

BETHANY CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER



March 2025

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YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IS GENEROUSLY APPRECIATED

Dear Bethany Family,

Our annual Donation Drive is underway! We kindly request that you continue your support for our small, local cemetery. We know many of you have a passion for family history as we do and we want to ensure our family member's final resting place is cherished. Any amount you are willing to donate is appreciated; it all adds up!

Lastly, I respectfully challenge you to get more of your family to donate! We greatly appreciate everyone who continues to do so each year; we would not be where we are today without your gracious support!

Sincerely,

Tracy Brookshier, Secretary



ALTHOUGH OUR CEMETERY MAY BE SMALL, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE BIG THINGS HAPPEN THIS YEAR!

• Our “New” Fencing

It was quite the project and took a bit longer than we had anticipated but it is finally complete! Just as with anything else, this project was dependent on volunteers and good weather. The fencing was donated to us from the Bowling Green Visitors Center and installed by Louisiana Boy Scouts and other volunteers. Once installed we were notified by Mr. Anderson who mows our grounds, that the horizontal slats were falling out of place because of the wind. We were lucky C&L Fabrication volunteered to make and install brackets to fix the problem! Lastly, we were able to get community service volunteers to clean the fencing too!

• New Road!

A big thanks to Ed Kerns Construction for his labor and Magruder Limestone who donated the rock! Although there wasn't quite enough to get from the center all the way to the left and right sides we are still so amazed at how great it looks! We may look into getting that done in the future, but for now it is wonderful and I hope you get a chance to see it in person!



LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

• Cemetery Surveying

Cemetery markers and surveys are important for identifying graves, preserving history, and laying out new gravesites.

We were offered a discount on services from Four Points Land Surveying. They will be working to officially mark all corners of lots within the cemetery. This is critical for future burials and to ensure existing graves are not disturbed. This offer was too good to pass up and we are very excited!

• Spring Cleaning

Our Annual Cemetery Cleanup day last year was spent mostly cleaning stones. Ken Conner was able to reset one that was sinking as well. The stone of Mr. & Mrs. Gooch needs repaired and research is in progress for the proper techniques to do so. We continue to be thankful to the owners of Bens Auto Salvage for always letting us use their water spout!

• Mark Your Calendars!

Our Annual Spring Cleanup Day is scheduled for Saturday May 3rd, 2025 from 9:00 am to Noon! May 10th will be our back-up date incase of bad weather and a light lunch will be provided to those who RSVP ahead of time.



Tracy Brookshier & Daughter Stevie cleaning headstones.



Lesli Fox and Stevie Brookshier working together to clean the stone of Infant Price.



Ken Conner resetting Ellie Smith's sinking stone.



MARY E. "POLLY" HEDGES GOOCH AND RUFUS ROWLAND "ROLEY" GOOCH

Rufus was born on May 31, 1825 in Louisa County Virginia and Mary was born on October 10, 1837. Together they had 7 children; George B Gooch (1858-1941), Thadius Adolphus "Richard" Gooch (1861-1943), Lucy M. Gooch Moore (1862-1944), Eva H. Gooch Moore (1866-1953), Charity L Gooch (1869-1870), Cleaver Tucker Gooch (1876-1969), and Grace B Gooch Baxter (1877-1956).

Mary died on December 14, 1897 at 60 years old, Rufus followed just 4 years later on December 29, 1901 at the age of 76. They now rest in eternal peace at each other's side with a shared stone at their final resting place located in section 4, lot 31.



HAVE A SEAT

This foldable chair with an inscription that reads "Have A Seat With Your Loved Ones" is located near the entrance for visitors to use. Donated by Secretary, Tracy Brookshier.

2024 REPORTS

• Cemetery Scavenger Hunt

We hosted our 3rd Annual Cemetery Scavenger Hunt again this year but unfortunately had no attendees. We are thankful for Bud Jones Towing for sponsoring, and we were able to use those funds towards the gift card raffle. We will be hosting it again this year on Friday, October 24th at dusk!

