

WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

Vol. 30, No. 3

"Heirs Who Care"

October 2006

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Vice President ----- Catherine Fitch
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WCHT Welcomes New Trustee

Donald Gehring, son of the late **Victor Gehring**, a long time member of the CCWCC and WCHT Boards, was elected as a Trustee at a recent Trustee meeting. Don brings many talents to the Board. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in Texas, and very interested in genealogy and history. He has agreed to serve as Webmaster, to create and maintain a website for Washington Cemetery.

At this time, the project is still in the early planning stages, but we hope that by the time of the next newsletter, we will have at least part of it up and running. If you would like to help on this project, or have suggestions for what you would like to see on a website, please contact Don.

Monument Restoration Program Resumes

After a lull in restoration activity over the last couple of years, the pace of work has really picked up recently, largely due to the efforts of Trustee **Carl Young**, who volunteers his time several afternoons a week to supervise the work.

A major project completed this summer was the restoration of the elegant and unusual red brick copings on the Angerhoefer and Wilson plots near the front of the cemetery. One had collapsed to the point that it was in danger of being too far gone to be saved. After the repair by the Glenwood staff, who carefully cleaned and restacked and remortared each brick, these beautiful open lattice copings have been restored to their former glory.

There are many small headstones and markers throughout the cemetery that have sunk over time and need to be raised and leveled. In less time than it took to repair the two brick copings, Carl Young and the two Glenwood employees have raised and straightened an amazing 121 headstones and six cradles. A list of these markers will be included in the next newsletter, after they are cleaned.

Confederate Headstone Dedication Ceremony Set for October 28, 2006

On October 28, at 10:00 a.m., twelve 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.) Six of the graves were unmarked, and are now marked with VA headstones. The other six men already had family headstones, so an additional flat marker was purchased jointly by each family and WCHT to recognize their loyal service.

The procession to each gravesite will be led by Pipers **Jim Hudgins** and **Al Vacek**, followed by the Color Guard and Honor Guard of **Granbury's Texas Brigade Camp 1479 SCV** (Conroe) and **Waul's Texas Legion Camp 2103 SCV** (Katy) 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. For further details, please contact **Gus Mistrot**.

Clements' Corner

PLOT G-67

UNITED CONFEDERATE VETERANS

Joshua Hamilton HAM

(10 March 1841– 26 January 1918)

Joshua Hamilton Ham was born in Shakertown, Mercer County, Kentucky (or Logan County, Kentucky – they are about 180 miles apart!). By 1850, he and his two older brothers and their parents, Frances and Joshua D. Ham, had settled in Alexander Township, Benton County, Missouri.

Joshua enlisted on June 10, 1862 at Fort Smith, Arkansas in Company K, 11th Missouri Infantry, Trans-Mississippi Department. This unit saw action during the Red River Campaign of March-May 1864, including the battles of Pleasant Hill and Jenkins' Ferry. He was surrendered with the rest of the Trans-Mississippi Department on May 26, 1865, and paroled at Alexandria, Louisiana on June 7, 1865, stating that his home was in Benton County, Missouri. For his services, he was granted a Texas Confederate pension in June 1914.

Following the war, he became a carpenter and worked for a variety of railroads in a variety of places, including Kansas and Arkansas, before settling in Houston around 1880, where he rose to master car builder with the Southern Pacific Railroad.

Little is known about his wife, save that they had a daughter Roxie May, who was born in Arkansas in October 1870. He was living in Roxie's home in the Sixth Ward when he died of complications of tuberculosis. Roxie had married John A. **Walter** in Houston in 1892. They separated sometime after both of their children died in infancy in 1895; however, they are buried together with their children on the George L. **Parish** plot in Washington Cemetery. John is thought to be a nephew of George's wife, Mary Susan Walter **Parish**, and George is believed to have served in the 1st Alabama Reserves. Research is continuing on these men.

New Confederate Headstones

The following twelve new headstones and markers have been installed and will be dedicated on October 28. 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.

George Watson Crowder Plot F-045 E½
(13 Nov. 1831 – 29 Feb. 1912)
3rd Lieutenant, Co. A, 6th Louisiana Cavalry

Basil Crow Cushman* Plot A-119½
(1 Aug. 1841 – 29 Mar. 1925)
Sergeant, Co. B, 1st Louisiana Infantry (Nelligan's)
Adjutant, 30th Louisiana Infantry

Joshua Hamilton Ham Plot G-067
(10 Mar. 1841 – 26 Jan. 1918)
Private, Co. K, 11th Missouri Infantry

Henry Hartmann* Plot C-030
(10 Mar. 1835 – 29 Sep. 1900)
Private, Co. B, 2nd Texas Infantry

Charles Gilbert Heyne* Plot B-115
(14 Aug. 1840 – 21 July 1916)
Quartermaster Sergeant, 13th Louisiana Infantry

Thomas Franklin Kerr Plot H-044 NE¼
(28 Feb. 1836 – 6 May 1925)
Navy – Blockade runner "Cora Smyser"

John Kreis* Plot C-031 E½
(21 Aug. 1839 – 22 Feb. 1887)
Private, Co. F, 1st Infantry Regt., Texas State Troops
Sergeant, Co. B, Houston Battalion, Texas Infantry

George Foster Pattillo* Plot F-011 S½
(13 Feb. 1840 – 10 Sep. 1930)
Private, Co. E, 2nd Texas Mounted Rifles (1861-62)
Assistant Pilot, Navy (1862-65)

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

John Schiller Plot G-066
(6 Sep. 1844 – 25 June 1921)
Private, Co. F, 16th Texas Infantry

Eduard Bernhard Heinrich Schneider* Plot B-134
(31 Jul. 1827 – 1 Jan. 1903)
Captain, Co. C, 1st Texas Heavy Artillery

Robert Voigt* Plot B-144
(10 Feb. 1832 – 8 Oct. 1866)
Capt., Co. C, 1st Infantry Battalion, Waul's Texas Legion

Contacts

Burial Database: Eleanor Beebe

Veterans Database: Gus Mistrot

History Book Photos: Ginger Daily

History Book Text & Newsletter Editor: Bernice Mistrot. Deadline for next issue: January 15, 2007.

Webmaster: Don Gehring

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

Financial Report

During the last fiscal year, we received 185 donations from individuals, one (1) corporate matching contribution, four (4) special gifts from individuals or estates, plus donations from the Randall's *Good Neighbor* Program (WCHT #2810) and Kroger *Share Card*.

Due to rising bank interest rates and consequently decreasing share prices of corporate fixed income

securities, the Board decided to sell these securities and invest in Certificates of Deposit. The loss on the sale of the securities plus the interest income on investments yielded a net loss of \$1,443 for the year.

The expenses in our Monument Restoration program were for restoring and leveling 136 headstones, cradles, and copings. Most of the Historical Projects were related to marking of veterans' graves, including headstone dedication ceremonies.

INCOME and EXPENSES (Unaudited) – Fiscal Year 2006

WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

Net Assets – October 1, 2005	\$183,380		
INCOME: Operations/Administration	\$40,257	EXPENSES: Monument Restoration	\$6,780
Historical Projects	1,436	Historical Projects	5,253
Gravesite Restoration	915	Newsletter & Postage	2,151
Total Donations	\$42,608	Administration	3,000
Net Investment Income	(1,443)		
Total Income	\$41,165	Total Expenses	\$17,184
		Net Assets -- September 30, 2006	\$207,361
FUNDS: Cash in Bank	\$2,710	FUNDS: Operations/Administration	\$118,868
Money Market Account	14,651	Historical Projects	5,480
Securities	190,000	Gravesite Restoration	83,013
	\$207,361		\$207,361

Please return the form below with your check and mail to **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) _____	
_____ 2007 ANNUAL Donation (\$20.00)	Surname(s) of Deceased _____
_____ GRAVESITE RESTORATION	_____
_____ HISTORY/RESEARCH	Plot Number(s), if known _____
_____ TOTAL	Matching Gift from _____

General Manager's Report

A working draft of the Master Plan to guide the future of Glenwood Cemetery and Washington Cemetery is nearing completion. In line with the goal of identifying the highest and best use of undeveloped cemetery land, the Plan will focus on various alternatives for development, including urn gardens, a columbarium, a community mausoleum, and the possible acquisition of certain parcels of land adjoining the cemetery. The Plan will also address such visual enhancements as uniform signage and landscaping improvements. Another important component of the Plan will be the development of alternative water sources, including Buffalo Bayou, which will allow us to supplement our water supply.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Carl Young, WCHT Trustee, for his volunteer work in identifying and supervising monument restoration projects in Washington and Glenwood. Over the past several years, Carl has contributed countless hours to this effort, and both cemeteries reflect his skill and care. We are particularly grateful for Carl's work in the area of Glenwood known as New Strangers Rest, where he has located and identified more than one hundred previously unmarked graves and designed and supervised the installation of simple stones identifying the deceased and their dates of burial. Congratulations, Carl, for a job well done.

Richard A. Ambrus
Vice President and General Manager
Glenwood and Washington Cemeteries

New Section Markers Installed

We are pleased to report that attractive new section markers have recently been installed throughout Washington Cemetery to make it easier to locate the graves of your loved ones. WCHT provided the markers and Glenwood staff did all the work of painting and installing them at no cost to WCHT.

Cemetery Visitor/Work Days

One Saturday each month during the cooler months (December 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 or proofreading maps and database printouts. Or just come and visit, and see the improvements that are being made daily.

Calendar of Events

Washington Cemetery Visitor/Work Days

Saturday, December 2, 2005
Saturday, January 27, 2006
Saturday, February 24, 2006
Saturday, March 31, 2006 (5th Saturday)
Saturday, April 28, 2006

Glenwood Cemetery

Dedication of Republic of Texas Medallions
Saturday, March 24, 2006

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED