

An Application for a Texas Historical Cemetery Marker¹
The Hill of Rest Cemetery²
Baytown, Harris County, Texas
Charles E. “Chuck” Chandler³

1. CONTEXT

The Hill of Rest Cemetery is located on a quiet plot of land overlooking Goose Creek, across the street from Baytown’s Robert E. Lee High School. It’s an important cemetery for Baytown history because many pioneers of the Tri-Cities are buried there.

The cemetery is situated on land known as the William Scott Upper League. Scott came to Texas in 1822 and purchased three large tracts of land from John D. Taylor in late 1823.⁴ After Scott died in 1837, his sons sold off most of the land. In October 1838, the Scott brothers sold a 341-acre tract of land to Hannah Nash.⁵ The deed, which was corrected in 1840, describes the Wm Scott labor as well as the land between the Harvey Whiting league and Goose Creek stream.⁶ Ashbel Smith⁷ moved to Texas in 1837 and, in 1840, purchased a tract of the Whiting land grant, which he named Headquarters,⁸ with financial assistance from his brother Henry G. Smith of Tennessee.⁹ Over the years, Ashbel enlarged the plantation and, in 1847, purchased a 48 acre tract on Goose Creek from Bradford Nash. This extended Headquarters into the William Scott League all the way to Goose Creek and contained the land where the cemetery was later located.¹⁰

Mary Jones¹¹ moved to Harris County in 1859, after the death of her husband, Anson Jones, the last president of the Republic of Texas, and purchased Headquarters from Henry Smith.¹² When she moved to Montgomery County in 1879, she sold Headquarters to David Wiggins.¹³ The farm was located mostly south of the railroad tracks running by Lee College but also included the land west of the gully on Market Street which was north of the tracks and where the cemetery is located.¹⁴

2. OVERVIEW

David Alexander Wiggins was born and raised in Catahoula Parish, Louisiana¹⁵ and came to Texas after the Civil War. A marker at his gravesite says that during the war he served the Confederacy as a Private in Co C, 15th Texas Cavalry.¹⁶

However his service records¹⁷ tell a quite different story. They show he actually served as a Private in the 2nd Regiment, Louisiana Cavalry in 1864 ... on the Union side!

Louisiana was by no means unanimous on the subject of secession¹⁸ and southeast Louisiana in particular had strong Union sentiments, particularly around Catahoula Parish¹⁹ where Unionist voters outnumbered Secessionist voters by more than 2 to 1.²⁰ The 1890 special census schedule for “Surviving Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines” who served for the United States during the War of the Rebellion²¹ enumerated Wiggins as a 1st Sergeant in Company F, 2nd Louisiana Cavalry²² having enlisted on March 25, 1864, though the extant service records show him as a private.

Sometime between 1865 and 1868 the family moved to Montgomery County Texas²³ and in 1879 moved again to Goose Creek. Two of their children, Sarah and Henry,²⁴ died in Texas after 1870 and an unknown third child²⁵ died either in Louisiana or Montgomery County, Texas. After their move to Goose Creek in 1879, two more children, Leona Calladona and Ida Isabell,²⁶ died and were buried in the new family cemetery established on the bank of Goose Creek. Over the years, as more relatives and friends died, the cemetery’s interment list began to grow. David’s wife, Isabell, who died in 1903, is the oldest marked grave.

Just before David Wiggins died in 1908, he filed a Dedication of Cemetery deed with Harris County²⁷ which defined the dimensions of the cemetery as 40’ x 40’ square.²⁸ The deed states the cemetery as being situated 175 feet north of his residence. It also named eleven people who were already buried in the open space just north of his grave²⁹ including his wife, two daughters and a grandson. The people listed in the Deed of Dedication are his wife, Annie Isabell Wiggins, daughters Leona Caladona Wiggins and Ada Isabell Wiggins, Laura Somers, Willie Somers, Johnnie Hughes, David Hughes, Sahra Everette, Mattie Brown, Willie Everette, and grandson Baby Boy Hauff.³⁰ These graves are not documented in the Hill of Rest Cemetery records. Wiggins named his son, Thomas, as administrator of the cemetery but Thomas died less than three years later, leaving the task to the other Wiggins heirs. From 1917 until 1935 only six

known graves were added but since it was still a private cemetery other people who are not recorded could have been buried in unmarked graves in this forty-foot square cemetery.³¹

In 1919, Price Pruett's ranch, west of North Main Street, which had been developed as part of the new town of Goose Creek two years earlier, became part of the incorporated City of Goose Creek, and most of the land belonging to David Wiggins became the City of Pelly³² later in the same year. The cemetery was not originally in either city limits but when Robert E. Lee High School opened in 1928, it appeared that Goose Creek was preparing to annex it. Pelly beat them to the punch by annexing the entire remaining Wiggins homestead.³³ Goose Creek tried to annex it again in 1945³⁴ but a judge upheld Pelly's claim.³⁵

