



ATHENS CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

2022 NEWSLETTER

ATHENS CEMETERY IS A DESIGNATED STATE HISTORICAL CEMETERY
ESTABLISHED IN 1858

ATHENS CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

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(903)477-7281



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Vol. 21, December 2022

ABOUT US

The Athens Cemetery Association is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to maintain and preserve our historic cemetery.

OUR MISSION

We are dedicated to being good stewards to guarantee that the cemetery remains a sanctuary for reflection, meditation, and a celebration of past and future generations.

OUR STRATEGY

The challenge is being met through lot sales, interments, special donations, and planned giving arrangements.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

In 2022, the Athens Cemetery Association celebrated its 101st anniversary of maintaining and supporting the historic Athens Cemetery. Part of the celebration included the annual Memorial Day Ceremony held on May 30, 2022.



MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBRANCE — On Monday, May 30th, 2022 at 11:30 a. m. a Memorial Day Dedication Ceremony was held in front of the Veterans Memorial Wall at the cemetery.

Bill Sekel, USMC 1st Sargent (Retired) and current President of the Sons of the American Revolution-Athens Chapter served as the Keynote speaker. Mr. Sekel gave a moving and heartfelt tribute to all patriots who have fallen in the line of duty.

Many thanks to the following participants in the program who contributed so much to this special remembrance.

- Father Mathew M. Frick Vicar - Saint Mattias Episcopal Church of Athens
- Presentation of Colors—Henderson County Sheriff Department, Color Guard
- Pledge of Allegiance—The Daughters of the American Revolution-Daniel McMahon Chapter
- National Anthem—"Viva Voce" Nickie DuBose, Janis Capelle and Elizabeth Van Orden with sound technician, Ken Scofield.
- Raising of the Flag—Boy Scout Troop #343 of the First United Methodist Church of Athens
- Playing of "Taps"—Mrs. Dorothy Grymonprez
- Special thanks to Dr. Jerry King and Trinity Valley Community College



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA—

This December 17, 2022, volunteers will come together for the fourth year to pay tribute to the approximately 650 veterans laid to rest in the Athens Cemetery. In addition, the Oaklawn Cemetery as well as the Athens North Cemetery will take part in what has become an annual local tradition.

The beautiful handmade Christmas wreaths are donated by loved ones, local businesses and service organizations and will help fulfill the mission of Wreaths Across America to “REMEMBER, HONOR AND TEACH.”

A ceremony of appreciation will begin at 11:00 a. m. and will coincide with the national effort which starts at the Arlington National Cemetery at noon EST. Volunteers at more than 3,000 locations across 50 states, at sea and around the globe, will take part in the annual remembrance. More information is found at wreathsasscrossamerica.org/tx0725. If donating, please be sure to reference the local location TXATHC and Group ID #0725. This insures the wreaths are credited to the local effort.



Here is a little of the story of how Wreaths Across America came to be. I think you will find it very interesting. Much of this information is taken from the National website.

“One man’s annual tribute to our veterans inspired a legion of volunteers and gave rise to the Wreaths Across America of today”

“Morrill Worcester, owner of [Worcester Wreath Company](http://WorcesterWreathCompany.com) of Harrington, Maine, was a 12 year old paper boy for the Bangor Daily News when he won a trip to Washington D.C. His first trip to our nation’s capital was one he would never forget, and Arlington National Cemetery made an especially indelible impression on him. This experience followed him throughout his life and successful career, reminding him that his good fortune was due, in large part, to the values of this nation and the veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

In 1992, Worcester Wreath Company found themselves with a surplus of wreaths nearing the end of the holiday season. Remembering his boyhood experience at Arlington, Worcester realized he had an opportunity to honor our country’s veterans. With the aid of Maine Senator Olympia Snowe, arrangements were made for the wreaths to be placed at Arlington in one of the older sections of the cemetery that had been receiving fewer visitors with each passing year.

