



Dallas County Pioneer Association

Founded 1875. Reorganized 1979
P.O. Box 12496, Dallas, Texas 75225-12496

SPRING NEWSLETTER 1991

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, March 7, 1991, Wyatt's Cafeteria, Northlake Shopping Center, Northwest Highway at Ferndale. Eat 6:00 P.M., pay cashier and sign attendance register. Program at 7:00 P.M.

REMEMBER our meeting room is open at 5:00 P.M., so come early, eat, and have time to visit.

PROGRAM: Frances James has arranged for our speaker, Mary Phinney, who is Administrator of Parks and Open Spaces for Dallas County, to speak on and show aerial photos of open spaces within the county, with particular emphasis on those areas formerly occupied by Dallas County pioneers.

1991 DUES: Dues are due NOW, and will be delinquent after the first week in March. Dues are \$15.00 per year, or \$25.00 for a couple. (Consider Life Membership now; one-time payment of \$150.00 per person or \$250.00 per couple). Pay dues at March meeting and avoid delinquency. Thank you.

"PROUD HERITAGE: PIONEER FAMILIES OF DALLAS COUNTY", Vol. I.: We still have a few copies available. Cost \$30.00 if picked up or \$32.50 if delivered.

We also need more stories for our second book Proud Heritage, Vol. II, which includes those families who were here prior to January 1, 1920. Earl Cullum advises articles on the following families have been submitted as of January 1991:

B. M. Bell, W. B. Bell, G. W. Butler, Wm. Caruth, T. C. Clark, J. A. Coats, W. T. M. Conner, A. W. Cullum, E. W. Cullum, T. A. Cullum, W. H. Cullum, J. M. Gant, M. C. Glenn, J. E. Hawkins, Daniel Herring, D. M. Hooe, A. C. Huffman, J. H. Jackson, J. B. Kinsey, C. H. Langdeau, W. A. Lavender, A. J. May, J. F. Merrifield, Augs Mueller, T. E. Nix, P. J. Offutt, J. Parrish, J. F. Pierce, J. A. Record, R. S. Rippy, M. Robertson, J. K. Sachse, Wm. Sachse, W. T. Sharp, C. W. Skiles, J. C. Skiles, M. M. Skiles, Pioneer Assn., Oak Lawn UMC, Dallas Rotary, Military Order, SMU Football.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: Mary Sutherland is our new Telephone/Transportation Committee Chairman. Telephone 276-3354. Mary and her Telephone Committee are a vital link in our communications network.

SICK BAY: Bill Jacoby is recuperating from hip-replacement surgery. We extend our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Marie Brady Hunter reports that her brother, Hudson Hill Brady, has had a stroke and is in serious condition. Marie is helping attend him. Our sincere wishes for his rehabilitation.

CHANGE OF ADDRESSES: Coye Hawpe, Juliette Fowler Home, Pearl Nordan Center #12438, 200 S. Fulton, Dallas, Texas 75214, Phone 823-8906 (new number).

John W. and Aleene Jackson, Presbyterian Village, 550 E. Ann Arbor, #40 Cottage, Dallas, Texas 75216, Phone 375-8053 (new number).

Please change the address for Marie McMahan to 1628 Marion St., Garland, TX 75042.

Please change the surname of Lorraine Barker to Lorraine Colyar, and the address to 4231 Concho, Dallas 75206, telephone 827-7893. Also add as NEW MEMBER, her husband, John Colyar, same address and telephone number. Our congratulations to the newly-weds.

Please change the telephone number only of Mary Cullum Nash to 351-0364.

NEWS ITEM: The Dallas Historical Society has announced the G. B. Dealey Library at the Hall of State, Fair Park, is now open for research. Please call 421-4500 for hours and details.

ORAL HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY - Meeting, Thursday, March 7 at 2:30 P. M., Continental Room, Fairmount Hotel, Dallas, Texas. Program - "In Their Own Words - Interviews with Pioneer Texas Archaeologists". Presented by Curtis D. Tunnell, Executive Director, Texas Historical Commission.

CONGRATULATIONS to member Mary Allene Jones on her upcoming book, SACHSE REMEMBERED - 1840-1940. Mary Allene says the book contains early Texas Land Grants and many old photos in addition to the book-cover which features a 1910 Maxwell in front of a Victorian style home.

THE DALLAS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY is asking for volunteers to help index Dallas County Deed Records. Contact Edwina Dyes for details if you can spare a few hours for this important work.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO, March 4, 1881, these ads appeared in the Dallas Herald newspaper - SANGER BROS. - Spring Styles - Men's Clothing - Scotch Cashmere suits, sack and frock coats, \$10.00, \$13.50, \$15.00, and \$16.50. "These are strictly first-class garments, well-made, and stylishly cut. They come in all colors. Also Spring overcoats at \$6.00 and upward".

