

# WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

P. O. Box 63592, Pipe Creek, Texas 78063-3592 (713) 864-7886 [www.WashingtonCemetery.org](http://www.WashingtonCemetery.org)

Vol. 36, No. 2

*"Heirs Who Care" - Since 1975*

November 2018

## WCHT OFFICERS

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## Death Certificate Collection Project

The second phase of our project to collect digital images of Texas death certificates for persons buried in Washington Cemetery is approaching completion. Phases One and Two include the approximately 5000 burials for the 1910-1982 period where certificates are readily available on-line. Committee chair Robert Zaboroski reports that we have now collected more than 4600 (upwards of 92%) of these certificates.

Many of the certificates that we did not find are for persons who died out of state but were buried here (sometimes with a long delay between death and burial). Family sources may be the only way to obtain obituaries or death certificates for some of these.

As previously reported, our initial focus was on Strangers Rest burials, where 95% of the approximate 1300 burials in the referenced time period have now been collected. Our efforts then shifted to Phase Two, family lots, where there are approximately 3700 burials in the 1910-1982 period. We have completed our searches for all but one section in this category and continue to make progress, with hopes of concluding this phase by the end of 2018.

Our thanks go out once again to our volunteers and trustees who have participated in this project.

## New Strangers Rest Markers Arrive

Good news! The thirteen new Strangers Rest markers that were ordered in July were delivered to the cemetery on the day before Thanksgiving, and Glenwood expects to have them all installed by the middle of December. We thank Schlitzberger & Daughters Monument Company and Glenwood for making them a priority, after a number of delays not

of their making. We are also grateful to the families who purchased these markers for providing the details of the marker inscriptions, as well as for your patience as we refined the marker ordering process.

Additional markers will be ordered in groups of at least ten. They are still only \$100 each. We hope that many more families will take advantage of this program to properly mark the graves of their loved ones who are presently marked with only a number. Please contact WCHT Vice President Cathy Fitch at [StrangersRest@WashingtonCemetery.org](mailto:StrangersRest@WashingtonCemetery.org) for details.

## Veterans Research Resumes

The Union and Confederate heritage organizations are reviewing the lists of remaining unmarked veterans in Washington Cemetery so that their headstones can be ordered from the VA. A Confederate headstone dedication in Glenwood Cemetery is planned for Saturday, April 6, 2019, and a similar event in Washington may follow in Fall 2019 or Spring 2020. If you are aware of a veteran of any era who is buried in Washington Cemetery but he (or she) either does not have a headstone, or the existing family headstone does not mention his/her service, please contact us at [Veterans@WashingtonCemetery.org](mailto:Veterans@WashingtonCemetery.org) or (713) 864-7886 so that we can assist you in marking the grave.

## Thank You to Our Supporters

The Trustees thank everyone who has provided support to WCHT this year and every year. Your contributions of "time, talent, and treasure" to the continuing improvements in Washington Cemetery are much appreciated. We wish everyone a Happy Holiday season and all the best in 2019.

## Clements' Corner

In recognition of the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, this month we honor ten young men who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms and were buried or memorialized in Washington Cemetery. Most of them were originally buried in France and were reinterred here in 1921. Sources used to confirm their service include their Statement of Service cards, which are available on line at FamilySearch.org. Another valuable resource is an article in *The Houston Post*, Sunday, 29 December 1918, page 30, which lists nearly 140 Harris County men who died during the war. You can access the full list here: <https://www.newspapers.com/newspage/94960700>

† **Max AUTREY** (18 Sep 1892 – 30 Sep 1918), Lot F-034. Native Houstonian; younger son of Robert Lee Autrey and Nettie Stubenrauch Autrey. He enlisted at Fort Sam Houston on 8 Jun 1917 as a private in the 12th Battalion Field Artillery. He requested a transfer to a combat unit in France and was sent with a draft unit from Jackson, SC. He left New York City on 19 Sep 1918 on the *USS Ticonderoga*, which was torpedoed 1700 miles off the Atlantic coast; 213 of the 237 sailors and soldiers on board were lost. He is memorialized on a large black obelisk in the Autrey lot.

† **Franklin Pierce BURKHART** (17 Jan 1893 – 4 Oct 1918), Lot A-016 W½. Native Houstonian; middle son of Minnie Schneider Burkhart Murbach. He enlisted at Houston on 5 May 1917 as a private in 5th Marine Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, trained at Parris Island, SC and Quantico, VA, and was sent to France on 26 Aug 1918, and soon died of spinal meningitis. Reinterred here on 13 Jan 1921; VA headstone.

† **August John FASHON** (21 Sep 1898 – 4 Oct 1918), Lot C-080. Native Houstonian; only son of August Fashion and Louisa Ernst Fashion. He enlisted at Fort Sam Houston on 31 Dec 1917 as a private in Field Hospital No. 26, was sent to France on 19 Apr 1918, and died there of wounds received in action. Reinterred here on 28 Jul 1921 together with Wallace O'Reilly; removed to Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery on 28 Apr 1948; family marker with military service shown.

† **Thomas Boyd HICKS Jr.** (18 Jul 1897 – 12 Oct 1918), Lot C-052. Native Houstonian; only son of Thomas Hicks Sr. and Eliza Guy Hicks. He enlisted at Houston on 14 Jul 1917 in Co E, 5th Infantry, Texas National Guard, was sent to France 19 Nov 1917 as a private in Co G, 143rd Infantry Regiment, 36th Division, and died there of wounds received in action. Reinterred here on 18 Aug 1921; VA headstone.

† **Laurence George JENSEN** (5 Jul 1897 – 4 Jun 1918), Lot A-053 S½. Native Houstonian; middle son of Niels Jensen and Ellen Nielsen Jensen. He enlisted at Houston on 10 Jun 1917 as a private in 83rd Co, 6th Marine Regiment, trained at Parris Island, SC and Quantico, VA, was sent to France on 19 Nov 1917, and was killed in action at Belleau Woods. Reinterred here on 8 Sep 1921; removed to Houston National Cemetery on 1 Jun 1972; however, his family headstone – with his military service and the Marine Corps emblem – remains next to the flagpoles at the front of Washington Cemetery.

† **Cecil Delancy McHENRY** (7 Jan 1893 – 28 Feb 1918) Lot D-067 W½. Born at Lampasas, TX and resident of Austin, TX; third of four sons of Rupert McHenry and Lula Smith McHenry. He was inducted on 8 Sep 1917 at Ft. Sam Houston as a private in Supply Co 303, Quartermaster Corps. Although his service record states that he did not serve overseas, a two-column front-page article in the Austin newspaper in March 1918 is headlined, “First Austin Boy to Die in Action,” and the Houston and Austin newspapers in late December 1920 state that his “body has been returned from Nevers, France, where he was killed in March, 1918.” Reinterred here on 29 Dec 1920 because his family had moved from Georgetown, TX to Houston by 1920; removed to Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery on 9 Feb 1938; VA marker.

† **Joseph Emile OLLRE** (20 Jul 1893 – 12 Oct 1918), Lot F-030 E½. Native Houstonian and resident of Magnolia Park, TX; only son of Reginald Ollre and Lizzie McGinnis Ollre Hahn. He enlisted at Galveston on 19 Dec 1916 in Co M, 3rd Infantry, Texas National Guard, was sent to France on 3 Aug 1918 as a private in Co C, 143rd Infantry Regiment, 36th Division, and was killed in action. He was awarded the French Croix de Guerre with palm on 1 Apr 1919 with the citation, “Mortally wounded in front of the enemy positions after having brilliantly performed his duty.” Reinterred here on 11 Jan 1922; VA headstone.

† **Wallace Michael O'REILLY** (6 May 1896 – 17 Jul 1918), Lot F-009. Born in Brownsville, TN; oldest of the three sons of Michael O'Reilly and Katie Wallace O'Reilly. He enlisted at New Orleans on 24 Jun 1917 as a private in 79th Co, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, trained at Parris Island, SC and Quantico, VA, and was sent to France on 8 Feb 1918. He was wounded in action at Belleau Woods on 10 Jun 1918 and hospitalized in Paris, returned to his company on 11 Jul, and was killed in action six days later. His service record states, “Awarded Croix de Guerre with Silver Star for conspicuous in his relaying of messages under heavy machine gun fire between Bouresches and his Battalion Command on Jun 6, 1918.” Reinterred here 28 Jul 1921; family headstone with military service shown.

† **Joseph Peter SOCIA** (12 Dec 1896 – 16 Jun 1918), Lot F-028. Native Houstonian; younger son of John Socia and Catherine Wilson Socia Wilson; his older brother John Eden Socia also served. He enlisted in the marines at Galveston on 21 Apr 1914, and was stationed for a time in Gettysburg, PA. He was sent to France on 6 Apr 1918 as a private in 4th U.S. Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, and was killed in action near Chateau Thierry in the second battle of the Marne. Reinterred here on 18 Sep 1921; VA headstone.

† **Hermann Fredrick WEBER** (26 Oct 1891 – 7 Nov 1918), Lot F-047 NE. Born in Norwood, MA and resident of Mykawa, TX; youngest son of Fritz and Marie Weber. He was inducted at Houston on 8 Oct 1917, and served in several units as a private, including Co E, 143rd Infantry. He was sent to France on 14 Aug 1918, transferred to Co L, 128th Infantry on 10 Sep 1918, and promoted to corporal on 4 Nov 1918 (three days before his death and a week before the end of the war). He was engaged at Montfaucon in the Battle of Meuse, and was killed in action. Reinterred here on 15 Oct 1921; no marker at this time.

