Major W. H. "Howdy" Martin SCV Camp #1241 Athens

Arms Cemetery Dedication

Saturday, October 11, 2014 10:00am

You are cordially invited to join

The Sons of Confederate Veterans

to honor the memory of our Confederate Veteran

George W. Grayson

Born 21 February 1830 — Died October 1879

and to dedicate a CSA marker for his service 1861-1865

For other information contact

Commander Jimmy Abney

903-681-1999

Chaplain Jim Day **903-681-5313**

Directions from Murchison:

Turn North at Blinking Light on FM 773

Go about 2 miles to CR 3800

Turn left and look for the ARMS CEMETERY on the left.

Arms Cemetery Memorial Service

Saturday, October 11, 2014 10:00am

hosted by the members of

The Major W. H. Howdy Martin SCV Camp 1241 Athens

Order of Service

Welcome……Commander Jimmy Abney

Invocation……Chaplain Jim Day

Posting of the Colors……Color Guard

Introduction and purpose of service……..Commander Jimmy Abney

Eulogy and History……..Compatriot Dale Sifford

Memorial Message……Chaplain Jim Day

Rose Ceremony……Howdy Camp Ladies

Soldier's Canteen Salute……SCV Compatriots

Rifle Salute……..SCV Compatriots

Cannon Salute and Taps……..SCV Compatriots

Presentation of Flag to Family……..Adjutant/Treasurer Jim Ogburn

Retiring of the Colors……Color Guard

Final words of appreciation……..Commander Jimmy Abney

Benediction……..Chaplain Jim Day

Time of refreshments and fellowship by all in attendance.

Arms Cemetery Dedication

3800 County Road Murchison, Texas

10:00 am Saturday, October 11, 2014

George W. Grayson was buried in 1879 in Arms Cemetery located on County Road 3800 north of Athens, Texas. Today it is a very quiet resting place for others in Mr. Grayson's family as well as residents from the area and sadly many unmarked graves. On a rainy Saturday morning, October 11th, members of his family, friends and neighbors all gathered there to dedicate a Confederate States of America Marker in honor of Mr Grayson's service from 1861-1865. The weather did not interfere with the special plans for this day.

Hosts for the ceremony were members of the Major W. H. Howdy Martin Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp 1241 in Athens. Also participating were the cannon crew members of the John H Reagan SCV Camp 2156 from Palestine. The ceremony began at 10:00am with greetings from the Martin Camp Commander Jimmy Abney. Posting the flags by the colorguard, unveiling of the marker by Adjutant Jim Ogburn, and a memorial message by the Chaplain Jim Day were just part of the dedication. The Howdy Ladies gave each lady present a rose so that they could participate. The ladies were escorted to the Grayson grave and then each placed a single red rose in his honor. The camp members then began the soldiers' canteen salute to Grayson. Each approached his grave, kneeled and poured a drink from their canteen on the grave, took a sip, rose and saluted. Compatriot Dale Sifford shared his memories of his great-great grandfather's life and his service in the CSA by reading a short biography. Those present learned that Mr. Grayson actually served with the then Captain W. H. Howdy Martin and in addition, he served as a medic during the war.

A rifle salute and a cannon volley preceded taps and the presentation of a flag to Compatriot Sifford. Commander Abney read The Charge and everyone sang Dixie. Refreshments were served by the Howdy Ladies and family pictures were taken at the conclusion of the ceremony. The Arms Cemetery Dedication was a most honorable service that will always be remembered by all those attending.

