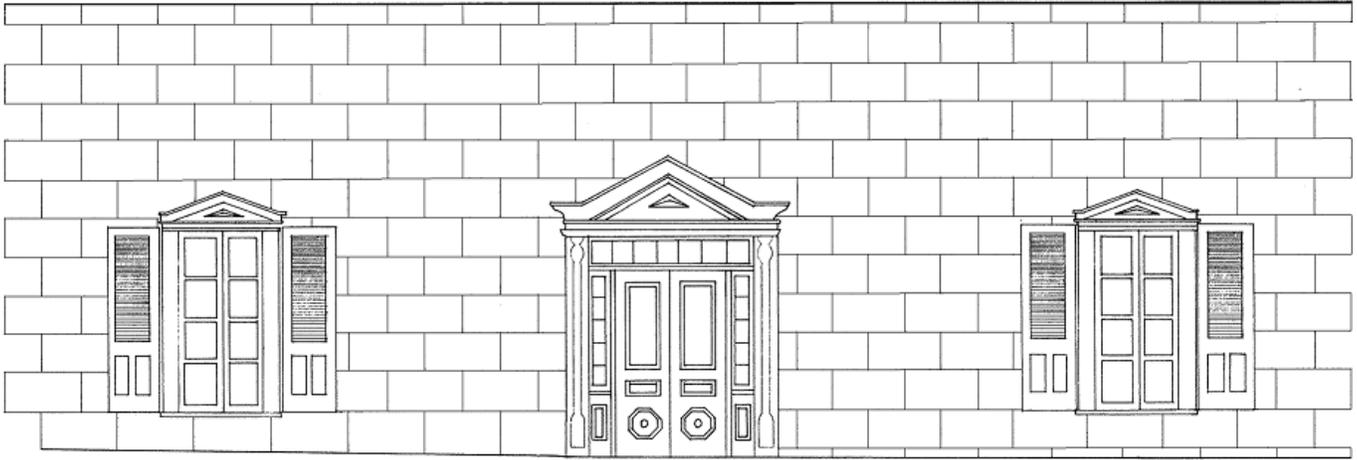


MAGOFFIN HOME

state historic site

ACTIVITY GUIDE



INTRODUCTION

Joseph Magoffin was born in Chihuahua, Mexico in 1837. When he was eight years old his family moved to Missouri. He attended school there and in Kentucky. After high school he returned to the El Paso area to work at a **mercantile** and trading post owned by his father, James Wiley Magoffin. During the **Civil War**, Joseph served in the Confederate Army. In 1864, he married Octavia MacGreal of Houston and they had two children. After the war ended they moved back to El Paso.

In 1875 Joseph built a new home on the outskirts of the city of El Paso. The Magoffin Home has thick **adobe** walls, **parapets**, and **canales** typical of **Territorial architecture**. The home started out with six rooms and a large hall. Over time, the Magoffins added seven more rooms. In the 1890s, they decorated the front of the building to make it look like stone blocks. It is one of the oldest surviving adobe buildings in El Paso.

El Paso was just a small town when the home was built, but Mr. Magoffin worked hard to help the city grow. He helped bring railroads, utilities, and new businesses to town. He also served as a justice of the peace, county judge, and in other public offices. He even became the **mayor** of El Paso four times! Mrs. Magoffin was a social leader and active volunteer in the community. They loved to entertain guests in their home.

The Magoffin children, Jim and Josephine, grew up in El Paso. Jim married Anne Buford, the daughter of the **American Consul** in Juarez, Mexico, and they had four children. Josephine married William Glasgow, a career military officer, and they had five children. Josephine inherited the Magoffin Home after her father's death. The Glasgows returned to El Paso in the late 1920s and lived in the house for many years.

VOCABULARY WORDS

Look at the words and their definitions below. They are also written in bold letters in the Introduction.

Adobe—building materials made of sun-dried clay and straw

American Consul—an official appointed by the U.S. government to reside in a foreign country and represent American interests and citizens there

Canales—a wooden channel that directed water through a parapet off the rooftop

Civil War—the war fought in the United States from 1861 to 1865 between northern (Union) and southern (Confederate) states. The Confederate states wanted to become a separate nation

Mayor—the primary elected official of a city, village, or town

Mercantile—relating to commerce and trade

Parapet—A parapet is a low wall rising from the edge of a platform or roof

Territorial architecture—a building style popular in the American southwest that often features flat walls and roofs, parapets, canales for drainage and decorated wooden door and window frames

DOUBLE PUZZLE

Unscramble each of the vocabulary words below. Take the letters that appear in each box and unscramble them to uncover the final message.

