

WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

Vol. 26, No. 3

"Heirs Who Care"

October 2002

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Phase 8 Monument Repairs Underway

Bobby Schlitzberger has just completed stabilization and cleaning of 32 more headstones and cradles in Phase 8A, at a total cost of \$3,490. These are all in Strangers Rest. Most were relatively small markers that were either loose or leaning badly. Nine had cradles that needed to be leveled or repaired, and one cradle was completely buried. The repaired monuments are as follows (in order from north to south):

Section H: R. J. **Heidecker** (1892-1912), A. **Ashcraft** (1854-1913), large cross (no name or dates), Vernon **Watson** (no dates), Annie **Jost** (1864-1909), Gustave **Kahn** (1899-1946), Billie **Brown** (1907-1909), Martha E. **Spencer** (1909), Albert **Sarnowsky** (died 1921, age 44), C. W. **Heidecker** (1840-1909), Muriel **Nixon** (1922-1922), **Duffield** (coping), Minnie **Johanssen** (1880-1898), Louis **Hendrichson** (1837-1897), Bessie R. **Grimes** (died 1920, age 50), Alice B. **Marshall** (1886-1925), Forest **Murphy** (1915-1925), Steven **Vasquez** (1931-1948), Franz **Schroeder** (1884-1926), Sarah J. **Reese** (1852-1929), Refugia **Alvarez** (1868-1958), Alfonso L. **Cabrera** (1946-1964), Tony **Hernandez Jr.** (1951-1969), Arturo **Hernandez** (1941-1961), Catarino G. **Padilla** (1879-1957), Eulalio L. **Garcia** (1883-1950), Celso L. **Casares** (1926-1951), Joe **Chavez** (1900-1961), Juanita **Garcia** (1900-1962), Luisa F. **Quintero** (1897-1964), Gloria **Martinez** (1933-1977), Richard **Charles** (1943-1965).

Over 435 headstones and cradles have been repaired, straightened, and cleaned since we began the program seven years ago, and we are continuing to work on about 85 more in Phase 8B. Thanks for your help!

Headstone Transcription Resumes

After a break over the summer, the headstone transcribing committee is preparing to go back to work. Nearly half of the field work has been done, so we are hoping to complete that phase of the project over the next six to eight months. **Eleanor Beebe** is still plugging away at the tedious task of adding the

headstone information to the computer database and sorting out the inevitable inconsistencies between the burial records and the headstones. If you would like to help transcribe headstones, please contact **Bernice Mistrot**.

Original Burial Records Preserved

WCHT has contracted with **Louisiana Binding Service** in New Orleans to "preserve" the two original volumes of Washington Cemetery burial records, covering 1887-1932. This process includes deacidifying the old books, enclosing each page in a mylar sleeve, and mounting the pages in a new binder; creating a duplicate book on archival paper for everyday use; and copying every page in both microfilm and CD format.

Now that the original pages are encased in plastic, the books can be handled without fear of damaging them. Plus, it is now easy to reproduce a single page from either the CD or microfilm, whereas the original books are far too heavy to place on a copying machine. Preservation of the first book has been completed, and LBS is working on the second one.

Steady Progress on History Book

There are now about 1700 biographies in various stages of completion, with more promised. The book committee volunteers are working through them but have quite a backlog. Of those that are close to completion and have been sent back to the submitters for review, few have been returned. Everyone is busy, it seems. The most noticeable progress of late has been on the photographs and veterans. **Ginger Daily** has prepared over 240 photos, including some great restorations. **Gus Mistrot** keeps finding more Confederate veterans buried here, but "proving" that the man buried here is in fact the veteran and not simply someone else with a similar name has been most challenging.

Clements' Corner

The following articles are in the format of the new Washington Cemetery history book. Research is continuing on all three plots. Mrs. Bettie McGowen has the distinction of being the "senior" contributor of family biographies to the new book – at age 99½.

PLOT A-143 W½

MRS. JOHN E. ROBERTS

Submitted by Bettie (Burnett) McGowen of Houston, daughter of Minnie Lee (Roberts) Burnett (sister of John Roberts, Sr.). Photos supplied by Bettie McGowen's sister-in-law, Mary Louise Burnett.

Jennie Lind (HILDRETH) ROBERTS MOONEY (1885 – 25 May 1955)



Jennie was born in Illinois. Her siblings included Daisy BLACK (of Wellington, Kansas); Emma DEWER WYATT ALLEN (see Plot A-9 E½); Nellie Esther BYUS (of Houston); and John O. HILDRETH (of Newman, Illinois).

