

# WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

Vol. 24, No. 1

"Heirs Who Care"

February 2000

## WCHT OFFICERS

President-----Burt Ballanfant  
Secretary ----- Bernice Mistrot  
Treasurer ----- Jim Daily  
Historian-----Gov Clements

Sam Belinoski  
Vic Gehring  
Julie Itz

## WCHT TRUSTEES

Herman Lauhoff      John Petzold  
Gus Mistrot          Carl Young  
Edgar Moy             Leona Zaboroski

## History Book Progresses, But Slowly

Although progress is being made, most of you are probably unaware of it, and are wondering just what is being done with your family histories. We are working through them, as volunteer time permits.

A major problem has been that the cemetery records are often unclear, so we must check lots of other sources, such as obituaries, church records, and censuses, to be sure that the information in the new book is as accurate as possible. The problem has been compounded by a combination of holiday commitments, illnesses, and simply not enough helpers to handle the thousands of details that need checking. We are especially in need of people who can go to the downtown library and look up obituaries.

Another facet of this project is the computerization of the burial records. **Ruth Daulley** input the first 3000 records several years ago, and now **Eleanor Beebe** is working on the next 5000. The database and history book projects are complementary, each helping the other, and improving our understanding of the cemetery and its place in Houston's history

We are starting to prepare the finished photos. Please contact the photo compiler for your section of the alphabet to select a copying process that will work best for you. If you can send text and photos by e-mail, please do so, as it will make for less retyping and opportunity for errors.

One of the compilers has resigned, so the contact names and addresses have changed. Please refer to the table on page 2 for where to send your material.

If you have any questions about our progress on information you have submitted, please feel free to contact us. If you have not yet submitted your family information, you still have time. We know there are many more stories out there, but we need your help. All stories will be typed and sent back to you for your review and approval before printing.

## Phase 5 Monument Repairs Continue

The Monument Company and Robbins Monument Company have just completed repair and cleaning of 35 more headstones and one completely buried cradle in Phases 5C and 5D, at a total cost of \$4,850.

*Section B:* Adolf **Carl** (1844-1900), Barbara **Carl** (1841-1901), Adolf **Carl** Jr. (1884-1899), Wilhelm **Angerhoefer** (1828-1915) & Caroline **Angerhoefer** (1832-1907) & William **Angerhoefer** Jr. (1858-1928) & Louise **Angerhoefer** (1857-1910) & Robert **Angerhoefer** (1867-1892), John B. **Brunner** (1848-1941), Mary M. **Hykes Brunner** (1869-1904), Hermina **Brunner** (1889-1905), Infant son of John & Mary **Brunner** (1893), Elmo Jay **Brunner** (1891-1892).

*Section C:* Edward **Staeglich** (1824-1871), Pauline **Staeglich** (1830-1916), Erema Annett **Schilling** (1895-1895), Herman **Hahn** (1858-1896), Emma **Hahn** (1870-1937), Infants of George & Maggie **Phillips** (no dates), Karl Friedrich **Waegner** (1835-1907), Maria Magdalena **Waegner** (ca.1838-1896).

*Section D:* Mrs. J. F. **Bartsch** (ca.1836-1903), John F. **Meyer** (1819-1903), Barbara **Meyer** (died 1913, headstone is blank).

*Section F:* Mrs. Carrie **Howard** (1878-1900), Peter **O'Day** (1868-1913), Mrs. D. **Osborne** (1845-1904), Walter T. **Evans** (1857-1901), Gladys **Gunderson** (1900-1902), William Montague Muir **Mackenzie** (1878-1901).

*Section G:* Caroline **Pierson** (ca.1838-1891), Thomas P. **White** (1868-1900), Hazel T. **Fox** (1897-1899), Charles A. **Younger** (1887-1925), John **Young** (1848-1924), Katherine **Young** (1857-1925), Helen Annette **Burkett** (1918-1926).

*Section H:* Ralph **Alvarez** (1932-1949), Carmen **Alvarez** (1929-1950).

Please stop by the cemetery and see the results of this restoration program, especially Herman Hahn's beautiful marble cradle (Plot C-76) that hasn't been visible for many, many years. Contracts are being prepared for the next 48 (about \$8000 worth).

## Clements' Corner

The following article is in the format to be used in the new Washington Cemetery history book.

### PLOT A-36 S½ JANE GAMMELL

*Submitted by Gov Clements, WCHT Book Committee.*

#### **William GAMMELL** (18 October 1812 – 10 Apr. 1869)

William was born in Ayrshire, Scotland, where the name GAMALL means “the old one”, and noted bearers of the name stretch back to the 12th century. He emigrated to America at an early age, but these early years of his life remain a mystery. When he next surfaces, he is in Texas.

