

WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

Vol. 27, No. 1

"Heirs Who Care"

February 2003

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Confederate Headstone Dedication Ceremony Set for March 22, 2003

On March 22, at 10:00 a.m., at least a dozen new Confederate headstones will be dedicated at a ceremony sponsored by WCHT and The Southern Cross Chapter #2502, UDC. To date, 19 headstones have been ordered and 12 have arrived and been set; some of the rest may arrive in time to be included. A list of the veterans whose headstones will be dedicated appears on page 3.

The Color Guard from the 13th Texas Infantry Camp #1565, SCV and Rolling Thunder, the ceremonial cannon of San Jacinto Chapter #1, SRT, will provide the pomp and fireworks. Both of these fine units have participated in previous ceremonies at Washington Cemetery. Headstones will be unveiled by relatives of the veterans or by members of SCV and UDC. We look forward to seeing you there!

More Strangers Rest Markers Secured

These elusive markers are getting harder and harder to find. Still, over the last year or so about 30 more of them have been uncovered. In December, a crew from **R. L. Nelson Construction** raised, cleaned, and set 34 of them in concrete to keep them from disappearing under the grass again.

Trustees **Carl Young** and **John Petzold** located the markers to be set and supervised the operation. Glenwood provided all new concrete forms and was very supportive during the work. One of the markers was about 18 inches below the surface, under a stump. A Glenwood crew removed the stump so Nelson's crew could reach the marker.

The search continues, both on our regular work days and whenever volunteers have some free time.

The effort to add simple nameplates to these markers has stalled due to lack of manpower and the expense of obtaining death certificates at \$9.00 apiece to verify the name and dates. However, a new possibility has come up. The LDS Family History Center has now microfilmed the early Texas death certificates - 1400 rolls of them. None of the Houston libraries have the set at this time, but the Dallas Public Library does. Do we have some members in Dallas who would like to work on this?

Phase 8B Monument Repairs Completed

Bobby Schlitzberger has just completed stabilization and cleaning of 13 more headstones and cradles in Phase 8B. The repaired monuments are as follows:

Section A: Harry J. **Thomas** (1851-1925), Jacobe **Chaure** (1852-1921), D. **Donnelly** (1847-1904), R. E. **Murbach** (1897-1958), Charlie F. **Ammons** (1887-1951), William Allen **Lynn** (1893-1895), James **McAughan** (1848-1912), Ellen **McAughan** (1856-1933), Elenora **Pereira** (1910-1916), Katie G. **Bokemeyer** (1889-1920).

Section B: B. Frank **Davis** (1863-1900) & Effie **Davis** (1891) & Arthur **Davis** (1893) & Earl **Davis** (1897) & Albert **Davis** (1897), David Otis **Folk Sr.** (1875-1951), Mamie V. **McGarrity** (1884-1847).

Each one that is cleaned and straightened up improves the appearance of the cemetery. Work is continuing on dozens more - we hope to have a much longer list of completed work in the next newsletter.

Headstone Transcription Project

We are making good progress on this. About 75% of the family plots have been transcribed, and about half of that information has been input to the database. We hope to finish the outdoor part of this project in the next few months.

Clements' Corner

The War Between The States (Civil War) ended in May 1865; however, the Quartermaster Department's grim task of re-burying the Union soldiers who died during the war had just begun.

In 1864, Montgomery C. Meigs, Quartermaster General of the Union Army, believing his soldier-son had been murdered by Confederates after capture, confiscated Arlington, the home of Robert E. Lee across the Potomac from Washington, D.C. The house was turned into a hospital, and they began to bury soldiers on the surrounding property. After the war, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the house was the property of George W. C. Lee, son of Robert. He sold it to the federal government in 1883, and the grounds became the first National Cemetery. Today, it covers some 612 acres and holds more than 200,000 bodies.

Gen. Meigs' department had begun a vast program of burial and re-burial, and by 1871, had re-interred over 300,000 bodies, mainly in 74 National Cemeteries, but burials were also made in over 250 local and Post gravesites.

Thousands of Union soldiers died "at home" during the war. Often, sick soldiers were sent home to recover, only to succumb to disease or their wounds. Many of these soldiers' names were never recorded in the multi-volume "Roll of Honor" series.

In 1873, Congress allocated one million dollars for headstones in National Cemeteries. In 1879, Congress authorized the Secretary of War to spend the unused portion of this allocation for headstones for "soldiers who served in the regular or volunteer Army of the U.S. during the War for the Union; and who have been buried in private village or city cemeteries..."

