



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

P.O. Box 430
Rogers, AR 72757

Email: arbccpg@aol.com

Website:

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

Spring - 2016

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

2016 has already been very busy for the BCCPG. Cleaning and preservation projects have already started in our historic cemeteries. Since our last newsletter, the McDaniel Cemetery North of Lowell has come under the care of the BCCPG and one of our dedicated Boy Scouts adopted the cemetery for his service project. Then, at the end of January 2016, the Phagan Cemetery in Western Benton County was selected for another service project.

BCCPG's latest cemetery scheduled to be cleaned for a Boy Scouts project is the Russell or Pierce Cemetery, located 1.5 miles West of Gravette, AR just north of the intersection of Russell Corner Road and Hwy. 72W. This historic cemetery was deeded to the "Citizens of Wallace Township" by A. K. Manos and his wife, Texannah Manos, on November 20, 1888, filed for record in Deed Book 34, Page 24 in the records of Benton County, Arkansas. This cemetery is the resting place of two Confederate Civil War veterans and their extended family members. The BCCPG is seeking volunteers to assist with the maintenance of this cemetery after it has been cleaned.

Our first BCCPG meeting of the year will be held Saturday, March 12, 2016 at 9:00 A.M., 3.06 NW 2nd Street, Bentonville, AR, the headquarters of the Benton County Historical Society. Please make plans to attend as this is the Annual Meeting and Election of Officers. Mike Freels has advised us that he will be stepping down from the board as our Secretary/Treasurer although he will still be a member and supportive of the BCCPG. Mike has been involved with the establishment of the Washington County Cemetery Preservation Group (WCCPG) for the past two years and is currently serving as President. He certainly has his hands full and we wish him the best.

I am looking forward to seeing you at our meeting!

Nancy Feroe





Fundraising for Cemeteries!

Diana Smith

I am very happy to announce the opening of the BCCPG's newest resale shop located in Healing Springs, Arkansas. We have been blessed with the donation of a building located in the heart of Healing Springs located across from the old historic Healing Springs Store to be used for the BCCPG. Our plans for right now are to be open twice a month from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., weather permitting.

Your tax deductible donations are also very welcome and needed! All money raised through this shop goes to support the preservation and maintenance of our old historical cemeteries in Benton County. Your contributions provide fencing materials, posts, cement, and a host of other tools and items needed for cemetery preservation projects. Supporting the needs of service groups helping to maintain our cemeteries is very important and your contributions has made this partnership possible in Benton County.



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

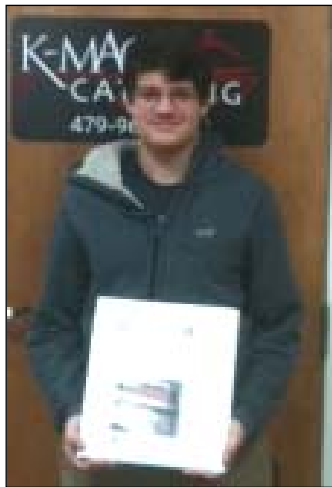
Have You Paid Your 2016 Dues?

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 so please join today!

The McDaniel Cemetery

The McDaniel Cemetery is located on Cattle Drive, Lowell, AR. Turn East at the intersection of Hwy 71B and Pleasant Grove Road, then turn South at the first right on Honeysuckle Road going about ½ mile to Cattle Drive, which turns to the left/East. Look for the new sign for the McDaniel Cemetery. Go about ¼ mile to the cemetery.

Last year the BCCPG was asked to assist with the care and maintenance of this beautiful historic cemetery by the Trustees of the McDaniel Cemetery and the board voted to take on the responsibility for the Trust. The cemetery was being mowed and was not in a serious situation of need but did need some serious attention paid to the poison ivy, saplings and underbrush that was steadily creeping out and surrounding graves along the perimeter of the cemetery.



Last October, a Scout named Jerri Bravo stepped up and asked if he could help with the cleaning needs of the McDaniel Cemetery. Along with clearing brush and debris that was growing out and over stones in the cemetery, volunteers began going through the rows of the cemetery, looking for lost grave markers. Stones were found under the ground in a number of places throughout the cemetery and brought back up to the surface and cleaned.

One marker for William Virgil Thomas, who died November 3, 1932, was nearly 8 inches underground, and had never been inventoried when the graves were listed years ago. This was a significant find as his obituary states he was buried in the Rogers Cemetery.



**The lost grave marker of Virgil W. Thomas.
Aug. 25, 1905 – Nov. 3, 1932**



**Clearing the dirt and grass
from another fallen stone.**



Another grave marker found hidden under the grass and dirt.



The benches built by Jerri Bravo and placed under the large tree in the cemetery.



Bill Degge and Dorothy Miller working to bring another lost marker to the surface.



Spraying the stones with D/2.

Please contact the BCCPG if you know of a cemetery in Benton County that needs help. The BCCPG also maintains a list of cemeteries that still need to be adopted so please consider volunteering to help with one located near you. Email arbccpg@aol.com.

The Phagan Cemetery



Jamie Grace

The Phagan Cemetery is located West of AR Hwy. 43 North of the old West Point School. Col. John Phagan, a Conductor for the Creek Indians during their removal in the 1820's, and his son, Major John W. Phagan, Confederate officer in the Civil War rest in this forgotten cemetery in Western Benton County. Fortunately the current landowners are supportive of the BCCPG's preservation efforts and have been very gracious and supporting of Jamie Grace's Scout project to clean and restore the historic Phagan Cemetery.



The Phagan Cemetery - July 18, 2015



January 30, 2016

Northwest Arkansas was blessed with a warm, beautiful day and Scout Jamie Grace and his crew went to work at the Phagan Cemetery, clearing brush and debris. Board member Dorothy Miller smiled and chuckled as she said, "I'm just staying out of their way!"



An old grave stone uncovered.

Clearing the brush, trees and vines was a major part of the cleanup. The next challenge will be finding a volunteer to help maintain this cemetery that is a part of Benton County's earliest history.



Many of these stones were set back up during the course of the cleanup and restoration project by the Scout and his volunteers. Jamie recruited approximately 30 to 40 volunteers to clean and help locate the grave markers in this cemetery.

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:

- Pierce/Russell Cemetery – 1.5 miles West of Gravette, AR off Hwy. 72
- Brady Cemetery – Hwy 59 South of Siloam Springs
- Beavers Cemetery – Northwest Bella Vista
- May-Keith Cemetery - Maysville
- Summit Cemetery – East Bella Vista
- Farrar Cemetery – West of Cave Springs

Listings of burials in these cemeteries and histories of related families are available from the BCCPG and can also be found online at:

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~arnwags/
www.findagrave.com
www.arkansasgravestones.org

“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.

PLEASE NOTE!
NEW MAILING ADDRESS
Benton County Cemetery Preservation Group
P.O. Box 430
Rogers, AR 72757



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 430
Rogers, AR 72757

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