

Distinguished Service Award Requirements 1987
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Mailed
Jan 4, 1988

Distinguished Service Award Requirements
for
HISTORIC CEMETERIES

Submitted by Williamson County Historical Commission

Laverne Faubion, Chairman of County Commission

Irene Varan, Historical Preservation Committee chairman
Members of Committee:

Harold Asher	Margery Pearson
Allan Edwards	Dorothy Peters
Lester Fisher	David Voelter
Ruth Mantor	Elsie Waller

Assisted by: WCHC member Mrs. Frances Wynn and members of the
Williamson Genealogical Society

Four items are submitted showing completion for DSA Award.
Appropriate documentation is included. Items are:

1. Photographs of two abandoned/neglected cemeteries in County, properly identified.
2. One complete cemetery survey taken in 1987. Map of site location of graves; names of those buried, marked and unmarked graves included. Location and features of cemetery.
3. History of one of oldest cemeteries in County, initiated and researched by county commission.
4. Clean-up campaign for an unprotected cemetery site, complete with photos and publicity.

Historic Cemeteries

The purpose of this DSA section is to focus on the significance of historic cemeteries as cultural and historical resources. They can provide valuable information on individuals, events, customs, art, ethnicity, architecture, settlement patterns, and many other aspects of our heritage. Cemeteries are not permanent reminders of our past; vandalism, development, and neglect have contributed to the loss of many important pioneer cemeteries across Texas. Through community awareness programs, most could have been saved.

Helpful Programs

The following are suggestions for commission meetings and field trips related to the preservation of historic cemeteries. They can help in planning activities or in introducing a new program of DSA work.

1. Conduct a commission meeting at a historic cemetery. Provide instruction in photography, tombstone rubbings, landscape maintenance, or cemetery surveys, and give members the opportunity to participate in a limited project.
2. Arrange for your commission to visit a local monument company to learn about the quarrying, design, production, and maintenance of tombstones.
3. Invite representatives from local financial institutions to address the commission on perpetual care funds and related programs for protecting cemeteries.
4. Conduct a historical tour of an early cemetery in conjunction with a special event in your community.
5. If you know of individuals who have photographed unique cemeteries in other regions of the U.S. or in other countries, ask them to present a program to your county historical commission.
6. Invite speakers from various ethnic and religious groups in your area to present programs on their burial customs and beliefs.

Bibliography

Jordan, Terry. *Texas Graveyards*. Austin: The University of Texas Press, 1982.

"Making Tombstone Rubbings a Work of Art." *Southern Living*, July 1976, 64-65.

Newsletter of the Association for Gravestone Studies. Published quarterly by the Association for Gravestone Studies, c/o American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, MA 01609.

Steely, Jim. "Tombstone Territory." *Texas Highways*, March 1976, 4-8.

DSA Requirements

To qualify for this section of the Distinguished Service Award, complete any four of the following items and submit this form and the required support documentation to the Texas Historical Commission.

