



## Life and times of Isaac James Gilder

—Tyler County native was important early educator—

By his daughter, Helen Gilder  
Retired from Colmesneil School District

**ED. NOTE:** Miss Gilder attended Scott High School in Woodville, where she was a student of Blanche Society Board Member Mayne Canada Brown from 1940-1944. Beginning in the early 50's all black students in the Colmesneil, Spurger and Wanda Independent Districts were transferred to Scott High School in Woodville, when they reached high school age. This practice came to an end after the 1987-88 school year, when all schools in the county were consolidated in moving them on display in the Exhibition Hall at Heritage Village throughout the month of February to tribute to Black History Month.

Isaac James Gilder was born in Springhill, Texas, March 15, 1885, the second child of Ella Holt and John Gilder. He attended public school in Springhill, a community four miles east of Woodville. He received his Bachelor's Degree with honors from Prairie View A. & M. College and took great pride in the fact that he was an active member of one of the most winning football teams Prairie View has ever known. During his teaching career, refresher courses were taken at Texas College in Tyler.

After graduation, he began his teaching career as principal of the Woodson-Pipkin School in Beaumont. Being a typical country boy and having a zeal to help the unfortunate country children, he chose to accept principalship

of the school in Colmesneil over Beaumont in about 1909.

The contributing causes for this decision to move back to Tyler County were manifold: a need to be near home folks, to engage in farming and the raising of livestock; and above all to consummate a relationship with his childhood sweetheart, Era Ovelia Morris. They exchanged marriage vows on May 7, 1910, in the Springhill community.

From the very outset his bride took a prominent part in the life of her teacher husband. She taught right beside him and her alert, perceptive mind, on many occasions, helped to steer the team through difficult decisions.

To this union eight children were born, four of whom followed in their footsteps, teaching in the public schools of Texas. The birth date of their seventh child was the same as their wedding date, which gave reason for a double celebration on May 7. They were known to have proclaimed "seven" as their lucky number.

Professor Gilder, as he was affectionately and honorably known, was a person who lent imaginative creativity to every task, performing each with efficiency and dispatch. He was very thorough and undeniably a scholarly person. He was a pious man and concerned himself unrelentingly to the af-

fairs of the Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church and served as one of the senior deacons at this church until his demise. He was very active in the matters of Colmesneil and surrounding communities as well as state and national affairs that concerned his local organizations and populace.

Mr. Gilder enjoyed approximately 42 years of teaching before his health failed and he was forced to retire. He loved the profession and was good at it. We see evidence to substantiate that fact in his former students, doctors, teachers, nurses, farmers, ministers, who return for the annual Homecoming affair.

To his great appreciation, the school in Colmesneil, where he did most of his teaching, was named in his honor.

**Black Schools in Colmesneil**

There are no records available to anyone's knowledge to verify the exact date of the first public schools in Colmesneil, but according to records filed in the Tyler County School Superintendent's office in Woodville, there were schools in operation there for the school term of 1853-54. It is possible that schools for outlying communities preceded this date, perhaps in the homes of school mams or pupils. It is known, however, that between the mid and late 1800's, a log cabin was constructed north of the former school building for black



ISAAC GILDER AND ERA GILDER  
early teachers.

children. In this little cabin Zion Hill Baptist Church was organized, and one of its earliest teachers was Dr. C. A. Porter. In the early 1900's Zion Hill was moved

(Continued on Page 3)

## Black History honored

A month-long exhibit of Tyler County Black History has been put on display at Heritage Village Museum by Mayne Canada Brown of Spurger and Helen Gilder of Colmesneil, whose by-lines can be found elsewhere in this issue of the Echo. Featured in this year's exhibit are the Gilder and Hadnot families of Tyler County.

The exhibit, which will be in place through February 28, will be the focal point of a month of Black History programs both at the Village and throughout the county.

On Saturday, February 9, choir members from the Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church in Woodville will present a program of music at the Village at 2:00 p.m. Their director is Mrs. Billie Coleman, their pastor is the Rev. L.D. May.

The following Saturday, February 16, at 2:00 p.m. the choir from the New

Shady Grove Baptist Church of the Moss Hill Community can be heard at the Village. Directors are Mrs. Maurice Williams and Brother George Rawls. Rev. Leonard White is the pastor.

A member of the Board of Directors of the Tyler County Heritage Society, Mrs. Brown has been the sponsor of Black History Month since 1979, when a group of concerned black high school students came to her and asked her help. Their goal was to perpetuate the history of their race and to pay tribute to those who have gone on to make significant contributions in education and other professions.

The public is invited to come to the Village for these two musical programs on February 9 and 16, and to visit the exhibit at the Village throughout the month.

## Woody Woodrome passes

Woody Woodrome, a well-known local musician and singer, passed away on February 4, 1991, at the age of 85. He was born in the early 1900s and spent much of his life in the local community.

