

# Old Saltillo Cemetery Association Newsletter

13th Edition – June 25, 2019

## Words From Our President

Welcome to our 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the OSCA newsletter. As a reminder, between newsletters, we invite you to keep up with the Old Saltillo Cemetery and local community online at [oldsaltillocemetery.com](http://oldsaltillocemetery.com) and/or [facebook.com/oldsaltillocemetery](https://facebook.com/oldsaltillocemetery).

We are finalizing plans for the annual Old Saltillo Cemetery Association Business Meeting and Memorial Day program, to be held in the Old Saltillo United Methodist Church, on Sunday, July 21, 2019. Please plan to attend and enjoy this tradition in the comfort of our recently restored, little country church! The program will begin at 10:30 a.m. with opening comments from the Rev. Stephen Cotten, followed by a welcome from the OSCA Board and singing led by Mike Briley, with piano accompaniment by Lisa Lowery.

Following the traditional program opening and congregational signing, a brief business meeting of the Association will be conducted. The annual Business Meeting will consist of a review of activities undertaken and work performed for the care of the cemetery during the past year, a financial report, and the election of three members for three-year terms to the Board of Directors.

Kelli McAfee Tarver will offer a special memorial tribute to those laid to rest in the Old Saltillo Cemetery since last Memorial Day. Family members of each person buried in the cemetery during the year are encouraged to attend and participate in honoring their loved one.

You may recall that last Memorial Day's program agenda was so full it caused us to run short on time. Thus, the Board has extended an invitation to Mr. John A. Sellers to return as our 2019 featured speaker, and he has graciously accepted. Of course, John is deeply involved and highly accomplished in genealogical research, particularly knowledgeable in Hopkins County history. Please read more about Mr. Sellers in the Spotlight column of our 12<sup>th</sup> edition newsletter, available at the above referenced website, under "Documents".

We are also looking forward to special music by Steve Conley, who consistently delivers a moving tribute, perfectly suited for our annual day of remembrance.

Following the program, lunch will be served in the comfort of the air-conditioned Kirby Memorial Center. For those who still prefer to enjoy their lunch outdoors, tables will be available under the shade of the church's large oak trees. Everyone is asked to bring the usual full meal with ample portions to be shared with others. The food will be arranged buffet style with cups, plates, napkins, utensils, water and iced tea being furnished. See you on July 21st!

Vivian Dennis-Monzingo, President

## Spotlight: OSUMC Restoration

Late summer of 2018 marked the conclusion of the five-month restoration of the historic Old Saltillo United Methodist Church. As a reminder to readers, the comprehensive project involved removal of 1980's siding and windows, rotted floorboards, wall/ceiling coverings, aged lighting/wiring and failing shingles. The foundation was leveled and reinforced, and the roof, walls and ceiling structures were reframed.

Outside, damaged portions of the original wood siding were replaced, the front porch was reconstructed, a new red-shingle roof was installed, and the church steeple was repaired.



Inside, unrepairable sections of the church's original wood plank flooring were replaced, before the floors and wainscot were sanded, stained and varnished. On the interior walls and ceiling, new sheetrock was installed, taped, bedded, textured and painted. The church's electrical system was completely re-wired prior to period-appropriate light fixtures and a new HVAC system (both donated) were installed.



These photos of the beautifully restored Old Saltillo United Methodist Church were published in the December 2018 edition of Down Home East Texas magazine, a publication of The Sulphur Springs News-Telegram.

Special thanks to Jillian Smith, Managing Editor, "Down Home East Texas", for sharing these photos!



