

WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

Vol. 23, No. 3

"Heirs Who Care"

May 1999

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

CCWCC Merges with Glenwood

On Sunday, March 14, 1999, 87 members and friends of CCWCC squeezed into our usual meeting room at Central Congregational Church to approve and applaud the merger of CCWCC, Inc. with Glenwood Cemetery, Inc. That's the largest turnout ever for a CCWCC meeting! At a similar meeting on March 24, the Glenwood members voted their unanimous approval of the merger.

CCWCC has thus ceased to exist, having achieved its objectives: (a) restoring the cemetery to respectability and (b) ensuring that it will stay that way, by transferring our court-ordered responsibility to restore, operate, and maintain Washington Cemetery to Glenwood, which has the experience, equipment, staff, and funding to continue doing so indefinitely.

A great big thank you is due to all of our members, past and present, who helped in the restoration of the cemetery over the last 24 years, whether by cutting weeds, repairing roads, making phone calls, sending money, or any other help. The results of your continuing dedication are clear for all to see.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

What Changes, What Doesn't

WCHT is continuing its historic functions, such as the quarterly newsletter, monument restoration, Strangers' Rest recovery and mapping, computerization of 112 years of burial records, and preparing an updated edition of our 1988 history book. Many of the CCWCC Board members have become WCHT trustees, with the same interests and projects as when they were CCWCC Board members.

Since we no longer need donations to cut the grass, we have reduced your suggested annual donation to \$20. As a result, we will only be able to mail future newsletters to those people who are current in their

donations. We don't like to lose anyone, but postage keeps going up. We hope more people will be able to participate at the lower level. Of course, we will always gratefully accept additional donations for our many restoration projects still in progress.

To purchase a lot, arrange for a burial on your lot, install a monument, or resolve any other operational concern, please call Glenwood at (713) 864-7886. You may choose to have interments made either by Glenwood or by Rick Neal, who has been doing them for us for several years, but in either case, you will need to contact Glenwood to make the arrangements and select the correct location on your lot.

An outer burial container (concrete box) is now required on new burials to prevent subsidence and subsequent leaning headstones. Prices vary widely, so we suggest you shop around in advance of need.

When you need historical information, we ask that you first check with Glenwood, although you may be referred back to Leona Zaboroski or Bernice Mistrot at the above phone numbers if your request requires significant research.

From Our Mailbox ...

This letter, dated March 1, 1999, is from a long-time member who was unable to attend the meeting on March 14, but certainly was with us in spirit.

"... I want to tell you I am wholeheartedly in agreement with the proposed merger. No doubt CCWCC will cease to exist at the conclusion of the meeting, but it will surely live on in the hearts of all who know and understand the work of those dedicated individuals in CCWCC who gave so willingly and tirelessly of themselves to assure Washington Cemetery's perpetuance as a consecrated and historic spot in the City of Houston."

Sincerely,
Elsie M. Gilliam

Clements' Corner

Lot D-13, NW¼: Laura (Thonig) Schwarz

Prepared with assistance from Mrs. Emilie A. Ratcliffe of Deer Park, TX., niece of Laura (Thonig) Schwarz.

Laura (Thonig) Schwarz was born on 18 January 1876 in Houston, the seventh child and fourth daughter of August and Maria Verona (Pohl) Thonig. Her three older brothers all died in the yellow fever epidemic of 1872-73.



Laura was considered a most attractive girl and woman. Her father August operated a shoe and boot store adjacent to Mr. Conrad Schwarz' vehicle establishment on Preston Street. It was in this environment that she met Conrad. In 1889, they married.

The early years seem to have been happy and contented. But in the years just prior to the first world war, Conrad began to stray from the marriage. His behavior led to a divorce, however, he made Laura a very generous settlement. She moved to the Heights and built a beautiful home in the 600 block of the Boulevard.

"Friends" convinced her to invest a sizable amount of her money in an overalls manufacturing plant, which soon failed. In spite of her now-straitened circumstances, she proved to be a very charitable person. She gave the other gravesites in her burial lot to close, good friends, as she had no children of her own.

"Miss Laura" was a giving person, always on the lookout for opportunities to give a helping hand. She was a member of St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Spring Branch, but attended infrequently. She lived out the rest of her long life in a quiet manner. Just six weeks before her 91st birthday, on 2 December 1966, she suffered a massive heart attack and died instantly. She was survived by 13 nieces and nephews, and she left each one a small monetary token of her affection.

* * * * *

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

Monument Repairs, Phases 4C and 4D

Natural Stone, Inc. has repaired and cleaned 22 more old headstones in Phase 4D for \$2,975, or an average of \$135 each.

In Section A: Herman Werner (1858-1937) & Rosa Werner (1866-1933), Wilhelm F. Richter (1847-1896), Dr. Elemer A. de Lipcsey (1864-1902), J. J. Oberle (1841-1902) & Anna Oberle (1844-1919), John L. Pickell (1900-1949), Bertha Huebotter (1873-1962), Robert Huebotter (1863-1951).

In Section B: Railway Conductors George H. Flanders (1854-1906) and Thomas W. Watts (died 1893, age 46).

