

WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

P. O. Box 63592, Pipe Creek, Texas 78063-3592, Texas (713) 864-7886 www.WashingtonCemetery.org

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"Heirs Who Care" - Since 1975

August 2016

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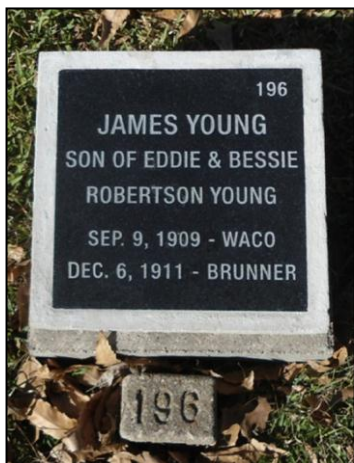
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Welcome, New Readers

WCHT has recently updated our mailing list and many of you are receiving this newsletter for the first time. The upper left corner of the mailing label shows one lot number and lot owner name related to your family buried here. We hope that you will enjoy reading about the many improvements underway in Washington Cemetery. Of course, we also hope that some of you will be willing and able to assist in making these enhancements happen!

Strangers Rest Marking Project



The quest to identify and properly mark the hundreds of unmarked single graves continues. The goal is to replace each little numbered concrete marker with a larger granite marker engraved with name, dates, and place of birth if known. So far this year, ten new Strangers

Rest markers have been installed, honoring Ruby Anderson, William D. Baber, Son of Fredrik William & Cecilia Luedicke Heite, Son of Lewis A. & Bessie B. Myers Hugonin, Daughter of Gustav & Antonia Schwenke Janitz, Son of George H. & Maud Thankful Cotharin Jackson, Caswell Edgburt McGown, Daughter of Earl & Emily Roberts Weakley, Jesse Marion Womack, and James Young.

The labor-intensive part of the process is checking the spelling and dates in cemetery records by comparing them with family records, obituaries, and

death certificates. Glenwood and the monument company have asked us to order them in groups of at least ten that are buried near each other. If you have details such as date of birth, family relationships, or other identifying information for individuals buried in this section, or can assist with obtaining obituaries or death certificates, please contact WCHT Vice President **Cathy Fitch** at StrangersRest@WashingtonCemetery.org.

Monument Cleaning and Repair Project

Glenwood Cemetery is currently involved in a major monument cleaning and restoration project in Washington Cemetery. Every marker, monument, cradle, and coping in the cemetery, over 5000 of them, will be cleaned. In addition, more than 100 monuments will be leveled or repaired. The total cost of this project is expected to be at least \$105,000.

Your participation in this fund drive will help WCHT to fulfill its mission of helping the people of today learn about the people of the past, through cemetery restoration. Other WCHT projects underway include enhancements to the burial database and restoring the historic fountain.

Veteran Edward Duffield to be Honored

On Saturday, October 22, 2016 at 10:00 a.m., a new VA-style headstone will be dedicated for **Edward Darke Duffield** (1843-1893), Co. D, 45th Missouri Infantry & Co. F, 50th Missouri Infantry. The Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary 1, Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is in charge of the program. If you plan to attend, kindly RSVP to Veterans@WashingtonCemetery.org.

Clements' Corner

The following article is in the format of the new history book being compiled.

SR-639: Wilhelm H. Von Streeruwitz (1833-1916)

Professor Wilhelm H. Von Streeruwitz, prominent civil and mining engineer, geologist, metallurgist, and chemist, was born on July 16, 1833 (or December 31, 1835; both dates are in his passport applications), in Mies, Bohemia (now Střibro, Czech Republic), about 80 miles southwest of Prague.

He arrived in New York in June 1868, and soon moved to Pittsburgh, PA, where he taught engineering from 1874 to 1876. He became an American citizen in Houston in November 1877, and over the next several years was a mining engineer on various projects ranging from geological surveys of the Chenati region near Big Bend to the salt mines at Avery Island, Louisiana. He lived in Houston from about 1881 to 1887 and again from 1901 until his death in 1916. In the early 1890s, Streeruwitz was based in Austin, as the state geologist in charge of describing the basic geology of the Trans-Pecos District. Streeruwitz Hills, a geological feature in Hudspeth County, roughly 100 miles southeast of El Paso, is named for him.

