

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

December 2012

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Thirteen Confederate and Union Veterans Honored on October 20, 2012

Nearly 160 people attended the ceremony dedicating new headstones and markers for thirteen veterans of the War Between the States. Union veterans honored were **Charles Julius Bankowsky, John Betterton Furman, John Valentin Kohlhaff, August Friedrich Leyh, William Henry Lucas, and John W. Roberts**. Confederate veterans honored were **Marsden Campbell, William Leonard Davis, William Harrison Givens, Daniel McArthur, Ishmael Benjamin Stevens, Gustav Heinrich Tips, and William Allen Wallace**.

Family members ranging in age from 9 months to 91 years came from as far as Sacramento, Brownsville, and Baton Rouge to honor their veteran ancestors. Among them were one granddaughter of a veteran and at least four great-great-great-great-grandchildren. Several families had three generations present to learn about the service and lives of their veteran ancestors.

The event was cosponsored by Albert Sidney Johnston Camp 67, Sons of Confederate Veterans; The Southern Cross Chapter 2502, United Daughters of the Confederacy; Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea U.S.N. Camp 2, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War; and Washington Cemetery Historic Trust. The reception following the program was hosted by the Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary 1, Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War; Sarah Emma Edmonds Detached Tent 4, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865; and District I, United Daughters of the Confederacy. Glenwood Cemetery assisted in many ways before, during, and after the ceremony.

A similar event, for Confederates only, is planned for Glenwood Cemetery on Saturday, April 27, 2013. If you know of a 19th century veteran in either cemetery who needs a VA headstone (for an unmarked grave) or "VA-style" marker (for a marked grave), please contact **Gus Mistrot** at Veterans@WashingtonCemetery.org.

New Washington Cemetery Website

Webmaster **Don Gehring** and his committee launched the expanded WashingtonCemetery.org website at the end of May. We invite you to explore it, especially the pages under Burials, Maps, and WCHT. The two newest pages are devoted to Strangers Rest. All newsletters since 2003, plus selected issues in the 1990s, are also online. There's still more to be done; it will continue to improve and evolve over time.

Trustee Leona Zaboroski Steps Down

It is with great regret that we have accepted the resignation of **Leona Zaboroski**, the oldest Trustee, both in age and years of service. She was a Director of Concerned Citizens for Washington Cemetery Care (CCWCC) 1986-1999 and Trustee of WCHT since 1992, but her association with the cemetery goes back to the early 1940s, when her husband, **Louis Zaboroski**, was installing monuments and copings here. She knew **Jennie Noland** and **Leona Tonn**, the last two official cemetery caretakers before CCWCC was formed in 1977. From 1986 until Glenwood began managing the cemetery in 1998, Leona was the public face of CCWCC – answering phone calls, arranging for burials, maintaining burial records, etc. She created the maps for the 1988 history book. We will miss her cheerful enthusiasm for all Washington Cemetery projects, and wish her well in retirement.

Clements' Corner

The following article is in the format of the new history book being compiled.

PLOT G-032 STRANGERS REST

Compiled by Gus and Bernice Mistrot, with assistance from Cathy Fitch and Dr. Leyh's great-great-granddaughter, Kama Crocker Williams. This plot appears to be the first area of the cemetery to be sold as single spaces.

Dr. August Friedrich LEYH (6 February 1827 – 2 June 1887)

August Friedrich LEYH was born in Wendershausen, Hesse-Kassel, the second child of Johann Heinrich LEYH and Luise (NIEBERZALL) LEYH, and baptized in the Lutheran church in nearby Tann. Immigration records show that August and Maria Leyh arrived in New York on 14 May 1858. August Leyh and Maria Dorothea Bertram were married on 4 June 1858 at the Church of the Most Holy Redeemer (Catholic) in the "Little Germany" section of Manhattan, New York City. August had a most unusual career path. At immigration, he gave his occupation as sail maker. In 1860, the family lived in Ward 1, New York City, and August was a trunk maker. He was naturalized in New York City on 13 October 1863.

