



Established in 1858

ATHENS CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

A newsletter sponsored by the
Friends of the Cemetery

Vol. 14

December 2015

ATHENS CEMETERY NEWS

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Happy Holidays

**ATHENS CEMETERY IS A DESIGNATED STATE HISTORICAL CEMETERY
ESTABLISHED IN 1858**

A YEAR IN REVIEW

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! 2015 is coming to a close and the Athens Cemetery concludes its 157th year. A place of reflection and a historical landmark, the grounds of the cemetery provide comfort and a venue to celebrate and honor loved ones.

The Cemetery is a state historical cemetery and has five historical markers honoring leaders, characters and icons that helped shape and form the Henderson County community.

Historical markers honor the following individuals:

- Dulcinea Ann Holland Thompson Avriett
- Clinton Williams Murchison, Sr.
- John Matthews McDonald
- Joseph Thomas LaRue and Stella Parsons LaRue
- Rupert Talmage Craig

The Henderson County community was saddened this year with the passing of community leader and Cemetery Board Member, Bob J. McDonald. Bob's wisdom, friendship, and dedication to the community and the Athens Cemetery will forever be missed.

Whether you have interest in history or just desire to walk under century old blackgums, Lebanon cedars and stately magnolias, the Athens Cemetery is a cherished gift. We invite you to tour and experience this unique place of reverence and beauty.

Visit or stop by the kiosk at the entry gate of the cemetery to find loved ones or simply research the various sections of the cemetery. The kiosk is updated on a regular basis.

Coming in 2016, the Athens Cemetery Association will have a website. The website will have historical data, updates and other helpful information including the cemetery's rules and restrictions.

The Athens Cemetery Association is dedicated to maintaining and enhancing the hallowed grounds of the Athens Cemetery and is committed to its preservation for the benefit of present and future generations.

The Board of the Athens Cemetery Association wants to express our deepest appreciation for your interest in the Athens Cemetery.

SCENES FROM THE ATHENS CEMETERY



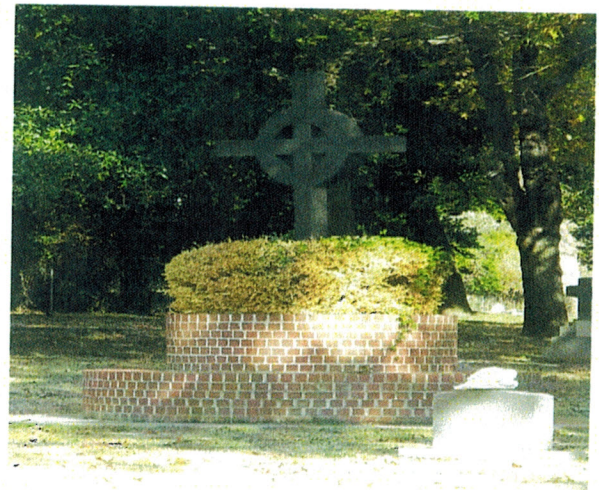
Veteran's Memorial



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.

The general maintenance and upkeep of the grounds and monuments is being conducted on an ongoing basis including additions of veterans' names to the Veterans' Memorial.

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

"Become a Friend in 2016!"

“A HISTORICAL SPOTLIGHT”

DR. JAMES C. HODGE (1854-1926) & DR. ROBERT H. HODGE (1879-1949)

There are a number of medical doctors buried in our cemetery, but as far as is known, there is only one father and son who practiced medicine together in Athens for many years. That partnership consisted of Dr. James Clarence Hodge, also known as "old" Dr. Hodge, and his son, Dr. Robert Hickman Hodge, better known as "young" Dr. Hodge.

