

Clements' Corner

Lot H-9: Mary Ellen (Walters) Hanks Johnson

Compiled with assistance from Marilee (Mrs. Barwick O.) Barfield of Baton Rouge, LA, great-granddaughter of Mary Ellen Johnson. (The following includes several additions and corrections to the biographies of this family printed in the Washington Cemetery Centennial Book.)

Mary Ellen **Walters**, the fourth child and second daughter of L. Samuel "Sim" and Elizabeth A. Walters, was born in Colmesneil, Tyler Co., Texas on 2 August 1853. Her father was a mechanic/blacksmith from South Carolina, and her mother was Tennessee-born. They emigrated to Texas by 1846.

On 26 July 1873, Mary Ellen married Mabbit Fulton **Hanks** (grandson of "Texican" patriot Lt. Col. Wyatt Hanks) in Colmesneil. Their nine children were: Judy, James L., John K., Cornelius, Claude, Mabbit, Mary Jane, Dora, and Leon.

Following the disappearance of Mr. Hanks, she moved to Houston and in 1891, married Robert **Johnson**, who became a stepfather to her four youngest children: Mab (10), Mary Jane (9), Dora (6), and Leon (3).

Robert Johnson was born 21 May 1847 in Missouri. He came to Houston in the employ of the Engineering Corps of Boston, street railway contractors, and later worked for the Houston Electric Company as a streetcar conductor. In 1903, his active employment was with Stone & Webster. All his working years, he was in transportation. About 1912, he became afflicted with paralysis, and died at his residence, 187 Harvard Street, on 13 March 1913 at age 65. He was survived by his widow, her four children, and a brother, James Johnson, of Missouri. The funeral was conducted at the residence on 15 March, by Rev. W. F. **Perry** of the Presbyterian Church.

After Robert's death, Mary continued to live at their home on Harvard, where she died on 18 February 1916 at age 62. She was survived by her four children, Mab and Leon Hanks, Mary Jane "Mamie" **Sorrells**, and Dora **Chambers**; three sisters, Mrs. M. **Means**, Mrs. A. J. W. **Hunt**; and Mrs. Alice **Hanks** (who married Mabbit's brother, Edw. Wyatt Hanks); and one brother, L. S. Walters, Jr. Rev. Andrew B. **Buchanan** of Central Presbyterian Church conducted the funeral.

On 25 April 1898, after a two-week debate, Congress declared that America was at war with Spain as of 21 April. Initially, President **McKinley** called for 125,000 volunteers to add to the regular army

consisting of 26,000 officers and men. Initially, Texas offered one cavalry and three infantry regiments, but the nationwide call for men was found to be inadequate. After a second call from the President, Texas Governor **Culberson** organized the Texas Fourth Volunteer Infantry Regiment. The Fourth consisted of 12 companies of 109 men (officers and privates) each. It was mobilized at Camp Mosby, near Houston, on 30 July 1898. Altogether, Texas sent 10,000 men to the war effort.

Seventeen-year-old Mabbit "Mab" Fulton Hanks, Jr., born 29 December 1880 in Colmesneil, enlisted as a private in Company D of the Fourth, which was under the command of Col. John C. **Edmonds**. The Regiment was stationed at various points in Texas until March 1899. On the 10th of that month, the regiment returned to Camp Mosby and was mustered out of the service.

Mab returned to his mother's home in Houston, but soon went to work as a well digger, and helped to pioneer a new age as a roughneck at the Spindletop oil field. He married Clara A. **Perry** of Cleveland, Texas, and then worked as a carpenter in the shipyards of Orange, Texas.

Mab and Clara had four children, the two oldest of whom died in infancy. Daughter Clara LaFrance was born 25 July 1908, married Arthur John **Findelsen**, and died 16 July 1975 at Baytown. The youngest, Anita Amelia, was born 19 August 1909, married Otis J. **Walker**, and lived in California. Sadly, Clara died on 4 September 1921 in Cleveland.

In the mid 1930's, Mab returned to Houston. When he died 1 Nov. 1956 at age 75 at his home, 187 Harvard, he had five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. His second wife, Jennie, apparently did not survive him. His funeral service was held at the Ray Duval Funeral Home, with the Rev. Haskin V. **Little**, rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church officiating. The burial was conducted with military honors by Ellington Air Force personnel. Honorary pallbearers were all members of the Alfred W. Drew Camp #18 of the United Spanish War Veterans. This camp was chartered in Houston on 4 Dec. 1924.

Those buried here are Robert and Mary Ellen Johnson, her son Mab Hanks, and her two daughters and their husbands: Mary Jane and J. F. Sorrells, and Dora and Charles D. Chambers.

* * * * *

Your family history can appear here in November. Please send such histories to our Historian, Gov Clements.