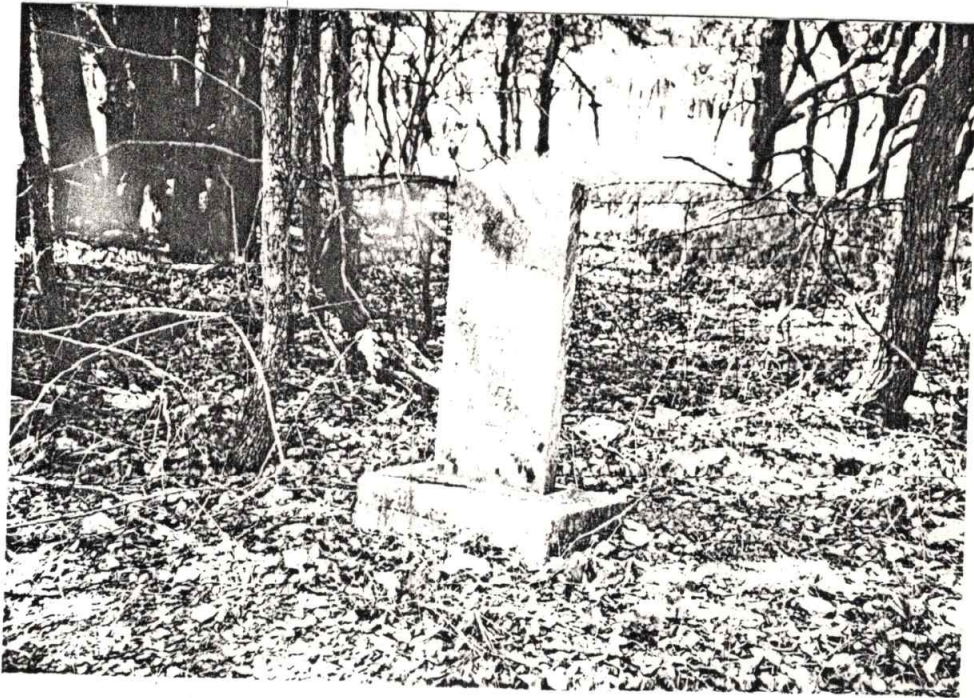
1. Photograph two abandoned or neglected cemeteries in your county. Submit representative black and white photos with this section. Be sure the pictures are properly identified in pencil on the back.
2. Submit one complete cemetery survey (25 or more graves) taken in 1987. The survey should include a map of the site showing the location of graves. It also should include names of those buried, marked and unmarked graves, interesting features, etc. The survey must be included with this section for credit.
3. Research, using oral history, land records, or other documentation, the history of one of your county's oldest cemeteries. Submit a short (2-3) page narrative with this section.
4. Gather USGS topographic maps or other appropriate maps of your county and label the location of each known cemetery. Submit copies of the maps with this section.
5. Using one cemetery as a case study, compile information (including photos) on elements that show cultural traits and customs. Submit written and photographic documentation with this section.
6. With the cooperation of your local library or schools, set up vertical files on state cemetery and antiquities laws. Submit written evidence of your project, including the location of depositories, with this section.
7. Direct a clean-up campaign for an unprotected cemetery site. Enlist the assistance of other groups (scouts, students, service organizations) and submit labeled photos of the work in progress or submit copies of related publicity. These photos/documentation must be included with this section.
8. Have a newspaper article written by your commission regarding cemetery preservation published. Submit a copy of the printed article with this section.
9. Conduct a public meeting on laws protecting Indian burial sites and related artifacts. The meeting should be separate from a regular commission meeting. Documentation of publicity or a transcript of the speakers' program must be included with this section.

Packet 1: PHOTOGRAPHS OF TWO ABANDONED/NEGLECTED CEMETERIES,
properly identified

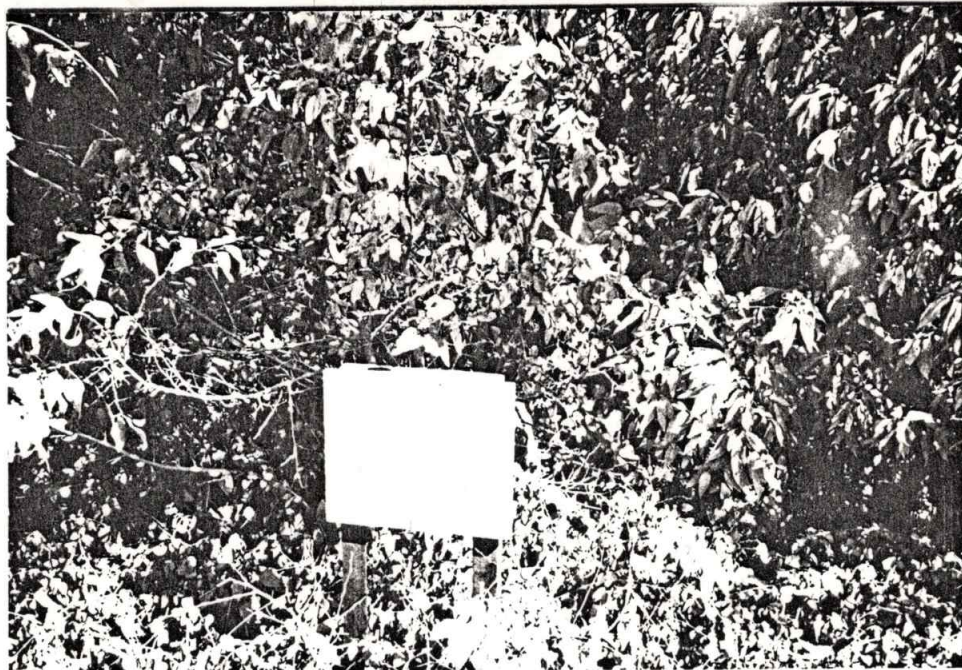
Old COLLINS CEMETERY (Collins-Thopson?) on FM 2338 just past intersection with FM 3405. Well into field south of windmill, it has long been neglected. A trace of barbed-wire fencing remains. There are a number of sunken graves without stones; one headstone has fallen face down into sunken grave. Now in the center of property belonging to out-of-town developers who will be contacted for the purpose of preserving site.

HARRELL CEMETERY on Bowman Drive within city limits of Round Rock, Texas. The Harrell family were early pioneers in Williamson County. The Cemetery Association for Old Round Rock Cemetery is negotiating with city of Round Rock to "adopt" this site in order to provide maintenance and care.

COLLINS
CEMETERY



HARRILL
CEMETERY



Packet No. 2: Cemetery survey of ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CEMETERY, Taylor, Texas, located on Old Thorndale Road (north side) between Jones and Laurel streets.

Survey of this cemetery had not been made for inclusion in the three volumes of WILLIAMSON COUNTY CEMETERY Listings because the Church was completely re-working the much neglected cemetery: curbing sections, putting in roads and paving same, cleaning and restoring older areas as best they could. A copy of this survey will be furnished each Williamson County public library, and all other owners of the three-volume listings.

This survey completed in December 1987 by WCHC members Irene Varan, Dorothy Peters, Frances Wynn and Williamson County Genealogical Society members Betty Marsicek and Jeanne Percy.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CEMETERY:

The earliest burial identified by gravemarker appears to be that of MARY McTAGGART, a child, in October 1882 (Sec. C, Row 16). There are many sunken stones, and other graves marked only with field stone, wooden or concrete crosses - some of which may be older.

The cemetery is filled with many types of stones, a goodly number inscribed in the native tongue of the bereaved: Czech, Hispanic or German. Concrete crosses, some embedded with colorful pottery or broken dinnerware, abound in the older sections. Many gravestones bear a picture of the deceased.

This cemetery has been in continuous use by the Church, but care had been left to the plot owners. In 1986 a Cemetery Committee was established and rules were adopted. Maintenance and care of the cemetery has been taken over by the Church and this committee.

TAYLOR - ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CEMETERY

Records available in Church Office. Extensive work on cemetery and cemetery records prevented listing for this volume. At such time as listing is completed, it will be added to volume.

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Packet No. 3: History of one of oldest cemeteries in Williamson
County, POND SPRINGS CEMETERY

The history of this cemetery, located in the far south-
western corner of Williamson County along the Travis County line,
was researched and written by WCHC member Karen R. Thompson, and
submitted to the THC in October 1987 as justification for an
official Texas Historical Marker.

POND SPRINGS CEMETERY

By Karen R. Thompson
7203 S. Ute Trail
Austin, Texas 78729
(512) 258-5688

The community of Pond Springs started about the time Williamson County was founded in 1848. It began as a rural community in the far southwestern corner of the county along the Travis County line. Many of the first settlers were from Austin and Travis County and several of the Land Grants for the area went to Veterans of the Texas Revolution; Elisha Prewitt was at the Battle of San Jacinto. (1)

The Texas Historical Marker for "Pond Springs Community and School" notes the following: "After James O. Rice settled in the 1850s near a spring-fed pond, the area was called "Pond Spring. By 1854 a log school building was erected near the pond (1 mi. N) and also served for worship and as a social center. Thomas S. Rutledge ran a nearby store, post office and blacksmith shop. After the post office closed in 1880 and the Austin & Northwestern Railroad bypassed Pond Springs in 1882. the community declined. The school was consolidated in 1903 with Jollyville, moved to this site in 1927. and became part of the Round Rock District in 1969." (2)

We know that Pond Springs remained a small community in the 1840s & 1850s. and United States Census for 1860 identified 16 families having the Pond Springs Post Office. (3)

It is about the 1860s that the cemetery known as Pond Springs Cemetery began. The very worn tombstone of Mrs. Asenath M. Stewart seems to read "Sacred to the memory of.....Died Nov. 10. 1862, Aged 20 years ___ months & 7 days". We can prove that the cemetery was started by 1869 by the burial information of Mrs. Gault. Her tombstone clearly reads "Polly M. Gault, Consort of R. T. Gault, born Sept. 22, 1845, died March 30, 1869". The next earliest grave is that of Elizabeth King. consort of W. A. King, born Dec. 15, 1815 and died June 8, 1871. The next identified burial date is that of E. Zimmerman with the following information, "born February 29, 1798 and died Feb. 1. 1877." That is the only person in the cemetery with a birth date in the 1700s

As in the case of many early, rural, cemeteries, the starting of the cemetery was several years before the land was actually deeded, in fact many

cemeteries do not have deeds at all. Some documents were drawn up and never recorded properly at the county courthouse, and others were executed but not recorded for several years. This last condition was the case with the deed to the Pond Springs Cemetery.

"Thos. L. Rutledge & Wife to Deed T. M. Houghton et alls. The State of Texas, Williamson County. Know all men by these presents that we Thomas L. Rutledge and wife H. M. Rutledge of the county and state aforesaid for and in consideration of the sum of five dollars to us in hand paid by T. L. Rutledge. T. M. Houghton, R. W. Dodd of the same state and county the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged have bargained sold and conveyed and by these presents do bargain sell and convey unto the said T. L. Rutledge, T. M. Houghton. R. W. Dodd In Trust for the use of the neighborhood or surrounding community as a public burying ground and for School and Church purposes - a certain tract or parcel of land it being a part of the Elisha Allen survey and including the Grave yard near our residence and described as follows to wit, Beginning at a set stone N 50° W 164vrs from the West corner of L. I. Wilson's 115 acre survey from which a forked Pecan brs N20 E 16vrs Thence N55 W 110vrs set Stone from which a black jack 5 m dia brs N55 W 9½ vs, Thence N 35° E 70 vrs to a set stone from which a Live Oak 10 in dia brs. S 10 E 20½vs Thence S55 E 110vs set stone. Thence S35 W 70 vs to the place beginning containing one and 36/100 acres more or less. Hereby reserving the right for the said T. L. Rutledge to act as trustee in conjunction with the others named to have and to hold said above described premises for the uses and purposes therein set forth unto the said trustees and their successors in office (which may be selected by the Citizens of the neighborhood who feel an interest in the matter) forever. Hereby warranting the title to the same against all lawful claimants. In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hands this 16th day of Febr. A. C. 1872.

signed Thomas L. Rutledge
H. M. Rutledge

The State of Texas

County of Travis Personally appeared before the undersigned authority Thomas L. Rutledge and wife H. M. Rutledge to me well known to be the individuals described in and who executed the above and foregoing conveyance from Thos. L. Rutledge and wife and in favor of T. M. Houghton, R. W. Dodd and also reserving the right to act myself the said Thos. L. Rutledge as Trustees and they acknowledged to me that executed the same for the uses and purposes and considerations therein stated and that the was their act and Deed and the said H. M. Rutledge wife of the said Thos. L. Rutledge having been examined by me privily and apart from her husband and having said deed fully explained to her the said H. M. Rutledge acknowledged the same to be her act and deed and declared

that she willingly sealed and delivered the same and that she wished not to retract it. In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of my office this 16th day of February A. D. 1872.

Thomas Anderson
Notary Public Travis County

Filed March 19th 1877 at 8 o'clock A. M. and recorded June 23rd 1877.

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For some unknown reason, the deed to the Pond Springs Cemetery was not recorded for 5 years. We know the cemetery was in use all that time, but they failed to record the document until 1877.

This old cemetery has over 160 identified graves, with many more that lack tombstones or any identification. Probably one half of the burials were before 1900.

We know that atleast one "CITIZEN OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS" is buried at Pond Springs. Lavinia Ann Hyland Cloud Hanley Chapman, born October 5, 1844 during the Republic of Texas, Burleson County, died on January 6, 1929. Lavina was the daughter of Joseph and Sarah Elizabeth Hyland who settled in Williamson County in 1848. She remained a citizen of the county until her death at age 84.

On December 29. 1859, only a few months after her 15th birthday, Lavinia married Joseph E. Cloud. After his death, she married James D. Hanley. That was in 1868 and the following year he died. In 1871 she married William M. Chapman and they had three children (she had one daughter by each of her first husbands). Lavinia's stone reads "MOTHER & At Rest." The stone for William says "OUR FATHER, A blessed one from us has gone, A voice forever stilled. A place is vacant in our home that never can be filled."

The grave of Lavinia Chapman has been marked with a bronze medallion of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas identifying her as a "Citizen of the Republic of Texas". This marker was placed by her descendant, Frances Gower Pendleton of Wills Point Texas and a member of the DRT. 5

Atleast one of burials in this cemetery is a Veteran of the Mexican War. William P. Rutledge Sr. was a Captain in the Mexican War. He and his wife Susan appear on the 1860 U. S. Census, Williamson County, at Pond Springs along with five children. The tombstone for him reads. Born July 29, 1815, Died April 27, 1890, The World was his Country And to do good his Religion.

