



**OLD SOUTHLAND CEMETERY
GRAND PRAIRIE SIGNIFICANT LANDMARK
Site Medallion No. 16
1200 Block SW 3rd Street**

Historical Date: 1910

Lot/Block/Survey: Abstract 1507, SE corner Thomas Vernoy Survey, Vol. 1, Page 283, Map Records, Dallas County, Texas, known as the Grand Prairie Southland Cemetery. Original cemetery plat: 1910, 4 acres, 402'x420', south most portion of cemetery, layout by Thomas H. Hall. In 1929, the First Addition was purchased immediately and adjoining the north boundary plus an extended 171' north and east, with the complete footage 591'x212'. See map in file as made by W. Taylor and Louise Stubbs Irvin, 3-14-1985.

(Old) Southland Cemetery Association, Inc. is now classed as a non-profit, incorporated group. On October 15, 1974, it became under perpetual care status, when two of the trustees, Dewey Millar and Mrs. Edmond (Lura) Keith made substantial contributions when pledges began March 1, 1972 to develop this trust.

In 1985, Mr. Millar continued as President of the association with other trustees: Secretary-Treasurer, W. Taylor Irvin; members Bruce Bean and Duke Burge.

The original layout was kept on the inside wall of the garage of the then current secretary, Mrs. Florence Bacon, and the record was destroyed by rain per Dewey Millar.

In 1910, Thomas H. Hall made the original layout and the markings for lots and blocks with Bois d'Arc "stubs" as this wood is well known to weather many years. The 1929 First Addition was marked by Mr. Hall with the assistance of W. Taylor Irvin.

There are many of the early 1900 standing type markers in this cemetery. Mr. Millar remembers the grave of Edward Z. Motley (son of R.P. and S.E. Motley) as the first burial in the original plat, his dates: born September 11, 1885 and died March 11, 1910. Another older grave is that of G.B. Hall

whose marker reads March 27, 1878-November 9, 1910; this tombstone was photographed when the cemetery was new and a copy of the photo has been added to the file courtesy of Southland Funeral Home and *Ruthe Jackson. The original photo was provided by Carl and Stella (Reed) Rambo of Sevierville, Tennessee. (*Lead research with Irvins)

In 1918, Grandma Emma Motley paid for the addition of a then distinctive and impressive arch at the entrance gate of the original portion of the cemetery.

W. Taylor Irvin recalls that Mr. Bob Motley suggested to Thomas H. Hall (his father-in-law) that there was a great need for a cemetery as it was very far to the Watson or the Fugate (Fugitt) cemeteries both located approximately four or five miles from the original townsite.

Two unusual remembrances must be told . . . you will find at least two graves with markers earlier than 1910 . . . these were removed from other cemeteries and reinterred at Southland:

Thomas E. Vernoy (one of the original Peter's Colony-Dechman early settlers) whose original farm site was located near the cemetery, but moved to another farm near Corn Valley and Racquet Club, is buried in Southland, even though there is a cemetery bearing his family name at the Corn Valley site. The Vernoy-Allen relatives relocated the remains of Thomas and Julia A. Vernoy (originally his name was spelled Vernoy on the first tombstone that lies horizontally on the grave) at Southland.

Mrs. Fannie Millar Sadler and infant daughter (1876-1909), aunt of cemetery president Dewey Millar, was also interred from the old Fugitt cemetery in 1910.

There are very few empty spaces left in this historic old cemetery that are available for sale. There are times when a family will make a gift of their remaining unused sites to the cemetery association and this is handled by the Trustees. An entire block with twelve graves sold for \$18.00 originally.