

WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

Vol. 24, No. 2

"Heirs Who Care"

May 2000

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History Book Progress Report

It's hard to believe it's time for another update on this ever-expanding project. A lot of effort has been put into the history book and the burial database in the last three months, yet the finish line doesn't seem to get much closer. Just indexing the book will take several months, and it has not yet been started.

The good news for those of you who keep meaning to submit photos and biographies of your loved ones buried here, is that you still have time to do so. We encourage you to do it sooner, rather than later, so that there is time to do a proper review and make sure all the details are correct. Please submit your stories to the compilers listed in the last newsletter.

We are making good progress in correcting and clarifying the cemetery records through use of other sources such as obituaries, church records, and censuses. The records of the First German Evangelical Lutheran Church in Houston (now Central Congregational Church) have been especially helpful in preparing biographies of many early Washington Cemetery families. For example, in some years, the church burial records give not only date and place of both death and burial and cause of death, but also date and place of birth, name of spouse, sometimes even the date of immigration. This is in contrast to the cemetery records, which give only date of burial, sometimes the age, and often not even the full name.

To speed up the completion date of this project, we need more volunteers to assist with library research so that we can make the finished book as accurate as possible. Specifically, we need people to read obituaries (at the Texas Room or university libraries), church records (at LDS Libraries), and censuses and city directories (at Clayton Library). If you can help with any of these, or have any other questions about this project, please contact **Bernice Miströt**.

Monument Repairs, Phase 5E

The Monument Company has just completed stabilization and cleaning of 24 more headstones at a total cost of \$3555. Once again, we found an unexpected cradle. Ernestene Vanden's headstone was buried so deeply that her death date was not even visible; now both the full headstone and cradle have been raised and cleaned. The restored headstones are:

Section C: Carl A. **Kumke** (1817-1905) & Anna R. **Kumke** (1817-1884), Albert F. W. **Gaedke** Sr. (1850-1930) & Heleana **Gaedke** (1852-1910), William F. A. **Gaedke** (1877-1903), Fredrick E. **Wagner** (1877-1947), Fredricka **Wagner** (1884-1964), Helen Christine **Wagner Dickey** (1909-1989), Thomas Huey **Dickey** (1906-1964).

Section D: James L. **McMahon** (1858-1914).

Section F: Louis A. **Pruce** (1857-1902) & Lena A. **Pruce** (1872-1951), Maria Edna **Praytor** (1852-1903) & Knox Edward **Campbell** (1886-1903), Louise Elizabeth **Lewis** (1863-1902).

Section G: W. B. **Florance** (1852-1915) & Henriette **Florance Terry** (1855-1928) & William **Lemkie** (1851-1899), Emeron **Heinzelberger** (1820-1895) & Christiane **Heinzelberger** (1836-1903), Ernestene **Vanden** (died 1923), **Keister & Stork** (family names only), Otto **Pech** (1846-1927), Wilhelmine **Pech** (1855-1930), Mary **Belitz** (1873-1925), N. W. **Davis** (1869-1921), George J. **Hayes** (1893-1923), Harrison **Smith** (1841-1929) & Mary M. **Smith** (1843-1923), Nels Otto **Wahlberg** (1862-1925) & Augusta **Larson Wahlberg** (1866-1923), Philip Lawrence **Wahlberg** (1888-1977) & Ella **Swenson Wahlberg** (1890-1972), Carl Axel Leonard **Gustavson** (1888-1962) & Lillian Augusta **Wahlberg Gustavson** (1902-1933), Minerva May **Ward** (1900-1923).

Most of the headstones selected for repair in Phase 6 are in Strangers Rest, where ground subsidence has caused many headstones and cradles to lean significantly. Additionally, about 50 more recently located Strangers Rest markers will be set in concrete.

Clements' Corner

The following article is in the format planned for the new history book. Newsletter space limitations prevent including all nine members of this family buried in this plot, but their stories will be in the book.

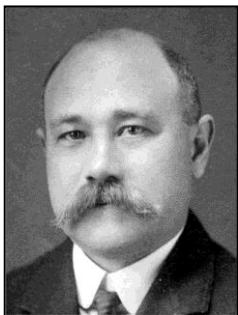
PLOT C-111

THEODORE DREYLING

Submitted by Beverly Jean (Carter) Muire of Midland, TX, great-granddaughter of Theodore Dreyling, assisted by Reid McNally of Houston, grandson of Max Dreyling.

Theodore DREYLING, Sr.

(26 December 1856 – 22 November 1940)



Theodore DREYLING, Sr. was born in Germany to Katherine and Joseph DREYLING. He was given a liberal education in public and private schools. He immigrated to the United States, arriving in Houston in 1880. Three years later, he married his first cousin, Emma Theresa DREYLING.

In 1885, he established the thriving Theo. Dreyling Grocery and Feed Store

at the corner of Austin and Pease, and was active in that business until 1914. The family home was located over the store. He also had a contracting and building business. His ability as a financier brought about the construction of many of Houston's early buildings.

He and his family later moved to 1611 Wentworth, Houston. In his new home, he took great pride in his grape arbor and the deep red wines that he made in his basement. He was Catholic and attended Holy Rosary Church. He often recalled many of the experiences of his early days in the retail grocery business and how he struggled to obtain a foothold among the commercial interests of a new and strange land. He had a reputation for fair dealing and a desire to provide the very best for his patrons.

Theodore served as County Commissioner of Precinct 1 for two years. He ran for re-election and was defeated, perhaps because of anti-German sentiment during World War I. He served as secretary of the City Democratic Executive Committee and was a member of the *Houston Sängerbund* and the Sharks Benevolent Club.

He was an early member of the *Deutsche Gesellschaft* and remained an active member of the group for over 45 years. He was one of its original 37 shareholders in 1895, and began serving on the Board in 1900 as Vice President. During his term as Secretary (1915 to 1923), the organization changed its name to Washington Cemetery and became a nonprofit corporation (1918), and filed its last Charter with the State of Texas (1922). He was still serving as a Director at the time of his death in 1940.

Theodore and his wife Emma celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary shortly before he died at his home. Robert H. GRANT, O.P. (a Dominican priest), officiated at his funeral.

Emma Theresa (DREYLING) DREYLING

(July 1861 – 8 January 1943)



Emma was the only child of Gustave DREYLING (1834-1902) and Terecia FREEMAN (1841-1862), who immigrated from Hannover to Matagorda, Texas in 1856. Gustave DREYLING was a barber, and a brother of Joseph DREYLING.

Gustave and Terecia were married in Matagorda in October 1859. Their daughter Emma Theresa was born in Matagorda in 1861. Terecia died there on 24 October 1862 in a yellow fever epidemic. She was only 21.

Gustave married Anna MAAX in Matagorda on 18 January 1866, and moved to Houston by 1870. Their four sons, Louis Gustave, Leo, Max Strauss, and Louis August "Gus", were half-brothers to Emma Theresa. Emma married her cousin Theodore DREYLING on 12 September 1883 in Houston. They were the parents of six children, all born in Houston:

Emma Theresa "Tracy" (18 July 1884 – 9 Oct. 1965)
married Charles Gavin DUFFY

Joseph (23 June 1886, stillborn)

Ellouise (3 July 1887 – 16 July 1892)

Rose (29 Oct. 1889 – 30 Aug. 1976)
married Charles V. MLADENKA

Theodore Jr. "Bud" (14 May 1892 – 11 Aug. 1971)
married Clara Ethel and Lois N.

Albert Leo (27 Sep. 1894 – 22 Nov. 1971), unmarried

She was a lifetime member of the Episcopal Church. The first Episcopal Church in Texas, Christ's Church of Matagorda, was established in 1839 and remained an active congregation until 1986; however, Emma and Theo raised their children in the Roman Catholic faith.

Emma is remembered as a loving grandmother; once she remained with her sick granddaughter, Lois (DUFFY) LINDSEY, hiding Easter eggs at home while the rest of the family had a picnic/egg hunt at the family chicken farm. Much later, one of the eggs was found under a chair cushion by the child's sickbed.

She enjoyed needlepoint. She was very provident, always saying at the end of dinner, "Now, what shall we have for supper?"

Emma died in her home at 1611 Wentworth. The Reverend J. Lawrence PLUMLEY officiated at her services.

Ellouise DREYLING

(3 July 1887 – 16 July 1892)

Ellouise was the third child of Theodore and Emma DREYLING. Her premature death from malaria at age five must have been a great loss to her family. Her tombstone reads:

*A precious one from us has gone
A voice we loved is stilled
A place is vacant in our home
Which never can be filled.*

Glenwood General Manager's Report

The Board of Directors of Glenwood has approved the preliminary drawings for the construction of a road connecting Washington and Glenwood and we have put the project out for bids. I am hoping we will be able to drive between the two cemeteries before the end of this year without having to go out onto Washington Avenue or drive through the brush behind the postal facility.

Recently, we have installed three new flagpoles where you can see the U.S., Texas, and the brand new Washington Cemetery flags flying high. They really look nice and you should go by and see them if you have the chance.

Lot sales have been slow to nonexistent, with only one sale occurring thus far this year. However, in spite of this, we will be raising prices on July 1, 2000 to a level nearer the market and closer to Glenwood's prices. I believe very strongly that it is but a matter of time before the traffic improves for lot sales in Washington Cemetery. The road connection between Glenwood and Washington will help this along. If you have been planning to purchase a lot in Washington Cemetery, now is the time to do it.

In other developments, we have been in contact with the developer of the property to the west of Washington Cemetery and we have received a verbal commitment that the old storm drain which enters Washington Cemetery from their property will be replaced with a new storm drain. The big hole on the left as you enter the main area of Washington Cemetery will disappear. Additionally, I am optimistic that the appearance of the westerly fence line will be improved as their project continues towards completion.

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

We appreciate the support of the lot owners and visitors to Washington Cemetery. 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 (May 15, 2000)

Last year's merger agreement between CCWCC and Glenwood provided that for five years, 50% of the income from Washington lot sales would be used for Washington restoration projects. Glenwood has donated the restoration portion of the recent lot sale to WCHT for our monument restoration program. Combining Glenwood's gift of \$3,300 with other recent donations for restoration allowed us to repair 24 headstones and cradles (as described on page 1) and set 55 Strangers Rest grave markers in concrete (in Section F, next to the western fence).

During the last quarter, WCHT also received 71 donations from individuals, plus contributions from Kroger's *Good Neighbor Program* and Exxon's *Matching Gift Program*. The current assets of WCHT total \$124,900, of which \$104,800 is held in the Improvements Fund for continuing restoration projects. The unaudited WCHT financial statement follows.

Fund Balance - Jan. 31, 2000	\$122,300
Income - donations	6,400
Income - interest	<u>2,000</u>
Total Income	8,400
Expenses - historical projects	800
Expenses - newsletter	600
Expenses - monument restoration	<u>4,400</u>
Total Expenses	5,800
Fund Balance - May 15, 2000	\$124,900

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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 _____

Spring Open House & Dedication

Approximately 50 people attended the ceremony dedicating the new headstone for **Captain William H. Fleig, C.S.N.**, on Saturday, March 25. The 13th Texas Infantry Camp #1565, Sons of Confederate Veterans conducted the Posting of the Colors, the keynote address, salutes with both muskets and cannon, and Retiring of the Colors. Wreaths were placed by the Albert Sidney Johnston Camp #67, Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Maj. Gen. De Polignac Chapter #2426, United Daughters of the Confederacy. The Dick Dowling Camp #1305 SCV, the Robert E. Lee Chapter #186 UDC, and WCHT conducted other parts of the ceremony. Captain Fleig's new headstone was unveiled by his great-granddaughter, **Calista Larimore**.

Is Your Family Member "Extra Special"?

Every individual buried in Washington Cemetery is special to his or her family and unique in some way. For example, Washington Cemetery is believed to be the final resting place of the first person in Houston carried by a motorized hearse. Please, when you send in your biographies for the new history book, mention it if your loved one was a military veteran or public servant, was born before 1820 or over 95 years old, lived in the Houston area before 1850, was from a family that has been in Texas for at least five generations, had a local street named for him, etc.

There are also many people buried in Washington Cemetery who have no known surviving family. In order that these early Houstonians may be properly recognized, we need volunteers to collect and research their stories. Please contact any member of the Book Committee if you can help.

Future Restoration Depends on Funding

Glenwood is doing an outstanding job of maintaining the cemetery grounds and enhancing the landscaping, but only WCHT is actively restoring headstones, copings, and cradles, and discovering and marking "lost" graves in Strangers Rest.

But all these improvements require money. Your donation, in any amount, will be gratefully accepted. The mailing label below shows the last year in which WCHT recorded a gift from you. If you can obtain corporate matching gifts for your donation, or are aware of foundations that support historical projects such as this, please contact the Treasurer.

Glenwood Annual Meeting on June 15

The Annual Meeting of Glenwood Cemetery, Inc. will start at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 15, 2000, at the offices of Fulbright & Jaworski, 51st Floor, 1301 McKinney (Chevron Tower), Houston, Texas 77010. The primary purposes of the meeting are to elect the Board of Directors and review the important events of the year.

All original Owners of lots in Washington Cemetery (or surviving spouses, executors, or descendants of deceased lot owners who have completed a Glenwood Declaration/Proxy form) should have already received an invitation to attend this meeting.

If no one in your family has received the Declaration/Proxy for your lot this year, and you wish to become the representative for your family lot, please contact the Glenwood office at (713) 864-7886 as soon as possible. You may also write to Glenwood Cemetery, 2525 Washington Ave., Houston, Texas 77007 or send e-mail to glenwoodcemetery@aol.com.

WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

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