

WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

1302 Waugh Drive, PMB #465, Houston, Texas 77019-3908 Phone (713) 864-7886

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"Heirs Who Care" - Since 1975

August 2011

WCHT OFFICERS

President----- Gus Mistrot
Vice President ----- Catherine Fitch
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Eleanor Beebe (Burial Database) Elizabeth Larimore
Gov Clements (Historian) John Petzold (Archivist)
Donald Gehring (Webmaster) Carl Young (Restoration)
Charles Jackson Leona Zaboroski

Texas Historical Marker Dedication Ceremony Set for October 22, 2011

We are pleased to announce that the State of Texas has granted historical markers for our two veterans of the Battle of San Jacinto, **Ellis Benson** and **William Gammell**. They will be formally dedicated on Saturday, October 22, at 10:00 a.m., in a ceremony cosponsored by WCHT, the San Jacinto Descendants, and the Harris County Historical Commission, featuring **Larry Spasic**, President of San Jacinto Museum of History Association, as the keynote speaker and **Kelly Fair** on the bagpipes. We look forward to seeing you there!

Citizens of the Republic of Texas to be Honored on October 22, 2011

On the same program with the Texas historical markers, we will also dedicate new DRT medallions for **Jane McDaniel Gammell** and other citizens of the Republic of Texas – people who resided in Texas by February 19, 1846. If you know of someone buried here who qualifies and who does not already have such a medallion, please contact WCHT President **Gus Mistrot** at Veterans@WashingtonCemetery.org or call Glenwood Cemetery (713-864-7886) right away so we can assist you with the application.

WCHT Steps Up Cemetery Activity

Are you thinking that it's been a long time since you've seen one of our newsletters? Well, you're right; the last one was in February 2007. We now have several exciting new projects underway, for which we need your help. These include a renewed emphasis on monument restoration, marking several hundred unmarked graves in Strangers Rest, and

launching a new Washington Cemetery website. All three will require significant amounts of both money and volunteer time to become a reality.

When Concerned Citizens for Washington Cemetery Care Inc. merged with Glenwood Cemetery Inc. in 1999, Glenwood took on the day-to-day care such as mowing and interments, as well as infrastructure improvements such as roads and tree planting. The WCHT volunteers then concentrated on historical projects such as transcribing all markers, researching veterans and marking their graves, and enhancing the burial database (still a work in progress), in addition to continuing the program of monument restoration begun in 1996. The Glenwood Cemetery Historic Preservation Foundation raises funds for monument restoration in Glenwood Cemetery and WCHT raises funds for monument restoration in Washington Cemetery.

Strangers Rest Marking Project

There are hundreds of unmarked graves in the single grave sections known as Strangers Rest. Over 600 of them have been located, but they are identified only by a number. WCHT and Glenwood are working together to place a simple granite marker with name, dates, and place of birth if known, on each of these graves. We invite you to help us make this project a reality over the next several months by sponsoring one or more markers at \$75 each. You may designate a specific person or sponsor a "stranger" (to you). If you have details such as date of birth, family relationships, or other identifying information for individuals buried in this section, please send that information to WCHT Vice President **Cathy Fitch** at StrangersRest@WashingtonCemetery.org.

Clements' Corner

WCHT Historian **Gov Clements'** usual full page article spotlighting the history of several individuals buried in Washington Cemetery will return in the next quarterly newsletter.

Monument Restoration Program

Over the last 12 months, WCHT has spent \$26,438 repairing and leveling monuments in three major phases, and has committed to \$15,500 more work over the next quarter. (1) The three marble angels that were vandalized in 1990 were restored to their former glory. Here are two of the three angels, expertly restored by local sculptor **Eric Kaposta**.



(2) Under Trustee **Carl Young's** able direction, every monument, marker, or coping in the first four rows of Section C that needed repair, straightening, or cleaning received the necessary attention to make it really shine. During that project, the Glenwood staff also uncovered an entire 80-foot marble coping and an intact marble headstone. The cost of this pilot project averaged \$600 per lot, and there are about 760 lots in the cemetery, so this will be a long term project. (3) Numerous other repair projects around the cemetery were completed as well. (4) The next ten lots have been jointly selected by WCHT and Glenwood to address the monuments and copings most in need of improvement.

How You Can Help

(1) Because of the time and expense involved in printing and mailing the WCHT Newsletter, we encourage everyone who can, to subscribe to our email delivery at **Subscribe@WashingtonCemetery.org**. Bonus: The emailed newsletter will have color photos!

(2) Financial donations are needed to carry out the mission of WCHT, to honor our ancestors through restoration of their graves, compiling their biographies, and making their accomplishments known to the present and future generations.

(3) Please consider linking your Randall's card to WCHT (#2810). Randall's allows each card to be linked to up to three charities, which will share one percent of your purchases.

(4) WCHT is an all-volunteer organization, and like all such groups, it needs new blood to ensure its survival. The restoration projects that are underway require volunteers to do research and coordinate the work. We are especially in need of someone with grant writing skills, as the projects on the drawing board are both labor- and capital-intensive.

New WashingtonCemetery.org Website

Webmaster **Don Gehring** and his committee are preparing the cemetery history, maps, and burial information for the expanded website. It is still under construction but you'll see additions soon.

In Memoriam: "Eddie" Moy

Longtime CCWCC Board Member and WCHT Trustee **H. Edgar "Eddie" Moy**, 80, of Houston died on May 22, 2008. He was born January 29, 1928 in Houston to Otto and Anna Moy. After graduating from San Jacinto High School in 1944, he attended Oklahoma University and the University of Houston. He served in the Army from 1948 to 1950, and was honorably discharged as a Second Lieutenant.