Thomas Wiggins' widow, Hettie, married Clemons Wright in 1911 and had two children (Anna Clemetta, and Laurence Earl) with him. She may have assumed responsibility for the David Wiggins homestead on behalf of their three children (Thomas John, Nancy Ellen, and Georgia Amelia), because her name appears on other deeds for the land.³⁶ During the Goose Creek oil boom, she subdivided the seventy-four acre Thomas Wiggins inheritance and offered building lots in Middletown subdivision for the benefit of the Wiggins children.³⁷ By July 1919 she had divorced Wright and married Thomas H. Holladay.³⁸ Only a few lots of Middletown had sold so she re-subdivided it and offered the lots again. This time it took and over the next few years she sold the rest of them.³⁹ Thomas Holladay died in August 1922 and Hettie married J.P. Helfrich on May 15, 1923.⁴⁰ Five years later, she married Roland Moore on April 28, 1928.⁴¹ That was her last go-around. Hettie died in 1936⁴² and her gravestone says Hettie Ann Wiggins Moore. Of her five husbands, three are buried at Hill of Rest; Thomas Grant Wiggins, Clemons Wright, and Thomas H. Holladay. Thomas Wiggins and Thomas Holladay share the same grave stone. Hettie's Middletown subdivision became the largest neighborhood in the city of Pelly.

In 1935, Hill of Rest was still a 40'x40' private family cemetery, but early that year the Wiggins heirs allowed convicted murderer Carl Dobbins to be buried there after his execution. They donated his gravesite and his headstone has an etching of iron gates with the inscriptions "Memories Tri Cities" and "The wages of sin is death."⁴³ Thomas Wiggins' children, Thomas John David Wiggins and his sisters, Nancy Ellen and her husband, Montie A. Broadway, and Georgia Amelia and her husband, James B. "Buck" Turner, officially dedicated The Hill of Rest

Cemetery as a public burying ground on October 29, 1935.⁴⁴ By that time nobody was living on the property so they dedicated the entire 6.3-acre tract to the cemetery. They had previously sold property south of Market Street to Goose Creek ISD for the new high school.⁴⁵

For the entire time the Wiggins heirs owned and operated the cemetery, Thomas Wiggins's son-in-law, Montie Broadway, served as the manager. He was at his office on site from 9 to 5, Mondays and Saturdays.⁴⁶ Besides Dobbins, the Daily Sun (Goose Creek, Texas) reported several people buried there that same year⁴⁷ who are also reflected in the cemetery records.⁴⁸

In July 1938, several rows were re-platted adding additional graves and creating "Babyland," a section with tiny plots for tiny caskets.⁴⁹ In February 1946, the Dedication of Cemetery was revised to remove the eastern portion of the cemetery.⁵⁰ No plots had been sold in that section and it was sold to Sam Stassi.⁵¹ In 1949 Stassi leased the property to the Jaycees for back taxes. They put the Quack Shack⁵² there and he still owned it when Bay Lanes was built in 1958 by Stassi Realty Co.⁵³ Today that tract is part of the Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Center of the city of Baytown.

In March 1947, the city of Pelly annexed the city of Goose Creek, making it the second largest city in Harris County.⁵⁴ On January 24, 1948 the cemetery changed towns when the city charter changed the name of the city of Pelly to Baytown. By the 1960s, subsidence and erosion in the Goose Creek tidal marsh was taking a toll on the cemetery⁵⁵ so concrete riprap was placed along the banks on both sides of the creek. This stopped the erosion, but not before many unused grave blocks were lost and others became unusable, resulting in the cancellation of dedication for these blocks.⁵⁶ The Hill of Rest Cemetery Association was formed in July 1964 with former Baytown mayor Rolland H. (Red) Pruett serving as the first president. In 1966 the surviving Wiggins heirs deeded the cemetery⁵⁷ to the Association.⁵⁸

Perhaps the most compelling stone in the cemetery⁵⁹ is that of Harry R. Bolster,⁶⁰ who had been shot down in World War 2 while serving in China with the American Volunteer Group (AVG), better known as the "Flying Tigers".⁶¹ He returned to service but later died in the crash of an XP-75A Eagle⁶² aircraft he was testing.⁶³ On his stone there is an etching of the aircraft. There are at least ten other men killed during World War 2 who are buried in the cemetery.⁶⁴ Another great inscription is on the grave of Beatrice Massey.⁶⁵ When she died in 1969, the

family had etched on her stone, “Bless Her Heart.” Another notable interment is William Patrick Lamb, who was a brother-in-law to the Wiggins heirs, as his wife was their half-sister, Anna Clemetta Wright. In 1979 he served as the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas, A.F. & A. M.⁶⁶

Over the years some old headstones have been replaced. The (erroneous) Confederate marker was added in 1963, and the original Wiggins family markers⁶⁷ may have been replaced at the same time. Besides David and Isabell Wiggins, their son Thomas and daughter Dollie Hauff are buried there as well as some of their grandchildren. Most of the oldest Wiggins family graves are unmarked, indicating that they may have originally had wooden grave markers which no longer existed when David and Isabell’s stones were placed. Fred Pelly,⁶⁸ the first mayor of his namesake city, is buried there⁶⁹ but his wife, Lucy, who was Wiggins’ daughter, is buried at Cedar Bayou. Both former Baytown mayor R. H. “Red” Pruett⁷⁰ and his father, Price Pruett, the original land owner of much of the city of Goose Creek,⁷¹ are there as well.⁷² As well as mayor, Red Pruett served as Houston Port Authority Commissioner for ten years.⁷³

