

# NEWSLETTER

MENDENHALL CEMETERIES ASSN, INC.

P. O. BOX 838

MENDENHALL, MS 39114

**ANNUAL MEETING\*\*\*\*\*APRIL 22, 2014\*\*\*\*\*6:00 PM\*\*\*\*MENDENHALL CIVIC CENTER**

**2 Corinthians 8:12-15 Be Ready to Give as the Need Arises**

### 2013-2014 BOARD MEMBERS

President - David "Butch" Magee

Vice-President-Marshall Magee

Secretary - Betty Sue Mangum

Treasurer - Miriam Hopkins

Members: Perry Lee, Terry Williamson,

Curtis McMillan, Jan Magee, David Massey

We would like to thank Butch Magee and Terry Williamson for the service rendered for the past three years. They rotate off the Board this year and will be replaced by two new members at the annual meeting on April 22. We appreciate your service to the board for the past three years and "Thank You".

Join us on April 22 at 6:00 PM for the annual meeting at Mendenhall Civic Center. There were 28 burials in the year 2013, listed on page 3. We will be giving an update on the maintenance and care of the Mendenhall Cemeteries and welcome any suggestions or ideas that you could contribute at the meeting. You will be given finance report for the past fiscal year and if you have any concerns about the care of the cemetery, the Board will be there to hear them. Please support our cemeteries by your attendance and donations.

### ALL ARE INVITED TO HELP ON CLEAN UP DAY AT THE CEMETERY ON MAY 17, 2014

Spring has sprung! And it's time for some spring cleaning at the Mendenhall Cemetery. Cemetery Supervisor Tom Layton says that is there is plenty to do. The Cemetery Board has designated Saturday, May 17, at 8:00 a.m. as our First Annual Clean Up day to make sure our cemetery will look it's best for Memorial Day which falls this year on Monday May 26, 2014. We buried nine veterans this year in our cemetery. We invite all who have someone buried in our cemetery or any volunteers to participate on that day . So get out your rakes, brooms, clippers, shovels, weed-eaters, old shoes, work clothes and gloves in preparation for the big Memorial Day weekend when many relatives and friends of those buried visit and decorate the graves of their loved ones. In case of inclement weather, call the Cemetery Supervisor at 601-847-4978 in the event the program has been cancelled and rescheduled.

### CEMETERY YEARLY REMINDERS

- Corner stones must be checked every year by the owner of the burial plot/plots. Burial accuracy depends on these markers. West Cemetery does not require corner stones
- The Cemeteries Association is not responsible for care of the headstones. There are many tombstones that need to be straightened and cleaned
- Your donations are appreciated each year. They are tax deductible . Please mail to Mendenhall Cemeteries Association, Inc. P. O. Box 838, Mendenhall, MS 39114
- For inquires about burial plots or to purchase plots, contact Cemetery Supervisor, Tom Layton, (601) 847-4978
- There are some grave sites that do not have tombstones or permanent markers. The responsible party should get this done. Eventually all evidence of those burial sites will be lost.

## *Can You Help?*

The first MCA Newsletter was mailed out April of 1997 announcing the first annual meeting of the cemetery board members and membership. Because You being a member of this association, you are receiving this newsletter. You were included in the mail out because you have relatives buried here or you may have an interest in the cemetery and continue to get the newsletter annually. Mail outs will discontinue upon your request. You are encouraged to attend the annual meetings to learn what has happened within the last fiscal year(July-June) and ask any questions to the cemetery supervisor and board members of the Mendenhall Cemeteries Association Inc and review the financial report. For you and others of our beginning mail outs, we discussed the historical background and development of our cemetery association in the earlier newsletters. Since we now have many new recipients of this newsletter, we would like to repeat some of this information for these newer recipients.

## *Now the rest of the story-----*

It has now been more than 17 years ago that several interested community-minded people stepped up and formed the Mendenhall Cemeteries Association, Inc. (MCA). Family and friends of the deceased had been fortunate that the City of Mendenhall had maintained the cemetery grounds for years until they were notified in 1996 that the **STATE OF MISSISSIPPI** informed them that they could no longer continue that service for families of the deceased because of an existing law. It was illegal because it was not the city's responsibility to mow and maintain the grounds but was classified as a private cemetery. This meant that around 1300 burial sites would no longer be mowed and maintained by the City of Mendenhall. Those sites have now increased to nearly 1800 since the organization of MCA in 1997. Family and friends of the deceased did a very unselfish thing for their community by taking on the task of caring for the grounds with their own mowers, weed-eaters and other means of volunteer labor that was needed. It was later realized that this task was too large to handle, they were damaging their own equipment and the decision was made to form a non-profit organization to raise funds to use for the care

and maintenance-On October 27, 1997 the Mendenhall Cemeteries Association, Inc. was confirmed by the IRS with the status as a tax exempt organization. With little knowledge as to who the surviving families of many of the deceased were, a mail-out list of 600 was developed by that group of volunteers to receive this annual letter and the association begin sending annual letters hoping to establish a perpetual fund that could continue to fund all maintenance and care into the future. The compiling of all the burial information and the addresses was a huge task by several dedicated to the cause of caring for the cemetery. The perpetual fund was established but it has become evident that the cost of yearly maintenance has increased at such a rate that yearly donations cannot continue to cover even the yearly expenses as they are increasing yearly. This has occurred because of the bad state of economy for several years, low bank interest rates, decreasing tax exempt donations, decreasing mailing list because returned mail-undeliverable-no forwarding. No viable means of obtaining addresses of families that are the family of the deceased in the cemetery. Many families have never been notified because their addresses were never available, many families don't know how the cemetery of their family is being maintained, they don't get the annual mail-out and maybe assume that the city is responsible for maintaining.

