



Dallas County Pioneer Association

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

1991-02

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 1991

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

PROGRAM FOR JUNE MEETING: Frances James has arranged for a slide show and in-depth talk by Randy Moir, Director Historic Resources, Archaeology Research Program, Southern Methodist University. Mr. Moir will share with us the facts and findings from the archaeological excavation that took place behind the Texas School Book Depository Building in the West End of downtown Dallas. This dig was very significant in that this was the last block of the original "town of Dallas" that had never been excavated for a building. This area has been covered by rail lines from the 1870's.

VISITORS: Visitors are always welcome to our meetings which are held the first Thursday in March, June, September and December at Wyatt's Cafeteria at the above address.

The March meeting was called to order by President Mattie Hughes. Invocation was given by Bob McRae, followed by Pledges of Allegiance to the flags of the United States and Texas.

We had 84 present at our March meeting, including the following guests: John & Mary Phinney, Elizabeth Downing, Jim McLean, Mary Anne Winniford, Shannon Cammack, Glenda Cammack, Brandi Firtos, Minor Morgan, Clint & Maybelle Wyrick, Estelle Cromeens, and Kay Thomas. Do come again.

Frances James, Historian, reported on six Preservation Awards available, the Alamo, Driscoll, Latimer, Brink, Lamar and Cotton, however, time has now expired for entering.

Frances also invited the membership to the annual "Sunday at the Cemetery" at Crown Hill Cemetery and Mausoleum on May 19.

MEMBERSHIP: Regular Membership is offered to those who had pioneer ancestors in Dallas County prior to January 1, 1880. In addition, Associate Membership is offered to those interested in perpetuating the history of Dallas County, its people, its cities, towns, communities, and historical sites. Membership applications may be obtained at the meeting, or by writing to Membership Chairman, P. O. Box 12496, Dallas, TX 75225-0496.

PROUD HERITAGE: We need your help to get the word out about Proud Heritage-Dallas County Pioneer Families Vol. II. Stories have been slow coming in, and a deadline will soon be imposed. We

are available to assist you if you feel you need help in compiling your story.

Earl O. Cullum, Chairman of Publications Committee has advised stories on the following families have been submitted since March:

Harry G. Brady
Wm. A. Holford
Marvin E. Myers

Robert F. Butler
M. L. Huffman
Samuel R. Myers

Samuel A. Garner
Elias T. Myers
John T. Shipley

NEW OFFICERS: The slate of officers installed in December, should have been included in the March Newsletter. We regret this omission. They are:

President - Mattie Hughes
Vice-President - Edwina Dyes
Treasurer - John C. Winniford
Secretary - Nona Williams
Historian - Frances James

TELEPHONE/TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: Edwina Dyes and Mary Sutherland have a super list of callers on the Telephone Committee. Our appreciation to them, and to Mary Nancy Bowen, Louise Buhrer, Ruth Carnes, Linda Allen, Martha Henderson, Robbye Jaggi, Jean Reilly, Mary Sue Rogers, Marjorie Jane Simpson, Virginia Stallings, Raymond Story and Marie Hunter.

NEW MEMBERSHIP ROSTER; Plans are for the 1991-1992 Membership Roster to be available to member at the June 6 meeting.

NEW MEMBERS: Please welcome new member, VINNIE LEAH PRESCOTT CARMICHAEL. Vinnie Leah has lived in Dallas for 54 years, but her aunt and uncle lived in 1919 at 2315 Cedar Springs where she frequently visited. Vinnie was awarded her Membership Certificate at the March meeting.

We appreciate the support of new out-of-town members, Dr. WILLIAM M. NELSON of Phoenix, AZ. and Alfred S. and Elizabeth Jackson of Canadian, TX.

WALTER H. THOMPSON, JR., new member of Dallas, descends from Eli Merrill, who settled on Joe's Creek in 1844 near present Merrell and Midway Roads in North Dallas.

KATHERINE MAY THOMAS and RANDY BUHLER of Dallas are welcomed new members.

SYMPATHY: We extend our deepest sympathy to Charter Member, RUTH LEDBETTER, on the death of her husband, CHARLES C. in February.

