



HERITAGE BRAZOS

The Newsletter of the Brazos Heritage Society



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President's Message

At the end of February Nat Hilliard completed her second term as President of the Brazos Heritage Society. During her two terms in this leadership position she created energy and enthusiasm within the organization, she caused the delivery of a number of successful programs and activities, and she was, without a doubt, a good steward of all that which she was entrusted. We owe her a debt of gratitude for her remarkable service to the Society, both in the past and continuing.

During the year I serve as President, and with the help of a very able Executive Committee, I intend to continue on the course set by Nat and build on it. Elected and appointed members of the Executive Committee include:

Isabel McPartlin, Vice President
Kyle Kovel, Secretary
Beverly Myers, Treasurer
Nat Hilliard, Immediate Past President
Tom McDonald, Of Counsel
Sheila Fields, Research Chair
Randy and Stephanie Hilliard, Special Events Co-Chairs
Linda Roberts and Lee Davison, Eastside Historic District Co-Chairs

Over the past several weeks members of the Executive Committee have been meeting and have created two new committees to better serve the membership and the resources of the Society.

The first is the Events Committee, responsible for coordinating the signature event of the Society – the Independence Day festivities in Heritage Park. In addition, this committee will work with other committees to produce activities, such as the Christmas Stroll and the Victorian Tea. Further, this committee will take the lead in representing the Brazos Heritage Society, along with other members of the Executive Committee, at various community events. Finally, this committee will develop and host “day trips” for Society members to historic sites and will explore the development of programs of interest to our members. We are grateful to Randy and Stephanie Hilliard for assuming responsibility for this vitally important committee.

The second new committee created is the Eastside Historic District Committee. The mission of this committee is to promote and preserve this historic district of Bryan by: developing an annual plan for the district; identifying areas for improvement and enhancement; providing stewardship of Heritage

Park; with the assistance of the Events Committee, conducting activities that favorably highlight the Society and the district; and advertising events in the district and park. We are indeed fortunate that Linda Roberts and Lee Davison have volunteered to co-chair this committee.

While our plans are to continue to mail out a paper newsletter to the membership, much more information may be found on our electronic newsletter – *Heritage Brazos* – at the following link: <http://heritagebrazos.blogspot.com>. On a monthly basis, or when time sensitive information needs to be disseminated, we will send out notices to the members' emails we have on hand.

Members interested in serving on any of the committees or becoming more involved in the activities of the Brazos Heritage Society are encouraged to contact me or any member of the Executive Committee.

Dan Beto, President

Monument Dedicated for Richardson Perry

On Wednesday, March 27, 2013, members of the William Joel Bryan Chapter No. 14 of the Sons of the Republic of Texas dedicated a cenotaph to the memory of Richardson Perry (1817-1836) at the historic Steep Hollow Cemetery located a few miles east of Bryan.

Blair Fannin, the Chapter Publicist, welcomed those in attendance and served as master of ceremonies for the dedicatory ceremony. George Nelson, Chapter President, provided an invocation and John Hick, Chapter Vice President, lead those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge to the Texas Flag. That was followed by the singing of "Texas, Our Texas." Mervin Peters, the Chapter Secretary, provided remarks on the historical significance of Richardson Perry to Brazos County and to the Republic of Texas. Following these brief remarks, the cenotaph was unveiled and the ceremony concluded with a benediction.

The Steep Hollow Cemetery is located on land that was originally part of the Richardson Perry League. Perry, born in Hancock County, Mississippi, in 1817, came to Texas with his father, Burwell Perry, an early settler. The younger Perry was single and received a land grant in Brazos County on October 10, 1835.

Perry took part in the siege of Bexar and later served in the Alamo garrison as a private in Captain William R. Carey's artillery company. He died in the battle of the Alamo on March 6, 1836.

The Steep Hollow Cemetery has been designated a Historic Texas Cemetery by the Texas Historical Commission.

Additional information about Richardson Perry and the Steep Hollow Cemetery may be accessed at the following links: <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fpe77>; http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Alamo_defenders; <http://www.brazoscountyhistory.org/node/76>; and <http://www.brazoscountyhistory.org/sites/bchc/files/SteepHollowCemetery.pdf>.

Several members of the Brazos Heritage Society were present at this impressive ceremony.

Annual Membership Meeting Held

On February 24, 2013, the Brazos Heritage Society held its annual membership meeting at the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History. Shortly after 2:00 PM President Nat Hilliard called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. She provided a report on her two terms as President of the Society. This report was a recap of her "President's Message" printed in the January 2013 issue of *Heritage Brazos*.

Following President Hilliard's presentation, in which she thanked past and current members of the Society's Executive Committee, she introduced Mervin Peters, Secretary of William Joel Bryan Chapter No. 14 of the Sons of the Republic of Texas, who provided an informative presentation on the relocation project of the historically significant Turner-Peters Dogtrot Log Cabin, currently located on property owned by TMPA in Grimes County. It is the plan of his organization to have the cabin moved to property adjacent to the Boonville Cemetery. Mr. Peters expressed his appreciation to members of the Brazos Heritage Society for supporting this undertaking.

After this presentation, President Hilliard brought up several business items. The minutes from the February 26, 2012, were approved.

The Society's financial status was also approved. According to the Treasurer's Report, the Society began 2012 with a balance of \$15,580.77, and ended the year with \$14,143.99.

Sheila Fields, Research Chair, provided a report on the Boonville Jail Community Marker, for which there was a dedication ceremony held on September 28, 2012. During her remarks, she thanked members of the Duncum family for their wholehearted support of this project.

Her presentation was followed by a report on the status of Heritage Park by Stephanie and Randy Hilliard, Heritage Park Co-Chairs. Quite a few trees have been planted in accordance with the park's master plan, but more will be needed.

Kyle Kovel, the Society's Secretary, was called upon to provide a report from the Nominating Committee and to conduct the election of the 2013 officers. Mr. Kovel reported that the Nominating Committee had met and developed the following slate of officers:

Dan Beto for President;
Isabel McPartlin for Vice President;
Kyle Kovel for Secretary; and
Beverly Myers for Treasurer.

Mr. Kovel then asked for nominations from the floor; there were none, and a motion was made and seconded that the slate be approved by acclamation. This motion carried.

President Hilliard then offered some concluding remarks and invited everyone to stay for the reception and to avail themselves of a private viewing of the historic Astin family clothes exhibit.

Treasurer's Report

The following is an overview of the financial condition of the Brazos Heritage Society as of March 25, 2013.

At Prosperity Bank we have a certificate of deposit valued at \$8,384.43 and our checking account at the bank has a balance of \$5,214.07, for a total of \$13,598.50.

For more detailed information about the Society's financial condition, please do not hesitate to contact me at 979-229-9414 or by email at mycobra@suddenlink.net.

Beverly Myers, Treasurer

Membership Chair Sought

The Executive Committee of the Brazos Heritage Society is seeking a member to serve as Membership Chair; the job description follows:

Job Description

Scope:

The Membership Chair is responsible for all activities involving the solicitation and maintenance of the active membership; the Chair also performs various administrative and support duties for the organization.

Specific Tasks and Duties:

This position is responsible for:

- maintaining the master membership list in a spreadsheet program;
- keeping an updated address book for label preparation;
- keeping all membership forms updated;
- maintaining a file for membership applications and paper backup for all pertinent additional information;
- writing and sending thank you notes to all new members; and,
- forwarding any money received for membership fees to the Treasurer.

Authority:

The Membership Chair is a member of the Executive Committee.

The individual filling this position must obtain prior approval of the President or the Board for any expenditures.

Contact:

Persons interested, and those requiring additional information, are encouraged to contact Dan Beto at 979-822-1273 or dan.beto@gmail.com.