

Cox Cemetery Marker Dedication
May 21, 2011
Delivered by Arlee Claud Gowen

When Abraham Lincoln spoke at Gettysburg, he referred to the area as hallowed ground. This is our own hallowed ground where we are standing.

Lincoln referred to the nation as then having “four score and ten years.” The tenure on this cemetery is now “ten score and 18 years.”

We have come together today to honor our ancestors who lie here and who were pioneers in this community. On this solemn occasion, as we dedicate this marker for this cemetery, we want to remember those who have gone on before us.

We thank you for being here today and having a part in recognizing the accomplishments of our forebears.

The first person to be buried here was a teenager. William Charles Bybee died here July 4, 1793 on his 17th birthday. He took an Indian arrow in his chest and died at sunrise the following morning. His companions dug his grave at the foot of a large post oak tree and wrapped his body in his blanket. They carried large limestone slates from fence surrounding the immense horsetrap nearby and placed them on top of his grave.

His grandfather, Thomas Isaac Cox took his hatchet and chopped three diagonal slashes on the tree that sheltered the grave to mark the gravesite.

Years ago I interviewed Joe Burton Cox, Sr, the father of our Joe Burton Cox, Jr. shortly before his death. He was born on this site and recalled seeing this tree with its three slashes when he was a boy. Later he wrote a history of this cemetery and mentioned 37 burials here.

The last person to be buried here was Martha Jane Bybee Cox, who died in 1912. She was the wife of Pleasant C. Cox who homesteaded here in 1856. They arrived at this site in 1851, but Indian hostilities kept them out for five years. When her grandfather Bybee learned that they were moving to Texas, he asked her to find the Bybee grave and to care for it. This she did, planting flowers and watering the gravesite for 56 years—until her death.

John Thomas Cox, a Texas Ranger and a son of Pleasant C. Cox and Martha Jane Bybee Cox, recorded that the cemetery was the final resting place of citizens of six different nations. Burials were made under the flag of Spain until 1799, the Tricolor of France until 1803, the flag of Mexico until 1836, the flag of the Republic of Texas until 1845, the Stars and Stripes of the United States until 1861, the flag of the Confederate States of America until 1865 and again the Stars and Stripes of the United States until the present.

William Charles Bybee in 1793 was buried under Spanish rule. Another young man was killed, dragged to death by a wild horse under French rule in 1800 and was buried beside William Charles Bybee. Tom Benton died in 1806 under Spanish rule. Trey Hardin died October 22, 1822 under Mexican rule. James Cox died May 6, 1842 under the Republic of Texas lone star. Bob Huffman died December 16, 1846 under the Stars and Stripes. Van Dobbins died July 12, 1862 under the Confederacy.

The youngest identified decedent buried in the cemetery was Joseph "Buck" Cox, son of Pleasant C. Cox and Martha Jane Bybee Cox. He was born August 6, 1868. He died May 5, 1872, according to his headstone. His death came as a result of a concussion received by butting his head against a wall in a temper tantrum, according to John Thomas Cox, a grandson of Pleasant C. Cox.

There are two other graves in the cemetery with headstones:

Lucinda Cox, unidentified, born August 1, 1862; died February 1, 1889.

Elander Hix who came to Texas in 1850-51 with the Cox wagontrain. He was born July 13, 1835; died March 8, 1877 at age 41.

Amy Cox Bean, wife of Jesse Bean, was buried in the Long Meadows/Cox Cemetery inside an iron fence. She died about 1891, according to Ada Marie Cox Stump. No headstone or dates of birth and death were found. They were enumerated in the 1880 census of Douglas County, Missouri along with a six-year-old daughter. Jesse Bean was the brother of Mary Bean who was married to John H. Cox.

Lucinda Wright Cox, first wife of James Christopher Cox, died in 1862 and was buried here in the Long Meadows/Cox Cemetery.

Dr. John Dunbar, Baylor University Geology Department, using ground penetrating radar discovered a row of small graves in the cemetery in 2001. He suggested that these were graves of children.

Charlie Boyd, 'Shanghai' Pierce's trail driver and 'Stumpy' Watson who rode for Burk Burnet, shot it out in a gunfight December 10, 1874. Both were mortally injured and taken to the home of Martha Jane Bybee Cox who nursed them for 12 days. Charlie Boyd died at sunrise on the morning of December 22. When she told 'Stumpy' that Charlie had died he replied, 'Good, now I can die in peace' and expired himself."

We continue to search for more identifiable burials in the cemetery. Cora Cox Flud of Grand Prairie discovered last year that James Myres who died of tuberculosis about 1886 was buried here. He was married to Mary Bell Whitt. After his death, she was remarried to Jehu Cox, according to Martha Pearl Cox Neal, daughter of Mary Bell Whitt.

I am very gratified personally to know that the grave of Elizabeth Johnston Cox Bybee is here in this cemetery. She is my great-great grandmother. She was born in 1800 in Indiana and was married to Solomon Cox in Jackson County, Indiana. She died May 21, 1873—138 years ago--TODAY

Regarded as buried in Cox/Long Meadow Cemetery are:

Amy Cox Bean	died about 1891
Tom Benton	died in 1806
Charlie Boyd	died December 22, 1874
Elizabeth Johnston Cox Bybee	died May 21, 1873
William Charles Bybee	died July 4, 1793
Martha Jane Bybee Cox	died February 1912
James Cox	died May 5, 1842
Joseph "Buck" Cox	died May 5, 1872
Lucinda Cox	died February 1, 1889
Lucinda Wright Cox	died in 1862
Van Dobbins	died July 12, 1862
Trey Hardin	died October 22, 1822
Ellander Hix	died March 8, 1877
Bob Huffman	died December 16, 1846
James Myres	died about 1886
Stumpy Watson	died December 22, 1874