We also extend our sympathy to Charter Member, Louise Buhrer, and her family, in the loss of their mother, Julia Meissner Buhrer.

SICK BAY: We were sorry to hear DR. RUTH S. HIBBARD has been in the hospital. She is at home now.

JOHN W. JACKSON, husband of ALEENE, and brother of EDNA HART, has been in the hospital recently. Aleene reports he is better now, and that she learned to pump gasoline while he was gone.

We are told that BILL JACOBY is getting his strength back from his hip surgery and complications. Our best wishes to you and JACKIE.

We are sorry to hear of the serious illness of Linda Allen's mother. Our prayers are with all of you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Garland Centennial celebration continues with a Fourth of July celebration at the Downtown Square, Garland; a Labor Day parade on Monday, September 2; a September Golf Tournament, and on December 5, a Christmas Tree Lighting and Time Capsule Ceremony at the Downtown Square.

LIVING HISTORY CONTEST FOR SENIOR CITIZENS: Write to LEGACIES, 40 W. 68th St., New York, N.Y. 10023, for brochure, or call 1-212-787-1200. "Entries of 2 pages or less are being accepted until July 15. The contest is called LEGACIES. The challenge is to those over 60 to write about a meaningful event in their lives. The rewards are \$5000.00 in prizes, the possibility of publication, or an adaption for the theater if the authors win - and a memory that can be passed on to their grandchildren or great-grandchildren even if they don't win." So reads the article in the Dallas Morning News, Friday, March 29, 1991.

Edwina Dyes sent for extra brochures in March. If interested, you might want to contact her at 373-0103.

ROLL OF HONOR: We are proud to add to our Roll of Honor the names of WILLIAM H. HORD, early Oak Cliff pioneer and Vice-President of DCPA 1875-1895, and JOHN C. WINNIFORD of Dallas, our Treasurer.

Many of us recall, when visiting the Marsalis Park Zoo, seeing the log cabin of William H. Hord and his wife, Mary Jane. The restored cabin is located on Cedar Creek; the community as called Hord's Ridge, now on Lancaster Street in Oak Cliff. Hord became prominent in Dallas and Oak Cliff affairs, and in 1850 his community lost the county seat to Dallas by only 28 votes. Hord was also a judge for Dallas County and served in the Confederacy.

JOHN C. WINNIFORD was born in Dallas in 1917, the son of two pioneer families from the Lancaster area, one of them arriving in

1845. John attended Woodrow Wilson High School and Southern Methodist University. He was a pilot with the U. S. Air Force in World War II. Following his discharge he was in the electrical business from 1946 to 1970, and later in the real estate business until his retirement. John's lovely wife, Mary Alice, is also descended from the pioneer Cochran and Hughes families through Nancy Jane Hughes Cochran, first Vice-President of DCPA. John and Mary Alice have three daughters and four grandsons. John has served our organization faithfully as Treasurer for five years.

ZIP CODE: You will notice the 4-digit Zip Code extension has been added to your address. These numbers were provided by the Post Office, and although usage is not mandatory at this time, we are advised the extension will expedite the delivery of your mail.

TWO OF OUR MEMBERS, MARCELLE HULL, of the Jenkins Garrett UTA Library, and JOAN DOBSON, of the Eric Jonsson Library, were speakers at the Texas State Historical Association's 95th Annual Meeting March 7-9. Our Honorary Member, A. C. GREENE, also spoke on the Use of Archival Records.

DR. CHRISTINE FRICHOT-PETERMAN KALLSTROM of Treetops School International extended our organization an invitation to participate in "Bird's Fort Beginnings" festival on April 17. Edna Hart and her grand-daughters reported a lively afternoon.

VERY SPECIAL PERSONS, MARGARET FOLEY, mother of our member JOAN DOBSON, who works at the Eric Jonsson Library, and CINDY SMOLIK, Archivist, have just finished a vast project which may be of interest to some of our members in the Lakewood area. The firm of Dines & Kraft, who built homes in Dallas like Westway Park, Highland Park, and then Lakewood Addition (about 1925), gave their old office files, original plans and records to the library. Margaret and Cindy painstakingly sorted and cataloged this material. Anyone interested in the old Lakewood Addition can now research the construction of their home by abstract or original construction plans.

