

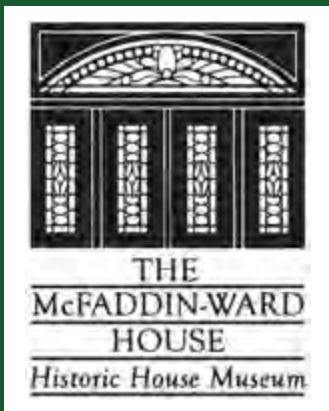


McFADDIN-WARD HOUSE VIEWPOINTS

Summer 2026
Vol. 42/ No. 3



Guests enjoy an unforgettable evening at Music at the McFaddins' featuring the Symphony of Southeast Texas String Quartet on April 27.



Who We Are

Completed in 1906, the McFaddin-Ward House is a striking Beaux-Arts Colonial Revival-style mansion and historic landmark in Beaumont, Texas.

Fully restored and beautifully furnished with original pieces, the house offers a vivid glimpse into the lives of the prominent McFaddin family—who called it home for 75 years—and their enduring contributions to the economic, social, and cultural history of Beaumont and the Texas Gulf Coast.

The museum offers admission-free tours of the Historic Home, Carriage House, and Gardens, as well as engaging educational programming and year-round events.

NEW HOURS & TOURS

Museum Hours

Tues. – Sat. | 9 AM – 2:30 PM

Sun. | 12 PM – 2:30 PM

**Last tour time is 2 PM*

Tour Times

McFaddin-Ward House Tour

Tues. – Sat. | 10 AM & 1 PM

Sun. | 1 PM only

**Open to ages 8+*

Carriage House & Garden Tour

Tues. – Sat. | 9 AM & 12 PM

Sun. | 12 PM only

**Open to all ages*

Director's Desk

Dear Friends,

Historic house museums depend not only on the preservation of buildings and artifacts, but on the people—the guides, educators, gardeners, curators, administrators—who ensure that every tour, program, and special event is meaningful and welcoming. Through their knowledge, care, and hospitality, they foster experiences that inspire conversation and learning. At the McFaddin-Ward House Museum, staff and volunteers bring preservation to life by helping visitors connect with the history of the McFaddin family, Beaumont, and Southeast Texas in ways that feel personal and relevant.

That spirit of collaboration was especially evident during this year's school tours and summer camp program. Throughout the spring, seventh grade students from Beaumont ISD visited the Museum to explore the Historic Home and learn about life in early twentieth-century Beaumont. The tour and related activities offered hands-on engagement with history, creating memorable moments for students outside the classroom that were both fun and informative. Our Ranching Roundup Summer Camp carried that experience further through interactive, place-based learning that immersed campers in life on the McFaddin Ranch in the early 1900s.

This season also brings an exciting update to the Museum's operating hours, tour times, and tour offerings, all designed to enhance the visitor experience. These changes, outlined on the left, allow for greater emphasis on guided tours led by our knowledgeable docents, whose interpretation brings the house and its history to life. In addition to our main guided tour—which in-

cludes the Historic Home, Carriage House, and Gardens and is offered to ages eight plus—we now offer a guided Garden and Carriage House tour designed to be accessible to visitors of all ages and abilities.

We are also pleased to welcome Education Manager D'Lana Barbay to the McFaddin-Ward House Museum staff. A Southeast Texas native, she brings more than 30 years of experience in public education to the Museum. In her role, she oversees a wide range of educational initiatives for students, teachers, and the broader community. This includes strengthening existing programs, such as the Museum in a Box classroom outreach and the Homeschool Workshop, while also developing new offerings that deepen engagement with the Museum. Please join us in welcoming D'Lana.

The dedicated staff, volunteers, and supporters of the McFaddin-Ward House Museum help preserve more than a historic building. Through their efforts, both visible and behind the scenes, they create a welcoming place where visitors of all ages can explore history, make connections, and feel a sense of belonging. This work ensures the Museum remains a vibrant resource for the community, today and into the future.

Jeffrey Richardson
Executive Director



2026 Volunteer Appreciation



Volunteers are an integral part of the McFaddin-Ward House Museum, and we are honored to recognize their exemplary service each year at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon & Awards Presentation.

This year's celebration theme, "40 Years of Community, History & Heart," tied in with the Museum's 40th anniversary taking place in 2026. Volunteers, serving as docents and in other institutional roles, contributed a total of 930 hours of their time, talents, and hearts in 2025, helping make visitors feel welcome.

