

# WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

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

Vol. 38, No. 1

*"Heirs Who Care" - Since 1975*

November 2020

## WCHT OFFICERS

President-----Robert Zaboroski  
Vice President-----Catherine Fitch  
Secretary-----Bernice Mistrot  
Treasurer-----Lloyd Shenberger

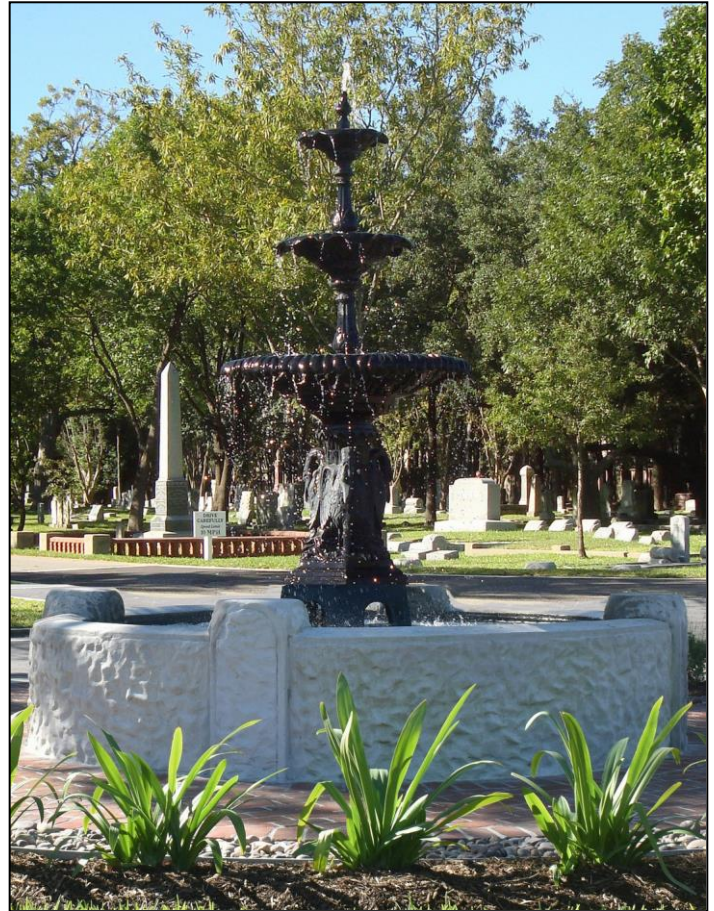
## WCHT TRUSTEES

Linda Bell Burton  
Gov Clements (Historian)  
Donald Gehring (Webmaster)  
Charles Jackson  
Debra Bailey Kolah

## Fountain Installation Completed!

We are delighted to report that the relocation and refurbishment of the historic Washington Cemetery fountain was completed in October. Forgotten and forlorn for many years (the inset photo was taken five years ago), the fountain now welcomes visitors at the newest entrance to the cemetery. Glenwood added this third connecting road between the two cemeteries in March 2020. The berm north of the fountain that was formerly the site of a large gully will become a new section of Glenwood called Washington View.

While we are thrilled with the results, the relocation, restoration, and installation costs ended up being considerably more than we expected, even though Glenwood graciously shared in the cost. We offer our thanks to all who made this transformation possible: Executive Director **Richard Ambrus** and **Glenwood Cemetery, SWA Group** for the design and engineering, **Dreyfus Construction** for the installation, and **Eric Kaposta** for the tribute marker (more about that in Clements' Corner).



## Executive Director's Report

The year 2020 has been an interesting one thus far. COVID-19 literally turned everything upside down. Despite this, we were able to complete the new maintenance facility, which sits directly behind the Postal Facility and Hughes Manor, along with a beautiful connecting road (769 lineal feet) from Glenwood's entry to Washington Cemetery, which provides the third access point from Glenwood into Washington Cemetery. Additionally, we installed 744 lineal feet of new roadway between Sections C and D and another 517 lineal feet running east/west on the north end of Washington Cemetery.

