

The Bandera Cemetery

The history of 150 years ago can not be told by any remaining living individuals and sometimes the history books approach subjects from a stale, sterile angle. The Bandera Cemetery, like many others, provides tangible stories to indicate the way things were -- not stories told by the living, but rather stories told by those who once lived.

The Bandera Cemetery off Highway 173 north was used as a burial place before the town was laid out in 1853. The earliest headstone found is dated 1851. It belongs to the son of Charles and Bernice Bird, James Victor, born 1821 and died 1851. The Cemetery continues to be active, consists of more than fifteen acres (*longitude* 99 4.55'W, *latitude* 29 44.02'N), and contains more than 900 graves. The fenced cemetery contains unmarked graves as well as markers of many types ranging from handmade stone to obelisks and field stones. Veterans from the Rangers and Frontier Troops (1823), Mexican American War (1836-1848), Confederate States Army (23 Feb 1861 - 13 May 1865), Spanish American War (1896-1898) and the more recent wars, World War One, World War Two, Korean War and Vietnam War, are buried in the cemetery. Fraternal organizations, such as the Masonic Order and Woodmen of the World, are well represented.

The people in the history of Bandera and the Bandera Cemetery were all true pioneers who saw Bandera grow from a wilderness of beauty and danger to a community where they were proud to raise their children and grandchildren. They enjoyed the freedom of American enterprise and taught the love of God and Country in their community. The contribution of land to form a cemetery and the establishment of a Cemetery Association contributed moral stability to a rough hewn frontier region fraught with hardships. The Bandera Cemetery represents the place where the community gathered to share their grief and honor their lost loved ones.

The Bandera Cemetery association was organized in 1907 by seven women: Mrs. Laura (Andrew) Mansfield, Mrs. H. C. Barnes, Mrs. Julia M. Lincoln, Mrs. R. A. Chipman, Mrs. Mary Bruce, and Mrs. M. S. Barnes. Miss May Weldon served as the secretary of the committee. Several generations of women have left their marks on the unique region of frontier Texas, helping to soften and civilize the land. The women who settled in Texas brought with them the civilizing influences of churches, schools, and cemeteries. Whether they owned property or not, women on the Texas frontier took responsibility for maintaining their households and also shared farming and ranching chores with their spouses. Those without spouses often ran their own farms or ranches, sometimes doing much of the physical labor themselves, as well as directing the hired hands. The experiences of women on the Texas frontier in the 19th century tend to prove the truth of the old Texas proverb, that it is "a great country for men and dogs, but hell on women and horses." Nevertheless, Texas women stuck out the hard times and helped to tame the hostile frontier.



Bandera Methodist Missionary Society, ca 1910.
L-R Standing: Mrs. B. F. Langford Sr., Mrs. Bruce, Mrs. Andrew Mansfield, Mrs. T. M. Weldon, Mrs. G. T. Coleman, Mrs. Nannie Chaney. Seated: Mrs. Willey Hudspeth, Mrs. Barnes, Sarah Barnes, Mrs Ella Cox, Mrs. Harrell.

I. The Beginning

In 1908 the Association acquired the unsold lots in Bandera Cemetery by two deeds dated August 1, 1908. One deed was from Mrs. Ann Hamilton conveying her undivided one-half interest in the unsold lots. The other deed was from Jno.(John) S. Gething, conveying his one-half interest in the unsold lots in the Bandera Cemetery. This is the oldest section of the Bandera Cemetery.

Mrs. (Patricia) Ann Phillips Hamilton (29 Oct 1833 Tennessee - 13 Nov 1917 in Bandera, Texas), married Henry “Buck” Hamilton (15 Apr 1833 Weakly County, Tennessee – 23 Jul 1888



Bandera, Texas). They married in Tennessee on 25 Nov 1856. Buck Hamilton came from an upper middle class family. His father, in the 1850 Weakley County, Tennessee, tax book was listed as owning: Civil District 11/222 acres, valued \$890/75 acres, valued \$150/64 acres, valued \$140/5 slaves, valued \$1400. Ann and Buck Hamilton and their children moved to Texas and settled in Kerr County in 1859. They then moved on to Bandera in about 1869. Buck Hamilton was elected sheriff in 1875 and served as sheriff until he died. The Hamilton family had seven children, three daughters and four sons.

One son, Henry (1871- ca 1904), married Carrie Head (see Carrie Hamilton Chipman). Both Ann and her husband are buried in the Bandera Cemetery.

Members of both Buck’s and Ann’s family were among the original land owners in Bandera:

- 1.) Ann’s brothers: T. Phillips and Jack Phillips (17 Oct 1839 – 29 Dec 1876)
- 2.) Buck’s parents: William J. Hamilton (b 1845 New York) and wife, Mida Hamilton (b 1848 Massachusetts).

John (Jno) Shuttleworth Gething (7 Jul 1868 in Rangoon, Burma – 6 Aug 1939 in Garrison, New York). John S. Gething was the great-grandson of British nobility, Lord and Lady Shuttleworth. His father, British Navy Captain George S. Gething (born in Wales) and mother, Margaret Allan (born in Scotland), were married in British India in 1867. In 1881, John was documented as being a student boarding with the Beckett family at Beaumont St, Toxteth Park, Lancashire, England. At age 21, in 1889, he immigrated to the United States to represent his uncle in the cotton brokerage business. According to the local family history, John Gething’s future brother-in-law, Samuel Stephens, advised him to stay in Bandera and invest in land.

In 1889, John met Della Chaney (b 24 May 1868 Tennessee - 2 Dec 1958 in Garrison, New York) at the Duffy Hotel during the six months term of the Bandera District Court. They were married on 10 Dec 1889 in Bandera, Texas. Della Chaney’s father, William T. Chaney (23 Jul 1831 Brownville, Haywood Co, Tennessee – 24 Jan 1892 Bandera, Texas), was an original landholder in Bandera. William T. Chaney married Nanny Jones on 15 Oct 1855 in Williamson County, Tennessee. Other Chaney family members who came to Texas included Mary Chaney, Della’s sister, and her husband, Samuel Stephens, a surveyor born in Ireland in 1839.

The Gething family lived in Rocksprings, Del Rio, El Paso and Berkeley, California, before they settled in Waco. Their only child, Margaret Gething (May, 1894, Kerrville, Texas – 23 Jul 1975 San Antonio, Texas), was an actress, a specialist in historic restoration, founder of the King William Area Conservation Association in San Antonio, Texas, and the owner of the Gething Home in the King William District of San Antonio. John, Della, and Margaret are buried in the Bandera Cemetery.

II. The Bandera Cemetery Committee - 1907

1.) Mrs. Laura Thalmann Mansfield



Laura Thalmann was born in Germany on 15 May, 1846 and died 12 May, 1917. She and her parents, Leibreicht and Marie Metzner Thalmann (1826-1865), came to America in 1852. They first lived in Goliad County, then Castroville, and finally in Bandera County.

Laura married Andrew Mansfield on Oct 25, 1865. Andrew (9 Jul 1827 – 22 Feb 1897). Andrew was born in Washington County, Pennsylvania. When he was 21 he went to Missouri to live for 8 years, then returned to Pennsylvania. Supposedly, his trip to Texas was inspired by a parade for the election of Abraham Lincoln. He came to Bandera with his family in 1860 and brought the first Moreno sheep to Bandera County. He worked for John James, one of the founders of Bandera, until 1870 when he went into business for himself. In 1862 he was conscripted for service in the Confederate Army. He served as a private in the Sixth Regiment, Texas Field Artillery. Laura and Andrew had 6 children: Andrew Lee, William Edward, Charles Herman, Walter O., John M. and May Louella. May Louella, married John H. Bruce, Jr, child of Mary Bruce (see below.) Both Laura and Andrew are buried in the Bandera Cemetery.

2.) Mrs. Mary Bruce

Mrs. Mary Bruce was born Mary Newell in Morristown, Tennessee on Dec 15, 1858. She married John H. Bruce, Sr. (b: Oct 1853, Bland County, Virginia - d: 8 Mar, 1907, Bandera) in June, 1875, in Morristown, Tennessee. Mary and her husband lived in Hondo for about 10 years, 1884 -1894, where he had a butcher shop. They moved to Bandera in about 1894. They had 2 sons: John H Jr, and Hubert L. Mary died 10 Jan, 1936. Mary and her husband are buried in the Bandera Cemetery.

3. Mrs. H. C. S. Barnes

Hannah C. Shotwell was born on 26 May 1830 near Elba, Genesee County, New York. Hannah married Joseph D. Barnes (30 May 1814, Lanesborough, Berkshire, Massachusetts - 4 Oct 1883 Bandera, Texas) on 16 Feb 1858 in LaSalle County, Illinois. They moved to Bandera in 1872. They had three children: Frank Dewitt, Roswell Carter (b: 25 Oct 1866, Illinois) and Catherine S. Hannah died 9 Nov, 1931. Both Hannah and her husband, Joseph, are buried in the Bandera Cemetery.

4. Mrs. R. A. Chipman

Carrie Head Hamilton, nee Head, was born 12 November, 1872 in Bedford, Lawrence, Indiana.



She first married Henry Hamilton, the son of Buck and Ann Hamilton. Henry died in about 1904. Carrie, with four small children, then married Robert Alpheus Chipman (5 Oct 1855 - 12 Oct 1940). He was the son of Ezra A. Chipman (18 Oct 1817 Johnstown, Leeds, Ontario, Canada - 3 Jun 1913 Bandera, Texas) and Jeanette Sutherland (23 Dec 1825, Edinburgh, Scotland - 8 Apr 1887 Bandera, Texas; m 1871), both members of the Lyman Wight Colony. Robert, by a prior marriage to Margaret Bell Head (Carrie's sister), had ten children. Carrie and Robert married 21 Jun 1906. Together Carrie and Robert Chipman had two children: Montie and John R. Chipman. Carrie died 28 Aug, 1951 in Kerrville, Texas. She and Robert Alpheus are buried in the Bandera Cemetery.

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5. Mrs. M. S. Barnes

Martha Stevens Barnes was the daughter-in-law of Mrs. H. C. S. Barnes. She was born 20 Aug, 1867 in Bandera. She was the oldest of thirteen children of John Thomas Stevens (J. T., or Uncle Jack, 6 Feb 1838 Green County, Tennessee - 1922) and Lucy Lameza Wells (1 Jun 1847 Ponchatoula, Tangipahoa, Louisiana - 5 Jul 1940), who were married in 1866 in Atascosa, Texas. Martha married Roswell Carter Barnes (son of Mrs. H. C. S. Barnes) in Medina in June, 1894. They had three children: Thomas C., Frank H., and Ida Mae. Later in life, Martha and her husband moved to Ontario, San Bernardino, California. Martha died 3 Aug, 1955 and Roswell passed away on 28 Feb, 1956. Both are buried in California.

6. Mrs. Julia M. Lincoln

Julia and George Lincoln came to Texas in 1870. George T. Lincoln was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, 17 Dec 1840 and died, 3 Sep, 1917. Julia M. (surname unknown) was born in Rhode Island in about 1843. George Lincoln had been a member of the Massachusetts Legislature. George and Julia Lincoln were original landholders in Bandera County. In Bandera, he raised sheep, owned Lincoln's Drug Store and was County Judge for several terms. After George died, Julia went to Glendale, Los Angeles, California, to live with her sister, Susan A. Hayward and niece, Jane Florence Hayward Burlingame (b. Illinois 1863). Julia died in 1922 and is buried in California. George is buried in the Bandera Cemetery.

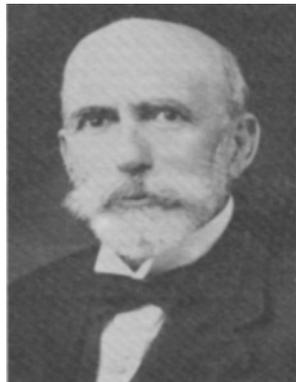
7. Miss May Weldon – secretary for the Cemetery Association

May Weldon (b 1862, Kentucky) was the daughter of John F. (1835 Kentucky – 14 Jun 1908) and Mary T. Weldon (7 Jun 1837, Denmark, Tennessee – 4 Jul 1923) who were married in March, 1860 in Ballard County, Kentucky. The Weldon family moved to Texas in 1864 to Goliad County and then to Bandera in 1876. In Bandera, Mr. Weldon leased 3,000 acres of land from the John James Estate for \$100 per year. The Weldons had two daughters: Mrs Lizzie Coffey and Miss May Weldon (d 1946). Many in the Weldon family are buried in the Bandera Cemetery.

III. Later Land Acquisitions

1) Later, by Deed dated June 25, 1913, Judge Charles Montague, Jr. conveyed to Bandera Cemetery Association, 6 and three-fourths acres of Survey 59 Hendrick Arnold, to be added to Bandera Cemetery. This section is to one's left, or west, as one enters the main cemetery gate. Also this is known as the Montague addition to the cemetery.

Charles Montague, Jr. (Apr 1845, Cumberland County, North Carolina -



15 Apr 1916) came to Bandera in 1856. His father, Charles Montague, Sr., a graduate of the University of Dublin and engineer, had been brought to Texas by President Sam Houston. Charles, Jr. married Laura Jane Frances Lytle on 25 Sep, 1871 in Castroville, Texas. They had 12 children. Laura died on 5 Apr, 1929. Charles Montague served with the Confederate Army. In 1872 he was elected district and county clerk, an office he filled for fourteen consecutive terms. He was admitted to the bar and for years was regarded as the most able attorney in the region.

Both Judge Montague and his wife, Laura, are buried at the St. Stanislaus Cemetery in Bandera.

2) In 1962 another addition was made to the Bandera Cemetery on the end toward Kerrville (northwest). This addition is called the 1962 Addition to the Bandera Cemetery.

3) In 1970, Bandera Cemetery Association purchased lots on Sycamore Street from Margaret Bernice Cruze (Vol 139/428) and Lola A. Tarver *et vir*, Clyde Tarver. With this additional land, the 1977 Addition to Bandera Cemetery was formed. This section is sometimes called "The Faris Field" after a previous owner.

The Faris Family came from Tennessee to Alabama and then to Texas.



The men of the family were cattle drivers and most of the family lived in Llano, Texas. George Faris (b 1843) was an original land owner in Bandera. His nephew and nephew's wife, Benjamin F. (1867-1942) and Annie E. (1866-1952) Faris (see picture left) inherited George's land. Their son, Milton (26 Apr 1887 – 13 Jan 1936), and his wife, Alice Cleora Stokes, once owned the land that is known as the Faris field.

IV. Deed Information: Bandera County Deed Records

1. Vol. X, Pg 168. Charter of Bandera Cemetery Association dated October 26, 1907, filed February 25, 1908. Includes keeping Cemetery fenced.
2. Vol X, pg 388 Deed dated August 1, 1908, Filed Bandera County Deed Records.
From: Jno S. Gething
To: Bandera Cemetery Association
Conveys ½ interest in the unsold lots in Bandera Cemetery
3. Vol X, Pg. 390. Deed dated August 1, 1908.
From Mrs. A Hamilton
To: Bandera Cemetery Association.
Conveys ½ interest in the unsold lots in Bandera Cemetery
4. Vol E-1, Pg 62. Deed dated June 25, 1913, filed August 4, 1913,
From: Charles Montague (For \$159.00)
To: Bandera Cemetery Association
Property "6-3/8 acres of Sv. 59 Hendrick Arnold, Beginning at a stake 6 vr. S. 4 SW from West corner of old Grave Yard....."

Hendrick Arnold was a guide and spy during the Texas Revolution. He emigrated from Mississippi with his parents, Daniel Arnold, apparently a white man, and Rachel Arnold, who was apparently black, in the winter of 1826. The family settled in Stephen F. Austin's colony on the Brazos river. Hendrick is referred to as a Negro, although his brother Holly was regarded as white; both were apparently considered free, although there is no evidence that they were ever formally freed by their father.

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By the fall of 1835 Arnold had settled in San Antonio and married a woman named Martina (María), a stepdaughter of Erastus (Deaf) Smith. Arnold had a second daughter, Juanita, who may have been Martina's child. While Arnold and Smith were hunting buffalo in the Little River country north of the site of present Austin, Mexican forces under Gen. Martín Perfecto de Cos occupied San Antonio. On their trip home Arnold and Smith came upon Stephen F. Austin's encampment at Salado Creek. Arnold, and soon thereafter Smith, who considered remaining neutral because of his Mexican wife, offered their services as guides to the Texans. In October Arnold took part in the battle of Concepción.

When Edward Burleson, who had replaced Austin as commander, called a council of officers on December 3, 1835, the council decided to postpone an attack on San Antonio, explaining that Arnold was absent and that the officers of one of the divisions refused to march without him. Arnold's whereabouts during his absence are now unknown. When he returned, Benjamin R. Milam called for an attack, which was subsequently called the siege of Bexar. Arnold served as the guide for Milam's division. Francis W. Johnson, leader of the other division, wrote the official report of the battle for himself and Milam, who was killed during the siege. Johnson acknowledged the bravery of all the Texan forces and cited Arnold specifically for his "important service."

After the revolution Arnold was compensated for his service with land a few miles northwest of the site of present Bandera, a relatively unexplored area that many white men would not accept for grants. Arnold secured adjacent land for his grandmother, Catherine Arnold, his father Daniel, and his brother Holly. Holly appears to have been the only family member to settle on the land. Hendrick Arnold lived on the Medina River and operated a gristmill in San Antonio. Hendrick Arnold died in the cholera epidemic in Bexar County in 1849 and was buried on the banks of the Medina River.

In 1852, John James, Charles S. DeMontel, and John J. Herndon entered into a partnership to acquire land "in and above the mountains, commencing ten or fifteen miles above Castroville." Their purpose was to establish a town on the Medina River with a saw mill in order to cut the huge cypress trees that grew there for shingles. They bought part of the Hendrick Arnold Survey. In 1853, James and DeMontel surveyed and platted the town of Bandera. Also in early 1853, A. M. Milstead, Thomas Odem, P. D. Saner bought a portion (half league running from Bandera Creek to the Medina River) of the Hendrick Arnold Survey. Milstead, Odem, Saner and their families camped along the river and began making cypress shingles. Later Mr. Charles Montague (see above) purchased land from Milstead and Saner and established the Montague Ranch.

5. Vol 107, pg 143 – Deed dated 11/13/1959, filed 11/14/1959,
From: Lola A. Tarver *et vir*, Clyde Tarver
To: Bandera Cemetery Association

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Property: Lots 13, 14, 15-16, Range 15, Town of Bandera, Texas. \$1200.00.
Pertains to lots now part of Faris Field (1977 addition) to Bandera Cemetery

6. Vol 131, pg 111. Deed dated April 5, 1968, filed April 10, 1968,
From: City of Bandera
To: Bandera Cemetery Association
Property: "Being all that portion of 14th St. lying North or NW of Sycamore St. adjoining the present Bandera Cemetery, Beginning at SE corner of Lot 16, said point being NW Corner of intersection of Sycamore and 14th Streets, town of Bandera...."
7. Vol 139, pg 428. Deed dated June 22, 1970
From: Margaret Bernice Cruz
To: Bandera Cemetery Association
Property: "Being All of the NE,, ½ of Lots 13 and 16 in Range 14, in the Town of Bandera, Texas."
Note: has SW ½ of these Lots 13 and 16.
8. Vol 4, pg 3. Faris Field/1977 Addition to Cemetery Plat in Bandera County Deed Records
Filed by Poland Thallman, Pres. Bandera Cemetery Assoc April 18, 1977
Surveyed by C. O. Bauerlein, Surveyor, as 1.593 acres in 1977 Addition
Shows: 20 ft road at Postert end of 1977 Addition
15 ft road along Sycamore St.
21.55 ft road at Indian Waters End of '77A

V. The Bandera Cemetery Association - January, 2005

Martin Smith, President
Bob Preston, Vice President
Kim Keese, Secretary-Treasurer

Executive Committee: Pat D'Spain, Alleen Ellinger, Lois Hayes, Russell Hevenor, Judy Goodenough, Elizabeth James, Joe Preston, Larry Sheppard, John Hutcherson, Mildred Bausch, Margaret Callahan, Robert Mazurek

VI. Land Measurement in Texas

When Texas became independent of Mexico, the vara (vr) remained a legal unit through a provision of the Constitution of the Republic of Texas (March 17, 1836, Sec.1) that laws then in effect and not inconsistent with the Texas Constitution would remain in effect.

In June 1837 John P. Borden, who had been a surveyor in Austin's Colony, was appointed as the first Land Commissioner. On January 27, 1838, he instructed county surveyors to use the 33 1/3 inch vara. From that date, in surveys of state land made for the General Land Office, the vara has been 33 1/3 inches (0.846 meter). In private surveys, the vara might be 33 1/3 inches, or it might have the pre-Republic value, 32.8748 inches (0.8350 meters).

The Texas vara was legally set at 33 1/3 inches in Article 5730, Acts of 1919 (revised 1925), effective June 17, 1919.

VII. References

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13. Mrs. John Getting Brought Here for Burial Monday. Bandera Bulletin. Bandera, Bandera County, Texas. Friday, December 12, 1958. page 1.
14. Patterson, C.L. History and Directory of Bandera County. Bandera, TX.