

# WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

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Vol. 28, No. 3

*"Heirs Who Care"*

October 2004

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## WCHT OFFICERS

President ----- Gus Mistrot	(position open)
Secretary-----Bernice Mistrot	Ginger Daily
Treasurer ----- Jim Daily	Cathy Fitch
Historian ----- Gov Clements	

## WCHT TRUSTEES

Charles Jackson	John Petzold
Elizabeth Larimore	Carl Young
Edgar Moy	Leona Zaboroski

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## New WCHT Trustees Needed

Long time WCHT Trustee **Sam Belinoski** has retired after many years of dedicated service to both Concerned Citizens for Washington Cemetery Care, Inc. and Washington Cemetery Historic Trust. When any heavy lifting was needed, Sam was there with a backhoe or tractor to get the job done. He single-handedly installed water lines throughout the cemetery in 1988, and built and installed the cemetery gate in 1990. He has spent innumerable days improving the roads and clearing brush on the vacant acreage at the back of the cemetery. Recently, he rebuilt one of the few remaining arbors, which had been damaged by a falling tree limb. His energy and talent will be missed; however, we are fortunate that the Glenwood staff will be able to do these kinds of projects in the future. We thank Sam for his many hours of hard work over the years, and wish him well in retirement.

Treasurer **Jim Daily** has indicated his desire to step down as Treasurer at the end of the year. He has been Treasurer for seven years, the second longest tenure of a Treasurer in the 28-year history of CCWCC and WCHT. Jim has done a fine job of keeping track of the finances of both CCWCC and WCHT, and directing the investments in safe securities. While many individuals and organizations have seen their portfolios shrink over the last three or four years, the WCHT securities have produced both current income and capital appreciation. We are actively seeking a volunteer for this very important job. Please contact Jim for the details.

The Trustees meet two or three times a year. In between meetings, they participate in ongoing cemetery improvement projects such as monument restoration, headstone transcription, adding information to the burial database, marking veterans' graves, loca-

ting and marking graves in Strangers Rest, assisting the public in locating graves of loved ones, and preparing the new history book and maps. If you would like to serve as a Trustee, please contact any Trustee before November 8.

## New Confederate Headstones Dedicated

On September 25, 2004, WCHT and **The Southern Cross Chapter 2502, UDC** cosponsored the dedication of new headstones for eleven Confederate veterans who are buried in Washington Cemetery. The weather cooperated this time – the rain didn't begin until 15 minutes after the ceremony concluded.

Headstones were dedicated for Edward N. **Bell**, George Albert **Branard**, Samuel G. **Henderson**, William Thompson **Marshall**, Joseph K. **Mayo**, John E. **Murphy**, Edmund **O'Reilly**, Robert **Ruckwardt**, Thomas A. **Snider**, Edward James **Williams**, and William H. **Williams**.

Over 150 people, aged 8 months to 80-plus, gathered to honor these loyal Sons of the South. Among the attendees were 73 relatives of the soldiers, including a grandson and granddaughter of George Branard, a grandson of William Marshall, and a granddaughter-in-law of Robert Ruckwardt. While most were from Texas this time, some traveled from California, Arizona, and Louisiana to participate in the event.

New Confederate headstones have been received for Maximilian F. **DeBajligethy**, Joshua Hamilton **Ham**, Porter M. **Neel**, Carl William Adolph **Quensell**, Zephaniah W. **Redd**, and John **Schiller**. We are hoping to locate relatives of these men prior to the next dedication ceremony, which will be sometime in 2005. Research is continuing on about a dozen more Confederate veterans and two Union veterans who need headstones.

## Clements' Corner

The following articles are in the format of the new history book being compiled. Much of the following text was read at the recent dedication ceremony.

### PLOT A-75

#### UNITED CONFEDERATE VETERANS

**Edward James WILLIAMS**  
(20 May 1823 – 22 March 1896)

*Compiled by WCHT Secretary Bernice Mistrot, with assistance from WCHT Historian Gov Clements and William J. Bozic, Jr., National President, Descendants of Mexican War Veterans.*

Edward James Williams was born in New York City. Though little is known of his personal life, save that he had at least one brother, his Mexican War pension file and Confederate service record provide a detailed account of his interesting life.

In September 1845, Edward enlisted at New York City as a seaman on *USS Congress*, commanded by Commodore Robert Stockton. The *Congress* soon sailed for California, then a part of Mexico, arriving in Monterey Bay in July 1846, just after the onset of the Mexican War. Commodore Stockton declared that California was annexed to the United States, and the *Congress* then took part in a series of actions at California ports.