EARLY DALLAS SETTLER John S. Dickason, a former Confederate Army Captain from Tennessee, was wounded and sent home to recuperate. Yankee raiders visited his place near Memphis, Tennessee, carried off everything they could, hanged him from a tree and rode away. Slaves rushed out and cut him down saving his life.

Later Dickason visited Dallas County, following the death of his brother-in-law, John Owen Sale (who is buried near the Dallas Convention Center). Dickason learned of the need for a church and school in the Oak Lawn Community. Back in Tennessee he arranged with other Sale-Dickason Family heirs to give a 2 1/3 acre block of F. O. Sale farmland for a church-school building.

Dickason returned to Dallas County on September 2, 1874, and told Rev. M. H. Cullum of the gift. Neighbors immediately began building a little one-room church-schoolhouse "at Oak Lawn near Dallas, Texas". Dickason was present when "Brother" Cullum preached the first sermon there, on the third Sunday in September 1874. The building served as a Methodist Church on Sundays, a schoolhouse on weekdays, and a community center at all times. Oak Lawn Methodist is now a great block-long church, still in the very heart of the Oak Lawn community.

Dickason moved his family to Dallas in December 1874, and lived here many years before he finally moved west. In the 1960's members of the church knew no details of how or exactly when the church was founded. They appointed a Church Historian who finally located John Dickason's descendants at Brownsville, Texas.

The above details were learned from John Dickason's diary. Years later family members located a photograph of Dickason, the only picture of him known to exist. Today the church honors Dickason along with Rev. Cullum, the two who were primarily responsible for founding the church 117 years ago.

TRIVIA: Gracey Street in Lisbon was named for M. D. L. Gracey, one of the "45ers" who settled in Dallas County near Lisbon.

MOUNT CALVARY CEMETERY, located in the 7200 block of Valley View Lane in Dallas. This two-acre cemetery is on land that was deeded to the trustees of the Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church in 1868. The building originally used for the church had blown away in 1867 at another location. The church moved to Richardson in 1885 and became the First Baptist Church of Richardson. The cemetery had been used for many years before as the oldest dated gravesite is that of Amanda L. Houx (1829-1847). Many members of the Huffines/Huffhines family, early citizens of this area, are buried here with other families and friends. This site is maintained by a cemetery association.

EXCURSION TO GALVESTON ISLAND: How many of us remember from newspaper advertisements the lure of romance and tropical beaches offered by the Santa Fe Railroad many years ago? Marie Brady Hunter shares the love story of her parents on such a trip.

Laura Hill, age 17, sister Ella, age 20, brother Ben, age 10, and their mother, Mrs. Hill, were living in Somerville, Texas in 1902 when they decided to take advantage of one of these excursions. Apparently the trip to Galveston was uneventful, but memories of the return trip and the events following, lasted a lifetime.

A young hardware salesman, Cam Brady, son of Harry G. and Sarah Belknap Brady, Dallas County pioneers, had seen Laura Hill

and her family on the beach. He arranged to take the same return train with the Hills, and tactfully seated himself by Laura when her little brother left his seat to get water. A romance blossomed, but Laura lived in Somerville. They corresponded for a couple of years, and Cam visited a time or two. He hadn't asked her to marry him because he didn't feel he could support her properly. Laura became engaged to John Castleberry, a Santa Fe Railroad engineer. She had to write to Cam and tell him. Cam called her long distance (the new kind of telephone service), and told her he had to see her. When he arrived, she said, "His pleadings melted me, so I put the diamond engagement ring of Mr. Castleberry on the piano, and my brother-in-law took us to Caldwell, the county seat, where we obtained a license and had the Methodist minister marry us before catching the midnight train to Dallas. Then he took me to his parent's new little light-green cottage home on Exposition Avenue, the better part of town then."

"In a couple of months we looked for a place of our own and found what they used to call 'light housekeeping rooms' with friends of the Bradys, by the name of Davis, on Bryan Street. We went to the Central Christian Church on the same street then." Notarized statement signed by Laura Hill Brady, 17 April 1972. (6 days after her 87th birthday.)

