

# CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR WASHINGTON CEMETERY CARE, INC. and WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

Vol. 16, No. 2

*"Heirs Who Care"*

August 1992

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## Improved Tax Status Approved

GOOD NEWS!! In April, we told you that we were "pursuing some promising new avenues with regard to funding" for the road project. On July 1, 1992, the IRS determined that the newly-created Washington Cemetery Historic Trust is a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3), retroactive to April 10, 1992. The Trust is therefore able to accept donations from corporations and foundations, which CCWCC cannot do. So now we can attract grants and matching funds from Exxon, Tenneco, Southwestern Bell, etc.

We are *not* dissolving CCWCC, because there are certain advantages to its present tax status. CCWCC will continue to do the routine maintenance functions (primarily mowing and watering), therefore, the maintenance and perpetual care funds will still belong to CCWCC.

The Trust will take care of historical and research projects, the newsletter, special preservation and beautification projects such as cleaning and straightening headstones, road maintenance and improvements, and security.

Our major road paving project will be funded by both CCWCC and the Trust, using the money already in the CCWCC road fund, plus any donated to either organization for that purpose.

From now on, if you work for (or are retired from) a company that will match your gift to a 501(c)(3) organization, please write your check to the **Washington Cemetery Historic Trust**, and send us your company's matching gift form when you make your donation. If you make your \$40 annual donation to the Trust rather than to CCWCC, it will be used for expenses such as security and the

newsletter. Corporate matching gifts will be used for whatever Trust project needs them most.

If you are *not* affiliated with such a company, please write your check to CCWCC, Inc. as usual. We are always in need of money for maintenance; in fact, this spring and summer, our expenses have exceeded receipts by over \$2000.

Please note: In our IRS application, it was necessary to clearly define which activities would be done by which organization. Therefore, money donated to the Trust cannot be used for routine maintenance. *Please* do not combine donations to the two organizations in one check!

At this writing, the Trust has a bank balance of zero, but the bills are starting to come in. If you plan to make a donation to the Trust in calendar 1992, **please consider doing it before the end of our first fiscal year on September 30**. That way your donation will come in one tax year and the corporate matching funds that go with it in the next tax year, so we can show a relatively steady income each year on our annual accounting to the IRS.

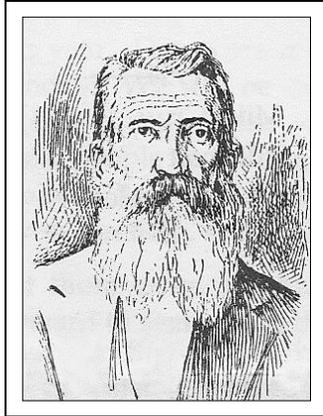
## Maintenance Report

Not much to report here--the cemetery is looking good, despite the continuing monsoons. (Rainfall since the first of the year is more than 150% of normal.) But the extra rain means that we need to mow more often, which increases our expenses. We hope to have enough dry (and not impossibly hot) weather before the fall workdays to finish the detailed trimming that we promised in our last newsletter. Unfortunately, the more markers and cradles we uncover, the more it costs to *keep* the grass trimmed around them, but that's the price of progress in our cemetery restoration program.

## Clements' Corner

### Lot F-44: Judge Henry Cline

*The following is compiled from newspaper obituaries and other information provided by Mary Clay Simms of Galveston, great-granddaughter of of Judge Cline, and sister of young Henrietta Clay.*



Henry Cline was born 19 Sept. 1828, in Tyrone township, Pennsylvania, and was of German parentage. In addition to an illustrious 48-year career in law, he was a great friend and advocate of the public schools, taking an active interest in them all throughout his life.

He entered college at Gettysburg in 1844 at the tender age of sixteen; four years later he became principal of the academy at Myerstown, PA. In 1851, he moved to New Orleans, where he first had a position in the public schools, then became vice president and professor of mathematics at the College of New Orleans, and in 1857, was elevated to president of the college.

He received the degree of LL.B. from the University of Louisiana in 1853, and commenced his law practice in New Orleans the same year. He moved to Woodville, Texas (Tyler County), in 1860; five years later he came to Houston, where he continued his law practice and service to the public schools for the next 36 years. He served as supervisor of the Houston public schools from 1870-73, and was a member of the constitutional convention of 1875. He was so well known that his obituary does not bother to mention which court he presided over!

