



Save Austin's Cemeteries Board Members

Melissa Rogers, President
Jan Root, Vice President
Arro Smith PhD, Secretary
Sally Baulch, Treasurer
Kay Boyd
Bobby Cervantes
Karen Eshliman
Mark Heep
Scott Meyers
Marta Stefaniuk
Sally Victor

Inside this Issue:

Cyrus Hall Remembered

To Elevate: The Legacy of
Huston-Tillotson University

Update on Evergreen Cemetery
Vandalism

SAC Annual Volunteer
Appreciation & Monument
Dedication

A Symbol of Transformation

Evergreen Virtual Tour

Outside at Oakwood

Newsletter Editors:

Megan Spencer
Leslie Wolfenden

Cyrus Hall Remembered by Kay Dunlap Boyd

Often a name, date, story or tombstone is intriguing and calls me to research that person. This time it was the date, 1849. There are very few burial records for Austin before 1855. Limited newspaper articles can be found, but often there is no note acknowledging the burial location.

In section 2, lot 489 of Oakwood, there is a grave marked with the name Cyrus Hall and his epitaph is the one that intrigued me.

My husband
CYRUS HALL
Lieut, 8th U. S.A. Inft.
Died 13th April, 1849
Aged 29 years
Lucille



Lt Cyrus Hall 1st US Infantry ca 1845
George Sampson Nalle, III collection

Fortunately, Cyrus was a graduate of the second class of cadets at West Point Military Academy, so there were school records as well as service records on him, even a photograph.

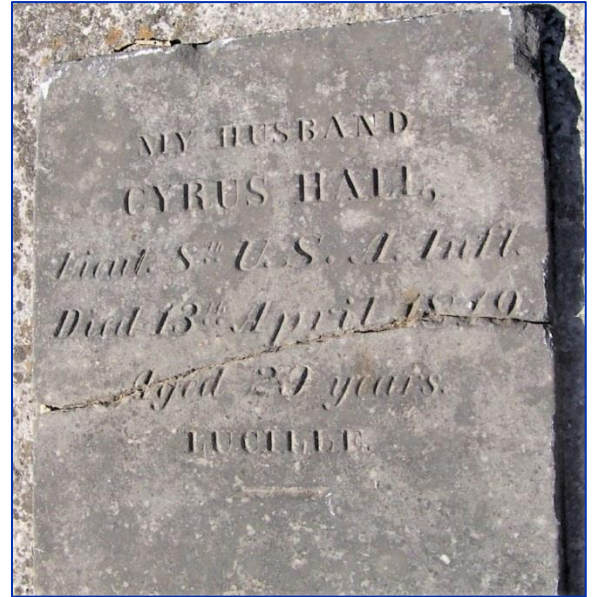
Cyrus Hall was born in 1820 in Batavia, Genesee County, New York. He was a son of Samuel and Hannah Chapin Hall. Samuel Hall participated in the War of 1812. In 1838, Cyrus was appointed to the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. He was ranked 38th in his class and graduated in 1842 as a Brevet Second Lieutenant. He was appointed to the 1st Infantry, July 1, 1842. After graduation, he saw service in Iowa, Florida, Minnesota and lastly Texas. His first assignment was on frontier duty at Ft. Atkinson, Iowa. Next, he was stationed in the garrison at Ft. Marion, Florida, then again on frontier duty at Ft. Snelling, Minnesota in the 8th Infantry, July 1, 1843 as a Second Lieutenant. Cyrus transferred to 1st Infantry on July 8, 1844. His next duty was in the recruiting service. He returned to frontier duty at Ft. Snelling, Minnesota in 1848 where his unit assisted in transferring the Winnebago Indians west of the Mississippi River.

While on duty in Florida, he married Mary Ann Davis on August 5, 1844. Mary Ann was born about 1827. Theirs was a short marriage as she died in 1849. Their young daughter Mary Goodwin Hall was born December 3, 1845 and went to live with Cyrus' sister Hannah Hall Kinney after her mother's death.

