

# • TREE TALK •

Volume 41 Issue 2

Winter 2015-2016

## Table of Contents

Editor's Letter	38
The Southern Folk Cemetery: Mt. Hope as a Case Study (2015 Revision of 1992 Edition) by John Ross	39
Efforts of Locating Lost Cemeteries, Part 1 by Deborah Burkett	47
Efforts of Locating Lost Cemeteries, Part 2 by Gordon Bennett	54
Benjamin Selman, Sr. Last Will and Testament transcribed by Ogreta W. Hutash	61
Letter to Nona Clarice Mellard regarding Jacob Womack with proofs from the Will of Benjamin Selman by Ogreta W. Huttash	64
Publications available through CHEROKEE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY	69
Order Form	71
Membership Application	72

Visit our Internet site at:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txcherok/>



## Editor's Letter

John Ross, Deborah Burkett, Richard Hacknet and I made presentations at 2015 Fall Meeting of the East Texas Historical Association at Stephen F. Austin State University, Baker Pattillo Student Center, Nacogdoches, Texas. Session XXI, on Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:15 PM in the Tejas Meeting Room. John Ross, Deborah Burkett, and I are honored to present our papers for publication in TREE TALK.

John Ross wrote "The Southern Folk Cemetery: Mt. Hope as a Case Study (2015 Revision of 1992 Edition)." This begins on page 39

"Efforts of Locating Lost Cemeteries, Part 1" by Deborah Burkett begins on page 47.

I wrote "Efforts of Locating Lost Cemeteries, Part 2" This paper starts on page 54.

We continue the publication of Ogreta W. Huttash's archives with the publication of "Benjamin Selman, Sr. Last Will and Testament" transcribed by Mrs. Huttash on page 61 and "Letter to Nona Clarice Mellard regarding Jacob Womack with proofs from the Will of Benjamin Selman" on page 64.

**Gordon Bennett**  
**Editor**

**THE SOUTHERN FOLK CEMETERY: MT. HOPE AS A CASE STUDY  
(2015 REVISION OF 1992 EDITION)**

By John Ross

Terry G. Jordan's *Texas Graveyards: A Cultural Legacy* provides an excellent methodology for studying the perseverance of traditional cultural traits through an analysis of traditional burying grounds. Jordan focused on small rural cemeteries because they show the greatest persistence of early traditions. He identified four truths about these cemeteries: they exhibit pronounced regional variation, they are for the living, they preserve some really old cultural traits, and they are endangered.

He found in Texas three separate folk traditions: the Mexican, the German, and the Southern, which is common to Anglo-Americans, African-Americans, and Native Americans. All the traditional cemeteries of Cherokee County fall into the Southern tradition. In these cemeteries we can find an amazing range of cultural holdovers from the distant past and from far-flung regions, if only we step back away from our own cultural expectations and look at what is there.

Jordan found in the Southern folk cemeteries customs that go all the way back to pre-Christian Europe, Africa, and America as well as from Christian Britain. These included traditions from Pagan Mediterranean Europe (lamps on grave mound, flowers and rose bushes in graveyard), Pagan Northwestern European (mounding of graves, false crypts, cedar trees), Christian British (burial with feet to the east, burial of wrongdoers on a north-south axis, burial of wife to the left of the husband, surrounding fence, lichgate), Pagan African (scraping of graves, broken crockery on the mound, shells as decoration), and Pagan Native American (gravehouses). Some traits originated on the American frontier: family plots, burial in unsanctified ground, and tabernacles.<sup>1</sup> Jordan observed that many

<sup>1</sup>Terry G. Jordan, *Texas Graveyards: A Cultural Legacy* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1982), 17.

**THE SOUTHERN FOLK CEMETERY: MT. HOPE AS A CASE STUDY**

of the traditional practices were already declining while he was researching his book in the 1970s.<sup>2</sup> An analysis of the Mount Hope Cemetery reveals that some of the practices Jordan observed remain strong, others appear only as vestiges, and some are absent altogether.

Mount Hope Cemetery lies in west central Cherokee County, Texas, some five miles west of the county seat of Rusk. Oil-topped County Road 2109 separates the cemetery from Mount Hope Missionary Baptist Church. The church and cemetery are located near the heavily wooded summit of one of the highest hills in the county. The first burial in the area was in 1871 near the original church site in what is now a pine plantation about one hundred yards southwest of the present fenced cemetery. Shortly thereafter, the church moved closer to the spring located about one hundred yards north of the present cemetery, and subsequent burials have been within the present fenced area.<sup>3</sup> At the end of 1991, about 150 grave stones marked some 200 burials. In the 1990s, the fenced area was expanded to the north, and by 2015, fifty-four graves had been added in the new area.<sup>4</sup>

The people who settled the Mount Hope area were mostly small yeoman farmers, share tenants, and sawmill workers. Their descendants today are health service workers, clerks, loggers, teachers, transportation workers, and at least one college professor. The large number of unmarked graves and the unpretentiousness of the existing markers show that this is not the burying ground of the local elite.

The cemetery is in the charge of a three-member committee, which hires someone to mow the grass. The traditional cemetery working is no longer held, but many people decorate their family's graves during the annual homecoming on

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. 123-26.

<sup>3</sup> Emmett Scott, Jr., member of the cemetery committee, interview with the writer, Mr. Hope, 8 January 1992.

<sup>4</sup> Author's observations, 12 April 2015.

## THE SOUTHERN FOLK CEMETERY: MT. HOPE AS A CASE STUDY

the third Sunday in May. Some of them individually work their plot, and these have maintained some of the more traditional practices.

One of the most interesting traits, which Jordan traced to African antecedents, is the practice of “scraping,” removing the grass from graves. This practice

was once very common, but today few cemeteries are fully scraped.<sup>5</sup> At Mount Hope in 1992, eight graves showed signs of scraping. By 2015, there were no scraped graves. Traditionally, earth was heaped into elongated mounds over the graves. New burials all show this mounding practice, but this is partly to account for settling of the sandy soil. In 1992, when a new grave was placed in a family plot, the mounds were often restored over the adjoining graves. That practice seems to have disappeared by 2015. There is no evidence of false crypts or grave houses at



Mount Hope. In 2015 as in 1992, a majority of the marked graves are decorated with artificial flowers, usually beside, in front of, or upon the headstone. Some flowers are placed in a variety of pots, others are stuck in the ground or lie

<sup>5</sup> Jordan. 14-16.

**THE SOUTHERN FOLK CEMETERY: MT. HOPE AS A CASE STUDY**

directly on the stone. In 1992, one child's grave dated 1989 was completely covered with artificial flowers. On two unrelated graves dated 1979 and 1984, small white stones covered the grave mound. The only sign of sea shells was one conch in an iron flower pot at the foot of a grave. There was one small statue of an angel and one empty flower pot in the form of a rabbit, both beside children's graves.

Two atypical examples of grave decoration showed a Roman Catholic influence. One grave, dated 1977, was surrounded by a low iron railing and had a wooden cross and a statue of the Virgin at the foot. This grave belonged to an Ohio native, a Protestant whose grave was decorated by his Catholic widow.<sup>6</sup> One other grave had a small plastic crucifix beside the footstone.

A wide variety of ornamental plants have been added to the natural oaks, sweet gums, and pines in the graveyard. Two large cedars and seven crepe myrtles, four of them very old, stand among the graves in the south part of the enclosure. Four rose bushes have been planted by individual graves, and ten other ornamental shrubs adorn family plots. In 1992, a small pansy blossoms beside a gravestone, and lilies adorned one family plot. In 1992, there were few other flowers, but by 2015, a scattering of bluebonnets adorned the cemetery.

Traits of Christian British and American frontier origin seem most persistent. All graves are oriented with their feet to the east. Tombstones stand at the head of the grave, and most have small footstones as well. Most burials are in family plots surrounded by a low concrete curbs. Four curbs are of brick and two of cinder blocks. In one case, the central grave is edged with concrete while the whole plot is surrounded by cinder blocks. One of the concrete curbs is embellished by glass marbles set in the top, spaced one foot apart. In the 1992 survey,

<sup>6</sup>Frank Ford, cemetery committee member, interview with the writer, 8 January 1992.

**THE SOUTHERN FOLK CEMETERY: MT. HOPE AS A CASE STUDY**

fifty-five married couples were buried side-by-side, the wife lying to the left (north) side of the husband in thirty-seven, or 67 percent. In the 2015 survey of the new part of the cemetery, this had become even more standardized: Of the eighteen couple burials, the wife lies to the left in sixteen, or 89 percent. In the cemeteries survey by Jordan, the range was 60 to 100 percent, but “generally over two-thirds.”<sup>7</sup> The whole cemetery is surrounded by a chain-link fence, which in the 1970s was extended north to add about 50 percent to the enclosed area.<sup>8</sup> This enclosure is maintained despite there being no cattle on the surrounding land, which is devoted to forestry. However, feral hogs have become a serious problem in the area, so the fence serves a practical purpose. Four gates give access to the graveyard, but none of these are lighgates, though all are wide enough to admit a hearse. One individual grave and one family plot are surrounded by wrought-iron fences.

