

HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION



July 25, 2013
Kevin Fowler's Ranch
1521 Deer Lake Road
Wimberley, Texas 78676

The July 25, 2013, meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission was called to order at 6:20 p.m. by Chairman Kate Johnson. She thanked Kevin Fowler for opening his ranch for our meeting and presented him with the book, Clear Springs and Limestone Ledges. She also introduced Judge Bill Henry from District Court 25, M.F. and Bill Johnson from Wimberley, Jeannene Herber from San Marcos, and Pat Wiley from the County Auditor's Office.

A quorum for the meeting was met as the following HCHC members were present: Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Sue Cohen, 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. Also attending were sixteen guests.

1. **Announcements**—Kate announced that the next HCHC meeting would be held at the Narrows on August 22. She advised members to wear comfortable shoes and light clothing for the meeting and supper.
2. **Vote on accepting minutes from June 29, 2013**—Dorothy Gumbert moved to accept the minutes from June 29, and Shelley Henry seconded the motion. The motion passed.
3. **Courthouse Museum Report**—Ida Miller presented the report sent by Linda Coker. The San Marcos Chamber of Commerce After-Hours Mixer was occurring at the time of the meeting at the County Courthouse where about 150 people would be enjoying the courthouse and museum. The Courthouse and Museum have been receiving greater visibility in several ways: through an article in the Austin American-Statesman; UT Architecture graduate students

studying the blueprints from the 1990s renovations; the Main Street Advisory Board will be holding their monthly meetings in the Theater Room; the JP Court Clerks visited the museum while they were in the courthouse for another meeting; HCHC hosted a BBQ lunch for Judge JoAnn Prado to welcome her to the Courthouse building; six meetings had been held in the Theater Room in July; and Linda Coker was interviewed by Brantley Hightower who is writing an architecture book on courthouses in Central Texas. The HCHC Museum is now a member of the San Marcos Downtown Association. The Museum will also be open on Saturday, July 27, during the Hays County Food Bank's Foodfest on the Courthouse lawn. Also, we will be the kick-off location for the San Marcos Downtown Wine Walk on September 27. The Convention and Visitors Bureau is hoping for a 3rd Saturday Downtown Sidewalk Sale.

4. **Website and Facebook**—Kate reported that Linda Coker has volunteered to be in charge of the HCHC's Facebook page and would like all HCHC members to send her information and photos for posting. Richard Kidd said that the HCHC's website is up to date with the addition of cemetery information from Jim Cullen as well as the HCHC minutes.
5. **Future Documentaries**—Kate reported that the next documentaries that will be created will be about Peter Cavanaugh Woods of San Marcos and Helen Hall Michaelis of Junction and Kyle.
6. **Oral History Committee Report**—Bonnie Eissler reported that we have new digital recording equipment and that Richard Kidd presented instructions prior to the meeting as how to operate this equipment. The committee is now working on several individual oral histories: Alice Worley in San Marcos, Peggy Savage and Judge Charles Ramsey in Wimberley have already been interviewed, and Bobby Rodriguez and Brenda Bell of San Marcos and Carl Scudder of Wimberley will be interviewed in the next few weeks. The Charles Ramsay interview has been transcribed, and Clemmie New is editing this transcript. Marie Bassett has written a wonderful biographical essay derived from the interview with Alice Ruth Worley. It is an excellent portrayal of the early German settlers in Texas and the First German Baptist Church in Kyle. On July 5, Bonnie, Sue Cohen, and Jo Landon interviewed Peggy Oldham Savage and are documenting the photographs and transcribing the interview. Bonnie also provided an update on the Cold War workshop that HCHC co-hosted with the Texas Historical Commission in September, 2012. William McWhorter, Military Historian for THC sent a thank-you note to Kate and the HCHC members who participated in last year's pilot workshop and wrote that the Summerlee Foundation has just provided the THC with its first grant toward a Texas Cold War oral history training workshop series.
7. **Cemetery Committee Report**—Jim Cullen reported that he and Cemetery Committee members Ida Miller, Jo Landon, Ralph Randow (and wife Trish), Jerry Moore, and Luanne Cullen, and Kate Johnson attended the annual meeting

of the Live Oak Cemetery Association of Umland on Saturday, July 20. The group was able to learn of this cemetery's history, as well as some of its association goals for the future. Those goals include raising their visibility with HCHC and perhaps working together on future projects. After the meeting, the group visited the cemetery, as well as the adjoining St. Michael's Cemetery. Richard Kidd has added a link to the cemetery association's website to the HCHC website, and Jo Landon is working on developing a master list of present-day county cemetery associations. Work continues at the Buddy Abel Ranch with clearing of undergrowth, GPS mapping by Hays County Mapping Coordinator Steve Floyd, and observations of the site by Texas State geo-archaeologist David Yelacic. Next week, members will visit with County Clerk Liz Gonzales for her guidance on deed research. Texas State Intern Becca Swaim continues working on research for a Historic Texas Cemetery designation application.

8. **Ecology Committee Report**—Delbert Bassett reported that he has been in contact with Texas State University's archeological department to see if they can help in locating the Indian Marker Trees in Hays County and will also help identify the Burleson Tree.
9. **Historical Marker Committee Report**—Betty Harrison reported that the next application period for historical markers will open again in September. Jeannene Herber said that she is writing an RTHL (Registered Texas Historical Landmark) for Kevin Fowler's cabin and is looking into writing a subject marker for the Battle of Plum Creek.
10. **Old Hays County Jail Report**—Kate said that everything is running smoothly on the interior work—plywood had been removed and new windows were being placed. Exterior work should be completed in November.
11. **Announcements:** Marie Bassett said that she was compiling scrapbooks for HCHC and encouraged everyone to bring her anything that might be of HCHC interest at the monthly meetings.
12. **Adjourn:** SarahAnn Lowther moved that the meeting adjourn; Delbert Bassett seconded the motion. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

After the meeting, Kevin Fowler spoke about his ranch, clearing the land of cedars and silt from the water, the history of the cabins, historical events on the land, and more. HCHC members and guests enjoyed asking questions and supplying information.

Supper followed.

Respectfully submitted,
Luanne P. Cullen, HCHC Secretary

Photo collage follows on the next page.



