

# WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

---

Vol. 31, No. 1

*"Heirs Who Care"*

February 2007

---

## WCHT OFFICERS

President ----- Gus Mistrot  
Vice President ----- Catherine Fitch  
Secretary ----- Bernice Mistrot  
Treasurer ----- Lloyd Shenberger  
Historian ----- Gov Clements

## WCHT TRUSTEES

Eleanor Beebe	Edgar Moy
Donald Gehring	John Petzold
Charles Jackson	Carl Young
Richard June	Leona Zaboroski
Elizabeth Larimore	

---

## **New Confederate Headstones Dedicated**

On October 28, 2006, a beautiful brilliant day, WCHT and **Albert Sidney Johnston Camp 67, Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV)** cosponsored the dedication of twelve more headstones for Confederate veterans buried in Washington Cemetery. Headstones were dedicated for George Watson **Crowder**, Basil Crow **Cushman**, Joshua Hamilton **Ham**, Henry **Hartmann**, Charles Gilbert **Heyne**, Thomas Franklin **Kerr**, John **Kreis**, George Foster **Pattillo**, Joseph **Poskey**, John **Schiller**, Eduard Bernhard Heinrich **Schneider**, and Robert **Voigt**.

Half of the nearly 150 attendees were relatives of the soldiers, including some who traveled from Alabama and Mississippi to mark the occasion. Eighteen men in uniform, many of them from **Waul's Texas Legion Camp 2103 SCV** in Katy, provided an impressive color guard and honor guard during the ceremony. The entire event was photographed by Stephen Bateman and Betty Mann, and videotaped by Reese and June English. The photos and video are available on CD and DVD respectively, at \$25 for the two-disc set, including shipping.

WCHT has placed and dedicated a total of 64 new Confederate headstones and markers in Washington Cemetery since 1999. We have scheduled another dedication for October 27, 2007, at which time we hope to complete the Confederate marking program. Research is continuing on these and other veterans. We hope to have the markers for the October ceremony ordered by the end of May.

## **Glenwood's Citizens of the Republic of Texas to be Honored on March 24, 2007**

On Saturday, March 24, 2007, District VI, Daughters of the Republic of Texas will dedicate bronze memorial markers for over 80 Citizens, Veterans, and Defenders of the Republic of Texas who are buried in Glenwood Cemetery. This is a joint project of all 12 DRT chapters in the District and the Glenwood Cemetery Historic Preservation Foundation. Each grave will also be marked with a Texas flag placed by the Children of the Republic of Texas.

Among the notables on the program are some Houston Mayors and Texas Governors, Charlotte **Allen**, Louise **Bethje**, Caroline **Branard**, George **Hermann**, T. W. **House**, John **Ivy**, Anson **Jones**, Thomas **Lubbock**, B. F. **Terry**, Frederick **Usener** and many others, both well-known and lesser-known Citizens from the Republic of Texas era. Many of their descendants will be present for the ceremony.

Due to the large size of Glenwood and the many markers that will be dedicated, the 2:00 p.m. ceremony will take place at Trinity Lutheran Church, 800 Houston Avenue at Washington, about one mile from the cemetery. You are invited to attend the ceremony, and to visit the cemetery either before or after the ceremony. Cemetery maps will be available at both places to assist you in finding the graves of these brave men and women whose hardships and sacrifices built this great state we now call home.

For more information, please contact Anita Cooper, District VI Representative.

## Clements' Corner

The following articles are in the format of the new history book being compiled. Biographies of nine of the twelve members of this family buried in this plot appear in the 1988 *Washington Cemetery Centennial Book*; these are the remaining three.

### PLOT F-33

#### WILLIAM H. FLEIG

*Submitted by Calista E. Larimore of League City, TX; daughter of Calista Mertha (Rueckert) Head.*

#### Sallie (SLICER) RUECKERT

(3 January 1853 – 12 November 1943)



Sallie was a native of Baltimore, Maryland. She married John R. Rueckert in Baltimore where her three children were also born. They had one daughter, Blanch, born in 1875, and two sons, Lewis Holborn born 1877 and William Walter born 1881. Walter lived in Chicago, Illinois and Canton, Ohio. During the last years of her life she resided with Lewis H. Rueckert and his family at 232 West Eighteenth in the Heights.

