

**ST. JOHN CEMETERY:** San Augustine County, San Augustine, Texas

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**Cemetery Name:** ST. (SAINT) JOHN CEMETERY



**Cemetery Type:** Rural African-American family cemetery located on private property

<b>Location:</b>	<u>Feature ID:</u>	<u>Name:</u>	<u>Class:</u>	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>	<u>Map Name</u>
	2099584	Saint John Cemetery	Cemetery	31.3894000 312322N	-94.3075000 0941827W	Chireno South

Located approximately 19 miles southwest of San Augustine, Texas, near the Attoyac River. From San Augustine, take 147 South 11 miles to Hwy. 103. Turn right, going west on Hwy. 103, traveling 8 miles to CR 3250. A green sign that reads "St. John Cemetery" sits to the left of Hwy. 103, at CR 3250. Turn right onto CR 3250. However, travel along CR 3250's winding dirt road 4 tenths of a mile. Immediately to the left, you will see another road with an entrance gate. A sign is available to direct you to the cemetery. This road leads to St. John Cemetery, which is located beyond the gate. Situated to the right on CR 3250 is St. John Baptist Church, a small white-painted building. The cemetery sits on approximately 2 acres of land and is enclosed within a chain-link fence.

**Founder:** Sallie Weeks

**First Grave:** Believed to be that of a worker on the Weeks farm who died after 1880.

**History:** St. John Cemetery is invariably tied to the settlement of St. John Community beginning in the year 1840. Several distinct families settled in St. John Community, including:

Hiram and Rachael Sowell;  
Marshall and Clara Weeks;  
Jack and Henrietta Hunt;  
Hall and Amanda Hawkins;  
Mannie and Henrietta Garrett;  
Lee and Becky Cartwright;  
Davis family;

Slavery was still in existence before 1865, so the land surrounding St. John Cemetery could not be officially purchased until after 1865. Although several ancestors of the various family lines were deceased prior to the purchase of the land, family members were buried in and around the property. When a Mexican man who worked on the Weeks farm passed, Sallie Weeks realized there was a need for a community cemetery because the founding families produced offspring that married into each other's family lines. She ordered that the worker be buried at the foot of a cedar tree. Sallie's father, Marshall Weeks, verbally set aside the area on the Weeks farm to establish a family cemetery for all family members who resided in the community.

From research of church records, from information gained from discussions with descendants of ancestors buried there, a conclusion was reached that more than 75 persons are known to have been buried in St. John Cemetery. It is almost a certainty there were other burials for which there are no known records. Many of the known burials no longer have markers. Still others never had any type of identifying materials. The oldest grave may be that of Hiram Sowell, who died in October, 1869 from pneumonia.

Today, St. John Cemetery is an active cemetery with burials as recent as 2008. While it contains family burial plots for several families that seem to be grouped together in a particular section of the cemetery, any family member may be interred in any available area. Each descent or family member simply chooses where they or their loved one wishes to be placed at the time of their or their loved one's passing. No particular spot is reserved. Availability of a particular lot space is on a first-come, first serve basis.

St. John Cemetery still has the look and feel of a quiet small-town cemetery. It contains the known graves of men who served in various branches of military service in World War I, World War II and the Vietnam War. St. John Cemetery is a lovely, serene part of St. John Community. Responsibility for general upkeep of the cemetery has been assumed by descendants of people buried there and organized in 2008 as the St. John Cemetery Association, Unincorporated, a non-profit unincorporated association created to preserve relevant local history and maintain the cemetery property. Cemetery upkeep is paid from private donations.

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**St. John Cemetery Association, Unincorporated**

Hwy 103 and County Road 3250  
San Augustine, Texas

Members: All descendants of St. John Community

**St. John Community Reunion**  
 HOMECOMING (2-day event)  
 Benefiting: St. John Cemetery  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday and Sunday in October  
 Saturday, 11:30 a. m. short business meeting  
 followed by ancestors' family activities and dinner on the grounds;  
 Sunday, "a celebration of family and a tribute to our lost loved ones"

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**INTERMENTS  
 OF  
 ST. JOHN CEMETERY**

