

STARR FAMILY HOME

— STATE HISTORIC SITE —

Marshall, Texas

Post-Visit Guide

High School

Overview: Southern Sentiments

Following a visit to the historic home site, students will reflect on the impact of the Civil War and Reconstruction on the Starr family/

U.S. History Since 1877 TEKS

(3) History. The student understands the political, economic, and social changes in the United States from 1877 to 1898. The student is expected to:

(B) analyze economic issues such as industrialization, the growth of railroads, the growth of labor unions, farm issues, the cattle industry boom, the rise of entrepreneurship, free enterprise, and the pros and cons of big business.

(29) Social studies skills. The student applies critical-thinking skills to organize and use information acquired from a variety of valid sources, including electronic technology. The student is expected to:

(A) use a variety of both primary and secondary valid sources to acquire information and to analyze and answer historical questions;

(B) analyze information by sequencing, categorizing, identifying cause-and-effect relationships, comparing and contrasting, finding the main idea, summarizing, making generalizations, making predictions, drawing inferences, and drawing conclusions;

(D) use the process of historical inquiry to research, interpret, and use multiple types of sources of evidence;

(H) use appropriate skills to analyze and interpret social studies information such as maps, graphs, presentations, speeches, lectures, and political cartoons.

Materials

- Historical images for display/distribution
- Activity resources

Vocabulary

- **freedman:** a person freed from enslavement
- **Freedman's Bureau:** Created in 1865 by Congress in the aftermath of the Civil War to look after the rights of newly freed slaves, providing them with social, education and economic services.

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Historical Context

In addition to natural population growth of people already residing in Texas, Texas gained many new settlers from other southern states as well as immigrants from Germany and Mexico in the late 1800s. The population in the state of Texas increased by 91.5% in two short decades. At the turn of the century, 82.9% of that population lived in rural areas.

Frank Starr, his father James Harper Starr, and his brother Amory Starr, had long worked in land development. Their strategic move of their headquarters to Marshall, along with the completion of the Texas and Pacific Railroad through Marshall a few years later, would prove lucrative to their real estate business. Land agents and real estate companies made their own attempts to promote immigrant settlement in Texas by utilizing their company letterheads as an advertising opportunity.

To attract railroad companies to Texas, the state offered loans and land grants in a total estimated amount between 27,000,000 acres and 35,780,000 acres. With the millions of acres that had been given to railroad companies throughout the state, the companies themselves engaged in land sales.

At the end of the Civil War in 1865, Marshall became the base for occupying Union forces as well as the location for a Freedmen's Bureau office. The Freedmen's Bureau monitored legal cases involving African-Americans, supervised all labor contracts for freedmen, apprehended those who committed crimes against freedmen, aided in organizing schools, reunited families who had been separated while slaves, and presided over marriage unions for husbands and wives previously unable legally to marry. The large numbers of African-Americans who came to Marshall for bureau assistance contributed to increased tension and bitterness among white former slaveholders. The Bureau, along with military occupation, ensured that freedmen in Marshall voted, and for over a decade, they carried the majority. In 1878, the Citizens Party, comprised primarily of white men, regained control of Marshall politics by committing election fraud.

Activity: Bigger in Texas

15 minutes

Display/distribute the **population growth** and the **railroad growth** charts.

Have students use the **population growth chart** and the formula below to calculate the percentage of growth in Texas from 1880 to 1900. (91.5%)

$$\frac{(1900 \text{ pop} - 1880 \text{ pop})}{1880 \text{ pop}} \times 100 =$$

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Have students use the **railroad growth chart** to calculate how many miles of track were laid in Texas from 1875 to 1900. (8,217 miles)

Ask students to discuss the relationship between the increased presence of rail track and the population growth in Texas.

Activity: Reading Between the Lines

35 minutes

Display/distribute the **Freedmen's Bureau Report 1867** and the text of **James F. Starr's 1872 letter** to his father.

Have students work individually or in pairs to answer the following questions about the documents.

Questions for investigation:

- Who is the audience for each of the documents?
- Consider the offenses and the actions taken/not taken that are noted in the Freedman's Bureau report. Do you feel each case was responded to adequately? Why or why not?
- How does James F. Starr feel about the general state of the state in July 1872? Cite sentences in his letter that support your conclusion.
- What statements in the July 1872 letter provide insight into James F. Starr's feelings about race, race relations, and government oversight in Marshall after the Civil War?

Share responses and discuss how these documents reflect and preserve the history of the Starr family, the town of Marshall, and the state of Texas during the late 19th century.