Jennie and her first husband, John Edward Roberts, lived at 3604 Barnes (next door to her sister Emma), about seven blocks west of Washington Cemetery. They had four children:

Elmer Alexander (1905 – 8 Jan. 1939)

Ruth Adella (2 Apr. 1907 – 9 Feb. 1981)

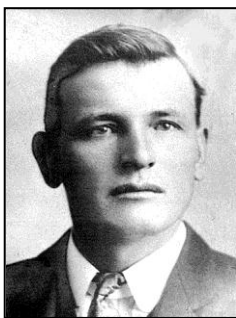
married Julius Edward IBECK (see Plot A-144 W½)

John Edward Jr. (ca. 1909 – ?), married Leonita

Howard Franklin (9 May 1912 – 22 Oct. 1982), married Helen

After Mr. Roberts' death, Jennie married Andrew Raymond MOONEY (1890-1968).

John Edward ROBERTS, Sr. (1874 – 12 September 1924)



John was born in Holland, Bell County, Texas. His father's name is unknown; his mother, Lura (ALEXANDER) ROBERTS later married Ted C. TAYLOR. John had at least two sisters: Minnie Lee (married George Porter BURNETT and lived in Genoa, Texas, just southeast of Houston), and May Belle (married C. H. UTTERBACH and lived in San Antonio, Texas).

John owned a drilling company that drilled artesian wells around Houston, at a time when most businesses had their own wells instead of city water service. He drilled one well on the courthouse lawn.

In the fourth decade of his life, he became a victim of "tuberculosis of the throat" and was sent to a sanitarium in San Angelo, where he died on a Friday. On the following Wednesday, he was buried here from the home of his sister-in-law Emma Wyatt. Rev. Joseph JAMESON officiated at his funeral service. Among his pallbearers were D. R. MOONEY and T. W. COCKRUM.

Elmer Alexander ROBERTS (1905 – 8 January 1939)



Elmer was a son of John and Jennie Roberts. He never married. He first worked for his father, drilling water wells. For the last eight years of his life, he worked for the Engineering department of the City of Houston. He was well known as a pitcher in amateur baseball. Rev. Wood PARKER officiated at Elmer's funeral. The pallbearers included Burnett CAIN and Frank B. GEORGE (or Frank DeGORGE), who also served as pallbearers for Elmer's mother, Jennie Lind Mooney.

PLOT A-144 W½

JULIUS E. IBECK

Submitted (2002) by Lila Aubrey (Duke) Heitmann Williams of Arlington, VA, daughter of Gertrude (Ibeck) Duke.

Agnes Bernice (MORAN) IBECK CHRISTENSEN (15 December 1876 – 6 August 1943)

Agnes was born in Morgan City, Louisiana, one of at least ten children of James MORAN, an immigrant from Ireland, and Marie (von WEBBER) ROMAN MORAN. About 1878, the family moved to Orange County, Texas, where James was a bartender. On 11 November 1901, Agnes married Clarence John IBECK at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Houston. The family later joined the Second Church of Christ Scientist. They had four children:

Clarence Gertrude Kathleen (29 Dec. 1903 – 7 Feb. 1986),
married Aubrey Dennis DUKE

Julius Edward (21 May 1905 – 22 Aug. 1983),
married Ruth Adella ROBERTS (see Plot A-143 W½)

Dorothy Louise (29 Jul. 1906 – ca. 1932), unmarried

Cecil Carl (31 Mar. 1909 – 7 May 1949), unmarried

Agnes later married Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Her only grandchild, Lila Aubrey Duke, married Henry William HEITMANN III, a B-29 flight engineer who was killed in action in May 1945. He was a grandson of Henry and Kate HEITMANN (see Plot C-85 E½).

Julius Edward "Jack" IBECK (21 May 1905 – 22 August 1983)

Julius owned a sheet metal shop. He was a Golden Gloves lightweight fighter at one time. He and Ruth Adella Roberts were married for 54 years.

Ruth Adella (ROBERTS) IBECK (2 April 1907 – 9 February 1981)

Ruth, the only daughter of John and Jennie Lind ROBERTS (see Plot A-143 W½), was named for one of her father's sisters.

