



Established in 1858

# ATHENS CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

A newsletter sponsored by the  
Friends of the Cemetery

Vol. 11

December 2012

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Bob McDonald  
(903)681-1721

## ATHENS CEMETERY NEWS



# Happy Holidays

ATHENS CEMETERY IS A DESIGNATED STATE HISTORICAL CEMETERY  
ESTABLISHED IN 1858



## SCENES FROM THE ATHENS CEMETERY



Entrance



Information Kiosk



Columbarium



Celtic Cross Section



Pioneer Section

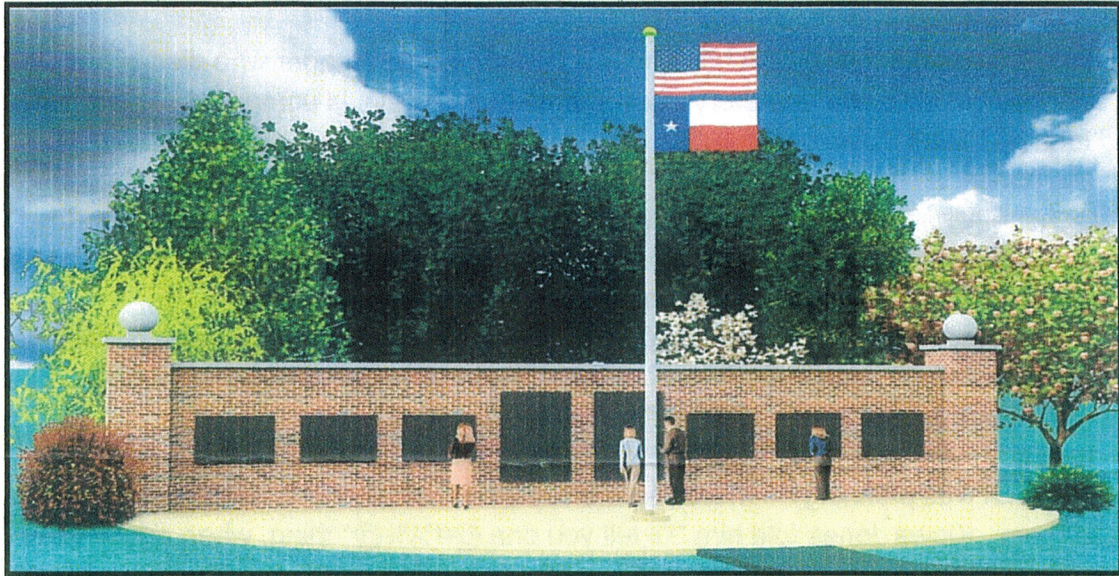
The hallowed grounds of the cemetery continue to be meticulously maintained and provide a special place of reverence, solitude and beauty.

In other developments, the sprinkler system has been updated and general maintenance and upkeep of the grounds and monuments are being maintained on an ongoing basis.

The Athens Cemetery would like to extend a special thanks to all our "Friends" that have supported the beautification of the cemetery.



## Friends' News

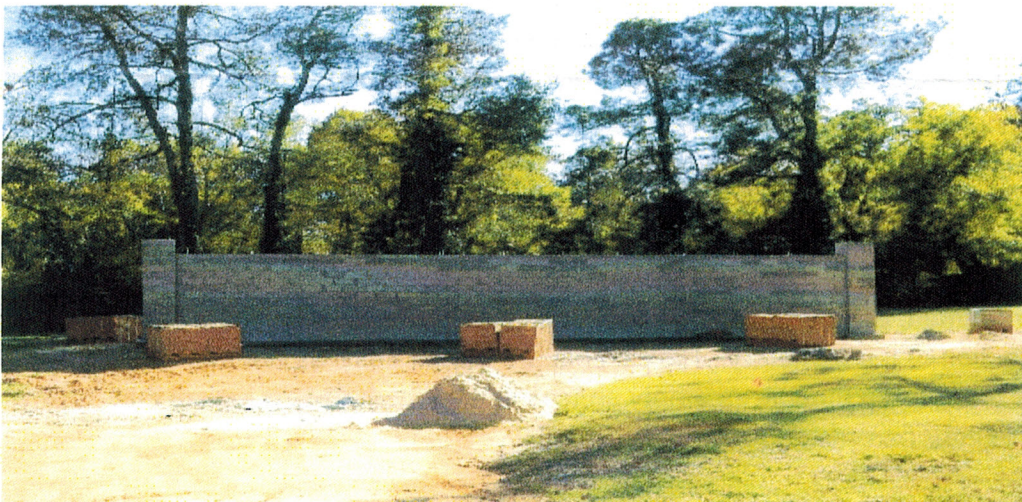


(Artist Rendition)

The Veterans' Memorial Court is becoming a reality. In 2011, plans for a Veterans' Memorial Court were announced. This memorial honors all who served in the military that are buried at our historical cemetery.

