

**Texas  
Historical Marker  
Ceremony  
For  
Coker Cemetery**



Coker Community Church circa 1938

**Coker Cemetery – E. North Loop Rd.  
San Antonio, Texas  
Saturday, November 27, 2010  
10:00 a.m.**

## COKER CEMETERY

SOUTH CAROLINA NATIVE JOHN “JACK” COKER CAME TO TEXAS IN 1834 AND FOUGHT IN THE BATTLE OF SAN JACINTO. IN GRATITUDE FOR HIS SERVICE, COKER RECEIVED FROM THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS A ONE-THIRD LEAGUE, WHICH TOTALLED 1,920 ACRES AND WAS SITUATED ALONG THE BANKS OF THE SALADO CREEK, APPROXIMATELY TEN MILES NORTH OF DOWNTOWN SAN ANTONIO. JOHN COKER SOON WROTE TO HIS BROTHERS JOSEPH AND JAMES TO COME TO TEXAS AND HELP HIM TO SETTLE HIS LAND. WHILE BOTH BROTHERS MADE THE TRIP TO TEXAS WITH THEIR EXTENDED FAMILIES, JAMES DECIDED TO SETTLE WITH HIS FAMILY IN CHEROKEE COUNTY, TEXAS; JOSEPH AND HIS FAMILY JOURNEYED ON TO THE LAND ON SALADO CREEK.

THE COKER FAMILY SETTLEMENT SLOWLY GREW, BUT TRAGEDY STRUCK IN 1857 WHEN LOUCIOUS MONROE COKER, SIX-YEAR-OLD SON OF JAMES HARRISON AND SARAH (GANN) COKER, DIED FROM A RATTLESNAKE BITE. LOUCIOUS WAS BURIED ON A HIGH KNOLL NEAR SALADO CREEK, AND A LARGE LIMESTONE HEADSTONE WAS PLACED AT THE SITE—THE STONE REMAINS AS THE MOST PROMINENT MEMORIAL IN THE CEMETERY. JOHN “JACK” COKER DIED IN 1861 AND WAS ALSO BURIED AT THE SITE.

IN 1873, JOSEPH COKER CONVEYED A 201-ACRE TRACT TO HIS TWO SONS, AND SIMULTANEOUSLY CONVEYED A THREE-ACRE PORTION TO TRUSTEES FOR USE AS “A NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH, SCHOOL-HOUSE AND GRAVE-YARD.” A SCHOOLHOUSE WAS SOON BUILT AND A METHODIST CONGREGATION WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1885. ALTHOUGH THE SCHOOL HAS RELOCATED, THE CHURCH REMAINS ADJACENT TO THE CEMETERY. THE COKER CEMETERY ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED IN 1967 IN ORDER TO CARE FOR THE SITE, AND TODAY, COKER CEMETERY SERVES AS A REMINDER OF AN EARLY TEXAS PIONEERING FAMILY.

HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION  
FOR  
COKER CEMETERY

**PROGRAM**

Presentation of Colors Boy Scout Troop 285

Star-Spangled Banner Alzafar Shrine Band  
Richard Wallace, Music Director

Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag:

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America,  
and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God,  
indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag:

Honor the Texas flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state  
under God, one and indivisible.

Master of Ceremonies C.A. (Butch) Gerfers, President  
Coker Cemetery Association

Speaker Lila Cockrell

Bexar County Historical Commission

Remarks of Appreciation Tom DeKunder  
Chairman of Arrangements  
Coker Cemetery Association

Unveiling of marker\*

Dedicatory Prayer Rev. Barbara R. Galloway, Senior Pastor  
Coker United Methodist Church

\* Please wait until the conclusion of the ceremony to view the marker. and  
then join us for refreshments inside the church afterward.

## **HONORED GUESTS**

LOCAL & STATE OFFICIALS

GUEST SPEAKER

Lila Cockrell

BEXAR COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Virginia Nicholas, Chair

BOY SCOUT TROOP 285

Bill McCalister, Scoutmaster

ALZAFAR SHRINE BAND

NORTHEAST INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

COKER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Barbara R. Galloway, Senior Pastor

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### **COKER CEMETERY ASSOCIATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

C.A. (Butch) Gerfers, President

Homer Olsen, Vice-President

Bob Battaglia, Secretary/Historian

David Schneider, Treasurer

Sid Autry, Trustee

Carl Coker, Trustee

James Coker, Trustee

Tom DeKunder, Trustee

Tex Tomasini, Trustee

V. Royce Jones, President Emeritus

Arthur Nagel (1920-2010), Vice-President Emeritus

**Coker Cemetery Association**  
**P.O. Box 460945**  
**San Antonio, Texas 78246-0945**  
**[www.CokerCemetery.com](http://www.CokerCemetery.com)**