

WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

Vol. 24, No. 3

"Heirs Who Care"

August 2000

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Phase 5 Monument Repairs Completed

The completion of Phase 5F is a milestone of sorts. Five years and five phases after CCWCC and WCHT began a major project to repair and clean damaged and leaning monuments, the results of this project are visible all over the cemetery. All told, 323 headstones and cradles have been restored at a total cost of \$75,977, or about \$235 each, on average.

Now that the most urgent repairs have been done, we are working on many of the smaller monuments that need attention. Phase 6 is underway now and should be completed within a month. Phase 7 will concentrate on repairing and permanently installing a number of small headstones that have been lying on the ground for many years. Some of these will require research to confirm their proper location.

Robbins Monument Company has restored the following 19 headstones in Phase 5F. In Section B: Elizabeth Louise **Witt** (1900-1900). Section C: Franklin P. **Noland** (1897-1965) & Alice Murl **Noland** (1899-1980). Section D: Sarah **Kussman** (1868-1920), Jacob F. **Marti** (1873-1935), Louise **Marti** (1868-1946), Thomas W. **Weiss** (1884-1885), Barbara L. **Weiss** (1885-1905). Section F: John **Hoffman** Jr. (1865-1910), Marie Anais **Folse** (1830-1911), Drozin **Folse** (1818-1901), Fred William **Slayton** (1867-1902). Section G: Edward **Pech** (1878-?), Mollie **Pech** (1889-1952), William M. **Batterson** (1891-1936) & Mary **Batterson Herrell** (1896-1969), Richard Marcus **Kemper** (1964-1969), William A. **LaPeyre** (1872-1932), Marie Elizabeth **Dietrich** (1888-1926). Section H: Selma **Trotter** (1880-1924), Roy Virgle **Holcombe** (1900-1945).

Funding for Monument Restoration

We are pleased to announce receipt of a \$2,000 donation for our restoration projects from a long-time member who has requested anonymity. We are most appreciative of this generous gift.

Active or retired employees of the newly merged **ExxonMobil** (and their spouses) can take advantage of the *Volunteer Involvement Program* to earn a cash grant of about \$1000 for WCHT by volunteering at least 20 hours of your time on WCHT projects. Suggested activities include discovery of Strangers Rest markers, research to correct the names and dates in cemetery records, ordering VA headstones for unmarked veterans' graves, etc. This is a double plus for Washington Cemetery, which will benefit both from your service and from the unrestricted grant.

Status of New History Book

Some parts of the book are really starting to come together, but there are still many blank pages, just waiting for family members to submit information. After a year of work, we have less than half of the stories that readers of this newsletter could tell (more details on next page).

During that year, we have wrestled with, and answered, many questions about format, photos, and indexing. Now the time has come to start the final layout, one section at a time, starting with Plot A-1. If you have not yet submitted information and/or photos, it's not too late - yet. But once each section is completed and indexed, that's it.

Every story submitted so far has required at least one trip to the library to confirm names and dates and make the story more complete. The sooner you get your material in, the sooner we can start working with you to finalize all the details and the better the final product will be.

We urge all readers who would like to see their family included in the new history book, especially those with family buried in Sections A, B, and C, to contact your Text and Photo Compilers (see page 4) as soon as possible so space can be reserved for your family stories and photographs.

(see page 2)

Status of New History Book (continued)

After a lot of study, the book committee has settled on the following guidelines for photos. There will be one person per photo, with the face nearly filling the frame (so the face is about the size in a passport photo). The finished size will be exactly 1.2 x 1.6 inches. All photos must be scanned into a computer (this does not harm your original, and allows adjustment of size and framing, as well as restoration). If you can do the scanning or have it done, that will both save time and allow you control over your originals and the final appearance. See page 3 for the details. Scanning can also be done by the Photo Compilers on the Book Committee (see page 4).

Detailed Contents of the History Book

The 1988 Centennial Book included biographies of about 850 of the nearly 7000 people buried here. In Section A alone, there were 192 individual stories, but about 25% of them were not much more than a name and burial date. If every active supporter of CCWCC or WCHT who has family buried in Section A provided biographical information about their loved ones, the number of biographies, just in that one section, would jump from 192 to nearly 500.

