



Dallas County Pioneer Association

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

FALL 1993

President:
Frances James

PROGRAM FOR SEPTEMBER 2, 1993

Vice-President:
Nancy McRae

We have a special treat in store for you for our September meeting program: the one and only Rose-Mary Rumbley, favorite of Dallas' historical organizations and local book clubs; historian, humorist, lecturer, and author.

Secretary:
Nona Williams

Rose-Mary, who gives over three hundred presentations a year, will choose her own subject for the program. Some of the subjects for her writings have been the history of public education in Dallas, the book *A Century of Class*; the story of Sam Houston, the play *Trail of Honor*; the story of Mollie Bailey, who brought the first circus to Texas, the play *Queen Mollie*; and for the City's 150th birthday in 1991, a book *The Unauthorized History of Dallas*.

Treasurer:
John Winniford

Historian:
Edna Hart

Be on the lookout for her next book about her trip along legendary Route 66, which she took by herself gathering material for the book. And beg, bum, or bully your way into your friend or neighbor's club which schedules her hilarious account of this jaunt.

Program Chairman:
Edna Hart

Membership Chairman:
Nancy McRae

An experienced stage and screen actress, Rose-Mary is a member of the Screen Actors Guild, the American Federation of Radio and Television Artists, and Actors Equity. She has appeared in films, TV movies, the Dallas Summer Musicals, and Casa Manana in Fort Worth, and heads her own company, RMR Communications.

Telephone Chairman:
Bill McRae

She received her B.A., M.Ed., and Ph.D. from NTSU (now the University of North Texas), and received the UNT Distinguished Alumna Award in 1986. She also was named one of twenty-three women in Texas for the American Association of University Women Woman of the Year in Education Award in 1986.

Newsletter:
Marjori Sharp

Don't miss this program - we guarantee fun and facts about our community.

The Nominating Committee will present a slate of officers to be voted on and installed at the December meeting, at which time nominations can be made from the floor.

Meetings:
Wyatt's Cafeteria
Forest & Marsh Lanes

Edna Hart

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This summer, the weather has been in the news, starting with floods in the midwest and along the Mississippi and the Missouri, and coming closer to home - the long dry spell we have had here in Dallas County.

I have been doing research for a Texas Historical Marker for the Pioneer, Masonic, Knights of Pythias Cemetery on the corner of Garland Road and Miller Road. One of the sources I found was the series of articles published in the *Garland News* in 1927. The title, "70 Years in the Garland, Dallas County, Texas, Area", by Mrs. George W. James (Martha Catherine "Kate" Jones), was transcribed from her longhand by her two appreciative great granddaughters: Mrs. G.W. (Dorothy Olinger) Range and Mrs. A.R. (Mimi Olinger) Davis.

There is a description of a long dry spell in June 1860 that lasted until 1861. Crops were a total failure, streams went dry, grass crumbled to dust, and there were even some fights over water rights. This description of a drought coincides with other claims of the Big Spring area in Richardson. This claim is that the "spring" never dried up and that people came from miles around to get water.

Talk about the GOOD OLD DAYS, all we have to worry about is paying the \$50 water bill!

Frances James

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MINUTES OF MEETING JUNE 3, 1993

The DCPA held its quarterly meeting at Wyatt's Cafeteria, Marsh and Forest Lanes, in Dallas, on June 3, 1993. There were seventy-three in attendance, with fourteen guests.

Roy Bode, former editor of *The Dallas Times Herald*, was introduced by **Edna Hart**. He traced the roots of the *Herald* to the *Galveston News*, which was founded in 1842 in Galveston, Texas,

moving to Dallas in 1855, and following several name changes, becoming *The Dallas Times Herald*. The *Herald* employed upwards of 1000 people before its demise in 1991. Mr. Bode was openly appalled that the building which housed the paper fell victim to the wrecking bar a short time ago, and apparently no effort was made to save it from destruction. A question-and-answer period followed, and Mr. Bode advised that the *Herald's* records are kept on microfilm and can be viewed at the Dallas Public Library.

