

Cemeteries play an interesting role in Waco's history. Take the time to explore each cemetery on this tour and learn about the historic figures buried there.

Greenwood Cemetery

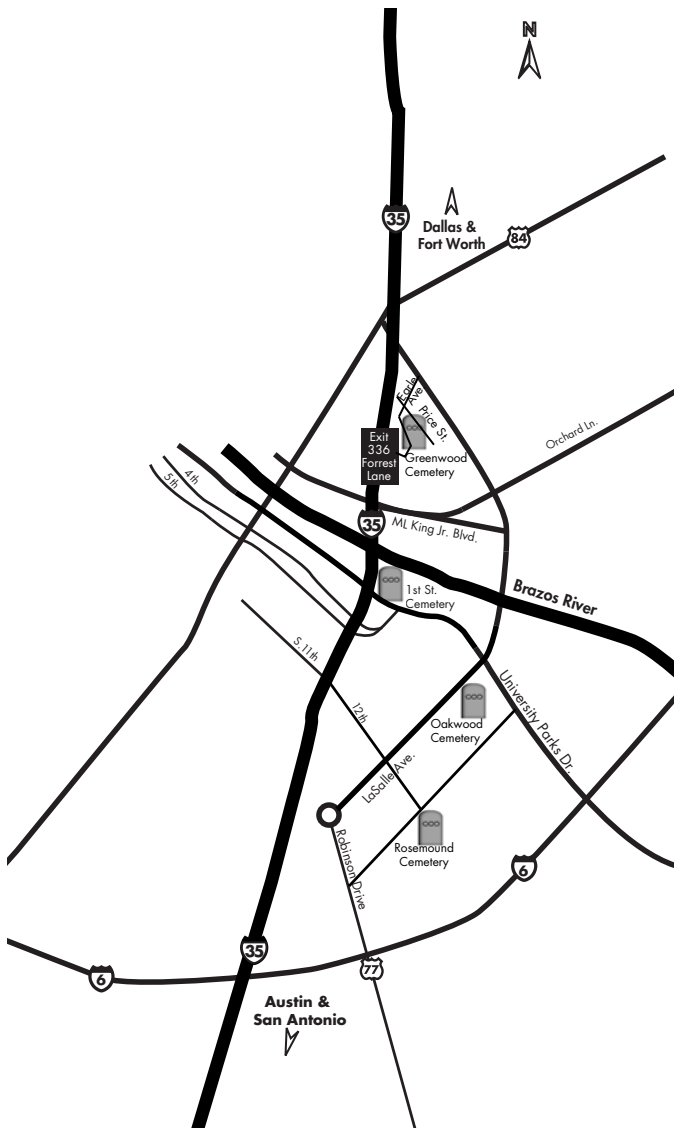
The City of Waco established Greenwood Cemetery in 1875, with equal acreage allocated for the white and black communities. In the 1930's, Mrs. Emma Norwood and others began the care now given by the People's Cemetery Association. Church, Masonic and political leaders lie here beside people from many walks of life. The most famous is the great American baritone, Jules Bledsoe (1899-1943), a native of Waco. Bledsoe studied abroad, starred in grand opera, and gave a classic to the world when he sang "Old Man River" in the original cast of Showboat, a popular drama. Marker erected in 1976.

Waco has many exciting things to see and do. Be sure to visit the Tourist Information Center, conveniently located at Fort Fisher at I-35 and University Parks Dr., for information on additional tours, attractions and maps.



Waco Convention & Visitors Bureau
Waco Tourist Information Center
I-35 @ University Parks Dr.
800-WACO-FUN (922-6386)
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www.wacocvb.com
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Open 7 days a week.

Waco Cemetery Tour



Oakwood Cemetery

Oakwood Cemetery was once the site of a racetrack, far to the south of the City of Waco, out the dirt road that was South Fifth Street. Prior to 1878 the First Street Cemetery was Waco's only public burying ground. By that year its space was gone with no possibility of adding more. Through the good auspices of Mayor E. A. Sturgis and the help of interested Wacoans such as John Sleeper, the abandoned racetrack area was acquired by the city and Oakwood began.

John Wesley Mann (1838–1909), owned the kiln that supplied bricks used in building the Historic Suspension Bridge. Mann's former home, East Terrace, is now a Historic Home Museum. Lots 1-3, block 1.

Shapley Prince Ross (1811–1899), operated a ferry on the Brazos River, built the first home in Waco, established the first water system, was a hotel operator, served as the first postmaster (carrying letters under his hat to make deliveries), was an Indian agent and cattle driver. Lot 6, block 1.

Lawrence Sullivan Ross (1838–1898) a Texas Ranger captain, a Brigadier General in the Confederate Army, Senator and Governor of Texas 1887–1891. He was the first Governor to occupy the new capitol building. Ross also served as President of Texas A&M University, where a statue of him stands in tribute. Ross became famous for defeating the Comanches under Peta Nocona and freeing Cynthia Ann Parker. Lot 5, block 1.

William Cowper Brann (1855–1898) was a brilliant, vitriolic, caustic and biting editorialist, journalist, and playwright. His monthly newspaper, the *Iconoclast*, had a phenomenal circulation of more than 100,000 world-wide. His diatribes against Baylor, however, led Tom Davis to shoot Brann in the back while he walked down a Waco Street.

Although fatally wounded, Brann wheeled and gunned down his assailant. Legend has it that an indentation of his

profile mask at Oakwood is the scar from a bullet fired by an adversary who wanted one more shot at Brann. This helped earn Waco the title of "Six Shooter Junction". Lot 19, block 9.

Confederate Soldiers—A monument marks graves of forty veterans and their wives. "In Memory of the brave men and devoted women of the South" May 2, 1893. Lots 25–28, block 9.

