

## Hays County Historical Commission

Thursday, August 18, 2011  
Blanco Chapel  
Kyle, Texas



The August meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission was called to order at 6:47 p.m. by Chairman Kate Johnson at the Blanco Chapel in Kyle, Texas. Also present at the meeting were members Marie Bassett, Robert Frizzell, Dorothy Gumbert, Lu Hickey, Clemmie New, Ofelia Vásquez-Philo, Betty Harrison, Madeline Van Brunt, Richard Kidd, Shelley Henry, Linda Coker, Luanne Cullen, Jim Cullen, Jeffrey Jordan, Celeste Zygmunt, Samantha Bellows, Mary Giberson, and Jerry Bullock, as well as 9 guests.

Kate welcomed everyone and announced that the next meeting will be held in October--no meeting would be held in September due to the Jailhouse Rock event on September 24. She encouraged everyone to sign up for assignments. Also, one of the markers (El Camino Real) is missing from 266 which is located between Staples Rd. and the river. Jeff Jordan suggested asking the road department to file a police report. Kate also thought about posting a reward in paper. Guest Angie Mendez discussed her years of renting the house on the property at Blanco Chapel and displayed a pencil drawing of the chapel by Joe Moreno artist, graduate of Hays HS. Prints of the drawing will be made for sale. Mary Giberson spoke about being an art teacher in Hays CISD. Her students were encouraged to sketch various historic buildings around the county and a book was created with the sketches. The book she displayed includes the Blanco Chapel.

Jim Cullen moved to accept the minutes from the June 23, 2011, meeting, and Shelley Henry seconded the motion. Motion was accepted by all members.

The committee reports were as follows:

**Buck Winn Committee**—The Aquarena Springs Morning Glories were relocated to Winn Ranch on Aug. 11 by helicopter and Richard Kidd filmed the event. People on site received the flowers which will be permanently installed on Jim Winn's property. Plans are being made to refurbish the pond and create public access to the flowers if funds can be raised.

**Cemetery Committee Report**— Jim Cullen, chairman, said that the committee made three site visits this summer. The first was to Abel Ranch Cemetery in the old Stringtown area south of San Marcos on Hunter Road, where a number of still-visible burial sites, tombstones, and individual grave enclosures were documented (names on tombstones represent Hispanic population). The second visit was to Hays County's equally-isolated York Creek Cemetery, this trek in response to a Bexar County family historian's request (again, a Hispanic cemetery). Most recently, the committee visited at Hall Ranch in Driftwood, where a fragment of an early-settling family stone (Odom) was reported. The nearby Old Community Cemetery was visited and, in the process, stumbled upon Perry Cemetery. All three sites are in need of restoration work. A summer project of returning three stolen tombstones to various cemeteries in the county was completed last weekend, with return of a 1901 stone to Phillips Cemetery in Dripping Springs. Earlier, stones were returned to San Pedro Cemetery in San Marcos and Kyle Cemetery. These and three additional stones, apparently from outside the county, were picked up at the request of the Hays County Sheriff's Department, where they had been stored in the evidence room for some time.

**Vox Pop**—Richard Kidd, chairman, said that editing is almost complete and the soundtrack is complete. The last photos from University of Maryland are being incorporated. The film is longer than expected because of the radio shows and will be about 66 minutes long. Wimberley Institute of Cultures will have a showing on Sept. 26. Premiere will be held in Wimberley on Oct. 20 at the Community Center.

**Historical Marker Committee**—Betty Harrison, chairman, reported that HCHC hosted a cemetery/marker workshop presented by the Texas Historical Commission on Aug. 17 in Kyle at the Historic City Hall. Nearly 30 people attended including several from HCHC. The window for submitting new applications for historical markers opens on September 1 and closes on November 15. All of the information, including the application itself, is on the THC website. If you know of someone who wants to submit an application, please refer them to the website or have them contact Betty. Here are the links to THC:

<http://www.thc.state.tx.us/markerdesigs/madapply.shtml>

<http://www.thc.state.tx.us/markerdesigs/madmark.shtml>

**Old Hays County Jail Restoration Committee**— Kate reported that soaker hoses for trees on the property had been purchased and are in use now. The wooden jail is still in place because the County Road Department cannot lift it. Other building movers are being sought. Also, credit cards will be available for use at the fundraiser, and the attachment on iPhone is permissible. Kate distributed spreadsheets of Non-contracted services for the Old Jail Restoration including donations, expenditures, balance. She explained that the county moves slowly but all will be completed soon. Fencing will go up next week.

**Jail House Rock fundraiser**--Linda Coker, chairman, said that all is moving along. She described the various assignments for the event, such as setting up, tending beer/wine tables, tending the grounds, cleaning up afterwards. She also mentioned that volunteers don't have to be a member of the HCHC to help. Board of Realtors will help

with parking. She also reported that there have been great articles in paper. Big banners will go across the street end of August. Richard Kidd had an idea to have a tape playing as the jail tells the story and the script has been written. Linda asked for addresses of potential attendees and mentioned that members can send addresses by email to Linda. They will begin addressing invitations at Veramendi Plaza at the end of the month. They still need help with sponsors as they have about 10 now. Hope everyone on HCHC will buy a ticket. Richard Kidd said that Elvis will make 3 costume changes and could bring his red Harley if a ramp can be built. Ofelia Vasquez-Philo said that Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos is having a celebration on Saturday, Sept. 17 and HCHC will set up a booth to sell items to help with Jailhouse Rock. She also had a sign in sheet for volunteers to assist. The event will be from 11:00 to 4:00.

**Publicity Committee Report**—Shelley Henry, chairman, said that the banners for Jailhouse Rock will be up in Dripping Springs and Buda. Linda Coker has created a very good Facebook page to provide information about the fundraiser, and the county employee newsletter will also describe the event and ticket purchases.

**Hispanic History Committee**—Ofelia Vasquez-Philo, chairman, said that she is continuing to write Volume 2 of her book and is collecting stories. She would also like to include information about Joe Moreno, the artist who drew the sketch of the Blanco Chapel.

**Update on Samuel T. Washington Tombstone**—Kate announced that the dedication of the headstone for Samuel T. Washington will be held in April instead of October.

**Announcements:**

Jeff Jordan said that he collects police badges and has gathered all badges for the Hays Co. Sheriff's Department. He brought a selection of badges and wooden nickels which will be donated to the jailhouse museum. At the Jailhouse Rock event, on site security will be provided. He continues to search for information about Deputy Davis and other deputies that have been killed in action.

Kate said that the HCHC brick for the Kyle Library has been purchased.

Shelley Henry said that anyone needing an HCHC name badge can see her for ordering information.

Marie Bassett presented a DVD of a video recording made by a Dripping Springs High School Student of the Heritage Circle of Dripping Springs' presentation - "School Gaze - An Oral History Round Table" which was held on Sunday, March 27, 2011, at Dripping Springs City Hall. She also returned the box of Katherine Cannon's research notes on the Hays County schools which had been borrowed for the event.

**Samantha Bellows** moved that meeting adjourn, and **Linda Coker** seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m. Dinner followed at Bordeaux's in Kyle.

Respectfully submitted,  
Luanne Cullen, HCHC Secretary

(Photo collage follows on the next page.)



BLANCO CHAPEL 1865  
BUILT OF LIMESTONE AND  
HAND-SPLIT CYPRESS BY  
EZEKIEL NANCE. SERVED  
AS CHURCH AND SCHOOL  
UNTIL 1880'S.  
RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK - 1965

