



Dallas County Pioneer Association

Founded 1875, Reorganized 1979
P.O. Box 12496, Dallas, Texas 75225-0496

SUMMER 1993

PROGRAM FOR JUNE 3 1993

President:
Frances James

"Early Newspapers of Texas" will be the subject of our guest speaker, Roy Bode, editor of *The Dallas Times Herald* from June 1988 to December 1991, when the paper ceased publication. The meeting will be held at Wyatt's Cafeteria, Marsh and Forest Lanes, 7 p.m. on June 3.

Vice-President:
Nancy McRae

Mr. Bode is currently the vice-president of public affairs for the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. A native of West Texas, he began his journalistic career as a reporter while in high school in Andrews County. In 1970 he became a reporter for the *Times Herald*, and in 1977 was chief of the Washington Bureau for the paper.

Secretary:
Nona Williams

Treasurer:
John Winniford

The *Herald* received many awards while he was editor, and several features he edited and designed were runners-up for the Pulitzer Prize. In 1979 he was on a team which won the George Polk award.

Historian:
Edna Hart

Mr. Bode went to Odessa College, the University of Tulsa, and the University of Cincinnati.

Program Chairman:
Edna Hart

Edna Hart

Membership Chairman:
Nancy McRae

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

I recently took the time to file all of the applications for membership in the DCPA that have been passed on to me. These are dated from 1979, when the reorganization took place, to the present. It was very interesting to imagine the families arriving in Dallas County, struggling to find a place to stay, buying land, and just feeding their children.

Telephone Chairman:
Bill McRae

Newsletter:
Marjori Sharp

Another fact becomes obvious when the same family names keep coming up in the file. For instance, we have Motleys on the far east side of the County around Mesquite and also on the west side near Grand Prairie. Then, there is the Routh family: Jacob and Joseph settled near Richardson/Plano and George Washington found land farther east near Garland.

Meetings:
Wyatt's Cafeteria
Forest & Marsh Lanes

In researching the history of the Masonic, Odd Fellow, and Pioneer Cemetery near the corner of Miller Road and Highway 78, I became aware of the Nash family.

From the carefully-preserved records and the diary of this prominent Dallas County family, I believe they may be one of the only father-son members of the Dallas County Commissioners Court. **Thomas Jefferson Nash** (1808-1886) was county commissioner in 1860, 1861, and again in 1876. His son, **Thomas Fletcher Nash** (1850-1908), was elected county judge in 1892.

Sam Street's Map of Dallas County dated 1900 shows who lived where at that time. **Bracey's Plat Map** dated 1959 has the current owners when it was drawn. The neighborhoods have really changed in that period, but the sites that remained were for the most part the graveyards. That is why in some areas the only sign of settlement that is left is the cemetery. For the most part, the log cabins are gone, the frame houses and barns are nearly all gone, leaving just a few signs of the area having once been inhabited. There is a newly-discovered log cabin near Sunnyvale that is being researched. The local archeologists are going out constantly, searching the sites they are aware of for artifacts.

The Dallas County Pioneer Association is a vital link to the past; we eagerly look forward to the future.

Frances James

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PIONEER CEMETERY PROJECT UPDATE

By the time you receive this newsletter, the inventory of the gravestones at the Pioneer Cemetery near the Dallas Convention Center will be completed.

Several members of the DCPA have searched and researched the site to ascertain what is left. There were two earlier inventories made, one in the 1940s and one in the 1960s; these were our resources, and the maps that were prepared in the 1960s helped us get started. Three nonmembers of the DCPA who are descendants of people buried there have agreed to repair or replace the stones of their ancestors. We shall now try to contact other

known descendants and let them know the status of the markers. In many instances the only sign that is left is the flat concrete base, with no legible information. These early founders of Dallas deserve better than that.

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MINUTES OF MEETING MARCH 4, 1993

The DCPA held its quarterly meeting at Wyatt's Cafeteria, Marsh Lane and Forest Lane, on March 4, 1993. There were seventy-five registered visitors and guests (a larger meeting place should be considered).

The meeting was called to order by President **Frances James**, and Pledge of Allegiance was made to the flags of the United States and Texas.

The first item of business was a financial report from Treasurer **John Winniford**, who reported \$24,716 in the treasury, which is adequate to cover the cost of publishing *Proud Heritage, Volume II*.

Irma Janicek, chairman of the Book Committee, advised the membership that preliminary work on the book is moving again following an unfortunate delay.

John Winniford's appeal for a temporary storage place for the books when they are delivered by the publisher brought offers from several persons, including Mr. and Mrs. Gerard Dickinson and **Margaret Ann Thetford**.

In the absence of Sunshine Chairman **Sara McGee**, **Frances** reported on the illness of several members, including **David McGee**, who is ill, and **Mary Sutherland**, who is recovering from a heart attack. Also, condolences were extended to the **Riek-Reilly** family on the death of their family member, **John W. Reilly, Jr.**, a member of DCPA.

Donald Allan Dorward was presented his membership certificate. Certificates will be mailed to **Alice Cochran Styron** and **Polly Ann Wright**.

Frances scheduled the first get-together of those involved in the survey of the Pioneer Cemetery for Saturday, March 13. Maps of the grave lots were provided.

Joan Dobson wants information on Arcadia Park. She had a supply of the new *The WPA Dallas Guide and History*, which were quickly sold. Joan advised that copies may be obtained at the Dallas Public Library.

Program Chairman Edna Hart introduced our speaker, Mike Kingston of *The Dallas Morning News*, who gave an informative presentation on the history of the *Texas Almanac*, which he edits. The *Almanac* began in Galveston in 1857. In 1869 the name was changed to *The Texas Almanac and Emigrants Guide*, and its subscription rose from 2,000 to 30,000 in three years. Most of the early editions dealt with agricultural subjects. Trivia from early *Almanacs* show the Huntsville Penitentiary had only eleven convicts in 1850, increasing to thirty-nine in 1855. Ownership of slaves increased from 207 in 1850 to 481 by 1855. Improved land could be purchased for \$6 to \$12 an acre, and unimproved land for \$3 to \$6, in 1857.

Dependence upon the *Almanac* was revealed in the case of one Noah Smithwick, who got lost in west Texas "because the map in *The Almanac* was wrong".

Mark White, onetime governor of Texas, while on the campaign trail is said to have quipped, "Only two books are needed in Texas: *The Texas Almanac*, and *The Bible*."

Mr. Kingston, in visiting small towns and villages for statistics on population, agricultural pursuits, and various trivia, queried a judge in one community and asked where he got his figures. The judge stated that he got them from *The Texas Almanac*.

Another story came from the counterparts of American GIs overseas, when one stated, "These Texans have their lies in book form".

The Almanac was suspended during both the Civil War and World War II. The modern era began with Stewart McGregor as editor. It is now published every two years, and the 1994-95 issue is due out in September.

A question-and-answer session followed, and the meeting was adjourned.

Nona Williams

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WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Mary Louise B. Dodge descends from James W. Swor and Adaline Ekridge from Tennessee, who came to Dallas in 1881, resided on First Street, and owned a hotel. Their daughter, Minnie, born 1875 in Kentucky, married Harry Farracy in 1893, and both are buried here. Their daughter, Pauline, born 1895, married Charles W. Brown in 1913, and their daughter, Mary Louise, married William G. Dodge, Sr. (Her great-uncle was Royal A. Ferris, Sr., president of American Exchange Bank). Mary Louise lives at 11906 High Valley, Dallas 75234-7738, 241-3210.

Bernard M. Coffee is descended from Bernard J. Coffee and his wife Margarita Agramonte, natives of New York, who came to Dallas in 1913 and lived in Cockrell Hill when Bernard M. was born. When the father died Margarita married Wesley Cockrell, born 1892, son of Lee Cockrell and Sidney Beatrice Merrifield of Oak Cliff and Arcadia Park. These Cockrells were cousins of Alexander and Sarah Horton Cockrell, early Dallas settlers. Bernard's address is 4521 Meredith Ave., Dallas 75211-3534, 331-1997.

Bernard also shared some interesting information on his maternal ancestors, the Agramontes, who trace their lineage from New Orleans to Cuba to Spain, and are descendants of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella.

Virginia Elizabeth O'Connell Duncan descends from William Johnson Winniford, born 1828 in

Kentucky, who came to Texas about 1845 and lived in Lancaster in 1850. He married **Sarah Jane Vaughan** in Ellis County in 1855. Their daughter, **Martha Angelina**, was born in 1857 in Ellis County and married **Charles W. Horton**. Both are buried at Western Heights Cemetery in Dallas. Their daughter, **Odah Blanche**, married **David R. Estes**, and they are buried in Dallas. The Estes daughter, **Eunice Marie**, married **Charles Malcolm Smith**, who died in Dallas in 1974. Their daughter, **Dorothy Yvonne**, was adopted by great-aunt and great-uncle **Hattie Belle Dennis** and **Henry Thomas Horton**. **Dorothy Yvonne** married **Walter E. O'Connell**, and they were the parents of **Virginia Elizabeth**.

