

Posey Cemetery

I. Context:

The Posey Cemetery CM-C103 is located on private land in northeastern Comal County and was established in 1859 on a family farm for of family burials. For this narrative, the families of John Bennett Posey and wife, Amanda Catherine Posey, and Francis Marion Galloway and wife, Moranda Ann Jane Galloway, will be the subjects of focus because of the burials in the Posey Cemetery. The families came to Texas from Tennessee in the 1850s shortly after Texas achieved statehood. The lure of land and a better life prompted settlers to leave their homes and travel to Texas. These Posey and Galloway families came to the area around York Creek to establish their homes. Farming was their occupation and cotton grew well in this Blackland Prairie area. They were rugged people and braved the elements to settle this area and make homes for themselves that would result in many generations of descendants in the area.

The Posey Cemetery was designated as an Historic Texas Cemetery in March 2017.

II. Overview:

History of the Posey Family Name in America

From the book *The Posey Family in America*, we find the following: “The Posey Family was descended from the French family Poschet of Voyaux, Cambrai, France. The Poschet’s were Heugenots, and because of religious persecution, were forced to flee to London, England.” The story continues: “The American branch of the family started in the sixth generation when Francis Posey emigrated to Virginia in 1636, and then to Charles County, Maryland.”

History of the Families Buried in the Posey Cemetery in Comal County

John Bennett Posey and Amanda Catherine Kennedy were married in Rutherford County, Tennessee, on December 23, 1842 in the Beesely Baptist Church. In the spring of 1853, the couple departed Madison, Tennessee by wagon train with their sons Camerlin D’Estaing, Francis D’Gress and Everett D’Anderson and John Bennett’s two sisters. One of the sisters was Moranda Ann Jane Posey, age 10. The family arrived in Texas at the Watson Camp grounds in Comal County (or in Hays County, exact location unknown) in the early fall of 1853. That was their

home for several years. In the next five years the family had three additional children, Joseph Bennett, Elias and Roxanne Ermine.

On February 11, 1856, John Bennett Posey purchased 137 acres from John Walker. The property was lot number 125 located on the Esnaurizar Eleven League Grant bordering on York Creek in northeastern Comal County. The farm began to expand with the purchase of 40 acres being lot number two in the Sarah Williams Estate in part of the Sam Craft League Grant. As his family continued to grow, John Bennett purchased 158 acres which was part of lot 122 and 123 in the Esnaurizar Eleven League grant. His final purchase of land was 164 acres, lots number five and 40 acres being the northwest half of lot number four in the Sarah Williams Estate in part of the Sam Craft League. These purchases provided John Bennett and wife, Amanda Catherine, with a total of 539 acres.

From the *Handbook of Texas Online*, we find the following: “York Creek rises ten miles northeast of New Braunfels in eastern Comal County and flows in a southeasterly direction for 30 ½ miles, through Hays and Guadalupe Counties, to its mouth on the San Marcos River, eight miles northwest of Luling on the Guadalupe-Caldwell County line. Its course crosses an area of the Blackland Prairie characterized by flat to rolling prairie and slightly acidic soils with loamy surface layers and cracking clayey subsoils. Vegetation consists of post oak woods, mesquite, and grasses, but most of the area is used for cropland. In the nineteenth century York Creek lent its name to a farming community that supported a school, cotton gin, and store; since 1880 the town of Hunter has developed along the creek.” The area is roughly situated at the convergence of two old roads traveling towards San Antonio. To the west approximately 2 ½ miles is Hunter Road or FM 2439/1102 that is part of the El Camino Real National Historic Trail traveling from San Marcos to New Braunfels. Between that route and the property, parallel to IH 35 before it diverts off to the east is the Old Bastrop Road or FM 266, also a designated route along the El Camino Real. The town of Hunter was established nearby in 1880 with the arrival of the International and Great Northern Railroad. Andrew Jackson Hunter established a thousand-acre cotton farm in the area. The cotton industry prospered in the area until the early 1920s.

On the land purchased by John Bennett and Amanda Catherine, the family farmed cotton. At one point, a small cotton gin was purchased to help the cotton farm. The gin was pulled onto the farmland by mules.

In addition to farming, John Bennett often performed the duties of a circuit riding preacher who ministered to the nearby communities of Martindale, Lockhart, Kingsbury, Harwood and others. He traveled by horseback going from home to home, spending the night in those homes. Before moving to Texas, John Bennett and Amanda Catherine lived near his uncle John J. Haynes who was a preacher. This association possibly provided inspiration for John Bennett's circuit riding ministry.

The oldest son, Camerlin D'Estaing died early at age 9 and was buried in the City Cemetery in Hays County. Francis D'Gress Posey married Mary Elizabeth Neill in 1869. Her grandfather was famous in the Republic of Texas and fought at San Jacinto. Everett D'Anderson married Mina R. Davis, Joseph married Lucy Alice M. Southern, Elias married Atara Cimmie Watson, and Roxanne Ermine died at the age of four. The family photo left is of Amanda



Catherine Posey, Elias Posey and Atara Watson Posey (right) with unknown child in the front.

John Bennett's sister, Moranda, pictured below, had traveled with his family to Texas and later married Francis Marion Galloway in Comal County, Texas. He was born in Calloway, Kentucky to Charles and Morand (AKA Amanda, Meranda) Galloway. The Galloway family probably traveled to Texas between 1850 and 1853 because the youngest child, Penelope, was born in Texas in 1853.

According to the

1860 Comal County census, Charles was a farmer and his son, Francis Marion was a farmer, 27 years old and living at home. Many of the families listed on the census page resided in the York Creek area, therefore, the Galloway family with real estate valued at \$840 probably lived near the Posey Family. Francis Marion and Moranda married in 1854 although Moranda is not listed on the 1860 Comal County



census. They had the following children: Charles William, James Thomas, John Enoch, Barbara Virginia, and Elizabeth “Bettie.” Francis Marion served with the Confederacy during the Civil War and died in 1864. In the 1870 Comal County census, Charles and wife, Amanda Galloway, and John Bennett Posey and wife, Amanda Catherine, are listed on the same page as farmers, therefore, still living in proximity to each other. In the 1880 Hays County Census, Moranda Galloway is listed as mother, age 46, living with her son, Charles, and her two daughters Barbara and Bettie. The next entry in the census lists son, Thomas, with wife and daughter. In 1910, Moranda Galloway is listed in the Hunter Township as 84 years old, head of the household, and owning her own home.

The Cemetery Burials

In March of 1859, the first burial took place in the Posey Cemetery which was located on John Bennett and Amanda Posey’s land. They set aside a plot of 0.34 acres on the original 137-acre farm to serve as a family cemetery. The first burial was of 40-day-old John Enoch Galloway, son of F. M. and Moranda Galloway. The second burial was the four-year old daughter of John Bennett and Amanda, Roxanne Ermine, who died from a fever contracted by playing on a “sunning” feather mattress that was brought by her uncle, Burrell Posey, from Tennessee in June of 1863. In the book *The Posey Family in America*, it is stated that she had scarlet fever. The third burial was of Francis Marion Galloway, husband of Moranda. He was a Confederate Soldier, who had served with the Ragsdale Company, 1st Texas Cavalry Battalion, Arizona Brigade. He had been sent home to die after contracting consumption (tuberculosis). In August of 1899, Moranda Galloway applied for and received a Confederate widow’s pension from the State of Texas.

John Bennett Posey died on February 3, 1884. On July 21, 1884, his widow, Amanda Catherine, and his four sons, Francis D’Gress “DG”, Everett D’Anderson “Everett,” Joseph Bennett “Joe” and Elias “Eli,” developed a written agreement as to how the property would be divided among the four sons. Elias received the original homestead being the 137-acre track, lot number 125 located in the Esnaurizar Eleven League Grant and the 40-acre tract being lot number 2 in the Sarah Williams Estate, part of the Sam Craft League. Elias’ mother, Amanda Catherine would continue to live on the property. In the 1880 Comal County census, Elias was

already listed as single and living at home on the property. He did not marry Atara Cimmie Watson until 1886.

The remaining 352 acres were divided by the other three sons as follows: Joseph Bennett received 158 acres being part of lot 122 and 123 in the Esnaurizar Eleven League Grant and he paid Francis and Everett each \$1000 for their share of the 158-acre tract. Francis and Everett received 164 acres being lot number 5 and 40 acres being the northwest half of lot number 4 located in the Sarah Williams Estate in the Sam Craft League in addition to the \$1000 each received from Joseph.

Nora Birde Posey, daughter of Elias and Atara Cimmie Watson Posey, died in 1895 and her father, Elias "Eli" Posey died in 1902. Both are buried in the cemetery. Amanda Catherine Kennedy Posey died in 1904 and the last burial in the cemetery was Moranda Galloway, in 1913.

The Cemetery

The Posey Cemetery is located in a rural agricultural setting with a few trees in one corner. The marked graves are of European descent. The stone marked graves are of unknown



descent. The ground cover is natural range grass and the area with graves within the 0.34-acre cemetery is fully fenced. The shape is irregular and within the outer fencing, there are two old wrought-iron fenced areas. One encloses the grave of John Bennett Posey and the other encloses some Galloway graves. The stones face east

and are made of fieldstone, granite and marble. The cemetery is not currently active but was active from 1859 to 1913. The cemetery noted as CM-C103 was designated an Historic Texas Cemetery in March of 2017.

The 1998 photo on the right is Helen Burnett.

