

Pea River Historical & Genealogical Society

Newsletter

Identifying, collecting, preserving, archiving, researching, and promoting interest in historic and genealogical materials and records of Coffee County and the Pea River Region of South Alabama

July – August 2013

Confederate Monument for Coffee County

Coffee County Rangers Camp 911, Sons of Confederate Veterans, is planning a monument to the Coffee County men who served the Confederacy.

Coffee County men “answered the call” in 1861. Among the regiments that recruited in Coffee County are:

- 12th Alabama Infantry Regt. (Co D “Coffee County Rangers”)
- 15th Alabama Infantry Regt. (Coffee Co. men served in Co E, raised in Dale Co.)
- 18th Alabama Infantry Regt. (Co A)
- 25th Alabama Infantry Regt. (Co K, raised by Coffee Co. Probate Judge Pierre Costello)
- 33rd Alabama Infantry Regt. (Co A “Coffee County Blues” and Co K)
- 53rd Alabama Partisan Rangers (mounted infantry)
- 57th Alabama Infantry Regt. (Co G and K)
- 61st Alabama Infantry (Co D and G)
- 1st Alabama Cavalry Regt.
- 6th Alabama Cavalry Regt. (Co A)

Funds are currently being raised for the construction of the monument and to secure a permanent, public location for it. If you would like to make a donation to the project, contact Camp commander Joe Clark at jlark1942@gmail.com.

Mark Your Calendars

August 17 – Indian Artifact Show, Westgate Gym, 501 Recreation Road, Dothan, 8:30 am – 3:00 pm.

September 9 - Troy Civil War Forum, 6:30 pm at the Troy Public Library. Henry Howard, a member of Henry C. Semple Camp 2002 in Montgomery, will present the program on medicine during the War Between the States. Henry re-enacts as a surgeon with the 31st Alabama Field Hospital, and has a tremendous amount of information to share. All are invited to attend, there is no admission fee.

September 15 – Pea River Historical & Genealogical Society Meeting, 2:00 pm at the Enterprise Welcome Center on the By-Pass. This meeting will be a tribute to Depot Museum Director Larry Herbst, who died at his home in Dothan on June 9. There will be a presentation to the Museum in his memory. The public is invited to attend.

September 29 – Grave Marking for John Calhoun, Co F, 3rd Alabama Infantry Regt. The ceremony will be at 3 pm at Woodland Grove Baptist Church Cemetery on CR239 near Elba, conducted by Gen. Edmond Winchester Rucker Chapter 2534, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Enterprise. The public is invited to attend.



Visitors to the Gift Shop/Library

I recently had the opportunity to examine the Visitors Log used at the Gift Shop/Library dating from 2006 to the present. It was encouraging to see the wide geographical area represented!

Only four U. S. states were missing from the address column. Of course it's possible that we had visitors who didn't sign the log, but there were no signers from Delaware, New Mexico, Rhode Island, or West Virginia. The other 46 states were recorded.

Distance was no deterrent. People came from five different cities in Hawaii (Aiea, Honolulu, Kailua, Volcano, and Hilo), and three in Alaska (Anchorage, Eagle River, and Kodiak). There were visitors from Bozeman, Montana; Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Deer Vale, Maine; Puyallup, Washington; Bow, New Hampshire; Lost Nation, Iowa; Brooklyn, New York; Broken Arrow, Oklahoma; and El Mirage, Arizona. Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands also appeared in the record.

In addition to our fellow Americans, we had quite a few from other nations: Norway (Sola), Ireland (Limerick), Germany (Zell am Maine, Darmstadt, Grafenwöehr, Stuttgart, Buttenwieser, Heidelberg, and Neu-Isenburg), England (Hertford, Bristol, Shoeburyness, Basingstoke, Fareham, Hampshire, Widnes, and Cheshire), Morocco (Rabat), Scotland (Edinburg and Glasgow), Japan, Korea, Hong Kong (Kowloon), The Netherlands, Denmark (Nysted, Skanderborg, and Horsends), Canada, and Australia (Sydney, Tumby Bay, Streaky Bay, Balgowlah, and Rangeville).

The visitors I've had the pleasure of talking with, from Anacortes to Apopka, have expressed an interest in the story of our Boll Weevil Monument and enjoyed hearing the tale. Many of them took home souvenir t-shirts and mugs. Our "bug" is truly a world traveler! -- Georgia Fleming

*When a society or a civilization
perishes, one condition can always be
found. They forgot where they came
from.*

-- Carl Sandburg

Queries & Requests

If you have a question, request, or something else to share with your fellow members, this is the place for it. E-mail Georgia at hyacinth@ala.net if you can answer questions or fulfill requests, and I will put you in contact.

- ❑ Wanted: a map showing the location of Simmons Mill
- ❑ Wanted to buy: Pea River Reflections
- ❑ Wanted: a photograph of "The Houseboat", a teen hangout in the 1960s and early 1970s on Highway 84 near New Brockton.
- ❑ Wanted: Our Gift Shop/Library is in need of an answering machine. If you have one you are no longer using, please consider giving it to the Society. (Email hyacinth@ala.net)
- ❑ Wanted: a copy of The Heritage of Geneva County.



Coffee County Population Through the Years

1850	-	5,940
1860	-	9,623
1870	-	6,171
1880	-	8,119
1890	-	12,170
1900	-	20,972
1910	-	26,110
1920	-	30,070
1930	-	32,556
1940	-	31,987
1950	-	30,720
1960	-	30,583
1970	-	34,872
1980	-	38,533
1990	-	40,240
2000	-	43,615
2010	-	49,948

Cleaning Gravestones, Monuments & Stone Sculptures

Jonathan Appell is an expert on the cleaning, preservation, and conservation of grave markers. He conducts workshops on the subject across the United States and Canada. The following article is reproduced from his website at: <http://www.gravestonepreservation.info>. If you plan on cleaning gravestones or other monuments, take the time to read Mr. Appell's advice. Visit his website for more complete information.

One of the most commonly asked questions is, how do I clean this stone? Although the cleaning of a gravestone may seem quite simple, this is not always the case. Every time a historic stone is cleaned, some of the stone's surface is removed in the process. Clean it too often, and all the inscription and details may be washed away!

Before any cleaning may begin, it must be determined what the objective of the proposed cleaning project is. Most people's first desire is to "restore" the stone, or to make it look new again. But, upon further consideration it may not be desirable to have a new looking stone in an old graveyard. It is likely to stand out like a sore thumb!

So what is the driving force behind the desire to clean gravestones?

One reason is to read an otherwise obscured inscription. Another reason may be to bring back the beauty of an otherwise discolored stone or statue. If it looks old, it's your gut feeling it should be cleaned.

Let us now think in terms of what is best, to promote the life span of the gravestone, to help preserve it.

1. Is the stone cleanable?

If the stone shows signs of chipping, scaling, flaking or other forms of deterioration, do not clean. You will do more harm than good.

2. Next, determine what kind of stone is it?

The type of stone can determine what technique should be used to clean it. Most common gravestones are likely to be sandstone, slate, marble, limestone, or granite.

3. Regardless of what kind of stone you are cleaning, the first rule is always to be as gentle as possible. Use the least aggressive approach, to accomplish the cleaning objectives desired; safely without harming the stone. It may not be possible to clean the stone as thoroughly as you had hoped before beginning the project.

Be flexible and relax your preconceived notions regarding what the stone will look like once the cleaning operation has been completed.

4. Always begin with clean water, a soft scrub brush, and plastic scrapers. Completely saturate the stone to be cleaned with water.

A pump sprayer works best for most gravestone cleaning operations. Home centers sell various types with prices starting as low as \$10. A sprayer will use much less water than the old bucket and brush method.

Additionally the bucket method always returns the polluted water still on the brush back into the clean water, thus contaminating it.

5. There are many different types of brushes which work well for cleaning cemetery memorials. It is best to always have a wide range of brushes on hand, including multiple sizes, with various stiffness of the bristles. Always begin the cleaning process with the softest

brush to see if it will get the job done. Progress to stiffer bristles only if needed. Although mentioned previously, I will repeat, do not use wire or metal brushes of any kind, as they may scratch, damage, or stain the stone.

Suggestions regarding brush selection: Some conservators advise against using natural bristle brushes, as they may leave behind residue which might increase future biological growth. In a purest sense this may be true, and when conserving artifacts in a museum setting, this may be good advice. Gravestones in an outdoor environment do not seem to be effected by this extremely minor, possible residual effect, which natural bristles pose. On the other hand, natural bristle brushes are often softer and more effective for many types of stone cleaning.

Car wash type brushes work well for the softer end of the spectrum. Do not use old contaminated brushes from previous non-gravestone cleaning projects. Typical scrub brushes are more aggressive and vary in size and exact stiffness of the bristles. Grout cleaning brushes are very effective for getting into tight spaces, such as cleaning in and around the inscriptions and carvings.

Always remember to rinse often as the cleaning progresses to monitor for flaking or scaling to the stone.

I love to use plastic scrapers whenever possible to remove biological activity. Certain types of growth can be removed quickly and effectively with only the use of plastic. They are available from home centers and hardware stores at a very reasonable price.

Buy the package with a few assorted sizes. Not all plastic scrapers are formed from the same quality and hardness of plastic. In many respects the softer the plastic the better.

Instead of damaging the stone, the plastic wears away fairly quickly.

6. Always scrub in a random orbit motion, to avoid streaking or erosion to the surface of the stone. Many conservators make an issue to recommend starting the cleaning operation at the bottom of the stone, working towards the top. This serves to avoid staining the stone from runoff as the cleaning advances upward. I have found that with an average sized gravestone or monument, it makes little difference where you start cleaning, provided you clean the entire side once you begin. But, most importantly be sure to completely rinse off the stone before it dries. Streaking and staining, may result if the dirty water is allowed to evaporate before being rinsed from the stone.

Fred Oakley, one of the founding members of AGS, and their preservation specialist, asked me if I knew why the back of a gravestone should always be cleaned first.

He followed up with, if you don't clean it first, you may not clean it at all, once you have read the inscription on the front, many people don't want to spend the time required to finish the job. Funny, but probably true some of the time.

Biological Stone Cleaning Solutions

Over the past decade or so there have been a number of newer products developed which will effectively remove all biological activity from stone and masonry without any risk of harming the stone itself. These types of cleaning products are known as biological cleaners. The first material created in this capacity is called D2 Biological Cleaning Solution. It has been well tested and researched by groups such as the NCPTT, National Center for Preservation Technology & Training, with very positive results. It is currently being applied to the Washington Monument in this year of 2013.

One major issue with most cleaning products is that they will only clean what's on the surface of the stone. Just like any tooth which has roots way beneath the surface, so does most

biological growth. However, a biological cleaning solution like D2 will penetrate way under the stone outer surface to reach deeply into the root structure, and kill off the growth. The stone will then become cleaner by itself over the next days, weeks and months, even without the need for hand scrubbing which can contribute to erosion on very soft and crumbly stone. Additionally biological solutions are the only products which will also prevent and inhibit future growth for at least a year, and in many situations many years.

Another major difference regarding the application of D2 with nearly all other stone cleaners, is it may be sprayed onto a dry stone surface. Within a few minutes it will go to work eating away at the biological activity.

A non-ionic detergent is safe to use on nearly all types of stones encountered in cemeteries and graveyards. It has a neutral PH which will not effect or harm historic stones. It is sold as a photography product and distributed by Kodak. It comes in a small plastic bottle, but you do not need to use much at one time. Just an ounce in a gallon or two of water to make a cleaning solution. A product called Vulpex also will provide similar results. A word to the wise, don't expect miracles to occur while cleaning with a non-ionic detergent, you have to be patient as results are often less than spectacular.

Another highly effective cleaning method is to poultice the stone. This employs the concept of a capillary action to wick away staining safely. A poultice is simply a clay type substance which is placed on a pre-moistened stone. The stone is then covered to avoid evaporation. Once the stone is uncovered, it is rinsed clean of the poultice and hopefully the staining attempting to be removed.

This is a very safe technique when properly employed, and may be performed on very delicate surfaces. It is often used in museum environments.

Entire books have been published on cleaning stone and masonry. Historic Scotland has published individual books for each major kind of stone encountered.