Mattie Hughes reported that *Proud Heritage, II* is progressing, and the publication date should be announced soon.

Mattie, in the absence of **Sara McGee**, reported on several members who have been ill, including **David McGee** and **Bill Jacoby**. **Mary** and **Earl Cullum** have both been ill, but were able to attend the meeting. **Mary Sutherland**, recuperating from recent heart surgery, also was in attendance.

John Winniford reported the treasury funds remain substantially the same as last quarter.

Nancy McRae reported nine new members for the year.

A Membership Certificate was awarded to **Bernard M. Coffey**. Certificates will be mailed to **Marlin Lee Gilbert** and **Victoria Elizabeth Duncan**.

The new 1993/94 Membership Rosters were available at the June meeting. If you were not present at the meeting and cannot make the September meeting, please contact **Marjori Sharp** or **Nona Williams**. Rosters to out-of-town members will be mailed.

Frances James shared the following announcements:

The rededication of Grapevine Springs at Coppell will be made in August.

An historical marker has been placed at the Reinhardt School, which was named for **Isadora**

Reinhardt, who, when on his way to California with his family, was expelled from the wagon train because his small son came down with yellow fever. He decided to settle in Dallas instead.

Three other schools were passed for Landmark designations: David Crockett Elementary School, Forest Avenue/James Madison High School, and the Phyllis Wheatley Elementary School. The Wheatley School, built in 1916, was named for a woman who was kidnapped in Africa as a child and brought to the United States, who became the first published black poetess.

Frances also gave a progress report on DCPA's participation in the restoration of the Pioneer Cemetery adjacent to the Dallas Convention Center: the survey is complete. DCPA is working in cooperation with Dallas Parks and Recreation, the Downtown Improvement Association, and the Private Industry Council. Descendants of those interred at the Cemetery are being sought. **David Herold**, who does tombstone restorations, has been consulted, and will make recommendations as to what can be done to repair, level, and restore the existing stones. If you are interested in helping with the research of some of these family names, please contact Frances James.

We welcomed the following visitors to the June meeting, and hope we will be seeing them again: **Kenneth Newberry** (grandson of **May Ruth Griffin**), **Lois Garey**, **Robyn Bowling**, **Helen Swint** (who joined DCPA), **Marylou Buntyn**, **Adelyn Hancock**, **Simon Selzer**, **Shelley Williams**, **Faye** and **David Evans** (who became new members), **Clarence Cockrell**, **Jim** and **Rosa Terry**, and **Frances**, **Abel**, and **Terry Brandon**.

Nona Williams

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Memorial services were held for **Pearl Cockrell Brewer**, 91, on June 4. Mrs. Brewer, who spent most of her life as a resident of Dallas County, was the granddaughter of **Wesley Cockrell**, who was the first settler and landowner in Cockrell Hill and for whom the City was named. She was born on the Cockrell farm, which is now the site of Mountain View College.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Faye Thomas Evans is descended from **Henry S. Parrish**, who was born in 1818 in Ohio, and **Eliza Jane Record**, who came to Dallas County in 1854 and settled at Coppell on a Peters Colony Grant. He died in 1866 and she in 1918, and both are buried in the Parrish Cemetery in Coppell (which recently received an historical marker). Their son, **Francis Marion**, born 1862 in Coppell, married **Mary Emma Prescott** in 1890. She was born in South Carolina in 1865. Francis died in 1932 and Mary Emma in 1958, and they, too, are buried in the Parrish Cemetery. Their daughter, **Eliza Jane Marie**, born in 1900 in Coppell, married **James Wesley Thomas** (born 1892 in Athens) in Oklahoma in 1917. He died in 1971 and she in 1982 in Dallas. **Alma Faye Thomas Evans** is their daughter. Her address is 1001 Sherwood Dr., Bedford, TX 76022-7716, 817/267-5361.

