

WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

Vol. 23, No. 3

"Heirs Who Care"

August 1999

WCHT OFFICERS

President-----Burt Ballanfant
Secretary ----- Bernice Mistrot
Treasurer ----- Jim Daily
Historian-----Gov Clements

Sam Belinoski
Vic Gehring
Julie Itz

WCHT TRUSTEES

Herman Lauhoff John Petzold
Gus Mistrot Carl Young
Edgar Moy Leona Zaboroski

History Book Revision in Progress

Now that Glenwood is taking care of the physical cemetery, Washington Cemetery Historic Trust can turn its attention to straightening up the records as well as the headstones. Revising the Washington Cemetery Centennial Book published by CCWCC in 1988 is an important part of that activity.

The Book Committee is hard at work on preparation of the new history book. Improvements in technology since 1988 mean that we can get almost twice as much material on each page as in the previous book, so we are hoping to include biographies of at least twice as many people in this one. In addition, we can expand and/or correct the existing biographies, and include photographs of the people buried here.

However, we must have input from you to make the book a success. We are attempting to send letters to all our regular donors and everyone who submitted biographical data before, with copies of the cemetery records for your specific plots, plus suggestions for writing the biographies. **Lois King** has already sent out about 400 letters; and we expect to get the rest out by early September. The system isn't perfect, so if you plan to submit information but don't receive such a letter, please contact **Bernice Mistrot**, Book Committee Chairman.

At the bottom of the next page are the names and addresses of the hard-working ladies who will compile and type your histories. Please respond by **October 1**, or contact your compiler if you need more time to gather the details. All of the compilers are eager, but new to working with these records. We ask your indulgence while they are learning the intricacies of the record books and juggling correspondence with (we hope!) hundreds of people.

Please make sure your loved ones aren't left out!

Cameron Foundation Contributes to Monument Restoration Project – Again!

It is our pleasure to announce the receipt of a \$4,000 grant from the **Harry S. and Isabel C. Cameron Foundation**, which will cover restoration of about two dozen headstones. We are reviewing the bids for restoration of 113 more headstones in Phase 5, and plan to start the work when cooler weather arrives in the Fall. This is the fourth major contribution by the Cameron Foundation since Washington Cemetery Historic Trust was formed in 1992. We are most appreciative of this generous gift.

Phase 4 Monument Repairs Completed

The last eight headstones in Phase 4C have been restored by The Monument Company, for \$2,505. In Section B: Katie Linda **Kropp** (1897-1897), Henry **Kuerbis** (1892-1893), Mittie **McQueen** (1863-1892). Section C: Johnnie **Wise** (1889-1891), Annie **McCarty** (1875-1909). Section F: Mary **Hoffman** (1807-1903) & her son John **Hoffman Sr.** (1835-1913). Section H: Samuel Leon **Sandifer** (1912-1914). Section P: one large monument with 12 names: Polikarp **Moeller** (1835-1898), Christina **Moeller** (1843-1913), Frank **Moeller** (1870-1890), Fred **Gerdes** (1866-1915), Louisa **Gerdes** (1868-1938), Ruby **Gerdes Carothers** (1892-1959), Edgar Poe **Carothers** (1881-1960), Frank **Roescher** (1864-1921), Henrietta **Roescher** (1879-1926), Frank **Roescher Jr.** (1902-1923), Emile **Muller** (1855-1944), and Betty **Muller** (1863-1950).

The **Sandifer** and **McCarty** repairs were a joint effort with Natural Stone, Inc. and took a full year to complete. Both are thin marble, and were in many pieces. Natural Stone reassembled the jigsaw puzzles on new limestone slabs, then The Monument Company built new bases and reinstalled them in the cemetery. The most impressive restoration is the **Wise** headstone and cradle, which were completely invisible until January (see Feb. 1999 newsletter).

Clements' Corner

The following article is in the format planned for the new history book. Newsletter space limitations prevent including all nine members of this family buried in this plot, but their stories will be in the book.

PLOT G-63

CHARLES WILLIAM BUHLER

Submitted by Carol (Wimberly) Connally of Houston, TX; granddaughter of Mamie (Buhler) Wimberly.

Charles William BUHLER
(31 Aug. 1862 - 20 Aug. 1940)



Charles was born in Selma, Alabama, the second of nine children of Anna and Ernst August VON BUEHLER (later changed to BUHLER). His parents had migrated from Germany about 1835 through New Orleans to Selma. His father was a shoemaker by trade, and served in the Confederacy making shoes for the soldiers.

