

Clements' Corner

Lot C-97, East 1/2: William Henry Koenig

Compiled by Bernice Mistrot, at the request of and with assistance from Conrad B. Jordan of Houston, son of Lula Mae (Koenig) Jordan Pressley, and Clifford Hoyt Taylor, son of Gladys Bell (Koenig) Taylor Schweikart.

John C. Hoyt, a carpenter, was born in Connecticut in 1818. In June 1880, he was living in Mobile, Alabama with his wife Susanna, a native of Alabama, and two daughters and four sons, ages 2 to 27. They soon moved to Houston, where John died on 21 Dec. 1881, before the German Society Cemetery was established. He is believed to be buried in Glenwood Cemetery. Susanna died on 20 Feb. 1896 at age 64, and was buried here. It cost just \$3.00 to open her grave (Mr. Taylor has donated the original receipt to WCHT). Sometime prior to Nov. 1898, her remains were reinterred elsewhere (exact location unknown).

Their older daughter, Fannie Belle Hoyt, born in Mobile in Oct. 1865, married **William Henry Koenig** in Houston on 29 Aug. 1882. He was born in Houston in Jan. 1861, and lived here all his life.



He was a member of the city's first volunteer fire department and the first baseball team organized here. He was also a charter member of Red Oak Camp No. 95, Woodmen of the World. He began his career as a painter with the Houston & Texas Central Railroad in 1879, and retired

from the Southern Pacific (Texas & New Orleans) 52 years later. Henry and Fannie Belle celebrated their golden anniversary just one month before her death on 26 Sep. 1932. He died 31 May 1935, and is buried beside his wife.

Fannie and Henry had seven children, four of whom are buried here. Two young sons, Henry and Randall, have headstones (without dates), but are not in the cemetery record books. It is believed that Henry is the eldest child, who died 28 Apr. 1884 at the age of 2 months, and was reinterred here about 1895. Randall is believed to have been born about Jan. 1894 and buried here 15 June 1895, although there is no city death certificate, and no given name or year in the cemetery records.

Their other children were Clyde (born 26 Feb. 1887), Gladys Bell (17 Oct. 1888 - 24 Nov. 1954), Harry

Hoyt (born 14 Mar. 1892), Lula Mae (23 Nov. 1895 - 3 Dec. 1967), and Ira Bert (born 18 Aug. 1898). Gladys Bell and Lula Mae are buried here.

There are also two Hoyt children buried here, believed to be sons of one of Fannie Belle's brothers: Frank, Charles Clifford, Peter, John C. or Thomas J. Hoyt. The cemetery record book shows that Jim Hoyt, age 5, was buried here on 30 Dec. (no year, but must be 1896 or 1897). The city death certificate shows "Infant of Mr. Hoyt, age 6" and date of death as either 30 Dec. 1897 or 2 Jan. 1897. The other youngster, E. C. (or C. C.) Hoyt, age 9, was buried here 10 Nov. 1898, but has no city death certificate. Neither Hoyt boy has a headstone.

The younger Hoyt daughter, Lula Mae Anderson, was a deputy in the office of Civil Clerk O. M. DeClos. Upon her death July 1, 1916 at age 44, the clerk's office was closed for the day in her honor. She is buried in Glenwood, Lot C-114, together with her father (probably), an infant nephew, and Mrs. F. J. Hoyt, probably a sister-in-law, known to Mr. Jordan and Mr. Taylor only as "Aunt Kutzy". A presumed brother, Charles Hoyt, was buried 17 Feb. 1914 in Glenwood's Strangers' Rest.

Of the seven or more children of John and Susanna Hoyt, Thomas J. Hoyt appears to be the youngest and the only one still living in Sep. 1932. At that time, he was living in Beaumont where he ran a dairy. Mr. Taylor recalls that Fannie Belle's older brother, Peter Hoyt, owned a dairy in Houston, on Westheimer near River Oaks, and had a son born about 1908. Peter was not living with his parents at the time of the 1880 census.

Author's note: There is a lot of uncertainty here, for which I apologize. But since only four of the nine people buried here have headstones with dates, only five have complete dates in the record books, and at least two have no death certificates, piecing together even this much of the puzzle has been an exciting challenge.

Deutsche Gesellschaft Charter Date

Mr. Taylor has given WCHT a perpetual care deed containing an embossed seal with the *Deutsche Gesellschaft* charter date of 27 March 1875, almost 12 years before the cemetery was established. It was reorganized as Washington Cemetery on 19 July 1918. This date would seem to indicate that the *Deutsche Gesellschaft* was an existing social/service organization that added a cemetery to its good works, rather than a group formed for the purpose of operating a cemetery.

WANTED: Your Family Histories

No, we're not starting a library. But we do want to encourage you to compile some biographical information on your loved ones buried here for the benefit of future generations. Plus, you can become a published author, right here! Please contact our **Historian, Gov Clements**, for more information.

IRS Eases Paperwork (a little)

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 requires us to write you a letter acknowledging receipt of any single donation of \$250 or more, not a total of \$250 during the year. We normally save the expense of acknowledgments, however, we are glad to supply them to anyone who wants or needs one. Just check the acknowledgment box on the return form at the bottom of this page. (Please be patient - one volunteer writes all these letters.) If you have requested an acknowledgment and have not received it, please contact **Bernice Mistrot**.