As plans were underway, a number of other individuals and organizations stepped up to help. James Prout, owner of local trucking company Blue Bird Ranch, Inc., generously provided transportation all the way to Virginia. Volunteers from the local American Legion and VFW Posts gathered with members of the community to decorate each wreath with traditional red, hand-tied bows. Members of the Maine State Society of Washington, D.C. helped to organize the wreath-laying, which included a special ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The annual tribute went on quietly for several years, until 2005, when a photo of the stones at Arlington, adorned with wreaths and covered in snow, circulated around the internet. Suddenly, the project received national attention. Thousands of requests poured in from all over the country from people wanting to help with Arlington, to emulate the Arlington project at their National and State cemeteries, or to simply share their stories and thank Morrill Worcester for honoring our nation’s heroes.

In 2007, the Worcester family, along with veterans, and other groups and individuals who had helped with their annual veterans wreath ceremony in Arlington, formed Wreaths Across America, a non-profit 501-(c)(3) organization, to continue and expand this effort, and support other groups around the country who wanted to do the same.

Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 2,100 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad.”



HISTORICAL SPOTLIGHT

BATTLEFIELDS and FLOWERS

Buried in the pioneer section of the Historic Athens Cemetery is a woman who defines women of her time. Georgia A. (Reid) Meredith Easterling was born in Monroe County, Georgia in 1825. She came to Athens as a young woman during her marriage to Cyrus Bolivar Meredith in a long and laborious 6 week covered-wagon trip. According to newspaper articles written at the time she was the first person to plant flowers in the area where the Henderson County Courthouse now stands. It is said that the public area was overgrown and still undeveloped at that time- and very much a “thicket.” The young Meredith couple had 4 children during the time before his death in 1859- Anthony Wayne, Jim Tom, Palmyra and a young son, Alfred P. (who died at age 10).

Following the death of her husband, Mrs. Meredith returned to Georgia and subsequently married Judge James M. Easterling in 1860. Their home in Georgia was in the direct path of General Sherman’s March to the Sea. While her husband was away as an officer in the Confederate Army, Mrs. Easterling was at home working tirelessly on her spinning wheel making clothes for the Confederate soldiers. Laboring on this effort day and night, she could hear the musketry in the battlefields of Chickamauga. Knowing friends and neighbors to be at risk, she went to help - caring for the injured and dying. She knew that many would need to be transported for help; so the young mother set out using whatever means of transportation could be found (horse and buggy or wagon) and helped carry the soldiers to medical outposts. Georgia Meredith Easterling was one of the first women on the battlefield.

Following the war, she longed to return to Athens where she and Judge Easterling raised more children- A. H. Easterling, a prominent Athens physician, and Eula Easterling. Judge Easterling died in 1887. Many descendants of Georgia Reid Meredith Easterling are also buried in the Athens Cemetery.

Georgia Reid Meredith Easterling endured many hardships during her life – raising young children alone, rushing to help when the sounds of war ceased, caring for the wounded and dead and later establishing herself as a lover of all things beautiful by the planting of flowers for all to enjoy. She remained in Athens until her death in 1910 and was a faithful member of the Baptist Church. This amazing woman is one of many brave early settlers to Texas buried on the sacred grounds of the historic Athens Cemetery.



Compiled as accurately as possible from newspaper and family sources by Lynne Meredith (Calhoun) Stultz.

As the Athens Cemetery completes its 164th year as this community’s premier memorial grounds, the Cemetery Association completes 101 years of care for this landmark. In an effort to stay relevant and up to date with our changing world, the association has created a website, www.athenstxcemetery.com. This tool, along with our other public relations, are meant to keep everyone up to date with the life of the cemetery.

Operating as a nonprofit organization, the cemetery relies on the continued generosity of friends like you. Please help us continue our commitment of service and upkeep by considering a gift of your donation. Use the included slip and envelope to send in your check or use a credit card by going online to www.athenstxcemetery.com. Once there you will find a DONATE button at the bottom of every page.

We are also trying to update our contact list for all of our friends. Please send us your most current contact information. Include your mailing address, cell phone number and email address so that we can stay in touch with you. The enclosed slip may be used when you make your contribution by mail or you can email us this information to info@athenstxcemetery.com. If you know any one who would be interested in receiving these updates, please include them too.

The Athens Cemetery 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.

SCENES FROM 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 nine state designated historical markers within its boundaries, one for the cemetery itself and others to honor eight notable individuals. 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, Stella Parsons LaRue, Sid W. Richardson and Virginia L. "Ginger" Murchison.

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.



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 the veterans' names to the Veterans' Memorial and regular cleaning and removal of worn out flowers.

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

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)

CREMATION BURIAL SECTION—

\$550.00

INTERMENT FEE—

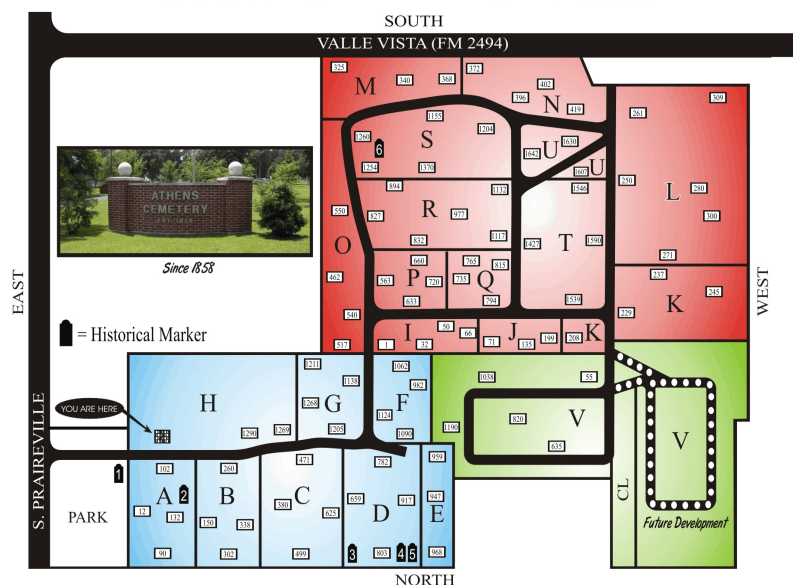
\$200.00 on non-holiday
or \$250.00 on recognized holiday

COLUMBARIUM FEE—

\$1,600 (price is for 2 interments)

***Space Sales - If desired are available for a one (1) year payment plan with no interest.**

ATHENS CEMETERY



4,000 spaces are available including cremation spaces columbarium niches. Call Cemetery Liaison, Bobby Glass, at (903)477-7281 or visit our website at www.athenstxcemetery.com for further information.

ANNUAL FINANCES

Annual budget needs for the maintenance and upkeep of the Athens Cemetery fall between \$60,000 and \$70,000 per year.

Funding of the cemetery is done through space and columbarium sales, interment fees and donations. Your gift does make a difference!

PLANNED GIVING



Originating in 1858, the Athens Cemetery has been generously supported through space sales, donations and other special gifts. Costs to operate the cemetery include tree trimming, weekly mowing and pick up, utilities, irrigation wells and system upkeep, insurance, automatic gate expenses and other updates.

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.

INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF THE ATHENS CEMETERY — DONATE TODAY!

BY PHONE TO OUR OFFICE—

Cemetery Office Voicemail

(903)386-3513

BY PHONE TO—

Bobby Glass

our Cemetery Liaison

(903)477-7281

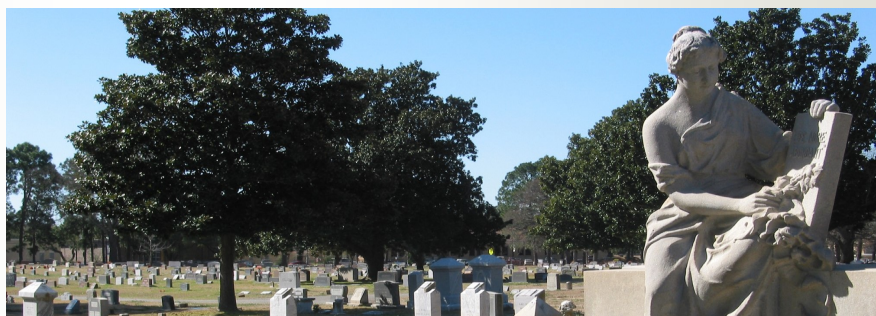
BY EMAIL TO—

info@athenstxcemetery.com

ON OUR WEBSITE—

www.athenstxcemetery.com

Find us and “Like” us
on our Facebook page for additional
and current information.



