

MEETING MINUTES

March 28, 2012

The William Joel Bryan Chapter #14 – Bryan of the Sons of the Republic of Texas held our regular meeting on Wednesday, March 28, 2012 with the addition of a Republic of Texas Citizen Memorial Service preceding the luncheon.

The Memorial Service was conducted in Boonville Cemetery, the old town site of Boonville and the Brazos County seat in the early years before the arrival of trains caused the center of commerce to move a few short miles west. This service began at 11AM with twenty-one attending and adjourned at 11:25. Included were the normal formalities led by Publicist Blair Fannin, Vice President John Hicks and President George Nelson followed by recognition of the four documented Citizens of the Republic of Texas buried there: James I. Bowman, John Foley, Dr. John Leonard Randal and Harvey Mitchell. Following a reading of brief biographies of each by Secretary Mervin Peters, Vice President John Hicks led the 21 attendees to each grave site at which time he unveiled the Citizen medallion that had been placed there by the chapter. Following this, the meeting adjourned temporarily to reconvene at C&J Bar-B-Que as soon as everyone could make the short trip.

Following lunch at about 12:10 President George Nelson called the re-convened meeting to order. Attending were twenty-four consisting of eighteen members including applicant Roland Searcy, two DRT members, Pamela Beltrand, Boonville caretaker, two media representatives and guest speaker Walter Buenger. Included among those were Past President General and chapter member Charlie Briggs, III and Anna Robertson Kellett, President of Robert Henry Chapter of Daughters of the Republic of Texas

Chapter President Nelson welcomed everyone and introduced the visitors that also included Angela Fannin, member of Robert Henry Chapter, KAGS TV, NBC Affiliate reporter Monica Castro and Mike South, videographer who is chronicling various activities of the chapter. President Nelson then called for an Honor Roll of members.

Business matters were then addressed. Treasurer Briggs submitted a written report showing that the account balance as of this date was \$3,747.46 after having paid for the Citizen Medallions and stones and for their mounting. The minutes for February stood approved by previously agreed procedure as no corrections were offered. President Nelson reported that our chapter Archives book, prepared by Mervin Peters, had been awarded first place in judging at the annual meeting in Kerrville for chapters in our membership size category.

Secretary Peters was then asked to briefly review a new proposed project for consideration. It is to apply for a Texas Historical Marker for Richardson Perry, recipient of a Texas Land Grant in 1835 in Brazos county and known as the R. Perry #44 Survey. Perry shortly thereafter went to San Antonio and was engaged in the Siege of the Alamo and then perished as an Alamo Defender. Perry is the only known Alamo Defender that had any involvement or ownership in Brazos County. It was suggested that we might

encourage individual donations of \$50 or \$100 to underwrite the anticipated cost of \$700 to \$1,300 so as not to use any of the chapter's limited operating funds. Motion was made by Tom McDonald and seconded by John Hicks that the project be approved and was approved without any no votes. Following the meeting the chapter received three donations of \$100 each and further encouragement that others might follow.

All business matters being covered, Secretary Peters introduced the day's program and speaker, Walter Buenger, Professor of History at TAMU. Buenger teaches courses in U.S. History, The History of the South and Texas History. His research has a focus on Texas since 1820. The program was Life in Texas: 1820-1846. An active member Q&A followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 PM following a benediction by President Nelson.

Respectfully submitted,
Mervin Peters, Secretary (3/28/12)