

STARR FAMILY HOME

— STATE HISTORIC SITE —

Marshall, Texas

Pre-Visit Guide

Grade 4

Overview: Maplecroft, Home to the Starrs

The Starr family, Frank and Clara and their ten children, were a prominent family in East Texas and the builders of the historic home named Maplecroft. During the late 19th century, the Starrs played an important role in land and railroad development in the area.

Social Studies TEKS

(4) History. The student understands the political, economic, and social changes in Texas during the last half of the 19th century. The student is expected to:

(C) identify the impact of railroads on life in Texas, including changes to cities and major industries

(6) Geography. The student uses geographic tools to collect, analyze, and interpret data. The student is expected to:

(A) apply geographic tools, including grid systems, legends, symbols, scales, and compass roses, to construct and interpret maps

(8) Geography. The student understands the location and patterns of settlement and the geographic factors that influence where people live. The student is expected to:

(A) identify and explain clusters and patterns of settlement in Texas at different time periods such as prior to the Texas Revolution, after the building of the railroads, and following World War II

(12) Economics. The student understands patterns of work and economic activities in Texas. The student is expected to:

(A) explain how people in different regions of Texas earn their living, past and present, through a subsistence economy and providing goods and services;

(B) explain how geographic factors such as climate, transportation, and natural resources have influenced the location of economic activities in Texas;

(E) explain how developments in transportation and communication have influenced economic activities in Texas

(21) 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) differentiate between, locate, and use valid primary and secondary sources such as computer software; interviews; biographies; oral, print, and visual material; documents; and artifacts to acquire information about the United States and Texas;

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

(C) organize and interpret information in outlines, reports, databases, and visuals, including graphs, charts, timelines, and maps.

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

Materials

- Historical images for display/distribution
- Graphic organizers

Vocabulary

- **artifact:** something made and used by people in the past.
- **parlor:** a formal room in a house where visitors were entertained.

Historical Context

Frank and Clara Starr married in New Orleans in 1868. Frank, along with his father James Harper Starr and brother Amory, worked together as land and banking agents for real estate interests across the state. In the late 1860s, Frank Starr debated whether to move from their home in Nacogdoches to Galveston or to Marshall. He seemed to prefer the society in Galveston, but decided that the East Texas town of Marshall would prove a better location for their business headquarters and would also provide easier access to Clara's family in New Orleans via Shreveport's river steamboats.

Marshall had other practical appeals. By 1854, Marshall had a telegraph link to New Orleans, which gave it quick access to national news and made it the first town in Texas to have a telegraph. By 1860, Marshall was one of the largest and wealthiest towns in East Texas. The town donated land and \$300,000 of bond money (over \$5 million in today's money) to convince the Texas & Pacific Railway Company to base its operations in town. In the 1870s, the Texas & Pacific Railroad (T&PRR) located in Marshall and the town became a primary stop for rails that would eventually stretch across Texas, connecting Marshall to cities, people, and industries in the east, north, and west. In choosing Marshall over Galveston, Frank also avoided the potential devastation that his family might have experienced in the Great Galveston Hurricane of 1900, which destroyed over 3,600 buildings and was the deadliest natural disaster in U.S. history.

By 1872, the family had settled in Marshall and were living in their newly built home, Maplecroft. Frank and Clara had ten children, but only six daughters survived into adulthood. Clara managed a house that included their children, numerous servants, her widowed mother Mrs. Clapp, and a live-in teacher for their daughters. The Starrs became a prominent family in Marshall and were known for their work in Texas land and railroad development after the Civil War.

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: At Home with the Starrs

15 minutes

Display/distribute the **resource images** of Frank and Clara Starr and the parlor inside their home.

Ask the following questions for discussion as students analyze the photos:

- What details in the photos tell you about the Starr's social standing? Give examples.
- What activities might have taken place in the parlor?
- What similarities and differences do you see between the Starr's parlor and rooms in today's houses?
- Why are historical photographs valuable?

Activity: Mapping the Rails

35 minutes

Display/distribute the **T&PRR Texas map and any enlarged images of the map.**

Preview the map, including the title, key, T&PRR rail routes (thick black dotted line), and sidebar information. Ask students if they have any questions about the information on the map.

Display/distribute the **resource, In Frank's Words**. Read both statements aloud to the class or ask for volunteers.

Ask students to look at the T&PRR map to answer the following questions:

- Find Marshall on the map.
 - What state and what city are located at the end of a T&PRR route just over the Texas border to the east? (*Shreveport, Louisiana*)
- Find the names of major cities that are written in bold capital letters.
 - The T&PRR connected Marshall to what five major cities? (*Texarkana, Sherman, Dallas, Fort Worth, El Paso del Norte*)
- Find the sidebar that gives information about ticket prices.
 - How much was an emigrant ticket from St. Louis to Marshall? (*\$14.50*)
 - How much did a first class ticket from Memphis to Marshall cost? (*\$18.45*)
- Find the sidebar that gives information about completed railroads.
 - By 1876 when this map was compiled, how many railroads had been completed in Texas? (*9*)
 - According to the map, how many miles of completed rails did Texas have at that time? (*1,953*)

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

After reading his words and studying the rail map, ask students to give reasons why they agree or disagree with Frank Starr's decision to locate his business in the East Texas town of Marshall.

Assessment

Evaluate student media organizers and map for completeness and understanding.

Take-home Extension

Distribute **Starr Family KWL charts**. Tell students to complete the K and W columns of the chart and bring it back to class. They will complete the chart as a Post-Visit activity.

Additional Resources & Extensions

The Portal to Texas History

<https://texashistory.unt.edu>

The Handbook of Texas Online

<https://tshaonline.org/handbook>

Library of Congress

<https://loc.gov>

East Texas Research Center—East Texas Digital Archives

<http://digital.sfasu.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/EastTexRC>

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 Image: Mapping the Rails

Citation: Map of Texas counties and topographical information. Also includes information on the cost of living, wages, land rent, land buyers, surveying, railroads, and railroad rates, September 1, 1876, Map Collection, East Texas Research Center, Stephen F. Austin State University, <http://digital.sfasu.edu/cdm/compoundobject/collection/EastTexRC/id/12299/rec/1> (Accessed September 26, 2018).

TEXAS, THE EMPIRE STATE of the GREAT SOUTHWEST.

TEXAS and Pacific Railway.
The Texas and Pacific Railway Company, created by an act of the Legislature of the State of Texas, has the honor to announce that the line between Austin and Dallas, and the extension of the same to Fort Worth, has been completed. The Texas and Pacific Railway, as a whole, is now open for the transportation of passengers and freight between Austin, Dallas, and Fort Worth. The route is a direct line, and the service is prompt and reliable. The fare for passengers is low, and the freight rates are reasonable. The Texas and Pacific Railway is a great convenience for the people of Texas, and it is hoped that it will be a great benefit to the State.

Important to Emigrants.
The Texas and Pacific Railway Company, created by an act of the Legislature of the State of Texas, has the honor to announce that the line between Austin and Dallas, and the extension of the same to Fort Worth, has been completed. The Texas and Pacific Railway, as a whole, is now open for the transportation of passengers and freight between Austin, Dallas, and Fort Worth. The route is a direct line, and the service is prompt and reliable. The fare for passengers is low, and the freight rates are reasonable. The Texas and Pacific Railway is a great convenience for the people of Texas, and it is hoped that it will be a great benefit to the State.

Stations and Distances on the Texas and Pacific Railway.

Stations	Distances
Austin	0
Waco	100
Fort Worth	200
Dallas	300
San Antonio	400
El Paso	500
San Diego	600
San Jose	700
San Juan	800
San Marcos	900
San Antonio	1000
San Diego	1100
San Jose	1200
San Juan	1300
San Marcos	1400
San Antonio	1500
San Diego	1600
San Jose	1700
San Juan	1800
San Marcos	1900
San Antonio	2000
San Diego	2100
San Jose	2200
San Juan	2300
San Marcos	2400
San Antonio	2500
San Diego	2600
San Jose	2700
San Juan	2800
San Marcos	2900
San Antonio	3000

Land Titles, Surveys and Measurements.
The Texas and Pacific Railway Company, created by an act of the Legislature of the State of Texas, has the honor to announce that the line between Austin and Dallas, and the extension of the same to Fort Worth, has been completed. The Texas and Pacific Railway, as a whole, is now open for the transportation of passengers and freight between Austin, Dallas, and Fort Worth. The route is a direct line, and the service is prompt and reliable. The fare for passengers is low, and the freight rates are reasonable. The Texas and Pacific Railway is a great convenience for the people of Texas, and it is hoped that it will be a great benefit to the State.

Wages in Texas.

Wages	Amount
Day Laborer	\$1.00
Farmer	\$2.00
Merchant	\$3.00
Professional	\$4.00
Government	\$5.00
Business	\$6.00
Industry	\$7.00
Service	\$8.00
Education	\$9.00
Health	\$10.00
Religion	\$11.00
Science	\$12.00
Arts	\$13.00
Letters	\$14.00
Law	\$15.00
Medicine	\$16.00
Engineering	\$17.00
Architecture	\$18.00
Manufacturing	\$19.00
Agriculture	\$20.00
Commerce	\$21.00
Finance	\$22.00
Transportation	\$23.00
Communication	\$24.00
Energy	\$25.00
Defense	\$26.00
Education	\$27.00
Health	\$28.00
Religion	\$29.00
Science	\$30.00

Prices of Produce.

Produce	Price
Wheat	\$1.00
Corn	\$0.50
Cotton	\$0.25
Wool	\$1.50
Hides	\$2.00
Butter	\$0.75
Eggs	\$0.50
Flour	\$1.25
Meat	\$0.75
Vegetables	\$0.50
Fruit	\$1.00
Spices	\$2.00
Grains	\$1.50
Legumes	\$1.00
Seeds	\$0.50
Oil	\$1.50
Salt	\$0.50
Iron	\$1.00
Steel	\$1.50
Copper	\$2.00
Lead	\$1.50
Zinc	\$1.00
Aluminum	\$1.50
Gold	\$10.00
Silver	\$5.00
Diamonds	\$50.00
Jewelry	\$100.00
Art	\$1.00
Books	\$0.50
Stationery	\$0.25
Printing	\$0.50
Advertising	\$1.00
Real Estate	\$1.00
Insurance	\$1.00
Banking	\$1.00
Finance	\$1.00
Law	\$1.00
Medicine	\$1.00
Engineering	\$1.00
Architecture	\$1.00
Manufacturing	\$1.00
Agriculture	\$1.00
Commerce	\$1.00
Finance	\$1.00
Transportation	\$1.00
Communication	\$1.00
Energy	\$1.00
Defense	\$1.00
Education	\$1.00
Health	\$1.00
Religion	\$1.00
Science	\$1.00

Advantages Claimed for Texas over any other section.

Wherever there is such diversity of production, production, and the abundance of the soil, the land is fertile and the climate is healthy. The Texas and Pacific Railway Company, created by an act of the Legislature of the State of Texas, has the honor to announce that the line between Austin and Dallas, and the extension of the same to Fort Worth, has been completed. The Texas and Pacific Railway, as a whole, is now open for the transportation of passengers and freight between Austin, Dallas, and Fort Worth. The route is a direct line, and the service is prompt and reliable. The fare for passengers is low, and the freight rates are reasonable. The Texas and Pacific Railway is a great convenience for the people of Texas, and it is hoped that it will be a great benefit to the State.

TEXAS, THE EMPIRE STATE of the GREAT SOUTHWEST.

A GEOGRAPHICALLY CORRECT MAP OF THE STATE OF TEXAS.

TEXAS & PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY.

Published by the Texas & Pacific Railway Company, 1876.

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 Image: At Home with the Starrs



Clara Clapp Starr and child



James Frank Starr



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: In Frank's Words

Letter from Frank Starr to George L. Clapp (father-in-law), January 21, 1869

For a long time We have been talking about going to Galveston some time in the future, - Pa generally assents - but cannot say when. I believe that we could go in three months at the farthest, - and am sure it would be a great advantage to all of us.- We have sometimes spoken of going to Marshall, - but I dont like the locality near so much as Galveston. – It is true that Marshall would be nearer the centre of the section of Country over which our most important business interests are scattered, - but that is not so very important, - our business is almost entirely carried on by correspondence and subagents, and the difference in time as to communicating by mail is very little in favor of Marshall. – Wherever we may go I am anxious for Pa & Ma to Board and not keep House. – I am satisfied that it would be much the best for them. Long ago Pa said to me that he was determined to leave Nacogdoches for a better place, as soon as I returend from the University of Va. – now is when it seems to me practicable, I am eager for him to fulfill his promise.

Letter from Frank Starr to George L. Clapp (father-in-law), November 18, 1869

Business progresses with us very well, Texas lands are steadily improving—immigrants are coming, money is more abundant, —and some day all this will result in Rail-roads—which will make rich men out of the recent bountiful supply of poor Texas land-holders.

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: Starr Family KWL Organizer

KNOW	WANT TO KNOW	LEARNED

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

Site Visit Recommendations

- Complete the pre-visit lesson or other introductory lessons prior to your field trip.
- Divide students into small groups, each with an adult chaperone.
- Make sure students bring pencils. Pens and markers are not allowed in the exhibits.

Information

To schedule a site visit field trip for your students, please call 903-935-3044.

For admission prices and hours of operation, please visit us online at <http://visitstarrfamilyhome.com>.

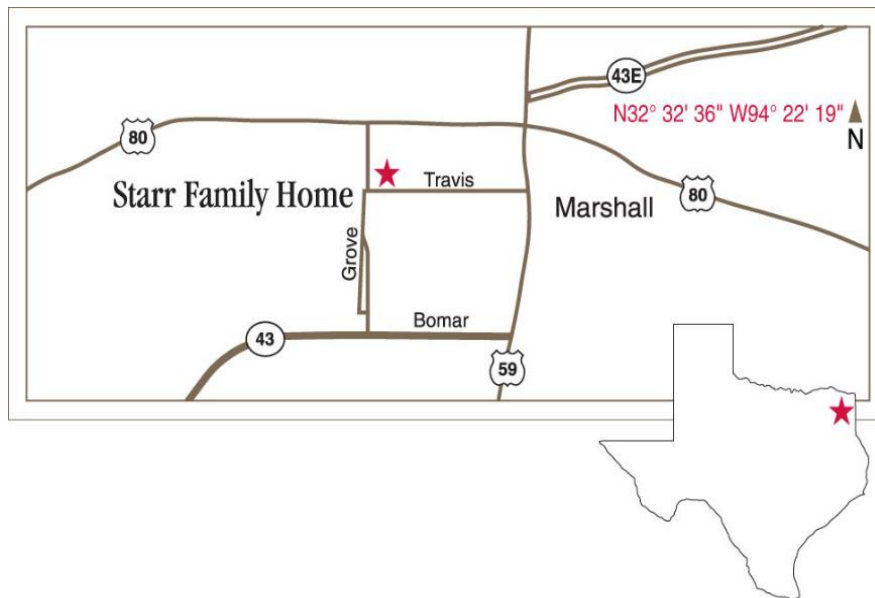
Contact Us

407 West Travis St.

Marshall, TX 75670

903-935-3044

starr-family-home@thc.texas.gov



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