ARMS
CEMETER

S
C
A

S
C A

S
C A

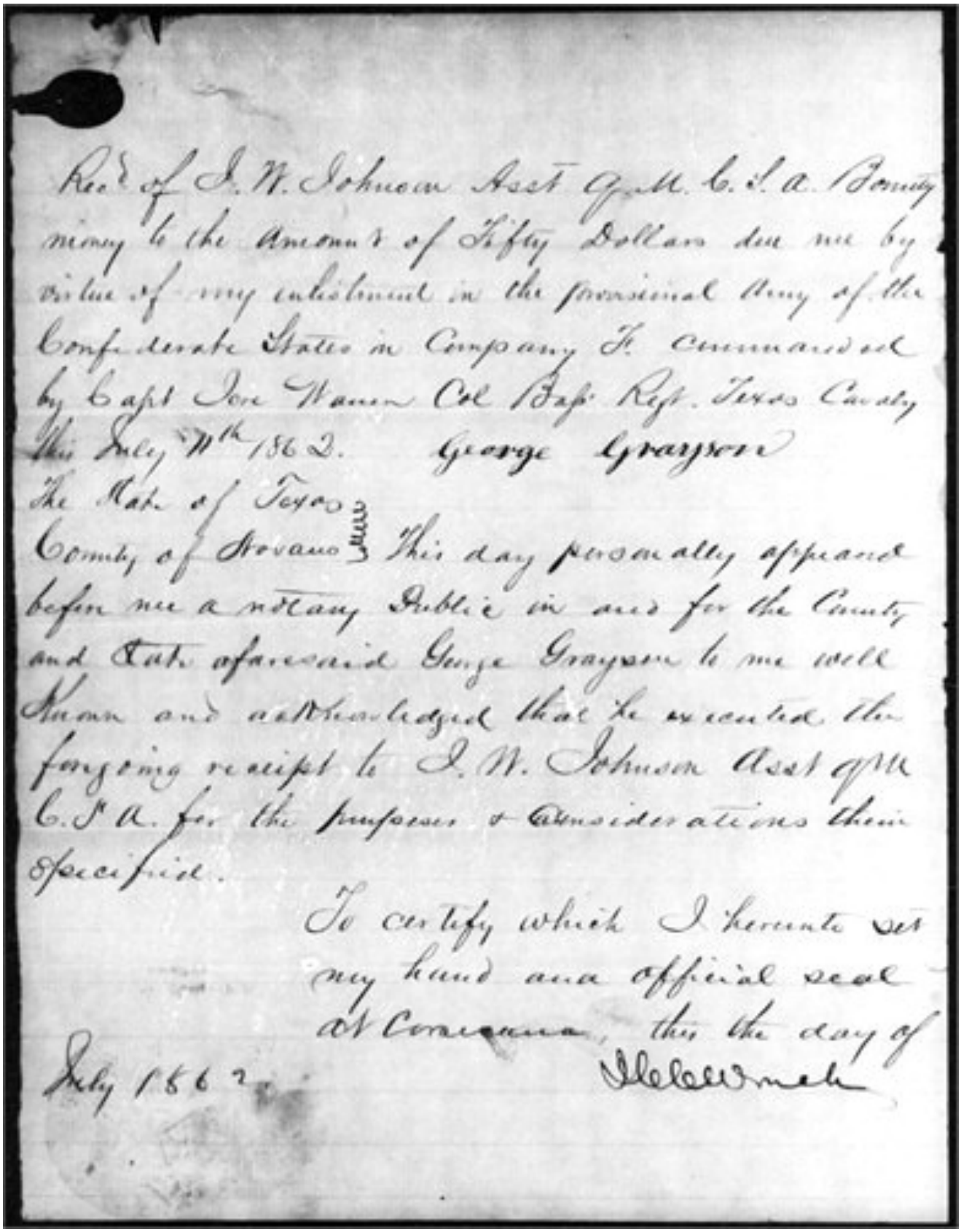
Dale Sifford shared this kind letter and photo he recently received from a family member.

