

## HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

**Thursday, February 28, 2013  
Winters-Wimberley House  
14068 Ranch Road 12  
Wimberley, Texas 78676**



After a tour of the Zach House (Zach Wimberley) by Claire Billingsley, the February 28, 2013, meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission was called to order by Chairman Kate Johnson at 6:52 p.m. A quorum was met as the following members were present: Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Sue Cohen, Linda Coker, Jim Cullen, Luanne Cullen, Bonnie Eissler, Matt Floyd, Robert Frizzell, Carmen Imel, Kate Johnson, Richard Kidd, Jo Landon, SarahAnn Lowther, Ida Miller, Jerry Moore, Marianne Moore, Clemmie New, Joe New, Ofelia Vásquez-Philo, Ralph Randow, Charlie Willis, and Celeste Zygmunt. Three guests were also present.

1. **Announcements:**

Kate asked each member to keep the number of hours accrued for HCHC work each month. This information is needed each year in the report that Kate sends to the Texas Historical Commission. Luanne Cullen will keep a record of the hours. Also, each member needs to watch the training video for open meetings on the Texas Attorney General's website or can watch it at the courthouse museum. She also encouraged members to attend the public outreach program at San Marcos Public Library, Tuesday, March 5--Life and Property of Edward Burlison in March.

The next HCHC meeting will be held on March 28 at Camp Ben McCulloch.

2. **Vote on accepting minutes from January 24, 2013.** Jerry Moore moved to accept the minutes; Jim Cullen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Vote on continuing support of The Kyle Auction Oak in 2013**—Kate said that the Auction Oak is looking healthy and asked that HCHC continue to pay \$85 each month to support its maintenance. Delbert Bassett moved to renew the contract for maintaining the Kyle Austin Oak; Linda Coker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **Vote on sharing the cost of The Kyle Hanging Oak**, along with The Kyle Cemetery Association and the Kyle Family. Kate described the poor condition of the tree and said that the Kyle Cemetery Association will provide the water. HCHC will only pay \$524 for this year. Delbert Bassett moved to accept

- HCHC's participation in maintaining the Kyle Hanging Oak Tree; Jo Landon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
5. **101 Ranch**—Richard Kidd said he was pleased to say that the editing is finished on the 101 Ranch documentary which is 48 minutes long. On March 18, the Wimberley Institute of Cultures (WIC) will hold its spring meeting and will have the premiere of the film at the Wimberley Community Center. WIC charges for the dinner and HCHC members need buy their own tickets. A number of HCHC members have volunteered to be on the documentary committee and some will be needed to sell DVDs. The next showing will be held on Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, in Kyle at the Kyle Library. Dates will be determined for other showings.
  6. **Oral History Committee Report**—Bonnie Eissler said that several people have signed up for the Oral History Committee. She described several of the “Voices of Hays County” and the list of other people needing to be interviewed. She also said that we are limited in the number of videos that can be completed, maybe four per year. She would like to get some printed information to distribute, such as brochures.
  7. **Cemetery Committee Report**—Jim Cullen said that several have signed up for the Cemetery Committee and that he would try to meet each month since something is always going on at the various cemeteries. He is considering an orientation of the various cemeteries for the committee members. Cementerio del Rio has a new historical marker that was placed last week and credit was given to Ofelia Vásquez-Philo for getting the marker. We may get some help from TxState because Dr. Ana Juarez is offering an intern to assist with cemetery work, research, etc. A meeting with her will be held in the next few days to discuss this possibility in more detail.
  8. **Kyle Depot**—Kate reported that she is the Kyle Depot chairman. They are finishing up the exterior with a touch up on the north end, but otherwise it is finished. The interior will be addressed next with plans to be finished by Christmas. The Kyle Chamber of Commerce will be located in the depot. A preview party will be held and will include the HCHC members because HCHC helps with gathering photos and interviews. Since this is the only historic depot in the county, we would like to get the views from Anglos, Mexican-Americans, African-Americans as to the role the railroad played in their lives through audio and video recordings. The HCHC could possibly contact the railroad for more information.
  9. **Courthouse Museum Committee Report**—Linda Coker said that we are still opening on the first and third Saturdays of each month. Chamber of Commerce is printing a map which will include the museum. Linda is working with the San Marcos Youth Master Plan and will be emphasizing the museum. She also reported that the County Employee Appreciation Day is approaching which will be including exhibits, etc.
  10. **Ecology Committee Report**—Delbert Bassett reported that, on February 19, 2013, he met with officers of the Hays County Master Gardeners to discuss forming a relationship between the two organizations in areas of common interest, such as the Biggest Tree, Historical Trees, Keystone flora, and maintenance of flora around noted historical sites. He had difficulties establishing email contact

with the Hays County Master Naturalists to make similar arrangements. He learned of a possible Native American “Marker Tree” on Gatlin Creek Road at the home of Joe and Barbara Schwartz. It appears to be a Marker Tree that lies along an old Comanche trail pointing to a spring. He also said that Eric Becker, the Hays County agent for the Texas Forest Service, is on board with our program. We already have one big tree which is the biggest Shumard Oak, *Quercus shumardii*, in Texas. He also asked the HCHC members to review all their old photographs of towns, special events, or of typical early Hays County days that illustrate daily life, i.e. ranch activity, branding, reunions, weddings, parties, etc. and show the surrounding plant life.

11. **Hispanic Committee Report**—Ofelia Vásquez-Philo reported that Cementerio del Rio now has a historical marker and that she is wanting the dedication of the marker to be held on Nov. 2, on Día de los Muertos. The TxState anthropology department with Dr. Ana Juarez has several students who would like to conduct research on old churches. El Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos (at the old Southside or Bonham School) also has a marker, and the dedication ceremony will be held on April 6.

12. **Member Announcements:**

Marie Bassett said that the latest batch of material given to the Heritage Circle of Dripping Springs from the late Katherine Cannon's estate included "The Men and Women in World War II from Hays County" and Dripping Springs High School yearbook (circa 1950) which they decided to give to the HCHC museum library. There are a lot of omissions in the “The Men and Women in WWII from Hays County” book so she suggested that the series of blank pages at the back could be used to add other people we knew of, maybe with photos if available. More information about the Heritage Circle can found at <http://www.heritagecircle.org/>.

Marianne Moore said she was involved with the Heritage Association of San Marcos and announced that on Arbor Day, March 1, Emmitt McCoy is being honored with a tree in Veramendi Plaza. The Cock House has a \$7 luncheon each Friday hosted by various groups in San Marcos. More information can be found at <http://www.heritagesanmarcos.org/index.html> .

Linda Coker said that the San Marcos Home Tour will be coming in May, and she would provide more information at the next meeting.

13. **Claire Billingsley** provided the history of the Winters-Wimberley House which is on the National Register and has a Texas Historical Marker. She related a number of stories about the various families who have lived in the house
14. **Adjourn**—Linda Coker moved that the meeting adjourn, and Clemmie New seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m. Supper followed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Luanne Cullen, HCHC Secretary

