

Eagle Scout Project Supports Restoration of Conroe Community Cemetery

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By **newsdesk**

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On Saturday, August 15, Carson recruited 9 workers to help with his Eagle Scout Project. Family units worked together and others socially distanced. Everyone is standing by Luther Dorsey's grave. Luther Dorsey is the only known Buffalo Soldier buried in Montgomery County. L-R Heather & Paul Jacobs, Robin Pyle, Brad Wheeler, J. R. Jones, Hunter Pyle, John Meredith & Carson Pyle. Picture courtesy of John Meredith.

Article written by John Meredith, Treasurer of the Conroe Community Cemetery Restoration Project.

Carson Pyle with Boy Scout Troop 89 in the Woodlands is working on his Eagle Scout project at the Conroe Community Cemetery in conjunction with the Conroe Community Cemetery Restoration Project (CCCRP). The Conroe Community Cemetery is a historic African American cemetery in Conroe, that had all but been forgotten except by older African Americans in Conroe. Graves date back to at least 1892 and include not only former slaves, but some of the most influential African Americans in local and Texas history.

The CCCRP is a non-profit formed by its President, Jon Edens, that is dedicated to cleaning, restoring and preserving for future generations the Conroe Community Cemetery. Nature has taken its toll over 25 years since the last clean up. After the four acre cemetery is cleaned and of all the graves identified, the makers will be reset and cleaned and all unmarked burials, which now number 102, will have markers placed with Unknown at the head of the grave.



Robin Pyle found a grave object at grave Unknown 57. It appears to be white

ware and could be a candle holder. As is typical, it is broken. Picture courtesy of John Meredith.

Nine volunteers came out Saturday to support Carson Pyle on his Eagle Scout project. They were a hardy lot considering the heat. A large area of leaves and debris were raked and bagged in preparation for cutting stumps.

While raking leaves, Carson's mother Robin Pyle, found a grave object at grave Unknown 57. It appears to be white ware and could be a candle holder. As is typical, it is broken. At many of the graves we find grave objects, including pottery, glassware and sea shells, which were left by families and mourners. This is typical of early African American burials. Clean up has to be done manually so as not to disturb objects that may mark a grave. Since most of the graves are unmarked and only identified by a shallow depression in the soil, the graves objects confirm that this is a burial.

Contact the CCCRP at cccrp.org@gmail.com and visit us on Facebook to follow the progress and notices of clean up dates.