



DALLAS COUNTY PIONEER ASSOCIATION

FOUNDED 1875, REORGANIZED 1979

P O Box 12496 DALLAS TX 75225

972-260-9334

SUMMER 2013



Quarterly Meeting

Thursday, June 6, 2013

The Point, Center for Arts and Education

Campus of C. C. Young

4847 W. Lawther Dr.

Room Opens at 5:30 Dinner at 6 PM

Meeting Begins At 7 PM

Dinner \$15.00 per person

For Dinner Reservation

call by the Tuesday before the meeting.

972-260-9334

JUNE PROGRAM -- PIERCE ALLMAN

Founding of the Town of Highland Park

Pierce Allman's name is probably well known to most of us. He graduated from Highland Park High School and from SMU, where he earned a B.A. in Radio/TV. After graduation, he served in the Strategic Air Command and then became a deejay at several Dallas radio stations before joining WFAA. He left WFAA at the invitation of Willis Tate to be Director of Alumni Affairs at SMU. Later he set up his own marketing firm and entered residential real estate in 2003.

Allman's many honors include being named a Distinguished Alumnus of Highland Park High School and receiving the Jubilee History Maker Award of Excellent from the Dallas Historical Society. Active on many community boards, he co-founded and served as president of both the Park Cities Historical Society and the Friends of the Highland Park Library.

Today Allman will share with us the story of the founding of the Town of Highland Park, which is celebrating its Centennial this year.



Dallas County Clerk Makes Available to Public, a Landmark 16 Million Public Records Dating Back to 1846

[October 15, 2012] [Dallas, TX] – [Today the Dallas County Clerk’s office reached an historical milestone with the launch of our historical records. As of 8:00am today all of Dallas County’s official public records from 1846 to current have been made available to the public. Dallas County Clerk, John Warren’s initiative to create a virtual office has moved closer to becoming a reality with the launch of his newly revised website ROAM (Rapid Online Access Method) that now allows the public to access and purchase copies of property records without the need to come to the courthouse. The significance of this milestone is that by leveraging e-Commerce technology, there is now an ease to access of information without the need to drive, pay for parking or waiting in lines to pay for copies of property records. It also removes the restriction of the normal 8:00-4:30 business hours.]

Dallas County Clerk John Warren emphasized the importance of this historic moment for the County, “This project has been three years in the making. We have approximately sixteen (16) million documents or 125 million pages of records online. This makes Dallas County the only large urban county in the United States that has published all of its official public records.” Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins said, “This is a milestone in transparency and will lead to better public access and ultimately a savings for taxpayers.”

Individuals who wish to access public records may now go on line to set up a user account. The users have the option to view records for free, pay as you go, or through a subscription service for unlimited viewing and printing.

In addition, this new version of ROAM provides disaster recovery for all of our records as well as an additional level of security and protection against property fraud.



The Fifteenth Annual *Legacies* History Conference Call for Proposals

The organizers of the Fifteenth Annual *Legacies* Dallas History Conference welcome proposals from both professional and lay historians on topics related to the theme: “The Unusual Side of Dallas: Unique Personalities, Impossible Dreams, Unexpected Landmarks, and Lingering Legends.”

Although Dallas often has a reputation as a rather serious, business-minded city, it has nurtured plenty of colorful figures (such as H. L. Hunt) and surprising endeavors (like navigating the Trinity River). Registered city landmarks include an all-concrete house built more than a hundred years ago by a man who believed in reincarnation. Popular legends include the mysterious “Lady of White Rock Lake.” The conference planners hope to enlighten and entertain attendees with such out-of-the-ordinary stories.

All papers must be based on original research and must not have been presented or published elsewhere. The best papers will be published in a subsequent issue of *Legacies: A History Journal for Dallas and North Central Texas*. Those interested in presenting papers should submit a brief summary of their proposal by JULY 1, 2013, to “Dallas History Conference, 1515 S. Harwood St., Dallas, TX 75215,” or by email to: mvhazel@sbcglobal.net. Those selected will be notified by August 1, 2013.

The Fifteenth Annual *Legacies* History Conference will be held on Saturday, January 25, 2014. The Dallas County Pioneer Association is one of a dozen historical organizations and libraries that jointly sponsor the conference each year.



Cemetery News

Just in case you haven't heard, I had a early morning stroke on Monday, May 6, 2013, that has impaired my right arm. Fortunately, the rest of my body function that was weakened from the stroke has returned which is pretty common. I am at Baylor Institute for Rehabilitation, 3505 Gaston Ave., Dallas, Texas 75246.

At this time, the date the physicians plan to release me is May 25 because they feel I will be capable of living at home by that time because of my ongoing positive rehabilitation progress. Even though I may be in a wheelchair, my doctors seem to think I will be able to work the Plano Newcomers tour at the Greenwood Cemetery on May 30, as well as attend the upcoming June meeting.

I was supposed to lead a tour at the downtown Pioneer Cemetery on May 18, but my physicians said this was not possible. The Dallas Historical Society contacted Mr. Paul McLin, DCPA member, who was so gracious to take over the tour in my place.

Before the stroke, I was working on the eighty names of well known African Americans who had made a historical contribution here in Dallas County, Texas. It is very exciting to see the list of physicians, attorneys, teachers, politicians, funeral directors, etc whose names are too numerous to list at this time. When I return home, I will continue my research on this subject.

I am also preparing the history of Mr. Obidiah Knight, one of the first Presidents of the Dallas County Pioneer Association and was one of the largest slave owners in Dallas County.

At this time, I would like to share with you some exciting news concerning the Shelton-Bear Creek Cemetery in Irving, Texas. The property adjacent to this cemetery was sold last year to a senior citizen facility and the owners are very pleased that the cemetery is there. I was very worried that this cemetery may become vulnerable to vandalism and the elements with this new construction bringing people so close to the cemetery. But thankfully, the new facility representative shared with me that they would like to get the senior citizens involved with the care of this cemetery.

The Horton Cemetery is high on a hill overlooking the Trinity River flood plain at the intersection of Loop 12 and I 30. It is surrounded by private property. Access is through the Townview Mobile Home Park. This adds to the tremendous problem in attempting to maintain the cemetery. It had turned into a jungle of vines, and wild undergrowth. During the winter a couple of hardworking men have been cutting back and the large headstones of the Horton Family (the ones that had head stones) are now exposed. They have been paid by the \$10.00 from each one of the books - "Dallas County History From The Ground Up" that have been sold.

We need help right now as the growing season is upon us and the debris needs to be turned into chips or mulch PDQ. One company that we contacted wanted \$1500.00 to come and grind it up. We thought that was excessive.

WE NEED HELP!

Last March, someone walked off with THREE Cemetery Books that were left on the table outside the auditorium. These were not free books but were being sold. If you took them by mistake feel free to return them or bring the \$ to purchase them. Thank you.

If I do not see you before the next holiday I wish all of you a Happy Memorial Day.

Submitted by Frances James



The Highland Park Centennial Celebration

Highland Park is special, retaining a sense of place, and people. The town occupies land, originally four land grants, dating from the Republic of Texas. The founders of Highland Park were entrepreneurs, leaders not just in development, but in the quality of life for the larger community including Dallas. That tradition of citizen participation endures. One hundred years of leading and learning shows our Centennial theme!

10/27 - Centennial Sunday; Community Birthday Party Celebration



The First Incident in Dallas County

Excerpt from the Introduction *History of Dallas County, Texas: From 1837 to 1887* by John Henry Brown
S-3466 Dallas, Texas: Milligan, Cornett & Farnham, Printers 1887

“The first incident connected with the immediate territory of Dallas county, of which we have knowledge, was stated by the author of this sketch, in an address to the Texas Veteran Association, at their reunion in Dallas, on the semi-centennial of San Jacinto Day, April, 21, 1886:

“Forty-nine years ago, in the autumn of 1837, when all his country, known as North and Northwest Texas, was an unpeopled wilderness, excepting in its occupancy by roving tribes of hostile savages, a company of about fifty volunteers, under the command of Capt. William M. Eastland, left LaGrange, on the lower Colorado, on an expedition against the savages in the upper country, the commander being a soldier of San Jacinto, and the same Christian prisoner who drew a black bean in the lottery of life and was one of the seventeen martyrs shot unto death as malefactors, by the order of Santa Anna at the hacienda of Salado, in the interior of Mexico, March 25, 1843. In due time this company reached the highlands, now in Eastland county, dividing the waters of Pecan bayou, the Leon and the Clear fork of the Brazos. There they divided into two parties—the larger under Capt. Eastland, returning south on the Colorado slope of the country—the other, consisting of twenty men, under Lieuts. Van Benthuisen and Miles, moved northeastwardly, crossed the Brazos near the mouth of the Clear fork, and struck the main or West fork of the Trinity, in what is now Wise county. There on the 10th of November, they were suddenly attacked by 150 Indians, but found refuge in a ravine, where they were besieged from forenoon to night, losing Lieut. Miles and eight men, besides several wounded and all their horses.

