

WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

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"Heirs Who Care"

May 2001

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Confederate Memorial Day Services

On Sunday, April 29, 2001, over 150 people gathered in Washington Cemetery for Confederate Memorial Day services, conducted by the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Similar services were held simultaneously in over 300 cemeteries nationwide. The Houston services lasted from noon until about 1:30 p.m. Sponsoring organizations here included five UDC chapters: Jefferson Davis #1637, Wm. Mosby Eastland #2609, Oran M. Roberts #440, Robert E. Lee #186, and Southern Cross #2502; and the Sherry Davis Chapter #875, Children of the Confederacy. **Betty Mann** chaired the event.

The day before the service, Confederate flags were placed on the graves of all known Confederate veterans throughout the cemetery. The main service was conducted at the Dick Dowling Camp UCV plots G -66 and G-67. A second shorter service was held at Plot A-75, the first plot purchased by UCV.

The Clergy's Address was given by **Gov Clements** of WCHT. Colors were posted and retired by the Color Guard of John Bell Hood Camp #50 and the 13th Texas Infantry Camp #1565, Sons of Confederate Veterans. Cannon and rifle salutes were fired by the Texian Volunteers of the San Jacinto Chapter #1, Sons of the Republic of Texas. Other participants included the Albert Sidney Johnston Camp #67, SCV, and veterans of World War II and Vietnam.

Monument Restoration Resumes

The Monument Company is nearing completion of Phase 6, and is ready to begin work on 29 small headstones in Phase 7A. Please stop by the cemetery and see the progress we're making!

History Book Progress Report

Speaking of progress ... well, yes, there is progress. But it isn't very clear to an outside observer. Look for a more complete report in the next newsletter.

Masons To Honor WCHT Trustee

Holland Lodge #1, A.F.&A.M. has just announced that the Lodge's "Community Builder" award will be presented to WCHT Secretary **Bernice Mistrot** at a ceremony on June 18, 2001. For details of time and place, please contact Bernice Mistrot by June 11.

Surprisingly, a quick review of the biographies that have already been typed for the new Washington Cemetery history book yielded only 15 men who have been identified as Masons, three of whom were known to be members of Holland Lodge. There are a number of biographies that have not yet been typed, but there must be many more Masons buried here than have been identified so far.

Central Congregational Church to Celebrate 150th Anniversary

In September 1851, Pastor **Caspar Braun** arrived in Houston to found the *Erste Deutsche Evangelische Lutherische Kirche*, or First German Evangelical Lutheran Church, now known as Central Congregational Church. The current church building was built in 1927, and is the third permanent building. Many former members of this church are buried in Washington Cemetery, and for many years, CCWCC held its regular meetings at the church.

On September 16, 2001, the current pastor, **Dr. Clark Chamberlain**, will preside over special services at the church, followed by a barbeque commemorating the 150th anniversary of its founding. All are welcome to attend, but reservations are requested so that proper arrangements can be made. Please feel free to bring keepsakes, mementos, or photos to share with the fellowship during the social following the services. Come and help identify the others in the photo of your confirmation class! For reservations and further details, please contact the church secretary, **Linda Moore**.

Clements' Corner

The following article is in the format of the new history book, but may need to be condensed a bit.

PLOT F-8 NW¼ RUDOLPH MARTIN

Submitted (2001) by Mary Louise Winters-Marquis of Irving, TX, granddaughter of Rudolph and Frieda Martin.

Rudolph MARTIN (3 April 1871 – 20 November 1933)

Rudolph was born in Glatz, Germany to Albert and Hedwig MARTIN. Albert was a Hussar in the Prussian Army. Rudolph sailed from Hamburg for America with his parents, brother Joseph, and sister Hedwig, about 1890. Another brother, Leo, remained in Germany as a Fusilier in the German Army.

They settled in Victoria, Texas, where they were farmers. Rudolph's parents were struck and killed by lightning near Victoria about 1891. Soon thereafter, Rudolph left the farm and went to Houston where he began his career as a Journeyman Cabinetmaker. He worked for The American Brewing Company in Houston for many years, designing, building, and installing custom bar cabinetry in saloons in and around Houston. When Prohibition caused The American Brewing Company to close, Rudolph went to work for the Gessner Cabinet Company. Mr. Gessner promised Rudolph a lifetime job just to get him to come to work for him, because Rudolph was such a fine cabinetmaker. However, several years later, Rudolph lost two fingers in an accident while working with some new equipment in the shop, and while he was at home recuperating, Mr. Gessner fired him.

According to his daughter, Elenora (MARTIN) BARLOW, Rudolph never learned to drive and never owned a home of his own. They rented the house at 507 Boundry in Houston for 25 years. He loved to play dominos on Saturday nights with his wife and friends and serve them his home-brew beer and the wonderful cheeses he brought home from the market.

Rudolph became a naturalized citizen of the U.S. on 20 October 1896. He was a member of the Sons of Hermann, Andreas Hofer Lodge No. 168, the Millmen Union, Local No. 724, and the Lutheran Church, until his death from cancer of the esophagus at age 62.

