



Washington Cemetery, 2911 Washington Ave., Houston, Texas 77077

An Application for an Official Texas Historical Marker for

WASHINGTON CEMETERY

Houston, Harris County, Texas

By Lloyd Shenberger

Research assisted by Bernice Mistrot

(Replacement for Marker no. 10801)

Preface: Washington Cemetery was granted Texas Historical Marker #10801 in 1980. Research since that time has found additional information that disputes some of the information in the original documentation submitted for that marker. This application is for a replacement marker to correct these errors. The text of the current marker and the errors are included in Appendix A of this document.

I. CONTEXT

In 1887, Houston, Texas was a rapidly growing city. Houston had become a seaport and a rail center. Cotton was king. In addition, Houston was the primary shipping center for wheat, corn, and sugarcane. Houston was experiencing a building boom.¹ Population was increasing at a rapid rate. The population in 1887 was over 25,000.²

Since the 1840s, except for the years during the War Between the States, German immigrants had come to Texas in large numbers in search of a better life and cheap land. Houston was a popular stopping point on the journey to the interior. Many Germans settled in Houston, and by 1887, they had established several social organizations here, including the *Houston Turn Verein* (1854), *Houston Schutzen Verein* (1869), *Deutsche Gesellschaft von Houston* (1875), *Houston Volksfest Association* (1881), *Houston Liederkrantz* (1883), and *Houston Saengerbund* (1884).³ The *Deutsche Gesellschaft von Houston* was organized March 27, 1875.⁴ The first charter was filed with the State of Texas on March 12, 1879, for a period of 20 years. The charter was renewed in 1900 for 20 years, and in 1922 for 25 years.⁵ The stated purpose of *Deutsche Gesellschaft* in 1879 was “the support of benevolent and charitable undertakings, to wit: to promote morals, to render mutual assistance in case of sickness, distress, and misfortune, and to bury the dead.”⁶

The 1886-87 Houston City Directory lists four cemeteries: Glenwood, Roman Catholic (St. Vincent’s), Beth Israel, and Episcopal.⁷ However, other cemeteries within two miles of Glenwood Cemetery at that time included Founders, 1840 Houston City, New City, Masonic, Olivewood (black), Magnolia, and Trinity Lutheran.⁸

II. OVERVIEW

The *Deutsche Gesellschaft von Houston* (German Society of Houston) decided to establish a cemetery in 1885.⁹ On February 7, 1887, following two years of planning, they purchased approximately 27 acres adjacent to the western boundary of Glenwood Cemetery from the heirs of John Lawrence and Thomas Hart for the purpose of establishing a cemetery. The land was approximately one-quarter mile west of the city limits on a dirt road leading out to the small community of Chaneyville and on toward Washington-on-the-Brazos. As the city grew, the dirt road was paved. The cemetery is now located within the city limits of Houston at 2911 Washington Avenue. The name of the cemetery was Deutsche Gesellschaft Cemetery, or the German Society Cemetery, often referred to as simply, the German Cemetery. The extant meeting minutes of the *Deutsche Gesellschaft* and its successors cover the period 1894-1943, and during that time, the business of the organization was almost entirely related to cemetery operations. The minutes were kept in German until 1901.

The land is located in Lot 5 of the Hollingsworth survey. There are four deeds involved in the purchase. There are some minor differences in the wording of the four deeds, but they generally describe the land as thirty-one (31) acres, more or less, beginning on the south side of Washington Road, 60 feet westward from the northwest corner of Schachtruppe land at the corner of his fence; thence south to Buffalo Bayou; thence down Buffalo Bayou with its meanders to the southwest corner of Glenwood Cemetery; thence north along the west line of Glenwood Cemetery to the southeast corner of the Latham one-half acre; thence west to the southwest corner of the Latham piece; thence north with Latham's line to the gully, the south boundary of Devine's or Gregor's piece; thence up said gully westward with Devine's line to Schachtruppe's piece; thence around the Schachtruppe piece to his northwest corner on Washington Road; thence westward along the south line of said road 60 feet to the place of beginning.¹⁰ The cost of the land was approximately \$2,490. The committee to purchase the land consisted of Henry Freund, E. B. H. Schneider, Henry Hartmann, G. Rasch, Alexander Bartlingck, Herman Hundt, Louis Sonnen, William Reichardt, and Henry Koch.¹¹

Although the deeds mention thirty-one (31) acres, the actual area enclosed in the above description is about 27 acres; the 31-acre figure includes the Schachtruppe, Latham, and Devine parcels, which had been previously sold out of Lot 5 of the Hollingsworth survey.¹² Also, the

“Latham one-half acre” (which soon became part of Glenwood Cemetery) measures 60 by 800 feet, or about 1.1 acres.

When acquired, the land was covered with tall pine trees.¹³ Within a short time, the land was cleared, surveyed, and lots and roads were laid out. The cemetery was designed by Wilhelm H. Ritter Von Streeruwitz.¹⁴ It was laid out in 20 foot by 20 foot lots, with each lot containing twelve (12) burial spaces. Each lot would be transferred with a warranty deed. Lots were sold to society members at \$10 per lot and to the public at a minimum price of \$25 and a maximum of \$50.¹⁵ A meeting of the society, then at 75 members, was held Sunday, February 27, 1887 for a drawing of lots.¹⁶ Later, single spaces were sold for \$8.¹⁷

Most of the single spaces are in the section called Strangers Rest. Those buried in single spaces were not in family plots, therefore, they were buried among “strangers.” Many of the grave sites in Strangers Rest are marked only with a cement marker measuring 3.5" x 5" x 7" with a number cut into the top. A current Washington Cemetery Historic Trust project is to erect markers on these grave sites with the individual’s name, date and place of birth, and date of death.

