



Established in 1858

ATHENS CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

A newsletter sponsored by the
Friends of the Cemetery

Vol. 15

December 2016

ATHENS CEMETERY NEWS



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Happy Holidays

Athens Cemetery
Association

P. O. Box 1296

Athens, Texas 75751

(903)675-9203

www.athenstxcemetery.com

Cemetery Liaison

Bobby Glass

(903)477-7281

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

A YEAR IN REVIEW

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! 2016 is coming to a close and the Athens Cemetery concludes its 158th 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 an official state historical cemetery. It has five historical markers honoring leaders, characters and icons that helped shape and form the Henderson County community and beyond.

Contained in this newsletter is a historical spotlight that provides a short summary of each marker.

The Veterans Memorial contains the names of veterans dating back to the mid 1800's who have served their country. Conflicts represented include the Cherokee Indian War, the Spanish American War, the Civil War, World War I and World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars. Each year the wall is updated with the names of veterans who were laid to rest; names are permanently engraved in the granite monument, categorized by the conflict in which the veteran served. The Veterans Memorial is illuminated at night and has a plaza to honor these veterans. A United States flag stands as a silent sentinel over the memorial.

Whether you have interest in history or just desire to walk under century old blackgums, Lebanon cedars or 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.

This year the Athens Cemetery has developed and opened a website. Please go to the website for information regarding all aspects of the cemetery. The website is www.athenstxcemetery.com.

Two long time board members, Mary Ann Perryman and Art Hall, have retired from the board. Mary Ann Perryman has served on our board for many years and is a descendant of the LaRue family, one of the founding families of Athens and Henderson County. Art Hall served as a financial advisor and historian. Art's knowledge of historical details and preservation will continue to benefit and preserve the cemetery. Both members will be greatly missed. The Athens Cemetery Association expresses our heartfelt gratitude for Mrs. Perryman's and Mr. Hall's dedication and service to the cemetery.

A special "thank you" to the Sid Richardson Family for their continued support of the Athens Cemetery.

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. Anyone who has an interest in the preservation and improvement of the Athens Cemetery is encouraged to contact the Board. Everyone is welcome.

SCENES FROM THE ATHENS CEMETERY



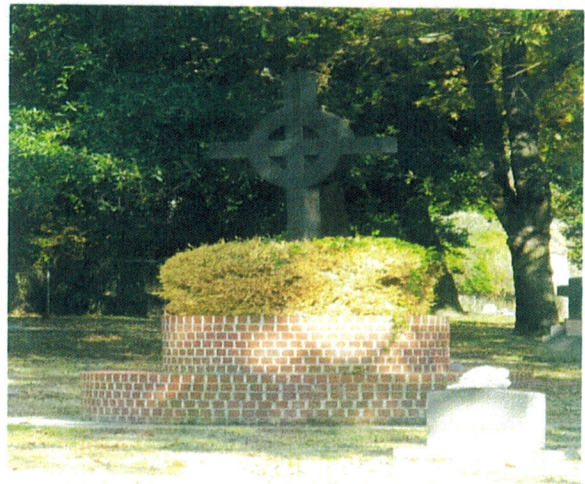
Veteran's Memorial



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 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" who have supported the beautification of the cemetery.

"Become a Friend in 2017!"

"A HISTORICAL SPOTLIGHT"

Historical Markers in the Athens Cemetery

Perhaps you know that the Athens Cemetery has been designated a Historical Cemetery by the State of Texas. There is a marker designating this at the main entrance gate of the cemetery on South Prairieville Street.

There are seven state designated historical markers within its boundaries. These markers are on the graves of the following people who contributed to the growth and success of Athens and Henderson County: Mrs. Dulcinea Ann Holland Thompson Avriett, Clinton Williams "Clint" Murchison, Sr., Rupert Talmadge Craig, John Matthews McDonald and Joseph Thomas LaRue and Stella Parsons LaRue.

The existing markers are summarized and the Board of the Athens Cemetery encourages you to visit these graves and markers on your next trip to the cemetery. You will indeed learn something you did not know about these pioneers and leaders of our city and county.

MRS. DULCINEA ANN HOLLAND THOMPSON AVRIETT (1834-1920) - A native of Athens, Georgia Dulcinea Holland came to Henderson County with her family in 1847. She married E. J. Thompson in 1851. According to local tradition, she named the town of Athens after her birthplace. Following the death of her first husband in the 1860's, she married James Avriett in 1867. They were parents of two sons. She was a founding member of the local Methodist Church and a dedicated civic leader.

CLINTON WILLIAMS "CLINT" MURCHISON, SR. (April 11, 1895-June 20, 1969) - Clinton Williams "Clint" Murchison, Sr. was a noted Texas based oil magnate and political operative. Among his companies was the Southern Union Gas Company. He was also the father of Dallas Cowboys owner, Clint Murchison, Jr. and John Dabney Murchison. In 1943, Murchison married Virginia Long. He diversified his holdings into life insurance, banking, publishing, real estate, ranching and railroads. He retired to Glad Oak Estate in the early 1960's frequenting local cattle sales and inspecting his ranches in the area. His influence reached not only the oil industry, but many other areas of business and commerce.

