# The Two Cemeteries At Melbourne

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# Acknowledgements

To the many people who helped gather the material through many days of work, and then checking with City Hall to ascertian and upgrade their records of the faithfully departed, and to those with the computers who put these names in type , we gratefully acknowledge the below listed personnel who assisted in this work. They are Dick Atwood, Chairman of the Cemetery Committee, Chris Bowen, Mary Collins, Tom Jenkins, Ellen McGrath, Lucille Noyes, Eleanor Shonting, Vivianne Woodard, Lillian Thursh, Betty Kloeppel, and Ray and Jean McConnell.

# FOREWORD

According to Melbourne Cemetery records, a man by the name of Lipscomb was paid $8.19 for plowing and "grubbing" the cemetery. In 1895, Addison S. Fee was paid $1.00 for hauling lumber and 25c for wire.

According to a statement found in cemetery records, the Abigail Wright Chamberlain Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution stated that the Melbourne Cemetery was begun in 1891. "Some burials recorded at earlier date were removed from their original burying places and interred in this cemetery when it was opened". This was the first cemetery in Melbourne, other than private burials on family property

Don Ball, Superintendent of Parks and Cemeteries for Melbourne in the 1970s, said that Frank Bennett, Melbourne's third fire chief and long time resident here, once told him that several Indians were buried in Melbourne Cemetery. Ball believes burials took place in this cemetery even before it actually became a cemetery "association" in 1891.

It appears that the first burial in the cemetery (at least recorded burial) was that of Edwin Cummings who was buried January 25, 1888.

EAU GALLIE CEMETERY

This cemetery was started in 1902 on land owned by W. H. H. Gleason. Gleason owned the land until about 1934 when the cemetery became the property of the City of Eau Gallie.

HOUSTON CEMETERY (Sometimes called PIONEER CEMETERY)

This cemetery, located on the southern end of Highland Aveune, was founded in 1865 by the pioneer Houston family, the founders of Eau Gallie. This is a family cemetery, located within a short distance of the original Houston homes. There are 12 known burials and probably several more in unmarked graves. The first burial appears to be that of Samuel L. Houston, who died February 17, 1883. However, there may have been earlier burials that have no gravestones.

This cemetery was vandalized in 1992 with the removal of two stones. The Florida Historical Society (the owner of the cemetery at that time) removed the remainder of the stones and put them in storage until such time as the cemetery can be secured in a proper manner.

LINE STREET CEMETERY

According to information found by Don Ball, City of Melbourne, Parks and Cemeteries, this area of Line Street was known on plat maps as Crane Creek Heights. The property was deeded in 1912 from Mary L. Brothers to Mary E. Stone, Grace Walker, L. L. McKay, and J. S. Stone, trustees. Current heirs are Ruby Stone, Elizabeth Gibbs and Carrie McKay. Known burials in the cemetery are Kissie Galloway, Stephen Ford, Mary Brothers, E. C. and Alice Chambers, Theodore Coates (infant), Irene Coates (infant), Christiana Monroe, John Whitfield, and probably Esther Brothers. This is the second black cemetery, the first one being the old Macedonia Baptist Church building, north of Brothers Avenue. There is nothing to indicate the presence of the first cemetery now.