Mr. Woodrome was a member of the local church and was known for his contributions to the community. He was a very kind and generous person who was loved by many.

He is survived by his family and friends. A funeral service will be held on February 10, 1991, at the local church.

Two years ago, Woody taught a singing school at Hopewell Baptist Church east of Woodville and was featured on "The Eyes of Texas".

Last year, he introduced us to the Shady Grove Singing School at the Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church in Woodville where he taught the singing school group. Their performance at the last evening was a testament to Woody's knowledge of music and his love for the church.

Woody was a true gentleman and a very kind person. He was a very good friend and a very good teacher. We will miss his presence, but we will remember his teachings and his love for the church.

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HERITAGE SOCIETY OFFICERS FOR 1991—President Fred Sullivan, secretary Aloha Freeland, first vice-president Bob Bender, second vice-president Janie Ashworth and treasurer Robbie Barnett.

## Confederate sons form club

Ninety-eight year old Claude S. Read, whose father served in the confederate army during the Civil War, was among a group of more than two dozen area men who gathered at Heritage Village Museum on February 2 for the charter meeting of the Col. A. W. Spaight's Battalion, Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Read's father, William A. Read, who fought in the Battle of Sabine Pass, is listed on the muster rolls of Company D, Spaight's Battalion, September 1, 1863. Executing the charter application, presented by B. R. Gregory, was Frank J. Harrowing, Commander of Dick Dowling Camp 1305 of Houston. Harrowing also serves as chaplain of the statewide organization.

According to Gregory, who

spearheaded the first meeting, an organizational meeting will take place on Saturday, February 16, at 10 a.m. at Heritage Village.

To qualify for membership, one must be at least 16 years of age and a direct or lateral male descendant of a Confederate veteran. Verification can be in the form of military records, state pensions or muster rolls, many of which can be found in the genealogical library at Heritage Village Museum.

Applications for membership can be obtained at the Village, where monthly meetings of the chapter will be held. \$30 annual dues, paid directly to the Sons of Confederate Veterans, cover the bi-monthly magazine "The Confederate Veteran."

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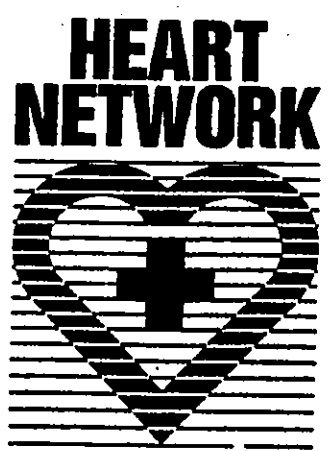
People who live in and around Woodville are now just a heartbeat away from advanced cardiac care. Tyler County Hospital has joined the Heart Network, a dedicated team of local hospitals working together to save even more heart attack victims in East Texas.

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## Tyler County COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY 1991

**FEBRUARY 9-28:** EXHIBIT HONORING BLACK HISTORY MONTH at Heritage Village Museum, featuring the Gilder and Hadnot families of Tyler County.

**FEBRUARY 9:** EAST TEXAS BLACKSMITH ALLIANCE. Gathering at the Forge. 9 a.m. Heritage Village Museum.

**TYLER COUNTY SACRED HARP SINGERS:** 10 a.m. Cherokee Church, Heritage Village Museum. Joella and John Thompkins directing. Open to all participants.

**PILGRIM'S REST BAPTIST CHURCH CHOIR:** 2 p.m. Heritage Village Museum, in celebration of Black History Month in Tyler County.

**SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, A.W. Spaight's Battalion:** Organizational Meeting 10 a.m. Heritage Village Museum.

**NEW SHADY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH CHOIR:** 2 p.m. Heritage Village Museum, celebrating Black History Month in Tyler County.

**FEBRUARY 22:** EAST TEXAS FAMILIARIZATION TOUR to sample Woodville hospitality, beginning at Heritage Village at 5:30 p.m.

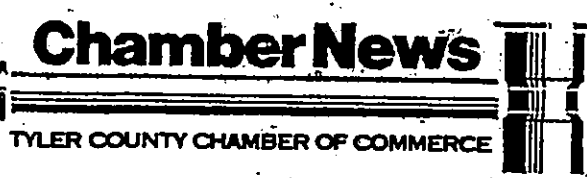
**FEBRUARY 23:** TYLER COUNTY SACRED HARP SINGERS. 10 a.m. Cherokee Church, Heritage Village Museum.

**FEBRUARY 28:** ANNUAL MEETING TYLER COUNTY TEXAS EXES, 6:30 p.m. home of Dr. and Mrs. Jim Jinette. All graduates and former students of the University of Texas invited to toast Texas' Independence. Guest speaker, Wayne Haglund, of Lufkin.

**MARCH 1:** SPURGER LIONS CLUB ANNUAL CHILI SUPPER, 5:30 p.m. Spurger School Cafeteria. Adults \$5., Children \$2.50. Entertainment 7 to 9 p.m. High School Auditorium. Cake Auction, door prizes.