Assessment

Evaluate students' work for completeness and understanding.

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Extension Activity

Consider major moments and movements in the fight for equal rights for African Americans and/or other discriminated populations in the United States. Have students create a presentation that shows how the battle for rights for those populations has progressed, regressed, or stagnated. Have them provide documentation for their opinion.

Possible resources may include:

- Black History Timeline
<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/black-history-milestones>
- Smithsonian American Art Museum—Reconstructing a Nation
<http://americanexperience.si.edu/historical-eras/civil-war-and-reconstruction/pair-lord-is-my-shepherd-old-mistress/>
- Library of Congress—Civil Rights History Project
<https://www.loc.gov/collections/civil-rights-history-project/articles-and-essays/>

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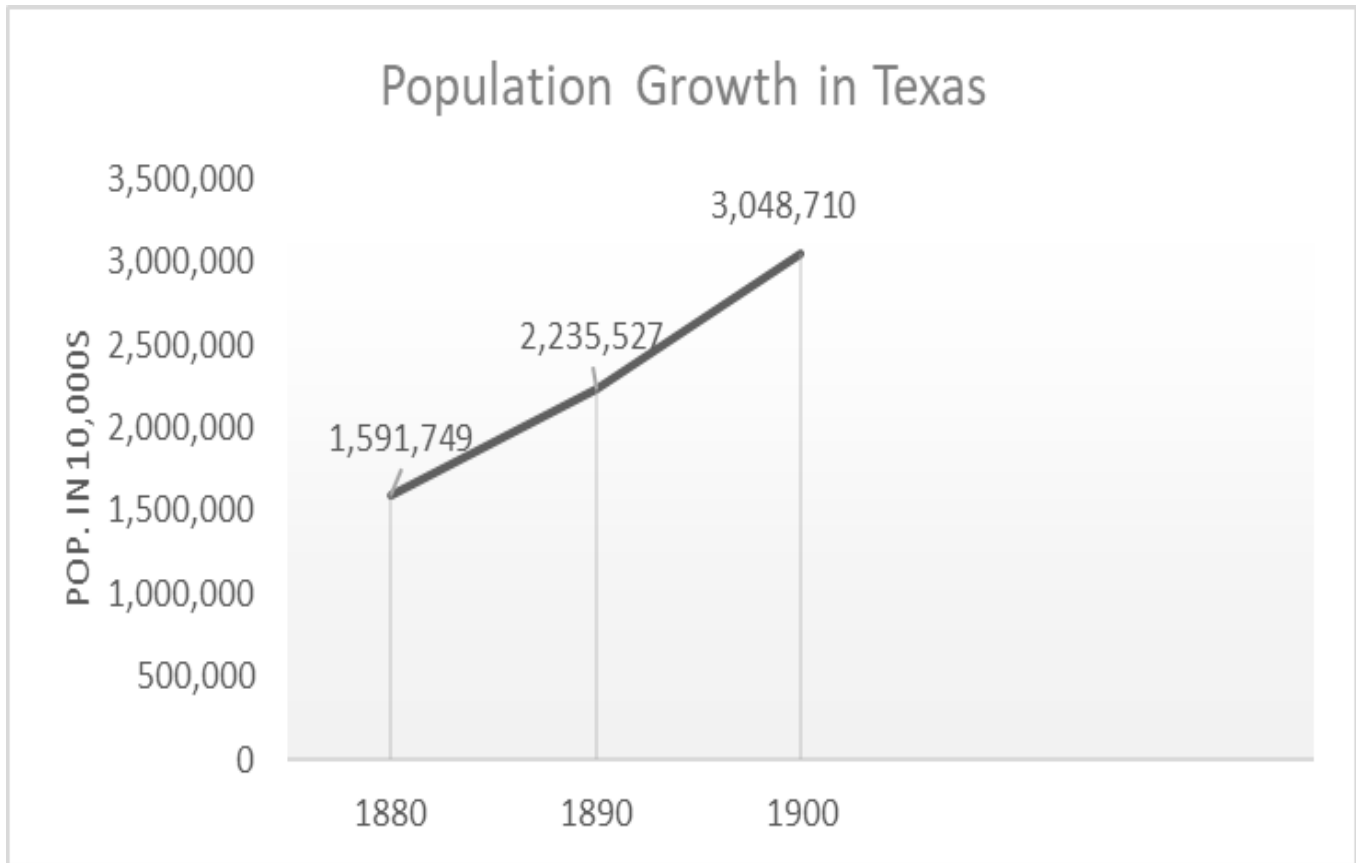
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Activity Resource: Population Growth in Texas 1800-1900



