

## HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION



**Thursday, June 28, 2018**  
**Judge Bob Shannon's Ranch**  
**11800 FM 150 West**  
**Driftwood, Texas 78619**

Prior to the June 28, 2018, meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission (HCHC), members were invited to tour Judge Shannon's historic house. The meeting was then called to order at 6:28 p.m. by Chairman Kate Johnson. A quorum was met as the following HCHC members were present: Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Eric Beckers, Linda Coker, Luanne Cullen, Robert Frizzell, Eddie Gumbert, Dorothy Gumbert, Kate Johnson, Richard Kidd, Jo Landon, Jo Ann Lowe, SarahAnn Lowther, Cindy Meyer, Ralph Meyer, Jerry T. Moore, Henry Oles, Marian Oles, and Trisha Randow. Five guests also attended.

**Announcements:** Kate Johnson thanked Judge Shannon for allowing the HCHC meeting to be held at his Driftwood home. She presented him with the book, *Clear Springs and Limestone Ledges*, as well as copies of the HCHC's eight documentaries about the local history of Hays County and two mugs from the Kyle Railroad Depot and Heritage Center. Kate asked Judge Shannon to share some of his house's history. He said that the house was built in Bastrop on a cotton plantation using timber from the native pine trees. He and his wife bought the house in 1969, and had it moved to its current location near Driftwood. It was cut in half in order to make the trip. Other rooms were added later using materials from other old houses.

Kate also announced that the next meeting would be held in Buda on September 27, 2018. She also passed around a sign-up sheet for those interested in attending the Preservation Texas--East Texas Regional Meeting in Nacogdoches, Texas, Aug. 8-10.

1. **Vote on accepting minutes from May 24, 2018**—Jerry T. Moore moved to accept the minutes; Ralph Meyer seconded the motion. Motion passed.
2. **Historic Kyle RR Depot**—Trisha Randow reported that the Depot committee met and voted not to use the Depot as an event venue for groups outside of the HCHC at this time because of the many considerations involved (protection of the antique displays, sales counter, etc.) The exterior painting of the Depot was complete. The caboose project was progressing with the painting of both the interior and exterior and its move to the permanent location. The final step was to finish the extension from the platform to the back of the caboose for handicapped visitors. A request for a variance from the City of Kyle's sign ordinance had been

made but an answer had not been received. Trisha also introduced Jim Herbert who had offered his engineering expertise in relocating the caboose and was a Saturday volunteer at the Depot. Henry Oles was pleased with the caboose painting project and said that the logo for “Missouri Pacific” was to be added but the exact colors were needed for authenticity.

3. **Old Hays County Jail Report**—Kate said that she had spoken with Chris Hutson, architect for the restoration process. A \$150,000 grant had been requested for the project. It will probably take up to two years to complete the restoration. Linda Coker said that the Old Jail is not included in the Dunbar Cultural Arts District.
4. **Cemetery Committee Report**—Jo Landon said that the Historic Texas Cemetery (HTC) application had been submitted for Middlebrooks Cemetery (also known as Middlebrook Cemetery) and that the landowners had been notified by THC. That designation should be finalized by the end of the summer. Also the Historical Subject Marker had been installed at the Kyle Family Pioneer Cemetery. The HTC application for the Wallace Mountain Cemetery was in progress. Also, a longtime supporter and caretaker of the Hector Cemetery, Lou Ann Fleming, died in June and would be missed by everyone who knew her.
5. **Historical Marker Committee Report**—Marie Bassett said that the Kyle Family Pioneer Cemetery marker was in place at the entrance to the old slave graveyard in the Kyle Cemetery. Commissioner Ray Whisenant was informed and thanked for his donation from Precinct 4 towards the cost of the marker. He will be informed when a dedication ceremony is scheduled. Arro Smith was sent a copy of that cemetery application narrative for the San Marcos Library.

Also Marie was waiting for a reply to her enquiry about delivery status of the Stringtown marker. The Undertold Marker window was closed, and we had two candidates—the resubmission of Antioch Cemetery and Jacob’s Well. She was hoping to hear if they were accepted by the end of July. She was waiting to hear back from THC on the first edits to the Cheatham-Hohenberg Cemetery marker text. Also the text for the W. T. Chapman marker had been received. She had worked with Charlie Haydon on refining the text, and after coming to an agreement, she sent the edited text to the marker committee for their suggestions. Marie also reminded members that the window for submitting applications for historical markers would be from September 1 to November 15, and application forms would be available on the THC website in August.

6. **Horticulture Committee**—Delbert Bassett said that the committee had not met that month or had any field trips because of the extreme heat so no news was reported.
7. **Tejano Committee Report**—no report was available.
8. **Courthouse Committee Report**—Linda Coker said that she would be visiting the Ft. Bend County courthouse to view it and historic photos. That courthouse is considered to be a “sister” to our Hays County Courthouse and the photos will assist in its restoration. She also described the 18-foot-tall fixtures that will be returned to our courthouse. Linda reminded the members that the HCHC and Main Street San Marcos co-nominated the Landis Shoe Clinic for a Texas Treasure Business Award. This store has been a San Marcos business since 1917 with three generations of the Mendez family and has been at the LBJ Street location since 1955. The award presentation will be held in November with Mrs. Abbot and Lloyd Doggett attending.

**Adjourn**—The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m. Supper followed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Luanne P. Cullen, HCHC Secretary

*(photos courtesy of Luanne P. Cullen)*

