

## History of Oakwood Cemetery

Established in 1849

400 North Palace Avenue

West Oakwood at North Palace

Oakwood Cemetery is listed No. 15 with  
The Tyler Historic Landmark Commission.

*Recorded Texas Historic Landmark*  
Oakwood Cemetery was designated an  
*Historic Texas Cemetery* in 1999.

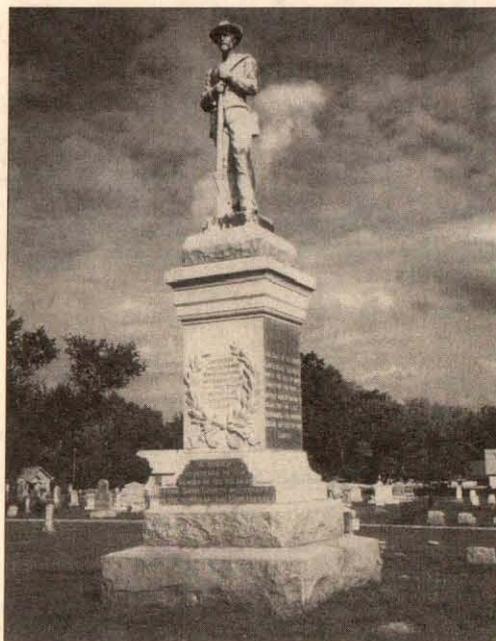
Isaac Lollar sold to John Lollar of Smith  
County, Texas, 640 acres of land on  
October 2, 1846. The public square for the  
City of Tyler was later laid out on part of  
this land. On September 22, 1849, John  
Lollar conveyed to John Madison Patterson  
in the Isaac Lollar Survey "345 acres, five  
acres of land in the southwest corner . . .  
not intended to be conveyed by these  
presents".

The five acres was deeded to the City for  
a cemetery. It was known as 'Lollar's  
Cemetery' for a number of years, then 'City  
Cemetery', and finally in 1904 it became  
OAKWOOD CEMETERY.

Over the years, additional land was donated,  
or purchased and added to the cemetery.  
OAKWOOD CEMETERY proper of 19.5 acres  
has over 2000 inscribed tombstones.

During the War Between the States  
30,000 soldiers trained near Tyler.  
231 died with measles, pneumonia, and  
other diseases. In order to have a burial  
place for these soldiers, the City set  
aside a plot 300 feet square in the  
southeast corner of the original  
five acres for the soldiers to be buried.

This plot became known as the  
"Soldiers' Plot".



After the organization of the Mollie  
Moore Davis Chapter 217 of the United  
Daughters of the Confederacy in 1898  
the members, after first securing a deed  
from the City for the "Soldiers' Plot",  
began caring for it. They also began  
raising money to buy a Confederate  
monument to be placed in the cemetery.

The Confederate Monument was  
unveiled on July 9, 1909, with some  
5,000 people assembled in the  
cemetery for the program. The  
monument was placed in the center of  
the "Soldiers Plot" in honor of the  
231 unknown Confederate soldiers  
buried in the 300 foot square  
"SOLDIERS' PLOT".

\*\*\*\*\*

GOVERNOR RICHARD BENNETT HUBBARD -  
Colonel in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Reg., C.S.A; Governor of  
Texas 1876-1879; Ambassador to Japan 1885-  
1890.

JUDGE STOCKTON P. DONLEY-C.S.A. Member  
of Texas Supreme Court, Law Partner of  
Governor O. M. Roberts. His is the only State  
Marker in the Cemetery

HORACE CHILTON - First U. S. Senator from  
Tyler.

EMER HAMVASY - Hungarian Count, tutor and  
first Episcopal rector in Tyler.

W. S. HERNDON - C.S.A. Native of Georgia.  
Texas Ranger, pioneer lawyer. Practiced in  
State Supreme Court and Federal Courts. U. S.  
Congressman, railroad solicitor and organizer.  
Captain in 13<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry.

RUDOLPH BERGFELD - Merchant, banker and  
real estate operator. He gave the land for  
Bergfeld Park to the City.