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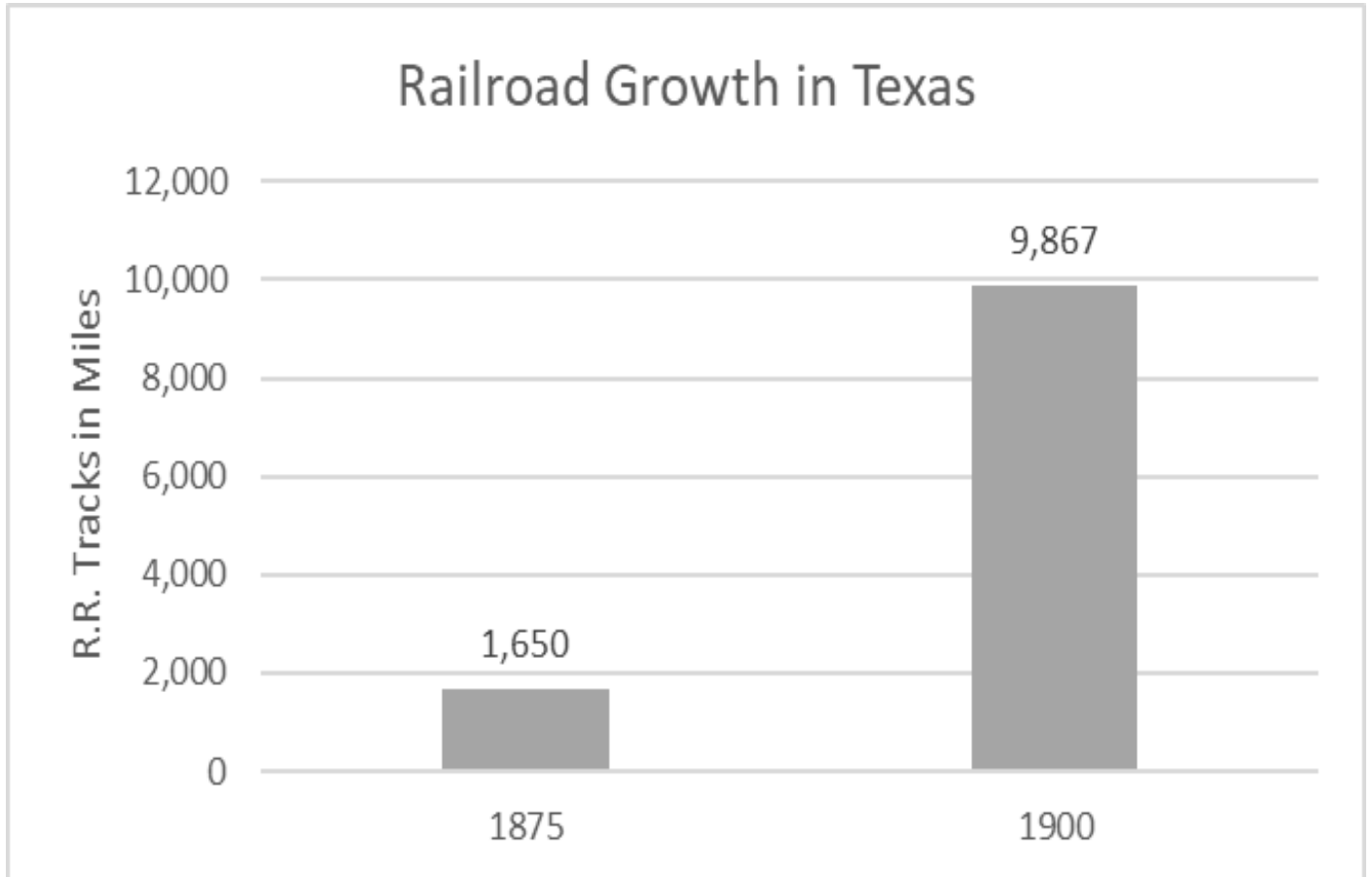
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Activity Resource: Railroad Growth in Texas 1875-1900



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Activity Resource: Freedmen's Bureau Report of Murders and Outrages in Marshall, Texas, 1867 [text p. 1]

Citation: <http://www.freedmensbureau.com/texas/marshall.htm>

Marshall, Texas

March 22nd 1867

Lieut. J. S. Kirkman U. S. A.

