

# CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR WASHINGTON CEMETERY CARE, INC. and WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

Vol. 19, No. 3

"Heirs Who Care"

November 1995

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 Vice President-----Burt Ballanfant  
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 Treasurer -----Julie Itz  
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## Monument Repair Successful

The Monument Company has completed the repair and cleaning of 19 beautiful old headstones. They are easy to spot, standing like gleaming white beacons throughout the cemetery. We have signed a contract with Natural Stone, Inc. to repair the remaining 11 in Phase 1, and are preparing a bid package for about 40 more in Phase 2.

Restored headstones in Section A are: William **Gammell** (1812-1869), Jennie L. **Vahl** (1887-1907), H. F. **McLaurin** (1846-1919), Thomas E. **Hill** (1896, age 42), C. A. **Duncan** (1852-1897). In Section B: Alma L. **Turner** (1900-1900), Mrs. G. C. **Schultz** (1854-1901), Leda Julia **Sullivan** (1880-1881), Sallie Andrews **Sullivan** (1881-1884), Ettie Wynne **Sullivan** (1883-1885), W. F. **Carstens** (1867-1896), Louisa F. **Seegar** (1895, age 76), Ada C. **Clavarie** (1866-1894), Annie P. **Arto** (1895, age 35), Oscar Gordon **McClellan** (1870-1901), Richard S. **Morriss** (1822-1898) & Margaret R. **Morriss** (1830-1898). In Section C: Anna S. **Guese** (1863-1895), A. **Conrad** (1839-1899). In Section I: H. E. **Bettner** (1873-1912).

These look great, but it takes lots of money to obtain these results. The first 30 will total about \$12,000, or an average of about \$400 each. If that average holds, we'll need about \$16,000 for the next group, and there are many more needing help after that.

Since the last newsletter, we have received grants of \$5,000 from **Houston Endowment Inc.** and \$3,000 from the **Harry S. and Isabel C. Cameron Foundation**, plus \$340 in matching gifts from **Exxon Corporation** for use on our Monument Repair project. To these organizations, and to all of you who contributed to this project, we say **THANK YOU!**

## Strangers' Rest Marking Project

A recent survey of the Strangers' Rest area in Section H shows that we have now located over 700 graves, only 215 of which have readable headstones. This count does not include any graves in Section F (by the Rice Mill fence), nor does it include unmarked cradles, bases without headstones, or numbers such as 686 (989?), unless it is clear by context which it is. So we're approaching the halfway point in searching for the 1400+ graves with numbered markers, plus those outside the period 1908-1965 when the numbered markers were used. We're getting there, but we need a lot more of you to come out on the workdays and help in our "treasure hunt".

We are trying bronze-colored anodized aluminum nameplates for marking these graves, as we were unable to find a satisfactory adhesive for the plastic. The total cost, including setting markers in concrete, is \$30 each. The test group includes. Linda **Winkelman** (1900-1912), Leonhard John **Ruffer** (1865-1920), Fred **Kuthart** (1849-1920), Thomas Floyd **Evans** (1882-1922), Ruby Christine **Stevenson** (1924-1925), Charles A. **Vordick, Jr.** (1926-1926), Ida (**Gueldsmith**) **Paretta** (1889-1926), Edward **Treppke** (1872-1926), Ella Mae (**White**) **Ruffer** (1875-1927), Harriett Elizabeth (**Vontree**) **Webb** (1872-1928). If the test is successful, we'll do more, but only after we're sure the personal information is complete and correct.

We encourage anyone who has a loved one buried in one of these unmarked graves to help us both with the cost and with obtaining the exact information (full names and exact dates) to be etched on the plate. Please contact **Bernice Mistrot** for further information.

## Clements' Corner

### Lot C-9: Alexander Barttlingck

*Submitted by Joanne (Barttlingck) Schaffer of Shreveport, Louisiana, great-granddaughter of Alexander Barttlingck.*

Alexander Barttlingck was born in May 1850 in Seesen, Germany, 30 miles south of Braunschweig (Brunswick). He was the fifth of six children born to August Friedrich and Mathilde (Rakebrand) **Barttlingck**. He received his early education from a tutor, then attended school in Seesen. He attended the Gymnasium (high school) in Braunschweig 1863-1866, and graduated with honors in 1868 from the Gymnasium in Holzminden, 30 miles west of Seesen.



