

STARR FAMILY HOME

— STATE HISTORIC SITE —

Marshall, Texas

On-Site Activity

High School

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.

407 WEST TRAVIS ST.
MARSHALL, TEXAS 75670
P 903-935-3044 F 903-938-6039

visitstarrfamilyhome.com
#TXTimeTravel
storiedsites.com



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION 
REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES

STARR FAMILY HOME

— STATE HISTORIC SITE —

Marshall, Texas

Blake House Activity: Primary Source Comparison

Distribute the **Starr family letters** and the **graphic organizer**. Preview the letters including any dates, locations, and people. Explain that these are transcriptions of handwritten letters. Have students work individually or in pairs to complete the graphic organizer. After completion, have students share their responses.

Primary Source Letters

June 12, 1869: letter from Frank Starr to father-in-law George Clapp regarding hiring a bookkeeper/clerk

May 12, 1872: letter from Frank Starr to E. J. Frye, regarding an office job

January 17, 1873: letter from Frank Starr to Grandmother Clapp regarding a new cook, Mattie

June 4, 1889: letter from Frank Starr to Miss Stone regarding a governess position

407 WEST TRAVIS ST.
MARSHALL, TEXAS 75670
P 903-935-3044 F 903-938-6039

visitstarrfamilyhome.com
[#TXTimeTravel](https://twitter.com/TXTimeTravel)
storiedsites.com



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION 
REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES

STARR FAMILY HOME

— STATE HISTORIC SITE —

Marshall, Texas

Activity Resource: June 12, 1869 Letter

49-50

June 12th 69

My dear Father,

We were very glad to receive your note from Sabinetown, informing us that you & mother had arrived that far on your journey & were well.

I have had some talk again with Charley Raguet. He I think will hereafter send you his cotton, but he is not inclined to ask you to open a current interest a/c. with him now, on condition that he will send cotton next season, - because he says he cannot now certainly say that he will buy cotton of next crop - However I am pretty well satisfied that you will get his business, and it will surprise me if he does not have considerable cotton. - He told me that he intended to quit Blair, and expected to send C. B. & Co. what Cotton he would have. He will probably have several thousand dollars during the summer and until Cotton Season begins again, on which he would like to get interest, - but if C. B. & Co. cannot use the funds to advantage during that time it might be best for him to get the interest wanted somewhere else, - as you will be pretty sure to get his business, any way. - If I can serve you in such matters here command me. -

Pa & I have almost despaired of finding a bookkeeper & Clerk in Texas to suit us, and therefore we think earnestly of troubling you to make some search for one in New Orleans, before you start north. - We suppose that now & before you leave N.O. would be a more opportune time to secure a man, than after you return in the fall. - I think there is strong hope now of our leaving here about next November. - We could not leave earlier because Clara would not then be able to go, if nothing else prevented. - And I think it is important to secure a good "Office Help" - before we commence preparation to leave - and in fact we must need help all the time. - Pa joins me in requesting you to [p. 50] aid us in the search, if it will not give you too much trouble. - I will give you a memorandum of about the kind of a man we want, thus:

A good Bookkeeper - with small plain & rapid handwriting preferred - he should be capable of taking new ideas. - as our business would in numerous respects require it of one not accustomed to such business. - Bookkeeping would occupy not more than half his time. - and we would wish to instruct him in platting tracts of land - as laid down in all Books on Surveying. - which could be readily acquired by any Clerk of intelligence who writes well.

For a man who would suit our wants we could pay \$80. gold per month. - before the War Pa paid \$50. gold for men who suited him well. - It would require some time for a clerk to become familiarized with our business -

407 WEST TRAVIS ST.
MARSHALL, TEXAS 75670
P 903-935-3044 F 903-938-6039

visitstarrfamilyhome.com
#TXTimeTravel
storiedsites.com



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION 
REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES

STARR FAMILY HOME

— STATE HISTORIC SITE —

Marshall, Texas

Activity Resource: May 12, 1872 Letter

May 12. 2

Dear Ed. -

I have a proposition to make to you. - Kullman wants to go to Europe to be gone about two or two and a half months. - He cant go unless we can get some one to take his place here with me. - If you have nothing to do this summer how would it suit you? and if it would suit you how soon could you come, - The Salary - \$125. gold per month, I know, is not much object to you. - but the experience might be of some value to you. - Please send me a night telegram reply, - because if Kuhlmann goes I want him to go as early as practicable & return before the fall business commences.