• Gift Card Raffle

We sold just enough of these tickets to make a very small profit. This is a pretty easy money maker as it takes little effort to organize. We do plan to continue this as well; your help in spreading the word, sharing on your social media accounts, etc. are a great way to assist us in our efforts!

• Treasurers Report

Treasurer, Patty (Turpin) Dortch reported a loss for 2024. As you can see in the report a large portion of this is due to the new projects mentioned previously within this newsletter.

• \$2,000 CASH REWARD

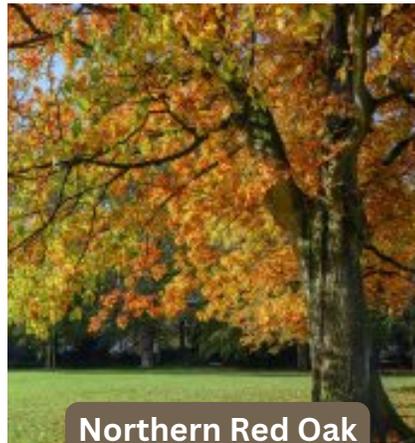
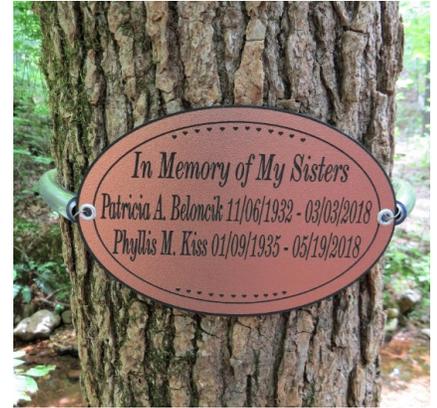
Unfortunately we still have yet to locate our missing plat-book. The board agreed to increase the cash reward to \$2,000. This may seem like a lot but in reality, this plat-book is priceless to our cemetery. Without it, we still are unable to accurately locate our 47 missing persons.

MEMORIAL TREES

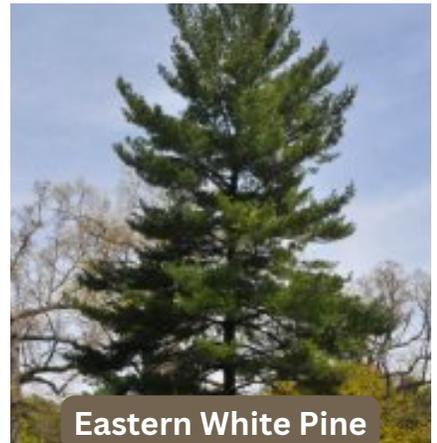
Plant a tree in memory of your loved one that comes with a customizable tree bracelet plaque for only \$350! This is open to the public, learn more by visiting our website.



Autumn Blaze Maple



Northern Red Oak



Eastern White Pine

Income/Expense Comparison by Category - Last year
1/1/2023 through 12/31/2024

Category	1/1/2023- 12/31/2023	1/1/2024- 12/31/2024	Amount Difference
INCOME			
Donation	2,375.00	2,855.00	480.00
TOTAL INCOME	2,375.00	2,855.00	480.00
EXPENSES			
Bus. Expenses			
Supplies	25.20	0.00	25.20
TOTAL Bus. Expenses	25.20	0.00	25.20
Exp-Fund Raiser	0.00	529.94	-529.94
Financial Expense	0.00	31.63	-31.63
Maintenance	35.00	1,877.00	-1,842.00
Mowing	1,650.00	1,840.00	-190.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,710.20	4,278.57	-2,568.37
OVERALL TOTAL	664.80	-1,423.57	-2,088.37

DONATIONS

Please make checks payable/send to:
Bethany Cemetery Association, c/o Tracy Brookshier
16545 Pike 9294, Bowling Green, MO 63334.