

## HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Thursday, August 23, 2012

Old Joe Rogers House--Driftwood, Texas 78619

Kali Kate Event Center--Buda, Texas 78610



After Mr. Denton Ragland spoke about the Joe Rogers House which is his family home and took us on a tour of the historic home and surrounding area, the August HCHC meeting was called to order at 7:14 p.m. by chairman Kate Johnson at the Kali-Kate Pavilion. A quorum was present with the following members attending: Betty Harrison, Mary Giberson, Marie Bassett, Jerry Bullock, Linda Coker, Robert Frizzell, Ofelia Vásquez-Philo, Luanne Cullen, SarahAnn Lowther, Bonnie Eissler, LaMarr Petersen, Clemmie New, Lila Knight, Shelley Henry, Dorothy Gumbert, and Celeste Zygmunt. Also six guests attended.

1. Announcements—Kate Johnson reported that the Directors of the Old Baptist Church on MLK Boulevard in San Marcos have hired Clayton and Little to assess the church and to propose a strategy on how to renovate and restore the building back to its original frame. The Hays County Historical Commission along with Clayton and Little and the Burdine Johnson Foundation are working together to jump start the restoration of this building and the bell tower.

The Hays County Historical Commission-Preservation Associates, Inc. was a 501-C3 that was formed to raise funds for HCHC. At some point, the direction changed and it started buying and raising funds to restore old neglected buildings that were historically significant, such as the Old Hays County Jail in San Marcos and the Katherine Ann Porter House in Kyle. In 2010, Preservation Associates, Inc. was one of several Texas Non-profits that was in jeopardy of losing their 501-C3 status, so, in order to revive it, four directors are needed to serve on the new Board. Kate passed around a sign-up sheet for those interested in serving on the board of directors. Lila Knight is stepping down from the Preservation Associates.

2. Vote on accepting minutes from June 28, 2012—Shelley Henry moved to accept the minutes, and Marie Bassett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. HCHC Courthouse Museum Report—Linda Coker passed around a Museum Collections policy for review. Museum is going well, and is open the first and third Saturdays of each month. The Farmers Market on the courthouse square each Saturday brings people into the courthouse. She passed around a sign-up sheet for times to work at the museum.
4. Screenings of Hays County in World War II Documentary—Bonnie Eissler reported that two screenings of the WWII Documentary were scheduled: The screening in Dripping Springs will be on Monday, August 27. Two shows are planned with one at 6:00 and the other at 7:30 PM, at Precinct 4 Hays County Commissioner Whisenant's office (in the courtroom). Commissioner's office will provide the drinks and HCHC will bring cookies for these events. The other WWII screening will be held on Saturday, September 8, at 7:30 PM in Wimberley at the VFW, on Jacob's Well Road. VFW will provide refreshments.
5. Oral History Report—Bonnie Eissler said that we will participate in an oral history training workshop ("Texas in the Cold War") on Saturday morning (9:00 to 12:00), September 22, at the courthouse in San Marcos. Texas Historical Commission's Military Historian, William McWhorter, will conduct the three-hour workshop and HCHC members, along with others from the community, will be the "test group" for evaluating the workshop, which William hopes to take statewide.
6. Historical Marker Committee Report—Betty Harrison reported that we have received notice that the markers for both the Cementerio del Rio and the Southside School have been sent to the foundry. We submitted possible marker applications for the "pre-application" for these sites:
  - Creek Road WPA bridge
  - 1st Baptist Church on Mitchell St. (the African American Baptist church)
  - Wallace Mountain in Dripping Springs
  - San Marcos Army Air Field (which is possibly in Caldwell County)
  - Cheatham St. WarehouseThe 2013 marker round will open on September 1, 2012, and will close on November 15, 2012.
7. Cemetery Committee Report—Luanne Cullen read the report sent by Jim Cullen which stated that final reports from the County Surveyor's office this summer indicate no evidence that Cementerio del Rio's northernmost boundary extends to the San Marcos River bank. The survey office's working map does show part of the old lane that approaches the cemetery from the south.

