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Interested? Contact Caroline Wadzeck

936-402-3797 or cwadzeck@hotmail.com

Visit <http://daytonxhistory.com> website to see examples of decorated star statues

Rent Parker Hall For Your Event

To reserve Parker Hall, contact:
713-927-1629 or 832-233-3894

Newsletter or Website Contact

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Old School Museum: The Old School Museum is located next to Parker Hall at 111 West Houston St. in Dayton and is open Saturdays from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.

Dayton Historical Society: The Society meets in Parker Hall at 6 P.M. the last Monday of each month for a historical program presented by guest speakers. The program is preceded by a Society business meeting and followed by refreshments.

Dayton History News

Jamison Log Cabin

For those who have not yet toured Jamison Log Cabin and/or the Old School Museum, the artifacts and history are definitely worth exploring (open Saturdays 10am-2pm). A historical marker posted near the front porch provides this background:

“This authentic log cabin circa mid 1800s was constructed with hand hewn pine logs that were joined with half round saddle notching. The subfloor is made of hackberry and white oak with a pine finished floor; the roof is cedar, hand split shakes.

The original clay and moss chinking between the logs is now a mixture of Portland cement, lime, and wash sand with sawdust as a binder.

The cabin was acquired by W.T. Jamison in the early 1920s when he purchased the land on which it sat, located on the southeast edge of French Prairie approximately one mile southeast of the French Cemetery.

The cabin was the home of sharecroppers, with the Murphy family being the last to live there.

In 1926, Jet and Josia Murphy moved into the cabin with their children and several other relatives. Lean-to structures were attached for added room. The Murphys grew crops of vegetables and looked after a large herd of hogs owned by Mr. Jamison.

The Murphys’ son, Forthin, was the last baby born in the cabin (1931). A younger brother of Jett, Johnny Murphy and his family, also sharecroppers, lived there from 1934 to 1940.



In 1962, the J.R. Jamison family moved the cabin to their backyard in Sherwood subdivision, which required disassembling it, numbering the logs, and building it back to its original design.

The cabin served several purposes for them over the years: a storage area, boy scout hut, and a place for their son to work on computers, to name a few.

In 2016, Mary Beth Jamison and her children Pete and Ann donated the cabin to the Dayton Historical Society.

Again, the cabin was disassembled, the logs numbered, and reassembled to its original design.

This time, many of the logs had to be replaced due to our southeast Texas humidity. Under the direction of Dell Brown of Livingston, Texas, many volunteers came together to reconstruct the cabin.

Replacement logs were donated by Mr. Brown, Mary Mikulec, and Robert Openshaw. David and Aline Parker, Adelene Stevens, and the Dayton Historical Society provided funds for the cabin restoration.”

Making Music in Dayton

In 1901, land was purchased from the Lowery Estate for \$90, with a down payment of \$10 and a promissory note for \$80 and designated for use by Dayton public schools. The site was bound by Hwy 90 (north), Houston St. (south), Cleveland St. (west), and Main St. (east).

Today, 118 years later, the property is now the site of Walgreens, Sonic, O'Reilly's, Exxon, and the Post Office.

Dayton's first band director was hired in 1936 and a band trip to Florida was taken in 1939. The first band hall was built in 1941-42 on the corner of Houston St. and Cleveland St.

The area at the corner of Hwy 90 and Cleveland St. served as a football field and the band's practice field for marching. (see photo below)

The context of the north facing photo of the 1946-47 Dayton Broncho band below includes points A thru F.

Broncho or Bronco?



Photo of original Broncho band hall Musician is Janette Goulder-Frick, author of Dayton History News

- A – Cleveland St./Hwy 146 @ Hwy 90
- B – Became railroad track underpass
- C – Wolf Implements (Case Tractors) under construction, became Rainbow Café, now McDonalds
- D – Became site of Hartz Chicken
- E – Residence on Sterling St. facing north
- F – Dayton State Bank (Prosperity Bank)



1920 Dayton Schools Annual – Excerpt

“About 20 years ago (1900), when Dayton was only a very small place, it took its first step toward the development of the education of the children. A school-house was built about where the Dayton Mills are now located, and a teacher secured to enlighten the boys and girls, who were almost in a state of ignorance.

The school had only a few pupils, and they were unable to attend in rainy weather, unless they could swim, for there was no drainage system, and the water covered the ground around the school-house.

The location of the school was not considered satisfactory, so it was proposed that a new schoolhouse be found, or built, in the east part of town, where the land was better drained. An old building was secured, and the school progressed very nicely, considering the difficulties which hampered its progress.

Dayton was now rapidly growing, and a better school was needed to accommodate the new pupils. A building was erected, and two teachers were now needed to manage the increasing number of pupils. The number of students increased yearly, and plans were made to erect a new building. Plans were submitted to erect a two-story brick building with four rooms, an office and a long hall downstairs, and an auditorium upstairs. The plan being accepted, bonds were issued, the contract awarded, and the work immediately started.

In September 1910, the first term of school began, with a faculty of five members, teaching through the seventh grade. The work progressed favorably, and the next year a new faculty being elected, the school began to grow and improve. In 1912, the school did not make satisfactory progress.

The year 1911 must be remembered as the first year that the Dayton School had anything of any resemblance to a high school. Mr. Hill came to Dayton in that year and attempted to put a little system into the work, although for the first two years he had little or no success.

In his third year, however, his high school was organized with much more success, though he still did not add the 11th grade. It was also in this year that he built one room in the auditorium.

With this as a foundation, Mr. Barden came here for the term of 1917 and 1918, and began at once to organize the school throughout, especially the high school, with the special purpose of “putting the town on the school map” and affiliating it with the state university and all colleges of the state.

The work throughout the year was hampered by a lack of room and it was easily seen that more room must be had. When school closed in May, a bond issue was voted upon and plans were made to tear out the auditorium and convert it wholly into more rooms. The 11th grade was added and everyone, seeing how much Mr. Barden was accomplishing, “dug in” to help him attain the goal he had set. The year was the most successful Dayton had ever had, and for the work done during the term, our high school was given 1st class classification and nine and ½ units of affiliation.

The 1919-20 term opened with prospects for a still greater year and more affiliation has been asked for and is expected. The free text book law has been passed and many books added to the library. With a larger and better high school, as well as grammar school, and the cooperation of students and faculty, we hope to have the most successful year that not only the Dayton High School, but even the Dayton Schools, has ever seen.”