## **NOW WITH ALL THAT BEING SAID, CAN YOU HELP?**

**YES**, you can if you would make an annual tax exempt donation to the MCA.

**YES**, you can if you would volunteer to serve on the board or volunteer on clean up days.

**YES**, provide us with names and addresses of your relatives that do not receive the newsletter, or request that they provide their name and addresses to us or provide anyone's address that may be interested the cemetery. No amount is too small to help in establishing a perpetual fund.

**YES**, Another means of donations to the MCA is by requesting that tax exempt donations be made to the MCA in honor or memory of the deceased. The family will receive an acknowledgement of the donation .

This past year 2013 we received donations for the following names that were buried in the cemetery because their families requested MCA as a preference of memorials to be made; they are as listed, Dr. William Munn and Betty Sue Munn, Mary Edith Lee, James White, Bobbie Wilson, Bennie Sue May, Bill Williamson, James Earl Harvey, Archie Magee and Charlie Williamson. Every family is sent an acknowledgment of the donation with the name and address of the donor (s).

**PARTIAL /RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE MENDENHALL CEMETERIES ASSN, INC., ADOPTED AND APPROVED 1997-2014**

The Rules and Regulations are provided to members and new members several ways, it is posted online at the website [www.cityofmendenhall.com](http://www.cityofmendenhall.com) under tab Mendenhall Cemeteries Assn, Inc., you may have received it in the mail, or a brief synopsis in an earlier newsletter or received if you purchased burial plots. You can print it from a home computer from the website or request a copy from Tom Layton, Cemetery Supervisor.

Section One -Appearance of the Cemetery is one of the important rules that the families should be reminded that are not always being followed and here are a few points that needs monitoring .

- trees, shrubs, or other plants may be removed or replaced at the discretion of the Cemetery Board, in order to prevent disease of plants, overcrowding, conditions or damage to burial site. The Board is under no obligation to replace any tree, shrub or any other plant which has been removed for any reason. Families are not allowed to plant live plants or trees in any of the Mendenhall Cemeteries.
- Care of the cemetery lawns is the responsibility of the Cemetery Board. All of the cemetery lawns should be mowed at the same time by the cemetery caretaker. Selective mowing of e.g., on one burial plot, distracts from the appearance of uniformity.
- Floral tributes consisting of real or artificial flowers are the recommended type of grave decorations.
- All grave decorations are to be removed from an individual grave when such becomes unsightly. It will be the responsibility of the family or friends of the deceased to remove old and faded flowers and to ensure compliance of this regulation. If not done in a timely manner it will become the right of the Cemetery Board

to have the unsightly grave decorations removed..

- No pottery, crockery, tin, glass or ceramic decorations or containers will be allowed in the Mendenhall Cemeteries. No metal or plastic pipes, wires, rocks, bricks, gravel or concrete may be used to secure any grave decoration to the ground. Such material can also cause serious injury and will be removed.
- Items not permitted in the Mendenhall Cemetery West include:
  1. Slabs of any type or material
  2. Corner markers of any type
  3. Stone chips or homemade memorials of any type
  4. No benches, chairs, or travels should be placed by the gravesites.

**2013 BURIALS**

Clara Ramage	01/08/2013
Archie Magee	01/10/2013
William (Bill) Williamson	01/24/2013
Sandra Grubbs Huffmaster	01/29/2013
James Earl Harvey	02/22/2013
Dorothy (Dottie) Mangum	03/12/2013
Betty Jean Barr	03/17/2013
Betty Sue Munn	03/28/2013
Jack Gilbert Walker	04/10/2013
Angela Sasser	05/19/2013
Russell Larry Adcock	05/19/2013
Bennie Sue May	05/21/2013
Bobbie Wilson	05/23/2013
Douglas Eugene Wallace	06/04/2013
John William Edwards	06/23/2013
Faye Lambert King	07/13/2013
Charles D. Parker	07/20/2013
Suzanne H. King	07/22/2013
Faye Rials Nash	08/07/2013
Kate Herrington	08/09/2013
George French	08/12/2013
Jordan D'Avy	08/17/2013
Bobbie Nell Mize	08/27/2013
Billy Mack Sullivan	09/17/2013
Jimmy Charles Sullivan	10/20/2013
Richard M. Truly	10/28/2013
Ellis Booth	12/03/2013
Debra Monk	12/07/2013

**"And can it be that in a world so full and busy, the loss of one weak creature makes a void in any heart, so wide and deep that nothing but the width and depth of eternity can fill it up!**

*Author: Charles Dickens*