

Guiceland Cemetery Newsletter

April 2019

Jimmie's Mutterings

The last year at Guiceland Cemetery was a very active year without much getting done until very recently. The electric service was laid to the site of the Guiceland Veteran Memorial in June of 2018. Attempts to get the concrete work donated were unsuccessful for the next several months. Anderson County Monuments completed the stone monument in October 2018. A dry vein crack was discovered in December by Charles Starr at Anderson County Monument that required a replacement stone. The replacement stone arrived in April and will be completed and installed prior to the dedication on Memorial Day. Anderson County Monument Company has contributed financially and physically to the success of the Guiceland Veteran Memorial. The concrete pad was completed in March. Houston County Electric Cooperative set the flagpole (at no charge) in March. None of this would have happened without the outstanding support and financial contribution from the dedicated patrons of Guiceland Cemetery.

The Memorial Dedication on May 26, 2019 will be a great culmination of the work of many. We hope to see you and a veteran guest there.

Jimmie

Guiceland Plots, Markers, Donations, and Other Information

Prior to burial or placing a marker contact the caretaker George Wallace at 903-986-6117.

No other permanent objects or plants are permitted.

Contact the caretaker for all plot reservations.

As voted on and approved at the May 2018 meeting, we will not remove flowers at the annual clean-up day. Please remember some flowers are blown away by high winds or come out of the containers when we experience heavy rains. We try to put the flowers back at the appropriate site, but that is not always possible. Many flowers and arrangements end up by the fence row, in the road, or in the pasture.

Approximately two weeks after a funeral, we will clean the grave site. Artificial flowers will be left at the site. If the family wishes to clean the grave, please notify one of the Guiceland board members at the time of the funeral. We strive to have at least one board member at every service at Guiceland.

Please do not use glass vases as they may be broken by the mowers. There are many plastic and metal vases available at dollar stores or hobby stores. You might also wish to cut PVC pipe, which comes in various sizes and is available at most hardware stores, to fit the size you desire.

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** plot reservations are recorded on the plat held by George Wallace. The plat will be available for your review May 26.

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

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

Guiceland Chapel and grounds may be reserved for family reunions, funerals, etc. by calling George Wallace.

Guiceland Heroes

Those of us who love Guiceland Cemetery are especially proud of our veterans. Some of our veterans served during wartime and saw combat. These are a special class to me. Within THAT class, there is an even more special group: those who gave their lives for us. Any service member knows when they sign up that sacrifice could be required, although I'm sure it is never expected.

We have several buried in Guiceland who gave that ultimate sacrifice, from SGT J. E. Johnston and Calvin L. Smith in Korea to Willie Morris and Cooper Hodges in WW 1 to George Crawford in WW 2.

In this article I would like to focus on one of our most recent losses, Ray Chaffin of Slocum. Ray was a graduate of Slocum High School. Ray's dad, Brock, was my grandmother's brother and I remember Ray well as he lived right across a sand field from where I grew up.

According to the website honorstates.org, Ray served during the Vietnam War. The start of his tour was July 9, 1968. Ray had the rank of Specialist Four with an occupation or specialty of Light Weapons Infantry and he served with the 25th Infantry Division, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry, B Company. Ray was severely wounded on October 29, 1968 by a booby trap with an explosive device in Tay Ninh province, South Vietnam. He is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington, DC, Panel 40w, Line 53. I have been honored to trace his name from that panel.

Ray's awards from the US Army include: Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman Badge, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Distinguished Unit Citation, Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation, and Good Conduct Medal.

Ray is remembered fondly by those of us who knew him and honored by all who love America. We thank God for your life of service Ray. Rest in God's hands.



David Franklin

Recent Burials at Guiceland

	DOB	DOD	Section	Row	Plot
James Curry	8/1/1968	4/1/2018	North	1	4
Everett Seagler	6/17/1965	5/22/2018	North	0	12
Charles E. Smith	2/16/1935	6/12/2018	Old	18	53
Robert Carvell	2/20/1938	6/19/2018	South	17	1
Margaret L. Burris	7/29/1929	5/29/2018	West	3	58
George P. Faulk	11/12/1942	8/8/2018	South	6	18
Steve G. Salmon	10/19/1957	9/29/2018	Old	3	35
Crese Lucille Herod	2/28/1936	9/11/2018	Old	3	29
Lillie Faye Boone	9/8/1928	11/7/2018	South	9	10
Charles Crawford	9/27/1939	11/22/2018	West	5	21
Marie Gibson	8/1/1940	11/22/2018	West	5	13
Reaoma Stiegler	5/23/1940	11/18/2018	West	2	73
Kimberly S. Holcomb			West	3	72
Johnnie Weaver	2/19/1946	3/19/2019	West	6	93
LeAnn Elizabeth McKinney	1/27/1996	3/19/2019	South	3	26

Veterans buried at Guiceland

We have over 150 veterans buried at Guiceland. We make every attempt to place the appropriate flag on the grave of each veteran buried at Guiceland every Memorial Day and Veteran's Day. If we have missed placing a flag on the grave of a veteran, please contact one of the board members so that we can place a flag on the grave.

Board Members

David Franklin

Christy Harris

Jim Gaines 361-215-7048

Jo Morehead Oster 903-764-5906

Donna Garrison-McEwen

Rodney Roberson

Joe Garrison

Tracy Salmon

George Wallace 903-986-6117

Important Dates

Work Day – **Saturday, May 4 at 9:00 AM.** Any help will be greatly appreciated as we have various task to complete that day. Be sure to bring a hat, gloves, and any other items you might need.

Memorial Day – **Sunday, May 26** The business meeting will begin at 10:00 AM followed at 11:00 with Danny Herod leading the music and David Franklin delivering the message. At 12:00 we will move to the **Veteran**

Memorial where Rod Skelton will conduct the brief service with Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 991 providing the flag raising and 3-round volley. The program will conclude with a wreath laying.

Information Needed

We would like to be able to contact people whose loved ones are buried at Guiceland. While we have contact information of many of you, we are still lacking information for some. We will have contact information sheets available at our Memorial Day Gathering.

Wreath Across America

Wreaths Across America is now available in this area. Each December National Wreaths Across America Day, the mission to Remember, Honor, and Teach is carried out by coordinated wreath laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery as well 1600 additional locations in all 50 states. The wreaths will be placed on December 14. You may contact Ben Rhone at 903-729-5001 by the end of November if you wish to sponsor a veteran's wreath. More information will be available at our Memorial Day Gathering.

Keep up with Guiceland information at

<http://Guiceland.com>

Guiceland Operation Procedures

Memorials – Only one grave memorial shall be permitted on one grave space except a companion or a family member. All memorials shall be set on uniform lines as prescribed by the cemetery organization to conform to the general plan of the cemetery.

If any memorial, or any structure whatsoever, or any inscription placed or to be placed on a memorial or structure, shall be determined by the cemetery organization to be offensive, the organization shall have the right and it shall be its duty to enter upon such plot and remove, change or correct the offensive or improper object(s) or language at the expense of the owner

Maintenance of Cemetery Grounds - The cemetery organization shall direct generally all improvements within the grounds and upon all plots and graves, before as well as after interments have been made therein. The organization shall have charge of the planting, sodding, surveying and improvements generally. All such actions shall be taken by the director as the representatives of the organization membership.

No one other than the proper officers of the organization or their agents shall be allowed to perform any work on any grave or lot within the grounds without a permit from the organization or its officers.

If any tree, shrub, or plant standing upon any lot by means of its roots, branches, or otherwise shall be or become detrimental to adjacent plots or avenues, or if for any reason its removal is deemed necessary by the directors, the directors shall have the right and it shall be its duty to remove such tree, shrub, or plant, or any part thereof, or otherwise correct the detrimental condition existing as the board of directors in its judgement deems best.

Use of Cemetery for Gatherings - Families who are interested in the cemetery may hold reunions or other gatherings during daylight hours on the cemetery grounds in the areas dedicated for such public use, including holding picnics. Such meetings shall be under the supervision of the cemetery caretaker and shall conform to accepted standard for taste and decorum. Proper respect for the burial areas shall be maintained or the group shall be asked to leave the cemetery grounds. No alcoholic beverages shall be permitted upon the cemetery grounds. No fees will be charge for the use of the cemetery park areas for such gatherings.

General Regulations

The cemetery caretaker shall have the authority to enter upon any plot and remove any objectionable item that may have been placed there contrary to the regulations of the organization, subject to the discretion and acting at the direction of the board of directors of the cemetery organization.

No person shall injure or deface any monument, stone, fence or other structure or property within the cemetery.

Lot Size Established - Unless otherwise expressly designated, standard lot size for Guiceland Cemetery are hereby established as being **five (5) by ten (10) feet**.

Records - All maps showing laid out sections of each cemetery plot and the records of plot ownership and burials therein shall be kept by the Board of Directors. The caretaker shall also keep a record of every burial in the cemetery showing the date of burial and the name of the person buried, and plot or part thereof, in which the burial was made. Please make sure that the caretaker has contact for the family of the plot.

Transfer of Lots - No transfer, assignment, or other conveyance of any lot shall be made by any owner without the express written approval of the Board of Directors, and all transfers shall be recorded in the cemetery records provided.

Planting of Trees and Shrubs - No trees or shrubs shall be planted in any lot of the cemetery by any person or persons without the express approval of the cemetery caretaker, and installed under the direction of the same. Existing trees or shrubs may be removed by the cemetery caretaker if deemed in the best interest of the cemetery, infringes on adjacent lots, or if inconvenient to the care and maintenance of the cemetery.

Curbs and Fencing - No curbs or fences or other similar barriers shall be permitted around individual or group lots

Monuments and Markers - Monuments will be at the rear of the lot, foot stones at the front of the lot, and cornerstones to mark the boundaries. Monuments will be allowed limited to a maximum dimension of **6 feet long, 4 feet high and 18 inches wide** in a standard double lot and **4 feet long, 4 feet high and 18 inches wide** on a single lot. Anything over this size allowed may be with special permission from the Board of Directors. Foot stones will be flat with the ground with maximum dimensions of **30 inches long, 18 inches high, and 12 inches wide**. Cornerstones will be flat with the ground to mark lot boundaries.

Burial Site Planning, Conflicts, and Disputes - The directors shall provide for burial site planning and resolution of conflicting and/or disputed burial site locations. The Master Plat shall be the basis for determining burial site placements, disputes and/or conflicts arising from families or individuals. All planning, conflicts, and/or disputes shall be resolved by means of the Master Plat. **The Master Plat is the final determinant and authority**. Families or individuals have the right to view the Master Plat and shall do so for the purpose of planning burial sites and /or to resolve possible burial site conflicts or disputes. Families or individuals shall appeal disputes and /or conflicts to the directors at least ninety (90) days prior to an interment for a determination. Director decisions are final.

We are looking forward to seeing you for our Memorial Day Gathering and Veteran's Monument Dedication on Sunday, May 26. Please remember our annual Clean-Up Day is Sat., May 4 starting at 9:00 AM.

Acknowledgements - Many thanks to **Anderson County Monument Company, Houston County Electrical Cooperative, Houston County Historical Society, Vietnam Veterans of America and Flowers to Last** for the support and assistance you have given us.