After years of difficulty in funding and acquiring volunteer effort in maintaining the cemetery, both were running short towards the late 1990s and, since it was not a perpetual care cemetery it was becoming overgrown.⁷⁴ As a result of coverage of the cemetery’s plight by *The Baytown Sun*, a new cemetery association was formed⁷⁵ and incorporated in September 1998.⁷⁶ However, funding shortfalls could not keep up with maintenance demands. Over the years, large trees had toppled, knocking over grave markers and leaving stumps. In September 2008 Hurricane Ike destroyed the maintenance shed and caused other destruction which was repaired by the Eagle Scout project of Daniel Crespo.⁷⁷ The most recent interment was Wanda Brunson who died January 24, 2022.⁷⁸ In December 2020, due to lack of volunteers and not being able to meet the requirements of the charter and bylaws of the organization, the corporation lost its tax exempt status and its ability to conduct business. The cemetery records, but not the responsibility of grounds maintenance, have been transferred to Baytown Historical Preservation Association and the deed is still in the name of the now defunct Hill of Rest Cemetery Association. The future of the cemetery is uncertain and will rely heavily on individual volunteer efforts for its continued maintenance.

The cemetery is the final resting place for more than 2,300 people.⁷⁹ Among them are at least 112 military veterans including a Union Civil War veteran, two Spanish American War veterans,⁸⁰ a fighter pilot in Claire Chenault's "Flying Tigers" during WWII, at least thirty Masons including a past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas, 11 Order of the Eastern Star members, original landowners for two cities, and two city mayors.⁸¹

3. SIGNIFICANCE

Baytown pioneer David Wiggins moved to this area with his family in 1879 and purchased a farm called Headquarters from Mary Jones, widow of Anson Jones, the last President of the Republic of Texas. Beginning in the 1880s, as family members and friends died, they were interred in the family's burying ground situated 175 feet north of their house. Shortly before he died in 1908, Wiggins dedicated the forty foot square family burying ground as a private cemetery and named his son Thomas G. Wiggins as administrator. The people listed in the Deed of Dedication as buried in the cemetery were his wife, Annie Isabell Wiggins, daughters Leona Caladona Wiggins and Ada Isabell Wiggins, Laura Somers, Willie Somers, Johnnie Hughes, David Hughes, Sahra Everette, Mattie Brown, Willie Everette, and grandson Baby Boy Hauff. Most of these graves are unmarked. Thomas died less than three years later and is buried here along with many other members of the family.

The Wiggins family cemetery was greatly enlarged and established as a public cemetery named Hill of Rest in 1935, administered by the children of Thomas Wiggins. In 1964 ownership and administration was passed to the non-profit Hill of Rest Cemetery Association, headed by former Baytown Mayor R. H. "Red" Pruett.

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4. DOCUMENTATION

The History of Baytown by Margaret Swett Henson. (Bay Area Heritage Society, Baytown, Texas; 1985.)

The Baytown Sun is a newspaper published in Baytown, Texas, United States. It was first published in 1919 as the *Goose Creek Gasser*. The paper is owned by Southern Newspapers Inc., a news-media company based in Houston, Texas. <https://baytownsun.com/>

Harris County Deed Books, Commissioners Court Minutes, and Road Books are accessible at the County Clerk's Office Records, located at Harris County Archives, 11525 Todd Street, Houston, Texas 77055, Teneshia Hudspeth, Harris County Clerk. <https://www.harriscountyarchives.com/>

Interment list for the Hill of Rest Cemetery, Maintained by Cedarcrest Cemetery and Monuments. 3010 Ferry Rd, Baytown, TX 77520. (281) 427-2123.

A static interment list for the Hill of Rest Cemetery is also on the Sterling Municipal Library website (not updated since 2008).

<http://www.baytownlibrarylocal.org/piwigo/index.php?/category/18>

Baytown Historical Preservation Association also maintains an interment list, furnished in 2002 by the last president with the request that records be available to the public. BHPA is currently making a file on each with biographies, obituaries, etc. and will be available.

City of Pelly, by Chuck Chandler, hosted on the Sterling Municipal Public Library website. <http://www.baytownlibrarylocal.org/piwigo/picture.php?/1985/category/18>

¹ Sponsored by the City of Baytown. 2401 Market Street, Baytown, Texas 77520. <https://baytown.org/>

² [HTC No HR-C036, Atlas Number 7201003605](#), HTC Designation Oct 27, 2021.

³ Member, Harris County Historical Commission.

⁴ Unrecorded deed from John D. Taylor to William Scott, late 1823. Henson, p6

⁵ Harris County Deed Book D, p253, G.W. & W.H. Scott to Hannah Nash, Oct 31, 1838.

⁶ Harris County Deed Book G, p390, G.W. & W.H. Scott to Hannah Nash, Oct 4, 1841.

⁷ Ashbel Smith (August 13, 1805 – January 21, 1886) was a pioneer physician, diplomat and official of the Republic of Texas, Confederate officer and first President of the Board of Regents of the University of Texas. <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fsm04>

⁸ Harris County Deed not recorded, Harvey Whiting to Ashbel Smith, ca 1840.

⁹ Harris County Deed Book F, p586, Ashbel Smith to Henry G. Smith, Dec 24, 1840.

