

The Old Dobie Graveyard in the Seabrook Cemetery

By George E. Wolf Jr.

One of my favorite things to do is visit old cemeteries. As a historian I am always searching for antecedent sites to record. This is how I came across the Seabrook Cemetery, which borders Galveston Bay.

The graveyard is fairly large with roughly 330 souls buried there, within the large fenced area.

While I was reading the tombstones in this cemetery I came across the name of Dobie.

The Seabrook cemetery lies within the Ritson Morris Abstract. Col. Ritson "Jawbone" Morris traveled from Virginia to Texas and received one league of land near what is now called Morris Cove. Ritson Morris Died in 1849.

Sterling Neblett Dobie and Robert Noville Dobie arrived in Harris Co., sometime around 1835. In 1840 Sterling Dobie was living in Houston, Texas according to the 1840 census of Harris County. By 1843 the brother's were living on their father's league on Middle Bayou (Armand Bayou). The Dobie's had several slaves and a large herd of cattle.

On May 15, 1850, Sterling Dobie married Mary J. Morris, a daughter of Col. Morris and Minerva Edwards. Ritson sold to his daughter Mary one parcel of land on Aug. 5, 1851. This parcel included the area that would become the Seabrook Cemetery.

Early in December, 1851, Robert N. Dobie married Amanda Maria Hill, daughter of Jonathan More and Lucinda Bond.

Tragedy soon followed the Dobie families. James R. Dobie son of Sterling and Mary Dobie, born on Jan. 14, 1853,

18 at the time died and was buried next to James Dobie's grave.

During the late summer on Middle Bayou, Robert N. Dobie was washing his children in a bathing hole near their home, after the last child was clean, Robert went back to the bayou to clean up. He never returned. In the morning they found him drowned in a deep water hole nearby. Robert was buried next to Henrietta Hill and his nephew James on Aug. 1, 1857, thus completing the Dobie cemetery.

Amanda Dobie remarried and moved away. Sterling Dobie went insane almost killing his wife and himself. He later moved to Live Oak Co., Texas and died in 1880.

The land enclosing the cemetery was then owned by the Seureau family and later by the Kellett family. The Kelletts in 1911 marked off a 60' square plot in which included the Dobie family plots. Cedar trees were planted at each corner. In 1915 J. M. Kellett Sr. deeded three acres for the Seabrook Cemetery. It was named the Seureau-Kellett family cemetery.

One of the descendants of the Harris Co. Dobie's is none

other than James Frank Dobie (1888-1964). A National literary figure, writer of Texas Folklore, Professor of English at the University of Texas. He is buried at the State Cemetery in Austin.

The oldest graves of the Dobie family read as early as 1855. The other deaths came later. The Dobie cemetery sat for 37 lonely years before the next burials in 1892.

Wouldn't it be nice if the Seabrook Cemetery was named after the Dobie family with a historical marker placed at the entrance. Remembering all of the early Harris County settlers that called the Seabrook bayshore home.

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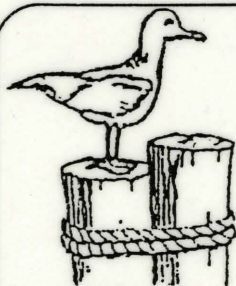
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