

Please Come Confederate Hero's Day, so that I can introduce you + none you tell about your work.

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The Museum of Southern History

Open Tuesday Thru Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturdays &
Sundays, 1-4 p.m. or by appointment for tour groups.
Call 281-269-7171.

New Building Location:

14070 SW Freeway behind
Southern National Bank, opposite Sugar Creek.
Mail: P.O. Box 2190,
Sugar Land, TX 77487-2190

Make Plans Now: January 23
Confederate Hero's Day Program
Sunday at 2p.m.

Inside this issue . . .

- ◆ Mississippi or Matagorda?
*LaSalle's Tragic Mistake In
Weems' Map/Ship Display*
- ◆ From Limoges to Lenox: The
History of White House China
As Told at Theta Antique Show
By Susan Detweiler.
- ◆ G. Washington Wasn't Perfect
But He Kept Trying, Says
James Rees, Director of Mt.
Vernon.
- ◆ Pictures of New Officers'
Installation & Luncheon.
- ◆ How Confederates Coped;
"Last Days of Richmond", By
Harriet Jenkins.
- ◆ Violins Played at Opening of
Southern National Bank's
New Galleria Area Building

Autumn 1999 Issue

Sail The Seas with Early Explorers in Weems' Historic Collection

Now, you can sail the seas with explorer Americus Vespucci in 1507 to discover a new continent . . . or follow LaSalle's dramatic struggle with the winds off Matagorda Bay in 1686 . . . and see maps of Galveston with the skyline that was there before the Great Storm, when that town was the "Manhattan of the South." You'll find all this and more in the new exhibits from the historic collection of Carrington Weems and his wife Mary Ann.

"It's been my dream to bring this exhibition all together here," said Weems, well rec-



F. Carrington Weems & wife, Mary Ann

ognized for his extensive collection of early maps and ship models. Some of the pieces have been shown in museums around the nation, but this is the first time it's all been displayed together.

Full title of the exhibit is "Civil War Naval Prints; Origins & Influence — Five Centuries of Mapping & Shipping." Maps were chosen from the file of some 350 documents, then coordinated with intricately detailed ship models of the era. See story inside.



Museum of Southern History ACTIVITIES:

Nov. 20: Sat, 11-2p.m. Enjoy "Colonial Coffee" for "George Washington", beloved actor from D.C. who will be in town to greet museum visitors & Ft. Bend leaders, educators & children. See story inside.

Jan. 23: Sun. 2p.m., program by Harriet Jenkins to mark Confederate Hero's Day. Sandi Sprawls, Chairman of Varina Howell Davis Chapter, UDC and Chapter I is hostess. Light refreshments at reception after.

COUNTY JUDGE JIM ADOLPHUS TOLD THE DRAMA OF SHARPSHOOTER CLEM BASSETT

"He never carried a carbine, but instead 6 six-shooters," Adolphus said, quoting W.H. Davis in an old letter of sympathy to Bassett's widow. "His aim was faultless, and if the man aimed at was in pistol range, he got him every time!" Two guns were in his belt, two in his holsters, and two in the saddle bags.

Adolphus showed a picture of Bassett's hat, now under glass in the Museum of The Confederacy in Richmond, Virginia, and the dining table from the Bassett home, obtained through docent Marseillaise. The Bassett family lived in Ft. Bend County, where Clem joined Terry's Texas

Rangers to become a legendary fighter. Adolphus repeated the story about the time Bassett was cornered by ten Yankees in a field:

"Ten Yankees followed him, and he backed his horse into a corner, taking a six-shooter in each hand." (Two of his six-shooters had already been emptied.) "Waiting until the ten men were in pistol shot range, he turned loose his guns, emptying a saddle every time he shot."

In conclusion, he quoted Davis' words: "I used to think when he mounted his horse to go on one of the missions of danger, that he was the grandest looking man I ever saw."



Judge Adolphus

The Museum of Southern History

Post Office Box 2190 •
Sugar Land, Texas 77487-2190



Mrs. Stewart Morris
5 E. Rivercrest Dr.
Houston, Texas 77042

Good Reasons Why You Should Visit The Museum Of Southern History

Current New Exhibits:

- **Five Centuries of Mapping & Sailing** by Carrington Weems.
- **Life with Early Ft. Bend Settlers** by Marcie Hall
- **A Confederate Colonel's Memoirs** by Sharon Duntley

And permanent attractions include:

- **A library where you can look for your ancestors.** Find records of Civil War Campaigns and battlefields, and *Harper's Weekly* issues from another time.
- **A quilt exhibit from 1862.** Donors include R.O. Hunton and the Jefferson Davis Chapter U.D.C. 31637. One Georgia quilt is made from pieces of Confederate and Union uniforms, and a triangle pattern quilt won first place in the 1862 Louisiana State Fair. Gift by Johnnie Mae and John Houchins.
- **The Battle of Galveston.** How Confederate forces sank Union vessels under General "Prince John" Magruder to win the battle

of 1862 and free the port. Exhibit by Museum Docent Harry Bounds includes ship's model.

