

Bluffton Cemetery Association Newsletter

83 years since the BCA was formed by the citizens of Old Bluffton
~ *150 years* since the Bluffton Cemetery was established ~
October, 2014

Bluffton Cemetery - 150 years of Service

NO.	NAME	AGE	DATE OF BURIAL	MARKER	NEW GRAVE LOCATION	REMARKS
SHP#	NAME OF LIVING RELATIVES	ADDRESS	COMMENT TO REMOVAL	PERMIT NO.		
	Nelson	Infant	about 1864		lot 105 to 110	
	No relatives known					
	This was not grave in Bluffton Cemetery					
	Grave Moved 10/15/19					

On a sad day in 1864, the local schoolmarm, a Mrs. Nelson was traveling in a buggy, perhaps either to, or from school, when the buggy overturned. She was expecting a child and unfortunately, due to the accident, her child, a little girl, was born prematurely, and did not survive. C. L. Yarbrough, in his book CANYON OF THE EAGLES, quoted Mr. Oliver Maxwell; who said that his dad, then 5 year old Jim Maxwell (first child born in Old Bluffton, on July 6, 1859) as saying that he, and a one-armed Mexican wrapped the infant in a cloth, placed the body in an apple crate, and buried her "near the school".

Later records of the Bluffton Cemetery Association show this to be the first burial in the Old Bluffton Cemetery, "about 1864". This is how we determine that this is the 150th year of our cemetery's existence.

The story in the first paragraph matches records we have and corroborate the age of our cemetery. We feel comfortable in this, as in less than two years, two others were buried here. Charles L. Davis, aged 8, died on 9/26/1866, and less than four months later, his older sister Elzira, aged 14, died on 1/12/1867. They were both buried in the same general area where the Nelson infant girl was buried. Their father, Thomas Henry Davis, donated 3 acres of land to be used as a cemetery and school ground so the times recorded seem to verify this date.



Over the years the Old Bluffton Cemetery continued to serve the needs of the Bluffton community. However, in 1930, devastating news for the area was announced which told that the Bluffton area was soon to be inundated by waters that would cover the community by

as much as 60-80 feet. A dam was to be built about 8 miles south on the Colorado River, at the Shirley Shoals, and water would cover the Bluffton and Tow communities, and farm and ranch lands all around.

So, it was determined that a new cemetery would have to be built to replace this old landmark of the Bluffton community. Land was selected about ten miles west, on old state highway 29, and the new cemetery was built.



Picture courtesy LCRA Archives

By the spring of 1931, the "New" Bluffton Cemetery was completed and soon had its first burial. Five year old Imogene Clendennen died on May the 8th of 1931 and became the first person buried in the new cemetery. There were many more to follow. 422 persons' remains were moved to the "New" Bluffton Cemetery from the basin of newly completed Lake Buchanan. Numerous others died in the community during this time, and by the end of 1937 there were 457 persons buried in the cemetery.

Over the years since, the Bluffton Cemetery has continued to serve with distinction as a place of final rest for the people of Llano County and surrounding areas. Today there are approximately 1,353 persons buried in the cemetery. About 1,439 plots have been assigned for future use, and there are 268 plots available for purchase.

It is our hope that the Bluffton Cemetery can continue to serve our community for many years to come. It is only through you, our patrons, that this can be realized. Your support and donations are necessary for the Bluffton Cemetery to maintain the high standards that we strive for each and every day. Thank you very much for your continued support. Someday hopefully a new generation will celebrate 200 years!



Recent Passings - October, 2013 through Present

This year saw an unusual amount of activity in the Bluffton Cemetery. The following have passed away and have been interred in our cemetery since our last meeting.

