



**Benton County Cemetery
Preservation Group, Inc.**

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Bentonville, AR 72712

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<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~arbccpg/>

Spring 2015

1st Quarter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

2015 is already starting off very successfully with cemetery projects. Scout Riley Larson kicked off the 2015 Preservation New Year with his project to complete the cleaning of the May-Keith cemetery in Maysville, Arkansas. And other Scouts are already contacting Dorothy Miller and coordinating additional cemetery projects. These young men spend a lot of time in selecting a project, planning and outlining what is needed, organizing volunteers, and finally bring it all together for a successful cemetery cleanup. We are looking forward to seeing more projects completed this spring.

Please appreciate Diana Smith when you talk to her. She has continued maintaining flea market booths for fundraising for the BCCPG in Rogers, AR over the winter. The money being raised from the booth sales help with funding cemetery projects in Benton County. Your support has helped purchase paint, cement, fencing materials, gas for machinery, and various items needed to ensure successful completion of projects.

Since the objective of the BCCPG is to support cemetery preservation and assist our civic groups with these projects, our next meeting will be held at the Golden Corral at Pleasant Grove Rd., Rogers, AR. We will begin gathering at 7:00 AM with the meeting beginning at 7:30 AM. You do not have to eat to attend the meeting. The reason for this change is because we are assisting with two separate Boy Scout projects that morning beginning at 9:00 AM located in the Springdale area. Since several volunteers and members already meet here first before going to Bentonville, this was ideal for everyone to gather at first before departing for the cemeteries.

The Washington County Cemetery Preservation Group has also been invited to join us since one of the cemeteries is located in Washington County. This will be a wonderful opportunity to get to know each other and share information of our respective county's cemeteries.

Please let us know of any concerns you have with any of our cemeteries. Your assistance and support is always needed and always appreciated.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

Nancy Feroe





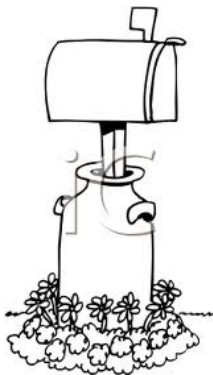
Fundraising for Cemeteries!

Diana Smith

Some of our new members may not be aware that our group has two fund raising flea market booths in Rogers. One is located at the old Dollar Saver across from the caboose in historic downtown Rogers and our newly acquired space is at This 'N' That on the corner of Hudson Road/Hwy 102 and North 4Th St . In the summer we have a garage/yard sale every Saturday just east of the tracks off Business 71 in Rogers between Post Rd and Pleasant Grove Rd at A-Z Storage. We operate on donations so when you're doing your spring cleaning keep us in mind! All donations are tax deductible.

Benton County Cemetery Preservation Group SPRING QUARTERLY MEETING 2015

You are cordially invited to attend the annual meeting of the Benton County Cemetery Preservation Group (BCCPG) to be held on March 14, 2015 at Golden Carrol, located on Pleasant Grove Rd in Rogers, AR (next to Walmart). Please plan on arriving at 7:00 am and enjoy a hearty Golden Corral breakfast with the annual meeting starting at 7:30 am. After the meeting, you are invited to attend the cleaning of two cemeteries to be done by local Boy Scouts. Your choice of which cemetery to visit, Johnson Cemetery, East of Springdale or Wildcat Cemetery West of Springdale off of old Hwy 68. More details will be announced at the meeting.



Old Mailboxes Are Needed

Dorothy Miller with the BCCPG is looking for donations of old mailboxes. They need to still be in good condition but does not need to have the flag. These mailboxes will be repainted and placed in our old cemeteries with our Group's information and contacts. There will also be a laminated list of the known burials in the cemetery. Please call Dorothy Miller at 479-721-0037, or e-mail drm5171945@yahoo.com if you have one to donate. Mailboxes can also be dropped off for the Benton County Cemetery Preservation Group at the Benton County Historical Society, 306 NW 2nd Street, Bentonville, AR, during regular office hours.