Cecil Carl IBECK (31 March 1909 – 7 May 1949)

Cecil never married. His funeral services were conducted by Lewis H. RUECKERT (see Plot F-33) of the Second Church of Christ Scientist. His pallbearers included two brothers of Ruth Ibeck (John E. ROBERTS and Howard F. ROBERTS) and two uncles of Ruth Ibeck (L. F. BYUS and Steve ALLEN); also Gus SCHWARTZ and Johnny LANGER.

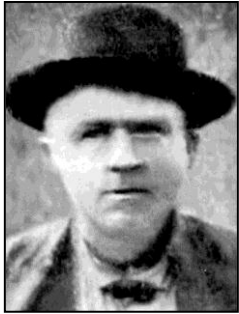
We are most pleased to announce that Trustee **Carl Young** recently located the Strangers Rest grave of Confederate veteran Samuel Lewis, after ten years of searching for it. WCHT is ordering a military headstone for him. His picture is from a tintype.

PLOT SR-688

SAMUEL TIMOTHY LEWIS

Submitted by Patricia (Marek) Hejl of Granger, TX, great-granddaughter of Samuel T. Lewis; and E. E. Kennedy, Jr. of Houston, grandson of Samuel T. Lewis.

Samuel Timothy "Sam" LEWIS
(6 April 1845 – 22 February 1923)



Sam was born in Columbus, Muscogee County, Georgia, the son of Samuel LEWIS and Nicy (or Nancy) Ann BROOKS LEWIS. Very little is known of his early life in Columbus. Family tradition has it that he ran away from home twice to join the Confederate Army, but was sent home because of his age.

From 1859 to 1864, he worked as a machinist at the Columbus Iron Works (later referred to as the Confederate States Naval Iron Works) in Columbus, Georgia, and was floor foreman for about fourteen months. Among his assignments there was boring out a pair of cannon bearing the names *Ella Ingram* and *Salem*. These two twelve-pound brass howitzers were made of church bells sent by Miss Ella INGRAM of Salem, Georgia. He also worked on gunboat engines, and filled and capped bombshells. He helped put the engines on the gunboats *Muskogee*, *Chattahoochee*, *Tennessee*, and *Savanna*.

In March 1864, he enlisted as a private in Company F, Third Georgia Reserves, Gothell Brigade, Army of Tennessee. He served until the end of the war under Captain Oliver CROMWELL and Colonel Tom MOORE, fighting WILSON's raid through Georgia and Alabama. His unit also saw action in South Carolina. For a time, he was detailed to serve as a guard at prisons in Andersonville and Millin, Georgia.

After the war, Sam and his brother Ben left Georgia to look for their father. They located him working at a shipyard in New Orleans. Sam proceeded on and settled in East Texas, taking up a trade as a blacksmith and carpenter. He came to Texas in 1869 and worked as a machinist in the sawmills throughout the Piney Woods of East Texas. He married Sarah Mary Elizabeth JACKSON (19 August 1854 – 26 March 1947) on 25 July 1872 in Nacogdoches, Texas. According to family tradition, she was a distant relation of President Andrew JACKSON. The Lewis children included:

Cora (30 Apr. 1873 – ?),
married (1) Elbert T. BURROUGHS
married (2) Joe ARCENEUX

Bess (7 Sep. 1876 – 6 Sep. 1941),
married Jesse C. EVANS

Laura (21 Jan. 1878 – 6 July 1909),
married Nathan MAGEE

Edell (birthdate unknown),
died at age 12 when his horse kicked him in the head

Annie (29 June 1892 – 13 May 1977),
married (1) Walter C. PATTON,
married (2) Earl Edward KENNEDY

Odell (29 June 1892 – 29 June 1892)

At least two other children were born to Sam and Mary but died in infancy. About 1910, Sam moved to the Houston Heights area, where he lived for a number of years. He was admitted to the Confederate Home in Austin, Texas on 28 October 1922 and died there five months later. His wife is buried in Forest Park Cemetery.

Confederate Veterans Research

By WCHT Trustee Gus Mistrot

Slow but sure progress is being made on identifying Confederate veterans buried in Washington Cemetery. To date, we have identified 105 men whom we consider to be "proved" CSA veterans, up from 79 in February 2000; and another 43 "possible" veterans, up from 29. Possible veterans include some whose service to the Confederacy is unquestioned but whose burial location is uncertain, as well as some who are known to be buried in Washington Cemetery but whose service has not yet been proven.

