

# WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

Vol. 28, No. 1

"Heirs Who Care"

February 2004

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## Confederate Headstones Dedicated

On October 25, 2003, WCHT and **The Southern Cross Chapter 2502, UDC** cosponsored the dedication of new government headstones for twelve Confederate veterans who are buried in Washington Cemetery.

Headstones were dedicated for William Eggleston **Archer**, Philip Daniel **Bowles**, Lafayette W. **Camp**, Almond **Fuller**, Lucian Alston **Gause**, August **Henniger**, Samuel Timothy **Lewis**, Edmond B. **Reeves**, Charles Frederick A. **St. Jest**, James **Toole**, John C. **Turner**, and Aaron William **Underwood**.

Members of WCHT and UDC researched the history of each man and his service, and ultimately were able to contact relatives of all but one (Almond Fuller has no living descendants).

Over 140 people braved the threatening weather to participate in the ceremony in honor of these loyal sons of the South. Included in that number were over 60 descendants of these veterans, who traveled from New York, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Mississippi, and Louisiana, as well as from San Angelo, Kerrville, Austin, La Grange, Dallas, Palestine, and several cities in the greater Houston area to participate in the event.

The ceremony began with a salute from "Rolling Thunder," the ceremonial cannon of **San Jacinto Chapter 1, SRT**. The procession to each of the 12 gravesites was led by Pipers **Lars Sloan** and **Al Vacek**, followed by the Color Guard of **John Bell Hood Camp 50, SCV**, and the Honor Guard of **Granbury's Texas Brigade Camp 1479, SCV**, which fired a musket salute in honor of each soldier. Relatives of the veterans and members of **Albert Sidney Johnston Camp 67, SCV** unveiled the headstones and read the soldiers' biographies.

Thanks are also due to the management and staff of **Glenwood Cemetery** for installing each headstone

as it arrived, setting up a tent for protection from the weather, and providing other assistance and support as needed before and during the ceremony.

Following the ceremony, **The Southern Cross Chapter 2502, UDC** hosted a lovely reception at Trinity Lutheran Church, so that the families who had traveled so far would have an opportunity to meet with each other and with the researchers and re-enactors. Several families were meeting for the first time, as a result of finding a common ancestor.

**Charlie Gardes** is now in the process of creating a multimedia record of the ceremonies. He is combining the photos taken by two 35mm cameras, four video cameras (both digital and analog), historic photos of some of the soldiers, plus maps and interviews with many of the family members who were present. The mix of different technologies has presented a number of technical difficulties, which he is still resolving. Because the wind drowned out some of the speeches, he is also working on a way to present the spoken text alongside the video.

While quite a number of attendees expressed a preference for VHS tape, the necessary equipment to edit the video that way would be prohibitively expensive. Not having the resources of The History Channel at hand, Charlie is using his home computer to edit all these varied components into a single coherent presentation. He expects that it will fit onto two computer CDs, a standard medium that can be read by any modern computer, and is available to more people at this time than the DVD format. The price will be set when it is completed, but at this time it appears it will be about \$15. If you would like to be notified when the video is completed, please contact Gus Mistrot (see page 3).

Another group of new Confederate headstones will be dedicated in the Fall (date will be in the June newsletter). Please contact Gus Mistrot for details.

## Clements' Corner

The following articles are in the format of the new history book being compiled.

### PLOTS C-4 and C-5

#### JOHN H. LANG

*Compiled by WCHT Historian Gov Clements, with assistance from Robert Williams of Chula Vista, CA, son-in-law of Pearl Lang; Michael Fitzgerald Jr. of Onalaska, TX, son of Michael Fitzgerald; and Dianne Smith of Pearland, TX, granddaughter of Arthur Smith's twin brother. Much of the history of John Lang Sr. is based on his biographies in Biographical History of Houston and Galveston (1895) and The New Encyclopedia of Texas (1926).*

#### **John Henry LANG Sr.** **(29 April 1845 – 26 April 1907)**

John was born in Prussia, one of eleven children of Frank and Katherine LANG. They immigrated to the U.S. in February 1848, landing in Galveston, where he grew up and attended school. At age 17, he went to work clerking in a wholesale-retail grocery store in that city, an experience that served him well later in his own endeavors.

According to the *Biographical History*, during the War Between the States, John enlisted in the "Galveston Blues". He became a steward on a blockade runner trying to get cotton to Mexico, but the ship was captured by the Federal sloop *Brooklyn*. All the crew were made prisoners, and the cotton was confiscated. After 12 days, he was sent back to Galveston. He took part in a second effort at blockade running, which was successful. John's younger brother Charles (see Plot H-6½) and older brother Lewis also served in the Confederate Army in Galveston.

After the cessation of hostilities, John opened a restaurant – an oyster and fish house – in Galveston, but operated it only a short time before moving to Houston about 1867. He began running an oyster boat from Galveston to Houston, and opened a wholesale-retail fish and oyster stand in the old Brick Market House. He saw that here was an undeveloped business opportunity. Shellfish was a resource that Texas had in abundance. A born entrepreneur and capable organizer, he was a pioneer in the development of the shellfish (oyster) business. His vision was to supply not only Houston, but all parts of the state and beyond. He became a figure of statewide prominence, encouraging the establishment of oyster fisheries as well as conservation.

On 27 March 1877, he married Miss Ida Kumke in Houston. She was nine years his junior, but she was his equal when it came to business sense. They soon relocated the oyster parlor to 206-208 Travis at McKinney. The J. H. Lang Co. became one of the more popular and prosperous business establishments in the city. John and Ida became large property owners both in Galveston and Houston.

John H. Lang Sr. served as an Alderman of the First Ward as a Democrat. He was a member of the Knights of Pythias, Knights of Honor, Chosen Friends, and the American Legion of Honor. He was one of the original 37 stockholders of the *Deutsche Gesellschaft von Houston* (which owned and operated this cemetery), and purchased these two family plots (24 grave

spaces) in 1887, the year the cemetery was founded. He served on the *Deutsche Gesellschaft* Finance Committee for several years and was elected Treasurer just a month before his death.

His death, three days shy of his 62nd birthday, was deeply felt throughout the city and was a distinct loss to the Houston civic scene. As the *Encyclopedia* put it: "A man of sterling worth ... there was ever associated with his name an integrity that gave him prestige in his community. ...[he] was the friend of all who knew him, and a real citizen in the highest sense of the word."

#### **Ida (KUMKE) LANG** **(14 July 1854 – 15 January 1931)**

Ida, daughter of Carl A. and Anna Kumke, was born in Posen, Germany and immigrated to the U.S. with her parents about 1872. John and Ida made their home at 1104 Austin Street. They became the parents of five children, all of whom are buried here in the Lang plot: John Henry Jr., William Alexander, Edward Henry, Charles Stewart, and Ida Dolly.

Ida was a woman of many accomplishments. She was admired not only for her business acumen, which complemented that of her husband, but she was respected for her hospitality and graciousness. She took an active part in the J. H. Lang Co. for four decades, proving herself a woman of real ability and executive capacity. She retired in 1911, turning the company and oyster parlor over to her sons, John Jr. and Edward. Though retired, she continued to look after her properties and remained interested in the affairs of the city, especially public welfare.

#### **John Henry LANG Jr.** **(31 January 1878 – 23 August 1935)**

John was the eldest son of John Lang Sr. and his wife Ida. He and his brother Edward took over the family business when their mother retired in 1911. The J. H. Lang Co. (wholesale, retail seafood company) and oyster parlor was a very successful enterprise, and was profitably sold eleven years later.

Upon his father's death in 1907, John became Treasurer of the *Deutsche Gesellschaft*. From 1910 to 1913, John served as President, and his brother Ed became Treasurer. Then in 1917, John was again elected President, and held this position until his sudden death at his summer home near Kemah in 1935.

John had become in time a prosperous retired businessman with an engaging and charming personality – and one of the most widely known lodge men in Texas. His obituary listed 17 different organizations of which he was a member or officer, including the Masons, Eagles, Elks, Odd Fellows, Woodmen of the World, Sons of Hermann, and Knights of Pythias. It also listed six active and 52 honorary pallbearers.

#### **Pearl (LYONS) DREYLING LANG** **(11 December 1881 – 9 June 1958)**

Pearl was born in Galveston, the oldest of the 14 children of Robert LYONS and Rebecca (STATHAM) LYONS (see Plot H-6½). Her brothers Robert and William LYONS operated the Lyons Hardware Company in Galveston for many years.

Pearl became a Registered Nurse and worked in the hospital in Galveston. Sometime between 1910 and 1920, she married Louis DREYLING, a barber and brother-in-law of Theodore DREYLING, who was Secretary of the *Deutsche Gesellschaft*

from 1915 to 1923. Louis died in 1921 and was buried in the DREYLING plot in Glenwood Cemetery.

Pearl married John Lang Jr. about 1925 and they lived at 903 Chartres Street. Though they had no children of their own, Pearl adopted her infant niece, Betty Jean MILLER, after the death of Betty Jean's mother, Reba (LYONS) MILLER. Reba Miller is also buried in Washington Cemetery (see Plot H-6½). Betty Jean was only eight months old when Pearl was widowed. They moved to 4902 Milam, where Pearl and Betty Jean lived until their deaths in 1958 and 1986, respectively.

**William Alexander LANG**  
**(4 January 1880 – 27 January 1882)**

Willie was the second child of John and Ida Lang. He died of "congestive malarial fever" at age 2.

**Edward Henry LANG**  
**(1 October 1885 – 22 July 1929)**

Edward, third child of John and Ida Lang, worked with his brother John in the oyster business as well as the cemetery business. For several years while John was President of the *Deutsche Gesellschaft*, Edward served as its Treasurer.

Edward married Estelle E. "Stella" about 1903, and they lived at 1810 Texas Avenue in Houston. Ed and Stella were the parents of John and Ida Lang's only grandchildren:

Beatrice (17 Jan. 1906 – 15 Jun. 1973),  
married Theodore MARSH and lived in Waller, Texas

Edward John (26 Aug. 1907 – 4 Oct. 1979),  
moved to Placer County, California

Margaret Katherine (29 Sep. 1909 – Jan. 1984),  
married (1) Kenneth Carl MEACHEN,  
married (2) Victor Edwin WESTERGREN

Sometime after 1920, they moved to 4615 Sherman, where they lived at the time of his death. He was active in the Masons, being a member of Holland Lodge No. 1, Scottish Rite bodies, and Arabia Temple Shrine.

**Charles Stewart LANG**  
**(9 August 1888 – 14 October 1891)**

Charlie was the fourth child of John and Ida Lang. He died of "congestion" at age 3.

**Ida Dolly G. (LANG) WHITE FITZGERALD**  
**(8 November 1892 – 4 August 1970)**

Dolly was the youngest child of John and Ida Lang, and the only girl. She was married and widowed twice; both husbands are buried here.

**RODOLPH B. WHITE**  
**(17 March 1886 – 23 June 1931)**

Rodolph was one of at least nine children. About 1896, he and his younger brother Leon moved to Houston and lived with his married sister, Lilly LA BAUV. Another sister married Anton STELZIG, of Stelzig's Saddlery. Rodolph sold real estate for a time, and later was connected with the Mading Drug Store. He married Dolly Lang before 1920.

Rodolph was very active in the Masons, being a member of Cade-Rothwell Lodge No. 1151, Houston Consistory No. 1, all

Scottish Rite bodies, Andral Vann Chapter No 741 O.E.S., and Arabia Temple Shrine. He also belonged to the Elks, the Houston Turnverein, and the Houston Yacht Club. His funeral was held at the Scottish Rite Cathedral. Eight active and 29 honorary pallbearers were named in his obituary.

**Michael Ellis FITZGERALD**  
**(8 March 1888 – 20 December 1962)**

Michael worked for the City of Houston Water Department for over 50 years, retiring as the credit supervisor. He was a member of B.P.O.E 151. He and his first wife, Maude (BLUDWORTH) FITZGERALD had one son, Michael Ellis FITZGERALD Jr. He married Dolly (Lang) White in 1933.

**Carl A. KUMKE**  
**(25 March 1817 – 7 November 1905)**

**Anna R. (WEISE) KUMKE**  
**(17 April 1817 – 2 October 1894)**

Carl and Anna immigrated to Houston from Posen about 1872 with their family of at least five daughters and one son:

Alwina (Jan. 1850 – before 1931)  
married Wilhelm BARTH

Albertine (Oct. 1851– before 1931)  
married (1) Otto HOFFMANN; (2) Charles DUMLER  
(owner of Dumler's Beer Garden)

Ida (14 Jul. 1854 – 15 Jan. 1931),  
married John H. LANG Sr.

Hulda (29 Feb. 1856 – 8 Jan. 1945),  
married James W. SMITH (see Plot D-84)

Amelia (29 Feb. 1856 – after 1931),  
married Frank J. MARKEL

Emil C. (Jan 1863 – before 1931)

**Arthur J. SMITH**  
**(8 August 1887 – 17 January 1916)**

Arthur was a native Houstonian, son of James and Hulda Smith. He and his wife Mamie lived at 1601 Everett. They had no children. He was connected with the city engineer's department and was a member of Holland Lodge No. 1. Arthur's twin brother, Edward Emil SMITH and his older sister Stella (SMITH) KREICHHAMER are also buried in Washington Cemetery, together with their parents (see Plot D-84), but that's the subject of another story!

## Contacts

**Glenwood Cemetery**, 2525 Washington Avenue,  
Houston, TX 77007-6020, phone (713) 864-7886,  
fax (713) 864-6429.

**Burial Database:** Eleanor Beebe.

**Veterans Database:** Gus Mistrot.

**History Book Text:** Bernice Mistrot.

**History Book Photos:** Ginger Daily.

**Newsletter Editor:** Bernice Mistrot. Deadline for material for June issue: May 15, 2004.

PLOT B-92 SW¼  
**JOHN CRUMMY**

*Submitted by James Robert Crummy of Cornsay Colliery, Durham, England, great-grand-nephew of John Crummy.*

**John CRUMMY**  
(22 May 1850 – 26 December 1910)



John was the eldest of the twelve children of Thomas CRUMMY and Ann (RICHARDSON) CRUMMY. Thomas, an Irishman fleeing the Great Potato Famine, arrived in the fledgling hilltop town of Tow Law, in southwest County Durham, in 1848. Accompanied by his brother Owen, he found work in the local cokeworks, established alongside the expanding coal and iron industries.

John attended the Tow Law National School, founded by the local Ironmaster, Charles Edward ATTWOOD, until the age of 11, when, as was common at the time, he entered the same employment as his father, at the Black Prince Cokeworks. By some quirk of fate he was not put to work on the coke ovens themselves, but placed within the maintenance gangs that kept the various steam-powered engines running.

In mid-1870, aged 20, he moved about 25 miles to Stockton on Tees, very much a railway town, where he was employed by the Cleveland Railway Company. He remained in Stockton for a short while before moving to the large neighbouring town of Middlesborough. Still employed by the railway company, he took up residence at 21 Hill Street, very close to the central railway station where his work seems to have been based.

On the 16th November 1872, aged 22 (although his wedding certificate says 23) he married Elizabeth Jackson, the daughter of a shoemaker, Richard JACKSON, from nearby Billingham. In 1874, while still employed on the railway, he formed a partnership with his father-in-law and together the two men started a successful company producing commercial boot and shoe polish. Very little is known about the ultimate fate of this enterprise, but early in 1880 John and his wife emigrated to America.

By June 1880, they had settled in Harrisburg, Texas. John's name appears on the very first line of the Harrisburg census, which states that he is an engineer, was unemployed for one month during the census year, and that neither he nor his wife can read or write. Either he quickly learned, or the census taker erred in checking that box.

They soon moved into Houston, where they lived the rest of their lives, albeit at several different addresses, first on Chenevert, then rooming in Sterne's Building at 76½ Congress. John advanced steadily in his career. In the mid-1880's he worked as an engineer for the Houston Electric Light and Power Company. About 1887, he took a job as Assistant Engineer at the Houston Water Works, and moved to 26 South Street, just west of Cushman, and within a block of the Water Works. Within three years, John was promoted to Chief Engineer at the Water Works, a position he held until his retirement about 1909.

