



A Walking Guide · Hubbard, Texas

From Stone to Story

Reading the cemetery in our own backyard

FAIRVIEW CEMETERY

806 SW 2nd Street · Hubbard, Texas 76648

Established 1881 · 43 acres · ~7,000 graves

Designated a Historic Texas Cemetery, 2011

Take this guide with you.

Walk slowly. Look closely. The stones are already here.

DISCOVERHUBBARDTEXAS.ORG

A project by Leslie Knox

Welcome to Fairview Cemetery

Most of us have driven past Fairview Cemetery without ever stopping. We know it is there. We notice the older stones up front. And then we drive on.

This guide is an invitation to stop. To walk slowly through six chosen stones, to notice what each one is telling us, and to learn the rest of the story.

Fairview was officially established in 1881, when the stockman John Abraham Hood Onstott donated the land. But people had been buried on this ground for almost forty years before there was a Hubbard in Texas. The cemetery is older than the town that named it. That is one of the first stories you will learn here.

Each of the six stones in this guide will take you about ten minutes to visit. The full walk runs around 45 to 90 minutes. Take your time. The people buried here are not in a hurry.

Before You Begin

- **Walk in the rows between plots.** Never across stones.
- **Do not touch, lean on, or clean any headstones.** Even fallen ones. Old stones are fragile.
- **No chalk, no shaving cream, no chemical cleaners.** These are old, harmful tricks that damage stones.
- **If a graveside service is in progress,** give it space and visit another day.
- **Speak in a normal, conversational voice.** You are not at a library, but you are not at a park either.

The Six Stones, in Walking Order

- **1. William Henson Wagley (1834 to 1915)** was the family that was here before the town.
- **2. Joe McDaniel (1859 to 1913),** the merchant whose friends gave him their blood.
- **3. Marion Lee Onstott (1873 to 1964),** the founder's son, with his daughter Mignonne.
- **4. Dr. Eason Blue Wood (1831 to 1907),** Confederate captain, prisoner of war, and country doctor.
- **5. Tris Speaker (1888 to 1958),** the Hubbard boy in the Baseball Hall of Fame.
- **6. Mildred Hudkins Vagg (1912 to 1996)** The closing stone, and how I came to it.

William Henson Wagley

1834 to 1915 · Captain, scholar, farmer, of the Wagley family who were here before the town

1



FIND IT

Section: Wagley family area

GPS: 31.838954 N, -96.807789 W

Landmark: Large monument in Wagley plot oval outlines

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- **The Wagley name on neighboring stones.** The Wagleys were one of the families here before Hubbard existed. Look at how many of them are clustered together.
- **The ground around the Wagley plot.** Look for slight rises, small rectangles in the grass. These are likely unmarked Wagley family graves, including some older than the cemetery itself.
- **Whether his stone mentions his service.** William was a Confederate captain. Some veterans name their unit, some do not.
- **The dates.** From 1834 to 1915. A long life that spanned the Texas Republic, the Civil War, Reconstruction, and the early twentieth century.

THEIR STORY

William Henson Wagley belonged to one of the families who lived on this land before Hubbard had a name. The Wagley plot at Fairview includes stones and unmarked graves from before the cemetery officially existed in 1881. They were here. Most of them are still here. We just cannot read all of their stones anymore.

William himself lived a remarkable life. He attended Emory and Henry College in Virginia in 1858. He came to Texas, first to Red River County, where he met his wife. They eventually moved to Hill County. He became a farmer and landowner who, at his peak, owned more than 1,000 acres. He bought land for the town of Crockett in East Texas and wrote for magazines and newspapers in Louisiana.

When the Civil War came, he served the Confederacy as a captain in the 34th Texas Cavalry, in the secret service, and as a scout on the Mississippi. He had lung trouble his whole life, but he served anyway.

He and his wife had two children. Both died. His wife outlived him. He died in 1915, at eighty-one, in the Wagley section.

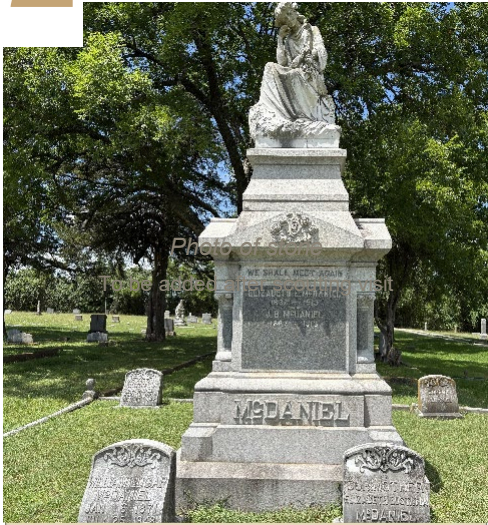
PULL THE THREAD

His Civil War service record (34th Texas Cavalry) is in the National Archives. Emory and Henry College keep archives of nineteenth-century students. Look at the ground around the Wagley plot for the unmarked family graves older than the town.