The most time consuming and detailed part of the research is verifying that a man buried in Washington Cemetery and a particular CSA veteran of the same name are, in fact, the same person. We have discovered several instances of mistaken identity. Different ways in which names appear on Muster Rolls (e.g., William on one, W. H. on another, maybe Henry W. on a third), added to creative spellings, especially of German and other non-English surnames, have made the task of verification nontrivial. The complicated numbering system for Confederate units, and their frequent merging with other units, has added to the complexity of the task. We are currently utilizing over 30 references – most importantly, obituaries, pension records, and Compiled Service Records – to minimize the chances of error in veteran and unit identification.

WCHT recently obtained a photocopy set of all surviving records of the Dick Dowling Camp #197, United Confederate Veterans. The original records are property of the Texas Division of UDC and are presently on loan to Haley Memorial Library in Midland, Texas. These records have been very helpful in helping us to answer numerous questions about known or possible veterans, including alerting us to at least ten names that were not on any of several previous lists of Confederate veterans buried here.

We have now identified 31 known veterans who do not have headstones. As we complete our documentation, we will order Veterans Administration headstones for these unmarked graves. To date, ten applications have been filed, and one headstone has already arrived at Glenwood Cemetery. We plan to dedicate these new headstones at a ceremony in the Spring.

Notes on 19th Century Medicine

By WCHT Trustee A. C. Jackson, MD

The genealogy of one's family is an interesting challenge but it sometimes may get bogged down in illnesses and causes of death. Yet this information can be of inestimable value in sorting out the family history of inherited disease, e.g. diabetes mellitus (sugar diabetes).

Compounding the problem are the changes that have occurred in medicine in the last two hundred years. For example, the TB bacillus was not identified until 1882 by Robert Koch; and even modern antibiotic treatment of infection did not commence until the 1930s with sulfonamides and the revolutionary breakthrough of purified penicillin in 1940. Recognizing the ambiguity of medical diagnoses in the long past and keeping in mind the changes made in medicine can help one better understand the listed "causes of death" in one's own family tree.

The oldest recorded scourge of man is Syphilis; but the spirochete cause was not identified until 1905 by Schaudinn and Hoffmann. The clinical course was long recognized; its association with sexual intimacy and notorious imitation of many other conditions (pneumonia, meningitis, and even insanity) was appreciated very early. Syphilis can be manifested by a great variety of apparently unrelated clinical symptoms. Confusion also arose from the insidious nature of the disease: from the chancroid Primary Lesion (usually an open sore of the genitalia), through a Secondary Stage (rash-like findings), and on to Late Syphilis with its spectrum of manifestations (even neurological symptoms). The final Latent Stage of the disease is characterized by no external signs or symptoms. It was not universally fatal; even the earliest methods of treatment by arsenic and mercurial injections could mitigate the progress of the disease -- and sometimes cure it! Therefore, when the amateur genealogist encounters "syphilis" in an ancestral record, he must put that diagnosis into the perspective of those times and state of medical knowledge.

Tuberculosis, also called consumption or phthisis, is another scourge whose contagious nature was poorly recognized. It too manifested itself in a variety of diagnoses which erroneously suggested other different diseases: e.g. pneumonia, scrofula (neck lymph-node masses), Pott's Disease (Tubercular spondylitis), and even meningitis. Its transmission from generation to generation in a family household suggested some inherited disorder. Only in the late 1800s, with the discovery that isolation could break the chain of events,

did Sanatoriums arrest and actually cure the disease. Medicine then focused on the infectious cause and real progress began in its identification and correct treatment with Streptomycin (1947) and the Isoniazides (1952).

The "bloody flux" (dysentery) is a most ambiguous diagnosis because it included a real "hodge podge" of causes that produced the same lethal effect: chronic diarrhea to the point of bloody bowel movements and death from dehydration or malnutrition. Its basic cause could be anything from Amoebiasis to Shigellosis (an assortment of intestinal "bugs") and the cure varied with the specific cause. Even today we recognize the potential of this malady in the Cholera epidemics of the Near East.

So let the struggling genealogist not be intimidated by the medical jargon and ignorant diagnoses of obituary notices and autopsy reports. They speak of a time in the historical progress of medicine when even the simple hygiene of washing one's hands was underappreciated.

Preparation of Photographs

Preparing photographs for the history book is a time-consuming and exacting, but very rewarding, process. Trustee **Ginger Daily** has become quite proficient at coaxing the best possible result from treasured family photos that are old, faded, or damaged.

