

June 2022  
Vol. 38/ No. 3

# McFADDIN-WARD HOUSE VIEWPOINTS

## McFaddin Support for Education



Mamie McFaddin, right, in Washington, D.C. ca. 1910 with Gunston Hall classmates and instructor.

By Judy Linsley

The Progressive Era (ca. 1890-1920) brought many and varied efforts to make life better, among them a push for improvements in education. During this period, the number of public elementary schools nationwide proliferated, and larger communities began adding public high schools.

Nationally, John Dewey led the push for general improvements in education, feeling that schools should not only disseminate knowledge but teach young people how to reach their full potential as adults.

They could then use what they learned for the greater good.

Booker T. Washington, founder of Alabama's Tuskegee Institute for African Americans, advocated for Black education. He supported Dewey's reforms but added his own ideas. In a time when many whites thought Black students required at most only basic literacy and manual training, Washington saw the need, in a segregated society, for African American teachers, lawyers, doctors, and other professionals.

During the Progressive Era, Texas women became active in both politics and education. In 1916, Austin native Annie Webb Blanton was elected president of the Texas State Teachers Association and in 1918 won the vote for state superintendent of public instruction. The Women's Joint Legislative Council, a coalition of women's groups created in 1922 and derisively called the "Petticoat Lobby" by some males, threw its support behind education reform.

Beaumont schools, both

Black and white, had been administered by the Beaumont School District since 1883 (though in the 1990s the district shut down for a couple of years for lack of funds). A few private schools still operated in town. Students outside the corporation limits attended county schools, which were just getting underway by the early 1900s.

When Frederick Law Olmstead made his famous journey to Texas in the 1840s, he noticed that while the original immigrants to Texas generally had good educations, much of the next generation was illiterate, chiefly because of a lack of schools.

That was true of William McFaddin, W.P.H. McFaddin's father. William never received a formal education. He reportedly said scornfully, "Spy God, if that's what an education does for you, I'm glad I didn't have one," referring to a well-educated family member he considered lazy. In reality, however, he valued education and made sure his children received the best one possible. Over the years, William and his wife Rachel hired a number of live-in tutors to instruct their children; one, A.D. Kent, married William's daughter Druzilla. Another daughter, Di, attended a finishing school in the East.

W.P.H. McFaddin was first tutored at home, then attended Texas Military Institute in Austin (which



## Director's Desk

# Our House - Your House

# Our Garden - Your Garden

Dear Friends,

The McFaddin-Ward House staff spent much of the down time afforded by the pandemic preparing to expand and improve the Museum's programming. Recognizing that we need not be limited to what can be done within the four walls of the Historic House, sights have been set across the three city blocks occupied by the Visitor Center, the Historic House, and the Carriage House, located at 1906 Calder Avenue, 1906 McFaddin Avenue,

and 1906 North Street respectively.

Old favorites like Music in the Gardens and Movies on the Lawn remain ~ but with an updated setting of walkways and lighting throughout the gardens. Check our website regularly for new outdoor offerings at the McFaddin-Ward House.

Of course, there is no need to wait for a scheduled event to enjoy our gardens. Whenever the gates are open, so are the gardens open for a stroll along the walkway,

or to stop and smell over 100 varieties of roses in the Rose Garden.

Additionally, the newly revived Kitchen Garden, tucked near the back of the Historic House and tended by the Magnolia Garden Club, is not to be missed.

See you June 9th for Music in the Gardens with Jimmy Simmons and Friends jazz ensemble!



