

## HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION



**Thursday, February 22, 2018**  
**Dr. Ann DuPont**  
**145 Spring Road**  
**San Marcos, Texas 78666**

The February 22, 2018, meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission (HCHC) was called to order at 6:25 p.m. by Chair Kate Johnson. A quorum was met as the following members were in attendance: Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Linda Coker, Luanne Cullen, Robert Frizzell, Irma Gaitan, Eddie Gumbert, Dorothy Gumbert, Kate Johnson, Jo Landon, Jo Ann Lowe, SarahAnn Lowther, Cindy Meyer, Ralph Meyer, Jerry T. Moore, Henry Oles, Marian Oles, Trisha Randow, and Gina Rogers. Three guests also attended.

**Announcements**—Kate Johnson thanked Dr. Ann DuPont for hosting the HCHC at her home, Spring Oak Farm, and recalled the previous meeting held there on October 23, 2012. Kate presented Dr. DuPont with the *Clear Springs and Limestone Ledges* book and copies of the eight HCHC documentaries about the local history of Hays County. Kate announced that the next HCHC meeting would be held on March 22, 2018, at Brenda Remme’s house on Belvin Street in San Marcos. This was the old site of Fisher Hall for boys of the Coronal Institute and, later, the site of the old Hays County Hospital.

1. **Vote on accepting minutes from January 25, 2018**—Marie Bassett moved to accept the minutes, and Jerry Moore seconded the motion. Motion passed.
2. **Historic Kyle RR Depot**—Trisha Randow said that they have not seen a difference in attendance since moving the open hours from Sundays to Saturdays but are hoping that attendance increases. She said that a group of special needs children from Terry’s Dayhab would be visiting the Depot the next Tuesday, February 27, for a special tour. Trisha thanked Jo Ann Lowe for her continued work on the flower beds and suggested a work day to help

- with further landscaping plans. The caboose was moved to its permanent location at the north end of the Depot on Sunday, February 18, and hopefully will be completed in May, 2018.
3. **Old Hays County Jail Report**—Kate said that the committee met with our Preservation Architects, Chris and Tracy Hutson, and Erin McClelland, our new Museum Exhibitor, at the Old Hays County Jail on Tuesday, February 20. They discussed the target audience, such as families, history buffs, etc., as well as parking availability, removal of the fence, keeping the original floors, the multimedia interface, etc. Erin would be working with the architects in showing where she needs lighting in each room, electrical interface, etc., as the project goes forward. At the next meeting, Erin will discuss her schematic and conceptual phases for each room and will present topics and sketches to show the committee how each room will look. The main focus for the museum will be “Texas Outlaws and Lawmen.” Currently, \$613,000 has been raised for this phase and about \$150,000 more will probably be needed. In future phases, bathrooms will need to be built in the back, separate from the building, and the old Wooden Jail (currently housed at the San Marcos Academy) will be returned and placed on the grounds.
  4. **Cemetery Committee Report**—Jo Landon said that Janice Keene (Hohenberg family) had sent an \$1800 check to THC for the Historical Subject Marker for the Cheatham-Hohenberg Cemetery. She also spoke with Van Swift about his concerns for the HTC designation for the Wallace Mountain Cemetery and forwarded information from the THC website for him to consider. On February 8, several members of the committee visited the Wallace Mountain Cemetery and enjoyed Marie Bassett’s informative tour. On the same day, the committee members went to the gate at the Middlebrook Cemetery but the key that was thought to open the lock did not work. Jo called Susanne Doell and rescheduled a visit to see the cemetery and observe its condition. She also plans to schedule a weekend meeting to discuss the HTC designation application process and begin work on Wallace Mountain. Jo also said that she would schedule a visit to Cementerio del Rio for the Tejano History Committee.
  5. **Historical Marker Committee Report**—Marie Bassett welcomed Gina Rogers to the committee. THC had approved the Cheatham-Hohenberg Cemetery and W. T. Chapman subject markers, and the Cocke Cemetery medallion had been ordered. The Kyle Family Pioneer Cemetery and Stringtown marker texts are in the process of being edited. With the sign-off deadline of March 9, 2018, we can expect delivery of the markers by early summer. A survey of the marker committee established that it will be very difficult to get the members together for committee meetings. Two members were able to attend a meeting on Saturday, February 17. Wednesday appeared to be the next best day of the week for most members. Marie checked with THC about cleaning historical markers and discovered that anyone can attempt the task. There is a how-to video, plus a list of

required supplies, at the THC website. The HCHC office at the Courthouse has a cleaning kit. She suggested that a group, such as the Boy Scouts, could volunteer to clean markers. She noted that cleaning should be attempted on a dry day.

6. **Horticulture Committee**—Delbert Bassett said that the committee had been planning for a visit to Dead Man’s Canyon in northwest Hays County to view one of the small populations of Texas Barberry, *Mahonia Swaseyi*. They will visit the site on Wednesday, March 28 when Beryl Armstrong will guide them through the area. Members of the Cemetery Committee identified several *Mahonia Swaseyi* plants at the entrance to the Middlebrook Cemetery along Creek Road in Dripping Springs. On March 17, Delbert joined Kate, Lila Knight, and Dr. Ann DuPont on the southern edge of Ann’s property along Lime Kiln Road. They looked at some of the trees that might be in danger of being cut down because the County will be building a bridge over the San Marcos River that will require a service road during construction. Several large cottonwood trees, *Populus deltoides*, and pecan trees, *Carya illinoensis*, lie in that path but most of the trees are in poor health due to recent flooding. Other healthier trees are located out of the range of the service road.
7. **Tejano History Committee Report**—Irma Gaitan discussed the committee meeting held on February 10 in Dripping Springs. Items discussed were requesting a current version of the HCHC bylaws; scheduling monthly meetings for the next seven months; renaming the committee from “Hispanic History” to “Tejano History” in order to reflect the unique status of Hays County in Texas, the United States, and Las Americas; the reconnection with the Cuauhtémoc Hall board members and an upcoming meeting; the overlapping efforts and piggybacking projects with other HCHC committees such as the Oral History Committee, the Historical Marker Committee, etc. to continue working toward a historical marker for Cuauhtémoc Hall and Alba Ranch near Dripping Springs; and plans to visit El Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos to open a dialogue with the director and board members. The next meeting was scheduled for March 3 and possible discussion items included a long-term project for the Hays County Courthouse grounds and at least two to three projects for this year.
8. **Courthouse Committee Report**—Linda Coker said that a meeting of the Courthouse Committee would be held on March 24 to inventory the items in the storeroom and to organize the boxes of Dorothy Schwartz’s papers.

**Adjourn**—Dorothy Gumbert moved that the meeting adjourn; Ralph Meyer seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m. After the adjournment, Kate asked Ann DuPont to describe the history of her house and the two beautiful springs on the property.

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