2026 Award Recipients



Nathalie Hallmark, Board Vice President
Lane Wilson, and Brenda Jackson

LEGACY AWARDS

Nathalie Hallmark
& Brenda Jackson

Recognizing 20 years of service to the McFaddin-Ward House

VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

Nathalie Hallmark

Recognizing 1,500 hours donated

VOLUNTEER INNOVATION PERSONIFIED (VIP) AWARD

Kent Hartel

Recognizing a volunteer who loves their volunteer role, enjoys interaction and welcoming visitors, and conducts volunteer activities at the museum with a positive, supportive attitude



Kent Hartel and Board Vice President Lane Wilson

RISING STAR AWARDS

Ivy Lomas and
Candace LeMasters

Recognizing outstanding dedication and remarkable growth, honoring a rising star whose enthusiasm and commitment have made a meaningful impact in a short time



STORYTELLER AWARD

Terry Sparks

Recognizing outstanding dedication to the art of storytelling, creating meaningful and memorable experiences that connect visitors to the rich history of our home



"We extend our deepest gratitude to every volunteer who has walked through our doors and chosen to give back. Your efforts do not go unnoticed; they are woven into the very fabric of our museum's story."

- Kourtney Bonzo,
Director of Visitor Experience



Mamie McFaddin Ward and Ida McFaddin are identified in this photograph of Red Cross workers during World War II preparing bandages at the Beaumont Woman's Club Red Cross workroom. *Museum Collection*

MCFADDIN WOMEN PUT THEIR HEARTS IN COMMUNITY WORK

By Judy Linsley, Research Assistant

When Ida Caldwell McFaddin came to Beaumont after her 1894 marriage to W.P.H. McFaddin, her proper upbringing had already prepared her to take up the reins of a household.

The problem was that the household was in faraway Beaumont, Texas. Ida's parents had serious reservations about her leaving Huntington, West Virginia, a "civilized" bustling coal mining, railroad, and banking center with paved streets, to move to a "wild west" saw-mill town of dirt streets.

Ida herself apparently had no qualms; she had already been to Texas and knew what she was in for. A less outgoing person might have

become a stay-at-home housewife, but Ida, naturally confident, was up to the challenge. "She wasn't tortured by inner doubts," recalled her granddaughter, Rosine McFaddin Wilson.

Little documentation survives of Ida's activities during her first years in Beaumont, but newspaper articles from 1900 on make it clear that she was already an established social leader, noted for her imagination and style in entertaining. A *Beaumont Enterprise* article from January 2, 1900, credited the success of a Twentieth Century Club reception to the "taste, cleverness, and generous hospitality" of Ida and her stepdaughter Di. Just a month later, Ida staged a "mock divorce trial" that drew a standing room only crowd, raising money for St. Mark's Episcopal Church. (See 'Other Views: Mock Trial')

Ida's community involvement extended beyond giving parties, however. With the privileges granted to well-to-do women came a responsibility to improve the world around them. In the early 1900s, Ida helped to organize Beaumont's chapters of United Charities and the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA).

In 1917, Ida joined the Red Cross and the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Her service with the Red Cross in both World War I and World War II involved extensive organizing and recruiting of the home front in Beaumont. (See Curator's Corner)

Even though Ida ultimately held a national office in the DAR, her projects with both groups often benefited the local community. In 1929, she donated a forestland in nearby Jasper County to the organization. She also was a driving force in planning and funding the DAR's construction of the Temple to the Brave in Beaumont. The Temple, dedicated to Texas military of all wars, past and future, and to the hope for world peace, opened in October 1932.

Ida was a longtime board member of the Beaumont Children's Home. In 1925, as board president, she oversaw construction of a



Ida McFaddin, center, back row, wearing hat, with residents of the Beaumont Children's Home, ca. 1927. *Museum Collection*

new home on Highland Avenue, successfully raising the necessary funds in spite of refusing a large donation from the local Ku Klux Klan.

Ida taught Mamie the value of involvement in the community, and when Mamie came of age, she followed her mother's example, though she usually assumed an assisting role. During World War I, she delivered bolts of muslin to neighborhood Red Cross groups and picked up the finished bandages. During the 1930s, she worked tirelessly with the Beaumont Children's Home, focusing on details such as selecting and buying Christmas gifts for young female residents. Both women generously supported St. Mark's Episcopal Church. The fact that they belonged to many of the same organizations simplified transportation and communication.

Ida and Mamie joined numerous other groups simply to be supportive, especially musical or cultural organizations such as the Beaumont Music Commission and Beaumont's Little Theatre. Mother and daughter usually belonged to social groups, such as card clubs and sewing clubs. These groups officially existed for entertainment but were also extremely useful for networking and recruiting.

In time, Mamie ventured forth into her own community projects. In 1934, she organized a local chapter (Johnny Scott) of Children of the American Revolution. Then, on March 2, 1937, she recorded in her diary that she went "to Garden Club meeting at Mrs. Joe Bordages about twenty there & we decided to organize & call it The Magnolia Garden Club of Bmt." It received Mamie's full and passionate support, promoting beautification and conservation around Beaumont. It still thrives today. One of the club's early projects was to plant crape myrtle trees along the roads that led into the city.

