

# THE JOURNAL

TYRRELL HISTORICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



## CITY PARTNER

THLA remains as a faithful partner with the City of Beaumont. We look forward to sponsoring additional programs and educational opportunities and gifting the library with items needed for it to continue to grow.

*"A LIBRARY OUTRANKS ANY OTHER ONE THING A COMMUNITY CAN DO TO BENEFIT ITS PEOPLE. IT IS A NEVER FAILING SPRING IN THE DESERT."*  
-ANDREW CARNEGIE

## STAY UP TO DATE

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to stay up to date on the latest events. You can also email us with ideas, newsletter submissions, comments or questions at [thlabeaumont@gmail.com](mailto:thlabeaumont@gmail.com) or by mail at P.O. Box 12563, Beaumont, TX 77726-2563

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO JOIN OR  
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**



Be sure to ask a library staff member about volunteer opportunities. Library hours of operation are Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. to 6:00p.m.

# SPOTLIGHT ON THE BOARD

This month, our spotlight falls on the president of the THLA, Kate Hambricht. Kate is the Historical Marker Chair for the Jefferson County Historical Commission, treasurer and board member of the Big Thicket Association, and is an appointee of the Beaumont Library Commission. She also serves as a board member of the Beaumont Heritage Society. She is a member of the Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association, having graduated from the Citizens Police Academy in November 2018 as the top female shooter in her class. She was formerly also an appointee of the Hill County Historical Commission for many years. In her spare time, she is an avid outdoors woman with a passion for macro photography. Kate has been a member of THLA for over a decade and has been serving on the board for the past 4 years. She says that her favorite resource at the Tyrrell is the early Beaumont City Council minutes because they proved to be



invaluable in her many research projects for the Jefferson County Historical Commission.

Her volunteer work is vast. In addition to those already mentioned, she says, “I can be found at the Neches River Rally or Big Thicket Day for the Big Thicket Association, manning check-in at various Beaumont Heritage Society functions, assisting with packaging/handing out candy at the Beaumont Police Department’s Trunk or Treat or participating in SWAT or hostage negotiation drills. I can also be found at the Jefferson County Historical Commission’s annual Magnolia Cemetery Tour or clean up days. I draft narratives for historical markers for the Jefferson County Historical Commission and work with marker sponsors on their own marker topics. I write histories as requested of various local landmarks for the historical commission. I also assist the Beaumont Police Department with various research requests, particularly as they relate to line of duty deaths.”

Kate comes from a family with a rich history, with three family members writing autobiographies on her mother’s side. These range in topics from pioneer life on the west Texas plains, living in an Oklahoma dugout at the turn of the 20th century, a teacher in Georgia in the 1910s, and two tours of duty in France during WWI. She is the family archivist, and has created a collection which she continues to update for her siblings and extended family to enjoy. Outside of family, she also edited manuscripts for a retired Hill County Army major that focused on the settlement of the upper Brazos River area where her 3rd great grandfather served as one of the first county commissioners. She is constantly travelling and collecting information from various archives. “Today my research mainly consists of projects for the Jefferson County Historical Commission, whether I am researching a personal topic of interest or aiding someone with a request. I view history as living; it always has something to teach us. It is never static but constantly reveals surprising information. Being an historian, I feel that documentation is the key to accurate research. Patience certainly helps, too, as one seeks to unearth and examine clues to our past.”

# JANUARY IS MEMBERSHIP MONTH

“TO BE IGNORANT OF WHAT  
OCCURRED BEFORE YOU WERE  
BORN IS TO REMAIN ALWAYS A CHILD.  
FOR WHAT IS THE WORTH OF HUMAN  
LIFE, UNLESS IT IS WOVEN INTO THE  
LIFE OF OUR ANCESTORS BY THE  
RECORDS OF HISTORY?”

– CICERO

“STUDY THE PAST IF YOU WOULD  
DEFINE THE FUTURE.”

– CONFUCIUS

January is here, and it is the annual membership drive. If you have not already paid your membership fee, now is a great time to do so, and if you know anyone who is passionate about the preservation of our history, encourage them to join. The Tyrrell Historical Library serves as an anchor to our past, ensuring that the voices of our ancestors are preserved and can still speak to us and through us. You can join THLA by scanning the QR code on the first page of this newsletter, or by filling out the last page and sending it in.

“THE FARTHER BACKWARD YOU CAN LOOK,  
THE FARTHER FORWARD YOU ARE LIKELY TO  
SEE.”

– WINSTON CHURCHILL

“THE ONLY THING NEW IN THE WORLD IS THE  
HISTORY YOU DO NOT KNOW.”

– HARRY S. TRUMAN

# WHAT'S COMING UP AT THL

## BLINDED BY THE LIGHTS



On January 24 at 4:00 p.m., the Tyrrell will host a book lecture by Dr. Don Albrecht over his work, Blinded by the Lights. “Using the lens of high school football, Blinded by the Lights, describes the highs and lows in the ongoing battle for equal educational opportunities for all Texas students.” Featured in the book are Hebert and Charlton-Pollard high schools, and West Brook to name a few. “Texas schools were separate and unequal in the 1950s. Texas schools are unequal today,” Albrecht says. Come out to hear this incredible research talk.

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The THLA has new board members, and some returning familiar faces. The 2025 board is:

President - Kate Hambright

1st Vice President - Jen Trenbeath

Recording Secretary - Christina Wilbur

Corresponding Secretary - Tillie Hickman

Treasurer - Jan Droptini

New Board members:

David Robles

Laurie Leister

SAVE THE DATE

Next board meeting:  
January 28, 2025 @ 4:00 p.m.



# Tyrrell Historical Library Association

Visit us at <https://www.thlabeaumont.org> • Email us at [thlabeaumont@gmail.com](mailto:thlabeaumont@gmail.com)

## January is Annual Membership Month!

The Tyrrell Historical Library Association was founded in 1987 to help preserve and restore the Tyrrell Historical Library. Today, through members' dues and donations, the THLA provides the Tyrrell with things it needs over and above what the city can furnish. The library is open Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. in the heart of downtown Beaumont. Tyrrell Historical Library is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark. Admission to the Tyrrell Historical Library remains free. Patrons can visit the library for hand-on research or use the digital portal online to directly access collections or documents and photographs.

Become a member today! Please include your email address to receive our newsletter that will allow you to follow the success of exciting growth and preservation projects. Connect with us online or we can mail you information.

**Mail Me the Newsletter!**

**Email Me the Newsletter!**

## Tyrrell Historical Library Association Membership Plans

**Individual \$25**

**Family \$50**

**Patron \$100**

*Contributions, memorials, and honorariums are always welcome.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

*Pay securely online using the QR code or by*

*Visiting:* <https://www.thlabeaumont.org>

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

<https://thlabeaumont.org>

Tyrrell Historical Library Digital Collections  
<https://tyrellhistoricallibrary.contentdm.oclc.org/>

Tyrrell Historical Library on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Tyrrell-Historical-Library-236313203155911/>



*Mail Dues to:*

Tyrrell Historical Library  
Association  
P.O. Box 12563  
Beaumont, TX 77726-2563