

LONG MEADOWS CEMETERY 1793 - 1839

COX CEMETERY 1839 to present time

(By Joe B. Cox, Sr., from Cox
Journal and personal knowledge)

This cemetery was established on July 4, 1793, near the Long Meadows Trading Post, some eight miles northeast of Los Lampazos, a watering place. Lampazos is now the city of Lampasas. The cemetery is about a furlough east of the old Cox Ford on Lucy Creek where the Trail of Commerce that ran from Santa Fe to New Orleans crossed the creek. This may be the first cemetery where English speaking people are buried in Texas.

Since 1753, this area had been known as Long Meadows, having been named by Oliver Pollock, the Famous Irish Merchant who later became a millionaire merchant in New Orleans.

A horse hunting party headed by Isaac Thomas Cox and made up of his kinsmen planned to take over the wild horse trading business that had been established there in 1757, after the Spanish troops abandoned the presidio.

On the afternoon of July 3, 1793, the party was attacked by a party of about thirty-five well-armed and well-mounted Indians. The fight lasted until sunset. Three of the Cox party were injured. Thomas Isaac Cox, the leader, was shot through his left leg. Nate Owens had a flesh wound in his left side. A sixteen year old, William Bybee, received a fatal arrow wound. The arrow went through the body, piercing the lower lobe of the left lung. There was no water in camp, and the young Bybee begged for water all night. He died at sunrise on his seventeenth birthday, July 4, 1793.

He was buried at the base of a post oak tree. The grave was covered with large limestone rocks to protect it from animals. Three large diagonal slashes were made on the trunk of the tree so that the grave could be easily identified.

Since that day thirty-six other bodies have been buried there and at the presidio ruins. Of the thirty-seven bodies buried there twenty-two are from the Cox, Bybee, and Johnson families. Martha Jane Bybee Cox was the last person to be buried there in 1912.

The fourteen other bodies buried there were horse hunters, cowboys, outlaws, and others, who for one reason or another visited the old Long Meadows Trading Post and were victims of a gunfight.

Uncle John Cox, the Texas Ranger and son of Pleasant and Martha Jane Cox, once remarked to a visitor at the old cemetery, "these graves out there are occupied by citizens of many countries." When asked how the bodies came to be there, he replied, "the first man buried here was Will Bybee. He was buried in New Spain on July 4, 1793. Tom Benton was buried in New Spain in 1806. Trey Hardin was buried here on October 22, 1822. He was buried in the Republic of Texas. Bob Huffman buried in the United States of America, state of Texas, on December 16, 1846. Van Dobbins was buried in the Confederate States of America, State of Texas, on JULY 12, 1862." People from five different nations are buried in the old cemetery.

My grandmother, Martha Jane Bybee Cox, a relative of Will Bybee who was the first one buried in the old cemetery, vowed to find Will Bybee's grave. After she found it, she stated that she wanted to be buried there. She was buried in the old cemetery on March 12, 1912. She was the last person buried in the cemetery. Most of the graves of the twenty-two members of the Bybee, ^{Cox,} and Johnson families had crude headstones for grave-markers. These headstones were slabs of limestone from four to six inches thick and about two feet wide and were about thirty inches above the ground. The occupant's name, date of birth, and date of death were cut into the limestone grave-markers.

Two of the graves had white marble headstones. Joseph Cox, son of Pleasant Cox and Martha Jane Bybee Cox, died when a child. His marble headstone is dated 1864. Amy Bean's grave had a white marble headstone.

The Cox cemetery lies along the north central part of the Pleasant Cox place. My father bought some of the northeastern part of the Pleasant Cox homeplace. I spent the first seventeen years of my life about one-half mile from the old Cox Cemetery.

When I was a boy, I spent much time hunting and fishing near the old cemetery. I spent a lot of time checking the headstones and I learned a lot about the people who were buried there.

My parents moved about twenty-five miles away from the old homeplace in 1922, and the old cemetery was neglected. In 1986, the old cemetery was renovated, and a cyclone fence was built around it.

(Burials in Cay Cemetery)

11/11/96
2/96
see top of page
correct
and map.

see top of page
correct
and map.
10/15/96

- 1. Noah Erwin Clark D. 1896
(Father in law to Amy Cay)
- 2. Mattie Hicks - alt 1877
(daughter of Bluford Cay)
- 3. ^{wife} James Byker - July 4 - 1793. D on 17th birthday
(killed by Indians)
- 4. A young man dragged to death by wild
horse - buried next to ^{wife} James Byker
(crime?)
- 5. Joseph Cay b. Aug 6 - 1867 - D Nov 28 - 1872
- 6. Lucinda Cay b. Aug 1 - 1862 - D Feb 1 - 1889
- 7. Clander Hig B. July 13 - 1835 D. Mar. 26 1877
(Came with Cay wagon train)
- 8. Amy Bean in iron pen - no marker
- 9. Martha Jane Byker Cay - D Mar 12 - 1912
(Last one to be buried there)
- 10. Tom Benton D. 1806
- 11. Juy Dodd - D. 1832
- 12. James Cay D May 6 - 1842
- 13. Bob Huffman - D 1846
- 14. Van Dahins - D July 12 - 1862
- 15. Charlie Boyd - D Dec 22 - 1874
- 16. Stumpy Watson - D Dec. 1874
- 17. Elizabeth Johnson Cay Byker - D 1873
- 18. Lucinda Wright Cay - D - 1857 - M. Aug 16 - 1848 Dn.
(first wife of James Christopher Cay)