Generally, the local G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic) Post, or some local authority (often the Postmaster) would write to the War Department requesting headstones under the provisions of this Act. The 1879 bill also required the Secretary of War to "cause to be preserved ... the names and places of burial of all soldiers for whom such headstones have been erected ..." Unfortunately, these records were not systematically preserved. As one archivist wrote: "As you know, the material on National Cemeteries before 1920 is incomprehensible."

As for the Confederates, during the War, most of the soldiers' bodies found a common open pit. General officers and the well-to-do were recovered and sent home. After Federal victories (e.g., Shiloh, Antietam, Atlanta), Confederate dead were placed in large open pits and covered over. I lost a great-great-uncle at Shiloh, and another one in the Battle of Atlanta; both of their graves are unknown.

Several years after the war with some economic recovery, private sources, at the instigation of organizations such as the UCV (United Confederate Veterans) and UDC (United Daughters of the Confederacy) caused fitting monuments and marked gravesites to become commonplace throughout the South.

In 1914, the Confederate Monument was unveiled at Arlington, honoring those soldiers who died fighting for the South. At the dedication it was hailed as the memorial that made Arlington, at last, a truly National cemetery. Today, the national government provides an upright granite headstone or flat bronze or granite marker for any previously unmarked gravesite of a proven soldier, USA blue or CSA gray.

Washington Cemetery has both, in special plots provided by the U.C.V. and G.A.R., and in family plots throughout the cemetery. Trustee **Gus Mistrot** has spent considerable time and effort to ascertain the exact number, full names, and true service records of our many Civil War veterans.

He has had significant assistance in this project from **Sherry Davis** of The Southern Cross Chapter #2502, U.D.C., and from **Cathy Fitch** and **Helen Toombs**, all of whom have spent long hours staring into microfilm readers to find obituaries and census records for these men, so that the information engraved on their headstones would be as complete and accurate as possible.

Headstone applications have been filed with the Veterans Administration for 19 Confederate veterans whose graves are unmarked. The first dozen have arrived, and Glenwood Cemetery has generously set them without charge to WCHT. Research is continuing on upwards of 30 more veterans (of both armies) whose graves are not yet marked.

New Confederate Headstones

The following headstones have arrived and will be dedicated on March 22. Family members are invited to participate in the unveiling, however, at this time, WCHT is in contact with family members of only the five marked with an asterisk. If you recognize any of these Southern patriots, please contact Gus Mistrot.

Henry C. Black Plot F- 021 E½
(23 Dec. 1842 – 27 Jan. 1920)
Musician, Co. B, 2nd Texas Infantry (Moore's Regt.)

John Lewis Dupree Plot A-089 E½
(May 1841 – 3 Jan. 1925)
2nd Lt., Co. H, 26th Texas Cavalry (DeBray's Regt.)

John W. Ellison Plot A-097 W½
(8 Apr. 1845 – 6 July 1901)
Private, Co. A, 24th Texas Cavalry

John C. Goldsmith Plot G-068
(Aug. 1848 – 15 Sep. 1914)
Private, Co. C, 8th Alabama Cavalry

William Hartung Plot C-055
(3 Apr. 1841 – 23 Dec. 1906)
Musician, Co. B, 2nd Texas Infantry (Moore's Regt.)

***Samuel Timothy Lewis** Plot H-147 (SR-688)
(6 Apr. 1845 – 22 Feb. 1923)
Machinist at Confederate Navy Yard, 1861-64
Private, Co. F, 3rd Regt., 2nd Brigade, Georgia
Reserves, 1864-65

Samuel P. Matthews Plot G-072 W½
(1 Oct. 1840 – 17 Mar. 1921)
1st Sgt., Co. G, 21st South Carolina Infantry
Private, Co. L, 21st South Carolina Infantry
Private, Co H, 5th South Carolina Cavalry
2nd Lt., Co. I, 26th South Carolina Infantry

Eustace D. Parker Plot G-066
(25 Jan. 1840 – 25 Jan. 1913)
2nd Lt., Co. H, 13th Georgia Infantry, Floyd's Brigade

***Frederick Schweikart** Plot B-144
(17 June 1839 – 28 Sep. 1903)
Musician, Co. C, 1st Texas Heavy Artillery

Osgood Andrew Shook I-006 W½
(15 Mar 1845 –16 Apr 1916)
Pvt., Co. I, 46th Texas Cav. (McCord's Frontier Regt.)

