

From: Guy Perry

Date: Saturday, February 27, 2010

Re: Rebecca Brooks Murphree (Old Evergreen, Texas)

I visited the site in 1984. At that time, the whole village of Evergreen was being used as a pasture for cattle. The gravesites were not protected and were being destroyed. There were no stones left for any of our family members. The owner let me go back onto the property and look around. There were some graves and the list of the ones that were there and still readable in 1983 is published in the history of Lee Co., TX published for the sesquicentennial of Texas or the US bicentennial. Most of the recent county histories were published from 1980 to 1990.

At that time, there was still the remains of the church, mostly just an outline of the foundation in bricks. The only graves that were consistently still there were the small white markers used for the prisoners who were executed on the hanging tree, which stood in front of the old stage-coach inn that Emily (Bumpass) Stockton ran until they built the railroad in Giddings and the town of Evergreen died. She sold her property and moved west to Bell Co., where she bought the Shady Rest (now the Stagecoach Inn) in Salado.

The old "Evergreen" tree from which the town got its name was still there in 1984. It was a giant live oak, which had served as the local hanging tree. It was my impression that the gas station next to it might have been the location of Emily's old inn.

By now, I'm not sure there is much of anything left of the village after 26 more years of cattle.

Sorry to report that, but there was never an effort to preserved the area. An archeological survey might help, but I'm not sure what they'd recover now.