

## Corinth Shiloh Cemetery

Historical Narrative researched and written by Nita Thurman for Texas Historical Commission  
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Corinth Shiloh Cemetery covers three acres on the north side of Shady Shores Rd. on the border between the cities of Denton and Shady Shores in Denton County, Texas.

The origin of the cemetery dates back to 1877, when Dr. Thomas A. Ball and his wife, Nancy A. Ball, deeded one acre of land to the Primitive Baptist Church at Shiloh. The object of the deed "is to convey this one acre of land ... to the Primitive Baptist church for a church house lot, so long as this same be used for said purposes, and when the said one acre of land.... ceases to be used for the said purpose of a Primitive Baptist Church House Lot, the same is to revert back to me, my heirs or legal representatives."<sup>1</sup>

The deed is recorded in Denton County Deed Records, Volume Y, and Page 350.

Foy Taylor, president of the present Corinth Shiloh Cemetery Association, said he had heard of a brush arbor being used as a church beside the cemetery years ago and also believed at one time a small building existed that was called the "Little Brown Church." The church building was moved to Corinth, but the cemetery had grown up beside the church, so the land remained a cemetery.

In 1953, the cemetery was enlarged when J.L. Allison deeded another 1.5 acres north of the original one-acre site. The deed, acknowledge by Shiloh Cemetery trustees R.E. Coleman, O.L. Fowler and W.J. Crubaugh, is recorded in Denton County Deed Records, Volume 393, Page 121. <sup>2</sup>

Dr. Thomas A. Ball was born January 1, 1830, and died February 1, 1914, in Denton County. His wife, Nancy Yeats Ball, was born February 19, 1831, and died February 19, 1910. She married Dr. Ball in 1848 and she joined the Primitive Baptist Church in 1852. <sup>3</sup> Their tombstone is one of the more elaborate ones in the small rural cemetery; two marble slabs lean against each other covering the grave, with upright marble tablets at each end.

The first grave is believed to be that of a small child who died as her family traveled through the area with a wagon train. An iron cross marks the grave in the southwest corner of the cemetery. <sup>4</sup>

The oldest stone marks the grave of William Garrison, 1810-1870. Although a new tombstone was erected later, the original broken sandstone was left in place with part of the name and the last three numbers of the date....870... still visible. <sup>5</sup>

One of the older graves is in Spanish, which translated says: Gone Home, Manuel Garsia; Born Nov. 16, 1886; Died Aug 28, 1909 at 11 p.m., aged 23 years, 9 months, 12 days."

The cemetery was known simply as Shiloh Cemetery for many years. When the Corinth Shiloh Cemetery Association was formed in 1959, the association officially adopted the name Corinth Shiloh Cemetery to distinguish this cemetery from many others named Shiloh.

A \$5.00 membership fee began a perpetual care fund. The membership fee has been dropped and income from the association's trust fund and annual donations are used to maintain the cemetery. <sup>6</sup>

Decoration Day is traditionally the first Sunday in May each year, following a work day on Saturday when relatives and neighbors of those buried in Shiloh come to clean up and beautify the cemetery and share dinner-on-the ground. The association business meeting has been held on Sunday afternoon. However, in May 2002, the Cemetery Association voted to have the business meeting on Saturday afternoon to accommodate people who come from more distant areas and cannot stay for both days, beginning in May 2003.

Current officers of the Corinth Shiloh Cemetery Association are: Foy Taylor, president; Boyd Taylor, vice president; Lula Taylor, treasurer' and Nita Thurman, secretary. Members of the board of directors are: Douglas Holder, Douglas Reeves, Ken Mercer, Alice Pockrus and Johnny Meadows.

The cemetery, which lies at the south boundary of the Gideon Walker Survey, contains 379 marked

graves and 25 illegible markers, mostly rocks. Some of the older graves are decorated with mussel shells. Pioneer families harvested the mussels from nearby creeks and placed them on the grave mounds. Each year before Decoration Day, the mother of a child buried at Corinth Shiloh would take up all of the shells on the child's grave, wash them and replace them on the grave.<sup>7</sup>

The Corinth Shiloh Cemetery continues to serve as a burial site for relatives of families buried there and the surrounding community.

## Bibliography

1. Denton County deed records, Volume Y, page 350.
2. Foy A. Taylor, interview.
3. Inscription on tombstone of Nancy Yeats Ball.
4. Denton County Historical Commission Cemetery Inventory records; Courth  
Denton, TX.
5. Corinth: A Bicentennial History, p 133,
6. Ibid.
7. Foy Taylor, interview.