Eddie retired from Dow Chemical in 1985 with 36 years of service. Following his retirement he volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, was Editor of the Dow retiree newsletter, and was very active with Washington Cemetery. During the major monument restoration program that began in 1996, Eddie took nearly all of the before and after photographs for almost ten years. We miss him greatly and offer our belated condolences to his wife, Jean.

Financial Report (2007 - 2010)

Net assets increased by \$2,182 during the four year period ending September 30, 2010. Assets are held in bank deposits and certificates of deposit. Income dropped for the period compared to previous periods due to reduced contributions and lower earnings on investments. Total revenue was \$31,633 for the period with a high annual income in 2007 of \$15,132 and a low annual income in 2010 of \$1,720. Total expense for the four year period was \$29,451. The majority of expense was for monument restoration,

\$12,612, and historical projects, \$13,516. The historical projects included Texas historical markers for Ellis Benson and William Gammell, markers for eleven Confederate veterans, and two Confederate headstone dedication ceremonies.

Financial Report (2011)

For the nine months ending June 30, 2011, we have had income of \$980 and expense of \$18,353, reducing our net assets to \$192,171. The majority of the expense has been for monument restoration.

INCOME and EXPENSES (Unaudited) – Fiscal Years 2007-2010

WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

Net Assets – October 1, 2006		\$207,361	
INCOME: Operations/Administration	\$6,248	EXPENSES: Monument Restoration	\$12,612
Historical Projects	700	Historical Projects	13,516
Gravesite Restoration	<u>1,050</u>	Newsletter & Postage	1,466
Total Donations	\$7,998	Administration	<u>1,857</u>
Other Income	1,981		
Net Investment Income	<u>21,654</u>		
Total Income	\$31,633	Total Expenses	<u>\$29,451</u>
		Net Assets -- September 30, 2010	<u>\$209,543</u>
FUNDS: Cash in Bank	\$2,679	FUNDS: Operations/Administration	\$138,092
Money Market Account	864	Historical Projects	0
Securities (CDs)	<u>206,000</u>	Gravesite Restoration	<u>71,451</u>
	<u>\$209,543</u>		<u>\$209,543</u>

Please return the form below with your check and mail to **Washington Cemetery Historic Trust, 1302 Waugh Drive, PMB #465, Houston, Texas 77019-3908**, or contact Treasurer Lloyd Shenberger <Treasurer@WashingtonCemetery.org>. All donations are deductible on Form 1040 (Schedule A).

WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST	
Donor Name _____	ID No. _____ Phone No. _____
E-mail Address _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Please send newsletters by e-mail
_____ 2011 Annual Donation (\$25.00)	Strangers Rest name(s) _____
_____ Strangers Rest Marker(s) (\$75.00 each)	
_____ Gravesite Restoration	Your interest in Washington Cemetery _____
_____ History/Research	_____
_____ TOTAL	Matching Gift from _____

Executive Director's Report

It has been several years (October 2006) since I last reported to you, and much has transpired in Washington Cemetery since then. Currently, we are experiencing the worst drought I have seen in my 28 years with Glenwood Cemetery. It has impacted both cemeteries but it will rain again, of that I am sure.

Perhaps the most significant project to report on is the development of the vacant four-acre tract at the back of Washington Cemetery. A strategic land swap was completed with the City of Houston about two years ago, which allowed us to build a new road bordering Memorial Drive to connect this tract with Glenwood Cemetery. The roadway structure within this tract also allows for a nice transition into the developed part of historic Washington Cemetery and a jumping off point to begin the rehabilitation of the roads in Washington Cemetery. We plan to rework all of the roads, adding an attractive 18"-wide concrete border on each side, which will widen the roads by 30% and stabilize the edges. The project will be completed in increments as budgetary considerations permit.

We are very pleased with the restoration efforts undertaken by WCHT and Glenwood Cemetery and our ability to provide the resources (the skilled craftsmen and equipment) to accomplish these tasks. Your financial support of WCHT is important for these efforts to continue.

Richard A. Ambrus
Executive Director
Glenwood and Washington Cemeteries

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Washington Cemetery Marker Photos Now Available on "Find A Grave"

Volunteers **Robert Hague** and **Gene Ford** have been very busy over the last two years, photographing headstones and markers in Washington Cemetery and adding the photos to FindAGrave.com, a free website. They have added nearly 5000 entries for Washington Cemetery, covering nearly all of the marked graves, and are now starting to work on Glenwood. We are so very grateful to them for making this information readily accessible, especially to families who do not live near the cemetery. Thanks, Bob and Gene!

Welcome New Readers

WCHT has recently updated our mailing list and many of you are receiving this newsletter for the first time. The top right corner of the mailing label shows the lot number and ancestor you are related to. We hope that you will enjoy reading this connection to the past and to your family.

Future Newsletters to be Sent by Email

So that more of your donations will go to work for the benefit of the cemetery, please choose to have future Newsletters e-mailed. Just send an e-mail with "WCHT Subscribe" and your 5-digit ID number in the subject line to Subscribe@WashingtonCemetery.org. *Thank you!*

Fall Calendar of Events

**Dedication of Texas Historical Markers and
Citizen of the Republic of Texas Medallions**
Saturday, October 22, 10:00 a.m.