¹⁰ Harris County Deed Book L, p537, L.D. Nash to Ashbel Smith, Mar 19, 1847.

¹¹ Mary Smith Jones (1819–1907) was the last First Lady of the Republic of Texas as wife of Anson Jones, the last president of the Republic. She was the first president of the newly founded Daughters of the Republic of Texas in 1891. <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fjo93>

¹² Harris County Deed Book V, p418, Ashbel Smith to Mary Jones, May 21, 1859.

Harris County Deed Book V, p419, Ashbel Smith to Mary Jones, May 21, 1859.

Harris County Deed Book W, p760, Henry G. Smith to Mary Jones, Recorded May 2, 1860.

¹³ Harris County Deed Book 18, p780, Mary Jones to David Wiggins, Jan 20, 1879.

¹⁴ See Appendix Image 1,

¹⁵ David Wiggins was born May 20, 1845 and appears in the [1850 Census, Catahoula Parish, La](#) as a eight year old.

¹⁶ This seems to be based on a [single record](https://www.fold3.com/image/8663787). <https://www.fold3.com/image/8663787> Company C, 15th Texas Cavalry was recruited from Dallas County (immediately adjacent to Tarrant County), Texas and the name on the record is David Wiggins with no middle name or initial listed. In the [1850 Cass County, Texas census](#) there was a Tennessee native named David Wiggins born in 1822 with a wife named Mary Ann and a son named William H. By 1860 he had moved to Tarrant County. [1860 Tarrant County Tax Assessment, p17](#). The [1880 Tarrant county census](#) shows him still in the county with the same wife and son who were listed in 1850. I cannot state absolutely that this was the same David Wiggins but it seems most probable.

There's just one card in this service record, as is the case for many men in this unit. It states that David Wiggins was a Pvt in Co C, 15 Texas Cav, which was stationed at Camp Ford [near Tyler] as of Oct 1864, but that he was detailed as of 1 Sep 1864 in the QM Dept at Dallas. It does not give his age, nor his date and place of enlistment. Being detailed to the QM Dept is consistent with the Dallas man's relatively advanced age (42 per the census records)

David A. Wiggins' granddaughter, Georgia Wiggins Turner (1910-1978), applied for the Confederate headstone on 6 Jan 1963 and the order was sent to the contractor on 2 Apr 1963. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/1326769:2375>

¹⁷ Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State Of Louisiana Second Cavalry Wiggins, David A (19). [Page 1](#), [Page 2](#), [Page 3](#), [Page 4](#), [Page 5](#), [Page 6](#), [Page 7](#), [Page 8](#), [Page 9](#), [Page 10](#), [Page 11](#), [Page 12](#)

¹⁸ While officially 5,224 white Louisianans fought for the Union, some historians have estimated that as many as ten thousand troops from occupied Louisiana served in the Union ranks. During Union General Benjamin Butler's nine-month tenure as commander of the Department of the Gulf, it was not uncommon for young men from the New Orleans area to switch their allegiances and volunteer for Union service. Roughly two thousand local recruits filled existing Union regiments, and Butler recruited two thousand more local white men for two new infantry regiments and one cavalry regiment. <https://64parishes.org/entry/unionist-troops-in-louisiana> (may need to copy/paste link to open).

¹⁹ He enlisted in New Orleans, not Catahoula Parish. His service record ends at June 1864, the 1890 census notwithstanding. Curiously, the 1890 census gives the exact date of enlistment, but also overtly states that he was "not discharged" and omits the length of service. Ten of the 12 pages in his service record show his rank as Private and pertain to his enlistment on March 25, 1864. The other two pages cover the period Apr-Jun 1864, and give his rank as Saddler (not Sergeant). He is age 19 in March 1864, consistent with his birth on March 25, 1844 (not 1845). (More about that below.) Apparently, there simply are no surviving records of the regiment after June 1864. The 2nd Cavalry was consolidated with the 1st Cavalry in late August 1864, but there is no record of David Wiggins in the 1st Cavalry, nor is there any record of him being AWOL or deserting from 2nd Cavalry.

David's younger brother, Uriah Jasper Wiggins, 18, joined the same Co F, 2nd Cavalry a few days later, and was apparently in the hospital from 10 April to the end of June 1864. The June 1864 cards for David and Jasper both clearly state, "Last Roll on file." Jasper transferred to Co D, 1st Cavalry on 25 Aug 1864, but David did not. Jasper was reported AWOL in Apr-Jun 1865, but the charges were removed in 1887 and he was discharged as of 25 Jun 1865. [Jasper needs a VA headstone!]

David A. Wiggins, Pvt, Co F, 2 La Cav, USA applied for a pension on 11 May 1903, but it was not granted. (<https://www.fold3.com/image/4904783>. If he had no discharge documents, that probably made it impossible for

him to complete the application. Still, the fact that there is an index card means that some pension file should exist, and it would likely give his date and manner of leaving the service, as he remembered it, even if not corroborated by official records. It would also give his address, providing a positive link to the person of interest.

[Regarding his age: He is 8 (not 6) in 1850, 13 in 1860, 20 in 1864 (as of Jun 1), 25 in 1870, 35 in 1880, and 55 in 1900. So it appears that 1845 is what he settled on, even if that isn't consistent with what the 1850 census shows. Does he have a baptism record? His enlistment papers show that his "guardian" Louis Perkins gave consent for David, a minor at 19, to join the Army in New Orleans. That is consistent with the information at FindAGrave that says his parents Absalom and Martha died in 1862 and 1863, though no sources are provided for those dates and their place of burial is unknown.

