

# 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.

# MEET THE BOARD

A new addition to the newsletter, the "meet the board" stories will give us an insight into the THLA board members and how they came to be involved with the Tyrrell. This edition of the newsletter focuses on Matilda "Tillie" Hickman. Mrs. Hickman grew up in Lake Charles, Louisiana attending the local public schools. The first job she had was working for the Calcasieu Parish Library, reshelving books, for 50 cents an hour, so her love for libraries started early. After high school, she continued her education at McNeese State University where she earned both a B.S. in Secondary Education and a M.A. in English with a minor in History. During her time at McNeese, Tillie also worked for the campus newspaper, even serving as editor-in-chief for two years.



After college, she married Bennie Hickman, her husband of 44 years until his death. Later, she began her career in education teaching English and French at Vinton High School. She would continue teaching for over 50 years, even teaching for the Army Education Center while she was deployed with her husband in Germany. Her pursuits in the field of education continued after she moved to Beaumont 50 years ago. Mrs. Hickman has served in a variety of positions including teaching English and ESL, English Supervisor, Assistant Principal and Principal at Odom Academy where she developed the Pegasus program for the magnet middle school.

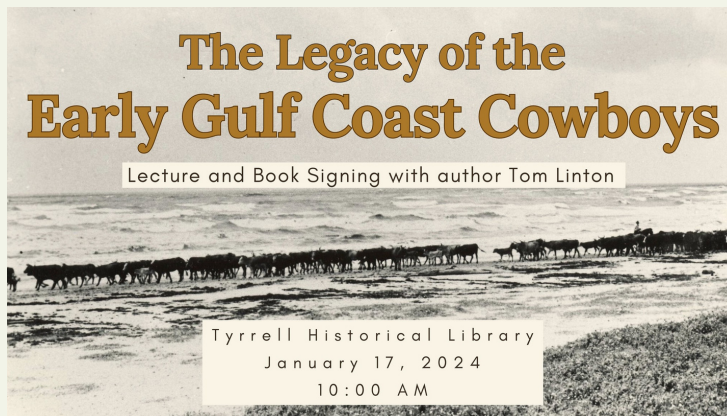
Throughout her life, volunteer work has always had a place. Locally, she has worked with several organizations and societies. She has been a volunteer with the Symphony of Southeast Texas, AMSET, the Heritage Society, and the Edison Museum, just to name a few. She was asked to join the THLA several years ago, and accepted the position because it seemed a good combination of her interest in both libraries, research and history, particularly the history of our region. She has two grown children, five nearly grown grandchildren, two dogs and a cat who keep her life full when she is not serving her community.

Look out for our next Meet on the Board article in the April newsletter!

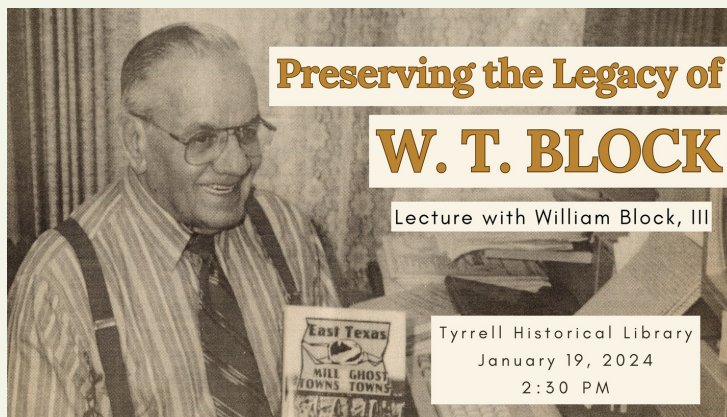
# UPCOMING EVENTS

## WINTER LECTURE SERIES EVENTS

The Tyrrell Historic Library will be hosting many fascinating lecture events this season. Stop by for one of these fascinating talks to learn more about the people and places that make up the history of the region, or even your own history.

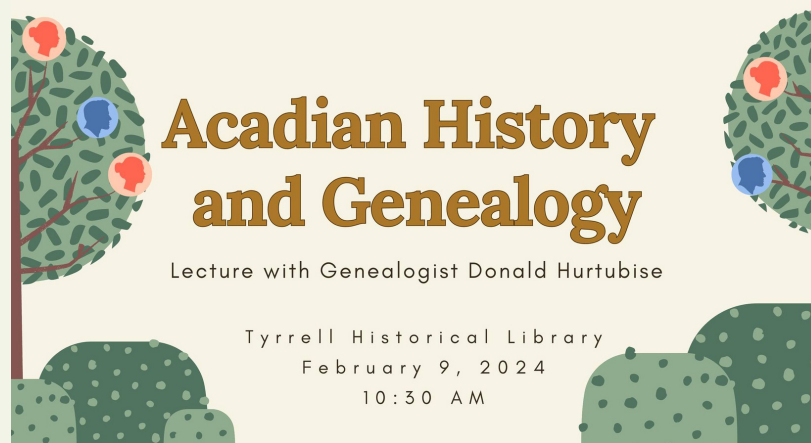


Join author Tom Linton for a lecture on his book "The Legacy of the Early Gulf Coast Cowboys," which follows the stories of ranchers and cattlemen from Texas's earliest days. In his talk, Linton will shed light on the prominent, but often overlooked, ranchers and cattlemen in Southeast Texas's history, many of whom rivaled more famous West Texas ranchers. A book signing will follow the event.



Join William T. Block, III for a lecture on the work and legacy of his father, William T. Block, Jr., a prominent Southeast Texas historian and writer. Block wrote many books on Southeast Texas history, including "Sour Lake Texas: From Mud Baths to Millionaires" and "A History of Jefferson County, Texas: From Wilderness to Reconstruction." Block also wrote a local history column for the Beaumont Enterprise and was a member of the Texas Gulf Historical Society.

# UPCOMING EVENTS



Join genealogist Donald Hurtubise for a lecture on Acadian history and genealogy. The lecture will be of particular interest to genealogists and those with Cajun heritage or family ties to Louisiana, like our spotlight board member Tillie Hickman.

## ***JANUARY IS MEMBERSHIP MONTH!***

January is membership month for the THLA. The association is requesting that you join or renew your membership. The Tyrrell is dear to all of us because of the historical significance of the building, the resources the library provides to the community and the opportunities for patrons to research their genealogy. Renew your membership today!

**SAVE THE DATE**

Next board meeting:  
January 23, 2023 4:00 p.m. at the Tyrrell