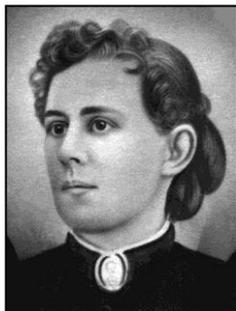
On 15 February 1883, Charles married Caledonia "Callie" Temple ALLEN of Knoxville, Tennessee in Selma, Alabama. They first lived in Selma, then Knoxville, then moved to Houston with their six children about 1899. They lived at 812 McIntosh, and later moved to 1001 Rutland, a Heights home they built on a "claim stake" lot about 1901.

Charles, a linotype operator by trade, set type for both the *Houston Post* and *Houston Chronicle* newspapers, and at age 75 he retired from the *Houston Chronicle*. He was a member and past president of the Houston Typographical Union No. 87 and had also held other offices in the organization as well as serving as delegate to the international convention.

According to his daughter Erne, he was an avid reader. Vernon WIMBERLY recalls that his grandfather loved to hunt and fish. The BUHLERS had a house at Kemah, and Charles William used to take his grandchildren down to the jetties. He knew all the good fishing spots. He always had bird dogs for his hunting. He never learned to drive, so his grandsons often drove for him.

Caledonia "Callie" Temple
(ALLEN) BUHLER
(9 July 1864 - 13 Aug. 1948)

Callie was the daughter of James O. and Minerva (PHILLIPS) ALLEN. She resided in Knoxville, Tennessee before her marriage to



Charles BUHLER in 1883. They had six children, five of whom are buried here: Mamie Louise WIMBERLY, Dora, Ernestine Augusta, Forrest Pelham, Charles Bryan, and Margaret Lee.

Her great-grandson, Bruce WIMBERLY, remembers that Callie used to entertain him by making different animal shapes out of large handkerchiefs. She gave her grandson Carter WIMBERLY the money for a diamond that was mounted in the shield of his 1934 Texas A&M College senior ring, which he has always cherished. Carter remembers that his grandmother was a very good cook.

Mamie Louise (BUHLER) WIMBERLY
(12 Feb. 1884 - 8 Jan. 1954)



Mamie was born in Selma, Alabama, the eldest child of Charles William and Callie BUHLER. She moved to Houston from Knoxville, Tennessee with her family in 1899.

At age 16, this lively redhead went to work as a telephone operator for Bell Telephone. Four years later, she married Will WIMBERLY, and had four children: Charles William (1905), Fannie Louise (1908), Vernon Lane (1910), and Carter (1913).

She was an avid reader and often quoted verse. One of this writer's favorite sayings of Mamie's was, "If you run with a hog, you'll grunt like one." She often told her grandchildren, "Be good, dear child, and let who will, be clever." This saying is also written in Mamie's childhood autograph book, signed by her friend Nellie H. DICK and dated 26 January 1897. She used to keep a crock cookie jar with sand tart cookies, and made a lot of gingerbread for her many grandchildren.

After World War I (about 1918-19), Mamie worked for the Veterans Administration until about 1927. She observed how officers received better service, and wanted this for her sons. (Sons Vernon and Carter graduated from Texas A&M College, and received their commissions in the U.S. Army). In 1927, she joined Humble Oil and Refining Company (now Exxon) as a clerk/stenographer in the Land Department, and retired in 1944. She returned to the workforce for Westinghouse, and later for the Movie Projectionists' Union.

She was a member of the Heights Rebekah Lodge, and served many terms as Secretary to the Heights Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star #258.

Fannie Louise WIMBERLY
(20 May 1908 - 25 May 1909)

Infant daughter of William and Mamie WIMBERLY.

Please send your biographies to the following. Please note that some names have changed since the instructions were printed.

Submitter Names A-G
Shirley (Mrs. T. L.) Delpesce

Submitter Names H-O
Carol (Mrs. James W.) Connally

Submitter Names P-Z
Ms. Susan Windham

Glenwood General Manager's Report

In the May newsletter, we reported on the replacement of the driveway entrance and front sidewalk (by WCHT) and the repair and repainting of the iron fence and gate (by Glenwood). Since then, we have removed the entire old sidewalk along the fence line bordering the postal facility and replaced the area with topsoil. The water lines between Washington and Glenwood were connected and we have begun the installation of a sprinkler system along both sides of the Washington entrance road.

Our plans are to place shrubbery along the fence line bordering the postal facility to screen that side of the entryway. Flower beds will be installed behind the front entry on both sides and additional beds will be placed at different intervals along the entryway. Work on this part of the project will take place during the late fall and early spring as time permits.

Additionally, we have enhanced security by having HL&P place five more security lights along the westerly fence line and fix the two security lights that were already there but not working. This has really "enlightened" the cemetery at night; for those of you who are so inclined, you may want to drive by and have look at the effect this has made after dark, particularly on the entry area.

I would like to remind readers that cemetery plots are available at Washington and encourage those of you or your friends who have not made such arrangements to consider Washington Cemetery as their final resting place.

Please call the cemetery office at (713) 864-7886, should you have any questions or comments.

Richard A. Ambrus
Vice President and General Manager

* * * * *

Please return the entire form below with your check and mail to **Jim Daily, Treasurer**. All donations are deductible on Form 1040 (Schedule A). Since CCWCC no longer exists, please make all donations to WCHT.

Treasurer's Report (August 1, 1999)

Washington Cemetery Historic Trust wishes to thank the 83 individual donors who made donations during the last three months. These contributions will provide funds for the continued operations of Washington Cemetery Historic Trust.

In addition, we received a gift of \$4,000 from the **Harry S. and Isabel C. Cameron Foundation** for work in Phase 5 of the Monument Restoration and Strangers' Rest projects. The unaudited financial statement follows.

Fund Balance - Apr. 30, 1999	\$113,600
Income - donations	7,700
Income - interest	<u>2,300</u>
Total Income	10,000
Expenses - history book	900
Expenses - newsletter	300
Expenses - administration	<u>100</u>
Total Expenses	1,300
Fund Balance - July 31, 1999	\$122,300

As shown above, the total assets of WCHT total \$122,300, of which \$111,000 is held in the Improvements Fund, principally for monument repair and restoration of the Strangers' Rest area.

WCHT continues to participate in **Randalls Good Neighbor Program** (WCHT #2810) and Kroger's *Share* program. To obtain a **Kroger Share** card, please contact **Jim Daily**.

Please note: In accordance with IRS regulations, we always send acknowledgments for all donations of \$250 or more. Otherwise, in the interest of saving trees and using every penny of your donation to improve the cemetery, your cancelled check is adequate proof of your generosity.

WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST	
Donor Name _____	Phone Number _____
_____ 1999 Min. ANNUAL Donation (\$20.00)	Surname(s) of Deceased _____
_____ GRAVESITE RESTORATION	_____
_____ HISTORY/RESEARCH	Plot Number(s), if known _____
_____ TOTAL	Matching Gift from _____

Fall Open House and Visitor Days

Mark your calendar now for the **Fall Visitor/Work Days** on **Saturdays, October 9** and **December 4**, and the **Open House** on **October 23**. Board members will be there from about 10-4 all three days and we'll have the record books available. Since the annual meeting in September has not been well attended in the past, there will not be one this year. Please visit the cemetery during the Open House instead.

Confederate Veterans Honored

About 40 people braved the heat to attend the dedication of new headstones for Confederate veterans **Thomas Jefferson Calmes** and **William E. Leopold** on Sunday, May 30. Lieutenant **Ron Strybos**, Camp Commander of the 13th Texas Infantry, Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp 1565 (Brazoria County) and Privates **Jesse Matthews**, **Les Pettigrew**, and **Ray Russell**, all in uniform, solemnly marched up to each gravesite and conducted the services. The dedication ceremony for each veteran concluded with a three-volley salute from the three riflemen.

The new history book will list the veterans buried here, as the old book did. Please make sure the veterans in your family are so identified, so the new book can give all of them the honor they are due.

Washington Cemetery Now on Internet

Washington Cemetery and seven other historic Houston cemeteries are described and pictured on this informative website created by Tina **Leimer**. However, since she is not associated with any of the cemeteries, she does not have burial records for any of them. The address is <http://www.flash.net/~leimer>.

WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Glenwood Membership

Glenwood reports that 150 people who are descendants of Washington Cemetery plot owners have submitted the Declaration form inserted in the May newsletter.

These new Members of Glenwood Cemetery Inc., who represent nearly 12% of the Washington Cemetery plot owners, have the right to elect the Glenwood directors who are now responsible for the operation of both cemeteries.

If you are a descendant of one of the other 88%, we encourage you to submit the form now. There is no charge to do this. If you need another form, please contact Glenwood at (713) 864-7886.

Mailing List Reduction Coming

As noted in the last newsletter, the rising cost of postage makes it necessary to trim the mailing list. The label below shows the last fiscal year in which our records show we received a donation from you.

Since you may make your annual donation any time during the year, anyone whose label reads '1998' or '1999' is considered current. Starting with the November newsletter and the Oct. 1 start of fiscal year 2000, your mailing label must read '1999' or '2000' for you to be current. Those whose labels read '----' will be the first to be dropped, unless we hear from you in some way before Nov. 1. Special circumstances may be discussed with the Treasurer.

We hope you will agree that \$20 per year is a small price to keep informed about the ongoing cemetery improvements and historical projects relating to your loved ones buried here.