[Note that Martha is probably not his mother. In 1850, the parents are 37 and 20; the children are 10, 8, 6, and 9/12. I suggest that only the last one is her child. This is probably the marriage of Absalom and Martha: Abraham B. Wiggins 11 Jun 1868 Catahoula Martha O. Pentecost]

- ²⁰ The largest geographical area of Unionism centered on Caldwell, Catahoula, and Winn Parishes, where cooperationist voters outnumbered secessionists by more than two to one. <https://64parishes.org/entry/unionism-in-louisiana> (may need to copy/paste link to open).
- ²¹ [1890 special census schedule](#) for "Surviving Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines", Harris County Precinct 3. The census shows no discharge date.
- ²² 2nd Regiment Cavalry, Organized at New Orleans, La., November 25, 1863, as 3rd Louisiana Infantry. Attached to Defenses of New Orleans, Dept. of the Gulf.
- SERVICE--Duty in the Defenses of New Orleans, La., at Brashear City, Baton Rouge and Port Hudson, La., until September, 1864. Skirmish at Spanish Hill, La., April 2, 1864. Bayou Boeuf May 7. Wilson's Landing May 14. Expedition to Clinton August 23-29. Skirmishes at Olive Branch, Corette River and Clinton August 25. Consolidated with 1st Louisiana Cavalry September 7, 1864. but there are no extant service records of 2nd Cavalry after June 30, 1864. <http://www.civilwararchive.com/Unreght/unlacav.htm#2ndcav>
- ²³ The 1870 Montgomery County census shows that David and Isabella Wiggins' 5 year old daughter, Sarah, was born in Louisiana about 1865. [1870 Montgomery County Census, p1](#).
- ²⁴ The 1870 Montgomery County Census shows David and Isabell Wiggins family with two children, Sarah (5 y.o., born in Louisiana) and Henry, (1 y.o., born in Texas).
- ²⁵ The [1900 Harris County Precinct 3 Census, Sheet 2B](#) shows Isabell Wiggins had borne eight children, three still living (Thomas Grant Wiggins, Lucy Wiggins Pelly, and Dollie V. Wiggins).
- ²⁶ These are probably the graves mentioned by former Mayor R.H. "Red" Pruettt when he stated that graves date back to the 1880s. [The Baytown Sun, October 29, 1982 Page 1](#).
- ²⁷ Harris County Deed Book 217, p21, recorded March 18, 1908.
- ²⁸ See Appendix Image 2.
- ²⁹ See Appendix Image 2.
- ³⁰ The Deed of Dedication states the existing grave locations; "... as an index on the south side of the west Rowe(sic) is my wife Annie Isabell Wiggins, to the north second is Leona Calladona Wiggins & Ada Isabell Wiggins, the fourth is Laura Somers, fi-th Willie Somers on the north side of the east Rowe (sic) is Johnie & David Hughes the third is Sahra Everette, fourth Mattie Brown, fifth Willie Everette's, seventh is Boy baby Hauff the vacant place south of my wife is reserved for myself." The deed states a provision for disinterment if desired, but no existing records show that option was taken.
- ³¹ See Appendix Image 8.
- ³² City of Pelly Historical Marker.
- ³³ "Pelly City Limits Extended by Council." Houston Chronicle, June 15, 1928, p24.

