

JOHNSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Minutes of JCHC Meeting August 25, 2025

Held at the Dotey House – 409 N. Buffalo – Cleburne, TX

Sandra Neeley, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and presided over the meeting following the printed agenda.

Following the invocation, pledges were made to the United States and Texas flags

In the absence of Andy Asberry, Chair took roll call: 12 appointees present, 3 excused, 1 unexcused, no guests

Announcements: Chair offered condolences to Charlotte Lawson and daughter Rowena Lawson on the death of their husband and father Ray. Memorial service Sept. 20 at Buel Baptist Church, 1:30 p.m.

Continued prayers and thoughts for those experiencing health issues – Nita, Andy, Steve, James, Darlene, Christy, and Amy's son Nevin.

Former JCHC Chair John Percifield passed away Friday night. Services will be Sat. August 30 at 11 a.m. at First United Methodist Church - Alvarado; burial and cannon salute to follow at Greenwood Cemetery.

A Johnson County deputy injured in an accidental shooting passed away.

Wilma Reed was not present, but celebrated her 96th birthday on August 3. JCHC appointees sent a card also signed at Commissioners Court.

Due to post office delays, JCHC is submitting the agenda, minutes, and calendar earlier than in the past. Last-minute additions may be added by addendum IF it can be posted before the newly announced deadline of **3 business days** (weekends do not count) The previous 72 hour posting deadline no longer applies.

Secretary's Report: Secretary Amy Nichols offered the July 28, 2025 minutes for approval as printed and mailed. Nita Redmon made a motion to approve; Motion 2nd and approved by show of hands

Treasurer's Report: (Copies on sign-in table) James Neeley reported a closing balance of \$12,204.74 Nita Redmon moved to accept the report; Motion 2nd and approved by show of hands
Treasurer also reported JCHC's next Fiscal Year budget will be officially approved at Commissioners Court Sept. 8. Discussion followed that the budget submitted reflects the same total amount as in years past.

Old Business: See Committee Reports

New Business: Next JCHC meeting will be Monday September 22, 2025 at the Dotey House, 6 pm

Instructions for JCHC to assist with the application for a grant via the Judge's office have not been received. The item will remain on the agenda and be created when JCHC receives instructions how to proceed.

Committee Reports:

A. Texas Historical Markers and Texas Historic Cemeteries

Chair Neeley reported the THM for Brazos Point Bridge has likely been sent to the foundry. A copy of Dan Roberts' THM application file was sent to JCHC by Texas Historical Commission.

Chair reported JCHC does not have the entire Mizpah Gate (SW Adventist Univ.) application file for its THM.

B. Johnson County Historic Landmark Plaques and Narratives & Texas Treasure Businesses

Project Chair Nita Redmon confirmed dedications at Bus Depot, Chaf-In, Dillon Depot, and J.N. Long Building all will be held in the fall.

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Committee Reports, continued

B. continued

Nita reported having met Aug. 12 with Pastor Sharon Smith, Amy Nichols, Sandra & James Neeley at **First Methodist Church of Grandview** to determine installation of the oval plaque and size/orientation of the narrative. The church will hold a dedication ceremony October. 26, 2025 following the regular church service. It will be the church's 172nd anniversary. JCHC appointees are encouraged to attend and wear name badge. Church officials, Nita Redmon, Pct. 4 Commissioner Woolley, and Chair Neeley will participate in the program. JCHC Appointees will be recognized.

Nita will work with Pastor Smith to develop the program which should last 30 minutes or less and a handout 'souvenir'.

Chair Neeley reported Cleburne's **American Legion Post 50** (now 106 years old) would like to be recognized with a Johnson County Historic Landmark plaque. Chair Neeley will deliver the eligibility requirements and application forms to Marty Peters.

Project Chair Redmon did not have contact info or proposed letter to Cleburne Floral – the business that has thus far refused to install or return their Historic Landmark Plaque bestowed many years ago. Tabled until the September meeting. Chair suggested the Chamber of Commerce may have name and address of the owner.

Charlotte Lawson reported **B&B Muffler** will apply to be a Texas Treasure Business.

Bennett's plans to dedicate their **Texas Treasure Business** award during "Christmas open house" in early November. Dates to be confirmed.

C. Friends of JCHC: - No report - President Andy Asberry was not present due to illness

D. Dotey-Kirkham House

Chair reported Ellis and Parker Co. Historical Commissions want to tour the Dotey House, likely the week following Candlewalk but not on the same day.

Chair presented a written quotation from Ware Fencing to demolish, haul off, and replace the Dotey House's front and back porches and wheelchair ramp and replace with new wood, painted matching color with anti-skid product added to all the paint. Chair stated the purchase order can be issued after JCHC receives the next FY (October 1, 2025) funding. The Judge has instructed his staff to process the PO as soon as possible so JCHC has access to the house by mid-November to decorate for Candlewalk.

The site of JCHC's October meeting is to be determined. JCHC plans to meet elsewhere in November after the time changes.

Charlotte Lawson made a motion to accept Ware Fencing's \$7,370 quote to demolish, haul off, and replace the Dotey House's front & back porches and wheelchair ramp with pressure-treated framing and 1 x 4 decking throughout, painted a color that matches the existing porches and with an anti-slip product in all the paint. The motion includes that JCHC must have access to the house by mid-November; that the P.O. be issued and work begin asap after next FY funds become available. Motion 2nd; Passed by show of hands.

The new black and white copy of the framed pre-1912 courthouse picture has been hung in the meeting room and a photograph of Ben Head's ancestor with wagons hauling baled cotton and its descriptive plaque.

Charlotte Lawson offered some white bulbs if someone wants to plant them at the Dotey House.

E. Museum Report (Copies were available on the sign-in table)

Director reported 91 visitors (The museum was closed 6 days in August due to Director's illness)

Visitors came from 3 other states.

36 volunteer hours by Pat, Vivian, Sandra, and James

No expenditures

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E. Museum Report, continued

Memorandum of Donation form and photograph were offered by Marsha Buckner for a square wooden table with bottom shelf for the Dotey House. It is over 75 years old and was previously owned by Mrs. Willard Baker. Its value is listed at \$50.

Amy Nichols made a motion to accept the table for the Dotey House; Motion 2nd; Accepted by show of hands

Chair reported no update regarding Bob Bullock Museum's request to borrow items from the museum and possibly items found when the restored courthouse's cornerstone was opened.

Pat Dexheimer reported she and Vivian Wright have almost finished box #3 of the 5 boxes donated by the **City of Joshua**.

Note: When all 5 boxes are completed, the Mem. of Donation form will be processed and an Inventory ID number assigned to items in the collection. The form authorizes the passing on or disposal of (at the discretion of JCHC Executive Committee) any items not accepted for the courthouse museum's collection.

In October, JCHC Exec. Committee will visit JCHC's assigned 'cage' near the Sheriff's office to locate, identify, and list items stored there. Facilities Mgmt. will provide 2 helpers. Updates and reports will be submitted.

Judge B. is considering having the museum phone programmed to rotate calls to his office after 4 or 5 rings.

Help is needed to take **inventory** at the museum if only 1/2 a day every few weeks. Chair asked for volunteers and if anyone knows of a history club or anyone who might be willing to help.

F. Burleson:

Founders Day: October 11 from 10 am – 3 pm in Old Town. Stroll thru Old Town in period dress at 10 a.m. Any period you wish to portray is ok. Booths are \$50.00 (See Calendar of Events for phone number)

Pat Dexheimer conducted a paranormal investigation of the Pioneer and Old Settlers Reunion buildings at Alvarado. When repaired, the old cabins on the site hope to qualify for a Johnson Co. Historic Landmark plaque.

G. Digitization of Newspapers (The Portal to Texas History)

Chair presented a written quote from Bennett's to scan the 2-volume "Legacy of East Cleburne" books John Warren donated to the courthouse museum onto a 32GB thumb drive to be delivered to The Portal to Texas History in October. Bennett's will copy the books onto a 2nd thumb drive for JCHC to keep. The fee to scan Mr. Warren's 2 books (labor only) was quoted at the not-to-exceed amount of \$300. All pages & photos are to be saved .pdf per Portal instructions.

Marsha Buckner made a motion to accept Bennett's quote in the not-to-exceed amount of \$300 and proceed with scanning the 2 books. Motion 2nd by Nita Redmon; Motion approved by show of hands

Written estimate of charges for the October submission to be presented at the Sept. JCHC meeting for a vote to send, pay any invoices that result, and reimburse for mileage those who deliver the items to Denton.

Cleburne Public Library has received a grant to digitize more Cleburne newspapers currently on microfilm.

Alvarado Public Library inquired about getting a grant for their newspapers dating back to the 1800s to be digitized at The Portal to Texas History. Grandview plans to give the Alvarado head librarian a copy of their successful Tocker Grant application.

Marsha Buckner suggested all former JCHC Portal submissions be copied onto another hard drive. Chair will learn how to accomplish this and report in September.

The Portal will host a free Zoom meeting Sept. 17 from 1-2:30 pm (info was sent to appointees by email)

Meeting Adjourned

Amy Nichols, Secretary