



Collin County Historical Commission  
7117 CR 166  
McKinney, TX 75071

Date: 05.27.21  
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 Yurkovich \*

Jennifer Rogers, Liaison

Judy Florence, Liaison

\*Absent

**Call to Order: 6:33 p. m.**

**Public Comments:** Thank you Colin Kimball for supplying dinner.

Farmersville has rescheduled their fundraiser to June 5, from 3-7 p. m.

The Texas Historical Marker for the Bankhead Highway in Collin County will be dedicated Saturday, June 5, at 10:00 a.m. at Baley Middle School located at 1310 Hwy 66, Royse City. The Bankhead Highway was known as the "Broadway of America" and was completed in the 1920's. The road extended from Washington D. C. to San Diego, CA by way of eastern states. It crossed approximately 850 miles in Texas including Collin, Hunt and Rockwall Counties.

Thanks to all who attended the Cowskin Community marker dedication. In attendance were 3 members of the community, all in their 90's.

***Memorial Day events across the county include:***

**Saturday, May 29** at 10:00 a.m., the City of McKinney will hold a ceremony at McKinney's Veterans Memorial Park, located at 6053 Weiskopf Ave. Four new names will be added to the wall of honor and Jerry Madden, a Gold Star son, will be speaking on the meaning of Memorial Day. Then, at 11:00 a.m., the US Submarine Association Veterans, Inc., will hold a "Tolling of the Boats" ceremony. By tolling a ship's bell and announcing the name of the lost submarine, the ceremony honors the 65 submarines that have been lost in service to our nation. U. S. Representative Van Taylor may be in attendance.

**Monday, May 31**, at 9:00 a. m., the City of Celina will hold a ceremony. Sheriff Jim Skinner will be speaking.

**Monday, May 31**, at 10:00 a.m., Thompson Cemetery will be holding a ceremony. The cemetery is located on Hwy 78, south of Farmersville.

Monday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m., 5 new portraits will be unveiled in McKinney at the Russell A. Steindam Courts Building. The five soldiers are: Wm. G. Burnett, Collin County; Harold Lemuel Patterson, Plano; James Henry "Jimmie" Geigas, McKinney; Robt. W. Blaine, Plano; Tommie Vaughn White, Josephine. These portraits are part of the North Texas Fallen Warriors Project, which seeks to honor and remember the forgotten heroes from our local communities.

Weston will be hosting its 4<sup>th</sup> of July of parade on Saturday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10 a.m. The historic Post Office will be opened to visitors. A small museum on Weston awaits inside.

The Weston Post, Spring edition is here! Since Brittany Yurkovich will not be at the May meeting, copies are available at the newsstand in downtown Weston at the Blue Door building on Main Street (across from the community center). Brittany will bring copies to the June meeting. There is a lot of history in this edition including the student essay competition; Colin Kimball's piece on Wesley Adamson, a fallen Weston WWI soldier, and Jan Samuel's piece on the Collin County Historical Commission, itself. There is also a blurb about Cowan's Garage-a Weston landmark with a unique history, as well as a great piece on the history of Anna.

Brittney would love submissions for the summer newsletter which will come out in early August. She will be organizing a piece about schools in Weston from information Joy Gough has provided and would appreciate any additional content. Historical content is welcomed as are other topics of interest. The CCHC members are exceptionally talented and interesting: Wouldn't it be great to see a piece on magical mayors? Or a unique perspective piece about law and order in Collin County? Or an editorial piece about the Throckmorton debate? Please contact Brittany if interested.

Paula Ross reminded CCHC members of the summer schedule for our meetings. In June, a nominating committee will be formed to come up with a slate of officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. At the July meeting, the nominating committee will present the candidates for office. In August, a vote will be taken for the slate of officers presented. The September meeting will be dedicated to committee planning and budgets.

Paula announced the polo shirts have been ordered for the CCHC.

**Minutes/Roll Call:** The minutes were approved with corrections. Volunteer hours totaled: 394.

**Treasurer's Report:** Year to Date: With the budget of \$49,900, a total of \$2889.50 has been spent, \$344.00 encumbered, leaving a balance of \$46,666.50 remaining in our budget. We have spent 6.48% of our budget.

**Committee Reports:**

**Grants:** The Commissioners Court approved The CCHC grant recommendations. Contracts were signed electronically by all nine awardees. The next step is to have the Commissioners Court sign the contracts. Hopefully that will be on June 7<sup>th</sup> agenda. From there the accounting department takes over and checks will be issued and mailed to the individual groups.

