

LONG MEADOWS/COX/TERREROS PRESIDIO CEMETERY  
OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 slabs from the fence surrounding the immense horsetrap nearby and placed them on top of his grave.

His uncle, 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 Berton Cox, Sr., the father of our Joe Burton Cox, Jr., a few years 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 son of Pleasant C. Cox and Martha Jane Bybee Cox, recorded that the cemetery was the final resting place of citizens of five different nations. Burials were made under the flag of Spain until 1821, 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 of America 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 Spanish 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, 1867. He died November 28, 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, daughter of Pleasant and Martha Jane Bybee Cox, born August 1, 1862; died February 1, 1889.

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

Amy Cox Bean, wife of Jessie Bean, was buried in the Long Meadows/Cox Cemetery inside the decorative 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. Jessie 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 1857 and was buried here in the Long Meadows/Cox Cemetery.

Grave dowser Everett Clare of Austin in 2005-2006 discovered what appear to be several rows of small graves. He suggested that these were graves of children. These would be in addition to the previously mentioned 37 graves.

Charlie Boyd, “Shanghai” Pierce’s trail driver, and “Stumpy” Watson, who rode for Burk Burnett, 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. Dr. John Dunbar of the Baylor University Geology Department, using electronic sensing equipment, in 2001, confirmed the possibility of graves in the area near the west fence where William Ernest Cox had stated that these two gunfighters were buried.

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.

I am personally very gratified 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 Meadows Cemetery are:

Amy Cox Bean	died about 1891
Tom Benton	died May 17, 1806
Charlie Boyd	died December 22, 1874
Nathan Owens Brown	died October 30, 1823
Elizabeth Johnston Cox Bybee	died May 21, 1873
William Charles Bybee	died July 4, 1793
Noah Ervin Clark	died 1896 (father-in-law to Amy Cox Clark)
James Cox	died May 6, 1842
Joseph "Buck" Cox	died November 28, 1872
Lucinda Wright Cox	died 1857 (first wife of James Christopher Cox)
Lucinda Cox	died February 1, 1889
Martha Jane Bybee Cox	died February 22, 1912
Samuel Solomon Cox	died February 14, 1855
W. Bluford Cox	died April 15, 1842
Van Dobbins	died July 12, 1862
Trey Dodd	died 1822
Trey Hardin	died October 22, 1822
Elizabeth "Isabella" Cox Hicks	died October 1890
Elander Hix	died March 8, 1877
Bob Huffman	died December 16, 1846
Cole Huffman	died December 23, 1862
James Myres	died about 1886
J.W. Owens	died January 12, 1861
Stumpy Watson	died December 22, 1874
A young man dragged to death by wild horses and buried next to Will Bybee	died in 1800
Two cowboys(names unknown) who rode for Williamson County cattle baron Print Olive	dates of death unknown

According to Joe Berton Cox, Sr., of the thirty-seven burials here, twenty-two are from the Cox, Bybee, and Johnston families.