He spoke four languages, was a fellow of the Texas Academy of Science from 1892 to 1899, became a member of the Houston Natural History Society, and was a charter member of the Texas Geological and Scientific Association. He traveled extensively for his work, and spent the years 1896-1901 in Europe.

About March 1887, Prof. Streeruwitz prepared the Plan of the Deutsche Gesellschaft of Houston Cemetery (now Washington Cemetery) that is still used today. He was devoted to his work, and never married. When he died on April 19, 1916, he was buried in Lot C-086, belonging to a late business partner, Erich F. Schmidt; however, after the Schmidt family were all moved to Glenwood in 1921, Streeruwitz was moved to Strangers Rest, where his remains lie today in an unmarked grave.

So that we may honor three recently deceased energetic and passionate founders of CCWCC and WCHT, Historian **Gov Clements'** usual full page article spotlighting the history of several individuals buried in Washington Cemetery will return in the next quarterly newsletter.

In Memoriam: Lois King

Lois Anna Waegner King, 93, of Houston died on February 17, 2014. Lois was born August 7, 1920 in Houston to Arthur H. Waegner and Annie Janitz Waegner, and graduated from Reagan High School in 1937. Four generations of her Waegner family are buried here, including three great-grandparents in the Waegner family lot and two aunts in Strangers Rest. Forty years ago, when the cemetery was in such terrible condition, Lois had the vision, determination, and tenacity to restore it to respectability. She was one of the 12 incorporators of Concerned Citizens for

Washington Cemetery Care Inc. in 1977, and was Corresponding Secretary from 1978 to 1991. During that time she built the mailing list from a handful to over a thousand, by personally contacting relatives of those buried here. She was also a founding Trustee of Washington Cemetery Historic Trust in 1992. It is no exaggeration to say that Washington Cemetery would not be in the excellent condition that it is today without her dedicated efforts back then. Lois was laid to rest in Woodlawn Cemetery beside her parents and her beloved husband, Russell King.

In Memoriam: Herman Lauhoff

Herman Edward Lauhoff, 81, died on January 20, 2015 in Houston, TX. The oldest of four children, Herman was born August 8, 1933 in Montague County, Texas, graduated from Jeff Davis High School in Houston, and attended the University of Houston. He was a local Realtor and deeply involved in politics and neighborhood preservation. While serving in the Texas House of Representatives, 1974 to 1981, he sponsored a bill (HB 344, enacted 1977) to allow large cities to take possession and control of unkept or abandoned cemeteries within their limits. He was one of the five founding Trustees of WCHT and was President of CCWCC from 1979 until CCWCC merged with Glenwood in 1999, although he did not have a personal connection to the cemetery until he bought a lot in 1985, where he now rests beside his brother Wayne.

In Memoriam: Leona Zaboroski

Leona Dehart Zaboroski, 94, died on November 6, 2015. She was born in Bessmay, Texas to R. B. and Jetta Hollis Dehart on March 28, 1921, the third of eleven children. Upon graduating from Buna High School in 1938 she moved to Houston, where she lived the rest of her life. From 1986 until Glenwood began managing the cemetery in 1998, Leona was the public face of CCWCC. She was a Director of CCWCC from 1986 to 1999 and Trustee of WCHT from 1992 to 2012, but her association with the cemetery goes back to the early 1940s, when her husband, Louis Zaboroski, installed monuments and copings here. Having known Jennie Noland and Leona Tonn, the last two official cemetery caretakers, she provided historical insight and spent many hours researching and maintaining burial records, locating family members, responding to inquiries, arranging burials, and participating in the physical restoration. She also created the maps for the 1988 history book. Leona and Louis now rest side by side in Washington Cemetery. Their younger son, Robert, has recently been elected a WCHT Trustee.

Financial Report (2013 - 2015)

Net assets increased by \$9,406 during the three year period ending September 30, 2015. Total revenue for the period was \$14,255, of which \$9,943 was from donations and \$4,312 was investment income. Total expenses for the three year period were \$4,849. The majority of the expense was for the Union and Confederate headstones installed and dedicated in October 2012. The monument restoration that took place during this period was done by Glenwood.

Financial Report (2016)

For the 11 months ending August 31, 2016, we had total revenue of \$6,449 and expenses of \$28,230, reducing our net assets to \$168,197. Most of the expense was for the monument restoration project described on page 1. We are asking for donations to replenish that fund, as there is still significant restoration work to be done. For your convenience, we now accept PayPal and credit cards via our website, or you can mail the slip below with your check.