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 upon lot sales, interments, donations and planned giving in order to operate. Costs to maintain the cemetery are ongoing and have continued to increase, but the challenge has been met thanks to the generous financial support of individuals and businesses. Without their support, it would be very difficult to maintain the cemetery in a manner fit to honor those interred there.

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 remembrance for past and future generations.

Donations can be mailed to the Athens Cemetery Association at P. O. Box 1296, Athens, Texas 75751, or made online by credit card at www.athenstxcemetery.com. A donation button is located at the bottom of each page for your convenience. For additional information, please visit our website or email us at info@athenstxcemetery.com.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Our sincerest thanks to:

Mr. Carl Adams
Mr. John M. Adams
Erhart & Abby (Holland) Asaad
Mrs. William Ayers
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Babb
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Bailey
The Family of Melvin Bateman
Mrs. Ron Baugh
Ms. Gail Baum
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Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Glass
Ms. Barbara Goczoll
Mrs. Peggy Gould
Ms. Mary Ann Grady
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Grant
Mr. Art Hall
Mr. Donald Hall
Hannigan Smith Funeral Home
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S. Vincent Hash
Mr. Joe Hawn, Jr.
Mr. C. A. Hawn
Mr. Harry D. Hawn
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Ms. Teresa Hererra
Mr. & Mrs. R. E. Herrington
Mrs. Patricia Herring
Ms. Dolores Herrington
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Hocutt
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Holland
Mr. Grey Holland
The Family of Judge Jack Holland
Mr. Marshall Holland
Mrs. Mildred Holland
Mrs. Richard Holland
Mr. Will Holland
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Ms. April Holt
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Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Hudson
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Ms. Kathy Killingsworth
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Kinabrew, Jr.
Ms. Kay King
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Ms. Eleanor Landrum
Ms. Joyce B. LaRue

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Mr. & Mrs. Don Lawyer
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The Family of Aaron Lemmon
Dr. & Mrs. Kenneth Lemmon
The Honorable & Mrs.
Matt Livingston
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Mrs. Max E. Logan
Ms. Holly Long
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Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Lucas
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Mr. Joe Masso & Family
Mrs. Bob McDonald
Ms. JoAnne McElroy
Mr. Ronny McElroy
Mr. Pete McGee
Ms. Sandra McGee
Ms. Sandra Sawyer McLevoy
Mr. David McMichael
Mr. & Mrs. Richard McVicker
Georgia and Jim Melton
The Family of Lt. Col. Jim T.
Meredith, USAF, Ret.
Mr. Martin Meredith
Dr. C. Ted Mettetal
Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Miercort
Mr. & Mrs. John Miles
Ms. Betty Miller
Ms. Nancy Mills
Ms. Michelle Pope Mills
Mrs. Mary J. Mirdo
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Dan Moore
Mr. & Mrs. Randall Morse
Mr. & Mrs. John Morton
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Mr. Kenneth Murchison, III
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Murchison
Mr. R. F. "Bear" Murchison, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Lonnie Murphy
James Ogburn, Jr., M.D.
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Mr. & Mrs. Bob Williford
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Wofford Cemetery
Ms. Mary Margaret Wright
Mr. Jesus Zanala



ATHENS CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 1296
ATHENS, TEXAS 75751



HISTORICAL QUIOTE: Judge Faulk, a prominent historical figure in Henderson County, pinned the following quote in 1929 in the *History of Henderson County* in regards to the cemetery:

"Here can be seen the last resting place of practically all of the old pioneers who laid the foundation for this beautiful little city. It is not too late to return thanks for them for the hardships and inconveniences they endured that we might enjoy the blessing and comfort which are ours now!"

Judge Faulk's words are as appropriate today as they were in 1929.

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 1296, Athens, TX 75751 - TEL: (903)386-3513 - WEB: www.athenstxcemetery.com