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- ³⁴ “Commission takes School, Cemetery into City Limits.” [The Daily Sun, December 8, 1945, p1.](#)
- ³⁵ “Pelly Wins Court Decision.” [The Daily Sun, April 4, 1946, p1.](#)
- ³⁶ Harris County Deed Book 347, p70. Hettie Wright to Z.E. Schofield. July 15, 1915. This sixteen acre tract is just east of the original Hill of Rest boundary.
- ³⁷ [Harris County Maps & Condominiums, Volume 5, p63](#), December 14, 1919. Mrs Hettie Wright, Guardian of the persons and estates of the minors, Thos. J.D. Wiggins, Nancy Ellen Wiggins, and Georgia Amelia Wiggins. (downloads as pdf)
- ³⁸ Marriage License T.H. Holladay & Mrs Hellie Wright. [Marriage records, 1837-1931No. 42725, Book 20, p50.](#) "Texas, County Marriage Index, 1837-1977," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FXMQ-Y87> : 10 March 2021), T. H. Holladay and Hellie Wright, 07 Jul 1919; citing Harris County, Texas, United States, county courthouses, Texas; FHL microfilm 25,242.
- Marriage Licenses. T. H. Holladay and Mrs. Hettie Wright. [Houston Post, Tues, July 8, 1919, p7 c2.](#)
- ³⁹ [Harris County Maps & Condominiums, Volume 6, p4](#), June 2, 1922. Mrs Hettie Wright, Guardian of the persons and estates of the minors, Thos. J.D. Wiggins, Nancy Ellen Wiggins, and Georgia Amelia Wiggins. (downloads as pdf)
- ⁴⁰ Marriage License J.P. Helfrich and Hettie H. Holladay. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939K-YF9F-91?cc=1803987>.
- ⁴¹ Marriage License Roland Moore and Hettie Helfrich. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939K-YF3F-JY?cc=1803987&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQK8T-ZMLX>.
- ⁴² “Rites Held for Mrs. Hettie Moore.” [The Daily Sun \(Goose Creek, Tex.\), October 27, 1936, p1.](#)
- ⁴³ “Carl B. Dobbins jailed after mother-in-law is slain, his wife and third woman wounded.” [Houston Chronicle, January 23, 1934, p1.](#)
- “Pelly Friends seek clemency for Dobbins” [Houston Chronicle, January 12, 1935, p5.](#)
- “Carl Dobbins to die tonight for slaying” [Houston Chronicle, January 31, 1935, p1.](#)
- “Dobbins dies for slaying wife’s mother” [Houston Chronicle, February 1, 1935, p1.](#)
- “Pastor says Dobbins had hoped to preach Gospel if he got out of prison” [Houston Chronicle, February 2, 1935, p7.](#)
- ⁴⁴ Hill of Rest Cemetery. Harris County Map Book 12, Page 81. October 29, 1935.
- ⁴⁵ Harris County Deed Book 728, p725 et seq, Montie Broadway , J.B. Turner to GCISD, Dec 31, 1927.
- ⁴⁶ [The Daily Sun, August 11, 1942, p6.](#)
- ⁴⁷ “Bozarth Burial Service is Held” [The Daily Sun \(Goose Creek, Tex.\), September 9, 1935, p1.](#)
- ⁴⁸ Interment list for the Hill of Rest Cemetery.
- ⁴⁹ Hill of Rest Cemetery Re-Plat. Harris County Deed Book 998, Page 679. July 29, 1938. Harris County Map Book 16, Page 51. Filed January 4, 1940.
- ⁵⁰ Harris County Deed Book 1428, p 731, Thomas Wiggins et al, Feb 20, 1946. Cancellation of Dedication.
- ⁵¹ Harris County Deed Book 1428, p 732, Thomas Wiggins et al to Sam Stassi, Feb 20, 1946.
- ⁵² “Quack Shack Moving Proves Eye-Opener.” The Quack Shack was a venue created for the purpose of providing chaperoned social activities for white high school students. [The Daily Sun, May 16, 1949, p1.](#)
- ⁵³ “New bowling alley will be built on Market” [The Baytown Sun, July 11, 1958, p2.](#)
- ⁵⁴ City of Pelly Historical Marker

⁵⁵ See Appendix Image 2.

⁵⁶ Harris County Deed Book 6659, p 624, Jan 11, 1966. Cancellation of Dedication.

⁵⁷ See Appendix Images 3-7.

⁵⁸ “Hill of Rest dedeed to cemetery group” [The Baytown Sun, July 19, 1966, Page 1.](#)

⁵⁹ See Appendix, Photo 9.

⁶⁰ HARRY R. BOLSTER (1918 - 1944). <http://www.cnac.org/bolster01.htm>

⁶¹ “Fei Hu: The Story of the Flying Tigers”. <http://www.flyingtigersvideo.com/roster>

The First American Volunteer Group (AVG) of the Republic of China Air Force in 1941–1942, nicknamed the Flying Tigers, was composed of pilots from the United States Army Air Corps (USAAC), Navy (USN), and Marine Corps (USMC), recruited under President Franklin Roosevelt's authority before Pearl Harbor and commanded by Claire Lee Chennault. Their Curtiss P-40B Warhawk aircraft, marked with Chinese colors, flew under American control. Their mission was to bomb Japan and defend the Republic of China, but many delays meant the AVG flew in combat after the US and Japan declared war. <https://www.historynet.com/american-volunteer-group-claire-l-chennault-and-the-flying-tigers.htm>

⁶² National Museum of the United States Air Force; Fisher P-75A Eagle
<https://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/Visit/Museum-Exhibits/Fact-Sheets/Display/Article/195783/fisher-p-75a-eagle/>

⁶³ “War Comes to the Tri-Cities.” [The Daily Sun, October 11, 1944 Page: 1.](#)

⁶⁴ Grave markers indicate the following men died in service to the country. There may be more which are not marked. (Links to obituary)

Bardin, Harris H.	Texas Pvt 165 Infantry 27 infantry Div WW II
Clark, Frank Evert	Texas EM1C US Navy
Bolster, Harry R.	Airplane symbol
Sims, Iverson J.	Texas PFC 161 Inf WW II
Pritchett, Alver Edison	Texas Seaman 2CL
Nieto, Vicente C. Jr	Texas PFC 182 Inf WW II
Daniels, Donald O.	Texas Sgt 12 Reinf Depot WW II

⁶⁵ Obituary of Beatrice Massey. [The Baytown Sun, November 13, 1969 Page 5.](#)

⁶⁶ Obituary of W.P. Lamb. [The Baytown Sun, October 26, 2010, Page 11.](#)

⁶⁷ See Appendix, Image 10.

⁶⁸ “Pelly’s rites will be held here today.” [The Daily Sun \(Goose Creek, Tex.\), May 30, 1949, Page 1.](#)

⁶⁹ See Appendix, Image 11.