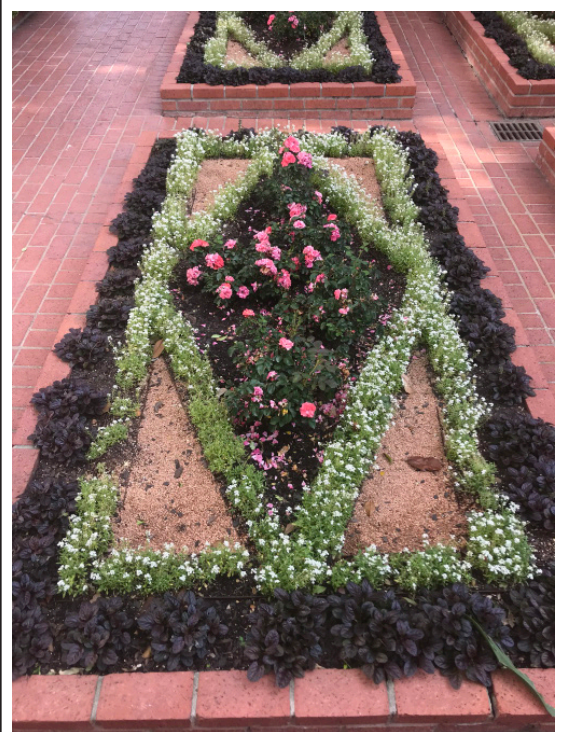
Tony L. Chauveaux



Bee perches on rose in Rose Garden



Photo taken from Music in the Gardens on March 31st



Kitchen Garden



# Curator's Corner

## The Dance of Digitization

By **Victoria Tamez**  
Curator of Collections

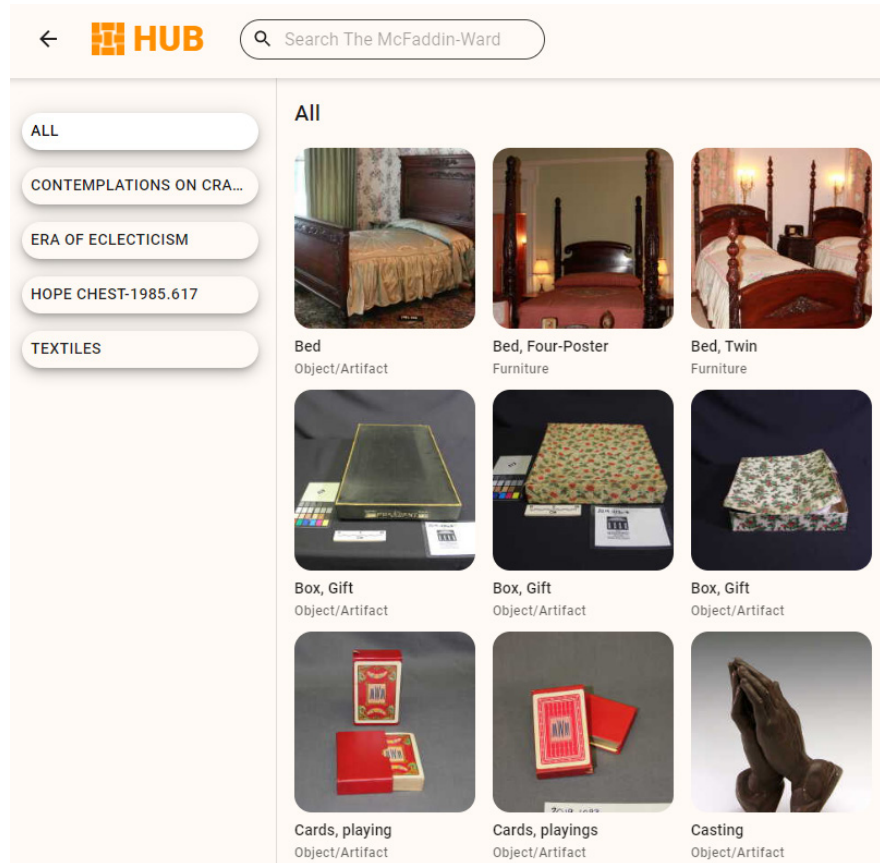
One of the curatorial team's main projects involves the digitization of our object records. These records hold detailed information about the various objects that can be found within the McFaddin-Ward House, our collections building, and the Carriage House. By digitizing these records, we hope to have this detailed information available to the public. The digitization of records aids curatorial departments by providing another place to store and access object information. Additionally, it helps with outreach for individuals or classes where individuals are not able to physically visit the museum, and it provides a more detailed look at museum objects for researchers or other interested parties.