Most markers are granite of the type supplied by commercial monument companies, of which there are several in neighboring towns. Many of these modern markers were obviously installed long after the burial. All tombstones stand at the head—west—of the grave. In all but three cases, the inscription appears on the east face of the stone. Two modern stones have the inscriptions on the west face, the common practice in West Texas, but unusual in the east. In at least one of these cases, the engraver reversed the order of the husband and wife, so the stone had to be set backwards to identify the proper grave.<sup>9</sup> One marble stone from the 1890s takes the form of a square column with the husband’s name on the south face and the wife’s on the north. Some graves are marked only with the

<sup>7</sup>Jordan, 30.

<sup>8</sup>Ford interview.

<sup>9</sup>Tradition in the writer’s family. The graves in question are those of the writer’s maternal grandparents.

**THE SOUTHERN FOLK CEMETERY: MT. HOPE AS A CASE STUDY**

temporary aluminum markers provided by funeral homes. Many of these have become illegible. A few graves have only pipes at the head and foot. A handful of old field stone markers remain, although many of these have been replaced with modern markers. In one case, a well-done field stone marker was left in place after the new stone was placed. Many of the field stone markers were only roughly squared and left unengraved. In others, the engraving is faded to illegibility, an almost inevitable result considering the soft nature of the local ironstone. A couple of field stones were more elegantly worked, including one gothic pointed stone. There is one example of a field stone marker from 1984 on a child grave. This is a white stone not native to the area; the inscription is in ink. An unusual feature is the metal crosses on the Ford family row. The crosses were placed as a temporary measure in the late 1970s on a long row of unmarked graves. Soon after, the family placed modern granite stones, but most of the crosses have never been removed.<sup>10</sup>

About two-thirds of the stones have carved decorations. Most of these are from standard pattern books provided by the monument companies. By far the most popular design is flowers, which appear on over half of the carved stones. Other modern patterns include ivy; wedding bells, rings, or a heart with wedding dates; and angels (on three children's monuments). Crosses appear on only two monuments other than Veterans Administration or Confederate veteran markers. On two markers, relief carvings of a catfish and a cow indicate special interests of the deceased. In 1992, seven of the markers bore photographs of the deceased. Most of these were placed since 1970, but one is dated 1934. Nineteenth-century commercial markers had more symbolic figures: two had crowns and towers;

<sup>10</sup>Writer's personal recollection.

**THE SOUTHERN FOLK CEMETERY: MT. HOPE AS A CASE STUDY**

three, clasped hands; three opening gates; two, a hand with finger pointing heavenward; and one each, praying hands and descending dove. One child's monument had a full relief carving of a lamb on top. The importance of military service is shown by the presence of about twenty Veterans Administration markers and half a dozen Confederate veteran markers. Several of the VA marker sit at the foot of the grave, supplementing an ordinary commercial headstone. In contrast, only two monuments bore Masonic emblems and one, Eastern Star. No other social affiliations are indicated.

Inscriptions, in keeping with the custom, are terse, usually revealing only the name and birth and death dates of the deceased. A dozen double stones bear marriage dates. Most other inscriptions are stock phrases from the monument mason's order book: "Our Baby," "Mother," "At Rest," "Gone but Not Forgotten." A few of the older stones had more personal epitaphs: "A friend to his country and a believer in Christ"; "She was the sunshine of our home" [on the grave of a woman of seventy-five]; "She was a kind and affectionate wife, a fond mother and a friend to all." Only one of the field stones markers bore an epitaph, but it is illegible.

As with many Anglo cemeteries, in 1992 there was a tabernacle at Mount Hope. A typical open-sided structure, its sheet metal roof was supported by hand-hewn beams taken from the old church building. For a number of years in the mid twentieth century, Mount Hope church met in the old school building a mile and an half away at the foot of the mountain. The tabernacle was constructed for use during the annual homecoming, which continued to be held at the old site by the cemetery. After the church moved into a new building back at the old site, the tabernacle was little used and was torn down after a fellowship hall was added to the church.

**THE SOUTHERN FOLK CEMETERY: MT. HOPE AS A CASE STUDY**

The new survey of the cemetery in 2015 shows continued use of traditional cultural traits, but with some modifications. The new portion of the cemetery where almost all the burials date after the first survey, is particularly instructive.

Some of the traditional practices seem even more entrenched, including burial of husbands to the right of their wives and an increase in use of plastic figurines and plastic flowers to decorate the graves. These plastic items and the fact that fewer graves remain unmarked surely reflect increased prosperity, ease of access, and improved technology. Only four graves are unidentified, marked with a pipe, metal cross, or unengraved fieldstone. One grave has a homemade engraved stone. On the other hand, four recent graves have photographs and one has a portrait engraved on the stone, a very new technical innovation for the area.

Mount Hope continues as a focal point of a community with strong but declining commitment to traditional culture. Those traits most easily adapted to modern mechanized culture survive most strongly, such as orientation of the graves, family plots, and fences. Mounds and objects on the grave get in the way of mechanical lawn mowers. Scraping is too time consuming, especially since many families no longer have members living in the community. Yet Mount Hope is a much-loved spot and still reflects the culture, both traditional and modern, of its people.

John Ross

Texas College

## **Efforts of Locating Lost Cemeteries**

Deborah Burkett

### Context:

Serendipity is defined as an occurrence and development of events by chance--in a happy or beneficial way. That's a perfect description of what's been going on in Cherokee County. Since 2014, individuals, city council members, church groups, genealogy and history organizations have realized they share a common goal, the care and preservation of local cemeteries. Sensing the need to pool resources and share expertizes the Cherokee County Historical Commission (CCHC) and the Cherokee County Genealogical Society enthusiastically agreed to coordinate all activities. My presentation today will be done jointly with Gordon Bennett. He and I will discuss the topic: locating lost and neglected cemeteries, which is but one aspect of a much larger effort--the Cherokee County Cemeteries Project.

Gravestone cleaning workshops and historical marker dedications by the CCHC have provided an entrée into every corner of the county. What we've discovered is all burial sites have similar needs, whether it's a large city cemetery or a small family plot. In early planning sessions it was decided that efforts would focus on documenting and mapping the location of all graves including scanning for the unmarked ones. In addition, attention would be paid to cleaning and repairing damaged grave stones. Some damage naturally occurs over time but when you add storms and straight line winds as we've experienced in Cherokee County--you have a big problem. This kind of disturbance can wreak havoc to grave stones in a matter of minutes while also toppling century old trees. The result—a task so overwhelming the need for unified efforts throughout the county became paramount. As we banded together we've collaborated in activities such as: clearing debris, landscaping cemetery grounds, purchasing computer software for

## Efforts of Locating Lost Cemeteries



Deborah Burkett demonstrates the non-destructive method of cleaning headstones at the New Hope Community Cemetery.

From left to right: 1. Reginald Willis, 2. Bettie Session, 3. Vernon Martin, 4. David Adams, 5. Deborah Burkett, 6. Larry Jenkins, 7. Brenda Hackney-Jackson, 8. Edna Crain, 9. Charles Ann Blakemore Martin, 10. Richard Hackney, 11. George Martin

mapping, documenting histories of those buried in cemeteries and creating a collection of photographs which are kept in digital files.

### **Overview**

Cherokee County is located in central East Texas, bordered on the north by Smith County, on the east by Rusk and Nacogdoches, on the south by Angelina County, and on the west by Anderson and Houston counties. Cherokee County was marked off from Nacogdoches County on April 11, 1846, and was organized on

## **Efforts of Locating Lost Cemeteries**

July 13 of that year, with the town of Rusk as the county seat.

Because Cherokee County is one of the oldest in the state there are many large city cemeteries which contain old stones that need preservation and care, as well as smaller cemeteries and other burial sites located on the side of roads or in wooded areas on private property.

One of the largest city cemeteries in the county is Cedar Hill which is managed by the City of Rusk. Just weeks ago, on September 19<sup>th</sup>, a state marker was dedicated recognizing the historic importance of the burial site which was established by June 1847.

Cedar Hill is not a lost or neglected cemetery. The city does a fine job mowing, assigning family plots and supervising current burials but while working on the marker application we recognized needs in the area of preservation. In 1850, Rusk had 355 residents and over the ensuing decades commerce would flourish fueled by pioneers and immigrants from Europe and the old South including African Americans. And it is in the oldest part of Cedar Hill Cemetery, on the Old North side where the earliest burials are--both African Americans and Anglos.

At the marker dedication ceremony for Cedar Hill, serendipity once again played a role--when one of Rusk's African American civic leaders told me her grandmother is buried in an unmarked grave on the Old North side. As a young girl her mother took her to the grave and she remembers the approximate location. I assured her when we scan that section her grandmother and many others will no longer be in unmarked graves.

