

I O O F C E M E T E R Y  
D E N T O N , T E X A S

ESTABLISHED 1860

THIS SURVEY 1982

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DENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

DENTON, TEXAS

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Denton County Historical Commission  
Courthouse on the Square  
Denton, Texas 76201

## I O O F CEMETERY, DENTON, TEXAS

The I O O F Cemetery is located six blocks south of the Courthouse Square in Denton, Texas. It is bounded by Carroll Boulevard, Highland Street, I O O F Street, and Eagle Drive. In 1860, when it was established, it was described as being "out in the country." Now it is surrounded by apartment complexes and residences. The large campus of North Texas State University begins a few blocks west of it.

James M. Smoot, a Denton merchant from Virginia and a charter member of Denton Lodge No. 82, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, donated land to the Lodge for the cemetery in 1859 or 1860. That tract, now known as "the old part," is north of Highland Street which extends east to west through the cemetery. In the center of this area one may see the monument of James M. Smoot, who died in 1862 at age 40. His was one of the small number of burials during that decade, as the City Cemetery (now called Oakwood) in the east part of the town of Denton was most used. Denton and the I O O F Lodge were both established in 1857.

From about 1870, however, the new I O O F Cemetery had rapid growth. ~~It comprised four divisions, designated as "A" through "D", each of which had thirty-five blocks of ten grave spaces each. Division "D" was then used as the site of the water well, windmill, and workshed for the cemetery. Therefore, not many early burials were made in this division.~~

By 1880 space had become scarce, and in 1883 the Lodge made its first land acquisition when it purchased from John and Anne E. McMurray seven and one-half acres which adjoined the south line of the original tract. It was described as being within the corporate limits of the City of Denton. (Denton County Deed Book V, page 563).

In June 1916 the Lodge bought another tract (of six and one-half acres) from Mrs. McMurray. A fence with arch gate had been erected around the cemetery in 1912, and with the new acquisition of 1916, the Lodge planned to move the fence and gate to enclose it. Residents of the area protested as, they said, "It would be in the view of their property more than if it was back in the timber as it is now." (Denton Record-Chronicle, June 14, 1916, page 5). This recalls that the whole area had been in woods--probably oak trees. The Lodge records include accounts for the cutting of wood and burning of brush in the cemetery. Permission was given to use its "present hitching lot" for burials. Unfortunately the fence and arch gate were removed by later City officials.

By the 1920s burial space became critical; maintenance was a great problem. Lot owners neglected care of lots; many had moved away. No more land was available and the City had prohibited any additional cemetery space within the city.

In 1933 the Lodge offered to deed all of the cemetery to the City of Denton. This offer was accepted by vote of citizens April 1933. Thus, after 73 years of diligent care and labor by members I O O F relinquished ownership of this historic memorial park. This is well-documented in the Minute Books of the Lodge, which themselves are unique registers of early Dentonians.

The Parks Department of the City of Denton now manages the records and furnishes maintenance for the I O O F Cemetery. Although the traditional ledger recordings have been continued, a modernized system of records is planned. Along with many other advantages this will show readily where there are unused spaces. Although scarce, some are available. In some cases it is difficult to locate the owner or heirs.

Although there have been great losses of markers during 124 years--by time and elements, accidents, vandalism and theft--it is felt that through the efforts of the City and other involved groups and individuals, the years for such losses have passed.

Visitors to the cemetery include people who have come long distances to view and photograph the burial places of relatives and ancestors. Rubbings are made from inscriptions to add to family records. Many visit to study monument styles. Men from one dormitory of NTSU offered to assist in the restoration work in "the old part."

During the 1983-1984 I O O F Fence Fund drive, which was sponsored by the Denton County Historical Commission, one of the largest donations--more than a thousand dollars--was made by the Junior Historians Club of Calhoun Junior High School, assisted by other groups of the school. The Fence Fund received contributions from interested persons in many parts of the country.

It is evident that I O O F Cemetery (often called the Odd Fellows Cemetery) is appreciated and will be preserved for future generations. The Denton County Historical Commission will maintain a file of its history.