**MARCH 2:** TOAST TO TEXAS' INDEPENDENCE. 2 p.m. Heritage Village Museum.

**MARCH 7-9:** SPRING CONVENTION, Magnolia District, Federated Women's Clubs, Woodville Inn.



Woodville Mayor Tom Knapp was named Citizen of the Year at the Annual Banquet of the Tyler County Chamber of Commerce, held January 17, 1991, at the Woodville Inn.

Judge Josiah Wheat was named Honorary Citizen of the Year.

Installed for his second term as president of the Chamber was Dr. Larry Phillips with Bob Belt and Tom Sturdivant as vice-presidents.

Committee Chairmen for 1991 are: Dr. Stephen Porcari, Gene Kod, David MacElvyn, Emily Sumner and Anna Beth Williams.

Paid For By The City Of Woodville Tourism Fund

## LIVING THE DREAM

By Mayme Canada Brown  
Retired Woodville Teacher

So often we dream our dreams and many times make resolutions. It seems fitting that this pattern of thought reveals itself through the life of Mary Ann Hadnot Washington, whom I had the privilege of interviewing during her recent visit to East Texas.

Although a sad occasion, the funeral of her beloved brother, Lee Henry Hadnot, we took pleasure in reliving past memories, when she was first a little friend and later a student of mine at Scott High School in Woodville.

Mary Ann was the ninth of the twelve children born to the late Rev. Ivy Hadnot and Mrs. Linnie M. Hadnot. Her mother and other family members still live in the Moss Hill community outside of Woodville.

Growing up in this large family, Mary Ann had fun sharing and caring for her parents and siblings, just as they did for her. But I best remember her as a child, always reading little books, which prepared her for school, when the time came.

Records show she was a bright student throughout her elementary, junior high and high school years, an honor student who was valedictorian of her class, when she graduated from H. T. Scott High School in May of 1964.

As college life took its many paths—study, research and serving on the committee for student government—Mary Ann suddenly found her dreams fulfilling. She may well have

remembered the quotation often repeated by her late principal, J. K. Canada: "A winner never quits and a quitter never wins." Her future work proved this as she progressed toward her goals.

Mary Ann earned her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from Prairie View A&M in 1968 and started her nursing career in the intensive care unit of St. Joseph's Hospital in Houston. Here she soon rose from staff nurse to assistant head nurse, then to assistant psychiatric head nurse. It was this experience with and exposure to psychiatric nursing that called her back to school. In 1971 she earned her Master of Science Degree in nursing from Texas Women's University (Houston branch).

Mary Ann left Texas for California with high hopes of making things better for herself and her two small children, Johnnie III and Felicia Gentry. "We huddled and scuffled, but we made it," she told me.

Her first job in California was staff nurse at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula. Garden Pavilion Psychiatric unit, where she soon became head nurse, then nursing unit administrator.

After qualifying for the administrative assignment, she took full command of her job. During her first six years she revamped the nursing program, eliminating the nursing shortage. And, after surveying the area's long-range nursing needs, she campaigned for a peninsula nursing school to meet those needs.

## Mary Ann Hadnot rises to the top



Mary Ann Hadnot Washington

In 1980-81 Mary Ann wrote a grant proposal which was submitted to the Coburn Trust Foundation to fund the nursing program. A grant in the amount of 6.6 million dollars was awarded to fund the Mauring Church Coburn School of Nursing at Monterey Peninsula College, for which she developed the curricula. In 1985, she became vice-president of the hospital.

Mary Ann is now serving as liaison for the foundation to administer the grant and supervise the nursing program.

Tyler County and the H.T. Scott School Alumni are proud of Mary Ann

and her accomplishments. She is a role model for students of every heritage, who have a dream and the determination to reach their goals. We wish her well in her tenure as nursing administrator and the role she plays in touching the lives of so many people.

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To further the interests of the Tyler County Heritage Society, a non-profit educational corporation, and to promote genuine historical research, tourism, and the Heritage Village Museum.

John Yearwood — Publisher  
Dottie Johnson — Heritage Village Editor

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## ★ Isaac James Gilder

(Continued from Page 3)

east of the Southern Pacific Railroad near the present location of Mount Hope Baptist Church. School was taught in the two adjacent churches, Zion Hill Baptist and C. M. E. Methodist. A few years later this same Baptist Church and the Odd Fellow's Hall housed the schools.

For the school term 1907-08, Isaac Gilder accepted principalship of these schools.

In 1922, with the support of the Superintendent of Schools and the School Board, he was instrumental in getting a grant from the Rosenwald Foundation large enough to construct a three-room furnished school building, which was built on three acres of land donated by the Kirby Lumber Company, northwest of the Southern Pacific and M.K. & T. Railroads and Highway 69.

