

## HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION



**Thursday, January 23, 2014**  
**Mrs. Marylyn Decker Mitchell Home**  
**3525 West FM 150**  
**Kyle, Texas 78640**

The January 23, 2014, meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission (HCHC) was called to order at 6:28 p.m. by Chairman Kate Johnson. A quorum was met as these HCHC members were in attendance: Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Sue Cohen, Linda Coker, Jim Cullen, Luanne Cullen, Robert Frizzell, Betty Harrison, Shelley Henry, Carmen Imel, Kate Johnson, Richard Kidd, Jo Landon, Ida Miller, Jude Prather, Ralph Randow, and Charlie Willis. Eleven guests also attended.

**Announcements:** Kate Johnson announced that the next HCHC meeting would be held in San Marcos or Buda on February 27. She also introduced special guests for the meeting including Wayne and Janice Windle from El Paso, Texas; Bill Johnson; Marylyn Mitchell and members of her family.

1. **Vote on accepting minutes from December 5, 2013**—Shelley Henry moved to accept the minutes; Marie Bassett seconded the motion. Motion passed.
2. **Courthouse Committee Report**—Linda Coker said another schedule is needed for HCHC members to help with the days that the museum is open. She also reported that upcoming events that could include the courthouse are the Wine and Art Walk on March 7; Hays County Foodstock on April 5; My Radio Fest on April 26; and the Western Swing Festival on May 17. HCHC will be including items in two of the San Marcos Library display cases in February. She is considering including books about Hays County. On April 23, Main Street San Marcos and the Heritage Association will be having a photo roundup at the courthouse from noon to 6:00 p.m. Many people visited the museum on MLK Day. She also shared information about the Love Downtown initiative that would be in effect throughout February. For every \$25 spent in downtown San Marcos, shoppers would be eligible for weekly drawings including \$500 cash and gift cards.

3. **Colonel Peter C. Woods Documentary**—Richard Kidd said that the documentary is in production and would continue in February. A sign-up sheet was passed around for members to volunteer to help on February 1<sup>st</sup> and/or 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Civil War reenactment. A recreation of the flag that was carried by Colonel Woods was displayed that had been made by members of the Quilting Association of Driftwood. Photos were shown of the original flag that is housed in Fort Worth's Texas Civil War Museum.
4. **Buck Winn Murals**—Kate described her trip to Arlington, Texas on January 15 with Richard Kidd to view the two murals by Buck Winn that are still for sale. These murals are part of the "History of Ranching" that Buck Winn painted for Pearl Brewery in San Antonio in 1950. These murals are being sold for \$175,000 and Hays County is giving us \$50,000, and we will raise \$125,000 this year. Kate encouraged members to sign up to be on a committee to organize events to raise funds.
5. **Oral History Committee Report**—Sue Cohen reported that the transcripts have been completed for Judge Ramsey, Brenda Bell, Bill Pennington, Peggy Oldham, and Joe Doherty.
6. **Cemetery Committee Report**—Jim Cullen said that Richard Gomez had mowed and trimmed grass, and removed a fallen tree from the Byrd Owen-Payne Cemetery off Hunter Road in San Marcos. The committee will be invited to caravan in South Hays County on Saturday morning in the next few weeks to orient them to a number of cemeteries in that area, including some in very obscure, isolated sites including the Buddy Abel Ranch Cemetery. Dr. Ana Juárez is interested in joining the committee to see the cemeteries.
7. **Ecology Committee Report**—Delbert Bassett said that Dan Searle and Cynthia Ritchie from the Hays County Master Gardeners have volunteered to assist in the search for Big Trees in Hays County. Another Hays County Master Gardener, Patricia Porterfield, has volunteered to maintain the immediate area in and around the Captain Jack Hays Statue on the Courthouse grounds. They would be meeting next week to develop a maintenance plan. The nomination process for Famous Trees of Texas is still on-going for the Burleson Oak, The Pound House Oak, and the Confederate Reunion Pecan.
8. **Historical Marker Committee Report**—Betty Harrison said that the City of Buda might have the dedication of the Stagecoach House Marker in February.
9. **Hispanic Committee Report**—no report was available.
10. **County Judges Report**—Kate said that the old pictures of the Hays County judges had been removed from the wall in the Commissioners Court Room because of updates needed in framing, paper quality, information, etc. Pictures of four of the early County Judges are missing, and we are in the process of

researching to see if their families have any pictures of them. Ida Miller has been researching dates of all the judges' terms. Kate asked for members to sign up to be on a committee to further research and place bronze inscriptions on the pictures that would include their contributions to Hays County.

11. **Kyle Depot**—Kate said that \$200,000 had been raised for phase 3a1, a smaller phase of 3a. This small phase will allow the Kyle Chamber of Commerce to move into the Freight Room. The rest of the Depot, the southern end, will not be open to the general public because it has not been restored. The next phase, 3a2, will include the finishing of the Trainmaster's Office, the Black and White waiting rooms, as well as the displays for the museum and oral histories Interpretative Center. Hopefully, the museum will be finished by the end of the year in time for the Christmas Holidays.
  
12. **Community announcements:** Marie Bassett said that the Dripping Springs Heritage Circle will host a walking tour of the Phillips Cemetery on Saturday, April 5 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. She also mentioned that the British Tabloid, Daily Mail, featured two articles of local interest. One was about Jacob's Well, described as "one of the most dangerous places to dive on Earth." The other was about Texas State University Physics Department's trip to Normandy where they were able to determine, using astrological data, exactly when Claude Monet painted one of his landscapes. Linda Coker reminded members of the Cock House Friday luncheons in San Marcos and the Cemetery Walk in San Marcos Cemetery which would be held again in the fall. Jim Cullen mentioned that the house with the Auction Oak tree in Kyle was for sale. Carmen Imel said that the new neon sign for the LBJ Museum in San Marcos had been installed and should help call attention to the museum.
  
13. **Adjourn**—Delbert Bassett moved that the meeting adjourn; Carmen Imel seconded the motion. Motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

After the meeting, Mrs. Mitchell spoke about her father, Hays County Judge Charles Decker, and the history of her 1884 home and shared photographs and notebooks of the house and family. Janice Woods Windle spoke about her great-grandfather, Col. Dr. Peter Woods, her research experiences, and her connections to the Hill Country.

Supper followed.

Respectfully submitted,

Luanne P. Cullen

HCHC Secretary



