

Old Saltillo Cemetery Association Newsletter

15th Edition – June 23, 2021

Words From Our President

Hello and welcome to this 15th edition of the OSCA newsletter. As a reminder, between newsletters, we invite you to keep up with the Old Saltillo Cemetery and community events on Facebook at facebook.com/oldsalttillocemetery and/or our website at oldsalttillocemetery.com.

Plans are being made for the annual Old Saltillo Cemetery Association Business Meeting/Memorial Day to be held at 10:30 a.m., July 18, 2021, in the Old Saltillo United Methodist Church, located at 664 County Road 3357, Saltillo, Texas.

The program will begin with congregational singing led by Steve Conley. The opening ceremony will be followed by a brief business meeting that includes a formal report of the activities of the Board of Directors, the financial position of the Association, plans for the coming year, and the election of three Board of Director members for the 2021-2024 term.

Keeping with tradition, a Memorial Program eulogizing loved ones buried in the Old Saltillo Cemetery will be observed. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the 2020 annual meeting was not held. Therefore, the program will recognize all who have been buried in the Old Saltillo Cemetery from July 19, 2019 – July 18, 2021. Family members present are asked to stand during the reading of a short verse, as a star is symbolically placed in remembrance of loved ones. Kelli McAfee Tarver, Ginnifer Agee Doyle, and their daughters will present the remembrance. A special musical presentation will be offered by Steve Conley.



The Old Saltillo Cemetery has received the very prestigious recognition by the Texas Historical Commission with an Official Texas Historical Marker. A dedication ceremony will be the program for this year's annual meeting. John Sellers, Chair of the County Historical Commission, will preside at the dedication. This is a richly historic Hopkins County Cemetery. It received the Historic Designation in 2018 and the placement of the subject marker completes its story.

The Old Saltillo Cemetery originated as the burial place of a child who died near Saltillo in 1870s, while traveling the Jefferson Road with his family. His name and the burial plot are unknown. There were two marked burials in 1873, one in 1875, one in 1876, and two each in 1878 and 1879. Cont. on Page 2

Spotlight: Wreaths Across America

On December 18, 2021, the Old Saltillo Cemetery will be participating in the national Wreaths Across America day. Kathy Whitten Patterson and Lucas Dennis are co-directing efforts to raise awareness and wreath purchases for this meaningful show of honor and respect for veterans interred within our cemetery. Please review the following overview of Wreaths Across America's mission and purpose (in their own words) and learn more about participation.

Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 2,100 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad.



WHO WE REMEMBER

From the Revolutionary War to present day conflicts, our veterans are devoted sons and daughters, fathers and mothers, sisters and brothers. They come from all backgrounds in life to place those lives on the line for our freedoms. There are millions of individual stories to tell. Get to know them by viewing the 4,760 recent online posts made by our supporters or sponsor a wreath in honor of or in memory of an American hero.

WHERE WE REMEMBER

Wreaths Across America coordinates wreath-laying ceremonies at more than 2,100 locations across the United States, at sea and abroad. 2021 is the first year the Old Saltillo Cemetery has had the privilege of participating as a wreath-laying location.

WHEN WE HONOR

While coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies each December on National Wreaths Across America Day is a big part of what we do, our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach is carried out throughout the year. From our Remembrance Tree program to the Wreaths Across America Museum in Maine, there are many different ways in which you can get involved!

HOW WE TEACH

Wreaths Across America's mission touches the lives of thousands of school, scout, civic and religious groups across the country through fundraising for wreath sponsorships. These groups help us ensure that we reach our goal to place a wreath on each

hero's grave. In return, they receive fundraising dollars that assist in furthering their own goals and projects.

WHY WE DO IT

We understand we have Veterans Day in the fall and Memorial Day in the spring, but our service members sacrifice their time and safety every single day of the year to preserve our freedoms.

In many homes, there is an empty seat for one who is serving or one who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. There is no better time to express our appreciation than during the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. We hope you will join us at any of our more than 2,100 participating locations to show our veterans and their families that we will not forget. We will never forget.

WHO SUPPORTS US

Thank you to all of the companies and organizations working to support the mission to Remember, Honor and Teach. Without their support, we would not be able to reach so many communities across the country.

The Old Saltillo Cemetery wreath-laying event, honoring the 100+ veterans within our cemetery, will take place Saturday, **December 18th, 2021 at 11:00am**. We invite and encourage public attendance at the event, which will include a brief program followed by wreath-laying.

Wreaths cost \$15 each, or you may participate in the "3 for 2" program whereby you purchase 2 wreaths (\$30) and receive a 3rd wreath free!

Order your wreaths online:

www.wreathscrossamerica.org/TX0987

or by mail:

Old Saltillo Cemetery Association
c/o Lucas Dennis & Kathy Patterson
P. O. Box 123
Saltillo, Texas 75478

Checks payable to: **"Wreaths Across America"**

All wreaths purchased for the Old Saltillo Cemetery will be delivered directly to the cemetery by Wreaths Across America. If ordering by mail via OSCA, you may indicate which recipient(s) you wish to honor with your purchased wreath(s).

Should you have any questions about the Wreaths Across America program, please contact:

Kathy Whitten Patterson 903-434-2343

Lucas Dennis 903-588-0973



Order Deadline: October 31, 2021

Beginning in the early 1930s, annual memorial services were held at the Old Saltillo Methodist Church. Early each morning on the day of the Memorial service two or three men took their shotguns to the woods to hunt for squirrels. After they shot the squirrels, the men cleaned them, North of the church building they built a fire under a large pot already containing water. Into the pot they put the squirrel carcasses, stewed tomatoes, canned corn, potatoes, salt and pepper. By noon time the stew was ready to be eaten. The women of the community provided numerous desserts such as chess pie, chocolate pie, pineapple cake, German chocolate cake, butterscotch pie, banana pudding, and blackberry cobbler.

