

WORK BEGINS ON RESTORATION OF THOMAS CEMETERY IN LEVY



About 1880 J. W. B Thomas donated land for a cemetery in the area of Pulaski County that became Levy and then North Little Rock. Trustees were appointed to be responsible for it. Newspaper articles mention Thomas Cemetery Association as late as 1920. Apparently, a small building there that housed the records burned and records of lot owners and of the Association were destroyed.

Since 1964 a number of groups and individuals have been interested in seeing the Cemetery restored and preserved, however the lack of proof of ownership has been an obstacle for any permanent plans to be developed.

Last year the City of North Little Rock assumed ownership through eminent domain and a Thomas Cemetery Advisory Committee was formed. Through the efforts of this group a Thomas Cemetery Association has been formed as a 501 (c) 3 organization and is now seeking members as they undertake this big task. Many volunteers and organizations are needed as work proceeds.



Seeking advice from others involved in cemetery restoration, the Association was advised to place gates at the two entrances to discourage vehicles driving through. These gates are now in place and completing the fencing is high on the list of priorities.

One of the Arkansas Baptist Disaster Relief Teams has been enlisted to clear overgrown areas. The weather has caused a number of delays, but this was begun on Friday morning March 29. The help of these men is greatly appreciated. Other groups will also be help with the cleanup. Thomas Cemetery was worked by volunteers on April 20.

Many of the tombstones are broken and will need to be restored. Others are in need of cleaning. Although over 700 obituaries have been found for persons buried at Thomas, only a small portion of that number of tombstones still exist. Later efforts will include locating those unmarked graves and marking them, though it will never be possible to sort out just who is buried where.

The group is endeavoring to collect early pictures of tombstones and of the people who are buried there. They would like to hear from any descendants or others with knowledge of the Cemetery in earlier days. The contact person shown below would welcome such pictures and other information.

Thomas Cemetery Association is a membership organization, and dues have been set as follows: Regular - \$10; Sustaining - \$25. If you would like to join, dues should be sent to Thomas Cemetery Association, 13 Oak Tree Circle, North Little Rock, AR 72116. Email address is tca1876@gmail.com. A Facebook page is under construction.