

Cherokee County Cemetery Preservation Committee

Meeting Minutes

10 March 2014

Cherokee County Administration Building

Business Center Conference Room

Canton, Georgia

Members Present: Harold Silvey, Jean Vredenburgh, Loriann White and Reuben Wilson

Members Not Present: John Cadle

Staff Present: Michael Chapman and Margaret Stallings

The committee meeting began at 9:02 am.

Ms. White introduced two people she invited to attend the meeting: Dwight and Pam Dover. Ms. White and Ms. Dover are both members of the local Daughters of the American Revolution Chapter. Ms. White said that Mr. Dover has a great deal of knowledge and experience working with technology and he may be a valuable resource if the committee decides to establish its own website.

A motion was made by Mr. Silvey to approve the February committee meeting minutes. The committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes. Mr. Chapman informed the committee that meeting agendas and minutes are now being archived on the Cherokee County website. The committee is required to make all agendas, minutes, and other documents available to the public.

Ms. White informed the committee that she and Ms. Vredenburgh recently visited surveyed fourteen cemeteries in Cherokee County. Ms. White and Ms. Vredenburgh said they noticed many sunken graves during their visits. Ms. White noted that motorists travel at very high speeds on Trickum Road which makes surveying the nearby cemetery somewhat hazardous. Ms. White said that a cemetery on GA-92 near Target has many sunken graves and a significant amount of ivy. Mr. Silvey pointed out that many old burials were conducted without concrete vaults and, over time, the caskets (many of which were wooden) have disintegrated. Ms. White said one of the cemeteries she surveyed had several slave graves and appeared to be primarily an African-American cemetery on donated land. Ms. Vredenburgh said she took numerous digital photographs and would like to include the photographs with the survey forms. Ms. Stallings said that she would register a Dropbox.com account for use by committee members when they have survey photos.

Mr. Silvey said he plans to speak with a member of the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office about the possibility of using a work detail to clean-up certain cemeteries in Cherokee County.

The committee discussed created a set of bylaws to govern the committee activities. Mr. Silvey wanted the committee to have a chairperson, a vice-chairperson, and a secretary. Mr. Silvey said he wanted the committee to have a secretary to record the meeting minutes so that Cherokee County staffers do not have to have to conduct such work and can therefore focus on other matters. Mr. Silvey raised the idea of changing the committee's meeting time to permit those who work during the day to attend the meeting. Mr. Chapman said he would draft a set of bylaws for the committee's consideration at the April meeting.

Ms. White informed the committee that her application to the R. J. Taylor, Jr. Foundation was not approved. The R. J. Taylor, Jr. Foundation promotes genealogical research in Georgia by providing grants to individuals and organizations to defray the cost of publishing approved projects. Ms. White was seeking a grant for Enon Cemetery. In the denial letter, the Taylor Foundation offered a list of

items to correct when the application is resubmitted. Ms. White said she planned to make the suggested changes and resubmit the application.

Ms. Stallings informed the committee that a local Boy Scout was referred to her by Stefanie Joyner of the Cherokee County Historical Society for a cemetery clean-up project at Bruce/Fair Cemetery near East Cherokee Drive. The clean-up project is part of an Eagle Scout project. Ms. Vredenburgh offered additional information about the Eagle Scout process because one of her sons was an Eagle Scout. Ms. White volunteered to contact the Boy Scout and offer to help on behalf of the committee. Ms. Stallings said she would send the Boy Scout the “best practices” section of the Cemetery Preservation Plan to use as a guide.

Having no further business Mr. Wilson made a motion to adjourn the Cemetery Preservation Committee meeting. Ms. White seconded the motion. The committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:30am.

The next Cherokee County Cemetery Preservation Cemetery Preservation Committee meeting will be 14 April 2014 at the Cherokee County Administration Building in Canton.