

**Etta O. Price Newby**  
**May 28, 1862 - June 23, 1936**

Etta was born during the Civil War on May 28, 1862 to William and Macklin Price in Enterprise, Mississippi. She was the youngest of 3 children, all of which were girls. The family moved to Fort Worth in 1874.<sup>1</sup> Just a few years after coming to the city, Etta's father died leaving her fatherless at the age of 15.<sup>2</sup>

The family remained an active part of Fort Worth society and on December 14, 1882 she married William G. Newby. Her new husband was a banker and would evidently become the president of American National Bank in Fort Worth. William was very philanthropic toward the community and was a member of the Masonic lodge and the Knights of Pythias. Toward the end of his life, William became chronically ill and was in poor health for a lengthy period of time. On April 29, 1916, William committed suicide in their home at 1801 W. Magnolia (present day site of All Saints Hospital.)

Etta now found herself a widow and longed to continue the philanthropic efforts of her late husband. She actively searched for a way to memorialize the life of her husband and did so through The Woman's Club of Fort Worth. In 1923, she bought the former home of Heinrich Frerichs located at 1613 Pennsylvania Ave. The home had sat empty since 1914 when the Frerichs family fled back to Germany after Heinrich was found to be the head of German intelligence in the Southwest. In 1917, the U.S. Government confiscated the residence to help house army personnel during World War I. Mrs. Newby was able to purchase the home from the government and deeded the property to The Woman's Club.<sup>3</sup> The residence for the club was named the "William G. Newby Memorial Building" and still stands today. It became a Texas Historic Landmark in 1967.<sup>4</sup>

In addition to her generous donation to The Woman's Club, Etta also established the *Etta Newby Student Loan Fund* at Texas Christian University and furnished the chimes at the Fort Worth First Methodist Church. She also provided a large endowment to the Pioneers Rest Cemetery.

Mrs. Newby died on June 23, 1936 and is buried in the Price family plot at Pioneers Rest Cemetery next to her husband, parents, and two siblings. She has no known children. On the day of her memorial service, the chimes she provided to the Methodist Church rang in memory of her. Each year on the anniversary of her birthday, members of The Woman's Club of Fort Worth travel to the cemetery to place flowers on her grave and also fly their flag at half-staff at the club headquarters in her honor.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "Died." Fort Worth Daily Gazette. (Fort Worth, Tex.), Vol. 7, No. 253, Ed. 1, Thursday, September 13, 1883, newspaper, September 13, 1883; Fort Worth, Texas. (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph114537/m1/4/?q=%20date%3A1877-1883>: accessed August 29, 2023), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu> ;

<sup>2</sup> Hudson, Weldon and Barbara Knox. *Pioneers Rest Cemetery, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas*. Fort Worth Genealogical Society. 2001. Pg 114.

<sup>3</sup> Sherrod, Katie. *Grace & Gumption : Stories of Fort Worth Women*. TCU Press. 2007, Pgs. 89-90.

<sup>4</sup> "William G. Newby Memorial Building." *Historical marker Database*. 2023. <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=224810> ; Accessed 29 Aug 2023.

<sup>5</sup> Sherrod, Katie. 2007, Pgs. 89-90.