August enlisted in the U.S. Navy on 9 September 1864, with the rank of Landsman, a rank given to those with less than three years' service. His civilian occupation at enlistment was plumber. He was initially assigned to duty on the *U.S.S. Vermont*, an old auxiliary ship that was first commissioned in 1818. From 28 December 1864 to 9 June 1865, he served on *U.S.S. Hibiscus*, a steamer with two 32-pound and two 24-pound guns, which was part of the Southern Blockading Squadron. Finally, he was transferred to the *U.S.S. Ino*, a clipper with eight 32-pound guns operating with the East Gulf Blockading Squadron, where he served until his discharge on 18 July 1865.

In 1880, the family lived in Brooklyn, New York, and August worked as a commission agent. By 1883, they had relocated to Strawberry Point, Clayton County, Iowa, and August was now a physician, a profession he practiced until his death. He came to Houston about December 1885, and opened a medical practice. His family still has his Houston business card, which reads,

Dr. Aug. Leyh, Homeopathic Physician.
All Diseases Treated. Female and Children's
Diseases a Specialty. Office and Residence:
113 Fannin St. bet. Texas Avenue and Capitol.

August died of typho-malarial fever 18 months later, just two months after the opening of the German Society Cemetery (now Washington Cemetery). He is believed to be the first immigrant buried in the cemetery.

In September 1887, Maria applied for a pension based on August's Navy service; it was granted in November 1890. She lived in Dallas, Texas, near their two daughters, Elfrieda STAHL BARNES CATUNA (1858-1947), and Emma GARDNER (1862-1946), and died there on 10 April 1914. Both daughters have living descendants, some of whom were present for the recent dedication of August's new headstone.

Strangers Rest Marking Project

The first Strangers Rest markers have been installed, honoring **John F. Arechiga, Johnny Henry Arechiga, José Ybarbo Arechiga, Juanita Marie Gibbons, Charles Burt Givens, and Leroy Harrison Givens.** Military headstones have been installed in Strangers Rest for **William Givens,**



August Leyh, Daniel McArthur, John Roberts, and Ishmael Stevens. But before we can order more markers, we need to confirm/correct the spelling and dates in cemetery records by comparing them with family records, obituaries, and death certificates. If you have access to the *Houston Post* and/or *Houston Chronicle* on microfilm and can assist with obtaining the obituaries, please contact WCHT Vice President **Cathy Fitch** at StrangersRest@WashingtonCemetery.org. Family information is welcomed and needed. Please let us hear from you.

Phase 11A Monument Repairs Completed

The following headstones, cradles, and copings are part of a group of 70 that were repaired, leveled, and cleaned by the Glenwood staff during this year.

Section A: James G. Funston (1815-1897), Margie F. Funston (1830-1907), Nancy J. (Lyles) Underwood, (1873-1901), Ann Margaret Mullane Robinson (1898-1921), William Gammell Robinson (1873-1898), Dr. Joel Owsley Williams (1853-1932), Mary Emma (Brookman) Williams (1853-1899), Carl A. Reinhard (1885-1940), Dell E. Reinhard (1891-1962), Carl August Reinhard Jr. (1918-2001), Joel J. Reinhard (1911-1998), Harmon V. Kennelly (1864-1923) & Alice (Heath) Kennelly (1868-1958), Andrew Jackson Kennelly (1870-1895), Clarence E. Kennelly (1895-1972) & Sophie (Lyles) Kennelly (1897-1931).

Section C: Charles Apfelfelder (1837-1921) & Alice (Hardy) Apfelfelder (1850-1921), Carrie E. (Belden) Weeden Robbel (1868-1955) & William Robbel (1883-1956), Robert F. Weeden (1864-1896), Winifred (Apfelfelder) Daugherty (1873-1962), Charles W Apfelfelder Jr. (1878-1917), Grace C. (Apfelfelder) Yates (1883-1961) & William Henry Yates (1871-1953), Donald H. Yates (1917-1964).

Annual Financial Report

Expenses exceeded income, causing net assets to decrease by \$15,585 during the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012. Assets are held in bank deposits and certificates of deposit. Total revenue was \$10,105 for the period, an increase of \$471 over the previous period. Total expense for the period was \$25,690 compared to \$23,042 for the previous period. The majority of the expense, \$20,235, was for monument restoration. The Strangers Rest project is included in Monument Restoration income and expense. For the period, the Strangers Rest project had income of \$1,050 and expense of \$4,585.