In Section C: Henry L. Fritz (1869-1906), Frank A. Talmon (1857-1893), Henry Beck (1845-1916), Christine Beck (1858-1928), Emil A. Dietrich (1862-1931), Anna C. Dietrich (1861-1924), Willie Buchanan (1888-1889) & Maggie Buchanan (1893-1895), Ed Priester (1856-1891), Magdalena F. Kohlman (1843-1897).

In Section P: Joseph J. Clede (1863-1929), Phebe T. Clede (1866-1951), Zaidee Dustin Garrett (1876-1961), Maxey Clark Garrett (1867-1923).

The Monument Company has stabilized and cleaned 29 larger headstones in Phase 4C, most requiring new foundations, for \$8,895, or an average of \$307 each.

In Section A: Soren P. Norregaard (1872-1958) & Agnes A. Norregaard (1873-1947), Alex R. Powers (1868-1896), William Zabel (1831-1896) & Christine Zabel (1837-1925), Margaratha Newhoff (1879-1918), Henry Cook Sr. (1847-1916) & Ella Cook (1853-1931), Carrie A. Dupree (1845-1896), John L. Haralson (1858-1901), Minna Moeller (1855-1910).

In Section B: John Hugh Sick (1895-1897), William Thomas Sick (1897-1897), Louise Genevieve Sick (1898-1899), Mathias Stuer (died 1891, age 75) & Henry Stuer (1857-1887), Rev. J. Cooper Waddill (1833-1902), Martha O. Waddill (1836-1924), Nellie Waddill Godbey (1872-1941), C. E. Godbey (1866-1932), Vera E. Godbey (1898-1959).

In Section C: Albert F. W. Gaedke Jr. (1876-19__) & Anna E. Gaedke (1880-1937), Fredrick W. A. Gaedke (1874-1945), August Menger (1845-1893) & Clara Menger (1877-1909) & Willie Menger (1889-1890), George Souchard (1830-1890) & Emma Souchard (1840-1922) & Clara Souchard (1862-1933) & Emma Souchard Appel (1865-1897) & Johnnie Appel (1891-1892) & William Souchard (1867-1927) & Katie Souchard (1873-1895) & Nellie Souchard (1875-1893), Margaret Minerva Kirlicks (1859-1890), Lane Buck (1840-1890), Fritz Weber (died 1892, age 63) & Julia Weber (died 1901, age 76), Frederick Minster (1848-1908) & Annie Minster (1856-1931), Henry Semlinger (1839-1895) & Mary Semlinger (1868-1892).

In Section F: N. R. Folse (1853-1911), Maggie S. Garrett (1894-1901), Joseph E. Ollre (died 1918).

Our New General Manager Reports...

First, we want to take this opportunity to thank the many dedicated volunteers of CCWCC who gave untold hours of service to reclaim, recover, and restore Washington Cemetery to its present condition. We accept this transition of stewardship with great pride, and pledge to continue our efforts toward improving and enhancing Washington Cemetery.

Most recently, in conjunction with WCHT's replacement of the entrance driveway and sidewalk, we repaired and repainted the iron fences and gates leading into Washington Cemetery. We have also, as promised, tied the two water systems together so that water will normally be available during visiting hours without having to call ahead to have someone turn the water on for you. Landscaping of the front entrance should proceed this year.

In this newsletter is a copy of the Declaration that we use at Glenwood to establish a lot representative for a deceased lot owner. The same form is used to establish a representative for deceased owners of Washington Cemetery lots. Instructions are provided on the back of the form. The form does not convey ownership rights, but only the right to represent the interest of the lot on behalf of the deceased owner, including the right to vote at Annual or Special meetings of the members of Glenwood Cemetery Inc.

Should you have any questions about this form, or have any other comments, please feel free to call the cemetery office at (713) 864-7886, and we will try to assist you.

Sincerely,
 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). *PLEASE NOTE!!* CCWCC no longer exists. Please make all donations to WCHT.

Treasurer's Report (May 1, 1999)

As described on page one, CCWCC Inc. was merged into Glenwood Cemetery Inc. on March 24. In accordance with the merger agreement, CCWCC's Endowment Fund of \$528,800 was transferred to Bank of America (formerly NationsBank). All income from this fund will be used for restoration, operation, and maintenance of Washington Cemetery. The rest of the CCWCC money (\$90,500) was transferred to WCHT for historical and restoration projects. The unaudited combined financial statement of CCWCC and WCHT follows.

Fund Balance - Jan. 31, 1999	\$652,300
Income - donations	7,200
Income - interest, dividends, realized gain	16,200
Income - lot sales	<u>1,000</u>
Total Income	24,400
Expenses - maintenance, administration	3,800
Expenses - monument restoration	16,400
Expenses - driveway and sidewalk repair	8,800
Expenses - Mary Fischer bench	500
Expenses - legal (re. merger agreement)	<u>4,800</u>
Total Expenses	34,300
Fund Balance - Before Endowment Transfer	\$642,400
Endowment Fund Transfer to Trustee	\$528,800
Fund Balance - Apr. 30, 1999 (WCHT only)	\$113,600

During the last three months, we received 167 donations from individuals, plus matching gifts to WCHT from Exxon and Chase Manhattan Bank. The gain realized on our investments was \$7,200. As shown above, our total assets are held by WCHT and total \$113,600.

WCHT continues to receive funds from **Randalls Good Neighbor Program** (WCHT #2810) and Kroger's **Share** program. To obtain a **Kroger Share** card, please contact **Jim Daily**.

WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST	
Donor Name _____	Phone Number _____
_____ 1999 Min. ANNUAL Donation (\$20.00)	Surname(s) of Deceased _____
_____ GRAVESITE RESTORATION	Plot Number (if known) _____
_____ HISTORY/RESEARCH	Matching Gift from _____
_____ TOTAL	Please send acknowledgment <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Washington Cemetery Improvements

Washington Cemetery just gets better and better. In addition to the repair and cleaning of 51 headstones, WCHT has replaced the concrete driveway and sidewalk to make a much smoother, cleaner entrance from the street. Glenwood then straightened, cleaned, and painted the iron bars on the fence and gate. Glenwood has also connected our water system to theirs so that we now have water available every day. Further details are included in the message from Richard Ambrus, Glenwood's Vice President and General Manager, on page 3.

Dedication of Confederate Headstones

We are pleased to announce that the 13th Texas Infantry, Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp 1565 (Brazoria County) will be dedicating new headstones for Confederate veterans Thomas Jefferson **Calmes** (see Feb. 1999 newsletter) and William E. **Leopold** at 2:00 p.m. on Memorial Day, **Sunday, May 30**. All are invited to attend this ceremony.

William E. Leopold (1839 - 2 Dec. 1893) served in Co. C, First Heavy Artillery, also known as Cook's Regiment. A machinist and musician by trade, he played in the Regiment Band, and pursued both occupations later in life. He was buried in a grand procession down Washington Avenue, with a band playing the death march, followed by the hearse and a long line of carriages. Harmony Lodge #861, Knights of Honor, had charge of the funeral.

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

New History Book Progressing Slowly

The Book Committee (Sam Belinoski, Ginger Daily, Julie Itz, Bernice Mistrot, Eddie Moy, and John Petzold) is still seeking a format for text and photos that will be compatible with a variety of different computer systems. But don't let that stop you from gathering the data on your family now! Please xerox the current text on your family, mark it up with any additions or corrections, and mail to the committee. If you have any photos to accompany the story, please include a common xerox. We will contact you later to get a high-quality copy for reproduction.

Glenwood Membership

One result of the merger is that some CCWCC Members may now become Members of Glenwood Cemetery, Inc. Those who are Owners of lots in Washington Cemetery (or surviving spouses, executors, or descendants of deceased lot owners) may become Glenwood Members simply by submitting the enclosed Glenwood Declaration/Proxy form.

There is no charge to become a member of Glenwood. Membership allows you a voice in the operation of your cemetery through the election of the Glenwood Board of Directors. If you meet the above requirements, please complete the enclosed form (see instructions on back) and mail it to Glenwood Cemetery as soon as possible.

Notice in an English country church paper: "Due to the high cost of maintaining the churchyard, it would be appreciated if parishoners would cut the grass around their own graves."

WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TO: Washington Cemetery Lot Owners and Representatives

FROM: Glenwood Cemetery, Inc.

We are in the process of creating a database of Washington Cemetery Lot Owners and Lot Representatives. If you believe that you either own a lot in Washington Cemetery or qualify to represent a deceased lot owner under one of the four criteria listed on the Declaration form on the other side of this page, please fill out the form and mail it to us at

Glenwood Cemetery
2525 Washington Ave.
Houston TX 77007

Please note that the name of the lot owner, as presently shown in the records of Washington Cemetery, goes on the first line and your own name goes on the last line. If you are uncertain about the exact lot owner name or the lot number, please call our office at (713) 864-7886 and we will assist you in getting the correct information.

If you qualify to represent more than one lot, please make copies of the blank form and submit one form for each lot.

Each lot may have only one representative. In case of multiple declarations on the same lot, all parties will be contacted, so that you can select one person in your family to serve as the lot representative. If you are uncertain as to whether someone else may have also submitted a form on your family's lot, please go ahead and submit it anyway, to be sure that at least one person does.

Please try to mail your declaration by June 7 to give our staff time to review and file these new forms prior to the Glenwood Annual meeting on June 17.

Owners of lots in Washington Cemetery and representatives of deceased lot owners are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting of Glenwood Cemetery, Inc. on June 17, 1999 at the offices of Fulbright & Jaworski, 51st Floor, 1301 McKinney (Chevron Tower), Houston, Texas 77010. The meeting will start at 10:00 a.m. The main purpose of the meeting will be to elect the Board of Directors and to review the important events of the year.

We are in the process of compiling a history of Glenwood (not to be confused with the Washington Cemetery history book presently being revised by Washington Cemetery Historic Trust). If you have any articles, photos, or other memorabilia of historical significance to Glenwood, we would like to have a copy.