



*Bexar County Historical Commission
Bexar County Courthouse
100 Dolorosa #311
San Antonio, Texas 78205*

**Minutes
Bexar County Historical Commission
Wednesday, December 5, 2018**

Commission Members in Attendance:

Angelica Docog
Tim Draves
Dr. Francis X. Galan
Mickey Killian
Clinton M. McKenzie
Dr. Amy Porter
Dr. Paul T. Ringenbach
Jesús R. (Corky) Rubio
Dr. Sharon Skrobarcek

Associate Members in Attendance:

Dr. Scott Baird
Brother Edward J. Loch, S.M.
Frank Faulkner
Dr. Gary W. Houston
Jose G. Jimenez
Dr. David Carlson

Guests or County Representatives in Attendance:

Juliette Moke
Joseph de León

- A. Welcome: Dr. Paul T. Ringenbach, Vice Chairman, Presiding; Meeting called to order at 1:05 pm.
- B. Ratification of Minutes of BCHC Meeting of November 7, 2018; motion passes to ratify the minutes

C. Committee Reports- note: Dr. Almaráz is out for a little longer with his foot injury. Dr. Ringenbach is filling in for him.

1. Historical Markers: Pending — Dr. Félix D. Almaráz, Jr.- no report
2. History Appreciation: Dr. Sharon Skrobarcek- report in separate file
3. Cemetery: Dr. Scott Baird-

Deputy Sheriff Sergeant Milam has ascertained that Texas cemetery Penal Codes constitute civil not criminal offenses. Darby Riley of Riley and Riley Associates is willing to help with Texas Codes regarding civil lawsuits, regarding cemetery offenses. Historic Designation for BX-C093 (Leesch-Uecker) is now complete. Dr. Almaráz has now included me as a member of the Historical Marker committee so that I can be involved in the process of application for Markers for Historic Designated cemeteries. Through Dr. Almaráz, I have agreed to complete a THC survey on Bexar County Cemeteries.

Carlson noted that there have been a lot of exchanges about Herritage Cemetery; Carlson talked to some folks in the sheriff's department about desecration; he wanted to know if anyone had filed a criminal complaint about desecration in the cemetery; Carlson talked to one descendant; Carlson recommended that she file a report and get a case number assigned to it so we can call and check on it; this cemetery has some visible headstones, but purportedly part of the cemetery is a parking lot and has prefabricated buildings on it; McKenzie noted that the Hockley cemetery is still being cleared and is not finished yet; it is over an acre and very overgrown.

4. Archives: Brother Edward J. Loch, S.M.- There was no meeting of the San Antonio Regional Archivists this past month. The National Marianist Archives has a researcher who spent a week researching information on our school in Yokohama and the principal who graduated in 1959. There have been other researchers this past month. The archives have been moved into a new vault at the Chancery, but they are not available to researchers yet. The Museum of the Faiths of San Antonio in the St. Paul's Community Center is planning an expansion into what is now the prayer garden. Also the Episcopalian Diocese of the West will have a room to display some of their objects. This was decided last Wednesday, Nov. 28.

5. Oral History: Dr. Carey Latimore- no official report; Ringenbach noted that Nina Nevill, a Trinity Student, worked 150 hours on oral histories. Ringenbach completed an interview with Joanna Parrish, an over 50 year member of the San Antonio Conservation Society and a past President, but she has not finished looking over it.

Carlson noted that he is working with Dr. Reynolds and Dr. Findlay at UTSA to research a lynching of Alexander or Alec Washington in old Somerset in Atascosa County. Carlson talked with Dr. Littlejohn of Sam Houston State University who has a website on lynching in Texas history.

Ringenbach noted that Dr. Almaráz and Mickey Killian have been working on a project to honor indigenous people in Bexar County. Due to Dr. Almaráz' injury, the project has been deferred to January, but they continue to work on this project

Houston will meet with Colonel Randall to discuss the pamphlet project on the aviation history of Bexar County. Houston will send an outline of the pamphlet to publish in the minutes.