Dr. James Clarence Hodge was born October 20, 1854, shortly after his parents, Rev. Robert Hickman Hodge, Jr. and Meliscent Bethany Hall, moved their family from Madison County, Mississippi to East Texas, first settling near Brushy Creek in Anderson County. Hodge was a Cumberland Presbyterian minister and he preached in the Brushy Creek area under trees, in cabins and in schools, houses, anywhere he could gather a few of the faithful together. Rev. Hodge soon moved his family to Henderson County, settling in the Science Hill area on a creek that today is still known as "Hodge Branch". There he helped organize and support the Science Hill Academy. Soon after Athens became the county seat of Henderson County, Rev. Hodge moved his family to Athens where he organized the First Presbyterian Church in 1855, a church that is still thriving 160 years after its organization.

James Clarence Hodge grew up in Athens. After his father returned to the family farm in the Science Hill community, James Clarence assisted with the work of the farm. In 1875, he married Bethany Burns whose family also lived in the Science Hill community. By 1887, at age 33, James Clarence Hodge had decided to become a doctor, and he enrolled in the University of Kentucky School of Medicine. His oldest son, Robert Hickman Hodge, then eight years old, was left in charge of the family to take care of his mother and his four younger brothers and sisters. He worked at whatever jobs he could find to help support the family, including several years as a potter at the Athens Pottery Company. James Clarence graduated from medical school in 1891, receiving the "Gold Medal" for his standing as the top student in his class. He returned to Athens where he began his long and distinguished career in medicine.

Dr. James Clarence Hodge died in 1926 at age 74. Services were conducted at the family home on East Tyler Street, followed by Masonic services at the cemetery. Serving as honorary pallbearers were the 27 doctors who were in attendance at the funeral.

Dr. James Clarence Hodge's oldest son, Robert H. Hodge, was born in Athens on March 1, 1879. He grew up in Athens and received his early education at Bruce Academy. After finishing his schooling in Athens, he decided to also become a doctor and was accepted into the University of Texas Medical School in Galveston where he graduated fourth in his class in 1905. Because of his class standing, he received an internship at John Sealy Hospital in Galveston. While there, he is credited with diagnosing and treating the last known case of Yellow Fever in Texas.

Following his internship, Dr. Robert Hodge returned to Athens where he married Dovie McWilliams in 1907. The young couple then went to live in Saron, Trinity County, where Dr. Hodge was employed as the company doctor for the William Cameron Lumber Company. When the lumber mill of the company burned a few months later, Dr. Hodge and his wife returned to Athens where he went into practice with his father, Dr. James Clarence Hodge, a partnership which was to last until "old" Dr. Hodge died in 1926.

During World War I, "young" Dr. Hodge was appointed a Captain in the Army Medical Corps, a position he held until the end of the war when he was honorably discharged. He then

returned to Athens where he resumed his practice with his father. He was a member of the Phi Chi Medical Fraternity, was a Knight Templar and was an elder in the Presbyterian Church in Athens. As his father had been before him, he was a member of both the county and state medical societies and served multiple terms as the President of the Henderson County Medical Society.

The home of Dr. Robert Hodge stood for many years at 712 East Tyler Street in Athens, but was sold and moved to make way for the current Braums Ice Cream and Dairy Store. When the home was dismantled to be moved, the medical journal of both Dr. James Clarence Hodge and Dr. Robert Hickman Hodge was discovered in the attic. The journal chronicles the names of all of their patients, both black and white, what they were treated for, and the charge for treatment. Today, the journal is available for review at the Henderson County Historical Museum.

Also interred in our cemetery are two other sons of "old" Dr. James Clarence Hodge, Bruce C. Hodge and Hugh M. Hodge.

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

IN MEMORIAM BOB J. MCDONALD



JANUARY 24, 1929 - FEBRUARY 27, 2015

PLAN GIVING

Originating in 1858, the Athens Cemetery has been generously supported through space sales, donations and other special gifts.

Through tax and estate planning, many individuals have realized a tax advantage to their estate by donating a portion of their estate to charitable entities like the Athens Cemetery Association, Inc., a 501(c)(13) non-profit organization.

