

# WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

Vol. 29, No. 2

"Heirs Who Care"

June 2005

## WCHT OFFICERS

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Vice President ----- Catherine Fitch  
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## Confederate Headstone Dedication Ceremony Set for October 8, 2005

On October 8, at 10:00 a.m., at least ten new Confederate headstones will be dedicated at a ceremony cosponsored by WCHT and **Albert Sidney Johnston Camp 67, Sons of Confederate Veterans**. (See page 2 for a list of the veterans whose headstones will be dedicated.) The procession to each gravesite will be led by Pipers **Lars Sloan** and **Al Vacek**, followed by the Color Guard and Honor Guard of **Granbury's Texas Brigade Camp 1479, SCV**, which will fire a musket salute in honor of each soldier. Relatives of the veterans and members of SCV and UDC will unveil the headstones and read the soldiers' biographies. **Albert Sidney Johnston Camp 67 SCV** will host a reception following the ceremony.

Please mark the date on your calendar now - there will not be another newsletter prior to the ceremony. For details and updates, please contact **Gus Mistrot**.

## DRT and WCHT to Mark Graves of Citizens of the Republic of Texas

Washington Cemetery is the final resting place of perhaps dozens of citizens of the Republic of Texas - persons (regardless of age) who resided in Texas prior to February 19, 1846. For example, we know that at least five of the Confederate veterans buried here were either born in the Republic of Texas or moved to Texas with their parents in the early 1840s. Also buried here are two veterans of the Battle of San Jacinto - **Ellis Benson** and **William Gammell**. We hope to discover many more Texians buried here.

The Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT) produce an elegant 4½" bronze medallion that can be affixed to an existing headstone to identify a Citizen of the Republic of Texas. **Judy Henderson**, a member of the Bluebonnet Chapter of DRT in Friendswood, has recently memorialized her great-great-grandparents, **John William Bergin** and **Julia Purcell Bergin**, with a new headstone displaying this medallion.



WCHT and the Bluebonnet Chapter of DRT are now cosponsoring a project to identify, document, and mark the graves of other Citizens of the Republic of Texas buried in Washington Cemetery. We need your help in this, as we have only about a dozen names on the list at present. If you know of anyone buried in Washington Cemetery who may be eligible for this medallion, please contact **Judy Henderson** or **Imogene Macias**.

The medallions will be purchased through DRT, as there must be a DRT sponsor for each one. WCHT will cover all expenses of having them installed on the existing headstones.

A formal dedication ceremony is planned for **Saturday, March 25, 2006**. That seems a long way off, but the date was selected so that there would be plenty of time to do the research and order the medallions. We would like to have all medallions on order by **September 15, 2005** to be sure they will arrive in time for the ceremony.

## Clements' Corner

*Compiled with assistance from Judge William "Bill" Hatten, former national and regional officer, and an active Eagle since 1936 – 69 years.*

### PLOTS A-5, 6, 11, and 12 FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES

In 1898 at Seattle, Washington, a half dozen theatrical people decided to form a non-sectarian, fraternal organization, the purpose of which was to assist one another in time of need. At first, they called it "The Order of Good Things," but shortly thereafter they named it the "Fraternal Order of Eagles" (F. O. E.).

The Order grew rapidly throughout the United States and Canada. Each local lodge was called an "Aerie" (or Eagles' Nest). The first Houston Aerie (No. 63 in the nation) was chartered on 2 May 1900 by fifty well-known Houstonians. By 1930, membership exceeded 2500 out of a Houston population of 290,000.

Today there are 1700 Aeries in the United States and Canada. There is a very active Women's Auxiliary. Major programs of financial support are heart, cancer, diabetes and Alzheimer's research; aid to retarded children; and mental health institutions.