Aaron William Underwood A-029 S½
(26 Oct. 1835 – 14 Dec. 1923)
1st Lt., Co. E, 22nd Mississippi Infantry,
Featherston's Brigade

***Peter P. Wilson** A-029 S½
(4 Mar. 1841– 18 Oct. 1928)
Private, Co A, King's Battalion, Kentucky Cavalry
(later 1st Confederate Cavalry)
Private, Co D, 3rd Kentucky Infantry
(later 3rd Kentucky Mounted Infantry)

Headstones Still on Order

The following headstones have been ordered but have not yet arrived at this writing. Those that arrive prior to printing the programs will be included in the ceremony. The rest will be dedicated at a future date, together with others now being ordered.

***Osburn M. Bergin** Plot A-133
(22 Apr. 1845 – 30 Mar. 1917)
Co. D, 2nd Texas Infantry (Moore's Regt.), 1864
Gunboat "Missouri," CSN, 1864-65

Charles Bonatz Plot A-138
(~1825 – 3 Nov. 1895)
2nd Lt., Co. F, 1st Infantry Regt.,
Texas State Troops

Almond Fuller Plot H-147 (SR-695)
(3 Aug. 1832 – 23 Apr. 1923)
Private, Co. I, 2nd Texas Mounted Rifles
(later 2nd Texas Cavalry, Ford's Regt.)

Joseph K. Mayo Plot F-043 N½
(9 Mar. 1838 – 8 Apr. 1902)
Hospital Steward, Co. F, 31st Louisiana Infantry

John Sylvester Swope Plot A-091
(10 Oct. 1835 – 23 Mar. 1910)
Private, Co. I, 2nd Texas Mounted Rifles
(later 2nd Texas Cavalry, Ford's Regt.)

***James Toole** A-029 S½
(11 Sep. 1827 – 9 Jan. 1901)
2nd Lt., Co A, 26th Texas Cavalry (DeBray's Regt.)

Garrett E. Van Benthuyzen A-106 W½
(1844 – 4 Nov. 1899)
1st Sgt., Co. B, 1st Texas Heavy Artillery

Civil War Veterans Being Researched

The following veterans of the War Between The States are known to be buried in Washington Cemetery, but do not yet have headstones. In many of these cases, we have completed documentation of their service; all we lack before ordering a permanent memorial for them is their birthdates. Please contact Gus Mistrot if you have information about any of them. We are in contact with the families of those marked with an asterisk.

Union

*John B. Furman
*Samuel Brooks Gares

Confederate

*William Eggleston Archer
George A. Bailey
John Blansfield
*Philip Daniel Bowles
*Maximilian F. DeBajligethy
*Lucian A. Gause
George Washington Gibbs
Joshua Hamilton Ham
Samuel G. Henderson
*August Henniger
John B. Hill
William Henry Hill
Thomas Franklin Kerr
*Sampson Lyles
Thomas L. Lyons
*William Thompson Marshall
J. (John?) E. Murphy
Porter M. Neel
*Edmund O'Reilly
Zephaniah W. Redd
*Edmond B. Reeves
James B. Rives
Robert Ruckwardt
John Schiller
William M. Sims
Harry W. Smith/Schmidt
Charles Frederick A. St. Jest
William H. Williams
Charles Allen Younger

Confederate Memorial Day Services Scheduled at Washington Cemetery

Confederate Memorial Day Services will take place in Washington Cemetery **on Saturday, April 26, 2003, beginning at noon.** The ceremony will be conducted by the ladies of District I, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Texas Division, as part of a nationwide observance. A warm invitation is extended to all readers of this Newsletter.

The service will take place at the Dick Dowling Camp, United Confederate Veterans plots in Section G. The Daughters will lay a memorial wreath at the site. Attendees at the service may participate by bringing a flower to lay in remembrance of their Confederate ancestor(s), including those who may be buried in other locations or in other states.

Graves of all known Confederate veterans will be marked with Confederate battle flags. Colors will be posted by the John Bell Hood Sons of Confederate Veterans Color Guard.

The memorial program will include a formal roll call of the Confederate veterans buried in Washington Cemetery. Period dress by participants and audience is welcomed. Attendees may bring lawn chairs for their comfort. Refreshments will be served following the ceremony.

The UDC Chairman for the event is **Jamie Davis**,

Contacts

History Book Text: Bernice Mistrot.

History Book Photos: Ginger Daily.

Burial Database: Eleanor Beebe.

Veterans Database: Gus Mistrot.

Glenwood Cemetery, 2525 Washington Avenue, Houston, TX 77007-6020, phone (713) 864-7886, fax (713) 864-6429.

Newsletter Editor: Bernice Mistrot. Deadline for material for June issue: May 15, 2003.

Lamar High School Art Dept. Benefit

Julia Marie Mosele was born February 24, 1985 and died July 20, 2002. Her family selected Washington Cemetery as her final resting place because it is very old, very beautiful, and has lots of amazing people buried there. It also reminded her sister, Aileen, of some of Julia's works of art.

Julia was a beautiful and loving creature filled with passion and compassion for people and life. These thoughts were expressed in her art. Sadly, her potential as an artist will never be fully realized due to her tragic death in an automobile accident. The art Julia so loved was nurtured at Lamar High School.

You are invited to a showing of Julia's Art

Thursday, February 20, 2003

6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Lamar High School Library

3325 Westheimer

Houston, Texas 77098

The Lamar High School Art Department helped Julia define who she was. Her art shows us what she discovered. Please join us as we celebrate her view of the world.

Tom and Beth Mosele

In addition to the Benefit evening, Julia's art will be on display with copies on sale during school hours February 14 and February 18 -21.

All proceeds will go to the Lamar Art Department.

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**Happy Golden Anniversary** to hard working WCHT Trustees **Jim and Ginger Daily**, January 31, 2003.

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

## Treasurer's Report (February 1, 2003)

During the last four months, WCHT has received 73 donations from individuals. In addition, WCHT continues to receive funds from the **Randalls Good Neighbor Program** (WCHT #2810) and **Kroger Share Card**. To obtain a Kroger Share Card, please contact Jim Daily.

While WCHT is currently receiving funds through the matching gift programs of **ExxonMobil** and **J. P. Morgan Chase** foundations, many other corporations have matching gift programs for employees and retirees. All of these programs serve as great ways to help finance WCHT's restoration projects.

The total assets of WCHT amount to \$163,100, of which \$99,000 is held in the Improvements Fund for continuing projects. The unaudited financial statement follows.

|                                   |              |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Fund Balance - September 30, 2002 | \$158,800    |
| Income - donations                | 2,900        |
| Income - investments              | <u>3,400</u> |
| Total Income                      | 6,300        |
| Expenses - historical             | 300          |
| Expenses - newsletter and postage | 900          |
| Expenses - gravesite restoration  | <u>800</u>   |
| Total Expenses                    | 2,000        |
| Fund Balance - January 31, 2003   | \$163,100    |

The gravesite restoration expense was for setting of 34 markers in Strangers Rest.

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

## 2002 Burials in Washington Cemetery

The following persons were laid to rest in Washington Cemetery in 2002.

|                         | <u>Lot No.</u> | <u>Burial Date</u> |
|-------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Eddie Kovar             | D-021 NE¼      | 22 Feb. 2002       |
| Margaret K. Hunter      | I-019 W½       | 6 Jun. 2002        |
| Julia Marie Mosele      | P-009 SW¼      | 24 Jul. 2002       |
| William Rogers Whitmore | D-101 NW¼      | 31 Aug. 2002       |
| Nancy E. Moore          | D-118          | 20 Sep. 2002       |
| Harvey Earl Keller      | D-106          | 6 Nov. 2002        |

## Texas German Society Convention

In celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Texas German Society, the Harris County Chapter will host the annual TGS State Convention on Saturday, **March 15, 2003** at the Westside High School, 14201 Briar Forest near Hwy. 6 South.

All are welcome - you don't need to be a member to attend this fun and informative convention. Our own WCHT Historian, **Governor Clements**, will be one of the featured speakers, and WCHT will have a table there.

The all-day program includes several presentations relating to the German history of the area, including Frost Town, Addicks, and the *Deutsche Gesellschaft* Cemetery; German music and dancing; a light breakfast and full German lunch; performances by local high school German Clubs; door prizes; displays and vendor tables; and more.

The registration fee is only \$15.00 per person if postmarked by February 22, or \$20.00 at the door (food not guaranteed for late registrations). Student registration, \$10.00. To attend, send your check made payable to **Texas German Society** to Doris Hanneman. Include your name, address, and telephone number and indicate how you want your name to appear on your nametag. For further information, please contact **Flora von Roeder**.

## Spring Calendar of Events

### Cemetery Work/Visitor Day

Saturday, February 22, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Washington Cemetery

### Texas German Society State Convention

Saturday, March 15, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Westside High School, Houston  
Register by February 22 for best price

### Dedication of New Confederate Headstones

Saturday, March 22, 10:00 a.m.  
Washington Cemetery

### Confederate Memorial Day Services

Saturday, April 26, 12:00 noon  
Washington Cemetery

### Glenwood Cemetery Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 19, 10:00 a.m.  
51st Floor, 1301 McKinney (Chevron Tower)

## WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED