

# FOX CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

PO BOX 694, KAUFMAN, TEXAS 75142

MAY 2016



Enjoy good food, hear family stories, learn a little history and make or re-visit some family connections!

**Join Us, Sunday, May 29**

## BY-LAW CHANGES

It has been exciting to see so many young people attending this gathering in the past few years and to know that future generations will be there to maintain and watch over our cemetery. It is important that we leave them both the example and the resources to do just that. Remember, ***it is your tax deductible donations that maintain this beautiful place.***

Towards that end, the by-laws have recently been changed. There will be a \$100.00 gate fee and a \$25.00 Cemetery Association fee for all future burials. A burial plot is now defined as sized 4'x12' and may contain no more than one vault and one or multiple cremation urns. These plots must be kept clear of old decorations and kept reverent by family members.

Bring a covered dish to share under the pavilion at the Fox Cemetery and come mix, mingle, share stories and ask questions. Explore the cemetery at your leisure as it always looks its best this time of year decked out in colorful remembrance flowers and garlands.

Drinks, plates and silverware are all supplied. Lunch begins with a quick business meeting at 12:30 p.m. and the food is always delicious!

## Volunteers?

Pig damage is a problem. We need to field fence against the barbed wire along the north and east lines of the new Tipton section (743') to deter the pigs. If you have fencing experience or can contribute supplies, time and/or money towards this fence, please do.

## Fence Panels

We need 7 more named panels to complete the east side of the fence. The cost to purchase a fence panel to honor a loved one is \$600 for 10 letters on one line. Each additional letter is \$5. Contact Carol Shiels.



Members of the Board are not paid and volunteer their time in this endeavor. Charges for burial are nominal and we rely on your donations as our only income. The Fox Cemetery is a private, non-profit organization. It is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(13) of the Internal Revenue Code, so that contributions to Fox Cemetery Association are considered to be charitable donations and exempt from federal income taxation to the fullest extent of the law.

***May we count on you?***



New sections for expansion.

This year the Board felt they would like to start a new tradition with our newsletters by highlighting the story of one family in the cemetery each year. Dr. Fox's story can be found on our website – [www.foxcemetery.org](http://www.foxcemetery.org), so we thought to begin this year with a great friend of Dr. Fox's. The two families intermarried greatly and are related to many in Kaufman County.

### Thomas Jefferson Priddy 1796-1876

Patriarch of the Priddy clan in Kaufman and several other Texas counties, this War of 1812 veteran was born in Halifax, Virginia, the son of Richard Priddy, a Revolutionary War soldier, and Judith Forrest. His family migrated to Bledsoe County, TN and it was from there that Thomas enlisted in the war at 16.

After the war, Thomas settled in Marion County, Alabama where he married Margaret "Peggy" Terry. Thomas was a Missionary Baptist preacher. Around 1832 he and Margaret moved to Itawamba County, Mississippi where they had the final few of their 11 children. It was there in Mississippi that Thomas met and began his lifelong friendship with Dr. Joseph Fox.

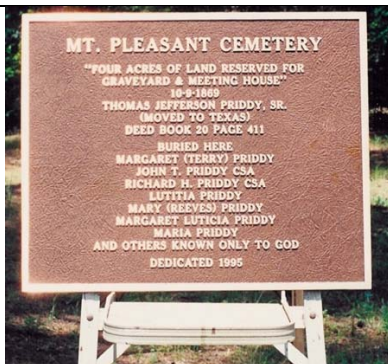
There was an 18-year separation of the friends when Dr. Fox moved his family to Kaufman County, Texas. During this separation, Thomas lost his wife and a few weeks later lost two sons in the Civil War. Each son left behind a wife and children. Soon after Thomas lost a daughter and a daughter-in-law, leaving him, at 69, the sole care-taker of 7 orphaned grandchildren, ranging in ages from 15 to 5. At 70, Thomas married once again, to Elizabeth Powers.

The family suffered some atrocities from the Union Army in Mississippi during Reconstruction. Through correspondence with his old friend Dr. Fox, Thomas would have known that there were no Union soldiers in Kaufman County, Texas. It was time to put away his sorrow and start anew in Texas himself. In 1869, just before leaving, he donated four acres of land for a graveyard and meeting house. The graveyard is Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in Itawamba County, Mississippi and contains several of Thomas' family members.

Thomas loaded up his family and their extended families in a wagon train of about 100 souls. Arriving in Kaufman County on a Sunday, Thomas preached the sermon that day. He then settled close to his old friend, Joseph Fox. Years later, in the 1930's, his daughter Elvira, wife of Joseph Fox, Jr., gave a newspaper interview about that wagon trail ride and the un-fenced, "treeless" lands that she came to at the age of 15.

Thomas' son, William Jasper Priddy, following in his dad's footsteps, became a Baptist preacher who took his family on to Hill and eventually Coleman County, Texas. Thomas Jefferson Priddy, Jr., also a Baptist preacher, served as a Texas Ranger and first postmaster in northeast Mills County in a little town called – Priddy.

According to family lore, Dr. Fox and Thomas loved to discuss the issues of the day but one topic that always provided sparks was that of Andrew Jackson. Dr. Fox disliked him, while Thomas admired him. Several of Thomas's grandchildren married Dr. Fox's children and grandchildren, further cementing their lifelong friendship. Even in death these friends remain close in the Fox Cemetery.



Marker at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery denoting Thomas' gift of the cemetery land in Itawamba County, MS



Thomas Priddy's headstone at Fox Cemetery