

# Guiceland Cemetery Newsletter

April 2016

## JIMMY'S MUTTERINGS

Activity at Guiceland Cemetery was normal and unexciting last year – no crisis and no surprises. The Board of Directors welcome the newest member, Jo Oster, along with her input and work on publishing the annual Newsletter. Your suggestions and contributions to the Newsletter and suggestions for improving the Newsletter are welcomed and encouraged.

The vote by members at the 2015 annual meeting to proceed with plans to erect a Veterans Memorial has produced a start of the project by getting cost estimates and a variety of suggestions for the placement, type, and design of the Memorial. We have not reached any final decisions OR contributions toward the funding of the Memorial.

Brian Willis has informed the board that he will retire from his position on the board at the expiration of his term in May 2016. We thank him for his service and initiate in organizing and supervising a record of the burial plot reservations and burials. We are seeking volunteer(s) to fill his board position and duties as Caretaker. Please contact any board member if you or someone you know is interested in this position. A replacement for Brian will be elected at the 2016 Annual Meeting at 10:00 o'clock May 29. This is a "High Paying" job that requires attending 3-4 board meetings per year. Other board members with expiring terms are Jimmy Gaines and Tracy Salmon.

Joe Garrison will be assuming the record keeping duties of reserved burial plots.

Happy Trails,

Jimmy Lynn

Maintenance of your Guiceland Cemetery is provided by your Beneficial Donations and earnings from the Permanent Endowment Fund. We thank Mr. J. Reese Killion for his contribution to the Permanent Endowment Fund this year. Our mailing address is: P. O. Box 571, Grapeland, TX 75844.

Please remember to confirm that your plot reservations are correct on the "official plat". There is NO charge for reservations. There is a \$100 grave opening fee at the time of burial. If you have plots reserved that you no longer require, please inform Joe Garrison for correction on the "official plat".

The annual Meeting and election of Board of Directors will be held at 10:00 o'clock prior to the program at the Guiceland Memorial Day gathering **Sunday, May 29, 2019**

The work day for Guiceland Cemetery is **Saturday, May 14, 2016 at 9:00 AM**. Be sure to bring a hat, gloves, water and any tools you might need.

### RECENT BURIALS AT GUICELAND

	DOB	DOD	Section	Row	Plot
Mary Lois Trigg Morehead	5/11/19	2/13/15	North	12	9
Devoin Garrison	9/8/22	3/4/15	Old	16	7
Tommy Caskey	1/15/54	5/27/15	South	7	19
Arthur Frey	12/3/45	12/17/14	Old	1	6
Frank J. Kimmey	1/12/29	7/17/14	South	9	20
Gary Hobbs	5/17/29	7/24/15	North	27	11
Perry Richburg	2/22/23	8/23/15	West	4	30
Gilbert Wallace	3/11/26	11/20/15	South	7	15
Beverly Cook	1/18/54	12/18/15	West	6	24
Connie Bowan	6/28/58	12/18/15	West	5	13
Jo Ann Walker	1/24/37	1/5/16	Old	22	48
Bobby Gene Wells	5/24/37	1/25/16	Old	3	40
John W. Van Bibber	8/9/35	3/4/16	North	27	5

### CONTACT INFORMATION FOR BOARD MEMBERS

Joe Chaffin	903-724-5330	Donna Garrison McEwen	903-721-2826
David Franklin	214-671-4154	Jo Morehead Oster	903-764-5906
Joe Garrison	903-780-4024	Tracy Salmon	903-546-4644
Jimmy Gaines	361-215-7048	Pat Wallace	903-724-8409



## JOSEPH T. BOWMAN

Two historical markers are displayed at Guiceland Cemetery. One refers to the cemetery itself and the other is for a man pretty much lost in our collective memories.

The text of the marker reads:

**Joseph T. Bowman** – A native of Illinois, Joseph T. Bowman was the son of Jesse B Bowman, who died at the Alamo. Arriving in Texas in 1835, Joseph T. Bowman enlisted in a company known as U. S. Provisionals in Nacogdoches. In December 1835 he signed the Golaid Declaration of Independence, which resolved that Texas should become an independent Mexican state. Following the Texas Revolution, he served in the Republic of Texas Army. He and his family settled in this area about 1845. Married to the former Naphania Hardin, Joseph was the father of ten children.

It appears Joseph was born in Gallatin County, Illinois and moved to Camden, Arkansas by 1824. Four years later, he moved to Hempstead County, Arkansas. According to the Daughters of the Republic of Texas archives, Jesse and Joseph crossed the Red River from Arkansas about 1833 and "became involved in the growing conflict between American settlers and the Mexican government." Jesse Bowman received a land grant in Red River County, Texas after Jesse died at the Battle of the Alamo. Joseph continued the struggle against the oppressive Mexican regime of Santa Anna. According to the Texas State Historical Association, Joseph served in the Texas Army during the Texas Revolution. After Texas became independent, Joseph returned to Hempstead County, Arkansas where he married Martha Naphania Hardin on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January, 1843. Family stories say Martha had a common ancestor with the notorious Texas gunman, John Wesley Hardin. In 1850, Joseph and his family are listed as living in Bowie County, Texas and in 1860 in Houston County. Both instances he is listed as being a farmer.

There is a historical marker in Clarksville, Texas for Jesse Bowman which documents Jesse's service under Jim Bowie at the Alamo and mentions Joseph as his son.

Joseph's headstone at Guiceland lists his death year as 1883 with Martha following him in 1884. Many Bowmans still live in the Anderson County and Houston County area near Guiceland. Although not much more information is readily available on Joseph, he no doubt served his adopted home state of Texas in a very honorable fashion.

*There will be an alphabetical list of all veterans buried at Guiceland available for you to review at the Memorial Day Gathering.*



## THE HISTORY OF MEMORIAL DAY

Over two dozen cities and towns claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day, which was first known as Decoration Day. Many scholars credit Henry C. Wells of Waterloo, NY with creating the observance. He decided a day should be set aside to decorate the graves of Civil War soldiers. He first spoke about his plan at a social gathering in 1865. He approached Seneca County Clerk Gen. John B. Murray in early 1866 and they organized a committee to plan the observance. May 5, 1866 every business in Waterloo closed, buildings were draped with black streamers and all flags were flown at half-mast.

At the same time Gen. John A. Logan, Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, was organizing another event in Waterloo. His event would honor living veterans of the conflict. As part of the ceremony, Logan led attendees to a nearby cemetery and flags were placed on the graves. This was continued the next year. May 5, 1868 a proclamation was signed proclaiming May 30<sup>th</sup> as Decoration Day.

People in Columbus, GA insist that their city was the site of the first Memorial Day. They credit Lizzie Rutherford Ellis, a member of the Soldiers' Aid Society which was a group that operated a home for sick and wounded soldier during the Civil War, with suggesting an annual Memorial Day when they would visit and decorate the graves of dead soldiers. Some believe the event she organized took place on April 26, 1866...ten days before Waterloo.

The people of Boalsburg, PA maintain that the first Memorial Day took place in their village cemetery on Sunday, October 1864 when the Civil War was still raging. Emma Hunter and Sophie Keller went to the cemetery and placed a bouquet of flowers on the grave of Emma's father, a surgeon in the Union Army. Elizabeth Meyer was also visiting the cemetery that day to decorate the grave of her son, Amos, who was a private in the Union Army and died in the Battle of Gettysburg. The women talked about the bravery of their loved ones and Elizabeth took some of the flowers from her basket and laid them on the surgeon's grave. The women vowed to meet at the same time the next year and would decorate the graves of all the soldiers.

The matter was finally settled in 1966 when President Lyndon B. Johnson signed a proclamation recognizing Waterloo as the "Birthplace" of Memorial Day. While other communities held observances, none were as well-planned as Waterloo's with the closing of stores, ceremonies, and decorations. And none had the continuity of the yearly observance like the Waterloo event.

Guiceland Cemetery is proud to carry on the tradition of honoring our heroes by placing flags on the graves of all who have served our country. We have approximately 134 veterans buried at Guiceland. Seven brave souls gave their life while protecting our great country. We have veterans from CAS, WWI, WWII, Korea, and Viet Nam.