Veterans who served in the Civil War, Cherokee Indian War, Spanish American War, World War I and World War II, Korean War, Vietnam and other conflicts have been identified and will be named on the memorial.

Cost of the memorial is \$48,000. To date, the cemetery has received \$45,000 in donations, so \$3,000 is needed to complete the project in full. The ground has been broken, and construction has begun in anticipation of the completion of the project.



Formal dedication of the memorial is planned for May, 2013 on Memorial Day.



## A HISTORICAL REFLECTION: FAMOUS TEXAS RANGER LIES IN UNMARKED GRAVE

Nat B. Jones, a native of Athens, was a famous Texas Ranger who died in March of 1928, and was buried in our cemetery. Unfortunately, his grave is unmarked although we have a good idea as to its location.

Mr. Jones, also known as "Kiowa" Jones, was stationed in Kerrville in the late 1920s and had responsibility for law enforcement in southwest Texas and along the Mexican border. Much has been written about him and his exploits and many anecdotes concerning him have been passed down in various publications.

In his recent book *Unbridled Cowboy*, E. R. Fussell relates several tales passed on to him by his grandfather, Joseph B. Fussell, a good friend of Jones during the old days. Fussell relates that Kiowa Jones handled justice "the old fashioned way".

In one instance, Fussell and Jones were in a parking lot in Kerrville monitoring the Ku Klux Klan which was planning on marching there. Their main "honcho" was standing there talking to them. Kiowa Jones told him "I'll tell you one @#%#@\* thing, when my 45 goes off and they don't hit the ground, you look and see what's holding them up." The Klan did not march that day.

Once on the Rio Grande at the Mexican border, Jones encountered Mexicans on the other side. He uttered a curse and shot the men from across the river.

On another occasion, Jones and his friend went into a movie theatre in Kerrville when Jones was drunk. When outlaws on the screen began shooting, so did Jones - at the screen. He hit every one of them.

According to *The Texas Rangers and the Mexican Revolution: The Bloodiest Decade*, Kiowa Jones was credited with single-handedly breaking up and dismantling a Mexican goat rustling operation along the border. For this he was recognized by the Texas Rangers and cited for his significant accomplishment.

Many of his contemporaries described Nat B. Jones as "the ugliest man" they had ever seen. He never married.

Nat B. Jones was laid to rest in our cemetery on March 22, 1928. He had been in declining health for a few months and his relatives in Athens attributed his poor health as the reason he committed suicide. He killed himself in Kerrville with a 30-30 rifle according to local accounts. His body arrived in Athens on the T & NO Railroad accompanied by J. J. Dent with whom he boarded. As Jones was a Mason, the train was met at the station by members of the Masonic lodge and accompanied to the cemetery where the Masonic lodge had charge of the burial services.

Nat B. Jones was a nephew of C. H. and Bose Coleman and Mrs. W. L. Faulk. He visited Athens from time-to-time and was well known here. It is a mystery as to why his grave was never marked, although we feel pretty sure that he was buried in the Coleman plot in the Pioneer Section of the cemetery. His parents are buried there as are members of the Coleman family. As there are a number of empty spaces in the plot, it seems logical that "Kiowa" is also buried there near parents and relatives.

