

OAKWOOD CEMETERY
DENTON, TEXAS

ESTABLISHED 1857
THIS SURVEY 1989

A PRELIMINARY PUBLICATION BY THE
DENTON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

DENTON, TEXAS
1989

PREFACE

OAKWOOD CEMETERY, DENTON, TEXAS

About this History Record

Denton County was created from Fannin County, Texas in 1846. Commissioners were appointed to find the county center and to select two places within three miles of that center. Three locations were found but all were unsatisfactory. By November of 1856 a county election was held to select a fourth location and to seek offers of land. Denton was chosen to be the county seat of Denton County. This decision on the first Tuesday in November 1856 marked the beginning of Denton's history.

Hiram Cisco and William Loving each offered to deed to the county forty acres of land from their respective surveys; and William Woodruff offered twenty acres. This one hundred acre tract for the new townsite was only three-fourths of a mile from the exact center of the county. Ezekiel Boonfel, who had recently moved to Denton County in 1855, offered to donate forty acres along Hickory Creek about three or four miles northwest from New Alton. That offer was not accepted.

The Cisco survey was on the east side south of East Hickory Street. Within that forty acres about eleven acres were to be the burial place for the city and it was called "City Cemetery." Hiram Cisco, and his wife, Elizabeth, delivered to Denton County their deed for forty acres on 24 February 1858. Judge Joseph A. Carroll's affidavit and drawing of the plat of these surveys are in Mr. William Lee McCormick, A Study in Tolerance, pp. 178-179.

There has long been a lack of early records for the Oakwood Cemetery; however some early settlers have provided valuable reminiscences. Judge I D Ferguson [1846-6 June 1916] wrote fluently in his reminiscences of Denton, one of which is called "The Silent City and the Sleepers There." Some excerpt about the City Cemetery follows:

The natural beauty of the grounds is great; it is a grove of large oak trees, where the sun finds the rose trees that were planted many years ago, and the tangles of the wild flowers and the tame flowers in great profusion at the first break of day, and sends its last smile over the western prairie down into the lonesome little city.

To this day in 1989, it is a well-kept cemetery, with beautiful large trees. Judge Ferguson suggested and appealed to the commissioners a change of the "City Cemetery" name which he felt was not pleasing to most people. In time the beautiful groves were rightfully given the name "Oakwood." Judge Ferguson regretted that, "People are forgetful of what the services of men and women who came here in an early day and cut away the brush, laid out the street and erected the first houses that made Denton a town." He then listed some of the first businessmen in Denton: Judge J M Blount and his wife, J M McNiel, W J McNiel, Alex

Brown, J M McIlhenny, P P Scruggs, Henderson Murphy and his wife, L L Fry, Dr. G W Hughes, Jefferson D. Blount, Stephen Hyatt, Dr. Robert McIlhenny, Colonel Lacy and his wife, E. [Elkannah] Barb and his wife's famous father, Colonel T G C Davis, W P Withers, John Allen Withers, and several of his children.

Mr. Ferguson made another list of names of those who lived and died in the early days: All of the Bainfels family, Mrs. Nemo, Mrs. Herndon, Old man Sams, John Price, Mrs. Coleman, William Street, Walker, Robert Mayes, William Mayes, Miss Lucy Evans, the father of Richard Cobb, Miss Betty Cobb, Wilson Dunbar and his daughter, Mrs Peter O'Reilly, Paul Fay, Mrs. E C Smith, w/o the Rev. J C Smith, Frank Hunter, John Patrick, who was killed at Denton, and D. Clardy and wife.

Before 1915, according to Dr. C A Bridges, "one portion of the cemetery in the southeastern part of the city was owned by the city and the other part was owned by the county. In order to simplify administration and facilitate the proper upkeep of the burial ground, the county deeded its part to the city. Since then it has been called 'The City Cemetery' or 'Woodland Cemetery.' In 1931 the 'City Cemetery' of 1857 became 'Oakwood Cemetery.'"

The Denton County Genealogical Society group certainly was not the first to survey Oakwood, but few have been published. Mrs. Louise Myers Young's Oakwood record has been published in her Peters Colonists, vol. 2, pages 148-168. She surveyed, then published in June 1971 and recorded 789 entries. It is known that many others are buried there without markers. In 1989 the DCGS surveyed the same Old Part and recorded 790 entries; but did not find 22 entries from Mrs. Young's markers which probably had been lost by 1989. A few new burials in Oakwood Old Part [Blocks 4 through 10] were found although the New Part [Divisions 1 through 3] had expanded a great deal, and continues to grow. In Old Part some new markers were noted at sites of much earlier times. It seems that vandalism has not been as prevalent as before. Following is a listing of the 22 entries from Mrs. Young's survey which have been lost since 1971:

Barnard, Ova Lee, 1899-1967; Brown, J W, 1846-1895; Bush, Tom, 1866-1946; Clark, OI-- d. Jan 21, 1922 age 8; Franks, Sarah, 1884-1887; Gayton, Elmo, s/o W T & A D, 1883-1887; Hobson, Elizabeth, no dates; Kinney, James, Aug 7, 1891-Oct 7, 1951; Love, Rev. P R, d. March 19--; McGinty, Julius P, 1883-1889; McGinty, Rupert, b. MO?, d. 1891; Ochseneiter, Sister; Ochseneiter, Auntie; Rojas, Geneva, no dates; Sacks, Neal, 1887-1931; Scott, ----; Scruggs, P P, d. Dec 14, 1861, age 35 yrs.; Stone, L F, s/o A P & M J, March 31, 1886, age 1 day; Shellhorse, F K, no dates; Shellhorse, W A, no dates; Withers, William P, 1851-1884; Wood, J O, 55 yrs, 12 da.

The great problem with Oakwood almost since its origin in 1857 has been the loss, or lack, of records of burials. Citizens have been concerned since the Courthouse fire of December 23-24, 1875, when many records

were lost--probably included were cemetery records. This problem lasted until 1900 when city records became available. A great loss for searchers occurred when a fire on December 31, 1914, destroyed the office of the Record-Chronicle with all its equipment. Most tragic of all was the destruction of irreplaceable files of the Chronicle, the Record, and the Record-Chronicle, which had carried the story of the town and county from 1882 onward. This is reported in the Denton Record-Chronicle, 50th Anniversary Edition, Section 3, page 10.

The Denton Business and Professional Women's Club some years ago adopted the Oakwood Cemetery as a special project and erected a fence in 1969. Later, the group raised the funds necessary to obtain a Texas Historical Marker in 1982.

This Oakwood project has required two years, and yet we call it "Preliminary." By early 1989 there were welcome aids. Two Denton Senior High School students collected their friends to survey part of Old Part. Douglas Peter's group surveyed Blocks 4 and 5; Glen Work's group surveyed Blocks 6 and 8. In June a group of Denton County Genealogical Society members surveyed the entire Old Part, including Blocks 4 through 10.

Denton's Parks and Recreation Department was of great assistance by allowing us use of their records as needed, including an update of their burials through August 1989.

The plat which appears in the book was prepared by Gerald Brenholtz, based on the City's large plat. He also made the plat which we have used for IOOF Cemetery since 1982.

Last winter Diana White, of DCGS, offered to computerize the Oakwood book. In a short time in summer she was actively doing excellent research as well as computing. All gratitude to these people and others who have helped!

1 November 1989

Elaine A. Ledlow
Denton County Genealogical Society
Denton County Historical Commission,
Associate

5-11 S. C. Hiram 616
8
5-11
THE STATE OF TEXAS I
COUNTY OF DENTON I

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

1597

That Lewis J. Robinson, of the County of Collin, State of Texas, hereinafter referred to as GRANTOR, for and in consideration of Ten (10) dollars and other good and valuable consideration paid by the City of Denton, of the County of Denton, State of Texas, hereinafter referred to as GRANTEE, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, and for which no lien, expressed or implied, is retained or shall exist, have SOLD, GRANTED, AND CONVEYED, and by these presents do SELL, GRANT, AND CONVEY unto the above named GRANTEE, the following described property, to-wit:

All that certain lot, tract or parcel of land situated in the City and County of Denton, Texas, as follows:

BEGINNING at a point 816.66 feet East of the most northerly Northwest corner of the S. C. Hiram Survey abstract No. 616 as conveyed to M. H. Bradshaw from T. D. Beall and wife A. E. Beall and recorded in Vol. 73, page 606 of the Deed Records of Denton County, Denton, Texas, said Beginning point also being in the North Line of the S. C. Hiram survey Abstract No. 616.

THENCE, South 311 feet to a point in the North Line of Wilson Street.

THENCE East with North Line of Wilson Street 273 feet to a point for a corner. Said point being the intersection of the North Line of Wilson Street and the West Line of Bradshaw Street.

THENCE North with the West Line of Bradshaw Street 311 feet to a point for a corner.

THENCE West with the North Line of the said S. C. Hiram Survey 273 feet to the place of beginning.

Said tract containing 2 1/3 acres of land, more or less.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the above described premises, together with all and singular the rights and appurtenances thereto in anywise belonging unto the above named GRANTEE, and assigns.

forever. And said above named GRANTOR does hereby bind itself, to WARRANT AND FOREVER DEFEND, all and singular the said premises unto the above named GRANTEE, and assigns, against every person whomsoever lawfully claiming or to claim the same or any part thereof.

WITNESS MY HAND THIS 19th day of February

A.D. 1964

Lewis J. Robinson
Lewis J. Robinson

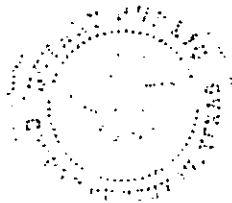
STATE OF TEXAS I

COUNTY OF I

Before me, a Notary Public, in and for DENTON County, Texas, on this day personally appeared Lewis J. Robinson of Collin County, Texas, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and he acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purpose and consideration expressed therein.

Given under my hand and seal of office this 19th day of

February, A.D. 1964



Brooks Hest
Notary Public - Denton Co
1973 commission expires 6-1-65

THE STATE OF TEXAS, } KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:
COUNTY OF Denton

That I, Edna Morning, a widow

5-12

of the County of Denton State of Texas for and in consideration of
the sum of One and No/100 (\$1.00) -----

----- DOLLARS,
and other good and valuable considerations, all cash
to me in hand paid by the City of Denton, Texas, a Municipal Corporation

have Granted, Sold and Conveyed, and by these presents do Grant, Sell and Convey unto the said
City of Denton, Texas, a Municipal Corporation
of the County of Denton, State of Texas, all that certain

tract or parcel of land lying and situated in the City of Denton, County of Denton,
State of Texas, and described as follows: Part of a 2-1/2 acre tract out of the
northwest corner of the S.C. Hiram Survey as conveyed by Robberson to Lambert 7-28-1899
and shown of record in Volume 109, Page 394 of the Deed Records of Denton County, Texas;
BEGINNING at the northeast corner of said 2-1/2 acre tract in the north line and 406
feet East of the Northwest corner of said Survey; THENCE South 177 feet to the
Northeast corner of lot #2 described in deed from Lamber to Lamber 6-8-1945; THENCE
West with the north line of Luther Lambert lot 120 feet to the northwest corner there-
of in the East Line of Lakey Street; THENCE North with the East Line of Lakey Street
177 feet for corner; THENCE East 125 feet to place of beginning and being the same
property conveyed by Blanche Roberts King to Edna Morning and shown of record in
Volume 329, Page 526 of the Deed Records of Denton, County, Texas

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the above described premises, together with all and singular, the rights
and appurtenances thereto in anywise belonging unto the said
City of Denton, Texas a Municipal Corporation, its
successors and heirs and assigns forever; and I do hereby bind myself, my
heirs, executors and administrators, to Warrant and Forever Defend all and singular the said premises
unto the said City of Denton, Texas a Municipal Corporation, its
successors and heirs and assigns, against every person whomsoever lawfully claiming, or to claim the same or any
part thereof.

