

Grave Search Project

Estes Cemetery has been the final resting place for our ancestors, family and friends since 1857. Over the years, neglect and vandalism have robbed us of the names and location of many of the graves. This is my attempt to preserve the identity of the graves and to tell the story of Estes Cemetery.

In 1993 the James Estes Memorial Cemetery Inc. began work locating and marking all unidentified graves.

The Corps of Engineers Cemetery Listing made in 1976 and the Mansfield Historical Society inventory of 1981 was compared to the current list of graves. It was determined that sixteen graves previously identified no longer had markers.

Some of the tombstones that were severely damaged had enough lettering remaining to identify the grave. In some cases where the markers were completely missing, the approximate location was determined using the Corps numbering system and the Historical Society's sequencing.

Probing the ground in the area revealed pieces of tombstones, cement shards, bricks and rocks that indicated the presence of a grave in most locations. In two instances (Jerry Richard Loyd and Giles T. Stinson) the original markers were found buried beneath the surface.

Markers made of concrete and aluminum have been installed at the approximate location of the graves. Information for the inscriptions on these markers was taken from the two lists.

Based on the empty spaces between known graves, there could be as many as fifty to sixty unidentified graves in Estes Cemetery.

I believe the information on the location and identity of the graves to be accurate but I would appreciate any corrections or additional information pertaining to Estes Cemetery.

Gwen Hintze