April 13, 2025

Dear All,

**A quick update on results of the last two cemetery events:**

Shady Grove Cemetery held the 6th Annual Browning Stew & Chili Supper and Silent Auction 2024 at the pavilion on Sat., Nov. 2, 2024, 4:00 pm. A fun time was had by all, with 48 folks in attendance, and the food was excellent. This fundraiser benefited our ongoing cemetery projects, and earnings were $1,476 from stew ticket sales, silent auction proceeds, and on-site donations as well as an additional $2,614 in mailed and electronically-sent donations. The grand total was $4,090! Wow!!

Shady Grove Cemetery and Pineview Cemetery held a joint patriotic ceremony at Shady Grove on Sat., Dec. 14, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. This was Shady Grove’s 5th annual “Wreaths Across America 2024” event, and Pineview’s second year as a participating cemetery. 109 live fir wreaths were laid on our 109 veterans’ graves at Shady Grove by 71 volunteers. Friends from Pineview Cemetery joined us for the ceremony and returned to Pineview to lay wreaths on their 25 veterans. All veterans received a wreath at both cemeteries. The theme for Wreaths Across America 2024 was “Live with Purpose.”

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR…**The annual Shady Grove Box & Pie Supper and Live Auction 2025 will be held on **Saturday, April 26, 4:00 p.m.** It will be the 108th Box Supper fundraising event in Shady Grove Cemetery history. Funds earned will benefit the perpetual care of the cemetery. Much appreciation to our wonderful cemetery supporters who continue to love and support the cemetery and our cemetery events, whether financially, with words of encouragement, or by acts of service!

Come join us in the old church building for an old-time social and fund-raising custom of past generations that has continued throughout the years since 1915. Old-timers commonly referred to this event as the Pie Supper, so pies are definitely great items to bring, along with any other desserts, breads, jams & jellies, etc. The “box” in Box Supper refers to bringing a meal in a decorated box, container, basket, or dish filled with ítems such as, but not limited to, BBQ or fried chicken or ham or sandwiches, along with sides and trimmings. Homemade fried pies, cakes, peanut brittle, cookies, and brownies may also be boxed and auctioned. Some folks bring plants, arts & crafts items, collectibles & vintage ítems to auction instead of food ítems. The original custom was to bring a box or basket or dish of food items which would be auctioned to the highest bidder who in turn would share with the person who prepared it. Tradition throughout the years has evolved into spreading a big meal after the auction, consisting of everyone’s food items, for all to share and enjoy. It is a wonderful time of fun, food, and fellowship, among folks with a common goal…to continue the loving care of our beautiful country cemetery. Extra special thanks to Cary Spence Lawncare for the excellent attention that he and his yard crew give to Shady Grove Cemetery! Many thanks to them!!

We will also have our traditional drawing for a quilt, which was pieced and machine-quilted by Linda Miller Taylor, who comes from a long line of exceptional quilters and church & cemetery supporters. Linda’s family roots are in Shady Grove Cemetery…the late Vila Mae Gearner Mills Steele was Linda’s grandmother, and the late Charlie and Temple Mills Miller were her parents. *(Quilt photos are available on the cemetery’s Facebook page and website.)* The size of this quilt is 66x80…for comparison, a full size is 72x90, and a twin size is 54x90…so, this quilt is in between a full and twin size. Tickets are $1 each or 6 for $5 and will be available at the event for purchase. Pre-sales may be made by contacting Sherry Finney at 903-438-7455 or by contacting any director. You do not have to be present to win. (As you will remember, our tickets are not fancy but just recycled cracker box squares with your name and phone number.) Ticket money may be sent online via PayPal under the Donate tab on our website, but be sure to denote “friends and family” to avoid a fee. Let me know if you use PayPal, so I can look for it and get your tickets timely completed for you and dropped in the drawing bag. Please call me, if you need to use any other payment methods. And, of course, we accept cash or checks for ticket purchases. The youngest person in attendance on Box Supper night will draw the lucky winner! This is another special tradition which has continued throughout the years.

Your generosity and willingness to contribute are important to the success of the perpetual care of the

cemetery. Donations to non-profit organizations such as the cemetery are tax-deductible. Checks may be designated “in honor of” or “in memory of” a loved one and may be sent to: **Sherry Finney, SGCA Secretary/Treasurer**; **P.O. Box 861**; **Winnsboro, TX 75494. Also, please notify me of any**

**changes in your contact information, especially changes in your mailing address.**

**Plan ahead now…**

* **Annual Meeting/Memorial Day 2025** - Sunday, August 10, 2025, 10:30 p.m. (2nd Sunday in August)
* **Browning Stew & Chili Supper and Silent Auction 2025** - Saturday, November 1, 2025, 4:00 p.m. (1st Saturday in November)
* **Wreaths Across America 2025** - Saturday, December 13, 2025, 1:00 p.m. (2nd Saturday in December)
* **Box & Pie Supper and Live Auction 2026** – Saturday, April 25, 2026, 4:00 p.m. (last Saturday in April)

Thank you to our wonderful directors who love our cemetery and are willing to give of their time and energy! Whatever it takes, they are there…ready and willing. Much appreciation to you all!! The Directors of the Shady Grove Cemetery Association, Inc. and their current terms and contact numbers are as follows:

* Larry Finney, President (2023-2025)…903-438-3757
* Sherry Mills Finney, Sec./Treas. (2024-2027)…903-438-7455
* Kathy Brewer Brown (2022-2025)…903-850-7798
* Marilyn Browning Burrow (2023-2026)…903-975-0869
* Sally Bellomy Richardson (2022-2025)…805-423-0419
* Belinda Baber Riley (2023-2026)…903-629-5292
* Joyce Wisdom Vanginault (2024-2027)…903-629-5224

Sincerely,

Sherry Finney, SGCA Secretary/Treasurer

903-438-7455 (Sherry’s cell); 903-438-3757 (Larry’s cell)

Email: [sgca1855@gmail.com](mailto:sgca1855@gmail.com)

Website: [www.shadygrovecemeterywoodcountywinnsborotexas.com](http://www.shadygrovecemeterywoodcountywinnsborotexas.com)

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*Search* for us on Facebook and *request* to join: Friends of the Stout Community, Winnsboro, Texas