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Clark Cemetery Preservation News

A News Update for Clark Cemetery Families and Friends

Annual Meeting and Cemetery Working, April 23, 2011 10:00 to 1:30 p.m.!

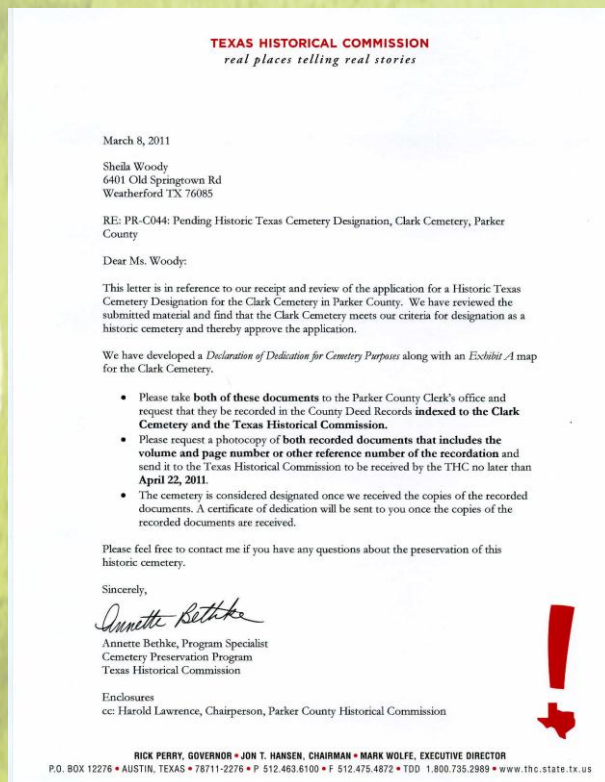
The beginning of 2011 was the culmination of a lot of ground work done in months from August to December 2010 – crowned by the Texas State Historical Cemetery designation for Clark Cemetery!

This was an idea originally proposed and undertaken by Sharon (Cumming) Hobart – one of our Ad Hoc Committee members. Sharon did a great deal of foundational groundwork to which others added efforts to put together an application package with the Texas Historical Commission in Austin.

Qualifying for this designation involves many detailed steps. Sharon worked with Parker County officials to start the process and submit the initial application. Other Ad Hoc Committee members, Dave Cumming, Craig and Kimberly (Woody) Boretsky along with Kimberly's parents, Melvin and Sheila Woody all pitched in to make contributions to the effort. Craig and Kimberly submitted the final package after working with the Texas Historical Commission Program Specialist, Annette Bethke and Parker County Historical Commission Chairperson, Harold Lawrence.

The Boretskys and Woody's took the State issued Declaration of Dedication for Cemetery Purposes along with the Exhibit A - Map Template to the Parker County Clerk's office to have them recorded in the County Deed Records indexed to Clark Cemetery and the Texas Historical Commission. Once recorded, they sent a copy of the recordation to the Texas Historical Commission.

Now the Ad Hoc Committee has decided to pursue obtaining a Texas Historic Cemetery marker plaque – a process that involves greater research and a great deal of proof to qualify for this level of the designation. Kimberly Boretsky will head this effort and encourages other Ad Hoc Committee Members to offer assistance in the historical research.



Letter of Designation Approval: Above: Sheila Woody, as Secretary/Treasurer of the Clark Cemetery Association received the letter of notification from THC Program Specialist Annette Bethke advising that Clark Cemetery was approved for the Texas Historic Cemetery Designation and advising to have the Declaration and Map documents recorded in County Clerk's office and then to send back to the THC.

This newsletter will be distributed monthly for the Clark Cemetery Ad Hoc Committee updates and for Clark Cemetery Preservation Fund updates periodically.

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION COPY, DO NOT RECORD
real places telling real stories

**DECLARATION OF DEDICATION FOR CEMETERY PURPOSES
FOR THE CLARK CEMETERY**

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF PARKER § KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That the Texas Historical Commission, an agency of the State of Texas, does hereby certify and declare:

That the Clark Cemetery, located in the S.C. TATE SURVEY, ABSTRACT NO. 2435 and the LEWIS P. McDONALD SURVEY, ABSTRACT NO. 860, Parker County, Texas and more particularly described in *Exhibit A* as attached hereto, has been set aside and dedicated for cemetery purposes through historic use and that such property is now occupied by human graves.

