

LONG MEADOWS CEMETERY\

(ALSO KNOWN AS THE COX CEMETERY AND TERREROS PRESIDIO CEMETERY)

I. CONTEXT

Lampasas County was created from Bell and Travis Counties in 1856 at the request of area residents. Long Meadows Cemetery is located on property patented by Pleasant C. Cox in June 1862. (Lampasas Co. Land Records, patent from F. R. Lubbock, Governor, to Pleasant C. Cox, Land Script no. 11/38, patent issued 25 June 1862, filed for record 6 August 1917, DRLCT) Indiana native Pleasant C. Cox and wife, Kentucky native Martha Jane Bybee Cox, had settled on the property in 1855, having come to Central Texas by wagon train with other families from the Springfield, Missouri, area in 1851. The property is on Lucy Creek near the communities later known as Rumley and Grundyville and is now owned by Hal Harton. Early families in the area, in addition to the Cox family, included Bunches, Archies, Clarks, Groves, and Corbins. (Interview with Rumley native William Ernest Cox, Colonial Manor Care Center, New Braunfels, TX, 23 May 1999, and Lampasas County census records) Long Meadows Cemetery is located approximately 8 miles east of the City of Lampasas on the west side of CR 3430 near the former Clay Rock School on FM 580E. It is entered from CR 3480, before reaching the Groves Cemetery. Descendants of Pleasant and Martha Jane Bybee Cox know the cemetery by the name “Long Meadows,” presumably because of the long open space stretching from CR 3430 west to the cemetery. The alternate name of “Terreros Presidio Cemetery” is based on family lore concerning an early Spanish presidio said to be located on the surrounding property, southwest of the cemetery toward Lucy Creek. Both of these names were included in the application resulting in the 2007 designation of the cemetery as an Historic Texas Cemetery. Family tradition holds that the earliest graves, which are Anglo, date back to the late 1700’s, before Lampasas existed on any known map, and family narratives contain names for a number of these early graves. These graves do not have tombstones. This family lore is recorded in writings by family members and has been incorporated into the *Hussey Manuscript*, an on-line narrative compiled by family member Arlee Gowen of Lubbock, Texas, based on interviews, unpublished narratives, and public documents. (Arlee Gowen, *Hussey Manuscript*, http://bz.llano.net/gowen/hussey_millennium/husseymys_054.html, visited 9 Oct. 2009)

Much earlier than the mid-nineteenth century Anglo settlement, Spanish explorers may have come through the area. Even earlier, there was a significant Indian presence, including Comanches and Apaches. Indians continued to pass through the area well after Anglo settlement had begun. (*Lampasas County, Texas, Its History and Its People* [LCTHC], Pg. 1)

Pleasant Cox had originally visited the area in 1834, at age 14, on a horse hunting trip with his uncle, Ben Cox, who later settled in Bell County. In 1837, Pleasant Cox made a second trip to the Lampasas area with a great uncle, Cull “Kiowa” Owens, and came again in 1846. So because of horse hunting, he was familiar with the area when he moved his family to Central Texas in 1851. Other families coming in the wagon train included Pleasant’s brother, James Christopher Cox, who settled nearby on Lucy Creek; a sister, Amy Cox Smart and her family; and the Amos Bradley, Bill Bybee, Marlow Hix, and Phillip Smith families. Pleasant and Martha Jane and their family of 12 farmed on their property. Three children had been born in Missouri; nine were born in Texas, including seven on Lucy Creek. At one point, the family lived in a dugout, later building two houses, the last one in 1878 on what is now the Harton property. It was torn down in 2005 or 2006. (*Hussey Manuscript*, _054, 060, visited 9 Oct, 2009)

Pleasant Cox was one of the petitioners to the state legislature requesting that Lampasas County be created from surrounding counties, a request granted on 1 February 1856. (Copy of Petition, Texas State Archives, Pg. 3) He was tasked by George Scott to find the quickest route to Gatesville and did so by assigning three riders to reach that city by different routes, the selected route known of the Lower Gatesville Road. (*Lampasas County, Texas, Its History and Its People*, Pg. 152) Pleasant Cox served in the Texas

Militia during the Civil War. (Muster Roll, September 1861, 27th Brigade, Texas Militia, line no. 69) He was the first Grand Master of the Lucy Creek-Lampasas River Grange, which was founded 12 October 1869 at the “Old Brown House” on Pleasant Cox’s farm. A brother of Pleasant, attorney Thomas Cox of Batesville, Arkansas, was the organizer. (Bob Howard, *The Lampasas Dispatch*, August 1, 1983, Pg. 7) (*Lampasas County, Texas, Its History and Its People* [LCTHC], Pgs. 56,65)

Pleasant and his family hosted various other events, including a rodeo on 4 July 1858 involving stock held nearby by W.F. and J.M. Armstrong for a drive to Green River, Wyoming, and on 21 April 1861, the 25th anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto, a celebration was held. (*Hussey Manuscript, _060*, visited 9 Oct. 2009)

II. OVERVIEW

Descendants of Pleasant and Martha Jane Bybee Cox, some of whom lived on the farm into their late teens, related the property to the Rumley-Grundyville community. Rumley was named about 1915 for a steam tractor that Ross Smart and Buck Simon had brought to the community, which led to the establishment of several businesses. Grundyville was named for Grundy Morris, an early settler. Two early day schools served the community, Rock Church and Clayton, which were combined into Clay Rock School in 1918. (*Lampasas County Texas, Its History and Its People* [LCTHC], Pg. 56,65) Several children of Pleasant’s son, Francis Marion Cox, who then owned the property, attended Rock Church and then Clay Rock School, including sons William Ernest, Joe Berton, and John Thomas. Clay Rock School has passed into history. In June 2005, long-time Rumley residents Alton Garner and Ed Griffin took the author on a tour of the area, driving across pastures to show the route taken by the three Cox brothers walking from the Cox farm to school, as recounted by Mr. Garner’s grandfather. As an example of the sometimes primitive life at that time, the two men pointed out the school “restrooms,” clumps of brush on one side of the road for boys and on the other side for girls. The author has pictures taken on this tour. Joe Berton Cox, Sr., spoke of going to church in the Rumley area. Although the county history does not mention a place of worship, it does include a picture of Lucy Creek Baptist Church identified to the 1900s. (*Lampasas County, Texas, Its History and Its People* [LCTHC], Pg. 78) In a paper entitled *Three Wild Boys* about the Cox brothers growing up on Lucy Creek, written a few months before his death on 12 November 1996, he wrote of a Sunday School that began meeting at Rumley at 2:00 on Sunday afternoons. In the same paper, he wrote of attending church at Pecan Grove school and church house, which he stated was about four miles northwest of the Cox farm on the east side of Lucy Creek (William Ernest Cox confirmed that one building served both purposes). Another activity of interest to the Cox family was the persistent search near Lucy Creek for buried Spanish treasure by Pleasant’s son, John Thomas Cox. (Joe B. Cox, Sr., *Buried Gold*, undated, unpublished) (Mildred Clark Potts of Lometa, TX, interviewed by Joe B. Cox, Jr., 17 October 1999)

Today, there is no commercial activity in the immediate area, residents frequenting the nearby cities of Lampasas, Copperas Cove, Killeen, and Temple. The economy is primarily agricultural or base on employment in nearby cities. Although newcomers have come in, numerous descendants of early families remain in the Rumley-Grundyville area.

Long Meadow Cemetery was highly significant to the early descendants of Pleasant and Martha Jane Bybee Cox. The three sons of Francis Marion Cox, son of Pleasant, spoke and wrote extensively about the cemetery, as did daughter Hattie Cox Sheriff. As previously mentioned, family records state that the first burials occurred in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, with Anglo names and dates of death associated with several, unproven by official documentation at this time. Family records differ on the number of graves, either 33 or 37, with 22 being those of family members. (Joe B. Cox, Sr., *Long Meadows Cemetery, 1793-1839, Cox Cemetery, 1839 to Present Time*, undated, unpublished) Grave dowser Everett Clare of Austin, TX, in November 2005 examined the cemetery and identified the possibility of another 25-30 graves thought to be mostly those of infants, both number and type unproven at this time. What is clear from family members, in both family documents and discussions, is that the cemetery existed before Pleasant Cox settled on Lucy Creek in 1855. Credence is given to this family history by the fact that Martha Jane Bybee

Cox lived for several years with son Francis Marion Cox and family and that Elizabeth Johnston Cox (later Bybee), mother of Pleasant and James Christopher Cox, lived for a time with James Christopher on Lucy Creek. Thus, those whom Francis Marion Cox's sons referred to as "the old folks" had direct contact with an earlier generation with first hand knowledge of the cemetery and family history.

John Thomas Cox, a son of Pleasant Cox, is remembered as stating that burials in the cemetery occurred under different jurisdictions, namely Will Bybee, 4 July 1793, and Thomas Clark Benton, 17 May 1806 in "New Spain"; Trey Hardin (Dodd?), 22 October 1822, when Texas was part of Mexico; James Cox, 6 May 1842, in the Republic of Texas; Bob Huffman, 16 December 1846, United States, and Van Dobbins, 12 July 1862, Confederates States of America. To date, these names have not been found in public records. (Cox, Sr., *Long Meadows Cemetery 1793 to 1839, Cox Cemetery 1839 to Present Time*, undated, unpublished) (Sketch of cemetery and surrounding property with names and dates, undated, author unknown)

Family members familiar with the cemetery and surrounding property from the early 20th century have stated that there were headstones on many of the 22 graves of family members at one time. Members have also speculated that some of the graves never had engraved headstones because of the Quaker background of some. In 2009, there remain three graves with engraved tombstones, although a number of other graves are marked with stones:

Joseph Cox – Five-year old son of Pleasant and Martha Jane Bybee Cox
Born 6 August 1867, died 28 November 1872. Earliest tombstone.

Lucinda Cox – Daughter of Pleasant and Martha Jane Bybee Cox.
Born 1 August 1862, died 1 February 1889. Census for 1880 notes
"complications of"

Elander Hix – Born 13 July 1835, died 8 March 1877. Came to Texas in 1850-51
with Cox wagon train.

It is known that Noah Ervin Clark, father-in-law of Pleasant Cox's daughter, Amy Cox Clark, who with her husband, Alexander Grayton "Harry" Clark, is buried in Rock Church Cemetery beside Pleasant Cox, was buried in Long Meadows Cemetery in 1896. (*Lampasas County, Texas, Its History and Its People* [LCTHC], Pg. 143) Amy Bean is buried inside the decorative iron toward the eastern end. Lucinda Wright Cox, first wife of James Christopher Cox, is buried in Long Meadows, probably in 1859. It is very likely that Elizabeth Johnston Cox Bybee, mother of Pleasant C. Cox, was buried there in 1873. Elizabeth "Isabella" Cox Hicks, daughter of Pleasant and Martha Jane and wife of William Cleve Hicks, is thought to have been buried there in October 1890. (List of burials prepared by Joe B. Cox, Sr., and other family papers) The last person buried in Long Meadows Cemetery was Martha Jane Bybee Cox, wife of Pleasant C. Cox, who died Thursday, 22 February 1912, and was buried on Friday, 23 February. Reverend E. J. Bradley officiated. (Death Certificate for Mrs. Martha Jane Cox, Texas State Board of Health) (*Lampasas Leader*, 1 March 1912, obituary) William Ernest Cox, her grandson, remarked numerous times that the burial took place on a bitterly cold day, too cold for him to attend. Some family members believe that religious differences may have been the reason for Pleasant's not being buried beside Martha Jane, she having left the Quaker faith.

Family documents, including the list of burials prepared by Joe B. Cox, Sr., mention various cowhands and riders said to be buried in Long Meadows. William Ernest Cox, who was born on the property in 1903 and lived there until 1922, identified an unmarked location inside the present cemetery fence where he avowed that two such riders were buried. Dr. John Dunbar of Baylor University, using electronic sensing equipment to locate graves, found that there is a possibility of unmarked graves in the area identified by William Ernest Cox. (Dr. John Dunbar, Baylor University Department of Geology, *EM38 Survey of the Cox Family Cemetery*, June 2, 2001, unpublished)

Joe Berton Cox, Sr., very familiar with the cemetery from boyhood, contended that some unmarked graves lie outside the present fence, including that of Will Bybee. In addition, one document shows three unmarked graves well to the west of the cemetery with the notation that one grave was opened in 1890 and “left open,” subtracting one from the number of graves. No names are given. The same document shows two additions to the original cemetery, with a west annex and an east annex. (Sketch of cemetery and surrounding property with names and dates, undated, author unknown)

Francis Marion Cox and family sold the Lucy Creek property and moved to Moline in northern Lampasas County in 1922. No one tended the cemetery on a regular basis, and it fell into an extreme state of disrepair. In the 1980s, John T. Cox, son of Francis Marion Cox, began an effort to restore and preserve the cemetery. He and other family members re-fenced the cemetery, laid a slab for a marker, and marked graves with stakes. He died before he could complete the work, and the cemetery again lapsed into a poor condition. Other family members resumed research and restoration efforts in late 1995. Researchers have recorded GPS readings on all known graves and sites thought to be graves. That work continues today under the auspices of Brandywine Crucible, Inc., the Cox family association. When research has been completed, permanent improvements will be made and maintained, and a sign will be placed over the gate.

III. SIGNIFICANCE

The Long Meadows Cemetery is significant because it is the resting place of pioneers of Central Texas and Lampasas County and is situated on land where various interesting –and some important - events took place that illustrate issues and details of life at that time. Burials in the cemetery also reflect migration patterns of the period, with the Cox family coming from Missouri but many being natives of other states such as Indiana (Noah Ervin Clark) and Kentucky (Martha Jane Bybee Cox and Elizabeth Johnston Cox). The places of marriage of these early family members further illustrate migration patterns. All of these men and women, including those who lie in unmarked graves and those with no certain names, helped civilize a wild frontier. Two graves have noteworthy markings; Elander Hix’s headstone contains a five point star of Texas, and Amy Bean, who is said to have had a marker at one time, is buried inside a decorative iron fence.

The extended Cox family associated with Long Meadows Cemetery has a long-standing presence in America, an early ancestor being Captain Christopher Hussey, one of the original purchasers of Nantucket Island. (<http://www.drwilliams.org/genealogy/626.htm>, visited 9 Oct. 2009) (Lineage papers held by Les Sutton of Houston, TX) Pleasant Cox’s **great** grandfather, the Solomon Cox who married Naomi Hussey, was a Revolutionary War patriot. (DAR record copy, national number 765919, Evelyn Cheatham Bochow) The family has provided numerous public officials and great numbers of worthy citizens throughout Texas and the nation. Pleasant Cox, as has been shown, was one of the early pioneers in the Lampasas area and served his community as a settler and farmer, a petitioner to the state legislature for the creation of Lampasas County, served in the Texas Militia, was a founding member of the Lucy Creek-Lampasas River Grange, and actively participated in community life with his family. Pleasant C. Cox died in 1906 and, as has been stated, is buried in nearby Rock Church Cemetery. (Lampasas Co. Register of Deaths, Book 1, pg. 9) Long Meadows Cemetery deserves to be commemorated with an historical marker to preserve its history and to commemorate the contributions of its occupants and their family members to the history of Texas.