- **The History of Sugar Land.** Early newspapers with gossip of the day; 1920's novel about local swindlers. . . first recipes from Imperial Sugar Co. Exhibit assembled by Jane McMeans, president of Sugar Land Heritage Society.
- **Antique Furniture & Artifacts:** The Henry Brunet room, Jane Long room and other vignettes with period dress. . . an 1886 silk gown from Mrs. Jack Williams. . . Confederate surgical cabinet & instruments from Dr. S.P.R. Hutchins.
- **Museum Store:** Original water color print cards by Carlotta Barker of Galveston. Books and mementoes on the antebellum era and Civil War; neckties, coloring books. The new Museum building with facilities for community gatherings as well as exhibits are made possible through the generosity of The Museum of Southern History and Southern National Bank. Now celebrating

20 years, the Museum began with one exhibit case from the late Bert Winston, great-great grandson of Jane Long.

- **Hours:** Located at 14070 Southwest Freeway opposite Sugar Creek behind Southern National Bank, The Museum of Southern History is open Tuesday through Friday, 10a.m. to 4p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4p.m. or by appointment for tour groups. Call Museum Director 281-269-7171 for further information. Joella Morris is Museum President Emeritus.

Our Newsletter is published under the direction of Joella Morris, President Emeritus.
Please call 281-269-7171 if you'd like to write or do desktop production.

Editor: Beverly Maurice
Photos: Russell Autrey
and Susan Ley

Do You Have A Civil War Veteran Ancestor Buried in Washington/Glenwood Cementary? Cheers For Bernice and Gus Mistrot!

A dedicated team of volunteers has been working to identify early grave sites in Washington Cemetery, now combined with Glenwood Cemetery in an effort to preserve important landmarks of early Houston.

Significant progress was made in 1993, with the help of six Brownie Girl Scouts from Troop 10435 and 23 adults, who searched the area known as "Strangers' Rest," about 1 and 1/2 acres where Grass and soil have covered markers, sometimes as much as eight inches deep. Founded by German immigrants in 1887, the cemetery records some 105 Confederate veterans, eleven Union veterans and others, but many of the markers have been obscured with

time.

The Washington Cemetery Historic Trust puts out a periodic newsletter about their research, and would be interested in any family history you may contribute about those who are buried there. Address of the Trust is 4907 Candleleaf Drive, Houston 77018-1418, and phones are 281-591-6262 or 281-531-1956.

Historian of the group is Governor Clements, to who you may send stories about your Washington or Glenwood ancestors. Send to Gov. Clements, 1360 Post Oak Boulevard, Suite 2400, Houston, Texas 77056.

For example, Capt. William H. Fleig, C.S.N., was appointed captain of the newly-captured U.S.S. Harriet Lane after the Battle of Galveston in

1862, when Confederates routed Union forces. (The ship's bell from the Harriet Lane now rests in The Museum of Southern History in the Battle of Galveston display by docent Harry Bounds.) The Union navy was eager to get the ship back, since it was named for the niece of President James Buchanan, but Fleig outsmarted them, slipping out of the harbor in 1865 in the heavy fog. The U.S. Navy later recovered the ship in Cuba. By 1866, Fleig had returned to Houston and married, to father twelve children over the years. He worked for Kirby Lumber Company and died at age 100 (and six months) in his home at 320 East Sixth Avenue in the Heights. He was Houston's oldest citizen that year, in 1923.

**In the cemetery records,
the following names of veterans are a partial list for your perusal.**

**Only last names are given, in the interest of space, but if you want further information,
you may phone FV4:**

Bernice or Gus Mistrot at 281-531-1956.

Most of the following names died around the

Bagby	Fleig	Jones (Wm.)	McKay
Bailey	Gibbs	Kenner	~~Meyer~~
Benson	Gilmore	Kerr	Monogh.
Bonatz	Gary	Kreis	Murphy
Branard	Guy	Lang	Neal
Brinsfield	Haag	~~Lee~~	Neel
Buford	Ham	Lewis	Ochiltre
Byers	Harper	Loughridge	O'Reilly
Campbell	Harris	Lynch	Owens
Cushman	Harrison	Marshall	Parker
Dupree	Hayes	Martin	Patillo
Ellison	Henderson	Matthews	Powers
Felton	Hill	McDavitt	~~Rabby~~
Ferguson	House	McFerran	Reeves

Had I known about this before it was printed, there are several errors. I could have corrected.
Bernice

There is another list of some 46 names which are believed to be buried in the cemetery, but more information is needed. You may request this list from the volunteer chairmen, the Mistrots, at 281-531-1956.