His last duty was in Texas where he was stationed at Camp Leona, which was newly established on March 13, 1849 near the springs of the Leona River in Uvalde County. The fort served as a base for United States Army troops assigned to protect the southern mail route along the San Antonio-El Paso Road from bandits and Indian raids.

Cyrus Hall died April 11 (12 or 13th), 1849, near Victoria, Texas. Several dates are mentioned for his death. His cause of death was stated as cholera. His first burial location in a field was marked with a small marble stone. His remains were moved to this plot in Oakwood Cemetery by his daughter Mary G. Hall Sampson on an unknown date.

Lucille was the second wife of Cyrus, but the family could not share any information on her with me.



Photos by Kay Boyd

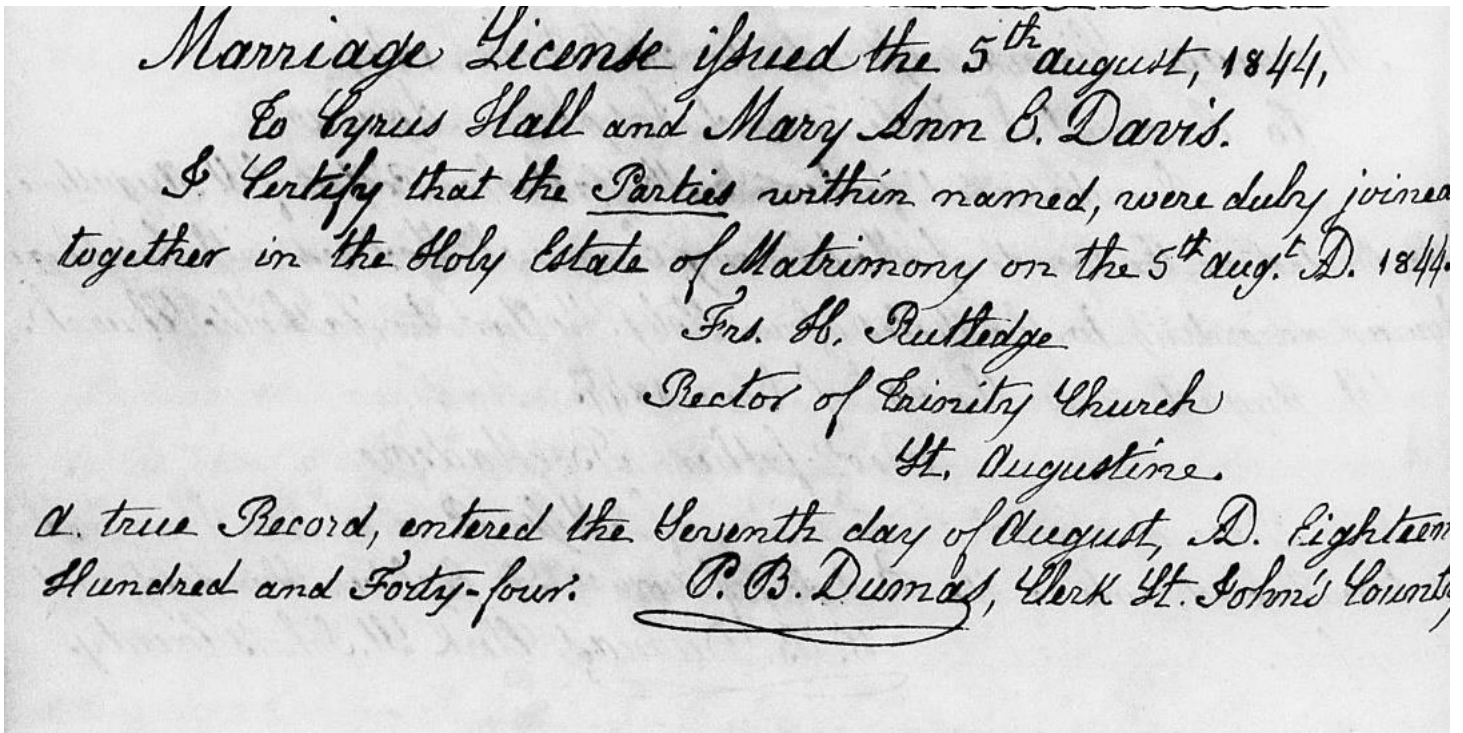
Port Moxison, Texas. Entered September, 1843.

