

**HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 10th 2022**

The Harrison County Historical Commission (HCHC) is the county agency in Harrison County, Texas for historic preservation. Its mission is to assist the commissioners' court and the Texas Historical Commission (THC) in the preservation of our county's historical and cultural resources and to protect and preserve the county's historic and pre-historic resources for the use, education, enjoyment and economic benefit of present and future generations.

**Members Present:** Thomas Speir, Steve Horton, Barbara Judkins, Roy Jack McCarroll, Earnol Brewster, Richard Magrill, Rose Mary Magrill, and Marty Vaughan.

**Visitor(s) Present:**

**I. Call to Order**

Tom Speir, chair, called the Zoom meeting to order on March 10<sup>th</sup> 2022 at 1:33 p.m.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the Zoom meeting of January 13, 2022 were approved as corrected.

**III. County Budget Report**

Tom Speir reported that the booklets on Harrison County Historical Markers and supplies needed for the History Fair total \$1,628.71 but does not include about \$300 due to Smart Advertising for the History Fair.

The commission took note that Buddy Power is the new treasurer for the Friends of the Harrison County Historical Commission.

**IV. The standing committee reports are as follows:**

**A. Archaeology**

Tom Speir shared an email from Earnol Brewster regarding the Mose McGlothin historic property that requires further research. He does not have contact info on the current owners and hopes someone might be able to find out who owns the property to get in touch with them. He knows that it belongs to the Fields family but does not know their names. It belonged to a descendant John Fields who passed several years ago and

may now be owned by one of his children. No one lives on the property and they rarely come out to maintain it (maybe once every few years). (*Note:* Tom has made contact with Crystal Dutzel regarding this property.)

Earnol reported his research on McGlothin— “Mose/ Moses McGlothin/ McGlothing/ McGlothlin was born into slavery about 1848 in Alabama. He married Hannah Sneed about 1867 and they had 13 children. Mose owned land south of Waskom off of American Plant Road. This site is across the road from my parents’ house. Their land may have originally been part of Mose’s property. It’s located on PR Rd 1134, about ¼ mile west of American Plant Rd. I believe the house that is still there is his original home though I’m not sure when it was built.

“His daughter Captola McGlothin Grant said she was born in the house. An interview on her life can be found at <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapath151412/m1/41/?q=panola>. She is buried in Long Ridge Cemetery- <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/177784430/captola-grant>. She was born in 1890, so the house is at least that old.

“There is another house further back on the property that looks old as well. There is also a shed/barn. They are all in very bad shape, being left to the elements since Captola's death in 1999. After her death, the property was in the care of her great nephew, John Fields. My dad said he passed several years ago but is not sure exactly when. Someone comes and clears out trees every few years but my dad has not been in contact with them.

“There was also an old mill on the property. I would love to have the history of this mill and the family that lived there preserved if possible but have no idea if anyone will be able to track down the owners or if they'd be willing. I hope there is a way before it's lost forever.”

Earnol is planning to check with the Texas Tech University people about the McGlothin property when they are in Marshall March 14<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup>, working in the Old Canaan Enslaved People Cemetery.

## **B. Archives and Historic Survey**

Tom Speir reported that Natalie Bach-Prater at East Texas Baptist University has moved and we have no one to work on the survey of historic structures in the county (to check on their condition and see who currently owns them). THC asks each year in the annual report about this work. “This is really important,” emphasized Tom, “so we need to find someone to do this.”

## **C. Cemeteries**

Rose Mary Magrill reported the Ewing Chapel Cemetery has scheduled April 30<sup>th</sup> for its annual get together. (It was not held in 2020 and 2021.)

#### **D. Education**

This year's Harrison County History Fair held on Saturday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at the old Visual Arts Center building in Marshall went well. See also under **III. County Budget Report.**

#### **E. Historical Markers**

Tom Speir reported that Denise Lee, owner of the Red Woodall Cities Service Station in downtown Marshall, is wanting a marker. Sam Moseley has written a narrative for the application. It will be our first application for this year. Applications can be submitted from March 1<sup>st</sup> thru May 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Fred Lewis marker is in (after three years!) and will be mounted on the picket fence to the left of the entrance gate at the Starr Family Home State Historic Site on September 27<sup>th</sup>. We hope to have a church choir to sing at the dedication.

The C.G. Lancaster marker has been cast. We hope it will be installed on the Marshall Memorial City Hall. Tom will contact Mayor Amy Ware about this installation.

There is interest in getting a marker for Pleasant Hill school south of Hallsville.

Darrell Ware is working on the application for Pope City Cemetery.

