

HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION



Thursday, April 24, 2014
Driftwood Community Center
Driftwood, Texas 78619

The April 24, 2014, meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission was called to order at 6:44 p.m. by Chairman Kate Johnson. A quorum was met as the following members were present: Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Sue Cohen, Linda Coker, Jim Cullen, Luanne Cullen, Bonnie Eissler, Robert Frizzell, Dorothy Gumbert, Betty Harrison, Shelley Henry, Carmen Imel, Kate Johnson, Jeff Jordan, Richard Kidd, Jo Landon, SarahAnn Lowther, Ida Miller, Jerry Moore, Clemmie New, Joe New, Ralph Randow, and Charlie Willis. Nine guests also attended.

Announcements—(a) Kate Johnson announced that the May 22, 2014, HCHC meeting would be held in San Marcos at Eleanor Crook's house on North Mitchell Street. (b) She also thanked Ida Miller, Sue Cohen, Carmen Imel, and Linda Coker for their work in getting the photos of the Hays County Judges framed and hung on the wall of the third floor of the County Courthouse. (c) She also shared that Joe Bostwick, a member of the Sidney Drake Jackman Chapter of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, said that his group wants to restore the Woods Memorial fountain on the County Courthouse grounds. Mr. Bostwick's wife is going to find out what happened to the documents and photographs of the United Daughters of the Confederacy of Hays County since that chapter no longer exists. (d) Kate also asked members to sign up for assignments to help at the May 2 premiere of the Col. Peter Woods documentary at the San Marcos Activity Center.

1. **Vote on accepting minutes from March 27, 2014**—One correction was identified (changing a period to a comma on the Buck Winn Murals report-- \$17,500 to \$17,500). Delbert Bassett moved to accept the minutes as corrected; Jerry Moore seconded the motion. Motion passed.
2. **Buck Winn Murals**—Kate said that Larry Boettigheimer had signed the contract and had sent it back to the County Clerk. Linda Coker added that the murals would be placed at the Hays County Government Center. She also mentioned that the Hays County Art Committee will be requesting submissions for artwork from

- artists interested in displaying their work at the Government Center. The request for submissions will be sent out as soon as submission policies are finalized by the committee.
3. **Oral History Committee Report**—Bonnie Eissler reported that the Red Simon interview was being completed and that Richard Kidd would be available for more videotaping once the Woods' documentary was finalized.
 4. **Cemetery Committee Report**—Jim Cullen reported that Jo Landon's application for Antioch Cemetery had been completed and submitted to THC. The Byrd Owen-Payne Cemetery will soon be cleaned again. Several committee members were able to visit the Perry Cemetery and Old Community Cemetery in Driftwood prior to this meeting.
 5. **Ecology Committee Report**—Delbert Bassett reported that the Big Tree aspect of the committee has made significant progress. There are now five tree species that are the largest in Hays County--a pecan tree belonging to Laurel Hall, and a live oak, a sycamore, a hackberry, and a bald cypress all on the Halifax Ranch. He was especially pleased to announce that we have submitted to the Texas A&M Forest Service the nomination of a boxelder as a possible co-champion largest boxelder in the state. This champion boxelder is located on the Halifax Ranch just east of where the entry road crosses Halifax Creek. He should know before the next HCHC meeting whether the tree qualified or not.
 6. **Historical Marker Committee Report**—Betty Harrison reported that the dedication of the historical marker at the McElroy-Severn House and Onion Creek Post Office and Stagecoach House held prior to this HCHC meeting was well-attended. The marker dedication for the Bunton Bridge would be held soon. The proposed text for the Eddie Durham marker had been received and suggestions for edits had been made by Dan Utley and Eddie Durham's daughter, Topsy. Those suggestions have been forwarded to THC.
 7. **Discussion and possible action to discuss spending money on signs for the El Camino Real de Los Tejas**—Kate discussed the ongoing project with El Camino Real de Los Tejas National Historic Trail Association and the cost of the signs, posts, and hardware that need to be purchased in order to place them on Post Road, Hunter Road, CR 266, and State Highway 21. She suggested that HCHC offer \$7,000 from operating funds. Delbert Bassett moved that HCHC provide \$7,000 toward the signage of El Camino Real de Los Tejas in Hays County; Jim Cullen seconded the motion. Motion passed.
 8. **Hispanic Committee Report**—Linda Coker reminded members of the fundraising event to be held on Friday, May 2 to be held at the Cuauhtemoc Hall on Patton Street in San Marcos. Tickets for the lunch and entertainment would be available at the door and would support programs at the Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos.

9. **Courthouse Committee Report**—Linda Coker reported that the Courthouse Museum and Old Jail would be open during the Heritage Weekend on May 3-4 and asked for members to volunteer for two-hour sessions at those locations. She said that 40-45 middle school students from San Marcos would be touring the courthouse and museum on April 28. The weekend of the Food Bank’s “Foodstock” was a huge success and brought over 100 people to the museum. She also noted the framed pictures of the Hays County Judges and thanked Ida Miller for her work. She was also pleased with the success of the Photo Roundup (the combined efforts of HCHC, Main Street San Marcos, Heritage Association of San Marcos, and the San Marcos Library) on April 23 which brought opportunities to scan over 300 photos. She suggested that the other communities in Hays County hold similar photo roundups.

10. **Tour of Homes Weekend and Heritage Association of San Marcos**—Shelley Henry shared information about the “Grit & Grace” 2014 Tours of Distinction on May 3 and 4 in San Marcos. Tickets could be purchased at the Charles S. Cock House Museum which would allow entrance into homes in the historic district, museums throughout the city, art show and sale, and many other sites and events.

11. **Adjourn**—Jim Cullen moved that the meeting adjourn; Jerry Moore seconded the motion. Motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

After the adjournment, Kate introduced Mary Jane Windle (who played Georgia Lawshe Woods in the Peter Woods documentary) and her husband Wayne (Janice Woods Windle’s son). Richard Kidd then presented the first showing of the documentary of Col. Peter Woods.

Respectfully submitted,
 Luanne P. Cullen
 HCHC Secretary

(Photos courtesy of Jim Cullen and Shelley Henry)

