

Liberty and a Better Life for All



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER ALAN LESLEY

Every July, we take time to reflect on our country's history and remember how the actions of a few helped shape the way we live today. I think back on the rich history of the electric cooperative movement and how a small group of determined individuals were able to improve the quality of life for themselves and their descendants.

Every day, Comanche Electric Cooperative's members and employees build on the legacy of our cooperative founders. Because we are a part of an electric cooperative, we know that we have the power to shape our present and the future, just like those who came before us.

Through grassroots advocacy efforts, electric co-ops help influence policy decisions that will affect our communities now and for years to come. We are the catalyst for change in our communities. We leverage our collective power to get things done.

We work together, partnering with other co-ops, local businesses and community organizers to achieve economic development goals. We create better opportunities and improve the quality of life for our families and communities—just as our founding co-op members did.

We understand that the decisions we make today could greatly affect how future generations live, so we invest in energy-efficiency programs that protect our future generations while still providing high-quality, affordable electric power.

Cooperatives are helping to build the next generation of leadership through our Government-in-Action Youth Tour program—sending high school students to Washington, D.C., to meet with lawmakers and get an up-close view of how our govern-

ment functions. Youth Tour participants leave our nation's capital feeling energized and inspired to make a difference in their communities. We also support local youths by offering scholarships to help them afford quality educations.

These things, plus so much more, are what make up the cooperative difference. This Fourth of July, we think about the future of electric cooperatives and how we will continue to shape our country and our society. Comanche EC remembers what it took to bring power to our communities, and we will let the determination of those who came before us guide us.



For many homes, it began with a single lightbulb. Today, CECA continues to improve the quality of life of our members—following in the footsteps of co-op founders.



Six Easy Ways To Pay Your Bill

Check out our convenient methods and choose the one that works best for you.

PAY IN PERSON

Pay your bill at any of our three service centers.

Comanche: Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Early: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., closed 1–2 p.m.

Eastland: Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

PAY BY PHONE

1-800-915-2533

PAY BY MAIL

P.O. Box 729, Comanche, TX 76442

PAY BY DIRECT DRAFT

Your bill can be automatically paid each month by direct draft through your bank account or credit card. Sign up by contacting a member service representative at 1-800-915-2533.

PAY ONLINE AT CECA.COOP

Access your account any time, day or night, from any place with Internet service. Just click on the "Pay Your Bill" tab. Contact a member service representative at 1-800-915-2533 for first-time login instructions.

PAY WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE

Download our smartphone app by going to your app store and searching for "Comanche Electric Cooperative" or "CECA." Use the same login credentials you would use for online payments. If you are not already set up, contact a member service representative at 1-800-915-2533 for first-time login instructions.

