



DALLAS COUNTY PIONEER ASSOCIATION

FOUNDED 1875, REORGANIZED 1979

P O Box 12496 DALLAS TX 75225

972-260-9334



SPRING 2019



Quarterly Meeting
Thursday March 7, 2019

The Point, Center for Arts and Education
Campus of C. C. Young
4847 W. Lawther Dr.
Dallas, Texas

Dinner at 6 PM
Program Begins At 7 PM

Dinner \$15.00 per person
DINNER RESERVATION REQUIRED
call by the Monday before the meeting.

972-260-9334

MARCH PROGRAM

Cindy Boeke



RELATED DIGITAL COLLECTIONS ***FROM THE SMU LIBRARIES***

Cindy Boeke is the Digital Collections Librarian and Assistant Director of the Norwick Center for Digital Solutions (nCDS). She received her Master's Degree in Library Science from the University of Maryland in 2004. Prior to her career in libraries, she worked for more than a decade as an editor/publisher for Access Intelligence.

Cindy will give an illustrated overview of SMU Libraries' Dallas related digital collections and discuss how the rare and fragile items are digitized, catalogued, made available, and preserved in perpetuity in SMU's digital archive. SMU holds hundreds of thousands of rare artifacts to the history of Dallas County in special collections libraries, which include the Degolyer Library, Bywaters Special Collections, Bridwell Library, Foscue Map Library, and G. William Jones Film and Video Collection. Many digital collections will be highlighted, with special emphasis given to the George W. Cook Dallas/Texas Image Collection, held by the DeGolyer Library, and the Potter Art Iron Studios Collection, held by the Bywaters Special Collection.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings,

Hope you enjoy this newsletter. It will be emailed in the future instead of mailing in an effort to cut expenses for the Association. I acted as Editor for this edition as we are still looking for a Newsletter Editor. It is an easy job and I can show you how to do . Please step up and help your Association by volunteering to be our Editor for the newsletter. It's only published four times a year so please help out and take on the simple job.

Please check out our web site as we have it back up and running thanks to Mike Magers and Brian Gunn. Kudos for their hard work. Make sure and take a look. Its located at www.dallaspioneer.org/ .

Please remember your dues are due and bring them with you to the meeting.

\$20.00 for an individual and \$30 for a couple.

Best Regards,

Jim Bookhout, President

From Our Historian



Greetings!

I have been pretty busy with the Durrett Cemetery in Lancaster. For 10 years on and off I have questioned and looked for this cemetery. With Frances James' help I was able to finally pin it down and get over to it, which was quite a feat in itself. I saw the graves, took pics and left. I contacted the landowner to see if I could get back into it to clean up. He did not know the cemetery was there and started immediately wanting the graves moved. There are three. Mr. and Mrs. George Durrett and infant Nancy Strong. Each day since, I have spent at least an hour or more on this. I have been researching next of kin and located them for approvals to move. We are now waiting on the courts approvals and they will be relocated. The infant will be moved to be placed beside her mom at Hutchins Cemetery. The Durrett's will be relocated into Edgewood Cemetery in Lancaster where their sons are buried. This will be a better situation for all involved.

Tim Durrett, Historian

From your Facebook Editor

Hello Everyone,

I am the Facebook Admin for the DCPA page. I wanted to introduce our page to you. Have you visited it yet? Please search on Facebook 'Dallas County Pioneer Association' and please **like us**. We are working hard to grow the page and the only way we can do that is with your help. Then each time you see us post something **please share it**. Also, if there are any posts you want to see let me know and I will get right on researching it to post. Our love of history and our pioneers will grow the page with your help. Remember to find the page, like our page, like the posts and share the post. I appreciate all the help. When you like and share the post it shows Facebook it is worth sharing to other history lovers and this starts the ball rolling so we appear in history lovers newsfeeds.

Thank you,

Dottie Durrett, Facebook Editor





Cemetery News from Frances James

The Cemetery Committee has been contacted by Jean Buckley who is now affiliated with DAR and Colonial Dames of XVII Century Chapter. She is interested in finding several cemeteries these organizations can help with. They are willing to pull weeds, set stones up and repair fences, as these organizations have goals to "help". The committee met with Jean Buckley and Kathy Ann Reid is providing her with sites that fit their goals. We hope this works out as this help is needed.

