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

Vol. 20, No. 3	5.3 "Heirs Who Care"		August 1996	
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CCWCC OFFICERS	<u>CCWCC D</u>	IRECTORS*	WCHT TRUSTEES	
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HistorianGovernor Clements	*Three year terms, e	nding in year shown	Penny Milheim	

New Maintenance/Security Contractor

BVB Creative Designs has done a fine job for the cemetery over the last six years, especially considering that the workload keeps increasing (mostly in Strangers' Rest) but the price has not. We've been getting a really great deal, but it can't continue at this price. We have now contracted with Glenwood Cemetery to maintain Washington Cemetery to Glenwood's standards (except watering), effective Sept. 1. Glenwood's full-time staff maintains one of the city's oldest and finest cemeteries and we expect that you will soon see the improvement, especially at the entrance. There will be a cost increase, but it's only about 20% more than we were paying 10 years ago, when we were getting far less service.

History of Deutsche Gesellschaft

Research during the last 20 years has shown that numerous published "facts" about Washington Cemetery aren't quite true. For example, the *Deutsche Gesellschaft* (German Society) of Houston began in 1875, but the cemetery property wasn't purchased until 1887, so it isn't clear that the German Society's only purpose was to operate a cemetery, as often stated. It has also been printed repeatedly that we have the oldest headstone in the city (1820). Not true -- not only is this headstone in error by exactly 100 years, but it isn't the only one with this mistake!

WCHT is trying to discover what really happened and set the record straight, but we need your help. If you are kin to any member of the *Deutsche Gesellschaft* or its successor organizations, please contact us. A list of known members appears on page 3. Any information relating to either the members or the organizations will be gladly accepted and credited.

Cemetery Volunteers Needed

Washington Cemetery has come a long way in the last 20 years, but the cadre of dedicated volunteers is steadily shrinking. Just because the cemetery looks respectable doesn't mean our job is done. Keeping it clean is a continuous process. Someone has to look after the contractors, pay the bills, keep the books, record current burials, answer questions from family members, write and mail newsletters, etc.

Then there are the site improvement projects such as paving roads, locating Strangers' Rest graves, and repairing headstones, and historical projects such as the book we wrote in 1988 and the current *Deutsche Gesellschaft* project. All these things take money, which we, like all of you, never have quite enough of. But they also take time -- lots of it.

We ask each of you to complete the enclosed membership form to update our records and identify interests and skills among our membership that may not have been fully utilized in the past. Without a dozen or so hard-working volunteers who are carrying the whole load, the cemetery would soon return to the jungle it was. Please step forward to help, before these folks get burned out. It is very important that you respond, even if you cannot help now. Postage is included to make it easy for you.

Monument Repair -- Phase 2

Work on Phase 2 is in progress and is expected to be completed by early October The total cost, including cleaning, will be \$13,310 plus the cost of photos and reports. We are now preparing bid packages for Phase 3, including about 110 monuments in need of stabilization. Fundraising for these is in progress. Please help as much as you can.

Clements' Corner

Lot H-9: Mary Ellen (Walters) Hanks Johnson

Compiled with assistance from Marilee (Mrs. Barwick O.) Barfield of Baton Rouge, LA, great-granddaughter of Mary Ellen Johnson. (The following includes several additions and corrections to the biographies of this family printed in the Washington Cemetery Centennial Book.)

Mary Ellen **Walters**, the fourth child and second daughter of L. Samuel "Sim" and Elizabeth A. Walters, was born in Colmesneil, Tyler Co., Texas on 2 August 1853. Her father was a mechanic/blacksmith from South Carolina, and her mother was Tennessee-born. They emigrated to Texas by 1846.

On 26 July 1873, Mary Ellen married Mabbit Fulton Hanks (grandson of "Texican" patriot Lt. Col. Wyatt Hanks) in Colmesneil. Their nine children were: Judy, James L., John K., Cornelius, Claude, Mabbit, Mary Jane, Dora, and Leon.

Following the disappearance of Mr. Hanks, she moved to Houston and in 1891, married Robert **Johnson**, who became a stepfather to her four youngest children: Mab (10), Mary Jane (9), Dora (6), and Leon (3).

