

The Jack County Museum Association is a non-profit organization under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code. All contributions are totally tax deductible.

If you wish to help the effort to preserve this landmark and display artifacts of our heritage, your contribution is greatly appreciated.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to contribute to the Jack County Museum Association in the amount below.

\$25.00 _____	\$50.00 _____
\$100.00 _____	\$250.00 _____
\$500.00 _____	Other _____

Please make checks payable and mail to:  
Jack County Museum Association  
P.O. Box 861  
Jacksboro, Texas 76458

For additional information call:  
Jacksboro Chamber of Commerce  
940-567-2602

**JACK COUNTY MUSEUM**  
"The Birthplace of Texas 4-H"  
P.O. Box 861  
Jacksboro, Texas 76458

# JACK COUNTY MUSEUM

"The Birthplace of Texas 4-H"  
Jacksboro, Texas 76458



241 West Belknap  
Jacksboro, Texas 76458  
940 567-5410  
www.jackcountymuseum.com  
email: info@jackcountymuseum.com



## THE JACK COUNTY MUSEUM

The Jack County Museum, 241 W. Belknap, Jacksboro, Texas, is located in one of the oldest, if not the oldest, houses in Jack County. Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Cooper built the home in 1882 from materials freighted in by wagon from Jefferson, Texas. The Coopers paid for their home with \$20.00 gold pieces.

The extra thick oak walls may be viewed inside where they extend beyond later additions to the house. There are seven rooms with four being the original structure. Native stone chimneys constructed for the fireplaces in the front rooms are still standing, and one fireplace is still intact. The once wooden porch has been replaced with concrete and the wooden tapered porch post replaced with metal filigree.

When the last owner, Mrs. A.A. (Lottie) Files, died in December, 1987, her grandchildren offered to sell the home to the Jacksboro Chamber of Commerce to be used as a permanent site for the Jack County Museum.

Donations came from many Jack County residents, businesses, organizations and various 4-H Clubs throughout the state. Then, on September 15, 1988, the dream became a reality when the transaction was finalized. The Jack County Museum was moved in October from its former location on the second floor of the Fort Richardson Hotel building to the present and permanent site.



## BIRTH OF 4-H CLUBS

This house witnessed the birth of the "Corn Club", later known as the 4-H Club, in 1907 when the founder, Tom M. Marks, was the resident.

Tom Marks was a talented, educated man of many occupations: school teacher, superintendent, public entertainer, construction engineer for the railroad, farmer, editor of THE JACKSBORO NEWS (a local farm paper), and special county agent for Jack County.

While serving as special county agent, he felt there was a great need for new developments in farming methods. After failing to convince the local farmers of new changes, he turned to the youth of the area. The Corn Club was organized September 8, 1907. The Corn Club survived and evolved into the 4-H CLUBS OF AMERICA.

Settlement of the area began in the 1850's and in 1856, Jack County was created by the Texas Legislature. Early settlers faced many hardships, including regular attacks from marauding Indians. The courthouse in Jack County became the site of the historic Indian Trials, where Indians were first brought to justice for their attacks on the early settlers. In 1858, the Butterfield Stage Line was routed through Jacksboro and Jack County. A historic landmark stands where the stage passed through the town.

Jacksboro became known as "the Crossroads of West Texas" due to its location between several major highways.



Today, visitors to Jacksboro will enjoy a visit to the Jack County Museum to view the numerous artifacts related to early life in Jack County, as well as a vast collection of military exhibits, 4-H memorabilia, Jacksboro High School mementoes, along with cemetery records and genealogical records. On site is a restored 1880's log cabin, a collection of early farm implements and an out-building filled with pioneer life necessities.