COMMISSIONED OFFICERS of the Post, present and absent, accounted for.

Commissioned Officers are required to be accounted for, by name; and will be classed and arranged according to the following order: 1st, "PRESENT AT THE POST;" 2d, "ABSENT;" as those who may be on "Staff duty," "Recruiting Service," "Ordnance duty," "Topographical duty," "Other special duty," "On furlough," "Without leave," &c.

No.	NAMES.	RANK.	REGIMENT.	REMARKS.	No.	NAMES.	RANK.	REGIMENT.	REMARKS.
<i>PRESENT AT THE POST.</i>									
1	McNeman, S. Blake	Lieut. Col.	8th Inf.	Commanding 1 st Regiment of Infantry and Post.	2	John T. Sprague	1 st Lieut.	8th Inf.	From Camp 19 th Feb. 1843, to 23 rd Sept. 1843 and until 31 st October 43. He was ordered from duty 19 th Feb. 1843. He was ordered from duty 19 th Feb. 1843.
3	James M. Hill	Asst. Surg.	U.S.A.		3	Jefferson B. Woods	2 nd Lieut.	8th Inf.	
4	George L. Conner	1 st Lieut.	8th Inf.	Adjutant 8 th Infantry and Post.	1	Robert B. Boringall	Captain	8th Inf.	
5	Thomas P. Hayden	Captain	8th Inf.		<i>Transferred</i>				
6	Joseph A. North	Captain	8th Inf.	Assumed command of Company, 5 th September 1843.	1	W. M. Byers	Asst. Surg.	U.S.A.	Transferred to this Post by order of letter from the commanding General 9 th Sept. same being 31 st 1843.
7	William C. Miller	Captain	8th Inf.						
8	St. M. Bonifacio	1 st Lieut.	8th Inf.	Commanding company and assist. Company of Lieut.					
9	Alastair Smith	1 st Lieut.	8th Inf.						
10	A. J. Lee	Lieut.	8th Inf.						
11	A. C. Hansen	Lieut.	8th Inf.						
12	A. J. Morris	Lieut.	8th Inf.	Relinquished command of Company, 5 th September 43.					
13	Byers Hill	Lieut.	8th Inf.	Dismissed 19 th September 1843.					

US Returns from Military Post, 1805-1916, Florida.



Florida Marriages, familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:23C6-KYP

86.

Washington, May 14, John Stark of N.Y. Descendant of late
 Gen Stark of Rev.War.
 Prince Edward, Va. 29th ult Rev John A Miller, M.E.Ch.Sc
 Woodlawn Halifax Co Va Monday May 7, Maj.Charles R.Coleman
 in 35y
 Glynn Co., Ga.28th ult. Dr.James Troup in 83y gr s of John
 McIntosh one of the followers of Gen Oglethorpe in 1738
 to St.Simons, Ga.
 Victoria, Texas 11th ult. Lt Cyrus Hall of 1st Regt USInf
 Apr.28 Panama, William H Slosson of this City 20y
Monday, May 21, 1849.

New York Evening Post, Death Extractions,
 May 1949.



GRAVE OF LIEUTENANT HALL.
 A correspondent, writing from Cuero, Texas, to the San Antonio Express, tells of the grave of Lieut. Cyrus Hall, U. S. A., who died in 1849, of cholera while en route from Port Lavaca, Texas, to San Antonio to join his command. Lieutenant Hall's grave is near the center of an old field, twelve miles south of Cuero, and is marked by a small marble monument on which is engraved the following inscription:

Left: obituary notice, Austin Daily Statesman, Jan. 10, 1902. Right: Fort Atkinson, Iowa, Wikipedia.



