

Old Saltillo Cemetery Association Newsletter

P.O. Box 123 Saltillo, Texas, 75478

18th Edition – August 1, 2024

Words From Our President

Hello and welcome to this 18th 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/oldsaltilocemetery and/or our website at oldsaltilocemetery.com.



By all accounts, the 2024 Memorial Day Program was a success. The program opened with Steve Conley leading attendees in a congregational hymn. Following the invocation by Rev. Dan Hoke and Pledge of Allegiance led by Lucas Dennis, Trapper Pace welcomed attendees and recognized the oldest, youngest and farthest traveled. He spoke of the importance of tradition in preserving the cemetery's legacy, and especially in maintaining the customs of our annual Memorial Day event. A brief business meeting provided attendees with an overview of events of the last 12 months, including maintenance activities, the retirement of Kenneth Patrick from the Board of Directors, the appointment of Shane Thedford to the Board of Directors, a financial report and collection, the election of Randy Agee, Ryan Agee and Shane Thedford to 3-year terms on the Board of Directors, and the cemetery's planned participation in the Wreaths Across America event. Several of these topics are revisited in this newsletter.

Attendees observed a Memorial Program eulogizing loved ones recently buried in the Old Saltillo Cemetery. Family members of honorees were encouraged to stand to be recognized, as stars were symbolically placed in remembrance of loved ones. In absence of Kelli McAfee Tarver, Ginnifer Agee Doyle and daughter Aubrie Benton presented the remembrance, and Steve Conley performed an inspirational solo.

Father and daughter duo, Larry Neal and Tracie Neal Smith provided the day's featured program, a moving musical medley. Joan Roberts Cobb and Constance McGill closed out the program with a self-authored poem (printed herein) and benediction, respectively.

Afterward, attendees made their way to the Kirby Memorial Center for a buffet lunch where entrees, vegetables, salads, desserts and cold drinks were plentiful, and fellowship abounded! Thanks to all who made the day a success!

Vivian Dennis-Monzingo, President

Spotlight: Shane Thedford

Recently elected to the OSCA Board of Directors, Shane is the son of the late Aubrey Hamilton, buried at Old Saltillo, and Jo Hamilton of Mount Vernon, TX. In addition to his adopted father, Shane has extensive family ties to the Old Saltillo Cemetery, including brother Charles Hamilton; aunts, Eppie Harris and Eleanor Pryor, uncles, Hogan Hamilton, and Robert Hamilton; grandparents, Earl and Elma Hamilton; and great-grandparents, Dick and Eppie Arthur Hamilton.

Shane grew up east of Saltillo in the Hamilton Community spending much of his childhood working on the family farm. He attended school in Mount Vernon, graduating from Mount Vernon High School in 1993. Shane attended Texas A&M University-Commerce graduating in 1997 with a double major in history and health. He also earned his Master of Education degree in 2003 from TAMU-Commerce. Shane has enjoyed a 27 year career in public education (11 years in administration and 16 years in the classroom.) You'll recognize several of the schools he has served, including Winfield, Tyler, McCombs, Big Spring, Mt. Vernon, and North Hopkins. Shane currently enjoys teaching math to a new generation of learners in Detroit ISD.



Shane is also active in civic activities, including serving on the Board of Directors for West Texas Opportunities, Inc., a community action agency based in Lamesa, TX from 2005-2010; and Unit Commissioner for Boy Scout Pack 501 from 2012-2017. Shane is also a member of the Mount Vernon Masonic Lodge #691. He has been a Master Mason for 26 years. Shane married Roxanna Baker in April of 2001 at the First United Methodist Church in Mount Vernon. They are proud parents of one son, Connor Thedford, a recent Mount Vernon High School graduate who will leave for United States Marine Corps Boot Camp on August 26th.