## PREFACE

The Denton County Historical Commission has developed an extensive collection of surveys of Denton County cemeteries. This publication, a major contribution to the collection, is a record of the I O O F Cemetery, in the City of Denton. It was compiled from a 1982/1983 survey which was made by the Denton County Genealogical Society. Incorporated into this project was information taken from gravestones, from burial records of the City of Denton, and, in many cases, from newspaper obituaries, City death records, marriage records, etc.

The merging of data from these sources has yielded a fuller recording of names and dates as well as the inclusion of about 700 persons buried in graves now unmarked. Also, included are about 66 unmarked graves of unknown persons. In all, there are approximately 5,800 entries for persons who have been buried in this cemetery from 1860 until 1982.

Denton Lodge No. 82, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in 1860 established this cemetery, developed and maintained it until 1933 when it was deeded to the City of Denton. It is remarkable that the two controlling entities have kept these ~~records as complete as this project found them to be.~~ However, there are the inevitable mistakes from such detailed recording and from information given to the record keepers. For example, some of those reported as unmarked were found to have been removed to another cemetery or location. The birth and death dates reported are often inaccurate. Such information and corrections reported by the users of this publication will be appreciated by the Denton County Historical Commission.

This record has two main parts: first, the main body of the book which includes the full listings arranged according to location in the cemetery; and, second, the alphabetically arranged full-name Index of persons interred.

I O O F Cemetery is arranged by (1) divisions which are designated as "A" through "Y"; (2) by blocks within each division and numbered 1-35 (usually, 35); and (3) by grave or "space" number within the block, numbered 1-10 (usually 10). Thus, the citation, K-28-5 indicates Division K, Block 28, grave space 5. (See Map/diagram). Throughout the main body of the book these notations appear at the outer margin of the page as, for example, K-28. The space number is placed by the individual entry name.

The Name Index is an alphabetical listing of full names of individuals, followed by citation to division and block. Some cross references are in the Index, mainly for women with more than one marriage surname. In these cases the surname on the gravestone is used for the entry, with reference from the other marriage surname. Cross reference is not made from birth surnames.

More than a year was required for the research and compilation of the information in this record, in addition to time spent in surveying the cemetery. The intent was to make the entries as helpful as possible, while keeping them uniform and in balance. Denton County Historical Commission has retained its work cards which often have additional information and the sources used.

In a cemetery record the name and birth/death information are the basic data. The recording of relationships of persons has been limited to verifiable "wife of" notes, and in cases of young children, to "son of" and "daughter of" notes. (See the "List of Abbreviations"). Military service has been recorded if given on the gravestone. Fraternal affiliations, although given on gravestone, are omitted. The birth state (or country) of earlier settlers, and marriage dates, if given, are recorded as quoted notes.

Notes are given in some cases to clarify data or to cite inconsistent dates, etc. In cases where a marker is a memorial (no burial) this was explained in a note, such as "Lost at sea." It should be noted also that there are some entries for persons still living; this is indicated by an "open" date, or no dates. Usually this is done when a double gravestone has been used, with both names inscribed at the time. Although the editor was tempted many times to add notes when more information was available, this was not done because it could not be kept in balance, nor was it feasible because of space limitations. For reason of space as well as for page appearance "periods" are omitted after initials in a name; however, if the name was known, it was recorded.

This is considered to be an amendable record. Validated corrections reported to the Denton County Historical Commission or to the compiler will be appreciated. Also, any identification concerning "Unknown" burials and removals is sought.

The motivation for this project was not only to provide a name list and location guide to this large I O O F Cemetery, but also to create an historical record of approximately 5,800 persons who have lived in and contributed to the history of our town during its one hundred and twenty-four years.

Elaine A. Ledlow, member,  
Denton County Historical Commission,  
and Denton County Genealogical Society  
April 1984

100F CEMETARY

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND and seal of office, this the 5th, day of May, A.D. 1933.

Elentha Milburn,  
Notary Public, Denton County, Texas.

(seal)

FILED FOR RECORD: May, 11, 1933, at 4:20 O'clock P.M.

RECORDED: May, 12, 1933, at 1 O'clock P.M.

Jack Christal,  
County Clerk Denton County, Texas.

# 85058

Deed.

THE STATE OF TEXAS,  
COUNTY OF DENTON.

WHEREAS, Denton Lodge No. 82, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, since the year 1868, has owned and maintained in the City of Denton, Denton County, Texas, a cemetery known as the Odd Fellows Cemetery; and,

WHEREAS, to-wit; on or about the 29th, day of June, 1932, said Denton Lodge No. 82, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, by a resolution duly passed tendered said Odd Fellows Cemetery to the City of Denton, and at an election in the City of Denton, on the 4th, day of April, A.D. 1933, said City of Denton voted to accept and provided for the maintenance of said Cemetery;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Denton Lodge No. 82, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of Denton, Texas, the founder and owner of said Odd Fellows Cemetery in regular meeting assembled in the Hall of said lodge, that C.O. Norman, Noble Grand, M.A. Anderson, D.M. Edwards, and G.S. Keller, Trustees, of said Denton Lodge No. 82, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, be and they are hereby authorized, empowered and directed to execute and deliver such deed or deeds of conveyance as it or may be necessary to convey to the City of Denton, said Odd Fellows Cemetery in consideration of the City of Denton operating and maintaining said cemetery with the restriction in such deed or deeds, that such cemetery shall be used for the burial of white persons and that no negro or person of African descent or of other race than those generally recognized as white persons shall be buried in said cemetery, and in case of a violation of this restriction, the title to said cemetery property shall revert back to Denton Lodge No. 82, Independent Order of Odd Fellows; and that said deed or deeds shall be attested by John W. Crain, Secretary of said Lodge with the seal of said Lodge;

THE STATE OF TEXAS,  
COUNTY OF DENTON.

That we, C.O. Norman Noble Grand, and John W. Crain, Secretary of Denton Lodge No. 82, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution offered and unanimously adopted by Denton Lodge No. 82, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at a regular meeting of said Lodge held in the lodge room in the City of Denton on the 2nd, day of May, 1933, as the same appears of record in the minutes of said Lodge.

Given under our hands and seal of said lodge this the 5th, day of May, A.D. 1933.

C.O. Norman,  
Noble Grand,

(corp. seal)

John W. Crain,  
Secretary,

NOW, THEREFORE, KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS; that C.O. Norman, Noble Grand, John W. Crain, Secretary, M.A. Anderson, D.M. Edwards, and G.S. Keller, Trustees; of Denton Lodge No. 82, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, acting for the said Lodge by authority vested in us by the

foregoing resolution of said Lodge, of the County of Denton, and State of Texas, for and in consideration of the City of Denton, Texas, a municipal corporation, operating and maintaining the Odd Fellows Cemetery in the City of Denton, Texas, with the following restriction, that such cemetery shall be used for the burial of White Persons, and that no negro or person of African descent or of other races than those generally recognized as white persons shall be buried in said cemetery, and in case of a violation of this restriction the title to said cemetery property shall revert back to Denton Lodge No. 82, Independent Order of Odd Fellows; Have Granted, Sold and Conveyed and by these presents do Grant; Sell and Convey unto the said City of Denton, Texas, a municipal corporation, of the County of Denton, State of Texas, all that certain lot, tract or parcel of land situated in the City of Denton, County of Denton, and State of Texas, being a part of the William Loving Survey in the City of Denton, Texas, the herein described tract of land being located in the Southwest corner of said survey;

BEGINNING at a point in the North line of Mill Street, it being a 60 foot street, and the East line of I.O.O.F. Street, at an iron fence.

THENCE North 0 degrees, 54 Min, East 1434.4 feet to an iron fence, same being the North boundary line of the herein described tract.

THENCE East 415.2 feet to an iron fence on the East boundary line of the herein described tract.

THENCE South 0 deg. 26 min, West 405.1 feet to the southwest corner of property now belonging to Mrs. E.C. Smith.

THENCE North 88 deg. 53 min. east along Mrs. Smith's south boundary line 423 feet to the west boundary line of Center Street. Same being Mrs. Smith's southeast corner.

