

Whites Chapel Cemetery Association

Quarterly Bulletin



Monument Additions Repairs and Releveling

During the second quarter we continue to make improvements to the cemetery. Worthington Monument Company continues to be a valuable resource for tombstones even though the price of granite has gone up we continue to get fair market prices for tombstones. We have purchased a tombstone to place where the sign for paupers graves was in the front of the cemetery. The tombstone



reads unnamed instead of pauper. The bars are the shade from the fence. We will take a different picture the next time I am at the cemetery. We have added death dates to Marie Higgins, Marilyn and Royal Smith tombstones at the request of family members. In June the stone for Billy Higgins Preston was installed and looks very good. She has been added to the burial list and to the website. On June 27 Worthington installed the marker for David Martin Christian who passed away on March 23, 2023. We are ordering three additional stones to

gravesites. One is for a newly discovered gravestone which was marked with sandstone in 1914 but is unreadable. This is for Robert Lee Chandler. James Merdeth Blue stone is being replaced due to damage. By request from the family, Saccie Cook and Ada Newton double stone is being re-etched and cleaned. The cost of these will be covered by our maintenance budget and family donations. The family of Kelly Mason has ordered her tombstone and will be placed in the cemetery in the very near future.

Cemetery Mowing

We are searching for a new company to mow our cemetery on a need to mow basis. The Sheriff's Department has been doing the mowing however, they will now mow only two times per year and have notified us they are unable to mow again until the fall. We currently have a quote to mow per visit however, we would like to get a second quote. The American Legion has agreed to mow on the third week of the month until a permanent solution can be found. We mowed on 29 June and will have it mowed again on July 20. If you know of someone who is capable of mowing please have them contract Roger Hays at 817 475-0880 and give me a quote.

New Association Website

Whiteschapelcemetery.org is up and running. From the comments posted we feel it is being well accepted and is being used. Should you find a problem please let us know where we can get it fixed. Also remember the links especially Ancestry.com. We have opened up this sign in to provide you with free access to this great genealogy tool. Tell your family members to sign up for the newsletter. We will be writing stories to add to the newsletter as well. Should you have an interesting story about the cemetery, photos of its people or the community, please attach it to an email and we will get it on the newsletter and website. Remember the contribution button. Any contributions go to the maintenance account and are tax deductible.

Memorial Day Presentation

We were honored to host the Memorial Day Ceremony for the American Legion Post 14 of Southlake, TX. Also paying respects to our veterans were the Boy Scouts of America Troop 928. Thank you to all participants! We are looking to the future for more presentations and events. See the website for photos from this event and watch the calendar for upcoming events.

“Stories, tells and legends of Whites Chapel Cemetery and the people that make it a historic treasure in the heart of Southlake, Texas”

Hard work, Rocks and Families complied by Roger Hays



This is the story of “hard work, rocks, and families”. By the end of this story, I hope you will find how these three things are intertwined with each other and how it relates to the history of our ceme-

tery and the community. I'm going to start with a person buried in our cemetery, Walter Reynolds. Early in the life of Walter he was concerned with supporting his young family. Many of the families in this area started out farming. But because of the need to improve housing for his family and community, Walter decided to become a house builder and rock mason. Many of the first homes in the area were wood frame houses and of course there was no such thing as air conditioning in the summer months and during the winters it was hard to keep homes warm. Story continues on next page

There was always a plentiful supply of rocks, so Walter looked at it as an opportunity to use the supply of rocks known as sandstone to improve and insulate his home. Farmers were more than happy for Walter to remove them from their fields. Also, another local, Lewis Fry would provide rocks from his property or haul them from Palo Pinto County. By mixing stones from different fields, you would get varying colors of stones which made for more appealing homes. Walter built his first home on the property off Pleasant Run Road. This was a little frame house which was on the property when they bought it. This first home gave him the opportunity to try his hand at a new trade and he would build this business into a striving business by veneering many homes in Colleyville, Grapevine, Bedford, Keller, and Fort Worth. In 1934 Walters wife, Minnie passed away, so he hired a local woman and longtime friend, Sylvia Barclay whose husband had also passed away. She became his first helper in rocking or veneering houses. Walter and Sylvia rocked the exterior of many older homes that otherwise might have been destroyed. One of the trademarks of their work was the seam of mortar that Sylvia would place between the rocks. As Walter would cut and place the rock, Sylvia would make the finishing touches with her trowel leaving this raised seam for all to see. Sylvia and Walter would become renown stone workers accomplishing many homes. It is believed that Sylvia was one of the first female masonry workers in this area. The house pictured is her brother's home, many of which were done by the two.