#### Lewis Fleig RUECKERT

(13 August 1910 – 1 May 1996)



Lewis was born in Houston, the only son of Lewis Holborn Rueckert and Calista (Fleig) Rueckert. He was a longtime resident of Houston and spent his retirement days at Moody Retirement Home in Galveston. Lewis received his Education/Library Science degree from Peabody University in Nashville, Tennessee, and his Masters Degree from the University of Houston. His career with H.I.S.D. spanned 40 years, teaching first at San

Jacinto High School and later at Reagan High School. He was a member of First Church of Christ Scientist. He also belonged to Sons of Confederate Veterans and Holland Masonic Lodge, and was an advisor with the Robert E. Lee Chapter of Demolay.

#### Calista Mertha (RUECKERT) HEAD

(12 October 1916 – 30 November 2006)



Calista was born in Shipley, Maryland to Lewis H. and Calista Rueckert. She joined a six-year-old brother, Lewis F. Two years later she and Lewis were joined by a sister, Jeanette, who died at the age of two. The family moved to the Houston Heights where they resided. Calista was a 1935 graduate of Reagan High School, where she met and fell in love with her future husband, John Head. They married on 4 Sept 1942 in

Harlingen, Texas. He was enlisted in the Army Air Corps and made the service his career. Calista and John had a daughter, Calista Elizabeth, in November 1943.

Calista made a home for her family wherever the Service sent them. She served on different Air Force Officer Club boards and donated time and energy to organizations supported by the clubs. After John's retirement in 1965, Calista and John resided in Texarkana, Texas where they had family and friends. When John died in 1986 Calista moved to the Houston area to be near her daughter and family.

## Monument Restoration Program News

Glenwood staff have been hard at work restoring headstones and copings in Washington Cemetery. Prior to the headstone dedication last October, they cleaned and straightened the markers and copings on the following family plots. Section A: **Cushman**. Section B: **Schuplinsky, Schneider, Heyne, Schweikart**. Section C: **Hartmann, Kreis, Dickey**. Section F: **Pattillo, Poskey, Crowder**. Section G: **Ross**. Section H: **Kerr**.

Also cleaned and leveled as part of the group of 121 previously reported are the following in Section C:

Margarita **Schmidt** (died 1892, age 73), Minni **Drenkle** (1849-1905), Thomas B. **Hicks** (died 1918, WWI), Christine **Leake** (1885-1954), Robert Oscar **Leake** (died 1943, age 79), Ed **Priester** (1856-1891), Lena **Priester** (1866-1934), Paulin **Landry** (1860-1930), Charles B. **Beard** (1907-1961), Grover C. **Beard** (1888-1968), Joseph Holmes **Canniff** (1873-1937) & Minnie Jane **Canniff** (1883-1962), Maggie A. **Radke** (1881-1951), Henry **Wolf** (1823-1909) & Friedericke **Wolf** (1842-1919), John Thomas **Dorrity** (1860-1905), Anna **Blakeney** (1865-1907), Claude **Maddox** (1883-1917).

## WCHT Trustee Appointed to Harris County Historical Commission

WCHT Secretary **Bernice Mistrot** has accepted a two-year appointment to the Harris County Historical Commission, where one of her duties will be to review applications for Texas Historical Markers. If you know of a worthy subject for a marker, she will be happy to assist you with the process.

## 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: May 15, 2007

**Webmaster:** Don Gehring

**Glenwood Cemetery:** 2525 Washington Ave., Houston, TX 77007-6020, <info@glenwoodcemetery.org> (713) 864-7886, fax (713) 864-6429.

## In Memoriam: Russell King

Former CCWCC Director and Treasurer **Russell S. King**, 86, died at his home in Cat Spring, TX on Wednesday, January 17, 2007. Russ was born in Port Henry, NY on June 11, 1920. He joined the National Guard in 1940, served during WWII in Germany, and was discharged on Christmas Day 1945.

He was an enthusiastic participant in the early days of the restoration of Washington Cemetery, when "work day" meant serious work – clearing brush, trimming trees, spreading donated gravel on the roads – whatever needed to be done, Russ was there to do it. He was on the CCWCC Board for six years, 1981-1987, the last four as Treasurer.

