

Minutes of JCHC Meeting November 24, 2025, continued

Committee Reports:

A. Texas Historical Markers (THM) and Texas Historic Cemeteries

Chair reported the photo etching on metal JCHC voted to purchase is on order and that Pct. 1 Commissioner Rick Bailey donated an 8 ft. piece of pipe. This display will be installed next to the Texas Historical Marker for Brazos Point Bridge which is at the foundry. Ben Head volunteered to furnish the metal plate to hold the etching and weld up the display. Andy Asberry offered Plexiglas to cover the photo etching - cut it to size.

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

Thank you to James Neeley for installing the plaque and narrative at Dillon Depot prior to today's dedication ceremony.

Project Chair Nita Redmon reported no reply to a letter sent to Cleburne Floral asking them to explain what happened to the Historic Landmark plaque given to them several years ago. (a copy of the letter was provided to Judge Boedeker). Project Chair Redmon feels the matter should be closed because she has made several inquiries but received no response.

No update on the dedication for JN Long Building's Historic Landmark Plaque and Narrative.

The Burger Bar in Cleburne has an Historic Landmark Plaque and the business has a new owner. Steve Wells volunteered to offer the new owner an application for a narrative to accompany the oval plaque.

No new applications have been received for Texas Business Treasure awards and no update from B&B Muffler.

C. Friends of JCHC: - No Report

D. Dotey-Kirkham House

Chair noted the Dotey House will be 'featured' rather than 'ticketed' on Candlewalk, meaning tours will be free.

The new wheelchair ramp and porches front and back have been completed.

Cleaning and decorating for Candlewalk have begun. The next workday will be tomorrow at 9 a.m. Linda Coulston Ball, who lived in the house as a child, will be present during Candlewalk to share her memories.

Ellis County Historical Commission plans to come to Candlewalk, rather than having a private tour on Dec. 11. Parker County Historical Commission is scheduled to visit the house on Friday Dec. 12 at 9 a.m. followed by a tour of the courthouse, the museum and lunch together at Grumps. Everyone is invited to attend.

Chair Neeley presented a written quote from Lowes for \$102.20, for drill bits for installing Historic Landmark Plaques, a bathroom doorknob set, 1 case of water, 1 metal wreath hanger, rat/mouse bait, and a box 13 gal. kitchen trash bags for Dotey House.

Amy Nichols made a motion to purchase the items at the not-to-exceed amount of \$125.00; 2nd by Steve Wells; Motion approved by show of hands.

Chair thanked those who helped clean and make minor repairs.

Other workdays will be scheduled for the week of Candlewalk, including Dec. 5.

Community Service will come weekly and early the morning of Candlewalk for last-minute yardwork.

Vivian Wright will bring a period dress for display and as noted above, Steve Wells will bring a CSA officer's coat and hat owned by Gordon Wells. The clothing will remain on display in the Dotey House bedroom until after December 12.

Discussion followed about borrowing the Stereoscope from the museum (tabled at the October meeting) and having an appointee demonstrate it during Candlewalk. Because JCHC does not have enough docents to provide someone to demonstrate it, the Stereoscope will not be borrowed this year.

A sign-up sheet for volunteers to be at the house during Candlewalk was updated.

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Undocumented quilts will be offered by Friends of JCHC during Candlewalk in exchange for donations and some barbed wire wreaths that were donated, in addition to t-shirts, books, etc.

All docents are invited to tour the (5) SOC ticketed houses at 11 a.m. Dec. 7, the day after Candlewalk. Dotey House will be offered for tours after the docents have seen all the ticketed houses.

Decorations will be removed, stored, and the furniture covered, etc. in January - date to be determined.

Former JCHC appointee and County Treasurer Barbara Robinson loaned several pieces of furniture to the Dotey House but only for her lifetime. Mrs. Robinson has been asked to put her wishes in writing and send JCHC a copy.

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

97 visitors including from North Carolina, Arkansas and Virginia.

Research on Johnson County's first sheriff Mr. Onstott. (It was mentioned that 2 men are listed in the vault index as being the county's first sheriff and that this error should be corrected to reflect which man was actually first)

Memorandum of Donation form and photograph from former County Judge Joe Durham c/o Sandy Sims was presented for a handmade quilt featuring the Johnson County Flag. It will be for use at the Dotey House. Danny Doggett moved to accept the quilt; Motion 2nd and approved by show of hands.

There were no expenditures.

Chair, Amy Nichols and James Neeley took inventory of 350 books at JCHC's storage facility (aka The Cage) in October. The books resulted from a 50-year loan accepted in 2011 by then county Judge Roger Harmon. The donor has passed away and the organization he represented no longer exists. Judge Boedeker will instruct JCHC how to proceed. 1 additional box of books (also part of the collection) from the courthouse museum will be taken to the storage facility.

Many items found in storage that are listed in the vault index as 'missing' continue to be returned to the museum, including items from Jack Carlton and the Emmett Brown collection.

Marsha Buckner was not present to report on scanning of the Zetta Rice photographs. (tabled until the January meeting)

Chair reported the Bob Bullock Museum declined to use items from the restored courthouse cornerstone but asked about unique architecture inside the building. Photographs were provided and it is possible they will be used in a special exhibit in 2026 featuring restored courthouses. JCHC is to be notified in December.

F. Burleson: Pat Dexheimer and Vivian Wright do not yet have a date for the paranormal investigation fund raiser for Burleson Heritage Foundation. It will be scheduled in December or January. The actual date will be shared with JCHC as soon as it is available.

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

Over 194 issues of the Cleburne Eagle News newspapers were found at JCHC's storage facility. The Portal requested they be delivered by Sept. 1, 2026. JCHC will vote to send, pay invoices that result, etc. in June or July, 2026.

40 audio tapes of Jack Carlton talking about various historic sites were found in storage. Amy Nichols will obtain an estimate of charges to have them digitized at UNT/The Portal. Pricing may be available in January.

Chair mentioned a photograph of the laying of the cornerstone for the current courthouse that was found at the storage facility as another example of unexplained treasures stored there.

Meeting Adjourned

Amy Nichols, Secretary

Note: Each appointee should receive these Nov. 2025 minutes in a 2nd mail-out in January 2026 that will also include the January 26, 2026, meeting Agenda and Calendar of Events.