Aston, Douglas Harold Sr.
 Baker, Loyd Waymon
 Bonham, Travis Croft
 Book, Gary Edward
 Brown, Terry Lee
 Campbell, Homer Louis
 Campbell, Rachel Elizabeth
 Cunningham, James Alvin III
 Foster, Phillip Norman
 Hallmark, Mary Dan (Wilson)

Huddleston, Arthur Joseph
 Jolly, Jody Lynn
 Jones, Alan Norris
 Killebrew, Elgin Murray
 Langham, Bettye Jo (McKee)
 Manning, Doris Lorraine (Jacobs)
 Manning, Russell George
 McDonald, Ollie Henry, Jr.
 Medlock, Betty Faye (Brown)
 Mihills, Leroy L.
 Parish, Rosemary (Riley)
 Parks, Elsie Marie
 Parsons, Richard Louis
 Rodriguez, Martina (Fraga)

Ross, Delton Brooks
 Scott, Charlie Merle
 Spear, Amida Christine (Furr)
 Stevens, Toby Jay
 Walker, Lawrence Hall
 Wardlow, Barbara Ann (Lee)
 Wardlow, J. D.
 Whitten, William "Bill" Floyd
 Wilson, Jacklyn Ruth (Spiva)

Our condolences are extended to the families and acquaintances of these departed souls. May you all find comfort and peace as you visit their final resting places here at the Bluffton Cemetery.

Changes to the BCA Bylaws

At last year's BCA Annual Business Meeting a change to the bylaws was made which defined the proper decoration of graves at the cemetery. Basically all decorations must be placed at the head of the grave, with nothing in the center of the grave which impedes mowing. Maintenance and upkeep of the cemetery is THE major expense each year and so this addition to the bylaws was deemed necessary. Additionally, the directors clarified the bench issue in the bylaws, and the number of persons who can occupy each plot, that being two.

These current bylaws are posted on our web site, blufftoncemetery.org, and copies will be available at the annual business meeting. It is important that we ALL abide by these bylaws to insure the integrity of our fine Bluffton Cemetery.

Are You Caring for Your Loved One?

Sometimes once a person is buried in a cemetery, they are sadly forgotten. This is sad, as their memory is one of the most important reasons for their burial. Here are some examples of forgotten loved ones: In the picture below the person bur-



ied on the right died in 1970. However, the date of their death was never placed on their monument. In the next example, the person was buried, a temporary marker was placed at the grave, and the person was soon forgotten.



The person who was buried here will someday soon become unknown, except to the cemetery's records, as this marker will eventually be lost. Notice that though the marker was placed in 2008, it is already showing damage which will continue until it will no longer be

there. Finally, and this is the saddest one, this person was buried in 1965, there is no marker, so this person is for all purposes, an unknown in the Bluffton Cemetery. The person's identity is known in the records of the cemetery, but this person's identity is unknown to the rest of the world.



The Bluffton Cemetery Association encourages everyone who has a loved one buried here to take the responsibility of properly marking their loved one's grave. In fact, marking the grave of one buried here at the cemetery is a requirement for burial here.

Please do your part to see that this important responsibility is carried out so that in future years, your loved one is not lost to the ravages of time.

Did you know...

That the oldest person buried in our cemetery is Albert Clendennen? Albert lived to the ripe old age of 106. His brother Claud came in a close second and lived to the age of 105. Two others made the century mark. Julia Kuykendall lived to 101, and Kenneth Jackson lived to be 100 years old. There were 85 who lived into their nineties, with several making it to 99.

That one person is buried in two graves? One of George Tillman Herridge's legs is buried in lot 137, plot 1, while the rest of him is buried in lot 137, plot 2. He passed away on March 25, 1955. It is not known when his leg "passed."

Can you guess what day William Christmas Herridge was born on? Wow, you ARE smart. W. C. was born on December 25, 1820. He almost died on his birthday, only 20 days short on December 5, 1920.

Bluffton/Tow Old Settlers Reunion

The Bluffton/Tow Old Settlers Reunion will be held on Saturday, October 11, 2014, from 11am until 2pm at the Tow Community Center. There will be lots of food and other activities, including VISITING so make your plans now to attend.

*We'll see you
 on Saturday,
 October 4th at 10am*