2015 Officers and Board Members

President - Nancy Feroe
Vice President - Jolene Murphy
Secretary -
Treasurer - Mike Freels
Website - Wilma Fields
Bill Degge
Dorothy Miller
Diana Smith

Have You Paid Your 2015 Dues?

Your membership in the BCCPG ensures that Benton County's cemeteries are taken care of and maintained with respect and dignity. Volunteers are always welcome and needed. The BCCPG's preservation efforts can be supported in several ways from donations of money and materials to donating time at a cemetery or helping with locating records.

May – Keith Cemetery



Riley Larsen

As the morning of February 7, 2015 dawned clear and was moderately warm in Northwest Benton County, a cheerful expedition of volunteers gathered in Gravette and began their trek to a small, historic cemetery located on the eastern side of Maysville, Arkansas, the May-Keith cemetery.

The May-Keith Cemetery holds the distinction of being the final resting place of several of the original settlers of Benton County, Arkansas. The hardy families of Runnels (Reynolds) May, his wife, Hannah (English) May, their daughter Sarah May, who had married William Keith in Lawrence County, Arkansas in 1825, and their respective siblings, settled in what later became Maysville, Arkansas around 1832 according to both family histories and the Sheriff's Census (tax records) of Washington County, Arkansas Territory. Maysville was

once a very important town in Benton County in the 1800's and the Keith and May families were well respected in the community. As with many old pioneer families, though, children and descendants move away and eventually these small cemeteries need the help of unknown strangers. And it was the "kindness of strangers" that made such a difference!

Riley Larson, an Eagle Scout candidate from Troop 660 in Rogers, Arkansas, heard the BCCPG has cemetery projects and needed help with several in Benton County. Riley contacted Dorothy Miller, our Cemetery Project Coordinator, and asked her what was needed as far as help with area cemeteries and made arrangements to meet with her to evaluate the May-Keith cemetery. After meeting with Dorothy at the cemetery and establishing the goals needing to be achieved, Riley made detailed plans for the needs of the project and began making the necessary arrangements for a successful day.

Riley made sure that he had enough people to paint the fence and posts, weed eat the heavy grass growth, remove old rotted stumps from the cemetery by hand, and carry all the dead debris in the cemetery to a location outside in the field where the landowner requested so it would not be in the cemetery. Riley also included plans for a rustic bench to be set up inside of the gate to the cemetery.



A Welcome Bench

But the heartwarming end to a successful morning was the mounting of a new sign for the May-Keith cemetery on the entrance gate. A stained glass mosaic mounted in cement clearly spells the name of the cemetery in a unique presentation that will not be altered by the elements for many years to come.

The Benton County Cemetery Preservation Group deeply appreciates of the Boy Scouts of America for their support and dedication to preserving the history of Benton County, Arkansas.



This very unique sign was made by Riley Larsen and friends for the May-Keith Cemetery. Pieces of stained glass were assembled and then placed in cement to form this eye-catching and very weather-hardy sign mounted on the entrance gate to the cemetery.



LEFT – Volunteers work hard to remove by hand an old dead stump in the cemetery.

BELOW – Riley Larsen’s volunteer crew for his project at the May-Keith Cemetery.



What About **D/2**?

By

Mike Freels

D/2 is a biological solution which is biodegradable. It is very easy to use and is recommended by most preservation groups and conservators. D/2 is an agent that easily removes stains from mold, algae, mildew, lichens, and other air pollutants. It is gentle and effectively cleans marble, granite, limestone, brownstone, wood, and yes headstones! Just spray it on the surface, followed by a little scrubbing with a soft nylon or natural bristle brush and the solution will loosen most biological and other stains caused by air pollution.

D/2 does not contain harmful compounds such as salts or acids which erode a headstone over time. It is considered non-toxic and no special ventilation is required during use. And a little goes a long way depending on the extent of the biological deposits. Typically a gallon of D/2 will treat up to 350 square feet. It also comes in 5

gallon containers and 55 gallon drums.

Using a sprayer is probably the best way to apply D/2. Wet the entire surface of the tombstone with D/2 and allow to air dry. D/2 will continue to work even after one application and you will notice results within approximately one week. Or if there are heavy biological deposits on the stone, apply D/2 with a soft bristle brush and gently remove the deposit from the surface. Rinse thoroughly with water after you finish cleaning.

D/2 has been successfully used to clean millions of buildings and monuments, including the White House and headstones in Arlington Cemetery. In fact, D/2 is used to clean over 3.5 million headstones each year. What an excellent product to use in the preservation of headstones! For more information and to purchase D/2, visit www.d2bio.com.



Photo - www.d2bio.com

**Cleaning an old stone with D/2.
Use only a soft, nylon bristle brush.**

“The AHPP recommends D/2 because we have seen the results at our cemetery preservation workshops and because it has been tested by the National Center for Preservation, Technology and Training.”

Holly Hope
Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program

Benton County Cemeteries in Need *Volunteers Are Needed!*

The BCCPG often receives phone calls and emails about cemeteries in need in NW Arkansas. One of our biggest opportunities is assisting with maintenance needs for old family cemeteries when descendants who have an interest are no longer live in the area and are too far away to be able to help with keeping it cleaned and maintained.

Are you willing to help with occasional maintenance of an old historic cemetery in Benton County? Over the past several years the BCCPG has developed a wonderful working relationship with the Boy Scouts of America and various offices in the Benton County Government to assist with a number of our old cemeteries. But we still need your help! Many of these old cemeteries are very small and would not require a lot of time keeping them maintained. Do you have a

couple of hours every 2-3 months to help preserve these old historic burial grounds?

Please contact BCCPG Board Member Dorothy Miller at 479-721-0037 if you are able to donate any time to help with maintaining the following cemeteries:

- Brady Cemetery – Hwy 59 South of Siloam Springs
- Beavers Cemetery – North West Bella Vista
- Pattishall Cemetery – South of Cave Springs
- Armstrong Cemetery – Highfill area
- Summit Cemetery – East Bella Vista
- Farrar Cemetery – West of Cave Springs

Listings of burials in these cemeteries and histories of related families are available.

“BEST PRACTICES”

The position of the BCCPG when it comes to what is considered the “best practices” to use when cleaning a cemetery and cemetery preservation is to refer our members to the online, downloadable cemetery publication, *Grave Concerns*, found at the following URL:

<http://www.arkansaspreservation.com/preservation-services/cemetery-preservation/default.aspx>

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program also offers additional information on all needed documentation for anyone wanting to list a cemetery on the National Historic Register. The BCCPG supports these preservation practices when endorsing any cemetery cleaning project and encourage our members and the public to follow these “best practices” in every cemetery project.

NOTES OF INTEREST

- Please share your stories and family records and histories relating to Benton County Cemeteries with the BCCPG. All articles should be sent to Nancy Feroe: nmferoe@aol.com.
- Dorothy Miller volunteers at the Bentonville Public Library, 405 South Main Street, Bentonville, AR, every Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:00 - 12:00 and would truly enjoy visiting with you about your cemetery in Benton County. Please stop by and see her if you would like to share information you have or would like to find out more about a particular cemetery in either Benton or Washington County. drm5171945@yahoo.com



BENTON COUNTY CEMETERY
PRESERVATION GROUP, INC.

Membership Application
Dues are \$10.00 per year

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE #: _____ E-MAIL: _____

MAIL TO:

BCCPG

PO Box 1034

Bentonville, AR 72712

The Benton County Cemetery Preservation Group, Inc. is a tax deductible, 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation founded in 1996 to preserve the cemeteries of Benton County, Arkansas.

CEMETERY INTERESTS

Website: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~arbccpg/>

E-mail: arbccpg@aol.com

