

Guiceland Cemetery Newsletter

April 2018

Jimmy's Mutterings

Joe Garrison is making progress in getting a digital record of grave locations and reservations of burial plots. George Wallace, Jo Oster and Christy Harris have provided assistance in cataloging location of current grave sites. When completed, this information will be available online. Total cost of this project (software purchase) will be less than \$1000.00. This project along with all activities at Guiceland Cemetery are accomplished with donations of dollars and time and effort of patrons interested in future and legacy of Guiceland Cemetery. All contributions of time and money are greatly appreciated.

The Veterans Memorial stone monument is finished and ready to be installed when funds are available in the Veterans Memorial Fund. After paying for the monument, electrical supplies and flagpole, we still need and additional \$1500.00 for the concrete pad to complete the memorial.

The Board of Directors is exploring if there is any interest in a Columbarium as part of the future of Guiceland. Your thoughts and recommendations are requested on this subject.

Looking forward to seeing you at the annual meeting at 10:00 AM at the Guiceland Memorial Service and Gathering **May 27, 2018**. Please plan to attend and expose the younger generation to the cemetery in the country and "Dinner On The Grounds" with family and friends.

Happy Trails,

Jimmy Gaines

Plots, Markers, Donations, and Other Information

Please remember to confirm your burial plot reservations. The "old" system of marking your plot with corner stones has been abandoned since the markers became lost in the sand. **ALL** reservations are recorded on the plat held by George Wallace. The plat will be available for your review May 27.

Please notify George Wallace prior to placing markers and tombstones in the graveyard.

Donations may be made to Guiceland Cemetery Association. If you wish to donate to the Veterans Memorial Fund, please make checks to Guiceland Veteran Memorial Fund. Donations may be mailed to Guiceland Cemetery Association, P. O. Box 571, Grapeland, TX 75844.

The Guiceland Chapel and grounds may be reserved for family reunions, funerals, etc. by calling George Wallace 903-986-6117.

If you are interested in participating in the permanent fund, please contact a board member for additional details. Donations are tax deductible.

Recent Burials at Guiceland

	DOB	DOD	Section	Row	Plot
Nancy Franklin	9/10/1951	3/28/2017	North	37	5
James Lee Long	1/1/1939	6/29/2017	North	7	5
Billy S. Chaffin	12/26/1953	7/16/2017	West	5	13
Sherri Jo Chaffin	1/20/1955	12/7/2011	West	5	13
Katie Irene Young	12/3/1917	8/17/2017	North	18	3
John Paul Jones	9/5/1957	9/8/2017	North	27	13
Dorothy Cain	8/19/1926	9/10/2017	West	6	83
Reavis E. Leatherwood	6/24/1926	11/14/2017	West	2	60
Floyd Salmon	9/23/1933	1/6/2018	North	26	14
A. Melba Wallace	5/4/1926	3/4/2018	South	7	12
Willard Hataway	12/3/1957	3/24/2018	South	9	13

In the north east corner of the old sections near the Guiceland Cemetery Historical Commission marker there is the grave of a baby. If you have any information about the baby or family of the baby, or if you have any information about any other unmarked grave, please contact George Wallace or Jimmie Gaines. We would like to have the information for the permanent record for the cemetery.

Veterans Buried at Guiceland

There are 145 veterans buried at Guiceland. We strive to place the appropriate flag on the grave of each veteran buried at Guiceland every Memorial Day. If we have missed placing a flag on the grave of someone who was a veteran, please contact one of the board members and we will make sure that a flag will be placed on that grave.

Board Members

David Franklin	Donna Garrison McEwen
Joe Garrison	Jo Morehead Oster 903-764-5906
Jimmie Gaines 361-215-1048	Tracy Salmon
Christy Harris	George Wallace 903-986-6117

Work Day

Saturday, May 5 we will have a work day at Guiceland at 9:00 AM. If you are able to help with the various tasks we have planned, your assistance will be greatly appreciated. Be sure to bring a hat, gloves, and any other items you might need.

William J. Chaffin, Jr. 1857-1939

Guiceland Cemetery is the resting place of many persons from families whose histories run deep in Texas but perhaps none is more well-known than those associated with the Parker Family.

The Parker Family, led by patriarch John Parker, entered Texas in 1833. Parker had served in the American Revolution and was recruited by Stephen F. Austin to come to Texas. John and two of his sons, Ben and Silas, were killed in a Comanche raid on Fort Parker in present-day Limestone County on May 19, 1836. Several family members, including Cynthia Ann Parker, were taken captive. The well-known John Wayne movie, *The Searchers*, was loosely based on this Comanche attack.

Now we look at one of the descendants, William Joseph Chaffin, Jr., whose final resting place is at Guiceland. William J. Chaffin, Jr., known as "Buck," was born September 5, 1856, and died December 26, 1938 according to his death certificate, although his tombstone gives the years 1857-1939. Buck's father, William Joseph Chaffin, Sr., served in the Elkhart Cavalry, Confederate Army, also in the Confederate 5th Texas Cavalry. Buck's grandmother was Rebecca Parker Chaffin, daughter of Ben Parker and granddaughter of John Parker, both killed at Fort Parker. Rebecca had been evacuated from the fort before the Comanches arrived.

When Buck's grandfather Eli Chaffin died, his grandmother Lavinia married James W. Parker. James Parker was who the John Wayne character Ethan Edwards in *The Searchers* was based on. Buck lived a quiet life as a farmer in Houston County and was active in the Grapeland Masonic Lodge, serving many years as Secretary of the Lodge.

William J. "Buck" Chaffin, Jr. – son of a Confederate Veteran, grandson of Texas Ranger and martyr Ben Parker, great-grandson of Revolutionary War and Texas pioneer John Parker, and step-grandson of Texas pioneer James W. Parker. He is another of the hardy pioneer stock that helped settle the area around Guiceland Cemetery and now his earthly remains lie in hallowed ground in our Cemetery.