Henry Cline and Josephine Frances Bougeard were married 4 June 1859, and became the parents of three daughters and four sons: Ella (married Louis Mercier), Corrine, Mary (married C. H. Richards), Camille G. W., Dr. Raoul R. D. (professor of pharmacy for 29 years at the University of Texas medical school at Galveston), Ben (a partner in his father's law practice, located at 59 Main Street in Houston), and Henry (who predeceased his father). All four sons were lawyers; the three daughters were accomplished musicians. The family resided at 806 Fuller Street in Houston at the time of Mr. Cline's death on 22 August 1901. His widow later moved to 2318 Leeland Avenue.

Henry Cline was laid to rest in Washington Cemetery 24 August 1901. The active pallbearers were F. S. Burke, H. M. Curtin, J. K. P. Gillaspie, W. E. Humphreville, W. T. Long, A. W. McKinney, J. F. Meyer, and S. H. Triplett. The honorary pallbearers, selected from the Bar Association, were A. C. Allen, E. W. Archer, Charles E. Ashe, Sam H. Brashear, W. P. Hamblen, O. T. Holt, J. C. Hutcheson, W. C. Oliver, G. H. Pendaravis, S. Tallaferro, G. W. Tharp, and W. H. Wilson.

Ella and Louis Mercier were married 20 October 1883 at Annunciation Church in Houston, and had seven children, the eldest of whom was Henriette. She married Walter J. Clay, son of Anton Clay and Mary Hahn. Their infant daughter, Henrietta Clay, just one day old, was buried here 31 October 1910.

Mrs. Cline died on Christmas Eve 1910, and was buried beside her husband on Christmas Day, with Father Hennessy of Annunciation Church officiating. Ben Cline predeceased his mother and is buried with several other members of the Cline family at Forest Park. Corrine, the only unmarried daughter, passed away 21 May 1912, and was buried beside her mother the following day.

Numerous Clay and Cline relatives are buried in Washington Cemetery, including members of the Arp, Hahn, Medlenka, Selke, and St. Clair families. Many of these are described in the Washington Cemetery Centennial Book.

\* \* \* \* \*

Your family history can appear here in October. Please send such histories to our Historian, Governor Clements.

\* \* \* \* \*

**AUTOGRAPH BOOKS** were all the rage years ago. People not only signed them, but wrote love notes and other endorsements therein. Here is one such page from the autograph book of Miss Alice Schifer (4 Aug. 1869 - 12 Dec. 1945, Plot C-56).

To Sister Alice  
The purest dew from Heaven,  
Descending on my soul,  
Have sweetest pleasures given  
My actions to control;  
Thy image in its beauty  
is templed in my heart  
To love thee is a duty  
From which I'll never part.  
Your sister,  
Mina Herrmann

## Clements' Corner (continued)

### Lot G-26 (G.A.R.): Stephen K. Feeks

*The following is extracted from The Fremont Rifles, by Michael Mullins (1990), a history of the 37th Illinois Veteran Volunteer Infantry Regiment of the Union Army during the War Between the States.*

Stephen K. Feeks was born in 1838, enlisted in Company G at East Bend, Ill. on 15 Aug. 1861, and was mustered into service 19 days later in Chicago. He was paid eleven dollars a month, and armed with the "best Minie rifle."

Feeks fought in the Battles of Pea Ridge (Ark.) 7-8 March 1862; Prairie Grove (Ark.) 7 December 1862; and in the Siege of Vicksburg (Miss.) ending 4 July 1864. The 37th was the longest-serving unit (infantry, cavalry or artillery) from the state of Illinois, and traveled some 18,000 miles in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee, and Texas (Brownsville). It produced three brevet generals and four Medal of Honor winners.

Feeks served three years as a private, and fortunately was not wounded or disabled during his long service. He, and other soldiers who did not re-enlist, were called "Bobtails." At the time he was mustered out, on 29 September 1864, the 37th had 284 enlisted men and 24 officers (which was woefully undermanned).

His experience in Texas must have been favorable, as he came back and located in Houston. He was a loyal member of the George B. McClellan Post of the Grand Army of the Republic here in Houston, and at his death, was buried next to Mrs. Seelye on 24 November 1901.

If you haven't already made your annual donation for 1992, or wish to make an additional donation, please return the *entire form* below with your check and mail to Gus Mistrot, Treasurer. All donations are deductible on Form 1040 (Schedule A).

