

Cemetery tour offers glimpse into early days of Texas

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A tour in East Austin's Oakwood Cemetery Saturday paid tribute to Texas women who changed history, in honor of Mother's Day.

"We're featuring fascinating women of Austin history, like cattle baron queens, early pioneer settlers, artists and philanthropists, including Susannah Dickinson and Ima Hogg," Leslie Wolfenden, with [Save Austin's Cemeteries](#), said.



Oakwood Cemetery is located at 1601 Navasota

She said those who take the Oakwood Cemetery tour go home with a sense of what life back then was like.

"I find the cemetery to be kind of a serene place," visitor Rebecca Strong said. "Just to be among all the history and all the things that have happened, it's really neat."

Dale Flatt, with Save Austin's Cemeteries, said people usually walk away more serene than when they came.

"Maybe realizing that all the things they're worrying about aren't that important," Flatt said. "Eventually, we all end up in a place like this."

Oakwood Cemetery dates back to 1839 and was originally two miles outside Austin city limits, but today stands only a few blocks away from the State Capitol.

"This part of the city hasn't changed, hardly at all, since the early 1900s, so it's a little oasis of trees, birds and butterflies, lizards, a fox family that lives out here, and plenty of squirrels," Flatt said.



Save Austin's Cemeteries hosts the history tours about four times a year. The tours are free to the public, but the organization does accept donations.

For more on the organization, and its mission to preserve historic cemeteries, visit [SACHome.org](#).

The Oakwood Cemetery is located at 1601 Navasota, just east of Interstate-35.