By 1942 the school enrollment had outgrown this structure. Realizing this, Superintendent Lee A. Taylor and members of the School Board eased the crowded situation by adding two large classrooms, two halls and indoor restrooms. During this stage of remodeling, school was taught in the Mounts Hope and Zion Hill Baptist Churches.

Upon completion, the superintendent and School Board elected to name the school for Isaac James Gilder, who had worked so long and so hard in the interest of the community and the school.

Because of failing health, Isaac retired in 1949, succeeded by Mr. C. S. Porter, who had been teaching in the school since 1942. Mr. Porter served as principal until his retirement in 1968. In

that year, the schools were totally integrated.

To the extent of our recollection, these are the teachers who taught in this school from its humble beginnings in a log cabin to its termination:

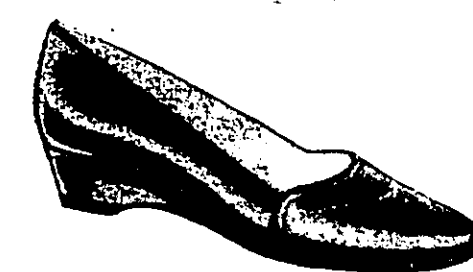
Dr. C. A. Porter, Miss Emma Hollins, Mr. Terry Charlton, Mr. Horace Edwards, Mr. W. Bell McRae, Miss Ella Gregory, Miss Martha McCullough, Miss Syble Hanks, Miss Effie Harrison, Mrs. Lucy Porter Davis, Mrs. Era O. Gilder, Mrs. Gertrude Kirkwood Tapscott, Mrs. Lillie Mae Hadnot Kirkwood, Mrs. Nera Jones Redd, Mr. Bosie Lee Durden, Mr. Billy Hadnot, Mr. David Jerue, Mr. Theron Butler, Miss Helen Gilder, Mrs. Lois E. McCann Smith, Miss Abbie Boykin, Mrs. Norma McGee, Mrs. Beatrice Walton, Mrs. Ola V. Frazier Shaw, Mrs. Zedie Herd McKinney Parker, Mrs. Wilhemenia Gilder Byrd, Miss Jeannette Johnson, Mrs. Nina Jean Carr Kanady, Mrs. Margie Lee Butler, Frazier and Mr. Lee Charles Horace.

The only librarian the school can boast of was Mrs. Lillian McCann Smith, who served the school part-time for approximately three months.

The school building, though deserted and dilapidated, still stands in its 1922 location, where it holds many fond recollections for those of us who attended school and taught there.

Isaac, our beloved, is gone as of January 1, 1960, but the melody of his life lingers on in our memory and deep within our hearts.

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## Grants allow for growth —Hamm House project to start—

A long-awaited project at Heritage Village will get under way this month, according to Christine Moor Sanders, who has spent the past year or more writing and submitting grant proposals to fund the restoration of the century-old Hamm House.

The house, which now stands at the head of the Village's Big Woods Hiking Trail, was moved from Town Bluff nearly two years ago, when it was donated by the family of Charles R. Hamm Sr., who purchased it in the early 1940's. Court House records show that the house was built around 1886 by J. T. Crumpler.

As past president of the Tyler County Heritage Society, which owns and operates the Village as a non-profit educational facility, Ms. Sanders has worked tirelessly to obtain the necessary monies to transform the Hamm house into a Big Thicket Nature Museum and interpretive center.

Beginning in February, this dream will start to take shape, thanks to generous gifts from the Cockrell Foundation, the Hobby Foundation and Mrs. Eugene McDermott, for which the Heritage Society is most grateful.

In addition to the rehabilitation of the Hamm House, plans include the building of a quarter-mile hard-surfaced woodland hiking trail, accessible to the handicapped, with especially designed interpretive exhibits that will take into consideration the Village's many elderly visitors and touring school groups.

tipitate in this endeavor, namely the Big Thicket National Preserve, the Alabama Coushatta Indian Reservation and the Woodville Garden Club.

The grounds of Heritage Village in-

clude 11.5 acres of mature, mixed hardwood forest, representing the unique biological diversity of the Big Thicket of which it is part. Since the Village is extremely visible and readily accessible to the general public, the Big Thicket National Preserve is particularly interested in presenting regularly scheduled programs at Heritage Village. Park Rangers have already participated in numerous programs for and by the Tyler County Junior Historians, which are sponsored by the Heritage Society at the Village.

Groups from the Indian Reservation are eager to help design interpretive materials that will show their traditional medicinal uses of plants as well as participate in demonstrations that show the use of plants in their crafts. And the Garden Club has already held Arbor Day and other special meetings at the Village, where the emphasis was on the Big Thicket and what it means to the community.

A well marked trail for the general public is now in place in the Big Woods, which many visitors enjoy on its own or as an extension of their tour of the historic structures within the Village proper. It's also a great spot to walk after a hearty meal at the famed Pickett House Restaurant, which is part of the Village complex.