**Film Preservation:** A new committee consisting of Colin Kimball, Nathan White and Brittany has been formed.

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

**Speakers Bureau:** Janet Stovall volunteered to Chair this committee. Thank you, Janet.

**State Markers: Orenduff Cemetery (Melissa):** The State Marker committee wrote and submitted the application for a Historic Texas Cemetery State Marker for Orenduff. The state commissioners will meet at the end of July to decide which markers will be approved. The announcement will be made by August 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Saigling House (Plano):** The marker unveiling is scheduled for Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. The event is on the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) calendar. The committee spent a lot of time taking pictures and designing and formatting the invitation. There are two more Registered Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) dedications coming up so the Saigling materials will serve as a template for the next two and future ceremonies.

**Throckmorton Supplemental Plaque:** The plaque, which the committee ordered in 2018 to explain the location of the original settlement, is being shipped. The marker was moved from the original location to Pecan Grove Cemetery (McKinney), where J. W. Throckmorton is buried.

**Refinishing Markers:** A DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) team refinished the County Poor Farm marker and will refinish the two at Pecan Grove in the next few weeks. Another team is scheduled to refinish the marker at the First Christian Church in Plano on June 26<sup>th</sup>. The committee will keep all posted on a time and place when commission members can learn the process. The weather has not cooperated at all this month.

**Historic Cemeteries: Community Cemetery of Celina:** A large community is being developed just north of downtown Celina. It will surround the cemetery on three sides. The committee has reached out to an association member to see if the CCHC can be of help in assuring the cemetery is protected, but has not heard back. The committee's next step is to talk to city officials to see what was specified in the permitting process.

**Ross Cemetery:** The check has been issued by the county so the committee can file the Historic Texas Cemetery (HTC) designation in the Collin County Deed Records. Colin Kimball is helping to organize a ceremony to present the final certificate to the Ross Cemetery Board of Directors.

Colin also expressed concern over the continual erosion of the east side of Ross Cemetery. Allen Mayor Pro Tem, Bains Brooks, actually erected a fence on the eastern border of the cemetery but erosion has forced the fence to be removed. The land is officially owned by DART (Dallas Area Rapid Transit), the City of McKinney is aware but needs immediate attention. Estimated cost is \$1M says the Corps of

Engineers. Speculation is that graves have been lost. The Historic Texas Cemetery designation should give Ross Cemetery some validation.

**County Markers:** Halltown marker has been turned in to the foundry. The Allen Black School narrative is completed and has been handed over to the powers that be for community approval. Paula Ross is trying to connect with owners of Lavon Farms on Jupiter Rd., north of Parker Rd. in Plano for a possible marker. Kristi Taylor, one of the newest members of the CCHC, is exploring her area in Frisco. Paula also announced the Collin County Marker Books are again available. Contact Paula for more copies.

**Historic Assets Survey (HAS):** Members have been assigned 5 cemeteries each to research and type the site form and narrative. Plans are to have the research completed in May and will submit the list of cemeteries before the meeting in June.

**Educational Programs:** Brittany Yurkovich ran a wonderful article about the Collin County History Essay Competition through September 30, 2021, in the Weston Post.

**Communications:** There is still a need for a Chair for this committee. In the meantime, check out the CCHC's new FaceBook page, like it and share.

**Public Relations:** Jan Samuels distributed more museum brochures in Plano and hope to cover all of Plano before the next meeting. She will be contacting newspapers, museums, libraries, etc. with information about the student essay contest with a deadline for entries scheduled for September 30, 2021.

**Tax Abatement:** There is nothing to report at this time.

**Oral Histories:** Committee members are still in the planning stages. An inventory of current oral histories held by various museums within the county is being compiled.

**Workshops:** There is nothing to report at this time.

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

**Awards:** The deadline to submit nominees is June 18, 2021, at 4 p.m. and the date has been changed on the website to reflect that date.

**New Business:** The controversy surrounding the Throckmorton statue on the square in McKinney was addressed. It was suggested a letter be written by the CCHC to the Texas Historical Commission (THC) highlighting the reasons the statue should remain in its present position. We are under the umbrella of the THC and should let the THC know we have nothing to apologize for.

**Adjourn:** 7:35 p. m.