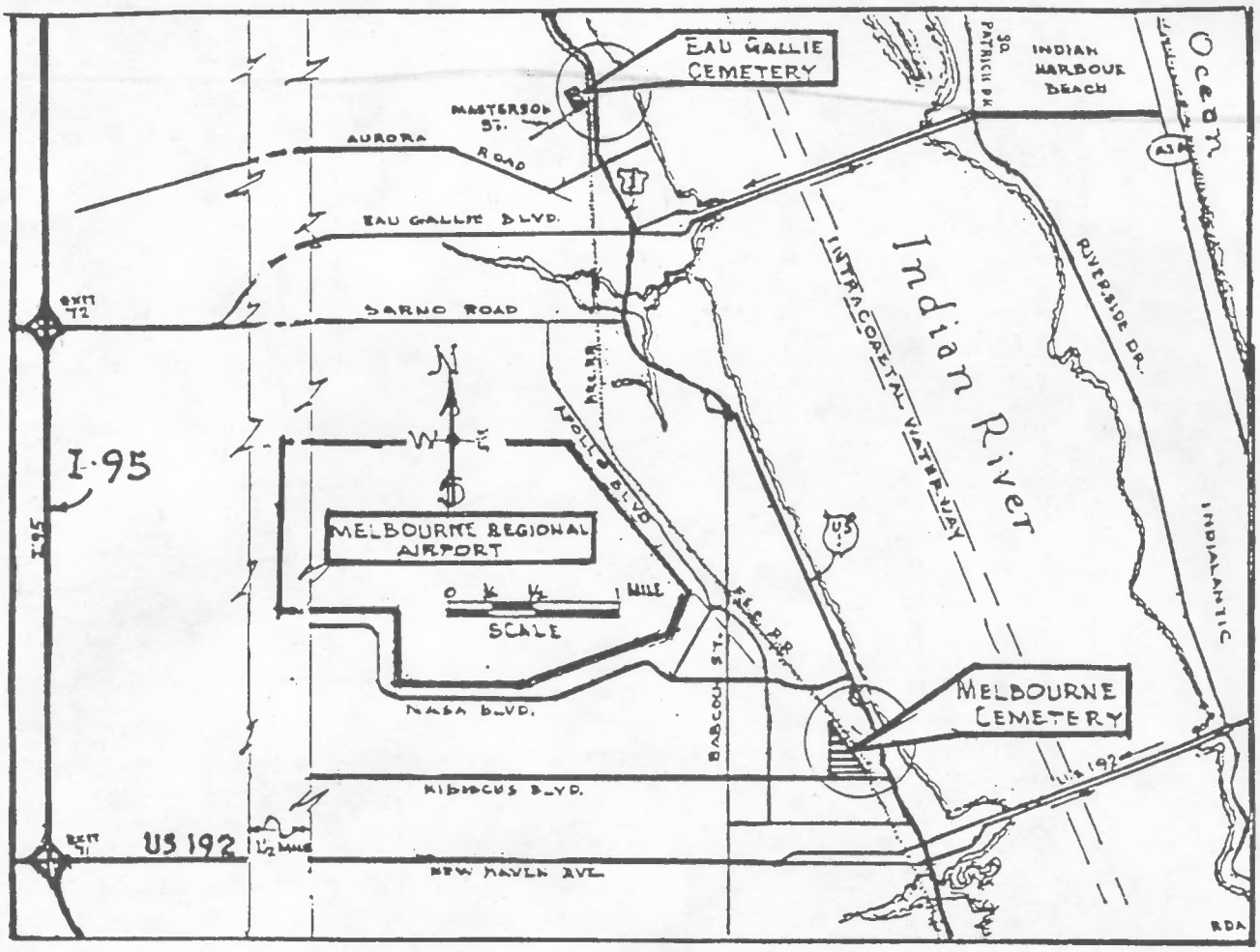
(Our special thanks to Weona Cleveland for preparing the above material in order to provide a historical sketch of the cemeteries in Melbourne. The following material was found by a member of the GSSB and is included).

This cemetery is not only filled with history, but it holds many secrets in unmarked graves, such as the cat named "Old Dick" who is buried there . . . . and several Indians, according to some early residents. Then there are two merchant seamen, Carl Emit Shoff and Joseph Dubienske, who were killed aboard a Swedish freighter which was shelled by a German submarine off the Brevard coast during World War II and their bodies washed ashore.

To name a few notables interred in Melbourne Cemetery: Thomas Mason, "A native of England and the first white settler in Melbourne", Cornthwaite John Hector, who is considered the "founder of Melbourne, Florida", which was named after his hometown of Melbourne, Australia . . . . he also was Melbourne's first postmaster ; Richard Goode and his wife, Jessie, who were early settlers; W.C. Buhl, uncle of movie star Janet Gaynor ; Foster Price, violinmaker, whose instruments were often compared to those of Stradivarius in tone and quality. The list goes on and on . . .

Walking among the headstones, one gains a sense of the area's history. Some of the earliest residents were born in England, Germany, India, and Scotland. Eighteen Union and eight Confederate veterans of the War between the States have their final resting places there. Each April the Sons and Daughters of the Confederacy hold a special rememberance ceremony on Confederate Memorial Day to honor all of the War's veterans.

