

Clements' Corner

Lot A-109, West 1/2: Jesse Averitt Bryan

Submitted by William Edwin Bryan, Jr. of Bellaire, TX, grandson of William Philip Bryan.

Jesse Averitt **Bryan** (1838-1902) was born in Hickory Withe, Tenn. He joined the Washington Artillery, 5th Co., Maj. Gen. John C. **Breckenridge's** division, on 9 Nov. 1863 at Selma, Ala., and was wounded during the battle of Missionary Ridge (near Chattanooga) on 23-25 Nov. 1863, leaving him with a lifelong illness. He received a medical discharge from Lt. Gen. Richard **Taylor** on 23 Jan. 1865.

About 1867, he married Mary Elizabeth **Phillips** (1846-1925), daughter of William and Susan Phillips of Montgomery Co., Tenn. She was educated at Clarksville Female Academy and Nashville. They had five children, one of whom died young. Jesse Averitt Jr. (1872-1932) and William Philip (1874-1945) were born in Louisiana (likely New Orleans), Henry Hunter (1877-1918) in Tennessee, and John Dale Tyler (1883-?) in Texas, soon after their arrival here. They made their home at 1619 LaBranch.

She became one of the best known journalists and workers in women's organizations in Texas, and was listed in "Women's Who's Who in America." The 1900 census and city directory show her as head of household and "Houston society editress" at the *Galveston News*. Her career also included stints as society editor and special correspondent for both the *Houston Daily Post* and the *Houston Chronicle*. Her principal journalistic work was special features and biographical articles, in addition to recording social events. She retired from newspaper work at age 73, due to failing eyesight.

Over the 40 years she lived in Houston, in addition to her role as wife and mother, her life was characterized by charitable, social, and civic works. She was treasurer of the Christ Church Ladies' Parish Aid Association for more than 15 years, recording secretary of the Texas Women's Press Association for three years, president of the Houston Penwomen's Club, honorary member of the Ladies' Reading Club of Houston, vice president of the City Federation of Women's Clubs for two years, member of the executive board and vice president of the Faith Home Association of Houston, vice president general of the General Association of the United Daughters of the Confederacy for two years, charter member of the Women's Protective Association, and member of the State Historical Society, the Houston Civic Club, and the Anti-Tuberculosis League.

When she died 19 July 1925, among her pallbearers, both active and honorary, were eight military officers, from general to captain, and members of some of Houston's best known families. Her name appears on the "Spirit of the Confederacy" monument in Sam Houston Park in downtown Houston.

Continuing the military tradition, Jesse Jr., William, and Henry were in the Houston Light Guard; Henry was also a Spanish-American War veteran.

Those buried here are Jesse and Mary, their sons Henry and Jesse Jr., Jesse Jr.'s wife, Alice **Mullin** Bryan (1877-1964?), and an infant son (1905) of William P. Bryan. Jesse Jr.'s daughter, Mary Alice Bryan **Jordans** (1909-) and her husband, A. J. Jordans (1907-), now residents of Denver, Colorado, also have a headstone here.

Strangers' Rest, Row 5, No. 15: John O. Dalton

Submitted by John L. Mosley, of Duncan, AZ, great-nephew of John O. Dalton.

John **Dalton** was born in Crockett, Texas about 1856, and lived a colorful life. His grandfather, Valentine Thomas Dalton, was a veteran of the War of 1812, and later a prominent land speculator who died in Galveston at age 93. John's father, Oscar Dalton, founded the first newspaper in Houston County, the *Crockett Printer*. He was shot and killed in a dispute with a rival editor in 1861. John, too, met an untimely end, as reported by the *Houston Daily Post*, almost exactly 100 years ago, 29 January 1896 ...

DIED WITH HIS BOOTS ON

John O. Dalton Shot and Killed by Mike Ryan

John **Dalton** was shot to death by Michael **Ryan** at 3:20 yesterday afternoon. The killing took place in John Latreyte's saloon, corner Fannin and Congress. ...

After the killing, Ryan, pistol in hand, walked hurriedly to the courthouse, where he ... said: "Sheriff, I've killed a man and want to be locked up." He was taken to the county jail and placed in a cell. The murderer was perfectly sober, cool, and self-possessed. A Post reporter called at the jail and was accorded permission to interview the prisoner ...

"I don't want to talk," said he. "My name is Ryan -- Michael Ryan -- and I am a native of Ohio. I've been in Texas 20 years or more. At the proper time I shall speak, leaving the balance to the judge and jury. I decline to say whether I am married or single. Plenty of time for that. Am I a sport? When I want to sport, I sport, and sport heavy. That is my business. This man drew a knife on me and called me 'an Irish ---,' and I resented it."

"The man is dead, Ryan," remarked Sheriff **Erichson**.

"So I have been told, and I regret it. Yet I could have taken no other course under the circumstances. However, I have nothing to say at present. In three or four days I may speak."

Clements' Corner (continued)

... C. M. **Bullock** [an eyewitness, said] "... Ryan and Dalton were quarrelling. It was an old feud over a woman, and dates back two or three years. They called each other pretty tough names and finally came to blows. Sheriff Albert Erichson came in at this time and separated them and then searched Dalton and Ryan. Dalton had a small pocket knife, and Ryan was not the possessor of even a knife. Ryan laughed and walked out of the saloon. The sheriff, having done his duty, walked out. ... Five minutes had probably passed when in comes Ryan. He walked up to Dalton, whipped out a big pistol and placing it almost against his left side pulled the trigger saying: 'You called me a - - -, did you? Take that.' Dalton sank to the floor. Dying he was game. Fixing his eyes upon Ryan, he said: 'You have killed me, but you are a - - - all the same.' And then he died. ..."

At Wall & Stabe's a great crowd assembled and fully 1000 viewed the remains. He wife ... viewed the remains of Dalton and invoked the vengeance of heaven upon his slayer. ... The funeral, it is understood, will take place this afternoon. Justice **Mahoney** will take testimony in the case, beginning this morning, and return a verdict in accordance with the facts.

J. O. Dalton ... learned the printer's trade and worked at the case for several years. ... He drifted into gambling 10 or 12 years ago and was well known in Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio and other Texas cities as well as Houston. Two months ago he shot and killed Dick **Riddle** in his own gambling house in this city. Riddle was the aggressor and the grand jury refused to indict him for the homicide. He was a very peaceable man, as well as a very game one and was never known to carry a pistol. He has a brother in West Texas who was apprised of his tragic death last night.

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Please return the entire form below with your check and mail to **Julie Itz, Treasurer**. All individual donations 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!

Ed. note: Dalton's death certificate gives his age as 47, as does the *Post*; however, cemetery, census, and family records agree that he was 40. Dick Riddle, also 40, was buried here 6 Dec. 1895. He rests beside two of his children on the west half of Lot B-92. Riddle and Dalton are both in unmarked graves, but we know the locations of both.

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We need historical material for the next newsletter. Please send any historical tidbits, anecdotes, etc. pertaining to Washington Cemetery or to your loved ones buried here to our Historian, **Gov Clements**. Deadlines for family history material to be printed in each issue are January 1, April 1, July 1, & October 1. This schedule allows enough time to edit and type the information, and send it back to you for proofreading and correction before printing.

Please send any newsletter suggestions or other material to be included, including spaces wanted to buy, sell, or donate, to the editor, **Bernice Mistrot**.

Lots for Sale/Lots Wanted

Members wishing to buy or sell burial spaces may list them in the next newsletter at no charge. There is no commission, and all sales are private matters between the buyer and the seller. CCWCC makes no warranty, express or implied, of either the lot or the title thereof. Buyers must satisfy themselves that the seller has title and/or authority to sell.

Donor Name _____	Surname(s) of Deceased _____
Please send acknowledgment <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Plot Number (if known) _____
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1995 Burials in Washington Cemetery

The following persons were laid to rest in Washington Cemetery in 1995.

	<u>Lot No.</u>	<u>Burial Date</u>
Pearl Berberich	D-068 W½	26 Jan. 1995
Libby Kovar	D-021 NE¼	20 May 1995
Anita Loera Cabrera	SR-X283 (F)	13 July 1995
Marion Martin	D-061 W½	21 July 1995
Dorothy Mae Bird	D-077 W½	7 Aug. 1995
Ruth E. Bowers	C-003	12 Dec. 1995
Edward H. Brenner	B-016 S½	30 Dec. 1995

Spring Open House and Work Days

We figure we must be doing something right, since so few of you come to the semiannual membership meetings. So we've decided to skip the March meeting at the church and hold an **Open House** at the cemetery on **Saturday, March 23** instead. We'll have the record books and people to help you find your lot. You've helped to make Washington Cemetery the beautiful place that it is -- please come see it for yourself. Just in case the weather doesn't cooperate in March, we'll also have **Work Days** on **February 24** and **April 27**. Hours are roughly 9-4 (or 10-5 if it's cold) all three days..

Bring a lunch and let's reminisce together. And bring the younger generation, too! Let them experience the thrill of finding a long-hidden marker in Strangers' Rest or seeing a grimy headstone become bright white marble. Please call **Leona Zaboroski**, (for further information.

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

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

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New Service: Flower Arrangements

Do you wish you could place flowers on your loved ones' graves for birthdays, holidays, etc., but can't visit the cemetery yourself due to distance, age, or infirmity? As a result of a suggestion from an out-of-town member, CCWCC can now assist you. Let us know what you'd like, approximate cost, and when and where you'd like it placed. For details, please contact **Leona Zaboroski**. A small additional donation to CCWCC is requested.

For Sale: Individual Burial Spaces

CCWCC has a small number of burial spaces available for sale at \$600 each. All are located in family lots, and all were donated to CCWCC by the families. There is one group of five, one group of three, and several individual spaces. Two spaces in Section A. were sold in October, and the entire purchase price was added to our perpetual care endowment fund. For more information, please contact **Herman Lauhoff**.

Help Wanted: German Translator

We are seeking someone to translate the *Deutsche Gesellschaft* monthly meeting minutes for 1894-1901. They are all written in *der alten Handschrift*, but the quality of the copy is good, and the writing is quite legible. Much of the information is repetitive, such as the names of the members attending each meeting. Once deciphered and typed, these could be simply copied to the next month. Some member obituaries are also included. Please contact **Bernice Mistrot** if you can help.

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