

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



WESTCOTT
CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



February 2024

Dear Friends and Fellow Descendants,

2023 marked ten years since my two sisters and I first visited what the community knew as the Westcott Cemetery. Volunteers living in the Eastex-Jensen community — under the leadership of Pastor David Smith and with assistance from Greater Northside Management District, Sunbeam Curry Civic Club, and the City of Houston Department of Solid Waste — had just cleaned up the trash and mowed the grounds when we first saw the cemetery. Five years later, we formed the nonprofit Westcott Cemetery Association to preserve and improve the historic McDaniel Street Cemetery (including Westcott) for the benefit of descendants and the community.

This report highlights some of our 2023 activities at the cemetery and in the community, acknowledges our friends who generously supported our work last year, and shares our financial position and practices. Our board of directors is seeking other interested descendants and people living in the neighborhood surrounding the cemetery to actively join our efforts to sustain WCA's work beyond our individual lifetimes.

In 2023, we established an Association Reserve Fund and a Cemetery Emergency Fund. We also began planning a board retreat, where we will develop a strategic plan to implement the Vision Plan. We held our first retreat this month.

WCA welcomes the opportunity to talk with you about our work and our plans for the next three years. We will be calling on descendants and others interested in what we're doing. Please consider including WCA in your 2024 giving plans and beyond. Thank you!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sara W. Haynes". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

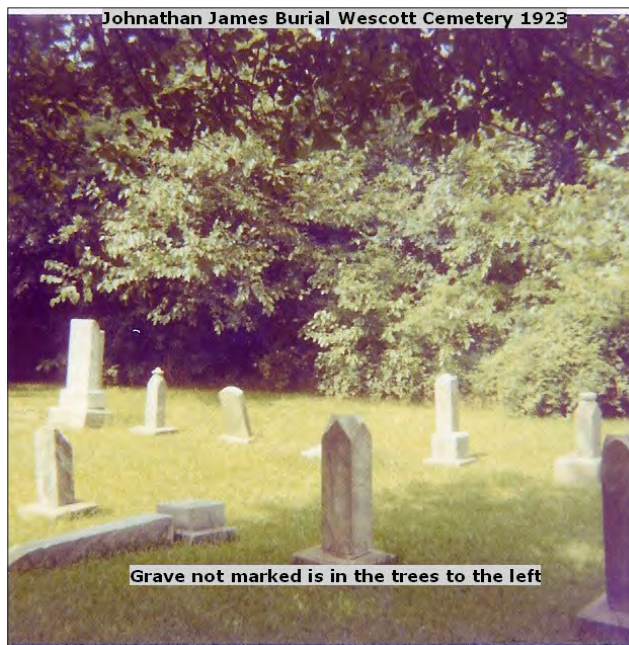
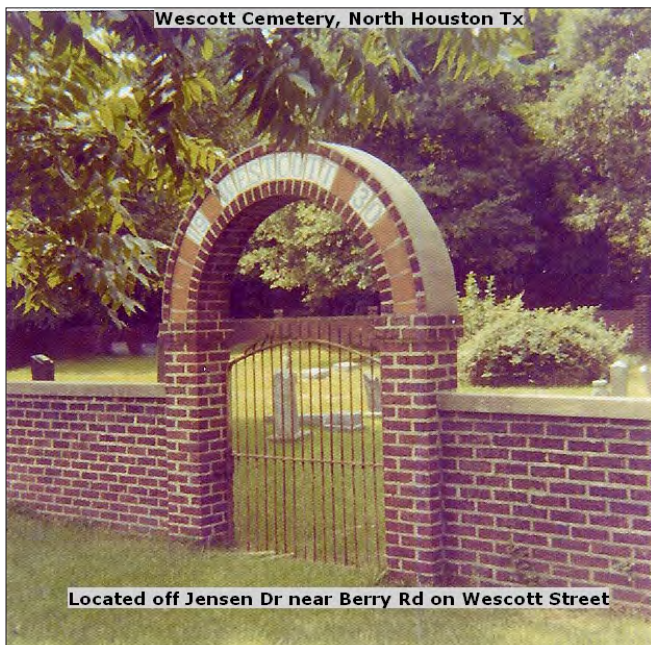
Sara Haynes
Founding President
Westcott Cemetery Association, Inc.

ABOUT MCDANIEL STREET CEMETERY



The Richard D. and Almira Westcott family established a cemetery on their homestead in the late 1800s. Their youngest daughter, Jennie Gammon Westcott Kendall, formally dedicated the ¼-acre Westcott family cemetery for community use in 1893. Over time, Kendall sold land to the neighboring McDaniel, McDonald, Cours, Farmer, and Schuller families. The remaining unsold land became part of the larger cemetery property. John Farmer later added a ¾-acre of land to the west side of the cemetery and several small family plots were also established. Burials continued through the early 1960s.

The cemetery was maintained by volunteers until at least 2005. At some point thereafter, it fell into disrepair. Between 2013–2018, the neighborhood rallied to clean up the cemetery and keep it mowed. In 2018, the Westcott Cemetery Association was formed by three Westcott descendant siblings. In 2020, working with Texas Historical Commission, the previously unnamed property containing the Westcott and other family cemeteries was collectively named McDaniel Street Cemetery and designated a Historic Texas Cemetery. Westcott Cemetery Association became the legal conservator of the cemetery in October 2021 and today is responsible for its care and maintenance.



Photographs of the Westcott Cemetery, circa 1980, shared by Ed Hyde

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Winter 2023

WCA Board Meeting

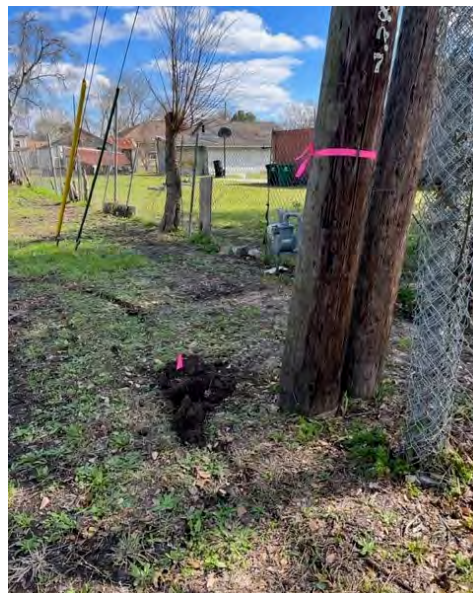
The first board meeting of the year was held in January to approve the 2023 budget, welcome new board member Belinda Stubblefield, MSW, adopt the Cemetery Vision Plan, and determine the board's work plan for the year. The Vision Plan can be found on our website under the "Cemetery Vision Plan" tab.

Updated Property Survey

In January, WCA commissioned an updated legal property survey of McDaniel Street Cemetery to document the legal right-of-way for McDaniel Street and Schuller Road, in preparation for the future installation of a perimeter fence around the cemetery.

Previously, WCA obtained a survey of the legal boundaries of the site, but it did not specifically identify the roadway right-of-way. The City of Houston requires that any future fence, wall, or other structure would have to be outside of the right-of-way.

Right: Pink survey markers



Candid Platinum Certification

In February 2023, WCA earned Candid's "Platinum" transparency certification. Candid, which formed in 2019 when Guidestar and the Foundation Center merged, provides information about nonprofit organizations to potential donors, sponsors, and grantmakers. Candid's nonprofit database helps prospective supporters learn whether a particular nonprofit's work and financial model aligns with their giving priorities. Candid also helps nonprofit organizations find funding from likeminded foundations. On Candid's website, a nonprofit organization can create and update a standardized online profile at no charge. Organization which maintain a Candid profile and earn a Seal of Transparency become visible on more than 200 partner platforms including Facebook, Network for Good, and donor advised funds. The Platinum Seal of Transparency is awarded to nonprofits that provide basic information about their organization, its programming and communications, Board members and leadership, financial position, strategic plan, and at least one metric used to measure progress and results. WCA is proud to display our Platinum Seal of Transparency on our website and in this Annual Report.



Spring 2023

Texas Historical Commission Cemetery Workshop

McDaniel Street Cemetery was one of three historic cemeteries statewide to be selected by the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Cemetery Preservation Program for in-person headstone repair workshops. These events were also held at Wharton Cemetery in Wharton and Rockport Cemetery in Rockport.

On March 9, 2023, Historic gravestone specialists Jason Church, from the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, and James "Rusty" Brenner from Texas Cemetery Restoration LLC led the all-day workshops. Twenty participants from other local cemeteries learned to level, reset, and make other repairs to historic gravestones in a historic cemetery setting. WCA's neighbor across McDaniel Street, Iglesia Vision Global, provided parking and restroom facilities for the participants. Lunch was provided courtesy of the Estate of Lynna Kay Shuffield, and executor Juliana Dearman also attended the workshop. Previously the Estate helped to pay for the development of the Cemetery Vision Plan and resetting and repairing grave markers.

The workshops were made possible through a National Park Service grant related to the consequences of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. These events built on the foundation established by THC's Disaster Training webinar series.



Left: Rusty Brenner prepares to level and reset a grave marker. Above, from left to right: WCA board members Sara Haynes and Belinda Stubblefield with Texas Historical Commission Cemetery Preservation Program staff Carlyn Hammons and Jenny McWilliams.

Spring 2023, continued

Harris County Precinct 2 “Leading2gether” Luncheon

On April 5, Harris County Precinct 2’s affiliated nonprofit, Precinct2gether held its Leading2gether Luncheon at North East Community Center and James Driver Park. We heard from Commissioner Adrian Garcia and Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia, a previous Precinct 2 Commissioner, among other speakers. McDaniel Street Cemetery is in Precinct 2.



Left to right: Sara Haynes with Greater Northside Management District’s (GNMD) Executive Director Rebecca Reyna and board president Jeanette Rash

Complete Communities Civic Leadership Development Project

Outreach Strategists, through a contract with the Houston Health Department – Complete Communities Civic Leadership Development Project (CCCLD) –awarded WCA’s “Eyes on the Cemetery” campaign with a \$1,500 mini-grant to install security cameras in the cemetery. Board member Belinda Stubblefield was the project lead, graduating from the program in March.

Right: Belinda Stubblefield and Sara Haynes



Spring 2023, continued

New Perimeter Fence

With generous support from the Lynna Kay Shuffield Estate, WCA was able to install a perimeter fence around the cemetery just in time for the first annual Descendants Reunion in the cemetery on April 29. WCA volunteers Alan McDougal and Norberto Moreno installed new signage depicting the future front entry gate and fence of McDaniel Street Cemetery in time for the reunion.



Left: The new perimeter fence immediately after installation. Center: The perimeter fence divides the cemetery from the City of Houston right-of-way (to the south of our property). Right: Alan McDougal and Norberto Moreno with the updated sign.

Unfortunately, soon after the fence was installed, a large tree fell on it, following heavy rains that saturated and destabilized the soil. Bartlett Tree Service was able to remove the tree before the Descendants' Reunion. This unforeseen event spurred WCA to consider how we can be better prepared for emergencies and directly resulted in the creation of the Cemetery Emergency Fund a few months later.



Spring 2023, continued

Annual Descendants' Reunion

The reunion – “Sharing Our Vision” – was held in the cemetery on April 29. Special guest speakers included Houston City Councilmember Karla Cisneros’ community liaison, Carisia Banda; Lupita Talley, president of the Super Neighborhood 46; and Steph McDougal with McDoux Preservation LLC.