One of the well-known houses which was finished by Walter and Sylvia was my grandfather and grandmother's house in Colleyville. In 1946 my father James W. Hays along with his brother's Vernon and Wayne had just returned from service in World War Two. Dolphin and Chloe Hays had moved to Colleyville from Colorado City, TX to be closer to their daughters Eva Phillips and Ruth Wendell. James and Vernon decided to follow their parents and moved to Colleyville as well. The Hays's had purchased property and a wood frame house on Pleasant Run Road. They had enlarged the house and James had started rocking the front of the house but after about 1/3 of the way finished, he



realized it was more than a part time job and he had started work at Frank Kent Cadillac in Fort Worth. Odie and Wilma McCain, neighbors of the Hays's told them about a man and woman who were skilled in the trade of veneering houses. Walter Reynolds and Sylvia Barclay were hired to complete the job. This house became a beautiful home and showplace in Colleyville because of a unique star which graced the front porch wall. The stone star contains rocks collected by Chloe from 48 states and the District of Columbia. James had built the frame for the star placing twelve rocks from Texas in the center. Rocks from the other states were placed in the five points of the star then the star was embedded in the front porch wall.



Chloe could identify each rock and had them categorized. She collected them in a very unusual way through friends, relatives, and other persons such as a research specialist in New Jersey, the mayor of Wheeling WV, a former county agent in North Carolina, schoolteachers, housewives and ministers. Another example of Chloe's collection techniques was she had read a story in the paper where a sheriff in Maine was involved in a shootout during a robbery of a bank. Chloe wrote to the sheriff asking him to send her a rock from that state. She received it right away in the mail. The story of the rock house on Pleasant Run Rd. with the rocks from every state, that Walter Reynolds and Sylvia Barclay rocked in 1946 for Dolphin and Chloe Hays ended with the house being demolished on July 20, 1986. The star that graced the front porch wall for 48 years found its way back to the original designer James Wesley Hays who placed the stone in his house on Timberline South in Colleyville. This star was featured in an article in the Star Telegram a newspaper covering the local history of the areas communities. Story continues on next page





Dolphin and Chloe are shown in the front yard enjoying time with me. This photo was taken around 1951. The photo below it was taken in 1986 right before the star was moved and the house was torn down. That's me setting on the ledge.



After the death of James, the stone was again removed and went to reside at my brother's house in Fort Worth.

Another interesting house rocked by Walter

Reynolds and my grandmother Sylvia Barclay was located Just south of Continental on Whites Chapel. The house was the third house on the east side of White Chapel. The first house belonged to my great grandmother Mary Katherine Barclay. She is buried in Whites Chapel. The next was John Robert Barclay my Uncle. No photos I don't have photos of these houses but they were rocked by Walter and Sylvia. The two ladies in the photo are my mother Mary Hays and her mother Sylvia. In the photo to the left are two people one on the left side of the outhouse and one on the right (legs.) Since there was no internet at the time, my mother and her cousin Dolores Bailey were always playing outside. The pho-



to makes them look like it was one person poking around the outhouse. It is actually my mother's face and Dolores legs. These out buildings were rock houses as well. Another interesting fact regarding

"small town families", in 1960 Sylvia Barclay and Walter Reynolds were married and lived at the home on White's Chapel which were rocked by the two several years earlier. If you have photos of other houses and want to include them in future newsletters we would love to incorporate them. Please provide the information to Roger Hays at wccemeteryassociation@gmail.com.

We would love to hear your comments about this newsletter.

Thanks to all who provided information and photos for this article. I am unsure as to how many homes were rocked by Walter and Sylvia but I am sure there are others.



The following photos are of Lewis Fry and Howard/Poe homes.