There are no extant cemetery records of lot sales for the early years. Some lot sales were recorded at the court house, and thus appear in the Harris County Deed Index and the property transfers published in the *Galveston Daily News*. In addition to individuals, several fraternal, labor, and veterans organizations purchased lots for their members.¹⁸ These include:

Houston Aerie #63, Fraternal Order of Eagles (Lots A-5, A-6, A-11, and A-12)

Magnolia Lodge #7, Order of Sons of Hermann (Lot A-115)

Division #139, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers (Lot B-96)

Houston Division #7, Order of Railway Conductors (Lots B-131 and D-114)

Local #65, Musicians Protective Association (Lot D-119)

Local #84, Amalgamated Association of Street Railway Employees of America (Lot F-12)

Phoenix Assembly #3925, Knights of Labor (G-16)

George B. McClellan Post #9, Grand Army of the Republic (Lot G-26)

Dick Dowling Camp #197, United Confederate Veterans (Lots A-75, G-66, G-67, and G-72)

Local #79, Plasterers Union (Lots I-14 and I-18)

The first known burial after the founding of the cemetery was that of Pauline Otilie Zeitler, daughter of Ernst Zeitler and Pauline Gottschalk. She was born February 24, 1884 and

died March 30, 1887 at age 3 years, 1 month, 5 days, of “congestion of brain.” She was buried March 31, 1887 in Section C, Lot 63.¹⁹

There are several deaths that pre-date the cemetery. Since there is no evidence that the area was used for burials prior to the German Society Cemetery, most likely these are individuals that were moved from other cemeteries.²⁰ As the cemetery gained prestige in the community, some families had the remains of family members moved to the German Society Cemetery. The earliest death date appearing on a marker is 1855, an infant son of Carl and Louisa Quensell, who was reinterred here in 1910, along with nine younger siblings.²¹ The earliest known birth date appearing on a marker is 1800 – Mrs. Barbara Haag (Aug. 15, 1800 – Sep. 1, 1884).²²

The surnames of those buried in Washington Cemetery prior to 1918 were mostly of German origin. However, there are natives of at least twenty-one (21) countries other than the United States: Austria, Bohemia, Canada, China, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Hungary, Ireland, Mexico, Moravia, Norway, Poland, Russia, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland, and Wales.²³ (See Appendix B.)

At least 15 citizens of the Republic of Texas are buried here. There are veterans of at least nine wars buried in Washington Cemetery, including two who fought in the Battle of San Jacinto: Ellis Benson²⁴ and William Gammell.²⁵ Over 125 veterans of the War Between the States, both Confederate and Union, are buried in the cemetery. Dick Dowling Camp No. 197, United Confederate Veterans has 42 gravesites, and George B. McClellan Post No. 9, Grand Army of the Republic, has 12.²⁶ Perhaps the most notable Civil War veteran is Emma Seelye. Sarah Emma (Edmondson) Seelye was a Canadian who was living in Michigan when the war began. She enlisted as a man and went by the name of Franklin Thompson, becoming famous by writing a popular book, *Nurse and Spy in the Union Army*,²⁷ about her war experience.²⁸ There are also over 150 veterans buried in Washington Cemetery from the Black Hawk War, Mexican War, Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War.²⁹ Among the World War I and World War II military personnel memorialized here there are at least ten who died while on active duty during the war. Washington Cemetery is also the final resting place of three Houston police officers and two Houston firefighters killed in the line of duty.

During 1917 and 1918, the United States fought World War I against Germany. Being German, or being associated with anything German, was not popular. In July 1918, the name

was changed from the German Society Cemetery to Washington Cemetery in reaction to the strong anti-German sentiment.³⁰ The cemetery continued to be run by the cemetery association, under the direction of John H. Lang Jr. (1878-1935) and Willie Lee Noland (1878-1941). The last charter expired in 1947 and the cemetery association became a defunct corporation. Mr. Noland's widow, Jennie C. Noland, and her long-time housekeeper, Miss Leona Tonn, assumed responsibility for the care of the cemetery and continued to operate the business as usual until their deaths in 1970 and 1977, respectively.

In the mid-1950s, the City of Houston took 5.73 acres on the southern end of the cemetery for the expansion of Memorial Drive. Mrs. Jennie C. Noland and her brother Milfred V. Sharman,³¹ as officers of the defunct cemetery corporation, were awarded \$49,982 for damages in 1960. There were no graves in the 5.73 acres.³²

The concept of "permanent care" did not exist when the cemetery was established. Each lot owner was responsible for the maintenance of his own lot; the deeds clearly state that "Proprietors of lots are required to keep them in good order, or pay the Superintendent for doing same." The cemetery also levied an annual assessment on each lot owner for the purpose of maintaining the roads, walkways, and other common areas. Initially, the annual assessment was \$2.00 per 20 foot by 20 foot lot; in 1950 it was \$10.00. In the 1940s the cemetery offered lot owners the option to make a one-time payment of \$100 in lieu of the annual assessments, but lot owners were still responsible for maintaining their own lots.

