

COKER CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Progress Report 1857-1995

Tragedy fell on the Coker family September 24, 1857 when Loucious Monroe Coker six year son of Mr. James Harrison and Mrs. Sarah Jane Coker, died from a rattlesnake bite. Little Loucious's Grand father Mr. Joseph Coker offered to put the grave on his property. A High knoll near the Salado Creek was selected to mark little Loucious's grave. Mr. Amos D. Jones was asked to chisel a large limestone headstone. The limestone headstone is still standing and the largest monument in the Cemetery.

Four years later, January 4, 1861 Mr. John "Jack" Coker hero of the Battle of Jacinto died.

This became the second grave on the property that Mr. Joseph Coker had set aside for a grave yard for the family.

For the next 138 years members who had someone buried in the Cemetery and volunteers have been cleaning and caring for the Cemetery grounds. Family members volunteered on an annual basis and their ladies brought picnic lunches for the volunteers. Only recently have we had a caretaker.

In the early thirty's {30's} Mrs. Clara Shannon Miller saw the need of a water well for the Cemetery.

Mrs. Clara Miller spent many hours raising funds for this purpose by soliciting donations and serving many Mexican food dinners. She accomplished her task. The water well was drilled in the year 1933 and still used today. In the late depression years ,about 1938, A man Mr. "Tex" Sullivan came to the Cemetery and asked the trustees, Mr. D. T. Harrison, Mr. Edward Kelly and Mr. Luther Townsend for permission to hunt rattlesnakes on the cemetery grounds. Without hesitation he was given permission.

For years Mr. Sullivan lived in a tent on Cemetery grounds and caught rattlesnakes. These snakes were sold to the snake garden near Brackenridge Park.

Mr. Sullivan earned extra money by cleaning and caring for member's graves. Mr. Royce Jones and Mr. Ray Williams in 1964 were elected to serve on the Board of trustees of Coker Cemetery along with Mr. Edward Kelly and Mr. Luther Townsend. Mr. Royce Jones was then elected to serve as secretary and Mr. Ray Williams was elected to serve as treasurer.

Mr. Luther Townsend transferred the Balance \$785.11 Coker Cemetery funds to Mr. Ray Williams, Treasurer. August 7, 1967 A special meeting with forty members present was called.