Due to a lack of troops in Southern California, sailors of *USS Congress* were pressed into service as infantry under General Stephen Watts Kearny. Edward and his detachment saved the Army at San Pasqual in December 1846, and at the Battles of Rio San Gabriel, the Plains of Mesa, and the entry to the City of Los Angeles in January 1847. He was also involved in the bombardment and capture of Guaymas, Mexico, in October 1847, and the occupation of Mazatlán, beginning in November 1847. The *Congress* finally departed La Paz, Baja California in August 1848, bound for Norfolk, Virginia. Edward Williams was honorably discharged at Norfolk in February 1849.

Edward came to Texas in 1857, where he was a locomotive and steamship engineer. Allegedly, he was one of the first to run an engine between Houston and Galveston (that service began in 1860). On 7 June 1862, he enlisted at Houston as a sergeant in Captain James Martin's Partisan Rangers, which became Company C, Madison's Texas Cavalry, also called 3rd Texas Cavalry, Arizona Brigade. His pay statements describe him as 5 feet 6¼ inches, with brown hair and blue eyes. He received a sergeant's pay of \$12 per month, plus clothing allowance of \$136.13 per year, plus a one-time \$50 bounty.

He lost his horse in active service in Louisiana in October 1862, and was then on detached service on the Galveston, Houston, & Henderson Railroad. From June to September 1863, he was detailed to the Washington County Railroad. On 10 September 1863, he was recalled and detailed in the Marine Department as engineer on the Steamer *Clifton*, which had been captured by Dick Dowling at Sabine Pass just two days earlier.

In 1887, he applied for a Mexican War pension, while working as a machinist for the Panama Railroad Company in Colón, Colombia (now at the Atlantic end of the Panama Canal). The trans-isthmus railroad, chartered in New York and completed in 1855, predated the Panama Canal by nearly 60 years.

In 1893, Edward entered the Confederate Home in Austin. The following year, his Mexican War pension was increased from \$8 per month to \$12. He later moved back to Houston, where he died at St. Joseph's Infirmary of a stroke at age 72. With remarkable government efficiency, his death was recorded at the Pension Agency in Washington, D.C. just four days later.

Both ships on which Edward Williams served met sad fates. *USS Congress* was sunk by *CSS Virginia* (formerly *Merrimack*) on 8 March 1862, the day before the famous battle with *USS Monitor*. The captured *Clifton* ran aground off Sabine Pass on 21 March 1864 while attempting to run the Union blockade, and was then burned by her crew to prevent her recapture.

### PLOT F-43 N½

#### JOSEPH K. MAYO

**Joseph K. MAYO (9 March 1838 – 8 April 1902)**

*Compiled by WCHT Secretary Bernice Mistrot, with assistance from Colonel Mark Mayo Boatner, author of the "Civil War Dictionary," who is a great-grandson of Dr. Mayo's first cousin, Frances Mayo Boatner.*

Dr. Joseph K. Mayo, son of Joseph Mayo, was born in Watertown, New York, near the Canadian border. His grandfather, Captain Joseph Mayo, served in the War of 1812, and his great-grandfather, Colonel Joseph Mayo, served in the American Revolution, as did his great-great-grandfather, Major Joseph Mayo. Joseph appears to have been an only child who lost his mother at a very young age.

In the 1830's, two of Joseph's uncles, George and Oren Mayo, both lawyers, settled at Harrisonburg, Catahoula Parish, Louisiana. Joseph's father, a doctor, was living with his brother Oren in 1860, but Joseph, then 22, appears to have spent the summer of 1860 working on a farm in his hometown. He soon moved south again. On 4 May 1862, Joseph enlisted at Jackson, Mississippi, in Company F, 31st Louisiana Infantry, and was assigned to the defense of Vicksburg. He was surrendered there on 4 July 1863 and exchanged near Shreveport, Louisiana, at the end of March 1864. The unit was then reorganized and served in various locations in Louisiana until the end of the war. Joseph K. Mayo, hospital steward and resident of Catahoula Parish, was paroled at Monroe, Louisiana, on 17 June 1865.

Returning to civilian life, Joseph married Martha Duke in Catahoula Parish on 20 August 1866. They moved to Chicago, where Joseph graduated from Rush Medical College in 1867. Their first child, Frank Duke Mayo, was born in Illinois the following year. Moving south once again, by 1870 they were living in Brenham, Texas, where their second son, Oren, was born. In the mid-1870's they moved to Fort Bend County, and in 1880, to Houston. In Houston city directories from 1884 to 1894, he is described as "Physician, Surgeon, Druggist."

Dr. Mayo became a charter member of the Dick Dowling Camp UCV in June 1892. He was also a member of the Knights of the Maccabees and the Washington Street Methodist Episcopal Church South. He died of cancer at age 64, and was buried here beside his wife, who had died several months earlier. Also buried here is a niece, Alice LeGras. Dr. Mayo is believed to have no living descendants, as his only grandchild died in southern California about 15 years ago, leaving no children.

