

Commissioner Questions November 19 2014 - Old Blairsville Cemetery Part II

Q. We have been seeing in the newspaper that their have been a couple of cleanup days at the Old Blairsville Cemetery and wonder how that has gone?

A. Both days we have had set up, we have had below freezing temperatures, so we have decided to give in to ole man winter and wait till SPRING to try again. However, in the mean time if it is something you have an interest in, please feel free to make a donation to the Union County Historical Society for the cemetery.

Q. Can't the county and city use tax funds to pay for the cost of the cemetery restoration?

A. The county has already paid for the mapping and ground penetrating radar. The city is having the property surveyed and will handle the cost of the title work and weekly maintenance, but the actual beautification process including some new markers, gate and sign entrance, and fencing will have to be done with private funds. We are hoping that some of the family members who have relative's graves in the cemetery will help financially, but we also hope that some of the public in general will feel led to donate to the protection and beautification of this historic cemetery.

Q. If we want do donate to the cemetery restoration, how do we do it?

A. The Union County Historical Society has set up a fund and will accept donations for the cemetery. Checks or cash can be taken to the Society at the Historic Courthouse in Blairsville, or you can mail in a donation to the: Union County Historical Society, P.O. Box 35, Blairsville, Ga 30514. Your donations are tax deductible and will be very much appreciated.

Q Do we have a cost estimate for the entire project?

A. No. We do not have any exact figures available right now but preliminary estimates are that it will take \$ 20,000 to \$30,000, minimum, to complete the project.

Q. What funding has been donated so far?

A. Currently, the Sons of the Confederate Veterans have donated \$ 1,000, an anonymous donation of \$1,000 and others totaling \$2,950, so we are in the \$5,000 range and excited about the great start.

Q. What do we know about who is buried at the cemetery?

A. We know there are six Confederate soldiers buried there. The oldest grave marker in the cemetery with a legible inscription is dated 1844. There is also a beautiful large stone covered grave without a headstone, that possibly could be that of an Indian grave and could be much older. If you want to know more about the cemetery and the markers located there, please visit the web site www.findagrave.com.

Once on the page, look on the right side of the page under "Find Graves" and click on the second item, "Search for a cemetery". That will take you to a search page with NAME being the first listed to fill out. Simply type in "Old Blairsville Cemetery" and it will pop up under Cemetery Search Results. Then click on "Old Blairsville Cemetery", and you are there. You then can click on "View all interments" and from there choose grave markers you want to look at. It is a wonderful resource.

Q. You had said one time that a map of the cemetery was being completed. When will it be available to the public?

A. We are hoping the map will be ready within 30 days and we will make it available soon after that. It will be a wonderful asset as we continue the process of restoring the Old Blairsville Cemetery located adjacent to the Board of Education. (or if you are a local, it is located just across the street from where Mrs. Wimpey's office was when we were in elementary school.