You may have seen the Shelton's Bear Creek black slave cemetery in Irving on the news again. This is the site that was on the news in the past that FedEx was to maintain several times a year. Looks like either FedEx employees dropped the ball or maybe it was just for one year. There was a clean-up scheduled for January 21st. On Monday, a lot of children on their school holiday were busy at the site. So, the site should be okay for a while.

On January 17, 2019, we went to check on the Pioneer Cemetery in downtown Dallas adjacent to the Convention Center. Most stones were upright. A few items were missing. The mounded up gravesite that had been noticed near the walk through is now leveled. Perhaps for easier maintenance, all the shells are gone. The marker for the site can be read.

Update on the "lost" Cory Cemetery in Balch Spring

This information was provided by **Marilyn Kosanke**.

In the 1930's and 1940's (and probably decades before) there was periodically terrible flooding of Hickory Creek all up and down the section of the creek that runs north and south on the west of LBJ.

The following is an excerpt from "Marie Hughes – History", Balch Springs News, July 24, 1980.

"...The area south and west of the corner of Hickory Tree and Lake June has stayed flooded so long that hay couldn't be cut all summer long. There wasn't a dry place for the man to put his hogs, so, he hitched up his team to a sled and hauled off the tombstones from the graves in the Cemetery right at the corner. He threw them in Hickory Creek. I am not certain, but, I believe it was members of the Cory and Teeter families. The outline of four of these graves could be seen on the parking lot at Pete's store at one time."

Interestingly, Marie Hughes wrote an article five years later in which she appears to describe the same cemetery, but this time she refers to it as the Cox Cemetery.

"Balch Springs to be on Historical Trails Map" by Marie Hughes, Balch Springs News, August 29, 1985

"...The Cox family cemetery was on the corner of Lake June and Hickory Tree Roads on the southwest side. When Merle Redd worked for Dallas County in 1918, he was cleaning up the cemetery before the county widened the roads. When the fence was reset, it was erected across the graves. Later the roads were widened about the time of World War II and all the graves are under the road now."

Merle Redd was still alive in 1985 and living in Balch Springs, so, it is reasonable to assume Mrs. Hughes gained the information in her article directly from him.

Are the Cox and Cory Cemeteries the same? Probably so, since two private family cemeteries so close together seems unlikely (assuming Mrs. Hughes was correct about the location being the southwest corner). No documentation has been found that would answer the question. Perhaps between 1980 and 1985, Mrs. Hughes learned she was wrong about it being the Cory Cemetery. Marie Hughes is deceased, so, we will probably never understand the discrepancy between her two articles. Whether there were two cemeteries or just one at the corner of Lake June and Hickory Tree roads, it is obvious they are "lost to history".



CEMETERY REPORT

Two Acre Tax Foreclosed Property for Sale by Dallas County
Balch Springs Cemetery
Balch Springs, Dallas County, Texas

By Kathy Ann Reid, February 5, 2019

DCPA member **Marilyn Kosanke** wrote an informative and well documented history of Balch Springs Cemetery that is available in the Balch Springs Public Library. The following are my observations.

As a former employee of a taxing entity, in preparing to accept tax foreclosed properties to resell, I checked the deed and ownership stated in the lawsuit to ensure the correct owner was foreclosed upon. Concerning a 2-acre-tract adjoining the City of Balch Springs' 2 acres at 2919 Balch Springs Rd., I found the grantees in the more recent deed were not mentioned in the lawsuit.

Dallas County Deed Records show that on January 31, 1882, S. W. Futrell sold 38 acres out of the W. H. Bennett 320 acre survey to S. D. Lawrence with no mention of the Cemetery that likely was already in use. Deceased heirs of Mr. Lawrence were the owners who were foreclosed upon.