As featured on the front page of this newsletter, the restored fountain now stands as a beautiful feature as you enter Washington Cemetery from Glenwood. We are proud to have been associated with this restoration. Many thanks are in order for WCHT's input and assistance in this important restoration.

In conclusion, I would like to say a word about Burt Ballanfant. Burt and I became good friends after the merger. There were a lot of obstacles to overcome in the merger process but eventually we were able to achieve common ground. Burt was instrumental in making this happen. Burt was quite remarkable in his lifetime achievements. He was always cheerful and approached life in a positive manner. He would stop by on occasion and let me know how much he appreciated the care that Glenwood was giving to Washington Cemetery and how much it meant to him. To Burt's family, I want to express my heartfelt condolences. He will always be missed.

Best wishes and good health to all.

Richard A. Ambrus, Executive Director  
Glenwood and Washington Cemeteries

## WCHT Welcomes Two New Trustees

We are pleased to announce that WCHT elected two new Trustees in February 2020. We look forward to working with them for the continued improvement of Washington Cemetery.

**Linda Bell Burton** has numerous relatives buried here, including her great-grandfather Otto L. Carl and his son-in-law Franklin Pierce Noland, oldest son of long-time Washington Cemetery superintendent Willie Lee Noland. Her great-great-grandfather, Carl Frederick Reinhold Court, was the first Harris

County deputy sheriff killed in the line of duty, in 1895. She has a degree in American History and a professional background in marketing and branding.

**Debra Bailey Kolah** has worked in libraries for 30 years, and is currently the Head of User Experience and the Physics, Math, and Astronomy Librarian at Fondren Library, Rice University. Her interest in Washington Cemetery began with placing a headstone for her great-great-grandmother Kate Thomas Rucksdassel in Strangers Rest in 2011.

## In Memoriam: Burt Ballanfant

Richard Burton "Burt" Ballanfant, a fifth-generation Houstonian, was born on August 15, 1947. He graduated from Lamar High School in 1965, having lettered in track all four years, and earned his law degree from the University of Texas. He served as corporate counsel for Shell Oil Company for 30 years, while also engaging in numerous civic pursuits, including serving as Mayor of the City of West University Place, 2001-2005, and later on the Metropolitan Transit Authority (METRO) board.

Burt was one of the 29 people present at the first organizing meeting of Concerned Citizens for Washington Cemetery Care on January 26, 1975, which was organized by his parents and held in their home. When CCWCC was incorporated on August 8, 1977, his father, Richard Ballanfant, was one of the 12 people named in the Articles of Incorporation and was also the first president of CCWCC.

Burt did the legal work to establish WCHT in 1992, and was one of the five original trustees. He was also a key member of the team that negotiated the merger of CCWCC, Inc. into Glenwood Cemetery Inc. in 1999. He served as WCHT President from 1992 until Gus Mistrot became president in 2003. It is not an overstatement to say that Washington Cemetery would not be in the condition it is today without the dedication, foresight, and just plain hard work put in by Burt and his parents. They are all dearly missed, but their work lives on.

Burt passed away on Sunday, March 29, 2020. He is survived by his wife, Sarah Cobb Ballanfant, children Andrea Roe, Benjamin Ballanfant, and Amy Ballanfant; grandchildren Caroline and William Roe, and sister Anne Voss. He was predeceased by his parents, Richard and Autrey Lewis Ballanfant, and his sister Selma Autrey "Mimi" Buderus.

## Financial Report – Fiscal Year 2020

During the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2019 and ending September 30, 2020, net assets decreased by \$42,517. Income for the year increased \$3,531 over the previous year. Expenses increased by \$39,328. The major expense this year was \$50,000 towards the cost of relocating and restoring the historic fountain,

which is the largest single expense since we repaved all of the roads in 1995. Contributions to WCHT support improvement projects such as restoration of the historic fountain, new Strangers Rest markers, monument and coping repairs, historical research, and our website. We are very grateful to all of our generous donors.