What exactly do we do in our digitization process? We take an object record—which includes a catalog worksheet, usually a movement sheet, and a few other documents—and place the information on those documents into our collections management software. The software we use, CatalogIt, is a web-based service that allows us to access our records wherever there is

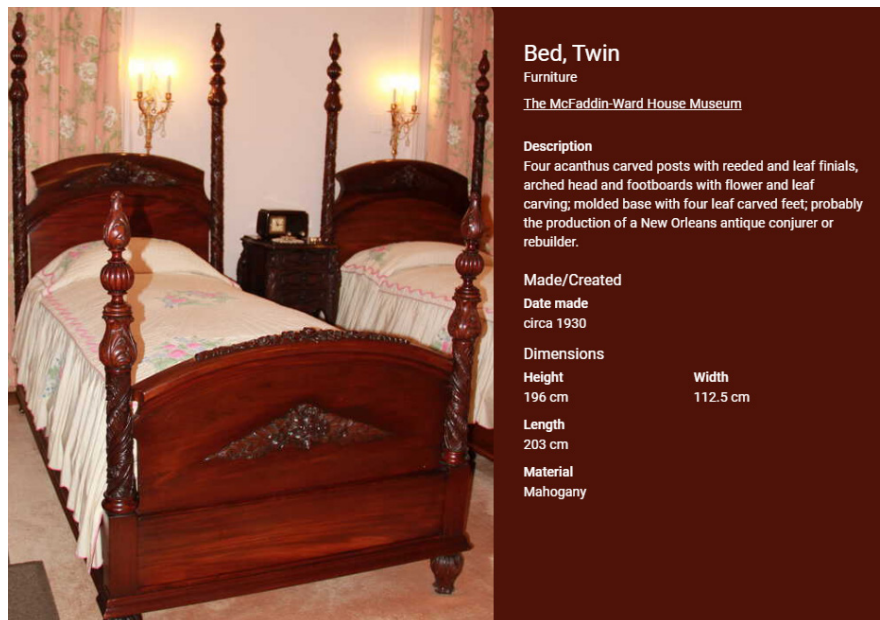
an internet connection.

Certain object records do not have the same amount of information as others; therefore, their entries appear much smaller than others. Certain objects have digital photographs, while others do not. Most of the records we are currently placing on CatalogIt do not have digital images for us to publish, thus the re-photographing of the objects is another project for the department to work through. Not all of the records we have digitized currently are available for public view. These are the records without images that will be published later. Currently, we do have records published for the public to view. These records also include a few objects that will be available for detailed view on the virtual tour that will be available this upcoming summer.

Take a look at the records we do have published and digitized on CatalogIt. We still have a long way to go to finish up all the records, but we have a great start! Here is the link for our CatalogIt Hub where you can find a few of our records: <https://hub.catalogit.app/1636/folder>.