John Mauk Hilliard descends from the Rev. **Ellison Armistead Daniel**, born 1797 in Clark County, Kentucky, and **Frances Ringo**, born 1803 in Kentucky. They came to Dallas in 1852, settling in Duncanville. He died in 1875 and is buried in the Daniel Cemetery in DeSoto. Their daughter, **Mary Margaret**, born 1830 in Kentucky, married **James Lemon Miller** in 1854 before coming to Dallas. She died in 1880 and he in 1881. Their daughter, **Mary Elizabeth**, born 1858, married **James Crawford Mauk** in 1875. He is buried in Plainview and she in Fort Stockton. Their son, **John Virgil**, was born in 1876 in Cedar Hill and was married in 1902 in Waxahachie to **Ida Franklin Moss**, who was born in 1878 in Dallas County. Both are buried in New Mexico. Their daughter, **Jane Elizabeth**, born 1919 in New Mexico, married **John Kinshen Kent Hilliard**, born 1915, and they became the parents of John Mauk.

John is also a direct descendant of pioneer settler **John Merrifield** (1792-1873), who is buried on Jefferson Avenue, near Sunset High School in Oak Cliff. John Mauk Hilliard's address is C/O Office of Student Affairs, Lehman College, Bronx, NY 10468-1589.

Linda Lee Hines is descended from **Robert Fleming Campbell**, born 1804, married (1) in 1834 to **Jane David** (1801-1841), and (2) **Mary Ann Hofer**. He came to Dallas in 1851 and died in 1881, and is buried in the Jacob Routh Cemetery in Richardson. **Lodemia Ann**, daughter of R.F. and Jane, was born in 1833 in Jefferson County, Tennessee, and married in 1853 to **Jacob Routh**, who was born 1818 in Tennessee. He died in 1879 and she in 1916, both in Plano. Their daughter, **Julia**, born 1857 in Plano, married **John Mashman Howell**, born 1849 in Tennessee. He died in 1925 and she in 1948, and both are buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Dallas. Their son, **John Mashman, Jr.**, was born in 1891 in Dallas and married **Ruth Ellen Killough**, born in Tennessee in 1894. He died in 1986 and she in 1988 and both are buried in Greenwood. They were the parents of our longtime member **Nancy Howell McRae**, who is the mother of Linda Lee Hines. Her address is 4720 St. Johns Drive, 75205-3135, 522-8103.

Howard Christopher Hines, husband of Linda Lee, is a new Associate Member.

Ora (she asks that we call her Nell) **Deets Walker** descends from **Nicholas Featherston Pace**, born 1840 in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, and **Nancy Catherine Wallace**, born 1849 in Virginia. Married in 1868, they came to Dallas County on their wedding trip, and were residing on Duck Creek near Garland in 1889. He died in 1910 and she in 1886, and both are buried in the K.P. Cemetery in Garland. Their daughter, **Maggie Agatha**, born 1883 in Garland, married **Owen Bates "Otis" Corley**, born 1879. He died in 1949 and she in 1955 and they are buried in Mills Cemetery in Garland. Their daughter, **Emma Lucile**, born 1904 in Garland, married **Hulan Hesley Deets**, born 1902, in 1930. She died in 1971 and he in 1989. Their daughter, **Ora "Nell"**, married (1) **Clifford E. Combs** and (2) **Robert Leslie Walker**. Her address is 4178 Lake Side Drive, Mabank, TX 75147, 908/887-0628.

New Associate Member is **Marjorie McKee Anderson**, who descends from **Newton Davis McKee**,

born 1881 in Cherokee County, married in Corsicana in 1921 to **Sloan Johnson McKee**, who was born in 1891 in Corsicana. They lived on St. Johns Drive in Dallas and were charter members of Highland Park Presbyterian Church. Her address is 13930 Rolling Hills Lane, 75240, 907-0703.

