

WWI Veterans & Citizens

Robert Caton

A WWI officer that served as an instructor at Camp McArthur in Waco, and later founded the R.L. Caton Insurance Agency in 1930, which would stay a family owned business for 88 years in Tyler.

Arkie Crutcher

Representing the civilian contributions to the war effort, this Smith County native was tireless in her work for Tyler's Red Cross during WWI. Learn also of her family's ties to Oakwood Cemetery.

Dr. Favre Baldwin

Favre followed in his father's footsteps into the medical field. Eager to serve his country he volunteered for service even before America's entry into the Great War.

Thomas Ramey

A native of Tyler, he enlisted in the Army prior to the close of WWI. He later formed Ramey Law firm in 1930, and perhaps his greatest legacy is Tyler's Rose Festival which he proposed in 1933.

Frank Bell

The son of a local Tyler family whose service experiences as an ambulance driver were shared first hand in the letters he wrote home to his parents.

Roy Cain

A product of Tyler schools, Roy became a prominent physician in our town. Hear his first hand accounts of what he witnessed during his service in the Army Medical Corps.

Archie Chilton

A young Tyler native who bravely volunteered for service. The son of U.S. Senator, Horace Chilton, met an untimely death.

Karl White

Tyler native who commanded "The Doughboys of Company C", a heavy machine gun company comprised of 208 volunteers from East Texas.

"Spirits of Oakwood"

Sponsored by Oakwood Cemetery Restoration Committee as a fund raiser. Proceeds are designated to help repair the broken monuments and make further improvements within the cemetery.

Donations may be sent to:
Oakwood Cemetery Restoration Committee
c/o Oakwood Cemeterian

City of Tyler
PO Box 2039
Tyler, Texas 75710

"Spirits of Oakwood"



Bessie and Finis Gaston.
Finis practiced dental surgery in Tyler
from 1876 to 1913.
(Portrayed by Vicki Betts, Historical
Librarian, and Jerry Miller)

Historic Oakwood Cemetery
Palace and Oakwood Streets
Tyler, Texas

March 24, 2018

History of Oakwood Cemetery

Established in 1846

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 a
Texas Historic Cemetery
in 1999.

Oakwood is the original cemetery utilized by the
public of Tyler and Smith County and is the
final resting place for many notable individuals,
including Governor Richard B. Hubbard,
his mother, and second wife.

Other Tyler pioneers interred are
Major James P. Douglas, John G. Woldert,
Samuel A. and William J. Goodman,
Rudolph Bergfeld, Senator Horace Chilton,

Judge Stephen Reeves,
Judge Micajah H. Bonner,
Mayor John H. Bonner and
Texas House Speaker Thomas R. Bonner.

The oldest marker is that of
P. M. Scott and the most unusual
inscription is for Katie Bannon,

Erected by Henry Reymonds-her affianced.



After 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
started raising money to buy a Confederate
Monument, which was unveiled on July 9, 1909.
In addition to the soldiers at the Soldiers' Plot,
there are over 80 Confederate Veterans with
individual markers buried at Oakwood,
one Union Veteran, three veterans from the
Spanish-American War, 25 from World War I,
and 17 from World War II.

38 USC Sec. 1501 01/02/2001 mandates
that all are American Veterans.

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 Fatterson 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, consisting of
19.5 acres, has over 2,000 inscribed tombstones.

During the War Between the States
30,000 soldiers trained near Tyler.

A Confederate marker was erected
to the memory of the 231

Confederate soldiers
buried in Oakwood who died from
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.

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