William H. Thompson (1846-1928) was a Veteran of the Civil War. He is the only Confederate Soldier we can identify although I feel sure that some of the other burials were Confederate Veterans. William Horace Warren (1912-1946)

was a veteran of World War II.

Disease, accidents, and illness took their toll. Four children, Eddie, Emily, Harry and Scotty Beck all died within 16 days of each other from illness. Their stone reads In Memory of Eddie, Harry, Scotty & Emily Beck, Died Aug. 30 to September 15, 1888. The cemetery has many graves of young children and some of the special inscriptions for them are:

Joseph Decker. age 12 days, "God Bless in early death."

Dasie Adams. age 1 month, "Suffer Little Children to come unto Me for
of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."

Benn Franklin, age 2 years, "Pure at thy death as at thy Birth, thy Spirit
caught no taint from Earth."

Richard Lee Jackson, baby, "Budded on Earth to bloom in Heaven."

Edgar Earnest Lee, age 4 years, "Safe in the arms of Jesus. A Darling child
from us is gone. A little voice we love is
stilled. A vacant place within our home. That
no one else can fill." (6)

The cemetery is fenced with a chain link fence. but a couple of sections are fenced off within that outer fence. The largest section is the Walden Section, in fact, the cemetery has been called the Walden Cemetery. The property around the cemetery had belonged to the Walden family for many years and that is the reason for the name. (7)

Although the cemetery is still in use, the last burial was William Gordon Hammack, born in 1917 and died in 1974. The pioneers of Pond Springs, and the roots of many of the area families are buried at this cemetery. Although it has been an important part of the Pond Springs Community for over 100 years, the future is not bright for this historic cemetery. The land around the cemetery has been purchased by a real estate development company who currently have the property for sale. We can only hope that the new owners will help in preservation of this historic part of Pond Springs. The Jollyville-Pond Springs Historical Association, with Karen Thompson as president try to maintain the grounds but it is hard to get help, and descendants from those early pioneers have moved away.

Nearby Forest North Elementary School has agreed to sponsor this Texas Historical Marker. The school children held a fund-raiser in the spring of 1987 to pay for the marker.

Karen D. Thompson

FOOTNOTES

Pond Springs Cemetery Historical Marker Application by Karen R. Thompson

- 1. Land Grant files, General Land Office, Stephen F. Austin Building Austin, Texas. (Records Division 8th floor)
- 2. "Pond Springs Community and School" Texas Historical Marker located at 13401 Pond Springs Road. (Research by Karen R. Thompson)
- 3. United States Census Bureau, U. S. Census 1860 Williamson County Texas, microfilm records Texas State Genealogy Section, Texas State Library, 12th and San Jacinto, Austin, Texas.
- 4. Deed Records, Williamson County Clerk's Office, Volume 18, Pages 575 & 576, Williamson County Courthouse, Georgetown, Texas.
- 5. Interview December 1, 1986 with Frances Pendleton, Route 2, Box 524, Wills Point, Texas 75169.
- 6. Williamson County Cemetery Book No. II, compiled by the Williamson County Historical Commission, edited by Laverne Faubion. Published in 1978 and copyrighted in 1981.
- 7. "Historical Round Rock, Texas" by Jane DiGesualdo and Karen R. Thompson, published 1985 by Eakin Press, Austin, Texas. Pages 451 & 452.

Packet No. 4: Clean-up campaign for the unprotected cemetery site of the ANTI-SLAVEHOLDING UNION BAPTIST CEMETERY, commonly known as the SMALLEY CEMETERY.

One of the oldest graveyards in Williamson County, this cemetery is located northeast of Round Rock, seven-tenths of a mile north of U.S. Highway 79, off ~~County Road~~ ^{FM} 1460. Surrounded by an old wire fence, it lies on the north side of a road leading in an easterly direction into the Apache Oaks subdivision.

Long hidden from public view by an overgrowth of brush and groves of trees, this burial site was given promise of new life by the Williamson County Historical Commission when members Mrs. Elsie Waller and Mrs. Irene Varan determined to save the site from oblivion. Its history was researched and written; an application for an official historical marker was submitted and approved, which marker has now been erected on the southeast corner of ~~FM~~ 1460 and Hidden Acres Drive - a short distance from the burial site.