D. Progress Reports from Standing Committee Chairs due by December 31, 2018, via U.S. Postal Service or electronic communication. Individual members should submit historically related items they accomplished or participated in with approximate hours spent to Dr. Almaráz by December 31st. Submit to Chairman Almaráz at 323 Inspiration Drive, San Antonio, Texas 78228 and/or fdalmarazjr@att.net and copy Ringenbach on it. Progress Reports constitute the core of the Historical Commission's annual report to the Texas Historical Commission. THC staffers, in turn, recommend county historical commissions eligible to receive the annual Distinguished Service Award.

E. Status of Re-appointments and Appointments to the Bexar County Historical Commission for the 2019-2020 biennium (January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2020):
Four members asked to not be reappointed- Paul Ringenbach, Tim Draves, Linda Salvucci, and Carey Latimore; all seeking reappointment will be put on the agenda for December 11; new appointments will be as of January 1, 2019 and run until December 31, 2020.

Ringenbach moves that BCHC endorse Almaráz for Chairman of the BCHC for January 1, 2019-December 31, 2020. Rubio seconds. Motion passes.

Motion by McKenzie to move January meeting to January 9. Second Galan. Motion passes.

F. Status of FY-19 program proposals as of December 5, 2018. Checks should be issued in January.

G. Personnel Changes in Bexar Heritage Office that will create an impact on the progress of the Bexar County Historical Commission: Tim Nevil has taken an appointment elsewhere. Ad has been posted for his position. Juliette Moke will be running the Bexar County Heritage Center which is set to open mid-February. The Center will have exhibits that will walk you through the early history of Bexar County to telling what the government of Bexar County does today. Juliette will be managing the Bexar Heritage Center. She will have one full time position and two part-time positions. Juliette will still work with us but have a little less time.

H. Business Cards and Name Badges- Committee chairs get cards and name tags and new people get nametags.

I. New Business: Projects and Programs Proposed at meeting.

J. Announcements by Members, Associates, and Guests
(time limit:2 minutes per announcement):
McKenzie was contacted by the Leon Valley Historical Society. They will hold a fundraiser at the Huebner Onion House on January 12 that involves metal detector searching.

Draves noted that on November 14, we received a THC email that had a nice mention of Bexar County with a photo of Rubio and Porter. The article noted a “Great example of mission-driven work.” The photo is from the TSHA annual meeting.

K. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 2:00.



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HISTORY APPRECIATION COMMITTEE

REPORT

Submitted by Dr. Sharon Skrobarcek

1:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 5, 2018
Bexar County Courthouse
Double-Height Courtroom

November was quite active with the sponsoring of events, lectures, and ceremonies from all walks of life representing the dynamic character and diverse culture of San Antonio and Bexar County. Here are some of the events that have been taking place in our county this past month.

On November 1, 2018, at Alamo Hall, Misty Hurley gave a lecture about Day of the Dead in Texas. This event was hosted by The Alamo.

Also on November 1st, the Alamo Mission Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas hosted an approved SA 300 event entitled "The Daughters Rise Again: A Tour to Die For." The event featured participants visiting a number of cemeteries east of downtown San Antonio with historical narratives presented by docents on the bus and in the family plots of local patriots. Specifically featured graveside were Samuel Maverick, families of Menger, Guenther, Pape, and Herff, Hamilton P. Bee, Fisk family, Robert Addison Gillespie, Samuel Hamilton Walker, and John Salmon "Rip Ford." Period dressed actors provided historical glimpses into the lives and accomplishments of these individuals and families and their impact still felt today. Sponsors for the event were Red McCombs Foundation, C. H. Guenther & Son, Keith Zars Pools, H & D Ranch Co., and Don Strange Of Texas, Inc. The tour culminated with a luncheon back at the Guenther House. Art students from Sa Si were enlisted to paint skulls for auction at the luncheon. Fifty percent of the proceeds from the skulls



Alamo Hall, November 1st



Graveside of Juan Vargas



were given to the student artists for use with college expenses. Mr. Jack Hebdon, Jr. was the guest speaker. Mr. Mike Ostohage was the Master of Ceremonies. Mary Wieser is the Alamo Mission Chap-

ter President.



AMC President Mary Wieser and guest speaker Jack Hebdon, Jr.



AMC Member Elaine Vetter on cemetery tour



AMC member Eileen Sommer on cemetery tour.

On November 9, 2018, Texas World War I Centennial Commission, Office of Military Affairs (City of San Antonio), Grenaderos de Galvez (San Antonio Chapter), Daughters of the Republic of Texas (Alamo Couriers Chapter), and the Texas Navy Association (Samuel May Williams Squadron), honored 73 World War I Veterans and David B. Barkley (Cantu), WWI Medal of Honor Recipient (posthumously awarded) buried at San Antonio National Cemetery. Students from Barkley-Ruiz Elementary laid a wreath at this grave. Eagle Scout Scott Woodard (Johnson High School) received an award for his project on WW I. The Edison HS ROTC presented the colors and the Granaderos de Galvez (in costume) fired the volley. David Barkley was the first Medal of Honor recipient from San Antonio. The Express News reported that in 1918, Barkley was a member of Company A of the 356th Infantry. He lost his life while attempting to swim a frigid river in an attempt to “reconnoiter the position.” The event was featured in the Sunday, November 11th, edition of the Express News. Dr. Amy Jo Baker, in her capacity with the Texas World War I Centennial Commission, coordinated the event.

On November 10, 2018, City of San Antonio Archaeologist Kay Hinder gave a lecture about the Alamo archaeology at

Alamo Hall as part of the lecture series sponsored by The Alamo. Over 20 archaeological investigations have occurred at The Alamo over the last 50 years. In 2016, archaeological investigations occurred at The Alamo in conjunction with the Alamo Master Planning process. Kay Hinder discussed some of the previous archaeological investigations as well as cover the results of the 2016 archaeological investigations.

On November 11, 2018 - Veterans Day, The Alamo offered free tours and giveaways to all military. Military focused living history programming took place throughout the day. The 323d Army Band “Fort Sam’s Own” Brass Quintet gave a brief performance.

On November 14, 2018, The Alamo partnered with the City of San Antonio to host the US Marine Corps Birthday Cake Cutting Ceremony for 2018.



USMC Birthday Party at Alamo Hall

On November 16, 2018, Bexar County experienced an evening with the Duke. “The Life and Legend of John Wayne” was the center of attention at the Sa Si black theatre. Actor Jack Thorne of Mount Airy, North Carolina portrayed John Wayne through three acts covering the span of his life. Insights into the time he spent in San Antonio during his filming of the movie “The Alamo” were of special interest. During the intermission, the audience was treated to a special performance by local dancer Teresa Champion. Mrs. Champion was the actual dancer who danced on the table in “The Alamo.”

On November 17, 2018, a premier of documentary film “Texas before the Alamo” was shown at the AMC Rivercenter Theatre. “Texas before the Alamo” was a 7 year project to authenticate origins of Texas 1683-1733. In addition, the film highlighted the early to mid 20th Century legacy of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, John Wayne, and Phil Collins saving, preserving, and popularizing the Alamo. Ten segments of the film were broadcast on Univision 41. The narration was by Jorge Nunez and the film was directed and produced by William E. Millet. The film was an official nominee finalist of the 2018 Lone Star Emmy Awards held in Houston on November 10th at the Revention Music Center. The film will be broadcast in the US, Mexico, and Spain in 2019 and a companion book is being produced by the National Archives of Mexico and published by Muncce Marketing.

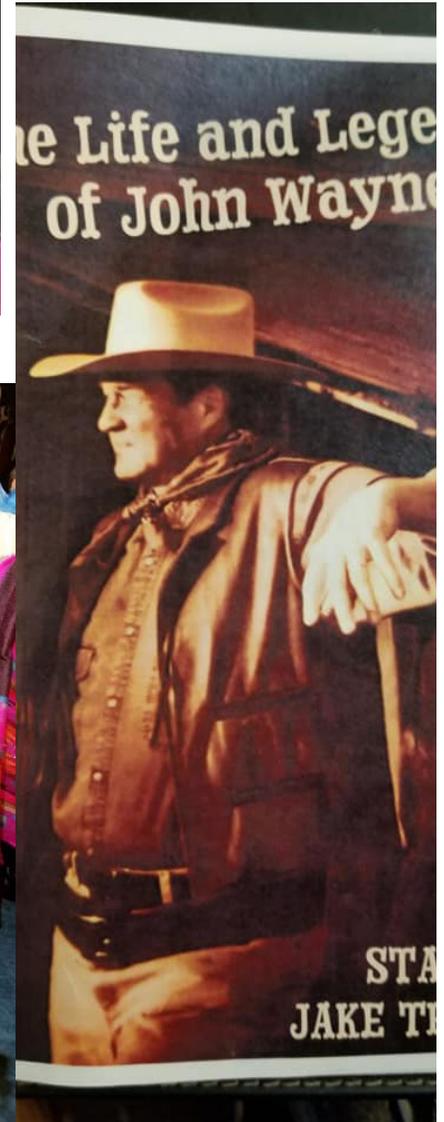
On November 19 and 20, 2018, an international conference was dedicated to the 108 Anniversary of the inception of the Mexican Revolution and was held at the Mexican Institute of Culture located on the grounds of the San Antonio Hemisphere Park. A special re-dedication ceremony was held for the



