

HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION



October 23, 2019
Claiborne Kyle Log House
2400 South Old Stagecoach Road
Kyle, Texas 78640

The October 23, 2019, meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission (HCHC) was called to order by Chairman Kate Johnson at 6:22 p.m. A quorum was met as the following members were present: Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Eric Beckers, Eric Casillas, Linda Coker, Luanne Cullen, Cindy Daugherty, Robert Frizzell, Irma Gaitán, Dorothy Gumbert, Eddie Gumbert, Faye Haskins, Kate Johnson, Richard Kidd, Jo Landon, Jo Ann Lowe, Cindy Meyer, Ralph Meyer, Jerry T. Moore, Henry Oles, Marian Oles, Trisha Randow, Gina Rogers, and Lila Knight, ex officio member. Seven guests also attended.

Introduction of Host—Kate introduced Cale Baese, co-chairman of the Claiborne Kyle Log House Commission, and members of the CKLHC. She thanked them for taking such good care of the log house and for hosting the meeting.

Announcements—Kate announced that the next HCHC meeting would be held on Thursday, December 12, at 6:00 p.m.

Vote on accepting minutes from September 26, 2019—Ralph Meyer moved to accept the minutes; Dorothy Gumbert seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

1. **Historic Kyle RR Depot & Heritage Center Committee**—Trisha Randow reported that the Grand Opening for the Caboose was a success as many people attended the event and enjoyed the refreshments, music from the Silver Mine String Band, and tours of the Caboose and Depot. The Kyle Library and the Depot planned to co-host another mystery game, “Terror in Transylvania” on Friday,

October 25. “For the Love of Go” sponsored another Walk Meet Up and were hoping to have another event on December 14 in order to coincide with Santa Claus’s visit to the Depot. A field trip was held on October 8 with ten homeschooled students and four adults. A Book Club event was scheduled for November 22 with Joaquin Zihuatanejo as the featured writer. At the end of the report, HCHC members gave Trisha a standing ovation for her work at the Kyle Depot and for planning the Caboose Grand Opening.

2. **Cemetery Committee**—Jo Landon thanked everyone who attended and helped with the Kyle Family Pioneer Cemetery marker dedication on September 28. The HTC (Historic Texas Cemetery) application had been finished and submitted for the Peal-Pleasant Valley Cemetery. Carlyn Hammons from THC was interested in learning more about the Hays County Cemetery Preservation Fund in order to encourage other counties to adopt similar strategies.
3. **Historical Markers Committee**—Marie Bassett described the marker dedication program for the Kyle Family Pioneer Cemetery on September 28 and thanked members who helped in spite of the rain. THC granted the Wimberley Institute of Cultures (WIC) permission to move the Wimberley-Winters House marker a few feet to accommodate work on the sidewalk. Work was planned for completion in time for the grand opening of their Jacob de Cordova exhibition on November 2. The Jacob’s Well National Society of the DRT had received permission from Wimberley Cemetery and the 7a Ranch to refurbish their markers. THC reported that a new foundry for markers should be under contract in November or December and that THC was preparing texts for the 2019 markers. Jacob’s Well had been submitted, and the Marker Committee was working on the Riverhead Farm.
4. **Horticulture Committee**--Delbert reported that a tree had been dedicated to Ofelia Vásquez-Philo by the Heritage Association of San Marcos at Veramendi Plaza. The heritage oak tree that had been moved to the new City of Buda municipal grounds has been named the “Guardian Oak.” Dr. Espinoza, Executive Director of the Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos, said that an Eagle Scout would be presenting his garden in honor of Ofelia on Oct. 26 at Centro.
5. **Tejano History Committee**—Irma Gaitán reported that, on Oct. 2, the Hays County Commissioners Court adopted a proclamation that Irma had sponsored and written designating Hays County Indigenous Peoples’ Day on October 12. Maria Rocha, Director of the Indigenous Cultures Institute, accepted the official proclamation. The proclamation was read at the Indigenous Day Celebration at Meadows Sacred Springs by County Judge Ruben Becerra. On October 15, a resolution

in support of having THC recognize the former Alba Ranch by granting it an undertold marker was adopted unanimously by the Hays County Commissioners Court. Irma, Gina Rogers, and Kate attended to witness the approval. The Sacred Springs Powwow was held on October 19-20 at the Meadows Center. This event aims to preserve and maintain the sacred sites, land, and waters. On October 26, Alba family members were planning to meet and clean up the James-Duran-Alba Cemetery. Irma had sent an email to the president and vice-chair of the Cuauhtémoc Board Members to update them on the THC's selection of a new foundry to cast historical markers and plans for the application process.

6. **Courthouse Committee**—Linda Coker said that there were many trees planted at Veramendi Plaza dedicated to the memories of notable residents of San Marcos and Hays County. A committee meeting was scheduled at the courthouse for October 26. As HCHC's contribution to the upcoming time capsule at the Hays County Government Center, the book, *Clear Springs and Limestone Ledges*, with signatures of six of the original writers, will be included. This book will be available at the December meeting for HCHC members to sign also.
7. **Certified Local Government (CLG)**—No report was provided.
8. **Cape's Dam and Engineering Structure Project**—Kate reported that Mitch Wright, landscape architect and designer, presented the conceptual master plan to the City Council of San Marcos on October 15 at their workshop. The City Council gave the go-ahead for the City Staff to negotiate an interlocal agreement with Hays County. Hays County is in agreement with the HCHC that the dam is part of the main contributing feature of this project and should not be demolished.

Program—Evan Thompson, Executive Director of Preservation Texas, and Lila Knight, ex-officio member of HCHC and an architectural historian, presented their research on the Claiborne Kyle Log House. The information they shared included a description of the house as a rare four-pin linear log house; an overview of Claiborne Kyle's arrival and his selection of the house's location overlooking the Blanco River; and possible future research and stabilizing methods for the house and surrounding land.

Adjournment—Delbert Bassett moved that the meeting adjourn; Jo Landon seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m. Supper followed.

Respectfully submitted,
Luanne P. Cullen, HCHC Secretary
(Photos courtesy of Luanne Cullen, Eric Beckers, Lori Beckers)