Joseph Bonner McDaniel

1859 to 1913 · The man whose friends gave him their blood

2



FIND IT

Section: McDaniel family plot

GPS: 31.838722, -96.807083

Landmark: Beautiful, large stone woman monument

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- **The dates.** 1859 to 1913. Fifty-four years old. Notice his mother, Elizabeth's, stone nearby; she died the same year he did.
- **The age difference between him and his mother.** A child who dies before his mother is one of the oldest kinds of grief.
- **Whether he has a spouse beside him.** He never married. There will be no wife on this stone.
- **The view from his plot.** Joe's house, Myrtle Wood, still stands a few blocks from where you are standing. Try to spot it from here.

THEIR STORY

Joe McDaniel was a merchant and a banker. He served at the First National Bank of Hubbard, and he helped incorporate the Hot Wells Sanitarium. In 1882, he built the house called Myrtle Wood, two blocks from this cemetery: walnut and pine, gables, porches, stained glass windows. The State of Texas designated it a historic landmark in 1969.

He never married. He had no children. He lived in the house with his mother, Elizabeth, his brother Edgar (who was a cashier at the bank), and a servant.

In 1913, Joe developed pernicious anemia. There was no cure then. The treatment for this disease was not discovered until 1926. He went to Galveston for an experimental blood transfusion. His friends in Hubbard volunteered their blood to try to save him. It did not work. He was fifty-four.

A special train was brought from Corsicana so people could come to his funeral. His mother, Elizabeth, died the same year. They are buried here together.

His house still stands two blocks from where you are right now. It is currently unoccupied. This is what this project is for.

PULL THE THREAD

Joe's 1913 obituary should appear in Corsicana, Waco, and Galveston papers. The Hot Wells Sanitarium has its own history elsewhere in Texas medical archives. The McDaniel house at Myrtle Wood is on the Texas Historical Commission's 1969 historic landmark list.

Marion Lee Onstott

1873 to 1964 · With Fannie and Mignonne, the founder's family

3



WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- **The Onstott name across multiple stones.** This is a family cluster. Stones rarely stand alone.
- **Marion Lee's dates.** 1873 to 1964. He lived to be ninety. In a cemetery, long lives are worth noticing.
- **Fannie B. Onstott beside him.** Spouses are almost always together. The presence or absence of a spouse stone tells a story.
- **The small angel statue.** Mignonne, their daughter, died before she was two. Look closely at child stones; they are almost always more elaborate than the adults around them.

FIND IT

Section: Onstott family plot

GPS: 31.838941 N -96.807225 W

Landmark: Angel statue (Mignonne's grave)

THEIR STORY

Marion Lee Onstott was the son of John A. H. Onstott, who donated this land to establish Fairview Cemetery in 1881. Marion was eight years old when his father gave the town its cemetery.

He was thirteen when his mother, Louisa, died at thirty-three. He was fifteen when his father died at fifty-three. By fifteen, he had stayed in Hubbard his whole life. He married Fannie. They had children. One of them, a little girl named Mignonne, died before she was two. Her grave is the small angel statue immediately beside this stone.

Marion Lee lived to be ninety. He outlived his parents combined. He outlived his own small daughter. He was buried here in 1964; in the cemetery his father had helped create more than eighty years before.

His father, the founder, is not buried here. John A. H. Onstott chose to be buried at Liberty Hill Cemetery in Dawson, twelve miles north, with his family of origin. He gave Hubbard a place to rest. But his own rest is at home.

PULL THE THREAD

John A. H. Onstott's grave is at Liberty Hill Cemetery in Dawson, Texas. His 1881 deed donating this land should be in the Hill County Clerk's records. The Onstott subdivision still exists in Hubbard, the legal descriptions of nearby homes carry the family name.

