



# DALLAS COUNTY PIONEER ASSOCIATION

FOUNDED 1875, REORGANIZED 1979

P O Box 12496 DALLAS TX 75225

972-260-9334

**FALL 2011**



**Quarterly Meeting**  
**Thursday, September 1, 2011**  
**Cochran Chapel United Methodist Church**  
**Meeting Room**  
**9027 Midway Road at Northwest Highway**  
**Room Opens at 5:30 Dinner at 6 PM**  
**Meeting Begins At 7 PM.**

**For Dinner Reservation**  
**call by the Tuesday before the meeting.**

**972-260-9334**



## **SEPTEMBER PROGRAM**

**“The Houx Family and Patterns of Early Development in Northeast Dallas County ”**

presented by Dr. Ted A. Campbell

Dr. Ted A. Campbell, a consummate historian, will present "The Houx Family and Patterns of Early Development in Northeast Dallas County" at the fall meeting of the DCPA. Dr. Campbell is Associate Professor of Church History at the Perkins School of Theological of Southern Methodist University. Although a recognized expert in his designated field, Dr. Campbell's interests range in broad areas of history as the subject of his presentation attests. Dr. Campbell is also expert in church music. His lectures are always fun, informative, and entertaining as well due to his keen sense of humor.

Dr. Campbell is author of five books at last count and is an active participant in several worldwide church outreach programs. He is invited yearly to Oxford University in England to participate in programs there. Dr. Campbell and his wife Dale are great additions to the Dallas area.



## 13th Annual Legacies Dallas History Conference

The Thirteenth Annual *Legacies* History Conference will be held on Saturday, January 28, 2012 at the Hall of State at Fair Park. The Dallas County Pioneer Association is among twelve historical groups that jointly sponsor the conference each year.



### Texas Sketches and Dallas History

Starting in 1983 Texas Sketches was a weekly column in the Dallas Morning News written by A.C. Greene (1923-2002). In my boxes of files I found I had a box of A.C. Greene's columns! I found one where A.C. knew about DCPA and one of his columns referred to Volume II of Proud Heritage. In the last ten years since A.C. died there have been many changes in the media business and we miss him. With computers, internet, TVs plus local weekly neighborhood papers and the one daily paper, those of us who are interested in Dallas County history rarely find any items on this subject

The title of this particular column was "Texas History also recalls folk who aren't famous." One of the people he referred to was Elias Myers who came to Texas in 1845. A.C. wrote some information on Elias, but in Volume II there are more details written by a family member. The Elias Myers family received a land certificate of 477 acres in Collin County and the rest in Dallas County. But in 1849 Elias purchased 204 acres in the Duck Creek area near I 30 and Belt Line. Elias volunteered to serve in the Civil War but soon came back to his blacksmith shop as it was determined he was of more value as a blacksmith than a soldier. His son John Wesley and his wife Alice Montgomery had two children. The graves of this family are inside the brick structure off Bobtown Road and I 30. The graves are now denoted by a sign on the brick wall provided by DCPA Cemetery fund!

In this same column A.C. mentioned Ed C. Smith and Brothers and the fact that they were involved in building the First Christian Church in downtown Dallas. They also built the La Grande Hotel on Commerce in 1873. There is more information on this family in Volume II of Proud Heritage written by a family member. These men were sons of Colby Smith and were not only carpenters, but went into the undertaking business, organized a funeral home. A.C. did not mention that their name is still evident at several locations around Dallas 100 years later. Along with J.T. Elliot and his family, the Smiths participated in the development of Grove Hill Cemetery in 1911. The story about Grove Hill and the Smiths is included in Volume III of "Dallas County History From the Ground Up." Mr. Smith married Martha Fletcher who was a member of the family who settled in Garland on Duck Creek! The family dedicated a bronze marker on the Fletcher Cemetery a couple of years ago.

I will be looking through this A.C. Greene file to see what else is tied in with DCPA folks.

submitted by Frances James



## 1856 Tornado



### Cedar Hill, Several Killed, Others Injured

From: **History of Dallas County Texas** , 1837 to 1887 by John Henry Brown

The locally famous cyclone struck Cedar Hill, eighteen miles southwesterly from Dallas, April 29, 1856. Mr. Dickson, a merchant, James Berry and family, Mr. Hart and family, and perhaps others were killed.

Mrs. Merrifield and children escaped almost miraculously, the house being lifted and twisted into fragments, and "they in the midst" thereof, but none seriously hurt. The destruction of houses, fences and wagons was complete. Thence the wind shot northeasterly, only sweeping the earth at an unoccupied locality, on the ridge on the south side of the river, three or four miles below Dallas; next in Hunt county, and lastly in the southwest corner of Arkansas. Some almost incredible incidents occurred.

The following article is from the *Dallas Daily Times Herald* on February 25, 1912.

### Description of 1856 Cyclone

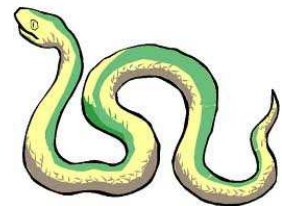
Brother Crofford gave this writer a most graphic description of this fearful cyclone. He said in substance:

"I saw the cyclone strike Cedar Hill when it blew it to pieces. The destruction of houses, wagons, fences and everything else was complete. Eight or ten persons were killed, and some of the dry goods were picked up twenty-five or thirty miles away. I saw the funnel-shaped, rotating clouds coming directly toward my house. It was as dark in the center as midnight, and as it whirled, I saw the great timbers of the destroyed village flying off at a tangent. To my great relief, when only a short distance from me, it deflected down a hollow on the prairie and missed my house. The prairie southwest of the village, was then unsettled, and the native grass was mowed smooth to the very ground."



### The Dallas Zoo Founded in 1888

The zoo was originally founded in 1888 making it the first zoological garden in the state . The zoo now covers 106 acres, making it the largest zoological park in Texas.



### Dallas Pioneers Email Distribution

Subscribe to our email distribution list. Emails to members will include meeting notices, reminders, roster updates, cemetery work days, etc. All email addresses will be confidential and email lists will be private.

Send an email with your name to [dcpa1873@gmail.com](mailto:dcpa1873@gmail.com)

The quarterly newsletters are also available on the web [www.dallaspioneer.org](http://www.dallaspioneer.org)

**DALLAS COUNTY PIONEER ASSOCIATION**

P O Box 12496  
Dallas, Texas 75225-0496

NEWSLETTER



DALLAS COUNTY PIONEER ASSOCIATION

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**We're on the web!**

**[www.dallaspioneer.org](http://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**

**[dcpa1873@gmail.com](mailto:dcpa1873@gmail.com)**