

open a drug store and movie theater. He was also the first African-American in Bay City to have a car. He is buried beside his wife, **Ollie Roy Houston** (1894-1969).

**14. Hilda Bouldin Francis** (1913-1992) was a teacher in the Bay City schools for 40 years. She taught at Hilliard High, Linnie Roberts and Pierce Elementary. She married **Romelus Francis** (1910-2001) in 1938 and he is buried beside her. He was a WWII veteran and a cook at Johnnie's White Kitchen restaurant.

**15. Linnie McHenry Roberts** (1893-1956) taught 32 years, most of them at Booker T. Washington and Hilliard High School. Linnie Roberts Elementary was named in her honor in 1961. She married, **Ikeleys "Mr. Ike" Roberts**, and they co-owned and operated Duncan-Roberts Funeral Home. Mr. Roberts was the first black mortician in Matagorda County.

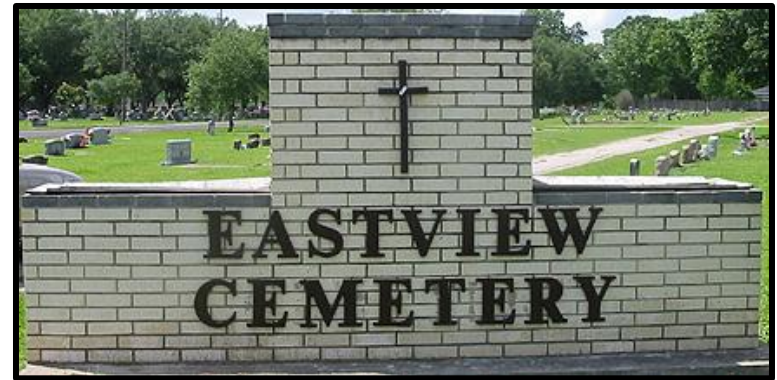
**16. Mike Smith, Sr.** (1878-1966) was one of the first three trustees of Eastview Cemetery.

**17. Ben Lewis** (1843-1915) has the earliest recorded birth year at Eastview. He was born in Virginia and likely a slave. He was a driver for a meat market while he lived in Bay City.

**18. Gifford Leroy Duncan** (1893-1943) and his father, **William Duncan** (1894-1942) established Duncan Funeral Home, the first African-American funeral home in Bay City, in 1920. In 1942 Ikeleys Roberts joined the firm and it became Duncan-Roberts. Gifford's wife, **Mary Duncan** (1897-1981), and William's wife, **Lula Duncan** (1868-1951), are buried beside their husbands.

**19. Asa Grant "A.G." Hilliard I** (1864-1931) was son of slaves, Bunk and Mary Hilliard and began teaching at age 19. In 1890 he received \$51.70 a month as a teacher. He married **Pearl India Carothers** (1873-1932) and they moved to Bay City where classes were held at Enterprise Baptist Church. In his honor, the Booker T. Washington High School was renamed A. G. Hilliard High School.

**EASTVIEW in 2013 – The Eastview Cemetery Association has been working several years to preserve the history of those buried there. One section at a time, all of the markers were leveled and placed on new bases.**



*Eastview Cemetery*  
*Walking Tour*  
**Sections A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2**

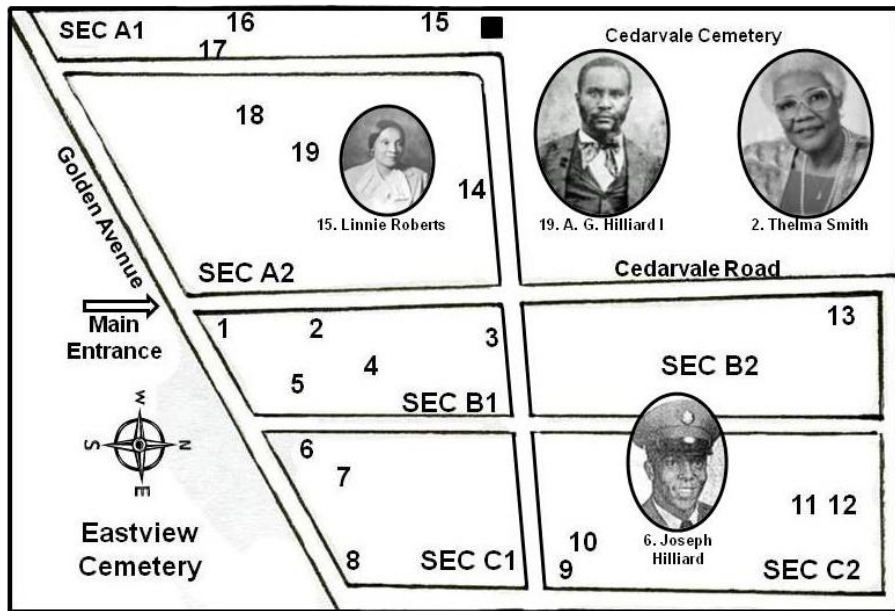
**2401 Golden Avenue  
PO Box 385, Bay City, TX 77404-0385**