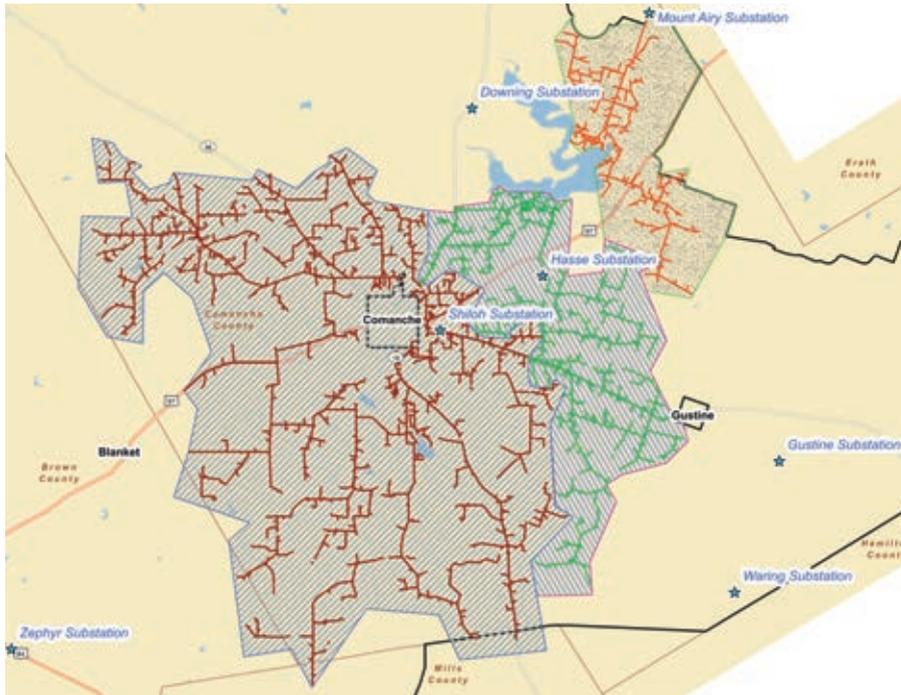
Meter Installation Update

Contract crews with Texas Meter Device, an experienced electric system installation service out of Waco, will be installing new, updated electric meters in the CECA service area. Crews are currently replacing all of the meters in areas serviced out of the Shiloh, Hasse and Mount Airy substations. This area is depicted in the included map.

The installation of the new meter will cause a brief service disruption lasting no more than a couple of minutes, or even less in most cases.

All meters on the CECA system must be changed out. Therefore, each meter location in our service territory will be visited by TMD at some time. As this project progresses, we will continue to use the pages of Texas Co-op Power magazine to keep the CECA membership informed about where crews are or will be working.

If you have any questions or concerns in relation to this project, contact CECA's metering department at 1-800-915-2533 or via email at meterdata@ceca.coop.



CECA

P.O. Box 729
Comanche, TX 76442

Operating in Brown, Callahan, Comanche, Eastland, Mills, Shackelford and Stephens counties

HEADQUARTERS

201 W. Wrights Ave.
Comanche, TX 76442

EARLY OFFICE

1801 CR 338
Early, TX 76801

EASTLAND OFFICE

1311 W. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448

OFFICE HOURS

Comanche Office: Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Early Office: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., closed from 1 to 2 p.m.

Eastland Office: Tuesday and Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

YOUR LOCAL PAGES

This section of Texas Co-op Power is produced by CECA each month to provide you with information about current events, special programs and other activities of the cooperative. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact Shirley at the Comanche office or at sdukes@ceca.coop.



CONTACT US

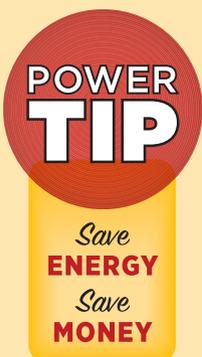
CALL US

(325) 356-2533 local or
1-800-915-2533 toll-free

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Replacing your conventional power strips with advanced power strips can help reduce the electricity wasted when electronic devices are idle. These power strips, which reduce the "vampire" energy that appliances use even when they're turned off, are a convenient and low-cost way to save.

Source: Department of Energy



The largest of the four cemeteries, White Point is filled with memories of the lives of more than 400 people. The beautiful oak trees continue to shade and protect the old as well as the new tombstones.

Southern Comanche County Cemeteries

BY SHIRLEY DUKES

As I travel the back roads of our service territory, I am always awestruck by its beauty and serenity, particularly in the springtime when everything is fresh and new. This month, as I traveled through the southern part of our area, I was fascinated by the peacefulness and serenity of the old cemeteries and churches that dot the countryside. So fascinated in fact, that I actually backtracked and took photos.

This story is a result of that beautiful April day in southern Comanche County. These four cemeteries—White Point, Mercer’s Gap, Caffey and McKinzie—are all within about a mile of each other, and their histories connect in more than one way.

Thank you to Mary Ann Boyd Kruger, Shirley Johnson, Sharon McKinzie, Eldon Ray and Melba Tupin, and the Comanche Public Library for their assistance in obtaining the history of these picturesque old churches and cemeteries.

White Point Church and Cemetery

The White Point Church and Cemetery sits on property next to Comanche CR 590, about five miles south of Comanche.

The cemetery is enclosed by a charming old rock fence on the front and one side, with a gated entry and a metal and pipe identifying sign. The remaining two sides are enclosed by a chainlink fence. A plethora of stately trees shade the more than 200 tombstones marking the burial places of the White Point settlers and their descendants, friends, and family.

It was most likely in 1878 that Burrell Scales Lewis and his wife, Mary Elizabeth, traveled from Alabama to Hood County, where Burrell’s brother lived, in hopes of settling down. However, the black soil of the area was not much to Burrell’s liking, so they moved south in search of some good red dirt and settled on a piece of property just off what is now CR 590, south of Comanche, paying 25 cents an acre for prime land. It was around that same time that Mose B. Anderson and his wife, Alice Josephine, also arrived in the area. It is unclear who arrived first, but these two families would be the original settlers of the White Point Community.

As was common during that era, both were strong Christian families, so it was inevitable that they should form a bond and begin to worship together. Prior to a church house being

built, the Lewis and Anderson families would alternate Sundays, worshipping at the Lewis house one Sunday and the Anderson house the next.

The White Point Methodist Episcopal Church was founded July 30, 1892, by the Lewis and Anderson families in keeping with the Bible verse “Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I will be in the midst of them.”

In June of 1893, Mary Gleaton, Robert Lewis and William Nabers increased the membership to seven. On November 30, 1901, the church grounds were deeded to Burrell Lewis and M.B. Anderson by W.A. Tipps for the sum of \$12. I’m sure that over the years members came and members went, but by the turn of the century there were 153 members. The final entry in the church membership registry by Pastor Rex Sellers was September 7, 1936.

The community also boasted a school, White Point College, located on the southeast corner of FM 573 and CR 216. The school no longer stands, but photos show a small wood-plank building. An old photo hanging on the wall in the church building shows 36 students of varying ages. The date of the photo is unknown, but based on the approximate age of Georgia Bell Lewis, the only known student in the photo and the daughter of Burrell and Mary Elizabeth Lewis, I would guess it to be mid to late 1890s. Old records show that White Point School consolidated into Mercer’s Creek school March 13, 1913.

Of the marked graves in the cemetery, only three appear to have been prior to 1900, all three of which were for children. They were: Susan Carson, born and died in 1897; infant child of L.C. and M.F. Gleaton, born and died in 1895; and Thomas C. Dutton, son of G.W. and H.E. Dutton, 1897-1898. (There was another infant son of G.W. and H.E. Dutton next to Thomas, but it has no dates.) There are approximately 27 graves with no dates or names so it is entirely possible that there are some older than these.

Due to the harshness of the times, along with illnesses and disease, many children who never lived to fulfill the expectations of their loving parents and families. At least 30 of the marked graves are children younger than five years old. One family in particular caught my attention. The Gleaton children shared one monument. They were: J.E. Gleaton, 1913-1915; Rankin Wilson Gleaton, born and died 1916; and infant daughter, born and died 1917. It does not say which Gleaton these children belonged to, but how tragic to lose three chil-



TOP: This song was written by Aubrey Lewis, a descendant of one of the original founders of the small settlement of White Point. The song graces the back of Lewis’ tombstone.

ABOVE: White Point Church, built in 1892, was originally a wood-plank building. Several years ago a layer of stucco was applied to the outside in an effort to preserve the original structure.

dren so close together. There are also two Ward infant graves, both unmarked; Christopher twins, buried in one unmarked grave; two infant White children of Sam and Ola White, buried two years apart; two Dutton children of G.W and H.E Dutton; and baby boy and baby girl Duncan, died 1909 and 1910, children of A.S. and M.E Duncan.

The most prominent names in the cemetery were: Lewis with 11 marked graves; Anderson with eight marked graves; and Gleaton with seven marked graves.

Today you would be hard pressed to find the White Point Church and Cemetery looking anything less than immaculately groomed, thanks to the year-round hard work of Preston Cox of Comanche. Once a wood-plank building, the church now has a stucco exterior to protect it from the elements. It still stands but is used only on the first Saturday in May when the cemetery association has their annual “Cemetery Workings.”



