

Old Saltillo Cemetery Association Newsletter

14th Edition – July 9, 2020

Important Notice

The Old Saltillo Cemetery Association Board of Directors made the difficult decision to cancel the Association's annual business meeting and Memorial Day program, originally scheduled for July 19, 2020, at 10:30 a.m. Considering the recent trending of local and statewide COVID-19 infection and hospitalization rates, and observing actions taken by other local cemeteries, this decision was made in the interest of the Association members' health and safety.

The enclosed annual report is submitted to members in lieu of the Association's annual business meeting.

Enjoy the Spotlight Features on OSCA's Newest Board Members



Lucas Dennis



Kathy Whitten Patterson (& Jim)



Sara Wardrup

Thank You, Nat Paul Gibbs

With much gratitude for his years of service on the OSCA Board of Directors, we recognize the resignation of Nat Paul Gibbs. Having joined the board in August of 2012, Nat Paul has been active in all manner of cemetery affairs, including maintenance contract management, financial investments, and decisions about cemetery grounds improvements. His was a consistent voice of reason and practicality. Many of our readers will also be familiar with Nat Paul's wife, Shirley Gibbs, who kindly served as our program speaker for Memorial Day 2015. The Board looks forward to a celebratory meal with Nat Paul and Shirley, as soon as everyone's health and safety permit, in appreciation for their many contributions to the cemetery!

OSCA Board of Directors

Spotlight: Lucas W. Dennis

Long time Saltillo resident, Lucas "Luke" W. Dennis, was elected to the Old Saltillo Cemetery Board of Directors in November of 2017 to fulfill the unexpired term of his aunt, Christine Dennis Skelly, and subsequently re-elected in 2019. Chris left big shoes to fill and Luke has stepped into them in a big way!

Luke was born to Nelsen "Ned" and Kate Dennis in April of 1974 in Idaho Falls, ID, where his dad was serving in the Navy. The family moved to Texas in February of 1980, following Ned's honorable discharge. Thereafter, Luke attended 4 years at Saltillo I.S.D. and later attended and graduated from Sulphur Springs High School.

Luke is the grandson of Aubrey Morris and Ardis Nelsen Dennis, of Saltillo. Ardis is now a resident of the Mount Vernon House, in Mount Vernon, TX. In addition to his grandfather, Aubrey Morris, Luke has two prior generations of family in the Old Saltillo Cemetery, including great-grandparents, Aubrey Lee and Christine Orren Dennis; and great-great-grandparents, Zebedee and Zona Nicholson Dennis.

Luke is the proud father of Shawn Dennis, age 12, who much like his father is not afraid of hard work. You'll find Shawn assisting at cemetery work days and he was largely responsible for keeping Old Saltillo church's new landscaping alive during the hot, hot summer of 2019! In addition to his full-time job with Brinker Water, Luke always makes time for the interests of the Old Saltillo Cemetery. He (and Shawn) ensure that the veterans buried in our cemetery are consistently recognized with American flags at their gravesites... a tradition started by Montie Monzingo, and carried on with the same level dedication and reverence to this day. His proximity to the cemetery (lives just down the way) allows Luke to keep an eye on the cemetery on a regular basis, and we're all better for it!

We're grateful to have Luke on the OSCA Board of Directors... for his work ethic, his civic commitment, and for representing his family so well!

OSCA Board of Directors

Spotlight: Kathy Whitten Patterson

Kathy Whitten Patterson, well known to many of you, was initially elected to the Old Saltillo Cemetery Board of Directors in June of 2018 to fulfill the unexpired term of Barbara Conley Norris.

The daughter of June and Atwell Whitten, Kathy has numerous family members in the Old Saltillo Cemetery, including her parents; grandparents, Jabez and Iva Dell Whitten and Gertrude McAfee Whitten; great-grandparents, John and Margaret Whitten; and grandson, Landon Ty Lambert.

