

A STORY OF TWO CEMETERIES

A history of a people can be a difficult process to unwind especially if the history is not entirely pleasant and clouded by war and the institution of slavery. The Springhill and Magnolia Springs Cemeteries are next to each other. The communities of Magnolia Springs and Mt Union, Texas where the cemeteries residents are from are two adjoining communities in the Neches river bottom. Two Scottish brothers, Sherrod and Alexander Wright, came to Texas in 1824 and bought from the Mexican Government 4,000 acres of east Texas Neches River bottom land in what, today is Magnolia Springs and Mt Union.

There are few records that tell the story of these communities. There are artifacts and a larger history of Texas and America of those times in which a person can make some logical assumptions. From those assumptions an amazing story begins to unravel.

Today, the descendants of those slaves continue to own almost 2,000 acres of land sold to them by the descendants of Sherrod and Alexander Wright in the 1870s.

While the cemeteries are separated by a fence and by race this story is about one community and it tells the history of America. In The Magnolia Springs Cemetery everyone who is buried there is white. In the Springhill Cemetery everyone buried there is black. Despite the separation this is still a story of one community.

Before this tour is complete you will hear the amazing story of James and Rachel Frazier. You will hear the story of their three daughters from whom most of those buried in the Springhill Cemetery are descendants of. You will discover why we consider James and Rachel the founders of the African American community. It is an amazing story of endurance and resilience.

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