He served as a volunteer in Infantry Regiment 92 in Braunschweig. He first came to America in the late 1860's, and was so pleased and infatuated with this country that he intended to stay. But when the Franco-Prussian War broke out in 1870, he returned to his regiment and fought for his country in some of the great battles of the war.

After the war, he returned to America via Galveston. He is believed to have married in or near Galveston, about 1873-77. The 1880 census shows him living in San Antonio with his wife Mary, who was born in England about 1856, and two daughters, Maude and Mathilde. His occupation is shown as Editor.

They moved to Houston in the early 1880's, where their son Frederick William (1883) and daughter Pearl (1886) were born. After arriving in Houston, he accepted a position as Deputy County Clerk. He later took up the practice of law. For years he was a member of the firm of Turner and Barttlingck, then became a senior member of Barttlingck and Thompson. Later he practiced alone.

Mary died in 1888 and was buried in Washington Cemetery on 3 October, leaving Alex to raise four children under the age of 10. He married Annie J. **Schoverling** in Houston on 27 April 1889. Their son, Alexander, was born in Feb. 1890. Presumably the infant buried in the family plot on 22 November 1900 is also theirs.

Annie died of pneumonia at age 46, on 30 September 1903. That same year, Alex suffered a stroke, and a

few months later had another. He succumbed to a third stroke, on 31 October 1904, at age 54, and was buried beside his wife, Annie.

Alex was recognized as being an honest, energetic, highly educated gentleman, and a good citizen admired for his social qualities. He was a member of many social organizations in Houston. He was the secretary of the Houston Volksfest Association for several years. He was also a charter member and Financial Secretary of the Sons of Herman Magnolia Lodge No. 1.

Eight members of the Barttlingck family are buried here, though regrettably, none have markers. In addition to the four mentioned above, Alex (1904) his wives Mary (1888) and Annie (1903), and infant (1900), they include his daughters Maude **Dickson** (ca. 1878-1911) and Mathilda **Compton** (1880-1952), her husband John L. Compton (1928), and their daughter Mary Pearl Compton (1937).

\* \* \* \* \*

We need historical material for the next newsletter. Please send any historical tidbits, anecdotes, etc. pertaining to Washington Cemetery or to your loved ones buried here to our Historian, **Gov Clements**.

### Treasurer's Report

The annual reports for CCWCC and WCHT show one of the best years in our history, but the lion's share of the net increase can be attributed to one exceptional bequest. (These figures do not include the potential value of burial spaces donated to the cemetery for resale.) We are still using some interest from the Perpetual Care fund for current operations.

With the start of our new fiscal year October 1, it is once again time to begin collecting the annual maintenance donations. This is also a good time to consider whether a non-cash donation may be more advantageous to you for tax purposes. We have recently received 100 shares of General Motors stock from one of our long time supporters. She avoids paying income tax on a significant capital gain and can deduct the full market value as a charitable contribution. **Julie Itz** has the details on how to do this. To remember us in your will, please contact **Burt Ballanfant**.

\* \* \* \* \*

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! As you gather together with family, take a few moments to remember your extended family at Washington Cemetery and come enjoy the peace and beauty you have restored here.

**INCOME and EXPENSES (Unaudited) – Fiscal Year 1995**

**CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR WASHINGTON CEMETERY CARE, INC.**

<b>Net Assets -- October 1, 1994</b>	<b>\$380,532.95</b>	<b>EXPENSES:</b>	Maintenance	\$17,098.00
			Utility Bills	270.80
<b>INCOME:</b>			Postage & Printing	134.37
Maintenance	\$11,586.75		Bond & Safe Deposit	309.00
Perpetual Care	28,135.00		Bank Charges	24.32
Improvement Projects	7,165.00		Cemetery Plat Filing	185.08
Lot Sales	600.00		Donations to WCHT	3,969.28
Investment Interest	23,316.61			
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$70,803.36</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$21,990.85</b>
		<b>Net Assets -- September 30, 1995</b>		<b>\$429,345.46</b>
<b>FUNDS:</b>			Improvement Projects	\$13,151.35
Maintenance/Operations	\$9,919.65		Educational Projects	\$119.27
Perpetual Care	\$406,155.19			

**WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST**

<b>Net Assets -- October 1, 1994</b>	<b>\$35,495.09</b>			
<b>INCOME:</b>		<b>EXPENSES:</b>	Security	2,700.00
Operations/Administration	\$1,755.00		Newsletter	1,115.00
" Donation from CCWCC	1,500.00		Postage & Mailing Labels	109.22
Project "PATHH"	0.00		Project PATHH	25,344.01
" Donation from CCWCC	2,469.28		Major Monument Repair	9,269.57
History	95.00		Strangers' Rest Markers	2,182.00
Gravesite Restoration	16,565.00			
Interest	813.66	<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$40,719.80</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$23,197.94</b>	<b>Net Assets -- September 30, 1995</b>		<b>\$17,973.23</b>
<b>FUNDS:</b>			Project "PATHH"	\$9,536.18
Operations/Administration	\$1,419.80		Gravesite Restoration	\$6,784.10
Historical Projects	\$233.15			

Please return the entire form below with your check and mail to **Julie Itz, Treasurer**. All donations are deductible on Form 1040 (Sched. A). If your company (e.g., Exxon, Southwestern Bell, Tenneco) will match your donation, please make your donation to the WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST; otherwise, please make your annual donation to CCWCC, INC., as usual. **PLEASE NOTE!!** CCWCC and the Historic Trust are separate organizations with separate bank accounts. Please do not combine donations to both organizations in one check!

Donor Name _____	Surname(s) of Deceased _____
Please send acknowledgment <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Plot Number (if known) _____
<b>CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR WASHINGTON CEMETERY CARE, INC.</b>	<b>WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST</b>
____ 1996 MAINTENANCE Donation (\$40.00)	____ 1996 ANNUAL Donation (\$40.00)
____ PERPETUAL CARE (Endowment Fund)	____ GRAVESITE RESTORATION
____ IMPROVEMENTS & REPAIRS	____ HISTORY/RESEARCH
Phone Number _____	Matching Gift from _____

## **New Board Members, New Address**

For the first time in many years, we have a new Treasurer and a new mailing address. After nine years as Treasurer, **Gus Mistrot** felt it was time to involve more people in the increasingly complex finances of the organization. When he was elected Treasurer in 1986, CCWCC had assets of \$214,00, all invested in CD's. Now the Treasurer and Finance Committee are managing a diversified portfolio of \$429,000 in CCWCC plus \$18,000 in WCHT.

The job has grown with the many projects directed by the Board and made possible through the continuing generosity of our many loyal members. Planting trees, installing water lines, celebrating our Centennial, writing the cemetery history book, surveying and fencing the cemetery, paving the roads, restoring monuments, locating and marking "lost" graves, computerizing the burial records -- the list goes on and on. We say thank you to Gus for his many hours of service to CCWCC and look forward to his continued service as a Director..

We are most fortunate to have found an energetic and capable replacement for this very important position: our former Director **Julie Itz**. Accordingly, the cemetery mailing address has been changed. Please send checks and financial communications to the new address. We also welcome **Margaret Price** as a new Director.

## **Crepe Myrtles Planted**

Through the generosity of the late **Lou Ella Riess**, we now have ten more nice tall crepe myrtle trees in Section A. They will need frequent watering until they are well established. If you live nearby, and can help with this task, please call **Leona Zaboroksi**.

**CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR  
WASHINGTON CEMETERY CARE, INC.**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED  
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

If several people volunteer, each would only have to do it once a month or less.

## **Winter/Spring Work/Visitor Days**

We had lovely weather for the Fall Visitor/Work Days, but apparently most folks decided to go to one of the many Festivals instead. So we'll give y'all a second chance! To take advantage of our (usually) mild winter, we have designated the fourth Saturdays of January through April as visitor/work days, that is, **January 27, February 24, March 23, and April 27**. Please come and visit with the usual crew. We're always happy to see new faces. If you would like a phone reminder, please call **Leona Zaboroksi** and ask to be put on her list.

## **Texas Birth and Death Records**

Various Open Records or Privacy Acts are sometimes cited when people attempt to get vital records. Current policy in Texas is that birth records over 50 years old and death records over 25 years old are "open", that is, anyone can obtain a copy by paying the fee (\$11.00 for births and \$9.00 for deaths) and stating that the purpose is genealogy. For more recent records you must demonstrate both purpose and relationship. Should your request for open records be refused, ask to speak to a supervisor.

City of Houston death certificates can be obtained most easily by sending a check to City of Houston, Department of Vital Statistics, 8000 North Stadium Drive, Houston, TX 77054. They will search up to a three year period, but they will keep your money if they don't find the record. You can often improve the chances of finding the record by first checking the state index at the library, and suggesting other possible spellings. Call (713) 794-9070 for details:

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