RUPERT TALMAGE CRAIG (November 17, 1889-February 15, 1968) - Born in Shiloh, Kentucky, he began setting type in a print shop at the age of 10. At the age of 16, he became the youngest licensed printer in Kentucky. He worked for several major U. S. newspapers before coming to work for the "Athens Review" in 1907. He purchased the Athens Review in 1916 and it became a successful daily newspaper. His distinctive editorials on politics and local events earned him the respect of area citizens and prominent state and national politicians. He sold the Athens Review in 1941 after 25 years as publisher.

JOHN MATTHEWS McDONALD (1827-1883) - Born in North Carolina, he came to Texas in 1848 and first lived at Larissa, Cherokee County and then Mound Prairie, Anderson County, Texas where his brother Murdoch earlier settled. He moved to Athens in 1850 and became a teacher and lawyer. He served as the town's first mayor. During the Civil War, he fought with Hood's Texas brigade. He was active in public service serving as justice of the peace, county judge and state representative. His early leadership was vital to the development of his adopted home.

JOSEPH THOMAS AND STELLA PARSONS LARUE - Stella Parsons was known as the first white child born in Terrell, Texas to Dr. Homer Lee Parson and Margaret C. R. R. Parsons. Joseph Thomas LaRue was an Alderman on Athens' first city council. LaRue, 13 miles east of Athens, was named for him. He was known as an educator, merchant, civic leader, banker, humanitarian, democrat, prohibitionist and historian.

**Submitted by Randy Daniel
Athens Cemetery Board Member**

PLANNED 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 are of tremendous benefit to the maintenance and long term sustainability of the cemetery.

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

ATHENS CEMETERY WEBSITE

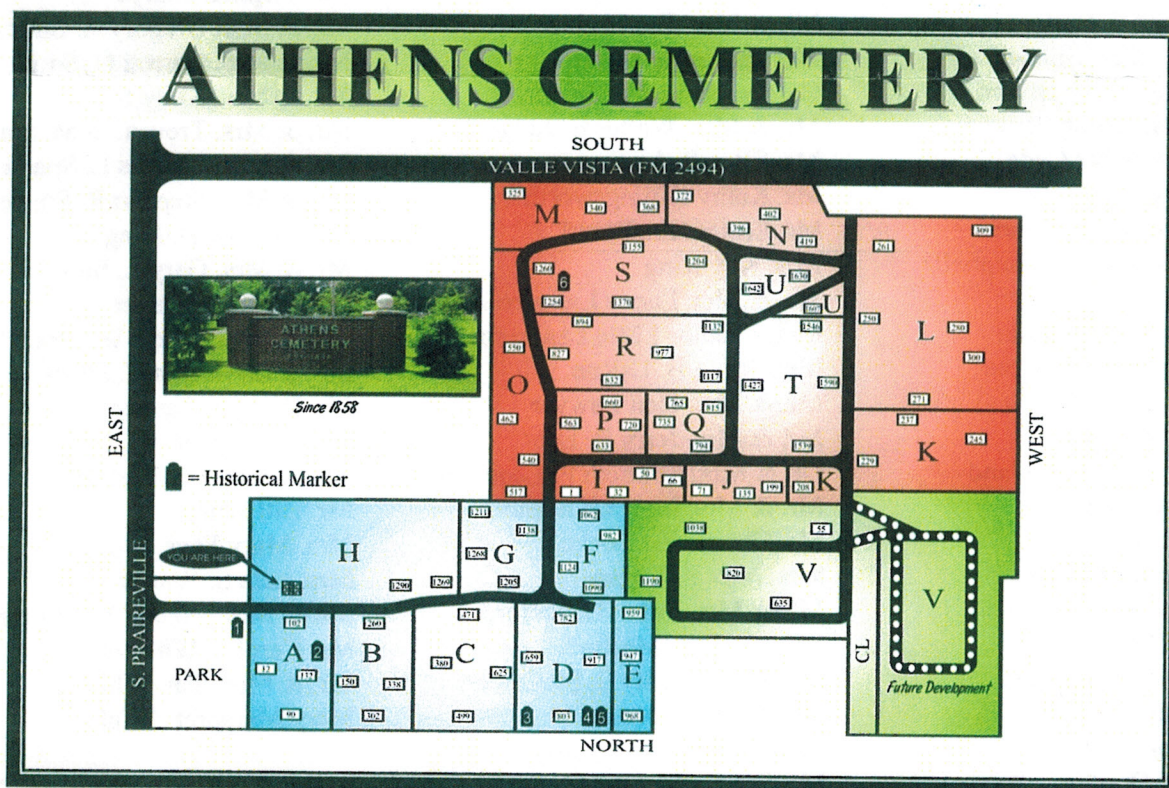
Visit our website at www.athenstxcemetery.com to learn more about the Athens Cemetery and its rich history.

If desired, a donation to the Athens Cemetery or payment to the Athens Cemetery can be made online through PayPal for your convenience. For more information, please visit our website.

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 in order 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 remember for 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 spaces are available including cremation spaces 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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