THENCE South 0 deg. 53 min, east along the west boundary line of Center street 344.8 feet to a corner;

THENCE East 22.8 feet;

THENCE South 0 deg. 45 min. West 253.3 feet to a fence.

THENCE South 88 deg. 45 min. west along said fence to a fence leading south a distance of 104.9 feet;

THENCE South along said fence 338.2 feet to the North boundary line of Mill Street.

THENCE North 89 deg. 15 min, west 773.5 feet along the North boundary line of Mill Street to the place of beginning, containing 85.60 acres more or less.

It being the intention of this deed to convey all of the property now belonging to the said Odd Fellows cemetery.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the above described premises, together with all and singular the rights and appurtenances thereto in any wise belonging unto the said City of Denton, Texas, a municipal corporation, its successors and assigns forever; and we do hereby bind the said Lodge, to warrant and defend all and singular the said premises, unto the said City of Denton, Texas, a municipal corporation, its successors and assigns, against every person whomsoever lawfully claiming, or to claim the same or any part thereof.

WITNESS our hands, as the act of said Lodge, at Denton, Texas, this the 5th day of May, A.D. 1933.

ATTEST:

John W. Crain,  
Secretary, Denton Lodge No. 82,  
Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

C. C. Norman,

Noble Grand, of Denton Lodge No. 82,  
Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

M. A. Anderson,

D. M. Edwards,

C. S. Keller,

Trustees, of Denton Lodge No. 82  
Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

( seal )



THE STATE OF TEXAS, }  
 COUNTY OF DENTON. }

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, in and for Denton County, Texas, on this day personally appeared C.C. Norman, Noble Grand, Jno. W. Grain, Secretary, and M.A. Anderson, D.M. Edwards, and C.S. Keller, Trustees, officers of Denton Lodge No. 22, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, known to me to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and they each acknowledged to me that they executed the foregoing instrument for the purposes and consideration therein expressed, and as the Act of said Lodge, and in the capacity therein stated.

Given under my hand and seal of office, this the 9th day of May, A.D. 1933.

Blantha Milburn,

(seal)

A Notary Public in and for Denton County, Texas.

FILED FOR RECORD: May, 11, 1933, at 4:20 O'clock P.M.

RECORDED: May, 12, 1933, at 4:30 O'clock P.M.

Jack Christal,

County Clerk Denton County, Texas.

#85070

Warranty Deed.

STATE OF TEXAS, }  
 COUNTY OF DENTON. }

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That we, G.P. Ryan, and Mollie Ryan, husband and wife, of the County of Denton, and State of Texas, for and in consideration of the cancellation and delivery to us of that certain promissory vendor's lien note in the sum of Two Thousand (\$2,000.00) Dollars, dated the 10th day of November, A.D. 1931, bearing interest at the rate of 8% per annum from date until paid and payable to Pilot Point National Bank at Pilot Point, Texas, one year after date, and is fully set out and described in the deed from Mrs. W.E. Atkins, to G.P. Ryan, duly recorded in Volume 238, page 198, Deed Records of Denton County, Texas, to which reference is here made, and we hereby acknowledge the receipt of said canceled note delivered to us by the Pilot Point National Bank, have Granted, Sold and Conveyed, and by these presents do Grant, Sell and Convey unto the said Pilot Point National Bank of Pilot Point, Denton County, Texas, all that certain lot and parcel of land out of the Charles Smith survey in Denton County, Texas, and being located in the City of Pilot Point, a part of Lot No. 1, in Block No. 12, of the original town of Pilot Point, Texas, and described as follows, to-wit:

BEGINNING at the Northeast corner of Lot No. 1, in Block No. 12, of the original town of Pilot Point, as per plat of said original town, duly recorded in Deed Records of Denton County, Texas;

THENCE West 40 feet for corner;

THENCE South 50 feet for corner;

THENCE East 40 feet for corner;

THENCE North 50 feet to place of beginning, and is the same lot of land conveyed to G.P. Ryan, by Mrs. W.E. Atkins, by her deed above mentioned.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the above described premises, together with all and singular, the rights and appurtenances thereto in anywise belonging unto the said Pilot Point National Bank, its successors and assigns forever; and we do hereby bind ourselves, our heirs, executors