CILVI RAW

_____ _____

TIISELTUI

MOYRA

_____ _____

LNECASA

_____ _____

LEMCANTERI

_____ _____

BEDAO

_____ _____

SPRTPAAE

_____ _____

Final Message:

The front of the Magoffin Home was decorated to look like stone _____ K _____.

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

The Magoffins were a family with ties to both Mexico and the United States. Their family celebrations probably included traditions from both countries. Fill in the blanks below with your thoughts and feelings about your family's traditions and celebrations.

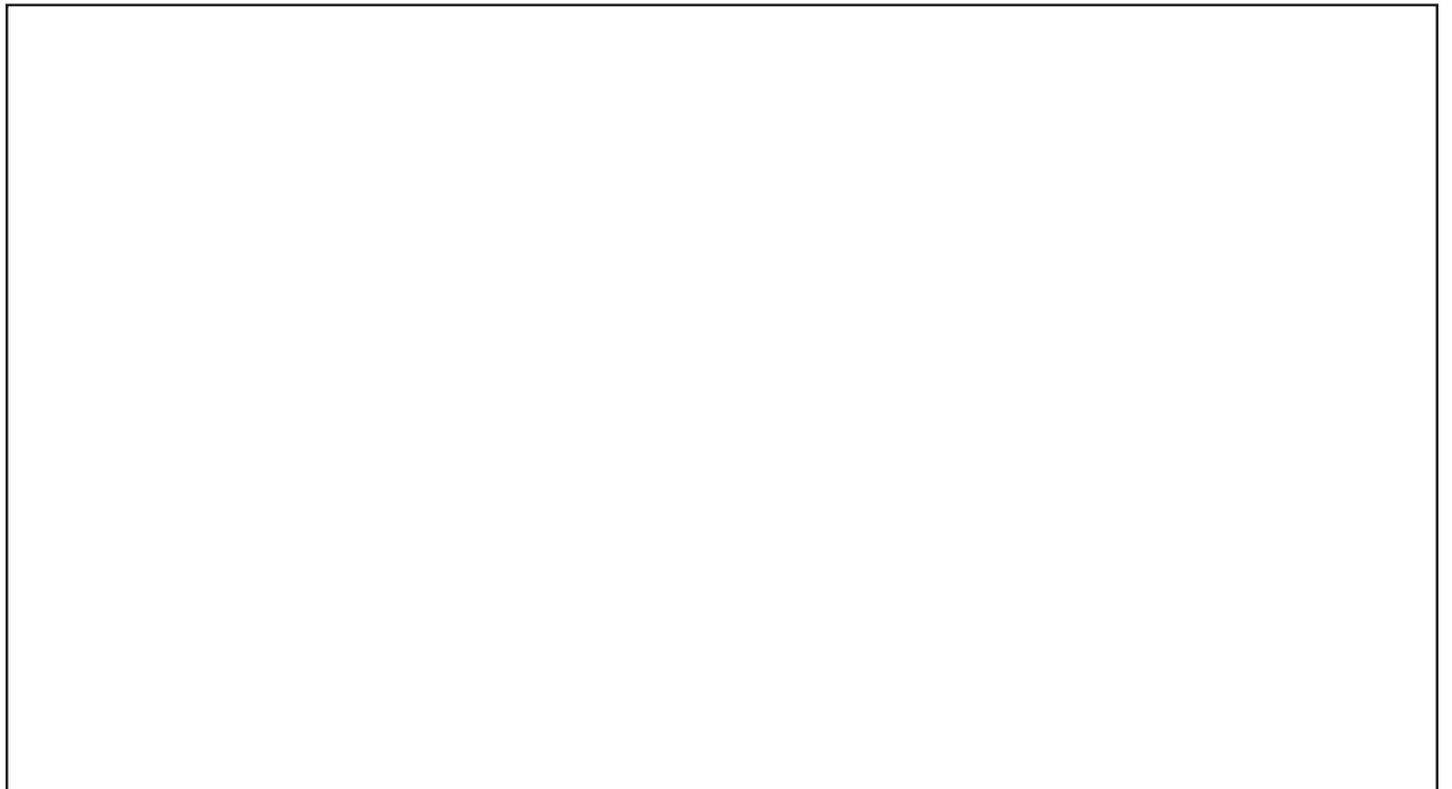
My favorite holiday or family celebration is: _____