We remind companies and foundations supporting the restoration and preservation of Washington Cemetery to make their donations to WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST, a 501(c)(3) organization, rather than CCWCC, INC. Only individuals can deduct donations to CCWCC, which is tax-exempt under IRS section 501(c)(13).

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Please return the entire form below with your check and mail to **Gus Mistrot, Treasurer**. All donations from individuals are deductible on Form 1040 (Schedule A). If your company (e.g., Exxon, Southwestern Bell, Tenneco) will match your donation, please make your donation to the WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST; otherwise, please make your annual donation to CCWCC, INC., as usual. **PLEASE NOTE!!** CCWCC and WCHT are separate organizations with separate bank accounts. Please do not combine donations to both organizations in one check!

Treasurer's Report

The recent increase in interest rates has enabled us to raise the average return on our investments from about 4.7% last July to 6.2% now. The CCWCC Perpetual Care Fund stands at \$374,000, up \$7,850 since September 30, 1994. Total value of CCWCC as of March 1, 1995, is about \$391,700; total value of WCHT (after road construction payment) is \$10,515.

Donations are up slightly over this time last year, but are still far short of covering all our expenses. We are very grateful to the 144 individuals and corporations who have contributed to either WCHT or CCWCC since October 1. Donations for routine expenses from October 1 to March 1 totaled \$7,888 while expenses during that normally low-cost time totaled \$7,187. Expenses for cutting the grass have been higher than usual due to the exceptionally mild winter and increased emphasis on careful trimming around headstones, cradles, and copings.

Routine expenses for the remainder of this fiscal year are estimated at \$16,000. That's either 400 more \$40 donations or 75% of all interest on the Perpetual Care Fund for this year. We find that many of the Spring donations are from the same people who give in the Fall. This year, we challenge each of our active donors to interest another person in helping us to preserve Washington Cemetery for future generations to enjoy. *Vielen Hände machen schnell ein Ende.* (Many hands make light work.)

Donor Name _____	Surname(s) of Deceased _____
Please send acknowledgment <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Plot Number (if known) _____
CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR WASHINGTON CEMETERY CARE, INC.	WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST
____ 1995 MAINTENANCE Donation (\$40.00)	____ 1995 ANNUAL Donation (\$40.00)
____ PERPETUAL CARE (Endowment Fund)	____ GRAVESITE RESTORATION (Strangers' Rest)
____ IMPROVEMENTS & REPAIRS	____ HISTORY/RESEARCH
Phone Number _____	Matching Gift from _____

1994 Burials in Washington Cemetery

The following persons were laid to rest in Washington Cemetery in 1994.

	<u>Lot No.</u>	<u>Burial Date</u>
Aline Courtney	C-096	27 June 1994
Autrey Lewis Ballanfant	F-034	5 July 1994
Wayne Charles Lauhoff	H-027 W½	29 Aug. 1994
Margaret Wegner Thacker	G-061 N½	6 Sep. 1994
A bit delayed, but no less important:		
James W. Powers	F-010 E½	30 Mar. 1991

Upcoming Events

Please don't forget the remaining **Spring Visitor/Work Days** at Washington Cemetery on **Saturdays, March 25, and April 22.** Hours are roughly 9-4. We had simply perfect weather in January, and pleasant weather for working in February -- dare we hope for more of same in March and April?

Bring a lunch, and come swap stories. Some folks will be working, but we hope the rest of you will come to cheer them on and just enjoy the beautiful place Washington Cemetery has become. We'll continue to search for Strangers' Rest markers, prune shrubs, and clean and straighten a few headstones. Please call **Leona Zaboroski** for further information.

The **regular meeting** of the membership will be on **Sunday, March 26,** at 2:30 p.m., at Central Congregational Church, 3410 Austin (at Holman). We will meet in the Beutel Room at the **east** end of the building (opposite end of the building from our usual meeting room). Please put these dates on your calendar now! We look forward to seeing you there.

**CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR
WASHINGTON CEMETERY CARE, INC.**
12800 Briar Forest Drive, Suite 83
Houston, Texas 77077-2206

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Computer Input

Ruth Daulley reports that she has completed the initial computer entry of all burials and lot owners in the first book of records. *Thanks, Ruth!* The 3162 entries include 1089 lot owners, 1087 burials in 1887-1900, 846 in 1900-1907, 71 in 1910-1929, and 69 with incomplete dates in the record book. These numbers will probably change during proofreading and researching of those that were not recorded accurately the first time. We are preparing working indexes, but the final index cannot be done until all records have been entered, which will take several years. If you need information on burials before 1908, or can assist with the research or proofreading, please call Ruth.

Centennial Book Out of Print

We have sold the last of the Washington Cemetery Centennial Books, published by CCWCC in 1988. It contains the history of the Germans in Houston, the German Society Cemetery, and CCWCC; a list of veterans, biographies of over 850 of the approximately 7000 persons buried here; and maps showing the location of every family plot. There are two surname indexes: eight pages for the maps and ten pages for the rest of the book.

The cost of reprinting just a few books would be unreasonable. However, if you need just a few pages concerning your own family, we can help. For \$10.00, we can copy up to 25 pages, including a report cover and shipping. Please be specific about which families and information you would like, and allow at least a month for our volunteers to get it to you.

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