Other contacts during the summer have included (1) public input regarding a one-time slave cemetery in old Stringtown; (2) cemetery inscription record search for Live Oak Cemetery; (3) assistance for descendants of Hohenberg family, who visited and worked in their family burial site, adjacent to Cheatham Cemetery in

- San Marcos; (4) assistance for San Marcos Eagle Scout candidate offering to do his Eagle Scout Project at Guadalupe Cemetery in San Marcos.
8. Review and vote on update of HCHC By-Laws—Linda Coker passed around copies of the by-laws. The previous by-laws stated that “Each such officer shall serve no more than **three** consecutive terms.” She moved that the statement read “Each such officer shall serve no more than **four** consecutive terms.” Betty Harrison seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
  9. Old Hays County Jail Report—Kate reported that we have \$180,000.00 in our Jail fund. Clayton and Little will receive \$80,000 for the whole project which leaves \$100,000.00 to be used for the Old Jail. George Wilcox will determine if \$100,000 will be enough to finish the last part of the exterior restoration.
  10. Kyle Depot Report—Kate also reported that we have raised \$125,000.00 for the second of phase of restoration. The board is working hard to raise \$75,000 by September 10. Flyers have been printed for distribution to encourage donations of time and money to help preserve this significant landmark. HCHC members were given flyers to hand out to their friends to help raise funds.
  11. Dripping Springs Historical District—Kate said that Terri Myers has finished the nomination of Dripping Springs as a Historical District but the City of Dripping Springs wants to remove the bridge on Mercer Street as well as the road itself from the Contributing features of the Historical District. Kate has requested information from TXDOT about Depression era bridges in the Dripping Springs area. Bruce Jensen, from TxDOT, said that we, the HCHC, do not have to remove the bridge from the district. When the city manager returns from vacation, Kate will speak with her about the suggestion to remove the bridge and road.
  12. Construction at Live Oak Springs at Yarrington Road—Celeste Zygmunt said that the spring at Yarrington and I35 has been compromised with the excavation and leveling work for the Truck Stop. Because of the historical nature of the site, the owners are willing to name the Truck Center after the Live Oak Spring. They are considering adding a run-off that might focus attention on the spring, and they want to have a historical marker there. We will have an arborist document the trees that were cut down as well as the remaining ones. Kate saw the origin of the spring and said that the water is clear; they will cover it in order to siphon the water.
  13. Historical Society of Helotes—Kate also reported that Shirley Owens, President of the Historical Society of Helotes, and her group want to visit Hays County next spring to see some of the highlights of our county as well as to tour our Courthouse. Because of the size of the group (30-40 people), we can offer a tour of Hays County similar to the one HCHC submitted to the National Trust conference held in Austin about 2 years ago. Mrs. Owens has also invited the

HCHC to participate in their historical fundraiser with the Leon Valley Historical Society on Saturday, October 20 from 2:00-7:00 p.m. HCHC will bring the 1850's stagecoach, information about Colonel John C. Hays (as well as copies of the DVD, "Captain Jack: The Story of John Coffee Hays"), copies of the Limestone Ledges book, the Jack Hays re-enactor, Scott McMahon, and more.

14. Announcements: Shelley Henry described various activities of the San Marcos Heritage Association and encouraged HCHC members to consider joining. Some of the upcoming events included the Cottage Kitchen starting back in September; the cemetery walk at the San Marcos Cemetery, Oct. 27, 3-5 p.m. entitled "If the Dead Could Talk." Students will portray some of the notable persons who are buried there.

Marie Bassett announced that the Dripping Springs Heritage Circle will have their cemetery walk at Driftwood -- "Voices From the Past: Driftwood Cemetery Walking Tour" on Sunday, October 21 (rain date Oct 28) from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. The Driftwood Methodist Church members will also be providing tours inside the church. The Heritage Circle also has the calendars about barns in and around Dripping Springs for sale at \$15 each.

Ofelia Vasquez-Philo reported that on Sept. 15, 10:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m., the Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos will celebrate its second anniversary with many free activities, dancing, musical presentations, and more.

15. Adjournment: Lila Knight moved that the meeting adjourn, and Dorothy Gumbert seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m. Supper was served in the Kali-Kate Pavilion, and Jerry Bullock presented an interesting PowerPoint program about the Battle of Medina and the history of Texas through our flags.

Respectfully submitted, Luanne Cullen, HCHC Secretary