A. A. A. Gen^l Bu of R. F. and A. L.

State of Texas

Lieutenant

I have the honor to report in obedience to letter dated March 7th 1867 just received with names, dates and particulars as far as possible of outrages &c since Jan 1st 1867.

1st Jan 7th Scarborough shot twice at a freedman named Toby Hawkins in Harrison Co. at the residence of Judge Patillo 12 miles from Marshall. I sent a Deputy Sheriff named John Sloan for him but he did not arrest him only told him to come when he got ready and both deputy and prisoner have escaped.

2nd Jan 10th James Oliver, Rusk Co., shot freedman named Sims Knowles through the head because he would not contract with him. I sent the U. S. Deputy Marshall after him forty miles but he escaped to the woods and cannot be captured, no action on the part of civil authorities.

3rd Jan 12th Freedman name unknown robbed and shot near the Depot in Marshall by person in disguise. I could get no clue to the party. If the civil authorities took any action I have never heard of it.

4th Jan 13th Bill Hall a freedman was robbed and shot within a mile of Marshall. Was cutting wood near the road. Strangers shot six times only one ball taking effect and that struck him in the elbow ruining his arm forever.

5th Jan 13th Bob Geer freedman was robbed but not shot as he had some money which satisfied the highway man. Bob was chopping near Bill Hall. Robbed by the same man same time and place.

6th Jan 20th Case reported by freedmen named Ned and James Waterhouse that three freedmen were hanging to a limb near Grand Bluff, Panola Co. and one apparently struck dead by a single blow. The case was reported six days after they were discovered and I did not deem it necessary to make any investigation as it would only be a waste of time.

7th Jan 30th I arrested Thomas Starkey today who shot a freedman named John Brewer during Christmas, tried him and fined him \$200 and the cost of the Marshal who arrested him.

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Activity Resource: Freedmen's Bureau Report of Murders and Outrages in Marshall, Texas, 1867 [text p. 2]

Citation: <http://www.freedmensbureau.com/texas/marshall.htm>

8th Feb 14th Try Slaughter near Jefferson, Marion Co., shot at two freedmen named Cornelius and Albert Roseborough. I searched several days for him he kept in the woods and several days after he reported in person and had in his possession a bond for \$520 to appear at the next term of the court at Jefferson, Marion Co. which will be the end of the case in my opinion.

9th March 3rd Freedboy named John Grimes complained that two men, Wade Anderson and Phil Simpson killed his mother last July, that they were now with the gang at Elysian fields, Harrison Co., and that he wanted assistance to get his sister who was at that place but feared his life would be taken and did not go. I could not assist him.

10th March 7th A. S. Rutherford shot and killed instantly a freedman named Martin Little at Pink Tutle place 14 miles from Marshall because the freedman had reported that he could do more work in a day than Rutherford. I sent the Deputy Sheriff for him but he escaped.

11th Feb 27th Mr. George M. Reeves shot and killed Mr. William Yumlin at Jefferson, Marion Co. and Wounding Mr. M. Simmons. Civil action. Reeves under bond.

Very Respectfully

Your Obedt. Servt.

Charles T. Rand, Bvt. Capt. V. R. C. Sub Asst Commr

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Activity Resource: James F. Starr letter to his father, July 7, 1872 [text]

Marshall. July 7. 72

Dear Pa.

Last night came yours of 30th ult from St Paul, and we are happy to know that you and Ma are well and that Hattie is well and fat. - What a great country the North West is! - Take your time and see it all comfortably, - to be repeated every summer - and in the winter make a long stay at New Orleans and on the Gulf. - In a year or two, I will join you in part of your summer rounds. - I send you the Texas papers from which you will perceive that the Texas Crops are everywhere very promising. Rail Roads are progressing, and we will look for a heavy immigration this next fall and winter. - I can see that Capital is looking for investments - not foreign capital but home capital - of which there has been more hidden away than has been generally supposed. - I perceive also that men are having more confidence in each other - which you know is necessary in order to induce men to operate upon an associated basis, which mode of operation is one of the main springs of the great success of the men of the north and north-west. - I believe we would have a prosperous immediate future if we could get rid of the terrible practical incubus upon us, - that is the great drawback. The State and local political organizations of thieves will I trust ere long be to a great extent broken up. - The annual pouring in to our state of white immigrants must ere long effect it. - I look to the demand for white laborers for Rail Road necessities in this county as our only hope to be enabled soon to throw off the bonds of the negro vote in this county. - White laborers skilled & unskilled - for Rail Road shops & for manufacturing establishments - will never affiliate with the negro upon a question of [p. 430] antagonism between the classes - white & Black. -

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