“Through the shelter of the night they reached the river bottom, and along its serpentine banks they were harassed during the succeeding day, but their unerring rifles finally compelled their pursuers to abandon the conflict with a severe loss. For five days they followed the river down its meanders till they reached the junction of the Main and Elm forks, three miles above this city. On the sixth day they crossed to the east side at the mouth of Turtle creek, and, a mile and a half below, came to the bluff, rising above overflow, where the village of Dallas was founded or first settled four years later. Some suffering with wounds, all well-nigh denuded of clothing and their flesh torn with thorns, they resolved to halt for repose. With mud and oak ooze their wounds were poulticed, buffaloes were killed for meat, their hides converted into moccasins and ‘leggings,’ and after three or four days thus spent at the spring near where Jackson street crosses the town branch, they recrossed the river and traveled south along the prairie, but always near the timber for protection, if attacked, and finally reached the border settlements in the lower country.”



Pioneer Profile Ollie Lee Mason

Ollie Lee Mason (1905-2013) a nurse for sixty years. When you add up the years she was one hundred and seven! She was the daughter of Dr. Walter McMillan pioneer African-American physician who established the first hospital in Dallas for minorities in 1921. Ollie graduated from Freedman's Hospital school of Nursing in Washington D.C. in 1929. She worked at her father's hospital in Dallas for a few years, but then entered Bellevue hospital in New York that specialized in obstetrics for a years study. There she met and married Duane B. Mason and the couple returned to Dallas. In 1937 she became the first African-American Nurse at Parkland Hospital and was the night supervisor in the Obstetrics Division. After four years in that capacity she became a Dallas Public Health nurse. In 1948 she went to Chicago for a year of study concerning premature infants. On her return she taught the care of preemies in clinics all over Dallas.

She then spent two years as a school nurse for DISD before taking more courses and one was in audiometric testing where she worked for fourteen years. In 1972 she joined the Peace Corp serving in Jamaica and was sent to an Island in the Indian Ocean with a team from around the world where she established a nursery for premature infants. When she returned to Dallas she worked at Tremont Care center until she retired in 1989. She is survived by two daughters and eight grandchildren.

We're on the web!

www.dallaspioneer.org

We are back on the web!

Due to a catastrophic data loss by our internet hosting company, all the stories and content on the Dallas County Pioneer Website was lost. There is a slim chance that a back up may be found.

In the meantime, we have restored the web site, the content is current and up to date. If you have a story of a Pioneer and want to share it on the website, go to the Stories of Pioneers tab and click on Submit a Story.

BOOK RAFFLE

Two vintage historical volumes will be raffled off at the meeting.

Raffle tickets will be \$2.00 each or per chance.

Buy as many chances to win as you want.

They are duplicate copies of books held in the DCPA Library.

Bring your \$\$\$\$\$ and buy tickets.... Some of the books are out of print and may be quite valuable.



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P O Box 12496
Dallas, Texas 75225-0496

NEWSLETTER



DALLAS COUNTY PIONEER ASSOCIATION

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www.dallaspioneer.org

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President	David Vilbig
Vice-Pres	Howard Cox
Secretary	Marsha B. Leach
Treasurer	William Vilbig
Historian	Eva Jane Morgan
Membership	Open
Programs	Committee
Telephone Committee	Sally Jacoby Veazey
Sunshine Committee	Sally Jacoby Veazey
Publicity & Newsletter	Pat. B. Randolph
Newsletter Publisher	Barbara Vilbig

The Dallas County Pioneer Association is dedicated to preserving the history of Dallas County and those who settled here before 1880. Any person who is interested may apply for membership regardless of when they, or their ancestors, came to Dallas County. Contact any officer for an application.

Membership Dues

\$20	Per Year	\$200	Life Membership
\$30	Couple	\$300	Couple Life Membership

The Association meets quarterly for dinner and a program at 6:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of each March, June, September, and December. The meeting room opens at 5:30 p.m. for fellowship and dining. The program starts promptly at 7 p.m. Visitors are welcome.

New Phone Number 972-260-9334

EMAIL

dcpa1875@gmail.com