As time went by, and lot owners died or moved away, many assessments went unpaid and many lots were not cared for. Mrs. Noland and Miss Tonn were faced with insufficient means to maintain the cemetery. Consequently, by the 1970s, the cemetery had reached a deplorable condition, causing concern among descendants. An out-of-town visitor who had been to the cemetery in early January 1975 was very upset by its condition. She wrote a letter to the "Watchem" column in the *Houston Chronicle*. On January 26, 1975, a group of twenty-nine descendants held a meeting to determine what could be done to correct this situation.³³ Several possible remedies at the city, county, and state level were being explored at the time of Leona Tonn's tragic death on July 8, 1977.³⁴

On August 8, 1977, Concerned Citizens for Washington Cemetery Care Inc. (CCWCC) was incorporated as a non-profit corporation by the State of Texas.³⁵ On August 31, 1978, the Internal Revenue Service granted CCWCC tax-exempt status as a 501(c)(13) organization. For

the next two years, CCWCC enlisted the help of the City of Houston and other groups to perform one-time clean ups. In October 1978, the CCWCC approved a plan to provide money for continual maintenance that hopefully would lead to permanent care. By asking descendants and interested parties to contribute \$10 annually, CCWCC raised \$10,000 and in early 1979, the jungle-like growth was finally cleared. After two years of planning and work, regular maintenance and restoration was begun on the cemetery.

On July 16, 1997, CCWCC was formally authorized and directed by the 129th District Court to “restore, operate, and maintain” Washington Cemetery (Docket No. 97-19963) under the provisions of Chapter 715 of the Texas Health and Safety Code. CCWCC became the very first nonprofit group in Texas to take advantage of the 1995 law.³⁶

Washington Cemetery Historic Trust (WCHT), a 501(c)(3) organization, was formed on April 10, 1992, to assist in funding historical research, monument restoration, road repair, and other major improvements. WCHT continues to engage in monument restoration; locating and marking “missing” graves in Strangers Rest; marking military graves; and creating a burial database from the record books and enhancing it with data from headstones and other sources.

On March 14, 1999, Glenwood Cemetery assumed the court-ordered responsibility to “restore, operate and maintain a historic cemetery” in an agreement between CCWCC Inc. and Glenwood Cemetery Inc. to merge the two 501(c)(13) cemetery operating organizations while maintaining the separate historical identities of the two cemeteries. The eight undeveloped acres of “Washington Land” became a part of Glenwood Cemetery as a result of the merger.³⁷

Today, Washington Cemetery is an active and well maintained cemetery. The current area of Washington Cemetery, enclosing all of the known graves, is about 13.5 acres. The cemetery contains family plots of 3, 6, or 12 spaces, as well as individual graves located in Strangers Rest. Today, there are over 7600 burials.³⁸

III. SIGNIFICANCE

Deutsche Gesellschaft von Houston (German Society of Houston) was organized March 27, 1875 and chartered in the State of Texas on March 12, 1879. On February 7, 1887, *Deutsche Gesellschaft* purchased 27 acres from the heirs of John Lawrence and Thomas Hart for the purpose of establishing a cemetery. Lots containing twelve (12) burial spaces were sold to society members for \$10 and to the public for \$25 or more.

The German Society Cemetery became a symbol of the German influence and a final resting place for many prominent German immigrants and their descendants. As the city became more diversified, so did the cemetery. At least 15 citizens of the Republic of Texas and immigrants from over 20 nations lie at rest here.

The first documented burial was that of Pauline Ottilie Zeitler, three-year-old daughter of Ernst Zeitler and Pauline Gottschalk, on March 31, 1887 in Section C, Lot 63. The tombstones contain birth dates as early as 1800 and death dates as early as 1855. The death dates that precede the founding of the cemetery are persons who were moved to the cemetery from other area cemeteries.

Over 325 veterans of at least nine U.S. wars are buried in Washington Cemetery, from the Black Hawk War of 1832 to the Vietnam War, including over 125 Confederate and Union veterans. Over 7600 persons are interred here, with more added each year.

The name of the cemetery was changed in July 1918 from German Society Cemetery to Washington Cemetery in reaction to the anti-German sentiment in the United States during World War I.

The cemetery association became defunct in 1947 when its charter expired. After the death of Superintendent Willie Lee Noland in 1941, his widow, Jennie C. Noland, and housekeeper, Miss Leona Tonn, attempted to maintain the cemetery. However, with limited funds, and the deaths of Mrs. Noland in 1970 and Miss Tonn in 1977, the cemetery reached a deplorable condition with jungle like growth and vandalism.

In 1977, Concerned Citizens for Washington Cemetery Care Inc. (CCWCC) was formed by a group of concerned descendants and members of the public. They began to raise money to maintain and restore the cemetery. Using a 1995 law, they were given legal permission to restore, operate, and maintain Washington Cemetery on July 16, 1997. This responsibility was transferred to Glenwood Cemetery on March 14, 1999.

The cemetery has evolved from a for-profit corporation with strong ethnic ties to the German immigrants and first generation Germans; to being a defunct corporation through the mid 20th century; then being revitalized in the late 20th century by a non-profit organization; and finally merging with a substantial organization at the end of the 20th century. The goal has always been the preservation of a final resting place for our ancestors who have helped to create the city, county, state, and nation as we know it today. Washington Cemetery is celebrating its 125th anniversary in 2012 as a link between the past and the present.

