



**JORDAN-HIGHT FAMILY CEMETERY**  
**GRAND PRAIRIE SIGNIFICANT LANDMARK**  
**Site Medallion No. 10**  
**NW Corner of Meyers Road at Johnson Street**

The cemetery is located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Meyers Road at Johnson Street in northeast Grand Prairie, Texas (Burbank Gardens area).

About thirteen years before his death, David A. Jordan (1808-1879) dedicated approximately one acre of his land for a family cemetery on the death of a relative by marriage, Robert A. Hight (1826-1866) who died of a fever that he contracted while in the service of the Confederacy. Martha Ann Hight, his wife, wanted to lay him to rest near Duncanville where they lived. However, David A. Jordan agreed to dedicate a family cemetery if Robert A. Hight could be buried in the family plot. She agreed and he became the first and earliest marked grave located in this new cemetery near the Jordan ranch home.

Prior to the formation of the official cemetery association, this cemetery was known as the Hight Cemetery, The Jordan Cemetery, The Bowles Cemetery, and the Jordan-Bowles Cemetery, depending upon the reference. The formation of the association clarified this for the record and history.

According to a 1970's abstract by the Grand Prairie Historical Society, there were four HIGHT marked graves and twenty JORDAN marked graves.

In a 1986 survey, 162 graves have been identified. A cemetery association president, Buck Smith, stated that "a lack of records and vandalism of markers in past years has necessitated the effort to reconstruct a survey of burials." His research also noted, "there is nothing to substantiate any particular causes of death or any grouping that would indicate epidemic or disaster periods being involved."

The unmarked or "natural" marked graves with no identification numbered 34 in the 1970's abstract and research continues in this area of interest. The cemetery has sites reserved for

individual descendants and sites available for others who might desire space. The policy of the association is that descendants of anyone presently buried in these grounds shall be provided upon request. If space is available, others might be considered. There are persons who were employees of the Hight, Jordan, and Bowles families that are buried here and also unmarked graves that are thought to have been Indian and Mexican itinerants who were accepted for burial by the early families. No restrictions on markers is in existence. A recent burial was an indigent of the community with no family, a Mary G. Swain (1919-1984).

Important early settlers buried in this cemetery include the BRANNAN family, the HIGHT family, the MILLER family, SIMEON MUGG, the ROBERTSON family, and the distinctly important JORDAN family.

David A. Jordan and his family were responsible for the following important events in the history of Grand Prairie:

- The stagecoach stop at the Jordan ranch
- A school in a log school house with Mr. Godfrey as the teacher
- A merchandise store in the yard of the Jordan home
- Lumber to construct the “Valley Church” which was the first school and the
- first church to be established in this section of Dallas County

David A. Jordan was an important appointee of the Dallas County Court in Precinct #9 (Grand Prairie area) serving in 1864, 1865 and 1867 as President of the local election. Following the death of David A. Jordan and his second wife, Elizabeth Hight Jordan in 1915, the property and/or the house, and probably the cemetery, either passed to Emma Jordan Campbell (David A. Jordan’s daughter) by inheritance or was purchased by Emma Campbell and her husband, Squire Campbell.

Victor Bowles purchased the ranch including the house and cemetery from the Campbells in 1886. The house, including 100 acres of land, passed to Victor S. Bowles, Jr. (deceased) on January 27, 1927, thence to the surviving heir, Minnie E. Bowles, during 1927.

Minnie E. Bowles sold the cemetery to the Jordan-Hight Family Cemetery, Inc., on September 23, 1955 following the chartering of the cemetery on September 2, 1955, State Charter #127949. Trustees named in the original document were Thomas H. Hight, Sr., May Long, and Maud Jordan Holland.

The association was not very active until 1983, when a new group of officers and directors were elected. The current officer of the association is:

- Thomas H. Hight, Sr.                      PO Box 549 Eustace, Texas 75214

The Jordan-Hight Family Cemetery Association is actively managing this cemetery. It has established a permanent fund to provide interest earnings that will hopefully grow to a perpetual maintenance capability but have made no commitment to perpetual care under the law.