That the Texas Historical Commission has duly considered the evidence of existence and historic use of said cemetery and has listed said cemetery as a Historic Texas Cemetery, worthy of preservation.

That this dedication is subject to all the laws, rules, and regulations of the State of Texas regarding cemeteries now in effect and to those adopted after the effective date of this dedication, and is made in accordance with 13 Tex. Admin. Code Section §21.30.

This Affidavit of Dedication for Cemetery Purposes is signed and executed on this 16 day of February, 2011.

Terry Colley
Terry Colley
Deputy Executive Director
Texas Historical Commission

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF TRAVIS §

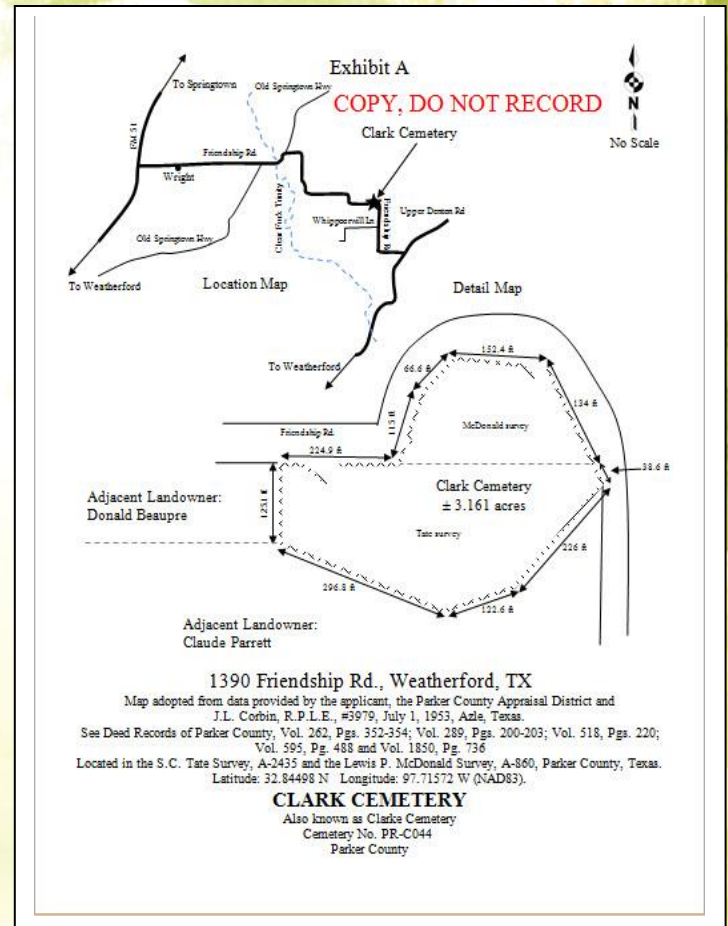
BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Terry Colley, known to me to be a credible person, whose name is above subscribed, and said person swore to me the statements contained herein are true and correct.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME on this 16 day of February, 2011.

Annette Bethke
NOTARY PUBLIC in and for the STATE OF TEXAS

ANNETTE BETHKE
NOTARY PUBLIC
State of Texas
Comm. Exp. 05/15/2015

RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR • JON T. HANSEN, CHAIRMAN • MARK WOLFE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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Above: A Phenomenal Milestone for Clark Cemetery! Copy of THC Declaration: Sheila Woody received this copy of the Declaration of Dedication for Cemetery Purposes for the Clark Cemetery from THC Program Specialist Annette Bethke, stating that the Texas Historical Commission "has duly considered the evidence of existence and historic use of said cemetery as Texas Historic Cemetery, worthy of preservation," dated February 16, 2011 signed by Terry Colley, Deputy Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission.

Right: For Recording: Copy of THC Map Template, Exhibit A: Sheila Woody received this copy of the Exhibit A – Map Template of Clark Cemetery, 1390 Friendship Road, Weatherford, Texas 76085, showing the Parker County Cemetery Number PR-C044. This is a monumental step toward the protection of Clark Cemetery and finally providing the recognition it deserves as a truly historic cemetery.

January Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Results

The Clark Cemetery Ad Hoc Committee met on January 22 at the home of Wayne and Margaret Clark. In attendance at the meeting were Donnie Anderson (phone), Kimberly Boretsky, Wayne and Margaret Clark, Ronnie Clark, Sam and Ruth Lynn Cotter, Dave Cumming, Sharon Hobart, Duard Ruland, Melvin and Sheila Woody.

Donnie Anderson could not make the meeting in person but use the toll-free teleconference number join discussions. He advised the Committee members on what could be done for an online accessible database of grave and plot listings for the cemetery. He stated that he had invested in a software program tool that he could use to create a MySQL database. Dave Cumming spoke with him about incorporating the database on the existing web host for the Clark Cemetery Association website that has MySQL.

President Wayne Clark called the meeting to order to make a motion for pursuing the 501(c)(3) designation. All of the Board of Directors of Clark Cemetery were present (Wayne Clark, Duard Ruland, Ronnie Clark, Sam Cotter, Melvin Woody, and Kimberly Boretsky) along with Secretary/Treasurer Sheila Woody. The motion carried.

Melvin Woody brought forth a motion to contact, talk to and perhaps retain an attorney – preferably someone local – to guide the Committee on what to do and how to do it with regard to pursuing a 501(c)(3) or other non-profit designation with the IRS. It was suggested by Melvin that the attorney could file incorporation documents with the State and with the IRS. Sam Cotter seconded the motion. Wayne Clark stated that he would investigate the IRC 501(c)(13) for cemeteries.

Kimberly Boretsky brought a compact disk with a copy of the digital aerial photo taken of Clark Cemetery. This was the unenhanced photo – just a proof for our viewing. Several Ad Hoc Committee Members viewed the proof.

Wayne Clark and Melvin Woody discussed the plotting of the Cemetery on the aerial photo based on their measurements and the target pins.

Dave Cumming suggested that a trifold brochure could be mailed instead of a post card to include more information about what is going on with Clark Cemetery, ask for donations, and ask for contact information from families on the mailing list. Dave Cumming volunteered to produce the brochure, get it printed and then deliver the brochure to the Woodys for applying labels and postage and then mailing. This was agreed to by all present.

It was agreed that the Ad Hoc Committee meeting be skipped in February to wait for some impending results on outstanding projects and allow the Board to plan the Annual Meeting. The Board of Directors agreed to meet toward the end of March to plan for the 2011 Annual Meeting and Cemetery Working scheduled for April 23. After that, the meeting was adjourned.

IRS 501(c)(13) Designation Application Submitted

After some difficulty in retaining an attorney and with the time frame involved, President Wayne Clark suggested that the Association pursue a 501(c)(13) designation with the IRS. The Board approved this and Wayne worked for the entire month of February and part of March to complete the required information for the application and submit the application to the IRS. The 501(c)(13) designation application is now in process.

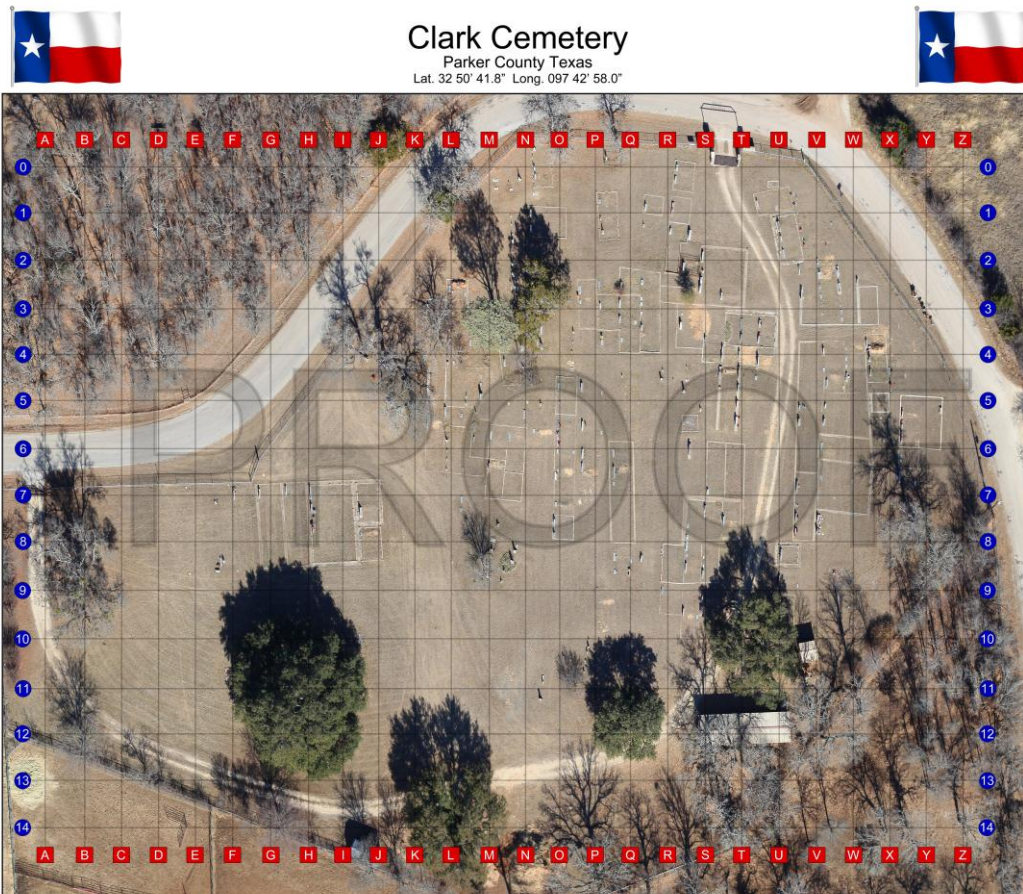
Internal Revenue Code (IRC) 501(c)(13) provides for “the exemption from Federal income tax of cemetery companies owned and operated exclusively for the benefit of their members or which are not operated for profit; and any corporation chartered solely for the purpose of the disposal of bodies by burial or cremation which is not permitted by its charter to engage in any business not necessarily incident to that purpose, no part of the net earnings of which inures to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual.”

Measuring, Target Pins, Aerial Photo Completed

In December, Wayne Clark, Melvin Woody, and Dave Cumming worked on completing measurements for the grid for Clark Cemetery and installed “target” pins for use in the aerial photograph scheduled for that month or the following month. The measuring and laying out of a grid was the necessary groundwork for a plot map that will be used to show locations and help visitors find a family plot. Wayne and Melvin continued to work on installing the pins and finishing the grid despite adverse and cold weather. Due to their hard work, the aerial photograph could be made with some ground references.

Thanks to the efforts of Craig Boretsky to find an aerial photographer capable of meeting the unique challenge, Red Wing Aerials was hired and completed the aerial photographs in December.

After some adjustments and communication with Red Wing Aerials computer and photography technicians, Red Wing produced a remarkably high resolution photograph and then produced a grid overlay. The completed 28x24-inch print was delivered at the end of March.



Above: Scaled Down: Representation of the 28x24 Proof Print provided by Red Wing Aerials showing the grid layout at Clark Cemetery.

March Board Meeting, Trifold Mailed

On March 21, the Clark Cemetery Association Board of Directors met at the residence of Melvin and Sheila Woody. Sam Cotter called in and provided assent to the meeting business. Wayne Clark presented and spoke about some changes on the plot curbing and measurement requirements in the Clark Cemetery Association Bylaws. Planning was undertaken for the 2011 Annual Meeting.

Dave Cumming was called to the Board Meeting to receive some changes to the trifold brochure for the notification mailing. **Dave Cumming was asked to be on the Board of Directors and agreed. He will be recommended for a Director by the present Board and will be voted on by the membership at the April 23rd Annual Meeting.** He made final corrections and had it printed and delivered it to the Woodys on March 27. Melvin mailed the brochure Friday, April 1.

Speaker and Entertainment Finalized for April 23

The Clark Cemetery Association Board of Directors approved the hiring of *Mustang Swing*, a Texas Western Swing band for entertainment before and after the Annual Meeting business this year. The band was introduced to the Board by Dave Cumming via their website. Dave Cumming knows most of the band members. The band plays regularly in Fort Worth at the Cowtown Opry in the historic Fort Worth Stockyards and other venues around the state including Texas Swing Music Festival and Old Fiddlers Reunion.

Dr. Bryan L. Crow (DMin) is the “older cousin” of Melvin Woody and a long-time Baptist minister. He founded the Garden Church in Anaheim, California where he lives. Dr. Crow will deliver eulogies and the Easter message this year at this year’s Annual Meeting. Dr. Crow’s parents and relatives are buried at Clark.

ANNUAL MEETING SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2011!

*****10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. DON'T FORGET!*****

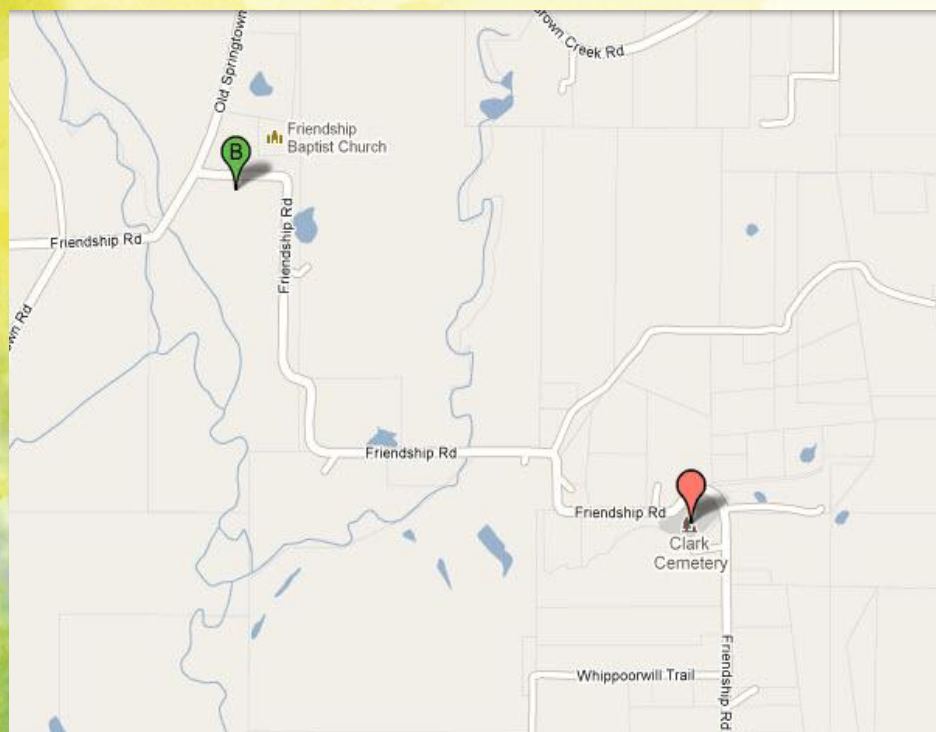


Teresa, Jack and Matthew Walton make up the main part of Mustang Swing band along with Devon Dawson. Dave Cumming has known the Waltons for several years.
<http://www.mustangswing.com>

David VanBuskirk, the owner of Kriksub Meats and Catering will provide barbeque brisket and chicken at the 2011 Annual Meeting. Dave Cumming has known Mr. VanBuskirk for several years.
<http://www.kriksubmeats.com>

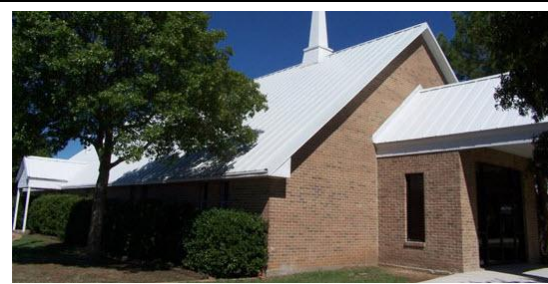


<http://www.devondawson.net>



Alternate Location in Case of Rain

The Clark Cemetery Association Annual Meeting will move to Friendship Baptist Church, 801 Friendship Road – about 2 miles from Clark in the event of rain. Friendship Baptist Church is west of Clark Cemetery on Friendship Road and overlooks the Clear Fork of the Trinity.
<http://www.friendshipweatherford.com/>



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