Oakwood Chapel presents *To Elevate: The Legacy of Huston-Tillotson University* by Jennifer Chenoweth, Museum Site Coordinator

To Elevate is the Chapel's Spring digital exhibit on the legacy of Huston-Tillotson University. We have been grateful to get positive feedback and press on the project, including:

Michael Barnes in the Austin American-Statesman:

<https://www.austin360.com/story/entertainment/arts/2021/05/05/austin-huston-tillotson-university-legacy-showcased-elevate-exhibit/4889983001>

Ujima Magazine:

<https://ujimamagazine.com/2021/05/01/new-celebrating-the-oakwood-chapel-cemetery-exhibit-to-elevate/>

Stephanie Lang's ZUMBI show on KAZI:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wzZ7Akagwik>

And Fox 7 News Austin:

<https://youtu.be/g-wCQcXrGYA>

The City of Austin now recognizes Juneteenth as an official holiday. African Americans buried in Oakwood Cemetery will be featured on banners along the Comal Street fence, and monument identifications within Oakwood. There is expected to be a walking and car parade along Comal for Juneteenth 2021.

To Serve features the history of military veterans buried in all five Austin's Cemeteries. *To Serve* will launch in July, 2021. Cemetery expert Tui Snider <https://tuisnider.com/> is working with PARD to create a video of military monuments and symbols. Warren Friedrich will help tell the stories of veterans. There are fascinating examples of every kind of military service within people's histories, and we are looking forward to learning more and sharing them with you along with some other online programming.

The Chapel will be open to the public this summer beginning June 9th for our regular hours, noon-5pm Wednesday through Sunday by reservation so we can help manage capacity within the building. Here is the link to make advance or on-the-spot reservations to visit:

eventbrite.com/e/visit-oakwood-chapel-tickets-154875858863

Update on Acts of Vandalism at Evergreen Cemetery by Caitlen Hill, Programs Manager II Cemetery Operations

Since the unfortunate vandalism incident at Evergreen Cemetery in September 2020, Cemetery Operations has been hard at work cleaning the headstones. It took multiple phases of cleaning over the course of several months, but the affected headstones have been completely cleaned of the paint. The cemetery admin staff are still working to locate and contact family connections for some of the people whose headstones were damaged, and welcome any contacts the public can provide.



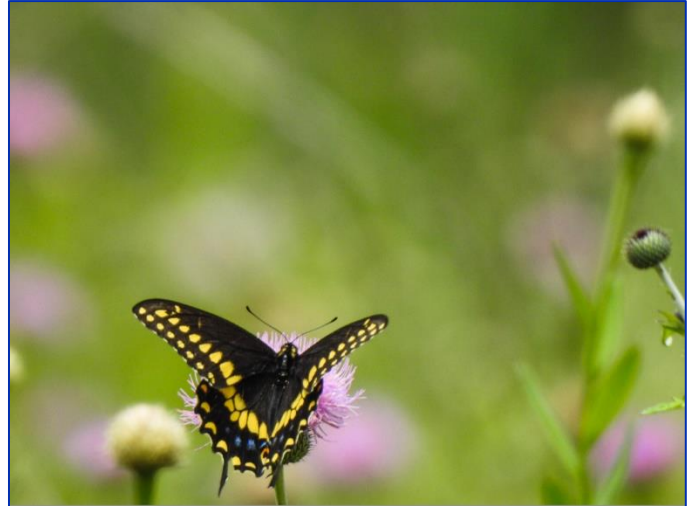
Volunteer Appreciation, Annual Meeting, and Dedication of Monuments by Melissa Rogers

Please join us on October 2, 2021 for our Annual Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Event at the Oakwood Chapel. The event will kick off at 10 am with the dedication of the Washington Anderson and James Patterson monuments. These men fought in the Battle of San Jacinto. Their monuments were restored by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF). Please refer to the Winter 2021 and the Fall 2020 SAC newsletters on the Save Austin Cemeteries website at sachome.org to read about the process the IOOF used to restore the broken monuments and remount them inside new cradles. Following the monument dedication, we will convene our annual meeting with election of SAC officers and our annual volunteer appreciation event. We look forward to seeing all of our wonderful volunteers in person!

