

JOHNSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting March 23, 2026

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

Sandra Neeley, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6 pm, presiding over the meeting following the printed agenda. Tracy Oaks voiced the invocation followed by pledges to the United States and Texas flags.

Chair welcomed guests Terry's Texas Rangers SCV Camp #1937, former appointees Dale Dexheimer of Burleson and Wade Chaney of Cleburne, plus Steve and Sue Willis of Midlothian

Roll Call: (11 appointees present; 4 excused)

Steve Wells, Commander of Terry's Texas Rangers, read the March 1999 Texas Governor's Senate Proclamation #526 that April is Confederate History Month in Texas. Other TTR members present were Steve Willis, Wade Chaney and James Neeley.

Announcements: Chair mentioned if anyone wants to visit Andy Asberry at home, they should call first so the gate can be opened.

Secretary's Report: Secretary Amy Nichols offered February 23, 2026 minutes for approval as printed and mailed. Nita Redmon made a motion to accept the minutes; 2nd by Steve Holcomb; Approved by show of hands.

Treasurer's Report: (Copies on sign-in table)

Treasurer James Neeley reported YTD encumbrances of \$1,510.20, YTD expenses of \$8,599.01 and an available balance of \$31,890.79.

Save Old Cleburne 2026 dues of \$20 were paid from donations collected at the February meeting.

Charlotte Lawson made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report; 2nd by Danny Doggett; Approved by show of hands

New JCHC color brochures voted to purchase at the February meeting have arrived.

JCHC's **next Fiscal Year Budget** was submitted to the Budget Coordinator with no changes.

Old Business:

Saying the Johnson County courthouse is "*unique and beautiful*" the **Bob Bullock Museum** declined to use interior photographs of the building JCHC provided at the Museum's request, citing lack of exhibit space.

No update on the **courthouse grant application**.

New Business:

Next JCHC meeting **Monday April 27, 2026** at the Dotey House.

James and Sandra Neeley will attend Texas Historical Commission's Real Places conference in Austin April 8-11.

Committee Reports:

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

The THM for Brazos Point Bridge should be received soon. The Judge's office will determine the dedication date.

He and his staff have copies of former dedication programs. JCHC last dedicated a THM in 2019 at the Confederate Arch in Cleburne Memorial Cemetery.

Ben Head was not present to give an update on the stand he is making to hold the photo etching on metal of the Bridge's original dedication in 1919.

No one is working on Texas Historic Cemetery status for Kyle-Bullard since Andy Asberry became ill.

Rowena Larson is working on Historic Cemetery status for Buel Cemetery.

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B. Johnson County Historic Landmark Plaques and Narratives & Texas Treasure Businesses - Nita Redmon Chair
JN Long Historic Landmark Plaque dedication will be Saturday April 25, 2026 at 12 noon during Springfest.

Updates on 2 Historic Landmark Plaques / Narratives JCHC voted to bestow at the February meeting.
Steve Wells is working on Burger Bar and the American Legion has not submitted an application. Project Chair Redmon will contact the American Legion.

C. Friends of JCHC: - Chair Neeley spoke with Andy Asberry (Pres. of Friends) who reported that Friends of JCHC has disbanded, the bank account closed and Friends Treasurer Christy Morton is no longer a member.
JCHC requested (via Danny Doggett) what Friends wants to do with their inventory stored in the building behind Dotey House. The only other known members are Wilma Reed and former JCHC appointee Mike Mills.

Andy advised that **JN Long building's fund** to repair roof damage is being considered for a possible donation from Friends of JCHC.

He also stated Friends of JCHC plans to pay JCHC dues to **Save Old Cleburne** for 2027, 28 and 29. JCHC Treasurer James Neeley requested a receipt for dues paid in advance on behalf of JCHC.

Chair read statements found online that pertain to a "Friends of" organization when it disbands.

D. Dotey-Kirkham House

Chair presented a \$1,530 quote from Prime Source Construction of Johnson County to replace the front gutters with metal, covered gutters and new downspouts, remove, and haul away the old gutters.

Amy Nichol made motion; 2nd by Steve Holcomb to approve buying white metal gutters, gutter covers and downspouts per Prime Source Construction quote of March 9, 2026 in the amount of \$1,530.00
Motion approved by show of hands.

Facilities will inspect the house - especially the living room floor which is not level near the record player and the kitchen ceiling.

Melaine Holcomb reported it would be very difficult if not impossible to repair the 1937 Friendship quilt. It was suggested the 35 names be researched. Steve Willis volunteered to help.
Discussion followed about the importance of confirming the ladies named have a Johnson County connection and hopefully learning what church, club, or organization they belonged to. A scrapbook could hold the squares and info about the ladies' names and a portion of the quilt framed and hung in the bedroom.

E. Museum Report (Copies on the sign-in table) read by Secretary Amy Nichols

103 visitors including from Minnesota, Arkansas, and Oklahoma

8-1/2 volunteer hours (Wed. volunteers Pat and Vivian)

Expenditures \$47.38 for museum supplies

Chair noted that JCHC appointees should go to the storage facility at the Sheriff's Dept. in Mid to late April to sort the 350 books stored there. Facilities will send 2-3 people to assist with lifting and sorting.

A JCHC appointee representing Terry's Texas Rangers SCV Camp #1937 will go along and take the CSA books JCHC voted to give them. Genealogical and non-Johnson Co. books will be passed on to their respective locations as JCHC voted to do at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

Chair reminded appointees to suggest non-profits that might want the Texas and American Indian books.

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Inventory: A box for Jack Carlton's miscellaneous items is being created. It will include the audio tapes The Portal to Texas History is unable to digitize, plus 3 cassette recorders/players.

F. Burleson: Pat Dexheimer reported a paranormal investigation / fundraiser for Burleson Heritage Foundation will be the last Friday in June. Burleson Founders Day will be October 10, 2026. Terry's Texas Rangers SCV Camp was invited to set up a display.

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

JCHC will vote at the June meeting to send the next submission to The Portal in mid to late August and reimburse for delivery.

Chair Neeley reported copies have been made and IDs are being sought so some of Mrs. Zetta Rice's scrapbook / photo collection can be submitted to The Portal in August.

JCHC was advised that when the next submission is delivered, JCHC's July and October 2025 submissions should be ready to be picked up.

Meeting Adjourned

Amy Nichols, Secretary