

PIONEER TRAILS

A PUBLICATION OF THE DALLAS COUNTY PIONEER ASSOCIATION DALLAS, TEXAS

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SECOND QUARTER 1981

Dallas County Pioneer Association held its regular quarterly dinner meeting on March 5, 1981 at North Park Inn. The program was a film on the history of Temple Emanuel which was prepared and presented by Doc Miller, our treasurer. We all learned a great deal and enjoyed it very much.

Those in-attendance for Doc's presentation were so impressed with his audio-visual history of the Temple that we decided, with the abundance of material which must be in the families of our membership, that we should start an audio-visual project of our own. With this objective in mind, it was decided that the coming meeting should be dedicated to the presentation of memorabilia (especially photographs) which you all have of the early lives of your ancestors in Dallas. Using these, and with Doc's expertise, we shall compose a worthwhile program of early Dallas, which can be useful in many areas. Needless to say, the success depends on your enthusiasm, which we shall endeavor in the coming months to generate.

Item Submitted by Earl Cullum

Few Dallas County residents are aware that this community once boasted a full-fledged wartime gun factory, and that the products of that armory have now become extremely rare collector's items. During the Civil War the Tucker-Sherrard Company was organized and a plant built at Lancaster, Texas to manufacture "Texas Dragoon Revolvers" in .44 Army Caliber and .36 Navy Caliber, all built on frames copied from the famous Colt Revolvers.

The original contract for the Confederate Revolvers was with the State of Texas, and some of the few surviving pieces bear an engraved Lone Star and the words "Texas Arms"; while some have a silver star set in the wood grips. Approximately 400 of these weapons were made, and sold at \$20 each. They were used mainly by Confederate Officers during the Civil War. Only six originals of these "most wanted" Confederate Revolvers are known to exist, and even the modern-day replicas have themselves become collector's items.

The wartime foundry on the northwest side of Lancaster stood until 1906. While it served as a gun factory its 30 employees were thinned by the Confederate Military Draft, and it was never able to deliver all the firearms it contracted to build. Labon E. Tucker, A. W. Tucker, J. H. Sherrard, Pleasant Taylor and W. L. Killen formed the company. "Colonel" John C. Crockett, Dallas Mayor in 1857 and Texas Lieutenant Governor in 1861, was the Armory Superintendent. A. S. Clark was Plant Foreman, Sherrard the Plant Blacksmith, and L. S. Perkins the Gun Engraver. Employees Jim Cary and Virgil Keller left to join the Confederate Army, and Keller was killed during the war.

Sources: "Arms of the Confederacy" by C. E. Fuller.
"Texas Gun Lore" by G. C. Holloway.
1863 Texas Almanac, Austin, Feb. 28, 1863

Trunk Showing

George Hawpe's aunt, Cora Bell Hawpe Gakin, lovingly known as "Aunt Cis", left her family a cedar chest which holds untold family treasures. Among all of this there is the obituary of George's grandmother, Laura E. Sybert Hawpe, from the Dallas Morning News, April 15, 1941. Quoting from the obituary, "Mrs. Hawpe was a charter member of the Dallas Pioneer Club and the Times Herald Century Club". Another treasure was a yellow ribbon which has the words, "Dallas County Pioneer 1875-1929", which was, no doubt, worn at the 1929 annual meeting of the Club.

Remember When?

(If you don't, you'll be amazed!)

Excerpts and headlines from the October 1, 1935 Dallas Morning News (Centennial Edition)

"The fiscal year 1935-36 will begin for the city of Dallas Tuesday with the budget technically about \$400,000 out of balance"

"Efforts Start To Unify Fight On State Crime - Fingerprinting Advocated"

"A \$250,000 school bond election will be called in University Park and Highland Park to determine whether the school district can take advantage of the \$200,216 PWA grant,"

"Texas Has A Centennial"

"State and U.S. Cooperate to End Hot Oil Running"

"Roosevelt Tax Views Cheering to Wall Street"

"Where To Go Today In Dallas"- Palace Theatre - "Dark Angel" with Frederic March and Merle Oberon

Rialto Theatre - "Top Hat" with Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers

Opening Game World Series - "Detroit Tigers meet sensational Chicago Cubs with Schoolboy Rowe against Lonnie Warneke....."

"Opening the first full week of the fall racing season in Texas, The Dallas-owned High Hand IIaccounted for the featured Corsicana purse at the State Fair Park track here Monday....."

"S.M.U. Mustangs tested out their offensive strength Results were termed 'fair' by Head Coach Matty Bell."

"Longhorns work under lights to accustom them to conditions they will face Saturday night against L.S.U. in the season opener."

"Mrs. Ruth Allows Babe to Let Up on Training Rules After 22 Years"

"30-day Special - Brakes Relined - \$5.95"

"1935 Ford De Luxe Tudor, Radio - \$595

1935 Dodge Coach - \$665

1934 Terraplane Sport Sedan - \$495"

Neiman Marcus Man's Shop Main Street - New Autumn Colors in Heavy Silk Ties - \$2.50

Crosley Console Radio "Fiver" Complete - \$37.50

Men's Florsheim Shoes - \$8.95

"Improved - University Park - Beautiful three bedroom - 2 bath - \$6,250.00. Terms."

