



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

P.O. Box 430
Rogers, AR 72757

Email: arbccpg@aol.com

Website:

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

Summer ~ Winter 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

I apologize for the delay of the 2015 newsletter and have combined the remaining information for a final 2015 Edition. This past Spring I began experiencing difficulty in focusing in general and was diagnosed with cataracts that were growing rapidly. I was so blessed to have an excellent surgeon and am now experiencing enjoying the world around me again with full eyesight.

Meanwhile, so many good things have continued to happen with Benton County cemetery preservation. And this is due to our volunteers who continue to work so hard organizing the Boy Scouts of America projects for Eagle Scout merit badges and service awards. Another group has also stepped forward and adopted two of our early historical cemeteries, Stoney Point and Woods cemeteries.

Ralph Wilcox and Callie Williams from the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program in Little Rock presented a great program on nominating cemeteries to the National Historic Register on Saturday, September 26 at the Bentonville Public Library. Their training included all the details needed to complete the application with its required documentation and gave everyone a much better understanding of the nomination process.

Your assistance is always needed in keeping a watchful eye on our rural and abandoned cemeteries. If you live close to one, please go by and check on it occasionally and let us know what you find. Our Facebook page is a great way to help get the message out to others about these cemeteries. It is so helpful when members post undated photos of our different cemeteries and share concerns letting us know where the needs are right now.

Thank you so much for supporting the preservation of our cemeteries in Benton County. Please join us at our next meeting on December 12, 2015, 9 AM, at the Benton County Historical Society, 306 NW 2nd St. , Bentonville, AR

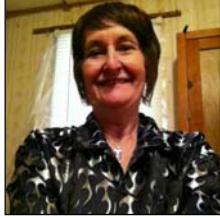


Photo - Michael Freels

Ralph Wilcox and Callie Williams

Nancy Feroe

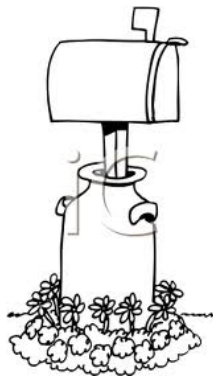




Fundraising for Cemeteries!

Diana Smith

I am sad to announce that the BCCPG's fundraising booth at the old Dollar Saver store across from the Old Caboose in historic downtown Rogers, will be closing by the end of October. The building has been sold and so I am looking for a new home for our next booth. I want to thank all of our great members and others in the public who have donated so much to fill our booth over the past year. All money raised from the booth sales goes towards buying equipment and supplies for area cemetery cleanups and all donations are tax deductible. Our latest general yard sale was held on September 12 along Hudson Road/Hwy. 102 in Rogers across from the Pig Trail Harley Davidson Store. It was very successful and I want to thank everyone who came by to see us. We will continue with weekend sales at this location for the next several weeks, weather permitting. We have lots of great items for sales from drums, furniture, household items and seasonal decorations. Thank you for supporting and preserving our Benton County cemeteries.



Old Mailboxes Are Still 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 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.

The Armstrong Cemetery



The BCCPG again extends our deep appreciation to Chandler Hatch, a young man who adopted the cleanup of the Armstrong Cemetery for his service badge from the Boy Scouts of America. The Armstrong cemetery is located in the Highfill, Arkansas area about ½ East of the junction of Hwy. 12 and Armstrong Cemetery Road.

Chandler first contacted Dorothy Miller in early 2015 asking about cemeteries in need and the Armstrong Cemetery had just been placed on BCCPG's list for assistance. The previous caretakers were no longer able to continue maintaining the cemetery and had asked for help. A tree had died and was falling on the fence along with becoming overgrown.

After meeting with Ms. Miller and assessing the cemetery's needs, Chandler coordinated a clean-up day at the cemetery. April 11, 2015 was designated and Chandler showed with quite a group that morning. The adjacent landowner graciously allowed Chandler and his Troop to camp overnight nearby so they were able to start early, despite the threat of rain.