Dr. Eason Blue Wood

1831 to 1907 · Confederate captain, prisoner of war, country doctor

4



FIND IT

Section: Wood family area

GPS31.839806 N, -96.806416 W

Landmark: Tall standing monument with urns



PULL THE THREAD

His Civil War service record is in the National Archives. His 1907 obituary is in the Waco Times-Herald. His three young children are at Pin Oak Cemetery in Hubbard, with his wife Sarah and both of their mothers. Eugene B. Wood's records are in the Baylor University archives.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- **The dates.** 1831 to 1907. Born in the era of Andrew Jackson. Died after the invention of the automobile.
- **Whether his stone mentions his service.** Civil War veterans sometimes have their rank carved in. Sometimes not. The absence is a story too.
- **Whether his stone says M.D.** Doctors of his era are not always identified on their stones.
- **What his stone does *not* say.** This is the most important observation at this grave.

THEIR STORY

Eason Wood was born in Alabama in 1831. He married Sarah Barrett in 1861, the same year the Civil War began. He became captain in the 34th Texas Infantry of the Confederate Army.

He came home. He became a country doctor. Around 1880, he moved his family to Hill County, following his wife's brother. Three of their children died young and are buried at Pin Oak Cemetery, just outside Hubbard. Sarah died in 1895. Eason kept practicing medicine in Hubbard for twelve more years as a widower.

When he died in 1907, the Waco Times-Herald called him "universally beloved and respected." His son Eugene became registrar of Baylor University. His daughter Dixie became a teacher.

Tris Speaker

1888 to 1958 · Baseball Hall of Fame · Born in Hubbard

5



FIND IT

Section: Speaker family area

GPS: 31.838908 N, -96.805725 W

Landmark: The flagpole in the cemetery – with eagle on top.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- **The size and style of his stone.** A Hall of Fame baseball player. What did you expect his stone to look like? What does it look like?
- **His dates.** 1888 to 1958. He was born in Hubbard. He died and came home to be buried here.
- **Whether the stone mentions baseball.** Some sports stones do; some do not. His choice is part of the story.
- **The plot around him.** Look at his neighbors. He is buried among the families he came from, not among other athletes.

THEIR STORY

Tris Speaker was born in Hubbard in 1888. He grew up to become one of the greatest baseball players who ever lived. Center fielder, primarily for the Boston Red Sox and the Cleveland Indians. Three World Series championships. A career batting average of .345.

In 1937, he was the first Texan ever elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame. His plaque in Cooperstown, New York, is visited by millions of fans every year.

And yet he is here. Buried in his hometown. Under a stone that is not the biggest one at Fairview, and not the most ornate. Just a name, a date, and a quiet patch of Texas earth.

Famous and unfamous, buried side by side. That is what Fairview is.

PULL THE THREAD

Tris Speaker's Hall of Fame page at the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown has his career statistics. The Hubbard Independent School District named its baseball complex after him. The Speaker family records in Hill County trace back to his grandparents, who came to Texas in the 1870s.

Mildred Woodrow Hudkins Vagg

1912 to 1996 · The closing stone, and how I came to it

6



FIND IT

Section: Bertha Leon family plot

GPS: 31.839589 N, -
96.805650W

Landmark: Hudkins stones in
the Leon Family plot.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- **The plot she is in.** This is not the Hudkins family plot. This is Bertha Leon's family plot, Mildred's stepsisters.
- **Her father, Stark Hudkins, was beside her.** They came together from West Virginia.
- **Her age at death.** 83. She lived a long life. The longest in this guide.
- **Her full name.** Mildred Woodrow Hudkins Vagg. Notice the maiden name preserved beside the married name.

THEIR STORY

I moved to Hubbard by chance. My family is from West Virginia. When I bought a house here and looked into its history, I learned that one of its previous owners was a woman named Mildred Hudkins Vagg.

Mildred was born in 1912 in Lewis County, West Virginia. Her mother was Nettie Martin. My great-grandmother was Ella Martin Knox. Nettie and Ella were cousins.

In the 1920s, both families left West Virginia together for the Texas oil boom, settling first in Cisco. Mildred was thirteen when her mother died after surgery in 1925. My own great-grandmother died two years later. My grandfather eventually went back east and then to New York. Mildred stayed in Texas.

She married, became Vagg, and came to Hubbard because her stepsister, Bertha Leon, already lived here. She bought the house I now live in. She lived in it until she died on January 18, 1996, at eighty-three.


Mildred was my fourth cousin twice removed. She and my grandfather were the same kind of cousins, raised in Cisco as children. She knew him. She lives in my house. She is buried two minutes from the door I walk out of every morning. I did not know she existed until I went looking.

This is why this project exists. Sometimes the stories in a cemetery are connected to us in ways we will never know unless we go looking. Thank you for being here.



MAP YOUR 6 GRAVES

Using GPS Coordinates

You can use Google Maps or Apple Maps to enter and find GPS coordinates. 

Find the exact location of each stone using GPS coordinates, then record and map your six curated graves.

A. FIND YOUR GRAVES USING GPS COORDINATES

1 GET THE COORDINATES

Make sure you have the latitude and longitude for each grave.

Example:
32.051234
-96.889876

Latitude first,
Longitude second

2 OPEN YOUR MAP APP

Open Google Maps or Apple Maps on your phone.



Google Maps



Apple Maps

3 ENTER THE COORDINATES

Google Maps:

- Tap the search bar
- Type or paste the coordinates like this: 32.051234,-96.889876
- Tap Search

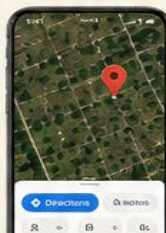
Apple Maps:

- Tap the search bar
- Type or paste the coordinates like this: 32.051234,-96.889876
- Tap Search

4 GO TO THE LOCATION

The map will drop a pin at that exact spot.

Tap Directions or Go to navigate there.



5 WALK TO THE LOCATION

Use the blue dot (your location) to walk to the pin. Zoom in for more detail.



6 CONFIRM YOU FOUND IT

When you arrive, look around the pin area to find the headstone. GPS may be off by a few feet.



B. MAP YOUR SIX GRAVES

Repeat steps 1–6 for each of your six curated graves.

✓ MAKE A SIMPLE MAP

Create your own map with the six graves marked.

Option 1: Use Google My Maps (free)

- Go to: google.com/mymaps
- Click "Create a new map"
- Search each coordinate and click "Add marker"
- Add the person's name or stone number
- Save your map and share or export it

Option 2: Use a Photo or Print Map

- Open your cemetery map
- Mark each grave location by hand
- Label the stone number or name
- Add a legend or list of coordinates



EXAMPLE: MY 6 GRAVES

- 1 32.051234, -96.889876
- 2 32.051111, -96.889300
- 3 32.051789, -96.888900
- 4 32.050987, -96.889100
- 5 32.050456, -96.888700
- 6 32.051600, -96.889500



★ TIPS

- Stand still for a few seconds for better accuracy.
- Zoom in close. Satellite view works best.
- Coordinates are in Decimal Degrees (DD).
- Latitude is positive north, negative south.
- Longitude is positive east, negative west.

C. RECORD AND DOCUMENT

Once you find each grave:



TAKE A PHOTO

Take a clear photo of the headstone.



RECORD DETAILS

Write down the name, dates, symbols, and any notes.



SAVE THE COORDINATES

Save or screenshot the coordinates for your records.



KEEP ORGANIZED

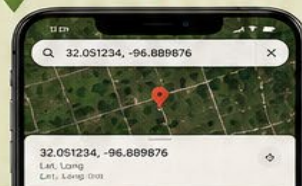
Store all photos, notes, and coordinates in a folder (by person or by number).



ADD TO YOUR MAP

Add the location to your six-grave map.

EXAMPLE COORDINATES




QUICK REFERENCE

1. Get coordinates
2. Open map app
3. Enter coordinates
4. Go to location
5. Walk to pin
6. Confirm and find the stone

REMEMBER

You are preserving a person's place in history. Accurate mapping helps future visitors, researchers, and families find and remember their stories.



EXPLORE RESPECTFULLY. RECORD CAREFULLY. PRESERVE FOREVER. 

Thank You for Walking

You just walked six stones at Fairview. But there are about seven thousand more.

Every one of them is a person. Every person is a story. Most of those stories are not written anywhere. They live, for now, in the memory of the people who still remember. And memory has a clock on it.

If this walk made you curious, the next step is Module 1 Check on the course page. Three short questions, ungraded, completed after your visit. Tell us which stone you remember best, what surprised you, and what question you walked away with.

And if you want to keep going, the rest of From Stone to Story will teach you how to read any cemetery, document a stone properly, and contribute its story to a public archive so the next person can find it.

With Thanks To

The Fairview Cemetery Lot Owners Association, whose stewardship of this place since 1952 made this guide possible. And to every name on every stone in this cemetery, whose lives built the town we walk through every day.

Designed and developed by Leslie Knox · 2026