

HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

March 9th 2023

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: Tom Speir, Richard Magrill, Rose Mary Magrill, Steve McFarland, Bill Elliot, Audrey Kariel, Susan Speers, Robert Wood, Scott Barmore, Steve Horton, and Marty Vaughan.

Visitor(s) Present:

I. Call to Order

Tom Speir, chair, called the Zoom meeting to order on March 9th 2023 at 1:35 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the Zoom meeting of January 12th 2023 were approved.

III. County Budget Report

Tom Speir reported that we have an appropriation of \$5,000 this year and we have spent \$1,134.60. We have renewed all our memberships.

IV. The standing committee reports are as follows:

A. Archaeology

No report.

B. Archives and Historic Survey

Tom Speir reported that we are going to get a closet across the hall from our office for storage purposes.

C. Cemeteries

Bill Elliott reported on Hometown Hero Jonathan Davenport Rudd. Major Rudd was born in Newberry District, South Carolina on February 17, 1840. In 1857, he settled in Harrison County, about three miles south of Waskom. He was universally known as “Major Rudd,” although he was a colonel on the staffs of both Governors Hogg and Culbertson. As a soldier of the Confederacy he attained the rank of first lieutenant of Company G, 14th Texas Cavalry, Ector’s Brigade, and served under Generals Johnston, Bragg, and Hood in the Army of Tennessee. He was severely wounded in the face by a bullet in the battle of Allatoona, Georgia. He made a splendid record as a fearless and efficient soldier and officer. Of the one hundred and forty one in his company who went into the war from Panola County, he was one of the thirteen who came back.

He lead a busy, useful life and served his county in many capacities. He was tax assessor from 1880 to 1882, and from that year until elected to the legislature in 1890 he served his people almost continuously as a member of the commissioner’s court, and did duty putting Harrison County in a healthy financial condition. When first elected to the commissioners court in 1878, county script was worth only fifteen cents on the dollar; when he retired from that court, it was one hundred cents on the dollar.

In 1890 he was elected a member of the twenty-second legislature of Texas to represent his district in the house, and he was re-elected three times. In this position he continued to render useful service to the public throughout his four terms and acquitted himself well and honorably as a state legislator. In waging his battles Major Rudd never occupied an equivocal position or sacrificed principles to expediency.

Major Rudd was a member of the First Methodist Church of Marshall. He was also a Mason, a Knight Templar, and a Shriner. He was a member of the W.P. Lane, United Confederate Veterans Camp #621 and a recipient of the Southern Cross of Honor from the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

In 1865 he married Miss Leonora T. Hill, who was born in South Carolina, but resided in Harrison County from 1854 on. She was a brave and noble helper

for her husband during the troublous Reconstruction days, and during the following years of peace and happiness she was the typical matron of the old-fashioned Southern home. She survived him. (Leonora 2-3-1840 to 3-11-1928 buried at Greenwood 5A-26.)

Tom Speir reported that we have two more historical markers coming in. Center Cemetery's marker has been ordered from the foundry. Woodlawn has already installed its marker. Robert Wood will be sending out notices for the Woodlawn marker dedication on April 15th. Ham cemetery has been cleaned up. The Thomas Jefferson Ham marker was not found. New residents may not like being located near a cemetery. Dana Andrews is the developer. We need to record it.

The THC annual report asked, "Do you provide a guide to markers in your county's cemeteries?" We have a list. Gayle Keys will do up a directory. Bill Whitis has put all we know of on Find-a-grave.com.

D. Education

No report.

E. Historical Markers

Tom Speir reported that the information sign has been replaced in the Waskom Road Side Park. The Lancaster marker in front of Marshall City Hall will be dedicated on May 16th at noon. We have gotten the Undertold Story Marker for the Leigh Community and Health Center that Rose Mary Magrill wrote the application for. Tom Speir has gotten an estimate for cleaning the three stones on the west side of the 1901 Court House from Marshall Monument. (\$1,077 dollars to do all three.) The pocket park on Washington Street may be called the Birmingham Park and markers placed there for Sam and Jean Birmingham. (Note: a person has to be dead for 10 years before they qualify for a marker. Jay Cariker will write the application.) Cooperville Rosenwald School has final approval on the wording of its marker.