About 1891, South Street became Artesian Place, and in the general renumbering of streets that year, 26 South became 16 Artesian. Elizabeth Crummy died in 1892, and on 10 January 1894, John Crummy married Miss Annie McGORY, a woman some 16 years younger. They soon purchased a fourplex at 56 Stanley Street in the Sixth Ward, and rented out the other three units. By 1905, they had moved two blocks west, to 1518 Lubbock, on the same block with St. Joseph's Church, and in 1908 to 1513 Kane, on the other side of the same block.

No children were produced by either marriage, and in 1908 John and Annie adopted a baby girl who they named Lillie May. John died the day after Christmas 1910, as a result of chronic pneumonia and subsequent heart failure, and was buried alongside his first wife. Annie and Lillie May continued to live at 1518 Lubbock at least until 1920, and were still living in Houston in 1930.

**Elizabeth (JACKSON) CRUMMY**  
(16 May 1849 – 23 December 1892)

Elizabeth was John Crummy's first wife. Her beautiful white marble headstone was recently restored by WCHT. It reads:

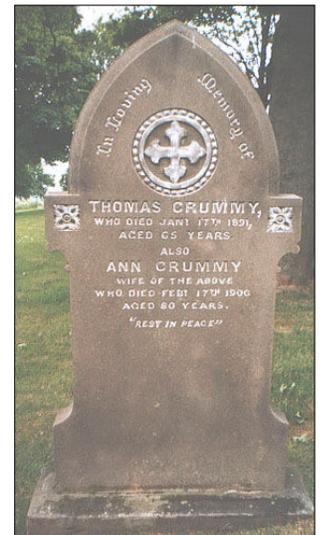
*In memory of Elizabeth Jackson  
Wife of John Crummy  
Born at Billingham, England May 16, 1849  
Died Dec. 23, 1892*