## Efforts of Locating Lost Cemeteries

### Lost or Neglected Cemeteries

The difficulties in working to document and preserve the lost and neglected cemeteries are many but the joy of finding stones hidden away for decades makes all efforts worthwhile, even encounters with poison ivy and fire ants seem trivial. Communication across many levels is critical in terms of locating these sites. First, making the public aware of our project was accomplished through a series of programs, newspaper columns and social media, word got out regarding our interest in finding these lost cemeteries. The next area of communication is at the public level, as individuals contact us and offer leads. It's exhilarating to receive a phone call or read an email telling of an old cemetery plot or several gravestones in someone's pasture.

**The first example** today is located off Highway 79 west of Jacksonville---way off. The earliest recorded burial is 1872. This site sits next to the Pennel Chapel which was organized some 20 years later in 1891. The site is interesting because it's actually a combination of a lost and neglected cemetery and one which is active and well maintained.

This site first came to my attention when Mr. Preston Meador walked into our county historical commission office in early 2015. He wanted a metal sign erected for an African American cemetery. During a lengthy visit and after many questions—one in particular regarding what Mr. Meador wanted the sign to say—his answer – Pine Grove Cemetery. But he also acknowledged there were really two cemeteries located in one large square tract of land.

The visible well maintained cemetery called Pine Grove was for African American burials and was composed of two sections—one for burials dated late 1800s to early 1900s and the other section was for current burials. However both were separated by a stretch of woods and each section for African American burials had

## Efforts of Locating Lost Cemeteries

a different entrance. What I learned next was a surprise indeed—hidden deep within the stretch of woods was another burial plot---one for Anglo Americans called Daughtery Cemetery.

A state historical marker in the area for Pine Grove School describes: earliest county school records indicate that the Pine Grove School was in operation by at least 1885, serving African American students in that part of rural Cherokee County. Pine Grove operated as a segregated institution until it closed in 1968 and merged with the New Hope school district.



I'd like to draw your attention now to the poster which contains

photos of these two cemeteries. The update is: I visited this site a week ago and work has begun to carefully clear brush and small trees which surround the graves in the Daughtery Cemetery.

**The second example** is a small unnamed cemetery found on Old Larissa Road. This came to our attention when a new county historical commission member, David Adams, began to join Gordon Bennett and me on our cemetery treks. With David's knowledge of the terrain and love of history we made numerous forays. But on this particular day David led us to a spot he first saw as a young Boy Scout camping in the area in the 1960s. According to David, at that time it was common knowledge there was a small cemetery there. The stones, although in the woods, were very visible and located on the side of the cutoff road which connects Old

## Efforts of Locating Lost Cemeteries

Larissa and the Old Jacksonville Road. David remembers seven graves—all marked with native rock. Etched into the rock were dates from the 1800s—the only name he remembers was Jones.

What makes this example so poignant is the gravestones are no longer there. This illustrates the need for quick action; to photograph stones and research those buried in lost and neglected places before they become unmarked graves.

**The third and last example** today is Walker Cemetery. Once again I stress the importance of communication in locating graves. Because of our efforts in terms of writing newspaper columns—individuals outside the county are becoming aware of the project and contacting us.

I received an email from a lady who lives in Houston. She wrote that she and her husband had purchased a weekend farm in Cherokee County about four years ago. The property included had an old cemetery plot in a wooded area with about eight graves. At one point there was a fence around it but she was concerned because the fence was down and cows were in the pasture and might damage the stones. She had asked everyone she could think of for help. Instead of responding to her by email I called her number in Houston and told her I and a colleague would drive out to the site right away and take a look. She was so very grateful. Even though the graves were not her relatives she had a love of history and wanted someone to help preserve the plot. Two of the oldest stones are for husband and wife: Anderson Walker, born July 14, 1806, died fall of 1861 and Mary Elizabeth Walker born Feb 1811, died July 26, 1892. Carved on both markers is the date of their marriage Jan. 22, 1829. And it's interesting to note one large replacement stone has been erected for Patrick and Jenny Johnson denoting Patrick was born in Ireland 1780-1856 and Jenny Houston was born in Virginia 1784-1854. Research is on-going at the present time to ascertain more about these families.

## **Efforts of Locating Lost Cemeteries**

In closing today I want to summarize several keys to success and offer a few tips which you may want to use as you search for lost and neglected cemeteries. As stated earlier communication is vital across many levels and following leads as quickly as possible is critical. And don't forget to keep your colleagues informed. Let them know which cemeteries you've visited recently and what you've learned from your research, etc. Once you've arrived at a cemetery, document the site and stones by taking photographs and make hard copy handwritten notes as well. Always travel with a partner. Each time you visit the site, and as cleaning and repairs are done, take more photos and compile more notes. Throughout the process conduct oral history videos with individuals who have knowledge of the site and families buried there. And one final tip—you'll need a great pair of boots and sturdy jeans—oh so very necessary for trudging through the woods.

Text and photo copyright 2015 by Deborah Burkett. Used by permission.

## **The Efforts of Locating Lost Cemeteries**

**By Gordon Bennett**

### **Compilation of Data**

#### **History**

Ogreta Wilson Huttash compiled Cemetery Records of Cherokee County, Texas published by Major Thaddeus Beall Chapter, NSDAR, Jacksonville, Texas in 1971. This book listed 34 cemeteries.

From about 1970 through 1974, Helen Wooddell Crawford published 5 books on Cherokee County Cemeteries totaling 119 cemeteries.

In 2000, Ira Gaylon White compiled Grave Marker Index of Cherokee County. This book listed 156 cemeteries and was published by the Cherokee County Genealogical Society

The Cherokee County Genealogical Society has an Internet site since 1996 listing 169 cemeteries. Rather than try to update the books by Mrs. Huttash, Mrs. Crawford, and Mr. White, the Cherokee County Genealogical Society has chosen to update the lists of the cemeteries on our web site.

The Cherokee County Appraisal District showed 115 cemeteries in 2014.

Find A Grave Cherokee County Texas showed 189 cemeteries in Cherokee County in 2015.

#### **Compiling**

From these sources and more we now have list of 197 cemeteries in Cherokee

The Efforts of Locating Lost Cemeteries

OWNER ID	CEMETERY NAME	LATITUDE	911 ADDRESS	CONTACT	CONTACT ADDRESS	SURVEY DATE	EARLIEST SHOR	USGS	SOURCE
4740	Afton Grove-Vinson AKA Tilley	31.9763888, -95.1891667	CR 4209 (Myrtle Dr.), N of US 79	Afton Grove Baptist Church?	360 CR 4208 Jacksonville, TX 75766	10/20/05	UKN AVG	Jacksonville East	3, 7
	Alexander	?	In Jacksonville City Cemetery (?) on a hill by the fence near the back					Jacksonville West	7
11800	Alto City Cemetery	31.653470, -95.075139	Cemetery St., Alto, just W of Hwy 69	Marie Thomas	936-958-4207	12/31/73	UKN	ALT	1,3,6,7
105580	Antioch	31.883734, -95.314541	CR 3111 (Union Grove Rd.), adjacent to Antioch Church			09/01/96	1918	ANT	1,3,6,7
	Arnold	31.5441667, -95.0541667	FM 1911 (NW of Forest, CR 2756)			10/30/00	UKN	ARN	1,3
	Arwine Plot	31.927973, -95.289652	Private property on Lakeshore Dr., Lake Jacksonville			?	1859	ARW West	Jacksonville West 1,3
821750	Atoxy	31.774916, -95.014101	FM 343 (Atoxy--7 miles SE of Rusk)	BILLY SESSIONS, Atoxy Cem. Assn.	734 CR 2807, Alto, TX 75925	05/26/05	1885	ATY	1,3
	Augusta	?	Near Priscilla	Shirley Cutler	936-687-5162				
	Ball (Maydelle)	?	CR 2120, ~ 3 m. SE of Maydelle on private posted property on a dirt			12/31/74	1862	BLL	Maydelle
	Ball Family (Alto)	?	CR 2501 (Thomas Ball Farm NE of Alto)			12/31/74	1972	BAL	Alto 1,3
9800175	Benge	31.8704474, -95.3188379	CR 1815 (SW of Jacksonville, NE of junction w/ CR 1816)	Gordon Benge	1750 County Road 3107, Jacksonville, TX	09/30/07	1846	BNG	Maydelle 1
	Berry	31.718620, -95.248379	FM 1857, just W of CR 2217, SW of Rusk			09/01/02	1888	BER	Pryor Mountain 2,3
	Berryman AKA Forrest Hills	31.6879543, -95.023550	CR 2501, NE of Alto			12/31/72	1849	BRM	Alto 1,2,3
	Box AKA Stephens- Box	31.6786000, -95.218100	CR 2323 (Located on the Joe Mosley Place in the Bulah Community)						Pryor Mountain 2
	Bradford AKA New Garden Friends Lower	31.73810, -95.07670	CR 1107, E of Hwy 69, ~ 4.5 mi. SE of Rusk				1925	BRD	Alto 2

### **The Efforts of Locating Lost Cemeteries**

County. There is some evidence that the list of names is still incomplete. For each cemetery we want to know the Appraisal District Owner number ID, Cemetery name(s), Latitude and Longitude, 911 address, Contact person, Contact number, Contact address, Survey Date, Earliest Burial, United States Geological Survey Topographic Name, and the source of the information. See the spreadsheet in the handout.