## Financial Report

During the last fiscal year, we received 184 donations from individuals, plus additional donations from the **Randalls Good Neighbor Program** (WCHT #2810) and **Kroger Share Card**. To obtain a Kroger Share Card, please contact Jim Daily.

The expenses in our Monument Restoration Program were for restoring 29 headstones in Phases 7 and 8. Most of the historical expenses were related to the marking of veterans' graves, including the headstone dedication ceremonies held in October 2003 and September 2004.

## Contacts

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

**Burial Database:** Eleanor Beebe.

**Veterans Database:** Gus Mistrot.

**History Book Text:** Bernice Mistrot.

**History Book Photos:** Ginger Daily.

**Newsletter Editor:** Bernice Mistrot. Deadline for material for February issue: January 15, 2005.

### INCOME and EXPENSES (Unaudited) – Fiscal Year 2004

#### WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

<b>Net Assets – October 1, 2003</b>	<b>\$167,407</b>		
INCOME: Operations/Administration	\$4,695	EXPENSES: Monument Restoration	\$4,404
Historical Projects	1,192	Historical Projects	3,380
Gravesite Restoration	1,325	Newsletter & Postage	2,389
<b>Total Donations</b>	<b>\$7,212</b>	Administration	221
Net Investment Income	12,951		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$20,163</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$10,394</b>
		<b>Net Assets -- September 30, 2004</b>	<b>\$177,176</b>
FUNDS: Cash in Bank	\$2,463	FUNDS: Operations/Administration	\$73,190
Money Market Account	48,536	Historical Projects	9,638
Securities	126,177	Gravesite Restoration	94,348
	<b>\$177,176</b>		<b>\$177,176</b>

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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).

WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST	
Donor Name _____	Phone Number _____
E-mail Address (if applicable) _____	
_____ 2005 ANNUAL Donation (\$20.00)	Surname(s) of Deceased _____
_____ GRAVESITE RESTORATION	_____
_____ HISTORY/RESEARCH	Plot Number(s), if known _____
_____ TOTAL	Matching Gift from _____

## More Monument Repairs Completed

**Bobby Schlitzberger** has just completed stabilization and cleaning of 16 more headstones and cradles in Phases 7C, 8E, and 8F for a total of \$3330.00. The repaired monuments are as follows:

*Section B:* Susan **Richardson** (died 1896, age 85).

*Section A:* William Allen **Lynn** (1893-1945), Mary **Mytinger** (1864-1899).

*Section B:* Frederick William **Liskow** (1869-1944), Louise S. **Klipper** (1867-1945), William H. **Monaghan** (1877-1932), Infant of L. W. **Frank**, (1908-1908), F. A. **Sawyer** (1816-1890), John H. **Secrist** (1839-1910) & Ximena **Secrist** (1844-19\_\_).

*Section F:* Joe **Poskey** (1862-1902).

*Strangers Rest (Section F):* Joseph William **Logue** (1890-1944), Telesforo **Valdez** (1908-1940).

*Strangers Rest (Section H):* Lyda Bell **Moulds** (1918-1931), George **Ellis** (died 1917), Martha **Stifter** (1896-1918), Cornelio **Contreras** (1894-1948), Isabel **Treviño** (1881-1965).

Mr. Schlitzberger is continuing to work on additional headstones and copings needing attention.

## Cemetery Visitor/Work Days

One Saturday each month during the cooler months (October to April) is designated as a Visitor/Work Day, 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. The usual hours are from about 10-4. We invite you to join us in the continuing search for hidden markers in Strangers Rest, transcribing headstones, or proof-reading maps.

## New Veterans' Headstones Installed

At this writing, three families have taken advantage of the new optional WCHT program to install military style markers for veterans who died before September 11, 2001 and already have family headstones. New markers are in place for Confederate veterans George Albert **Branard** and Carl William Adolph **Quensell**, and World War II veteran Louis V. **Zaboroski**. Please contact **Gus Mistrot** to order such a marker for a veteran in your family.

*Correction to June 2004 newsletter:* Some veterans who died on or after September 11, 2001 are eligible for a free VA marker, even if they already have family headstones. For details, refer to the VA website, <<http://www.cem.va.gov>>.

## Headstone Transcription Project

**Eleanor Beebe** is continuing to add information to the burial database. Now that cooler weather has arrived, we can resume comparing the database printouts with the headstones to catch any errors or omissions. We'll also begin working on headstone transcriptions and maps in Strangers Rest.

### Fall/Winter/Spring Cemetery Visitor/Work Days

Saturday, October 30, 2004  
Saturday, November 20, 2004  
Saturday, January 22, 2005  
Saturday, February 26, 2005  
Saturday, March 26, 2005  
Saturday, April 23, 2005

## WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED