

HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION



**Thursday, September 27, 2018
La Ventana Club House
Ranchers Club Road
Driftwood, Texas 78619**

The September 27, 2018, meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission (HCHC) was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Chairman Kate Johnson. A quorum was met as the following members were present: Marie Bassett, Eric Beckers, Linda Coker, Luanne Cullen, Robert Frizzell, Irma Gaitán, Eddie Gumbert, Dorothy Gumbert, Kate Johnson, Richard Kidd, Jo Landon, Jo Ann Lowe, SarahAnn Lowther, Cindy Meyer, Ralph Meyer, Jerry T. Moore, Henry Oles, Marian Oles, Trisha Randow, Gina Rogers, and Lila Knight (ex officio member). Two guests also attended.

Announcements—Kate Johnson thanked Richard Kidd for reserving the La Ventana Club House for our meeting. She said that the next HCHC meeting would be held in San Marcos on October 25, 2018.

1. **Vote on accepting minutes from June 28, 2018**—Dorothy Gumbert moved to accept the minutes; Gina Rogers seconded the motion. Motion passed.
2. **Historic Kyle RR Depot**—Trisha Randow said that the two newly-restored cotton bales were in place on the deck of the Depot and looked great. She thanked Ralph Meyer for taking the damaged bales to the cotton gin in Burton, Texas, last summer for the restoration work and for returning with Cindy Meyer and Luanne Cullen to pick them up. Also, Faye Haskins, one of the Depot volunteers, had written a narrative for the application for the Historical Marker. Faye was working with Marie Bassett to complete the application before THC's deadline. The exterior of the caboose was complete with a few remaining interior items to install (such as the lavatory, toilet, and some gauges) that would be included in the current contract. Additional items that were not included in the contract and need to be completed before the caboose can be opened were going out for bid. These items included HVAC, electricity, and walkway from the platform to the caboose. Hopefully some other projects that can be added to the wish list are: a patio area with a picnic table between the two trees in front of the Caboose with sidewalks from the patio to the Caboose and Depot platform; a fence between the

Depot and the railroad tracks (required by Union Pacific); a deck outside of the double doors; moving the handcar from the north side to the south side of the Depot in order to mount a sign on it; and obtaining the sign which was contingent upon approval from the City of Kyle. The previous request for a variance from the City of Kyle was rejected. A meeting with members of the Kyle Planning Division was scheduled for the week of October 8 in order to discuss the issue and find a solution. Trisha also passed around samples of the Depot's coloring book with crayons as well as note cards featuring copies of the original watercolor painting of the Depot by Ashley Allison, HCHC member Jo Landon's granddaughter-in-law.

3. **Old Hays County Jail Report**—Kate Johnson reported that the committee met with architects Tracy and Chris Hutson, from the **Hutson | Gallagher** architect firm, at the Old Hays County Jail. The amount of money in the Old Jail account, \$658,000, is not enough to complete everything, but it is sufficient for the restoration of the building and the landscape. The next phase will be the installation of the exterior bathrooms, the restoration of the Old Wooden Jail, and the removal of the fence. An official letter will be sent telling the architects to proceed. The next step is to create a schematic design of the interior of the building and drawings of the Mechanical and Electrical design and landscape design. Erin McClelland, our museum exhibit designer, will be included in the schematic design.
4. **Cemetery Committee Report**—Jo Landon said that the Historic Texas Cemetery (HTC) designation had been completed for both Middlebrook (also known as Middlebrooks) Cemetery and Wallace Mountain Cemetery. The medallion with a name and date marker was installed Friday, September 7, 2018, at James-Duran-Alba Cemetery on HCHC member Gina Rogers' deceased father's birthday. Jo said that she had not heard if the Hector Cemetery had been added to the Hays County maintenance contract. Richard Gomez had mowed and cleaned the Byrd Owen-Payne Cemetery and would be cleaning it again the week following the meeting.

Jo also described the discovery of a Bunton marker located at the Texas Lehigh Cement Plant outside of Buda, Texas. The headstone for Mary Bunton was found but records indicate that she was reinterred with her husband John W. Bunton with a shared headstone at the Texas State Cemetery, in Austin, Texas, in the 1930's. Jo said that it is possible that the Buda headstone was left behind and that she did not find any indication of other graves at this site. She had spoken with Jenny McWilliams, THC Cemetery Preservation Program Coordinator, who would be visiting with Larry Covert, Plant Manager, Texas Lehigh Cement Plant, to discuss options for the headstone.
5. **Historical Marker Committee Report**—Marie Bassett thanked Jo Landon for her work with the cemeteries and markers. She said that THC decided to grant an untold marker for Jacob's Well in Wimberley, Texas, but that the untold marker for Antioch Cemetery was not accepted. Other updates: the marker for the Kyle Family Pioneer Cemetery had been installed and a ceremony would be held; the Cheatham-Hohenberg marker, delayed at the foundry, should be delivered shortly; the W. T. Chapman marker text was awaiting THC approval before it

could be sent to the foundry; and the Carpenter Log House marker in Buda was lost during the relocation of the cabin.