⁷⁰ “R.H. ‘Red’ Pruett, 82, dies Saturday” [The Baytown Sun, April 11, 1994 Page 1.](#)

⁷¹ “Price Pruett dies here after long illness.” [The Daily Sun \(Goose Creek, Tex.\), July 3, 1941 Page 1.](#)

⁷² See Appendix, Image 12.

⁷³ “New Port Commissioner Remembers the Old Days.” [The Baytown Sun, September 22, 1963 Page 14.](#)

⁷⁴ “Historic Cemetery Falls into Disrepair.” [The Baytown Sun, April 29, 1998 Page 1.](#)

⁷⁵ “Thanks for Help.” [The Baytown Sun, June 17, 1998, Page 4.](#)

⁷⁶ “Cemetery Organization Incorporates.” [The Baytown Sun, September 3, 1998 Page 1.](#)

⁷⁷ “Baytown Eagle Scout gives cemetery an update.” [The Baytown Sun, December 16, 2011 Page 2.](#)

⁷⁸ Baytown Sun, January 30, 2022, p3A.

⁷⁹ Ibid.

⁸⁰ James L. Mason. His inscription says "Inscription- Co C US Vol Inf Sp Am War"
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/8111020/james-l-mason>

Simon A. Summers. "Summers Rites to be held here." The Daily Sun, August 3, 1942, p2.
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/54665032/simon-a-summers> "Co M 2 Texas Inf Sp Am War"

⁸¹ Fred Pelly, City of Pelly and R.H. "Red" Pruett, City of Baytown.

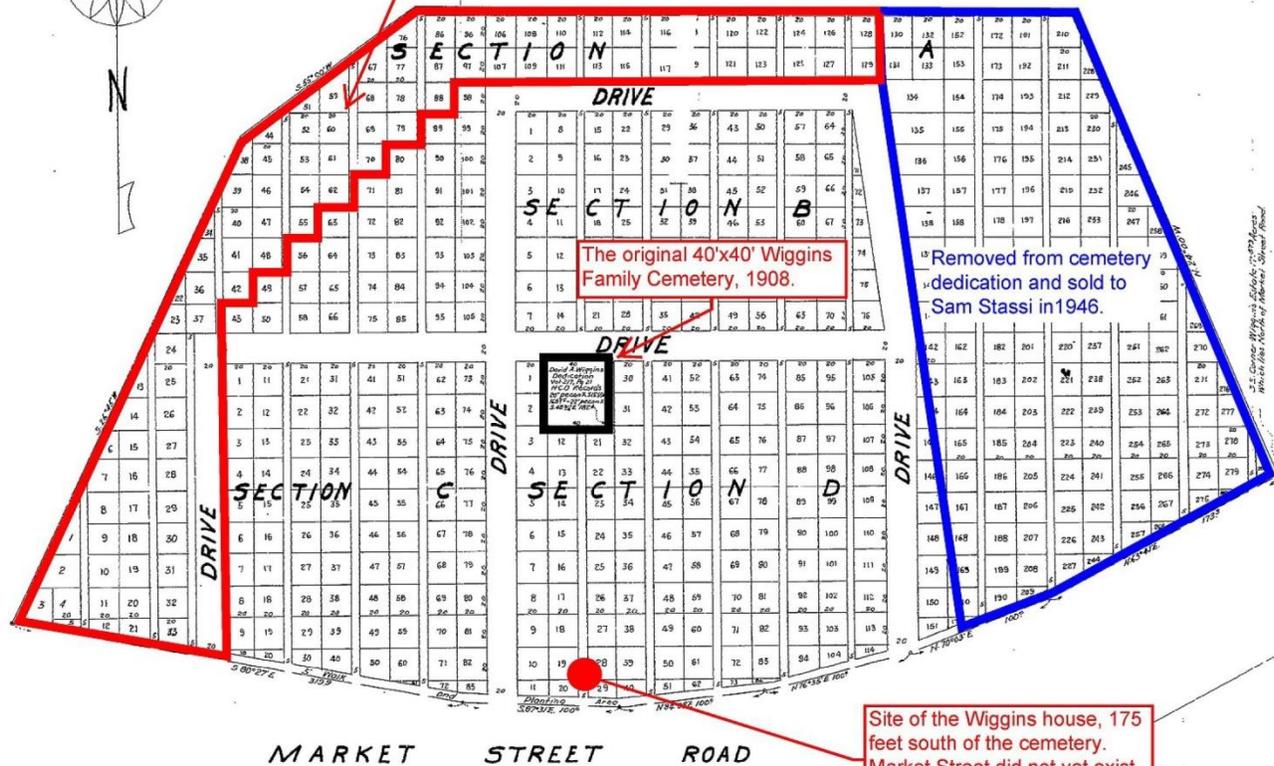
**Hill of Rest Cemetery, Baytown, Texas
Appendix**



Image 1. Ownership sequence map. Some deeds show the Scott to Nash property (in bold) as the Hannah Nash Labor. Created from deed records by Chuck Chandler



The area bordering Goose Creek was lost to erosion and removed from the cemetery dedication, 1966.



The original 40'x40' Wiggins Family Cemetery, 1908.

Removed from cemetery dedication and sold to Sam Stassi in 1946.

Site of the Wiggins house, 175 feet south of the cemetery. Market Street did not yet exist in 1908.

