

Fairmount Cemetery

A compilation of the history and rules of the Fairmount Cemetery Association

History

Fairmount Cemetery is named after Fairmount, Georgia, which was the origin of many of the early area settlers. The neighborhood was also called the "Georgia Flats" because so many of them originated from N. Georgia. Jehu Chastain was the first burial on ground he owned. Jehu was killed in a skirmish with bushwhackers during the Civil War in July of 1862.

Additional burials have occurred continuously since that time. The cemetery also maintains the Fairmount School house which is the third building used for a community center and school since the Civil War. The original log cabin lay within the present day cemetery.

The association is a private family burial association and is funded by donation. Each family is responsible for their own family plots. The association provides for mowing, pickup and other services as a courtesy only.

The cemetery is currently divided into two parts. The "old" part of the cemetery lies South of the East entry road whereas the "new" part lies North of the East entry. The South side has been filled and plots are only available in the "new" section.

Membership

The cemetery was originally a family burial plot but past uses have allowed for area residents to be buried there. The Association does not encourage the burial of persons with no community ties to be interred in the cemetery.

The Association meets at the Fairmount Community building on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend for a potluck dinner starting at 12:00 Noon. The annual meeting and election of officers is immediately after the dinner. Membership includes any adult who attends the meeting.

General Rules

- Flowers place on graves are the responsibility of the family. Flowers placed Memorial Day will be left as long as possible but should be removed within 2 weeks after Memorial Day.
- Any flower or arrangement which has blown from the stone or otherwise interferes with mowing will be removed.
- In 2000 the Association adopted rules regarding grave ornaments and plantings.

Maintenance of the lawn is the largest expense of the Association and to reduce costs and labor, the following applies to all portions of the cemetery.

- Glass containers including jars, wine bottles, etc. are prohibited and will be removed. Repeated occurrence of such placements will be cause to contact family and the cost to clean up will be billed to responsible family.
- Curbing, lights, and other grave ornaments are discouraged and strictly prohibited in the new section. Any curbing which is not routinely maintained by the family is subject to removal. Such curbings that currently exist should be maintained as frequently as the cemetery is mowed which is about every week to 10 days during peak summer months. A curbing which has been removed will not be allowed to be re-installed.
- A shepherd's hook is allowed but must be placed adjacent to the stone and out of the way of the mowers.
- Small metal, glass, or ceramic objects which can injure a worker if hit by a weed eater or mower are prohibited.
- Permanent plantings including trees, shrubs, rose bushes, or flowers are prohibited.
- All burials must include a concrete burial box or vault to prevent ground settlement.
- The Association is not responsible for removing the flowers and dressing the grave of the interred. This is typically done by family approximately 2 - 3 weeks after burial.

- The Association is not a perpetual care facility and the care of individual graves are not the responsibility of the Association. Fees donated for burial plots are not deeds to that burial plot nor contracts of a service.
- Fees paid for plots are insufficient to maintain the cemetery and your donation will be appreciated. Donations can be mailed to Fairmount Cemetery Association, c/o Arvest Bank, Gentry, Arkansas.
- Graves are arranged in the traditional Christian burial format of the grave oriented east and west. Accommodation of cremated remains or non-traditional burial will be dealt with on a case by case basis by the Association board and an area of the cemetery may be designated for such burials as needed.
- Each Grave Lot consists of 4 plots.
- Errors in arrangement, lot location, or other matters are dealt with by the board on a case by case basis. Any plot accidentally occupied or where a conflict may occur shall be resolved by the available boards or officers.
- Persons who have spoken for a lot which is erroneously occupied by others shall be given a reasonable alternative as available or their money refunded. And any person purchasing a lot agrees to hold blameless the association for any mistaken burials or occupancy.
- Persons who believe they have old lots from the oldest and undocumented parts of the cemetery may occupy those plots so long as they take personal responsibility for the digging of the grave and to cease digging if they hit an unmarked grave site. They will be responsible for restoring the grave to its original condition. The Association takes no responsibility for those burials.
- Placement of stones at the cemetery are the responsibility of the family. Damage during installation such as ruts in the cemetery, etc. are the responsibility of the family.
- Burials during wet season may mean ruts in the cemetery. Those are the responsibility of family and should be repaired as soon as weather permits.
- The Association does not accept Insurance payments or credit cards and plots are to be paid for prior to burial.
- The current fee for a single plot is \$275. That fee is subject to change upon vote at the annual meeting of the Association or emergency meeting of the Association Board.

Funeral Home Notice

- The following are contact numbers for officers
 David Patterson 479- 736-8125
 Terrel Shields 479-957-3227 (cel)
 J. D. Chastain 479- 524-3461
- Please contact us as soon as possible to stake the graves. The officers are volunteers and have jobs or other interests and may be out of town. We will attempt to make arrangements as soon as possible.
- If a single stake is provided for the grave, the stake marks the center of the head of the grave with the hole to be dug East of the stake.
- In the event the grave digger may have questions, please provide them with the contact numbers above.
- In the new section, corners of all lots (4 plots) have a white plastic marker with a letter and number corresponding to the grave lot. The markers are typically just below ground, however some may be damaged.
- Please provide a copy of the General Rules to anyone wishing to inter in the cemetery.

Fairmount Cemetery

The undersigned states that they have read the above rules and agrees to abide by those regulations.

Deceased's Name _____ LOT _____ PLOT _____

Responsible Party _____ date _____

Responsible Party address _____ phone _____