

**Minutes of Meeting
Coppell Historical Society
Saturday, November 14, 2015**

Present: Pete Wilson, Jan Lorrain, Richard Lee, Barbara Lee, Lloyd Webb, Joyce Webb, Phil LaBerge, Cecil Dobecka, Don Carter, Chris Long, Cliff Long, Betsy Wilcox, Shaun Jex, Alice Frawley, Pat Quinlan, Pat Lambert, Jackie Parrish, Fran Richardson

President Don Carter called the meeting in the Kirkland House to order at 1:10 p.m.

Phil LaBerge presented a program on the history of cotton production in Coppell and the nation. He started by having Joyce Ledbetter Webb read her recollections of cotton farming on her family's farm that was east of Coppell, between Coppell and Carrollton on Beltline Road. The cotton from that farm was taken to a gin in Coppell, located on S. Coppell Road, approximately midway between Bethel Road and the railroad, and the gin was operated by Bert Parrish. Joyce displayed a cash book listing cotton farming information from 1934-44. Cecil Dobecka presented a photo of some of his family working the cotton fields.

Phil presented the history of cotton farming and its relationship to land ownership and transportation, identifying the impact that cotton farming had on local farmers, imports and exports, and even political developments. Some facts that he presented included: Cotton was grown 5,000 years ago, and it spread throughout the world. It is Texas' leading crop, even now. The first cotton plantation in Texas was created in 1822. There were two cotton gins in Coppell – one on present Freeport started in 1902, and another on S. Coppell Road started in 1930.

After the opening program, the business meeting started.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved unanimously. Moved by Jan Lorrain; seconded by Shaun Jex.

The treasurer's report by Jan Lorrain was approved unanimously as presented. Pete Wilson moved; Betsy Wilcox seconded. It showed the following:

City Grant Fund:

No income

Expenses (supplies for October's educational activity) \$44.58

Balance \$4,981.32

General Operating Fund:

Income (dues) \$80.00

No expenses

Balance \$10,787.91

CD Reserve:

Approximate balance \$20,326.4

Jan reported that the contract from the city to receive our annual grant has been received.

Committee reports:

Heritage Park Committee (acquisitions): Pat Quinlan reported no new acquisitions. Don Carter reported that a checkbook from the first bank in Coppell has been given to the Society by Dave McIntire. The blank checks in the book are dated the teens of 1900.

Historical Marker Committee: Pete Wilson reported that progress on additional markers is currently held up while waiting for input from the owners of the old post office building (now the *Citizen's Advocate* office). Matt Steer, with the City, has agreed to intercede to try to get the owners to consent to a marker in front of the building. Once that is accomplished, the committee will proceed to design and install as many as three markers at once.

Historic Preservation Committee: Pat Lambert suggested that the committee is considering reducing the number of plaques for historic trees by integrating text about the trees into text about other nearby historic sites. She mentioned that the Chamber of Commerce is moving out of its current location in the old First Baptist Church, and the future of that building is uncertain.

Archives Committee: Pat Quinlan reported for Dave Murph that no new activity has taken place. (Work has been completed for the present.)

Education Committee: Pat Quinlan, reporting for Jean Murph, detailed the following upcoming activities:

December 1, 10:00 a.m. – Set up and decorate the Society's Christmas tree near the windmill. Everyone is invited to help.

December 5 – During the Old Town's Christmas celebration, the Society will have refreshments inside the Kirkland House. Shaun Jex will be playing music on the porch of the Kirkland House. This event will serve as the Society's December meeting.

There are no more scheduled open houses at Heritage Park until March.

Old business:

Jan Lorrain reported that she is helping Dave Murph prepare the archeological materials for a new display at the Senior Center.

New business:

Jan Lorrain mentioned that an inventory of the items in the Minyard Store has been complete for some time, but there are items listed that are not identified. She invited anyone to take on research that would provide additional information. Don Carter suggested that maybe a book could be prepared that allows persons to write down whatever they might know about an item as they glance through the book.

It was reported that Bennett Ratliff has said that one of our photos online has misidentified the person in the photo. The photo is of a man standing in a large open room. Ratliff says that the man is his great-grandfather, standing in his general store. Don said that he would make the correction.

There was discussion about having a book-signing event for Shaun Jex's new book, which is due to be available for general sale on November 23. Shaun presented an advance complimentary copy of the book to the Society.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p.m.