

WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

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

Vol. 40, No. 1

"Heirs Who Care" - Since 1975

December 2023

WCHT OFFICERS

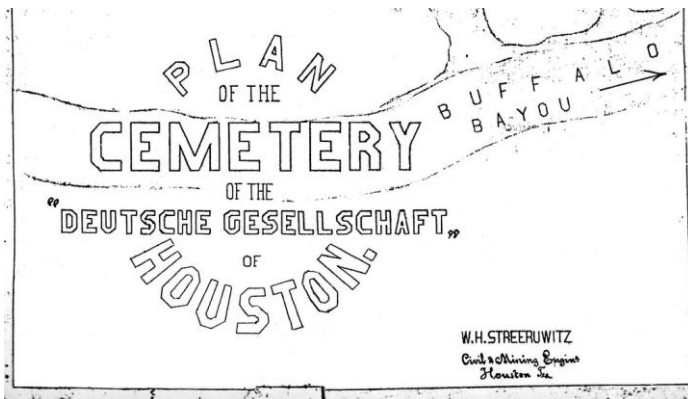
President -----Robert Zaboroski
Vice President----- Catherine Fitch
Secretary ----- Bernice Mistrot
Treasurer -----Lloyd Shenberger

WCHT TRUSTEES

Linda Bell Burton
Gov Clements (Historian)
Donald Gehring (Webmaster)
Debra Bailey Kolah

Designer of Washington Cemetery Honored with New Headstone

The Clements' Corner column in the August 2016 WCHT newsletter* featured a brief history of Professor William H. Von Streeruwitz, the prominent civil and mining engineer, geologist, metallurgist, and chemist who laid out the "Plan of the Deutsche Gesellschaft of Houston Cemetery" in 1887 that is still used today. Here is the title block of that drawing. Note that the cemetery then extended all the way to Buffalo Bayou.

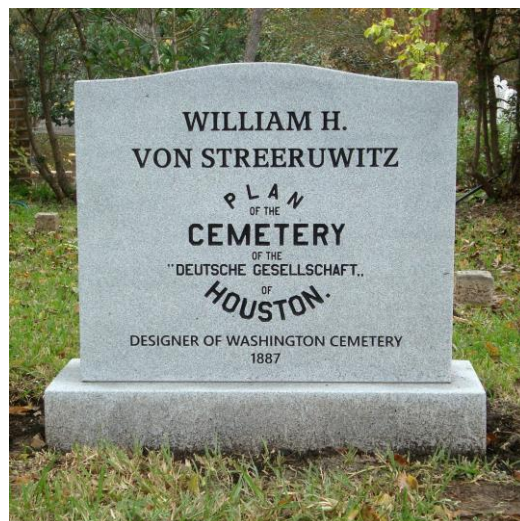


An older brother, Georg Adolf von Streeruwitz (1828-1890), was the father of Ernst von Streeruwitz (1874-1952), who briefly served as Chancellor of Austria, 4 May 1929 to 26 September 1929. Wikipedia notes that "The Streeruwitz family, originally from Friesland, had migrated to Bohemia during the Thirty Years' War and been ennobled for outstanding bravery during the Battle of Prague [in 1648]."

Professor Von Streeruwitz's remains were moved from Lot C-086, belonging to a late business partner, Erich F. Schmidt, to an unmarked Strangers Rest grave in 1921. This grave is at the eastern edge of Section R, about 100 feet from the nearest road. Through the combined efforts of WCHT, Glenwood Cemetery, and Schlitzberger & Daughters Monument Company, William H. Von Streeruwitz now has a new headstone that is visible from the road. Many thanks to everyone who helped make this headstone possible.

*All previous WCHT newsletters are readable and fully searchable on the WCHT website, at <https://washingtoncemetery.org/wcht/newsletters.shtml>

We have recently located the Catholic baptism records for the von Streeruwitz family in Mies, Bohemia, which are written in German, not Czech. Wilhelm Heinrich von Streeruwitz, son of the Baron and Postmaster Anton von Streeruwitz and Barbara Wolf, was born and baptized on July 16, 1833 in Mies.



View from road



View towards road

Clements' Corner

PLOT F-083 – STRANGERS REST

Compiled by Kevin L. Mackey of Three Rivers, Texas, who is researching "Texas Photographers and Photo History 1800s to early 1900s," and runs a Facebook group by that name. Bernice Mistrot of WCHT assisted greatly with the research.

Samuel ANDERSON (ca. May 1825 – 30 Apr. 1905)

Long-time Houston photographer Samuel Anderson was born about 1825 in Pennsylvania. By 1850, he had moved west to Muscatine, Iowa, where he was a photographer and cabinet maker until late in 1852. He moved to Galveston by June 1853 and continued in the photography business, both alone and with several successive partners, for the next fifty years.

In 1853-55 he traveled around Texas with his "Daguerrean Car" while maintaining a studio in Galveston. In 1856, he opened a second studio location in New Orleans in partnership with brothers Samuel and John Blessing. On 11 August 1858, he married Mrs. Lucretia (Earle) Churchill in Galveston. She was a photographer with her first husband, John E. Churchill, who was a portrait painter, singer, and playwright. The Andersons then settled in New Orleans, where their two daughters were born: Mary Alice Lucrecia (1860-1865) and Elizabeth (1867-1949), who never married. During his years in New Orleans, Samuel had short, temporary concurrent stints in the Louisiana cities of New Iberia, Shreveport, Opelousas, and possibly others.

They moved to Houston late in 1884, where Samuel remained in business until shortly before his death in 1905. More details of his professional history appear on a cabinet card that he designed about 1887. It is reproduced on his Find A Grave memorial, no. 235386596. Between 1850 and 1898, Samuel appeared in more than 200 unique newspaper advertisements and articles, not counting multiple insertions of the same advertisements. Samuel has no known living descendants, direct or collateral. His grave in Washington Cemetery is currently unmarked. Lucretia (1831-1926) and their daughter Elizabeth are buried in Magnolia Cemetery in Houston.

PLOT SR-852 – HUGO LEHMANN

Compiled by Bernice Mistrot and Cathy Fitch of WCHT.

Ottomar Hugo LEHMANN (1 Mar. 1842 – 27 Feb. 1927)

Hugo Lehmann was a newspaper publisher and editor in Houston and several other Southern cities for six decades. He was born Ottomar Hugo Lehmann in Pretzsch, Wittenberg, Saxony (between Leipzig and Berlin), the eighth child of Johann Christian August Lehmann and Johanne Christiane Kuhn, according to his baptism record. Although we have found more than 100 records of Hugo Lehmann, with a variety of spellings and dates, his immigration and marriage records are not among them. However, his 1870 naturalization record in New Orleans states that he immigrated in 1856. Late in 1861 or early in 1862, he joined Company A, Hansa Guards, 4th Regiment, European Brigade, Louisiana Militia, and served with the unit until the capture of New Orleans on 2 May 1862. WCHT will place a "VA-style" marker for him.

Census records show him in five cities in three states: 1870-New Orleans, 1880-Houston, 1900-Mobile, 1910-Waco, 1920-Gainesville, TX. A detailed biography published in the *La Grange Journal* in 1923 states that Hugo Lehmann began his newspaper career in 1864 at the *New Orleans Bee*, and then the *New Orleans Times*. Most of his career was with a succession of German-language weeklies, for which he was reporter, editor, and publisher. These included the *New Orleans German Gazette* (1866), *New Orleans Post* (1867), *New Orleans Echo* (1870, Catholic), *Texas Post* (Houston, 1872), *Texas Deutsche Zeitung* (Houston, 1873). While in Houston, he served as Judge of Recorder's Court (now municipal court) in 1875 and as Deputy Harris County Clerk in 1885. In 1886, he was an officer of both the *Deutsche Gesellschaft* and the *Houston Liederkrantz*.

He left Houston in 1887 to open the *Fort Worth Deutsche Zeitung*, followed by the *LaGrange Deutsche Zeitung* (1890), *Der Suedliche Pionier* (New Orleans, 1893), *Mobile (AL) Deutsche Zeitung* (1897), *Wilmer (AL) Progress* (1905), *Waco Post* (1911), *Cooke County (TX) Banner* (1916), *Texas Banner* (Gainesville, 1921), and *Houston Banner* (1922).