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO: Clips from Dallas News, Sat., June 6, 1891.

J. S. TAYLOR DEPARTMENT STORE - Special Sale, Thurs., Fri., Sat.

Shoes - Regular \$3.00 shoes for \$2.00

Regular \$2.50 shoes for \$1.50

Regular \$2.00 shoes for \$1.50

Also a lot of fine hand-sewn shoes for \$6.50 and \$7.50. All go for \$5.00 and \$4.00 Taylor's & Taylor's

SANGER BROS. - 200 mosquito bars for \$2.75, made of gauze. 300 mosquito bars made of the finest Bobinet for \$4.00.

CLASSIFIED: Gentlemen's roadsters and family carriage horses bought and sold on commission. Finest facilities in the state. Perfectly reliable. Prices reasonable. Fairgrounds, Dallas, 1003 Main Street.

FOR RENT: 151 Live Oak St. - Room and board, convenient to business, cistern water, bath privileges. Table board. \$4.00 week.

LAMAR HOTEL: Located corner Lamar & Cochran Sts. Three street car lines pass the hotel; convenient to depot & business part of the city. Nicely furnished rooms & table board. \$1.00 per day or \$4.50 and \$5.00 per week. L. R. Willkie, Prop., Dallas, Texas.

TORNADO! - Anyone who has lived in Dallas County through a normal spring has learned when the sky looks black and ominous, it is wise to tune in the radio or T. V. set to the weather station.

On April 29, 1856, the residents of Cedar Hill had little warning that something was about to happen. Mrs. Mary S. Brown, born in 1841, was 14 years old, and living with her parents, Mr. & Mrs. A. A. Hendricks, a mile east of Cedar Hill. She said about 4:00 in the afternoon the sky became so dark they had to light the lamps. In a very short while the sun came out again, and when she looked toward the village of Cedar Hill, she could see no buildings. Only two were left standing - a business establishment and a log house.

There were at least nine casualties in the storm. Mrs. Hendricks, mother of Mary S., helped prepare the bodies for burial. Mrs. Brown related the story in an article published in the Dallas News September 8, 1938.

Mrs. Lucretia Vinyard, in her book "History of Cedar Mountains" also records the destruction of Cedar Hill, "the second town next to Dallas in age".

A freighter named Dixon, hauling lumber from Jefferson to Cleburne by oxen, is credited with alerting people within earshot of the blacksmith shop of the impending disaster. Mr. Dixon was himself one of the victims, as was John Berry, a storekeeper, and his wife and baby; John Hart, his wife and baby; a Mrs. Allen (nee Merrell) and a Negro woman.

Seven of those who died are believed to have been buried near a spring near a Methodist church on land given by Milton Merrifield and Robert Crawford. The log church was completely destroyed. Two victims were said to be buried on a hill near the Hard house, according to a 1939 article in the Cedar Hill Sentinel.

Some survivors of the storm were Mary Ramsey, a child at the time, who remembered her family's house rising and falling on the foundation; Jim Horne, also a child at the time, related that his father helped build the coffins for the victims; and Charles P. Nance, who stated he remembered his father "riding like mad the 4 miles from his home to the scene of the storm's wrath". The Jack Rape home, which was nestled under a hill, survived the storm as it passed overhead.

In Proud Heritage, Vol I., p. 66, Dorothy Haswell Thomas, descendant of Milton Merrifield, tells the story of her grandmother, Maggie, who was an infant when she and her cradle were blown into the yard when the tornado destroyed the Merrifield home.

After the storm wreaked its vengeance on Cedar Hill, it gradually rose, passing high over the Wheatland community and then disappeared.

"POOR RICHARD'S OWN EPITAPH - The body of Benjamin Franklin, printer, like the covering of an old book, its contents torn out, and stript of its lettering and gilding, lies here - food for worms, but the work shall not be lost, it will (as he believed) appear once more, in a new and more beautiful edition, corrected and amended by the Author."

Nona Williams
Secretary

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Founded 1875, Reorganized 1979

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