We were pleased to connect with descendants of the Cours, Farmer, Montgomery, Newton, and Westcott families, some of whom had not been to the cemetery in many years. Everyone enjoyed refreshments, fellowship, strolling the cemetery, visiting HTX Art in the Heart’s Art Bus and their family grave sites. Special thanks to volunteers Drew Anderson, Jocelyn Ronquillo, and the four Moreno brothers Jr, Amadeo, Noe, and Joshua; and Advisory Council member Vann Vaughan.



Clockwise from upper left: Descendants at the reunion; Anibeth Turcios, Carisia Banda, Lupita Talley, Belinda Stubblefield, and Roni Cabrera-Moreno; signs helped attendees visualize how the cemetery would look in the future.

Summer 2023

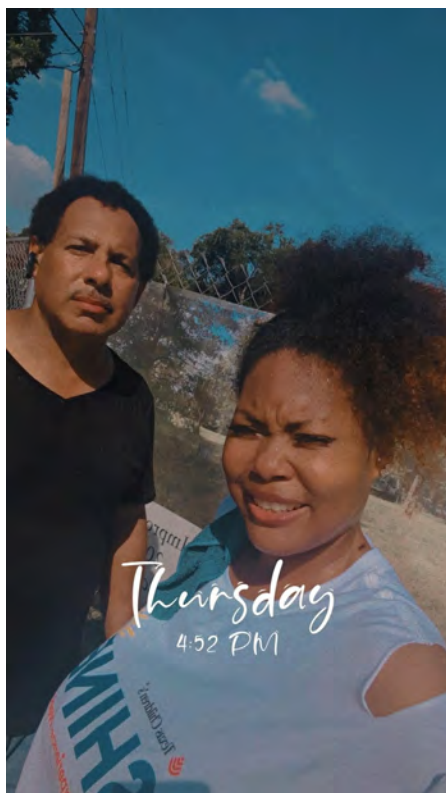
Planning for the Future

During the long hot Houston summer, WCA's board began planning for the sustainability of the Association and its work. With a generous lead gift from WCA Advisory Council member, Nina Zilkha, we established the Association Reserve Fund. Under board member, Loida Casares' direction, WCA also began developing the Giving Tuesday fall campaign to create the Cemetery Emergency Fund.

Both restricted funds are in an interest earning savings account, to be added to until WCA has at least 6 months of operating dollars in reserve and another \$5,000 for unplanned expenses. WCA also began preliminary plans for our first board retreat to develop a strategic fundraising plan to implement the Vision Plan.

"Eyes on the Cemetery" Campaign and Ice Cream Social

Due to the timeline of the CCCLD spring mini-grant, Belinda Stubblefield and volunteer Phillip Balthazar installed the security cameras in strategic locations in the cemetery. On the morning of July 15, representatives from Outreach Strategists visited with the WCA board for a volunteer appreciation and ice cream social in the cemetery to celebrate those who have and are helping to keep the cemetery cleaned, mowed, and secured.



Left: Phillip Balthazar and Belinda Stubblefield; Right (from left to right) Pastor David and Linda Smith (Houston Northeast CDC), Rachel Gravlee (Outreach Strategists) and her child, and WCA board members Belinda Stubblefield and Sara Haynes

Summer 2023, continued

Metro Community Events

Metro held a series of community events at the Eastex-Jensen Super Neighborhood 46 monthly meetings held at HTX Art in the Heart on Jensen Drive to get input from residents and neighboring businesses about the Tidwell Transit Center development plans.



Left to right: Sara Haynes, local resident Lois Lewis, and GNMD's Anibeth Turcios

Fall 2023

Eastex Jensen National Night Out

October was a busy month of community celebrations in the Northside and Eastex-Jensen, which WCA was pleased to support. Sara Haynes represented WCA at the Eastex-Jensen National Night Out event on October 3 at HTX Art in the Heart on Jensen Drive.



Fall 2023, continued

Fall Celebrations

For the past nine and ten years, respectively, the Houston Northeast Community Development Corporation and the Greater Northside Management District have hosted the Jensen Jubilee and the Tour of the Northside/Northside Festival. WCA has been a proud participant in both these fall events for six years.



