



Oct. 9, 2003

Contact: Lisa A. Fellers
Director of Communications
Office: (817) 531-4498
Cell: (817) 874-8683
lfellers@txwes.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

History Department forms new Texas Wesleyan History Club

FORT WORTH, Oct. 9 – Texas Wesleyan University’s Department of History has formed a new History Club that is now 30 members strong.

Headed by Dr. Brenda Taylor, associate professor of history, the club was formed in response to the need to raise money for the Polytechnic Cemetery, which the University maintains. The history club’s first president, Ami Winkelbauer, was responsible for researching and creating the club’s articles of organization. There are no dues, and anyone associated with the Texas Wesleyan community is allowed membership. The club meets once a month and is presently engaged in creating a Texas Wesleyan historical calendar, the proceeds of which will go toward the upkeep of the cemetery.

George E. Tandy and Arch S. Hall donated the cemetery to Polytechnic College in 1890. It wasn’t until 1922, however, that the cemetery first appeared in the Fort Worth City directory after the Poly area was annexed by Fort Worth. And although there is an endowment for the cemetery, “the earnings from that endowment are insufficient for the upkeep and repairs needed,” said Dr. Taylor. Laws protecting cemeteries are seldom enforced, she said, and this

-more-

Oct. 9, History Club, page 2

cemetery has fallen victim to vandals in the past. The history club's first point of order is to restore the fencing around the cemetery so as to prevent further vandalism.

There have been numerous efforts to obtain a historical marker for this cemetery, but it hasn't been until this year that Dr. Taylor believes she may be successful in obtaining one. Although the cemetery was originally located on a fifty-acre track of land, it has now been relegated to only three acres. Dr. Taylor's Historiography and Historical Methods class plotted the cemetery last year. Burial records are incomplete, however, and there are a number of unmarked and unnamed graves.

For more information regarding the History Club and the Polytechnic Cemetery, contact Dr. Brenda Taylor at 817-531-4916 or email at btaylor@txwes.edu.

###