

## HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION



**Thursday, May 22, 2014**  
**Mrs. Eleanor Crook's Home "Crookwood"**  
**227 North Mitchell Street**  
**San Marcos, Texas 78666**

The May 22, 2014, meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Chairman Kate Johnson. A quorum was met as the following members were present: Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Sue Cohen, Luanne P. Cullen, Robert Frizzell, Dorothy Gumbert, Betty Harrison, Shelley Henry, Carmen Imel, Kate Johnson, Richard Kidd, Jo Landon, SarahAnn Lowther, Ida Miller, Jerry Moore, Ralph Randow, and Charlie Willis. Nine guests also attended.

**Announcements**—Kate Johnson announced that there would not be a June HCHC meeting and the next meeting would be held on July 24 in Driftwood. Also, Joe Bostwick, adjutant of the Sidney Drake Jackman Camp #977 Texas Division Sons of Confederate Veterans, wanted to paint the Woods Memorial but Rodney van Oudekerke and Diane Baker would like to raise money to restore the memorial. Therefore the painting would not take place at this time. Kate also displayed the picture of the ironclad gunboat used in the Colonel Woods documentary with "USS Hays County" added to the boat. The picture was presented to the Hays County Commissioners and Judge Bert Cobb. Marie Bassett also discussed her current research on the 12-year-old girls in London, England, who had sent letters to "A Cowlady on a Ranch in Texas U.S.A" in 1947. The letter was forwarded to Helen Michaelis in Kyle, Texas. Marie is searching for contacts in England who might be able to locate these women or their families.

1. **Vote on accepting minutes from April 24, 2014**—Delbert Bassett moved to accept the minutes; Marie Bassett seconded the motion. Motion passed.
2. **Historical and Cemetery App**—Kate discussed the possibility of creating an app to showcase the historical markers, sites, and cemeteries in Hays County. Richard Kidd outlined the various steps that would be needed to create the app but felt that no good photos of these sites are available. Most have too much data for downloading. It might take three months or so to create this and discussion will resume later in the summer. Shelley Henry suggested the THC website for links

- to Hays County sites, and Betty Harrison felt that a Texas State University graduate student might take on this project.
3. **Buck Winn Murals**—We have received the check for \$50,000 from the Harry L. Willett Foundation and are asking individuals and groups in Hays County to fund the murals. Dinners and other fundraisers would be held this summer.
  4. **Oral History Committee Report**—Sue Cohen reported that the committee is finishing interviews and continuing to transcribe them. Ralph Randow had an idea for including the Postal Service in Hays County.
  5. **Cemetery Committee Report**—Luanne Cullen reported that the committee is still waiting for an answer from THC about information compiled by Jo Landon about Antioch Cemetery.
  6. **Ecology Committee Report**—Delbert Bassett reported that we now have a Hays County Master Gardener volunteer, Patricia Porterfield, who will take care of the plants around the Jack Hays statue on the county courthouse grounds. The cenizo that is on both sides covering all the text relating to the statue will be reduced in height allowing the reading to be visible again. A dead yucca at the west end will be removed and replaced with Texas Lantana, Turk's Cap, and Mealy Blue Sage. In October we will add bluebonnet seeds to get a traditional Texas display next spring. Recently two trees were measured to see which were the biggest in Hays County. The new reigning biggest sycamore now resides on the Cypress Acres Ranch of the Gumberts. It has a big tree index of 323. Nearby on Cypress Creek, a new Hays County champion bald cypress was measured with a big tree index of 462. Delbert encouraged members to keep their eyes open for more big trees.
  7. **Historical Marker Committee Report**—Kate reminded the members of the State Historical Marker Ceremony at the Bunton Branch Bridge on Kyle Crossing on Saturday. The marker had been installed and will be draped with a Texas flag provided by Jerry Moore. A sign-up sheet was available for volunteers to set up chairs and refreshments.
  8. **Hispanic Committee Report**—Luanne Cullen reported for Ofelia Vasquez-Philo who was recovering from leg surgery. El Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos was continuing classes in art, ballet folklórico, piano, mariachi, etc. The Cinco de Mayo luncheon was a success as about 200 people attended. The exhibit, "Cuentos de San Marcos—Culture and History of Mexican American Churches and Cemeteries," was created by Dr. Ana Juarez and members of her anthropology class with interviews and photos.
  9. **Courthouse Committee Report**—Kate said that the photographs of the Hays County judges were up and asked members to stop by and see them. The Western Swing was a success and visitors added positive comments to the registration book.
  10. **Col. Peter C. Woods Screenings**—Richard Kidd thanked members for their assistance with the May 2 screening in San Marcos and was pleased that 150-200 people attended. Another screening was planned for June 12 in Buda at the Onion Creek Senior Citizens Center during their luncheon. Locations for screenings were also planned for Kyle and Dripping Springs. The September meeting of WIC in Wimberley would be the location of another screening. Another San

Marcos showing has been requested, and Kate suggested that a showing in Seguin is a possibility.

11. **El Camino Real de los Tejas Signage**—Kate reported that Steven Gonzales, Executive Director of the El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association, attended the May 13 Commissioners Court and requested a donation for the signage in Hays County, and the Court donated \$5,000. Kate and Steven went to the San Marcos City Council and spoke about the Camino Real and requested \$3,810 to complete this project. After speaking with Jared Miller, the City Manager, they were assured that the money would be allocated after the City Council voted on it on June 3. Hopefully, the project will be finished by September 15. The next phase will begin in October. Another project was discussed that included two elementary teachers at the Camino Real Elementary School to help with developing a 4<sup>th</sup>-grade curriculum on El Camino Real for Texas History.
12. **Adjourn**—Dorothy Gumbert moved that the meeting adjourn; Carmen Imel seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m. After the meeting, Mrs. Eleanor Crook spoke about her house and its history.

Respectfully submitted,  
Luanne P. Cullen, HCHC Secretary  
*(Photos courtesy of Jerry Moore)*