Thanks very much Dale,

It looks like you had a pretty good turn out and nice to see the cemetery looking cleaned up. It is a lot different from what I remember the last time I was there. (see attached photo) I think this is about early 1980s or thereabouts. My son Sean looks to be about 12 years old so I would figure the attached photo was from 1983. On the right:

My Mother's older sister, **Aunt Ollie Cameron Carnes Randall** (buried at Carroll Springs) and the pretty girl- **Cindy Carnes**, the daughter of my 1st cousin Fred Carnes, who died (was murdered) in Houston in the mid 1970s. And my son, **Sean.**

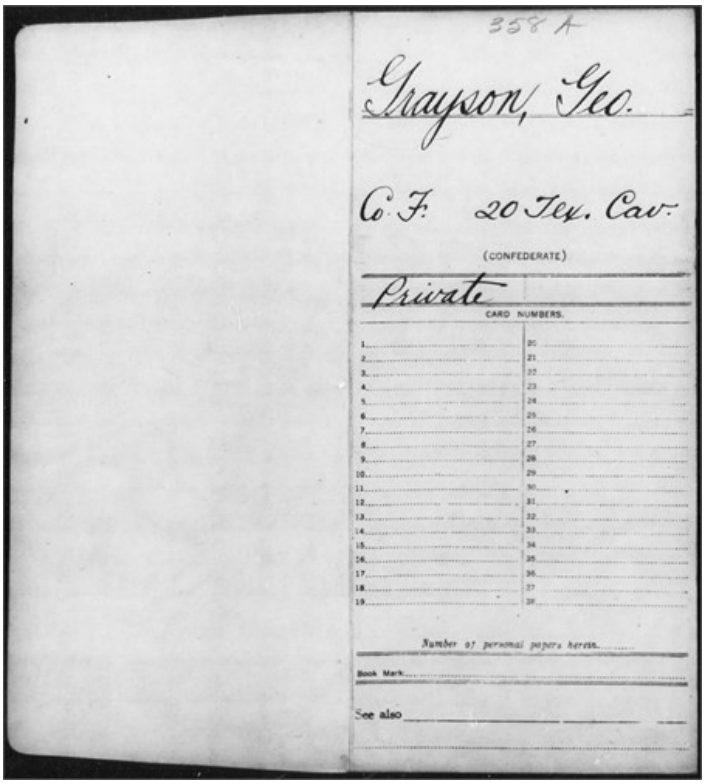
Buddy



Rec'd of J. N. Johnson Asst Q.M. C.S.A. Bounty
money to the Amount of Fifty Dollars due me by
virtue of my enlistment in the provisional Army of the
Confederate States in Company F. Commanded
by Capt Jos Warren Col Bap. Regt. Texas Cavalry
this July 11th 1862. George Grayson
The State of Texas
County of Navarro } This day personally appeared
before me a Notary Public in and for the County
and State aforesaid Geoge Grayson to me well
known and acknowledged that he executed the
forgoing receipt to J. N. Johnson Asst Q.M.
C.S.A. for the purposes & Considerations therein
Specified.

To certify which I hereunto set
my hand and official seal
at Corsicana, this the day of
July 1862.

Dated July 11, 1862, found in the research by Martin Camp Genealogy Advisor Jan Giles.



358 A

Grayson, Geo.

Co. F. 20 Tex. Cav.

(CONFEDERATE)

Private

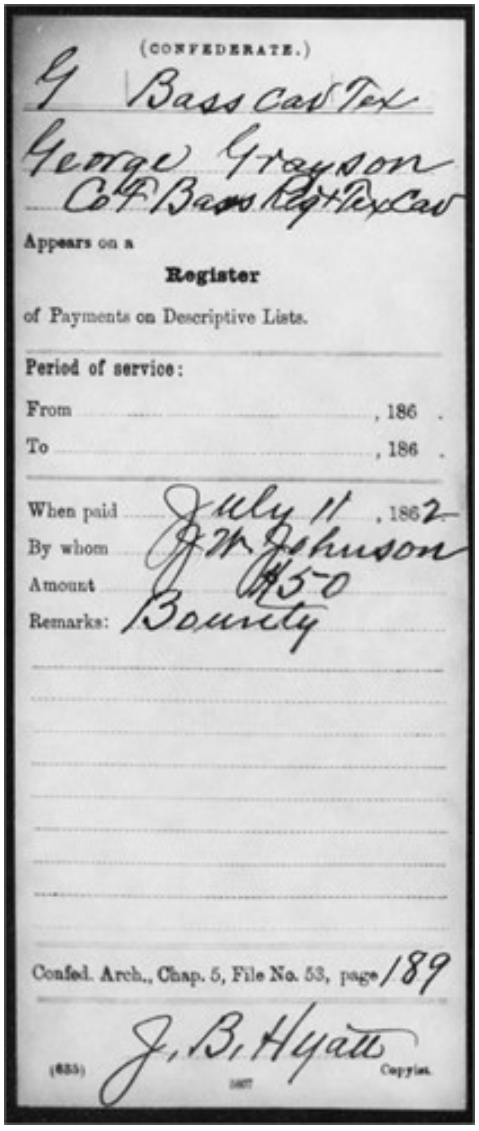
CARD NUMBERS.

