

SAVE AUSTIN'S CEMETERIES

Spring 2020 Newsletter

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Inside this Issue:

Texas Independence Day Tour

Calling for Volunteers: Texas
Independence Tours

SAC Membership Drive

Book Talk with Ed Crowell

African American Genealogy
Conference

Oakwood Chapel Happenings

SAC Spring Volunteer
Opportunities

AGS Conference in Austin June

Newsletter Editors:

Megan Spencer
Leslie Wolfenden

Texas Independence Day Tour by Austin PARD

Save Austin's Cemeteries in collaboration with the Oakwood Chapel will be hosting the "Texas Independence Day Tour" event. On April 25, costumed actors will bring to life stories of those who participated in the founding the Texas Republic. The tours will take place from 10 am to 2 pm with the **last tour leaving at 1:00 pm**. Each tour lasts approximately one hour and leave on the half hour. The tours are free and open to the public. Free and open to the public. Golf cart tours are available for those with mobility concerns.



In the fall of 1835, revolution was stirring in Texas. Over the course of eight short months, the Texians won their independence from Mexico and established the Republic of Texas. We will hear stories of James and John Swisher, John C. Duval, Mary Rabb, Susanna Dickinson, E. M. Pease, Washington Anderson, and Francis Dieterich, and learn about their efforts in the fight for Texas Independence. Please join us to hear about the first shots of the Revolution fired at Gonzales, the Runaway Scrape, the Fall of the Alamo, the Goliad Massacre and the surrender at San Jacinto.

Calling for Volunteers for Texas Independence Tours by Jan Root

Our Texas Independence Tour at Oakwood Cemetery on April 25 needs volunteers. We are looking for folks to help at the sign-in table, sell our SAC merchandise, set up tents and tables and stay afterwards to help clean up. Since this tour isn't an all-day affair, we are asking for people to work a four-hour shift, but we would be more than happy to have volunteers for two-hour shifts. The actual tour is from 10:00 am-1:00 pm. Whatever time you want to contribute is very appreciated. Please contact info@sachome.org if you'd like to volunteer and help us make this another successful SAC tour!

Texas Independence Day Tour

Save Austin's Cemeteries Presents:

In the fall of 1835, revolution was stirring in Texas. Over the course of eight short months, the Texians won their independence from Mexico and established the **Republic of Texas**. Many of these courageous men and women are buried at Historic Oakwood Cemetery.

In celebration of **San Jacinto Day**, **Save Austin's Cemeteries** and the Oakwood Chapel will host the **Texas Independence Day Tour**.

Costumed actors will bring to life stories of those who participated in the founding of the Republic. Please join us to hear about the first shots of the Revolution fired at **Gonzales**, the **Runaway Scrape**, the **Fall of the Alamo**, the **Goliad Massacre** and the surrender at **San Jacinto**.

Saturday, April 25, 2020
10:00am - 1:00pm

Tours last approximately an hour, and begin every half hour starting at 10:00am; the last tour begins at 1:00pm. Golf cart tours for those with mobility concerns.

Free and open to the public

www.SAChome.org

SAVE AUSTIN'S
CEMETERIES



OAKWOOD CEMETERY Chapel

The people who made Austin are at Oakwood Cemetery. We are united here in search of love, life and meaning.

Wednesday - Sunday, Noon - 5:00pm

Free admission and parking

1601 Navasota Street, Austin, Texas 78702

(512) 978-2310



The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. For assistance please contact (512) 974-3914 or Relay Texas 7-1-1.

austintexas.gov/oakwoodchapel

Save Austin's Cemeteries Membership Drive by Kay Dunlap Boyd

It's that time again! Pull out your wallets, credit cards, and checkbooks because Save Austin's Cemeteries has a bargain just for you. The Board of Directors voted to reduce the annual membership fee to a mere \$20.00 per year and \$15.00 for students and seniors (over 60). If you are not sure if you have renewed for 2020, please contact us at info@sachome.org.

