

Guiceland Cemetery Newsletter

May 2013

Guiceland Cemetery History

The Guiceland Cemetery was established about 1871, when William Guice, infant son of Benjamin and Caston Dania Guice, was buried on family land. In 1889 the Guiceland Cemetery was deeded one acre (more or less) out of the W. G. Brooks Preemption survey of 160 acres. The original deed was destroyed or lost and a replacement deed recorded on August 19, 1920. On January 25, 1904 a second parcel of land was added to the cemetery. The cemetery purchased from J. A. and F. E. Carnes the 1.2 acre parcel located in B J M Guice survey of 160 acres. This hand written deed was recorded in Houston County in 1904. A third parcel of land came from W. M. and S. K. Weisinger. This one acre parcel is located in the North half of the B J H Guice preemption survey of 106 acres, and was recorded in Houston County on January 19, 1928. The fourth parcel of land is a two acre tract which came from Travis and Tommie Mosley. This parcel is located across the road from the prior tracts in Anderson County. The Anderson County parcel was recorded on July 21, 1970. The last tract is a one acre parcel acquired from D. C. Weisinger and his wife on June 30, 1980. Currently the cemetery has six and two-tenths acres of property and 1320 graves.

The oldest tombstone is that of George W. Brightman (1830 – 1877). Hundreds of member of the Guiceland Community are buried here, including veterans of the Texas Revolution, the Civil War, World Wars I and II, Korea, and Vietnam. A one-room building at the site served as a school and location for funeral services until 1908. A tabernacle built in 1936 was replaced in 1959 by the current building.

The Guiceland Cemetery Association holds an annual gathering/ meeting in this building on the last Sunday of May every year. This is followed by dinner on the grounds. The meeting starts at 10:00 AM and it is our hope that you can attend.

Notes from the President of the Board

My name is Jimmy Lynn Gaines, known to many of you as George and Mildred's boy. I was appointed to the Guiceland Board of Directors about 6 years ago and I have been the Board President for the last 3 years. During the past several years, we have formalized the organization and records of your cemetery. This has included preparing a written set of By Laws and Operating Guidelines. High on the priority list has been creating a list of Guiceland Cemetery Association members, identifying and confirming their selected plot locations, creating an accurate contact list, and establishing a method of communicating with members. I want to send a large thank you to Jo (Morehead) Oster for her hard work and dedication in putting this first Newsletter together. We hope this will be an annual publication, distributing pertinent information and news regarding Guiceland Cemetery. If you have any comment, suggestions, or questions we would appreciate hearing from you. I can be reached by email at oilygaines@aol.com or my cell phone 361-215-7048. The Guiceland Memorial Day Service May 26th is fast approaching. We will be conducting our annual meeting of the Association at 10:00 AM. Please plan to attend. This is an opportunity to ask and answer questions concerning your cemetery and its operation. I look forward to seeing you there.

Contact Information

Edward Willis 936-564-0609

Tracy Salmon 936-687-4076

Jimmie Gaines 936-687-4827

D. Franklin 903-478-2308

Randy Teets 903-478-2702

Pat Wallace 903-478-3933

Donna Garrison McEwen 903-721-2826 Joe Chaffin 903-478-3292

Joe Garrison 903-561-3752

Endowment Fund

Over the history of Guiceland Cemetery Association the Association has received endowed gifts, but it was the responsibility of the giver to prepare documents that governed the gift. During the year of 2009, the Board took steps to correct this issue. On October 27, 2009 the board approved and formalized the Guiceland Cemetery Association General Endowment Fund “GEF”. The formalized document was prepared taking into consideration the intentions and restrictions outlined by prior contributors. The stated purpose of the GEF is to protect the donor’s capital contribution and to provide a perpetual annual flow of income to be spent in the operation and maintenance of the cemetery grounds. It is not intended to replace regular donations. To insure this, each gift to the General Endowment Fund (GEF) must be a minimum of \$2,500.00. The core donation will remain invested and only the income will be used to operate and maintain the cemetery. Please keep this General Endowment Fund in your thoughts when you and/or family members are preparing your Estate Plans and other gifting. Copies of the GEF will be available at the Guiceland Memorial Day Service or from any member of the Board. All donations to this fund as well as annual contributions are tax deductible in accordance with paragraph 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code.

Stake Your Claim and Claim your Stake

Burial plots at Guiceland Cemetery 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 donations are used to cover ongoing expenses such as utilities, insurance, mowing, and building, ground and road maintenance. The records of all reserved plots are maintained on the “Official Plat” which is kept by the cemetery designated Caretaker, Bryan Willis. If you have plot(s) please see Bryan Willis 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 many markers have sunk in the

sand making identification impossible. Plot reservations are only valid if your name is on the Official Plat. Please see Bryan Willis to confirm your plot(s). We don't want to referee a mix up or misunderstanding of reservations. So please help us identify your plot(s). Bryan Willis will have the Official Plat at the Guiceland Memorial Day service May 26th, 2013 Thank you for your help. Your cooperation and understanding are greatly appreciated.

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 (May 26th, 2013) and by mail. Our mailing address is: P. O. Box 571, Grapeland, TX 75844.

Recent Burials at Guiceland

Michelle Leigh Warner, June 6, 1951 – October, 2012

Karlen Stregler, Jan. 18, 1961 – Jan. 30, 2013; West R-2 P -75

Tommy Burnett, Aug. 30, 1930 - Feb. 18, 2013; Old R – 3 P- 26

Louise Turner Starkey, Oct. 7, 1922 – Mar. 1, 2013; North R-9 P – 1