The status of those 500 potential biographies in Section A is summarized below, by plot (status of other sections may be included in future newsletters). If the book were to go to press with the information in hand right now, only the first group would have photos in the book, and there would be no mention of anyone buried on any plot in the last group.

Section A - Complete (or nearly complete): Daily, Henniger, Hodgson, Hueter, Quarterman, W. Richter.

Section A - In progress (some text received but no photos; more research still needed): Bokemeyer, Bryan, Buck, Calmes, Depenbrock, Dewer, Eisele, Gammell, Garress, Hargrave, Kohlhauff, Leopold, Little, Matthews, Munhausen, Oberle, Owens, Pereira, Phillips, Robinson, Seifert, Vahl, Wilkening.

Section A - In 1988 Centennial Book, but no new information or photos received: Alderton, Artusy, Bender, Connor, H. Cook, Fleming, F. Gehring, Greulich, Holdgraf, Huebotter, Jantzen, Koerber, Lackner, Loeffler, Millard, Moodyman, Moore, Moroney, Moy, Neitsch, Park, Pickell, Quensell, Reinhard, Riess, Sachs, Waters, Williams, L. Zaboroski.

Section A - No information received: Alderton, Anderson, Bergin, Bissonnet, Branham, Broetzman, Casey, Clarke, Clay, F. Cook, Davis, Deuzebe, DeWolf, Dill, Dittman, Eisemann, Enen, Ferguson, Francis,

Glazier, Harrison, Heath, Herrmann, Hillendahl, Hoeflich, Kennelly, Kuntz, Lankford, Lyles, Maurice, McCaughan, Mitchell, Moeller, Molkenbur, Mooney, Murbach, Nicholson, Ordenaux, Otto, H. Richter, Roberts, Rolle, Schuller, Sick, Slaughter, E. L. Smith, Sojourner, Stelzig, Stevenson, Tischer, Urquhart, Wallrab, Wells, Werner, F. Zaboroski.

Clements' Corner

Editorial in the Houston Chronicle, Sat. 15 Sept. 1923:

“**Captain W. H Fleig**, who died in this city on Friday morning at the age of 100 years, six months and 21 days, made a record which is worthy of emulation. We strive to get things out of life, but what does life hold that is worth getting more than length? Indeed, isn't the length of life its basic factor? It has been suggested by more than one savant that a man could not live unusually long without being selfish and inactive.

That was certainly not the case with Captain Fleig. He was a continuous worker, and faced heavy responsibilities on more than one occasion. He avoided no duty to spare himself. The secret of his longevity seems to lie in well-regulated habits, in poise, in an accurate sense of values.

It is a strange thing that while making so much of our champion boxers, champion runners, champion speakers, champion singers etc., we make so little of our champions of age. When you come right down to brass tacks, haven't they won the real race, and the biggest prize that mortality holds?

Captain Fleig saw more sunrises, more beautiful days, more seasons, more changes, more progress, than any other citizen of Houston. He lived under 25 presidencies of the United States. When he was born, they didn't know what a match was, much less a kerosene lamp. When he was in the prime of life, there were no telephones. If we like to be entertained, where is a better show than a “century” can offer?

But, no matter what the experts may say, long life demands something by way of sacrifice. It demands the avoidance of cheap excitement, for one thing, of jazzing around, of gluttony, of excess, of satiating the emotions with unwholesome passion. It demands sufficient sleep and regular habits, food that nourishes rather than food that tickles the palate, cleanliness of mind and body, orderliness and good generalship with regard to the details that so many think unimportant.

Long life is an evidence of good health, the best evidence we can have, and good health is worth working for. We study the lives of our warriors, our statesmen, our discoverers, our inventors, our poets, etc., but why not study those of our centenarians?”

Glenwood General Manager's Report

In our last newsletter, we reported that the Board of Directors of Glenwood approved preliminary drawings for the construction of a road connecting Washington and Glenwood and that we were hoping to have the road completed by the end of this year. I am pleased to report that the road was completed in July, way ahead of schedule. The new road has an extraordinary amount of character to it and I encourage you to take the time to drive it. We still have quite a bit of landscaping to do, which will be completed by cemetery personnel later this year.

