



Collin County Historical Commission  
7117 CR 166  
McKinney, TX 75071

Date: 04.29.21  
Heard Craig Carriage House  
205 West Hunt St., McKinney  
6:30 PM

Mary Kaye Adams, County Cruises  
Dave Cornette, Allen  
Candace Fountoulakis  
Joy Gough, Tax Abatement  
Linda Hess, Farmersville  
Eric Hogue, Wylie  
Donna Jenkins, Vice Chair  
Diann Jones, Anna\*  
Colin Kimball, McKinney  
Paula Ross, Chair  
Jan Samuels, Public Relations  
Janet Stovall  
Kristi Taylor, Frisco  
Jan Thatcher, Secretary/Treasurer  
Marianne Wells, State Markers, Cemeteries  
Nathan White  
Jane Yancey, Plano\*  
Brittany Yurkovitch  
Jennifer Rogers, Liaison  
Judy Florence, Liaison  
Call to Order: 6:34 p.m.

\*Absent

**Public Comments:** Thank you, Linda Hess, for supplying dinner.

Welcome to the newest member of the CCHC, Eric Hogue from Wylie. Eric was mayor of Wylie for over 12 ½ years and has an interest in magic and illusion.

Murphy will Host Spring Fever on Saturday May 1 from 10-4.

Farmersville Historical Society will host a Bain-Honaker 1900 Festival on May 22, 2021 from 3-7:30 p.m. There will be tours of the house, demonstrations of 1900's era crafts, quilt raffle, yard sale, silent auction, fun food and music. All proceeds benefiting the Bain-Honaker House.

Memorial Weekend services around the County: Saturday, May 29, McKinney, 10 a.m., at Veterans Memorial Park, Craigs Ranch. Sunday, May 30, Thompson Cemetery, near Lavon, on Hwy. 78.

Two marker dedication ceremonies are planned this month. A Texas State Historical Marker will be dedicated on Saturday, May 15 at 10 a.m. for the Snow Hill Community, located on County Road 621, Blue Ridge, TX. On Sunday, May 16, 3 p.m., a Collin County Marker for the Cowskin Community located on Hwy. 547, (2.5 miles south of Hwy. 380) will be dedicated.

The proclamation Nathan White submitted to County Judge Chris Hill, celebrating Collin County's 175<sup>th</sup> birthday, was accepted with edits.

**Minutes/Roll Call:** Minutes were approved with corrections. Volunteer hours total: 353.

**Treasurer's Report:** Year to date: \$1453.00 has been spent, \$455.00 has been encumbered, leaving a total of \$47992.00. We have spent 3.82% of our budget and are in balance with the county. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Grants:** The Grant committee met April 14 to discuss the 10 grant applications received. The committee chose to fund nine out of the ten grants. Each will receive the full asking amount. The one denial was the Allen Parks Foundation. The detail that prevented the committee from considering the application was the fact the Allen Parks Foundation had never attended a Quarterly Coalition Meeting, which is one of the prerequisites to be considered. If in the future, members of the Allen Parks Foundation attend future Coalition meetings, the organization would be eligible to apply for a grant with the CCHC. Recommendations were emailed to the members of the CCHC for review. The Grant Committee's recommendations were approved by the CCHC and will be sent on to our County Liaisons, Judy Moody and Jennifer Rogers to be added to a future Commissioners Court agenda for consideration.

**Film Preservation:** There is nothing to report at this time.

**Collin County Cruise:** There is nothing to report at this time.

**Speakers Bureau:** There is nothing to report at this time.

**State Markers: Marker Transcriptions:** Marianne Wells has received three marker transcriptions in the last week-Brinlee Cemetery (Melissa), First Baptist Church of Lavon and Princeton Cemetery. All are being double checked for accuracy.

**Installation of Markers:** Wayne Anderson, the new superintendent of Public Works Road & Bridge, has asked that he be contacted to schedule installations rather than Penny from here on out.

**Corinth Presbyterian Church (Parker):** The Corinth Presbyterian Church is thought to be the oldest continuing congregation in Collin County, organized in August 1846, a year after Texas

became a state. Recently there was concern about the status of the State Historical Marker after hearing the Corinth Presbyterian Church might be disbanding. It was discovered the congregations of Corinth Presbyterian Church and the First Presbyterian Church of Allen are essentially merging and are meeting in the historic Corinth Church building. The minister of First Presbyterian Church of Allen relayed to Marianne that both congregations and Presbytery are diligently trying to honor and maintain the history of both congregations. Marianne asked the minister to notify the CCHC of any changes with the new arrangement that might affect the state marker's status.

***Saigling House (Plano):*** Now that Covid guidelines for outdoor gathering have been relaxed, a tentative date for the marker dedication ceremony is Saturday, June 26, 10:00 a.m. Candace Fountoulakis is coordinating the ceremony since she was involved in the dedication ceremony at Young Cemetery in Plano. In addition to having a family member involved, Marianne would also like to identify a speaker, perhaps someone with a background in local history or historic architecture.

***State Marker Applications:*** The committee did not receive any applications from outside the CCHC this year. Marianne hopes to have one she is writing submitted by May 15<sup>th</sup>. The committee received a request to see if Southfork Ranch would qualify for a marker. The Texas Historical Commission's (THC) marker team thinks that it could be a very interesting topic if certain parameters are followed. Bob Brinkman, who heads the Marker Team, called Marianne and provided some very good insights. Marianne is going to let the person requesting the inquiry, write the paper but will direct the work in stages, if need be, to ensure a narrative that qualifies and is well documented.