INCOME and EXPENSES (Unaudited) – Eleven Months Ending August 31, 2016

WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

Net Assets – October 1, 2015		\$189,978		
INCOME:	Operations/Administration	\$ 2,547	EXPENSES: Monument Restoration	\$ 27,300
	Historical Projects	0	Strangers Rest	500
	Gravesite Restoration	<u>2,325</u>	Historical Projects	0
	Total Donations	\$ 4,872	Newsletter & Postage	0
	Other Income		Administration	<u>430</u>
	Net Investment Income	<u>1,577</u>		
Total Income		\$ 6,449	Total Expenses	\$ 28,230
			Net Assets – August 31, 2016	<u>\$168,197</u>
FUNDS:	Cash in Bank	\$ 18,568	FUNDS: Operations/Administration	\$ 157,498
	Money Market Account	2,629	Historical Projects	
	Securities (CDs)	<u>147,000</u>	Gravesite Restoration	<u>10,699</u>
		<u>\$168,197</u>		<u>\$168,197</u>

Please return the form below with your check and mail to **Washington Cemetery Historic Trust, P.O. Box 63592, Pipe Creek, TX 78063-3592** (please note new mailing address!), or contact Treasurer Lloyd Shenberger at < Treasurer@WashingtonCemetery.org >. All donations are deductible on Form 1040 (Schedule A). WCHT is a 501(c)(3) organization, and all Trustees are volunteers.

WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST		
Donor Name _____	ID No. _____	Phone No. _____
E-mail Address _____		Future newsletters will be e-mailed
_____ 2016 Annual Donation (\$25.00)	Strangers Rest name(s) _____	
_____ Strangers Rest Marker(s) (\$100.00 each)	_____	
_____ Gravesite Restoration	Your interest in Washington Cemetery	_____
_____ Newsletter Subscription (\$5.00)		_____
_____ TOTAL	Matching Gift from _____	

Executive Director's Report

It has been quite a while since my last report to you and I am pleased to say that everything is going well in Washington Cemetery. We are in the process of cleaning every monument and coping in Washington Cemetery and we are about 85% complete. After we finish the cleaning process, and in cooperation with WCHT, we will resume our ongoing monument restoration effort. WCHT has made a substantial financial commitment towards this process and we are very much appreciative of that commitment.

We have had other on-going efforts such as completing another leg of the new roadway system between Sections "B" and "C", landscaping, tree maintenance, and tree replacements. A very important and long term benefit for both Glenwood and Washington Cemeteries was the completion of an acre and a half lake in the new Skyline Meadow section of Glenwood. The lake is being fed by a tie-in into the middle of Buffalo Bayou and then into a wet well on Glenwood's property. The lake was designed to meet two purposes. The first and foremost is a long-term water supply for both cemeteries and the second is a beautiful feature in a new burial section. Now that our watering capacity is virtually unlimited, we intend to install an automatic irrigation system in Washington Cemetery similar to what now exists in most of Glenwood. This installation will be done in-house and will probably take about six months to complete.

I encourage you to visit the cemetery and we welcome your suggestions.

Richard A. Ambrus, Executive Director
Glenwood and Washington Cemeteries

WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Please Get Your Newsletter by Email

The cost of printing and mailing continues to rise. Most organizations have been forced to go to electronic media as a form of communication to save money. Currently less than 8% of our recipients are receiving our newsletters by email. Please subscribe to our electronic newsletter, so that more of your donations will go to work for the benefit of the cemetery. The hard copy and electronic newsletters are identical, except that the pictures in the PDF are in brilliant color.

If you are already receiving your newsletter by email – Thank you! To subscribe, please go to the cemetery website, www.WashingtonCemetery.org. On the right hand side of the home page you will see a link, **Subscribe to our Newsletter**.

If the link does not work, you can send an email to Subscribe@washingtoncemetery.org. Put "Subscribe to Newsletter" in the subject line. In the body of the email, enter your name, your email address, and the 5-digit ID number located on the mailing label on this newsletter.

We do not sell or share our mailing list. If you do not have an email address, we can continue to send our newsletter to your mailing address. In order to cover the cost of printing and mailing two to three newsletters a year, we ask that you make a minimum donation of \$5.00 per year.

Fall Calendar of Events

Edward Darke Duffield Marker Dedication
Saturday, October 22, 10:00 a.m.