Number of personal papers herein.....

Book Mark.....

See also.....

The Martin Camp SCV Genelogy Advisor **Jan Giles** provided these records found on Ancestory.Com



(CONFEDERATE.)

G Bass Cav Tex

George Grayson

Co F Bass Regt Tex Cav

Appears on a

Register

of Payments on Descriptive Lists.

Period of service:

From ....., 186 .

To ....., 186 .

When paid July 11, 1862

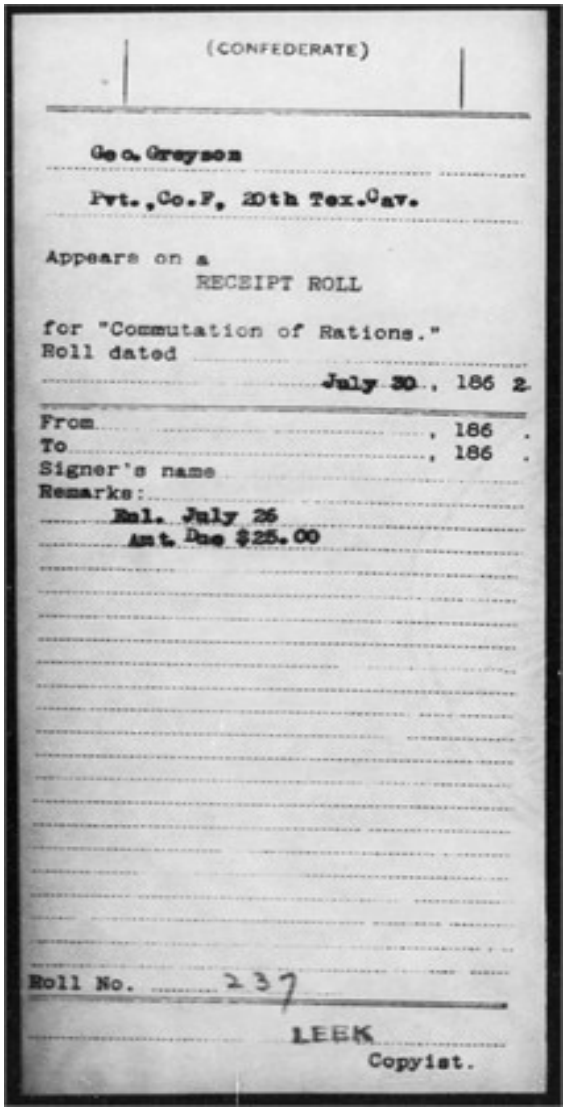
By whom J M Johnson

Amount $50

Remarks: Bounty

Confed. Arch., Chap. 5, File No. 53, page 189

(655) J. B. Hyatt Copyist.



(CONFEDERATE)

Geo. Greyson

Pvt., Co. F, 20th Tex. Cav.

Appears on a

RECEIPT ROLL

for "Commutation of Rations."

Roll dated

July 30, 186 2

From ....., 186 .

To ....., 186 .

Signer's name .....

Remarks:

Rel. July 26

Amt. Due $25.00

Roll No. 237

LEEK

Copyist.