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

On March 22nd at Memorial City Hall Performance Center, Marshall Regional Arts Council Executive Director Fran Hurley will portray Harriet Potter

Ames as the Harrison County Historical Museum proudly presents the Journey Stories lecture: “Harriet Potter Ames, My Time in Texas.”

This will be a rare first-person account of a historic figure once known as “the bravest woman in Texas.” “Harriet Potter penned her own story of her time in Texas,” said Becky Palmer, executive director of the museum. “The museum is presenting her words through Fran Hurley, the executive director of Marshall Regional Arts Council.” Doors for Wednesday’s event will open at 10:30 a.m. on the third floor of Memorial City Hall Performance Center, located at 110 E. Houston St. in Marshall. The lecture will begin at 11 a.m. Retired local attorney Sam Moseley will present the introduction and conclusion of the lecture. The program is the second part of the Potter’s Point story. The first part was introduced in the fall, featuring Moseley as the guest speaker for the story Robert Potter, Harriet’s husband.

“This is Harriet’s point of view on her time in Texas with Robert,” Palmer said of the upcoming lecture series. The program will be based on the book, “The History of Harriet A. Ames during the Early Day of Texas.”

“Written by herself at the age of 83, the book ‘Love is a Wild Assault’ was written from this account,” noted Palmer. The book is a favorite of presenter Fran Hurley, who was introduced to the story decades ago, following the Vietnam War. “How I got to know Harriett was when my husband was back from Vietnam and in the hospital. He was in the hospital for three months, and I would go down to Fort Polk and spend the weekends, and I had nothing to do at night, so I would read, and I got the book Love is a Wild Assault,” shared Hurley. “So, I became interested in her.”

The fact that the book gives Harriet’s own rare account of pioneer life on Caddo Lake was particularly intriguing. “Now I had an interest in Caddo Lake to begin with because my sister and brother-in-law had a home on Caddo and I spent a lot of time on Caddo and got to see a lot of it,” said Hurley, describing how beautiful and intriguing the lake is. “So that, all together, made me really fall in love with Harriet and her spirit, and the trying times that she faced and how she managed.”

“I developed a great respect for her,” said Hurley. “So when Becky said would you be willing to be Harriet Potter, the character, the woman in this presentation, I said yes.” Hurley is thrilled for the opportunity to spotlight Harriet’s story. “I hope to bring the feeling of Harriet alive,” said Hurley, who is not only

active as executive director for Marshall Regional Arts Council, but has also been active with local community theater productions.

“It’s a real delight to me to get to speak her words and share her words,” said Hurley. “She was an amazingly strong, feisty lady, and had a great respect and love for Caddo Lake, and her husband and her children.”

“First person accounts of life in the wilds of northeast Texas are rare. Rarer still are first-person accounts of pioneer life on Caddo Lake,” said Palmer. “This is one of the rarest.”

G. Information Technology

Tom Speir reported that we have succeeded on our test runs of QR codes for the texts for the James Farmer Jr. and Boogie Woogie markers. The text for the Hub Shoe Store marker is nearly completed.

H. Oral History

Everyone is asked to provide us the names and contact information for anyone who deserves to be interviewed.

I. Preservation/Rosenwald Schools

Tom Speir reported that the efforts to help preserve the Cedar Grove house (Henry Ware house) have fallen through. The bank foreclosed on the owners and persons unknown have purchased the property.

The TxDOT request for information concerning the I-20 expansion from FM450 to TX43 was submitted. Our thanks to Gerry Gibson for his hard work!

We reported to Steven McFarland that there was a tree down on the corner of the old Marshall High School. He is aware and already trying to address that.

It was reported that the Marshall City Council has given support for a company to come in and repurpose the old Blue Buckle Building and later turned down by the Marshall Planning Commission.(Confirmed on the front pages of the *Marshall News Messenger*, March 3rd and April 20th.)

J. Publications

Tom Speir reported that we received a special request for copies of our Historical Marker booklets to be distributed at the Wiley College 150th celebration. Two boxes of the booklets were picked up from our office.

K. Tourism

Tom Speir reminded everyone that the Texas Geocaching Challenge Event was being held March 15th- 19th, 2023 in Longview. We have been invited to staff a booth at the Longview Fairgrounds.

