On-Site Activity

Starr Family Homestead
In these suggested activities, students will examine material culture, artifacts, and historic documents to explore the Starr family successes in business, land development, and community engagement.

Maplecroft House Tour
During the tour, highlight house appointments, artifacts, and other material culture that give clues to the quality of life of Starr family members. Examples might include indoor plumbing, gas lighting, wood stoves, hand-painted portraits, furniture, books, etc.

When touring the rooms of the governess and the cook’s quarters, ask students to compare and contrast these rooms with the Starr family rooms, including appointments, artifacts, and other material culture.

Questions to ask might include:

- How do the Starr family rooms and the artifacts reflect this family’s standing in the community?
- What can you learn about the Starr family from their possessions?
- How do the artifacts tell you about the daily lives of both the family members and the house staff?
- What similarities do you find in both the family rooms and the staff rooms? What differences? How do those tell you about the daily lives of the family and staff?

Outdoor Activity: Exploring Lot 52

Distribute the 1899 historic map and the description and map from the 1979 Starr House National Register Nomination form. Have students work in pairs or small groups to walk the site grounds looking for differences and similarities among the historic resources and the current site. Gather students together at the end of the activity to discuss their findings of how the site evolved from its establishment to today. Have them provide specific examples of how the Starr homestead has changed over time.

Blake House Activity: Primary Source Timeline

Distribute the Starr Family Timeline and the Activity Resources A-D. Have students examine each document to identify where each one fits on the timeline. After all timelines are completed, discuss the answers. Further the discussion by asking what other information students learned about the Starr family from studying the documents and what questions the documents raised that students would like to investigate further.
Primary Source Timeline Answer Key

1861:  Image D: Company Muster Roll Confederate Record
1867:  Image B: UV Law Commencement Exercises (James F. Starr’s name is at the top left of the 2nd page)
1870:  Image E: Letter from James F. Starr to his father, July 19, 1870
1873:  Image A: Bank Check Receipt
1889:  Image F: Letter from James F. Starr to Miss Stone
1902:  Image C: James F. Starr graver marker

Activity Resource: 1899 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map

Activity Resource: 1979 National Register Nomination Form Map

Other structures on the property include the "school house" (#2 on the site plan), which was originally built as a residence for Tempe, a freed slave. Following Tempe's residency there, the one-story, gable-roofed structure was used as a school and later as a laundry house. A comparable structure to the northeast (#3) features a porch and standing seam metal roof. To its east is a simple building (#4) raised on brick piers topped by a pyramidal metal shingle roof and a low pitch shed roof. A one-story gable-roof garage (#5) is also present. It was enlarged and remodeled in 1966. All these outbuildings are in keeping with the main Starr house' architectural and historical integrity.

One room of the original James Harper Starr house ("Rosemont") remains. It is a one-story hip-roofed structure with an end chimney. This was originally an addition built as the downstairs bedroom during James H. Starr's later years. It is #3 on the site plan.

Structures no longer extant include a large barn, the remainder of the original "Rosemont", a stable, carriage house, chicken house, carpentry shop, tool house, windmill with sheds, laundry shed, and grass tennis courts.
Image A: Bank Check Receipt

RAGUET & FRY, Jas. F. Starr.
SUCCESSORS TO
BANK OF JAS. H. STARR & SON.

Marshall, Texas July 24, 1874

Judge R. Blake
Macogolhour Co.

Dear Sir,

We enclose our Check No. 3576 on

Marshall Savings 

St. Louis, Mo. $185.40
central savings bank

proceeds of your collection No. of september handed

our M. O. M. P. this morning as follow

Gourd 55$ @ 119 69.55

Comment

Respectfully,

Jas. H. Starr & Son.

RAGUET & FRY.
University of Virginia.

EXERCISES
ON THE PUBLIC DAY, JUNE 29, 1867.
Commencing at 10 o'clock.

MUSIC.
Prayer by Rev. J. S. Lindsay.
Chairman to the University.

MUSIC.
Delivery of Certificates of Proficiency.

MUSIC.
Delivery of Academical Diplomas.
DELIVERY OF PRIZES IN MENTAL AND MORAL PHILOSOPHY.
DELIVERY OF THE COURTNEY MEDAL IN THE SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS.