"It is the desire of the Tyler County Heritage Society to bring out every facet of the museum," Ms. Sanders said, "so that we can continue to grow and attract visitors who have different interests. By expanding our facilities we can better serve a greater number of people, while continuing to preserve our Tyler County heritage."



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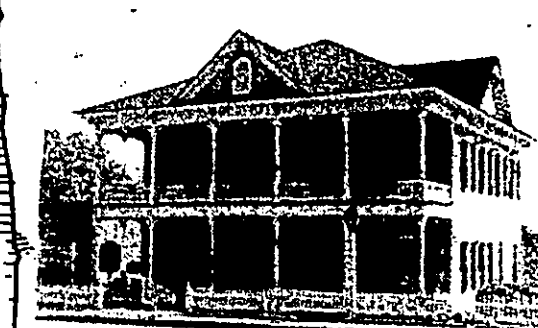
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NEWS

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- Wednesday, February 6, 1991
- 9:15 a.m. — Early Childhood Film
  - 10:00 a.m. — Day Care Center Film
  - 2:00 p.m. — Little Eagle's Nest Film
- Friday, February 8, 1991
- 12:30 p.m. — St. Paul's School
  - 2:00 p.m. — Reception
- Wednesday, February 13, 1991
- 9:15 a.m. — Early Childhood Film
  - 10:00 a.m. — Day Care Center Film
  - 2:00 p.m. — Little Eagle's Nest Film
  - 2:30 p.m. — Administrative Board Meeting
- Thursday, February 14, 1991
- 2:00 p.m. — Books delivered to both Nursing Homes
- Friday, February 15, 1991
- 12:30 p.m. — St. Paul's School
- Wednesday, February 20, 1991
- 9:15 a.m. — Early Childhood Film
  - 10:00 a.m. — Day Care Center Film
  - 2:00 p.m. — Little Eagle's Nest Film
- Friday, February 22, 1991
- 12:30 p.m. — St. Paul's School
- Thursday, February 28, 1991
- 2:00 p.m. — Books delivered to both Nursing Homes

Fold For By The City Of Woodville Tourism Fund

FEB 06 1991



## Cottage gardening: utilitarian and fragrant

By Diane Morrey Skiles

Cottage gardens of the mid- to late-1800s were a mix of color, texture, fragrance and form. In rural Texas these door-yard gardens stretched from the front porch to the fence. A straight walkway or path led visitors to the front door. Often, the path started under an archway of yucca or climbing roses.

For color, gardeners planted larkspur, poppies and hollyhocks. They saved their seeds, then traded with neighbors to get new varieties and different shades. Native plants, gathered from the wild, added color and fragrance. In addition to their beauty they were tough, reliable and easy to obtain.

Roses, a mainstay in cottage gardens, were brought into the state on wagons and by horseback. Some were transported in pots; others were wrapped in burlap. A few resourceful travelers stuck root-shoots into split potatoes to keep them moist until they could be planted. Besides swapping cuttings with neighbors and family members, gardeners in East Texas purchased roses from nurserymen in Louisiana. By the 1830's almost 100 varieties were offered for sale.

Rambling roses, called "running roses" in Texas, added another dimension to early gardens. Along with morning glories, coral vine and honeysuckle, they climbed up arbors, archways and fences, draping gardens with fragrant blooms.

Besides having colorful flowers, heavy fragrances or enticing forms, many of the plants included in traditional cottage gardens were useful. Wormwood, a pungent herb with grey foliage, repelled fleas and other insects. Dried lavender spikes perfumed linen. Culinary herbs, including rosemary, dill and thyme, flavored food.

Gardeners grew bouncing Bet for its beauty and for its roots which were a substitute for soap. Dishrag gourd, an attractive vine with yellow blossoms, provided fibrous "sponges" for scrubbing. Native plants, including cosmos and coropsis, provided dyes.

Flowering and fruiting trees were another staple in dooryard gardens. Native crabapple, pomegranate, persimmon and Mexican plum were popular in Texas.

### A Colorful Past

Cottage gardens did not originate in America. The style is a carry-over from cloister gardens in medieval Europe where monks collected and grew "simples," that is, herbs and medicine, flavoring and food. The monks shared their plants and eventually the general public was gardening as well. Later, settlers coming from the Old World brought their style of gardening into America. Although rural homeowners continued to plant rambling, informal gardens, by 1870 the urban upperclass favored structured, geometric designs. By the turn of the century, cottage gardens were reborn as herbaceous borders.

Cottage gardens offer today's growers the same advantages that appealed to growers 150 years ago. By including a

variety of plant material in a small area gardeners conserve water. By using native plants gardeners perpetuate varieties and reduce costs and maintenance. By including useful plants growers make the garden practical as well as beautiful.