Hugo married Maria Mathilde Zuellig, a native of Switzerland, prior to the 1870 census. She died on 7 October 1916 in Gainesville and is buried there. They had no children. Alone and with no savings from a lifetime of work, he was admitted to the Harris County Home on 9 April 1924, and lived out his life there. [Note that while his death certificate correctly gives his name and his parents' names, it is wildly off on his birth date (age 84, but born in 1883!), and says he died on Tuesday at 2:40 p.m., while the Monday morning *Houston Post-Dispatch* stated that he died at noon on Sunday.]

PLOT SR-853 – GEORGE WAGNER

Compiled by Bernice Mistrot and Cathy Fitch of WCHT.

George WAGNER (1 Jun 1883 – 20 Jan 1927)

On the morning of 20 January 1927, a railroad worker unloading cotton bales in Houston was stunned to discover the body of a man inside a box car that had been sealed in Las Cruces, NM nine days earlier. He was believed to have died of starvation. Clues to his identity included an envelope addressed to Oscar Stansell, Tucson, AZ, and an army discharge button. The response from Stansell that he was likely George Wagener, a railroad switchman, combined with fingerprint analysis by the U.S. Army, resulted in his identification as George Wagner, who enlisted at Fort Bliss, Texas, on 15 February 1918, served overseas with the Sixth Company, Twentieth Engineers, from 11 May 1918 to 1 June 1919, and was discharged at Fort Bliss on 18 June 1919 with a character record of "excellent." He was survived by a brother, Van Kirk Wagner, a coal miner in Thomas, WV. From this clue, we learned that George was the third son of James A. Wagner and his wife Hannah E. Nixon, and was born in Hampshire County, WV.

Herbert D. Dunlavy Post No. 581, Veterans of Foreign Wars, ensured that George Wagner was buried with full military honors on 6 March 1927 (one day after Hugo Lehmann's burial). William L. Noland, superintendent of Washington Cemetery, donated the grave, and Fogle-West donated their services. Wagner's grave is marked with a standard military headstone.

Financial Report – Fiscal Years 2022 & 2023

This report covers a two fiscal year period beginning October 1, 2021 and ending September 30, 2023. During the period, the net assets increased by \$6,097. Income for the period was \$10,976. There was an increase in investment income as a result of higher rates on investments. Income from donations was \$6,082. Income from investments was \$4,894.

Expenses for the period were \$4,879. There were no extraordinary expenses. Contributions to WCHT support projects such as new Strangers Rest markers and military headstones, restoration of the historic fountain, historical research, and the WCHT website. We are very grateful to all of our generous donors and to all of our readers who have opted to receive this newsletter by email. Thank you.

INCOME and EXPENSES (Unaudited) – Two Fiscal Years Ending September 30, 2023

WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

Net Assets – October 1, 2021		\$ 139,854	
REVENUE: Operations/Administration	\$ 5,112	EXPENSES: Monument Restoration	\$ 650
Restoration/Improvements	945	Historical Research	699
Historical Projects	<u>25</u>	Administration & Website	1,709
Total Donations	\$ 6,082	Newsletter	1,487
Interest Income	<u>4,894</u>	Investment Expense	<u>350</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 10,976	Total Expenses	\$ 4,895
		Net Assets -- September 30, 2023	<u>\$145,935</u>
ASSETS: Cash – Checking	\$ 1,685	EQUITY: Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 141,339
Investments	144,250	Temp. Restricted Net Assets	<u>4,596</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$145,935</u>	Total Equity	<u>\$145,935</u>

WCHT is a 501(c)(3) organization and all Trustees are volunteers. We do not sell, rent, or share the WCHT mailing list. There are several ways to participate in the projects and activities of Washington Cemetery:

- Mail a check to Washington Cemetery Historic Trust, P.O. Box 63592, Pipe Creek, TX 78063-3592.
- Make a donation online by going to our website, <https://washingtoncemetery.org>, and click on Make a Donation under the Quick Links on the right-hand side of the home page.
- Shop at Randalls and link your Remarkable Card to Washington Cemetery Historic Trust (2810).
- Shop at Kroger and link your Kroger Plus Card to Washington Cemetery Historic Trust (VV473).
- Volunteer to help with research or contacting families of persons buried in unmarked graves.

Thank you for your support of historic Washington Cemetery.

WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST		
Donor Name _____	ID No. _____	Phone No. _____
E-mail Address _____		Future newsletters will be e-mailed
_____ 2024 Annual Donation (\$25.00)	Strangers Rest name(s) _____	
_____ Strangers Rest Marker(s) (\$100.00 each)	_____	
_____ Fountain and Gravesite Restoration	Your interest in Washington Cemetery	_____
_____ Printed Newsletter Subscription (\$5.00)	_____	_____
_____ TOTAL	Matching Gift from _____	

Executive Director's Report

We are excited to celebrate the end of a monumental year and the start of another one with you, as we announce that **The Center for Glenwood** is now open! We invite you to come visit and see the beauty of the building in person. When you enter the new entrance off Washington Avenue you will be greeted with a beautiful panoramic view of the cemeteries. A new road will lead you to The Center, and to both Glenwood and Washington Cemetery.

The opening of The Center is the commencement of a new era for Glenwood and Washington Cemetery. We have always been committed to making families a top priority, and now through The Center, we can provide a Gathering Space to celebrate the life of a loved one. The Gathering Space offers a way for us to expand our reach through new hosting opportunities that we can offer to Glenwood and Washington families. The Archive Room within The Center will offer overseen access to archival treasures for research and educational purposes. It is our hope that public access to these treasures will result in a wider study, understanding and appreciation of the men and women who built our city and state.

As we look forward to our 153rd year of service, Glenwood will continue to remain devoted to preserving and protecting the valuable resources under our stewardship. Our commitment is both strong and ongoing, enabling us to continue both preservation and enhancement efforts in both Glenwood and Washington Cemeteries. We look forward to seeing you at The Center for Glenwood.

Richard A. Ambrus, Executive Director
Glenwood and Washington Cemeteries

2022-23 Washington Cemetery Burials

The following 16 persons have been laid to rest in Washington Cemetery since October 2021.

	<u>Lot No.</u>	<u>Burial Date</u>	
Edina (Barradas) Rodriguez*	D-101	07 Jan	2022
Suzanne D. (Sanders) Christian	C-082	15 July	2022
Rene Sanchez Alvera	D-092	14 Oct	2022
Rita Mary Crabbe	C-077	21 Dec	2022
Audrey M. (Lilienthal) Braden	B-115	06 Feb	2023
Dora M. (Hoeflich) Scott-Nichols	A-046	23 Feb	2023
Katherine (Fischer) Drew	G-041	23 Mar	2023
Sylvia (Ontiveros) Herdejorgen	D-099	08 May	2023
Kurt Edward Lauhoff	H-027	26 Jun	2023
Robert Byron Sharman	P-006.5	06 July	2023
Robert Wayne Sharman*	P-006.5	06 July	2023
Francis Xavier Tolbert, II	I-019	21 July	2023
William Alan Gay*	D-061	14 Oct	2023
Mary Ann Gay*	D-061	14 Oct	2023
Sybil (Baytes) McAllen	D-101	04 Nov	2023
Sybil (Wagnell) Baytes*	D-101	04 Nov	2023

* Delayed interment (more than one month)

Newsletter Distribution

The WCHT newsletter is periodically sent to relatives of persons buried in Washington Cemetery. Many of you have elected to receive it by email, which helps us reduce the cost of postage and printing, and allows you to receive it with color photos and easily share it with friends and relatives. To opt into email delivery, please send an email to info@washingtoncemetery.org and include your Donor ID number (upper right corner of your mailing label). If we cannot reduce the "snail mail" volume voluntarily, we will be forced to eliminate recipients from our mailings based on the date of last known contact with WCHT. We thank you in advance for your consideration.

WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

P. O. Box 63592
Pipe Creek, Texas 78063-3592

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED