

## STATUS AND EXPLANATION OF THE FRIENDS OF BENNETT CEMETERY ORGANIZATION

February 2000

The editor's long-term vision for the Friends organization is for it to become a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation with a board of directors of five or seven members that meets twice annually in Lavaca County for the purpose of preserving and saving the cemetery by using donations received from a number of persons interested in the cemetery's protection and perpetuation. This vision is a long way from the present situation!

Right now there isn't any real organization. Hopefully, we will make a beginning in Hallettsville on April 1<sup>st</sup>, but for now, there are just five people who have shown that they will help financially. I have recently filed with the Dallas County Clerk to legally use the name "Friends of Bennett Cemetery" as an assumed name for myself. This action was necessary for me to be able to cash checks made out to the Friends. All monies should probably be kept in a Hallettsville bank, and we will address this problem on April 1st. It may be some time before the Friends can afford the legal and other expenses of creating a corporation with the Secretary of State and qualifying it with the I.R.S. for tax-exempt status. I can promise you though that all funds received will be acknowledged, scrupulously recorded and accounted for.

We need people willing to fill some important jobs in the organization. Some should live in the Lavaca or DeWitt County area. Most could live nearly anywhere, but should be able to attend and participate in meetings twice each year in Lavaca County. Meetings are presently expected to be held on a Saturday early in April and October of each year. Most of the jobs will not require a lot of time or effort. If only ten or twelve persons will take an active part in managing the organization, we can be successful as an organization.

We need people who will contribute money annually so the organization can begin to make a start on preserving the cemetery. Over three hundred invitations were mailed out for the dedication ceremony. Almost two hundred people attended the ceremony. If only half of those who attended would commit to a modest annual donation, we could achieve our financial goals.

This newsletter is being sent to nearly all persons who were sent an invitation to the dedication ceremony. If you are interested in preserving and saving Bennett Cemetery, please let us know by making a contribution and/or attending the April 1st organizational meeting in Hallettsville. If you are interested in the cemetery, but cannot make a contribution at this time and/or cannot attend the meeting in Hallettsville, we can understand, but please do write and let us know that you are interested. We want to keep you advised of our activities.

The next issue of this newsletter will be sent only to those people who let us know, in one way or another, that they do have an interest in Bennett Cemetery. We all receive too much trash mail and we don't want the Friends to aggravate that problem for you if you're not really interested in the cemetery. If you know someone who would like to receive our newsletters and isn't on our mailing list, please send us their name and address. We'll gladly add them. We need to be very careful with our expenses from this point forward, but we do want everyone interested in the cemetery to receive the newsletters.

We can save Bennett Cemetery and I hope we will. It's up to us. There will probably never be a better opportunity than now.

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