Kathy married Jim Patterson in June of 1965 at the Saltillo Methodist Church. Happy recent 55th anniversary! They are proud parents of one daughter, Dawn Patterson Lambert (and husband Tommy) of Dallas, GA, and one son, David Patterson (and wife Gene) of Houston, TX. They especially enjoy time with their grandchildren, Logan Lambert, Lacey Lambert, Sam Patterson and Nate Patterson.

Completing cosmetology school in 1966, Kathy was a hairdresser for 28 years, and later worked for Jordan Health Services in Mt. Vernon for 9 years, retiring in 2000. Meanwhile, Jim enjoyed a 28 year career as a State Game Warden, stationed in Emory/Rains Co. TX, Gilmer/Upsher Co. TX and finally Mt. Vernon/Franklin Co. TX, before retiring in 1995. Jim would later serve as Franklin Co. Constable from 1997-2000. Kathy and Jim are members of the First Baptist Church of Mt. Vernon. They enjoy spending time outdoors, especially fishing, and Kathy's interior design talents are are well featured in her work staging homes around Lake Cypress Springs.

Kathy reflects on the Old Saltillo Community, "my memories of our little church go back as far as I can remember as a child, to Bible school, reunions, Memorial Day attending church service on occasion." Regarding her OSCA Director role, Kathy says, "I have had the privilege of serving on the OSCA board for 2 years. It has been an honor to belong to such a great group.

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Look Up!

The next time you pass through the front gate of our beautiful cemetery, look up and take notice of the recently refurbished overhead signage. In fact, the dual front gates and arch were recently stripped and powder coated to maximize their longevity and enhance the aesthetic of the cemetery's entrance.



Spotlight: Sara Wardrup

The Old Saltillo Cemetery Association Board of Directors is pleased to welcome our newest fellow Director, Sara Wardrup, who fills the unexpired term of Nat Paul Gibbs.

Sara is the daughter of the late Charles Wardrup, buried at Old Saltillo, and Sandy (and Tom) Tower of Mount Vernon, TX. In addition to her father, Sara has extensive family ties to the Old Saltillo Cemetery, including grandparents, Boyd and Grace Wardrup; great-grandparents, Pird and Susie Cowser Wardrup; great-grandparents Charles and Albertine Henry Briley; great-great-grandparents John and Ella Agee Wardrup; and many others.

Sara grew up in Saltillo and attended school in Sulphur Springs, graduating Sulphur Springs High School in 1986. She attended Texas A&M University, graduating in 1991. Sara has enjoyed a 25 year career in commercial real estate, with a 20 year focus on corporate real estate account management. You'll recognize several of the organizations she serves, including Bank of America, AT&T, Baylor Health Care System and Iron Mountain. Sara has been employed by Jones Lang LaSalle for the past 5 years, and previously enjoyed tenure with Lincoln Harris, CSG, CB Richard Ellis and Mohr Partners, Inc.. She is a member of CoreNet and holds an active Salesperson license in the State of Texas.

Sara is also active in various professional and civic activities, including a current role as Finance Chair/Treasurer for the Baylor Scott & White Irving Foundation and former chair of the Professional Development & Leadership Committee for JLL's Dallas Women's Business Network. Her other civic activities include annual participation in TexasFest, and volunteer work for Jonathan's Place, American Heart Association and Special Olympics.

Sara enjoys spending time with her sister, Amy Wardrup of Frisco, TX, niece Chandler Wardrup of Plano, TX, and especially her two precious great-nephews, Jacob and Luke Friedrich. She also remains close to her father's sister, Anita Wardrup Nitsche of Dallas, TX. These are familiar faces at each Old Saltillo Cemetery Memorial Day!



In her own words, "Old Saltillo church and community is part of all of my childhood memories. My family and the Saltillo Methodist Church provided me with the foundation for my faith and my trust and love of God and serving others. I always loved attending church throughout the year and especially Memorial Day and having lunch under the trees. Very much enjoyed getting to sample everyone's awesome

homemade potluck dishes, but my grandmother, Mama Grace, had the best fried chicken, pea salad and coconut cake. My sister, Amy, and I had the privilege of assisting Jewel with the Memorial Day program for many, many years. And then playing with all of our cousins after the lunch. My dad enjoyed walking my sister and I through the cemetery and pointing out all of our relatives that are there. It is a lot of history and favorable memories. A more recent Memorial Day memory was the year that Uncle Wayne was recognized as the oldest in attendance and my nephew, Jacob, was recognized as the youngest in attendance." Sara adds, "I'm thrilled to be able to carry on my family's tradition to serve on the Board and ensure the preservation of our heritage in this friendly, loving community."

