

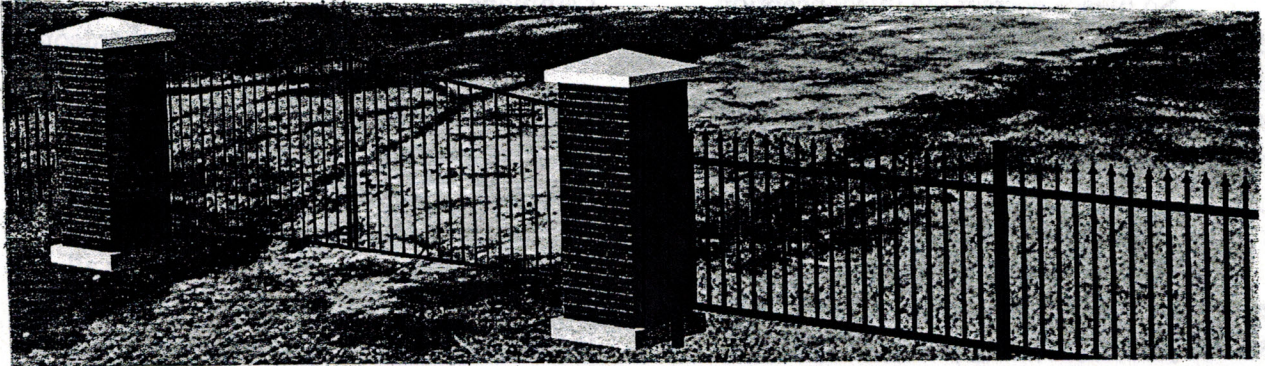
FRIENDS OF THE CEMETERY

A newsletter sponsored by the
Athens Cemetery Association

Vol. 3

November 2004

NEW SOUTH GATE



Another beautification project at our cemetery, funded entirely by the **Friends of the Cemetery**, is scheduled for construction. A new gate, as shown in the above picture, is to replace the existing south gate directly across from Trinity Valley Community College on Valle Vista. The new gate will represent a significant improvement over the existing gate and will feature twin red brick columns to match the main entrance gate on South Prairieville St.

This is the second beautification project funded entirely through the generosity of the **Friends of the Cemetery**. As you will recall, we dedicated the large Celtic cross in the newly expanded section of the cemetery in October 2003. Since its dedication, the cross has brought much favorable public attention to our cemetery.

It is through your continuing generosity that the cemetery association can plan and realize additional beautification projects in the future. If you have not joined the Friends, please consider doing so now. And to those who have already become a **Friend of the Cemetery**, thank you for your continuing support which makes these beautification projects possible.

CEMETERY INCOME/EXPENSES

The annual expense of maintaining the cemetery is approximately \$55,000. Much of this is the cost of mowing and trimming the grounds for about ten months of the year. Other expenses involve such things as repairing and maintaining the sprinkler system, cleaning and resetting headstones, buying fertilizer, fire ant control, tree trimming and removal, trash pickup, insurance and legal fees.

The income to cover these expenses comes from three primary sources: lot sales, interest from two small trusts, and donations. Lot sales account for the bulk of

the income to the cemetery each year.

Lot sales this year are somewhat below historic levels and our expectations, apparently because of the misconception by some that there are no lots left. However, there are approximately 1,000 lots still available in the old section of the cemetery, and there are another 1290 lots available in the new section where the Celtic cross is located. The lots in the old section currently cost \$800 each and the lots in the new section currently cost \$900 each.

In addition, the northwest corner of the cemetery has now been platted. This section, which previously was undeveloped,

contains individual lots as well as large family sections. To date, two of these large family sections have been purchased, each containing multiple lots. These large family sections are available on a per square foot cost, based upon the size desired.

So please correct the misconception that there are no longer any lots available in the cemetery. As you can see, there are sufficient lots to provide for the citizens of Athens for many, many years to come.

EASY PAYMENT PLANS

And to make purchasing lots even easier, an installment plan has been adopted so that persons wishing to buy lots may do so in equal installments over a twelve-month period at no interest. This plan is available for purchases in any of the sections of the cemetery.

For more information about lot sales, contact:

Kathy Killingsworth,
Office 903-675-9203
Cell 903-288-1449
Home 903-675-4027

SNIPPETS FROM THE PAST

Athens Weekly Review, March 22, 1917

"The Athens Cemetery Association met on Wednesday, March 14th at 4 p.m. in the city courtroom at the courthouse. A goodly number of ladies were present and every one seemed enthusiastic and ready to cooperate with any plans or ways to make a success.

The following committees were appointed to campaign for members:

South side square – Mrs. J.R. Garrett and Easterling.

East side square – Mrs. E.A. Carroll and C.H. Coleman.

North side square – Mrs. A.B. Watkins and A.F. Wood.

Tyler St. – Mrs. S.M. Cain
Church St. and all territory south

from Christian Church – Miss Alice Richardson.

All territory south and west from Christian Church – Mrs. Joe LaRue.

West Tyler and Larkin Streets and west end – Mrs. Peach Larkin and Harry Lammons.

Scott St. – Mrs. Charles Richardson.

North St. – Mrs. Jno. R. Gauntt and Miss Lucy Richardson.

Cemetery Committee for 1917 – Mrs. A.B. Watkins and F. Gilmore.

The Association desires to secure enough members to have the dues pay all expenses. The minimum dues, \$1.20, which is 10 cents a month, and those with interests at cemetery who wish to subscribe more will be greatly appreciated.

The current Literary Club has done a great work in keeping the cemetery for a number of years. The association takes this means of thanking them for their work and for purchasing a lot and house for the keeper of the cemetery.

We here make mention of some of the things they have done, to let the public know what an expense the upkeep of the cemetery is.

They purchased an iron fence and repaint it every year. The fence now needs repainting, and they have paid a keeper \$25 a month for nine months of the year, which the association will keep up from March to December, which amounts to \$225. We are anxious to make some walks and drives. We ask everyone who have graves in the cemetery to plant flowers and urge that every citizen join and pay their dues.

The association will meet the first Wednesday in each month at 4:00 p.m. at the court house in the city court room."

Athens Weekly Review, May 26, 1927

"Mr. Howard Wants Help to Erect Monument.

To the Review:

Through the kindness of the editor I am going to ask each and everyone to help me buy a monument for the County Burying Ground. I have worked the graves and plowed a nice street.

The monument will cost \$100. Will appreciate any donation you feel like giving.

The name of the cemetery will be changed to the "Last Resting Place of the Poor." If anyone can give a better name, will be glad to hear from them.

If you don't see me, leave it with Dr. Kellams or at Robinson's Drug Store.

Thanking each and everyone.

W.W. Howard, Mgr."

Athens Weekly Review, April 1, 1943

"Poor Farm Abolished"

The Henderson County Commissioners Court, in abolishing the county poor farm, has not neglected nor discontinued to provide for the people who formerly resided on it. Those people, reduced in number from twenty to seven, will be cared for in the future in their own homes, which should make them even more comfortable than heretofore.

The action taken by the court was principally for economic reasons, since the upkeep of the poor farm entailed a considerable expense as compared to assisting the persons in need in their own homes. Other counties have taken similar action, and have found the plan very successful.

The poor farm, for many years a Henderson County institution, is now but a group of badly run down buildings that one would find little comfort to reside in and that would require a great amount of money to place in a state of good repair. The court, no doubt, has felt that the inmates who once inhabited it would be much more comfortable in homes, and has made it possible for them to move into homes and still receive the assistance they received

when they resided at the poor farm."

(Editors Note:)

Shortly after the county poor farm was closed, those persons buried in its graveyard were moved to the Athens Cemetery. Re-interment took place in the far southwest corner of the cemetery in what became known as the pauper's section. Unfortunately, the individual graves in the old poor farm cemetery were not marked so the identities of those now resting in the Athens Cemetery are unknown and their graves remain unmarked.

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Should you have any questions or suggestions concerning your cemetery, please don't hesitate to contact one of the directors listed above.

FRIENDS OF THE CEMETERY

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