Frieda (MEISTER) MARTIN (7 October 1880 – 2 March 1958)

Frieda was born in Magdeburg, Germany and lived there until she was 14. Her parents, Joseph MEISTER and Eleonore (SCHAEFFER) MEISTER, both died in 1894, so she and her brother George sailed from Bremen, landing at Galveston on 1 January 1895. There they joined three other brothers, John, Joseph, and Charles, who had left Germany in 1891 and 1892. Charles took Frieda to Brenham to work as a milkmaid for a family who owned a dairy there. Charles was an artist of some renown, and he was painting some murals on the walls at the dairy owner's home, so they told him to bring his sister there to work while he was painting. When Charles finished painting the murals, he and Frieda went back to Houston, where she worked as a chambermaid at a hotel near the railroad station.

It was there that she met Rudolph Martin. About 1897, Frieda went to work as a housemaid for the Zindler Family, who owned the men's clothing store in Houston. Mr. and Mrs. Zindler would chaperone Frieda and Rudolph each time they had a "date." Finally, they married on 9 May 1899, at the First German Evangelical Lutheran Church in Houston. They had six children, two of whom continue to live productive lives:

Albert (11 Jun. 1900 – 20 Nov. 1900)

Hettie (17 Jun. 1902 – 20 Apr. 1989),
married Cecil P. JENKINS

Marguerite Josephine (16 Mar. 1904 –),
married John Henry GINN, Jr., ca. 1926

Walter (ca. Mar. 1907 – 9 Jun 1908)

Elenora (9 Jan. 1911 –),
married (1) William Ralph WINTERS, 14 Feb. 1929
married (2) Harold Montgomery BARLOW, 15 Sep. 1951

Gertrude (8 Feb. 1917 – 7 Mar. 2001),
married (1) Joseph RAO, 1935; (2) Merl GOLD, 1946

According to her daughter, Elenora Barlow, Frieda never had a chance to attend school in America, but she taught herself to read and write English by studying the local newspapers and any book she could get her hands on. Frieda was an accomplished cook and loved to crochet and garden. She was a member of Edelweiss Lodge No. 4, Sons of Hermann, until her death from colon cancer at age 77.

Albert MARTIN (11 June 1900 – 20 November 1900)

Albert was the first child of Rudolph and Frieda Martin. He died of enteritis at age five months and nine days.

Walter MARTIN (ca. March 1907 – 9 June 1908)

Walter was the second son of Rudolph and Frieda Martin. He died at age 15 months.

PLOT F-8 SW¼ CECIL P. JENKINS

Submitted (2001) by Mary Louise Winters-Marquis of Irving, TX, niece of Hettie (Martin) Jenkins.

Cecil Pound JENKINS (10 April 1901 – 5 July 1955)

Cecil was born in Hayes County, Texas, between Wimberly and Dripping Springs, to Edward and Inez JENKINS. Inez was a schoolteacher and postmistress, and Ed was a sheep rancher. Cecil left the ranch after he finished school and found work in Austin. His aunt, Onita LEGGETT, talked him into coming to Houston and he found work at the streetcar barns repairing the change boxes. He also played on the baseball team for the streetcar company.

Soon he met Hettie Mary Martin and after a short courtship, they married on 20 December 1920. After the wedding, the young couple decided to live with Hettie's parents so that they could help out with expenses. Cecil had a car and since he and Hettie both worked, they were able to help Rudolph and Frieda Martin with the expenses of a growing family, and he could take them wherever they needed or wanted to go in his car.

A couple of years later, Cecil became ill and the doctors in Houston thought he had tuberculosis because he was so skinny. They told him to "go west" where it was dry, so Cecil and Hettie packed up and moved to El Paso for a couple of years. It turned out that he didn't have TB after all – it was a stomach ulcer causing his problem – so they moved back to Houston. Hettie went back to work for Southwestern Bell and Cecil started a seafood and poultry market with his brother-in-law, Johnny Ginn. He remained in the seafood and poultry business, serving Houston's finest restaurants and clubs, until his death.

Cecil and Hettie loved to travel. They took a three-week vacation to the mountains in Colorado and a side trip to Las Vegas each year. Sometimes they took along Hettie's mother, Frieda, or one of their nieces. They enjoyed those trips more than anything else they ever did.

Cecil occasionally would go to Galveston when gambling was everywhere and enjoy an evening out with the "boys" at the Balinese Room. He loved to go deep sea fishing. He was a 32nd Degree Mason and a member of the Shrine Temple and so proud of the work that they do for children. He was truly a wonderful friend, uncle, brother, brother-in-law, son, son-in-law and employer and everyone who knew him, loved him.

He and Hettie spent a long July 4th weekend in Galveston in 1955 and really enjoyed swimming and eating at the fine restaurants. When they got back home he told Hettie that he was tired, so he went to bed and died in his sleep with a coronary thrombosis. He was only 54 when he died and he left a big hole in the hearts of all of us who loved him so much.

