

# THE FRIENDS OF BENNETT CEMETERY, INC.

*A nonprofit corporation dedicated to preserving and restoring Bennett Cemetery, designated by the Texas Historical Commission as Lavaca County's first **Official Historic Texas Cemetery**. The I.R.S. recognizes us as a Section 501(c)(3) organization. Donations and bequests are tax deductible. Bennett Cemetery is located one mile north of Sweet Home on the west side of FM 531 at the Texas Historical Marker.*

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**Family surnames known to be represented in the cemetery include:** Armstrong,\* Bell,\* Bennett, Berdych,\* Bethel, Bingham, Bolsius, Bonneau,\* Bradley,\* Calhoun,\* Clements, Clifton, Cox, Currington, Dew, Durst, Dyer, Ellis, Fisk,\* Greenwood, Hagin, Harrison, Harwood, Henley,\* Hooper,\* Hranitzky, James, Jansky, Kaiser, Koerth, Kuenstler, Kunetka, Layton, Lehmann, Lewis, McCord, McCutcheon,\*\* McGrew, McMurrey,\* McVey, Middlebrook,\* Moore, Morgan, Mudd, Neely, Niemann, Noble, Oldham, Perrin, Rathke, Saunders, Schlageter, Sharber, Slanina, Spaulding, Stephenson,\*\* Sutton, Tate, Tolleson, Vick and Williams. **James has been tentatively added because of a marker recently found but not confirmed to belong here.**

For the benefit of genealogists and family historians, some of the surnames shown above are the maiden names\* of married women. Similarly, when known that a woman was married more than once, we have shown the surnames\*\* of her several husbands.

## BOARD MEETING

The Board of Directors of The Friends of Bennett Cemetery, Inc. will meet on April 14, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. in the social hall of Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Sweet Home. Some of the business to be conducted will be the election/re-election of three board members for the 2007-2010 term. Current board members whose terms will be ending are Melinda Berry, Bobbie Brune and James Carr.

The Board will also review the status of projects which were proposed at the last meeting, and set goals and adopt a budget for the coming year. All who would like to attend are welcome. We will set aside a time for questions and suggestions from you

## CONGRATULATIONS AND MANY THANKS

Donations for the second half of 2006 were very heartening. They really picked up, and we were able to finish out the year with some money to put into the permanent fund. Thank all of you who stepped up to the plate and came through for Bennett Cemetery.

Once again, spring is upon us. As you know, that means that the mowing will pick up and donations will again be needed. Along with mowing, there is weed-control and the expense of sending out the newsletters. Just a few weeks ago, the author visited the cemetery and found that one of the trees on the north fence line had blown down and needed to be removed. Fortunately, we have a very dedicated man, Mr. Earl Schacherl, who is willing to not only

do the mowing and control the weeds, but also remove dead trees. And he does it at a very reasonable cost. Once again - thank you, Mr. Schacherl, for your dedicated service to the cemetery. Donations for the expenses of keeping our efforts alive should be sent to:

The Friends of Bennett Cemetery  
c/o Bobbie Brune, Treasurer  
P. O. Box 195  
Palacios, TX 77465

Don't forget we are a 501(c)(3) corporation, and your donations are tax deductible.

## MARKER RENOVATION PROJECT

As you may remember, the association applied to the Lavaca County Historical Commission for a grant to be used for the renovation and repair of monuments in the cemetery. We were very grateful to the commission for its grant of \$500.00 to be used for this purpose.

When we found out that we would receive the grant for this pilot program, we began to develop a plan of attack. Acting upon the advice of a knowledgeable consultant, we agreed that the first monuments to receive attention would be those which were standing, but in danger of toppling. If they were to fall, it would be more expensive to repair and re-erect them.

Before our last meeting adjourned, the directors, accompanied by Ms. Brenda Fisseler of the Historical

Commission, went out to the cemetery to identify those which were in that condition. As a result of that visit and her sound advice, the following monuments were selected: Ed McVey, Chas. Hranitzky, Charles Kuenstler, Ida Kuenstler, August Lehmann, and Friederich and Louis Niemann.

We contacted the local monument companies, and the bid submitted by Mr. Joe Solansky at **CAPITOL MONUMENT COMPANY** was **by far** the lowest bid. We owe Mr. Solansky many thanks for his generous bid and excellent work. The Association is very grateful.

Because of the Historical Commission's grant, Mr. Solansky's low bid, and member donations, we were able to complete the work on all six monuments, and Mr. Solansky even cleaned and reset the government military marker for Charles Clifton at no extra charge.

**(See pictures of all on page 3)**

We hope to continue this project, but it will depend heavily on donations from you to:

The Friends of Bennett Cemetery, Inc.  
c/o Bobbie Brune, Treasurer  
P.O. Box 195, Palacios  
TX 77465

Please indicate that the money is donated for monument renovation.

### **OUR MYSTERIES**

So far we have not received answers to our two mysteries - the marker shown below and the yellow PVC pipes. If these dates ring a bell or you know



any thing about the pipes, please let us know.

### **AND A NEW MYSTERY**

We recently found yet another unidentified monument which reads: BORN Jan. 30, 1835 DIED ????

Does anyone know anything about this one?



### **FIRST ANNUAL GEN FAIR**

The French Simpson Memorial Library will host its First Annual Gen Fair on Saturday, May 19, 2007 at the library. The Gen Fair will begin at 9:00 a.m. and close at 4:00 p.m.

The morning program will be on the Texas Gen Web program and will be presented by Rox Ann Johnson, the webmaster for the Lavaca County and Fayette County Gen Web sites. The afternoon program will be a round-table discussion featuring a panel of individuals who have been involved in successful cemetery reclamation programs in Lavaca County. Gay Bethel will represent our group in the afternoon discussion

The Fair will be free and open to the public. For additional information, keep checking the library website at [www.hallettsvillelibrary.org](http://www.hallettsvillelibrary.org) or call the library at 361-798-3243 and ask for Brenda.