The information came from at least 27 distinct sources.

In several cases we have evidence that a cemetery exists, but the information is not precise enough to locate the cemetery on the ground. For this reason we have made a list of Lost and Neglected Cemeteries and have widely circulated this list to funeral homes, cemetery associations and the public. See the yellow handout.

We are still filling many blanks in the list. However, we are far enough in our research to start on the next step of our goal.

#### **Surveying**

Each cemetery should have a general description showing the name, location (by road address and GPS location) and a general history. By surveying, we mean the process of listing the names, dates and other inscriptions on the head and foot stones. If possible, photos are made and shared. We also want to list the information from reliable sources of persons known to be buried in each cemetery. Some of the cemeteries located on the Cherokee County Appraisal District have never been surveyed. Some of the cemeteries were last surveyed in the late 1960s. A very few cemeteries are continually or annually surveyed. We plan to re-survey each cemetery beginning with those that have never been surveyed, then by the

The Efforts of Locating Lost Cemeteries

Help Cherokee County Genealogical Society and Cherokee County Historical Commission find

Lost and Neglected Cemeteries in Cherokee County, Texas

CEMETERY NAME	APPROXIMATE ADDRESS
<b>Alexander</b>	In Jacksonville City Cemetery (?) on a hill by the fence near the back
<b>Ball Family (Alto)</b>	CR 2501 (Thomas Ball Farm NE of Alto)
<b>Ball (Maydelle)</b>	CR 2120, ~ 3 m. SE of Maydelle on private posted property on a dirt road in the back woods, near 31.758507, -95.316657?
<b>Bradshaw</b>	No site reference
<b>Brooks Williams</b>	Homeplace of Brooks Williams, SW of Alto?
<b>Butcher Family</b>	Rusk
<b>Carroll AKA Bloomfield</b>	New Emmaus, NE of Jacksonville
<b>Cates Family</b>	Near Bullard?
<b>Conway</b>	Alto
<b>Copeland</b>	Alto
<b>Couch Plot</b>	CR 4727 NE of New Summerfield, near 32.01002, -95.07092?
<b>Dear Place</b>	West of Alto (Archie Dear Place)
<b>Egbert</b>	No site reference
<b>Glass Felps</b>	CR 2138 (~ 4 miles S of Jacksonville, W side of road) (GPS approximate 31.902335,-95.275011)
<b>Green</b>	New Summerfield (no site reference found)
<b>Hanna</b>	No site reference
<b>Herring Family</b>	No site reference
<b>Holsomback</b>	Old Highway north of Wells about 1.5 miles on Melvin Burroughs farm
<b>Hoot</b>	CR 2712, off FM 1911, 2 mi. W of Hwy 69 (Morrill Community) - GPS coordinates approximate 31.592405,-95.059661
<b>Kennedy plot</b>	Hwy 110 (N of Ponta, on the Frances Miller Lester place, W of Highway 110)
<b>Landrum</b>	Donnie Wallace place, off FM 294, W of Alto (Lynches Chapel?)
<b>Lone Star</b>	FM 235 & CR 2274 (NE of Rusk, near Ponta) Myrtle Springs???
<b>Low Family</b>	Low family land?
<b>Manning AKA Graveyard Hill</b>	FM 851, 7 miles NE of Alto, north of Central High Community, on a hill known as Graveyard Hill, near 31.760324, -95.022550?
<b>McCall</b>	on a rural road about 3.5 miles west of Forest.
<b>Monkress (W.C.) plot (in Still Waters)</b>	Loop 456, between Hwy 69 and FM 768, Jacksonville

### The Efforts of Locating Lost Cemeteries

Help Cherokee County Genealogical Society and Cherokee County Historical Commission find

#### Lost and Neglected Cemeteries in Cherokee County, Texas

<b>Neches River Bottom (Ezell)</b>	Graves on Ezell Land, Neches River bottom, W of J'ville
<b>Odom Farm</b>	CR 2138 (T.H. Odom farm, Maydelle), between Union Grove Cemetery and Mt. Comfort Cemetery
<b>Old Cunningham</b>	CR 3305, about 2 miles east of Corine cemetery (on Bearden Ranch), ~31.985102, -95.367525?
<b>Pine Hill CME</b>	E. Pine St. Jacksonville?
<b>Sickenberger</b>	HWY 69 S of Rusk, 1/4 mile N of the roadside park
<b>Smith</b>	Hwy 110 5 mi. N of New Summerfield (Blackjack), .25 mi. SE of school
<b>Smyrl plot</b>	FM 747 SE of Pierces Chapel in the woods possibly near 31.868093, -95.359500?
<b>Terrell</b>	Hwy 21, ~ 1 m. E of Linwood (N of Hwy. 21)
<b>Thompson Plot</b>	FM235, Thompson Farm, between Stryker Lake and Walker Chapel, on the south side of FM 235, at a sharp corner, 31.947835, -95.037110?
<b>Todd Graves</b>	Hwy 69 (Todd Farm near New Birmingham)
<b>Warren</b>	CR 3220 (S of Hwy 79) dirt road toward Neches River, .75 mi.
<b>Watching Rock Cemetery</b>	Jacksonville
<b>Waters graves</b>	Jacksonville
<b>White</b>	Hwy 21, E of Linwood
<b>Person furnishing Information</b>	
Contact Name (Person who can lead us to)	
Contact Address:	
Contact Telephone	
Contact Email:	
<b>Send to:</b>	Or:
<b>Cherokee County Genealogical Society</b>	<b>Cherokee County Historical Commission</b>
<b>PO Box 1332</b>	<b>PO Box 532</b>
<b>Jacksonville TX 75766-1332</b>	<b>Rusk TX 75785-05832</b>
<a href="mailto:ccgs@suddenlink.net">ccgs@suddenlink.net</a>	<b>Deborah L. Burkett, Chairman</b>
<b>Gordon Bennett</b>	903-752-7850
903-586-0135	

### **The Efforts of Locating Lost Cemeteries**

earliest surveyed to the latest surveyed. Future surveys may also use ground penetrating radar or other reliable methods to find unmarked graves.

#### **Visiting**

Our next step is to visit all the known cemeteries on a regular basis, two to four times a year. We have recruited a list of 18 people, known as “Cemetery Rangers”, who are willing to visit the cemeteries of their families and other cemeteries in the same area. We are still working out the reporting and managing the data we collect.

#### **Ongoing**

We will continue to contact the public for support by visiting cemetery associations, Clubs (Rotary, Lions, etc.)

The Cemetery Rangers will visit each cemetery and make a report on a regular basis to the Historical Commission. The Historical Commission (and some of the volunteers) will make a list of the most critical actions needed each year and list the actions in order of most critical. Then an action plan will be written and carried out.

Under the leadership of the Cherokee County Historical Commission and with the help of government officials and many volunteers, we are confident the cemeteries will be preserved.

## The Efforts of Locating Lost Cemeteries

### Cemetery Sources

#### Books

Cherokee County Appraisal District. 2015 Certified Appraisal Roll as of Supplement: 0.  
Rusk, Texas.

Crawford, Helen Wooddell. Cemeteries of NW Cherokee County, Book 1. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Jacksonville,  
Texas: Cherokee County Genealogical Society ISBN  
978-1-931167-46-8

---. Cemeteries of Jacksonville, and others, Book 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Jacksonville, Texas: Cherokee  
County Genealogical Society ISBN 978-1-931167-41-3

---. Cemeteries of NE Cherokee County, Book 3. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Jacksonville, Texas: Cherokee County  
Genealogical Society ISBN 978-1-931167-38-3/

---. Cemeteries of Mid Cherokee County, Book 4, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Jacksonville, Texas: Cherokee County  
Genealogical Society ISBN 978-1-931167-35-2

---. Cemeteries of Southern Cherokee County, Book 5, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Jacksonville, Texas: Cherokee  
County Genealogical Society ISBN 978-1-931167-44-4

Huttash, Ogreta Wilson, Cemetery Records of Cherokee County, Texas. Major Thaddeus Beall  
Chapter, NSCAR, Jacksonville, Texas. 1971

White, Ira Gaylon. Grave Marker Index for Cherokee County, Texas. Jacksonville, Texas:  
Cherokee County Genealogical Society, 2000. ISBN 0-9703085-7-4

#### Internet

Cherokee County Appraisal District, Eddie Don Parsons, Public Information Officer, -  
Appraisal and Info [www.cherokeecad.com](http://www.cherokeecad.com)

---. Property Search Options: <https://propaccess.trueautomation.com/clientdb/?cid=61>

Cherokee County Cemeteries:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txcherok/6/Cemeteries/cem.htm>

Find-A-Grave

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=csr&CScnty=2556>

Geographic Names Information System Query, <http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/f?p=136:1:15732021722821>

**Benjamin Selman Sr.  
Last Will and Testament**

State of Texas  
County of Cherokee

Box 99

In the name of God amen: I, Benj: Selman, Sr., of the county and State aforesaid, being sick In body, but of sound and disposing mind, memory, and understanding, hereby make publish and declare, this my last will and Testament, revoking ail or any wills or will at any time heretofore made by me.

Impromis; I commit my body to the dust from which it sprung, my soul: to the God who gave it; and as to such worldly goods, as it has pleased Almighty God, to endow me with I Will Devise and Bequeath them as follows:

First ---- I Will Devise and Direct my Executors. hereinafter named, as soon after my Death, as practicable, to collect all debts due me or my Estate - and pay all my obligations due by me - in that order which the Law Prescribes.

PAGE 2

Second - I Will, Devise, and Direct My Executors to pay over to my Son Thomas Selman of Mississippi, his heirs successors or assigns as soon after my Death as practicable the Sum of Two hundred dollars in Gold as his portion of his mothers Estate.

Third - I Will, Devise and Direct (in like manner) my Executors, to pay over to my Daughter: Sarah Benton Lewis, of the State of South Carolina: her heirs or assigns the Sum of Two hundred dollars In Gold as her portion of her Mothers t:state.

Fourth - I will, Devise and Direct, in Like manner, my Executors to this my iast Will and testament Greenlee Bean Selman, and William Lafayette Selman to assume to themselves - the sum of Two hundred dollars Gold each, as their Shares respectively of their mothers Estate-

Fifth - I will devise and direct my Executors, in like manner as in the foregoing, to pay to James Boyd, Jr., his sister Louisa Williams - heirs of the body of Martha Ann Boyd decd, as their respective shares - of the Grand-mothers Estate.

PAGE 3

REMARK I -- As to my Daughters, Nancy Moody, Elizabeth McNeil, Artemesia Boone, and Polly Ann Scott, It is but right and proper to state that I have settled with them In full, to the amt. of the award by the board of Arbitrators (Green Fisher and Robert Sowers) as their respective share of their mothers estate,

REMARK II -- As to my Grandchildren --- Elizabeth Wood, Sarah Hoyt and the heirs of Martha Donegan, Ann Moore, and John Boyd, William Boyd, and to the last named, as guardians for Josephine Boyd, Calvin Boyd and Claudier Boyd and Albert Boyd, minors, I have paid their respective shares, as the representatives of their mother, Martha Boyd, In their Grand-mothers Estate, as for the arbitration - in the aforesaid. REMARK

Sixth -- I will Devise and Direct my Executors - after the aforesaid distribution of the Legacies as a final Settlement of the Estate of my deceased Wife Sarah Selman, to Set aside for the Education maintenance and welfare of my infant daughter by my wife Sarah Ann Selman, Ann Olivia B.

**Benjamin Selman Sr.**

PAGE 4

Sixth – continued -- in the Sum or one thousand dollars In Gold - this amount to be held by my Sons and Executors G. B. Selman and Willis S. Selman. on the following uses and trusts: That they will invest this last named amount of one thousand dollars inI gold as aforesaid in their own name or names - So that it may yield and pay the annual sum of one hundred dollars Gold or ten per cent annual interest on the above named principal, in trust for the aforesaid infant daughter, Ann Olivia Belle Selman, which annual interest in the appropriated to the use of the Said infant in the following manner; While the said child resides with its mother, this amount of one hundred dollars to be paid annually to her as the authorized agent for the disbursement of this money for the benefits of the Said child - Ann Olivia Belle. And I further direct that If by the instigations of Providence the mother should not be spared to see the said daughter arrive at the age of maturity then, and In Such case, the Executors herein after named - do act as Guardians under this Will and Testament - and it Shall be their duty

PAGE 5

to see the said Ann Olivia Belle Educated Sufficiently well - for a station in society and the Said amount of one thousand Dollars to be paid to the said Ann Olivia Belle, on her arriving at the age of maturity or as soon after her marriage as possible -- and I furthermore direct - that the Said G B Selman and Willis L. Selman Shall invest or reinvest this amount of one thousand Dollars in Gold - In trust for the Said Infant daughter Ann Olivia Bell as they Shall deem fit and proper - and that they shall be placed under no bond - as to the faithful discharge or this trust - but shall discharge the said trust without appellation in any courts - either of Ordaining Probate or Equity.

Seventh - I devise and direct That my beloved wife Sarah Ann Selman shall hold occupy and enjoy the fruits and profits of all the Real Estate that I die possessed of - for the term and period of her natural lifetime That she may occupy the homestead - or - rent it - as She sees fit or proper - provided it be to an approved tenant and one who can give a good Bond - for the honorable

PAGE 6

Seventh –continued - discharge of his duties and obligations as a tenant and at his death to descend to the lawful heirs of my body or their Representatives share and share alike in ratable proportions.

Eighth - I will devise and direct that my beloved wife Sarah Ann Selman Shall Keep use and enjoy - all my farming utensils and agricultural implements live Stock - and other perishable property - as an assistance in the support and maintenance of herself and family: for comfort or otherwise -

Ninth - I Will and direct that the balance and remainder of my personal Estate not enumerated heretofore - be appraised and used for the purpose of walling and inclosing the graves of my deceased Wife and myself with a Suitable Wall or Stone or iron and for marking our respective graves with marble and granite, and if not Sufficient - then enough of the Livestock heretofore enumerated be sold to Supply the deficiency.

Tenth - I name constitute and appoint My Sons - Green B Selman and Willis L. Selman Executors of this my last will and Testament with full power to discharge their duties as such to act either Solely or Collectively

**Benjamin Selman Sr.**

PAGE 7

Tenth Claus Continued - and in fact to do any and all acts herein enumerated without appellation to any courts either of Ordaining Probate or of Equity and without having been previously bound by any Bond for the faithful discharge of their duties as Executor or Executors and I further direct that in the final Settlement, they each, if acting collectively receive the sum of one hundred dollars gold - if acting solely - the one who acts to receive the sum of one hundred dollars gold for their or his trouble - in the execution of this trust.

Eleventh - I Will. devise and Bequeath unto Noel Smith a good horse bridal and Saddle - provided he will remain with my Wife until he arrives or the age of Twenty one years, and direct my executors heretofore named to give to the said Noel Smith a year's Schooling at a good School.

In Testimony whereof I hereunto Set my hand and Seal this the 27th day of December A.D.. 1872.

Benj Selman.

The words "or their representatives" on pages (6) and (7) clause and the words "be Sold" on page (6) clause IX inserted before signing.

PAGE 8

We the undersigned hereby Certify that we Saw the within named Benj. Selman, Sr. Sign Seal and Deliver the within instrument as his last Will and Testament and we hereby subscribe our names as attesting witnesses in presence of the Testator - and in presence of each other - this the 27 day of December A. D. 1872

J.V.B. Quinn  
Benj I. Boone

**Letter to Nona Clarice Mellard regarding Jacob Womack with proofs from  
the Will of Benjamin Selman**

by Ogreta W. Huttash

Nona Clarice Mellard  
130 Six Flags Dr.  
Georgetown, TX 78628

Daniel Coleman Chapter 6-029-TX  
Georgetown, TX

ANCESTOR: Jacob Womack

GENERATION 5  
PROOFS

Connecting generations 4 and 5: Will of Benjamin Selman, Cherokee Co., TX, Box 99. 27 Dec. 1872. Will names daughter, Mary Ann Scott.

Transcript attached.

Benjamin Selman

Birth and Death dates: Records of East Texas, Vol. 7, # 3,  
April 1973, p. 111, 113, Records of Old Palestine Cemetery,  
Cherokee Co., TX

Marriage:    Over the Mountain, p. 157, List of children of Benjamin  
Selman and Sallie Bean giving birth of first born as 18 March 1817,  
thus the probable date c. 1815-1816

Sarah (Sallie) Bean

Birth: Over the Mountain, p. 157, list of children includes Mary  
"Polly" Selman, giving birthdate as 1830, Marion Co.

Birth and Death dates: Records of East Texas, p. 111, 113.

Connecting generations 5 and 6: Over the Mountain, p. 127, list of children of Robert and Mar-  
tha Bean, taken from a widow's pension application submitted to the U. S. Pension Office in  
1893. This lists Sarah Bean as a daughter showing birth as Nov. 6, 1798

Letter to Nona Clarice Mellard regarding Jacob Womack with proofs from the Will of Benjamin Selman

Index A - 1846 - 1863

Benjamin Selman, Sr.

on

Deed Records of Cherokee County, Texas

Deed Book	Date of Instrument	Type
D - 457	23 Nov 1848	Deed
Elija J. DeBard of Anderson County sold him 566 acres for \$553.50, mentions George Terrell's line		
C-437-438	19 Jan 1849	Deed
Ira R. Lewis of Brazoria Co. sold him 100 acres that Lewis had purchased in 1837 from John Durst, also known as Barr and Davenport 9 league grant Consideration: \$200 paid		
E-221	Jan 1849	Deed
Ira R. Lewis of Brazoria Co. sold him 100 acres in John Durst or Barr and Davenport 9 league grant for \$200 paid		
C 433-434	27 Jan 1849	Deed
Ira R. Lewis of Brazoria Co. for and in consideration of the good will and friendship which I entertain for the citizens Benjamin Selman, Sr. and William Roark, Esq. of County of Cherokee as aforesaid and for their neighbors and fellow citizens in their respective settlements where they are now residing and for the further consideration of forming Encouraging and advancing the cause of Education and the Christian religion do by this act and deed give grant and donate unto the said Benjamin Selman, Sr. and William Roark, Esq. as aforesaid all and singular following land in front of or nearly South of said Benjamin Selman on Old San Antonio de Bexar and Nacogdoches Road and known designated and bounded as follows according to a survey of the same made this day by the said Citizen Surveyor William Roark, Esq..... 10 acres more or less for benefit of Schools education and said inhabitants may if they think proper in addition to above but not to interfere with school or schools may appropriate a part of said 10 acres for a church or churches by building a church for a place of worshipping God in their own way.... donated for above purposes		
D 44-45-46	17 April 1850	Deed
R F Mitchell sold Benjamin Selman 2 tracts, 130 acres and 54.6 acres for \$314 paid		
Q-421	29 Jan 1851	Deed
W L Selman sold to Benjamin Selman, Sr. for \$500 paid a 100 acre tract purchased by himself, Willis L. Selman, from Ira R. Lewis in 1849, and a 125 acre tract		
I-371	7 Jan 1854	Deed
Benjamin F. White and wife Lucy sold Benjamin Selman 240 acres for \$650 paid		
I-460	15 May 1854	Deed
Reuben H. Boone sold to Benjamin Selman, Sr. and Volentine H. Moody 94 acres of land for \$300 paid		
O-207, 208	11 Aug 1854	Deed
Elizabeth W. Boulter (X her mark) sold to Benjamin Selman, Sr. 20½ acres for \$90 paid		

**Letter to Nona Clarice Mellard regarding Jacob Womack with proofs from  
the Will of Benjamin Selman**

Benjamin Selman, Sr. - page 2

J-207                                      Nov 1854                                      Deed  
Benjamin Selman Sr. and Volantine H. Moody sold to George W. Simmons for  
\$300 paid 94 acres beginning on SW Corner of Willis Selman Survey

L-282                                      26 Jan 1856                                      Deed  
Benjamin Selman, Sr. and Ruben Boone and Artemessa Boone sold to Leah McBee  
200 acres in Helena Kimble Survey

L-575                                      10 Dec 1856                                      Deed  
Benjamin Selman, Sr sold to Sarah Benton Lewis, wife of Daniel B. Lewis, all  
of Cherokee County, 120 acres for \$150 paid

L-214  
Acting as the power of attorney for                                      sold to J. T. McLauren

P-127                                      3 Feb 1860                                      Deed  
Benjamin Selman, Sr. sold to Daniel B. Lewis for \$1,600 a 175 acre tract  
Witnesses: G. B. Selman and Samuel Beene

Index B 1863 - 1879  
Cherokee County, Tex

S-285                                      8 Sept 1866                                      Deed  
Benjamin Selman and Sarah his wife sold to Berry Willingham "for a valuable  
consideration to us paid" [not specified] 100 acres beginning at L. H.  
Harvey's corner

S-177                                      Dec 1866                                      Deed  
Benjamin Selman et al sold to Joseph T. Moore for \$150 a 50 acre tract plus  
a small tract of 15 acres. Note: the "et al" was Artemissa Boone.  
witnesses: Benjamin J. Boone and C. C. Scott

U-72                                      4 Feb 1868                                      Deed  
Anna and Willis Selman by their Administrator George C. Holcomb sold to  
Benjamin Selman, on a credit of 12 months, and to V. H. Moody for \$65  
(think it was 65 acres) They were highest and best bidder when this tract was  
sold at the Court House door.

W-28                                      1 Aug 1871                                      Deed  
Benjamin Selman to J. C. Stuart for \$650 paid a tract of land  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles SE  
of Alto of 115 acres and other small tracts (town lots, looks like)  
Witnesses: W L Kirksey, and I. Lee

X-526                                      30 Dec 1872                                      Deed  
Benjamin Selman Sr. to James W. McNeil for \$50 paid 50 acres more or less, in  
Barr and Davenport grant

X-527                                      18 Dec 1872                                      Deed  
Benjamin Selman Sr. to Artemesia Boone same tract on which said Artemesia  
Boone now resides  $156\frac{1}{2}$  acres in Helena Dill svy for \$900 and for same con-  
sideration above stated "my 1/2 interest adjoining above tract, 85 acres  
part of original svy for Benjamin Selman and Artemesia Boone

Letter to Nona Clarice Mellard regarding Jacob Womack with proofs from the Will of Benjamin Selman

Daniel B. Lewis and his wife Sarah Benton Lewis from Deed Records of Cherokee County, Texas

Index A  
1846 - 1863

L-575 10 Dec 1856 Deed

Benjamin Selman, Sr. sold to Sarah Benton Lewis, wife of Daniel B. Lewis, all of Cherokee County, Texas, 120 acres for \$150 paid

P-126 11 Feb 1860 Deed

Green B. Selman and Debora Amanda Selman, his wife, for \$1,500 paid by Daniel B. Lewis sold him land in Barr and Davenport or John Durst grant purchased by said Green B. Selman from Executors of John Durst, deceased.... to SW corner of 110 acre tract conveyed by said Green B. Selman to Robert N. Lewis... 210 acres with all appurtenances &c

Test: R H Boone /s/ G. B. Selman  
James W. McNeal Debora A. Selman

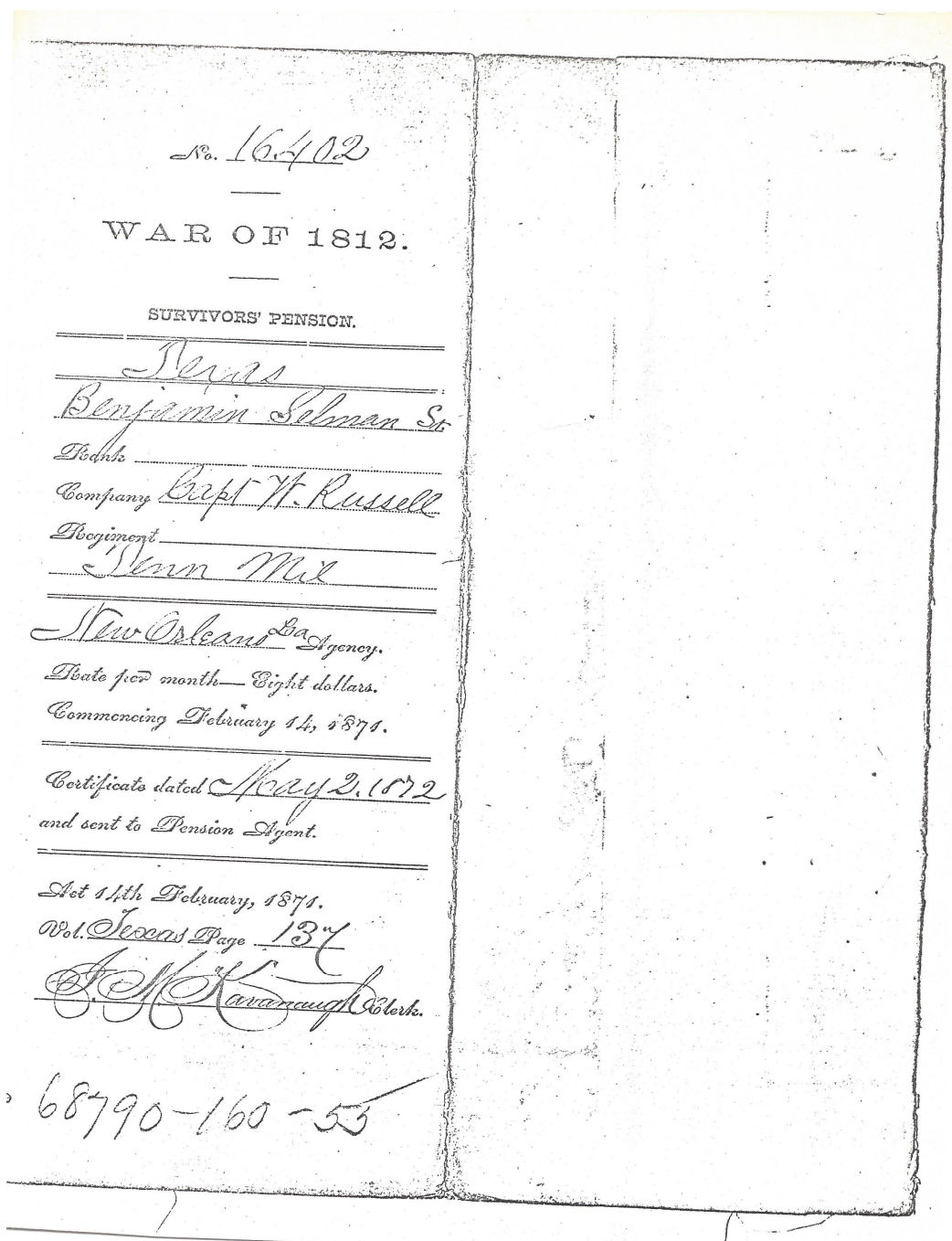
P-127 3 Feb 1860 Deed

Benjamin Selman sold to Daniel B. Lewis for \$1,600 paid 110 acres plus.... (W bank of Larrison Creek...dividing line between John Durst and Ira B. Lewis) 175 acres more or less

Attest: G B Selman  
Samuel Beene

.....

Letter to Nona Clarice Mellard regarding Jacob Womack with proofs from the Will of Benjamin Selman



From the archives of Ogreta W. Huttash in the Genealogy section of the Jacksonville Public Library, Catalog number 929.3764 Hu 377 in the name of Selman, Benjamin. Most of the literary works of Ogreta Wilson Huttash (including the archives) were assigned to the Cherokee County Genealogical Society, August 27, 2008 by Mary Ann Russell, and Martha Ann Huttash Ezell, Joint Executors, Estate of Ogreta Wilson Huttash and recorded at the Library of Congress, September 15, 2008.

Publications available through CHEROKEE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 1332, Jacksonville, Texas 75766-1332

___ 1850 CHEROKEE CO. FED. CENSUS & MORTALITY SCHEDULE, by Sue Taylor, 76 pgs, (1986) indexed ISBN 1-931167-05-2		\$10.00
___ 1860 CHEROKEE CO. FED CENSUS & SLAVE SCHEDULE, 131 pgs, indexed. ISBN 1-931167-06-0		\$11.00
___ 1870 Cherokee County Federal Census, Agricultural Schedule, Mortality Schedule and Tax Rolls, by Sue Vaughn Taylor and Ira Gaylon White, 150 pages (1999) indexed ISBN 1-931167-07-9		\$11.00
___ 1880 CHEROKEE CO. FED. CENSUS, by Sue Taylor, 504 pgs. plus pgs of column explanations & abbreviation explanations: other introductory pgs., (1983) indexed. ISBN 1-931167-09-7		\$38.00
___ 1910 CHEROKEE CO. FED. CENSUS, by Bobbie Berry Dowling & Ira Gaylon White, 265 pgs, plus 3 pgs of column explanations, (1998), indexed ISBN 1-931167-09-5		\$24.00
___ AN ALBUM OF CHEROKEE COUNTY, TX MEN & WOMEN WHO SERVED IN WW 11, THE KOREAN CONFLICT OR VIET NAM (1994), navy with white imprint, red tape binder, 260 pgs., softbound, indexed. ISBN 1-931167-00-1		\$21.00
___ Cemeteries of NW Cherokee County by Helen Wooddell Crawford	Book 1 ISBN 978-1-931167-46-8	\$10.00
___ Cemeteries of Jacksonville, and others by Helen Wooddell Crawford	Book 2 ISBN 978-1-931167-41-3	\$ 8.00
___ Cemeteries of NE Cherokee County by Helen Wooddell Crawford	Book 3 ISBN 978-1-931167-38-3	\$17.00
___ Cemeteries of Mid Cherokee County by Helen Wooddell Crawford	Book 4 ISBN 978-1-931167-35-2	\$10.00
___ Cemeteries of Southern Cherokee County by Helen Wooddell Crawford	Book 5 ISBN 978-1-931167-44-4	\$ 8.00
___ CHEROKEE COUNTY DEATH RECORDS, 1903-1945, by IdaLee D. Edmiston (1998) 351 pgs., softbound, approximately alphabetical ISBN 1-931167-10-9		\$22.00
___ Church Book for Church of Christ at Salem Edgefield District South Carolina To Sardis Baptist Church at Cherokee County, Texas A.D. 1836- A.D. 1941: copy of original handwritten minutes, names of members, pastors; 260 letter-size pages, softbound, 3rd edition, (2006) indexed by Sue Taylor & Bobbie Dowling ISBN 1-931167-15-X LCCN 2006928721		\$24.00
___ CHURCH BOOK OF PLEASANT GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH CHEROKEE CO., TX. VOL. 1, Sep. 1854 to Feb. 1921. Copy of original handwritten minutes of the church, names of pastors, roster of members, obituary notices on some members, introductory pages includes a brief history of the church, surrounding area, and map of location, 452 pgs, (1992), softbound, indexed. ISBN 1-931167-01-X		\$39.00
___ CHURCH BOOK OF PLEASANT GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHEROKEE CO., TX. VOL. II, Mar. 1921 to Apr. 1961. Copy of original handwritten minutes of the church, names of pastors, roster of members, obituary notices on some members, (Introductory pgs. the same as VOL. I above), 500 pgs, softbound, indexed ISBN 1-931167-02-8		\$45.00
___ CHURCH BOOK OF ROCKY SPRINGS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, CHEROKEE CO., TX 1871-1912, copy of original handwritten minutes, names of pastors, roster of members, 351 pgs, softbound, (1991) indexed by IdaLee Derrett Edmiston ISBN 1-931167-03-6		\$32.00
___ CIVIL WAR RECORDS OF CHEROKEE CO., TX, VOL. 1. by Ogreta W. Huttash, 93 pgs, (1982). Most complete list from soldiers from Cherokee county available, plus interesting documents from individuals, softbound, indexed.		\$14.00
___ CIVIL WAR RECORDS OF CHEROKEE CO., TX, VOL. 11, PENSIONS. by Ogreta W. Huttash, 115 pgs, (1982). Summary of over 700 pension applications by veterans & widows who lived in Cherokee County, softbound, indexed.		\$15.00
___ COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES, No. 1, Cherokee co., TX, 12 Oct. 1846 through a called session 4 Feb. 1850. A verbatim copy which lists the first 37 land certificates, precincts and their boundaries, patrol captain, road workers, overseers, prisoners, etc. 86 pgs, by Ogreta W. Huttash, (1989) softbound, indexed		\$12.00
___ Early probates & wills of Cherokee County, compiled from the original papers by Helen Wooddell Crawford ISBN 978-1-931167-47-5		\$20.00
___ Federal Census of Cherokee County, 1870 by Helen Crawford, 154 pages (1983) plus surname index.		\$10.00
___ FIRST RECORDED MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT COURT OF CHEROKEE CO., TX A verbatim copy of the original book in the office of the Dist. clerk, Rusk, TX Oct. 1846 through Nov. 1848, by Ogreta W. Huttash, 112 pgs, (1987), softbound, indexed		\$12.00
___ GRAVE MARKER INDEX FOR CHEROKEE COUNTY TEXAS, (2000), by Ira Gaylon White, edited by Gordon Bennett. An alphabetical listing of 29,484 markers from 15 published sources. 476 pgs., softbound, ISBN 0-9703085-7-4		\$26.00
___ GRAVE MARKER INDEX FOR CHEROKEE COUNTY TEXAS, (2000), by Ira Gaylon White, edited by Gordon Bennett. An alphabetical listing of 29,484 markers from 15 published sources. 1 CD-ROM, ISBN 1-931167-12-5		\$15.00
___ HISTORICAL MARKERS OF CHEROKEE COUNTY, TX. by Ogreta W. Huttash. Contains inscriptions on the 103 state approved markers erected before 1995. 2000 edition, full name index.		\$12.00
___ Index to TREE TALK, May 1980 through December 1990, compiled by Sylvia Booth Acker and Ira Gaylon White, edited by Gordon Bennett (2004), 146 pgs., softbound, ISBN 1-931167-33-8, LCCN 2004104368		\$12.00
___ Jacksonville Daily Progress Obituary Index 1984-2013 compiled by staff of Jacksonville Public Library edited by Gordon Bennett. An alphabetical listing of 18,103 obituaries published in the Jacksonville Daily Progress, Jacksonville, Texas. LCCN : 2014932852, ISBN: 9781931167543		\$8.00
___ Larissa College 1857-1860 (This material is a compiled book of articles printed of Larissa College, and in 1915 it was said that this was the only material on the college. It has the names of the Board, teachers, visitors & children.) by Helen Crawford		\$ 7.00
___ Marriage Records of Cherokee County Texas 1905-1931 (2001) by Sylvia Booth Acker, Melva Hermes, and Ira Gaylon White. Edited by Gordon Bennett. A listing of 8,192 marriages 262 pgs., softbound, ISBN 1-931167-14-1		\$22.00
___ Marriage Records of Cherokee County Texas 1905-1931 (2001) by Sylvia Booth Acker, Melva Hermes, and Ira Gaylon White. Edited by Gordon Bennett. A listing of 8,192 marriages. 1 CD-ROM, ISBN 1-931167-16-8		\$15.00
___ MARRIAGE RECORDS OF CHEROKEE CO., TX, 1846-1880, VOL. 1. by Ogreta W. Huttash. 100 pgs, copyright 1974, fifth Printing, 1985, Approximately 4,000 marriages alphabetically by name of groom: full-name index of brides.		\$10.00

**Publications available through CHEROKEE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**  
**P.O. Box 1332, Jacksonville, Texas 75766-1332**

