

## **Birdston Community & Cemetery (1972)**

**Marker #: 8274 (Navarro County)**

**Marker Text:**

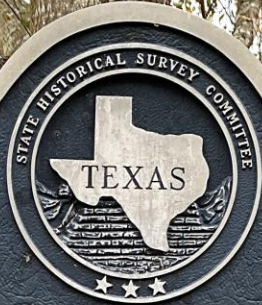
When V. I. Bird opened a general mercantile store about 2 miles to the northwest in the 1860s, Birdston community was founded. As local economy then depended on cotton, a gin was soon built near the store. In a few years, store and gin were relocated a mile east of this cemetery, at halfway point on main road from Fairfield to Corsicana. The Birdston post office opened Dec. 11, 1866. By 1867 the community also had a school; by 1872 a church building, used by all faiths. The cemetery was opened on land donated by Edd and Juliett Burleson for church and school purposes. The first grave, located near the church, was that of a child, Mary Rayburn, whose family had been traveling from Fairfield to Corsicana, stopping at Sherrard's Boarding House in Birdston, where the child fell ill and died. A second grave was dug near the church when T. J. Gilbert died on Dec. 5, 1872. By 1888 additional cemetery land was sold to trustees by Mrs. Burleson. When Birdston was bypassed in 1909 by Burlington Rock Island Railroad, it lost its post office and businesses; the school closed in 1920. The cemetery has continued in use through ensuing years, and in the 1950s had a new section annexed by purchase of acreage from the Charley Gregory Estate. (1972)

**Directions:** FM 416, 3 miles northeast of Streetman (even though the marker is actually in Navarro County, it is very close to the county line and it maybe thought to be in Freestone County, so we listed it along with the Freestone County markers.)

**Address:** FM 416

**GPS:** UTM ZONE 14  
UTM Easting 754877  
UTM Northing 3533901

Three photos: Historical Marker, Granite Veterans Memorial, Flags with markers  
Photos by Linda Mullen; Feb. 10, 2023



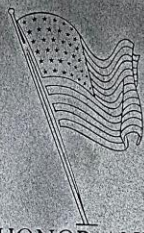
## BIRDSTON COMMUNITY AND CEMETERY

WHEN V. I. BIRD OPENED A GENERAL MERCANTILE STORE ABOUT 2 MILES TO THE NORTHWEST IN THE 1860s, BIRDSTON COMMUNITY WAS FOUNDED. AS LOCAL ECONOMY THEN DEPENDED ON COTTON, A GIN WAS SOON BUILT NEAR THE STORE. IN A FEW YEARS, STORE AND GIN WERE RELOCATED A MILE EAST OF THIS CEMETERY, AT HALFWAY POINT ON MAIN ROAD FROM FAIRFIELD TO CORSICANA. THE BIRDSTON POST OFFICE OPENED DEC. 11, 1866. BY 1867 THE COMMUNITY ALSO HAD A SCHOOL; BY 1872 A CHURCH BUILDING, USED BY ALL FAITHS.

THE CEMETERY WAS OPENED ON LAND DONATED BY EDD AND JULIETT BURLESON FOR CHURCH AND SCHOOL PURPOSES. THE FIRST GRAVE, LOCATED NEAR THE CHURCH, WAS THAT OF A CHILD, MARY RAYBURN, WHOSE FAMILY HAD BEEN TRAVELING FROM FAIRFIELD TO CORSICANA, STOPPING AT SHERRARD'S BOARDING HOUSE IN BIRDSTON, WHERE THE CHILD FELL ILL AND DIED. A SECOND GRAVE WAS DUG NEAR THE CHURCH WHEN T. J. GILBERT DIED ON DEC. 5, 1872. BY 1888 ADDITIONAL CEMETERY LAND WAS SOLD TO TRUSTEES BY MRS. BURLESON.

WHEN BIRDSTON WAS BYPASSED IN 1909 BY BURLINGTON ROCK ISLAND RAILROAD, IT LOST ITS POST OFFICE AND BUSINESSES; THE SCHOOL CLOSED IN 1920. THE CEMETERY HAS CONTINUED IN USE THROUGH ENSUING YEARS, AND IN THE 1950s HAD A NEW SECTION ANNEXED BY PURCHASE OF ACREAGE FROM THE CHARLEY GREGORY ESTATE.

(1972)



DEDICATED IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION  
OF ALL VETERANS WHO SERVED  
IN THE MANY STRUGGLES FOR FREEDOM

E. J. TURNER  
VERNON W. TURNER  
J. J. HAIL  
DOMINIC MILAZZO  
WALTER E. OWENS  
WOODROW EMORY  
HOMER FULLERTON JR  
N. AUBREY TISDALE  
KENNETH L. GILBERT  
REVIS SIMMONS  
AUBREY GREGORY  
JERRY TURNER  
JOHN D. BOSE  
J. P. MORGAN  
HORACE STEELE  
ANGUS K. MCGILVARY  
WILLIAM B. BROUN  
CARLTON GREGORY  
LEE ORR JENKINS  
JIM JACK JENKINS  
SIDNEY STEELE  
LEONARD ALLMON  
THOMAS STEELE  
JOEL STEELE  
ELIZABETH ANN BOUNDS  
CARL FERGUSON  
W. M. HARDAGE  
KIRBY KEEL JR.

JOHN H. MCKISSACK  
ISSAC BRYANT  
EDGAR KELLY  
ROBERT CLARK  
RICHARD J. FERGUSON  
MARION MOSTELLA  
ROBERT A. JONES  
EDGAR EPPS  
JOHN A. CLARK  
L. T. MCKISSACK  
TOMMY J. BRYANT  
ELMER KEEL  
RAYMOND HENRY  
J. W. ROBINSON  
TROY ANDERSON  
WATT BROWN  
WILLIS G. SLADE  
GEORGE H. EPPS  
ROBERT J. EPPS  
WM. G. JOHNSON  
CULBURN KNIGHT  
DELMER BATEY  
ORAN S. BURLESON  
DAVE W. CLARK  
EDWIN A. KNIGHT  
RICHARD C. KNIGHT  
WILLIAM TEKELL  
CECIL TISDALE

NEIL TISDALE  
DERRELL J. KING  
RICHARD W. STEELE  
HARRIS W. MILNER  
ERNEST BRYANT JR  
ROBERT J. STEELE  
ELBERT TUCKER  
VAN C. CLARK  
MARION COMPTON  
ELMER GILBERT  
RANDALL GILBERT  
THOMAS L. BURLESON  
JACK CATE  
VARDEMAN KEEL  
T. J. GILBERT  
E. E. LESTER  
LYNN G. CLARK  
JOE OLIVER  
JACK REAVES  
EVERETT E. MOLES  
GILBERT MCKISSACK  
RAYMOND GRAYSON  
BILLY C. KEEL  
WM. C. THOMPSON  
THOMAS K. SHERRARD  
ROBERT L. ANDERSON  
MARCUS V. TURNER  
HOMER K. LIVINGSTON

