

Lake Chapel Cemetery (1989)

Marker #: 9888

Marker Text:

Lake Chapel Cemetery

Pioneers Simeon and Nancy Lake and their seven children settled in this area in the mid-1850s. They built a home, cleared the land, and began farming. The settlement which gradually built up around the Lake farm became known as Lake Chapel community after a small church was built on their property about 1856. Known as Lake Chapel Methodist Church, it was also used by other denominations in the area. A schoolhouse was also constructed nearby, and two acres of land were set aside for a community burial ground. The earliest documented burial in the cemetery is that of the infant daughter of W. L. and Laura Lake Thornton. A granddaughter of Simeon and Nancy Lake, the child died at the age of five days in 1874. The church and school buildings were later moved from the property, and the graveyard's size was increased over the years. Among those interred here are members of the Lake and other pioneer families, as well as veterans of the Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. The diverse styles of grave markers which can be seen in the cemetery reflect the social history of the area, offering a glimpse into the customs and traditions of the past.

Directions: Located about seven miles northeast of Fairfield on Farm-To-Market road 488
Fairfield, Texas, 75840

Address: FM 488, Fairfield, TX 75840

GPS: N 31° 47.785 W 096° 08.443

PHOTOS: By Linda Mullen on April 8, 2023



LAKE CHAPEL CEMETERY

PIONEERS SIMEON AND NANCY LAKE AND THEIR SEVEN CHILDREN SETTLED IN THIS AREA IN THE MID-1850s. THEY BUILT A HOME, CLEARED THE LAND, AND BEGAN FARMING.

THE SETTLEMENT WHICH GRADUALLY BUILT UP AROUND THE LAKE FARM BECAME KNOWN AS LAKE CHAPEL COMMUNITY AFTER A SMALL CHURCH WAS BUILT ON THEIR PROPERTY ABOUT 1856. KNOWN AS LAKE CHAPEL METHODIST CHURCH, IT WAS ALSO USED BY OTHER DENOMINATIONS IN THE AREA. A SCHOOLHOUSE WAS ALSO CONSTRUCTED NEARBY, AND TWO ACRES OF LAND WERE SET ASIDE FOR A COMMUNITY BURIAL GROUND.

THE EARLIEST DOCUMENTED BURIAL IN THE CEMETERY IS THAT OF THE INFANT DAUGHTER OF W. L. AND LAURA LAKE THORNTON. A GRANDDAUGHTER OF SIMEON AND NANCY LAKE, THE CHILD DIED AT THE AGE OF FIVE DAYS IN 1874. THE CHURCH AND SCHOOL BUILDINGS WERE LATER MOVED FROM THE PROPERTY, AND THE GRAVEYARD'S SIZE WAS INCREASED OVER THE YEARS. AMONG THOSE INTERRED HERE ARE MEMBERS OF THE LAKE AND OTHER PIONEER FAMILIES, AS WELL AS VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR, WORLD WAR I, WORLD WAR II, KOREA, AND VIETNAM. THE DIVERSE STYLES OF GRAVE MARKERS WHICH CAN BE SEEN IN THE CEMETERY REFLECT THE SOCIAL HISTORY OF THE AREA, OFFERING A GLIMPSE INTO THE CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS OF THE PAST.

(1989)

LAKE CHAPEL CEMETERY

PERPETUAL CARE TRUST FUND

IN THE YEAR 2004 MEMBERS OF LAKE CHAPEL CEMETERY ASSOCIATION ESTABLISHED A PERPETUAL CARE TRUST FUND FOR FUTURE CEMETERY MAINTENANCE, WITH FUNDS ACCUMULATED TO BE USED NO SOONER THAN THE YEAR 2020. THOSE DONATING \$500 OR MORE DURING INITIAL 5-YEAR FUNDING PERIOD WERE DESIGNATED FOUNDING DONORS.

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ORAND & GENEVA LAMBERT*	WILLIE & LINDA WARD
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