Richard Coke (1829– 1897) was twice elected Governor but resigned his second term when elected a U.S. Senator. His election in 1873 ended Reconstruction in Texas, although he had to seize the Capitol building from incumbent E. J. Davis.

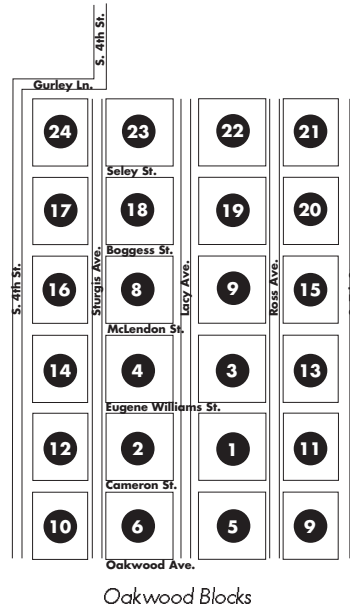
Coke is buried near his "friend through eternity", David Richard Wallace. Their life-size statues face each other. Lot 66, block 1.

Oldest Grave in Oakwood (1878) The grave of "Rose", a two year-old child was the first in Oakwood. Lot

34, block 1. Patrick Morris Neff (1871–1952) was a teacher, lawyer, legislator, county attorney and church leader as well as being the Governor of Texas and President of Baylor University. There are three books of his assembled speeches. Lot 149, section F.

82	84	84	86	88	88	90	92	92	94	96	96	98	100
81	83	83	85	87	87	89	91	91	93	95	95	97	99
80	78	78	76	74	74	72	70	70	68	66	66	64	62
79	77	77	75	73	73	71	69	69	67	65	65	63	61
42	44	44	46	48	48	50	52	52	54	56	56	58	60
41	43	43	45	47	47	49	51	51	53	55	55	57	59
40	38	38	36	34	34	32	30	30	28	26	26	24	22
39	37	37	35	33	33	31	29	29	27	25	25	23	21
2	4	4	6	8	8	10	12	12	14	16	16	18	20
1	3	3	5	7	7	9	11	11	13	15	15	17	19

Block 1



First Street Cemetery

First Street Cemetery, the oldest public cemetery in Waco, is located beneath the stately oak trees at Fort Fisher Park. The cemetery consists of three separately purchased tracts of land. On April 16, 1852, two acres were purchased by the Fraternal Bosque Lodge No. 92 (Masonic Lodge). On the same date the Town of Waco purchased 5 acres for public burial. Fifteen years later the Independent Order of the Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) Lodge of Waco purchased 2 acres adjacent to the First Street Cemetery. Together these three tracts of land made up what was commonly referred to as the City Cemetery. As Waco's population grew and the city developed into an agricultural and manufacturing center, the need for cemetery space increased. By 1876 civic leaders were searching for new burial grounds, and in 1897, the City Council closed the First Street Cemetery, except for public burials.

Capt. Thomas H. Barron (1796-1874), came to Texas during earliest immigration period, was leader of the group of Texas Rangers that established Fort Fisher, and served as clerk in first district court. Grave reinterred from Bruceville.

Major Charles B. Pearre (1834-1908), arrived in Waco in 1854. He served as city Attorney in 1856, was elected District Attorney for the 19th Judicial District in 1866 then appointed US District Attorney for northern district of Texas in 1884 by Grover Cleveland. (Gravestone Missing)

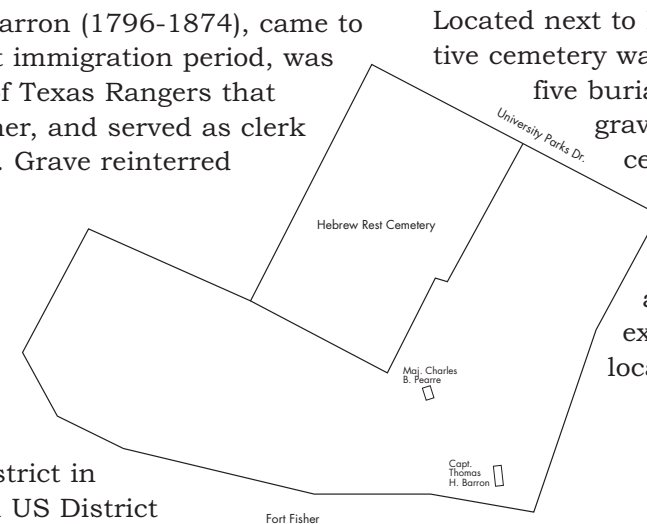
Unusual Markers

- Gravestones with epitaph in Chinese characters
- Oldest grave in cemetery, 1852
- Gravestone with German epitaph
- Gravestone with Norwegian epitaph
- Woodmen of the World gravestones

Hebrew Rest Cemetery

The earliest Jewish community dates from 1847 (sojourners) and permanently from 1853. In 1873, sixteen Jewish families and twenty young men lived there. The 1876 Jewish population was 150 out of 8,000 inhabitants.

Located next to First Street Cemetery, the inactive cemetery was established in 1869 with only five burials in the 1870s. The oldest gravestone dates from 1869. The cemetery was enlarged by land purchased in 1893 and 1922. There are 100-500 granite flat stones with English, Hebrew, and Sephardic inscriptions exist. The present owner is the local Jewish community.



Rosemound Cemetery

Rosemound was plotted out in 1923, and the first burial was in 1924. In 1930 part of the land was set aside for a Hebrew Cemetery, Rodef Sholom and Agudath Jacob. In 1935, the Veterans of Foreign Wars set aside 6 acres to provide free burial space for veterans.