

Guiceland Cemetery Newsletter
April 2025
Guiceland Cemetery History

The Guiceland Cemetery was established about 1871, when William Guice, infant son of Benjamin & 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. & 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. & 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 & 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 & his wife on June 30, 1980. Currently the cemetery has six and two-tenths acres of property.

The Guiceland Cemetery Association holds an annual gathering/meeting/ worship & singing in this building on the last Sunday of May every year. This is followed by dinner on the grounds. The meeting starts at 10:30am, May 25, 2025. It is our hope that you can attend.

Important Dates

Saturday, May 3, 2025 - Cleanup Day at 9am.
Please bring a hat & gloves.

Sunday, May 25, 2025 - Annual Memorial Day Gathering at 10:30am.

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, the last Sunday in May and by mail. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 571, Grapeland, TX 75844.

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. If you have plot(s), please check with George Wallace to confirm that they are correctly noted on the Official Plat. Plot reservations are only valid if your name is on the Official Plat.

Reminders:

The caretaker must be contacted prior to a burial or placement of a tombstone to mark the correct spot.

Do not plant any bushes, shrubs, or trees.

If graves are not cleared off by the family, wilted arrangements will be removed by a board member. Other flowers are not removed by board members; however we often have high winds that do blow flowers off of graves.

Please do not use glass or ceramic vases as they cause injury to others.

No alcoholic beverages, including wine and beer are allowed at Guiceland Cemetery.

ORIGINAL

APPLICATION FOR HEADSTONE

(PLEASE MAKE OUT AND RETURN IN DUPLICATE)

Assumed Name Murrell Stewart Howard, James Edward	Rank Landsman Private	Company F4 U. S. C.	U. S. Regiment, State (City, State, or Vessel) Cia	Date of Death April 12, 1909
Guiceland	Salmon	Texas		
TO BE SHIPPED TO Maybelle Denman	Elkhart, Anderson County, Texas			
POST OFFICE ADDRESS OF CONSIGN Percilla, Texas, Route 1				
I hereby agree to accept the headstone at above location, freight prepaid, and properly place same at decedent's grave.				
DO NOT WRITE HERE				
This application is for the UNMARKED grave of James Edward Howard. It is understood the stone will be furnished and delivered at the railroad station or embarkment landing above indicated, at Government expense, freight prepaid, and agreed it will be properly removed and placed at private expense.				
Verified Ordered From Shipped	Maybelle Denman Applicant. Address Route 1, Percilla, Texas. Date July 9, 1932.			
*Stone must not be removed from the grave at which a private stone, monument, or other permanent marker is already erected or is to be erected. (State whether soldier, sailor, marine, Army nurse, etc.)				

In reply address not the signer of
this letter, but Bureau of Navigation,
Navy Department, Washington, D. C.
Refer to No.

Nav-642-2-GWB-LCJ

NAVY DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF NAVIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

My dear Congressman Briggs:

In the matter of James Edward Howard, who it is
in the "Tennessee" in August 1864:

The records show that one James Howard enlisted
January 19, 1864, at New Orleans, La., for two years, as
served in the "Portsmouth" and "Tennessee" to June 6, 1864.



VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

BUREAU OF PENSIONS

WASHINGTON May 7, 1931.

THIS LETTER REFERS TO
YOUR FILE NUMBER:

Hon. Clay Stone Briggs,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO:
WIDOW DIVISION
S.O. 1366,174
James E. Howard

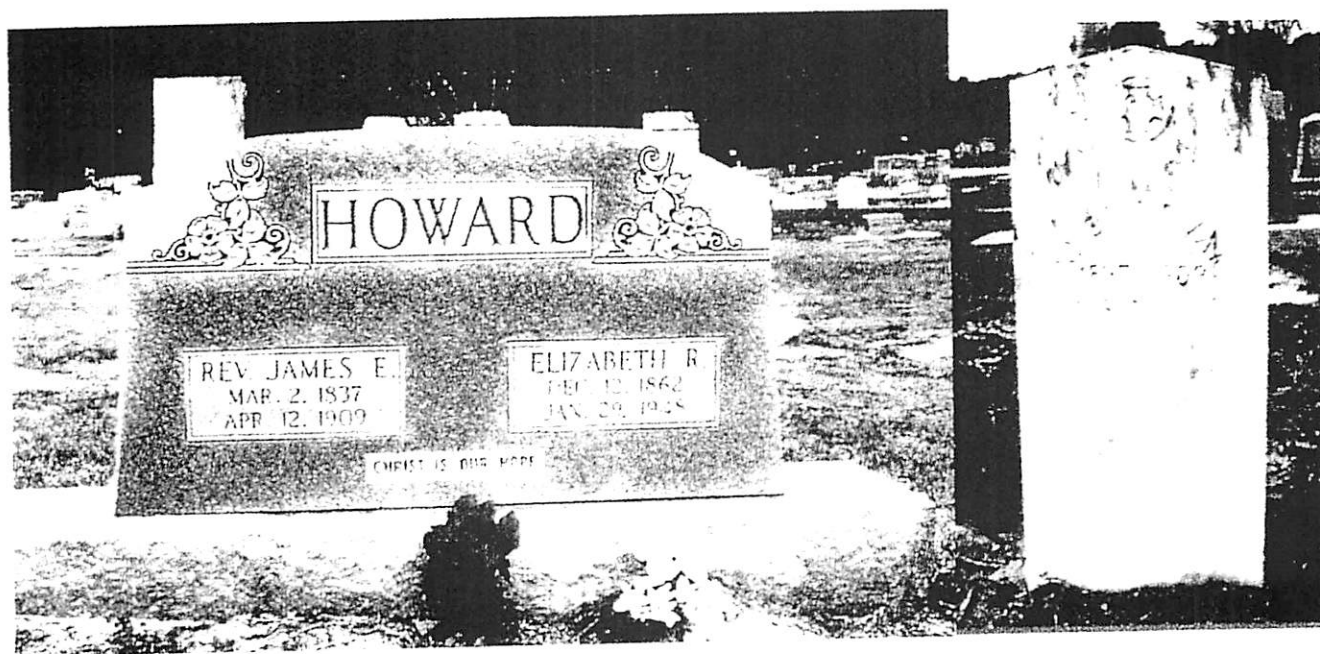
My dear Mr. Briggs:

I have your letter in behalf of Mrs. Elizabeth Howard, of Percilla, Texas, who you state is the widow of James Edward Howard.

In reply you are advised the records show that in 1909 James E. Howard, alias Michael Stewart, whose address at that time was Grapeland, Texas, filed a claim under the Act of February 6, 1907. This claim was rejected on the ground that the claimant voluntarily rendered service in the Confederate States Army and his enlistment in the United States Army was subsequent to January 1, 1865. A report from the records of the War Department, on file in the case, shows that the soldier enlisted on June 16, 1866, under the name of Michael Stewart, in Troop F. 4th United States Cavalry.

A GUICELAND MYSTERY

There are many fascinating stories surrounding Guiceland Cemetery. We have a son of an Aiama defender and himself a Republic of Texas official, we have men who gave the ultimate sacrifice in war time, as well as many pioneers. But the most intriguing story to me is that of Reverend James Edward Howard, born, according to records, in Dublin, Ireland in 1837, died in either Slocum or Percilla in 1909. I cannot find any records about Rev. Howard's religious service, but his gravesite has two tombstones: one with his wife and one with a VA marker, approved in 1932, listing his Civil War service as CS Navy. That in itself is unusual, seeing that the Union had over 118,000 Naval personnel but the Confederacy only 5213 (civilwartalk.com). When I researched Mr. Howard's Confederate service, I find that according to US Military records, Mr. Howard enlisted in the Confederate Navy in New Orleans and served on two ships, the CSS Portsmouth and the CSS Tennessee. The fascinating point comes when his family applies for a VA tombstone and the records show he enlisted in the US Cavalry in 1866 under an "assumed name" of either Murrell Stewart or Michael Stewart. Why would he do that? How did they find out? How did he become a preacher? I will continue digging but could sure use some help. I know one of his grandson, A. E. Murdock was thought highly of by folks around Slocum when I was growing up and a great-grandson became a Captain at TDCJ, had been a Marine, and played French Horn in the USMC as well as the Conroe Philharmonic Orchestra. Fascinating stuff, huh? If any other family members have any further information on Rev. Howard, please contact me at slocumdave@yahoo.com David Franklin



Recent Burials

S R P - Section/Row/Plot

2024	DOB	DOD	S R P
Rexford T. Leatherwood	3/13/1933	4/17/2023	WR3P59
Donna Leatherwood	2/24/1933	6/8/2023	WR3P59
Sandra Robertson			SR15P14
Linda M. Rowland	9/20/1941	5/4/2024	OR2P24
Danny F. Lamb		5/6/2024	SR16P24
Ruth Mead		5/ /2024	WR7P84
Faye L.W.Paul	6/7/1940		SR7P3
Karli Franks	10/29/2012	10/19/2024	NR30P11
Patsy Saucier	10/23/1932	11/ /2024	WR4P48

2025			
Laura Hathaway McQueen			NR21P5
Billie June Couch	2/18/1942	1/1/2025	NR36P9
Shirley Cain Manahans		2/18/2025	WR5P84
Allen Donald Legg		3/11/2025	OR14P2

Board Members

Billy Allen (web page)	Donna Garrison McEwen
David Franklin	Jo MoreheadOster-903/764-5906
Jim Gaines	Wanda Prejean
Tom Gates	Tracy Salmon
George Wallace-Caretaker 903/986-6117	