Until the early 1960s the program was scheduled for the third Thursday in July. By that time, the cotton crops had been "laid by." In order to raise money for the upkeep of the cemetery at Old Saltillo, men of the community sold concessions during the noon hour and all afternoon. They sold soft drinks, cooled in tubs of ice; candy bars; and even ice cream from canisters stacked in wash tubs filled with ice. In the afternoon children stood near the concession stand, located under the oak trees north of the church building, hoping that a generous adult would supply them with sodas and ice cream. After all, the money went for a good cause.

In the 1940s and the 1950s the annual observances were all-day events, but in more recent years the celebration ends with the noon meal. Since 1960, the services have been held on the third Sunday in July.

Following the Unveiling of the Official Texas Historical Marker, lunch will be served in the air-conditioned Kirby Memorial Center. You are asked to bring some of your favorite dishes... enough to feed all in your party and share some with others. Lunch will be served immediately after the program in a buffet manner with all eating utensils, plates, iced drinks, and coffee provided. Seating in the serving area is limited; however, space is plentiful under the huge oak trees around the church. Feel free to bring lawn chairs, card tables, etc. to enjoy your lunch and fellowship with others in attendance.

At 1:30 p.m., an unveiling ceremony will be held approximately one-half of a mile north of the church/cemetery on County Road 3357, dedicating an Official Texas Historical Marker for the Old Jefferson Road.



Old Saltillo was just a camping ground with no name, in the 1840s, located where two old by-roads crossed at the edge of the prairie in the Eastern part of Hopkins County, about one-half mile from the Franklin County Line.

About 1842, the Jefferson Road, with right of way sixty feet wide, was cut and passed through the camping ground. The Jefferson Road ran from Fort Worth, Dallas and surrounding points to Jefferson, Texas' principal river port at that time. The local branch of the Jefferson Road began at Mount Pleasant and went west to Old Tarrant, which at that time was the county seat of Hopkins County.

The Jefferson Road was everyone's road. An occasional stagecoach would use the road as an alternate, and at times a troop of Calvary would follow the road a piece. Cattle were driven over the road to the market in Jefferson. Oxen trains could be seen plodding the road. Horse and mule drawn wagons were there too.

From one to three spans of mules were used, or from one to three yoke of oxen. The trip took about eight or ten days with mules pulling the wagons from Old Saltillo to Jefferson.

One favorite place to camp for the travelers was Twin Groceries. It was an excellent camping ground, and people going east would camp early in order to let their teams graze on the prairie. Those going west would travel late in order to do likewise.

Today there are vestiges of the Old Jefferson Wagon Road. Its roadbed is still visible in places. When it was in use, they let trees grow at its edges to prevent erosion. For the most part its path is now on private property. Aerial photos and satellite images show the roadbed here and there. One can still find traces and fragments of the old stores' foundations and chimney at Twin Groceries (Old Saltillo).

Information in this message concerning the history of the Old Saltillo Cemetery and the Old Jefferson Road was taken from the application to the Texas Historical Commission. Sponsor Name: Montie G. Monzingo, dated 8/21/18.

We hope that you will be able to attend part or all of the events schedule for Sunday, July 18, 2021.

Vivian Dennis-Monzingo, President

Financial Support

As always, your financial support is essential to keeping the Old Saltillo Cemetery grounds in pristine condition. Due to the unfortunate cancellation of our 2020 Business Meeting/Memorial Day, our 2020 revenue was significantly diminished and your support in 2021 is vital.

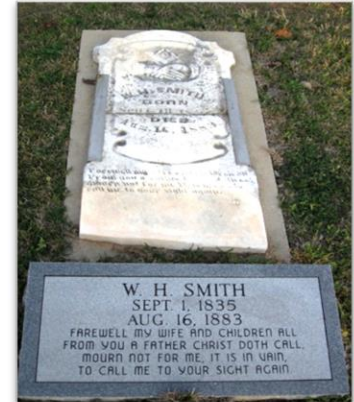
While the Association remains in exceptionally sound financial health, the current economic climate and the impact of a global pandemic and related recession have limited the donations we depend on for operating expenses and maintenance/repair costs. Therefore, to the extent that you are able, please maintain or reinstate your generous giving to our cemetery.

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

Preserving History

The OSCA places particular importance on preserving the cemetery's beautiful old monuments and the priceless information they possess. Thus, in past years, the Association has purchased and installed new (additional) monuments at grave sites where the aged monuments have become disfigured, broken and/or the inscriptions eroded by time and elements.



The growing number of historic monuments in need of attention compel the Association to resume preservation efforts (previously curtailed due to expense). Should you have interest in designating donations over & above your typical donation for preservation marker purchase, we would welcome your support for this initiative!

Trapper Pace, Contributing Columnist

In Memory

Having missed the 2020 Memorial Day program, we here provide a full listing of those laid to rest in the Old Saltillo Cemetery since our 2019 memorial program and confirmed to be memorialized during our 2021 Memorial Day:

Montie Gene Monzingo

May 4, 1940 – April 22, 2019

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

Donnie Wayne Momon, Sr.
June 12, 1940 – September 13, 2021

William DeLore Holloway
October 1, 1953 – January 1, 2021

Nelson Erol "Ned" Dennis
October 14, 1952 – January 26, 2021

*"Should we lose each other
in the shadow of the evening trees
I'll wait for you,
should I fall behind wait for me"*

Bruce Springsteen
<https://www.springsteenlyrics.com>