Photograph – Michael Freels

The Armstrong Cemetery as it looked on February 14, 2015



Lots of cheerful help soon made quick work of hauling out the fallen tree limbs, eliminating the overgrown brush and grass that had taken over and painting the nice pipe fence that encloses the cemetery,. By mid afternoon, most of the volunteers had left, leaving Chandler and his family to tend to the final, small details. The brush debris and old tree remnants had been burned in a designated area adjacent to the cemetery and the remnants of the fire dealt with before leaving.

The BCCPG is so appreciative of these young men who care about our cemeteries and want to make a difference in their maintenance and upkeep. They approach their projects with a lot of thought and careful consideration regarding the actual needs of each cemetery individually, and create plans that work.

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.



Chandler made this unique sign for the Armstrong Cemetery using pieces of stained glass set in a concrete base. Holes were included at the top so that the sign could be hung from the pipe across the top of the gate. The combination of materials used will ensure that it stands up to the test of sun, wind, rain and freezing weather for many years.



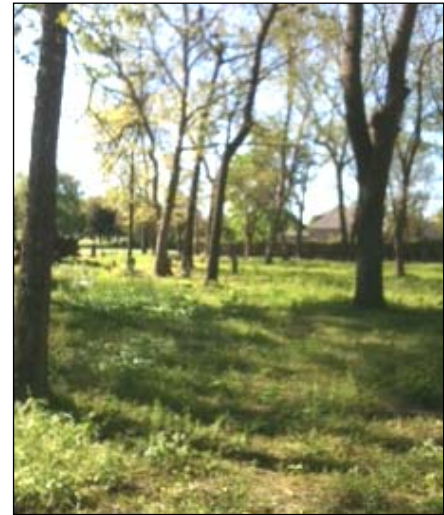
The Armstrong Cemetery - April 11, 2015

Since Chandler's clean-up in April, a nearby landowner has contacted Dorothy Miller and offered to keep the Armstrong Cemetery mowed. The BCCPG deeply appreciates these "Angels" who come forward and help continue this much needed maintenance of our historic Benton County cemeteries.

The Woods Cemetery

The Woods cemetery is another one of Benton County's early historical cemeteries which is now nestled in the middle of the David Cawthorn Subdivision, Little Flock. Now completely surrounded by houses that eliminated the normal, acceptable legal access needed for vehicular traffic, this cemetery has its challenges in our endeavor to keep it maintained and presentable.

Slightly over ½ acre in size, the Woods Cemetery has burials as early as 1840, although it was not deeded as a cemetery until October 24, 1890, when J. N. Woods and Nancy Ann Woods conveyed the land known as the Woods Family Cemetery as a public burying ground, which was recorded January 29, 1891 in Benton County Deed Book 35, Page 121. The last known burial was Celina Woods, wife of James



**Woods Cemetery
May 1, 2014**



**Woods Cemetery
August 8, 2014**

The gate to the cemetery was blocked with a wooden privacy fence. The BCCPG can not get a riding lawn mower into the cemetery.



In July, Dorothy Miller was contacted by a local volunteer group looking for a way to help preserve local Benton County history. After discussing the need for volunteers to help with cemeteries, several individuals met with Dorothy Miller and Bill Degge and went with them on a tour of two local historic cemeteries, learning about the important contributions made by the men and women buried in them to the original establishment of Benton County. Within two weeks they began working on the Woods, transforming the overgrown cemetery from unkempt to peaceful and inviting. The BCCPG deeply appreciates and salutes the "Riders," for their commitment to preserving Benton County. They have also adopted Stoney Point Cemetery, SE of Rogers off of Old Wire Road.



LEFT – This photo was taken at the beginning of the clean-up. A large dead tree has fallen over but has not damaged any of the stones.

RIGHT – Another view of the Southeast corner taken later in the day. There is still a lot of brush still to be cleared in the background.



BELOW – Order from chaos reigns at the end of the day.



Photographs Courtesy of the Riders

These photographs were taken on August 1, 2015, after the clean-up by a local volunteer group, the “Riders”, who have has adopted the Woods 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:

- 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