## Financial Report – Fiscal Year 2018

For the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2017 and ending September 30, 2018 net assets increased by \$7,865. Total income for the period was \$11,308 compared to the previous fiscal year of \$10,581. Expenses for the period were \$3,443 compared to

\$2,702 for the previous year. Memorial gifts of \$2,125 were 25.6% of the total donations. Monument Restoration includes donations for Strangers Rest markers that were completed and invoiced after the end of the fiscal year, as well as sponsorships for future Strangers Rest markers.

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### INCOME and EXPENSES (Unaudited) – Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2017

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#### WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

<b>Net Assets – October 1, 2016</b>	<b>\$ 177,507</b>		
INCOME: Operations/Administration	\$ 5,945	EXPENSES: Monument Restoration	\$ 0
Historical Projects	200	Historical Research	512
Monument Restoration	<u>2,615</u>	Newsletter & Postage	2,387
Total Donations	<b>\$ 8,760</b>	Administration	<u>544</u>
Other Income			
Net Investment Income	<u>2,548</u>		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 11,308</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,443</b>
		<b>Net Assets -- September 30, 2017</b>	<b><u>\$185,372</u></b>
ASSETS: Cash	\$ 60,372	EQUITY: Unrestricted Net Assets	\$168,368
Securities (CDs)	125,000	Temp. Restricted Net Assets	<u>17,004</u>
	<b><u>\$185,372</u></b>		<b><u>\$185,372</u></b>

WCHT is a 501(c)(3) organization and all Trustees are volunteers. There are several ways to support the projects and activities of Washington Cemetery:

- Mail a check to Washington Cemetery Historic Trust, P.O. Box 63592, Pipe Creek, TX 78063-3592.
- Make a donation online by going to our website <https://washingtoncemetery.org> and click on Make a Donation under the Quick Links on the right-hand side of the home page.
- Shop at Randalls and link your Remarkable Card to Washington Cemetery Historic Trust (2810).
- Shop at Kroger and link your Kroger Plus Card to Washington Cemetery Historic Trust (VV473).
- Shop online at AmazonSmile and select Washington Cemetery Historic Trust as your non-profit.

WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST		
Donor Name _____	ID No. _____	Phone No. _____
E-mail Address _____		Future newsletters will be e-mailed
_____ 2019 Annual Donation (\$25.00)	Strangers Rest name(s) _____	
_____ Strangers Rest Marker(s) (\$100.00 each)	_____	
_____ Gravesite Restoration	Your interest in Washington Cemetery	_____
_____ Newsletter Subscription (\$5.00)		_____
_____ TOTAL	Matching Gift from _____	

## Executive Director's Report

Work continues to be underway behind the Postal Facility and Hughes Manor to establish our new maintenance facility and also a new connection to Washington Cemetery. Currently, we are installing an underground water detention system which will be paved over with concrete. This is in lieu of digging a big hole somewhere else which would take up valuable real estate for future burials. Progress is moving slower than expected because of the recent rainy period. A day of intermittent rain sometimes results in a two-day delay because of the extensive dirt work underway.

The north end of Washington Cemetery will definitely take on a new and improved look with the establishment of a heavily landscaped berm shielding the Post Office Maintenance Facility and Hughes Manor from view. A new connecting roadway from the front entry of Glenwood will tie directly into the middle road leading into Washington Cemetery. The Washington Cemetery fountain has been moved to its new location where the intersection of the new road meets the new entry into Washington Cemetery and will serve as a beautiful functional fountain when it is restored and rehabilitated.

We continue to maintain Washington Cemetery to the highest standards and I encourage you to visit.

Richard A. Ambrus, Executive Director  
Glenwood and Washington Cemeteries

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## Phase 12D Monument Repairs Completed

During the 2016 monument cleaning project, about a hundred headstones were leveled as well as being cleaned. The list below is only part of the work done; it will be continued in future newsletters.

*Section H:* Ida **Clede** (1881-1902), Johann **Brunner** (1870-1911) & Victoria **Miller** (1827-1901), Ida Schrimsher **Bell** (1868-1906), John R. **Patton** (1854-1914).

*Section I:* Charles Nathaniel **Jenkins** (1878-1963), Garrett E. **Longmire** (1861-1914).

## Texas German Society Meets Locally

The Harris County Chapter of the Texas German Society meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of odd-numbered months, at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Road at Westview in Spring Branch. Meeting programs typically present some element of German heritage, culture and language, or local history. Visitors and new members are always welcome. The January 10 meeting will feature Susan Myers, retired director of the Holocaust Museum Houston. For more information, call 281-531-0822 or visit [www.texasgermansociety.com](http://www.texasgermansociety.com).

### 2019 Calendar of Events

Glenwood Cemetery Annual Meeting  
Thursday, May 16, 10:00 a.m., Lora Jean Kilroy  
Visitor and Education Center at Bayou Bend,  
6003 Memorial Drive Houston, Texas 77007