

HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Thursday, June 28, 2012
Dripping Springs Masonic Lodge
246 Old Fitzhugh Road
Dripping Springs, Texas 78620



The June 28, 2012 meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission was called to order at 6:14 p.m. by Chairman Kate Johnson. Also in attendance were HCHC members Luanne Cullen, Richard Kidd, Jerry Bullock, Mary Giberson, Shelley Henry, Linda Coker, Betty Harrison, Lu Hickey, Jim Cullen, Clemmie New, Robert Frizzell, Marie Bassett, Dorothy Gumbert, Bonnie Eissler, Celeste Zygmunt, and Jeff Jordan. A quorum was present. Nine guests also were present.

1. Announcements: Kate announced that the August 23 HCHC meeting would be held at the Rogers House on FM 967 west of Buda.
The booklet "Old Hays County Jail Restoration" has been sent to Robert Redford in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He is coming to Austin this summer, and if he calls, a meeting will be set up for him to view the Old Jail as well as the Old Wooden Jail.
A new computer, scanner, and printer have been acquired and will be delivered to the courthouse museum next week.
The headstone for Samuel T. Washington (great nephew of George Washington) will be placed in the Kyle Cemetery. Kate asked the members to consider the location at the cemetery and a significant day for a placement ceremony.
2. Vote on accepting minutes from May 12, 2012: motion was made by Marie Bassett to accept the minutes and the motion was seconded by Dorothy Gumbert. Motion passed by all members.
3. Web site—Richard Kidd said that Jim Cullen's tombstone photo has been added to the site and that they are always looking for news items. He also described the way postings work: New information goes in, old slides come down; the record always there.

4. World War II History of Hays County Documentary—Bonnie Eissler thanked HCHC members for their help with the evening at the San Marcos Airport’s Commemorative Air Force Hangar on June 6. The showing was deemed a success due to the large attendance and favorable comments. Plans are being made to show the documentary at local VFWs beginning with Wimberley and Dripping Springs at a joint meeting (probably in August, but the date is to be determined.)
5. Historical Marker Committee Report—Betty Harrison reported that the deadline for “Undertold Stories” markers was June 15. She was able to submit an edited version of a Texas State student’s application written as an assignment for Dan Utley’s class. The marker would be free under a special THC program. She also reported that the THC marker staff is making preparations for the upcoming 2013 marker application period. CHCs are required to submit via email a list of possible topics for 2013 or applications in progress so the staff may plan for the upcoming year. At the direction of the THC Commissioners, a list of titles and a brief summary of the proposed topics is now a pre-application requirement in the marker planning process. These are due by July 6.

She also noted important 2013 information: September 1, 2012-November 15, 2012, is the marker round for 2013; thematic priorities for 2013 application will be “Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks (RTHL)” and “Education.” Also the THC Commissioners recommend approving and processing more than 225 new applications in 2013 (could be fewer due to limited staff, time constraints, and overall program demands). THC is renewing the historical markers contract and anticipates that there will be a price increase for historical markers due to rising costs of metals and associated production costs. Updated forms and information will be sent when the process is complete. New application forms are being revised and new applications for RTHLs, HTC’s, and subject markers will be posted in August 2012.

6. Oral History Committee Report—Bonnie Eissler reported that there were no updates at this time.
7. Cemetery Committee Report— Jim Cullen reported that the small, abandoned tombstone picked up at Texas State last December has gone home to Collin County, Texas. Research is continuing into possible development near Cementerio del Rio. Several batches of deeds have been delivered to the County Surveyor’s office in order for the actual property lines and easement to be determined.
8. Kyle Depot—Kate reported that the Phase I asbestos abatement is complete. Phase II asbestos abatement cost for downstairs will be \$16,600. Clayton and Little requested that Spawglass get at least two additional competitive proposals. The estimated completion date for Phase I is July 13. Cedar shingles will be replaced with a Galvanized S-panel. The construction sign was displayed and the

second story was removed

9. Courthouse Museum & Theatre—Kate has purchased 2 items to be used for display in our museum—replicas of a Walker Colt, circa 1847, and a replica of a Bowie Knife, and both will be placed in the antique display cabinet. On June 26, the World War II documentary was shown to Will Conley, Debbie Ingalsbe, Judge Cobb and his wife, Wren Geisen, Aerial Vonguintos who is the great grandniece of Nannie Dement Jacks (the first female County Clerk in Hays County from 1926-1936). The museum will be opened on the 1st Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
10. Dripping Springs Historical District—Terri Myers shared the information about the nomination for DS Historical District and brought photographs in a binder that included all but two of the properties in the historic district. The actual site of the “dripping spring” will be included, and 1935-1940 is the time span.
11. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn was made by Dorothy Gumbert; seconded by Shelley Henry. Motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Program: Johnny Hudson, Secretary of the Lodge, was not available to talk about the history of the building, but HCHC member Clemmie New discussed the Masonic Lodge and the various items on display: books created by history students at Dripping Springs HS; Coach Waites’ book; pictures from 1999 mostly by the Chamber of Commerce promoting Dripping Springs; and more.

Supper followed at the 131 Café at E. Mercer Street.

Respectfully submitted,
Luanne Cullen
HCHC Secretary