Today's gardeners appreciate the styling as well. Cottage gardens add quaint charm and softness to any home. They are appropriate for small city lots, country homes, farm houses or anywhere a gardener has an eye for beauty.

**Planning a Cottage Garden**  
Begin a new cottage garden by drawing a plan. Include fences, hedges, paths and walkways. Indicate existing trees and bushes. Allow for the addition of fruit trees and flowering shrubs. If fences, archways or walls are to be constructed or repaired, complete the tasks before planting.

Work the soil in late fall or early spring. In locations with heavy clay or sand, till in 4 to 6 inches of compost, sphagnum peat moss, well-composted barnyard manure or pine bark mulch. Add fertilizer as recommended.

After working the soil, lay out the paths. Use strings to define straight

courses. Use garden hoses to design curving treks. Top the paths with gravel, sawdust, or bricks. Once paths are in place, install the irrigation system.

Although cottage gardens are as individual as the gardeners who plant them, they reflect the region and its characteristics. Before you begin to plant, study the vegetation of the area. Visit old gardens. Talk to experienced plantsmen. Space is limited, so select plants with dual offerings. Choose fruit trees with fragrant, attractive blooms. Select edible flowers, like nasturtiums, that decorate the garden as well as spring salads. Plant flowering kale, ruby chard, variegated sage and other ornamental edibles.

Plan a garden that changes with the seasons. Dig-in daffodils and tulips for early spring color. Plant yarrow, an old-fashioned favorite, to follow with blooms in red, white, or gold. Sow globe amaranth and zinnias for summer color. Include chrysanthemums and Mexican mint marigold, a yellow blooming herb, for cheerful fall accents.

Fragrance, a traditional element in cottage gardens, goes hand-in-hand with roses. Old roses, among them Blush

Noisette and Radiance, are strongly scented. Herbs, like basil, release their scent in sunshine. Lemon and rose geraniums give up their perfume when they are brushed against or sprinkled with water.

Plant minis along pathways. The runners that they send out will freshen the air when trod upon. Include old-fashioned favorites like peppermint and pennyroyal. Apple mint is another good choice. It has downy, gray-green leaves and pinkish-white flowers.

Dianthus, another old-fashioned favorite, is fragrant and colorful. The long-lasting flowers range from white to pinks, purples and reds. Violets, a traditional selection for cottage gardens, are most suited for shady borders. They are fragrant, colorful and easy to grow in moist, well-drained soil.

In the mid-1800's Andrew Jackson Downing, an architect and gardener, described cottage gardens as "...little gems of rural and picturesque beauty." With planning and nurture a new cottage garden can grow into your own "little gem."

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VISITORS TO TYLER COUNTY  
Hwy. 69 S Woodville

# ALABAMA-COUSHATTA INDIAN RESERVATION

## A SPECIAL PART OF TEXAS

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# Heritage Village Museum: A Unique Collection Of Early Tyler County Artifacts

1.—**ENTRANCE & MUSEUM STORE:** Enter the Village through the Museum Store, where you'll find an intriguing collection of unique country crafts, an outstanding selection of books dealing with the history of the area, and many unusual gift items.

2.—**WHITMEYER GENEALOGY LIBRARY:** Research your Tyler County roots right here at the Village. Share information through our Genealogy Register, use our microfiche and microfilm readers, browse through our growing collection of family histories and books.

3.—**EXHIBITION ROOM:** Monthly exhibits are shown in this room to further explain the history of Tyler County that is being preserved in the Village.

4.—**KILLAM JEWELRY SHOP:** Talented jewelry designer John Killam demonstrates early methods of jewelry making for visitors, while operating his custom jewelry business. Many of his designs are found exclusively in the Museum Store.

5.—**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE:** The JP's duties once included assaying minerals, performing marriage ceremonies and handing out punishment to criminals. Former Woodville City Magistrate and Border Patrolman T.E. Phillips offers interesting evidence of his colorful careers for Village visitors.

6.—**PAWN SHOP:** Old time mechanical money banks in the window invite visitors inside, where a wide variety of treasures can be found that stir memories of days gone by.

7.—**WAGON SHOP:** Plans are under way for reworking this area into a wagon shop and Tack Room.

8.—**TEXAS DINNER BELL FACTORY:** The traditional triangle, which rang across pioneer lands both as an alarm and a chow time "come and get it", is made here for sale at the Museum Store. The bells are also sent out on special order to specialty shops from coast to coast.

9.—**POST OFFICE:** There really was a Pluck Post Office, and Willie Reinhardt was the last Postmaster for the little mill town near Corrigan in Polk County. Inside fixtures are all authentic to the original.

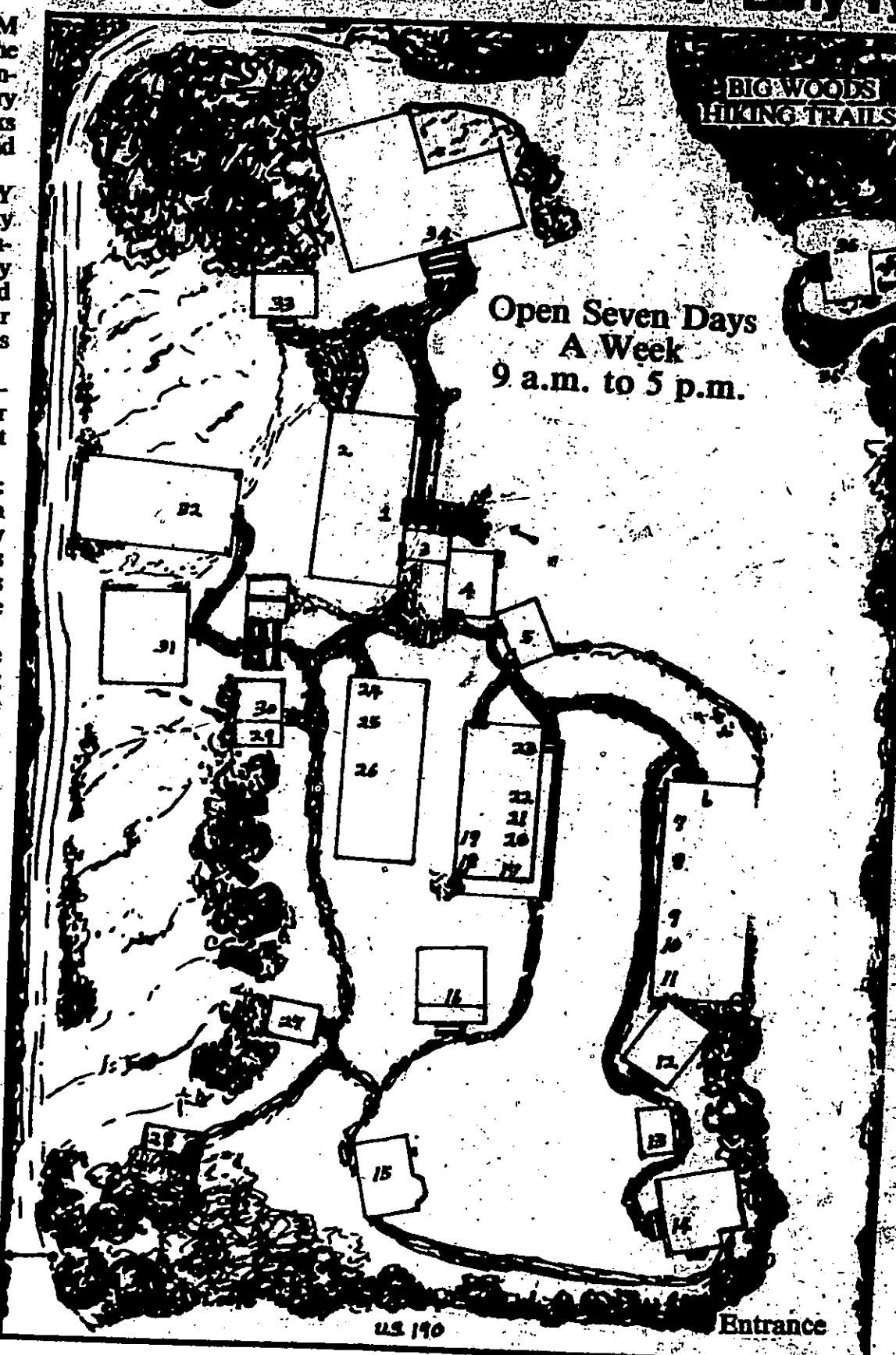
10.—**BARBER SHOP:** If you wanted a Saturday night bath, this century old barber shop could accommodate you in the back room. The 1836 copper tub once belonged to a Jefferson, Texas, blacksmith. The century old fixtures of the shop included two chairs, which could be laid back and revolved, but not raised or lowered.

11.—**SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND JAIL:** Every town had one, of course. The Village's offering is a replica of the type of facilities one might have found in early Tyler County days.

12.—**BLACKSMITH SHOP:** In use in Colmesneil in the late 1800's, this shop is now the home of the East Texas Blacksmith Alliance. Village Blacksmiths fire up the forge whenever a touring group is expected, inviting them to share in what was once one of the most important businesses in any town.

13.—**CANE GRINDER AND SYRUP MILL:** Horses or mules were used to turn the grinders through which sugar cane was squeezed before the slow process of cooking the juice to produce a delectable syrup. In the shed beyond is an old wagon donated by the late Gov. Allan Shivers, a famous Woodville son.

14.—**TOLAR CABIN:** Built by Robert Tolar for his wife in 1866 and donated



by his ancestors, the cabin, where family members cooked sumptuous meals over the open fire well into the 1950's, was moved intact from near Hillister. It was awarded the medallion of the Texas Historical Commission in 1964. On the way to the Railroad Depot, you can close your eyes and envision the Cherokee Church which will soon fill this spot.