In other projects on the drawing boards, we are considering restoring the fountain near the front of Washington Cemetery. If you have any old pictures of how the fountain originally looked, we would appreciate having a copy for us to use in the restoration effort. Additionally, later this year we are going to be planting more trees in Washington Cemetery and we are thinking of beginning to line the roads with crape myrtles, similar to what was done in Glenwood beginning about 15 years ago.

Lot sales in Washington Cemetery since January 1 have totaled \$44,600 of which \$22,300 will be dedicated to the restoration of Washington Cemetery in accordance with the merger agreement with CCWCC.

The development to the west of Washington Cemetery is progressing rapidly, and in the long run, will improve the esthetics along the common fence line.

As always, we appreciate the support of the lot owners and visitors to Washington Cemetery. Should you have any questions or comments, please contact the Cemetery office at (713) 864 7886.

Richard A. Ambrus
Vice President and General Manager

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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.

Treasurer's Report (August 15, 2000)

During the last quarter, Washington Cemetery Historic Trust received 51 donations from individuals, plus contributions from the **Randalls Good Neighbor Program** and the **ExxonMobil Matching Gift Program**. During the period we repaired and cleaned 19 headstones, and set 51 more Strangers' Rest monuments in concrete.

The total assets of WCHT total \$127,600, of which \$103,700 is held in the Improvements Fund for continuing restoration projects. The unaudited financial statement follows.

Fund Balance - May 15, 2000	\$124,900
Income - donations	4,500
Income - interest	<u>2,600</u>
Total Income	7,100
Expenses - historical projects	100
Expenses - newsletter	600
Expenses - monument restoration	<u>3,700</u>
Total Expenses	4,400
Fund Balance - August 15, 2000	\$127,600

Technical Specifications for Washington Cemetery History Book Photographs

Each photo must be in a separate JPEG file, named with the lot number and person's first name, e.g. B039-JohnJr.jpg. Use 8-bit gray scale (not true color). Final resolution after enlargement/reduction should be at least 150 dpi, and preferably 300 dpi (max). Cropping, enlargement, reduction, touchups, contrast enhancement, etc. should be done at time of scanning for highest quality results. File size will be between 30K and 150K. Please contact your Photo Compiler (see page 4) before submitting either completed scans or original photos to be scanned.

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 _____

In Memoriam: Charles Willis Hickman

Willis Hickman, one of our most loyal and dedicated members, was laid to rest at National Cemetery on August 4, 2000, at age 86. He was a Staff Sergeant in the Army Air Corps during WWII, teaching aerial gunnery to B-17 crews.

In 1975, 25 years ago, Willis and his wife, Minnie, visited the Washington Cemetery jungle and there and then, Willis determined that something must be done to improve the deplorable condition of the cemetery. He saw a need and he responded. He wrote a letter of complaint to "Watchem," a feature column in the *Houston Chronicle* at that time, urging the City of Houston to help by cutting the weeds and brush. **Autrey Ballanfant**, another loyal and dedicated member, read his plea for help and contacted Willis. An organizational meeting was scheduled - CCWCC was born.

Among his many contributions, he served as the first president; he wrote the history of the cemetery that was required by the Texas Historical Commission in order to be designated a historical site; and he continued to be one of the most interested and loyal members the rest of his life. When CCWCC merged with Glenwood last year, assuring continuous maintenance of Washington Cemetery, his words were, "A dream come true!"

We can all be grateful that someone cared enough to make restoration of Washington Cemetery happen. That person who first responded to the challenge was Willis Hickman.

We thank you, Willis.

-- Lois King

WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

History Book Compilers

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

Fall Open House and Visitor Days

Mark your calendar now for the **Fall Visitor/Work Days** on **Saturdays, October 14** and **December 2**, and the **Open House** on **October 28**. Come see the new road and the results of both WCHT's monument restoration program and Glenwood's ever-improving landscaping. Board members will be there from about 10-4 all three days and we'll have the record books available.

Washington Cemetery Photos Wanted

Do you have any photos taken in the cemetery in the first half of the twentieth century that we could copy? We are especially looking for pictures of the fountain near the caretaker's house, when it was still functioning as a fountain rather than as a flowerbed.

We're also seeking a photo of the "Summer House," a gazebo-like structure located at the front of Section A, near where the historical marker is now. Does anyone remember seeing it there after about 1928?