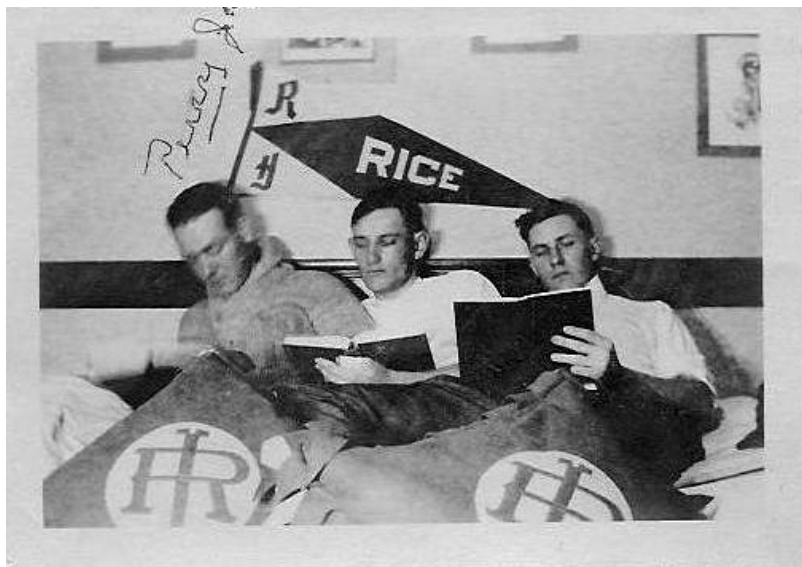


The public can view published object records by visiting CatalogIt.



# EDUCATION

Continued from page 1



Perry McFaddin Jr. with friends at Rice Institute ca. 1915.



Caldwell McFaddin at Rice Institute ca. 1917, dressed in the school's World War I "military" uniform.

was probably where he studied Latin), and finally Jones Commercial College in St. Louis, Missouri. Ida grew up in Huntington, West Virginia, a much more "civilized" part of the world than frontier Texas. She was educated at Augusta Female Seminary (later Mary Baldwin Seminary), a well-known finishing school for young ladies in Staunton, Virginia. Both Ida and W.P.H. benefited from their educations, as is apparent in the articles he wrote for the Beaumont newspapers and her speeches and presentations. Even their letters, often written in haste, were well-structured and correctly written.

When the time came, the couple ensured that their children received the best education available. Mamie and Perry

Jr., born 1895 and 1897 respectively, spent their early years at Belle Austin Institute, a "select school" in Beaumont that offered "intermediate high school and seminary grades." In the children's early years, it was located in the Oaks Hotel, right across the street from the McFaddins' (then) home at 1316 Calder.

Caldwell, born in 1901, attended the Misses Cahns' Kindergarten, a new school at 1196 Broadway that opened in 1906. The kindergarten concept had been around since the 1850s, but Progressive educators linked the value of early childhood education with the ideas of John Dewey and early childhood schools grew in popularity.

The Misses Cahns' Kindergarten actually taught students up

to high school. Miss Isabelle taught kindergarten and Miss Rosalie taught the primary grades. Caldwell had special claim to fame when his pet billy goat followed him to school one day and waited outside until he was dismissed. Forget Mary and her lamb, think Caldwell McFaddin.

After graduating from Belle Austin, Mamie attended finishing school at Gunston Hall in Washington, D.C., from about 1909 to 1912. Caldwell and Perry Jr. attended Beaumont High School and then Rice Institute (now University) in Houston. When Perry entered as a freshman in 1913, the school was only a year old, founded as a nonsectarian co-educational school "for the Advancement of

Literature, Science, Art, Philosophy and Letters; and establishment and maintenance of a polytechnical school [all] for the white inhabitants of the City of Houston and State of Texas." Both boys graduated from Rice, Perry in 1917, Caldwell in 1921.

Caldwell, the most serious scholar in the family (he had been valedictorian at Beaumont High), went on to graduate from Harvard Law School.

Both Ida and W.P.H. seriously backed up their support for education. W.P.H. served on the Beaumont School District Board in the 1890s. Ida, while her own children were finishing up their education, paid for Cecelia and Hilda Smith, daughters of the McFaddins' laundress Brunie Payne, to attend

Holy Rosary School in Galveston, a vocational boarding School for African Americans. Cecelia later came back to work for the McFaddin family for over 40 years.

Ida, through the Daughters of the American Revolution, rewarded essay writing at Beaumont High School and funded a scholarship at Lamar Junior College.

Perhaps Ida and W.P.H.'s most important contribution to education was to pass on their values. That legacy resulted in their daughter Mamie's generous support for various education programs, such as, among other things, the Mamie McFaddin Ward Health Science Building on the Lamar University campus.



