

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

Vol. 22, No. 1

"Heirs Who Care"

February 1998

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Strangers' Rest Map Taking Shape

Five and a half years after this project began, we can now sometimes predict not only where a marker may be hiding, but also which one. In December, we began a systematic mapping project, starting at the front of Section H. We divided the area into squares about 25 feet on a side, and mapped each square onto a full page, together with names and dates from the record book. Through this process, we are discovering patterns and identifying specific probable grave locations. All eight markers discovered on the last work day were in the first two squares, and six of them were 10 to 12 inches below the surface -- much deeper than most discovered so far. We've found perhaps half of them, but that appears to be the easy half. Please contact **Bernice Mistrot** if you can help us search and/or record the results.

Bequests and Memorials Received

It is with great sadness that we note the recent passing of several long-time friends of Washington Cemetery. We are, however, most grateful that they and their families chose to honor Washington Cemetery with lasting memorials.

Mary Lorraine Fischer and **Naomi Millard Haggard** very kindly left generous bequests to CCWCC that will provide for a number of improvements to the cemetery. CCWCC has also received memorial gifts from the friends and relatives of **Lt. Col. Rheaford Carl Bell, Carl Patrick Curry, Mary Fischer, Russell Howard Neel, Sr., and Lucille Vordick Smalley**, all of which will be added to our Endowment Fund. To these donors, and to all of our faithful supporters, we say, *Thank you. Your help is much appreciated.*

Formal Rules and Regulations Adopted

All cemetery deeds, including those granted by the *Deutsche Gesellschaft* back in 1887, refer to the Rules and Regulations of the cemetery. These have been modified over the years, but have not been enforceable since the Washington Cemetery charter expired in 1947. Now that CCWCC has legal responsibility for the cemetery, we dusted off the old rules and revised them to agree with current state law and standard operating practice for other cemeteries. The new rules may look a bit forbidding due to the necessary legal language, but they are really mostly common-sense things. Here are a few key points:

- All burials (except ashes) require an outer burial container (concrete box), which may be purchased either from the funeral home or from CCWCC.
- Prior to an interment, the plot owner or family member must visit the cemetery to select the burial site and provide written authorization for the burial. Call to arrange interments.
- Headstones, copings, and other monuments must be approved prior to installation. There is a limit of one monument per grave space, but it may be of any style that is similar to those already in the cemetery. Call **Sam Belinoski** for approval.

For a full copy of the rules, please contact the Secretary, **Rita Davis**.

Washington Cemetery Lots For Sale

CCWCC has family lots (3, 6, or 12 spaces) for sale in Sections A and D, and single spaces (or pairs) in Section I. To lock in the introductory 10% discount, we must receive 25% of the payment by February 28, 1998, with the balance to be paid in 60 days.

Clements' Corner

Lot G-26: Sarah Emma Edmon(d)s(on) Seely(e)

Prepared with assistance from Bob King of Huffman, TX, Ted Jones of Fredericton, NB, Pepita Ferrari of Montreal, Quebec, and Diane Montgomery of St. Clair Shores, MI; also *The Seelys of New Brunswick* by Harold Fanjoy & C. G. Ward, Washington Cemetery Centennial Book, and *Smithsonian magazine*, January 1994.

Sarah Emma Evelyn Edmonson, the youngest of five children of Isaac **Edmonson** and his wife Elizabeth **Leeper**, was born in Dec. 1841 in Magaguadavic, New Brunswick, 19 miles southwest of Fredericton.

Unhappy with her father's marriage plans for her, Emma left home by age 16, changed her name to **Edmonds**, and moved to Salisbury (near Moncton, NB), where she trained as a milliner. She may have also worked for a short time in Fredericton and Saint John, NB. Still concerned that her father might find her, she changed her appearance to that of a young man, using the name Franklin **Thompson**, and began selling bibles across New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The publisher then transferred "Frank" to Hartford, Connecticut and Flint, Michigan.

With the start of the Civil War, she enlisted 14 May 1861 in the 2nd Michigan Infantry Regiment of the Union Army as a male nurse, later becoming a secret agent and dispatch rider. She was active in the battles of Bull Run (First Manassas), Fredericksburg, and Vicksburg. Some of her missions took her behind enemy lines as a spy in disguises including a young Negro man, an Irish peddler woman, a Confederate cavalryman, and a clerk. Her disguises were not revealed until after she left the Army and wrote her 384-page book, *Nurse and Spy in the Union Army: Comprising the Adventures and Experiences of a Woman in Hospitals, Camps, and Battlefields*, in 1864.

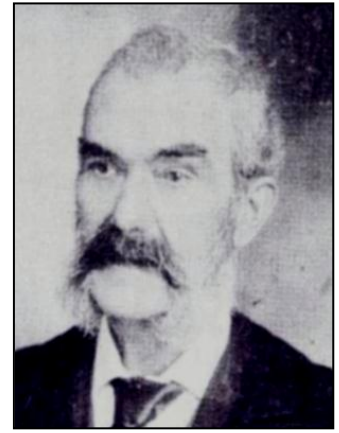
On 7 July 1884, President Chester A. Arthur signed a bill, approved by Congress, granting a pension to Mrs. Sarah E. E. **Seelye**, alias Franklin Thompson:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized and directed to place on the pension roll the name of Sarah E. E. Seelye alias Franklin Thompson, who was a late Private in Company F, Second Regiment of Michigan Infantry Volunteers, at the rate of \$12.00 per month.

Sarah Emma Seelye was mustered into the George B. McClellan Post No. 9 in Houston in 1897, thereby becoming the only woman ever to join the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), the Union soldiers' veterans organization, though well over a hundred women served in the Union army.



Sarah Emma E. Edmonds



Linus Henry Seely

On 27 April 1867, she married Linus Henry **Seely** (1832-1918), a widower, in Cleveland, Ohio. They lived in many states due to his occupation as a carpenter, settling for 12 years on a 10-acre lot known as "Seelye Hill" at Fort Scott, Kansas. In the late 1890s, they were living at La Porte, Texas, where he built a United Church building. It was there that Sarah died on 5 September 1898. Sadly, their three children all died young; two adopted sons, George Frederick and Charles, survived her. After his wife died, Linus Seely returned to his native Saint John, N.B. He died in 1918 at age 85 on Grand Manan Island, off the southern coast of New Brunswick.

On Memorial Day 1901, her body was moved from the La Porte gravesite to its present location in the G.A.R. plot in what was then called German Cemetery. She was reburied with honors, and a special bronze plaque recognized her heroism (the plaque is long gone). Her official military marble headstone reads simply: *Emma E. Seely, Army Nurse*.

Ninety-six years later, Emma was honored once again. On Memorial Day 1997, the Sarah Emma Edmonds Seelye Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War held a memorial service at her gravesite. For more information on S.U.V. or the auxiliary please contact Historian **Gov Clements**.

Many interesting articles and stories have been published on Emma's life. In addition to her own best-selling book, she has been the principal character of several other books and a Canadian film is in progress. In 1990, she was inducted into the New Brunswick Women's Hall of Fame in Saint John, NB.

Spelling notes: Linus was born **Seely**, but Emma changed it to **Seelye** soon after their marriage. Upon his return to Canada, he dropped the "e" and his death certificate reads "Linus H. Seely." Similarly, many sources, including Emma's book, give her maiden name as **Edmonds**, but New Brunswick records show that her father's name was **Edmonson**, later spelled **Edmondson**.

In Memoriam: Carl Patrick Curry

CCWCC lost one of its most dedicated members on Nov. 4, 1997, just two weeks before his 81st birthday. Though Carl had not been active since a stroke three years ago, he was very active with CCWCC for many years, serving 10 years on the Board (1980-1990), including two years as President and two as Vice President. Over the years, he worked hard for legal and legislative solutions for the permanent care of Washington Cemetery, computerized the 1200-member mailing list, chaired the Centennial celebration in 1987, and prepared both the index and the detailed list of veterans for the Centennial History Book. A veteran of the D-Day invasion, he was also very active with the 36th Infantry Association. We will miss him, and extend our sincere sympathies to his wife Daria and their children and grandchildren.

* * * * *

Wanted: W.C. Photos and Memories

We are always seeking historical material -- photos, biographies, anecdotes, etc. -- about the cemetery and its people. Please contact our Historian, **Gov Clements**, if you can share such material with us. Deadlines for family history material to be printed in each newsletter issue are January 1, April 1, July 1, & October 1. Please send any newsletter suggestions or other material to be included to **Bernice Mistrot**, newsletter editor.

* * * * *

Please return the entire form below with your check and mail to **James L. Daily, Treasurer**. All donations are deductible on Form 1040 (Schedule A). If your company (e.g., Exxon, Southwestern Bell, Tenneco) will match your donation, please donate 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 (February 1, 1998)

First, we want to thank the 129 donors who have made donations since the start of our 1998 fiscal year. Financially, this has been the best year in our history, largely due to a combination of events that is unlikely to be repeated. Since Oct. 1, we have received nearly \$4,000 in interest deferred from 1997 and over \$40,400 from foundation grants, bequests, and memorials. The unaudited combined financial statement of CCWCC and WCHT follows.

Fund Balance - September 30, 1997	\$482,400
Income - donations	7,500
Income - bequests, memorials, grants	40,400
Income - interest, dividends	<u>12,300</u>
Total Income	60,200
Expenses - maintenance, administration	9,400
Expenses - monument restoration	6,300
Expenses - legal	<u>700</u>
Total Expenses	16,400
Fund Balance - January 31, 1998	\$526,200

The total value of CCWCC is now about \$492,800, including \$424,100 in the Endowment Fund and \$40,100 in the Improvements Fund. The total value of WCHT is about \$33,400, including \$19,900 in the Improvements Fund and \$7,500 for road repair.

Great progress has been made, but there is still much more to do. The officers and directors collectively spent over 2300 hours last year doing the business of the cemetery, their only compensation being the warm feeling of a job well done.

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
____ 1998 MAINTENANCE Donation (\$50.00)	____ 1998 ANNUAL Donation (\$50.00)
____ IMPROVEMENTS & REPAIRS	____ GRAVESITE RESTORATION
____ ENDOWMENT FUND	____ HISTORY/RESEARCH
Phone Number _____	Matching Gift from _____

1997 Burials in Washington Cemetery

The following persons were laid to rest in Washington Cemetery in 1997.

	<u>Lot No.</u>	<u>Burial Date</u>
Roy David Demme (ashes)	D-002½ NE	19 Jan. 1997
John David Demme (ashes)	D-002½ NE	15 Feb. 1997
Gary C. Elliott (ashes)	P-004	12 Jun. 1997
Russell Howard Neel, Sr.	I-018 W½	12 Jun. 1997
Gertrud Kuehm	G-089	2 Aug. 1997
Mary Lorraine Fischer	G-041	12 Aug. 1997
Eugene Loyd Smith	A-094 E½	12 Sep. 1997
Julia McNew	F-053 W½	18 Sep. 1997
Louise Blattner Sevier	C-089	7 Nov. 1997

Spring Visitor Days

We had delightful weather for the work/visitor day on January 25, during which we identified eight more graves in Strangers' Rest. We invite you to join us for the **Visitor Days** on **Saturday, February 28, March 28, and April 25**, between 10:00 and 5:00. We'll have the record books and people to help you locate the final resting place of your loved ones. The cemetery looks better and better every day -- please come and see it for yourself. Please call **Leona Zaboroski** for further details.

Memorial Day Celebration Planned

We're planning an old-time Memorial Day celebration at the cemetery on the *real* Memorial Day, **Saturday, May 30**. Chairmen **Eddie Moy** and **John Petzold** are still working on the details, but they are planning a program that you won't want to miss, including dedicating a new headstone for a Confederate Navy veteran. Please put it on your calendar, add a few flowers to your lot, then come and enjoy!

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

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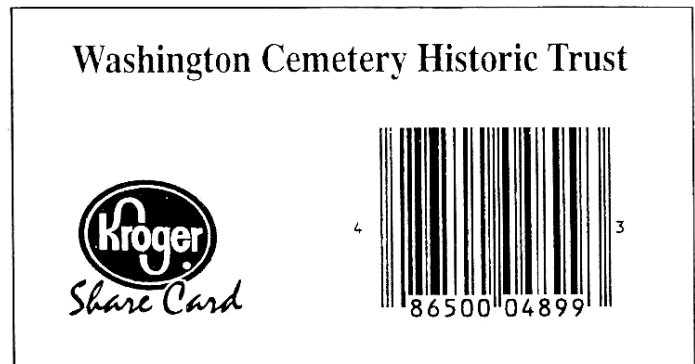
New CCWCC Director, John Petzold

We are sorry to lose Director **Bill Waters**, who after many years of loyal service, has resigned from our Board to devote more time to his other civic duties.

We are pleased to welcome **John Petzold**, an active member of Sons of Union Veterans, as a new member of the CCWCC Board. John is very interested in the history of Washington Cemetery, and is enthusiastically digging into the Strangers' Rest project. As chairman of the Archives committee, he maintains the CCWCC scrapbook and is preparing to microfilm records and documents from the earliest days of CCWCC. If you have any photos, old deeds, newspaper clippings, or other pertinent material that we can copy, please contact John.

Randalls and Kroger Help WCHT

WCHT has received \$498.83 from the **Randalls Good Neighbor** Program (WCHT #2810) for 1997 purchases, which will pay for setting about 40 Strangers' Rest markers. WCHT is now also in the **Kroger Share** program. You may use the card printed below, or contact **Jim Daily** for extra cards.



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