Appendix A
Washington Cemetery Marker #10801 Errata
Prepared by Bernice Mistrot, February 8, 2011

Text of 1980 Historical Marker

In 1887 a group of local German businessmen formed an association called the *Deutsche Gesellschaft*, for the purpose of establishing a cemetery for the German citizens of the Houston area. They purchased this tract, then located outside the city limits, from the heirs of John Lawrence and Thomas Hart. Until 1918 the burial site was known as the German Society Cemetery. The name was changed to Washington Cemetery because of anti-German sentiment during World War I.

The earliest burials after the founding of the cemetery occurred on March 20, 1887, when J. Turner and Annie Fraser were interred here. One section with forty-two gravesites was set aside for the burial of Confederate veterans of the Civil War by members of the Dick Dowling Camp No. 197, UCV.

Emma (Edmondson) Seelye (1841-1898), also a veteran of the Civil War, is buried here. Masquerading as a man and using the name Frank Thompson, she enlisted in the Federal army in 1861. For two years she served as a soldier, scout, brigade postmaster, and orderly on the staff of General O. M. Poe. She left the unit in 1863 after contracting malaria, but later served in the war as a nurse. She died near La Porte, Texas.

1. The *Deutsche Gesellschaft* was founded in 1875, not 1887. It appears in the 1877-78 *Houston City Directory*, pg 45, stating that it was organized in 1875. The corporate seal being used in the 1940s has a charter date of 27 March 1875 and reorganization date of 10 July 1918. The actual charter, as filed with the Texas Secretary of State in 1879, was for 20 years as a corporation whose objects were “the support of benevolent and charitable undertakings, to wit: to promote morals, to render mutual assistance in case of sickness, distress, and misfortune, and to bury the dead.” It was re-chartered in 1900 and 1922; the 1918 name change did not require a new charter.
2. It was not founded “for the purpose of establishing a cemetery.” “To bury the dead” was only one of several purposes (see above), and that is not the same as establishing or operating a cemetery.
3. Annie Fraser was not buried here on 20 March 1887 – that was her birth date. She died two years later. Also, her name was Frazier.
4. We cannot verify J. Turner’s burial. Cemetery records say she was one year old. In 1958 there was a headstone for Annie Turner, 12 February 1886 – 9 April 1887. That headstone is now missing. We think her father was Robert James Turner, but we have not found her baptism or burial at First Evangelical Church (we have found baptisms there for seven of his children, born 1888–1900). We found a city death record for Annie Turner on 9 April 1887, but no Turner near 20 March. Our best guess is that the cemetery record is wrong by three weeks.

5. There was another person who was buried 20 March 1887, according to cemetery records – a 7-year old daughter of Ernst Zeidler. Ernst Zeitler was one of the 24 charter members of Trinity Lutheran Church, which broke away from First Evangelical Church in 1879. Trinity baptism and burial records show that Pauline Otilie Zeitler, daughter of Ernst Zeitler and Pauline Gottschalk, was born 24 February 1884, was baptized 4 May 1884, and died 30 March 1887 at age 3 yr. 1 mo. 5 dy. of “congestion of brain,” and was buried 31 March 1887. She appears in the *Galveston Daily News* weekly mortuary report (City of Houston death records) as “March 30 – Mr. Sidler's child, female, age 3, congestion of brain.” Thus, Pauline Otilie Zeitler, buried 31 March 1887, appears to be the first burial in the new cemetery. The next burial that we can confirm from city death records is Earle Collins, and even there, the cemetery record shows burial on 4 April 1887, age 2, and the city death record shows death on 5 April 1887, age 4.
6. Dick Dowling Camp No. 197, UCV does own 42 gravesites, but they are not in one section. Twelve grave spaces are together in Section A, and the other 30 are together in Section G, at the opposite end of the cemetery. Additionally, the Camp may have purchased some spaces in Strangers Rest for members who died after the last veteran was buried in a Camp lot in 1921.
7. “Sarah Emma (Edmondson) Seelye” [add Sarah] was a Canadian who began cross-dressing and using the name “Franklin Thompson” [not Frank] in Canada a couple of years before the war. “He” was living in Michigan and selling bibles when the war broke out, so joined up like any other red-blooded “male,” and enlisted in the 2nd Michigan Infantry. In her hometown in New Brunswick, she is known as Sarah, but most sources here call her Emma. Most of her biographers give her maiden name as Edmondson or Edmondson, but she shortened it to S. Emma E. Edmonds when she wrote her famous book, *Nurse and Spy in the Union Army: Comprising the adventures and experiences of a woman in hospitals, camps, and battle-fields*, in 1864-65.
8. Franklin Thompson served under Colonel [not General] Orlando Metcalfe Poe. In her book, Emma refers to him as Colonel Poe. According to his biography in *Generals in Blue* (similar text at Wikipedia), Poe was Colonel of the 2nd Michigan. He was appointed a brigadier general on 29 November 1862, but the appointment was not confirmed by the Senate, and on 4 March 1863, he reverted to his regular army rank of captain of engineers. Emma deserted on 19 April 1863. Therefore Poe’s highest rank at the time of Emma’s service was Colonel.

Appendix B
Early Immigrants Buried in Washington Cemetery

These may not be the first from each country, but they are pre-1918 (before the cemetery name change) wherever possible.

Source: Washington Cemetery Burial Records, extracted by Bernice Mistrot

	Country	Death Date	Burial Date	Name
1	Austria	10/16/1896	10/17/1896	Katherine Greber
2	Bohemia	04/19/1916	04/21/1916	William H. Von Streeruwitz
3	Canada	09/05/1898	05/30/1901	Sarah Emma (Edmondson) Seelye
4	China	08/26/1947	08/27/1947	Teong Ah You
5	Denmark	08/09/1900	08/10/1900	John George Landrock/Landropt
6	England	10/25/1888	10/31/1888	Mary (Jones) Barttlingck
7	France	08/28/1889	08/29/1889	Louis Laurent Bissonnet
8	Germany	02/22/1887	10/31/1887	John Kreis
9	Greece	02/16/1922	02/20/1922	Spero Xanthias
10	Holland	12/11/1896	12/12/1896	Elizabeth M. Petersen
11	Hungary	02/07/1893	02/08/1893	Maximilian F. De Bajligethy
12	Ireland	05/19/1890	05/21/1890	Annie (Cook) Sayers
13	Mexico	05/24/1897	05/24/1897	Emma (Souchard) Appel
14	Moravia	01/04/1924	01/06/1924	Earnestine (Vlach) Soukup
15	Norway	07/14/1893	07/14/1893	Anna (Jensen) Kinzbach
16	Poland*	03/12/1915	03/13/1915	Joseph Pauska/Poskey
17	Russia	08/01/1902	08/02/1902	Benjeman Wilbushewich
18	Scotland	04/10/1869	01/22/1900	William Gammell
19	Sweden	02/28/1917	03/02/1917	Gustaf M. Borgstrom, Sr.
20	Switzerland	02/24/1893	02/27/1893	William Weisbarth
21	Wales	02/18/1935	02/19/1935	Hannah (Jones) Tharp

* The only headstone in Polish is Antoni Joz Strychaski, buried 03/31/1895, but he was born in Brenham, so he's not an immigrant.

Appendix C
Addendum to an Application for an Official Texas Historical Marker for
Washington Cemetery, Houston, Harris County, Texas
(Replacement for Marker no. 10801)

Addendum prepared by Lloyd Shenberger and Bernice Mistrot, November 15, 2012

Additional facts discovered since this application was filed in January 2012 may affect the wording of the marker inscription. All of the facts in question are noted in red boldface type in the single paragraph below.

OVERVIEW, Page 4 states:

There are veterans of at least nine wars buried in Washington Cemetery, including two who fought in the Battle of San Jacinto: Ellis Benson and William Gammell. Over **125** veterans of the War Between the States, both Confederate and Union, are buried in the cemetery. Dick Dowling Camp No. 197, United Confederate Veterans, has 42 gravesites, and George B. McClellan Post No. 9, Grand Army of the Republic, has 12. Perhaps the most notable Civil War veteran is Emma Seelye. **Sarah Emma (Edmondson) Seelye** was a Canadian who was living in Michigan when the war began. She enlisted as a man and went by the name of Franklin Thompson, becoming famous by writing a popular book, *Nurse and Spy in the Union Army*, about her war experience. There are also over **150** veterans buried in Washington Cemetery from the Black Hawk War, Mexican War, Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War.³⁹ Among the World War I and World War II military personnel memorialized here, there are at least ten who died while on active duty during the war.

That portion of the paragraph should read:

There are veterans of at least nine wars buried in Washington Cemetery, including two who fought in the Battle of San Jacinto: Ellis Benson and William Gammell. Over **135** veterans of the War Between the States, both Confederate and Union, are buried in the cemetery. Dick Dowling Camp No. 197, United Confederate Veterans, has 42 gravesites, and George B. McClellan Post No. 9, Grand Army of the Republic, has 12. Perhaps the most notable Civil War veteran is Emma Seelye. **Sarah Emma Evelyn (Edmonds) Seelye** was a Canadian who was living in Michigan when the war began. She enlisted as a man and went by the name of Franklin Thompson, becoming famous by writing a popular book, *Nurse and Spy in the Union Army*, about her war experience. There are also over **165** veterans buried in Washington Cemetery from the Black Hawk War, Mexican War, Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War.⁴⁰ Among the World War I and World War II military personnel memorialized here, there are at least ten who died while on active duty during the war.

Thus the total number of veterans is “**more than 300**” instead of 275 (per the paragraph in Overview) or 325 (per the suggestion for a corrected marker inscription). The original Note 2 [here Note 40] has been expanded to show additional sources used in proving honorable service.

While **Sarah Emma (Edmondson) Seelye** is a commonly seen spelling of her name, we now believe that the marker should use the name **Sarah Emma Evelyn (Edmonds) Seelye** for the following reasons.

1. Her maiden name has been variously recorded as Edmondson, Edmundson, Edmonson, Edmenson, Edmunston, Edmonston, Edmondton, Edmonds, Edmunds, and Edmons. This information was recently supplied to us by a member of the Sarah Emma Edmonds Detached Tent #4 (Houston, Texas) of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War 1861-1865.⁴¹

2. The name she used when she wrote her book in 1864 is “**S. Emma E. Edmonds.**”⁴²

3. The name she used at marriage in 1867 is “**S. E. Evelyn Edmonds.**”⁴³

4. In the Reports to Congress dated March 18, 1884, in connection with removing the charge of desertion (Report No. 820, House Bill No. 5334) and granting her pension (Report No. 829, House Bill No. 5335) her name appears as “Sarah E. E. Seelye (born **Sarah E. Edmonds**)” and “**Sarah Emma Edmons**, now Sarah E. Seelye, alias Franklin Thompson.”⁴⁴

5. Since the proposed marker inscription refers to her book, we believe the surname should match what a curious marker reader would find in WorldCat. A WorldCat search using Edmondson gets zero hits. She clearly used three given names both at marriage and in her book, so again, we believe it best to use all three. WorldCat provides pretty much the same results with any combination of her given names.

