

# **Guiceland Cemetery Newsletter**

## **April 2024**

East Texas has been blessed with an abundance of rain this Spring. As a result; the bluest bluebonnets, fiery red Indian paintbrushes, rich crimson clover, as well as a host of pink...white...yellow...lavender...purple wildflowers adorn the countryside. The white and pink Dogwood as well as Redbud trees in radiant bloom added beauty to the landscape of a most enjoyable car ride through our beloved part of East Texas.

### **Veterans Buried at Guiceland**

Every year we honor all veterans buried at Guiceland by placing the appropriate flag on their grave the week surrounding Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Please notify a board member if you have a loved one here who does not have a flag on their grave.

### **Guiceland Board Members**

Billy Allen	Donna Garrison McEwen
David Franklin	Jo Morehead Oster, Secretary
Jim Gains, President	Wanda Prejean
Tom Gates	Tracy Salmon
George Wallace, Caretaker	

### **Important Dates**

Saturday, May 4 – Work Day 9:00 am  
Be sure to bring a hat & gloves

Sunday, May 26 – 10:30 am Memorial Day Celebration/Business Meeting  
Followed by Worship and Singing, Dinner on the ground at Noon.  
Bring your chairs, tables and favorite picnic lunch to enjoy an old fashioned Memorial Day.

O-Old      W-West      S-South      N-North      MB-Military Branch

### Burials for 2023

Name	Date Birth	Date Death	Sec Row Plot MB
Ruth Holt Moore	06/25/1950	01/23/2023	N R13 P6
Erma M. Price	09/13/1933		W R7 P54
Rebecca Haddock	07/07/1940	07/02/2023	O R18 P30
James Haddock	11/15/1942	06/01/2023	O R18 P30
Hilda T. Salmon	09/01/1935	09/26/2023	O R3 P36
Bobbie J. Wells	08/06/1932	10/15/2023	O R3 P40
Bettye Carvell	03/17/1939	10/16/2023	S R17 P2
E. Jane Grant Coin	03/01/1937	10/25/2023	S R8 P4
Allison Moore	03/17/1939	12/30/1923	W R3 P25
Rex T. Leatherwood	03/13/1933	04/17/2023	W R3 P59 Army
Donna Leatherwood	02/24/1933	06/08/2033	W R3 P59

### Burials for 2024

Curtis Lee Parker	01/29/1953	02/11/2024	S R12 P24
Douglas Smith	01/13/1950	02/23/2024	W R3 P32
Sandra Robertson	01/03/1960	03/12/2024	S R15 P3

## THE DEFINING MOMENT

It has been said that the War Between the States also known as The American Civil War, The War of Northern Aggression, or The War of the Rebellion, was "the defining moment" of American History. Historian and film/television producer Ken Burns points out that before that war people referred to our country as "the United States *are*," and after would say, "the United States *is*."

If you were to speak to my generation of The War, we would typically think of the Vietnam War. Our parents' generation would probably think of World War II. But our grandparents' generation and those that preceded it would invariably think of the American Civil War if anyone mentioned The War. Our homes in the South are even designated as old if they are "Antebellum" homes. Many do not know that Antebellum simply is Latin for "before the war." Antebellum of course refers to homes built before the American Civil War. I wonder if Northerners describe their homes as Antebellum?

It seems like much of the definition of our country surrounds wars in which our military has fought. When you look around Guiceland Cemetery today you will see many tombstones supplied by the U. S. government designating military service and some are even noted that the person buried there is a war time death

Considering war time deaths according to history.com, "For more than a century the most-accepted estimate was about 620,000 dead. A specific figure of 618,222 is often cited, with 360,222 Union deaths and 258,000 Confederate deaths."

( ) That is an impact!

So, as I walk through Guiceland Cemetery, I notice so many Confederate veterans' markers and I know there are some buried at Guiceland who were

Confederate veterans but have no government marker. That got me to wondering? Do we have any veterans who fought on the Other side? Are there no Union veterans buried at Guiceland? It is estimated there were over 2 million Union soldiers in arms during the war and 750,000 to 1 million Confederates. With over 2 million men serving in blue, I would assume at least one is buried in Guiceland, but none are so marked. If anyone has any information on a Union soldier buried in Guiceland, please let me know. I may disagree with what he fought for but I would like to honor his service.

Just a thought.

David Franklin  
Board Member  
Guiceland Cemetery

## **This and That**

We have had several newsletters returned in the past few mailings. If you know of someone who has not received their newsletter, please leave their name & complete address on the table at the front of the church. George will have a tablet for you to write on there. If you are unable to attend the celebration, please call Jo 903/764-5906, with any information. There also will be notes about cleaning tombstones available at this table.

All plots must be marked on the Official Guiceland Cemetery Plat Map... which is maintained by George Wallace, 903/986-6117. Please confirm that your family plots are properly identified on the Official Guiceland Cemetery Plat Map. The sand at Guiceland has covered rocks and other markers. The Official Guiceland Cemetery Plat Map is NOW the ONLY official record of reserved burial plots.

Guiceland Cemetery operates on your donations only. The money it takes to maintain all aspects of the cemetery; ongoing expenses utilities, insurance, mowing, building, grounds & road maintenance, postage & stationery, etc. Mailing address for Guiceland is: Guiceland Cemetery, P. O. Box 571, Grapeland, TX 75884-0571.

Looking forward to seeing you on Sunday, May 26 at 10:30 am.