Biography of

George William Grayson

read by Dale Sifford at the dedication ceremony

George William Grayson was born in Big Cove, Madison County, Alabama, on the 20th of February, 1930. He was the son of George and Cynthia Hanna Grayson. He followed his uncles Jackson and Charles Grayson to Texas. He was listed on the Census of Rusk County on the 24th of November, 1850. He married Manilla Starnes Merritt on the 3rd of August, 1854 in Rusk County.

In the 1860 Census of Henderson County, he was listed

"George W. Grayson, age 30, born Alabama, Wheelright."

This Census also showed his wife,

"Molina, age 28, born Alabama,

children Jerome B., age 5, Monterville (female) age 1, John W. age 8 months"

The 1870 Census added

"George Jr. age 8, and Sarah Cynthia Louella, age 6."

Manilla Starnes Merritt Grayson died at childbirth. In 1870 George married Julia A. Luker, a widow who lived next to him.

Jerome and George Jr. died young and John W. died of exhaustion and illness received in the 1900 Galveston flood where he was a law student. He is also buried in Arms Cemetery.

Julia bore three children: Mark (Sam), Maude, and Ambrose. Samuel moved to San Angelo, Texas. Maude married Jack Cox and remained in the Athens area. Many of their descendants still live here. Ambrose later became a deputy sheriff.

George served in the Civil War in Company "F", 20th Texas Calvary under Captain "Howdy" Martin. He, like his brother, John, and sister, Sabrina, was an "unlicensed doctor." He performed the duties of a doctor because there were few licensed doctors on the frontier, but he did not finish medical school.

George William Grayson died in 1879 and is buried at the Arms Cemetery, located north of Athens, Texas.

Family pictures shared by Dale Sifford's relatives

Right: Dale Sifford's grandparents wedding picture.
Miss Ethel Bateman and Mr. Lawrence Pool

Below: Cynthia Sarah Grayson Bateman (George W. Grayson's daughter, Ethel's Mom) 90 years old

Above:

This is my great grandmother on my mother's side who we called Grandma Bateman. My grandmother, Artie Jewell Elledge, who we called Nanny made the best cinnamon rolls and I ate plenty in the 1950's. My mother, Imogene Marie Elledge, who still lives albeit with Alzheimers in Long Beach, CA.

I am Kenneth Stephen Cook, her middle son, living in Chatta-nooga, TN. I am 61 years young.

Left:

Julia Ann McWilliams Grayson. George Grayson's 2nd wife and baby Lela nee Cox.

The Clean up and the Maintenance

Beginning in early 2014, Mr. Dale Sifford attended a regular monthly meeting of the Howdy Martin SCV Camp. During the business meeting, he asked to speak regarding the Arms Cemetery. He explained that he had volunteered to maintain the Arms Cemetery where his great-great grandfather was buried. He explained that due to his age he was worried that he would not be able to continue taking care of it. In addition, Mr. Sifford applied for membership and was accepted upon his application as a member to our SCV Camp. Adjutant Jim Ogburn brought pictures of a prior clean up that were published in the local newspaper so that we could see the cemetery property before a decision was brought to vote. The Major W. H. Howdy Martin Camp members gladly assumed the clean up and maintenance of the older but small Arms Cemetery as their camp project. It is with great pride and honor to pay tribute to this veteran's family that we accepted this proud responsibility that requires regular attention and lots of hard work.

March 28, 2014 was the first clean-up day for camp members. Seven men and three ladies worked more than half a day mowing, cutting limbs and moving branches before starting two large fires. Compatriot Pete Edison and Adjutant Jim Ogburn designed and gathered materials to build a wood fence across the front and installed locked cables for security.