# Education

## WANTED: Summer Campers + Volunteers

By Rayanna Hoeft

Director of Educational Outreach

After a two-year hiatus, the McFaddin-Ward House is hosting summer camp.

Campers will experience early 20th century ranch life over the three-day camp, then families are invited to attend a special family round up event during the evening of the final camp day. Two sessions are scheduled for the last weeks of June and July. The cost of the camp covers all camp materials and a special lunch while participants are on the “trail ride.”

Campers will engage in hands-on activities and demonstrations related to life on the ranch, fun on the ranch, and the trail ride. Each day presents new opportunities to learn about how ranching impacted Texas’ economy and culture.

Please visit our website at [McFaddin-Ward.org/events](http://McFaddin-Ward.org/events) for more information and to register.

### Week 1:

Monday, June 27th – Wednesday, June 29th

### Week 2:

Monday, July 25th – Wednesday, July 27th

10:00 am – 2:00 pm | For Ages 8-12

### Where:

On the grounds of the McFaddin-Ward House

### Fee:

\$45 (Scholarships available based on financial need.)



### Volunteers Needed

Successful museum programming takes a village, and we need you to join ours! The Education Department at the McFaddin-Ward House offers local youth and college students an opportunity to gain valuable experience in working with

students at an historic site by assisting with the upcoming summer camp, fall homeschool workshops, and weekend programming activities. This is a great way to obtain community service hours for school and meet requirements for

extracurricular clubs. If you're interested in volunteering at a unique and meaningful site in our community please contact Rayanna Hoeft, Director of Educational Programming, at [rhoeft@mcfaddin-ward.org](mailto:rhoeft@mcfaddin-ward.org) or call 409-832-1906.

# ‘Other Views’

## Ouida’s Stuff

By Arlene Christiansen

When Ouida Caldwell Watts, younger sister of Ida Caldwell McFaddin, married Charles Wellington Watts in 1916, they moved into the Watts Estate, Kenwood. Kenwood was located in the Park Hills subdivision of Huntington, WV. It was a beautiful 1910 Neoclassical Revival house situated on approximately 4 acres of lawns and gardens. Charles Watts was a leading business figure in Huntington, having owned Watts, Ritter & Co., a wholesale dry goods and notions company. He was also President of First Huntington National Bank. The Watts lived an opulent life style. When Charles died in 1934, Ouida continued to live in the villa and became one of the executors of the Watts Trust.

In 1954, when her age and the maintenance on the house became too much for her to manage, Ouida moved into the family’s corporate penthouse at the Frederick Hotel in Huntington.

The villa was transferred back to the Watts Property Trust at that time.

On November 12, 1956 Ouida passed away in her hotel suite at the age of 82. Upon her death she left her possessions to her niece, Mamie McFaddin Ward. According to oral histories in our archives, Mamie had the objects packed into three trucks and transported back to Beaumont.

When the items arrived in Beaumont, Mamie began to incorporate them into her home, and some of them are still on display in the museum today. I thought it might be fun to point them out and show where they are located.

Many of Ouida’s objects currently on display are in the Music Room. One is an occasional chair dated ca. 1906 with a carved pierced back, x-shaped seat, and interesting details: animal finials, animal mask scrolled terminals, lion arm terminals and paw feet.



Located in the Music Room is the occasional chair dated ca. 1906.



Ouida Caldwell Watts, sister of Ida Caldwell McFaddin, lived at Kenwood (shown above).



The Victrola, located in the Parlor, was made ca. 1912 and still plays.





The electric peacock lamp can be found in the Blue Bedroom.



A ca. 1900-1910 gilt wood and silver-backed Chippendale-style glass mirror hangs in the Entrance Hall.



The marble dog is located in the Music Room on the fireplace mantel.

Sounds downright beastly, doesn't it?