*I miss thee from our home dear; I miss thee from thy place  
A shadow o'er my life cast; I miss the sunshine of thy face  
I miss thy kind and willing hands; Thy fond and earnest care  
Our home is dark without thee; I miss thee everywhere*

~~~~~

And now ... the rest of the story. Rob Crummy has been searching for John Crummy's burial site for about three years, since discovering a letter that John had sent from Houston to his niece Jenny in England in 1908. He first obtained a death certificate, then located an e-mail address for WCHT on an Internet website listing Texas cemeteries. We e-mailed him photos of both headstones – a real surprise to him, as he was unaware of the existence of John's first wife, Elizabeth. With her birthplace given on her headstone, he found their marriage license very quickly. He has also sent WCHT a copy of John's birth certificate.

Rob and his wife Anne are actively engaged in the conservation of Dan's Castle Cemetery, Tow Law, where John's parents are buried. Here is their headstone.



## General Manager's Report

This year marks the fifth anniversary of the merger between Concerned Citizens for Washington Cemetery Care, Inc. and Glenwood Cemetery, Inc. Many changes have taken place within and around the two cemeteries in these five years. No longer is there an abandoned rice mill to the west of Washington Cemetery, but instead there are upscale apartment and townhome developments. There is now a roadway between the two cemeteries, and the big ditch that bordered the entryway into the Washington Cemetery no longer exists. Trees have been planted and will continue to be planted along the west fence line to buffer the cemetery in the coming years.

Presently in progress is a mapping project of both cemeteries which, when completed, will provide the foundation for an overall master plan of both cemeteries, including the documentation of existing infrastructures and the identification and proposed utilization of the undeveloped acreage that exists within and adjoining both cemeteries. The master plan contemplates providing a sound basis for the orderly development of our existing resources, which are substantial when taken as a whole. In summary, we are planning for the present and the future development of the cemeteries in an informed and structured manner, so that present and future boards of directors and managements will have a road map to guide them in their decision-making process.

Thank you for your continued support.

Richard A. Ambrus  
Vice President and General Manager  
Glenwood and Washington Cemeteries

\* \* \* \* \*

Please return the form below with your check and mail to **Jim Daily, Treasurer**. All donations deductible on Form 1040 (Schedule A).

## Treasurer's Report (February 1, 2004)

During the last four months, WCHT has received 60 donations from individuals. In addition, WCHT continues to receive funds from the **Randalls Good Neighbor Program** (WCHT #2810) and **Kroger Share Card**. To obtain a Kroger Share Card, please contact Jim Daily.

While WCHT is currently receiving funds through the matching gift programs of **ExxonMobil** and **J. P. Morgan Chase** foundations, many other corporations have matching gift programs for employees and retirees. All of these programs serve as great ways to help finance WCHT's restoration projects.

The total assets of WCHT amount to \$173,835, of which \$98,000 is held in the Improvements fund for continuing projects. The unaudited financial statement follows.

|                                   |              |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Fund Balance – September 30, 2003 | \$167,407    |
| Income – donations                | 2,525        |
| Income – investments              | <u>6,062</u> |
| Total Income                      | 8,587        |
| Expenses – historical             | 1,351        |
| Expenses – newsletter and postage | 678          |
| Expenses – administrative         | <u>130</u>   |
| Total Expenses                    | 2,159        |
| Fund Balance – January 31, 2004   | \$173,835    |

The investment income of \$6,062 includes a gain realized when our investment in 7.34% Chase Capital Preferred Stock was called for redemption.

| WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST   |                                |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Donor Name _____                     | Phone Number _____             |
| _____ 2004 ANNUAL Donation (\$20.00) | Surname(s) of Deceased _____   |
| _____ GRAVESITE RESTORATION          | _____                          |
| _____ HISTORY/RESEARCH               | Plot Number(s), if known _____ |
| _____ TOTAL                          | Matching Gift from _____       |

## 2003 Burials in Washington Cemetery

The following persons were laid to rest in Washington Cemetery in 2003.

|                        | <u>Lot No.</u> | <u>Burial Date</u> |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Juanita K. Goodner     | G-093 W½       | 29 May 2003        |
| Jeanne C. Bengé        | P-010          | 15 Oct 2003        |
| Oscar Abstein          | I-026 W½       | 21 Nov 2003        |
| 2 unidentified persons | I-026 W½       | 21 Nov 2003        |

All were interred here significantly later than the usual two or three days following death. Juanita Goodner died in Fredericksburg, TX on 24 Feb. 2003. Jeanne Bengé died in Houston on 30 Sep. 2003.

However, Oscar Abstein and his companions have set a new record for delayed interment in Washington Cemetery. Oscar died on 10 July 1884 at age 38. The text (in German) on the surviving fragments of his headstone indicates that he did not live here, but was a stranger passing through at the time of his death.

For nearly 120 years, Oscar's grave was "way out west" in Harris County, less than six feet from the edge of the Katy Freeway frontage road at Eldridge. The crosses marking his grave and that of the two unknown persons buried beside him were probably placed when the freeway was built. The current freeway widening project necessitated the removal of these three graves, so the Texas Department of Transportation bought a plot in the former German Cemetery and had them reinterred here.

## 14.8 WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## Volunteer Opportunities Abound

Washington Cemetery looks great, but it can always use a little help from its friends. "The harvest is great but the workers are few". For example:

**Strangers Rest** – About 2/3 of the single graves in Strangers Rest have been located, but there's still that other third who are "lost" and waiting to be found. Since there are no ceremonies scheduled this Spring we'll have more time to concentrate on this project.

**Veterans** – Those who prefer to do their digging in libraries can assist with researching the veterans buried here. Our goal is to see that all veterans' graves are marked, and order headstones for those whose graves are not yet marked.

**Headstone Transcription** – We're into the final stage of this project – proofreading the database printout in the cemetery. We'll be meeting on the regular workdays, as well as any other convenient days with pleasant weather. Please contact Bernice Mistrot if you can assist in the process.

### Spring Calendar of Events

#### Washington Cemetery Work/Visitor Days

Saturday, February 28, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 27, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 24, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

#### Glenwood Cemetery Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 17, 10:00 a.m.

51st Floor, 1301 McKinney (Chevron Tower)