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### INCOME and EXPENSES (Unaudited) – Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2020

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#### WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST

<b>Net Assets – October 1, 2019</b>		<b>\$178,647</b>		
REVENUE: Operations/Administration	\$ 3,633	EXPENSES: Strangers Rest Project	\$	0
Monument Restoration	2,035	Historical Research		621
Historical Projects	<u>45</u>	Administration & Website		649
Total Donations	<b>\$ 5,713</b>	Newsletter		1,224
Interest Income	<u>4,264</u>	Fountain Restoration		<u>50,000</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 9,977</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$52,494</b>
		<b>Net Assets -- September 30, 2020</b>		<b><u>\$136,130</u></b>
ASSETS: Cash (Checking and Savings)	\$ 66,130	EQUITY: Unrestricted Net Assets	\$	133,629
Securities (CDs)	70,000	Temp. Restricted Net Assets		<u>2,501</u>
	<b><u>\$136,130</u></b>			<b><u>\$136,130</u></b>

WCHT is a 501(c)(3) organization and all Trustees are volunteers. We do not sell, rent, or share the WCHT mailing list. There are several ways to participate in 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.
- Volunteer to help with research or contacting families of persons buried in unmarked graves.

Thank you for your support of historic Washington Cemetery.

WASHINGTON CEMETERY HISTORIC TRUST		
Donor Name _____	ID No. _____	Phone No. _____
E-mail Address _____		Future newsletters will be e-mailed
_____ 2021 Annual Donation (\$25.00)	Strangers Rest name(s) _____	
_____ Strangers Rest Marker(s) (\$100.00 each)	_____	
_____ Fountain and Gravesite Restoration	Your interest in Washington Cemetery	_____
_____ Printed Newsletter Subscription (\$5.00)		_____
_____ TOTAL	Matching Gift from _____	



## Clements' Corner

### Caretaker's Residence/Office and Fountain

How old is the historic fountain basin? The short answer is: We're not sure. There are similar copings in the cemetery on plots bought between 1890 and 1910, but the history of the house/office suggests that the fountain was likely installed between 1904 and 1915.

Minutes of the *Deutsche Gesellschaft* (in German) and city directories reveal that the first sexton was **Charles Gray**, a black man who lived in a "cabin" on the property, followed by **Haywood Calloway**, also black, and his son **Jack Calloway**, from 1892 to 1903. The 14' x 20' house was then on the south side of the gully.

In October 1903, **Carl Winkler** became superintendent and moved into the house. The next year, the house was moved north of the gully and expanded by adding two new rooms and a porch. In December 1906, **Willie Lee Noland** was named sexton for one year, but as of January 1908, Winkler was back. After Winkler's death on June 26, 1909, his wife Marie and her sons, **William** and **Charles Drucks**, lived in the house and served as sextons for several years. In 1915, **Willie Lee Noland** returned and spent the next 26 years as superintendent.

A new tribute plaque next to the fountain honors the three caretakers who cared for the cemetery from 1915 until 1977: **Willie Lee Noland**, his wife **Jennie Sharman Noland**, and their assistant, **Leona Tonn**. For more details about them, please refer to the November 1997 and June 2003 newsletters on the Washington Cemetery website:

<https://washingtoncemetery.org/wcht/newsletters.shtml>

## 2019-2020 Washington Cemetery Burials

The following nine persons were laid to rest in Washington Cemetery since July 2019.

	<u>Lot No.</u>	<u>Burial Date</u>
Johanna Elizabeth Guese	A-140 E½	23 Dec 2019
Peggy Jewel Pylant Vancas*	G-036	30 Dec 2019
Michael Boleslaus Vancas*	G-036	30 Dec 2019
Betty Jo Wilburn Buchanan	H-061 S½	10 Feb 2020
Josiah Quincy Hamilton	P-010	14 Feb 2020
Jack Curtis Savage	D-101	30 May 2020
John Morgan Lloyd, Jr.	C-142	16 Jun 2020
Vessie Hajovsky Peters*	A-085	23 Jun 2020
Theodore Joseph Maier, III*	F-004A	22 Aug 2020

\* Delayed interment (more than two weeks)

### 2021 Calendar of Events

Glenwood Cemetery Annual Meeting  
Thursday, May 20, 10:00 a.m., Lora Jean Kilroy  
Visitor and Education Center at Bayou Bend,  
6003 Memorial Drive, Houston, Texas 77007



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