Washington Cemetery Historic Trust is actively engaged in researching and marking the graves of veterans. Thirteen graves of Union and Confederate veterans were marked on October 20, 2012, at least eight of whom were not known to be veterans when the marker application was filed in January. In addition, a dozen veterans who died in the last ten years were not added to the WCHT master list of veterans until this week. The tabulation below is a snapshot as of today, and will assuredly be different next week and next year. Those who served in multiple wars (Ellis Benson was in four) are counted only once, so the totals for some wars are higher than shown here. Probable (more likely than not) and Possible (lots of doubt) veterans are those who have been reported as veterans buried here, but it has not yet been clearly established that the person buried here (a) did serve, and (b) did serve honorably. In a few cases, we have not been able to find a burial record for the veteran said to be buried here.

Veterans Known to be or Reported to be Buried in Washington Cemetery
as of November 15, 2012

	Proved	Probable	Possible	Total	Moved Out	Disproved
Confederate	109	24	22	155	2	8
Federal	26	2	1	29	1	1
WBTS Subtotal	135	26	23	184	3	9
Black Hawk War	See TX Ind					
Texas Independence	2			2		
Mexican War	See CSA/TX	1		1		
Indian Wars	1			1		
Spanish American War	18	1		19		
World War I	87	3		90	1	
World War II	51			51		
Korean War	4			4		
Vietnam War	2			2		
Other Service	1	2		3		
Other Wars Subtotal	166	7	0	173	1	0
Total	301	33	23	357	4	9

IV. DOCUMENTATION

¹ Morrison & Fourmy's *General Directory of the City of Houston 1886-87*; Morrison & Fourmy, Compilers and Publishers, Ancestry.com. *U.S. City Directories* [database on-line]. Provo, UT; Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. (Viewed December 2, 2011), pg 2.

² *Texas Almanac*, www.TexasAlmanac.com/topics/population (Viewed December 12, 2011); City of Houston population in 1880 was 16,519 and in 1890 was 27,557. Morrison & Fourmy's *General Directory of the City of Houston* gives the population as 35,430 in 1886-87 and 36,463 in 1887-88. This is probably the population of Harris County. The *Texas Almanac* reports a population of Harris County in 1890 of 37,249.

³ Directory of the City of Houston 1886-1887, pg 51.

⁴ Deed from Deutsche Gesellschaft to Chas. Erzt and Fred Sauer for Lot B-87, dated 10 February 1893. The seal of the *Deutsche Gesellschaft von Houston* on this deed shows the founding date of March 27, 1875; and Deed of Perpetuity from Washington Cemetery to Mrs. Gladys B. Schweikart for the Henry Koenig Lot C-97 E½, dated May 8, 1946. The Washington Cemetery corporate seal used on this deed shows both the founding date of March 27, 1875 and the reorganization date of July 10, 1918.

⁵ Minutes of the German Society of Houston, Translated from German to English by Wolfram M. Von-Maszewski: Meetings of March 12, 1899 and July 8, 1900; and "New Texas Charters," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, Fort Worth, Texas, April 2, 1922. Online, <http://infoweb.newsbank.com> (viewed May 22, 2011); and "Charters Filed," *Fort Worth Morning Register*, Fort Worth, Texas, September 5, 1900. Online, <http://infoweb.newsbank.com> (viewed May 22, 2011).

⁶ Deutsche Gesellschaft von Houston charter filed with the Texas Secretary of State in 1879.

⁷ Directory of the City of Houston 1886-1887, pg 54.

⁸ Trevia Wooster Beverly, *At Rest: A Historical Directory of Harris County, Texas Cemeteries (1822-2001) Including Burial Customs and Other Interesting Facts, With a Listing of Past and Present Communities, Funeral Home and Monument Companies* (Tejas Publications, 2001), pg 159.

⁹ "New Cemetery Movement," *Galveston Daily News*, (Galveston, Texas), October 27, 1885, pg 3 col 1.

¹⁰ "Deeds for Sale of Land from Heirs of John Lawrence and Thomas Hart to Deutsche Gesellschaft," Harris County Deeds, Houston, Harris County, Texas, Book 36, pg 489 – 496.

¹¹ "The New Cemetery," *Galveston Daily News*, January 18, 1887, pg 3 col 1. (Some names reported in this article have been corrected to agree with the 1886-87 and 1887-88 Houston City Directories and with known German Society members as reported in German Society minutes.)

¹² Analysis of land transactions by Bernice Mistrot, dated August 19, 1992, by using deeds and preceding land transactions, calculated the area purchased to be 26.76 acres. And "The New Cemetery," *Galveston Daily News*, February 9, 1887, pg 3 col 1. The newspaper article announcing the new cemetery states that the land will cover 27 ¼ acres.

¹³ "The German Society Cemetery," *Galveston Daily News*, January 21, 1887, pg 3 col 1.

¹⁴ Map, *Plan of the Cemetery of the Deutsche Gesellschaft of Houston*, not dated, bottom right hand corner contains "W. H. Streeruwitz, Civil and Mining Engineer, Houston TX," believed to be the original plat map of Washington Cemetery prepared in 1887.

And "Real Estate Transfers," *Galveston Daily News*, April 10, 1887, pg 3 col 1. W. H. Streeruwitz purchased lot 51 in section C "for other considerations and \$1."

And Keith Young, "STREERUWITZ, WILHELM H. RITTER VON," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fstaf>), accessed December 17, 2011. Published by the Texas State Historical Association. Text: Wilhelm H. von Streeruwitz, geologist, was born in July 1833, in Mies (presently Střibro) in the Plzeň district of Bohemia, seventy kilometers southwest of Prague. Little is known of his family; an elder brother was chief of staff of the Austrian Army and a Graf (count). Streeruwitz studied mining at the University of Prague, but how long he studied and whether he received a degree are unknown. He immigrated to the United States around 1867. He was employed as a mining engineer in the coal fields of Pennsylvania for some nine years before he arrived in Houston, Texas, in 1876. At some time he returned to Austria to receive the title of count when his elder brother died childless. After kneeling at the feet of Emperor Franz Joseph, Streeruwitz abdicated to a younger nephew and returned to the United States, saying "Nephew, I leave it all to you. I am going back to America, where a man is his own." In Houston he became acquainted with Edwin Theodore Dumble and published articles in the *Geological and Scientific Bulletin*. He was a fellow of the Texas Academy of Science from 1892 to 1899, became a member of the Houston Natural History Society, and was a charter member of the Texas Geological and Scientific Association. When Dumble became director of the Geological and Mineral Survey of Texas he appointed Wilhelm von Streeruwitz one of the geologists for the Trans-Pecos District. The Dumble Survey first completely described the basic geology of Texas, and the Trans-Pecos part of this work is largely that of Wilhelm von Streeruwitz. In 1893 when the legislature reduced the appropriations of the survey, Streeruwitz was released. After living in Austin until 1900, he moved to Houston, where he lived the remainder of his years and died in poverty on April 19, 1916.

¹⁵ "A New Cemetery," *Galveston Daily News*, June 13, 1886, pg 3 col 1, and "The New Cemetery," *Galveston Daily News*, February 9, 1887, pg 3 col 1. There were over a dozen lot sales for \$10 published in the "Real Estate Transfers" section in the *Galveston Daily News* between March 25 and April 25, 1887.

¹⁶ "German Society Meeting," *Galveston Daily News*, February 28, 1887, pg 3 col 1.

¹⁷ Deutsche Gesellschaft Meeting Minutes, October 11, 1896.

¹⁸ Washington Cemetery Burial Records.

¹⁹ Washington Cemetery Burial Records. The burial record has a burial date of March 20, 1887, however the Trinity Lutheran Church burial records show that Pauline Zeitler died on March 30 and buried on March 31, 1887. She appears in the *Galveston Daily News* weekly mortuary report (City of Houston death records) as "March 30 – Mr. Sidler's child, female, age 3, congestion of brain." The Washington Cemetery burial record date appears to be incorrect.

²⁰ Washington Cemetery Burial Records. The cemetery burial records document interments that were moved from other cemeteries.

²¹ Washington Cemetery Burial Records.

²² Washington Cemetery Burial Records.

²³ Washington Cemetery Burial Records with information added from death certificates, headstones, and obituaries.

²⁴ Texas Historical Commission: <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/> Marker No. 14925; Marker Title, Ellis Benson; Location, Washington Cemetery, 2911 Washington Ave., Houston, TX; Year Erected, 2008. Marker Text: Ellis Benson, A veteran of the Texas Revolution and participant in the Battle of San

Jacinto, was born in Vermont. Before immigrating to Texas, he fought in the Black Hawk War (1832) in Illinois. By 1835, Benson was in New Orleans, where Captain Amasa Turner recruited his services for the Texas Army. Arriving in Texas in January 1836, Benson served under Capt. Turner in Company B, First Regiment of Regular Infantry. The unit received orders to march to San Antonio, but after the fall of the Alamo, was reassigned to join the main army under General Sam Houston at Beason's Ferry (near present day Columbus) on the Colorado River. The army marched towards Harrisburg and fought in the Battle of San Jacinto, the final military event of the Revolution. During the fight, Benson handled one of the "Twin Sisters," cannons donated by the City of Cincinnati, which were vital in securing victory in the battle. Following the war, Benson continued to serve in the military. Under Capt. Reuben Ross, he aided in patrolling South Texas during Mexico's struggles with civil war and was wounded during the Battle of Alcantra in 1839. Afterwards, Benson settled in Houston and worked as a carpenter. In 1848, he married Elizabeth Ritchie (1819-1894), a native of Germany. The couple had one daughter. Benson was elected as County Constable in 1858 and was twice elected as County Coroner. During the Civil War, he also served two years in Company K, 20th Texas Infantry, Confederate States Army, working on railroad equipment. Today he is remembered as a patriot and leader, contributing and serving during times of war and peace.