Marshall has a new city manager so we don't know if it is still a go for the city to pay for the Telegraph Park and Fire Department Bell markers.

Rose Mary Magrill reported that the ball is in Golden Rule Presbyterian Church's court in so far as their proposed marker application is concerned. She has met with them and they know what is necessary. (Later word: they will try to submit the application next year.)

Tom reported that we need a shopping list of items necessary to refurbish markers for work that Billy Jack McCarroll is interested in pursuing.

#### **F. Harrison County Historical Museum/ Inez Hatley Hughes Research Library**

Rose Mary Magrill reported that the Journey Story display in the gift shop of the Harrison County History Museum continues. It celebrates the life of the Rev. Dr. Theophilus Caviness of Cleveland, Ohio.

She also reported that her book, *The Northeast Corner of Harrison County, Texas: Karnack, Caddo, Uncertain and Leigh*, is expected to arrive from the printer's around the last of this week. The 8.5"x11" 464 page book is softbound, generously illustrated (many are in color), and fully indexed. The first printing is only 50 copies. John Fortune is overseeing the printing and there will be another. Marty Vaughan said that she would like some for the T.C. Lindsey General Store in Jonesville and Rose Mary expressed her gratitude for the interest.

Rose Mary also noted that the Museum has acquired a great many cemetery maps from Bill Sullivan and they are being prepared so that they can be made available for use.

### **G. Information Technology**

Tom Speir reported that he has made some additional entries on our Facebook page. Send stuff to him. Bill Whitis' African-American postings have received many positive responses.

### **H. Oral History**

Tom Speir reported that he has tried to reach out to Randy Lefall concerning oral history interviews. He has not so far been successful. Earnol Brewster noted that the Texas Tech University folks expect to do some oral history interviews when they get here.

### **I. Preservation/Rosenwald Schools**

Tom Speir reported that Grant and Susan Wood, the new owners of the Turner House (408 S. Washington), are taking an interest in restoring it. Tom, Tony Crosby and Jay Carriker have met with them. Tom stressed preserving the outside.

Gerry Gibson is having to get tests run this morning (his cardiologist insisted). There are two Pleasant Hill communities — one south of Hallsville and one south of Leigh. The Pleasant Hill School was an old Rosenwald school.

In Marshall the old Dogan School is being re-purposed.

### **J. Publications**

Tom Speir reported that the new Historical Marker booklet is being provided for distribution in Waskom, Uncertain and Jonesville.

### **K. Tourism**

We look forward to seeing the wildflowers which Master Gardener Jerry Graves planted around the World War II Memorial Veterans Highway signs that we got erected on US80 at the county lines.

Tom Speir reminded us to put things on the Community Calendar of Events and announced that the newly revived Stagecoach Days are scheduled for the third weekend in May (20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>).

### **L. Goals**

Tom Speir reported that we don't have anything active in the area of goals.

### **M. Annual Preservation Awards**

The Commission proceeded to select this year's recipients of our various awards:

Jerry Graves, Master Gardener  
*Marjorie Perkins Volunteer Award*  
Marshall Mayor Amy Ware  
*Award of Merit*  
Ann Brannon  
*Max Lale Award*  
Barbara Cox  
*Chairman's Award*

**V. Partners in Preservation Reports**

**A. 1901 Courthouse**

No report.

**B. Texas & Pacific Depot Museum**

No report.

**C. Starr Family Home State Historic Site**

Barbara Judkins reported that the Starr Family Home State Historic Site has two pretty big projects coming up. The wheel chair lifts no longer work so permanent handicapped ramps are being installed. The Site is completely redoing the front porch of Maplecoft. During construction visitors will be funneled to the side where the staff currently comes and goes.

**D. Michelson Museum of Art**

No report.

**E. Historic Landmark Preservation Board (HLPB)**

*See IV. M. Annual Preservation Awards (above)*

Jay Carriker is the new president of HLPB.

**F. Others (Sabine Farms, T.C. Lindsey Store, Main Street, Pemberton Heritage Center, colleges/schools, etc.)**

**T.C. Lindsay Store.** Marty Vaughan reported that as a part of the 175<sup>th</sup> year observations and there will be a big celebration later in the year. Tyler TV will do a program on the store highlighting its possibilities as an option for weekend travel.

Research is being done on previous owners. Lindsey bought out the then current owners in the 1930s.

**VI. Other**

**VII. Administrative**

Tom Speir has completed the annual report. THC commended us for inter-county cooperation and for reaching out to neighboring counties. There will be a new bridge on TX43 over Big Cypress.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Tom Speir announced that the next meeting will be May 12<sup>th</sup> 2022 at 1:30 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

**Submitted by Richard Magrill**