Mesa County Genealogical Society
Cemetery History Project
Est. 9/2022

✓ List all Mesa County Cemeteries, location, directions, entrance photos and provide on MCGS website (Karen Sturgill completed)

✓ Detailed history of each cemetery(Being updated/reviewed)

By researching a cemetery, you learn about its history and character. The use of reliable sources and careful citations is essential to preparing the history of the cemetery. Consult primary sources, such as public records, newspaper accounts, meeting minutes, historical maps, and historical photographs.

Preserve distinguishing original qualities that reflect the integrity of the cemetery. Avoid removing or altering any historic material or distinctive landscape feature. Recognize that changes over time are evidence of the history and development of the cemetery. These changes may have acquired significance and this significance should be respected.

From Texas Historical Commission-Developing a Master Preservation Plan for a Historic Cemetery

✓ Create a "committee" and identify agreed upon projects and develop Scope of Work
  ☐ Define the project(s) to determine timeline (phased, one-time, or repetitive, i.e., annual event)
  ☐ Put out calendar to entire MCGS group with dates/locations
  ☐ Determine number of volunteers needed to achieve task *In this way, everyone associated with the project will know how long it will take, what the anticipated results of each phase will be and what the final product will accomplish.
  ☐ Publicity
  ☐ Determine if donations are needed for supplies
  ☐ Contact civic groups, Boy/Girl Scouts, etc.to assist when needed
  ☐ Can apply for grants for preservation of historic cemeteries

Potential Projects
  ☐ Survey some of the most historic gravestones and monuments within a cemetery which need repair.
    o Can contact local stone/monument businesses and funeral homes to see if they would volunteer to help restore
  ☐ On-site cemetery map (sections, lots, blocks, etc.) (Kiosk)
  ☐ On-site cemetery history (Kiosk)
  ☐ On-site alphabetical listing of all interred (Kiosk)
  ☐ Some type of marker signifying/honoring veterans (civil war, ww, etc.)
  ☐ Create and place markers for identifying rows/blocks, etc.
  ☐ Survey stones in need of cleaning or repair
    o Clean dirty/worn stones – safe products for dirt, rust, lime, calcium
  ☐ Photograph markers not currently on Find-a-Grave or BillionGraves

Cemeteries (Potential projects)
  ➢ Elmwood Cemetery – contacted. Waiting on Elmwood for direction.
  ➢ Ross Cemetery – contact current property owner/cdot/railroad for permission to place "Point of Interest" kiosk with Ross Cemetery history and list of those known to have been buried there
  ➢ Old Fairview (15th/G Rd) – "Point of Interest" kiosk with history
  ➢ Hope Cemetery (1st/Independent) – "Point of Interest" kiosk with history
  ➢ Crown Pointe

Possible assistance/Tips
- Involve the community (can contact local schools, homeschoolers, historical societies, etc. for assistance)
- Contact Find-a-Grave – can we get a list by location (lot block etc.) or get list from cemetery then walk cemetery to verify.
- Have a whiteboard to write individual information (name, birth, death, etc.) and take photo(s) if no marker present or marker illegible.

Elmwood: Contact Fruita Historical Society

Elmwood: If funds needed, apply to Fruita Thrift for donation/assistance

Ross: If funds needed, apply to Fruita Thrift for donation/assistance

(Page 2 of 2 Cemetery History Project)

See also: Cemetery Evaluation Form (by MCGS members)
           Cemetery Improvement Project Request

Cemetery Name: _____ Sub Section _____

Address:_____

Contact Person(s): _____

Historyconfirmed or is historical research needed? _____

Date cemetery established: _____

As of _____, there are _____ interred. Of those interred, _____ are veterans.

Current condition: Poor _____   Fair _____   Good _____   Excellent _____

Potential Scope of Work

_____

_____

   On-site registry available to the public: Yes _____   No _____

     If No, how can we help? _____

     _____

   On-site map available to the public: Yes _____   No _____

     If No, how can we help? _____

     _____

   Maps with names: (Volunteer group can walk a cemetery and log the following information)
   - Compare map with names to Find-a-Grave to identify any missing photos
   - Create a registry of all interred with location information
   - Use map to identify any stone deficiencies
   - Use map to identify missing markers
   - Other: _____

   Registry:
   - MCGS Volunteers can create an alphabetical registry of all interredwith location reference
   - Other: _____

Estimates: Volunteers Needed (MCGS) _____   Volunteers (Public) _____Total Hours (Est.) _____

            Training required? _____

            Supplies: _____

            _____

            Cost Estimate: $_____

 Date(s) for project: _____

 Contact email: **mcgscemeteryproject@gmail.com**

Mesa County Genealogical Society - **Cemetery Improvement Project Request**

Cemetery Name: _____ Sub Section _____

Address:_____

Contact Person(s): _____

History confirmed or is historical research needed? _____

Date cemetery established: _____

As of _____, there are _____ interred. Of those interred, _____ are veterans.

Current condition of cemetery: Poor _____   Fair _____   Good _____   Excellent _____

Potential Scope of Work

_____

_____

     On-site registry available to the public: Yes _____   No _____

       If No, how can we help? _____

        _____

     On-site map available to the public: Yes _____   No _____

       If No, how can we help? _____

        _____

     Maps with names: (Volunteer group can walk a cemetery and log the following information)
- ☐ Compare map with names to Find-a-Grave to identify any missing photos
- ☐ Create a registry of all interred with location information
- ☐ Use map to identify any stone deficiencies
- ☐ Use map to identify missing markers
- ☐ Other: _____

Registry:
- ☐ MCGS Volunteers can create an alphabetical registry of all interred with location reference
- ☐ Other: _____

Grounds/General preservation items
- ☐ Clean, raise, weed, gravestones - Specifics: _____
- ☐ Improve entrance – Specifics: _____
- ☐ Improve Veterans section or enhanced identification – Specifics: _____
- ☐ Other:_____

        _____

        _____

  Date(s) for project: _____

For questions, please email **mcgscemeteryproject@gmail.com**