***Refinishing Markers:*** Jane Yancey and Marianne are organizing what will be a CCHC-wide project to refinish nearly fifty markers over the next few months. There will be at least two teams who are trained from the John Abston Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). A Zoom meeting is scheduled for Monday night to review training, set up both weekday/weekend teams and schedule work days.

Marianne needs a volunteer from each quadrant of the county to look at markers that have not been assessed yet and will supply each volunteer with a list. Marianne has distributed sign-up sheets for all to indicate preferences to be on a weekday team or a weekend team. Training will be with the DAR teams while working on refinishing a marker. Marianne will keep all posted on the refinishing schedule.

***State Marker Book:*** Because there are budget funds available this year, it is an ideal time to update the 2011 State Marker book. There are 206 markers that have been erected and a few more that will be in the next few months. With so many changes in the county in the past ten years, new pictures are needed. There is also the need to refinish the ones that are virtually unreadable and updated pictures taken once completed. Marianne would like to have volunteers by quadrant to start taking pictures of the ones that are in good shape. Volunteers are also needed to work on the production of the new edition of the State Marker Book. Please fill out the sign-up sheet and let Marianne know preferences.

**Historic Cemeteries: *Lair Cemetery (Anna):*** The Historic Texas Cemetery (HTC) application has been submitted which included an aerial picture of the cemetery taken by a drone. One of the most interesting things discovered in the photo was a 21' flowerbed in the shape of a cross planted with Iris. The deed research was very tedious because the land grant wasn't filed until

1903 for various reasons. What Marianne also discovered in the deed index, were five pages for land grants that were filed between 1900 and 1910.

***Fitzhugh Cemetery (Fairview):*** The organization maintaining this cemetery is interest in applying for a Historic Texas Cemetery (HTC) designation and eventually a state marker.

***Grounds Cemetery (Blue Ridge):*** An inquiry to the Genealogy Department at Haggard Library about ownership of Grounds Cemetery was referred to Marianne. The person inquiring wants to organize a new group to maintain the cemetery. The last association president passed away in 2013.

***Horn Cemetery (McKinney):*** HTC in process.

***Brinlee Cemetery (Melissa):*** Marker inscription draft is in.

***Princeton Cemetery (Princeton):*** Marker inscription draft is in.

***Ross Cemetery (McKinney):*** Marianne will file the HTC documents with the County Clerk next week when a check is received. Once the final designation document is received, a ceremony will be organized to present it.

***Smith Cemetery (Frisco PGA development):*** The Heritage Association of Frisco plans to apply for an HTC in an effort to protect the cemetery. The Denton County Historical Commission has already received an Historic Texas Cemetery designation for the small Landrum Cemetery nearby, which is within the City of Frisco but in Denton County.

***Pecan Grove Cemetery (McKinney):*** The cemetery is in the early process of having a new survey done and is interested in applying for an HTC designation, which will be entered into the deed books.

**County Markers:** The Halltown marker was approved by relatives and will be submitted. The Allen Black School is still in process.

A motion was made and a second given to order 50 more County Marker Books. The motion carried.

**Historic Assets Survey (HAS):** The HAS committee met earlier today to discuss researching old cemeteries in Collin County. Donna Jenkins has identified 92 cemeteries that are not on HAS. The list was divided among the committee members and will eventually be added to the county website.

**Educational Programs:** Brittany Yurkovitch and Jan Samuels are working on an essay contest which is expected to be held in the fall. Diann Jones has been asked to locate and list all schools the committee needs to advise for participation. The rules for the contest have been set.

**Communications:** There is a need for a committee chair. Paula Ross has set up a new FaceBook page for the Collin County Historical Commission. If there is anything that needs to be posted, please email Paula with the information.

**Public Relations:** Jan Samuels has been distributing brochures (Cruising Historical Collin County and The Museums of Collin County, TX) to the Allen Chamber of Commerce, Allen Library, hotels in and around Allen and Fairview so far.

**Tax Abatement:** There have been three new applications from the McKinney area for tax abatement consideration. The county sent out Notices of Appraised Value statements to all property owners and has received several phone calls about those notices.

**Oral Histories:** Legacy Keepers, an organization comprised mostly of African-Americans is hiring two interns for oral histories. Colin Kimball will continue to monitor and contribute while it is within CCHC parameters. Colin is starting to organize interviews now. He is pursuing an interview with Audie Murphy's sister, Jessie, and also would also like to interview previous judges and sheriffs from the County. Colin plans to create digital files (MP3 files, video) and posed the question, "Where should all this information be stored?" The oral histories should be accessible to all. Nathan White suggested a film festival to promote oral histories.

**Workshops:** A workshop for cemetery cleaning is in process.

**Preservation Celebration:** Jan Thatcher met with the Anna Area Historical Society on April 20. A discussion as to the date of the Preservation Celebration. The date will be September 18, 2021 with the location to be the First Christian Church in Anna. Jan mentioned since 2021 is the 175<sup>th</sup> birthday of Collin County, that milestone should have recognition in the celebration. The group was open to that. Nathan White will be the MC. Alton Smith will be the guest speaker. The group is looking into having local businesses cater the brunch. Plans also include having the Train Depot open to the public.

**Awards:** The deadline has been extended to 06.18.21, 4 p.m. An email will go out to the Coalition groups asking for nominations.

**New Business:**

Colin Kimball announced the issue concerning the removal of the James Throckmorton statue from the square in McKinney has been tabled until after the City of McKinney's election.

A motion was made to draft a resolution in principal, supporting preservation of the Throckmorton statue, in its present location, as is, based upon facts about Throckmorton and the statue after extensive research by Colin Kimball. This resolution will be sent to the Texas Historical Commission. The motion had a second and was approved by the CCHC members present.

Adjourn: 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Thatcher, Secretary