~~One lot Balmoral skirts at 35 cents, worth 50 cents. One lot of shawls at 75~~ - GOLDSMITH, ROSENTHAL & CO. - "Bargains - Odds & Ends - cents, worth \$1.25. One lot corsets at 50 cents, worth 90 cents. Also Ladies and Misses lots of shoes and 1001 other cheap goods in every department".

TRIVIA: Stemmons Freeway was named for Leslie A. Stemmons, son of Col. John M. Stemmons, who settled in Dallas in May 1868. John M. Stemmons, Jr., son of Leslie, is a Dallas developer and civic leader.

Robert Ripley once stated in his "Believe It or Not" column that Oak Cliff had more churches per mile on Tenth Street than any other street in the world.

Ferguson Road was named for John Laughlin Ferguson who came from Osage County Missouri. His wife was Helen Beeman Hobbs, whom he married in Dallas 13 May 1877. There are descendants now living in Dallas who are eligible for pioneer membership.

OLD CEMETERIES - Jordon-Hight Cemetery located at Myers Road and Johnson Street in Grand Prairie. The first known burial in this cemetery was of Confederate veteran Robert A. Hight (1826-1866) who died of a fever contracted

while in service. The Jordon Ranch was a stagecoach stop near the West Fork of the Trinity River. This ranch and cemetery has also been called Jordon-Bowles. Descendants of early Grand Prairie area settlers have formed an association to establish perpetual care for this site which has also been declared Grand Prairie Significant Landmark No. 10.

DALLAS COUNTY POOR FARM - In 1876, Commissioners Court decided Dallas County needed a Poor Farm. The site selected was 339 acres owned by W. J. Keller south of the Dallas City limits, near the town of Hutchins. The need for some facility to care for the destitute citizens of the county had been recognized for many years. Long before old age pensions were a reality, the poor were living in shacks, foraging for food, with no hospital, dentist or doctor available.

In December and January of 1877 the arrangement was made to purchase the land for the poor farm. Presiding Judge Nat M. Burford and Commissioner N. O. McAdams both were involved in the establishment of the facility.

The farm was designed to provide for the paupers in the county by furnishing some sort of housing, and those who were able raised the crops to supplement the vegetables grown in the gardens. Cotton was planted as a cash crop and the able-bodied worked in these fields. Supplies were brought from local merchants such as Sanger Bros. A barrel of navy beans was purchased from the firm of Wallace and Waggener. B. D. Atwell, who had a store in Hutchins, sold a bill of goods for \$7.96. The court authorized payment in that amount. (Long time Judge William Hawley Atwell was a son of B. D.) As some of the indigent were also law-breakers, a jail was built on the property in 1883. The contract was awarded to A. Brownlee on March 28, and the first payment was made on June 26, 1883. J. A. McKinnon was the superintendent in 1883 and was given permission to hire laborers to assist the convicts in picking the cotton. In 1884 the crop was sold for \$1868.45 and the money turned in to the County Treasurer. Finally in 1894, the Commissioners Court gave D. C. Burgess permission to hire regular labor and discontinue using convict labor. The convicts were paid \$1.00 per day were discharged after working their sentences out.

County records show that in 1895 it became important that rules to run the farm be adopted and the court paid for printing 500 copies. This same year, the farm was allowed to kill the old sows and buy four good ones. In February 1896, the right of way to construct a telephone line across the property was granted.

Although it had been presumed the poor farm was only available to old people, in 1900 all of the children were removed from the premises and sent to St. Matthews Home for Children on Gould Street in South Dallas.

In the court minutes are several references to the paupers cemetery on the premises. The cemetery is neglected and only one or two markers are left, hidden in the grass and weeds.

From the very first the records refer to the doctors who were associated with the farm. For example in 1879, Dr. George S. Coleman was hired to visit as early as possible each day. Mention was made of another early doctor, Wayne Sims, in 1880. In 1894, Dr. A. W. Carnes was hired at a salary of \$20.00 per month.

In the late 1940's, the poor farm was changed to the Dallas City/County Convalescent Center. The sturdy red brick buildings were demolished when Loop

635 was extended around Dallas. Some of the property that remains is used for Road and Bridge District 3 storage yard and shops. The County Juvenile Center is also on part of the land.

Information compiled from the minutes of the Commissioners Court and local history regarding the Town of Hutchins by Frances James.

THANKS - We sincerely appreciate the articles sent in by those of you to be used as filler material for the newsletter. Perhaps you have an interesting short story or anecdote about your family, or extended-family, which was too short to be included in Proud Heritage. Now that we have a repository for our Dallas County Pioneer Association material in the Dallas Public Library, our precious records can be preserved for future generations via the newsletter.

Nona E. Williams, Secretary



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