Mercer's Gap Church and Cemetery

“Perfect peace and rest in the country. That’s the impression most folks get as they draw near to the Mercer’s Gap Church and Cemetery on FM 590, 10 miles southwest of Comanche, Texas. The white frame building with its bell tower and an adjacent tabernacle boasting original wood posts and benches are nestled among bluebonnets and Downy paintbrushes in spring, fronting the cemetery’s old rock wall,” wrote Sharon McKinzie, historian and member of the McKinzie’s of the McKinzie Cemetery.

Mercer’s Gap Baptist Church and Cemetery sits on a scenic five-acre tract of land beside FM 590. The church itself sits off the road just a bit, beneath two magnificent old oak trees. Off to the side sits the tabernacle, built in 1916. South of the tabernacle is the cemetery, encased in a gorgeous old rock fence which was common for the period.



TOP: Though it is no longer in active use as a church, the Mercer’s Gap Baptist Church still stands in all its beauty and glory. It is easy to imagine one of these old oak trees being the tree that N.T. Byars sat beneath as he called the community together for the formation of the church.

MIDDLE: The Mercer’s Gap Cemetery is the second largest of the four cemeteries, with 255 graves. With the tombstones peeking over the rock fence, and the manicured landscape and trees within and beyond its borders, it provides a very peaceful resting place for its inhabitants.

BOTTOM: The tabernacle, built in 1916, still stands between the church and the cemetery as a testament to a once-thriving community.

The formation of the Mercer’s Gap Baptist Church took place on March 3, 1877, when N.T. Byars brought together a group of people and formed a “Baptist church with all the power and privileges thereof in testimony of which I hereto set my hand and scroll ...” Local legend has it that this all took place while Byars was seated on a stump in the shade of a large oak tree. It was during that same meeting that B.J. Wilkes and W.L. Littlejohn were appointed as delegates to the Comanche County Association. And in September of that same year, F.M. Her-

rering was appointed the first of 42 pastors to serve the Mercer’s Gap Baptist Church, the last being in 1971 when the church closed its doors. Byars was a Baptist preacher and was instrumental in forming more than 60 churches in Texas.

It is unclear as to how the land for the church came to be purchased. Until just recently, no records had been found. But that dilemma was recently solved when Sharon McKinzie, through her diligent research, located the original deed. According to the three-page, handwritten deed, James Bigler and his wife, Mary, sold the property to the church “to be used only for church business” July 17, 1880, for a sum of \$2 for the five-acre piece of land. The church building was erected some time later, but burial had already begun some years earlier when Mr. and Mrs. D.B Cade’s son, Charley B., was buried there in 1875 at the age of three years and nine months.

One interesting fact that came from the discovery of the deed is that Mr. Bigler originally hailed from Newburgh, Orange County, New York. It is not clear if he actually traveled to Comanche County himself, or sent a representative to handle the transaction. Whichever the case was, it was approximately four years later in 1884 that the name of the Newburg Community was changed from South Leon to Newburg, on the recommendation of Add Lee, the postmaster.

At last count, Mercer’s Gap Cemetery boasted 255 graves.



ABOVE: Looking at this rock fence in Caffey Cemetery, there is no doubt that a common thread ran among these three cemeteries. It is almost as if each fence were made from the same mold. Because so many of the area families had close ties, it is easy to imagine that perhaps one person built all three fences. But the similarity in no way detracts from the beauty of this little cemetery.

LEFT: Melba Tupin, Eldon Ray Tupin and Sharon McKinzie stand beneath the tree and next to the place in Caffey Cemetery where they believe the little unnamed girl lies buried.

Twenty-three of those were prior to 1900, but there are four unknowns, so that count could be larger. The most prominent names were: McKinzie with 25 marked graves; Williford with 24 marked graves; and Gore with 23 marked graves.

Mercer's Gap Cemetery, with stately trees throughout, is still an active and thriving cemetery, with regular interment of local citizens.