The assistance of the Georgetown Sertoma Club was enlisted to help restore and preserve this old burial ground, and in May 1987 members of this club assembled to clear the scrubwood and underbrush, temporarily stabilize gravestones and the old fence, and prepare the site for further restoration. Before dedication of this marker, plans for which have been delayed until Spring of 1988, the Georgetown Sertoma Club plans to erect a new fence, perform additional work to stabilize the grave markers, and clear the site of any new unwanted growth.

Labeled photos are submitted herewith showing work in progress. A news item from the Wednesday, June 10, 1987, Williamson County SUN is also included.

County Commissioner Ron Wood, of Precinct 1, also participated in this preservation effort by furnishing a truck to dispose of the debris.

Williamson County SUN, Georgetown, Texas

Wednesday, June 10, 1987

Sertoma, WCHC preserve burial

A joint project to restore and preserve one of the oldest burial grounds in Williamson County has been undertaken by the Georgetown Sertoma Club and the Williamson County Historical Commission.

Georgetown Sertoma members Steve Almquist, Luther Laubach, Bill Jones, Gregory Washington and Fred Knorre recently worked to clear the scrubwood and underbrush from the Anti-Slaveholding Union Baptist Church cemetery located on County Road 1460. County Commissioner Ron Wood, of Precinct 1, furnished a truck to dispose of the debris. An important aspect of our local history, many of the pioneer cemeteries have been or are in danger of being destroyed by neglect, vandalism or development.

Plans for further restoration include a fence to be built by the Sertoma Club. An application for a state historical marker to be placed at the site has been submitted by the Williamson County Historical Commission.

Commonly known as the Smalley Cemetery, land for the Anti-

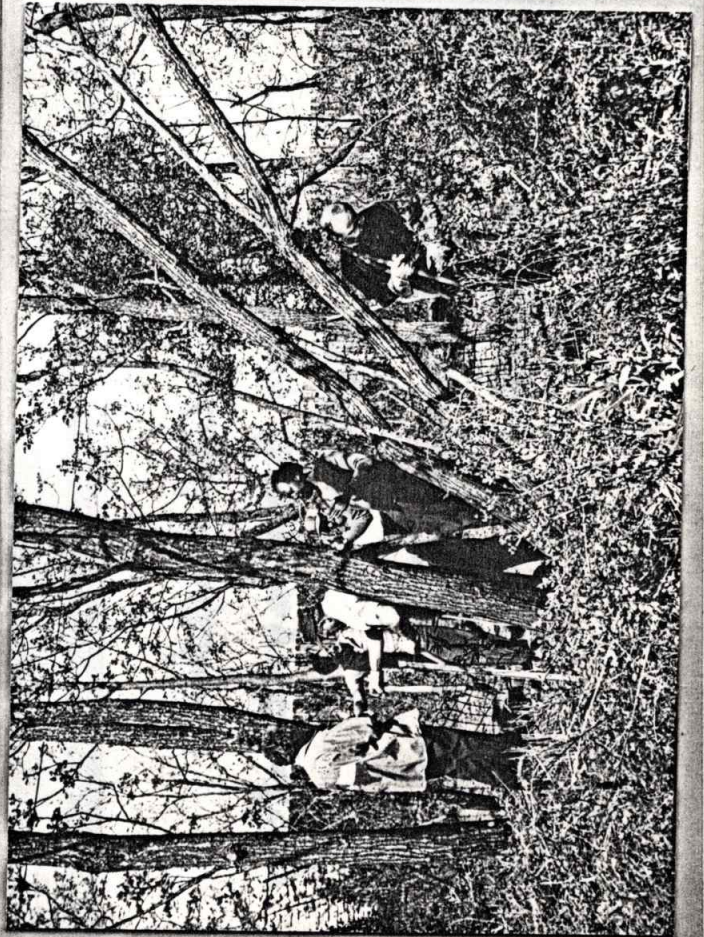
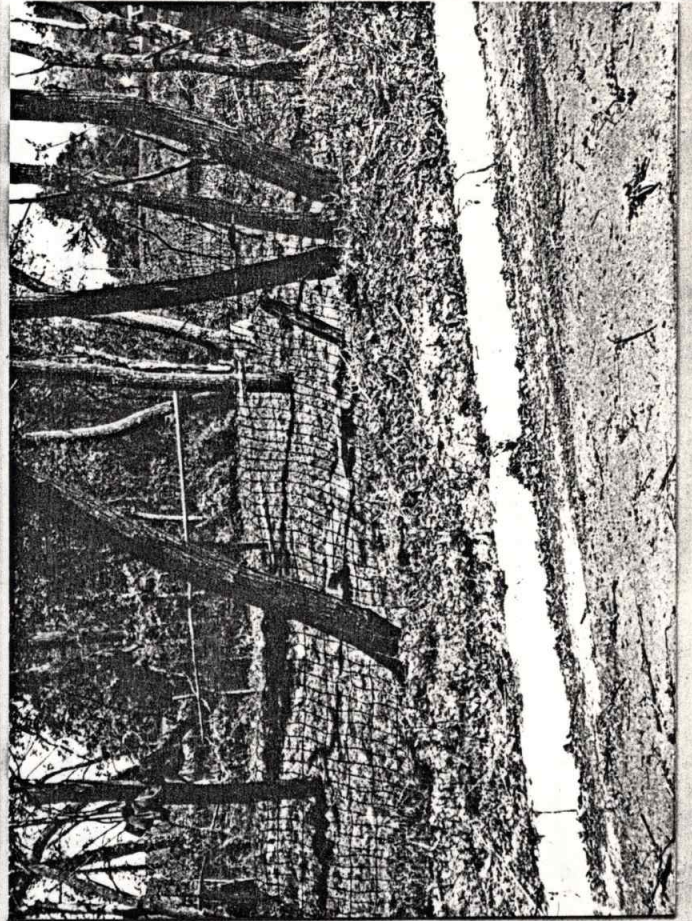


Sertoma members Steve Almquist, Fred Knorre, Luther Laubach, Bill Jones and Gregory Washington.

Slaveholding Union Baptist Church Cemetery was set aside in a deed by the Reverend James K. Smalley in 1854. This spot is thought to have been established as a burial site as early as 1849 upon the death of Smalley's

brother, Freeman Smalley Jr., who originally owned the land. The first Baptist church services in the county of which any records exist were held in the home of Freeman Smalley in 1847.

FM

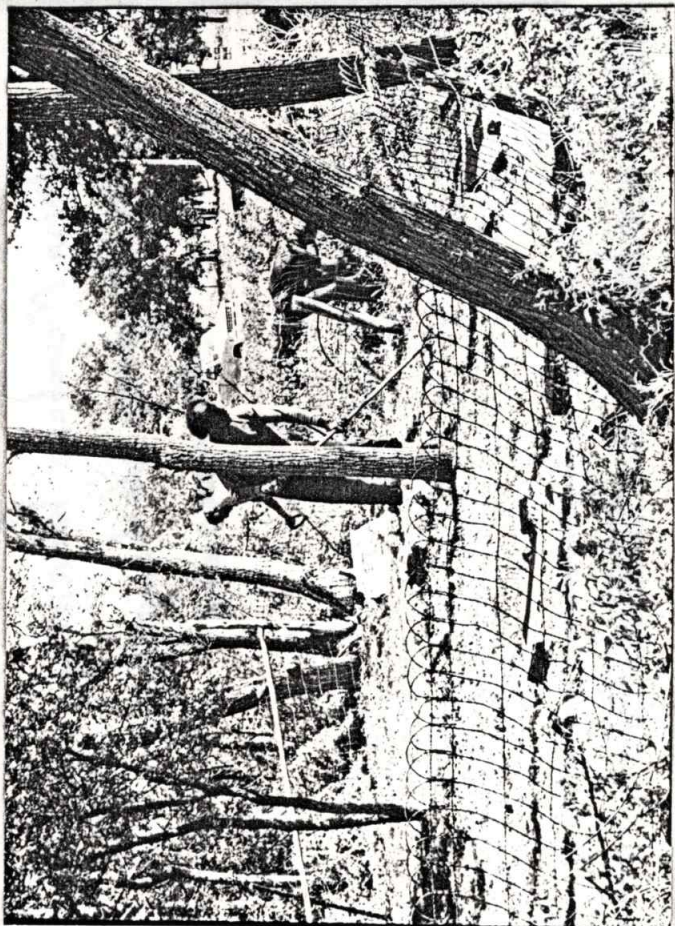
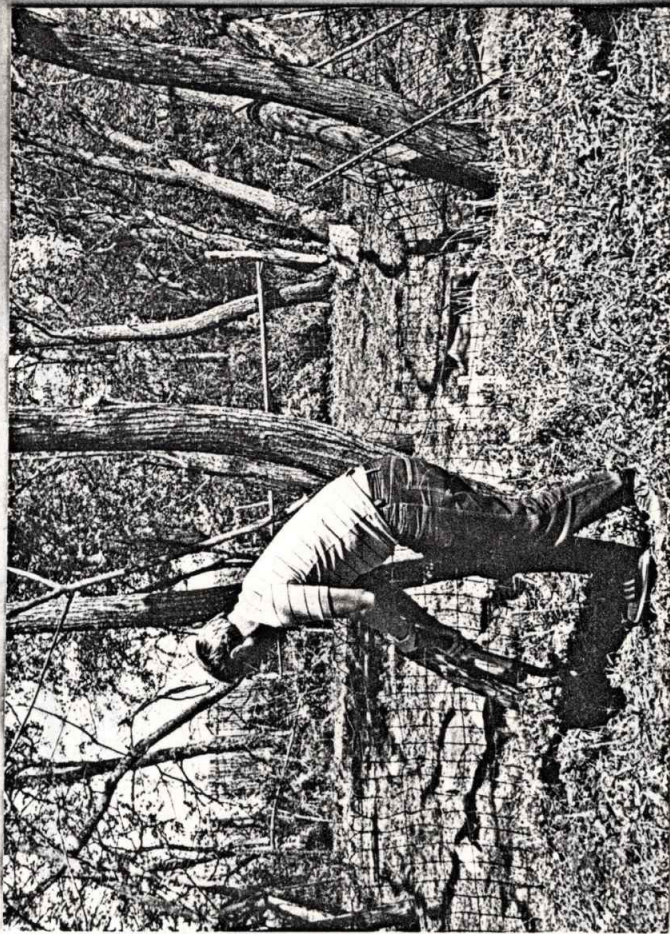