He was an avid hunter, fisherman, and gardener. After he and Lois moved to Cat Spring in 1986, he became equally involved in other volunteer projects, supporting his church, the volunteer firemen, the local food pantry, and many others.

Russ was preceded in death by his parents, Howard and Grace King, of Ticonderoga, NY. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Lois A. Waegner King; his three children, Craig King of Cat Spring, Karen Lukin and husband Mitch of Houston, and Kurt King and wife Mary of Austin, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

He will be greatly missed, and we offer our sincere sympathies to Lois and their family.

\* \* \* \* \*

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

## Treasurer's Report (January 31, 2007)

During the four months ending January 31, 2007, WCHT received 66 donations from individuals. WCHT also receives funds from the *Randall's Good Neighbor* Program (WCHT #2810) and Kroger *Share* Card. WCHT is qualified to receive funds through corporate matching gift programs from employees and retirees.

The total assets of WCHT at January 31, 2007 equal \$205,621, of which \$80,346 is held in the Improvements Fund for continuing projects.

The unaudited financial statement for the four months ending January 31, 2007 follows.

Fund Balance – September 30, 2006	<b>\$207,361</b>
Income – donations from individuals	2,997
Income – sales of dedication videos	510
Income – investments	<u>1,652</u>
Total Income	5,159
Expenses – historical	2,741
Expenses – monument repair & cleaning	3,202
Expenses – newsletter and postage	733
Expenses – administrative	<u>223</u>
Total Expenses	6,899
Fund Balance – January 31, 2007	<b>\$205,621</b>

The historical expenses are primarily related to the Confederate headstone marking and dedication ceremony, and for translation of the early minutes of the *Deutsche Gesellschaft of Houston*.

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 _____

## 2006 Burials in Washington Cemetery

The following persons were laid to rest in Washington Cemetery in 2006.

	<u>Lot No.</u>	<u>Burial Date</u>
Katherine F. Klein Couch	B-003	08 Feb 2006
Thomas Edward Dickey Sr.	C-150	11 Mar 2006
Yvonne Ayman	C-082 NW	07 July 2006
Harry Edward Bruder	D-039 W½	23 Aug 2006
Calista M. Rueckert Head	F-033	02 Dec 2006

## Early Meeting Minutes Translated

The earliest known extant minutes of the *Deutsche Gesellschaft [German Society] of Houston* have recently been translated by Wolfram M. Von-Maszewski, librarian at George Memorial Library in Richmond, Texas. The period covered is March 11, 1894 to April 14, 1901. The Society was formed in 1875 and first chartered in 1879, though the cemetery property was not purchased until 1887. These minutes end with the dissolution of *Deutsche Gesellschaft* and chartering of a new organization called *German Society Cemetery*. All subsequent minutes are in English.

## Spring Visitor/Work Days Suspended

The regular Visitor/Work Days are being discontinued for a number of reasons, including unpredictable weather and low attendance, but the best reason is that Glenwood is taking such good care of the cemetery that we don't need work days. If you need assistance on weekends when Glenwood is not open, you may call WCHT for an appointment.

# WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## Glenwood Annual Meeting on June 21

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) are invited to attend the Annual Meeting of Glenwood Cemetery, Inc. The primary purposes of the meeting are to elect the Board of Directors and to review the important events of the year.

If no one in your family received the Declaration/Proxy for your lot last year, and you wish to become the representative for your family lot, please contact the Glenwood office at (713) 864-7886. You may also write to Glenwood Cemetery, 2525 Washington Avenue, Houston, Texas 77007-6020 or send e-mail to Martha Peterson.

### 2007 Calendar of Events

**Dedication of Memorial Markers for  
Citizens of the Republic of Texas  
buried in Glenwood Cemetery**  
Saturday, March 24, 2007, 2:00 p.m.  
at Trinity Lutheran Church  
800 Houston Avenue

**Glenwood Cemetery Annual Meeting**  
Thursday, June 21, 10:00 a.m.  
1301 McKinney (Chevron Tower)  
Auditorium on Mezzanine Level

**Dedication of Confederate Headstones**  
Saturday, October 27, 2007, 10:00 a.m.