Caffey Cemetery

As we all know, life in the 1800s was tough and there were many who didn't survive. The children were no exception. So it was in the 1870s when a wagontrain traveling west stopped by the home of Andrew Jackson Caffey. One unnamed family was devastated by the recent loss of their little daughter and needed a place to lay her sweet body. Caffey offered them a lovely little spot on a hill beneath the welcoming arms of a live oak tree.

Melba Tupin of Comanche, great-granddaughter of Andrew Jackson Caffey, says she heard the story many times as a little girl. "Every time we went to a cemetery meeting my dad would take me by the hand and march me over to that tree and tell me the story," said Melba. It is believed today that this small child was the first person to be interred in the Caffey Cemetery. She would not be the last.

Caffey was known to have generously donated burial spots for other friends, neighbors and family. The first recorded burial was that of Milton Harvey White, a 24-year old man, in

1879. Caffey's own daughter, Sallie Caffey Thomas, was buried there in 1890, shortly before he deeded the property to the cemetery February 16, 1891. It is probable that the death of his daughter was the catalyst that prompted him to donate the property. Andrew Jackson Caffey died in 1905 and was also interred in the Caffey Cemetery.

Currently there are 65 people buried there, with the last one being Fred D. Brown in 1956. Of those 65 people, 28 were prior to 1900. However, there were nine unknowns, so that number could be higher. The most prominent names were Farris, Huggins and Townsend, with eight graves each.

As with all old cemeteries, along with the unnamed plots and plots with unknown dates, are infants that were never named and mothers with newborn children who died together or very closely.

McKinzie Cemetery

Of these four cemeteries, perhaps the McKinzie Cemetery has the richest and most intriguing history. It is located near Cox's Creek on property owned by the Eldon Ray Tupin family, on CR 590. Tupin is the great-great grandson of James McKinzie.

Family lore has it that the first two McKinzies to come to this area were brothers, James and Kinneth, who arrived in 1855. Originally from Tennessee, they traveled to Georgia, Arkansas and Bell County, Texas, before arriving in Comanche County and settling south of town. A few years later, probably in 1859, their father, Charles McKinzie arrived. At an unknown



TOP: Sitting in the back of a pasture, off the beaten path, the tiny family cemetery of McKinzie gets few visitors.

ABOVE LEFT: This stone sitting in the middle of the cemetery stands as a testament to one of the eight original McKinzie families to settle this area.

ABOVE RIGHT: Charles McKinzie and his 7-month-old son are buried in a grave together in a pasture at Indian Creek. However, the tombstone and fence around their grave were in disrepair when Preston Cox repaired the tombstone and the McKinzie descendants had it moved to the McKinzie family plot. The remains of Charles and his son were not disturbed and they remain at Indian Creek.

time, another brother, John G. arrived. One brother and some sisters never moved to this area, which may have been a smart move as all of these McKinzie's were impacted by Indian uprisings in one way or another.

Kinneth and James were attacked somewhere around Round Mountain in 1860. Both were injured, but James had lesser injuries and was able to get Kinneth loaded onto a mule and both men made it back to the fort. James survived, but Kinneth died the next day. The other brother, John G., married the widow of James Tankersly, who was killed by Indians in Brown County in 1862. Their father, Charles, was killed by

Indians in 1863 at Indian Creek. This family's fate is further proof that life during those days was harsh and dangerous, and Indian raids in Comanche County were not a rare thing.

James purchased the land where the cemetery now sits from the State of Texas March 10, 1879. A rancher and Comanche County Commissioner, James was a longtime member of the Mercer's Gap Church. He died in 1906.

Of the original McKinzie's, James and his wife are the only ones the family is certain are buried in the McKinzie Cemetery. Kinneth's final resting place is unknown, but his descendants often wonder if one of the unmarked graves in the McKinzie Cemetery could be Kinneth's.