**28°59'56.00"N 95°57'43.56"W**

**[http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txmatago/cemetery\\_eastview\\_history.htm](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txmatago/cemetery_eastview_history.htm)**

**Brochure courtesy of the  
Matagorda County Historical Commission**





5. **Rosa Lee Allen Brown** (1914-2001) was the wife of **Rev. Cassious Herman Brown** (1873-1958). She was an educator and retired from Bay City ISD after 35 years of teaching.

6. **PFC Joseph R. Hilliard** (1939-1965) graduated from Hilliard High School and Prairie View A&M before enlisting in the US Army. He was serving in the First Cavalry Division when he was killed in action in the Ia Drang Valley in Vietnam. His Gold Star parents, **Golie Mae Warren Hilliard** (1916-2001) and **Joseph B. Hilliard** (1915-1995) are buried near their son.

7. **Rev. Rudolph Martin, Sr.** (1935-1992) was from a family of pastors. He was an educator in BCISD and was the principal of Cherry Elementary at his death. He was the pastor of Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church in Markham.

8. **Melissa Lindsey Wilkins Amey** (1926-2012) married **Thomas Edison Amey** (1921-1999) in 1954 and they moved to Bay City. She taught all levels from Head Start to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Mr. Amey was a mail carrier for the USPS.

9. **Frank Henderson** (1912-1994) was the first African-American city councilman in Bay City being elected in 1976. He was a longtime employee of Birkner Lumber Co. He was buried beside his wife, **Bessie Brown Henderson** (1911-1987). Their daughter, **Verna Henderson**, also served on the City Council of Bay City.

10. **Dave Young** (1912-2001) served in the military after his college graduation. He first taught at A. G. Hilliard High School and had the honor of becoming the first principal of Linnie Roberts Elementary. He is buried beside his wife, **Naomi Boone Young** (1915-1998).

11. **Wellington Armelin** (1905-1972) was the pastry chef at the Baytex Hotel in the 1940s and later sold Continental Insurance. His wife, **Fannie Boone Armelin** (1911-1994), worked in private homes and later was a nurse's aide at Matagorda General Hospital.

12. **Andrew Buford Witherspoon** (1914-1995) received his pharmaceutical degree and later served in WWII. He was a member of Tyree Chapel AME Church and was organist for 30 years. He owned and operated the South End Drug Store and active in civic involvement. His wife, **Lottie Boone Witherspoon** (1919-2001), a longtime Bay City teacher, is buried beside him.

13. **Joe Houston** (1878-1971) was the first African-American to

As you walk through



this tour, notice the many hand-made concrete markers created by Lawyer Patterson to provide affordable markers to everyone. They are found in African-American cemeteries across Matagorda County. Mr. Patterson is buried in Matagorda.

1. **Eastview Cemetery historical marker** – on entrance wall

2. **Thelma Brown Smith** (1926-2003) taught school 38 years with most of those at Hilliard High School and McAllister Jr. High. She was an expert on Matagorda County's African-American history and in the early 1900s, recorded all of the burials at Eastview Cemetery. Her husband, Ret. Master Sergeant **Lincoln H. Smith** (1928-2007), a Korean War veteran, is buried beside her.

3. **CPL George C. Woods, Jr.** (1926-1951) was a Tribune delivery boy before joining the US Army. He was accidentally shot by a fellow soldier while serving in Korea. His mother, Mrs. **Pearl Cullier Woods** (1899-1978), is buried beside him.

4. **James White, Jr.** (1923-2001) was born in Pledger and attended Prairie View A&M University. His professional career, which spanned 39 years, included principal of A. G. Hilliard High School and asst. principal of BCHS.