At age 23, he enrolled as a private in a small Texas military unit called Wyley’s Company, 2nd Regiment, Texas Volunteer Infantry, consisting of 16 officers and men. He was signed up by Major L. SMITH at Groce’s Landing with other men from the “Redlands” (Weimar). The company commanded by Capt. A. H. WYLEY joined up with General Sam HOUSTON’s army and fought the army of Generalissimo SANTA ANNA on that fateful day, 21 April 1836, known as the Battle of San Jacinto. William did his duty that day – that was his few minutes of fame for which we remember him today.

Private William GAMMELL continued in the military following San Jacinto. He enlisted 18 May 1836 in Captain H. R. WITTINTON’s Company as a 2nd Lieutenant and served until 4 September. For his time served, he received a grant of 640 acres in the City of Houston in 1839, and in later years drew a pension from the state until his death.

By occupation, he was a gunsmith. He became a Mason and citizen highly regarded by his peers. On 19 June 1839, he married Jane McDANIEL, an Irish girl from New York City who was 12 years his junior. She would outlive him by nearly 40 years. They settled at Lynchburg where he practiced his trade with profitability. Between the 1850 and 1860 censuses, his stated property value increased from \$2000 real estate to \$7000 real estate and \$10,000 personal property.

His participation in the War Between the States was probably limited to the Home Guard and the production and repair of firearms, which of itself was no mean feat.

When he died unexpectedly of pneumonia, both Houston papers carried lengthy editorials lauding his service to the community, the state, and his chosen city of Houston. The papers reported that his was the largest funeral procession ever seen in Houston. He was buried in the Masonic Cemetery, where Sam Houston Park is now. In 1900, three weeks after the death of his namesake nephew, his wife had his remains reinterred in Washington Cemetery, where he has two headstones: the original small one from Masonic Cemetery, and a large one showing his service in the two wars. Yet he also has a third headstone in Founders Cemetery on West Dallas Street, an imposing gray granite monument placed there by the State of Texas in 1936 during the centennial celebration of the War of Texas Independence.

#### **Jane (McDANIEL) GAMMELL** (28 Mar. 1825 – 12 Nov. 1908)

Not much is known of the life of Jane (McDANIEL) GAMMELL. Her Irish-born mother, Mary McDANIEL, was living with her at the time of the 1850 census, as were two girls, Mary BURK (11) and Isabella MERCHANT (4), whose relationship is unknown. By 1860, Jane’s niece, Mary Jane MULLANE, then age 15, was living with them. Mary Jane later married John J. GILLESPIE, the Harris County Surveyor; their son John William GILLESPIE was born in 1867. In 1870, Annie (21) and Ellen (15) GAMMELL were living with Jane, next door to the GILLESPIE and MULLANE families.

At the time of her death, Jane resided at 3003 Odin, and belonged to St. Patrick’s Catholic Church. Her grandnephews George MULLANE, James MULLANE, Louis KOERBER, Dennis McAUGHAN, Johnny LEHANE, and William GILLESPIE served as pallbearers. Several members of the McAUGHAN, MULLANE, KOERBER, and LEHANE families are buried in Plot A-45, just three plots south.

#### **Ann Margaret (MULLANE) ROBINSON** (13 Jan. 1848 – 12 May 1921)

Ann was a niece of Jane (McDANIEL) GAMMELL. She married John B. ROBINSON, a butcher, on 26 April 1872. By 1880 he had his own business.

#### **William Gammell ROBINSON** (26 Aug. 1873 – 28 Dec. 1899)

Son of John and Ann ROBINSON, he died of tuberculosis at 24. His tall marble headstone, placed by Post Oak Camp #85 of the Woodmen of the World, was recently restored by WCHT.

## Washington Cemetery Veterans

Gus Mistrot reports 240 known veterans and about 40 whose service and/or burial place are not yet confirmed. These include 79 known and 29 possible Confederates, 20 Union, 18 Spanish American War, 82 World War I, and 38 World War II veterans. At least 23 do not have headstones and are eligible to receive government markers at no charge.

## History Book Compilers

The following volunteers are typing your text and scanning your photos for the history book.

Text	Photos
<b>Submitter Names A-K</b> Shirley Delpesce	<b>Submitter Names A-K</b> Sam Belinoski
<b>Submitter Names L-Z</b> Carol Connally	<b>Submitter Names L-Z</b> Ginger Daily

## Glenwood General Manager's Report

1999 marked the first year Washington Cemetery closed the year under the stewardship of Glenwood Cemetery. This transition has gone very smoothly and we are looking forward to the year 2000 and beyond. The character of Washington Ave. is improving daily with all the new construction taking place around Washington Cemetery. The development in progress next to the westerly fence line of Washington Cemetery will present some interesting opportunities to improve that fence line appearance.

We have continued our efforts to improve the entryway appearance and further landscaping has taken place along the fence line bordering the Postal facility. A sprinkler system has been installed on both sides of the entryway, along with flowerbeds on each side of the brick columns. We plan on continuing this effort in 2000. We are also considering the installation of flagpoles later in the year.

Additionally, we plan on moving forward with the construction of a road between Washington and Glenwood. Our engineers are preparing preliminary drawings and cost estimates and hopefully we will be able to proceed with construction of this connection between the two cemeteries this year.

We appreciate the support of the lot owners and visitors to Washington Cemetery and look forward to another successful year. Please feel free to contact the cemetery office at (713) 864-7886 should you have any questions or comments.

Richard A. Ambrus  
Vice President and General Manager

## Treasurer's Report (February 1, 2000)

During the last four months, WCHT has received 95 donations from individuals, in addition to the contributions from **Randalls' Good Neighbor Program**. These contributions will provide funds for the continued operations of Washington Cemetery Historic Trust. The unaudited financial statement of WCHT follows.

Fund Balance - Sep. 30, 1999	\$126,500
Income - donations	4,700
Income - interest	<u>1,600</u>
Total Income	6,300
Expenses - history book	200
Expenses - newsletter	900
Expenses - monument restoration	<u>9,400</u>
Total Expenses	10,500
Fund Balance - Jan. 31, 2000	\$122,300

During this period, repairs were made to 68 headstones and cradles at a cost of \$9400. As shown above, the assets of WCHT total \$122,300, of which \$105,100 is held in the Improvements Fund.

~ ~ ~ **HELP WANTED** ~ ~ ~

**Volunteers** are needed to:

- Do library research for history book
- Uncover buried headstones and cradles
- Obtain data for Strangers Rest nameplates
- Identify and document new restoration projects

**Donations** are needed for:

- Monument restoration
- Marking of Strangers Rest graves
- Veteran service records (for headstones)
- Headstone for San Jacinto veteran Ellis Benson

\* \* \* \* \*

Please return the entire form below with your check and mail to **Jim Daily, Treasurer**. All donations are deductible on Form 1040 (Schedule A). Since CCWCC no longer exists, please make all donations to WCHT.

WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST	
Donor Name _____	Phone Number _____
_____ 2000 Min. ANNUAL Donation (\$20.00)	Surname(s) of Deceased _____
_____ GRAVESITE RESTORATION	_____
_____ HISTORY/RESEARCH	Plot Number(s), if known _____
_____ TOTAL	Matching Gift from _____

## 1999 Burials in Washington Cemetery

The following persons were laid to rest in Washington Cemetery in 1999.

	<u>Lot No.</u>	<u>Burial Date</u>
Myrtle Wiggins Pruce	C-142	14 Oct. 1999
Joel J. Reinhard (ashes)	A-010 N½	28 Oct. 1999
Rose Lee Casey	A-048	8 Nov. 1999

## Washington Cemetery Lots For Sale

There are unsold plots in almost every section of the cemetery, ranging from single spaces to 12-space family lots. These are now being offered for sale at very attractive prices. You may place a monument of your choice (within reason) on each burial space (not permitted in most modern cemeteries).

The court order and agreement with Glenwood require that at least 25% of all lot sales income will go into the Endowment Fund to assure future care, and at least 50% will be used for site improvements, especially monument restoration, Strangers Rest recovery, and more landscaping. All of these projects will enhance the beauty and serenity of the cemetery grounds, while honoring our loved ones and ensuring that they will be remembered. Please call **Glenwood** at (713) 864-7886 for more information.

## Spring Visitor/Work Days

Please join us on **Saturdays, February 26** and **April 29** (not April 22) between 10:00 and 4:00. Projects will include selecting monuments to be restored and continuing the search for buried Strangers Rest markers. The record books will also be available. We look forward to seeing you there! Please call **Leona Zaboroski** for further details.

## WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## Capt. Fleig Gets A Headstone - Finally!

The two-year quest to mark the grave of Confederate Navy veteran **Captain William H. Fleig** is nearly over. It took five tries, but the V.A. has finally sent a correct headstone. A formal dedication ceremony will be held at 11:00 a.m. on **Saturday, March 25, 2000**, during our Spring Open House. Several units of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and United Daughters of the Confederacy will participate. Please join us for this historic event.

William H. Fleig (23 Feb. 1823 - 14 Sep. 1923) had a long and eventful life. Early in life, he took to the sea and spent thirty years in ships. After fighting with Giuseppe Garibaldi, the revolutionary leader in the Italian war of independence in 1860-62, he joined the Confederate Navy.

On 1 January 1863, Confederate forces captured the *U.S.S. Harriet Lane* in Galveston Bay. Command of the newly-captured vessel was given to Captain Fleig, an officer with naval experience in the Coast Defense. For over two years, Captain Fleig and the *Harriet Lane* eluded the Union Navy, eventually slipping out of Galveston harbor in heavy fog. She was Captain Fleig's last naval command. (For more details of his life, see the Feb. 1993 newsletter.)

For more information or for assistance in obtaining a government headstone for a veteran in your family, please contact **John Petzold**.

**Spring Open House**  
**Saturday, March 25, 2000**  
**Program starts 11:00 a.m.**