Charles was buried on the southeast part of town on Indian Creek, in a back pasture. Years of weather and livestock left him with a broken tombstone and a crumbling rock fence surrounding his resting place. He had another son after arriving in Comanche County. That son died in 1859 at seven months old, and is buried along with his father in the same grave. Both names are listed on the tombstone. In 1999 their tombstone was repaired and moved to the McKinzie Cemetery, but their bones remain undisturbed in their original resting place. It is unknown at this time where the other McKinzie family members were buried.

All burials in the McKinzie Cemetery are descendants of those original McKinzie's. There are eight more burial sites that are known McKinzie's and several unmarked graves.

The charming Eve's Necklace trees that once shaded the cemetery are now dead, but new trees are sprouting up and taking their place. Once Eldon Ray has pruned back the old ones and the new

ones take root and replace them, the tiny little family cemetery will once again be a beautiful resting place for the McKinzie descendants.

Ties That Bind

White Point, Mercer's Gap, Caffey and McKinzie cemeteries are just miles apart and were formed about the same time, with many community and family ties among them. The Caffey Cemetery is now part of the Mercer's Gap-Caffey Cemetery Association, where each annual meeting is like an oversized reunion.

*An investment in knowledge
pays the best interest.*

Benjamin Franklin



**ADULT & NON-TRADITIONAL
STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS ARE
HERE!!!**



**GOING BACK
TO SCHOOL?
CECA HAS A
PROGRAM JUST
FOR YOU!**

Through our Operation Round-Up Program, CECA is proud to offer a Non-Traditional Scholarship to adults returning to college, or going to college for the first time. In order to qualify, you must be an active member of CECA residing within the cooperative's service territory, and participate in the Operation Round-Up Program.

For Program Guidelines, or to find out if you qualify, contact Comanche Electric Cooperative's Member Service Department at 1-800-915-2533, or memberservices@ceca.coop

Summer Energy Efficiency: Myth vs. Fact

MYTH: When I'm not home, keeping my air conditioner at a lower temperature throughout the day means it doesn't have to run harder to cool my home when I return.

FACT: To save energy, set your thermostat to a higher temperature (85 degrees is recommended) when no one is home, and lower it to 78 degrees when you return home.

MYTH: Running ceiling fans will help keep empty rooms cooler.

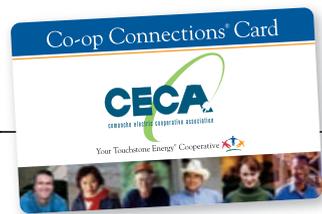
FACT: Ceiling fans generate a wind-chill effect, cooling people, not rooms. Just like the lights, you should turn ceiling fans off when you exit a room.

MYTH: Time of day doesn't matter when it comes to running my appliances.

FACT: Time of day does matter when running electrical loads. To avoid peak times of use and save energy, take advantage of the delay setting and run your dishwasher at night.

MYTH: Bigger is always better when it comes to cooling equipment.

FACT: Too often, cooling equipment isn't sized properly and leads to higher electric bills. A unit that's too large for your home will not cool evenly and might produce higher humidity indoors.



CO-OP CONNECTIONS

Featured Businesses

First Impressions Window Cleaning

We all get dirty windows, and few of us actually enjoy cleaning them. Whether you are preparing for a holiday, in the midst of spring cleaning or enhancing the look of your home, let us take this tedious task and make it worry-free. Specializing in residential window cleaning and power washing, First Impressions is guaranteed to give your home a beautiful face-lift!

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OFFER: 10 percent discount on residential window cleaning or power washing

Frames and Things, Inc.

Frames and Things is in historic downtown Brownwood at 408 Center Ave. The store was established in 1947, serving the Central Texas area. We will ship your prints and framed art to you via UPS. Select your favorite artist or publisher to find your new print choices. Our gallery has many framed and unframed prints for your viewing pleasure. There are samples of various framing techniques in our store to help you with your ideas. At Frames and Things, we do framing right the first time.

LOCATED: 408 Center Ave., Brownwood

PHONE: (325) 646-8811

HOURS: Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

WEBSITE: framesandthingsbrownwoodtx.com

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