**Hettie Mary (MARTIN) JENKINS
(17 June 1902 – 20 April 1989)**

Hettie was born at home in Houston, with the services of a midwife. She went to school until she was 14, when she quit school to go to work at the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company. Hettie retired from the phone company at age 65, with over 50 years service, of which she was very proud. Hettie and Cecil never had children, but they helped raise a couple of nieces and some nephews.

Hettie was a member of the telephone company Pioneers, and

went on many trips with that group. Hettie also loved to garden. After her father died, she and Cecil insisted that her mother come live with them, and they took good care of her, while she took good care of them for the next 25 years. If anyone in the family had a problem, they knew that they could always count on Hettie to help solve it. She was a wonderful person and had more friends than she could count. Her family loved her so much and she, indeed, loved her family.

After Frieda Martin's death, Hettie had headstones placed for her husband and her mother and enclosed the two plots with a single coping, which was intended to read "Jenkins–Martin" but mistakenly, only shows her married name of Jenkins.

Treasurer's Report (May 1, 2001)

During the last three months, WCHT has received 59 donations from individuals, plus a \$19,000 contribution from Glenwood, as noted in the General Manager's Report on page 4. The major expense during this period was \$3,200 for the repair and cleaning of headstones and cradles in Phase 6 of our ongoing Monument Restoration program. Phase 7 of this program will begin soon.

The assets of WCHT total \$150,600. Of this amount, \$108,300 is held in the Improvements Fund for continuing restoration projects and \$11,700 is held in the Historical Projects Fund. The unaudited WCHT financial statement follows:

Fund Balance – Jan. 31, 2001	\$130,700
Income – donations	21,500
Income – interest	<u>2,800</u>
Total Income	24,300
Expenses – administrative	600
Expenses – newsletter and postage	600
Expenses – gravesite restoration	<u>3,200</u>
Total Expenses	4,400
Fund Balance – April 30, 2001	\$150,600

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

WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST	
Donor Name _____	Phone Number _____
_____ 2001 Min. ANNUAL Donation (\$20.00)	Surname(s) of Deceased _____
_____ GRAVESITE RESTORATION	_____
_____ HISTORY/RESEARCH	Plot Number(s), if known _____
_____ TOTAL	Matching Gift from _____

Glenwood General Manager's Report

There has been a recent significant personnel change at Glenwood. **Bonnie Ambrus** is retiring as the Superintendent and Landscaping/Administrative Supervisor of Glenwood/Washington. Bonnie will continue lending her expertise to the beautification efforts in both cemeteries, on a part-time basis. She will no longer have any other responsibilities.

As of April 9, 2001, **Dee Cunningham** is the new Superintendent. Dee retired from the Houston Fire Department with the rank of Captain, and he has most recently been a consultant on the installation of automatic sprinkler systems. He is familiar with both Glenwood and Washington through his assistance in planning and developing our underground watering systems over the past few years. Dee's responsibilities include funeral arrangements, lot sales, and supervision of groundskeeping and security personnel.

During the past few months, we have continued our beautification efforts in Washington Cemetery. Approximately 200 trees have been planted, and we plan on adding to this total every year. Restoration of the fountain has been placed on hold pending completion of the property development next door. The long-term plan is to line the ditch near the fountain with underground pipe and fill in the ditch with dirt.

I am pleased to report that the Board of Directors has authorized a contribution to WCHT in the amount of \$19,000 to be applied towards restoration activities in Washington Cemetery. This represents 50% of lot sales in Washington Cemetery during

2000, which is required to be used for restoration in Washington Cemetery, per the 1999 merger agreement with CCWCC. The Board believes that rather than duplicate activities which are underway or planned by WCHT, that the most efficient use of this money would be by WCHT.

We appreciate the support of the lot owners and visitors to Washington Cemetery. Please feel free to contact the cemetery office at (713) 864-7886 should you have any questions or comments.

Richard A. Ambrus
Vice President and General Manager

Glenwood Annual Meeting on June 21

The Annual Meeting of Glenwood Cemetery, Inc. will start at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 21, 2001, at the offices of Fulbright & Jaworski, 51st Floor, 1301 McKinney (Chevron Tower), Houston, Texas 77010. The primary purposes of the meeting are to elect the Board of Directors and review the important events of the year.

All original Owners of lots in Washington Cemetery (or surviving spouses, executors, or descendants of deceased lot owners who have completed a Glenwood Declaration/Proxy form) should have already received an invitation to attend this meeting.

If no one in your family has received the Declaration/Proxy for your lot this year, and you wish to become the representative for your family lot, please contact the Glenwood office at (713) 864-7886 as soon as possible. You may also write to Glenwood Cemetery, 2525 Washington Ave., Houston, Texas 77007 or send e-mail to glenwoodcemetery@aol.com.

WASHINGTON CEMETERY

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED