

Frankford Cemetery Association News

December 2020



Mission Statement - Frankford Cemetery Association's mission is to preserve and maintain the historic Frankford Cemetery and "Wagon Yard" which are part of the Frankford site in far north Dallas.

The Association is aware of the unique historic significance of Frankford Cemetery and the Wagon Yard, and want to maintain them in a way that preserves their historic integrity. Frankford today is what remains of a tiny pioneer community which was an important crossroad on the Shawnee Trail.

In Memoriam

JoAnn Rainey

July 17, 1941 - May 9, 2020

Jack William Brady

September 17, 1944 - June 12, 2020

Jimmy Loyd Walker

January 8, 1938 - July 24, 2020

Julia Ann Stafford

September 25, 1942 - September 25, 2020

Lorenzo Leslie (LL) Cotter, III

July 26, 1939 - October 30, 2020

We extend our sincere condolences to the families of these Frankford Community members now laid to rest in the cemetery.

A Word from the Board of Directors

To say this has been an unusual year would be an understatement. Virtual meetings have become the norm and in-person gatherings, when necessary, have been at a distance. We were all disappointed at our being unable to gather for an annual meeting in 2020. Once this novel coronavirus curve is flattened, we look forward to meeting again in the familiar space of Frankford Church.

The next Decoration Day is typically scheduled for Sunday May 16, 2021. A decision on how we might gather (in-person or virtually) will be announced in April. However, Frankford Cemetery is still open every day from dawn to dusk. Feel free to come whenever you are able and enjoy the peace of our historic country cemetery which now finds itself in the midst of the city.

The Board is glad to offer this newsletter to the Association membership as an assurance of the level of care and responsibility taken in managing this sacred and historic space.

FCA Board

Sarah Macias, President

Ginger Ellis, Vice President/Treasurer

Linda Irwin, Secretary

Paula Noell

Sandy Greyson

Mark Jaudes

Wayne Lewis

Updated Rules and Regulations

Enclosed in this mailing is a booklet of Cemetery Rules and Regulations. These come with full approval of the FCA Board following the careful study and work of a task force made of Board and Association members (Wayne Lewis, Sandy Greyson, Kathleen McKamy Johnson, and Marianne Wells).

Please make yourself familiar with these standards. It is hoped that this booklet can serve as a useful guide in planning for burials and caring for this special place.

A Request from the Credentials Committee

(Linda Irwin and Nancy Warder)

If you are a person who holds the right of sepulture to a lot or space at Frankford, please plan for the future by deciding who will follow you in that capacity. Send the Credentials Committee written notification of your choice, along with a scan of your certificate or other proof that you are the inheritor. If you need assistance with getting your rights ownership verification in order, we will be glad to help.

The Credentials Committee can be contacted through info@frankfordcemetery.org or mail delivery to Frankford Cemetery Association PO Box 115 Van Alstyne, Texas 75495.

Our continuing goal is the maintenance of accurate records and compliance with the rules of the FCA by-laws.

Underground Wiring Project



Improved safety and aesthetics will be coming to the Frankford site as all above-ground electric utilities are now going underground. There will be no more leaning wooden poles or sagging wires that have threatened to fall during storms.

This is a long time in coming; perhaps even since the early 1970s. That is when the Bent Tree North subdivision began to develop around the Frankford site but without any above ground poles and wires. The Board is grateful to the following task force members who are working with Oncor and Integrus Electric to make this dream become a reality - Ginger Ellis, Paula Noell, John Sweeden, Cheryl Goris, and Kathy Power.

A Report from the Finance Committee

(Ginger Ellis, Paula Noell, Mark Jaudes, Jeff Sheriff, Meredith Ellis)

Prepaid Long-term Ground Lease

On Decoration Day 2019, the Board informed the Association that the Bull Pen property off Addison Road was being offered on the market pursuant to a prepaid 99-year ground lease. The Association closed the transaction on August 15, 2019 and received \$2.75 million. The lessee will be placing a Class A apartment complex on the property that will revert back to the Association at the end of the lease term.