Mary Jane Blanco, Jake Thorne, Sharon Skrobarcek



Teresa Champion

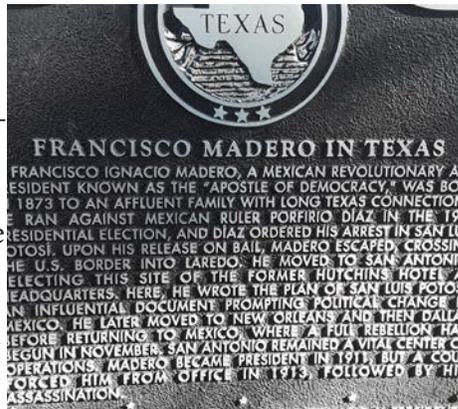



Jorge Nunez and William E. Millet

relocation of the bronze statue of Mexican President Madero to 314 E. Nueva St, San Antonio, TX., on the green space adjacent the San Antonio River. This was the former location of the Hutchins Hotel, where the inception of the Mexican Revolution was conceived. The events were hosted by AETENO de San Antonio, San Antonio Historical Association and El Colegio de Historiadores, Cronistas Y Estudios Sociales de las Antiguas Provincias de Oriente. Joseph Ricardo Danel was the event coordinator and emcee. There were many Speakers from United States and Mexico covering famous figures including Pancho Villa, Zapata, Huerta, and Carranza. However, the most notable figure covered was Madero, deserving the title of “Father of the Mexican Revolution” because he was the one who set off the spark to the Mexican Revolution. Professor Andres Mendoza Salas, began with “El Maderismo,” Madero’s political philosophy. Although Madero was born into a wealthy family he was raised in Mexico on a hacienda by the people of the region and learned from the native theology that all people had rights. In the end, he was assassinated, however, he was successful in temporarily unifying various democratic and anti-Díaz forces from Pancho Villa to Carranza. San Antonio Councilwomen Anna Sandoval spoke at the re-dedication. Ricky D. Reyes, did a simple blessing to the Four Directions (North South, East, and West), an ancient native ritual.

On November 23, 2018, two ceremonies were performed by Ricky D. Reyes and Sally Avila, of Alamo Area Tejano Descendants (AATD). Along with other AATD members, a water cleansing ceremony was conducted from the headwaters of the San Antonio river, Yanaguana. Water is life, water cleanses and feeds not only us but the plants and animals. According to the Native Americans, we are connected in nature. Sage was used to also cleanse the area. The good medicine of songs were sung to the good spirits of the Four Directions before sunset. In addition, a Native Naming Ceremony was performed. The ceremony is conducted at night to honor the fire element. The child, in this case, is given a name by an elder who has known the child. The name reflects the character of the child.

EL COLEGIO DE CRONISTAS E HISTORIADORES DE LAS ANTIGUAS PROVINCIAS DE ORIENTE INVITA A SU
 IV. REUNION ANNUAL SOBRE LA REVOLUCION MEXICANA
 NOV. 19 Y 20, 2018 EN EL INSTITUTO CULTURAL MEXICO, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS



Ricardo Danel



Anna Sandoval and Ricky Reyes



Blessing to the Four Directions



Ricky Reyes
 Water Cleansing Ceremony



Sally Avila and Ricky Reyes
 Naming Ceremony

On November 30, 2018, The Alamo hosted its second annual Alamo lights tradition. A switch is flipped and trees throughout the Alamo gardens were illuminated. This event kicks off a month of extended hours where visitors can stroll through the grounds until 7pm Monday-Thursday and 8pm Friday-Sunday to view the festive lights.