Shane remarks, "It is a great honor to serve my family and community on the Old Saltillo Cemetery Board. I have many fond memories helping my parents at Old Saltillo Cemetery workdays, and with cemetery mowing duties back in the 90s. It is a privilege to follow in my dad's footsteps by serving on the Board of Directors. I know he and his family would be proud."

OSCA Board of Directors

Remembering Bobby Goswick

Former OSCA Director and longtime Saltillo resident, Bobby Gene Goswick, age 96, passed away on February 23, 2024.



He was born on August 8, 1927, to Moses and Mary Arthur Goswick. He grew up in the Old Saltillo community where he attended Saltillo school for 12 years. Bobby lettered in basketball for 4 years and played 3rd base on the baseball team. He met his high school sweetheart, Ava Matthews, their senior year. They graduated in 1945 and married on May 9, 1946. They remained married for 73 years until her death in 2019.

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In Memory

The following individuals have been laid to rest in the Old Saltillo Cemetery since last publication, and were recognized during our July 2024 program:

David Murrel Lewis

August 5, 1922 – August 1, 1943

Robert "Bob" Hamilton Spearman

October 1, 1927 – July 6, 2023

Joyce Ann Roberts Hill

April 15, 1945 – October 4, 2023

Gerald Lee Wilburn

January 25, 1954 – October 31, 2023

Roy Ervin Cobb, Jr.

December 23, 1935 – January 2, 2024

Bobby Gene Goswick

August 8, 1927 – February 23, 2024

Welcome Gene Barnett

July 12, 1932 – May 10, 2024

"Silently, one by one, in the infinite meadows of heaven, Blossomed the lovely stars, the forget-me-nots of the angels."

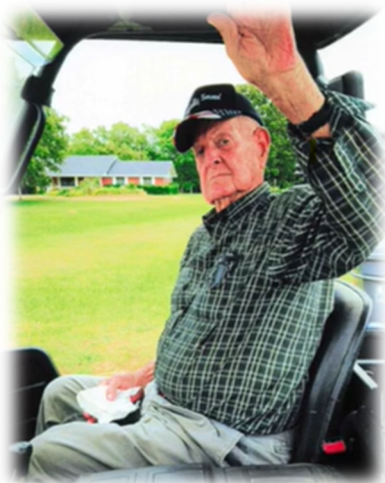
*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
Evangeline: A Tale of Acadie*

Bobby Gene Goswick, cont.

Bobby and Ava lived in Casper, Wyoming where he worked for Kellogg Construction, completing building projects for Standard Oil Company. After returning to Texas, Bobby worked for Southwestern Bell Corporation, retiring as Area Network Manager in 1987.

Always patriotic, Bobby served in the United States Army during the Korean War, and continued in the Army Reserves, serving his country from 1951-1961 with a rank of Master Sergeant. Also, community minded, Bobby volunteered with the Saltillo VFD after retiring to Saltillo. He was made an Honorary Chapter Farmer by the Saltillo FFA in 1989. He also received the Man of the Year Award at the 1992 Hopkins County Rural-Urban Banquet. In 2013, he was named a Paul Harris Fellow by the Mount Vernon Rotary Club. As a 33 degree Master Mason, Bobby was a member in good standing for 65 years. He also was a member of the Commandery of the Knights Templar. In 2006, he was presented the Golden Trowel award by the Sulphur Bluff Lodge No. 246.

In addition to teaching Sunday School at Old Saltillo United Methodist Church, Bobby served on the Old Saltillo Cemetery Association Board of Directors for many years. He volunteered countless hours to the maintenance and upkeep of the cemetery, helped grid and record burials and mark grave spaces for future use, and generally supported the varied needs of the cemetery and Association.



Bobby will surely be missed...

OSCA Board of Directors

Financial Support

Your support is essential to keeping the cemetery in pristine condition. If you were unable to attend this year's Memorial Day Program, please consider making a financial contribution to the Old Saltillo Cemetery Association, a 501 (c) (13) organization.

At any time of year, in memory / honor of your friends, family and loved ones, please also consider a donation to OSCA. Honorees or their family members will be notified of your contribution. Your tax-deductible donations may be mailed to the address at the top of this newsletter. Thank you!

Ryan T. Agee, Treasurer

Old Saltillo Memorial Days

The little white church with its steeple
Long, stood on the Old Country Road. –
With the windows open wide to invite
a breeze inside –
For it was the month of July.

The gathering that Sunday was mingled
with some hearts sad from recent grief
And remembering the loved ones we lost.

But the joy and laughter was heard
As we greeted each sweet familiar face. –
Aunties, and Uncles, cousins and old friends
There were hugs and smiles as the love flowed
From within!

The Dear old hymns we sang reminded
us of our faith.
Sometimes we wiped a tear that had
Slipped out on our face.

Each Star was placed on the sky with care
And a poem read for those
Whose names were written there.

Then under the old Oak Trees we hurry
To find our place for the food that was spread,
Prepared by the best!
Oh! What a feast!
Fried Chicken and okra, fresh Tomatoes too
Pecan Pies and Cobblers to mention a few!

With hearts and stomachs full we stroll
Across the road where loved ones lie. –
Marked by stones, some small, some high
Their faces we no longer see
But in our hearts, they always will be.

There's Mothers, Fathers, Grandmas,
Brothers, sisters, husbands, friends,
Among them sons and daughters too.
We stroll around, remembering each one
And know when our Time on earth is done
We will join them on the other side
And with them forever we'll abide.

We gained strength from being Together
And remembering days gone by
It will help us face our Tomorrow's
As we say our sad goodbyes.

So now another year passes and
For these who have carried the load
We say, "Thank You" for all of your efforts
You have laid up Treasures of gold.

May, "The Lord bless you, and keep you;
The Lord makes His face shine on you
And be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up His countenance on you,
And give you peace." Numbers 6: 24 – 26

By: Joan E. Roberts Cobb & Sally M. Roberts Davis
Daughters of Jewell Nichols Roberts

Joan Roberts Cobb shared these moving words with attendees of Memorial Day 2024... particularly poignant, as her husband's and sister's passings were recognized during the program (noted on page 1.)

Thank You: Kenneth Patrick

With sincere appreciation and deep gratitude, the OSCA Board of Directors accepted the resignation of Kenneth Patrick in the spring of 2024.



Kenneth Patrick joined the Board of Directors in July of 2003. He was appointed Managing Director for the cemetery over 10 years ago and has been diligently assisted by his wife Gwen for the duration of his tenure. Rain or shine, hot or cold, they kept records of burials, assisted people in selecting burial spaces and marked the places where new monuments should be erected. They consulted with Association members, funeral homes, monument companies, contractors, fellow Board members, and others in performing the varied functions of Managing Director.

The Board of Directors has planned a Dutch Treat dinner August 15, at 6:30 p.m. to express appreciation to Kenneth's and Gwen's outstanding hard work and dedication. If you are interested in attending, please contact one of the Directors.

OSCA Board of Directors

Wreaths Across America

The Old Saltillo Cemetery will again take part in Wreaths Across America in December of 2024, joining more than 2,100 other locations across the United States, at sea and abroad by participating in the national Wreaths Across America day.

Kathy Whitten Patterson and Lucas Dennis co-direct our cemetery's involvement in this meaningful show of honor and respect for veterans interred within our cemetery. Please mark your calendars now for the Old Saltillo Cemetery WAA program and wreath-laying on Saturday, December 14th, 2024 at 11:00am.

Wreaths are \$17 each, or opt for the "3 for 2" by purchasing 2 wreaths (\$34) and receive a 3rd wreath free!

Order your wreaths online:

www.wreathsassamerica.org/TX0987

OR

Old Saltillo Cemetery Association
c/o Lucas & Kathy,

P. O. Box 123 - Saltillo, Texas 75478

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

If you have questions, you may contact:
Kathy 903-434-2343 / Luke 903-588-0973