

Frankford Cemetery Association News

October 2008

PO Box 831866
Richardson, Texas 75083

Dinner on the Grounds

One custom that reaches back into the early days of Frankford Cemetery is dinner on the grounds. This custom took place on Decoration Day in May and began as early as the late 1890's. On that day people traveled from near and far to clean the graves and decorate them with fresh flowers from the fields and gardens of association members.

In the early days people from a distance came by horse drawn wagon for the weekend. This event served a very practical need in caring for the graves in the cemetery as well as providing a social outlet for people who didn't get to see each other often.

The highlight of Decoration Day weekend was dinner on the grounds, with delicious food prepared by Frankford ladies. Tables laden with fried chicken, mashed potatoes, fresh green beans from members' gardens, and wonderful desserts were set out on the meadow south of the church.

John Wells remembered always looking forward to dinner on the grounds as a young boy. To him it was almost as exciting as Christmas. Leslie Noell remembered playing games with other kids near the creek on that day. Marguerite Shaw Cook White still recalls the rousing singing of old hymns in the church. A preacher reminded those who gathered in the little church of the importance of heritage and faith and honoring those who had come before.

On November 2, 2008, Frankford Cemetery Association revives the observance of Dinner on the Grounds. Members of the Frankford community will not arrive by horse drawn wagon, but we will have fried chicken, chicken fried steak and all the fixin's. We hope to evoke the spirit and sense of community of the old Frankford Church dinners on the grounds.

Kathy Power, President



Cemetery Board

Term 2012

Patsy Sudden, Secretary
972-272-9209

Term 2012

Linda Spragins, Treasurer
972-334-9997

Term 2011

Katherine Power, President
972-234-0401

Term 2011

John Sweeden
972-235-8881

Term 2010

Jim Reynolds
972-669-4781

Term 2009

Virginia Cotten
214-729-7301

Term 2009

Andrew Tenney, Curator
972-380-6593

RSVP for Dinner on the Grounds
Catered by Babe's Chicken Dinner House

Sunday, November 2, 1:00pm

Please let us know how many from your household are coming and which entrée you prefer.

Chicken fried steak: Number _____

Fried chicken: Number _____

Signature _____

Call: Sara Ann Matthews--972-620-7479

Email: Pharis Ann McKamy-- texan1837@aol.com

Email: Kathy Power-- kaustinpower@sbcglobal.net

Write: PO Box 831866, Richardson, Texas 75083

FCA Projects

Listed below are some of the many projects the FCA Board completed in the last five months. The last item under *Church* is in the planning stage.

Grounds

1) Correcting a severe drainage problem on the east side of the cemetery. The Board hired a landscape designer who specializes in drainage issues to implement a plan devised by an engineering firm hired by the previous board. The plan involved creating a swale to divert the water that collects in the eastern part of the cemetery so that it will flow naturally from the north to the south side of the cemetery and out to Harbor Town Drive. At this writing the contouring of the dirt is done and we are ready place a pipe at the south of the cemetery to drain the water out to the street and sod the new swale.

2) Mowing the cemetery and grounds more often during the growing season. Making repairs to the sprinkler system. Removing fallen tree limbs and pruning in the cemetery and by the creek.

3) Placing signs on the northeastern and northwestern sides of the cemetery stating that dogs are not allowed in the cemetery.

Church

1) Repairing a hole in the bell tower that was left when the Church of the Holy Communion removed the bell they had paid for and installed years ago.

2) Installing a fire and burglar alarm system in the church.

3) Installing termite bait stations around the outside of the church. The pest control company found no active termites but did find evidence of termite damage in the past.

4) Hiring a professional cleaning service to thoroughly clean the inside of the church.

5) On September 13, 2008, the Board met with Architexas, an architecture firm that

specializes in restoring old buildings. The current Board is interested in carefully restoring the church without sacrificing the historic integrity of the building. We also discussed building a meeting hall with restrooms, a place for a bride to change, etc.

Kathy Power

Cemetery Fence

The FCA Board thanks those of you who gave us your opinion about fencing the cemetery or leaving it open. Forty people responded with twenty voting for a fence and twenty voting to keep the cemetery open. The Board has decided to table this issue until we are ready to make some other significant improvements to the Frankford grounds. This will probably occur after the restoration of Frankford Church is complete. Thanks, everyone, for stating your preference and including thoughtful comments about the fence situation.

Frankford Church Restoration Fund

The Board has a fund for contributions toward the restoration of Frankford Church. The following are the first three contributions.

Contributor:

Susan M. Anderson
Pat Noell

In Memory:

Leslie Noell
Leslie Noell

In Honor:

Pat Noell

Marty Noell

Frankford Cemetery Association has 501C 13 tax status as a non-profit cemetery association. Donations to the association are tax deductible and will be noted in future newsletters.

Decoration Day, 2009

Please mark your calendars for Decoration Day on May 17, 2009. After Dinner on the Grounds, we will have a program in the Frankford Church, if renovations permit, with a business meeting following. Lot owners will elect directors to fill expired terms. The Board encourages all of the Frankford community to attend.

A Word from the Secretary

For the past five months I have been involved in a very intriguing project: updating the cemetery burial records. One of the primary objectives is to locate current lot owners which many times involves locating next of kin due to the fact that the current owner is deceased. I've had communication with many people during this process, and each person I've talked with has been eager to assist me by providing missing or correct information.

The records have been updated to a new computer system, which enables us to easily make corrections and input new information as it is received.

Many of the lots have empty burial spaces. If you own a lot and wish to sell any empty spaces, this newsletter would be an ideal place to list it. Keep in mind that the association does not sell lots, but we can help put buyer and seller together. For further information, please call me at 972-272-9209.

I am truly grateful for this opportunity to serve the Frankford Cemetery Association in this capacity. I have learned, and will continue to learn, so much about our ancestors and long ago neighbors. We may no longer be living on an adjoining farm with our community neighbors, but the community spirit is still alive at Frankford and we would like to see that feeling of community grow. We are the new generation and I hope the old generation can say "Well done. Thanks for carrying on for us."

Patsy Sudden

History of Frankford Property Leases

Frankford community ladies Ellen Simpson McKamy and Emma McKamy Dye gave two tracts of land to the FCA that now provide the majority of the annual income for the association. These two tracts of land are referred to as the "Wood Lot" (now on Westgrove Drive) and the "Bull Pen" on Dallas North Toll Road and Addison Road south of Trinity Mills. The colorful names reflect the original use of the properties.

Mrs. McKamy and Mrs. Dye were thoughtful and forward thinking many decades ago in gifting the properties for the purpose of providing revenue for the upkeep and care of the cemetery. Mrs. Dye's lease allows the balance of the lease funds to be used at the discretion of the Cemetery Association. These two benefactors could not have foreseen the surrounding development that enclosed their beloved Frankford. However, because of their generosity the FCA can maintain, preserve, and protect the historic cemetery and church. The Frankford Community is grateful.

Negotiations for renewal of the leases are underway. The following chart is an estimated value of the leases.

Estimated Lease Revenue as of September 2008

Wood Lot	~ 35,000.00
Bull Pen East	~ 22,000.00
Bull Pen West	96,000.00
Total	~153,000.00

Frankford Community News

Since Decoration Day, 2008, these members of the Frankford community have died:

Betty Louise Wells

b. March 21, 1928 d. June 30, 2008

W.E. (Bill) Core

b. March 5, 1930 d. August 31, 2008

Leslie Field Noell

b. June 21, 1913 d. September 6, 2008

We extend our sincere condolences to the Wells, Core, and Noell families.

Cemetery Information

For information regarding burials and or other issues regarding your lot or burial spaces please contact one of these two board members:

Kathy Power, president

Andy Tenney, cemetery curator