"Dallas County - 635 acres - 10 miles Dallas\$35 acre"

DFW Gunfighters

Any mention of the "History of the West" brings to mind the Colt Revolver in the low-slung holster, ready for instant use. The Dallas Area of the 1870's and 1880's saw little of the gunplay that made Tombstone and Abilene famous; but a few of the well-known names of that era passed through this vicinity, and others probably did so without leaving any record or trace.

Pat Garrett came as a drifting cowboy in 1869, and left with a cattle drive six years later. He went on to Lincoln County, New Mexico, where he became sheriff and shot and killed the infamous outlaw "Billy the Kid".

Dr. John Henry Holliday was a young dentist in Georgia until he came to Dallas in 1872 and joined Dr. J. A. Seegar at 502 Elm Street. Area residents at that time may well have gone to Dr. Holliday, but a short time later he was spending most of his time at Bogel's Saloon, where he became an expert gambler. In 1875 he had to leave town after a gunfight with the saloonkeeper. Neither was hit. From Dallas he drifted west to find fame as Wyatt Earp's deputy "Doc" Holliday in the famous Battle of the OK Corral.

Wyatt Earp may never have been in Dallas, but in 1878 he tracked train robber Mike Roarke to Fort Worth before he finally caught up with him.

Jesse James and his brothers and Younger cousins came to Dallas County in 1874, and stayed at a farm between Scyene and Mesquite until they decided it was time to move on.

John Wesley Hardin left a trail of dead victims throughout Texas until in 1878 he and his outlaw cousin Manning Clements ended up in the State Penitentiary at Huntsville. Fifteen years later Hardin was released and became a lawyer in El Paso. There, fittingly, he was shot to death.

Sam Bass was the most active of the horseback robbers in the Dallas area, robbing four trains and ending up dead in less than five months. He first went from Denton County on a cattle drive and earned \$10,000 in gold as his share of the loot from a Nebraska train robbery. Three months later he led a gang which robbed a stagecoach west of Fort Worth. The total loot there was \$70.

George Mellersh, a leading citizen of Dallas, was a passenger on that stage, and retained the large sum of money he had in his clothing. Mellersh lived where the Melrose Hotel now stands and his oak-studded front lawn gave the Oak Lawn community its name.

In February 1878 Bass and his gang robbed a train at Allen, north of Dallas, obtaining less than \$1,500. In March they robbed a train at Hutchins, south of Dallas, getting less than \$500. Then in April they robbed a train at Eagle Ford, west of Dallas, and got only \$50. Six days later they robbed a train at Mesquite, east of Dallas, getting only \$150. Two of the bandits were wounded.

The gang got less than \$2,000 in the four train robberies, but stirred up a hornet's nest of posse activity in the Dallas area, aimed primarily at Denton County. Among the possemen were Alvin Owsley, later an outstanding name in Dallas, and Jim Courtright, Marshal at Fort Worth. The robber gang headed west to avoid the posses, then returned to Denton County and headed south. They rode to Terrell, Kaufman, Ennis and Waco looking for a bank to rob, and finally decided to look at the bank at Round Rock.

Bass and two of his gang went into town, where a deputy tried to arrest them. Firing erupted and the deputy and one bandit fell dead. Bass was wounded and later captured, but soon died. The third robber escaped. So Bass, the little "two-bit" train robber, made Round Rock famous and in so doing found his own place in history.

Jim Courtright, the Fort Worth Marshal who rode in the 1878 Bass posse, went west and in later years returned to Fort Worth. He had gained fame as a gunfighter but in 1887 there appeared Luke Short, another gunfighter. He and Courtright argued, and met in the middle of Fort Worth in a classic gunfight in the street. Both fired, but Short's aim was best and Courtright fell dead.

And so ended the scenes of the "Wild West" in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Submitted by Earl Cullum

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, June 4, 1981 at WYATT'S CAFETERIA, PRESTON CENTER (6126 LUTHER LANE) , at 6:30 p.m. Our dinner will be served in a private room; however, each person will "go through the line" and select his/her own food. Payment will be made in the customary manner at the cafeteria.

Our program for this meeting will be a "show-and-tell". If any of you have mementoes of Dallas' history (or your own family) which you would like to share, please bring it with you to the meeting. There will be tables provided for display of the materials. We are interested in diaries, photographs, newspaper articles, letters, etc. This will be "Memorabilia Night". We are hoping to compile a history of Dallas from such items. We are especially interested in old photographs of Dallas. Doc Miller can make copies of these. We want the members to contribute to our programs and help us with ideas to make the Association an unforgettable one. Please, come and get involved!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

This isn't exactly the NEW YORK TIMES, but it's a start, thanks to Earl Cullum and the Haupes.

An organization must have viability. Some attributes of viability are: meaningful activity, goals and projects; interest; enthusiasm; and a means of communication.

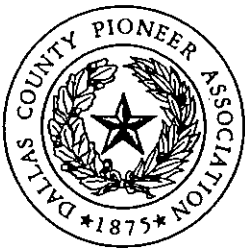
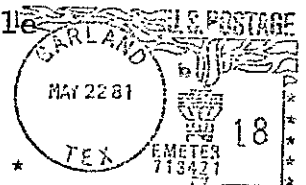
You all joined this organization looking for something. Whatever that something is, we need to be working toward it.

This first faltering step is a start toward communicating. Communication is a two way street.

You all pitch in and communicate, and we'll muddle our way along until, one day, we'll have a group that our pioneers would be proud to claim.

See you at the meeting.

Bill Baird.



Dallas County Pioneer Association

Founded 1875. Reorganized 1979

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