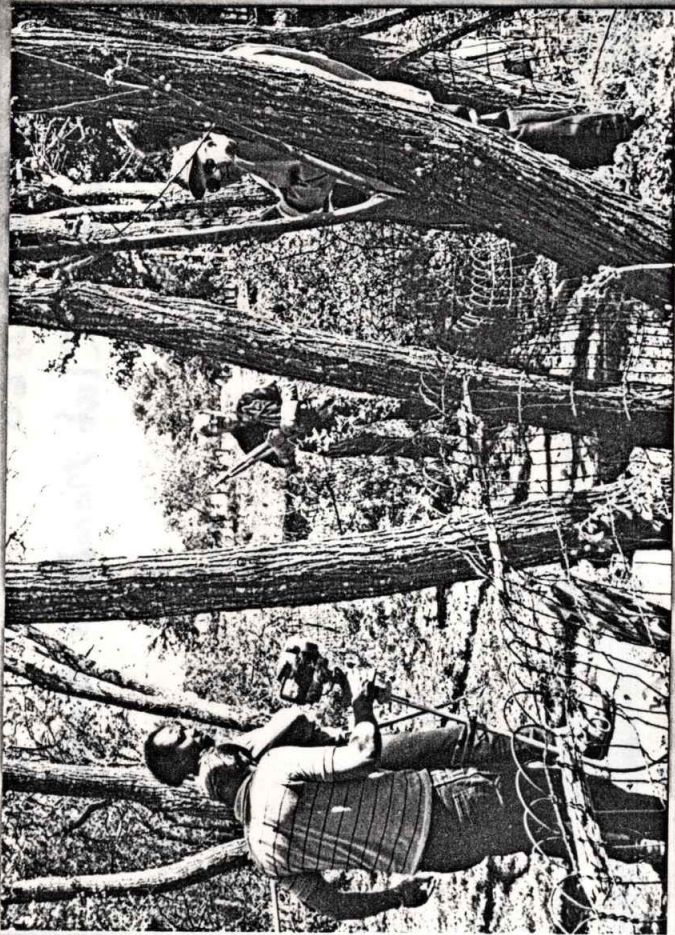


Smalley Cemetery NE of
Round Rock off FM 1460
Before Clean-Up
Luther Laubach in
foreground

Smalley Cemetery off
FM 1460
After Clean-Up

Smalley Cemetery
off FM 1460
After Cleaning small trees
Seaton's Club Members

Seaton's Club members
cleaning Smalley Cemetery
off FM 1460
WCHC member Elsie Walker
on left



Smalley Cemetery
off FM 1460
Sexton Club Members Working

Smalley Cemetery off FM 1460
Sexton Members Working
Dr. Gregory Washington,
Forquard

Smalley Cemetery off FM 1460
Sexton Member Steve Alquist
Fred Knorr

Smalley Cemetery off FM 1460
Broken Stones