes included in this year's tour are Colonel and Mrs. W. B. Bates' country home, the Gingerbread House of Mr. and Mrs. Ashford Jones, and the homes of Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Mast, Sr., Mrs. Clarence Thompson, and Dr. and Mrs. Walter B. Allen.

A colonial tea will be given from two to five P.M. at the old Nacogdoches University Building which is located on Nacogdoches High School Campus. This building, constructed in 1858, has been restored, and is being furnished with furniture of the period.

The Old Stone Fort museum, on the campus of Stephen F. Austin State College, along with the Hoya Memorial Library will also be open to visitors, as will Oak Grove Cemetery.

A tour ticket is three dollars, and includes the Colonial Tea at the Old Nacogdoches University Building.

For advanced tickets or information one should write Mrs. E. R. Bates, 1020 Mound Street, Nacogdoches.

Through the efforts of the Walker County Historical Survey Committee and the Walker County Historical Society a Medallion was recently presented to Gibbs Bros. and Company of Huntsville. Gibbs Bros. and Company is probably the oldest continuous business in Texas and was started in 1841. The company, in the more than one hundred years of its existence, has remained in the hands of the same family and the main offices are located in the original site of the business.

WALKER COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMITTEES

County Chairman: James E. Farris

Co-Chairman: Mrs. A. E. Cunningham

Secretary-Treasurer: Mrs. C. R. Hackney

Medallion Committee

Dr. Mac Woodward, Chairman
 Dr. Joe Clark
 Mrs. Alton Farris
 Mr. Gibbs Vinson, deceased
 Mrs. Bill Fitzgerald
 Miss Mary Estill
 Mrs. A. E. Cunningham

Mrs. Minney Fisher Cunningham
 Mr. T. E. Humphrey

Legislative Committee

Dr. Ferol Robinson, Chairman
 Mrs. W. T. Robinson
 Mr. Gibbs Vinson, deceased
 Mrs. Earl Huffor

Finance Committee

Mrs. L. B. Baldwin, Chairman
 Dr. Mac Woodward
 Mrs. Clyde Hall
 Mrs. A. E. Cunningham
 Mr. E. R. Berry

Special Committee

Sam Houston Grave
 Mrs. Thomas F. Richardson,
 Chairman
 Mr. Gibbs Vinson, deceased
 Mrs. Joe Kirk
 Mrs. Clyde Hall
 Mrs. A. E. Cunningham

Historical Grave Markers Committee

Mrs. Alton Farris, Chairman
 Mrs. C. R. Hackney
 Mrs. Bill Fitzgerald
 Mrs. Joe Kirk

Publicity Committee

Dr. Ferol Robinson
 Mr. T. E. Humphrey
 Mrs. C. R. Hackney

The spring session of the East Texas Historical Association will meet in Huntsville on March 21, 1964.

AUSTIN COLLEGE BUILDING
(Austin Hall)



Austin College Building—Oldest building still in continuous use for education west of the Mississippi

Austin College Building once housed Austin College and included classrooms, a chapel, and a library donated by Smithsonian Institution. The Masonic Lodge of Huntsville laid the cornerstone on June 24, 1851. The building was used by Austin College from 1851 to 1876, by a private academy from 1876 to 1879, and has been in continuous use by Sam Houston State Teachers College since 1879. This is the oldest building still in continuous use for educational purposes west of the Mississippi River.

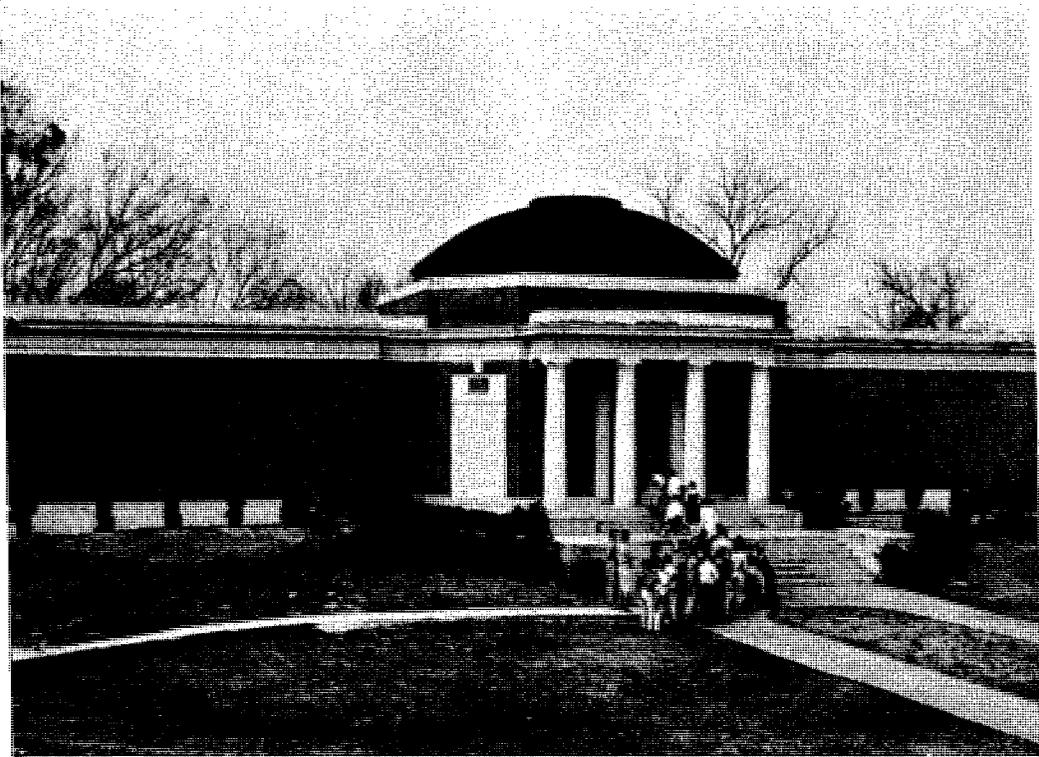
It is built of brick, two stories, and originally supported a small cupola in which hung a bell that summoned the students to class exercises. After the State of Texas acquired the building the bell was sent to Austin College which had moved to Sherman in 1876.

The building is now used as a faculty social center (first floor) and as headquarters for ROTC (second floor).



HOME OF GENERAL SAM HOUSTON

The home of General Sam Houston was built in 1847. The home is a story-and-a-half, "dog run" structure. Houston sold the property in 1853 but acquired it again in 1855. When Houston entered the governor's race in 1857, he sold the property in order to raise funds to finance the campaign. When he retired from public life, Houston was unable to purchase the old home place. The graduating class of 1910-1911 at Sam Houston State Teachers College purchased the residence. Funds for the restoration and beautification of the home and grounds were provided by the Texas Legislature in 1928.



SAM HOUSTON MEMORIAL MUSEUM

Sam Houston Memorial Museum is located just across the street from Sam Houston State Teachers College. The first unit of this building was constructed with funds (\$15,000) provided by the Texas Centennial Commission and was dedicated and presented to the State of Texas on March 2, 1937. The building is a beautiful brick structure and is crowned with a massive copper dome. Four magnificent columns support the entrance to the museum. The museum contains many displays, collections, and exhibits which are of great significance to those who are interested in Sam Houston and the history of Texas.



THE STEAMBOAT HOUSE

The Steamboat House is one of the buildings which make up the Sam Houston Shrine. It was constructed in 1858 by Dr. Rufus Bailey, President of Austin College and friend of Sam Houston. The house was modeled after the famous Mississippi steamboat. When Houston retired from public life, he returned to Huntsville and leased the Steamboat House. It was here that Houston died on July 26, 1863. J. E. Josey of Houston purchased the Steamboat House in 1933 and presented it to the State of Texas on March 2, 1936, the one hundredth anniversary of the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence. In 1936 the house was moved to its present location.

The first annual meeting of the East Texas Historical Association was held in Nacogdoches on October 5, 1963. Professor Frank B. Jackson of East Texas State College arranged the program. Three papers were read at the morning sessions: "Civil Law and Common Law in Early Texas," by Joe E. Ericson of Stephen F. Austin State College; "Red River County, Texas in the 1920's," by Neal A. Baker, Jr. of Kilgore Junior College; and "Historical Aspects of Linguistic Research in East Texas," by Fred Tarpley, of East Texas State College.

President F. Lee Lawrence, of Tyler, presided over the luncheon at which Fletcher Warren, of Greenville, and former United States Ambassador to Turkey, read a paper, "Early Beginnings in East Texas." A business session followed.

At one-thirty, a panel discussion: "Civil War in East Texas" was participated in by Ralph Goodwin, of East Texas State College, moderator; James L. Nichols, Stephen F. Austin State College; Cooper K. Ragan, of Houston, and Allan C. Ashcraft, of Texas A & M University.

A tour of historical sites in Nacogdoches was conducted by F. I. Tucker.