marker

By Winnie Hatley - 1996

HORSE
PEN

NORTH

Old ROAD From Santa Fe To New Orleans

Old ROAD TO LONG

MEADOWS TRADING POST

NEED RENT

CEMETERY

DRINK TANK

Old FORT

Old FORT

Old COX FARM
PLEASANT COX
LATER MARION COX

Part Pasture and part field

About 800 yds

Old COX HOME -
built in 1893

old wright house
built in 1806
farm down and
moved in 1915

this land had been
fenced & plowed etc
a field

about
600 yds

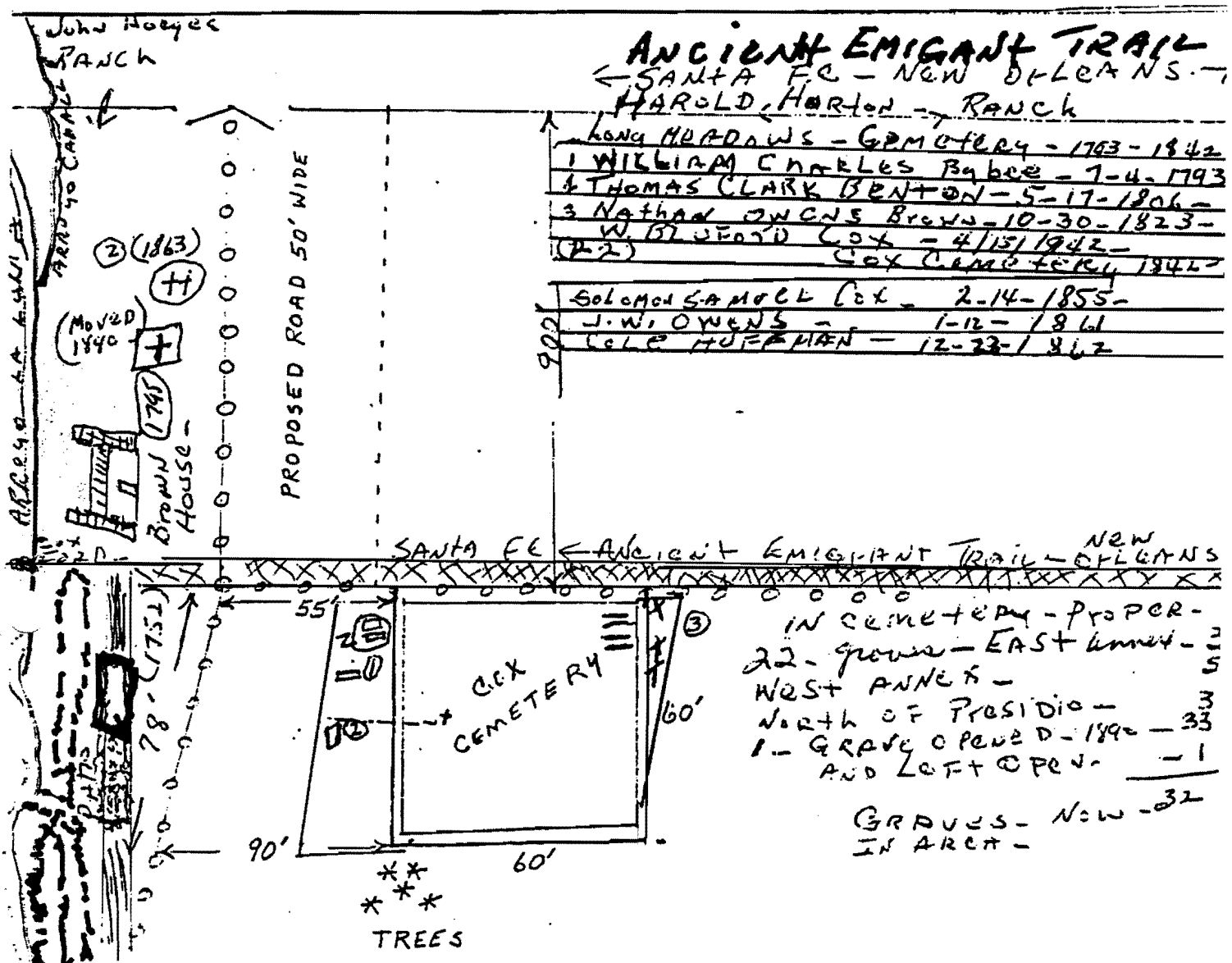
an alchany dug
well

Trading Post

I believe this
was James
Christopher Cox
Farm

Lower Watermill Road from Lanes to Gateville

Sent query - 92



ANCIENT EMIGRANT TRAIL

← SANTA FE - NEW ORLEANS -

HAROLD HORTON - RANCH

LONG MEADOWS - CAMP GARY - 1763 - 1842
1 WILLIAM CHARLES BAKER - 7-4-1793
4 THOMAS CLARK BENTON - 5-17-1806 -
3 NATHAN OWENS BROWN - 10-30-1823 -
W. B. WOOD COX - 4/15/1842 -
(P-2) COX CAMP FEB 1842
SOLOMON SAMUEL COX - 2-14-1855 -
J. W. OWENS - 1-12-1861
COLE HUFFMAN - 12-23-1862

- IN CEMETERY - PROPER -
- 22 - GRAVES - EAST ANNEX - 2
 - WEST ANNEX - 5
 - NORTH OF PRESIDIO - 3
 - 1 - GRAVE OPENED - 1890 - 33
 - AND LEFT OPEN - 1
- GRAVES - NOW - 32
- IN AREA -

OUR PROPOSALS

1. TO BUILD FENCES TO YOUR SPECIFICATIONS WHERE REQUIRED.
2. TO REWORK FENCE AROUND CEMETERY.
3. TO BUILD ENTRANCE GATE INTO CEMETERY.
4. TO BUILD A MARKER AT ENTRANCE

← LONG MEADOWS TRADING POST

OLIVER POLLOCK

ABOUT - 1756 - 1765

THOMAS ISARE COX 1765