²⁵ Texas Historical Commission: <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/> Marker No. 15757; Marker Title, William Gammell; Location, Washington Cemetery, 2911 Washington Ave., Houston, TX; Year Erected, 2009. Marker Text: William Gammell was born in Ayrshire, Scotland. He and his parents immigrated to the United States, settling in Lowell, Massachusetts. Gammell arrived in Texas during the spring of 1836, where he enlisted in the Texian Army on April 5. He served in the Army under Captain Alfred Henderson Wyly and fought at the Battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836. Gammell also served as a gunsmith for the new Republic of Texas, rebuilding firearms for the Army in the summer of 1836. In the summer of 1837 he served under Captain John Bowyer in the "Mounted Gun Men," a volunteer group established by the Republic of Texas for the protection of the northern frontier from Indians. Gammell married Jane McDaniel, a native of New York, on July 19, 1839 in Houston. The couple had no children. In 1842 Gammell was again called to defend his new homeland and enlisted in Captain James Gillespie's Company in the spring of that year to defend San Antonio against an invasion by the Mexican Army. Gammell again took up arms in September of 1842 and fought under Captain Jesse Billingsley against the Mexican Army at the Battle of Salado Creek. Gammell traveled to California during the Gold Rush, but returned to Texas to settle on 390 acres just outside the city limits, now situated under Highway 59 at Lyons Avenue in Houston's Fifth Ward. Gammell opened a gunsmith shop on Congress Avenue in Houston ca. 1851 and operated the business until his retirement in 1866. Gammell died unexpectedly from pneumonia in 1869 and was buried in Houston's Masonic Cemetery. In 1900 he was reinterred in the *Deutsche Gesellschaft* (German Society) Cemetery, which is now Washington Cemetery.

²⁶ Washington Cemetery Burial Records.

²⁷ S. Emma E. Edmonds, *Nurse and Spy in the Union Army: Comprising the adventures and experiences of a woman in hospitals, camps, and battle-fields* (Hartford, W.S. Williams), 1865 [©1864]

²⁸ Writers' Program of the Work Projects Administration in the State of Texas, *Houston, A History and Guide*, (Houston, Texas: The Anson Jones Press, 1942) pg 328-329.

²⁹ Washington Cemetery Burial Records with additions from obituaries and tombstone inscriptions.

³⁰ Letter to Texas Secretary of State from German Society Cemetery dated June 2, 1918 containing resolution of stockholders to change the name to Washington Cemetery; *and* Corporate Seal on Deed of Perpetuity to Mrs. Gladys B. Schweikart for Henry Koenig Lot C-97 E½ dated May 8, 1946 shows the "Organized March 27, 1875, Reorganized July 10, 1918."

³¹ Milfred Van Sharman (Mar 08, 1898 – Feb. 8, 1982), per Texas Death Index, Social Security Death Index, and Sharman Family History, <http://www.wehmeergenealogyplus.com/sharmantree.htm> (accessed Jan 1, 2012).

³² Newspaper articles filed with the application for historical marker 10801 in 1980. *And* Email from Bernice Mistrot to Lloyd Shenberger dated December 15, 2011 Name and date of newspaper is unknown *and* Email from Bernice Mistrot to Lloyd Shenberger dated December 15, 2011, "Cause No. 544546, in 61st District Court, Mrs. Jennie C. Noland et al vs. City of Houston, the original petition is not dated, but the defendant's original answer is dated February 11, 1960. The petition states that the property is worth at least \$49,982.48. In a subsequent cross action by the city, also not dated, it is stated that the Houston City Council, on April 7, 1954, in Council Action 9015, 'determined the necessity for and ordered the acquisition ... of 5.7372 acres ... in Lot 5, Block 3 of the Hollingsworth Subdivision ... for park and street purposes'"

³³ Minutes of Concerned Citizens for Washington Cemetery Care, Inc., January 26, 1975, summarized as Significant Minutes.

³⁴ Texas Death Index. *And* Texas, Death Certificates, 1903-1982, https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/2272/33154_b063010-01418/858476

³⁵ CCWCC Significant Minutes, August 8, 1977.

³⁶ "Group Formally Adopts 118-Year-Old Cemetery," *Houston Chronicle* (Houston, Texas), July 19, 1997, pg 33A. Partial Text: "Under the 1995 state law, CCWCC was required to show that it had a special relationship to the cemetery – whether in culture, religion, history or ethnicity. It proved the cemetery was more than 75 years old, that there was no viable organization of plot owners or operators, and that the site could become a public nuisance or threat to safety, health or comfort."

³⁷ Merger Agreement between Concerned Citizens for Washington Cemetery Care, Inc., and Glenwood Cemetery, Inc., dated March 14, 1999.

³⁸ Washington Cemetery Burial Records.

Notes 39-44 belong to the Addendum dated November 15, 2012.

³⁹ Washington Cemetery Burial Records with additions from obituaries and tombstone inscriptions.

⁴⁰ Washington Cemetery Burial Records with additions from obituaries, tombstone inscriptions, compiled service records, and pension applications.

⁴¹ E-mail dated Sat, 13 Oct 2012 to Bernice Mistrot from Martha Class, President/Registrar/Webmaster, Sarah Emma Edmonds Detached Tent #4-TX, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War 1861-1865.

⁴² S. Emma E. Edmonds, *Nurse and Spy in the Union Army: Comprising the adventures and experiences of a woman in hospitals, camps, and battle-fields* (Hartford, W.S. Williams), 1865 [©1864]

⁴³ Linus H. Seely & S. E. Evelyn Edmunds, married 27 Apr 1867, Cuyahoga Co, OH, by A. J. Merchant, Erie St. Church (Cuyahoga Co., OH marriage records, Vol. 13, p. 194), accessed 11 Oct 2012 at http://search.ancestry.com/iexec?htx=View&r=an&dbid=1876&iid=32365_225646-00240

⁴⁴ Sarah E. E. Seelye pension file at National Archives (hard copy).