

PIONEER TRAILS

A PUBLICATION OF THE DALLAS COUNTY PIONEER ASSOCIATION
DALLAS, TEXAS

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DECEMBER 1983

It's that time, again, folks! Thanksgiving, Christmas and Dallas County Pioneer Association meeting time!

Time: Thursday, December 1, 1983, 6:30 p.m.

Place: Wyatt's Cafeteria, Northlake Shopping Center
Northwest Highway and Ferndale (Easton)

Speaker: Suzanne Starling, who is an instructor at
Eastfield College. Her subject has not
been given to me, but I feel sure that it
will be interesting to all of us. Surprises
are nice!

We are expecting each and every one of you who is not lame, halt or sick in bed to be there.

Speaking of attendance - have any of you thought of taking advantage of our "Share-a-Ride" plan? We had some volunteers to bring people to the meetings, but no takers on those who need rides. IF YOU NEED A WAY TO GET TO THE MEETINGS, call Jean Riek Reilly, 321-4388. She is our coordinator on the plan and has the names of those who volunteered to chauffeur others. We cannot guarantee that there will be some one from your area who is so graciously obliging, but we do have some names.

In this newsletter, or with this newsletter, you will find a ballot for voting on our nominees for offices, and also for voting on some new ideas about meeting places, times, etc. Please bring the ballot with you to the meeting. Those of you who cannot attend may send it back by mail with your vote on the meetings. Of course, you cannot vote on our selection for officers, because they have not been announced.

Things are looking up for the Association. Currently, we have 129 members. This is much better than it has been in three years. Some of you who are new members and some who have been members have asked several times about your certificates. Mr. Cullum is working on that project. We have had trouble finding a calligrapher whom we could afford, but I believe he has someone to do them now, so perhaps it will not be too long before they are ready.

Your secretary has had several announcements of meetings mailed to her to put in our newsletter. To those of you who may be looking for your announcement: they all came at the wrong time. The meetings are over and done with. They were for October and early November. No need to announce after the fact. This newsletter goes out on a quarterly basis, prior to quarterly meetings. The meetings are on the first Thursday of March, June, September and December. The newsletter is scheduled to go out ten days before the meeting; therefore, if the meeting falls before the 20th of February, May or November, there would be no need to include

an announcement in the newsletter. If it is going to fall after the 20th of those months, we will be glad to include the announcement.

Also, members, please do not despair of your family history (which you sent in long ago) never being published. We can include only about one per issue, due to cost of postage. We try to hold the newsletter to 20¢ postage when possible. Eventually, we will get to all of you.

For our item of interest this issue, I received a note from Jimmie McSween, about an item which appeared in the Dallas Morning News in 1926. The item follows:

"Ancient Receipt Shows 'Scalp Insurance' was Popular
50 Years Ago"

"Half a century ago there may have been no hijackers or oil station robbers in Dallas County to relieve persons of their purses, but the many citizens took out insurance against a more insidious loss; that of his scalp, to be exact.

"A quaint reminder of frontier times here fifty-six years ago came to light Thursday by a discovery of a "Tax Receipt for Frontier Protection" by Mrs. Claud F. Haynes, 5606 Hudson. (Miss McSween says it was sent in by Mrs. Margaret Haynes, (Mrs. N. H.), not Mrs. Claud F.)

"J. H. Brown, Sheriff of Dallas County, Texas, signed the small slip which is marked No. 897 and which asserts that "No Dollars and Seventy-six Cents" was received of B. S. Pickett, "being the amount of his Frontier Protection Tax for the year 1870". The yellowed little slip was printed by the Herald Printing Company, Dallas, which incidentally published a paper bought by the A. H. Belo Corporation at the time of the founding of the Dallas Morning News.

"Mrs. Haynes says that according to her grandmother, Mrs. Fereby Jones, later Mrs. Pickett, the Frontier Protection Tax was a special tax which provided citizens of the county with extra guards against Indian marauders and that the tax was familiarly known as "Scalp Insurance".

"Mrs. Fereby Jones lived near Garland for many years. Her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Jones of Comanche are the parents of Mrs. Haynes.

"Mrs. Haynes is also the possessor of an old paper sack bearing the name of "Robert Ogden Wholesale and Retail Dealer in choice family and fancy groceries, wines, liquors and teas". The Ogden store was located at 621 Elm Street about opposite the present house of E. M. Kahn and Co., then considered "way up town".

Miss McSween says that John Henry Jones and Fereby, his wife, settled in Dallas County in 1857 near White Rock Creek. John Henry died in 1864. She then married Bob S. Pickett of Garland in December 1868. She said the newspaper clipping was given to her more than 30 years ago by her aunt. She did not give Miss McSween the tax receipt however; it no longer exists.

Speaking of newspapers and mention above of Sheriff Brown. Some of you very thoughtfully brought copies of the article in the Sunday supplement of the Dallas Morning News about the Dallas County Sheriffs to our last meeting and gave them to my husband, George Hawpe. One of the pictures was supposedly of his gr-grandfather, T. C. Hawpe. I want to announce to one and all, here and now, that the News goofed. That picture is not Trezevant C. Hawpe, it is a picture of Norval R. Winniford, also one of the early sheriffs. The woman who gave the picture of Winniford to the Sheriff's Office, Mrs. June Shipley, is in my D.R.T. Chapter, and we have had a good laugh about the mistake. So, don't believe everything you read in a newspaper! Not even this one!

Incidentally, Miss McSween, I do have your family history - you have been found! Again! Sorry about the slip-up.

One of our older members who lives in Temple, Texas, and can never come to our meetings, sent in his family history long ago, and it is very brief (at least the part which I have) and I feel that we should present that story this time. I am sure that there is more than the bare bones which I have to tell you about, but I feel that we would have to talk to Mr. Cecil McCommas to get all the story.

Amon McCommas and his wife, Mary Brumfield, came to Dallas in 1844 from Missouri. Their home was near the east end of Ross Avenue. Amon McCommas was a farmer and minister. Their children were Elisha, John, William, Amon, Jr., James B., Stephen, Rossana, Mary E. and Armilda. Elisha was the ancestor of our member, Cecil McCommas.

Elisha McCommas married Rhoda Ann Tucker in 1850. Their son, Wallace Elisha McCommas, born 1869, married Julia L. McDaniel, daughter of John McDaniel and Harriet Rowe. To them was born Cecil McCommas in 1900. He married Anna Rinn in 1931. This is bound to be the McCommas family for which our street in Dallas was named. I will bet a nickel that Walter Bowen could tell us about that family!

Mr. McCommas, we wish that you might be able to come to our meetings - perhaps at least just once, anyway. I feel sure that a rich history of family and this county lies in your memory.

One more time, I am reminding you that we are expecting to see you on December 1, at 6:30. We have been going to the meeting room and trying to get name tags and sign the register before we get in the line for food. If someone remembers the name tags and I remember the register and can get there on time, we will be ready and waiting for you to all come and visit with us.

See you there!

DON'T FORGET YOUR BALLOT!



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Dallas County Pioneer Association

Founded 1875. Reorganized 1979



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