CAPTAIN JAMES P. DOUGLAS - C.S.A. Organized Douglas Battery. Lawyer, Senator, organized Tyler Tap Railway, and Kansas & Gulf Short Line. Built first canning factory here.

COL. BRYAN MARSH - C.S.A. 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry, Granbury's Division. Business man, sheriff for 20 years in Smith County.

TIGNAL JONES - Veteran of Mexican War. Member of Secession Convention. Colonel in Texas Cavalry during Civil War.

ELAM F. SWANN - C.S.A. Early Settler and business man.

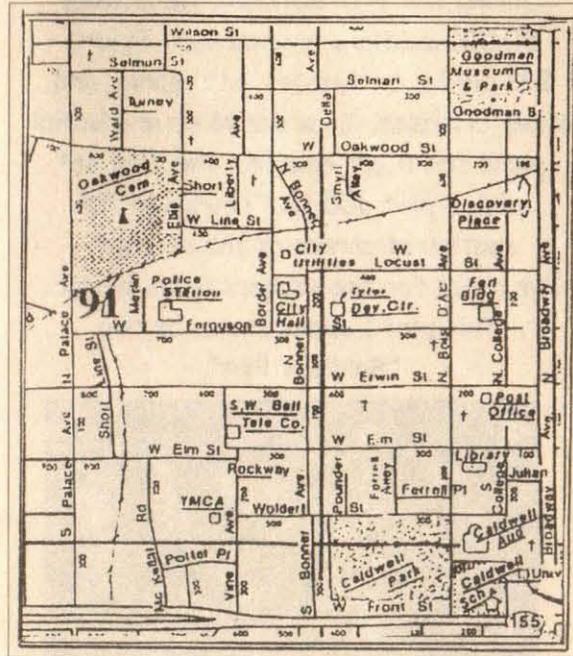
JOHN MADISON PATTERSON - From whose deed the original Cemetery plot was accepted.

BLACK SECTION - The Black Section, where many slaves were buried, was filled in and leveled in the 1930's. Mr. Ernest Sterling, a Tyler business man, had a monument erected in the center of the plot to honor all the ones buried there.

BETH-EL - Congregation Beth-El burial ground, purchased from the City. Many of Tyler's leading merchants are buried there.

There are more than 80 Confederate Veterans buried in Oakwood with individual markers, one Union Soldier, and Veterans from all other Wars.

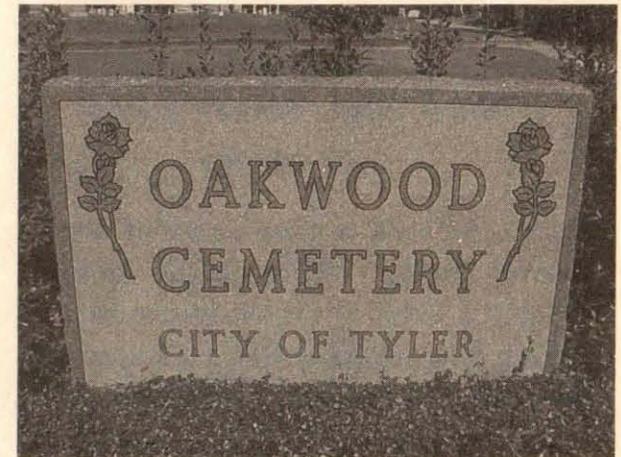
These are just a few of those buried in Oakwood Cemetery that played important roles in the development of Tyler and Smith County.



Oakwood Cemetery is a City Cemetery, and is maintained by the Tyler Parks Department.

In 1997 members of the Mollie Moore Davis Chapter 217, United Daughters of the Confederacy, and other interested citizens formed the OAKWOOD CEMETERY RESTORATION COMMITTEE, and have worked with the Tyler Parks Department since that time, working to make Oakwood a BEAUTIFUL HISTORICAL CEMETERY.

# Historic



*Located at the corner  
of  
Palace and  
Oakwood  
Streets  
Tyler, Texas*