Driving Tour
Historic Cemeteries
Plano, Texas

Preserving the Past... Shaping the Future

Cemetery Hours
Daily from dawn until dusk

Conservancy address
Interurban Railway Museum
901 East 15th Street
Historic Downtown Plano, Texas

Office Hours
Monday through Friday 10am to 2pm

Contact Us
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Plano, TX 75086-1810

Funded in part by a grant from the City of Plano

PLANO’S HISTORIC CEMETERIES

1. Baccus – Intersection of Legacy Road & Bishop Road
2. Bethany – Custer Road, North of Legacy Drive
3. Bowman – In the Santa Fe Park at Oak Grove and Cattle Drive
4. Collinsworth – Midblock on Vermillion, south of Parker Road
5. Davis – Avenue H at 12th Street
6. Leach Thomas – Destin Drive at Pensacola
7. Old City – Avenue H at 12th Street
8. Plano Mutual – 18th Street just west of Jupiter Road
9. Rowlett Creek – West of Custer on Cemetery Road, just south of SH 121
10. Young – East side of Apartments at Independence Parkway south of SH 121
   (also accessible from Ridgeview Ranch Golf Course)
Baccus Cemetery
Receiving its historical marker from the state in 1980, Baccus Cemetery is located on the old remnants of the Shawnee Trail. The cemetery has survived many changes in its life starting in 1847 as Cook Cemetery and remaining alive today. Originally used as a small family plot, than expanded to a church cemetery this resting place has always been looked after. The Cook Home was known as the lonesome house and was somewhat of a legend in the time serving as a lighthouse at night and a trail marker by day. Henry Cook was born on May 28 1775 in West Virginia where he lived in a French settlement near a Native American village. He served as a lieutenant in the war of 1812 and was a French and Indian Interpreter.

Bethany Cemetery
Associated with Bethany Christian Church and school, the cemetery is the final resting place for members of the Carpenter and the Clark families. The church, no longer standing, was founded in 1876. The congregation supported the predecessor of Texas Christian University, then known as Add Ran College. Burials began in 1877, and many grave sites are elaborately decorated with curbing. Granite panels at the gates give visitors a brief introduction to the history of the site.

Bowman Cemetery
One of the only historical cemeteries owned by the City of Plano. The cemetery covers four acres and was deeded to the city after the death of Fannie Mae Bowman Adames in 1953. The cemetery is surrounded by a park for local residents. The Bowman Cemetery was established by John D. Bowman with the burial of his daughter Julia Ann Bowman Russell. The cemetery is the final resting place of members of the Carpenter and the Clark families. The church, no longer standing, was founded in 1876. The congregation supported the predecessor of Texas Christian University, then known as Add Ran College. Burials began in 1877, and many grave sites are elaborately decorated with curbing. Granite panels at the gates give visitors a brief introduction to the history of the site.

Collinsworth Cemetery
Started during a small pox epidemic behind the Milt Collinsworth family home. Bodies were brought to the site from as far away as Frisco and buried by night, a practice thought to help lessen the likelihood of contamination. To avoid a citywide epidemic, Plano officials quarantined land extending to the north and south by present-day Spring Creek Pkwy. and Park Blvd. and to the east and west by what is now Coit Rd. and Preston Rd. Passage on all through-roads was prohibited, making transport of food and medical supplies very difficult. Only a few compassionate friends and those that had already recovered from smallpox crossed the quarantine to come to the aid of the Collinsworth family. Although five stones are visible in the Collinsworth cemetery, reports cite this is the resting place for as many as thirty Collinsworth family members, as the site was used as late as 1925. Many stones have disappeared, leaving the possibility that some are buried under as much as 18 inches of soil that covers the original cemetery.