<u>NAME</u>	<u>BIRTH</u>	<u>DEATH</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
<b>BROWN</b>			
<b>BROWN</b> , Willard			marker; no inscription; uncle to Elvira Davis; source: descendant of Elvira Davis; no other info available
<b>CARTWRIGHT</b>			
<b>CARTWRIGHT</b> , Mary	5-10-1910	3-18-1992	d/o Hiram Sowell; h/o Nathan Cartwright; Inscription: In Loving Memory
<b>DAVIS</b>			
<b>DAVIS</b> , Elvira	12-26-1924	9-9-2003	d/o Jessie and Malinda Wooten; w/o M.C. Davis, Sr.
<b>DAVIS</b> , Henry Earl	12-21-1941	3-25-1972	s/o M.C. Davis, Sr. and Elvira Davis
<b>DAVIS</b> , Leola	5-15-1905	6-17-1990	d/o Sallie Harvey; stepdaughter of Richard (Dick) Harvey; h/o Isiah Davis
<b>DAVIS</b> , M.C., Sr.	3-27-1916	3-12-1985	h/o Elvira Davis; Inscription: Husband and Father; We Love You
<b>DAVIS</b> , (double marker)			
Walter Lee	1951	1963	
Lewis	1902	1978	(f/k/a Louis Weeks); s/o Sally (Weeks) Harvey
<b>DUFFIELD</b>			
<b>DUFFIELD</b> , Avanelle	5-20-1923	9-7-1952	d/o of Marshall Sowell and Lucinda (Hunt) Sowell; w/o Leon Duffield, Sr. Death info: source: TX Dept. of Health, Death Certificate; interred in St. John Cemetery; <b>no marker available; unable to locate plot</b>
<b>GARRETT</b>			
<b>GARRETT</b> , Elijah H.	9-15-1902	1973	s/o Mannie Garrett and Henrietta (Hunt) Garrett; date of death: 10-7-1973; Death info: source: TX Dept. of Health, Death Certificate
<b>GARRETT</b> , Ernest	4-16-1905	X	s/o Mannie Garrett and Henrietta (Hunt) Garrett; h/o Willie Mae Garrett; date of death: 5-23-1936; interred: St. John

			Cemetery; Death Info source: TX Dept. of Health; Death Certificate
<b>GARRETT</b> , Henrietta	3-14-1862	6-22-1930	d/o Jack Hunt and Henrietta (Marshall) Hunt; w/o Mannie Garrett;
<b>GARRETT</b> , Lue Ella	8-15-1898	12-6-1991	d/o Mannie Garrett and Henrietta (Hunt) Garrett; Inscription: In God's Care; MOTHER
<b>GARRETT</b> , Mannie	3-14-1864	5-19-64	h/o Henrietta (Hunt) Garrett
<b>GARRETT</b> , Nela			
<b>GARRETT</b> , Willie Mae	7-26-1911	9-6-1996	d/o of Lue Ella Garrett; w/o Ernest Garrett; <b>funeral home marker</b>
<b>GREY</b>			
<b>GREY</b> , Mandy			no information available; Inscription: In Loving Memory; AT REST
<b>GREEN</b>			
<b>GREEN</b> , (double marker)			Inscription: In Loving Memory
Oliver "Sonny"		1-14-1934	h/o Virginia (Sowell) Green
Virginia		3-29-1937	d/o King Sowell, Sr. and Haley (Woodson) Sowell; w/o Oliver Green
<b>HARPER</b>			
<b>HARPER</b> , Vertis, Jr.	6-12-1936	6-12-1936	infant; s/o Vernon Harper
<b>HARVEY</b>			
<b>HARVEY</b> , Elizabeth	11-8-1901	10-6-1962	d/o Richard Harvey and Elizabeth (Dodd) Harvey; 1 <sup>st</sup> w/o Jace Sowell; Inscription: MOTHER
<b>HARVEY</b> , Sallie M.	7-26-1880	3-7-1937	d/o Marshall Weeks and Clara (Dodd) Weeks; 2 <sup>nd</sup> w/o Richard Harvey
<b>HUNT</b>			
<b>HUNT</b> , Andy	2-5-1900	4-25-1973	s/o William Hunt and Caroline (Cartwright) Hunt; w/o Jurushia (Glenn) Hunt
<b>HUNT</b> , Annie	3-16-1921	9-14-1996	maiden name "Glenn"; w/o L.J. Hunt; Inscription: In Loving Memory or Our Dear Mother and Grandmother
<b>HUNT</b> , Catherine Faye	11-3-1946	5-2-2006	d/o L.J. Hunt and Annie (Glenn) Hunt; Inscription: In Loving Memory of
<b>HUNT</b> , E. Z.	7-10-1905	2-12-1999	d/o Hiram Sowell & Hattie (Weeks) Sowell; w/o Lee Hunt
<b>HUNT</b> , Elmer	1-8-1909	5-15-1981	s/o March (Marshall) Hunt and Nancy (Cartwright) Hunt; Inscription: In Loving Memory of Father
<b>HUNT</b> , Everlyn	8-22-1927	10-7-1957	d/o Lee Hunt & E.Z. (Sowell) Hunt; Inscription: In Loving Memory
<b>HUNT</b> , Jurushia Glenn	5-14-1906	3-13-1997	maiden name "Glenn"; w/o Andy Hunt
<b>HUNT</b> , Kenneth D. (K.D.)	1-9-1936	7-1-2007	s/o of Lee Hunt & E.Z. (Sowell) Hunt
<b>HUNT</b> , L.J. (Lonie)	3-5-1913	10-14-1985	s/o March (Marshall) Hunt and Nancy (Cartwright) Hunt; h/o Annie (Glenn) Hunt; Inscription: In Loving Memory
<b>HUNT</b> , Lee	1895	1978	s/o of March Hunt and Nancy (Cartwright) Hunt; h/o E.Z. Sowell Hunt; Inscription: Lee Hunt PVT, US Army World War I; July 13, 1896; Nov 13, 1978

<b>HUNT</b> , Lettie	X	1929	no information available
<b>HUNT</b> , Levy	6-18-1918	4-23-1939	no marker; s/o Marshall Hunt and Nancy (Cartwright) Hunt; Single at time of death; Death Info source: TX Dept. of Health; Death Certificate; interred in St. John Cemetery; <b>no marker available; unable to locate plot</b>
<b>HUNT</b> , March	1864	1948	aka "Marshall"; s/o Jack Hunt and Henrietta (Marshall) Hunt; h/o Nancy (Cartwright ) Hunt
<b>HUNT</b> , Nancy	1866	1958	maiden name "Cartwright"; w/o March Hunt
<b>HUNT</b> , Ollis, Sr.	12-4-1904	4-10-1990	s/o March Hunt and Nancy (Cartwright) Hunt; Inscription: In Loving Memory
<b>HUNT</b> , Rosie Lee	3-22-1942	1-1-65	d/o Earlene Hunt; interred in St. John Cemetery; Death Info source: family members & TX Dept. of Health; Death Certificate; <b>no marker available; unable to locate plot</b>
<b>HUNT</b> , Sarah	5-18-1885	7-11-1950	d/o Richard Slaughter and Francis Greer; widow at time of death; Death Info: source: TX Dep. of Health; Death Certificate; interred in St. John Cemetery; no info obtained on spouse or children; <b>no marker available; unable to locate plot</b>
<b>JACKSON</b>			
<b>JACKSON</b> , Luvator	11-1-1929	5-23-2008	d/o Marshall Sowell and Lucinda (Hunt) Sowell;
<b>JOHNSON</b>			
<b>JOHNSON</b> , Robina (Hunt)	1893	1990	d/o March Hunt and Nancy (Cartwright) Hunt
<b>JOHNSON</b> , Cap	8-30-1917	1-3-1974	s/o Robina (Hunt) Johnson; Inscription: TX PFC; Army Air Force World War II
<b>NASH</b>			
<b>NASH</b> , Allena	5-2-1894	3-6-1942	d/o Hiram Sowell and Harriett (Weeks) Sowell; 1 <sup>st</sup> w/o Elisha Nash; Death info source: TX Dept. of Health; Death Certificate; married at time of death; informant: Elisha Nash; interred in St. John Cemetery; <b>no marker available; unable to locate plot</b>
<b>NASH</b> , Elisha	8-18-1898	12-1-1976	s/o Sam Nash and Mary Etta (Duffield) Nash; h/o Allena (Sowell) Nash; Death info source: TX Dept. of Health, Death Certificate;
<b>NASH</b> , Hazel		8-9-1995	no information available; funeral home marker
<b>RICHARDSON</b>			
<b>RICHARDSON</b> , Ora Lee Sowell	7-8-1932	2-25-2004	d/o Marshall Sowell and Lucinda (Hunt) Sowell; Inscription: In Remembrance of Mother
<b>SOWELL</b>			
<b>SOWELL</b> , Annie Jewel	11-24-1966	8-20-1969	infant; d/o Leland Sowell and Jewell Ester (Christian) Sowell; Death Info source: TX Dept. of Health; Death Certificate and info from father; interred in St. John Cemetery; <b>no marker available; unable to locate plot</b>
<b>SOWELL</b> , Caroline	1-12-1912	2-28-1999	w/o Elon Sowell; funeral home marker
<b>SOWELL</b> , (double marker) Cetta	6-7-1905	2-10-1987	maiden name "Douglas"; w/o Rogie Joe Sowell; Inscription: Our Beloved Parents