L. Goals

Tom Speir reported that Helen Murray indicated that the folks out at Sabine Farms were working on a brochure that they hoped would be ready for Juneteenth.

M. Annual Preservation Awards

The following persons were selected to receive this year's awards: *Max Lale*, Jay Cariker; *Marjorie Perkins*, Christina Anderson; and *Merit*, Terrell Smith.

MAX LALE AWARD FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

- 2011 – Harrison County**
- 2012 – City of Marshall**
- 2013 – “A Town Full of Music”**
- 2014 – Harrison County Historical Museum**
- 2015 – Jennifer Larned**
- 2016 – Anthony Crosby**
- 2017 – Sabine Farms Educational Society, Inc.**
- 2018 – Alan Loudermilk**
- 2019 – Jean Birmingham**
- 2020 – John Boyd**
- 2021 – John Ray Fortune**
- 2022 – Ann Brannon**
- 2023 – Jay Cariker**

MARJORIE PERKINS OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

- 2011 – Trustees and Volunteers
of the Michelson Museum of Art**
2012 – Taylor Fason
2013 – Ann Yappen
2014 – Ewing Chapel Cemetery Committee
2015 – Ruth Briggs
2016 – Bill T. Whitis
2017 – The Reverend Glenda Clay
2018 – Gerald Gibson
2019 – Logan and Sagan Jameson-Hatch
2020 – Pat Furrh
2021 – Amy Ware
2022 – Jerry Graves
2023 – Christina Anderson

AWARD OF MERIT

- 2011 – Judge Richard Anderson**
2012 – New Town Neighborhood Association
2013 – First United Methodist Church
2014 – Friends of the Starr Home
2015 – Richard Magrill
2016 – Janet Cook
2017 – Harrison County Inmate Workforce
**2018 – Marshall Independent School District
its Superintendent, Board of Trustees,
and Students, Past, Present, and Future.**
2019 – Sam Moseley
2020 – Pat Furrh
2021 – Marshall News Messenger
2022 – Amy Ware
2023 – Terrell Smith

CHAIRMAN’S AWARD

2014 – Julia Williams

2022 – Barbara Cox

V. Partners in Preservation Reports

A. 1901 Courthouse

Christina Anderson reported “We have a lot of I-20 Corridor FRA grant funding-related deadlines today and this week.”

B. Texas & Pacific Depot Museum

Robert Wood said that things are going well, thanks to Christina Anderson’s efforts and support.

C. Starr Family Home State Historic Site

No report.

D. Michelson Museum of Art

The nationally recognized Hoover Watercolor Society’s annual exhibition is once again on display at the Michelson Museum of Art, with an opening reception for the show to be hosted Thursday, March 16th by the museum. The show is based out of Louisiana, and has previously featured Marshall artists, as well as others from around the East Texas area during its national tour. One such participant, local artist Carol Pace, is on display at the museum again as part of this year’s showcase.

The show will remain on display at the Michelson Museum of Art through April 29th. It is free for the public to enjoy during the Michelson’s regular business hours.

Olivia Runnels, the education director at the museum, said that the museum is also looking to host the show twice a year moving forward, looking to display both the Fall and Spring showcases by the organization. “It’s a great show,

watercolors are a notoriously difficult medium and it's great that we can continue to celebrate those who not only take on that challenge, but do it well," Runnels said.

E. Historic Landmark Preservation Board (HLPB)

Jay Carriker reported that efforts were being made to try and preserve the T&P Hospital. This included a Landmark application.

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

T.C. Lindsay Store. Marty Vaughan reported that T. C. Lindsey & Company has begun its 176th year in business in Harrison County. Daily Facebook posts highlight some of the history of the area as well as some of the unique products for sale. Manager Jon Miller and Assistant Manager Raymond Gutierrez are ready to assist customers learn more about the history of this rural East Texas community.

VI. Other

No report.

VII. Administrative

Tom Speir reported that he had submitted our Annual Report to the THC on time. Also, our updated Membership list was submitted to the THC and the County Commissioners.

VIII. Adjournment

Tom Speir announced that the next meeting will be May 11th 2023 at 1:30 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

Submitted by Richard Magrill