
FRANKFORD CEMETERY ASSOCIATION NEWS

April 2010

PO Box 831866
Richardson, Texas 75083

Once again, we make the annual Decoration Day pilgrimage to Frankford and this year we have a special reason to celebrate. Our beloved little church which has stood watch at Frankford since 1897, is nearing the end of its restoration and on Decoration Day we will enjoy meeting together once again within its walls.

In a recent Frankford oral history interview Jimmy Reynolds remembers going to Decoration Day “reunions” as a boy with his father who grew up on a farm near Frankford. For Jimmy’s father and other former members of the tiny community, Decoration Day at Frankford was a much looked forward to event. It was as if, Mr. Reynolds mused in the interview, long after they had moved on after the town of Frankford was no more, “their hearts remained at Frankford.”

Since the days of Mr. Reynolds’s father, the Frankford community has grown to include families from the Church of the Holy Communion and Bent Tree North as well as other Dallas area people who have heard about the pastoral place. There is still a core group, however, of descendants of early North Texas pioneers buried in the cemetery who visit every year to pay homage to their ancestors who were early settlers of this area.

We make the annual pilgrimage to Frankford for many reasons—decorating the graves of loved ones, visiting with others of the Frankford community, enjoying the natural beauty of the site, and of course, meeting in the old church, singing the old hymns and remembering those who made the pilgrimage before us.

This year, we will focus our attention on the recently restored little church. Great care has been given to restoring and rehabilitating the lovely building so that it can continue to provide comfort and respite to “pilgrims” and others who find their way to Frankford.

Please join in the festivities as we celebrate our newly restored church. We will have dinner on the grounds serenaded by bluegrass music, followed by a special program in the church where you can meet some of the professionals involved in the restoration. Landscape architect Rosa Finsley, who is helping us preserve and enhance our native landscape at Frankford, will be a guest speaker.

Katherine Wells Power



Cemetery Board

Term 2013

John Needham
940-465-5574

Term 2013

Pharis Ann McKamy
214-908-3055

Term 2012

Patsy Sudden, Secretary
972-272-9209

Term 2012

Linda Spragins, Treasurer
972-334-9997

Term 2011

Katherine Power, President
214-350-7822

Term 2011

Andy Tenney, Sextant
972-380-6593

Term 2010

Vacancy due to
Resignation

Decoration Day Events

May 16, 2010

12:30 Dinner on the Grounds
Please RSVP - see last page
2:00 Program in the Church
3:00 Business Meeting

Church Restoration

In September of 2009 Nedderman and Associates began the restoration of Frankford Church under the guidance of Architexas and the supervision of the FCA Board. An unusually rainy fall and snowy winter slowed down the progress, but in spite of this we plan to have the majority of the project completed by Decoration Day.

Great care has been given to rehabilitating the little church in such a way that it looks much PPlike it originally did while adding some modern amenities such as air conditioning and interior lighting. The FCA Board believes you will be very pleased with the result.

Work of this type is extremely painstaking and time consuming. For example, Nedderman and Associates' crew spent weeks scraping and sanding the exterior siding of the church to prepare it for painting. Then the painters (who were sub-contracted) spent more time sanding before applying the paint.

We look forward to celebrating the rehabilitation of the little church we hold dear, this Decoration Day. It will be a dream come true.

Kathy Power

Projects 2009-2010

In addition to the church restoration, the FCA Board worked on a variety of other projects this past year. Following is a list of some of these important projects:

- Made the Web Site operational
- Conducted five oral history interviews with these Frankford friends/members—Mrs. Oleta House, Jimmy Reynolds, Leon Hogan, Carol Nance, and J. C. Foster. These interviews will be housed with the Dallas Historical Society at the Hall of State at Fair Park. The FCA Board will keep copies of the interviews in the association's files as well. They are extremely interesting.

- Cemetery Project—Located and raised all the burial space metal markers in the cemetery. This will make it easier for the sextant and the president to locate a burial space when someone dies.
- Repaired and leveled gravestones. This is an enormous project but we started the process this year. We are making the necessary repairs in sections.
- Appointed a Bylaws committee to begin work on a new set of bylaws to govern the association.
- Filed a plat of the cemetery with Collin County.

Frankford Community News

Since our last newsletter, these association members have been laid to rest at Frankford Cemetery.

Laura Ann Burnett – b. 1/26/1938
d. 10/19/2009

Betty Joe Nance McCollum – b. 8/21/1932
d. 10/14/2009

Carl Brisendine – b.1/27/1922
d. 1/22/2009

Lillian Josephine Oxley Brady – b. 3/30/1909
d. 11/30/2009

Robbie Ruth King Wisner – b. 2/8/1921
d. 12/25/2009

Jim Todd Tidmore – b. 8/4/1952
d. 2/22/2010

We extend our sincere condolences to the families of these members of the Frankford community.

Cemetery Information

For information regarding burials and or other issues regarding your lot or burial spaces please contact: Kathy Power or Andy Tenney at the numbers provided on the cover page.

FCA Annual Business Meeting Sunday, May 16th, 3:00

The FCA Board of directors will hold a business meeting of the association in Frankford Church following the decoration program. The business meeting should convene about 3:00 p. m. depending on the length of the 2:00 p. m. program.

The major item of business at the annual meeting of the association members will be the election of a board member to fill a vacant seat on the board.

The business meeting is open to all Frankford members and friends. Only members owning an entire lot comprised of eight spaces is allowed to vote in the elections. We hope to see many of you at the business meeting to participate in the democratic process and learn more news about current and future Frankford projects.

Board Nomination

The FCA Board nominating committee nominates Paula Noell to fill a board vacancy. The election will be held at the annual business meeting, May 16th at approximately 3:00 p. m. Members of the association who cannot attend the business meeting in person may ask another association member to vote for them by proxy.

Nominations from the floor will be accepted.



Paula Noell is married to Jeff and they have two sons, Chris & Graham, and three granddaughters. Chris is living with his family in the Austin area and Graham will be attending SMU in the Fall. Paula started a career in banking in 1975, retiring from JP Morgan in 2005 after 30 years. She worked in various senior management positions including Cash Management and Corporate Marketing. Ties to the Frankford church and cemetery run deep for the Noell family. Four generations have been associated with Frankford and now rest there.

Cemetery Board of Directors' Mission Statement:

"We, the Frankford Cemetery Association Board, commit ourselves to the task of preserving the entire Frankford site, including the church, cemetery and grounds."

Our website is up!

You may access our new website at www.frankfordcemetery.org. The website will include news about current and upcoming projects, cemetery records, copies of current and past newsletters, and much more. This is a great way for all interested in Frankford to keep informed about what is going on at Frankford.

Cemetery Courtesy and Protocol

On Decoration Day weekend many Frankford families will visit the cemetery to place flowers on graves of loved ones. Some folks like to do a little gardening on their plots as well. With just one main access into the cemetery (the concrete drive in the middle) it is easy for vehicles to get wedged in between other vehicles and unable to exit the cemetery. To avoid this frustrating situation the board asks everyone decorating graves or visiting the cemetery during Decoration Day weekend to follow this protocol:

Please park outside the cemetery if at all possible. If you must park on the drive in the middle of the cemetery, please no more than two vehicles on the drive at a time. Be alert to the need to back out your vehicle if the person in front of you is ready to leave.

Please, no vehicles on cemetery grounds (other than the concrete drive). Funeral home vehicles are the only vehicles allowed on the cemetery grounds.

A Word from the Secretary

We have been receiving inquiries about available burial spaces at the cemetery. It seems that as time goes on, more people become aware of Frankford and some have purchased spaces for loved ones. The cemetery still has a few burial spaces for sale, but most of our vacant spaces are owned by private individuals. If you have ancestors buried at Frankford and would like to be buried here as well, we urge you to give this some thought and contact us so we can assist you with making that possible.

I hope you are as pleased as I am about the release of the Frankford Cemetery Association website. Having the burial records available on-line will be helpful information for not only those of us in the Frankford community, but to genealogists nationwide. Our official burial records are on the website, plus we also have provided a link to the Find A Grave website which has photos of many of the grave markers in the cemetery. You will be able to search by name for your loved ones buried at Frankford, or if you know the lot number, you can search by Lot Number. Note: if you find any errors, such as birth or death dates, please let me know and I will see that the information is corrected.

Once again let me remind you that if you have documents pertaining to our burial records, I would appreciate your sending me a copy so I can include that information with our records. Obituaries are always welcome. Thanks for your continued interest and assistance.

Patsy Sudden

Brush Arbor

This year at Dinner on the Grounds a "brush arbor" will shade the sign-in table. A brush arbor is a rough open-sided shelter constructed of vertical poles driven into the ground with additional poles or wire on the top to support brush, cut branches or hay. Several members of the Frankford community remember brush arbors being constructed each year for Decoration Day to protect the food laid out on a long table, from the heat. We are bringing back the custom of the brush arbor this year although it will not cover the food.

Brush arbor revivals began in this country as early as the late 1700's and continued through the Second Great Awakening and even through the mid 1900's. These religious meetings could last for days or even weeks with many people traveling for miles to attend and camp on the grounds. An itinerant preacher or circuit rider would inform rural communities that he would be holding a revival meeting. The community then built a brush arbor to cover the preacher and congregation. Later, brush arbors were more often used to cover food for dinners on the grounds.

As far as we know, brush arbors at Frankford were used only for covering the food laid out on a long table at Dinner on the Grounds. It is possible, however, that before the current Frankford Church was built brush arbors were built to shelter the preacher and others from the elements. The brush arbor at Frankford this Decoration Day will serve as a reminder of the generations of people who have made the annual pilgrimage to this special place.

Kathy Power

RSVP for Decoration Day Dinner on the Grounds Sunday May 16, 2010 12:30 PM

With our present and future restoration of the Frankford site, it has become necessary for our members and guests to participate with the cost of lunch. Catering provided by Babe's Chicken Dinner House.

Please remit \$10 per person attending and mark the entrée (one per person) desired:

Chicken Fried Steak: _____ Fried Chicken: _____ Smoked Chicken: _____

Signature: _____

Make check payable to Frankford Cemetery Association and remit check and form to address in box:

FCA
c/o Linda Spragins
9801 Wilkins Way
Plano, TX 75025

RSVP Deadline: May 7th

Questions:
Contact Pharis Ann McKamy
214-908-3055

