

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

Vol. 20, No. 2

"Heirs Who Care"

May 1996

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Spring Open House a Big Success

Over 40 people turned out for the Spring Open House on Saturday, March 23, in beautiful weather. Several families discovered relatives buried here that they had been seeking for years; others just enjoyed viewing the cemetery grounds. Many commented on how nice the cemetery looked. We also installed the first ten metal Strangers' Rest nameplates, though the recent drought has made the ground too hard to effectively search for more Strangers' Rest markers. Several hardy souls located a few anyway.

Strangers' Rest Marking Project

The discovery phase of the Strangers' Rest marking project is temporarily on "hold", waiting for cooler weather and softer ground. But we can always use volunteers to sit in a nice cool library and read death certificates, newspaper obituaries, old city directories, census records, etc., to determine the names and dates for the nameplates. **Bernice Mistrot** is coordinating this effort but she needs some helpers.

Speaking of help, **Ruth Daulley** has done a great job of typing the old burial records into the database, but she could use some assistance in proofreading. The records typed from the burial books need to be checked against headstones and obituaries to confirm spellings and dates. Please call Ruth to volunteer.

Monument Repair -- Phase 2

We have requested bids on repair and straightening of 43 monuments in Phase 2, which we hope can be accomplished for less than \$15,000, or about twice the amount now in the WCHT Gravesite Restoration fund.. The work is expected to start this summer.

Treasurer's Report

As of May 1, 1996, the CCWCC Perpetual Care Fund stands at \$416,270, up \$3,300 since February 1, 1996 . Total value of CCWCC as of May 1, 1996 is about \$448,200; total value of WCHT is \$19,020.

From February 1 to May 1, CCWCC and WCHT received \$4,256 in donations for maintenance expenses and spent \$9,726, including special tree and brush trimming. Since the start of our fiscal year on October 1, we have received 208 donations (some people have donated more than once). You donors have certainly done your part, for which we are very thankful (you may skip the next paragraph).

Maintenance expenses for October-April exceeded donations by almost \$3000; we anticipate expenses of almost \$12,000 for May-September. In order to continue to maintain the cemetery at the level you have come to expect and still build up our perpetual care fund, we'll need to hear from at least 1/3 of the other 1000 or so readers before the end of September. Won't you please help us to keep Washington Cemetery clean and neat?

Maintenance Report

Even with the reduced mowing due to the drought, we have had relatively high expenses this quarter. In addition to the usual expenses for mowing and edging, it cost \$5638 to remove dead trees, trim the crepe myrtles and several large oak trees, cut the vines along the west fence, and clear the vines, brush, and stumps along the east fence (next to Glenwood Cemetery). However, we're pleased with the results, and are confident that it was all money well spent for the continuing improvement of the cemetery.

Clements' Corner

Lot B-137: Marie LaCombe

Submitted by E. E. "Gene" LaCombe of Texas City, TX, grandson of Joseph and Marie LaCombe.

John (Jean) **Cougot** (1836 - 19 Jan. 1893) was born in Juillan, Department of Hautes Pyrenees, France and immigrated to New Orleans, Louisiana in 1853. In 1860, he married Clotilde Bridget **Boyer** in New Orleans. A daughter, Marie (Mary) Cougot was born to them on 13 March 1861. Clotilde died in 1866. Marie Cougot was placed in an orphanage in New Orleans, where she remained until her father married Emily in 1867. Two sons were born of this marriage, Albert (1869) and Alphonse (1874). During the mid-1870's, the family moved to Houston, where John Cougot and his sons operated meat markets at the City Market and other locations.

Joseph **LaCombe** was born 4 Mar. 1848 in the village of Puydarrieux, Hautes Pyrenees, France. In 1867 he immigrated to the U.S. to join his brother Jean Marie LaCombe (1846 - 4 June 1907), who had left France in 1861. Together they also owned and operated meat markets in downtown Houston.

Joseph LaCombe and Marie Cougot were married on 5 Oct. 1882 in Annunciation Church in Houston. They soon moved to the corner of Calhoun and Shanghai, which was then at the southern city limits, and were blessed with six children. (Shanghai became Velasco about 1892.)

The eldest, Theresa (17 Apr. 1883 - 2 June 1939), married John R. **Galbreath** on 12 Feb. 1907. They moved to a farm on Cutten Road in north Houston where they operated a dairy. Their two daughters were Gladys (1908) and Lydia (1910). Theresa died in an automobile accident and is buried in Forest Park Lawndale.

The second child, John (8 Aug. 1884 - 5 July 1888), was killed in an accidental fall in the barn. Family records indicate that he was the first person buried on the LaCombe lot. His burial in the German Society (now Washington) Cemetery only a year after its founding indicates that non-Germans were buried here almost from the very beginning.