Deutsche Gesellschaft Membership

The following are believed to have been members in 1894: William **Angerhoefer**, Alexander **Barttlingck**, George **Bauss**, Jacob **Drenkel**, Theodore **Dreyling**, Alexander **Dietrich**, Albert **Fischer**, Henry **Goebel**, Henry **Götting**, Felix **Götzmann**, Henry **Hartmann**, Charles **Hahn**, Herman **Hundt**, Friederich **Jürgens**, Henry **Kasche**, Ernst **Knodel**, Chris **Kuntz**, Charles **Lang**, John H. **Lang Sr.**, James **Masterson**, Frederick **Minster**, Nicholas **Pippert**, William **Reichardt**, Jacob **Rommel**, Gustav **Sauter**, Gustav **Schiebler**, Gustav **Schifer**, Erich F. **Schmidt**, Louis **Schmidt**, E B. H. **Schneider**, Herman **Schneider**, Charles **Scoregga**, Andrew **Sens**, Herman **Sonnen**, Louis **Stahl**, Fred **Temme**, Carl **Voss**, and John **Wagner Jr.**

Later members include J. B. **Cochran**, O. L. **Cochran**, Amelia **Goetting**, Houston Ice & Brewing Co., E. C. **Isaac**, Ike **Keller**, Theodore **Keller**, E. H. **Lang**, John H. **Lang Jr.**, Jesse **Mattox**, L. Gus **Mueller**, Raymond J. **Noland**, W. L. **Noland**, Mrs. W. L. **Noland**, Mrs. Ed F. **Perry**, H. **Prince**, Charles **Rau**, Conrad **Schwartz**, C. E. **Settegast**, and Milford V. **Sharman**.

If you have information on any of the above, please contact the Newsletter Editor at the address below.

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Advertisements are accepted for businesses related to cemeteries or historical activities. Contact the Newsletter Editor for details.

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Please return the entire form below with your check and mail to **Julie Itz, Treasurer**. All individual donations are deductible on Form 1040 (Schedule A). If your company (e.g., Exxon, Southwestern Bell, Tenneco) will match your donation, please make your donation 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!

Early Deeds to German Cemetery Lots

Continued from May 1996. Not all lot sales in this time period are in the Harris County deed index.

Last Name	First Name	Sec.	Lot	Date
Pett	Mrs. A.	C	143	03/10/1890
Puls	F.	G	24	03/18/1890
Culmore	C.	B	24	07/17/1890
Taylor	Alfred	B	27	08/11/1890
Sullivan	D. A.	B	26	08/11/1890
Asher	Edwin	G	33	08/11/1890
Moon	Sarah	C	32	10/17/1890
Warnecke	W.	B	25	01/11/1891
Stueruwitz	W. H.	B	135	01/12/1891
Lee	F.	B	44	01/19/1891
Ross	S. P.	B	47	01/22/1891
Meyer	Louis D.	C	67	02/28/1891
Warnecke	A.	B	33	04/27/1891
Stone	S. P.	C	109	08/10/1891
DeBajligethy	C. H.	B	4	09/13/1891
Reed	J. H.	B	36	09/23/1891
Artusy	Eugene	C	77	11/23/1891
Lovett	A.	C	94	12/16/1891
Marti	Gottlieb	B	15	12/19/1891
Voigt	M.	C	97	01/23/1892
Creighton	Mrs. L.	C	137	03/10/1892
Dorethy	J. H.	C	122	03/15/1892
Brunner	J. B.	B	73	01/02/1893
Dumler	Chas.	C	2	01/07/1893
Blohm	Geo. A.	C	76	01/24/1893
Morriss	R. S.	B	123	01/24/1893
Hudson	P. W.	G	25	01/24/1893
Golen	Frank	C	16	01/25/1893
Kaffenberger	Julia	B	105	04/13/1893
Anderson	S. M.	C	147	05/02/1893
Schmidt	H.	B	15	05/16/1893
Schmidt	Emma	A	86	08/05/1893

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
____ 1996 MAINTENANCE Donation (\$40.00)	____ 1996 ANNUAL Donation (\$40.00)
____ IMPROVEMENTS & REPAIRS	____ GRAVESITE RESTORATION
____ PERPETUAL CARE (Endowment Fund)	____ HISTORY/RESEARCH
Phone Number _____	Matching Gift from _____

New Board Members

Our faithful Recording Secretary, **Elise Daulley**, has had to resign due to work pressures. She has given freely of her time to keep the records of CCWCC for the last 13 years, and will be missed by all. Thanks, Elise, for a job well done!

Director **Rita Davis** has graciously accepted an appointment to complete the remaining year of Elise's term as Recording Secretary. **Carl Young**, one of our more diligent and successful Strangers' Rest searchers, has been appointed to complete the last year of Rita's term as Director.

Treasurer's Report

As of August 1, 1996, the CCWCC Perpetual Care Fund stands at \$420,800. Total value of CCWCC as of August 1, 1996 is about \$450,800; total value of WCHT is \$18,400. From May 1 to Aug. 1, CCWCC and WCHT spent \$5785 for routine expenses, but received only \$2359 in donations to cover these expenses. We anticipate operations and maintenance expenses of \$6500 during the next three months, not including the headstone repair. Please be as generous as you can. The future of Washington Cemetery, as well as the present, depends on YOU.

Fall Calendar

The **Annual Meeting** of the membership will be **Sunday, September 15, at 3:00 p.m.** at our usual meeting place, Central Congregational Church, 3410 Austin (at Holman). Three directors will be elected for the coming year.

There will be a **Work Day** on **Saturday, October 12** and our **Fall Open House** on **Saturday, October 26**.

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
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Hours are roughly 9-4. The record books will be available on both days to help in locating long-forgotten grave locations. We hope to see you there on one or both of these days.

For details or a reminder, please call **Leona Zaboroski**.

J. K. Wagner & Company, Inc.

historical researchers
12200 Northwest Freeway, Suite 556
Houston, Texas 77092-4926

Janet K. Wagner
landscape architect

Tel. (713) 686-4848
Fax (713) 686-0444

Membership Roster Update

Since the cost of postage and paper keeps going up, we must undertake a serious effort to limit our mailings to only those people who really care about the preservation of Washington Cemetery.

Enclosed is a membership form. We've already put the postage on it; we only ask that you take a few minutes to complete it as much as you can (don't worry if you don't know the exact lot number) and return to us as soon as possible. Please call **Vic Gehring** if you have questions.

If we do not hear from you by October 1, we must assume that you are not interested, and you may be dropped from the mailing list. Please note that the address on the membership form is not our usual mailing address.

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1996 Washington Cemetery Membership Roster Update

If you have no interest in Washington Cemetery, please skip to item 4 below.

Name/Address/Telephone Corrections:

Name _____

 Street _____
 City _____ State ____ Zip _____ - ____
 Phone (home) _____ (work) _____

If your area code will change soon, please give new area code and effective date:

New Area Code ____ Effective Date _____

1. Plot Ownership and Interest. Please check all of the following that apply to you:

- (a) I have purchased a plot in Washington Cemetery.
- (b) I have inherited sole ownership of a plot in Washington Cemetery.
- (c) I have inherited a partial ownership interest in a plot in Washington Cemetery.
- (d) I have relatives buried in a family plot in Washington Cemetery.
- (e) I have relatives buried in single-space graves in Washington Cemetery.
- (f) I have friends buried in Washington Cemetery.
- (g) I am a descendant of a member of the *Deutsche Gesellschaft* (German Society) (see pg. 3).
- (h) I have historical information about the *Deutsche Gesellschaft* and/or its members.
- (i) I think it's important that Washington Cemetery be properly maintained in perpetuity.
- (j) I can help to maintain Washington Cemetery through donations of time or money.
- (k) I enjoy reading the newsletter, but am unable to help at this time.

2. Plot Names and Numbers. Please list the plot(s) you are associated with (one line per plot), and note which one category (a) through (f) above best describes your interest in that plot (we'll look up the plot numbers). Please use back of page if you are related to more than four plots. If you would like someone to call you with more information on your plot(s), please check here. _____

Sec.	No.	Part	Name of Plot Owner or Interred Person	Category
A	165	S½	<i>Examples: Mary Jones (Owner), Gary Smith (bur. 1931)</i>	<i>(d)</i>

3. Volunteer Assistance. Please check all of the following ways that you may be able to help restore and/or maintain Washington Cemetery, now or in the future.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| <u>Financial</u> (not a pledge) | <u>Volunteer Committees</u> | ___ Telephone/Mailing/Typing |
| ___ Annual donation | ___ Gravesite Restoration | ___ Computer Data Entry |
| ___ One time donation | (incl. Strangers' Rest) | ___ Library Research |
| ___ Fundraising activity | ___ Maintenance/Contracts | ___ Final Research Reports |
| ___ Other _____ | ___ Finance/Accounting | ___ Other _____ |

4. Action. Please check one.

- (a) I have no interest in Washington Cemetery. Please take me off the mailing list.
- (b) Please keep me informed about Washington Cemetery through the newsletter.

Signed _____ Date _____

Thank you for taking the time to update our roster. This information will be used only for the historical documentation and perpetual care of Washington Cemetery. We will not give your information to any other person without your permission. No information will be sold.

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Return postage is provided for your convenience.

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