

Merry Christmas!

Dedicated to our Lord and Savior's example of selfless giving: a prayer garden bench memorial. The memorial will have a scripture monument, which will have the scripture of John 14:27 from the New International Version (NIV) inscribed and will have a prayer bench.

The scripture reads:

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." John 14:27 (NIV)



Above: Work has begun on the stone prayer garden altar which will have a bench and a memorial inscription.

A Steady Stream of Accomplishment

Review our previous newsletters to follow parts of the stream

Clark Cemetery Association has a long tradition of giving by its members to maintain and improve the Cemetery grounds dating from its earliest days. The instances are too numerous to list but a few are more recent and notable. The most recent improvements have their grounding in 2008 when Dwight Cumming donated a new metal well house building. More improvements followed the next year. Subsequent metal work matched that of the well house. Out of his concern for the building of the Endowment Fund and the maintenance of the cemetery improvement, Dwight initiated discussions between himself and Sam Cotter and then later with other Clark Cemetery trustees. This led to the forming by Sam Cotter of an Ad Hoc Committee in 2010 for spearheading the raising of funds and increasing volunteering as well as adding new improvements.

That launched a series of actions that have resulted in Clark Cemetery's official recognition by the IRS and the State of Texas for Clark Cemetery Association as a 501 (c) 13 Non-profit Cemetery Organization. After that, Clark Cemetery was designated by the State as an official Texas Historical Cemetery. Later, Clark Cemetery was approved for a Texas Historical Cemetery Marker which is to be provided in the near future.

Ann Drake and Sharon and Glen Hobart contributed funds for the marker application while Kimberly Boretsky was instrumental in preparing and coordinating the application. There have been many other accomplishments. Early on, we hired a ground penetrating radar service and located unmarked graves and then provided place markers.

We laid out the cemetery grid and put down grid markers. We hired Red Wing Aerials, located by Craig Boretsky, to produce a digitized aerial photo with a grid and then had a digital grid map produced by them. Dwight funded these efforts.

The aerial photographer's grid map was made possible by the persistent efforts of Melvin Woody and Wayne Clark in measuring, laying out, and marking the grid on the ground. Wayne Clark was instrumental in getting the 501 (c) 13 application through. Sharon Hobart and Kimberly Boretsky worked hard to get the applications approved with the Texas Historical Commission. Kimberly researched and wrote an historical paper for the application.

Soon after that, Dwight provided funding to renovate the restrooms, renovate and pour a slab for the pavilion and other improvements. Craig and Kimberly Boretsky designed and had a map kiosk and display case built and then donated it for installation. Craig was instrumental in finding contractors to do metal and stone work for the kiosk, restroom roofing, and pavilion as well as a contractor to pour a slab for the pavilion. The metal work coordinates with the original metal work of the well house Dwight provided back in 2008. Work on the cemetery has continued each year, accomplishing one or another improvement. This has been due to the generosity and perseverance of our volunteers with their time and their money.



Dwight Cumming stands in front of the restroom building for which he donated funding for renovation of the roof and other needed repairs. Craig Boretsky contracted to have the roof installed; Dwight provided funding for several other improvements beginning with the well house in 2008. He also funded many of the other improvements along with the Woody's and Boretskys.



1. Finished well stone work
2. Interior stone caps
3. Doors ready for ironwork
4. Finished stone walkways
5. New restroom signs
6. County clears out dirt pile
7. Pavilion stone post pillars
8. Work on prayer garden stone memorial begins
9. Left to Right Aaron Andreesen, Craig Boretsky, Melvin Woody, and Brad Abbott
10. Finished hand made, ornamental iron gates

Photos taken by: Melvin Woody, Tammy (Clark) Brown,

New Donations and Improvements

We are greeting Christmas 2012 with brand new Clark Cemetery improvements and bringing in the New Year with great plans for the forthcoming months.

Thanks to efforts and coordination of Craig and Kimberly Boretsky, we now are going into the final stage of completing the restroom improvements started last year. They contracted for and donated stone wall linings (1), renovated interior (2), new signs (3 & 5), stone walkways (4) and locking metal entry gates (10).

Jeff Clark -- Trustee Ronnie Clark's son -- hand made the iron gates for the renovated restrooms. The gates were fabricated off site and powder coated to create a hard finish that is tougher than conventional paint for a durable metal finish. The restroom interior cinder blocks were painted and stone caps set on top so that they reach nearly to the roof (2), providing a smaller ventilation gap for better security and integrity.

Kimberly Boretsky coordinated with County Precinct Commissioner George Conley who, thanks to him, removed the mound of fill dirt (6) to make way for a new improvement: the Prayer Garden -- an idea and donation of Craig and Kimberly.

The Board of Trustees met at the cemetery in late November and approved the Prayer Garden proposed by Craig and Kimberly. They then contracted with stone masons Aaron Andresen and Brad Abbott to complete stone work on the restrooms, build walkways (4), add pillars with cap stones to the pavilion (7), and build a new stone Prayer Garden memorial (8, and 9; see the top of the newsletter).

Melvin and Sheila Woody and Melvin's brother, Jim Woody and sister, JoAnn Engberg, have donated the monument (scripture engraving) and prayer bench (architectural cast stone).

Other Volunteers

By the way, thanks go out to Paul and Tammy Brown for their help on our Facebook group and keeping us all up to date.

Thanks to Star Reedy Bradshaw for her donation of the clarkcemetery.org and clarkcemetery.com domains and much help and advice on search engine optimization.

Thanks go to Donny Anderson for continuing his work on and donation of our database.

Thanks go out to Ronnie Clark for keeping up the cemetery along with Sam Cotter for headstone repairs and other work at the cemetery along with Wayne Clark, Melvin Woody, and Sam Cotter.

Thanks go out to all the volunteers doing work on site and off site for our families' Clark Cemetery and Association. There are many others who go unnamed who have contributed their time and efforts over time to help maintain and beautify the cemetery.

Thanks to Parker County Precinct 1 Commissioner George Conley for the road improvements and for supporting us recently with earth moving and road signs.

Improvement Challenges for the New Year

We need to beautify and privatize our Prayer Garden area with plants like Flowering Senna, Old Blush, Lady Banks Rose, Duchess de Brabant, and Mutabilis rose bushes, Crape Myrtle, Flame Acanthus, Blue Sapphire Cypress or other hardy, drought-resistant plants or trees to seclude our prayer garden. Contact Trustee Melvin Woody to find out about local Weatherford resources for buying and delivering plants. Please donate plants or designate a plant gift fund at our upcoming 2013 Annual Meeting.

Our next improvement goal: \$2,000 for a 20-foot flag pole and flags. You can participate in these goals by making your donation today.

Look for Upcoming 2013 Annual Meeting News

Be sure to read the 1st Quarter 2013 eNewsletter for highlights of our upcoming Clark Cemetery Association 2013 Annual Meeting. There will be lots of announcements and dedications. Don't miss it. In the meantime, watch for updates via eBulletin and our Facebook group.

Duard Ruland Continues to Recover

Trustee Duard Ruland is now at Cherokee Rose Manor Nursing and Rehab Center, 203 Bo Gibbs Boulevard, Room 51 in Glen Rose, Texas. 254-897-7361. Continue to keep Duard in your prayers. He can receive visitors. Stop by and see him if you can.

Editor's Note: Please take a Moment of Silent Prayer for the slain Sandy Hook Elementary School, Newtown, Connecticut students and teachers.

Send comments to: donw@clarkcemetery.org

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