MUSIC.
Delivery of Professional Diplomas.

MUSIC.
ORATION BEFORE THE ALUMNI.
BY COL. MARRAMAKU DE JESUS JOHNSON.

NAMES OF STUDENTS.
1. Who have succeeded so well in the Junior, Senior, and Final Examinations as to be placed
in the first class in the several branches of the College.
2. Who have shown themselves best qualified
by superior mental ability to be placed
in the second class in the several branches of the College.
3. Who have shown themselves to be the most industrious and best
qualified to be placed in the third class in the several branches of the College.
4. Who have graduated in one of the Schools, or an Independent School, and are now
enrolled as a Student, or Graduate, of the University.

L. STUDENTS
Rating in the First Division at the Intermediate
and Final Examinations.

SCHOOL OF LATIN.
JUNIOR CLASS.
Winifred Brown, 1st & First
Mary Ann Bolling, 1st & First

MUS.

SCHOOL OF GREEK.
JUNIOR CLASS.

Allison, Miss Hill, Archibald
Cochran, Harry

MUS.

407 WEST TRAVIS ST.
MARSHALL, TEXAS 75670
P 903-935-3044 F 903-938-6039
visitstarrfamilyhome.com
#TXTimeTravel
storiedsites.com
Image C: James F. Starr grave marker
Image D: Company Muster Roll Confederate Record


Age 18 years.

Appears on Company Muster-in Roll of the organization named above.

Roll dated Camp Sibley Sept. 29, 1861

Muster-in to date Sept. 29, 1861

Joined for duty and enrolled:

When Sept. 29, 1861.

Where camp at San Antonio, Tex.

By whom Billy the Capt.

Period of the war

Valuation of horse, $120.00; equipments, $30.00

Remarks:

Gun $30.00

Pistol $30.00

*This company subsequently became Company H, 4th Regiment Texas Cavalry.

The 4th Regiment Texas Cavalry was organized about October, 1861, with ten companies, A to K. It was also known as the 1st Regiment, Sibley’s Brigade Texas Mounted Volunteers, and as the 4th Regiment Texas Mounted Volunteers.

Book mark: J. B. Hyatt

Copyist:
Pa has not yet got the deed for the place - he has forwarded it to be signed by Mr. Wagner in South Carolina. - Pa will try to get possession this fall - though the place is rented till Decr 31st next - 

We are all very happy with our prospects for homes, and [p. 107] Expect before many months to be comfortably and happily settled down. - We can soon make Block 51 by far the most attractive locality in Marshall.

And for our pleasant anticipations Clara and I have to thank our kind Father and Mother in New Orleans, - and will ever endeavor to show how we appreciate it by our respect and affection. - 

We are all very well, Baby is fat and Jolly. Pa, Ma and Hattie start to Nacogdoches tomorrow. Pa has a good deal of business to attend to there but expects to get through in ten days.

Business is doing very well. Gold runs up with the war news, but we are all right.

Much love to all,

affectionately your son

Jas. F. Starr
I have your letter in reference to the position of tutor for my four youngest daughters. The youngest of the four is six years old; the oldest will be thirteen in August. I desire their teacher to be competent to prepare them to enter the scientific course of Wellesley College—substituting Latin for French. The testimonials you send show that you are competent. I have heretofore stated, to other ladies desiring the position, that I am willing to pay thirty dollars per calendar month and [p. 583, letter p. 2] furnish board and washing. Also I will pay the necessary traveling expenses of coming here to take the position. I have also written to Miss Chevaillier that I would pay the five percent of salary of first year, which five percent Miss C. wrote me you would have to pay to a teachers agency. Your proposition is to have thirty five dollars per month. I cannot immediately conclude whether to accept your proposition, which as I understand it is $35. per calendar month, and board and Washing, you paying the teacher's agency, and I to pay your necessary traveling expenses of coming here to take the position. Your letter [letter p. 3] and testimonials please me very much, and it may be that in a few days - a week or two - at most, I may accept your proposition. In the meantime, if you find some other position you prefer, you are, of course, free to accept it.