Davis Cemetery
Located on H Avenue, adjacent to Old City Cemetery. In 1910, Lee Andrew (L.A.) Davis came to Plano from south Texas, finding work as a sharecropper. Over the years Mr. Davis became a community leader and business owner. Mr. Davis invested in stocks and real estate. Under Jim Crowe laws and segregation African Americans found it difficult to buy property in Plano. Mr. Davis used his financial clout to purchase a large section of property in Plano's Douglass Community and then sold lots to local African Americans. In 1945, Mr. Davis also bought a plot of vacant land and established this burial site, the L.A. Davis Cemetery. The cemetery was established for African Americans in the Douglass Community.

Leach-Ithomas Cemetery
Although Leach Thomas is a small cemetery its legacy ties to one of America's largest political figures Lyndon Baines Johnson. When William Perrin divided his land among his children, this daughter (Mrs. Thomas) inherited property on which the cemetery was located. Another Perrin daughter, Mary Elizabeth married John Smith Huffman, Jr. who was the first doctor in Plano. Buried in Rowlett Cemetery they are the great-grandparents of Lyndon Baines Johnson. Many of the cemeteries in Plano are very small, family cemeteries. In the early 1840s when pioneer families began arriving in Collin County, they settled on properties that were isolated from one another. As more families relocated to this region, a section of the open acreage, thick with prairie grass, would be set aside for a final resting place for loved ones. The need to prevent or contain disease made a quick burial necessary resulting in small cemetery plots scattered across the countryside. In some instances, outlying settlers would obtain permission to bury their deceased family members in another family's cemetery.

Old City Cemetery
Sometimes known as the Pioneer Cemetery, this large burial ground was designated for such use in 1848. The cemetery was associated with the earliest Methodist church in Plano, where worshippers gathered until 1894. Five Peters Colonists, the original Plano pioneers are buried in this cemetery. Old City Cemetery has a unique African American history. Over the years, the original Peters colony neighborhood, for which the cemetery was built for, evolved into an African American community. Resulting in Old City Cemetery becoming one of the first integrated cemeteries in the State of Texas. Joseph Klepper established the Old City Cemetery. He was born in Tennessee in 1804. One of the original Peters Colonists, he came to the Plano area in the 1840’s. Joseph Klepper married Nancy Beverly in Granger County, Tennessee in 1829.

Plano Mutual Cemetery
A modern cemetery with a storied past, Plano Mutual has a Texas Historical Marker and represents several founding families of Plano. William Forman, first official postmaster of the newly-named city of Plano is buried in Plano Mutual on land he once owned. A cemetery association was formed in 1891 and its successor still maintains the grounds. Peters Colonists Bowman, Forman and Rice gave land from adjoining properties to form the original cemetery boundaries.

Rowlett Creek Cemetery
With its Chapel still intact, is home to numerous Plano pioneer families. A visitor to this cemetery would recognize family names, etched in tombstones, given to Plano's streets, parks and schools. The cemetery is located northwest of downtown Plano. Dr. Daniel Rowlett left Kentucky and came to Texas in 1836. With his wife and six other families. Rowlett settled in the area of what is today Bonham, Texas. He located much of 1836 land grants in the fertile ground along the tributary that would soon bear his name, Rowlett Creek. After meeting in homes and outdoors, seven charter members organized the Wilson Creek Church of United Baptists in 1848, under leadership of the Rev. David Myers. In 1852 the name became Rowlett Creek Baptist Church. It is believed to be the oldest Baptist Church in Collin County.

Young Cemetery
Begun in 1847 with the death of Patience Ann Cornell Young. The one-acre site was set aside for family members and friends who helped settle the area near the present-day crossroads of Plano, Frisco and Allen. The cemetery, located one mile west of Rowlett Creek Cemetery, the final resting place of Gladys Young and her mother, second wife of John Young, son of Samuel Young. Three veterans lie at rest in Young Cemetery, including Thomas Finley, who fought in the War of 1812, along with Jacob Baccus and Jacob Houts, who fought for the South in the War Between the States. Most of the folks buried in Young Cemetery are related by blood or marriage. The headright of Jacob Baccus included the land around the cemetery which remained in the family until the 1970s. The cemetery is now under the care of the Young Family Cemetery Association and is recognized as a Historic Texas Cemetery by the Texas Historical Commission.

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