Left: WCA treasurer Lona McManus and Sara Haynes, at the WCA table for the Jensen Jubilee.

Above, left to right: Eastex-Jensen resident Lois Lewis, Sara Haynes, and Super Neighborhood 46 president Lupita Talley

2nd Annual Trick Art Treat

WCA was pleased to provide a table of Halloween treats at the second annual Trick Art Treat event hosted by HTX Art in the Heart on October 31.



Above: Sara Haynes hands out candy at the Trick Art Treat event.

Fall 2023, continued

Giving Tuesday 2023

In November, WCA raised \$3,500 through Giving Tuesday to establish the Cemetery Emergency Fund. An anonymous donor pledged to match other donations dollar-for-dollar. WCA will continue to grow this fund in an interest-earning savings account.

Texas Historic Cemetery Marker

Just before the end-of-year holiday season got underway, WCA applied and was approved for a Texas Historic Cemetery medallion, which will be installed in the cemetery in the spring of 2024.

December Board Meeting

WCA's final board meeting of the year was held in the home of board president Sara Haynes, where the board elected Eastex-Jensen resident Lloyd Prince to the board and Juliana Dearman (executor of the Lynna Kay Shuffield estate) to the Advisory Council.

Collaboration with HTX Art in the Heart

In December WCA, became the fiscal sponsor of a \$10,000 grant from Triple-S Steel Stein Family Fund at the Houston Jewish Community Foundation to our good neighbor, HTX Art in the Heart (while their nonprofit status was still pending). Our relationship with HTX Art in the Heart began in 2021 when their Art Bus joined us for our Fondren Foundation challenge matching grant kick-off event with descendants and community leaders. It is a privilege to support HTX Art in the Heart, which does so much for the Eastex-Jensen community.

Evergreen Negro Cemetery Ribbon-Cutting

On December 21, Penny Dunn, Lloyd Prince, and Sara Haynes attended the ribbon cutting for the Evergreen Negro Cemetery on Lockwood in the Fifth Ward, where Juliana Dearman made remarks about the Lynna Kay Shuffield Estate's support of more than four historic cemeteries, including ours.



Left: WCA board members Penny Dunn, Lloyd Prince, and Sara Haynes at the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Right: Juliana Dearman addresses the audience.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

WCA continues to maintain a positive bank account balance as we invest in the physical improvement of the McDaniel Street Cemetery and other important programs and activities.

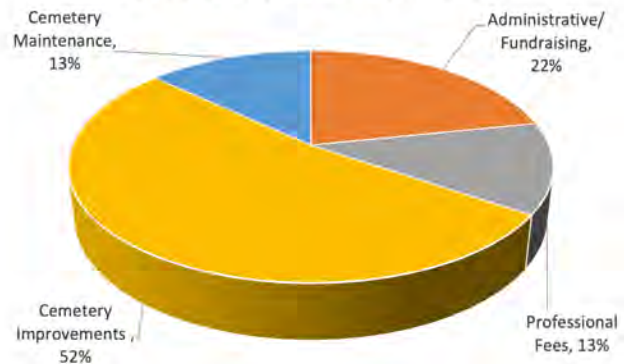
| Year | Income | Expenses | Net Income | Balance |
|-------------|----------|-----------|------------|----------|
| 2023 Budget | \$39,294 | \$51,818 | \$-12,594 | \$5,456 |
| 2023 Actual | \$65,488 | \$58,611 | \$7,241 | \$17,980 |
| 2024 Budget | \$17,676 | \$24,337* | -\$6,611 | \$11,369 |

* includes \$5,000 raised in 2022 to reset grave markers

SOURCES OF INCOME 2023



BREAKDOWN OF EXPENSES 2023



WCA's budget for 2024 includes:

Income

\$10,236 Income to be raised from donations
 \$7,440 Donations pledged by Board of Directors

Note: WCA received its final gift from the Estate of Lynna Kay Shuffield in 2023.