The first known Eagle to die in Houston was Brother **Max Samuels** in 1902. He was buried in the Jewish cemetery on San Felipe. On the first of April 1903, the F. O. E. No. 63, in the name of **George Ellis**, bought four contiguous cemetery plots consisting of 52 burial spaces – Section A, Plots 5, 6, 11, and 12 – for a total of \$600.00. A decorative concrete coping surrounds the four plots. The entrance from the west road is marked with an ornate marble step inscribed with the Eagles' logo, the words "Houston Aerie No. 63, F. O. E.," and the letters "L. T. J. E." (Liberty, Truth, Justice, Equality), the ideals of an Eagle.

The first Eagle to be buried in the plot was Brother **Jesse L. Lankford**, on 19 May 1903. Since then, 47 Eagles have come to rest in this last Aerie.

## New Confederate Headstones

The following ten headstones are either on order or have already arrived and will be dedicated on October 8. Family members are invited to participate in the unveiling. At this time, WCHT is in contact with relatives of only those marked with an asterisk.

Please contact Gus Mistrot if you have additional information about any of them.

- \*Maximilian F. DeBajligethy** Plot B-004½  
(ca. 1814 – 7 Feb. 1893)  
QM Sgt., 8th Texas Cavalry (Terry's Texas Rangers)  
Private, Co. D, 1st Regt, Texas State Troops
- \*George Washington Gibbs** Plot H-104 (SR-X48)  
(6 June 1844 – 16 Nov. 1933)  
Private, Co. E, 1st Texas Mounted Rifles  
Private, Co. A, Waul's Texas Legion  
Private, Co. E, D.S. Terry's Texas Cavalry
- Joshua Hamilton Ham** Plot G-067  
(10 Mar. 1841 – 26 Jan. 1918)  
Private, Co. K, 11th Missouri Infantry
- \*William Henry Hill** Plot A-116 E½  
(16 Aug. 1839 – 26 Oct. 1902)  
Private, Co. D, 4th Georgia Infantry
- Porter M. Neel** Plot G-067  
(ca. 1846 – 24 May 1914)  
Private, Co. K, 21st Texas Cavalry
- \*Carl William Adolph Quensell** Plot A-019  
(8 Mar. 1829 – 21 Oct. 1890)  
Corporal, 4th Field Battery, Texas Light Artillery  
Private, Co. C, 1st Texas Heavy Artillery
- Zephaniah W. Redd** Plot G-072 W½  
(9 Dec. 1846 – 24 Dec. 1920)  
Private, Co. G, 51st North Carolina Infantry
- John Schiller** Plot G-066  
(6 Sep. 1844 – 25 June 1921)  
Private, Co. F, 16th Texas Infantry
- \*David Sherrell Williams** Plot I-023 W½  
(29 June 1835 – 17 Sep. 1921)  
Private, Co. G, 45th Alabama Infantry
- \*Charles Allen Younger** Plot G-067  
(19 May 1837 – 5 Dec. 1908)  
Private, New Co. G, 4th Louisiana Infantry

Research is nearly complete on the following four veterans, but their headstones have not yet been ordered, pending verification of their birth dates. Some of these may be included in the October 8 dedication ceremony if the headstones arrive in time. The rest will be dedicated at a future date.

**\*George A. Bailey** Plot A-075  
 (1828 or Jan 1839 – 4 Dec 1901)  
 Private, Co E, 44th Alabama Infantry  
 Musician, 3rd Arkansas Infantry

**Joseph Poskey (Pauska)** Plot F-015  
 (ca. 1837 – 12 Mar. 1915)  
 Co. F, 2nd Texas Cavalry, Arizona Brigade  
 Co. D, 2nd Texas Infantry

**James Benjamin Rives** Plot SR-X55  
 (3 Apr. 1846 – 12 Dec. 1934)  
 Private, Co. H, 62nd Alabama Infantry  
 (aka 1st Alabama Reserves)

**\*Herman H. Youngst** Plot A-028 N½  
 (ca. 1841-45 – 11 Dec. 1901)  
 Private, Co. K, 26th Texas Cavalry

### Treasurer's Report (June 1, 2005)

During the five months ended May 31, 2005, WCHT received 71 donations from individuals. WCHT also receives funds from the **Randalls Good Neighbor Program** (WCHT #2810) and **Kroger Share Card**.

