

# Historic Montgomery

# Birthplace of the Texas Flag

Prior to 1837, Montgomery was a trading post situated a mile north of the present site. Owen and Margaret Montgomery Shannon, colonists with Stephen F. Austin, had settled on their grant of land and traded with the Indians.

In July of 1837, an ad in the Telegraph and Texas Register advertised the sale of lots in the newly organized town of Montgomery. The article stated that a new county was expected to be created and Montgomery, from its central position, would be selected as the seat of justice. Montgomery remained the seat of government until 1889, when the records were moved to Conroe.

In its early days, Montgomery was the trade center for a large farming area, where stagecoach, railroad and telegraph lines crossed.

Civic and religious organizations came early to Montgomery, as well as the first school in 1839. In 1848, the City of Montgomery was incorporated, and in 1842 the first Protestant parsonage in Texas was built here.

In the 1850's, Montgomery experienced a building boom. Some of the fine homes built at that time remain today with descendants of the original owners or early owners occupying them.

The Civil War stopped all progress in Montgomery, but by 1900, numerous mercantile establishments were in business, as well as three cotton gins, railroads active with freight and passengers, five hotels and boarding houses, doctors, dentists, and lawyers. But later with the railroads by-passing the town and the county seat moving to Conroe, Montgomery reverted back to the little town it is today - quiet, peaceful, and rich in history.

In 1839 the simple but elegant design of Dr. Charles B. Stewart of Montgomery was chosen for the creation of the Lone Star flag. On May 30, 1997, the House of Representatives of the 75th Texas legislature officially commemorated Montgomery County as the Birthplace of the Texas flag.



## Nat Hart Davis Pioneer Complex and Museum

Located on FM 149/Liberty Street in Historic Downtown
On the site are the Davis Cottage, originally a log cabin built in 1851 of logs cut in 1831 and obtained as legal fees; Davis Law Office, built while Texas was still a Republic (1845); used as his law office and living quarters until Cottage was built. The McCall Law Office built in the 1880's in Willis, and used by Screven A. McCall while he was a lawyer. Given to Montgomery Historical Society by the McCall heirs. Hours: Wednesday-Saturday I I am-3pm. Docents on duty. Special tours may be arranged for groups of 10 or more by calling (936) 520-1967

#### Cedar Brake Park

Located on Hwy 105 west of Historic Downtown



Enjoy a quiet scenic park with the family, or a take a brisk walk around the I/3 mile walking path. Cedar Brake Park is host to the Pioneers of Montgomery Statue featuring Dr. Charles Bellinger Stewart, designer of the Texas Flag. Enjoy a family gathering or birthday party by renting the John A. Butler Pavilion on the

east end of the park. For more information on Cedar Brake Park, visit www.patronsofcedarbrakepark.org.

#### **Fernland Historical Park**

Located on Clepper Street in the Buffalo Springs Development

Step back in time to discover life in the early days of Montgomery. Enjoy a quiet visit on your own, or make plans to take an official tour with one of our docents when the park is staffed. Hours of staffing are posted



on www.MontgomeryTexas.gov or call City Hall during regular business hours (936) 597-6434 to schedule a tour.

### **Memory Park**

Located on Besse Owens Dr. north of CB Stewart West Branch Library



This beautiful park is a community project coordinated by the Rotary Club of Lake Conroe. Escape to the peaceful sounds of waterfalls flowing into the pond. Each section of the park has been purchased and donated in memory of loved ones. The park is open year round.

# **Homecoming Park**

Located on Community Center Rd. north of Historic Downtown

This small residential park features a pavilion, playground, volleyball and basketball courts. This community park is a great location of hosting family gatherings.