*Contributed by Art Hall  
Athens Cemetery Board Member & Historian*

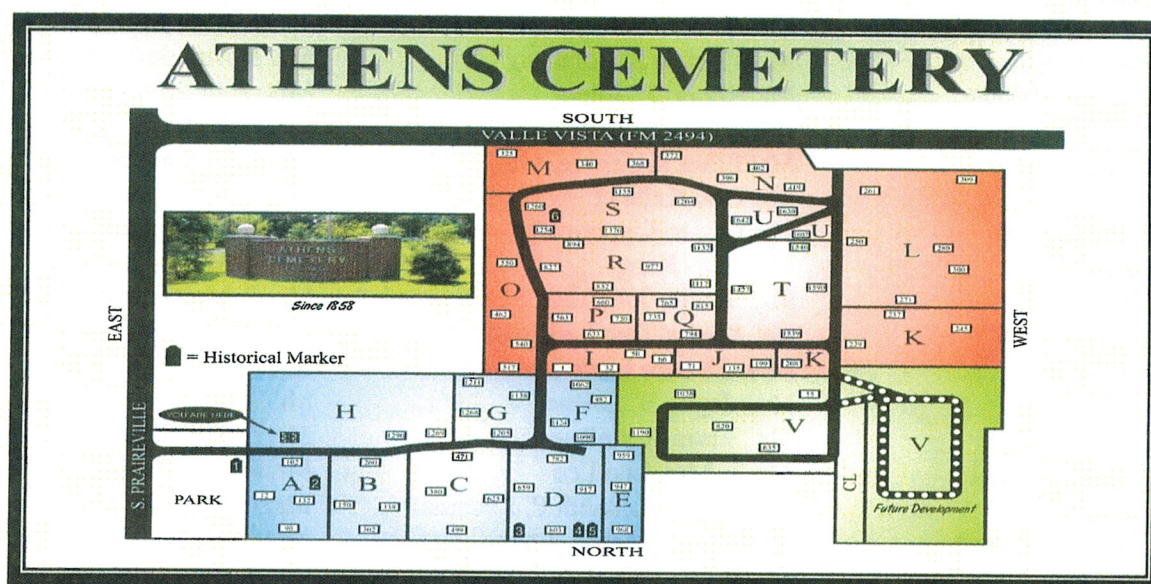
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The Athens Cemetery is maintained by the Athens Cemetery Association, a non-profit organization whose purpose is to maintain and preserve our historic cemetery. The Athens Cemetery depends on lot sales, internments, special gifts and planned giving to operate. Costs to maintain the cemetery have continued to increase, but the challenge has been met. The Board of the Athens Cemetery Association is dedicated to being good stewards of the funds provided to see that the cemetery remains a beautiful sanctuary for reflection, meditation and celebration of past and future generations.

The Board of the Athens Cemetery Association would like to thank the Friends of the Athens Cemetery for their continued support. Donations from the "Friends" are used exclusively for the beautification and permanent improvement to the cemetery

4,000 lots are available including cremation lots and columbarium niches. Call Bob McDonald at (903)681-1721 for further information.



### Space Prices:

Principal and Historic Section - \$1,000.00

Celtic Cross Section - \$1,300.00

Multi-Lot Family Section - On a per square foot basis

Internment Fee - \$200.00 on non-holiday or \$250.00 on recognized holiday

Columbarium Fee - \$1,500 (price is for two internments)

Special thanks to Board Member and Cemetery Liaison, Bob McDonald, for his dedication and untiring service to the cemetery.

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*"For all who visit our cemetery, may it remind them of all those who have gone before and of the nobility of life well lived. Remember that nothing is ended until it is forgotten. Whoever is kept in memory still endures."*



# FRIENDS OF THE CEMETERY

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Mrs. Sue Adams\*  
 Mrs. J. Lynn Allen  
 Mrs. William Ayers  
 Mr. & Mrs. Larry Babb  
 Ms. Carol Barton  
 Mrs. Gail Baum  
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 Mr. & Mrs. Don Bennett  
 Ms. Linda E. Berger  
 Mrs. Rosa Lee Bishop  
 Rev. James Bishop  
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 Ms. Mary Ellen Bradley  
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 Ms. Elaine Cole  
 Ms. Mary J. Conley  
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 Mr. & Mrs. David Deas  
 Mr. & Mrs. Joe B. Dickey\*  
 Ms. Frieda Doolan  
 Mr. Dan Dwelle  
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard E. Dwelle  
 Mr. Bobby Ray Farmer\*  
 Ms. Eleanor Farr  
 Mrs. Betty A. Foster\*  
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 Mr. J. C. Hart, III  
 Mrs. Ruby Hart

Mr. S. Vincent Hash  
 Mr. Charlie Hawn  
 Ms. Sarah Diana Hawn  
 Mr. Harry D. Hawn  
 Mr. & Mrs. Joe V. Hawn, Jr.  
 Mr. & Mrs. Bob Herrington  
 Mrs. Bonnie Hocutt  
 Judge & Mrs. Jack H. Holland  
 Mrs. Mildred Holland  
 Mrs. Betty Hollowell  
 Ms. April Holt  
 Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Hood  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jim Hudson  
 Ms. Patricia K. Johnson  
 Mr. Robert E. Joiner  
 Mr. & Mrs. Walter Judge  
 Ms. Ellen R. Justice  
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 Mr. Lester Kinabrew\*  
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 Mr. & Mrs. John Lance Lahourcade\*  
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 Ms. Carolyn Wheeler  
 Mr. & Mrs. Sam Whitten  
 Mr. William A. Wightman\*

\* = Charter Member

**In Memoriam:** We lament the passing of long time Athenian and charter member of the "Friends" organization, Ms. Martha Ann Sharpe. Martha Ann was a staunch supporter of the "Friends" and will be greatly missed.