In her final years, Mamie expanded her reach, giving her name to the Mamie McFaddin Ward Cancer Center at Christus and the Mamie McFaddin Ward Health Sciences Building at Lamar University. Her generosity to St. Mark's eventually included All Saints Episcopal School. In 1981, she was deservedly recognized by the Beaumont Exchange Club with its Golden Deeds Award.

It would be virtually impossible to list everything that Ida and Mamie did for Beaumont, because much of their generosity was private and unpublicized. Both together and separately, the two women amply lived up to Ida's lifelong credo: "From those to whom much is given, much is expected."



Ida McFaddin and granddaughter Rosine McFaddin watching as Boy Scouts plant trees in the DAR forest that Ida donated in Jasper County in 1929. *Museum Collection*

Curator's Corner

By Victoria Tamez, Curator of Collections

Community engagement took a different turn during the world wars, as reflected in our latest summer interpretation. While many joined the military, those who did not fight participated in various activities designed to help at home. Ida and Mamie McFaddin joined the Red Cross to provide aid on the home front.

Training manuals and Red Cross garb on display highlight the efforts made by the McFaddin women during these times of war. Ida herself became a licensed instructor for the preparation of Red Cross surgical dressings in 1917.

The simpler table settings of the interpretation are also intended to reflect the impact of rationing.

Red Cross objects featured in the new summer installation include:



The Rhymes of a Red Cross Man by Robert W. Service, published in 1916, contains poems related to insights he gained in World War I.

A successful poet, Service was a war correspondent at the beginning of World War I, then shifted to working as a stretch bearer for the American Red Cross.



Part of an American Red Cross volunteer uniform, this sheer white linen cap, made around 1940, boasts the Red Cross emblem on the front. The twill tape sewn into the edges could be used to tie the cap around a head. American Red Cross volunteer uniform designs could vary based on group and location. While Ida or Mamie's cap may look like this, others could have differed.

'Other Views' MOCK TRIAL

By Arlene Christiansen, Assistant Director



Ida and W.P.H. McFaddin ca. 1894, six years before Ida made them the principals in a mock divorce trial to raise money for St. Mark's Episcopal Church. *Museum Collection*

On February 9, 1900, the *Beaumont Journal* reported an unusual event in Beaumont. In order to raise money for the Pew Fund at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Ida McFaddin staged a mock divorce trial. The newspaper described the event as "new and unconventional" and a departure "from the beaten track" and reported that the "prominence of the parties and the cause" drew a large crowd.

I guess you could say that Ida was thinking outside the box by giving Beaumonters a new type of entertainment. Evidently it worked; by the time the trial began at 7:30 p.m., every seat in the district courtroom was filled and dozens had to stand up in the aisles and around the entrances.

A "court" was duly organized, with L. H. Hightower as judge, M. L. Brooks as clerk, and Henry Langham as sheriff. The case of Mrs. Ida Cald-

well McFaddin vs. W.P.H. McFaddin, a suit for divorce, was called, followed by jury selection. Ida suggested that the jury be composed of her own sex, as she thought women would be more considerate than men and more capable of doing justice. The defense attorney objected, of course, and asked that the jury consist of at least an equal number of each sex. According to the newspaper, eight women and four men made the final cut.

After the jury was selected, the court ordered that the plaintiff's petition be read, which was done. Ida was asking for a divorce on the grounds of extreme cruelty and recited various instances of ill-treatment and neglect. Unfortunately, the newspaper gave no details, but the petition was apparently rather long and provided "much amusement" to the spectators "by reason of its many absurdities." When the defendant's response was read, it was interrupted several times by applause, "as some especially witty answer was made" to the plaintiff's allegations.

After the petition and answer were completed, Attorney L. F. Chester asked, and was granted, permission to read an intervention in the case, stating that since Mrs. W. P. H. McFaddin's application for a divorce would most likely be granted, W.S. Davidson, a bachelor, with no chance of finding a wife, "prayed that the court grant him possession of the fair plaintiff" and that the children go to W.P.H. This was met with roars of laughter and the sheriff had to resort to "loud rapping" to restore order.

Testimony was given by friends and relatives, even Ida's stepdaughter Di, and their "witty" questions and answers "kept the audience constantly laughing." Brief closing speeches were made by the attorneys and the jurors retired but soon returned with a verdict.

"We the jury find for the plaintiff a divorce and give the defendant all the property except one sidesaddle and 'Black Bess' [a horse]. We further find that intervenor W. S. Davidson be granted all the children except the twins who be awarded to the mercy of the court." (There were no real twins, of course, only Mamie and Perry Jr.)

The take for the evening was thought to be about \$75.00, an amount pronounced "quite satisfactory" by the event organizers.

Many years later, Ida's granddaughter Rosine McFaddin Wilson wrote, "It certainly seems audacious, daring and innovative for a young bride of five years at the turn of the 20th century, even for so worthy a cause." But Ida was able to pull it off, providing entertainment while benefiting her church.



D'Lana Barbay
Education Manager

New Staff Member Spotlight

During her career, D'Lana served in school districts throughout the region and most recently retired from Beaumont ISD as Director of Federal Programs and Grants.

As an active member of the community, she has always appreciated the historic significance of the McFaddin-Ward House and will bring her years of working with students to the role of education manager. She is looking forward to serving the students of Southeast Texas and continuing to offer innovative educational programs that foster community involvement with the Museum.

D'Lana holds a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies from Lamar University, a Master of Library Science from Sam Houston State University, and she also completed certifications in principalship and superintendency.

RECENT EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

March 2026 | SOAR Family Day
Total Attendance: 1,000+



"Nothing we do is possible without our dedicated staff and incredible volunteers. SOAR is our one event where we really rely on our community partners to help us make the day memorable, so from the bottom of my heart, thank you to all who made it such a tremendous success."

- Katherine McAtee, Program Manager

April 2026 | Music at the McFaddins' featuring the Symphony of Southeast Texas String Quartet
Total Attendance: 290

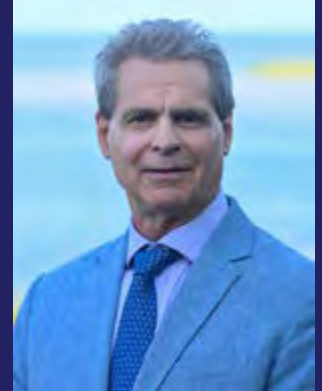


UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS SPOTLIGHT

SUMMER LECTURE SERIES

"The Golden Age of Ocean Liners: A Short History from 1897 to the Present" by Brian Dudley
Thursday, June 11 | 6:30 PM

Historian Brian Dudley will navigate titanic tales of the illustrious ocean liners that once traversed the North Atlantic, tracing the technological, architectural, and decorative evolution of these great ships. Dudley will also explain how these impressive ships helped shape world events and impacted history in the 20th century.



"Extreme Sports in Historic Small Boats" by Pieter Roos
Thursday, July 16 | 6:30 PM

Maritime historian Pieter Roos will bring to life the thrilling stories of fast boats from the 19th and early 20th centuries, highlighting the daring sportsmen and women who guided uniquely designed vessels to high speeds and victory. Each boat showcases the innovation, intensity, and fearless spirit of sailing on the edge.

"Mostly Texas: Robert Rauschenberg at 100" by Kristen Clevenson
Thursday, August 13 | 6:30 PM

Kristen Clevenson, assistant curator at the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation in New York City, will explore the extraordinary life and legacy of Texas-born artist Robert Rauschenberg (1925-2008), showcasing the innovative works of one of the most daring and impactful artists of the 20th century, with special attention to his "mostly Texas" disposition.



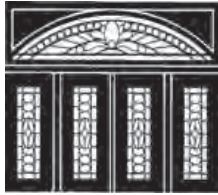
BISD Field Trips

This spring, the Museum hosted end-of-year field trips for more than 500 Beaumont ISD seventh graders, teachers, and administrators from across the district.

Students toured the first floor of the historic McFaddin-Ward House, explored the Gardens, visited the Carriage House exhibits, learned how to line dance, and participated in a calf roping tutorial.



McFADDIN-WARD HOUSE VIEWPOINTS



Vol. 42, No. 3
Summer 2026

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UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

June 11 | 6:30 PM

Lecture: "The Golden Age of Ocean Liners:
A Short History from 1897 to the Present"
By Brian Dudley, Historian
Visitor Center Lecture Hall

July 16 | 6:30 PM

Lecture: "Extreme Sports in
Historic Small Boats"
By Pieter Roos, Maritime Historian
Visitor Center Lecture Hall

August 13 | 6:30 PM

Lecture: "Mostly Texas: Robert
Rauschenberg at 100"
By Kristen Clevenson, Assistant Curator,
Robert Rauschenberg Foundation
Visitor Center Lecture Hall

August 18 | 10-11:30 AM

Craft & Share Workshop
"Punch Needle Embroidery"
Visitor Center Lecture Hall

August 27 | 5-6:30 PM

Teacher Appreciation Happy Hour
Visitor Center Lecture Hall



For more details, visit mcfaddin-ward.org/events or scan qr code below.

GET INVOLVED:

The McFaddin-Ward House Museum is actively recruiting docents and volunteers in several different museum areas.
Please call 409-832-2134 or email visitorcenter@mcfaddin-ward.org for information.

Follow the McFaddin-Ward House Museum on social media
for behind-the-scenes glimpses of museum life & historical happenings.



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