Thank You for Your Support

We are most grateful to the readers who responded to previous newsletters, either by sending donations, subscribing to e-mail delivery of future newsletters, or providing information about family members buried here. Your family lot number and ancestor name are on the left side of the mailing label; your 5-digit ID number is on the right side. The donation form on the WCHT website can be filled out on the computer and then saved and printed.

<http://www.WashingtonCemetery.org/contact/forms/WCHT-Donation-Form.pdf>

WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

INCOME and EXPENSES (Unaudited) – Fiscal Year 2012

Net Assets – October 1, 2011	\$196,157		
INCOME: Operations/Administration	\$ 6,040	EXPENSES: Monument Restoration	\$ 20,235
Historical Projects	700	Historical Projects	3,173
Monument Restoration	<u>2,260</u>	Newsletter & Postage	1,365
Total Donations	\$ 9,000	Administration	<u>917</u>
Other Income			
Investment Income	<u>1,105</u>		
Total Income	\$ 10,105	Total Expenses	\$ 25,690
		Net Assets -- September 30, 2012	<u>\$180,572</u>
FUNDS: Cash on Hand	\$ 9,532	FUNDS: Operations/Administration	\$145,794
Money Market Account	19,040	Historical Projects	0
Securities (CDs)	52,000	Gravesite Restoration	<u>34,778</u>
	<u>\$180,572</u>		<u>\$180,572</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
_____ 2013 Annual Donation (\$25.00)	Your family lot name(s) and lot number (s) if known _____ _____
_____ Strangers Rest Marker(s) (\$75.00 each)	
_____ Gravesite Restoration	Strangers Rest name(s) _____
_____ History/Research	
_____ TOTAL	Matching Gift from _____

2011 Washington Cemetery Burials

The following five persons were laid to rest in Washington Cemetery during the year 2011.

	<u>Lot No.</u>	<u>Burial Date</u>
Joseph Henry Peters, Jr.	A-085	03 Feb 2011
Anne Marie Hatch Levy	G-036	20 Apr 2011
Barbara Jane Behrend Keller	D-106	21 Apr 2011
Evelyn Mary Kirmss Murray	D-046 W½	19 May 2011
James Felton Hunter, Jr.	I-007 W½	04 Nov 2011

Executive Director's Report

As reported to you in the August 2011 newsletter, the planned road replacement is now underway. To date we have completed approximately a half mile of new roadway, most recently the west road, adjacent to Sections A, F, and I. We plan to rework all of the remaining roads in increments as time and budgetary constraints permit. The entrance road will be next on the paving program. The new roads feature an 18"-wide concrete border on each side, which widens the road by about 30% and provides stabilization of the edges. It is all very attractive.

Monument restoration work is continuing and will be on-going for a number of years. We have trimmed every major tree in the cemetery and removed all dead and/or diseased trees. Reforestation following the 2011 drought is also on-going and will continue for a number of years. A new landscape element installed on the southeast corner of Section B, across from Section G, features azaleas and loropetalums.

Video surveillance has been installed on the flag pole to monitor incoming and outgoing traffic, and further enhancements to our security system will be implemented over time. We have increased our security on the weekends by adding an additional security officer to patrol while the other is stationary in the guard house with access to the surveillance cameras in Glenwood and Washington cemeteries.

We encourage you to visit the cemetery to see these improvements.

Best wishes to all.

Richard A. Ambrus, Executive Director
Glenwood and Washington Cemeteries

Newsletter Notes

For most readers, this is the first WCHT newsletter you have seen since December 2011. A mini-newsletter was issued in October 2012 by e-mail only. We encourage everyone to sign up for e-mailed newsletters at Subscribe@WashingtonCemetery.org, as the printing and postage of one newsletter exceeds the annual investment income.

2013 Calendar of Events

**Dedication of Confederate Markers
and Headstones in Glenwood Cemetery**

Saturday, April 27, 10:00 a.m.

Glenwood Cemetery Annual Meeting
mid-May (date to be announced)

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