Robert Johnson was born 21 May 1847 in Missouri. He came to Houston in the employ of the Engineering Corps of Boston, street railway contractors, and later worked for the Houston Electric Company as a streetcar conductor. In 1903, his active employment was with Stone & Webster. All his working years, he was in transportation. About 1912, he became afflicted with paralysis, and died at his residence, 187 Harvard Street, on 13 March 1913 at age 65. He was survived by his widow, her four children, and a brother, James Johnson, of Missouri. The funeral was conducted at the residence on 15 March, by Rev. W. F. **Perry** of the Presbyterian Church.

After Robert's death, Mary continued to live at their home on Harvard, where she died on 18 February 1916 at age 62. She was survived by her four children, Mab and Leon Hanks, Mary Jane "Mamie" **Sorrells**, and Dora **Chambers**; three sisters, Mrs. M. **Means**, Mrs. A. J. W. **Hunt**; and Mrs. Alice **Hanks** (who married Mabbit's brother, Edw. Wyatt Hanks); and one brother, L. S. Walters, Jr. Rev. Andrew B. **Buchanan** of Central Presbyterian Church conducted the funeral.

On 25 April 1898, after a two-week debate, Congress declared that America was at war with Spain as of 21 April. Initially, President **McKinley** called for 125,000 volunteers to add to the regular army

consisting of 26,000 officers and men. Initially, Texas offered one cavalry and three infantry regiments, but the nationwide call for men was found to be inadequate. After a second call from the President, Texas Governor **Culberson** organized the Texas Fourth Volunteer Infantry Regiment. The Fourth consisted of 12 companies of 109 men (officers and privates) each. It was mobilized at Camp Mosby, near Houston, on 30 July 1898. Altogether, Texas sent 10,000 men to the war effort.

Seventeen-year-old Mabbit "Mab" Fulton Hanks, Jr., born 29 December 1880 in Colmesneil, enlisted as a private in Company D of the Fourth, which was under the command of Col. John C. **Edmonds**. The Regiment was stationed at various points in Texas until March 1899. On the 10th of that month, the regiment returned to Camp Mosby and was mustered out of the service.

Mab returned to his mother's home in Houston, but soon went to work as a well digger, and helped to pioneer a new age as a roughneck at the Spindletop oil field. He married Clara A. **Perry** of Cleveland, Texas, and then worked as a carpenter in the shipyards of Orange, Texas.

Mab and Clara had four children, the two oldest of whom died in infancy. Daughter Clara LaFrance was born 25 July 1908, married Arthur John **Findelsen**, and died 16 July 1975 at Baytown. The youngest, Anita Amelia, was born 19 August 1909, married Otis J. **Walker**, and lived in California. Sadly, Clara died on 4 September 1921 in Cleveland.

In the mid 1930's, Mab returned to Houston. When he died 1 Nov. 1956 at age 75 at his home, 187 Harvard, he had five grandchildren and two greatgrandchildren. His second wife, Jennie, apparently did not survive him. His funeral service was held at the Ray Duval Funeral Home, with the Rev. Haskin V. Little, rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church officiating. The burial was conducted with military honors by Ellington Air Force personnel. Honorary pallbearers were all members of the Alfred W. Drew Camp #18 of the United Spanish War Veterans. This camp was chartered in Houston on 4 Dec. 1924.

Those buried here are Robert and Mary Ellen Johnson, her son Mab Hanks, and her two daughters and their husbands: Mary Jane and J. F. Sorrells, and Dora and Charles D. Chambers.

* * * * * *

Your family history can appear here in November. Please send such histories to our Historian, Gov Clements.

Deutsche Gesellschaft Membership

The following are believed to have been members in 1894: William Angerhoefer, Alexander Barttlingck, George Bauss, Jacob Drenkel, Theodore Dreyling, Alexander Dietrich, Albert Fischer, Henry Goebel, Henry Götting, Felix Götzmann, Henry Hartmann, Charles Hahn, Herman Hundt, Friederich Jürgens, Henry Kasche, Ernst Knodel, Chris Kuntz, Charles Lang, John H. Lang Sr., James Masterson, Frederick Minster, Nicholas Pippert, William Reichardt, Jacob Remmel, Gustav Sauter, Gustav Schiebler, Gustav Schifer, Erich F. Schmidt, Louis Schmidt, E B. H. Schneider, Herman Sonnen, Louis Stahl, Fred Temme, Carl Voss, and John Wagner Jr.