As you consider this new discount, here are a few reasons to join SAC and/or maintain your membership:

- We work to memorialize and honor all those interred in five City of Austin cemeteries, whether an individual has a marker or not.
- We research family and individual histories.
- We work with the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department on identifying and completing improvement projects. Several new projects have been identified for this year.
- We have volunteer projects each month as part of our preservation mission.
- We hold a least two cemetery tours each year, Texas History in the Spring and Murder Mayhem and Misadventure in October.
- We work with the Oakwood Chapel on special events.
- In addition to all these wonderful things that we do, we have fun together! You just can't beat having fun!

You can now become a member using a link on Save Austin's Cemeteries website. It is a temporary page, but it serves the purpose until we get our new improved website up. If you wish to use PayPal, please fill out the online form and make your membership donation here: <https://www.sachome.org/join/join.html> If you prefer to mail your membership donation, please make your check payable to "Save Austin's Cemeteries" with a completed membership form to: Save Austin's Cemeteries, PO Box 16411, Austin, Texas 78761. (Please see the last page of the newsletter for the Membership Form).

Book Talk with Ed Crowell, Author of *Barton Creek* by Megan Spencer

Have you ever wondered where the crystal-clear waters of Barton Creek originate? That's what author Ed Crowell wanted to know. He spent two years walking the creek starting from where it empties into the Colorado River to its headwaters on private land northwest of Dripping Springs. It is about fifty circuitous miles from the headwaters of the creek to the Colorado. The book, *Barton Creek*, captures his experience. Ed and photographer, Alberto Martinez, joined us at Oakwood Chapel for a book talk on December 7, 2019.

Ed describes the geography and the political history of Barton Creek. He talked with many landowners who showed him their land bordering the creek and shared the history of their place. Ed met scientists and conservationists who monitor the well-being of the salamanders living in Barton Springs and the aquifer. He walked through native habitats to see the environment of the Golden-cheeked Warbler and the Black-capped Vireo, both endangered species.



Emphasizing the importance of conserving Barton Creek, the book describes the conservation struggles of the 1980s, 1990s, and early 2000s when pollution of the creek's water caused by run-off from development, repeatedly closed Barton Springs Pool. If you lived here in the early 1990s, you might remember the Barton Springs "uprising" and an all-night City Council meeting with more than 800 citizens who signed up to speak about conserving the springs and the creek.

Robert Redford's grandparents lived in Austin and he stayed with them during summers when he was growing up. His grandparents introduced him to Barton Springs Pool when he was very young, and it is where he learned to swim. Redford returned to Austin in the 1990s and helped address the development happening over the aquifer which threatened Barton Springs. His film *The Unforeseen* (2007) documents these conservation efforts.

Ed also addresses current environmental threats. Development continues in sensitive environments northwest of Dripping Springs and near Bee Cave. Thankfully, about fifty percent of Barton Creek is in land conservation. Families along Barton Creek, who own land passed down to them, are ardent conservationists.

There is an important burial site on private land (in conservation) owned by the Doerr family. Ed visited the gravesite and learned the sad story of an early Texas pioneer, Lorenzo D. Moore, who was probably the last man killed by Indians in Hays County. His small "dog trot" style home built in 1868 still stands. Lorenzo is buried in a private family cemetery nearby. His marker reads:

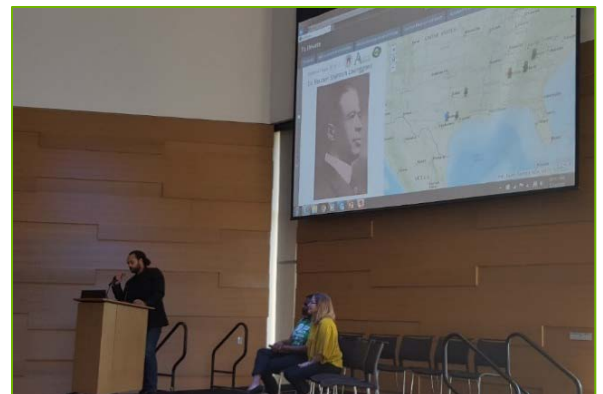
L.D. Moore
Killed by Indians
1817 - 1872

Alberto's photos of the creek are stunning. There is a very fine hand-painted map of Barton Creek by Molly O'Halloran inside the book's front and back covers. If you missed Ed's talk, you can get a copy of his book at BookPeople. It is also available on Amazon.

Inaugural *Growing Your Roots* African American Genealogy Conference: From the Organizer's Perspective by kYmberly Keeton

The Inaugural *Growing Your Roots* 2020 African American Genealogy Conference was a blast! We had close to 1,000 registrants for the four-day conference that opened up this year's Black History Month festivities for the Austin History Center & Austin Public Library. The conference welcomed people from as far as Louisiana to the first conference focusing on African American genealogy in the state of Texas. As the conference organizer, I am beyond elated about what participants took away from the conference and where it will go in the future. I look forward to continuing to offer genealogy workshops, individual sessions, and planning the next conference

Insert by Jennifer Chenoweth: The Austin History Center produced the first inaugural African American Genealogy Conference "Growing Your Roots" January 30 – February 2, 2020 at locations around Austin. Save Austin's Cemeteries helped Chapel staff research and present "To Elevate" on the legacy of Dr. Reuben Shannon Lovinggood and Huston-Tillotson University. The project republishes Dr. Arro Smith's research on African-American funeral homes and cemeteries.



You can see “To Elevate” at the link below, which will develop further into a future exhibit with events at the Chapel. <http://www.austintexas.gov/page/oakwood-cemetery-chapel-resources>

Oakwood Chapel Happenings by Jennifer Chenoweth

“Caminar (To Walk)” has been a meaningful exhibit with one more event to come. On December 21, Danza Aztec Mexica performed a “Dance of the Four Corners” ceremony to remember the Tejanos and Mexican Americans buried at Oakwood. We also walked the perimeter of the Cemetery and read aloud the 900+ names of people with Mexican heritage buried here. In February, Mary Jane Aranda spoke about the traditions of Tamaladas in her family, and showed a tamale quilt she has been sewing.



Upcoming on March 7, Robert Ojeda and the Bronze Band will perform traditional Mexican American music as a processional. Later that day, there will be an action of remembrance by Francisco Gonzalez, to be followed by screenings of films “Hundiré en el jardín mis manos” by Mayra Silva and “Building the American Dream” by Chelsea Hernandez.

The Winter digital history exhibit “Caminar” can be found online, along with other projects, on the Oakwood Cemetery Chapel’s website here:

<http://www.austintexas.gov/page/oakwood-cemetery-chapel-resources>

Karen Eshliman is a tour guide at Oakwood Chapel and SAC member. We are promoting guided tours at the cemetery on weekend days when Karen is working. We are encouraging SAC members to help guide tours as docents. Sign up for tours on Eventbrite here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/93528071981>

Contact Jennifer if you would like to volunteer helping with Oakwood Cemetery tours on the weekends at Jennifer.chenoweth@austintexas.gov

Our Spring exhibition “To Hear” appreciates Austin’s musicians, including the Besserer Orchestra, the Gant Family, and Ernie Mae Crafton Miller. They played in music halls such as Scholz Garten, Pressler Beer Garden, and the New Orleans Club.

Saturday, March 21, 2020, 2:00 pm

Michael Corcoran and Tim Kerr launch their new book: *Ghost Notes: Pioneering Spirits of Texas Music*.

Saturday, April 18, 2020, Noon

Join us at the Oakwood Cemetery Annex for the dedication of the Texas historical marker for the Gant Family. Following the dedication, we will learn more about the Gant Family and the importance of the John and Alan Lomax recordings by Michael Corcoran in the Chapel with a musical performance by Kevin Russell.

To Hear

The Oakwood Chapel spring exhibit appreciates Austin's musicians including the **Besserer Orchestra**, the **Gant Family**, and **Ernie Mae Crafton Miller**. They played in music halls such as Scholz Garten, Pressler Beer Garden, and the New Orleans Club.

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Saturday, April 18, 2020, Noon

Join us at the **Oakwood Cemetery Annex** for the dedication of the Texas historical marker for the **Gant Family**. Following the dedication we will learn more about the **Gant Family** and the importance of the **Lomax** recordings by **Michael Corcoran** in the **Chapel** with a performance of songs by **Kevin Russell**.



ELLA



ETHER, ADO & NEPHI



MAMA & NEPHI

The Gant Family



TROVESTA, ELLA & GEORGIA



TROVESTA

OAKWOOD CEMETERY *Chapel*

The people who made Austin are at Oakwood Cemetery. We are united here in search of love, life and meaning.

Wednesday - Sunday, Noon - 5:00pm
free admission and parking

1601 Navasota Street, Austin, Texas 78702
(512) 978-2310



Ernie Mae Crafton Miller

Backstage at the Apollo Theatre, July 1945. Ernie Mae Crafton Miller played baritone sax before trading reeds for the piano. Photo from 'Take-Off: American All-Girl Bands During WWII'



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austintexas.gov/oakwoodchapel

Save Austin's Cemeteries Spring Volunteer Opportunities - Please join us for these opportunities

by Melissa Rogers

It's My Park Day (IMPD) is Austin's biggest city-wide volunteer event that takes place the first Saturdays in March and November. On March 7 from 9 AM to noon, there are three volunteer opportunities, two at Oakwood Cemetery and one at Austin Memorial Park. Be sure to sign up to get your free t-shirt and snacks.

Footstone Resetting: In cooperation with the City of Austin, SAC will be resetting footstones at **Oakwood Cemetery**. Monthly workdays will be on the first Saturday of each month of each month. The first workday is scheduled for March 7, 2020, 10 am - noon as part of It's My Park Day.

<https://www.givepulse.com/event/166440-Oakwood-Cemetery-Footstone-Resetting-Project>. If you have questions, please contact us at info@SACHome.org.

Photo Documentation: The Photo Documentation Project continues March 7th from 9 am - noon at **Oakwood Cemetery** for It's My Park Day. <https://www.givepulse.com/event/166435-Oakwood-Cemetery-Photo-Documentation>. Please bring your camera and USB cord (or we can partner you with someone who has one). Please wear closed-toes shoes and dress for the weather. If you can't make it this time, we hold photo documentation session every first Saturday of the month through May.

General Clean up and Maintenance Activities: In cooperation with the City of Austin, SAC Volunteers who wish to participate in It's My Park Day on March 7, but are not interested in either photo documentation or footstone resetting can go to **Austin Memorial Park** and work with Cemetery Operations on projects to clean up and beautify AMP. <https://www.givepulse.com/event/166355-Austin-Memorial-Park-Beautification-Project>.

Texas Independence Day Tour: Please join us for our second Annual Texas Independence Day Tour. Volunteers for actors, tour guides, entertainers, Sign In, Information, and Sales tables are needed. We also need set-up and clean-up crews. The tour will be on Saturday, **April 25** from 10 am - 1 pm. If you are able to help, please contact us at info@SACHome.org.

On-line Merchandise Sales: SAC is planning to sell merchandise through its webpage. We are looking for an individual who would be responsible for shipping merchandise to purchasers. If you are interested, please let us know at info@SACHome.org.

We hope to see you soon!

Association for Gravestone Studies Annual Conference June 23-28 by Carlyn Hammons, Texas Historical Commission

Austin will host the Association for Gravestone Studies annual conference June 23-28. This is the first time the organization's conference will be held in Texas. The conference attracts attendees from around the world to discuss the study, documentation, and preservation of all things connected to cemetery and gravestone studies. Each June, enthusiasts join together for an enjoyable, informative and fun five days of learning and camaraderie. From breakfast discussions to late night presentations, the AGS annual conference is more than the typical scholarly meeting - it is an experience.

This should be wonderful opportunity for us to meet with and exchange ideas with people from all parts of the U.S. and beyond who are researching and preserving cemeteries. Typical attendees are cemetery managers,

conservators, historians, advocates, preservationists, students, and others who practice, research, and promote gravestone studies.

There will be variety of sessions, lectures, workshops, field sessions, and tours that address all aspects of gravestones, cemeteries, and other closely related topics—including preservation issues, carver studies, marker styles and motifs, burial practices, surveys, individual histories, etc. Wednesday field trips will feature numerous Austin cemeteries, while Saturday features two different bus tours—one to cemeteries in the Texas Hill Country, another to cemeteries in communities east of Austin. In addition, professional conservators will lead a two-day workshop on how to properly document, clean, repair, and reset stone grave markers.



Registration for the conference will open soon. In the meantime, a couple of deadlines to note:

- March 1 is the deadline to submit a session proposal. This is a great opportunity to show off your research and get feedback from others.
- March 31 is the deadline to apply for a generous student scholarship, which includes full conference registration, all meals, housing, and an extra \$200 cash prize. All graduate and undergraduate students at an accredited college or university are invited to submit a scholarship application.

Find session proposal forms, scholarship applications and registration information at <https://www.gravestonestudies.org/conferences/annual-conference>.

About AGS:

The Association for Gravestone Studies (AGS) was founded in 1977 for the purpose of furthering the study and preservation of gravestones. AGS is an international organization with an interest in grave markers of all periods and styles. Through its publications, conferences, workshops and exhibits, AGS promotes the study of gravestones from historical and artistic perspectives, expands public awareness of the significance of historic grave markers, and encourages individuals and groups to record and preserve gravestones. At every opportunity, AGS cooperates with groups that have similar interests.

SAC on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter

You can follow Save Austin's Cemeteries on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. These links will take you to Save Austin's Cemeteries.

Facebook (link to: <https://www.facebook.com/SaveAustinsCemeteries/>)

Instagram (link to: <https://www.instagram.com/save.atx.cemeteries/>)

Twitter (link to: <https://twitter.com/SaveATXCemetery/>)

Submit an Article to the SAC E-newsletter

If you would like to submit an article to the SAC e-newsletter, please send your article or idea to info@sachome.org.

SAC Board Meetings

If you are interested the city's cemeteries and would like to attend a board meeting, please contact info@sachome.org to confirm the time and place of the next board meeting.

Calendar

Please join us for these upcoming events!

Mar 7	Oakwood Chapel – Traditional music procession <i>El Sacrificio</i> – Robert Ojeda & the Bronze Band at 9:00 AM.
Mar 7	Oakwood Chapel – Action of remembrance by Francisco Gonzales; followed by screening of films by Mayra Silva and by Chelsea Hernandez at noon.
Mar 7	Photo Documentation 9:00 AM – noon for <i>It's My Park Day</i> at Oakwood Cemetery
Mar 7	Footstone resetting 10:00 AM – noon for <i>It's My Park Day</i> at Oakwood Cemetery
Mar 7	General cleanup 9 AM – noon for <i>It's My Park Day</i> at Austin Memorial Park
Mar 19 - Jun 19	Oakwood Chapel Spring Exhibit, "To Hear," appreciates Austin's musicians, including the Besserer Orchestra, the Gant Family, and Ernie Mae Crafton Miller.
Mar 21	Oakwood Chapel - Michael Corcoran and Tim Kerr launch their new book: <i>Ghost Notes: Pioneering Spirits of Texas Music</i> at 2:00 PM.
Apr 18	Oakwood Chapel - Dedication of the Texas historical marker for the Gant Family, followed by a talk about the Gant Family, the importance of the Lomax recordings and a musical performance at noon.
Apr 25	Oakwood Cemetery - Texas Independence Tours 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Last tour leaves at 1:00 PM.
June 23-28	Texas Historical Commission - Association for Gravestone Studies Annual Conference

If you would like to stop receiving SAC emails, or if you have updated contact information, please send an email to info@sachome.org.



Save Austin's Cemeteries

Membership Application (January to December)

Save Austin's Cemeteries is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization

Membership Year 2020

Enclosed is my tax-deductible membership contribution to Save Austin's Cemeteries.

- \$ 20 Individual
- \$ 15 Student (with copy of current ID)
- \$ 15 Senior (60+ years of age)
- \$ 500 Lifetime Membership
- \$ _____ Other (_____)

-
- My check is enclosed (please make check payable to Save Austin's Cemeteries and mail to PO Box 16411, Austin, Texas, 78761)
 - I prefer to charge my membership (go to <https://www.sachome.org/join/join.html> to use your credit card or Pay Pal)

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Email:

Phone (optional: indicate preferred number)

- Cell:
- Home:

Do you have ancestors buried at any of the city cemeteries, if so, which ones?
(check all that apply)

- AMP
- Annex
- Evergreen
- Oakwood
- Plummers

I am interested in and would like more information about volunteering for SAC projects and events. (check all that apply)

- Headstone Cleaning
- Headstone Restoration
- Historical Research
- Newsletter Stories
- Photography
- Social Media
- Tours
- Video Production