

Decker Prairie Community Cemetery given historical recognition

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COURIER STAFF

DECKER PRAIRIE — The Decker Prairie Cemetery and those interred there began a new life on Sunday. The cemetery, located just north of Tomball and a mile west of Texas 249, has long held an integral piece of the area's history — founder Isaac Decker — and has now been recognized by the state of Texas with a historical marker.

The recognition was the fruit of a two-year process embarked upon by members of the Decker Prairie Cemetery Association and spearheaded by member Nevaire Richardson.

"Two years ago, all of this seemed like 'Mission Impossible' to me, but now it's like a dream come true!" said Richardson, who, along with Charlene Coe Roberts, conducted the intensive genealogical research from a wide range of materials at area libraries and historical societies.

Decker Prairie Cemetery Association President E. Wheeler Coe, Jr., who is a descendant of Decker, said that the recognition has been long overdue.

"These girls really put in a lot of work. I think we should have had the marker long ago," he said.

Richardson had the opportunity to share some of her findings with a group of about 60 individuals gathered in the Decker Prairie Community Center for



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the dedication ceremony, the majority of whom can trace their blood lines back to Isaac Decker himself.

The cemetery, she said, is one of only eight in Montgomery County that have officially been recognized as a Texas Historic Cemetery. It sits on 2.75 acres, contains 362 marked graves, including 29 U.S. servicemen representing six branches of the service.

Its namesake, Isaac Decker, she described, was a boot-and-shoe cobbler who moved to the Texas Hill Country from Michigan in 1834 with his wife and five children. Due to the constant threat of Indian attack, he moved later to a spot



Staff photos by Nick Cenegy

Members of the extended Coe family, descendants of Isaac Decker, the founder of Decker Prairie and the namesake of the Decker Prairie Community Cemetery, pose for a picture during Sunday's ceremony recognizing the cemetery as an official Texas Historical Cemetery.

of prairie land just north of Spring Creek in Montgomery County granted to him by the Republic of Texas where he finally settled.

After the death of his first wife, he married three more times, fathering in total 22 children, including three sets of twins, and had numerous step-children. The Coe family, who still occupy much of the land in the vicinity of the cemetery,

stemmed from Isaac Decker's daughter Victoria and her husband Montgomery "Doc" Coe.

A number of members of the Coe family were present to commemorate the cemetery's new recognition on Sunday.

Margo Moore, of the Coe bloodline, and her husband Larry came out to enjoyed the serenity among the headstones.