I like this day best because: _____

My family celebrates by doing these special things: _____

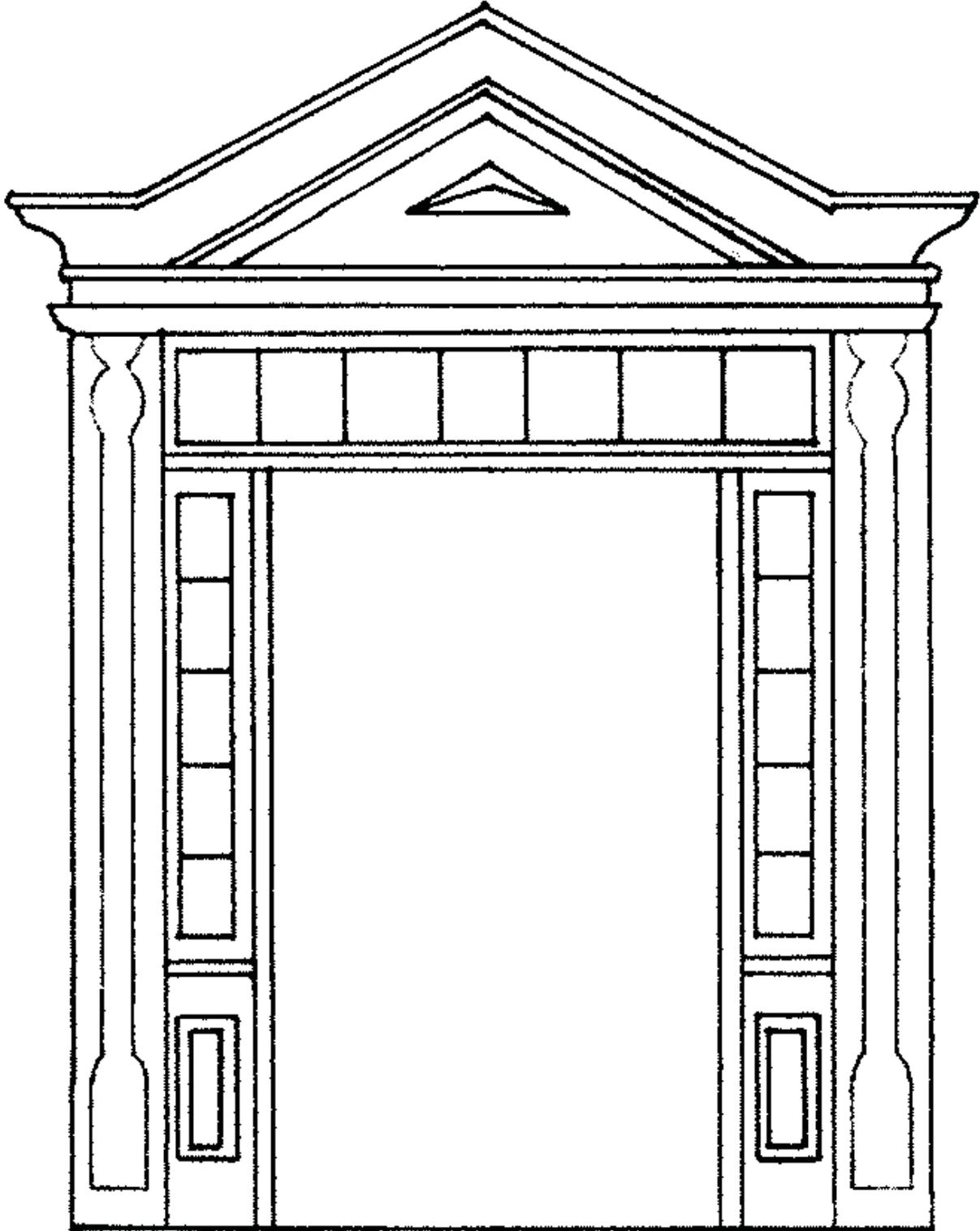
We eat these special foods during a holiday or other celebration: _____

Now, draw a picture of your family celebrating your favorite holiday or occasion.



PICTURE YOURSELF

Imagine that you are visiting the Magoffin family when they lived in the house more than 100 years ago. What are you wearing? What activities will you do with the Magoffins on your visit? Draw a picture of your visit in the space provided below.



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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MAGOFFIN HOME STATE HISTORIC SITE

www.visitmagoffinhome.com