Witness my hand at Denton, Texas
this 15 day of June, A. D. 19 17
Witnesses at Request of Grantor:
Edna Morning
Mark

5-14

S.C. Hiram #612

THE STATE OF TEXAS,

Know All Men By These Presents:

5-14

COUNTY OF DENTON

Vol. 337
Pg. 304

That we, William Shumake and wife, Ethelean Shumake:

of the County of Denton, State of Texas for and in consideration of

the sum of

Sixteen-hundred and fifty (\$1650.00) and no/100 -----DOLLARS,

to us in hand paid by the City of Denton, a municipal corporation

the receipt of which is hereby fully acknowledged,

have Granted, Sold and Conveyed, and by these presents do Grant, Sell and Convey unto the said

City of Denton, a municipal corporation

of the County of Denton, State of Texas all that certain

tract or parcel of land situated in Denton County, Texas, about one-half mile southeast of the public square in the City of Denton, part of the S. C. Hiram Survey, Abstract No. 616, described as follows:

BEGINNING at the point of intersection of the North Line of Wilson Street with the East line of Lakey Street;

THENCE North 70 feet, with the East line of said Lakey Street, a stake for corner;

THENCE East and parallel with the North line of Wilson Street, 120 feet, a stake for corner;

THENCE South parallel with the East line of Lakey Street, 70 feet to a stake for corner in the North line of Wilson Street;

THENCE West, with the North line of Wilson Street, 120 feet to the place of beginning, and being the same tract conveyed by Mamie Ebnoy and husband, Edward Ebnoy, to Willie Lee Jones, a widow, by deed dated June 28th, 1941, recorded in Volume 291, page 639 of the Deed Records of Denton County, Texas.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the above described premises, together with all and singular, the rights and appurtenances thereto in anywise belonging unto the said City of Denton, a municipal corporation and its

~~heirs and assigns~~ **SUCCESSORS** forever; and we do hereby bind ourselves, our

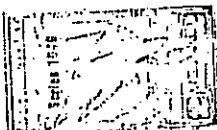
heirs, executors and administrators, to Warrant and Forever Defend all and singular the said premises unto the said City of Denton, a Municipal Corporation and its

~~heirs and assigns~~ **SUCCESSORS** against every person whomsoever lawfully claiming, or to claim the same, or any part thereof.

Witness our hands at Denton, Texas this 23rd day of July
A.D. 19 47.

Witness at Request of Grantor:

William Shumaker
Ethellean Shumaker



5-188

The State of Texas, } Know all Men by These Presents:
COUNTY OF Denton.

That We, B.F. Wilkinson and Ella Wilkinson his wife.

of the County of Denton State of Texas, for and in consideration
of the sum of

Eight hundred fifty & 00/100 (\$850.00) ----- DOLLARS

-to- in-hand-paid-by as follows:

to us cash in hand paid by the City of Denton, Denton County, Texas,
a Municipal Corporation.

have Granted, Sold and Conveyed, and by these presents do Grant, Sell and Convey, unto the said
City of Denton, a Municipal Corporation.

of the County of Denton State of Texas all that certain
lot, tract or parcel of land situated in the City of Denton, County of
Denton, and State of Texas. out of the Hiram Cisco 320 acre survey.

And being part of an eight and One-half acre tract of land conveyed
by M.S. Stout and H.F. Schwser, to Fred Faerber and Gustave Faerber, on the
21st day of June A.D. 1905. as shown by deed recorded in Vol. 55 page 547
deed records of Denton County, Texas.

The tract here conveyed beginning on the South line of said
Cisco survey, and at the South West corner of said 8 1/4 acre tract. Thence
North 2 1/2° East 107 yrs. a rock, the South West corner of a 4-1/4 acre
tract conveyed by Mollie Critz and S.L. Critz her husband to Gustave-
Faerber, on the 15th day of February 1905, as shown by deed recorded in
Vol. 91 page 466 deed records of Denton County, Texas. (Said tract con-