We are all well,

Love to all.

Sincerely

Jas. F. Starr

E. J. Fry Esq.
New Orleans.

407 WEST TRAVIS ST.
MARSHALL, TEXAS 75670
P 903-935-3044 F 903-938-6039

visitstarrfamilyhome.com
#TXTimeTravel
storiedsites.com



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION 
REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES

STARR FAMILY HOME

— STATE HISTORIC SITE —

Marshall, Texas

Activity Resource: January 17, 1873 Letter

Marshall, Jan. 17 73
Friday

Dear Mother,

Yesterday we received telegram informing us of your safe arrival at N.O.

I hope you will have a pleasant time. - I expect we will start two weeks from tomorrow (Saturday), I will go as soon as we can get ready after Amory returns, - Our new cook - Mattie came yesterday. - I had the room next to kitchen fixed up for her comfortably - ceiled & painted overhead and rough ceiled and papered on Walls, - Tinnners are at last at work on roof of cistern house - will finish it tomorrow.

I today have credited your ^{acc?} a/c. with J.H.S. & S. - received from

C. C. Starr	-	\$364.25
E. J. Fry	-	\$182.75

being for expenses paid by you on "290 Prytania St" as per enclosed memorandum statement -

Jinny was quite sick since you left - she had fever - with several days - but is right well now. - The new Cook looks well - good natured, tc, and I sincerely _____ will please us. -

_____ our love to Pame' & family
and _____ We miss you very _____ - John has heard
from his father _____ well.

Your son,
Jas. F. Starr

Co Mess. S. F. Clapp
New Orleans

407 WEST TRAVIS ST.
MARSHALL, TEXAS 75670
P 903-935-3044 F 903-938-6039

visitstarrfamilyhome.com
#TXTimeTravel
storiedsites.com



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION 
REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES

STARR FAMILY HOME

— STATE HISTORIC SITE —

Marshall, Texas

Activity Resource: June 4, 1889 Letter

[p. 585, letter p.6] Having learned that the salary I have proposed to pay for a teacher of the grade I now desire is low, I have been considering an amendment to my proposition - thinking it may remove the objection, and the amendment I will submit to you. In addition to teaching my four youngest, would it be conveniently practicable for you, to teach my two oldest daughters? My two oldest daughters are now at Dana Hall School, Wellesley, where they entered in Sept'r, 1888, to prepare for the scientific course at Wellesley College - substituting Latin for French. They are in the same classes except in Mathematics. They took no Mathematics [letter p. 77] at Dana Hall, as they were in that study relatively in advance of other studies. The older had completed plane Trigonometry before going to Dana Hall. Their chief deficiency was in Latin and German, which they did not commence till about Nov'r 1887. I mention about their classes, because I suppose you could more readily teach them if in same classes. The two oldest of the four first mentioned, are in same classes in nearly all, if not all studies. If practicable for you to teach the six daughters, I would be willing to increase the salary - making it forty five dollars per calendar month, and board and washing, and if [p. 584, letter p. 8] you remained with us during the summer vacation and, besides the attention to the younger children, would render some aid and instruction to the two older in whatever agreeable study they desired to pursue, I would continue the salary of \$45.00 per month during vacation.

407 WEST TRAVIS ST.
MARSHALL, TEXAS 75670
P 903-935-3044 F 903-938-6039

visitstarrfamilyhome.com
#TXTimeTravel
storiedsites.com



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION 
REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES

STARR FAMILY HOME

— STATE HISTORIC SITE —

Marshall, Texas

Help Wanted

Use the primary source letters to complete the graphic organizer.

Information	June 12, 1869	May 12, 1872	January 17, 1873	June 4, 1889
Describe the position for hire.				
What is the pay?				
What challenges are indicated in the letter?				
What decision or outcome does the letter indicate, if any?				

407 WEST TRAVIS ST.
MARSHALL, TEXAS 75670
P 903-935-3044 F 903-938-6039

visitstarrfamilyhome.com
#TXTimeTravel
storiedsites.com



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION 
REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES