Guiceland Cemetery Newsletter

April 2017

JIMMY'S MUTTERINGS

Interest in the Veteran's Memorial has increased in the last year. As seen in the attached summary, members are asking questions, making suggestions, and donating. This will result in a Memorial all will be proud to be a part of. The member's response to the mailing at Veteran's Day yielded great interest and added donations.

George Wallace has taken an active role as Caretaker. If you have not met George, I encourage you to meet him. George is currently updating the plat of Guiceland Cemetery. The updated plat will be used by Joe Garrison to complete the data in the computer program. Plans are for the plat containing graves and reserved plots to be available online. This is a work in progress. No time line for access is currently available.

Pat Wallace has relocated and resigned from the Board of Directors. If you or someone you know would like to serve on the Board of Directors, please contact me or Tracy Salmon. This and other Guiceland Cemetery business items will be addressed at the annual meeting held at 10:00 AM, Memorial Day, May 28, 2017.

Guiceland Cemetery is maintained by member donations. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Happy Trails,

Jimmy

VETERAN'S MEMORIAL

The Guiceland Cemetery Board of Directors approved the addition of a Memorial to all Veterans who have served in the United Stated Military. This idea was proposed at the annual meeting May 31, 2016. The proposal was for a memorial structure with an American flag and flagpole as a center piece. The estimated cost of \$10,000 to come from donations specifically designated to the Veteran Memorial Fund. The first donations were received in June 2016. The fund balance is now \$5,240.

The design of the memorial has not been finalized. The planned location is in the northeast corner of the "old" section of the cemetery near the historical marker.

Suggestions and ideas for the memorial are currently being collected and considered. The goal is to have a design completed before the funding is complete. A realistic cost estimate will be a requirement prior to starting construction.

Member input on the design and funding is encouraged and will be greatly appreciated.

STAKE YOUR CLAIM

Burial plots at Guiceland are never sold. As a member of the Guiceland community you and your family are entitled to reserve burial plots at no cost, but donations are appreciated.

The Official Plat is kept by the cemetery caretaker, George Wallace. If you have plots, please check with George to confirm that they are correctly noted on the Official Plat. This is especially important if the plots were selected many years ago when they were marked with stone markers in the ground. Over time, the sand in the cemetery has not been our friend and markers have sunk in the sand making identification impossible.

BOARD MEMBERS

Jimmie Gaines 936-687-4827 Donna Garrison McEwen

Joe Chaffin Jo Morehead Oster 903-764-5906

David Franklin Tracy Salmon

Joe Garrison George Wallace 903-986-6117

Donations

Guiceland Cemetery runs on your donations. The money it takes to operate and maintain the cemetery grounds comes from your donations. The Guiceland Cemetery Association accepts tax deductible donations at the annual Memorial Day Service which is always the last Sunday in May. Our mailing address is: P. O. Box 571, Grapeland, TX 75844.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Sat., May 6 at 9:00 AM – Annual clean-up day. Any and all help will be appreciated. Please bring a hat, gloves, and other supplies that you might need.

Sun., May 28 at 10:00 AM – Memorial Day Celebration. The annual Board Meeting will start at 10:00.

At the conclusion of the Board meeting, a message will be delivered by David Franklin. Music will be provided by Danny Herod.

12:00 Dinner on the grounds. Bring your picnic lunch and enjoy the fellowship.

RECENT BURIALS AT GUICELAND

		Section	Row	Plot
Jo Ann Walker	1-24-1937/1-5-2016	Old	22	48
Bobby G. Wells	5-24-1937/1-25-2016	Old	3	40
John W. Van Bibber	10-23-1940/1-23-2016	West	7	62
Earnest Walker	8-9-1935/3-4-2016	North	27	5
Donald Weisinger	2-12-1931/3-14-2016	North	34	16
Audrey Cole	4-5-1936/4-22-2016	West	2	22
Albert Boone	6-11-1922/4-30-16	South	9	17
Donald P. Smith	/6-13-2016	West	7	26
John E. Watson	11-21-1950/6-9-2016	South	14	7
Preston A. Lively	12-3-1919/6-19-2016	Old	4	8
Mary E. Lively	7-14-1911/6-26-2016	Old	16	31
Carolyn Lee	12-30-1930/8-7-2016	Old	16	35
Rodney J. Robertson	1-29-1959/9-19-2016	North	33	15
Marjorie Gibson	11-1-1939/9-19-2016	South	3	17
Wanda Franklin	8-14-1932/10-6-2016	North	37	7
Billie Nell Burnett	/10-29-2016	Old	3	25
Melinda Hudson	8-10-1961/11-22-2016	South	14	13
John Roberson	6-28-1932/12-26-2016	West	1	30
Ruth Jones McCullough	1929/1-14-2017	Old	18	58
Olga Mae Chaffin	9-26-1926/2-24-17	Old	21	13
James Ray Howard	11-13-1961/3-10-16	South	6	24
Irene Bennett Easley	2-20-1917/1/8/2017	Old	3	67
Cornelia Rue Collum	8-28-43/9-30-2016	West	7	55

JOSEPH BOWMAN

Growing up in the Guiceland area, I knew plenty of Bowmans, went to school with several, and even turned out to have one as a brother-in-law, but never heard about a Bowman who was a notable person in Texas history. That Bowman is buried in Guiceland Cemetery.

There are two historical markers in our cemetery: one is for the cemetery itself, and one is for Joseph Bowman.

Like many early Texas settlers in our area, Bowman came from Illinois where he was born in 1811. According to the Texas State Historical Association, Joseph's father, Jesse Bowman, was born in Tennessee in 1785. The Bowmans are considered to be one of the first families to settle in what is now Camden, Arkansas in 1824. At least one source says they were the first white settlers in this area. Family records indicate the Bowmans' eventual target was Texas, and they made several forays to Texas from Arkansas before finally deciding to move there in 1833. Joseph evidently made some trips back to Arkansas since Hempstead County, Arkansas records indicate he married Martha Hardin there 26 January 1843.

According to Texas A & M University (http://www.tamu.edu/faculty/ccbn/dewitt/consultations5), Joseph Bowman signed the Goliad Declaration of Independence on December 22, 1835, which was, "The first and most formal regional declaration ... sometimes referred to as the 'Mecklenburg of Texas.'" According to the University of Texas at Austin (http://www.lib.utexas.edu), "A Guide to the Bowman Family Papers 1835-1990), both Jesse and his son Joseph joined the Texas Revolution but were assigned to different militias. Joseph was assigned under Sam Houston and stationed at Nacogdoches whereas Jesse was assigned under Jim Bowie and assigned to the Alamo where he perished March 6, 1836.

In the 1850 Census, Joseph and Martha are living in Bowie County Texas. Joseph is a farmer with four children; the oldest two born in Arkansas while the youngest two were born in Texas, indicating he had been in Bowie County for at least four years. In the 1860 Census, Joseph and Martha are in Houston County, Texas, with 8 children, and a 14-year-old born in Texas. "Joe" is a farmer with \$800 in real estate and \$500 in personal property.

Joseph Bowman died in 1883 and according to the University of Texas Library: "His son and descendants settled in the area of Houston and Anderson Counties, where they engaged in farming and small businesses in a number of small communities. Members of the family continued to reside in the area at the time of the donation of the family papers."

At each Memorial Day service, we remember our military members. Let us not forget we have a patriot of the Republic of Texas Army buried in our cemetery, the son of an Alamo hero!