15.—**RAILROAD DEPOT:** Materials for this depot came from the 1890 station in Hillister. The loop hanging on the outside wall held the Order Stick, which the Station Master would hold out to a passing train so orders, information and outgoing mail could be picked up without the train having to slow down.

16.—**COLLIER STOP:** Much of the original materials and furnishings are included in the reconstruction of this general store, built in Town Bluff in 1863 by Zacharia Cowart Collier. No visitor to the Village should miss this fine collection of interesting 19th century items.

17.—**TURKEY CREEK INN:** A reconstruction of what an early hostelry looked like in Tyler County. Furnishings being assembled to accompany the handsome upright piano donated by Phebe Armstrong and her sister.

18.—**LAWYERS OFFICE:** Every so often, every one in town needed a

lawyer, and it wasn't unusual to find him officiating off the lobby of the local hotel.

19.—**SALOON:** Even a little town like Woodville once had a saloon. In fact at one time, it had several. But our Village will have only one, off the hotel lobby and behind the Apothecary.

20.—**APOTHECARY SHOP:** In an old time drug store, only prescriptions and home remedies were sold. The prescription counter found here is from a drug store in Rockland, which was once a thriving mill town and the terminus of the railroad from Beaumont.

21.—**PHYSICIAN'S OFFICE:** Dr. and Mrs. Gayle Burton of Woodville are currently researching early Tyler County physicians to authenticate the refurbishing of this office.

22.—**SEAMSTRESS SHOP:** Recreation of an 1875-85 Shop, which was in its day a genteel way for a lady to earn a living, this shop offers a delightful look into the past world of fashion. Many original pieces of clothing and other items from a century ago can be found here. Joseph Gerriets and his mother, Martha Stark, of Houston are responsible for the research and furnishings of this shop.

23.—**OPEN DEMONSTRATION AREA:** Opening up the entrance to the Village, this area is being used for a

variety of demonstrations.

24.—**MUSIC SHOP:** Musical history memorabilia from the collection of Bobbe Voss of Orange, who spent many years in a circus band, has been increased to include old sheet music donated by Fred Bennett of Woodville.

25.—**CHAIR FACTORY:** Dallas Miller operated this chair factory in Burkeville until 1964, when it was donated to the Village by his family. Besides being the best chair maker in this part of the country, Miller was also a genius in fabricating the machinery he needed to make those chairs.

26.—**INDUSTRIAL AREA:** Soon to be the home of the Mattress Factory, Seed Separator and other early machinery needed to keep an early Village operating.

27.—**LITTLE RED SCHOOL HOUSE:** Typical of the one-room school houses where all grades were taught by one teacher and older students were pressed into service to help the younger ones with their lessons. Nestled in the woods next to the school is a picnic area, where visitors who wish to "brown bag it" can relax and enjoy.

28.—**THE VILLAGE STILL:** Once shamefully located right outside the school building, the Whiskey Still has thankfully been moved up into the woods, where it can turn out its moonshine without corrupting young souls at recess.

29.—**SHINGLE SPLITTING:** Under the overhang of the log utility shed you'll often find Ewell Woods, one of the Village's most faithful volunteers, who splits shingles to the entertainment of Village visitors.

30.—**LOG UTILITY CRIB:** Dismantled by the Tyler County Junior Historians and then reassembled log by log by this same group of history-minded youngsters, this sturdy log structure comes from the Pleasant Hill Community near Spurger, southeast of Woodville.

31.—**CANTILEVER LOG BARN:** This 140-year old log barn once belonged to the family of famed timber and oilman, John Henry Kirby, at Peach Tree Village near Chester. It was moved log by log to the Village by a team of volunteers.

32.—**DEMONSTRATION BARN:** Since old time craft demonstrations are the life line of the Village, this open sided pole barn offers a perfect spot for large demonstrations, outdoor gatherings and workshops. Most recently it saw dozens of portable forges in action during a statewide meeting of blacksmiths.

33.—**THE COTTAGE ROSE:** Antique and miniature roses surround this delightful little shop, which is located outside the Village proper, up the hill from the Pickett House Restaurant. Outside, you'll find a profusion of beautiful containerized plants for sale. Inside, dried flowers, dried arrangements and flowerful potpourri fill the air with delightful and aromatic gift ideas.

34.—**PICKETT HOUSE:** Country cooking abounds in this world famous restaurant housed in a turn of the century school house.

35.—**HAMM HOUSE:** Donated by the Hamm Family of Town Bluff, this century old home will soon be restored as a Nature Center at the head of the Big Woods Hiking Trails.

36.—**BIG WOODS HIKING TRAILS:** This 11.5 acres of well-marked hiking trails offer most of the treasures that can be found in the Big Thicket.