Ryan T. Agee, Treasurer & Newsletter Editor

## Interments

Since last publication, the following individuals have been laid to rest in the Old Saltillo Cemetery:

**Elizabeth Tupy Crone**

*August 30, 1936 – March 31, 2019*

**Linda Marie Wardrup Taylor**

*June 17, 2953 – November 30, 2018*

**Max Boyd Wardrup**

*June 10, 1949 – April 10, 2019*

**Ava Nell Matthews Goswick**

*July 19, 1927 – April 26, 2019*

## Do Not Stand at My Grave and Weep

Do not stand at my grave and weep  
I am not there; I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow,  
I am the diamond glints on snow,  
I am the sun on ripened grain,  
I am the gentle autumn rain.  
When you awaken in the morning's hush  
I am the swift uplifting rush  
Of quiet birds in circled flight.  
I am the soft stars that shine at night.  
Do not stand at my grave and cry,  
I am not there; I did not die.

By Mary Elizabeth Frye

## The Passing of a Friend

Dr. Montie Gene Monzingo, husband of Board President, Vivian Dennis-Monzingo, passed away April 22, 2019. Montie long supported the Old Saltillo Cemetery and Old Saltillo United Methodist Church with his many talents and deep appreciation for historic preservation and genealogical research.



A retired educator (SMU faculty member from 1966-2009), he parleyed his passion for research and history into active membership in various organizations, including Sons of the American Revolution and the General Society War of 1812, as well as an array of historic preservation initiatives. To that end, Montie recently undertook two historic certification initiatives directly benefiting the Old Saltillo community. In 2018, he secured certification of the Old Saltillo Cemetery as a registered Texas Historic Cemetery (as announced at OSCA Memorial Day, 2018). Montie has also secured historic certification of the Old Jefferson Road, on which the Old Saltillo Community (FKA and Saltillo) was founded. With admiration and heart-felt gratitude for his many contributions to the Old Saltillo community, church and cemetery, we are pleased to feature the following excerpts from Montie's accumulated research on the Old Jefferson Road:

### “Significance

The early migration into Texas was primarily through the northeastern portion of Texas; thus, some of the earliest Texas history occurred in that area. One example is the Old Jefferson Road which was used originally by the Native Americans living in northeast Texas, and later it became a vital supply line from Jefferson, then a port, to the growing communities in what is now the DFW area. As such, the Old Jefferson Road deserves to be recognized for its place in the early development of northeast and northcentral Texas.

### History

In the 1840's, Old Saltillo was just a nameless camping ground, located where two old by-roads crossed at the edge of the prairie in the eastern part of Hopkins County, about ½ mile from the present-day Franklin County line. Around 1842 the Jefferson Road, with right of way sixty feet wide, was cut out and passed through this camping ground. The Jefferson Road ran from Jefferson, Texas to the DFW area. At that time, Jefferson was the principal river port and landing-place for Peters Colony settlers who came up the Red River and the Big Cypress Bayou. Jefferson was the nearest cotton-market for the Northeast Texas farmers and market for all merchandise being shipped to these early pioneers. Saltillo was an excellent camping ground and

pastureland. Travelers going east would camp early to let their teams graze here, and those going west would travel late to do the same. There were many wagon trains, more than half a mile long, one after another, pulled by one to three spans of mules, or from one to three yokes of oxen. The trip from Saltillo to Jefferson took about eight or ten days with mules pulling the wagons<sup>1</sup>.

The road, or trail, now is referred to by various names; Jefferson Trail, Jefferson Highway, Jefferson Road, Old Jefferson Road, Old Jefferson Wagon Road.

However, when the twilight of history began to break on the territory of what is now Hopkins County, it was occupied by the members of the great Caddo Confederacy. These were timber Indians. They had hunting camps on the Sabine River and even on the Trinity River, but their permanent homes were in the timbers. The great highway which they traveled from their village to where Shreveport now stands to the big prairie each fall and winter to get a supply of buffalo meat and robes passed through Hopkins County. It struck the county at the southeast corner and came nearly due west to Reilly Springs and turned northwest and went out of the county a few miles south of Cumby (at that time Cumby was known as Black Jack Grove). This highway was known as “The Main Caddo Trace”, and it was the landmark by which the first surveyors (Kendall Lewis and J. B. Hill in the 1830s<sup>3</sup>) located their land lines.<sup>2</sup>

The road was next called the Choctaw Trail due to the fact that it was a trail used by the Choctaw Indians. It was next known as the Clarksville road when it became the road used by those in the area of Daingerfield in travelling to Clarksville, the county seat of Red River County. It was next known as the Jefferson Road due to those traveling from Mt. Pleasant and points west to Jefferson.”

