

## Texas Stars Coming to Dayton! Get Yours!

Have you ever noticed the large concrete bells in Liberty in front of businesses and at the courthouse?

Well, Dayton residents will soon see large concrete Texas stars around town with the word "DAYTON" at the base of the star.

The star looks like the photo below. You can leave it as is, paint it yourself or use the services of a talented local artist willing to custom paint the star for you.

So far this month, Texas stars have been ordered by four local businesses:

- Pace Stancil Funeral Home
- Dayton Electric Company
- Sterling Funeral Home
- Dayton Trading Post

To request an order form, contact **Caroline Wadzeck 936-258-5414** or **Wes Williamson 979-204-1451**. Leave a message and you will receive a call back.



## Dayton Historical Society & Old School Museum

The Dayton History News is produced and distributed by the Dayton Historical Society and the Dayton Old School Museum.

The Society meets in Parker Hall at 6 P.M. the last Monday of each month for a historical program presented by guest speakers. The program is preceded by a Society business/project status meeting and followed by refreshments.

The Old School Museum is located next to Parker Hall at 111 West Houston St. in Dayton and is open Saturdays from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.

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### Featured Museum Benefactor Items

Dayton Historical Society & the Old School Museum subsist on contributions. There are items for sale at the museum.

One of the most fascinating is the book "Streets of Dayton" written by museum curator Caroline Wadzeck.

Stop by and pick up your copy at the museum on Saturday!

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# Dayton History News

## Black Cloud & Green's Ferry

At the east end of County Road 2797 in Kenefick is the resting place of the "Black Cloud". She was a sidewheel riverboat captained by A. B. Hardin Jr. until one fateful night in 1873 when she struck a snag on the western bank of the Trinity River at Green's Ferry.

Joseph Richardson, the owner of the Black Cloud, salvaged the ship's cast iron bell and transported it using a yoke of oxen to the one-room Methodist Church in Liberty where he was a member.

Although the church has been rebuilt several times, the bell still hangs in the belfry of what is now the 1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist Church of Liberty and is rung each Sunday morning beckoning parishioners to come worship the Lord Jesus.

The remains of the ship are trapped under the sand and mud of the river but decaying timbers occasionally make a brief appearance – such as after a flood.

Ken and Jo DeFoor, members of the Dayton Historical Society, live a half-mile from the site and saw remains of the ship in 1978.

Other discoveries were made when a trench was dug across the Trinity for a pipeline enroute to Beaumont. Among the relics recovered were a tea kettle, an ancient coffee pot,

spoons, a spatula, and brass scales most likely used for weighing cotton bales. A broken shaft was also found affirming why the boat sank.

In October 2013, local historian Kevin Ladd was guest speaker at the Dayton Historical Society meeting and talked about Green's Ferry.

In 1827, twenty-three year old Reason Green and his nineteen year old wife Martha Ann Rogers moved from Louisiana and were granted a league of land (4,428 acres) bordering the Trinity River in the area now known as Kenefick.

During the 1800s, the Trinity was much deeper than it is now and Liberty was a shipping port. As a result, crossing the river was a hazardous endeavor.

Green built and operated a flat-bottom boat to allow passage where Atascocita Road intersected the Trinity River. Heaviest use of Green's Ferry was during the Runaway Scrape of 1836.

Atascocita Road was a commonly used route as early as 1690 – having been established by the Spanish as a military road that extended from Goliad, TX to New Orleans, LA.

County Road 2797 leads to the site of all this Dayton history – the Black Cloud, Green's Ferry and Atascocita Road.

## Runaway Scrape & Texas History (1820-1836)

The Texas shoreline was first viewed by a Spaniard in 1519 and remained under Spanish rule until 1821.

A revolt initiated on September 16, 1810 by a Catholic priest named Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla launched the Mexican War of Independence which lasted eleven years until September 27, 1821 when Mexico overturned Spanish control.

In 1820, Moses Austin of Missouri requested land that he planned to sell to American pioneers.

He died soon after and Moses' son Stephen F. Austin took on his father's dream and convinced the Mexican government to issue land grants in order to attract settlers.

By 1830, there were 16,000 Americans who dominated northern Texas by a 4-to-1 majority.

Mexico became suspicious and decreed an end to American immigration and restricted trade with America.

In 1832, General Antonio Lopez de Santa Ana, a Mexican politician and soldier, became the president of Mexico. The hope was that Santa Ana would make Texas a self-governing state within the Mexican republic.

Instead, he overthrew the constitutional government of Mexico and established himself as dictator.

On November 3, 1835, the Texas colonists organized a temporary government with Sam Houston as commander.

When Texans captured the Mexican military headquarters in San Antonio, Dictator Santa Ana headed north with 7,000 soldiers. The battles of the Alamo and Goliad were brutal defeats with 350 Texans who surrendered at Goliad being executed.

After the fall of the Alamo on March 10, 1836, General Sam Houston's army retreated and colonists in the path of Santa Ana abandoned everything and headed for East Texas. ***The Runaway Scrape exodus had begun.***

A tent city sprung up at the Trinity River crossing as people waited to ride on Green's Ferry. Meanwhile, the river was rising and children were dying. Boats were used to speed the crossings but families still had to wade through flooded bottomlands. Liberty & West Liberty (Dayton) citizens tended the sick and buried the dead.

When word came that Texans had defeated Santa Ana at the battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836, the cry ***"Go Back, Go Back" was given to end the Runaway Scrape exodus.***

The Texas Revolution ended May 14 with Treaties of Velasco. The Republic of Texas became an independent country until February 19, 1845.



A Texas state historical marker regarding the Runaway Scrape was erected on the north side of Hwy 90 at the bottom of Dayton's hill.

## Linney Cemetery

Founded in the 1850s, Linney Cemetery was established to serve the citizens of West Liberty (now Dayton).

Although there was no early organization of the cemetery, sections of the burial ground were known by the names of families interred there.

Several land acquisitions and donations over the years have combined to bring the cemetery's total size to thirteen acres. There are many unmarked burials.

The earliest documented interment is that of Joseph Monroe Linney, who died at the age of six days in 1880.

Other early burials include those of Jane Francis Hunt, who died in 1881, and Marie Louise Schneider Gossie, who died in 1885.

Those buried in the Linney Cemetery include pioneer settlers, city and county elected officials, community leaders, members of fraternal organizations, and veterans from the Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.



Just past the entrance to cemetery, is a military memorial which says: "In memory of our veterans who served with honor in wars."

## Dr. Ernest Richter

The namesake for both the old and new Richter Elementary schools was Dr. Ernest Rowland Richter.

He was born on July 31, 1912 in Harlingen, Texas and graduated from the University of Texas Medical Branch in 1935. He met Alphene Paden while she was in nursing school and they married in 1936.

The old Richter school on North Winfree was built in 1981, the year after Dr. Richter's death and the ground-breaking ceremony for the new Richter school on Cherry Creek Road was held May 28, 2017.

Dr. Richter practiced medicine in Dayton for 44 years – from 1936 to 1980. His office was located at 202 North Church St.

The building was originally constructed in 1908 for use by Dayton State Bank. In 1919, banking operations moved to its long term location at 106 N. Main St. (the current location of Prosperity Bank) while bank records remained at the original bank location until Richter purchased the building in 1936.

Dr. J. Wayne MacDonald moved his medical practice to the building after Dr. Richter's death.