There are 14 graves in the cemetery with eight marked family graves with inscriptions on the headstones. Several other graves were marked by names on rocks with no inscriptions; the names have since worn away. These are evidenced by having the field

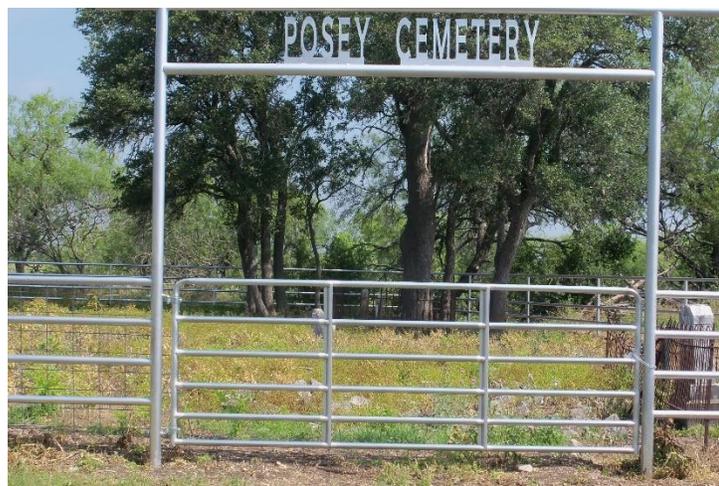


stones placed in an unnatural vertical position and sticking out above the ground. The stones are firmly embedded in the soil.



Although the cemetery is located on private property, there is a fence that sets it apart from the property. The gate to gain access is open and visitors are welcome. The present owner of the farm where the cemetery is located is Mr. Arlon Bartels who lives in New Braunfels. He has been very supportive of the family's efforts to maintain the cemetery and allows access to family and friends. The cemetery is maintained by volunteer family descendants.

In 1998, family members fenced the cemetery and hired Dietz



Memorial company to set the gravestones upright. The photo on the previous page shows family member Melynn Tate and the memorial company employees. Over time, the wire fence deteriorated and a recent effort to upgrade the cemetery in 2015 has resulted in a silver painted pipe fence with a gateway that announces the entry to the "Posey Cemetery."

III. Significance:

The Posey Family came to Texas just after statehood acquiring land and searching for a better way of life. They settled in the York Creek area of northeastern Comal County and established a farm. John Bennett and Amanda Catherine Posey established a family cemetery on their property. It was typical during the time to have burials on the family farm. The burials are from the Posey Family and also John Bennett's sister, Moranda Posey Galloway and husband, Francis Marion Galloway's family. The cemetery has been maintained by descendants of the families and was awarded the Historic Texas Cemetery designation in 2017.

IV. Burials:

The eight known family members with marked headstones buried in the cemetery are listed as follows in order of burial:

John Enoch Galloway son of F.M. and Miranda Jane Posey Galloway
Born 2-10-1859 Died 3-22-1859
Inscribed: Gone to a better life Gone to a better land

Roxanna (Roxanne) Ermine Posey daughter of John Bennett and Amanda
Catherine Posey
Born 6-3-1859 Died 8-29-1863

F. M. Galloway (Francis Marion) husband of Moranda (Miranda) Ann Jane Posey
Born 11-1-1832 in Calloway, Kentucky Married 4-18-1854 in Comal County
Died 7-3-1864
Inscribed: How desolate our home bereft of thee
Marble footplate: Private, Confederate States Army, Ragsdale Company, Davidson
Batallion, Texas

John Bennett Posey
Born 11-4-1820 in Rutherford County, Tennessee
Married 12-23-1842 in Rutherford County, Tennessee
Died 2-3-1884
Inscribed: The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Nora Birde Posey daughter of Elias and Atara Cimmie Watson Posey
Born 4-17-1894 Died 12-26-1895

Elias "Eli" Posey son of John Bennett and Amanda Catherine Posey
Born 9-28-1856 at York Creek Texas
Married 2-1-1886 in Comal County to Atara Cimmie Watson
Died 11-3-1902

Amanda Catherine Kennedy Posey wife of John Bennett Posey
Born 5-26-1821 in Virginia
Married 12-23-1842
Died 4-3-1904
Inscribed: shared headstone with John Bennett Posey

Moranda (Miranda) A. Galloway sister of John Bennett Posey and wife of Francis Marion Galloway
Born 10-6-1833 in Rutherford County, Tennessee
Married 4-18-1854 Died 2-10-1913
Inscribed: She was the sunshine of our home.

V. Attachments:

Attached are some of the cemetery maps and associated photographs that were used for the Historic Texas Cemetery application. These documents were compiled by Wilfred Schlather. Also attached is the Historic Texas Cemetery recording, notification from the Texas Historical Commission and the associated Exhibit A map.

VI. Acknowledgements:

This narrative was written using research compiled by Joe Randow, Helen Burnett, Roxolin Krueger, Wilfred Schlather and Karen Boyd. Photos provided by Helen Burnett and Wilfred Schlather.