The Music Room holds another piece of Ouida's furniture—a beautiful Georgian-style mahogany pier table, ca. 1900. The mahogany bench with brocade cushion at the piano (but not the piano itself) also came from Ouida's estate. We don't know when the bench was made or by whom.

One small Ouida item in the Music Room is a marble dog, probably made between 1850 and 1900.

A musical item, although not in the Music Room, is the Victrola, located in the Pink Parlor. Made ca. 1912 by the Victor Talking Machine Co. in Camden, New Jersey, it has a beautiful Vernis Martin finish and still plays.

Other items appear in other rooms. A ca. 1900 lacquered bronze censer, probably made in Japan for the American market, sits on the stairway landing. In the Butler Pantry is a set of twelve glass plates with silver inlay with scrolled design and an embellished "OCW" monogram along the rim.

Another monogrammed item is

the silver clothes brush in the East Bedroom on the third floor. It belonged to Charles Wellington Watts and has his monogram "CWW" on it. It dates to ca 1910 and was made by Nussbaum & Hunold in Providence, Rhode Island.

One of my favorite pieces is the electric peacock lamp in the Blue Bedroom. It was made ca. 1920 and is constructed of metal and glass "feathers" on a marble base.

There is a beautiful dining set in the board room in the Visitor Center, a mahogany table with eight chairs. The chair seats are done in needlepoint, each chair with a different design. Also in the board room is a classical revival sideboard, and in the foyer next to the Lecture Hall there is an Adamesque-style serving table. All of these furnishings are ca. 1900.

There are other items in the reserve collection that are not displayed in the house. That may be a topic for another time.



A ca. 1900 lacquered bronze censer is located on the stairway in the Entrance Hall. It was probably made in Japan for sale on the American market and is a purely decorative piece.

# McFADDIN-WARD HOUSE VIEWPOINTS



Vol. 38, No. 3

June 2022

(409) 832-1906: Office

(409) 832-2134: Visitor Center

[www.mcfaddin-ward.org](http://www.mcfaddin-ward.org)

The  
McFADDIN-WARD  
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## Public Programming Perspectives

By Bel Morian

### Visitors From Far and Wide:

The museum has seen visitors from 32 states since the beginning of 2022. We enjoy sharing our beautiful historic home with individuals, groups, and school tours. Our fabulous docents lead interesting and engaging tours that receive top ratings on TripAdvisor, making us one of the top attractions in our area.

### Lectures and Events:

The McFaddin-Ward House has enjoyed a robust response to our scheduled events and lectures. Many guests enjoyed Harry Rinker's insights on valuation of collections along with his fun appraisal clinics. Harry conducted over 95 appraisal appointments at the Visitor Center.

The Jessica DuPuy Lecture and Reception featuring 1701 BBQ and Del Papa products was a grand success enjoyed by all attendees. It was a beautiful day for an outdoor reception before an interesting lecture on Texas food and wine.

Our first Music in the Gardens: Bubbles and Brass featuring Spindletop Brass was a delightful evening with families and friends enjoying the beautiful museum gardens and music.

We hope you will join us this summer for these upcoming events which are always offered at no charge to our guests:

## Upcoming Events

**Thursday, June 9 @ 6:30 p.m.**

Music in the Gardens: Jazz & Juleps  
featuring Jimmy Simmons and Friends

**Thursday, June 23 @ 7:30 p.m.**

Movies by the Decade featuring *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*

**Thursday, July 7 @ 7:30 p.m.**

Movies by the Decade featuring *Citizen Kane*

**Thursday, July 21 @ 7:30 p.m.**

Movies by the Decade featuring *Singin' in the Rain*

Scan the QR code  
with your phone to preview  
upcoming MWH events.



### Join In:

The McFaddin-Ward House is actively recruiting docents and volunteers. Please call 409-832-2134 or email [rhoeft@mcfaddin-ward.org](mailto:rhoeft@mcfaddin-ward.org) for information.