

Old Saltillo Cemetery Association Newsletter

Inaugural Edition - June 8, 2010

Words From Our President

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Old Saltillo Cemetery Association, I extend greetings to you, our Association members, and introduce the Cemetery's inaugural Association Newsletter.

Much like its founding families, faith and hard work ethic, the Old Saltillo Cemetery has been a cornerstone of the Old Saltillo community for well over 100 years, and today serves as a place of reverence and solace for those who can trace their ancestry to its consecrated grounds. The Cemetery, grown from donated land, labor and financial support, continues to be a source of great pride and a virtual gateway to local history for Association members. Beginning with the first burial of Tom Cavener's son, circa 1870, the Old Saltillo Cemetery has been rich in tradition.

Memorial Day is one such tradition... an annual event, thoughtfully conceived to honor individuals interred in the Cemetery. Initially, Memorial Days were held on Thursdays, when families would break from their duties on the farm and meet to tend the Cemetery, share in fellowship and enjoy a picnic lunch. Later, workers were hired to hoe grass and weeds in the cemetery and mound the grave sites. The day then consisted of a memorial program in the morning, with "dinner on the ground" and singing to follow in the afternoon. As the event evolved, ice cream was sold to raise funds for the cemetery, and would-be public servants were known to make rounds, shaking hands and kissing babies. More enduring hallmarks such as church fans, inspirational messages and old time gospel singing punctuate this annual tradition which celebrates life, family and heritage. *Continued, P2...*

Who Moved My Flowers?

The Old Saltillo Cemetery is regarded as one of the most pristinely kept and manicured public cemeteries in its area. The Association contracts grounds management, including mowing, trimming, ground leveling, pest control and maintenance of floral arrangements, including removal of wilted and/or dilapidated flowers, wreaths, arrangement saddles, etc. On the Friday prior to the third Sunday in July, Board members finalize all preparations for Memorial Day. At that time, all faded floral arrangements are removed, and new flowers are placed at the oldest burial sites, as many of the graves in the Cemetery are over 100 years old, as the families of some of those buried in our Cemetery have passed away or live in other areas. Should you come to the Cemetery to place

flowers at your loved one's grave, and find Association-placed flowers already there, you may move them to another grave and place your own arrangement at the grave site. Thank you for helping to maintain our beautiful Cemetery grounds.

Notable Accomplishments



In, 2008, the Association replaced a dilapidated chain-link fence with a beautiful "wrought iron" style aluminum fence, which runs the length of the western boundary (front) of the Cemetery and includes new gates at the entrances. The banner sign which previously spanned the double walk-through gate, was relocated to the drive-through entrance at the southwest corner of the Cemetery.



During Memorial Day 2009, the Association dedicated two newly erected monuments; one in honor all of the military veterans buried in the Old Saltillo Cemetery and the other to memorialize persons buried in the Cemetery, for whom exact burial sites are unknown. The fencing project and monuments were made possible by the estate of Rev. Woodrow Kirby, pastor of the Old Saltillo Church for over twenty years, who generously remembered the Cemetery and numerous other non-profit organizations in his passing.

In addition to recurring duties, the Association places particular importance on preserving the Cemetery's beautiful old monuments and the valuable information they possess. Therefore, in recent years, the Association purchased and installed new monuments at grave sites where the aged monuments have become disfigured, broken and/or the inscriptions have been eroded by time and elements. **All historic stones remain in their**

original position and the Association makes every effort to keep them in good repair. The new stones are placed at the burial site, in addition to the historic stones, reflecting the original inscriptions, easily discernable for those who visit the Cemetery.

Memorial Day 2010

Old Saltillo Cemetery's 2010 Memorial Day Program will be held on Sunday, July 18th from 10:30 until 12:00 at Old Saltillo United Methodist Church, directly across CR 3357 from the Cemetery. The Program will include a brief business meeting of the Association, congregational singing, and special memorial tribute to those interred in the Cemetery in the preceding 12 months. This year, the Association welcomes Little Rock Bluegrass Band, which will entertain Program attendees with an acoustic performance of old-time gospel music. Immediately following the Program, a covered dish lunch will be served in Kirby Memorial Center, the church's air conditioned fellowship hall. Cups, plates, utensils, water and iced tea will be provided. For those who still prefer Memorial Day lunch outdoors, tables will be available under the shade of the church's large oak trees.

Please make every effort to attend!

Genealogy Research

The following resources are recommended by Association members for genealogical research:

www.findagrave.com Research interment records and biographical information.
www.rootsweb.ancestry.com A good site for researching Social Security's death records.
www.angelfire.com/tx/RandysTexas Contains interesting information about Civil War Texans.
<http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.htm#start> Great site for general ancestral research.
www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txhopkin/gen/resouces/addresses.html Excellent resource for Hopkins County, Texas genealogy.
www.usgwarchives.org/tx/tfiles.htm Excellent resource for Texas genealogy.
www.heritagequest.com Membership available via county library membership. Provides access to census records.
www.texasescapes.com/EastTexasTowns/Salttillo-Texas.htm Information about the early years of Saltillo, TX.

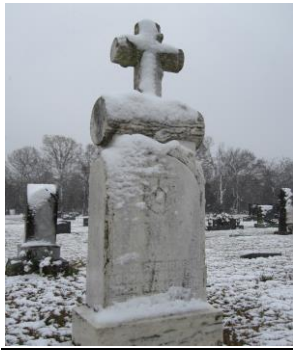
We hope you'll find them useful as well.

President's Words, continued...

July 14, 1949, marked the last confirmed Memorial Day to be held on Thursday, during which Rev. Dwight Hightower served as the program's speaker. However, by this time, many Association members had left work on their own farms in favor of public jobs, so returning to Old Saltillo for a mid-week program was difficult. Although the tradition of Memorial Day was preserved, the event was moved to Sunday, as records indicate that the 1951 Memorial Day service was held on Sunday, July 15, with Rev. P. G. Hightower speaking. [It has yet to be confirmed on what day, Thursday or Sunday, the 1950 service was held.] Since 1951, the third Sunday in July has remained tradition, *with the exception of one year in which the service was held in June*. Memorial Day, which consists today of an Association business meeting, memorial program, singing, speakers, special presenters, fellowship and covered-dish lunch, remains a "not to be missed" event, circled in red on the calendar and highly anticipated by Association members.

Hopefully you have memories of many of the traditions of the Old Saltillo Cemetery. It is our desire that this first edition newsletter will be the beginning of another great tradition that will keep all of you informed of the business and care of the Cemetery that means so much to so many people.

Vivian Dennis-Monzingo, President



Winter 2010



Spring 2010

Editor's Corner

We hope you have enjoyed our Association Newsletter, which we plan to publish semi-annually. Our Cemetery exists because every life is worth remembering and honoring, always.

Treasurer's Comments

During the early 1960's, a perpetual care fund was established to provide for the cemetery on a long-term basis. As prescribed by the Cemetery's governing documents, the principal amount of all grave space reservation fees and perpetual care donations are protected from depletion, as only the investment income they earn, coupled with working funds donations from Association members, may be spent for cemetery maintenance. The forethought of the Cemetery's early Board and Association members has created security for the Cemetery, beyond even their hopes and expectations. The Cemetery is highly regarded locally for its financial health.

As our readers will appreciate, however, the recent down-trending of interest rates offered by FDIC-insured institutions has significantly reduced the Cemetery's interest/operating income. Likewise, the economic climate has taken its toll on Association member donations. As a result, the cost of basic maintenance (mowing, trimming, etc.) is now outpacing our operating income.

We welcome your thoughtful donations, no matter their size, at P.O. Box 123, Saltillo, TX 75478. As a reminder, a full accounting of the Cemetery's annual revenues and expenditures is provided (both orally and in written form) during the Association's annual business meeting.

Ryan Agee, Treasurer

How Does It Run?

The Old Saltillo Cemetery has long been governed by its own set of **By-laws**, adopted by a majority vote of Association members, which may only be amended by a majority vote of Association members at an Association business meeting.

In 1995, the Association was incorporated in the State of Texas through submission and approval of the Association's **Articles of Incorporation**, which may only be amended with approval of the Texas Secretary of State. In addition to the By-laws and Articles of Incorporation, the Association maintains a **General Operating Manual**, which provides guidelines for the perpetual management of the Cemetery grounds and Association funds.

Lastly, the Association publishes '**Rules and Regulations**', intended to provide current and relevant guidelines to Association members, interment official and the general public who may enter upon the Cemetery grounds.

All documents are reviewed regularly in efforts to preserve the beauty of the Cemetery, ensure the solemnity of each burial, and protect the interests of each family with loved ones buried in the Cemetery.

Recent Interments

As of the date of publication, the following individuals have been laid to rest in the Old Saltillo Cemetery, since our last Memorial Day Program:

Jewel Penn	Loy Orren
Jack Gray	Morris Glen Orren
Gladys Briley Pierce	Joe Moon



About your Board of Directors

Over the years, business affairs of the Old Saltillo Cemetery Association have progressed beyond occasional work days and annual Memorial Days, to include more frequent and complex duties. Thus, the Association's business affairs are now managed by its Board of Directors, a body of nine persons, individually elected by the Association to overlapping three-year terms. All Directors work to fulfill the Association's business needs as prescribed by the By-laws of the Old Saltillo Cemetery Association and its General Operating Manual. No Director acts independently in managing the Association's affairs and no single Director may bind or obligate the Association in any business matter. Directors do not receive monetary compensation for performance of their roles and duties.

Your current Board of Directors is as follows:

Vivian Dennis-Monzingo, President
Darwin McGill, Vice-President
Lou Briley Daniel, Secretary
Ryan Agee, Treasurer
Kenneth Patrick, Caretaker
Chris Dennis Skelly, Historian
Louis Agee
Barbara Conley Norris
Billy Joe Parnell

Our sincere wish is that all work performed in and for the Old Saltillo Cemetery enhances its beauty, pleases Association members, and pays tribute to the memory of those buried here.

Board of Directors, 2009/2010