

Calhoun County Historical Commission  
September 9, 2025

Calhoun County Historical Commission met September 9, 2025, at the Calhoun County Library, 200 West Mahan, Port Lavaca, Calhoun, Texas at 6:30 p.m. Chairman Larry Nichols presided and gave the Call to Order, Invocation, and Pledges of Allegiance. Members and guests introduced themselves. Members attending included Gary Ralston, Vicki Cox, Larry Nichols, Jody Weaver, Jesse Briseno Jr., Steve Koch, Jay Cuellar, Mary Belle Meitzen, and Sue Traylor. Guests included Patrick Petrisky, Pat Petrisky, Oralia G. Munoz, and Derrick Smith. Quorum present.

Sue Traylor moved to approve the August 12, 2025 Minutes as presented. Jody Weaver seconded, and the motion passed. Treasurer Gary Ralston reported Total Accounts \$68,690.28, Miscellaneous \$1205.37, Capital Outlay \$0.00, Total Transactions \$5,144.63 and donors \$600.00. Jay Cuellar moved to accept Treasurers report which was seconded by Sue Traylor and passed. There was no Texas Historical Commission correspondence.

Marker Chair John Foester continues to work with the William Bozic document 2nd Regiment of Engineers Corps D'Afrique and writing the town of LaSalle marker story. Clark Station Marker has arrived and is waiting installation by Tex Dot.

Chairman Larry Nichols reviewed final plans for the Dedication of the LaSalle Monument National Register of Historic Places Plaque on September 13, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at the La Salle Monument, Indianola, Texas. French National Flags, water, chairs, podium, CC Museum Maps and registration by Steve Koch are accounted. Members picked up handouts to distribute.

2025 Goals reviewed. Seadrift, Texas is the next sign to be installed, financed by donations. Offsite storage was toured by the Leadership team. Larry Nichols was approved by CC Commissioners Court on September 10, 2025, to sign CCISD rent agreement. County Museum Director Vicki Cox received interest from the Karankawa Community for the hand dug Indigenous Peoples' canoe donated by Leonard Fisher on May 19, 1998, as recorded in Commission minutes. Fisher family descendants will be contacted first to see if they would like the canoe returned.

Under Commission Input, Jody Weaver shared Charcoal & Chalk by Flora Beach Burlingame which featured John Ogilvy, who was instrumental in founding Wilkins School.

Jody Weaver presented November 1-2 Cemetery Tour update, provided a detail tour map and announced the actor portrayals. Members signed up to help.

City of Port Lavaca Economic Development Officer Derrick Smith reported ADAH handicap ramp to the Half Moon Reef Lighthouse had begun by CCISD. City Manager, Jody Weaver, reported Lighthouse handrail unexpected replacement cost \$5,525.00. Jay Cuellar moved the CCHC reimburse City of Port Lavaca \$3,000 for the handrail repair already spent. Motion seconded by Gary Ralston and approved. Commissioner Larry Nichols expressed appreciation to the City of Port Lavaca for its contribution. Gary Ralston reported Jason Hamelwright has one full time CHS student working on the Olivia Silhouette.

Jody Weaver reported “Threads of Calhoun County”, featuring individuals who contributed but are not buried in the county, would be featured on the CCHC Facebook. First person is George Washington Adams, principal Wilkins School. Recent “Tombstone Tuesday” articles included Mrs. Naomi Chase, Lant Gaines, and Charles Fisher.

Calhoun County Museum Director Vicki Cox reported sixty-two visitors, presented pictures of new gift shop items, and is designing short history blurbs for the new banner to be placed on outdoor fence planking. Motion for adjournment was by Jay Cuellar, seconded by Steve Koch and passed. Chairman Larry Nichols adjourned the meeting. Next meeting will be October 14, 2025.