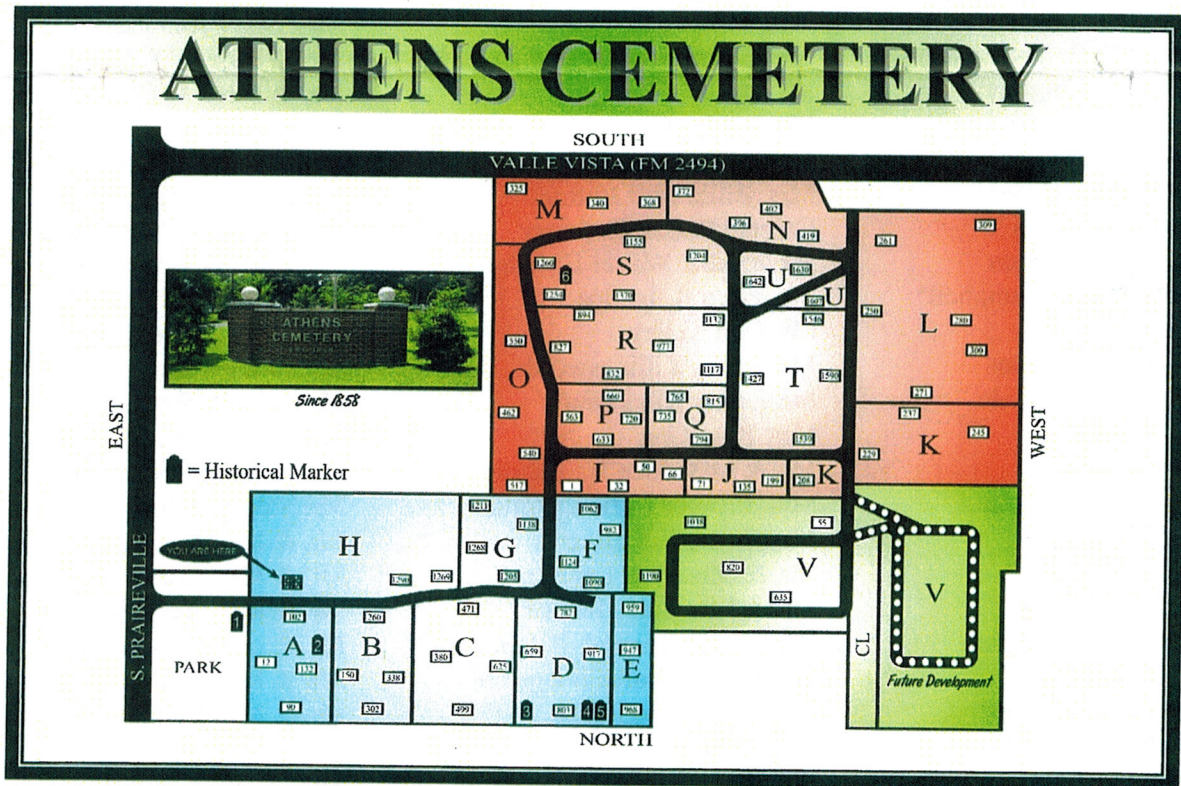
Donations made in this manner not only offer the potential to minimize federal estate taxes, but provide a tremendous benefit to the maintenance and long term sustain ability of the cemetery.

If interested, please consult your tax professional to see if this would be a benefit to you.

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, interments, 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 a 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 for the beautification and permanent improvement to the cemetery.

4,000 lots are available including cremation lots and columbarium niches. Call Cemetery Liaison, Bobby Glass, at (903)477-7281 for further information.



Space Prices:

Principal Section - \$1,100.00

Celtic Cross Section - \$1,450.00

Multi-Lot Family Section - \$1,100 to \$1,450 per space (burial spaces sold in groups of 8 or more)

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

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

*Space Sales - If desired are available for a five (5) year payment plan with no interest.

"For all who visit our cemetery, may it serve as a reminder of all 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."

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