

Frankford Cemetery Association
PO Box 115
Van Alstyne, Texas 75495
info@frankfordcemetery.org

If you are unable to attend the annual business meeting on Decoration Day, May 18, you may wish to have someone else vote for you. If so, please complete the Proxy Form included at the end of this newsletter and have your proxy present it at the annual meeting.

PROXY

I, the undersigned member of Frankford Cemetery Association, do hereby appoint _____
_____ as my Attorney-In-Fact to represent and to vote on any and all business to come
before the business meeting of Frankford Cemetery Association on May 18, 2025, or any adjournments thereto.

_____	_____
Member's Signature	Date
_____	_____
Address	Telephone Number

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 wants 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.

Frankford Cemetery Association News

May 2025



Decoration Day is Sunday, May 18, 2025

RSVP today for dinner on the grounds (served at 1pm) by emailing info@frankfordcemetery.org or calling Wayne Lewis at 903-372-3807. In order to ensure everyone has a plate of chicken and "the fixins" from Babe's, our hard deadline is Monday May 12. Sign up now!

Following the meal, we will gather at 2pm in the historic Frankford Church for our program and annual meeting. We hope you can stay for this tradition.

1pm	Dinner on the Grounds
2pm	Annual Meeting

An Interview with Oleta Wylie House

For our program, after Dinner on the Grounds and before the business meeting, we will enjoy a portion of a 2009 oral history interview with a remarkable lady, Oleta Wylie House. Oleta was the great-great-granddaughter of Henry Cook who led a wagon train from Illinois to Collin County in 1845. The Cook family lived west of Frankford and generations of her family are laid to rest in Frankford Cemetery. This interview was done with the help of the Dallas Historical Society as the first in a series of eight that will eventually be available for viewing on the Frankford Preservation Foundation YouTube channel.



(b. 1917 - d. 2017)



This painting of a Cook homestead, west of Frankford, was painted by Oleta House and hangs now in the Frankford Legacy House. The homestead, built in the 1850s, is representative of the homes of early Frankford area residents.

In Memoriam

Thomas Clifton Howard January 19, 1944 - May 22, 2024
Thomas Edward McCabe October 11, 1942 - July 25, 2024
Carroll Reed Dawson May 3, 1938 - September 9, 2024

We extend our sincere condolences to the families of these loved ones now laid to rest in the cemetery.

Gone but not forgotten are these for whom this year marks an anniversary of their passing

150 years ago			
1875 - 1875	E. Raymond Bishop	1876 - 1950	Walter Booker Foster
1875 - 1875	Clarence Virgil Foster	1892 - 1950	Walter C. Collier
		1912 - 1950	Russell William Hontz
125 years ago			
1827 - 1900	John A. Jackson	50 years ago	
1837 - 1900	Jennie Cook Hurley	1889 - 1975	Annis Jane Coats Cudd
1880 - 1900	Peter Oscar Teague	1891 - 1975	Amye Peters Kirkham
1897 - 1900	Stephen Southern	1911 - 1975	Verley Doyal Cook
1896 - 1900	Erin Needham	1916 - 1975	Rex A. Scudder
100 years ago			
1842 - 1925	Lavina Bishop	25 years ago	
1844 - 1925	James Madison Wells	1910 - 2000	Ruby May Robinson Stafford
1867 - 1925	Martha Adaline James Vinson	1913 - 2000	Lethea Frakes Larkin
1903 - 1925	Cora Lee Boatwright Terry	1914 - 2000	Mary Virginia Wells Wheeler
1905 - 1925	Albert Clyde Needham	1916 - 2000	William Henry Lafayette Wells II
		1917 - 2000	Louis Eugene Dennis
75 years ago		1925 - 2000	Ern L. Gravely
1874 - 1950	William Joel Ausbrooks	1940 - 2000	Mary E. Chevalier Martin
1875 - 1950	Henry Lewis Cook	1941 - 2000	Edward Ceryl Lutz

Planning Ahead For Your Lot

If you are a person who holds the right of sepulture (burial) to a lot or spaces 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 so that it might be entered into the records for ease of transition. If you need assistance with getting your rights ownership verification in order, the Committee can be contacted through credentials@frankfordcemetery.org or mail delivery to Frankford Cemetery Association PO Box 115 Van Alstyne, Texas 75495.

