

## Matagorda Island Timeline

- 1519 Alonso Álvarez de Pineda sails the Gulf Coast mapping Matagorda for the first time
- 1685 René Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle set up a camp on the island when he arrives from France.
- 1839 The town of Calhoun is established on Matagorda Island
- 1844 The customhouse in Calhoun is moved to Galveston Island and the town does not survive
- 1847
- March 17 James Power deeds the site for the future town of Saluria to Sommervell, Denison and Rose
- 1848 The first postoffice is established in the town of Saluria
- 1852
- A lighthouse is built near Saluria
- Dec. 31 The first light is lit in the lighthouse
- 1857 An additional 24 feet are added to the lighthouse tower
- 1859 The first Third Order Fresnel lens is placed in the Matagorda lighthouse
- 1861 Fort Esperanza is first garrisoned
- 1863 Confederate troops abandon Matagorda after a four day siege of Ft. Esperanza
- 1864
- June Federal Troops withdraw from Fort Esperanza for the last time
- 1865
- Oct. 15 The lighthouse tower is dismantled and a temporary wooden tower is erected with a fifth order lens installed
- 1870 The tower is moved to higher ground and rebuilt
- July A new third order lens is ordered from Sautter & Company in Paris
- 1875 Saluria is destroyed in the same hurricane that decimated Indianola for the first time. They do not rebuild.
- 1882 Oil lamps are retired from the lighthouse and are replaced with the new kerosene incandescent vapor lamps
- 1956 The lighthouse is finally automated.
- 1977 The lens is removed from the lighthouse by the coast guard and is loaned to the Calhoun County Museum in Port Lavaca where it continues to be on display