HILL OF REST CEMETERY

BEING A PART OF THE WIGGINS ESTATE PROPERTY
OUT OF THE WM. SCOTT LG. HARRIS COUNTY TEXAS.
OFFICE OF J.S. BOYLES C.E. HOUSTON TEXAS.
SCALE 40' TO 1". FIELD BK. K-4 PG. 251. DATE 9-12-35
MAP NO. 3593

A	E
B	F
C	G
D	H

Plan of Plots
Scale 10 feet to 1 inch.

No. 52199
To
Designation: & Map

State of Texas: County of Harris: Know all men by these presents: That we, Thomas J. D. Wiggins, Nancy Ellen Broadway joined by her husband, M. A. Broadway, and Georgia Amelia Turner joined by her husband, J. B. Turner, being the owners of the property subdivide in the above and foregoing map under the name of Hill of Rest Cemetery out of the Wiggins Estate located in the William Scott League of Harris County, Texas, and do hereby make subdivision of said property according to lines, lots, plots, drives and passageways shown thereon and designate said subdivision as Hill of Rest Cemetery to be used for cemetery purposes forever. Witness our hands, this 29 day of October, A.D. 1935.
Thos. J.D. Wiggins J.B. Turner Georgia A. Turner Nancy Ellen Broadway Montie A. Broadway

State of Texas: County of Harris: Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Thomas J. D. Wiggins, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed. Given under my hand and seal of office this 29 day of October, A.D. 1935.
V.C. Porter, Notary Public in and for Harris County, Texas. (Seal)

State of Texas: County of Harris: Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared M.A. Broadway and wife, Nancy Ellen Broadway, known to me to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and the said M.A. Broadway acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed. And the said Nancy Ellen Broadway, wife of the said M.A. Broadway having been examined by me privily and apart from her husband, and having the same fully explained to her, she the said Nancy Ellen Broadway acknowledged such instrument to be her act and deed, and declared that she had willingly signed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed, and that she did not wish to retract it. Given under my hand and seal of office this 29 day of October, A.D. 1935.
V.C. Porter, Notary Public in and for Harris County, Texas. (Seal)

State of Texas: County of Harris: Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared J.B. Turner and wife, Georgia Amelia Turner, known to me to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and the said J.B. Turner acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed. And the said Georgia Amelia Turner, wife of the said J.B. Turner having been examined by me privily and apart from her husband, and having the same fully explained to her, she the said Georgia Amelia Turner, acknowledged such instrument to be her act and deed, and declared that she had willingly signed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed, and that she did not wish to retract it. Given under my hand and seal of office this 29 day of October, A.D. 1935.
V.C. Porter, Notary Public in and for Harris County, Texas. (Seal)

This is to certify that Thomas J.D. Wiggins, M.A. Broadway, Nancy Ellen Broadway, J.B. Turner and Georgia Amelia Turner, Subdividers, have complied with all conditions as described by Law in subdividing the above property. Certified to by the Commissioners Court of Harris County, Texas, this 28th day of February, A.D. 1936.
J.H. Ward, County Judge R.H. Spencer, Commissioner Precinct 1 Beatrice Massey, Commissioner Precinct 2 Wm. Tautenhahn, Commissioner Precinct 3
(Seal) Tom A. Graham, Commissioner Precinct 4 Approved: Chas. R. Helle, County Engineer

Filed for record Mar. 10, 1936, at 11:40 o'clock A.M. Recorded Mar. 24, 1936, at 11:00 o'clock A.M.
Mary M. Dudley, Clerk County Court, Harris County, Texas. By [Signature] Deputy

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Image 3. Cemetery marker at 1800 Market Street.



Image 4. SE Corner looking NW



Image 5. NE Corner looking SW



Image 6. NW Corner looking SE



Image 7. SW Corner looking NE



Image 8. Wiggins Family Cemetery with ten unmarked graves within Hill of Rest

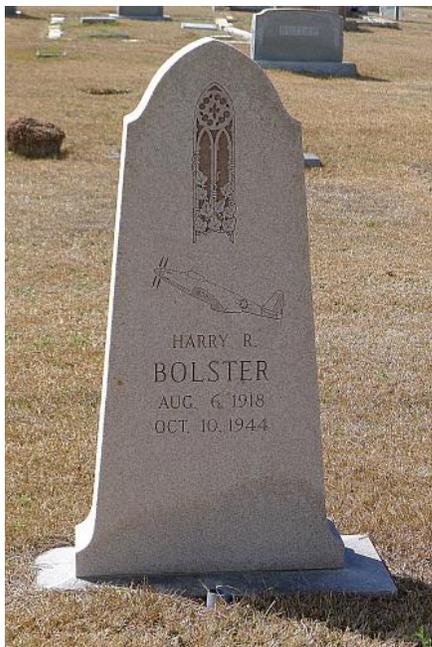


Image 9. Harry R. Bolster was a fighter pilot in Claire Chenault's "Flying Tigers" in WW2.



Image 10. David Wiggins, who dedicated the cemetery in 1908.



Image 11. Fred T. Pelly, son in law of David Wiggins and mayor of his namesake city of Pelly.



Image 12. The Pruett family. Price Pruett owned the land which became part of the city of Goose Creek. His son Red Pruett served as Baytown Mayor.