



# **Glenwood Cemetery Walking Tour**

**Enter:** Through the main gate off of Washington Ave. Make sure you are entering Glenwood Cemetery, not Washington Cemetery, they both have entrances off of Washington Ave.

**Start:** In section C-1



**The grave of Royal A. Dixon is located in section C-1, Lot 114. His burial spot is topped by a small grave marker with his name and dates. The grave maker is located in a family plot the includes an obelisk.**

Royal A. Dixon is unknown to us today but, in the early 20th century he was a known naturalist, animal right activist, and a member of the Americanization movement. A native Texan, he was a jack of all trades: an actor, a dancer, a newspaper reporter, a botanist, he even founded a church! In the 1920s he published a book claiming that immigrants need to be “Americanized” into one culture. He was an outspoken animal rights activist and he believed that animals, like humans, have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. He lived with his partner Chester Snowden, and died in June of 1962.



**Also in Section C-1, is Lot 136 the final resting place of Colonel Thomas Saltus Lubbock Sr. He is buried beneath a large granite tombstone that usually has Texas flags alongside it. His gravestone bears the rounded stamp “Citizen of the Republic of Texas”.**

Thomas Saltus Lubbock was not a native Texan, he was born in Charleston, South Carolina. He participated in the Texas revolution as a “Texan”, He was a lieutenant in the Texan army. After the Texan Revolution Lubbock became a Texas Ranger. He was a strong believer in succession and supported Texas withdrawing from the United States during the Civil War. He became a lieutenant colonel in the Eighth Texas Cavalry, called “Terry’s Texas Rangers”...Terry was obviously the guy in charge. Colonel Terry died in battle leaving Lubbock in charge, unfortunately the promotion to colonel was short lived because Lubbock died the day after Terry of typhoid fever.



**Let's head over to section L. Lot 14 of section L holds the tiny grave marker of Roy Mark Hofheinz, referred to as "Bo" on the grave marker.**

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The irony of Mr. Hofheinz's (he was known as "The Judge") tiny grave marker is that he is the father of [at the time] the largest enclosed stadium in the world: The Astrodome. Another jack of all trades, The Judge was a Texas State Representative, a county judge for Harris County, and even Mayor of the City of Houston. He's best known as being one of the driving forces to purchase an MLB team for Houston, that team ended up being known as the Houston Astros. Part of acquiring the MLB team included the building of world class facilities in Houston, like the Astrodome and Astroworld.



**Leaving section L, we head to section F-1. Lot 65 in this section holds the family plot for the Dies family. Underneath a gravestone, with a wreath on it, holds the single word "Dies", lies Martin Dies Sr.**

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Martin Dies Sr. served as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, but it's not Sr. that we're interested in, it's his son: Martin Dies Jr. who piques our interest. Sadly, Jr. is buried in Lufkin, but we can still talk about him here. Martin Dies Jr. was also a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, but much more infamously so. He helped to create the House Committee Investigating Un-American Activities (HUAC), which was tasked with hunting down communist posing as Americans. HUAC led to the blacklisting of numerous movie stars, politicians, artist, writers, and private citizens who were wrongly accused of being communist. It was strongly felt that Dies Jr. used HUAC to further his personal political agenda. Dies Jr. chaired HUAC until 1944.



**Also in section F-1 we find the family plot of Anson Jones. This plot is notable for the long grave marker underneath a granite tombstone that reads "Anson Jones".**

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Anson Jones is famous for being the last President of the Republic of Texas. Not a native Texan, Jones was born in Massachusetts. He settled in Brazoria country as a doctor but got caught up in the tensions between Mexico and Texas, he served as a surgeon in the Texas army during the Texas War of Independence. After the war he planned to return to medicine but again got caught up in Texas politics. He served as a congressman in the Second Texas Congress, where he opposed Texas annexation. He served a variety of other roles in Sam Houston's cabinet. Ironically, upon his accidenty as the 4th, and last, president of the Republic of Texas he helped orchestrate Texas' annexation by the United States, a move that may have killed his political career. After annexation Jones never found much success in anything else. This bitter disappointment resulted in his suicide in 1858, he was 59 years old.



**Leaving section F, we head now to section E-1. Section E-1 hold the burial plot of Gene Tierney, Lot 40.5. Her grave marker is located in an ornate lot that is accessed by a flight of stairs. The gravestone features a black urn in the center of a large granite monument that says "Lee".**

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If you like old movies you might know who Gene Tierney is. She was an Academy Award nominated actress who rose to fame in the 1940s. She lived a long yet tragic life. She was a heavy smoker, suffered from manic depression and suffered rubella during a pregnancy that caused her eldest child to be born deaf and mentally disabled. A victim of shock therapy and brutal mid-century mental institutions, Tierney tried to commit suicide in 1957. Despite her many personal setbacks she was an acclaimed actress starring in 37 films, five Broadway productions, and 14 television credits. She was active from 1938 to 1980. She also published books discussing her battle with mental illness. Her smoking habit caught up to her in 1991 when she passed away from complications due to emphysema.



**Let's pass out of section E and walk over to section H-2. In Lot 144, of section H-2, rests Rienzi Melville Johnston. Johnston's gravestone is a plain unremarkable granite piece that simply has the names of Johnston and his wife, Mary Elizabeth.**

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Rienzi Melville Johnston joined the Confederate army at age 12 as a drummer boy. He would serve as a drummer boy for the entirety of the war. He was born in Georgia but after the Civil War he ended up in Texas where he became a successful journalist. He founded the [now defunct] Houston Post, in 1880. He also served as a US Senator and a Texas State Senator. From what I can tell it is a complete coincidence that Johnston's first name, Rienzi, happens to be the same as the famous Rienzi museum here in Houston.



**Walking out of section H-2 and into section H-3 we encounter, in Lot 012, the graves of a true Houston power couple: William and Oveta Hobby. The Hobbys have two small grave markers in a plot that is capped by a white tombstone with an urn. The tombstone reads "Hobby".**

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William Hobby was Lieutenant Governor of Texas, and Governor of Texas in the early 20th century. He is perhaps most famously remembered because of Hobby Airport. William's second wife, Oveta, is much more famous. See the next box to find out more about her.



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Oveta Hobby was the first Secretary of the US Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (now the Department of Health and Human Services) during the Eisenhower administration. Prior to that she was the first director of the Women's Army Corp during WWII. As Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare; she was the person who approved the polio vaccine that changed the course of health care forever. After she resigned from her Federal position she returned to Houston where she served as president and editor of Rienzi Johnston's Houston Post. She received 17 honorary doctoral degrees throughout her life and was encouraged by President Eisenhower to run for the presidency in 1960. A portrait of Oveta Hobby, in her Women's Army Corp uniform, hangs in the National Portrait Gallery, in Washington, DC.



### **Now walk through the Forest Mound to the Cemetery Oak.**

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The Cemetery Oak obviously does not mark one particular grave. It is 64 feet tall and as wide as a small car. Research suggests that this oak dates back to 1880, and probably was already growing when the Forest Mound section was being developed. The oak is one of the most famous residents in Glenwood and has made itself a mainstay by wrapping around its neighboring gravestones. Stand in awe of this oak tree but please do not climb or sit on it, it's lived a long hard life watching over the dead.



**Now for our final stop, the most famous grave plot in the entire cemetery: the Hughes Family Plot. The Hughes Family plot can be found in the Oakdale section. You can't miss it, it is a curved wall with six alcoves. It is surrounded by a white gate.**

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Do I need to tell you who Howard Hughes Jr. is? Have you seen the movie The Aviator? That movie is probably the best synopsis of Hughes' life. To say he was eccentric is an understatement. Howard Hughes Jr. did suffer from some sort of mental illness that caused him to be extremely OCD and famously reclusive in his later years. But, behind that eccentricity was a mind much greater than yours or mine. Hughes was a Hollywood megastar director, he was an inventor, an aviator, and a great philanthropist. He dated every major actress in Hollywood, he even tried to woo Gene Tierney. I don't have enough room to list all of Hughes' achievements, just know that his greatly contributed to modern commercial flight and he was a true innovator. He suffered greatly from mental illness in his last years and died enroute to Houston in 1976.



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**All men must die and all walking tours must end. You are now in the far end of the cemetery, next to Memorial Drive. Head north to find the entrance/exit.**



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**This walking tour highlighted a microcosm of the history that lies behind these gates. If you have any questions about this tour feel free to email me at [explorehoustontx@gmail.com](mailto:explorehoustontx@gmail.com).**



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