In an effort to impress upon the Texas Historic Commission the historical significance of the Old Jefferson Road, Montie included and cited two notable articles. The first, a narrative by Jeff Campbell, as it appears at <http://www.sfasu.edu/heritagecenter/7190.asp>

Before there was an Interstate 30 and before the railroads came to Texas there was an overland route from Jefferson to the Dallas - Fort Worth Metroplex. These were days when Jefferson, Texas was as much of an economic hub as today's large Texas cities; Houston, Dallas and Austin. From about 1843 to 1873 Jefferson was a Steamboat trading partner with New Orleans. Steamboats from New Orleans came up the Mississippi River, veered off on to the Red River, passed through Caddo Lake and then finally arrived at their Jefferson destination on Big Cypress Bayou. Jefferson was a distribution hub for Texas. Products were coming to Jefferson to be sent by Steamboat to New Orleans and goods coming from New Orleans were being distributed across Texas. The overland route that these products were moved on was the Jefferson Road. The route of the Jefferson Road started in Jefferson, and then proceeded west to Dangerfield, through Mt. Pleasant and Mt. Vernon, then arriving in Bright Star (Present

day Sulphur Springs). At Bright Star the road forked with the northern route passing through Bonham and Sherman and the southern route passing through Greenville and Denton. The Steamboats that arrived in Jefferson brought sugar, coffee, salt, clothing, shoes and boots, tobacco, whiskey, medicine, and farm implements. These were dispersed by wagons across East Texas on the Jefferson Road, with the Dallas-Fort Worth area as their final destination. The Jefferson Road was used as a cattle trail, while wagons brought wheat, corn, and cotton to the ports of Jefferson. These goods and products were loaded on to the Steamships, heading south to New Orleans. There are many factors that led to the demise of the Jefferson Road. The removal of the Great Raft (log jam) on the Red River lowered water levels in Caddo Lake and Big Cypress Bayou, making the route impassable for Steamships. The Texas and Pacific Railway connected New Orleans to Dallas-Fort Worth, bypassing Jefferson and instead traveling through Marshall, 15 miles to the south.

The second narrative cited and included in the application for certification of the Old Jefferson Road is “The Old Jefferson Wagon Road”, by Dr. Thomas J. Minter, as it appears at [http://saltililotexas.homestead.com/Jefferson\\_Road.html](http://saltililotexas.homestead.com/Jefferson_Road.html), and in Dr. Minter's book, *Stories of Saltillo*, Minter, Thomas, Bangor, ME, 2008. Dr. Minter's recollections have been cited and quoted frequently in Memorial Day programs, prior Association newsletters, and Saltillo Homecoming programs.

Montie further cites his sources as:

1. Hopkins County Remembered, Hopkins County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 624, Sulphur springs, Texas 75482-0624
2. Scrap Book, History of Hopkins County, by J. C. McDonald, Industrial Edition of the Sulphur Springs News-Telegram, 1928.
3. History of Titus County, Volumes I & II, by Traylor Russell, Edited and Indexed by Christine Dennis Skelly, Franklin County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 1563, Mt Vernon, Texas

Gone too soon, we mourn the loss of our friend, Montie, but honor his legacy of reverence for history and community, which he indelibly impressed upon us. Montie's full obituary: <https://www.resthavenfuneral.com/obituaries/Montie-Monzingo/#!/Obituary>

Ryan T. Agee, Treasurer &  
Newsletter Editor

As always, your financial support is essential to keeping the Old Saltillo Cemetery grounds in pristine condition. In memory / honor of your friends, family and loved ones, consider a donation to the Old Saltillo Cemetery Association, at P.O. Box 123, Saltillo, TX 75478. Donations are tax deductible.