A short list of cleaning techniques based on stone type

Listed in order from the safest, or least aggressive, to the most aggressive:

- **Slate:** Clean water, non-ionic detergent, biocide solution
- **Sandstone:** Clean water, non-ionic detergent, biocide solution
- **Marble/ Limestone:** Clean water, non-ionic detergent, biocide solution, ammonia and water solution, Calcium hypo-chloride solution
- **Granite:** Clean water, non-ionic detergent, biocide solution.
- **Modern Polished Granite:** Clean water, non-ionic solution, biocide solution, Acid based granite cleaning solution. It is most common in a dry crystal form and is mixed with water to form a solution. Its strength may be varied based on the amount of crystals added. Please be very careful, as eye protection and rubber gloves should be worn. Also it may kill grass or plantings in the area around the stone being cleaned.
- **Unpolished Modern Granite:** The same as polished. Additionally plain old-fashioned cleanser may be doing the best job of all. Comet or common dry cleanser without the extra cleaning crystals works wonders when cleaning unpolished modern granite monuments. Do not use cleanser on polished granite as it may scratch the finished surface of the stone.

Francis Tash, one of the most experienced monument installers in America, who performs installation for Rock of Ages recommended cleanser for use on unpolished granites to me many years ago.

A poultice may be used safely on nearly any stone surface, so I have omitted it from the index above.

Remembering . . . 1865

- Among those born in 1865 were: Prince George Frederick Ernest Albert (later King George V of the United Kingdom), Warren G. Harding, Rudyard Kipling, and Baroness Emma Orczy (author of *The Scarlet Pimpernel* novels).
- In the news: (4 March) Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated for a second term; (9 April) Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Ulysses Grant at Appomattox Court House, effectively ending the War Between the States; (April 14) Lincoln was shot while attending a performance at Ford's Theatre in Washington; (April 27) the steamboat *Sultana* exploded and sank in the Mississippi River with 1700 dead;
- A skilled worker in the Eastern states earned about \$150 a year.
- Unemployment in the U. S. was virtually non-existent.
- Postage was 3¢ per half ounce.
- The Matterhorn in the Alps was ascended for the first time by a party led by Englishman Edward Whymper.
- A pound of butter was about 35¢ in northern states, a dozen eggs the same.
- In the Springfield, Missouri, market square, gunfighter and scout Wild Bill Hickok shot and killed cowboy Davis Tutt in a quick-draw pistol duel, the first of its kind.
- Andrew Johnson (Republican) was President of the United States, having succeeded Abraham Lincoln.
- Alabama had three governors in 1865:
 - Thomas H. Watts, former Attorney General of the Confederate States, served until 1 May 1865 (his arrest by occupying Union troops);
 - Lewis E. Parsons, appointed Provisional Governor by President Johnson, served from June til December;
 - Robert M. Patton, elected in November 1865; in 1867 he lost control of the state to a military governor when Congress passed the Reconstruction Act.
- *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (sometimes called *Alice in Wonderland*), by Lewis Carroll, was first published in the United Kingdom and the United States. It has never been out of print.
- Other books first published in 1865: *From the Earth to the Moon* by Jules Verne, and Charles Dickens' last novel, *Our Mutual Friend*.
- Musically in 1865: the popular Christmas carols "What Child Is This?" and "O Little Town of Bethlehem" were written; German composer Richard Wagner premiered his opera "Tristun und Isolde;" other active classical composers included Brahms, Tchaikovsky, and Dvo ák.
- Life expectancy in the United States was about 40 years (it is now 78 for males and 81 for females).

- First seen in 1865 – the Caribbean nation the Dominican Republic was recognized as an independent nation by Spain; Congress created the House Appropriations Committee; the first train robbery in the U.S. took place in May in North Bend, Ohio; The Christian Mission (later renamed The Salvation Army) was founded in London, England; the U. S. Secret Service was founded in June.
- Last seen in 1865 – Notable deaths: Confederate general A. P. Hill (April 2), President Abraham Lincoln (April 15), Confederate guerilla captain William C. Quantrill (June 6).

The Census Taker's Job

The Texas 1850 Federal Census schedule, Volume 3, written by H. Swaringen, Asst. Marshall, dated 23 October 1850, contains this note written by the census taker:

"I certify these to be sixty-four pages and a piece of the inhabitants and done as near in accordance with my oath as I could do it. The people was hard to get along with!"

Can You Help?

If you can help clean the Cole Cemetery in September, please contact the newsletter at hyacinth@ala.net. This is the family cemetery of Thomas Delorum Cole (1790-1865). Like many family cemeteries in the county that are no longer being used, it is in need of cleaning. Thanks!

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