

# Jaeger Witte Cemetery Newsletter

Issue 4

July 2018

## Mission Statement

The Jaeger-Witte Heritage Cemetery Association's purpose is to oversee care and preservation of the Jaeger-Witte cemetery

## Board Members

Jeff Featherston —president  
 Steven Jaeger —vice president  
 George Zemanek—secretary  
 Debbie Byrd—treasurer  
 (vacant) —grounds and maintenance

## Meetings

The Jaeger Witte Heritage Cemetery Association meets regularly throughout the year. Minutes from each meeting are available for interested parties. Please contact George for your copy.

[g.zemanek.1@gmail.com](mailto:g.zemanek.1@gmail.com)  
 (281) 827-5350

## Website

We are pleased to introduce our new website:

[www.jwhca.com](http://www.jwhca.com)

This site contains information about cleanup days, historical information, and stories related to the Jaeger Witte Cemetery.

## Congratulations to our high school graduates!

- Kay Kulow, daughter of Chris and Kelly Kulow
- Sarah Goer, daughter of Keith and Michelle Goer
- Kyle Drews, son of Tanya and Lonnie Drews

## The Latest News

After nearly three years of dedicated service, Sandy ended her term as president of the JWHCA. Sandy's strong leadership skills helped tremendously during our formative period. Her work on a 2017 capital campaign helped ensure we will be able to continue our work far into the future. We honor her service. Jeff has moved up to the role of president, with Steven moving to the role of vice president. There is presently a vacancy on the board.

The JWHCA obtained a 501c13 (cemetery organization) status. Your donations of money and/or materials are tax deductible. Please contact us if you need a receipt for your taxes. We are now beginning the process of obtaining a historical marker.

George will be speaking at the September meeting of the Washington County Genealogical Society about the history of the Jaeger Witte Cemetery and the formation of the JWHCA. The meeting will be on 9/10/18, at 7:00pm, in the Student Center of Blinn College in Brenham.

Henry C. Jaeger's "History of the Early Pioneer Families of Winedale" has been made available in digital PDF format. It is available to download from our website.

## How You Can Help

There are many ways you can get involved in honoring our family cemetery. Right now, we are in the process of repainting the steel fence and replacing the chain link fence. Replacing the fence will cost approximately \$1,500. These are multi-step projects and one of the most valuable contributions you can give is your time. Please contact Steven Jaeger at [steven.jaeger3065@gmail.com](mailto:steven.jaeger3065@gmail.com) if you can help with the fence.

We also rely on financial support. Your tax deductible contributions go directly towards cleanup, maintenance, headstone repair, beautification, paperwork/filing fees, printing, and postage.

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

## Alternative Gifts

**(Can be delivered to any board member)**

Stamps

Large manila envelopes

Weed and ant killer

Silk flowers and large ceramic vases

Gift cards to gas stations and hardware stores

## President's Report

Hello All,

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer thus far and staying cool! As mentioned in the newsletter, Sandy has completed her term as President and we all greatly appreciate her dedication and leadership. It is my honor to take on the role and to have the privilege of serving with the rest of the board in taking care of our family cemetery. There are so many of our relatives that are resting there that have a special place in my heart and taught me life lessons at a very young age. And I know that many of you share the same sentiment.

Something new you should notice the next time you visit the cemetery is the state approved street sign we had put up. It helps greatly in pointing out the direction of the cemetery since the cattle guard is no longer at the road. I am constantly travelling in Texas and Oklahoma and see these signs regularly. Whether it is on the side of a Highway, Farm & Market Road, or an Interstate, they are there to point the way.

Please remember that we now have our 501(c)13 so any donations are tax deductible. Also, please keep in mind that any physical help is greatly appreciated, a schedule of work days will be posted to our website.

We appreciate everyone's concern, interest, and support!

Sincerely,

Jeff Featherston

## On a Sad Note

Sanford Schmid, a longtime supporter of the Jaeger Witte Cemetery, passed away on 2/13/18 at the age of 98. He was affiliated with the Jaeger Witte Cemetery through his relation to the Hagerdorn family. Sanford served the community of Washington County as a philanthropist. The financial assistance/gifts that he provided for college tuitions to deserving students, Second Chance Emporium, the Area Livestock Shows, Arts of Rural Texas, The Blinn College Foundation, and many more projects helped to show his desire to serve the area communities by giving back to the communities. He is survived by wife Mannie Fritsch-Schmid

## Jaeger History Tidbits

Have you heard about the legendary Blue Rock, located on the Jaeger homestead? In 1955, Henry Jaeger's eldest sons were growing up and moving to Houston to seek employment opportunities and Lillie was pregnant with Lanis. Henry was growing increasingly concerned with having to provide for his family through farm work. Like his sons, he saw a better future in moving to the city. He set about selling the Jaeger farm. Now, this was at the time when the family lived in the "big" house (the house Delores and Jack moved into). According to Henry's daughter, Jeanette, Henry's older sister, Ida, believed in fortune tellers. She came to Henry and told him that he must not sell the farm because there was a blue rock somewhere on the farm. Under the rock, there was a buried fortune.

Ida was a tough woman who didn't take no for an answer. Henry decided not to sell the land, although it's likely that pressure from Lillie was more influential than Ida's rock. Ida never came out and said where the rock was, but that did not deter Edith and Jeanette from looking for it. Edith sincerely hoped to find the treasure so that they could install indoor plumbing! Jeanette, age 14, talked Edith, age 9, into crawling under the remains of an old fireplace to search. While trying to move the old fireplace rocks, Lillie saw them through an opening and chased them out with a belt. Nobody else tried to find the rock after that, but Edith admits to having occasionally looked through the openings, hoping to find it.

So, is the blue rock real or just another tall tale? If you should ever come across it, give one of us a holler!

## 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.