

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Provide a brief history of the cemetery. This should include information regarding land ownership; date of establishment; origin of the cemetery name; historical association with a family, community, or church; cemetery development and growth; and current activity. See the Guidelines & Instructions document for additional tips. You may submit this as a separate document if you prefer.

Willis Thomas Avery acquired the 1280 acres of land where the cemetery is located from M. C. Hamilton, Ma; 19, 1858, recorded book 7, page 366, Williamson County Deed records.

471.25 acres where cemetery is located was sold by W.T. Avery to Robert J. Eckhardt on Nov. 20, 1913, recorded in Vol. 160, Page 79 Williamson County deed records. (This is when the land left the Avery family).

133.82 acres where cemetery is located was purchased by Jay D. Mikulencak on Sept. 22, 1995. Inst # 9543130, Williamson County Deed records.

There is no reference to the cemetery in any of these deeds.

The cemetery was likely established when Willis and Elzina Avery's daughter Melinda Avery died on August 25, 1867 and was buried in the cemetery. Fannie Moore died December 12, 1847, Elzina Avery died March 1, 1870, Willis Thomas Avery died July 17, 1889 and are buried in the cemetery. A large 4 sided marker and a separate marker for Fannie Moore are the only markers remaining intact in the area of the cemetery. Willis Avery's name is on one side of the 4-sided marker, Elzina Avery is on another side of the marker and on the 3rd side two names are listed: Melinda Avery (daughter of Willis and Elzina) and a Fannie Moore. The 4th side of the marker is blank. An infant baby of parents Grover and Ora Avery, died 1919, is buried in the cemetery but there is no marker at the cemetery.

Willis Thomas Avery and family came to what is now Bastrop County in November 1832 from Missouri.

The Avery family settled on land in Williamson County on Brushy Creek, near Rice's Crossing in 1845.

Willis Avery fought at San Jacinto as a member of Jesse Billingsby's Mina Volunteers. Because of his service for Texas, Willis Avery received 640 acres of land and another 1280 acres of land. Willis Avery was a member of Texas Ranger Company C, and as a Texas Ranger he was with Mirabeau B. Lamar on the famous buffalo hunt in 1838 at the present site of Austin, Texas.

During the runaway scrape, Willis's wife, Elzina Weeks Avery, left her home and joined those fleeing from the Mexican Army. While on the run, Willis and Elzina's child was delivered by Willis's mother, Catherine Jennings (Mrs. Gordon Jennings, widow of the oldest man who fought and died at the Alamo

In 1938, Willis Avery's remains were removed to the State Cemetery in Austin. A marker was placed there for Willis Avery on Republic Hill. Some accounts say Elzina's remains were also removed from Avery #1 to the State Cemetery but others indicate the additional markers at the State Cemetery for Elzina Avery and Catherine Avery, McCutcheon, Jennings are cenotaphs.

The land on which the Avery#1 cemetery is located is now owned by Jay D. Mikulencak. A search of the deed records show no mention of a cemetery from the time the property was owned by the Avery family through the date that the property was owned by Jay Mikulencak. The cemetery is no longer active.