Rogie (Joe)	5-2-1902	6-22-1976	s/o Hiram Sowell, Jr. & Harriett (Weeks) Sowell; w/o Cetta (Douglas) Sowell; Inscription: Our Beloved Parents
<b>SOWELL</b> , Dorothy Mae	8-5-1935	3-5-2001	d/o Marshall Sowell and Lucinda (Hunt) Sowell
<b>SOWELL</b> , Ed McK	5-1-1916	3-26-2001	s/o of Marshall Sowell & Lucinda (Hunt) Sowell
<b>SOWELL</b> , Elon	4-17-1909	11-12-1988	s/o of Hiram Sowell & Harriett (Weeks) Sowell; h/o Caroline (Garrett) Sowell
<b>SOWELL</b> , (double marker)			
Hattie Weeks	1874	1911	d/o Marshall Weeks and Clara (Dodd) Weeks; w/o Hiram Sowell
Hiram	1870		s/o Rachael Sowell and Hiram Sowell, Sr.; h/o Harriett (Weeks) Sowell; Inscription: LOVER
<b>SOWELL</b> , Henry Lee	9-1-1952	12-18-1996	s/o Ora Lee (Sowell) Richardson; Inscription: AIC US Air Force–Vietnam
<b>SOWELL</b> , Hiram, Sr.	1824	Oct. 1869	h/o Rachael Sowell; Reported by Rachel on 1870 Census to be born in Alabama; Source of death info: 1870 Schedule of Persons Deceased; San Augustine, TX; <b>Believed to be one of the earliest known burials in St. John Cemetery; no marker available; unable to locate plot</b>
<b>SOWELL</b> , Jace	3-7-1899	8-23-1945	s/o Hiram Sowell and Harriett (Weeks) Sowell; widowed at time of death; Death info: source: TX Dept. of Health; Death Certificate; interred in St. John Cemetery; <b>no marker available; unable to locate plot</b>
<b>SOWELL</b> , Jewel Ester			maiden name “Christian”; w/o Leland Sowell; <b>no marker available; unable to locate plot</b> ; interred in St. John Cemetery; info obtained from spouse
<b>SOWELL</b> , Johnnie	6-26-1938	3-16-1990	s/o Marshall Sowell and Lucinda (Hunt) Sowell
<b>SOWELL</b> , Leland	11-27-1942	8-13-2005	s/o Marshall Sowell and Lucinda (Hunt) Sowell; h/o Jewel Ester (Christian) Sowell
<b>SOWELL</b> , Lillie Mae	3-10-1903	3-1-1976	d/o Joseph Davis and Georgia Ann Hale; 2 <sup>nd</sup> w/o Marshall Sowell; Death Info: indicates born 3-19-1904; source, TX Dept. of Health, Death Certificate and obit, interment: St. John Cemetery; <b>no marker available; unable to locate plot</b>
<b>SOWELL</b> , Loniell	1925	1988	s/o Marshall Sowell and Lucinda (Hunt) Sowell; Inscription: PVT US Army World War II; Inscription: In Loving Memory
<b>SOWELL</b> , Lucinda	7-26-1898	1-9-1940	d/o Willard (William) Hunt and Caroline (Cartwright) Hunt; 1 <sup>st</sup> wife of Marshall Sowell
<b>SOWELL</b> , Marshall	8-18-1899	10-26-1970	s/o Hiram Sowell and Hattie (Weeks) Sowell; h/o Lucinda (Hunt) Sowell; and 2 <sup>nd</sup> wife, Lillie Mae (Davis) Sowell
<b>SOWELL</b> , Odis R.	1921	2006	s/o Jace Sowell and Elizabeth (Harvey) Sowell; funeral home marker
<b>SOWELL</b> , Rachael	1832	Before 1890	parentage unknown; Listed on 1870 Census as a widow from Mississippi; w/o of Hiram Sowell; mother of: Randal Sowell; King Sowell; Jacen Sowell; Don K Sowell; and Hiram Sowell; listed on 1870 census as a widow from Mississippi; migrated to San Augustine between 1840 and 1860. <b>Last census to be listed: 1880. Believed to be one of the earliest known burials in St. John Cemetery; no marker available; unable to locate plot</b>

<b>SOWELL</b> , Randal	2-6-1856	2-17-1931	s/o Hiram Sowell and Rachael Sowell; once married to Lettie Sowell; Death Info, source: TX Dept. of Health; Death Certificate; divorced at time of death; interred in St. John Cemetery; Informant: Rogie Joe Sowell; <b>no marker available; unable to locate plot</b>
<b>SOWELS</b>			
<b>SOWELS</b> , Lottie Mae	2-26-1941	12-6-1952	d/o Ed McK Sowell and Corine (Green) Sowell; marker partially illegible; surname on death certificate: "Sowell"; Death info: source: TX Dept. of Health, Death Certificate;
<b>STERNS</b>			
<b>STERNS</b> , Mrs. Ida	12-22-1887	1-28-1973	d/o Tom Hunt and Ella (Smith) Hunt; w/o George Sterns; Beautiful picture inset in headstone
<b>THOMAS</b>			
<b>THOMAS</b> , Maggie G.	4-6-1897	6-16-1986	d/o Mannie Garrett and Henrietta (Hunt) Garrett; Inscription: Beloved Mother; The Lord be With You
<b>WEEKS</b>			
<b>WEEKS</b> , Clara			d/o of Henry and Sally Dodd; w/o Marshall Weeks; <b>no marker available; unable to locate plot</b>
<b>WEEKS</b> , Marshall	1824	7-28-1918	h/o Clara (Dodd) Weeks; listed on 1870 census as a worker on the E. M. Weeks' farm. Parentage unknown; migrated to San Augustine from Virginia. <b>no marker available; unable to locate plot.</b>
<b>WILSON</b>			
<b>WILSON</b> , Marie Sowell	4-3-1911	8-4-2005	d/o Hiram Sowell and Harriett (Weeks) Sowell; w/o Roy Wilson; Inscription: In Remembrance of a Great Aunt
<b>WILSON</b> , Roy	10-24-1908	9-17-1998	s/o of Willie Wilson and Elsie (Clay) Wilson; h/o Marie (Sowell) Wilson
<b>WOOTEN</b>			
<b>WOOTEN</b> , Jessie		3-8-81	father of Elvira Davis
<b>WOOTEN</b> , Malinda	1900	1959	mother of Elvira Davis; Inscription: The Lord is my Refuge
<b>UNMARKED</b>			
<b>Marker</b>			next to HUNT, Jurushia Glenn
<b>Unmarked grave</b>			next to SOWELS, Lottie Mae
<b>Unmarked grave</b>			with small head marker (with bar)
<b>Unmarked grave</b>			next to DAVIS, Leola
<b>Unmarked grave</b>			4 to the right of DAVIS, Henry Earl
<b>Unmarked grave</b>			next to BROWN, Willard
<b>Unmarked grave</b>			to the left of Sowell, Lucinda
<b>Unmarked grave</b>			to the right of GARRETT, Mrs. Willie Mae
<b>Unmarked grave</b>			next to HARPER, Vertis, Jr

**Unmarked graves**

need information on any other family members interred in St. John Cemetery