

Calhoun County Historical Commission
Minutes: May 13, 2025

Calhoun County Historical Commission met May 13, 2025, at the Calhoun County Library, 200 West Mahan, Port Lavaca, Texas. Chairman Larry Nichols presided. Call to Order, Invocation, and Pledges of Allegiance were led by Mr. Nichols. Guests Blaine Evans, Patrick Petrisky, and Claire Petrisky were welcomed. Members introduced themselves. Attendees included Dana Nichols, Mary Belle Meitzen, Larry Nichols, Gary Ralston, Vicki Cox, Jody Weaver, Steve Koch, Jessie Hubbell, Eddie Tyler, Wesley Abraham, Jody Brett, Jessie Briseno, and John Foester. Quorum was met.

Minutes from April 8, 2025, were viewed and accepted as corrected with motion by Jessie Briseno and seconded by Jody Brett. Motion carried.

Treasurer Gary Ralston reported as of April 2025, Total Accounts \$68,903.02,

Miscellaneous \$3,448.46, Capital Outlay \$2,450.00. Expenditures \$553.54. Wesley Abraham moved the Treasurer's Report to be accepted as presented with second by John Foester. Motion carried.

Chairman Nichols highlighted the THC "Real Places-Preserving Texas History" zoom conference. Museum Director Vicki Cox is also viewing virtual sessions. An original Rosenwald School Sketch was shared along with the current Wilkins School recognized. Jessie Hubbell recommended Texas History Navigator for maps and points of history. Gary Ralston explained a pointed concrete block structure that could highlight unknown graves. Jessie Briseno inquired about a cemetery on the Smith Ranch at Olivia that was being washed away into the bay and about graves located outside the Olivia Cemetery.

Mary Belle Meitzen reported the CCHC is an interested stakeholder within the development of the Powderhorn State Park by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The Cultural Resources Coordinator David Kroskie is working to gain all possible information on the town of LaSalle, its occupants, and cemetery (once its boundary is established) and ensure the relatives are happy with its stewardship. Currently interviews will be conducted with Mrs. Meitzen representing CCHC, John Foester representing Kelley family, and Edith Billings Phillips and Jamie Wehmeyer representing McCoppin family. McCoppin and Kelley families are the two identifying tombstones that CCHC located on the 2016 initial trip.

Marker Chair John Foester reported Clark Station is about ready to be shipped. He has received "The March 13, 1864 Great Drowning at McHenry Bayou" by William Bozie to review. Robert Loflin reported the Andrew A. Rasmussen Marker is still located at Main & 15th Street, Port O'Connor, presumably in his front yard. Kieth Hubbard has straightened the Mt. Sinai Baptist Church marker.

Chairman Larry Nichols highlighted CCCourt had approved all the Commissions requests. Members viewed the Calhoun County Brown TxDot Sign to be placed on Mr. Nichols property on Hwy 87. Costs of \$600.00 with County paying half. Wesley Abraham moved to purchase 4x8 metal sign with second by Jody Brett. Motion carried. Wesley Abraham and Eddie Tyler also suggested supplies for the sign. County approved the offsite storage for the CCMuseum and agreed to pay the CCSD rental fee. A lease between CCSD and CCHC is being drawn up by Ann Maria Odefey to be signed effective July 1, 2025. Photographs of the current storage were shared. Discussed July 4, 2026-250 Year celebration plans as goal for 2026. Gary Ralston explained the bronze LaSalle Monument National Register of Historic Places plaque to be purchased which includes dedication date of May 21, 1939. Pictures of the LaBelle at the Bob Bullock Museum were shown. Emphasis on its county history contribution needs to be encouraged in the school curriculum.

Gary Ralston reported the Olivia Silhouette should be completed before the school year ends. Commissioner Berhens will transport the silhouette. Eddie Tyler reported Half Moon Reef Lighthouse post caps installed which completes board walk except for spraying. Handicapped ramp should be completed by June. Jody Weaver reported a bid for landscaping is pending. Mary Belle Meitzen reported Lighthouse requires additional inside work to remove paint from walls and ceiling and repair rotten ceiling boards. One outside board needs replacing.

Jody Weaver reported she and Cheryl Cuellar take turns writing Tombstone Tuesday. Current topics included were Angelina Eberly, James Boyd, Judge Hugh Walker Hawes, Adolph Roemer, William Hollamon, They were thanked for their efforts by Chairman Nichols. Gary Ralston reported 19,000 views on CCHC facebook. Director CC Museum Vicki Cox reported new digital picture frames and updating the LaSalle exhibit. Dana Nichols

showed a La Salle Monument tee-shirt design that could be considered by the Commission.

Jessie Hubbell moved meeting adjourn, seconded by Jessie Briseno.

Motion carried. Chairman Larry Nichols adjourned the meeting.