The 2019 marker window had opened and the deadline for submission to THC is November 15. Applications must be submitted to Marie no later than October 31. The cost of most markers had increased by \$75. Applications for the Kyle Depot, Alba Ranch, and Cuauhtémoc Hall were in process. Interest had been shown in markers for the Old First Baptist Church (a landmark African-American site in the Dunbar District of San Marcos), and Buda's Howe House, and all necessary information had been provided. Riverhead Farms was also interested in applying. She also mentioned that markers to be erected by the Hays County Transportation Department should be delivered to them at their Yarrington Road facility rather than to the Courthouse.

Marie had watched two THC webinars—one on the marker process and the second on Markers and Heritage Tourism. She had shared important points from the second webinar in a separate attachment to the HCHC members.

As a final note, Marie said that Philip Hoggett of "Carved Stone, Inc." in Dripping Springs had carved a stone marker to commemorate the late Nettalie (Russell) Bateman, well known in the Dripping Springs area and former owner of Mr. Hoggett's land on Bell Springs Road. There will be an official dedication for the marker on Saturday, October 20 at 11:30 a.m. at the Carved Stone (5300 Bell Springs Road, Dripping Springs, TX 78620) with lunch being served. Marie also asked HCHC members to send her pictures of any markers that they locate in Hays County.

6. **Horticulture Committee**—Marie Bassett reported for Delbert Bassett that there was no activity to report from the summer. He would be emailing committee members to arrange a mutual time for visiting all of the designated historical trees in Hays County in order to evaluate and record the health of each tree.
7. **Tejano History Committee Report**—Irma Gaitán said that Dr. Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez, founder of the Voces Oral History Project at UT-Austin, had announced that the 1000th oral history had been taken. The histories have expanded into the military and civil rights movement in the 1960's. The Cuauhtémoc Hall Board Members are interested in getting a historic marker for the Hall. She thanked Gina Rogers for her valuable research skills in providing information for the application. Irma said that there were free live stream classes in Nahuatl, the Aztec and Mayan language, being offered from San Antonio. In August, an oral history with Mrs. María Muzquiz was completed. In September, she met with County Commissioner, Debbie Ingalsbe, to discuss community issues and projects and ways the HCHC's Tejano History Committee and the county can complement each other instead of duplicating efforts. She also congratulated Gina Rogers on the Medallion Marker for the James-Duran-Alba Cemetery and for her new position as Executive and Judicial Assistant to Judge Andrew S. Oldham, the newest Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge in Austin and former General Counsel to Governor Greg Abbott.
8. **Courthouse Committee Report**—Linda Coker said progress was being made on the courthouse renovation, but she hoped the new windows would be in place before Christmas. She encouraged members to check out the contest held on the

National Trust website for possible funds to be allocated to the Old First Baptist Church, a landmark African-American site in the Dunbar District of San Marcos, 219 MLK Dr., for its restoration. There will be an Open House at the church on October 20-21. The area will be applying for a Historic District designation, and the church hopes to be a performance venue. As an interesting note, Linda also learned that a small house once located next to the Old Hays County Jail was home to Santa Anna's bugler, Mr. Perales.

Adjourn—Kate Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:24 p.m. She introduced guest Daphne Tenorio who has volunteered at the Kyle Depot. Richard Kidd described the history of La Ventana from a cattle and Angora goat ranch in 1846 to the current 225-house development in Driftwood, Texas. In conclusion, he read the poem “A Roundup Lullaby.” Supper followed.

Respectfully submitted,
 Luanne P. Cullen, HCHC Secretary
 (photos courtesy of Luanne P. Cullen)



Rex and Beulah Lumber

A ROUNDUP LULLARY

Shout loud and cheer in the still moonlight,
 Cattle yapped here on the hill,
 Hoop's worth of lightness, some the fat the
 lean.

Then the cattle' cattle to be still,
 So-o, soo, the lightest' fat away,
 The sheep's' wool' sherry,
 It's' wool' in his dream—
 Ho-o, oo, ooooooohoo!

"Holla down, you cattle, all the animals'
 Noddy' see the horns range that you talk
 word,
 Noddy' see his see to take your eye,
 Yet we got to watch you or you'll all sleep
 gone.

Plunge' down some rope back to the
 So-o, soo, for all the shades one,
 The water to sleep and drinkie,
 For you know when he's' really,
 Ho-o, oo, ooooooohoo!
 It's' see' see' see to meet the animals'

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Rex and Beulah Lumber

Come and meet our lullaby when the light
 grows dim,
 Hissant' of a hand see for to see,
 There, you dream, in water' grass and
 that beam,
 And it when some the lamp to see.

So-o, soo, for dream the water' play,
 The sleep is here to drinkie,
 If the water water' from drinkie'
 Ho-o, oo, ooooooohoo!
 But we got to stand it all the animals'

Waddy' it's a moonlight world see want
 through,
 Noddy' see much beyond see cattle beam,
 Noddy' see away in water' water' dream,
 Noddy' see' see' see to see and dream.

So-o, soo, it's' see to the water—
 The lullaby and a lullaby,
 The lullaby and a lullaby,
 Ho-o, oo, ooooooohoo!
 Waddy' see, that's' see and the
 animals'

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