The third child, Eugene B. (29 June 1886 - 15 Oct. 1955) learned the butcher trade as a young man working in the family business. He later worked as a blacksmith for Gustav **Schiefer** on Franklin Ave. He married Alma **Frohnapfel** (3 Oct. 1888 - 4 June 1929) on 19 Nov. 1913 in Houston. They had two children: Eugene E. (11 Nov. 1925) and Dorothy (20 Feb. 1927). At the time of Alma's death, Eugene

owned and operated an automobile repair business, which he lost about two years later, during the Depression.

The fourth child, Joseph, was born 29 Sept. 1888 and died five days later. The fifth child, Lydia (9 Oct. 1889 - 29 Nov. 1968), married Claude X. **Boddeker** on 21 April 1914, and had one daughter, Eleanor. Lydia is buried in Forest Park Lawndale. The sixth and youngest child, Eleanor Adelaide (3 Dec. 1897 - 21 July 1987), never married. She, too, is buried in Forest Park Lawndale.

Joseph died on 24 Sep. 1901. About 1903, his widow Marie, sold the meat markets and their home at the corner of Calhoun and Velasco. She built a new two story, three bedroom home about one mile north-east, on the corner of Canal and Rosalie St. (which became N. Everton). She often told the story that when she built the house, the area was so barren that the only things nearby were corrals, which were used for breaking wild horses. During the 38 years that Marie lived on the corner of Canal and N. Everton, she was never alone, as there was always one or more of her four children and grandchildren and brother Alphonse Cougot living with her.

In 1941, Marie sold her home, and she and her daughter Adelaide moved to a new home on Rosewood St., where she lived until her death on 10 March 1949.

Those buried here are Joseph and Marie LaCombe, their young sons John and Joseph, their adult son Eugene and his wife Alma, and Joseph's brother John (Jean Marie).

*Things that give archivists gray hair: The old cemetery records clearly show the lot owner as William Lacombe, but family records and city directories of the period do not mention such a person. Cemetery records also show a 5-year-old girl named M--- buried on 5 Oct. 1887, but there is no record of her in either city death certificates or family records. Neither of the two LaCombe children believed to be buried here is shown in the cemetery records, and only one of them is in the city death records. An "infant of Lacombe," buried 11 Nov. 1896, is also not mentioned in city death records, but the family believes this is a stillborn child of neighbor Charles R. **Dickens**.*

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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**. Deadlines for family history material are January 1, April 1, **July 1**, and October 1.

Early Deeds to German Cemetery Lots

While we have many burial records from the beginning of the cemetery in 1887, few cemetery records of lots sold prior to 1918 have surfaced. However, some of the very early sales have been recorded in the Harris County courthouse here in Houston, and are indexed with other real estate transfers.

This list is from the index showing the Grantor as "Deutsche, Gesellschaft" It seems incomplete (for example, the LaCombe lot is not listed), suggesting that other sales may have been indexed differently. Or, perhaps it was the responsibility of the buyer to record the deed with the county. Also, some lot numbers do not agree with the current record books. Later sales between individuals may or may not be recorded in county records.

| Last Name | First Name | Sec. | Lot | Date |
|-------------|------------|------|-----|------------|
| Schiebler | Gustave | C | 53 | 03/26/1887 |
| Barttlingck | Alex | C | 135 | 03/26/1887 |
| Moser | August | C | 131 | 03/26/1887 |
| Hundt | Herman | C | 20 | 03/26/1887 |
| Rothmann | L. | C | 110 | 04/02/1887 |
| Masterson | Jas. | C | 35 | 04/04/1887 |
| Angerhofer | W. Jr. | C | 145 | 04/06/1887 |
| Rosenfeld | M. | C | 196 | 04/06/1887 |
| Pippart | M. C. | C | 101 | 04/07/1887 |
| Schiefer | Herman | C | 56 | 04/08/1887 |
| Dietze | H. A. | C | 10 | 04/09/1887 |
| Streeruwitz | W. H. | C | 51 | 04/09/1887 |
| Kasche | H. | C | 71 | 04/09/1887 |
| Schachtrupp | Louis | C | 116 | 04/12/1887 |

