



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

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Website:

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

Summer - 2016

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

So much has happened since our last meeting in March. The steady diet of rain has promoted a very healthy crop of grass and weeds to sprout up in our cemeteries so the BCCPG's major focus during the past three months has been MAINTENANCE along with general cleanups. Project Coordinator Dorothy Miller has a general report for everyone in this newsletter.

The Ozark Cemetery, located behind the Beaver Lake Fire Department buildings in Beaver Shores, is very fortunate to have two separate Scout projects going right now. Chase Henneesse of Troop 122 brought in a crew and did a major cleanup to clear fallen trees and hanging limbs which were all over the cemetery. They also cut young saplings and weeded the cemetery. Scott Eagleson plans to make a nice gravel walkway to the cemetery and is working on platting the graves and creating a plat map for referencing the burials.

I would like to recognize a new volunteer, James Skinner, who graciously offered his services and adopted the Grimes Cemetery close to Pea Ridge. All of our volunteers' efforts are deeply appreciated. The Mechanized Cavalry is again taking care of Stoney Point and Woods cemeteries this year. They did share with us that they have held off mowing the Woods cemetery until the baby deer living there are bigger. Some still had spots on them.

The Russell Cemetery west of Gravette is scheduled by Scout Hunter Hawkins in mid July and plans are being made to clean the historic McCraw cemetery off Benson Road. Please consider volunteering to help maintain any of our historic cemeteries in Benton County. YOU make the difference!

Our next BCCPG board meeting is scheduled September 10, 2016, 9:00 AM, at the Benton County Historical Society headquarters, 306 NW 2nd St., Bentonville, AR. Please make plans to attend and share your concerns, plans and updates on any of our Benton County cemeteries.

Nancy Feroe



Fundraising for Benton County Cemeteries!

GARAGE SALE

9:00 – 3:00

*SATURDAY'S
WEATHER PERMITTING*

Located 3 miles west of Cave Springs on Hwy. 264 in Healing Springs

Home Décor, Collector Dolls, Books, CD's, Clothes & Shoes and many other miscellaneous items. Your tax deductible donation is always welcome!

Information – Diana Smith 479-721-2978

All proceeds raised through this volunteer fundraiser supports preservation and maintenance of our old historical cemeteries in Benton County. Your contributions provide fencing materials, posts, cement, cleaner for stones, and a host of other tools and items needed for cemetery preservation projects. Supporting the needs of our local Scouts, service groups and private individuals who are helping maintain these our cemeteries is very important and your contributions have made this partnership possible in Benton County. The BCCPG is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization staffed totally by volunteers.



AmazonSmile – You shop. Amazon gives.

When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates to your favorite charitable organization.



The BCCPG was recently presented with the opportunity to become a recipient of donations from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a recognized 501(c)3 non profit organization. When you shop online through AmazonSmile.com, 0.5% of your eligible purchases are donated to a charitable organization of your choice. Please choose the BCCPG and help support Benton County cemeteries. For more information: <http://org.amazon.com>

2016 Officers and Board Members

**President - Nancy Feroe
Secretary - Jolene Murphy
Treasurer – Diana Smith
Website - Wilma Fields
Bill Degge
Dorothy Miller**

Have You Paid Your 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 Ozark Cemetery



Chase Hennessee

The Ozark Cemetery is quietly nestled behind the Beaver lake Fire Department's Headquarters in Beaver Shores. It cannot be seen from driving by on the road and visitors need to park in the grassy area East of the fire department. It is only a very short walk around the building and the Ozark Cemetery comes into view as it gently slopes downward under a canopy of trees. It covers well over an acre and the graves are spread out, some grouped with different family members.

Ozark had been hit hard with a lot of limbs that had fallen from dead trees during the past several years and a lot of dead debris covered the cemetery. The rocky hillside also makes maintenance more challenging as rocks seem to grow from nothing when cleaning.

The BCCPG is working with two different Scout projects on this project. Dorothy Miller reports that Chase Hennessee, Troop 122, volunteered to organize a cemetery cleaning project at Ozark. Chase and his group of volunteers began gathering at Ozark the morning of May 7, 2016, and soon began



Volunteers picking up limbs covering graves in the Ozark Cemetery

working on achieving their mission. Within an hour a large pile of dead tree limbs and logs had been stacked at an area designated outside of the cemetery by the Beaver Lake Fire Department. Soon more volunteers arrived and began the detailed tasks of cutting small saplings and brush that were beginning to sprawl across over the grounds. The ferns and flowers already evident in many areas of the cemetery were left and more concentrated efforts were made cleaning around the gravesites. The Ozark cemetery is now much easier to walk through to find the grave you are seeking.

Scout Scott Eagleson will be featured in our next BCCPG Newsletter. His project is building a gravel walkway to the cemetery so it is much easier to access and platting the cemetery and grave sites. Scott plans to install a sign at the cemetery of the plat map.



One of the final resting places in the Ozark Cemetery

During the cleanup, a Benton County area fireman who was conducting a training class at the Beaver Lake Fire Department, came back to the cemetery and visited with Nancy Feroe, Dorothy Miller and Bill Degge about the Ozark cemetery and asking about its caretaker/maintenance. When he was told that it had no caretaker which is why the BCCPG was working with the Scouts to get it cleaned, he offered to talk to his group about adopting the Ozark Cemetery. The BCCPG is very appreciative and thankful for this generous offer.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The BCCPG board members make every effort to make regular rounds of the cemeteries in Benton County, but with over 315 known burial locations, it can be hard to get to all of them on a regular basis. Please contact us at 417-721-0037 if you know of a cemetery in need of cleaning, fencing, or other needs.

The Dorothy Miller Report

Board member Dorothy Miller coordinates cemetery cleanup projects for the BCCPG. She works with Scouts, service organization's, local and county governments and private citizens to ensure Benton County's cemeteries are being preserved and maintained. There are still several cemeteries that need adopting so please contact 479-721-0037 if you would like to help. Or, stop by the Bentonville Public Library, Tuesday or Wednesday from 9:00 – 12:00, to visit with Dorothy on how you can help.

Bill Degge and I have been making regular rounds to some of the cemeteries and want to share the following updates:

The Armstrong Cemetery is being taken care of very well by a local landowner. I am very appreciative of their support maintaining this cemetery located close to Highfill.

James Skinner has now volunteered to assist with the maintenance of the Grimes Cemetery near Pea Ridge.

Gary Black and Linda Norman are coordinating a project to fence the Ricketts Cemetery off of Price Coffee Road East of Bentonville along Sugar Creek.

Mowing was recently done by volunteers at the Brady, May-Keith,, Post Oak, Rickets and Stoney Point cemeteries.

I am very sad to report that Jack Allen, a long-time caretaker of the Summit Cemetery in Bella Vista, recently died in a tragic accident while riding his bicycle. Jack was very supportive of the BCCPG and active in preserving Bella Vista's history. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

Please consider volunteering to help with any of the BCCPG projects. Assistance is needed with coordinating the Boy Scout cemetery projects along with volunteering to help with general upkeep of our old historic cemeteries.

We also need your help assessing the current needs of Benton County cemeteries. When you are visiting a rural cemetery that has no caretaker or association overseeing its care, and you see broken stones and general repair needs, let us know so we can make a list of needed repairs.

***YOU make the difference!
Preserve Our Cemeteries!***

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
- Beaver Cemetery – Northwest Bella Vista
- May-Keith Cemetery - Maysville
- 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.

SAVE the DATE!
Please join us at our next meeting
September 10, 2016
9:00 AM, 306 NW 2nd St.
Bentonville, AR



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

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