Jacquelyne Hammond Goodnight is descended from **John Beeman** and **Emily Hunnicutt**, who arrived in Dallas in 1842 and lived on White Rock Creek. Their daughter, **Nancy**, born 1839 in Illinois, married **W.W. Hobbs** in 1856. Their daughter, **Josephine**, born in 1858, married **John David Herndon** in 1873. She died in 1920 and was buried in Grove Hill Cemetery, and he died in 1946. Their daughter, **Myra B.**, born in 1893, married **William Thomas Hammond**, lived in Llano, and both were buried in Bell County. Their daughter, **Jacquelyne**, married **W. Gene Goodnight**.

Marlin L. Gilbert descends from **Mabel Gilbert** who was born in 1797 in Dickson County, Tennessee and his wife **Charity Morris**, who came to Dallas in 1842. **Charity** died in 1854 and in 1855 **Mabel** was living near the courthouse in Dallas with his second wife, **Rachael Gibbs Allbright Freeman**. **Mabel** and **Charity's** son, **Morris**, born 1842, married **Hannah Bloyd Thomas** in 1866 and both died in Carter County, Oklahoma. Their son, **James Edward**, born 1870, married **Eva Howard**, and their son, **Howard**, born 1913 in Colorado married **Ollie Lee Dodson** (born 1917 in Lee County, Texas) in 1937 in Cameron County, Texas. They were parents of **Marlin**, who lives at 9515 Milltrail Drive, 75238-1421.

Donald A. Dorward, profiled in the March newslet-

ter, tells us he has other ancestors who were pioneers of Dallas County: **D.H. Russell**, born 1832 in Tennessee, married **Sylpha J.**, born 1843, and came to Dallas about 1865. Their daughter, **Violena A.**, born 1846 in Tennessee, married **Andrew M. Russell** in Dallas in 1872. Their daughter, **Minnie Russell**, was born in Dallas in 1875 and married **David Dorward**.

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OUR CONDOLENCES TO

Mary Alice Dealey, on the loss of her son, **George Bannerman Dealey, II**, on March 5.

Opal Frances Nicholls, on the death of her brother, **Walter N. Vernon, Jr.**, whose services were held on March 13.

Donald A. Dorward, on the loss of his father, **Maurice D. Dorward** on March 7 in Clifton.

The **Riek**, **Reilly**, and **Greenstein** families, on the loss of their son, grandson, and nephew, **John Walter Reilly, Jr.**, on February 25. John also was a member of DCPA.

Aleene and **John Jackson** on the death of her brother, **James Miller Jackson**, April 13.

Paul D. Cretien, Jr., on the death of his father, **Paul D. Cretien**, on April 23, who also was a member of DCPA.

Linda Allen, **William A. McCommas Vilbig**, and other members of the family, on the loss of their mother, **Lynne Vilbig**, in May. **Lynne** was a member of DCPA.

UPDATE FROM SICK BAY

Bill Jacoby is home after a heart attack and a five-bypass surgery. Talked with him recently and he is "coming along", slowly at times, but surely. We wish both **Bill** and **Jackie** the very best and hope and pray health will return soon.

Mary and Earl Cullum: Mary is still taking treatments and is feeling "not good". The treatments are very hard on her. Earl is improving. Best wishes, and get well soon - to both.

Edna Hart has been "out of commission" with a back problem, but it is better, and if she would stop lifting 40-pound sacks of dog food - or whatever - she would be better off. (Ed, don't lose the heating pad or the Advil.) We are glad you are up and at 'em again, Edna.

Frances James' husband Leon has multiple health problems, and we want them to know that our thoughts and our prayers are with them.

Sara McGee

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DCPA MEMBER RESEARCHES HER ANCESTOR

The first Baptist church in Dallas County, the Union Baptist Church, was organized on May 10, 1846, in Farmers Branch by the Reverend David Myers (October 15, 1797 - March 9, 1853).

DCPA member Linda Hoffman Frank, a descendant of David Myers, has researched her ancestor and has come up with some interesting details about her distinguished forebear.

After crossing the Red River on Christmas Eve, 1845, David Myers arrived in Texas with a group of friends and neighbors from Greene County, Illinois. He and his wife Letitia Reddish, who he married in Bowling Green, Kentucky, came to Texas with ten children, and their last child was born the following February in Red River County before they continued on their journey to Dallas County. One of their daughters, Jemima, married Archer Fyke, and this is the line of Linda's descent.

David was licensed to preach by the Mount Zion Church in Greene County, Illinois, and was ordained a minister of the gospel in Taylor's Creek Church in Jersey County, by Elders John Brown and H.H.

Witt. (Greene County split and the two counties, Greene and Jersey, were formed.)

Union Baptist, of which David was the first pastor, was later relocated in Carrollton, where it is still functioning today as the Highland Baptist Church. He also helped to organize or served in churches in Bethel, Rowlett Creek, Liberty in Collin County, and Lonesome Dove, now in Tarrant County.

Returning from services at Bethel Church in January, 1853, he was caught in a freezing rain, and the subsequent cold and pneumonia led to his death. Family legend says that the last words he uttered were in the form of a poem. Linda found the poem, which has eight verses, and we are sharing the first and last ones:

"I soon shall to the grave be borne,
My flesh shall to the dust return,
My soul long since to Jesus given
Must go to reign with him in heaven.

"We all shall meet around the throne
And naught but love shall there be known.
Now Jesus let my soul arise,
To that bright mansion in the skies."

He is buried at Keenan Cemetery, where the last line on his headstone is: "He organized Union, the first Baptist Church in Dallas County". Letitia lived her last years with her daughter, Harriett Brant. She died in September 1885, and is buried in Wizard Wells Cemetery in Jack County.

Linda gives as her references the Dallas County Clerk (marriage, birth, and death records); *Elm Fork Settlement*, by Georgia Myers Ogle (Nortex Press, 1977, Wichita Falls); and *Sixty Years in Texas*, by George Jackson, reprint by the Peters Colony Historical Society of Dallas County, of the Second Edition, originally published in 1908 (Nortex Press, September 1975, Quanah).

Don't miss the June meeting - pick up your new Roster and check out your entry for errors.

REJEBIAN CLUB: A CLASSIC

Few of us in Dallas who can read need to ask, "What is a Rejebian Club?"

Ermance Rejebian (Mrs. V.Y.) has been a household word in this city for more years than many of us care to remember, but we like to brag that we have indeed heard a book review by the one and only Mrs. Rejebian. The City has proliferated with Rejebian book clubs for more than fifty-seven years, among them The Oak Cliff Rejebian Club.

Edna Hart shares with us some history of the Oak Cliff club, which celebrated the fifty-fifth anniversary of its inception in April 1992, when the honored guest for the occasion was Mr. Rejebian. It was organized in October 1937 with thirty-seven members, meeting in the Oak Cliff YMCA. At one of its early meetings it hosted a morning coffee for members of the other Rejebian clubs in Dallas, and 150 were in attendance. Mrs. Rejebian reviewed Omar Khayyam's *The Rubiyat*.

Dues were \$4 and the membership was limited to sixty, with present membership fixed at sixty-five. In the early 40s meetings were held at the Mrs. E.P. Turner Club House, with regular meetings in the homes of members beginning in 1944-45. The home meetings were discontinued in 1976 and the Cliff Room at Metropolitan Savings and Loan was chosen as the regular meeting place, except for one year in the Community Room of the Wynnewood Bank. Presently, the Club meets at Bank United on 12th Street.

For almost fifty years Ermance presented interesting and intellectual reviews. In her own words, she was a "reviewer and interpreter of books" and club members felt that she enriched their lives. Her Bible studies also were eagerly anticipated.

At a meeting held in November 1970 Mrs. Rejebian reviewed *The Promised Land*, which is her story commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of her own arrival in the United States from Armenia. Her last

presentation for the Club was at the spring luncheon in April 1986, where she reviewed the classic *Cyrano de Bergerac* by Edmond Rostand, and she died in September 1989. Mr. and Mrs. Rejebian were members of Highland Park Methodist Church, and her tapes and books have been placed in the Church library. Mr. Rejebian is still living.

Marjorie Currey has been the regular reviewer for the Club since she began sharing the chair when Mrs. Rejebian began curtailing her activities, and the members consider her programs to be current and varied and something to which they look forward.

Edna was a guest at the 1992 luncheon. She says the Club is looking for yearbooks for 1942-43 and 1943-44, World War II years. If you can help them with any information, they will be grateful. Call Mrs. Charles Mundell, 943-8352, or Edna Hart.

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We wish we could tell you that Proud Heritage, Volume II, is ready for distribution. It is coming along - maybe next month.

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ENJOY YOUR NEW ROSTER

We hope to see you at our June meeting, and we hope you will remember to pick up your brand new Membership Roster and History. If you don't, we will have to mail it to you.

Please check out your entry in the Roster, and let us know of any mistakes. We will print corrections and new members in future newsletters. These will be done in such a way that you can either cut and paste in your own book, or, in the case of new members, simply add to the bottom of the page, where space has been allowed (see Page 14 - we added one on the way to the printer).

Also, keep in mind that this Roster was done by a rank neophyte, so errors are to be expected, if not excused. Given the chance to do it again, we promise to improve.

FLORENCE RANCH HOMESTEAD OPENS

The Florence Ranch Homestead in Mesquite is now open for tours, and welcomes groups such as churches, school classes, clubs, etc.

This home, which is well over one hundred years old, was donated to the City of Mesquite by DCPA member Florence Florence Schulz and Julie Morris, her daughter. It has been restored "back" to 1891 and is to be used as a museum and teaching facility to focus on family life in the 1880s and 1890s. An article on the history of the home will be in *Proud Heritage, Volume II*.

Arrangements for tours can be made by contacting Georgia Kimball, 214/279-7038, or Betty Leake, 214/285-3875. The home is located at 1424 Barnes Bridge Road.

Sara McGee

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The following is a press release given to us by Edna Hart.

Stephen F. Austin Bicentennial Commission Prepares to Recognize the Father of Texas

The Stephen F. Austin Bicentennial Commission, created by Joint Resolution of the Texas State Legislature in November, 1992, is urging Texans to recognize the contributions of the Father of Texas on the occasion of his 200th birthday (November 3, 1993). The Commission is calling on all appropriate entities throughout Texas to develop activities that focus attention on this visionary leader who brought the first 300 legitimate Anglo settlers into "Austin's Colony" one hundred seventy years ago.

The Commission has met three times since its founding in November. Comprised of history museum directors in six counties of the original Austin Colony, representatives of the Texas State Archives, the Texas Historical Commission, and Representatives and Senators from each of the noted Counties, the Commission has outlined its goals for the Bicentennial celebration. They focus primarily on disseminating information about the celebration,

urging cities, schools, and other entities to develop activities, and publicizing those activities around the State. The Commission will "sanction" those activities it deems appropriate to the celebration and those will be listed in the events calendar to be published in mid- to late-July, 1993.

The Commission will sponsor but one event itself - a ceremony in the State Capitol Rotunda on Austin's birthday, November 3. Faculty and students from the City's Stephen F. Austin High School are working with the Commission to prepare for that event. The High School's students will be sponsoring additional events of their own that day. Those have been sanctioned by the Commission.

Robert T. Handy, Director of the Brazoria County Historical Museum and Commission Chairman, is urging cities, schools, county historical commissions, descendent groups (Daughters of the Texas Revolution, etc.), Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, and other appropriate entities to develop programs commemorating Austin's contributions. Such organizations should contact the Commission immediately for guidelines or ideas on how to go about developing programs. The deadline for submitting activities for the Commission's sanction and for inclusion in the Bicentennial Events calendar is July 1, 1993. Interested parties should call or write the Commission at the Brazoria County Historical Museum, 100 East Cedar, Angleton, Texas 77515, (409)849-5711, ext. 1208.

Formal press packets will be available after July 1.

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From "The Dallas Herald, published by L. Latimer, April 26, 1855:

"More Residents to Reunion. Colonists arriving in nearby Reunion Colony on April 26, 1854, have been joined by additional colonists from Switzerland and France. Included in the group are physicians, astronomers, and skilled artisans, including jeweler, Christopher Frichot, of Paris, France."

M/M Rayburn H. Williams
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Dallas County Pioneer Association
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The DALLAS COUNTY PIONEER ASSOCIATION is dedicated to preserving the history of Dallas County and those who settled here before 1880. Anyone interested may apply for membership regardless of when their ancestors came here.

Membership dues are: Individual, \$10 initiation fee and \$15 per year, or \$150 for a Life Membership; and Couple, \$15 initiation fee and \$25 per year, or \$250 Life Membership. If interested, please contact: Membership Chairman, Dallas County Pioneer Association, P.O. Box 12496, Dallas, TX 75225-0496 for brochure and member application.

The organization meets for dinner and a program at 6:00 p.m. the first Thursday of each March, June, September, and December. Currently these quarterly meetings are held at Wyatt's Cafeteria, Forest Lane and Marsh Lane in Dallas.

Visitors are always welcome. The meeting room is open at 5:30 p.m. for dining and fellowship. Program starts promptly at 7:00 p.m.