| Last Name | First Name | Sec. | Lot | Date |
|---------------|------------|------|-----|------------|
| Herb | C. A. | C | 28 | 04/12/1887 |
| Streeruwitz | W. H. | C | 141 | 04/13/1887 |
| Knodel | E. H. | C | 146 | 04/15/1887 |
| Scorrega | Chas. | C | 81 | 04/23/1887 |
| Scorrega | Chas. | N | 4 | 04/23/1887 |
| Scorrega | Chas. | N | 5 | 04/23/1887 |
| Scorrega | Chas. | N | 6 | 04/23/1887 |
| Angerhofer | W. Jr. | C | 136 | 04/23/1887 |
| Dustin | Z. | P | 1 | 04/26/1887 |
| Dustin | Z. | P | 2 | 04/26/1887 |
| Heinzelberger | Emeron | G | 12 | 05/04/1887 |
| Munck | G. | C | 26 | unreadable |
| Burghum | Jacob | C | 121 | 05/19/1887 |
| Schneider | E. B. H. | C | 55 | 06/01/1887 |
| Usener | Jno. D. | C | 36 | 06/04/1887 |
| Wagner | Mrs. M. | A | 6 | 03/12/1888 |
| Dobson | Mina | G | 15 | 05/14/1888 |
| Schweikardt | Fritz | B | 144 | 07/07/1888 |
| K of L #3925 | Phoenix | ? | 13 | 09/11/1888 |
| Barttlingck | Alex | C | 9 | 11/12/1888 |
| Fritz | Mrs. H. | C | 12 | 01/30/1889 |
| Henninger | August | A | 3 | 04/26/1889 |
| Gutappel | H. | C | 59 | 05/13/1889 |
| Jurgens | F. | C | 38 | 05/13/1889 |
| Schiefer | Herman | C | 57 | 05/14/1889 |
| Angerhofer | W. Jr. | B | 14 | 06/18/1889 |
| Lippstein | F. | C | 115 | 07/05/1889 |
| Jurgens | F. | C | 37 | 08/17/1889 |
| Forrester | Jno. | C | 141 | 09/23/1889 |
| Brenner | Henry | B | 16 | 10/04/1889 |
| Carson | G. F. | C | 193 | 12/02/1889 |
| Sonner | L. | C | 75 | 01/21/1890 |

To be continued in a future issue

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Please return the entire form below with your check and mail to **Julie Itz, Treasurer**. All individual donations are deductible on Form 1040 (Schedule 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 WCHT 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) _____ |
| CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR WASHINGTON CEMETERY CARE, INC. | WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST |
| ____ 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 _____ |

Upcoming Events

With summer upon us, it's time to cut back our volunteer activities in the cemetery and concentrate on research that can be done indoors. Just so you can plan, though, here are the dates for cooler weather in the Fall. For details or a reminder, please call **Leona Zaboroski**.

The **Annual Meeting** of the membership will be **Sunday, September 15, at 3:00 p.m.** at our usual meeting place, Central Congregational Church, 3410 Austin (at Holman). Directors will be elected for the coming year.

There will be a **Visitor/Work Day** on **Saturday, October 12** and our **Fall Open House** on **Saturday, October 26**. Hours are roughly 9-4. The record books will be available on both days to help in locating long-forgotten grave locations. We hope to see you there on one or both of these days.

Burial Record Improvements

There have been nearly 180 burials here in the 18 years that CCWCC has been keeping the records. Initially, we recorded only the name, burial date, and lot number, as shown on the plats in the record books. We now find that most of the chronological burial records in the old books also have the name of the funeral home and some have the age and/or date of death, so we're going back and adding that information. Our thanks to **Heights Funeral Home**, for their prompt assistance in reviewing the complete list and adding data from their files. Our record books only contain newspaper obituaries for the years 1932-1977, so we are also starting to collect them for 1887-1931 and 1978-present.

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

Help Wanted: Newsletter Mailing

After nearly 20 faithful years of service, **Lois King** would like to retire from preparing and mailing the CCWCC/WCHT newsletters. For many years, Lois did it all -- editing, typing, mailing, etc. She is now seeking a volunteer (or committee) to pick up the 1200+ folded newsletters and mailing labels from the printer, attach the labels, count and bundle the newsletters according to post office regulations, and deliver them to the bulk mail center on Washington Ave. (near the cemetery). There are three or four newsletters a year; each can be prepared for mailing in about 8-10 hours. Please call **Lois King** if you can help us with this essential task.

Help Wanted: Surveyor

We are seeking someone with basic surveying skills and equipment to assist us in reconstructing the layout of the Strangers' Rest area. The major task is to establish square corners for the various subsections and plots. Please contact **Bernice Mistrot** if you can help.

Help Found: German Translator

We have a capable volunteer translating the *Deutsche Gesellschaft* monthly meeting minutes for 1894-1901. **Derrellyn Yates** is fluent in German and is related to the **Appelfelder, Daugherty, Gregory, Robbel,** and **Yates** families buried here. Thanks, Derrellyn!

For Sale: Individual Burial Spaces

CCWCC has burial spaces available for sale at \$600 each. All are located in family lots and were donated to CCWCC by the families. For details, please contact **Herman Lauhoff**.

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| BULK RATE U.S. POSTAGE PAID HOUSTON, TX PERMIT 2512 |
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