Expenses

\$5,400 Cemetery maintenance
 \$6,100 Professional services (accountant, preservation consultant)
 \$6,965 Admin/Fundraising (includes general liability insurance, directors & officers insurance, community engagement, nonprofit donation software, storage, etc.)
 \$5,872 Vision Plan projects

Platinum
Transparency
2024

Candid.

OUR GENEROUS 2023 DONORS

Special thanks to everyone who contributed to our Vision last year.

Estate Gift

Estate of Lynna Kay Shuffield

Corporations

Amazon Smile

Hearst Corporation, Inc.

Morgan Stanley

Outreach Strategists LLC

Positive Recovery Centers – The
Woodlands

Descendants

Perry Haynes Baraban

Blair Baraban Henderson

Dale Dunn

Jared Dunn

Penny Dunn

Laura and Todd Figura

Sara Westcott Haynes

Gayle Haynes Roane

In-Kind Donors

Fiesta

Iglesia Vision Global

Teresa Southwell

Other Individual Donors

Marie Adams

Anonymous

Berkely Arrants

Gina Biondo

Brigitte Z. Bosarge

Suzanne Brooks

Cynthia Brown

Loida Casares

Deborah Charette

Joseph Cooper

Katherine Feser

Catherine and Keith Frazier

Thomas Gegeny-Lopes

Barbara Hass

Bob Ittner

Mary Ann Layden

Lois Lewis

Tebben Lewis

Lydia Luz

Judy and Jeff Lyman

Steph McDougal

Lona Leigh McManus

Lyle McManus

Jane Mullholland

Jenny Murphy

Sara Selber

Leigh Sinclair

Kim Tobin-Lehl

Anibeth Turcios

Brenda Van Stratten

Mike Wheeler

Susan Williford

Nina O. Zilkha

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Join the Board of Directors

Descendants and community members who want to help ensure WCA's ability to maintain historic McDaniel Street Cemetery are invited to contact Sara Haynes at info@westcottcemeteryassociation.org.

Volunteer

Are you interested in sharing your knowledge, skills, expertise, and time with WCA? If you have an idea for a project that you think would benefit the historic McDaniel Street Cemetery, please let us know.

Financial Support

If you are interested in financially sponsoring or completing the work for an activity or project listed in the Cemetery Vision Plan, here's how you can contribute:

Online

Visit our website to donate.

Mail

Send your check to WCA at 4000 Purdue Street #106, Houston, TX 77005.

Gifts of Eligible Securities and Fed Fund Wires

Call WCA treasurer Lona McManus with Morgan Stanley at 713-903-5042 for more information.

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Sara Westcott Haynes has more than 25 years of volunteer and professional experience in the nonprofit sector in Houston. She completed the Nonprofit Executive Certificate program at University of Houston and is a graduate of Leadership Houston's XXV Class. As the founding WCA board president, she is active in the Eastex-Jensen community. Sara is a member of Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church.

"My connection to the ¼ acre Westcott Cemetery in the larger McDaniel Street Cemetery is very personal. My mother died at a young age, and these are her people on her father's side. I never knew anything about them other than my middle name, Westcott, was a family name. Developing friendships with many of the civic leaders and other folks living and working in the neighborhood has only strengthened my connection to this place. My greatest hope is that other descendants and people from the community continue WCA's work long after I am gone."



Lona McManus was a professional non-profit manager and fundraiser for 20 years at the Texas Medical Center and cultural institutions in Houston, before joining Morgan Stanley as a financial advisor. Her professional mission is to serve as a lifetime resource for people to support them in making strong financial decisions and advancing the causes they care about. Her work in the community focuses on economic justice, equity and inclusion. Lona earned an MBA in 2020 and enjoys Bikram yoga and theater. She was elected treasurer of the WCA board in 2022.

"I'm excited to be a part of the Westcott Cemetery Association and to help develop this special place into a gathering spot that everyone loves and appreciates. The progress is steady and rewarding. We have a great vision plan that the community is behind. I hope our neighbors will come out to the cemetery with us, share stories, and join this effort!"



Loida Casares grew up in the Bonita Gardens/Kashmere Gardens neighborhood, close to McDaniel Street Cemetery, and still lives nearby in the Lindale Park area. Loida is an active volunteer with several nonprofit organizations and has been recognized by her employer, the *Houston Chronicle*, and in the news for her work with Little Libraries in Laundromats, an initiative that she founded in 2019. Loida has been the secretary of the WCA board since 2019.

"I feel a very personal connection to the McDaniel Street Cemetery because I grew up around the Eastex-Jensen neighborhood and I saw the cemetery as a historic but abandoned cemetery. My father had a barbershop on Jensen Dr. near Bennington in the late 1960s and early 1970s and we lived next door until I was 5 years old. We moved across 59 and I grew up in the Bonita Gardens neighborhood, but we still shopped and lived around Jensen Dr. and we would drive by the cemetery.

When I first met the Westcott descendants ten years ago, I was overjoyed because I knew that it was finally going to get the attention it deserved after so many years of being forgotten. I was honored when they asked me if I would consider serving on the Westcott Cemetery Association Board and I have been passionate about this project. I'm looking forward to seeing this historic cemetery restored and to see it become a green space for the community."



DIRECTORS

Penny Dunn and her family lived in the Crosstimbers neighborhood for generations and her grandparents, great-great-grandparents, and six other relatives are buried at McDaniel Street Cemetery. After attending schools in the neighborhood, Penny taught at Sam Houston High School and raised 11 children. Penny volunteered with Historic Hollywood Cemetery for many years. She has been a member of the WCA board of directors since 2022.

“As a young person, I attended the funeral and then the graveside services of my great-great grandmother Montgomery. She and my great-great grandfather are interred at Westcott Cemetery, along with many of my family. Through the years I have visited this historic cemetery and have watched its beauty decline. People dumped trash and old tires there. Grave markers were broken and stolen. My son Adam and I picked up trash and called the City of Houston in efforts to obtain help in cleaning it. I am very thankful for the Westcott leadership who have caused this old cemetery to be historically recognized and maintained.”

Lloyd Prince joined the WCA board of directors in 2024. Lloyd grew up in Eastex-Jensen, graduating from Sam Houston High School. As a young man, Lloyd worked offshore in the oil and gas industry. Twenty-four years ago, his family built the Prince Boxing Complex on Jensen Drive in the Fifth Ward. Lloyd refers to himself as a Native American (because he was born in the U.S.) who is “embedded with passion to share what this country is built upon.” He is an amateur genealogist who has researched his family history and has volunteered at Oak Park Cemetery on Hirsch Road, just across the Eastex Freeway from McDaniel Street Cemetery. With his extensive knowledge about the Westcotts and McDaniel Street Cemetery, his connections to the community and his passion for WCA mission, the board looks forward to working with Lloyd.

“Being born and raised in the neighborhood, I consider it a privilege to participate in the revitalization of our cemetery. When passing by and noticing the positive changes, the opportunity to learn best practices were magnetic and too meaningful for me to overlook. I believe the DNA of any community is found in its cemeteries. If one doesn't respect ancestors, it would seem to follow that they won't be respected in the future. Thanks for the opportunity to learn more about preservation so I can then share the what, when, why, etc. with other interested people.”



ADVISORY COUNCIL

WCA's 2023 Advisory Council includes the following individual members:

- Dylan Carroll
- Juliana Dearman
- Todd Figura
- Mister McKinney
- Peter Patout
- Gayle Roane
- Vann Vaughan
- Nina Zilkha

Representatives of the following organizations also serve on the Advisory Council:

- Greater Northside Management District
- Houston Northeast Community Development Corporation
- Super Neighborhood 46



Houston Northeast CDC





Our Darling son
CHARLES WM SMITH
BORN JUNE 27, 1890
DIED NOV. 12, 1897.

WWW.WESTCOTTCEMETERYASSOCIATION.ORG
info@westcottcemeteryassociation.org