While WCHT is currently receiving funds through the matching gift programs of **ExxonMobil** and **J. P. Morgan Chase Foundation**, 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 \$180,311, of which \$ 85,856 is held in the Improvements Fund for

continuing projects. The unaudited financial statement follows.

Fund Balance – Dec. 31, 2004	\$185,698
Income – Donations	2,887
Income – Investments	<u>2,361</u>
Total Income	5,248
Expenses – Administrative	39
Expenses – Historical Projects	350
Expenses – Newsletter & Postage	675
Expenses – Gravesite Restoration	4,571
Expenses – Glenwood Master Plan	<u>5,000</u>
Total Expenses	10,635
Fund Balance – May 31, 2005	\$180,311

Investments are carried at cost. As of May 31, 2005, the current market value exceeded cost by \$1,116.

### Contact Addresses and Phone Numbers

**Glenwood Cemetery**, 2525 Washington Ave.,  
 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 October issue: September 1, 2005.

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Please return the form below with your check and mail to the new **WCHT Treasurer, Lloyd Shenberger**.

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 _____

## Glenwood Annual Meeting on June 16

The Annual Meeting of Glenwood Cemetery, Inc. will start at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 16, 2005, at the offices of Fulbright & Jaworski, 51st Floor, 1301 McKinney (Chevron Tower), Houston, Texas 77010.

All original Owners of lots in Washington Cemetery (or surviving spouses, executors, or descendants of deceased lot owners who have completed a Glenwood Declaration/Proxy form) should have already received an invitation to attend this meeting.

If no one in your family has received the Declaration/Proxy for your lot this year, and you wish to become the representative for your family lot, please contact the Glenwood office at (713) 864-7886 as soon as possible. You may also write to Glenwood Cemetery, 2525 Washington Ave., Houston, Texas 77007 or send e-mail to <info@glenwoodcemetery.org>.

## Phase 8G Monument Repairs Completed

**Bobby Schlitzberger** has just completed leveling and cleaning of 16 more headstones, cradles, and copings in Phase 8G for a total of \$3285.00. The repaired monuments are as follows:

*Section A:* William **Gammell** (1812-1869) [two headstones].

*Section B:* George **Schuplinsky** (1891-1899), Roy E. **Woodruff** (1890-1892), Arthur R. **Campbell** (1866-1932), Louise E. **Campbell** (1867-1954), **Campbell/**

**Schmidt** coping, Charles Joseph **Halphen** (1872-1949), Victoria **Halphen** (1873-1943).

*Section H:* Annie Mae **Alewine** (1893-1928), Martha **Zavodsky** (1871-1919).

*Strangers Rest (Section H):* Jose **Gonzales** (died 1947), Manuel **Olivares** (1889-1939), Amelia B. de **Olivares** (1889-1948), two unmarked adult cradles adjacent to Olivares and Gonzales.

In addition, the Glenwood staff has completed leveling, repair, and cleaning of two headstones and a cradle in Phase 9A for a total of \$975. They are:

*Strangers Rest (Section H):* Lyda Bell **Moulds** (1918-1931), John R. **Stewart** (1835-1907).

Glenwood will be doing more of this kind of work in the future.

### Calendar of Events

#### Glenwood Cemetery Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 16, 2005, 10:00 a.m.

51st Floor, 1301 McKinney (Chevron Tower)

#### Dedication of New Confederate Headstones

Saturday, October 8, 2005, 10:00 a.m.

#### Washington Cemetery Visitor/Work Day

Saturday, October 29, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

#### Dedication of Republic of Texas Medallions

Saturday, March 25, 2006, 10:00 a.m.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED