

Gravis Public Cemetery

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We have identified the Gravis Cemetery located at approximately 757 Cobb Creek Road, Georgetown, TX in Williamson County.

A Notice of Existence of Cemetery has been filed with the Williamson County Official Public Records office at the recommendation of the Texas Historical Commission (THC).

We are in the process of forming the Gravis Cemetery Association which is being filed with the Texas Secretary of State as a tax exempt non-profit corporation. The goal and intent of this organization is the protection, preservation, restoration, and care of this historic public cemetery. We will then file with the Texas Historical Commission for an official Historic Cemetery designation per THCs recommendation.

In **volume 120 page 243** of the public record filed with the Williamson county clerk, this document describes a deed for 2 acre lot ceded by Sarah P. Boatright and W. A. Boatright to the trustees of the Owens Schoolhouse (T. A. Grumbles, C. W. Parks, and J. H. Sybert) dated July 1, 1907.

In **volume 120 page 244** of the public record filed with the Williamson county clerk this document describes a release of lien of the same said 2 acres by R. F. Young dated September 28, 1907. In this document is the language, **"and whereas the 2 acres of land hereafter described, has for years been used and claimed as a public graveyard, and the title to said 2 acres is vested in the public for such a purpose."** This document constitutes a formally filed "Dedication of Cemetery" in the Official Record of Williamson County Texas **for the entire 2 acre tract.**

The said 2 acres is currently listed "in the possession of" Jarrell ISD according to the Williamson County Appraisal District (WCAD) in record R423115, Jarrell ISD, PO Box 9, Jarrell, TX 76537-0009, Situs address: CR 239, Jarrell, TX 76537, AW0244 GRAVIS, J.A.F. SUR., ACRES 2.0. WCAD references the aforementioned volume 120 page 243 of the public record. There appears to be no deed of title filed with the Williamson county clerk conveying the deed of said 2 acres to Jarrell ISD.

Per a conversation with Blake Cox, son of the owner of JEC Texas LTD, on Wednesday March 12, 2014, he indicated that JEC had purchased said 2 acres of land from Jarrell ISD with the intent to create a roadway through it to support access of trucking to support the new Cobb Creek Quarry presently under the permitting approval process with TCEQ.

Being a historic graveyard that "has for years been used and claimed as a public graveyard" suggests the presence of multiple unmarked graves since markers were often made of wood or soft stone and would've been long since been lost. It is likely due to the length of use as a public cemetery that burial plots cover the entire two acres. Definite dates of usage 1886-1931 based on identifiable stones/markers on the site. Based on the dedications of the land to public use contained in the Supplementary Deed Information section of this document it is likely that the actual usage for this property as a cemetery dates from 1880 or before.

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A map located at the Williamson County Clerk Records office clearly denotes the Gravis Cemetery at this location.

Under Texas law, Texas Health & Safety Code - Section 711.035. Effect Of Dedication:

Dedicated cemetery property shall be used exclusively for cemetery purposes until the dedication is removed by court order or until the maintenance of the cemetery is enjoined or abated as a nuisance under Section 711.007.

The land cannot be sold for any other purpose, including, but not limited to, installation of roadways to provide access for quarry trucking.

Further, it is a violation of the public trust for governmental body to dispose of, convey or sell donated land held in trust for the people for a usage of any other purpose than the use for which it was specifically granted as a donation, particularly a dedicated cemetery.

Supplementary Deed Information:

Volume 25 page 237 records the conveyance of the deed for the 2 acres from John Owens and M.E. Owens (Mary) ceded the same 2 acres to the Trustees of the Owens Schoolhouse "for public school purposes". 11/20/1880

Volume 41 page 462 A. C. Whitmire and wife (Clarissa) paid by trustees to R. W. McClendon, C. Pegram, A.C. Whitmire as trustees in office, in trust for the use of the public (conveyed by S. F. F Fish (or S. T. Tish or S.A. Fisk) and wife volume 37 page 575) 2 acres of land. Conveyance made to trustees "for public usage for school and church purposes". Property shall revert to the ownership of the property east and north when the same is no longer used for the purpose and uses herein set forth. 1/10/1886 Release of Lien v97 p 81. 1/23/1897 from R.S. Hyer

Observations of Gravis Cemetery:

The cemetery has had cattle grazing through the land for years. At the very least for the first 6 of the 8 I have lived here until the Mr. Langston passed away.

A 5' chain link fence surrounds the McClendon graves. No gate. This area is sized for a third grave but no stone is apparent and it looks as if this area has been dug up in the past. There is a mound of soil next to the grave on the outside of the fence. It is interesting to note that the soil is sandy loam. This is not the same as the soil of the surrounding properties suggesting large quantities of soil were hauled to the site in the past to support the graveyard.

A 3' chain link fence surrounds a grave with a stone with no visible markings to the east of the McClendon graves.

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Both fenced areas overgrown with scrub trees thick vines and brambles. The larger fence shows damage on the south side perhaps from a now removed tree falling on it. The west side has a fallen tree through the fence.

Just between the 2 fenced areas is a grave marker under a medium old cedar tree.

I do not know when galvanized chain link fencing and associated pipes/posts were introduced but my guess is that these grave sites were maintenance in the 20th century by descendants.

Due to the shape of the viewable burial sites, it is suggestive that many more burial sites could stretch through the property with markers lost, destroy during shredding, or buried by time after falling.

View of cemetery from Cobb Creek Rd.



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Know Graves:



1)

M. J. McClendon
Wife of
R.W. McClendon
Born Sept. 13, 1855
Died Nov. 27, 1892
Lived 37 Yrs. 2M's
& 14 Dys.

Dearest Wife thou hast left us
Here my loss we deeply feel
But ?(t)his God who has bereft us
He can all our sorrows heal.

N30 47 101

W097 41 258 (+/- 20')

<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/w/y/r/Elnora--F-Wyrick/ODT83-0004.html>

4 **Martha Jane Boiles** b: 13 September 1855 in Hill Co., Texas
d: 27 November 1892 in Williamson Co., TX Burial: Gravis Cemetery,
Williamson Co., TX

+**Robert Wood McClendon** b: 23 March 1853 in Mississippi m: 29 September 1874
in Hill Co., TX d: 28 January 1915 in LaRue, Henderson Co., TX Burial:
LaRue Cemetery, LaRue, Henderson Co., TX Father: James Jackson MCCLENDON
Mother: Martha Leanie KILGORE

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2)

Charles Oscar

Son of

R.W. & M.J. McClendon

Born June 20, 1890

Died Jan. 27, 1892

A little flower of love

That has blossomed but to die

Transplanted on above

To bloom with God on high

3)

Area next the M.J. McClendon

Appears to have been dug up

No stone. Fence sized to contain a third grave

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4)
Unnamed
N30 47 103
W097 41 525 (+/- 19')



5)
John B. Mitchell
Born Feb. 17, 1886
Died May 13, 1886
Gone to be an Angel
N30 47 102
W097 41 515 (+/- 17')

The tombstone was completely buried and grass covered. An edge of the tombstone stand/socket had a visible edge which led to the discovery.

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6)
Stone
N30 47 102
W097 41 510 (+/- 15')



7)
Granite stone Protrusion
N30 47 101
W097 41 505 (+/- 15')

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8)
Unnamed in small fence



9)
Mrs. S. H. Hill
Wife of
T. R. ? Hill
Born 1884
Died 1931
N30 47 101
W097 41 531 (+/- 15')

Stone located surrounded by 4 iron posts with rotted barb wire. Very rough hand carved stone may have been moved to this location since the poorness of the stone is inconsistent with the richness of the posts.

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10)
Stone near to Hill stone



11)
Rough stone partially buried
May have light inscription or carvings
N30 47 102
W097 508 17 (+/- 17')

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12)

Another partially buried stone squared off with no writing several feet away



13)

J.O, Morgan

Son of

G.B. & T.C. Morgan

Born Mar. 17, 1870

Died Feb. 21, 1890

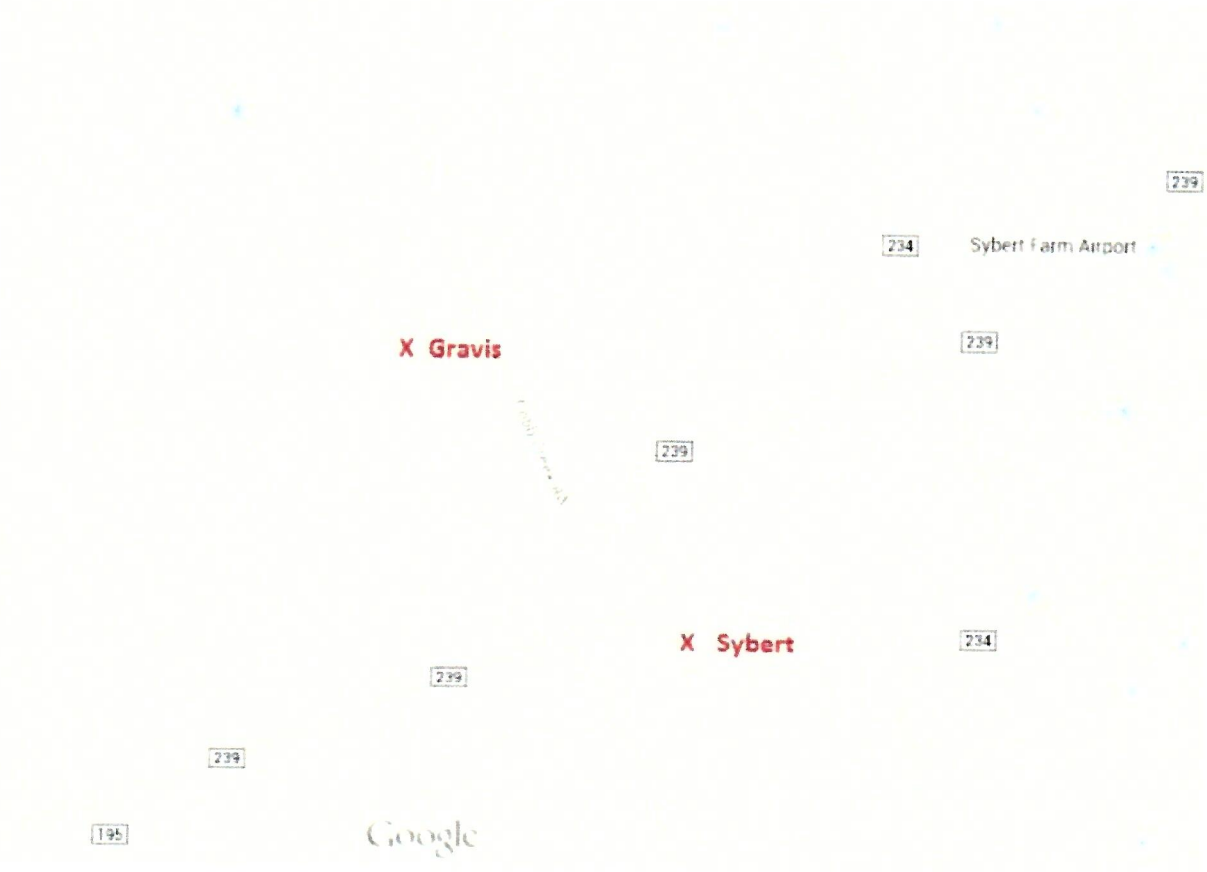
Top of stone broken off and leaned against the base.

Perspective of size:

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A map located at the Williamson County Clerk's office showed the location of 2 previously located but known cemeteries as follows:



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