Later members include J. B. Cochran, O. L. Cochran, Amelia Goetting, Houston Ice & Brewing Co., E. C. Isaac, Ike Keller, Theodore Keller, E. H. Lang, John H. Lang Jr., Jesse Mattox, L. Gus Mueller, Raymond J. Noland, W. L. Noland, Mrs. W. L. Noland, Mrs. Ed F. Perry, H. Prince, Charles Rau, Conrad Schwartz, C. E. Settegast, and Milford V. Sharman.

If you have information on any of the above, please contact the Newsletter Editor at the address below.

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Advertisements are accepted for businesses related to cemeteries or historical activities. Contact the Newsletter Editor for details.

Early Deeds to German Cemetery Lots

Continued from May 1996. Not all lot sales in this time period are in the Harris County deed index.

1			5		
Last Name	<u>First Name</u>	Sec.	Lot	Date	
Pett	Mrs. A.	С	143	03/10/1890	
Puls	F.	G	24	03/18/1890	
Culmore	C.	В	24	07/17/1890	
Taylor	Alfred	В	27	08/11/1890	
Sullivan	D. A.	В	26	08/11/1890	
Asher	Edwin	G	33	08/11/1890	
Moon	Sarah	С	32	10/17/1890	
Warnecke	W.	В	25	01/11/1891	
Stueruwitz	W. H.	В	135	01/12/1891	
Lee	F.	В	44	01/19/1891	
Ross	S. P.	В	47	01/22/1891	
Meyer	Louis D.	С	67	02/28/1891	
Warnecke	A.	В	33	04/27/1891	
Stone	S. P.	С	109	08/10/1891	
DeBajligethy	С. Н.	В	4	09/13/1891	
Reed	J. H.	В	36	09/23/1891	
Artusy	Eugene	С	77	11/23/1891	
Lovett	A.	С	94	12/16/1891	
Marti	Gottlieb	В	15	12/19/1891	
Voigt	M.	С	97	01/23/1892	
Creighton	Mrs. L.	С	137	03/10/1892	
Dorethy	J. H.	С	122	03/15/1892	
Brunner	J. B.	В	73	01/02/1893	
Dumler	Chas.	С	2	01/07/1893	
Blohm	Geo. A.	С	76	01/24/1893	
Morriss	R. S.	В	123	01/24/1893	
Hudson	P. W.	G	25	01/24/1893	
Golen	Frank	С	16	01/25/1893	
Kaffenberger	Julia	В	105	04/13/1893	
Anderson	S. M.	С	147	05/02/1893	
Schmidt	H.	В	15	05/16/1893	
Schmidt	Emma	А	86	08/05/1893	
* * *	* *	*	* *	*	

Please return the <u>entire form</u> 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. <u>Please</u> do not combine donations to both organizations in one check!

Donor Name	Surname(s) of Deceased
Please send acknowledgment	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)
IMPROVEMENTS & REPAIRS	GRAVESITE RESTORATION
PERPETUAL CARE (Endowment Fund)	HISTORY/RESEARCH
Phone Number	Matching Gift from

New Board Members

Our faithful Recording Secretary, Elise Daulley, has had to resign due to work pressures. She has given freely of her time to keep the records of CCWCC for the last 13 years, and will be missed by all. Thanks, Elise, for a job well done!

Director **Rita Davis** has graciously accepted an appointment to complete the remaining year of Elise's term as Recording Secretary. **Carl Young**, one of our more diligent and successful Strangers' Rest searchers, has been appointed to complete the last year of Rita's term as Director.

Treasurer's Report

As of August 1, 1996, the CCWCC Perpetual Care Fund stands at \$420,800. Total value of CCWCC as of August 1, 1996 is about \$450,800; total value of WCHT is \$18,400. From May 1 to Aug. 1, CCWCC and WCHT spent \$5785 for routine expenses, but received only \$2359 in donations to cover these expenses. We anticipate operations and maintenance expenses of \$6500 during the next three months, not including the headstone repair. Please be as generous as you can. The future of Washington Cemetery, as well as the present, depends on YOU.

Fall Calendar

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). Three directors will be elected for the coming year.

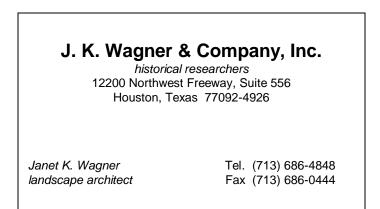
There will be a **Work Day** on **Saturday**, **October 12** and our **Fall Open House** on **Saturday**, **October 26**.

CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR WASHINGTON CEMETERY CARE, INC.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

Hours are roughly 9-4. The record books will be available on both days to help in locating longforgotten grave locations. We hope to see you there on one or both of these days.

For details or a reminder, please call **Leona Zaboroski**.



Membership Roster Update

Since the cost of postage and paper keeps going up, we must undertake a serious effort to limit our mailings to only those people who really care about the preservation of Washington Cemetery.

Enclosed is a membership form. We've already put the postage on it; we only ask that you take a few minutes to complete it as much as you can (don't worry if you don't know the exact lot number) and return to us as soon as possible. Please call **Vic Gehring** if you have questions.

If we do not hear from you by October 1, we must assume that you are not interested, and you may be dropped from the mailing list. Please note that the address on the membership form is not our usual mailing address.

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

1996 Washington Cemetery Membership Roster Update

If you have no interest in Washington Cemetery, please skip to item 4 below.

		<u>Name/Address/Te</u>	elephone Corrections:
		Name	-
		Street	
		City	State Zip -
		Phone (home)	(work)
TC	1 •11 1	1	

If your area code will change soon, please give new area code and effective date:

New Area Code _____ Effective Date _____

- **1. Plot Ownership and Interest.** Please check <u>all</u> of the following that apply to you:
- (a) I have purchased a plot in Washington Cemetery.
- (b) I have inherited sole ownership of a plot in Washington Cemetery.
- ____ (c) I have inherited a partial ownership interest in a plot in Washington Cemetery.
- ____ (d) I have relatives buried in a family plot in Washington Cemetery.
- ____ (e) I have relatives buried in single-space graves in Washington Cemetery.
- ____ (f) I have friends buried in Washington Cemetery.
- ____ (g) I am a descendant of a member of the *Deutsche Gesellschaft* (German Society) (see pg. 3).
- ____ (h) I have historical information about the *Deutsche Gesellschaft* and/or its members.
- ____ (i) I think it's important that Washington Cemetery be properly maintained in perpetuity.
- ____ (j) I can help to maintain Washington Cemetery through donations of time or money.
- ____ (k) I enjoy reading the newsletter, but am unable to help at this time.
- 2. Plot Names and Numbers. Please list the plot(s) you are associated with (one line per plot), and note which <u>one</u> category (a) through (f) above best describes your interest in that plot (we'll look up the plot numbers). Please use back of page if you are related to more than four plots. If you would like someone to call you with more information on your plot(s), please check here. _____

Sec.	No.	Part	Name of Plot Owner or Interred Person	Category
Α	165	S1/2	Examples: Mary Jones (Owner), Gary Smith (bur. 1931)	(<i>d</i>)

3. Volunteer Assistance. Please check <u>all</u> of the following ways that you may be able to help restore and/or maintain Washington Cemetery, now or in the future.

<u>Financial</u> (not a pledge)
Annual donation
One time donation
Fundraising activity
Other

Volunteer Committees ____ Gravesite Restoration (incl. Strangers' Rest) ____ Maintenance/Contracts

____ Finance/Accounting

Computer Data Entry Library Research

____ Final Research Reports

____ Telephone/Mailing/Typing

____ Other _____

4. Action. Please check <u>one</u>.

(a) I have no interest in Washington Cemetery. Please take me off the mailing list.

- ____ (b) Please keep me informed about Washington Cemetery through the newsletter.
- Signed _____

Date _____

Thank you for taking the time to update our roster. This information will be used only for the historical documentation and perpetual care of Washington Cemetery. We will not give your information to any other person without your permission. No information will be sold.

Please refold and tape closed (no envelope needed). Return postage is provided for your convenience.

> FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR WASHINGTON CEMETERY CARE, INC.