

HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION



Saturday, February 28, 2015

Bill & Kate Johnson

Halifax Ranch

4119 West FM 150

Kyle, Texas 78640

The February 28, 2015, meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission was called to order at 10:13 a.m. by Chairman Kate Johnson. A quorum was met as the following members attended: Diana Baker, Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Eric Beckers, Sue Cohen, Linda Coker, Jim Cullen, Luanne Cullen, Robert Frizzell, Mimi Gaitan, Eddie Gumbert, Dorothy Gumbert, Betty Harrison, Carmen Imel, Mark Jackson, Kate Johnson, Richard Kidd, Lila Knight, Jo Landon, SarahAnn Lowther, Renee Luna, Jerry Moore, Karen Moore, Tricia Randow, Ralph Randow, Ofelia Vásquez-Philo, and Charlie Willis. Six guests also attended.

Announcements—Kate announced that the next HCHC meeting would be held on March 26, 2015, at Jackie Webster and Jon Rowley’s place on Hwy. 1826 near Driftwood. They were in attendance and met commission members. Kate also said that she had completed her reports for the CLG (Certified Local Government) that was sent to the Texas Historical Commission as well as the end-of-the-year report. She thanked everyone for recording their volunteer hours in HCHC activities throughout last year. She introduced her husband Bill Johnson who described the Halifax Ranch property and its history and answered questions from commission members.

1. **Vote on accepting minutes from December 11, 2014**—Jerry Moore moved to accept the minutes; Carmen Imel seconded the motion. Motion passed.
2. **General Edward Burleson Documentary**—Richard Kidd reported that about 23 minutes of the documentary had been edited with about 3 minutes left. It will be completed before the next HCHC meeting. He would be attending the Burleson family reunion April 10-11 in Bastrop, Texas, and would be showing the documentary to the anticipated 100+ people. The documentary is full of historical paintings, maps, photographs, documents, recordings, etc. provided by the State Archives, the Alamo, and San Jacinto monument.

3. **Oral History Committee Report**— Sue Cohen is working with Bonnie Eissler, past chairperson, to transition oral histories. Bonnie has organized all of the oral histories to date in a three-ring binder with a table of contents. The next project will be oral histories of the Cold War. She asked members to let her know of any veterans to interview. She also said that having Diana Baker's production experience was a plus to the committee.
4. **Cemetery Committee Report**—Jo Landon said that the information for the Kyle Family Pioneer Cemetery had been re-verified. Nine members of the committee had cleaned the Wüthrich Cemetery on February 8 with two guests (a boy scout and his mother) plus the homeowner. She and Jim Cullen had located the Holt Cemetery markers, and research was continuing on the Cheatham Cemetery. Activities also included a visit to the Ireland cemetery. Linda Coker said that ground penetrating radar had located 23 anomalies at the San Marcos Cemetery which were assumed to be the locations of unmarked burial sites. Marie Bassett said that Heritage Circle of Dripping Springs would be holding their guided cemetery walk *If Tombstones Could Talk* in the Fitzhugh Cemetery on April 11 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.
5. **Committee on Trees, Shrubs, and Flowers Report**—Delbert Bassett said that the weather had prevented big tree measuring activity; however, committee members were looking forward to spring when the trees would don their new foliage. Then the trees would be easier to identify and easier to measure with a laser.
6. **Historical Marker Committee Report**—Marie Bassett said that no meeting had been held but she encouraged members to read through the HCHC website for historical marker information and locations in the county. The Calhoun Ranch marker application and the Barbee House application had been approved. She thanked Betty Harrison for continuing to provide assistance and information.
7. **Hispanic History Committee Report**—Ofelia Vásquez-Philo said that the HCHC members were invited to the Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos on March 1 at 3:00 p.m. to view the exhibit of the life of Cesar Chavez and the Grape Boycott as shown through 38 photos on loan from the Texas Humanities Archives.
8. **Courthouse Committee Report**—Linda Coker said that the committee had met and had reviewed the upcoming schedule of events for the courthouse. She also said that the HCHC had set up a gmail account and had been receiving many messages. A memorial marker on a tree at the courthouse might be moved for better viewing. Also plans are being made to show the Gen. Burleson documentary with the Heritage Association of San Marcos on June 14.
9. **Buck Winn Murals**—Kate described the event held February 22 at the Buck Winn Studio in Wimberley for the people who had donated \$1000 to the fund for

purchasing the second Buck Winn mural, *The History of Ranching*. A pledge of \$10,000 and one of \$1000 had been received but \$76,000 more is needed to complete the purchase. The deadline for the payment is in April with a contingency of extending the payment to October 2015. After the purchase is complete, bids will be taken by conservators for the restoration of both murals.

10. **Adjourn**—Dorothy Gumbert moved that the meeting adjourn; Marie Bassett seconded the motion. Motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

Kate introduced Kent McMillan, a surveyor who has written several articles about the history of surveying in Texas. He spoke about the surveying history of Hays County and provided several copies of General Land Office maps of Hays County including ones from 1853, 1877, and 1946, and a document of the Plat and Field Notes showing where Halifax Creek met the Rio Blanco (Blanco River). After his presentation, HCHC members took a field tour of the Halifax Ranch to locate historic survey markers. After the tour, supper was served.

Respectfully submitted,
Luanne P. Cullen, HCHC Secretary

(photos courtesy of Jim Cullen)

