



For more information about gravemarkers, scan the QR code above to download *Deep East Texas Grave Markers* by Nancy Adgent.

If you do not have a QR code scanner, you may visit

http://preserveamerica.sfasu.edu/PreserveAmerica/PreserveAmericaWebSite/displaypage.php?page_id=3

and download the guide from the right side of the webpage



Misty Hurley, a Graduate Student in Public History at Stephen F. Austin State University, created this brochure as part of her thesis on cemetery preservation and creation of interpretive materials connecting Oak Grove Cemetery of Nacogdoches with historic sites, museums, artifacts, and archival records.



This project has been created in conjunction with the Center for Regional Heritage Research at SFASU.

Oak Grove Cemetery



Gravemarker Interpretation and Preservation



Gravemarker Materials

- Marble – some of the oldest markers in the cemetery are made of marble and are often tablet and obelisk in shape
- Granite – these markers come in many sizes and shapes including tablet and wedge
- Concrete and Cement– Oak Grove Cemetery is home to some hand made stones, which can be found in the front central section of the cemetery



Notable Gravemarkers

- The Steamboat Stone – This monument is for Mary Raguet, who fell off of a Steamboat travelling the Ohio River. This stone can be found South of the main entrance.
- The Clark family plot – This plot features a sculpture of an angel and personalized decorations. The Clark family plot is located in the center section of the cemetery.
- Thomas J. Rusk's monument – This monument was erected in 1894 for the Texas

Revolutionary. Rusk's monument is located South of the main entrance.

- Woodmen of the World – Markers from this organization are found throughout the cemetery and are usually shaped like a tree trunk, though some tablet style stones have the insignia carved on them.
- False Crypts – While these crypts are common in East Texas and Louisiana, Oak Grove Cemetery has a very high percentage of them. Though many believe that individuals are buried in the crypt, they are actually buried as usual and the crypt is a form of grave marker. False crypts can be found on either side of the main drive and in the central section of the cemetery.



- Obelisks – Oak Grove has a large number of Egyptian inspired obelisks, which are often carved on more than once side. These markers may be found in the central and southern end of the cemetery.



Gravemarker Cleaning

DO

- ✓ Do no harm
- ✓ Check for damage or weaknesses that may mean the stone is too fragile to clean
- ✓ Select the gentlest cleaning method to accomplish the task, this means soft brushes and a gentle soap such as Orvus Paste
- ✓ Take safety precautions such as wearing gloves and safety glasses

DON'T

- ✓ Don't do anything that will remove or damage the surface of the stone, such as power washing, sand blasting, power tools, or using wire brushes
- ✓ Don't use bleach, chlorine, comet or other household cleaners. These products can damage and leave deposits that further deteriorate the stone.