This photo is of Henrietta Fleig, daughter of Capt. W. H. Fleig, Plot F-33. The original, both badly creased and spattered, was so faded it had to be scanned at 600 dpi. The creases and splatters were removed from the scanned file; it was cropped to 300 dpi and the standard size of 1.2 by 1.6; and brightness and contrast were adjusted to bring it to acceptable print quality.



The two photos on the next page are of Mary Emma (Brookman) Williams (Plot A-36 N $\frac{1}{2}$). The original photo was obviously faded but otherwise generally in good condition. After cropping and adjusting contrast and brightness, it was necessary to restore the original background in the corners.



Treasurer's Report

During the last fiscal year, we received 190 donations from individuals and matching gifts from corporations (ExxonMobil and Chase Manhattan Bank). WCHT also continues to receive donations from Randalls *Good Neighbor Program* (WCHT #2810) and Kroger's *Share Card*.

The major expenses this year were: restoration of 83 headstones and cradles in Phases 7 and 8 of the Monument Restoration Program; a new computer and upgraded software to prepare the new history book and other projects; and research related to veterans buried here.

Due to the limitations of the offset printing process used for the newsletter, photos reproduced here are not as clear and sharp as they will be in the history book, but this does give some idea of what is possible.

INCOME and EXPENSES (Unaudited) – Fiscal Year 2002

WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

Net Assets – October 1, 2001	\$156,284		
INCOME: Operations/ Administration	\$9,816	EXPENSES: Monument Restoration	\$11,608
Historical Projects	495	Newsletter & Postage	1,841
Gravesite Restoration	1,620	Historical Projects	1,076
Total Donations	\$11,931	Administration	1,410
Net Investment Income	10,017	Computer & Software	3,497
Total Income	\$21,948	Total Expenses	\$19,432
		Net Assets -- September 30, 2002	\$158,800
FUNDS: Checking Account	\$2,724	FUNDS: Operations/ Administration	\$47,332
Money Market Account	42,366	Historical Projects	12,448
Securities	113,710	Gravesite Restoration	99,020
	\$158,800		\$158,800

Please return the form below with your check and mail to **Jim Daily, Treasurer**. All donations are deductible on Form 1040 (Schedule A).

WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST	
Donor Name _____	Phone Number _____
E-mail Address (if applicable) _____	
_____ 2003 ANNUAL Donation (\$20.00)	Surname(s) of Deceased _____
_____ GRAVESITE RESTORATION	_____
_____ HISTORY/RESEARCH	Plot Number(s), if known _____
_____ TOTAL	Matching Gift from _____

New Headstones Recently Installed

Several families have recently added new headstones on their plots; some of them for loved ones who passed away nearly 100 years ago. It is a real joy to see these graves so nicely marked after all this time.

Lot owners are reminded to notify Glenwood prior to ordering and installing new headstones so that there are no unpleasant surprises. Nearly any standard style of granite or marble marker is acceptable; however, unusual monuments and curbs may take longer to approve, and there may be a fee charged if the desired construction requires engineering review.

Washington Cemetery Lot Sales

The effort and attention given to Washington Cemetery under the management of Glenwood is really making a difference. The word is starting to get out that Washington Cemetery is once again a desirable place to spend eternity, and that there are plots available for sale in almost every section of the cemetery, ranging from single spaces to 12-space family lots.

While prices have gone up significantly, they are still attractive compared to those at other cemeteries with equivalent levels of care. An added advantage at Washington is that you may place a monument of your choice (within reason) on each burial space (most modern cemeteries have very strict regulations on both the number and style of monuments allowed).

Since the last newsletter, two families who had no previous connection to the cemetery have purchased plots here. The 1997 court order and 1999 merger

agreement with Glenwood require that *at least* 25% of proceeds from lot sales must go into the Washington 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 regarding plot purchases.

Revised Newsletter Schedule

This is the third and final issue for this year. We have been producing a quarterly newsletter for several years; however, due to the increase in postal rates and decreased activity in the cemetery over the summer, we will try a new schedule of publishing newsletters in February, June, and October. Please submit articles to the editor by the 15th of the previous month.

Winter Visitor/Work Days

The fourth Saturdays of the cooler months of the year are designated as Visitor/Work Days, during which some of the Trustees will be at the cemetery with the record books to assist you in finding the graves of your loved ones. This year those dates are **October 26 and November 23, 2002, and January 25, February 22, March 22, and April 26, 2003**. Please mark these dates on your calendar now and come and visit with us. The usual hours are from about 10-4. We invite you to join us in the continuing search for hidden markers in Strangers Rest or transcribing headstones.

WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED