

Whites Chapel Cemetery Association



Post Office Box 92082
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2013 Newsletter

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Greetings to all on this another year in the history of Whites Chapel Cemetery Association. Some of you have worked with the Association for many years and others are not familiar with the vast history of our cemetery as a landmark in Southlake and the surrounding area. According to local legend the cemetery began with the burial of a child who died in a wagon train passing through the area. This was about 1851. The oldest documented burial is of Amy A. Marr in 1872. Since 1872 over 764 documented family members and numerous others unmarked have been buried here. This is because many were marked with fieldstones such as the native red sandstone or wooden crosses and have faded away in time. Some of the older stones were family made of concrete and they too are eroding with time.

Although a cemetery is probably not ones first choice for sightseeing, our cemetery is loaded with history. Among those laid to rest here is a former State Legislator Elihu Newton (1845-1925). Also are military men from the Civil War, World War 1 and 2, Korea, and Vietnam. There are a variety of tombstone styles, such as Woodmen of the World, Tradesman's to include Barber's, Musician, Masons, Steelworkers, Varmint specialist and even a professional Hobo. From earlier times we have family pets who were entombed with their family members. Burial markers in the cemetery include marble, sandstone, elaborate granite obelisk and white stone. In past years we have added a iron and stone fence with stone columns, trash cans at the entrance and benches to set and meditate in our cemetery.

Most of the plots within the 2 acres of the cemetery are filled or reserved by family members previously buried in the cemetery. This year we have had three burials in the cemetery. Barry McMurtrey was buried in July and both husband and wife Woody and Louise Ratliff were buried in Jan. Our condolences goes out to these families. We encourage everyone to come by and visit the cemetery and if you are not able to come by visit our website at whiteschapelcemetery.org This year we have made great improvements to our website by adding Section maps with pictures of the tombstones and documents .

PUT ON YOUR WORK BOOTS AND COME TO THE CEMETERY CLEANUP

Please put October 19, 2013 on your calendar for the fall cleanup. We need your help in making our cemetery look as good as possible. Tarrant County Sheriff's Department will supply workers to do the heavy work and the County will provide a dump truck to carry off any debris. This is a great opportunity for you to have maintenance done on your family plot. The County has been doing the mowing for us this year and this has helped our pocketbook, however yearly contributions are still down so we continue to depend on the County and the annual cleanups to keep our cemetery looking good. Please support this day in any way you can. We will provide water and refreshments for everyone.



Show up at 9:00 and plan on staying until 12:00. We understand some of you are getting to an age that it is not possible for you to do manual labor but this is a very good reason for you to come if you can get there. We will have several able bodied men from the Sheriff's Department and they will be assigned to anyone who is there to have work done on their family plots. All you will need to do is tell them what you want done. The County provides tools for the workers so it is up to you to instruct them and that's it. On past cleanups we have had trees pruned stumps removed and curbs cleaned that were covered with dirt and grass.

2013 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The following persons have been appointed by our Board of Officers to serve on this year's nominating committee. They consist of, Mary Koenig serving as committee Chairperson, Wayne Clowers, and George Goff. They shall report their recommendations to the membership at the annual meeting. Nominations can also be accepted from the floor. If you want to be on the Board or know of someone who is qualified and willing to perform the duties of the Board, please contact any of the nominating committee and give them your recommendations. This will give the committee time to talk with the person and have them on the recommendation list.

According to the WCCA Constitution a person elected to the board will serve for no less than three years. Roger Hays Secretary/Treasurer, Corey Berry, Trustee, and Leslie Reynolds Trustee have agreed to stay in office and no vote is required. The nominating Committee will be making the following recommendations at the meeting and will require a vote by the membership for approval, Michael McGarry President, George Goff, Vice President and John Bailey Trustee. After the vote they will hold the new office for the duration of three year commitment or can stay longer if desired in the same office.

THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING

This years annual meeting is November 2, 2013. This is a very important day for our association. The meeting will be held at the Southlake Christian Church, 1208 Carroll Avenue, Southlake Texas. We will be voting on a new President, Vice President and Trustee. I know everyone is busy but it is important to the future of the Association for as many members to attend and keep the cemetery under the control of the Association. There are many different state and city rules which we must abide by, so as to preserve our historical cemetery status and tax exemption, and the rights of you who are planning to be buried in the cemetery. If we become neglectful about our duties to preserve the cemetery and allow the association to default the cemetery property and funds could be overtaken by the city or state. I know you would not want this to happen so if you are in the area, please take the time to support this meeting. The meeting starts at 10.00 AM and will keep the meeting as short as possible not to exceed 12:00 PM. We will have the updated By-laws and Constitution available at the meeting for you to have a copy. If you need directions please call Roger Hays at 817 475-0880.

ANNUAL FUND RAISER

As you are aware Whites Chapel Cemetery is a non-perpetual care cemetery, family owned and the upkeep done by surviving family members. This means no trust fund for maintenance of your family member's burial space was established at the time of their death. In recent years persons who were buried in the cemetery paid \$200.00 as a burial fee. This payment is made through the Funeral Home which is handling your families arrangements. These funds are then forwarded to the Association and per the Association By-laws is deposited in the permanent fund. The interest from this account is then rolled into the general fund for use in maintaining the cemetery during the year. Whenever this fund was established the interest was high enough to cover the expenses of maintaining the cemetery. Unfortunately with the interest rate as it is today, the cost of maintenance and less burials we are beginning to cut into our reserve to maintain and repair some of the worst damaged stones. We are having the County mow the cemetery however they will only mow it one time per month. When the city tickets us for not mowing we then have to pay to have it mowed. Now it is the task of the Treasurer to ask the family members to support the cemetery with contributions. You can make a tax exempt donation at any time during the year and several have. You can also make a monthly contribution if this fits your situation better. Please make your check payable to Whites Chapel Cemetery Association and return it in the enclosed envelope. In advance thank you for your support of our cemetery. We are collecting email addresses from everyone to be used to send out via email it will save us \$ 2 per copy for the newsletter. Please reply via email to rdhanddsh@gmail.com.