The more recent deed date was May 27, 1913 when S. D. Lawrence deeded 2 of that 38 acres to Trustees of Balch Springs Union Church and their successors in office for \$300. Mr. Futrell's son-in-law, M. T. (Mark Terry) Davis was a trustee along with G. W. (George W.) Kemp and U. Y. (Ulysses York) Grubb. Curiously, the Warranty Deed was not filed for record until 11/7/1934. The legal description includes the mention of the adjoining 2 acres now addressed as 2919 Balch Springs Rd. as "the Balch Springs School house, 2-acre tract," but there is no mention of the Cemetery. In this deed there is a sentence that explains why the heirs of Mr. Lawrence were named in the lawsuit, "The...land is deeded for church purposes, and it is expressly agreed and understood that if the same should ceased to be so used then the title to the same is revert to me or my heirs."

According to Marilyn Kosanke, the church building was destroyed by fire of undetermined origin around 1974. At this time the land was no longer used for the benefit of a church and was subject to taxation. The property should have reverted to Mr. Lawrence's heirs, but possibly, after so many years, the provision in the deed was forgotten. Whatever the reason the taxes were not paid and the property was foreclosed.

The Cemetery overlaps the property line of the 2 acres that were tax foreclosed and 2 acres that were called the Balch Springs School house 2-acre tract (where the Debra McDaniel Senior Center is now located). The Cemetery may have been split in ownership in 1913, when S. D. Lawrence deeded the 2 acres to the church or perhaps burials spread out to include both tracts.

After the tax foreclosed property was offered for sale, the Balch Springs Cemetery (Dunbar Cemetery/Community Cemetery) came into focus when a good-citizen real estate investor called to say that he would love to buy the land, but that he did not want to those who did take action. A former city manager had given thebe on the evening news. He had gone to take a look and saw the Cemetery. Soon others (not constrained by personal ethics or concerned about public opinion) were anxious to purchase the property, build a house and have part of the Cemetery in their back yard!

Although sympathetic, the assistant city manager and others in government were not inclined to save the Cemetery. There were go-ahead for the tax foreclosure in 2012. DCPA members informed city council members of the situation and encouraged the purchase, and others in and outside the government spoke in favor of the city's purchase.

An assistant city manager became convinced of the benefit to the city and the public need for the property. Balch Springs City Manager dove into the effort by submitting an eloquently worded briefing, including history of the land. There is a possibility that one, or more DCPA members assisted with the eloquent wording. On March 9, 2015, the council approved "a Resolution Declaring a Public Need for the aforementioned property." The Resolution that is on file with the City Secretary included: "This land is believed to protect the interred remains of the original pioneers to this area, which we believe should not be disinterred for commercial gain....We have conducted ground penetrating tests to detect remains buried outside the fenced area. There are indeed more remains than originally believed.... The cemetery portion of the lot will give City inhabitants a quiet place for reflection. It will be a boon for all residents for conducting ancestry or historical searches. The city is committed to perpetual care for the reflection/memorial park."

Over the years, there have been efforts by many people to acknowledge and preserve the Cemetery. In this chapter a team helped to save the Cemetery. The City of Balch Springs received ownership by quit claim in 2018. With the city's ownership of the four acres and the Cemetery being in the middle, it is safe. Or is it? There is a reverter clause in the quit claim deed. If the city ceases to use the land for a public need, the 2 acres will revert to all the taxing entities that were in the lawsuit.

DALLAS COUNTY PIONEER ASSOCIATION INFORMATION

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President	Jim Bookhout
Vice-Pres	Sally Jacoby Veazey
Secretary	Marsha B. Leach
Treasurer	William Vilbig
Historian	Tim Durrett
Membership Programs	Sheryl Curlee
Telephone Committee	Sally Jacoby Veazey
Sunshine Committee	Jane Beaver
Newsletter Publisher	Sally Jacoby Veazey
Facebook	Open
Web Site	Dottie Durrett
	Mike Magers
	Brian Gunn

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	Life Couple Life Membership

The Association meets quarterly for dinner and a program on the first Thursday of each March, June, September, and on the first Saturday of December.

Visitors are welcome!

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Email: dcpa1875@gmail.com

Web Address: www.dallaspioneer.org