* * * * *

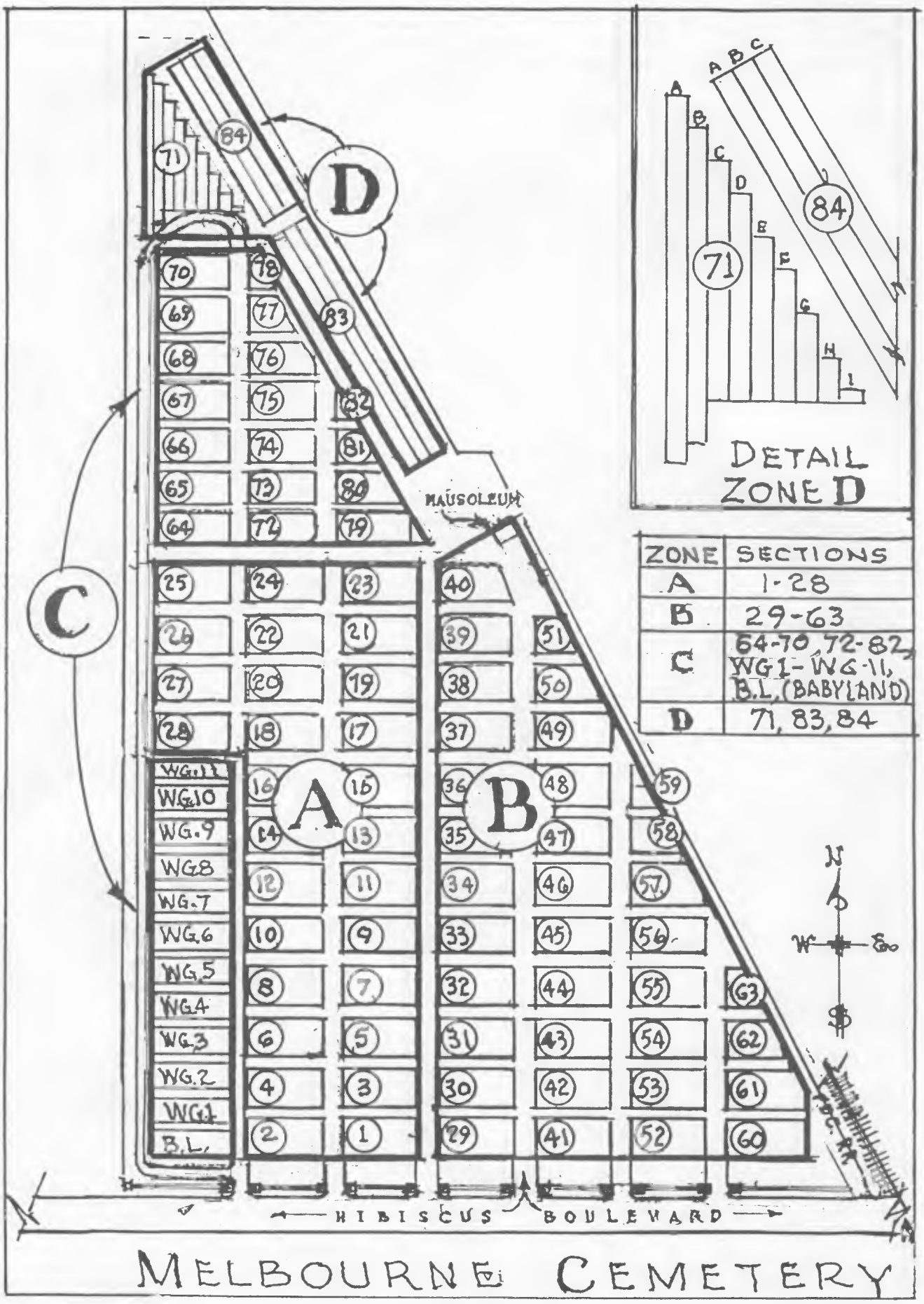



VICINITY MAP
MELBOURNE, FLA.

# Legend

1. Name
2. Zone
3. Section (NG= North Garden)
   (WG= West Garden)
   (BL- Babyland)
   (1 - 84, Look at Map)
4. fh. = Funeral Home
5. Birth Date
6. Death Date
7. Burial Date
8. Notes.

| | 3 | 4 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 — BEYER | | Rhea | | C |
| 2 — C | NG-75 | fh. Davis | | |
| 5 — b. 1893 | | | d. 1977 | bur. 19 Dec 1977 |
| 8 — W/ Arthur O. Beyer 1891-1967 | | | | |


D
C
A
B
MAUSOLEUM
HIBISCUS BOULEVARD
DETAIL ZONE D
ZONE | SECTIONS
A | 1-28
B | 29-63
C | 64-70, 72-82, WG1-WG11, B.L. (BABYLAND)
D | 71, 83, 84
N
W
E
S
MELBOURNE CEMETERY