___	Marriage s of Cherokee County, 1884-1890 by Helen Wooddell Crawford			\$5.00
___	MARRIAGE RECORDS OF CHEROKEE CO., TX, 1881-1905, VOL. 11. by Ogreta W. Huttash. 127 pgs, copyright 1976,			
___	Approximately 5800 marriages alphabetically by name of groom: full-name index of brides. ISBN 978-1-931167-53-6			\$10.00
___	National Tomato Capital 305 pgs Tomato history in Cherokee County by Helen Wooddell Crawford			\$29.00
___	Newspaper Obituaries from early papers 1889-1908 Bk.1 166 pgs by Helen Wooddell Crawford	ISBN 1-931167-18-4		\$10.00
___	Newspaper Obits 1910-1921, Bk 2 309 pgs by Helen Wooddell Crawford	ISBN 1-931167-29-X		\$18.00
___	Newspaper Obits assorted dates Bk 3 260 pgs by Helen Wooddell Crawford	ISBN 1-931167-30-3		\$20.00
___	Newspaper Obits Bk.4 469 pgs by Helen Wooddell Crawford	ISBN 1-931167-31-1		\$39.00
___	Newspaper Obits 1972-1984 Bk 5 495 pgs by Helen Wooddell Crawford	ISBN 1-931167-32-X		\$25.00
___	Newspaper Obits 1922-1925 Bk 6 182 pgs by Helen Wooddell Crawford	ISBN 978-1-931167-25-3		\$16.00
___	Newspaper Obits assorted dates Bk 7 368 pgs by Helen Wooddell Crawford	ISBN 978-1-931167-50-5		\$45.00
___	Newspaper Obits 1991 & part of 1990 Bk 8 256 pgs by Helen Wooddell Crawford	ISBN 978-1-931167-49-9		\$20.00
___	Newspaper Obits 1992 Bk 9 194 pgs by Helen Wooddell Crawford	ISBN 978-1-931167-51-2		\$16.00
___	Newspaper Obits 1993 Bk 10 209 pgs by Helen Wooddell Crawford	ISBN 1-931167-23-0		\$10.00
___	Newspaper Obits 1994 Bk 11 206 pgs by Helen Wooddell Crawford	ISBN 1-931167-22-2		\$11.00
___	Newspaper Obits 1995 Bk 12 205 pgs by Helen Wooddell Crawford	ISBN 978-1-931167-43-7		\$16.00
___	Newspaper Obits 1996 Bk 13 226 pgs by Helen Wooddell Crawford	ISBN 1-931167-21-4		\$10.00
___	Newspaper Obits 1997 Bk 14 197 pgs by Helen Wooddell Crawford	ISBN 1-931167-20-6		\$10.00
___	Newspaper Obits 1998 Bk 15 205 pgs by Helen Wooddell Crawford	ISBN 978-1-931167-39-0		\$10.00
___	Newspaper Obits 1999 Bk 16 196 pgs by Helen Wooddell Crawford	ISBN 1-931167-19-2		\$10.00
___	Newspaper Obits 2000 Bk 17 215 pgs by Helen Wooddell Crawford	ISBN 1-931167-40-0		\$11.00
___	Newspaper Obits 2001 Bk 18 221 pgs by Helen Wooddell Crawford , soft cover, Indexed	ISBN 1-931167-13-3		\$11.00
___	Newspaper Obits 1926-1931 Bk 19 177 pgs by Helen Wooddell Crawford	ISBN 1-931167-17-6		\$14.00
___	Newspaper Obituaries Index of Cherokee County, Texas 1836-2001 BOOKS 1-19 by Helen Wooddell Crawford			\$22.00
___	ISBN 1-931167-36-2			
___	Newspaper Obituaries Index of Cherokee County, Texas 1836-2001 BOOKS 1-19 CD-ROM by Helen Wooddell Crawford			\$15.00
___	ISBN 1-931167-37-0,			
___	NORTHWEST CHEROKEE CO. CEMETERIES, VOL. 1, 20 cemeteries (1997), by Ira Gaylon White, 253 pgs, softbound, indexed			\$23.00
___	ISBN 0-9703095-8-2			
___	NORTHWEST CHEROKEE CO. CEMETERIES, VOL. 2. 25 cemeteries (1997), by Ira Gaylon White, 288 pgs, softbound, indexed			\$26.00
___	ISBN 0-9703085-9-0			
___	OUR BEFORES - ANCESTOR CHARTS, VOL. 1, 250 pgs., (1982), indexed	ISBN 0-9703085-1-5		\$22.00
___	OUR BEFORES - ANCESTOR CHARTS, VOL. 2, 252 pgs., (1982), indexed	ISBN 0-9703085-2-3		\$21.00
___	OUR BEFORES - ANCESTOR CHARTS, VOL. 3, 176 pgs., (1986), indexed	ISBN 0-9703085-3-1		\$14.00
___	OUR BEFORES - ANCESTOR CHARTS, VOL. 4, 222 pgs., (1991), indexed	ISBN 0-9703085-4-X		\$16.00
___	OUR BEFORES - ANCESTOR CHARTS, VOL. 5, 247 pgs., (1996), indexed	ISBN 0-9703085-5-8		\$21.00
___	OUR BEFORES - ANCESTOR CHARTS, VOL. 6, 168 pgs. (2000), indexed.	ISBN 0-9703085-6-6		\$17.00
___	PROBATE RECORDS OF CHEROKEE COUNTY, TX, MINUTE BOOK A, 1870-1881 and DOCKET A and DOCKET B., 1867-1887 by Ogreta W. Huttash, 125 pages (2004), Softbound, Indexed.			\$12.00
___	PROBATE RECORDS OF CHEROKEE COUNTY, TX 1846- ca 1875 by Ogreta W. Huttash, 200 pages (1998) Includes estates, settlements, guardianships for minors, community property of decedents, heirs, and the name of the surviving spouse. Slaves in estate settlements are indexed under the name of the owner. Softbound, indexed	978-1-931167-52-9		\$14.00
___	Providence Cemetery Cherokee County Texas by Sylvia Booth Acker and Willie Harold Acker, Sr.,			\$10.00
___	Saga of Cherokee County, Texas. Book 1 indexed 417 pgs by Helen Wooddell Crawford	ISBN 1-931167-26-5		\$33.00
___	Saga of Cherokee Book 2 1910-1921 indexed 491 pgs by Helen Wooddell Crawford	ISBN 1-931167-24-9		\$34.00
___	Saga of Cherokee, Book 3 ass'td dates, indexed 433 pgs by Helen Wooddell Crawford			\$25.00
___	Saga of Cherokee Book 4 1922-1925, indexed 504 pgs by Helen Wooddell Crawford	ISBN 978-1-931167-48-2		\$34.00
___	Saga of Cherokee Book 5, ass'td dates, indexed 471 pgs by Helen Wooddell Crawford	ISBN-10 1-931167-34-6		\$45.00
___	Saga of Cherokee and World War I, Book 6 indexed 256 pgs by Helen Wooddell Crawford			\$28.00
___	Saga of Cherokee County and Pioneer Life Book 7, indexed, 167 pgs, by Helen Wooddell Crawford	ISBN 1-931167-28-1		\$16.00
___	Some Descendants of Isaac Lee by Ogreta W. Huttash, 1994, 144 p, ill, LCCN 94227079			\$15.00
___	TREE TALK, THE FIRST FIVE YEARS, May 12,1975 through April 30,1980. Contains a brief history of the organization of the Cherokee County Genealogical Society, charter membership roster, etc.. (1995), full name index (1998)			\$11.00
___	ISBN 1-931167-11-7			
___	Tree Talk, Volume I through Vol. 25, No. 3. (2000) Contains the complete text (about 3600 pages) of the 25 years of this publication. 2 CD-ROMs. ISBN 0-9703085-0-7, ISSN 1551-0514, LCCN 2004204271			\$30.00
___	Tyler Courier-Times-Telegraph 1950 Mid Century Edition. 275 pgs by Helen Wooddell Crawford	ISBN 978-1-931167-42-0		\$15.00



## Membership Application

CHEROKEE COUNTY

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Post Office Box 1332

Jacksonville, Texas 75766-1332

Annual membership dues are \$20.00 (single) and \$25.00 for a two-member household. The membership year ends August 31, 2016. Membership entitles you to four quarterly issues of our publication Tree Talk. Tree Talk is normally published the first week of October, January, April and July of each fiscal year. Members joining after the first issue is published will receive all issues of Tree Talk, but back issues of Tree Talk will be mailed with the next issue unless \$1.00 for special handling is enclosed. The Society meets the second Monday of the months September through May at First United Methodist Church, 1031 SE Loop 456 Jacksonville, Texas at 5 p.m.

Date of Application \_\_\_\_\_ Paid through 8/31/\_\_\_\_\_

Single Membership \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_\_\_

Two-Member household \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ 9-digit Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (include area code): \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Surnames you are researching: \_\_\_\_\_

Gift of \_\_\_\_\_, bill to: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete the information above, make out your check, and mail to:

**Cherokee County Genealogical Society**

**Post Office Box 1332**

**Jacksonville, Texas 75766-1332**