## Strangers' Rest Grave Markers Found

A new member, David Gibbons, has been searching for his sister's grave in Section H. He hasn't found it yet, but he has painstakingly uncovered 30 other markers. These are all in the period 1916 to 1921, and most are believed to be infants or children. The numbers he has found are: 403, 405, 406, 408, 409, 416, 436, 444, 499, 510, 511, 512, 515, 516, 519, 520, 522, 533, 538, 547, 551, 552, 564, 565, 566, 568, 585, 587, 591, 596. The numbers are in chronological order, but are a bit scattered geographically. He's made a great start - let's all turn out to find more of them on our October workdays. Thanks, David!

## Washington Cemetery in the Movies?

Washington Cemetery will be seen (briefly) in the movie "The Trust," on the life of William Marsh Rice, due to be released in December. A site in Section G was chosen to appear as the grave of his second wife. Filming took place on July 29, and several Board members were present.

## Membership Roster Revisions

We are retyping the entire roster/ mailing list and hoping to fix more errors than we create, but some will probably get past us. If there are errors in your name or address, please let us know; that's the only way we'll find out. Please help us by mentioning the lot number or family name you are interested in when you correspond with us. The new mailing list will be used for the March 1993 meeting notices.

If you have any suggestions or material to be included in the next newsletter, including lots for sale or lots wanted to buy, please direct them to the editor at the address below.

Donor Name \_\_\_\_\_

Plot Name/No. (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR WASHINGTON CEMETERY CARE, INC.	WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST
____ 1992 MAINTENANCE Donation (\$40.00)	____ 1992 ANNUAL Donation (\$40.00)
____ PERPETUAL CARE Donation	____ HISTORY/RESEARCH Donation
____ PROJECT "PATHH" Donation (Promoting Access To Houston's Heritage)	____ GRAVESITE PRESERVATION Donation
	____ PROJECT "PATHH" Donation
	Matching Funds from : _____

## Upcoming Events

The **regular meeting** of the membership will be **Sunday, September 27**, at 2:30 p.m., at our usual meeting place, Central Congregational Church. **The usual yellow meeting notice will *not* be sent.**

**Saturday and Sunday, October 24 and 25** will be our **annual fall workdays** at Washington Cemetery this year. Hours are roughly 10-5 Saturday and 1-5 Sunday. We will be cataloging the Stranger's Rest section during these workdays, so we can better assist people in finding these graves. But it's a big project. Please call Leona Zaboroski, if you can help, even if just for a couple of hours.

Put these dates on your calendar now! We look forward to seeing you there.

## Road Paving Project Approved

The time has come that something *must* be done about the terrible condition of the roads in the cemetery. Texas Crushed Stone is donating 28 tons of material to help fill the holes in the roads, and we expect it to be in place by the time you receive this. But this is only a temporary solution. The real solution is to grade and pave the roads so they will *stay* in good condition for many years. The longer we delay, the more it will cost (one recent estimate was nearly \$75,000.) A project of that size requires a proper engineering study, which we have been hoping to have donated, but times are tough.

Therefore, the Board of Directors has taken a collective deep breath and hired an engineer to survey the property and design a road system that we can be proud of, and that will last longer than most of us will. He is giving us a break, but the

total cost of engineering and construction for grading, drainage, and paving is expected to be at least \$60,000, unless we find a reputable contractor who will donate part of the job.

We currently have about \$9,000 in the road fund. The rest must be (a) donated by our members, or (b) donated to the Trust by foundations and corporations. To do the job quickly, we will probably have to *borrow* from the Perpetual Care Fund, but the loan must be paid back from future donations.

There are two ways you can help. *One:* If you have experience with or know of foundations or corporations that donate to educational and historical causes such as this, please call Elise Daulley or write to the address below.

*Two:* We are starting a campaign similar to the 400 Plus Club, which raised over \$42,000 eight years ago for the Perpetual Care Fund. All donors of \$100 or more to **Project "PATHH" -- Promoting Access To Houston's Heritage** -- will receive certificates of thanks and be acknowledged in the newsletter (unless you request anonymity). The four donation levels are: Bronze--\$100, Silver--\$250, Gold--\$500, and Diamond--\$1000. Additional appreciation gifts will be sent to individual donors at the higher levels. If you are eligible for corporate matching gifts, the matching gift will be included in determining your donation level.

## Treasurer's Report

The regular Treasurer's report will be presented in the October issue of the newsletter. This is an extra issue, devoted primarily to family history and news of the Washington Cemetery Historic Trust (page 1)

**CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR  
WASHINGTON CEMETERY CARE, INC.**

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