A Symbol of Transformation by Marta Stefaniuk

February 2021 entered Texas history by covering Austin in snow, ice, and serious troubles. The winter storm also damaged trees and plants, including many bushes growing along the east wall of Oakwood Chapel. After the thaw, a group of SAC members arrived with clippers, hedge trimmers, and rakes to clean up the flowerbeds and see what plants could be saved.

Instead of planting large rosemary bushes again, the SAC board decided to plant something that would be both beautiful and symbolic: a butterfly garden. Many cultures and religions look to the butterfly with deep reverence and see it as the symbol of resurrection, renewal, hope, endurance, and transformation – all things we want to bestow upon the Oakwood Chapel. A committee has been formed to plan and plant a butterfly garden this fall. In the meantime, SAC Board Member, Sally Baulch, planted several blooming plants to start attracting butterflies right away.



In recent years, many cemeteries in the US have started to elevate the landscaping of their grounds. Because the history of a city and its people is recorded and reflected in cemeteries, so is the history of the natural world. Therefore, what could be more appropriate than replacing what the “Snowpocalypse” took away with a garden that represents hope and transformation? The fact that it will grow next to the Chapel whose recent renovation shows that our community has the ability to change and grow makes a butterfly garden all the more emblematic.

Evergreen Virtual Tour planned for October by Melissa Rogers

Last year, Save Austin’s Cemeteries received a Heritage Grant from the City of Austin to create a “virtual” tour of Evergreen Cemetery. SAC has hired Multimedia Maze for the project. Jan Root, SAC’s Vice-President, headed a committee that selected five individuals who will be featured in the tour – Reverend Karl Everette Downs, Juanita Jewel Shanks, Norman Scales, Elmer Akins and Friendly Rice. There were many outstanding individuals interred at Evergreen and SAC plans to expand the tour to include additional biographies in the future. SAC plans to unveil the completed tour in October 2021.

Outside at Oakwood Cemetery by Kay Boyd

As social distancing requirements have changed and groups can safely meet outside, WE ARE BACK with our activities!

Murder, Mayhem & Misadventure – SAC’s most popular event will be held Saturday, October 30 for our 14th Annual MMM walking tours. We will need volunteers between 9 am and 4 pm for:

- Actors
- Tour guides
- Sign-in table
- Sales
- Miscellaneous support

Photo Documentation – Photo documentation has been on hold during the pandemic. SAC plans to restart this project in October. Watch for announcements.

Footstone Setting – Footstone resetting currently is on hold due to the pandemic. Watch for our calendar.

Please send an email to info@sachome.org and we will make sure that you receive status updates of our upcoming projects.

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

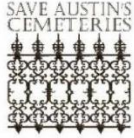
If you are interested the city's cemeteries and would like to attend a board meeting, please contact info@sachome.org to confirm the time and place of the next board meeting.

Calendar

Please join us for these upcoming events!

Apr – June	<i>To Elevate:</i> Oakwood Chapel digital exhibit featuring the legacy of Huston-Tillotson University, Austin's oldest
June 19	Juneteenth Celebration: African Americans of Oakwood
July	<i>To Serve:</i> Oakwood Chapel digital exhibit featuring military veterans in all City Cemeteries
Oct. 2	Annual meeting, Volunteer Appreciation, and Dedication of Texas Revolution Heroes' monuments
October	Opening of the Evergreen Cemetery Virtual Tour
Oct. 30	Murder, Mayhem & Misadventure walking tours at Oakwood
Oct – Dec	<i>To Relate:</i> Oakwood Chapel digital exhibit on Native American trailways in Austin

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 2021

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