Finance and Investment Policies

The Finance Committee drafted and the Board approved overall financial policies and specific investment policies after receipt of the lease proceeds. These policies were carefully drafted to safeguard the assets of the association, provide a framework for FCA's decision making, establish behavioral expectations, ensure compliance with all legal and reporting requirements, and serve as a resource to guide future board and committee members. These policies are available for review by any Association member upon request.

Investment Performance

The FCA investments are held in roughly equal amounts in the American Balanced Fund, Income Fund of America and Capital Income Builder Fund. These funds are highly diversified, conservative, high quality funds with a consistent focus on income. This focus is a defense against market declines in that income is still being generated even in a down market. Our income has been steady through the third quarter of 2020 and will surpass the earnings in 2019. This income is sufficient to cover the recurring operating costs for the cemetery. The Association investments have been volatile during 2020 due to the world pandemic; however, as of November 20, 2020, our investments are virtually equal to the investment balance at December 31, 2019. If you would like additional information or copies of the financial statements, please contact the Finance Committee at info@frankfordcemetery.org.

Gifts and Gift Acceptance Policy

It is now the general policy for Frankford Cemetery Association to not accept financial gifts. All donations intended to support Frankford Cemetery will be requested to be made to Frankford Preservation Foundation. This policy will help in the financial support of the entire historic Frankford site. This includes the historic Frankford Church, Native Blackland Prairie and Indian Springs, in addition to our historic Cemetery. For more information about Frankford Preservation Foundation and giving visit <https://frankfordpreservationfoundation.org/>

Bulb Planting



Over 300 old fashioned perennial flowers were planted on the graves in the annual bulb planting on Saturday November 21. This has now become a tradition every Saturday before Thanksgiving.



Ray and Cami Mackey, after planting bulbs on their son Kevin's grave, enjoyed planting on behalf of other Association members who were unable to attend. Here they are tending to the graves of Timoleon Milton Taylor (1864-1883) and Robert Allen Taylor (1824-1904).



Two cousins (Betty Wells and Sarah Wells) met for the first time at the bulb planting. Their great-grandfathers (James Madison Wells and WHL Wells) were brothers. And after they came to Texas from Bedford, Virginia, they married sisters - Adeline McClary and Sarah Jane McClary.

Cemetery Courtesy and Protocol

Frankford Cemetery is open every day from dawn to dusk. You are welcome to visit the cemetery and place flowers on the graves of loved ones.

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 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 the cemetery grounds (other than the concrete drive).

Funeral home vehicles are the only vehicles allowed on the cemetery grounds. Thank you for your cooperation.

May you and your families be safe and well as we limit social contact in order to flatten the novel coronavirus curve.

Frankford Cemetery Association

PO Box 115

Van Alstyne, TX 75495

Exciting news from Frankford Preservation Foundation

Frankford Preservation Foundation (FPF) is our sister organization and works closely with the Cemetery Association in caring for the entire site. It is requested that any donations intended to support Frankford Cemetery be made to Frankford Preservation Foundation.

While we have a jewel of a church and a beautiful historic cemetery where we continue to bury our loved ones, we have not had restrooms or common working space - until 2021.

Learn more about the small, appropriately designed building planned for this purpose at <https://frankfordpreservationfoundation.org/> and how you might support this important project.



Christmas on the Prairie

For ten years now, this candle light service in the Frankford Church has been a tradition for many. This year it will be a virtual event which means that some of us who live at a distance can “attend” from the comfort of our home. It will be launched on Sunday, December 13, 2020 at 4:30pm and will be available on the website for viewing at any time.

Further details will be given at <https://frankfordpreservationfoundation.org/>.

May you and your families be safe and well during this holiday season.
“God be with us till we meet again.”