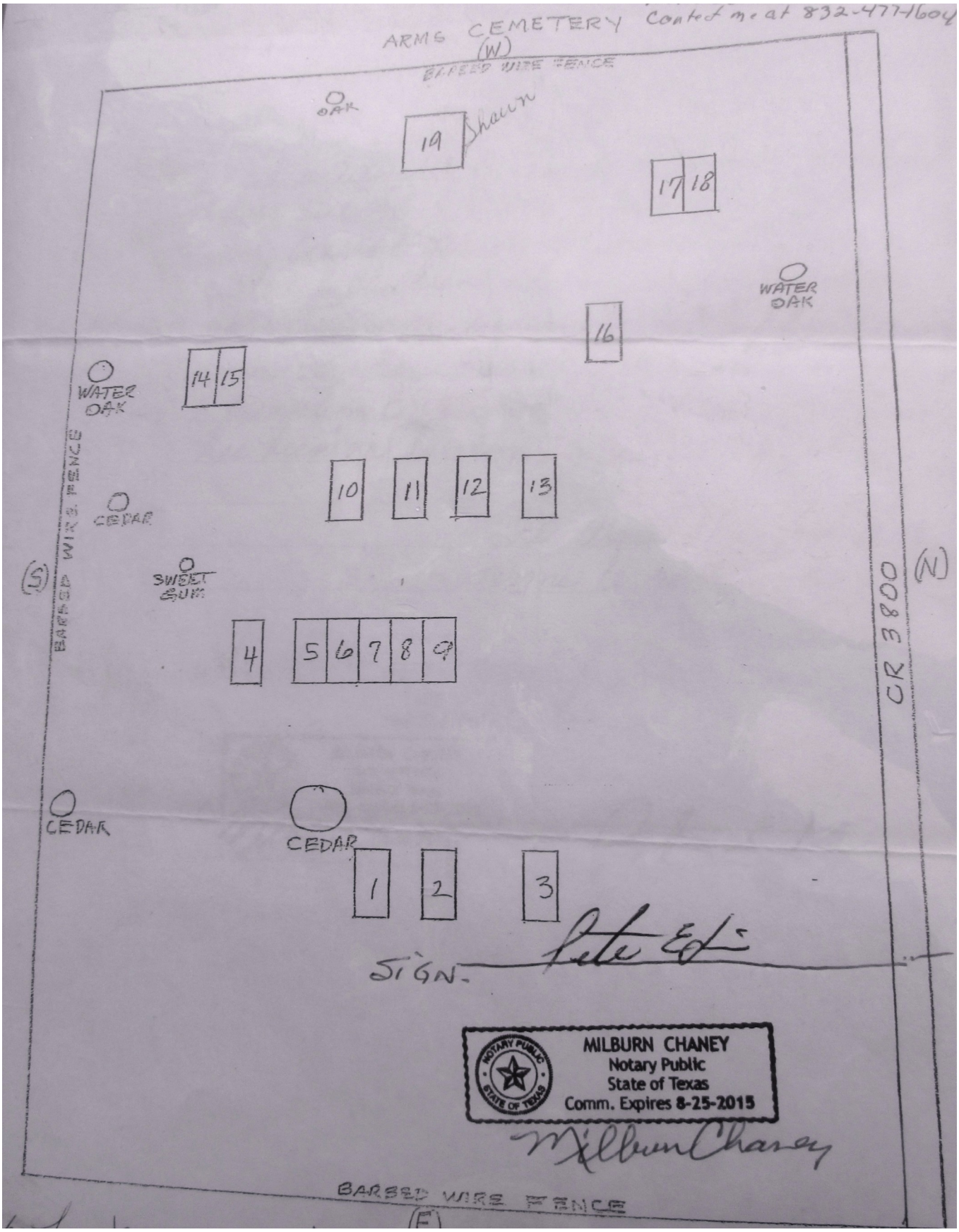
These two men also built in the middle of the cemetery a very nice sign with the proud name of **Arms Cemetery** so that everyone driving by knows that this is a final resting place of many early citizens of Henderson County including one very special Confederate veteran.

Back row Left:
Jesse Giles, Pete Edison, Dr. Jim Ogburn, Jim Day, Commander Jimmy Abney, Mike Burton

Kneeling: Bob Lynch

March 28, 2014 — First Day at Work — Arms Cemetery

Arms Cemetery Plots

on File at the

Henderson County Clerk's Office 2014