How to support Frankford with your Financial Gifts

Given the opportunity, most of us would like to leave a legacy to benefit the things we value in our lifetime. If you would like to include Frankford in your estate plans, please do so by designating your planned gift to Frankford Preservation Foundation, our 501c3 charitable organization. This will help in the ongoing support of the entire historic Frankford site - the historic Frankford Church, Native Blackland Prairie and Indian Springs, as well as our historic Cemetery. If you would like more information about naming the Frankford Preservation Foundation as a beneficiary of a will, trust or financial account, please contact our FCA Finance Committee at treasurer@frankfordcemetery.org.

Board of Directors Election

The Nominating Committee recommends for a term ending in 2028 the re-election of current board members Sarah Wells Macias and Meredith Ellis Gregory. In addition, they recommend for a term ending in 2028 Graham Noell and Leigh Richter. This will fill the maximum number of spaces allowed on the board which is nine.

Sarah Wells Macias



As the daughter of John and Frances Wells, Sarah has fond memories of attending Decoration Day events from early childhood. She has four lines of ancestors at Frankford (Wells, McClary, Dickerson, and Bishop) with the earliest burial being that of Lydia McElroy Bishop in 1880. After a career in parks administration, Sarah earned a Certificate in Non-Profit Management from Austin Community College and theological degrees from Austin Presbyterian Seminary and Drew Theological School. Sarah and her husband Rodney live on Sister Grove Farm in Van Alstyne.

Meredith has always been a lover of history and preservation. She feels especially passionate about conserving the history of our special cemetery as her great great great grandparents settled in Plano in the 1840's. After graduating cum laude with her accounting degree from Ouachita Baptist University, Meredith worked in public accounting specializing in nonprofit GAAP. She has served FCA on the finance committee since 2019 and on the board as treasurer since 2022. Meredith and her husband Jarod were married at the Historic Frankford church in December 2024.

Meredith Ellis Gregory



Graham Noell



Graham Noell is a dedicated professional with deep roots in the community and a long family history with the Frankford Cemetery. Over the past few years, he has contributed to the finance committee, leveraging his expertise to support the cemetery's mission. Professionally, Graham is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) at Ernst & Young, where he works in the assurance practice. He balances his career with a fulfilling family life, being married and a proud father of three wonderful children.

Leigh Richter is a native of Dallas, with family dating back to the 1850's. One relative, her 2nd Great Grandfather, John D. Harrington, came to Frankford in 1855, from Ireland. He later moved to Noell Junction and owned a family farm. Leigh received her BA from SMU and has been active in Preservation Dallas, City of Dallas Landmark Commission, as well as other commercial real estate organizations. She has been a Commercial Real Estate broker since the early 1980's. She recently rolled off the FPF Board and is very happy to stay connected as she joins the FCA Board.

Leigh Richter



Board of Directors

President - Sarah Wells Macias (term ends 2025)	Member - Mark Jaudes (term ends 2026)
Vice President - C. Wayne Lewis (term ends 2026)	Member - Kathleen McKamy Johnson (term ends 2027)
Secretary - Sandy Greyson (term ends 2026)	Member - Benjamin Kitchens (term ends 2027)
Treasurer - Meredith Ellis Gregory (term ends 2025)	

Finance Committee

Meredith Ellis Gregory, chair
Jeff Sheriff
Graham Noell
Chris Underwood
John D. Wells III
Benjamin Kitchens

Credentials Committee

Sandy Greyson, chair
Nancy Warder

Grounds Committee

Mark Jaudes, chair
Kathleen McKamy Johnson
David Anderson
Kirby Ellis
Rodney Macias