

Jaeger Witte Cemetery Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

July 2015

President's statement

The Jaeger-Witte Heritage Cemetery Association existed in prior years as a commitment and an understanding among siblings to care for and keep up the family cemetery. Several family members graciously provided this service to the family for many years. These are Delores Gummelt, Edith Featherston, Jeanette Zemanek, and Larry Jaeger. They are four of Henry and Lillie's nine children.

Recently a new Board of Directors was elected to carry forward the business of the Cemetery. These are Sandy Jaeger, President, daughter of Melvern and Theresa Jaeger; Jeff Featherston, Vice President, son of Edith and Earl Featherston; George Zemanek, Secretary, son of Jeanette and Robert Zemanek; Debbie Byrd, Treasurer, daughter of Jack and Delores Gummelt; Steven Jaeger, Grounds and Maintenance, son of Wilburn and Sarah Jaeger.

For all of us, our sense of purpose is borne from our parents' own dedication to the upkeep and preservation of our family's memorial ground. As we go forward, our intent is to strengthen this Association in several ways. To mention a few, we plan to set up the Association up as a non-profit organization, to provide communication to the family, and to set up scheduled grounds keeping. We are a work in progress and there is much to do and much to learn.

Timeline

On Sunday, January 11, 2015, we had our first organizational board meeting.

Since that meeting, we've been given the opportunity to acquire a 1.209 acre tract of land surrounding the Cemetery. This additional land has the potential to serve as a buffer for parking and expansion.

We continue to meet quarterly. Minutes are recorded at each meeting and are available to interested parties.

Pressing Tasks

Constructing a fence around the recently acquired property

Establishing ourselves as a non-profit organization

Locating and reaching out to family members of those buried in the cemetery, including the Wittes and Hagerdorns

Creating and distributing an annual newsletter to family members

Raising funds to support our efforts

Continual maintenance and beautification of the property

How You Can Help

There are many ways you can get involved in preserving our family cemetery. Cleanup days are held throughout the year on the cemetery grounds. We gather to mow, pull weeds, and provide general maintenance for headstones and other structures.

Cleanup days are scheduled for:

August 15
September 19
October 24
November 14
December 12

Days may be added or adjusted, depending on weather.

Please contact Steven Jaeger at steven.jaeger3065@gmail.com for more information on cleanup days.

We also rely on financial support from the family. Your contributions help us in many ways, such as purchasing yard and maintenance supplies, covering the cost of postage as we reach out to our extended family, and covering the cost of applying for non-profit status. Checks can be made to the "Jaeger-Witte Heritage Cemetery Association" and mailed directly to

JWHCA
c/o Debbie Byrd
5700 Jaeger Rd
Burton, TX 77835

A Little Bit of Cemetery History

Carl Dietrich Hagedorn was an Evangelical Lutheran pastor and teacher in Lubbecke, Westphalia, Germany. He was born July 14, 1786, in Germany and married Marie Louise Knipping on February 2, 1826, and had 5 children. Their oldest daughter Anna Marie married Victor Witte and in April 1850, along with their two children and her brother Ferdinand, left for America arriving in Galveston June 1850; their destination was Washington County, Texas. Anna Marie's parents, Carl Dietrich and Marie Louise (Knipping) Hagedorn, and their daughter Adele, age 15, left for America arriving in Galveston December 28, 1853, going to Washington County where they stayed with their daughter Anna Marie and Victor Witte.

Carl Dietrich Hagedorn soon bought property (about 100 acres) next to their daughter and son-in-law Victor Witte. This land was part of a larger tract of land owned by Hamilton Ledbetter and Samuel K. Lewis. Carl Dietrich donated land for the Witte/Hagedorn Cemetery shortly before he died, circa 1860. After the death of Carl and Marie Louise Hagedorn, the Hagedorn farm was divided among their children. Adele and her husband, Herman von Bieberstein, received the land where the cemetery was located.

In 1899, Henry Claude Jaeger, Sr., born March 12, 1864, in Texas, and his wife Alvina (Tonn) Jaeger, born February 15, 1872, in Pudewitz, Posen, Germany, bought the Herman von Bieberstein farm. Additional land was set aside for a cemetery next to the Hagedorn/Witte Cemetery as a burial place for Jaeger family members. The Cemetery sites have since been combined and the name changed to the Jaeger/Witte Cemetery. Henry Claude Jaeger, Jr. bought the farm in 1932 from his dad, Henry Claude Jaeger, Sr. This site continues as the final resting place for Jaeger family descendants.

Taken from :
<http://bluebonnetgenealogy.org/cemeteries/western/29-jaeger-witte>