

## HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION



**Thursday, December 5, 2013**  
**Katherine Ann Porter House**  
**508 W. Center Street, Kyle, Texas 78640**

The December 5, 2013, meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission was called to order by Chairman Kate Johnson at 6:15 p.m. A quorum was met as the following HCHC members were present: Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Sue Cohen, Linda Coker, Jim Cullen, Luanne Cullen, Robert Frizzell, Dorothy Gumbert, Betty Harrison, Carmen Imel, Kate Johnson, Jeff Jordan, Richard Kidd, Jo Landon, SarahAnn Lowther, Ida Miller, Jerry Moore, Ofelia Vásquez-Philo, and Ralph Randow. Six guests also attended.

1. **Announcements**—Kate introduced Kelsie Shipman (Writer in Residence at KAP House), Tom Grimes (Program Director of the Creative Writing Program at Texas State), and Bill Johnson (supporter of the restoration of the KAP house and Writer in Residence program). Kate also noted that the next HCHC meeting would be held on January 23, 2014, at a location to be determined.
2. **Vote on accepting minutes from October 24, 2013**—Three corrections were made to the October 24 minutes: Will's War instead of Windle's War; the date for the minutes to be accepted should have been September 26, 2013, instead of October 24; and items that could be auctioned to support the Old Jail should have been "mentioned" instead of "displayed." Jerry Moore moved to accept the minutes as corrected; Dorothy Gumbert seconded the motion. Motion passed.
3. **Courthouse Committee Report**—Linda Coker reported that visitation to the courthouse museum is good. Several visitors tour the museum during the week

so we may have to eventually consider being open on a weekday. The meeting room is being used often by DRT, Main Street San Marcos and several other city departments. We have been given some artifacts from the Charles S. Cock family. Their great-grandson donated a soup tureen and a set of 12 goblets to the Heritage Association of San Marcos, but since they have nowhere to put them, the Heritage Association is loaning them to us one year at a time. These items were used when the Cock family lived in the house on Hopkins Street. Also, the Moon-McGehee Chapter of DRT would like to give us an 1844 Emory map for the rotunda. The courthouse is decorated for Christmas, and thanks to Kate Johnson on behalf of HCHC, many more lights have been added.

4. **Colonel Doctor Peter C. Woods Documentary**—Richard Kidd reported that he and Kate Johnson went to Hempstead, Texas last month to film footage during the Civil War re-enactment for the documentary. Even though it was cold and rainy, they were able to get good footage of the soldiers in uniform.
5. **Oral History Committee Report**—Sue Cohen said the committee is working on transcripts and biographies for several people now and hopes to finish these before the new year at which time they will begin additional interviews. These include the interview with Bill Pennington that was just transcribed as well as interviews with Brenda Bell, Joe Doherty, Peggy Oldham, and Charles Ramsay.
6. **Cemetery Committee Report**—Jim Cullen reported that Richard Gomez had contacted him about working in some of the cemeteries as soon as he had recovered from surgery.
7. **Ecology Committee Report**—Delbert Bassett reported that his committee has established procedures with Texas State University for submitting the application to nominate the Burlison Tree as a “Famous Tree of Texas.” The key element in the process is that the application is no longer tied directly to the University’s plan for better utilization of the Spring Lake area. We can now submit our application directly to Texas A & M Forest Service via the university president. The letter is currently being drafted. We are also starting the process to nominate the large Live Oak at the Pound House in Dripping Springs as a “Famous Tree of Texas.” At Camp Ben McCulloch in Driftwood, the horse picket for the initial Confederate reunions from 1904 onward was a cedar fence post between the forks of two pecan trees. Delbert is looking for any pictures that show horses being tied to the rail or any mention of horses being picketed. He also said that we now have two trees that are the largest in Hays County. One is a live oak, *Quercus virginiana*, with a largeness index of 254 and is on the Camp Lucy property of Whit Hanks in Dripping Springs. The other tree is a native pecan, *Carya illinoensis*, which stands at the entrance to Laurel Hall’s property across from the Salt Lick Restaurant in Driftwood with a largeness index of 292.

8. **Historical Marker Committee Report**—Betty Harrison reported that the application period for markers for this year closed on November 15 and that we submitted four applications. The First Baptist Church NBC (African/American church) in San Marcos was unable to pay the fee by Friday's deadline, so Kate paid it in behalf of HCHC. Also included were the J. H. Barbee house, C. W. Burdett, and Indian Mott. The markers for the Stagecoach House in Buda and the Bunton Bridge have been received. We have contacted the City of Buda about holding a dedication for the Stagecoach House marker but have not heard back. The Bunton Bridge marker was damaged and had to be returned to the foundry.
9. **Hispanic Committee Report**—Ofelia Vásquez-Philo said that local families were invited to bring photos of deceased loved ones to the Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos on November 2 for the Día de los Muertos celebration. She also described the traditions of the day and told stories that were shared at the celebration.
- 10 **Rogers Hill or The Burleson Site Report**—Kate reported that Juan Guerra, Associate Vice-President for Facilities at Texas State, was in charge of all correspondence relating to the Burleson Historical site. When the Moon-McGehee Chapter of DRT and the HCHC began asking people and organizations to write letters of support, Dr. Trauth asked Andy Sansom, Director of the Meadows Center, to coordinate the efforts of the University with HCHC and the DRT. As soon as Andy's schedule opens up, talks with him would continue to see if our letters had some effect with the University. She encouraged members to write letters of support.
- 11 **Adjourn**—Delbert Bassett moved that the meeting adjourn; Jo Landon seconded the motion. Motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.
- 12 After the meeting, Kate introduced Kelsey Shipman, the Writer in Residence at KAP who described her background as a poet, performer, and teacher. She introduced Tom Grimes (MFA professor at Texas State) who spoke about the history of Katherine Anne Porter, the house, and the restoration efforts with special thanks to Bill Johnson. Tours of the Katherine Ann Porter House were led by Dr. Grimes and Kelsey Shipman. Supper followed in the Writer's Studio.

Respectfully submitted,  
Luanne P. Cullen, HCHC Secretary



