

PRESS RELEASE

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BEAR CREEK CEMETERY FINISHES ANOTHER GRANT PROJECT

Bear Creek Cemetery Foundation announces the completion of another project funded by a grant from the Collin County Historical Commission. In all, the Bear Creek Cemetery Foundation has received eight grants in the last seven years. Two of the grants were awarded to install a four-foot iron fence on two sides of the cemetery. Five grants were awarded to repair the very badly worn and broken grave markers. In five years we have repaired or replaced about 120 markers. We were also able to place 10 new markers to replace the most worn and broken markers, ensuring that those people will not be forgotten. We continue to clean the markers as well. Texas Cemetery Restoration LLC provided the expert services repairing the markers. All of the techniques and materials they use are approved by the Texas Historical Commission.

Our project this year to remove a number of large dead trees which were close to recently repaired grave markers. With the help of volunteers we have been able to keep up with most of the pruning, but we needed professional help with the tree-removal and really high branches. This was a matter of safety for the workers, for visitors to the cemetery, and for the grave markers. We contracted with Personal Touch Tree Service and the work was done on October 25, 2016. This included cutting down the six very large dead cedar trees, pruning dead branches from additional trees, and removing all the small brush. The smaller cuttings were mulched. Robert and Becky Yeager, who live across the road from the cemetery, wanted the mulch and all of the larger pieces such as 12 foot long pieces of tree trunks. During the following two weeks they moved all of them to their own property. (This was volunteer work, which reduced the cost of the overall project.)

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The Empire Masonic Lodge members and the Boy Scout Troop 1814, both of Nevada, Texas, have been partners in many of our projects. They are also helping in regular mowing and cleaning of the cemetery. One of the Boy Scouts, Dyllan Brammlett, was in charge of installing a flagpole for the cemetery. This was his Eagle Scout project. The Wylie Chapter of the Woodman of the World donated the flagpole and an American flag. Another boy, Walter Barr, is planning for his Eagle Scout project to level the sunken graves with fill dirt.

Bear Creek Cemetery was designated a Texas Historical Cemetery in 2005. We have mapped the cemetery and have photographed all of the grave markers.

Future projects include: fencing the west and north sides of the cemetery and leveling the dirt where graves have collapsed. We would like to have a ground penetrating radar survey performed to locate unmarked graves.

We are in the process of writing a book about the cemetery and the people who are buried there. If you have pictures or any information about the people who are buried at Bear Creek Cemetery, please contact us at: beckybabyfeet@verizon.net or call 972-463-7523.

Please consider joining our foundation, doing volunteer work, or making a donation to continue taking care of this very old historic cemetery.

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