OSCA Board of Directors

Preserving History

The Board of Directors would remind members that there remain a number of known gravesites within the Old Saltillo Cemetery upon which no permanent monuments have been placed.

Association members should note that aluminum markers if/when placed by funeral homes are not sufficient to stand the test of time, as they fade, bend and may be altogether lost within just a couple of years of placement. While OSCA records will document the burial location of those interred within the cemetery, for purposes of genealogical research, companion burials and/or memorialization of your loved ones, permanent markers are highly recommended. Mindful that the anticipated cost of a quality, permanent monument may be discouraging, we have researched locally available pricing for various monument shapes/ sizes and share our findings with you below.

Flat Monument:

- Material: gray granite
- Dimensions: 24" wide X 12" X 4"
- Transported and set in cemetery
- Cement structure beneath
- Starting locally at **\$425 + tax**

Bevel Monument:

- Material: gray granite
- Dimensions: 24" wide X 12" X 6"
- Transported and set in cemetery
- Cement structure beneath
- Starting locally at **\$450 + tax**

Slant Monument:

- Material: gray granite
- Dimensions: 20" wide X 10" X 16"
- Transported and set in cemetery
- Cement structure beneath
- Starting locally at **\$550 + tax**

Single Upright Monument:

- Material: gray granite
- Upright Dimensions: 20" X 20" X 6"
- Base Dimensions: *about* 32" X 18" X 6"
- Transported and set in cemetery
- Cement structure beneath
- Starting locally at **\$775 + tax**

These readily available shapes and sizes are also available in other stones/colors, albeit at higher pricing.

*Lou Briley Daniel, Vice President & Secretary
OSCA Board of Directors*

Patterson, cont...

We have a wonderful leader and we all work together to keep our little church and beautiful cemetery in excellent condition. Witnessing the restoration of the Old Saltillo Methodist Church in 2018 was something amazing... an experience that I will remember always."

Kathy has been an amazing addition and asset to the OSCA Board of Directors, and to the cemetery in general. She sees a job and does it... identifies a need and fills it. We are most thankful to have her partnership and friendship in support of the Old Saltillo Cemetery!

OSCA Board of Directors

Financial Support

As always, your financial support is essential to keeping the Old Saltillo Cemetery grounds in pristine condition.

While the Association remains in exceptionally sound financial health, the economic climate of recent months has limited interest earnings through FDIC insured investment options. Yet, the expense of all manner of maintenance and repairs persists. In spite of the unfortunate cancellation of our annual gathering, to the extent that you are able, please maintain your generous giving. Donations may be mailed to the [Old Saltillo Cemetery Association](#), at P.O. Box 123, Saltillo, TX 75478. Donations are tax deductible.

Ryan T. Agee, Treasurer

Passings

We note the following passings, since last Memorial Day:

Mary Madelynn "Midge" Conley
September 29, 1965 – October 19, 2019

Dorothy Burnett Mitchell
December 30, 1931 – December 27, 2019

Donald Earl Ensey
December 24, 1930 – February 25, 2020

Ethleen Bishop Pollan
November 7, 1925 – March 11, 2020

Wayne Lewis Wardrup
June 1, 1922 – June 1, 2020

Pending Interments:

Montie Gene Monzingo
May 4, 1940 – April 22, 2019

Kenneth Wayne McGill
June 14, 1942 – March 1, 2020

When Great Trees Fall *(excerpt)*

And when great souls die,
after a period peace blooms,
slowly and always
irregularly. Spaces fill
with a kind of
soothing electric vibration.
Our senses, restored, never
to be the same, whisper to us.
They existed. They existed.
We can be. Be and be
better. For they existed.

By Maya Angelou