Our new Associate Member **Helen Swint** comes from a long line of historical organizations, we know, but we don't have her word on any of this or her forebears, so we will give you a profile on her in our December newsletter. And just say "Welcome" to her for now.

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WE APPRECIATE OUR CALLERS

We have a group here who do their job so well, and we don't tell them often enough how much we appreciate them. So, here is a sincere "Thank you!" to our Telephone/Transportation Chairman **Bill McRae**, and the following who make up his committee:

Mary Bowen
Shannon Bowling
Louise Buhrer
Ruth Carnes
Faye Evans
Gerard Dickinson
Donald Dorward

Martha Henderson
Rhonda Morris
Marjorie Simpson
Virginia Stallings
Raymond Story
Alice Styron
Ann Williams

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CASTLEBERRY BOOK ON DALLAS WOMEN NEARS COMPLETION

Vivian Castleberry says her book, *Daughters of Dallas: A History of Greater Dallas Told Through the Voices and Deeds of Its Women* may be released as early as December. Maybe in time for Christmas giving?

Mrs. Castleberry has spoken to the DCPA about the book she has been writing for several years, after spending twenty-eight years collecting material as women's editor for the *Dallas Times Herald*.

We wish to express our sympathy to **John and Mary Alice Winniford** on the loss of his brother, **Charles E. Winniford, Jr.**, of McKinney, who died on August 20.

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Nona Williams said that when Frances mentioned that the Reinhardt School had received an historical marker she recalled that she had the following material in her files because of the name **Ferguson**, a relative of her husband's family. She says the article is full of familiar names.

REINHARDT

No school in the White Rock area can claim as long a history as Reinhardt School. It had its beginning when the first school in the area was built by a homesteader, named **John Chenault**, on his large estate around 1880. The school for his children and the children of other estate holders in this area was a small frame building near where Ash Creek crosses Peavy.

The White Rock area was made up of large cotton farms owned by the first settlers of German and French descent. Some of these first families included the **Chenaults**, **Ueckarts**, **Peavys**, **Motleys**, **Stallcups**, **Zachas**, and **Andertons**.

John Chenault was the grandfather of Mrs. **Kathryne Peavy Goforth Evans** and **John Peavy**. Mrs. Evans will be remembered as Mrs. Goforth, a Reinhardt teacher for nineteen years.

Mrs. Evans recalls her mother telling of attending the first school on her father's land until she was twelve years old. Then she was sent to his old home in Tennessee to go to finishing school until she was eighteen years of age.

After she returned to Texas she met, and later married **C.C. Peavy**, for whom Peavy Road was named. C.C. Peavy was always for improvement and gave over thirty acres for roadway for **Buckner Boulevard**, **Oates Drive**, and **Ferguson Road** to cross his land. Buckner was built in the late 1920s. The Peavys' first home was built in 1896 on Peavy Road

between Oates and Ferguson.

Around 1900, a frame school building was built near the Santa Fe railroad in the Reinhardt community. The community was started in 1886 when the railroad came through the right-of-way from what is now Lakeland to Reinhardt, given by **John Chenault**.

The frame school building was located behind the old Ueckart Store building

Mrs. Evans recalled her childhood life in the Reinhardt community as being much different from today. Going to town in Dallas was a long drive in a horsedrawn buggy. Her father always stopped at a Mr. **Ferguson's** home to get a drink of water. Mr. Ferguson lived near the present intersection of Ferguson Road and R.L. Thornton. Mrs. Evans also remembered that material for school clothes was purchased and a lady came and stayed in the Evans home a week before school started each year and made the school clothing.

Problems of discipline existed at Reinhardt when Mrs. Evans was a pupil. She recalled an afternoon when a large boy in one of the upper grades picked up a coal shovel and used it to strike the principal. She hid her eyes, but one of her little girlfriends fainted.

from *The White Rocker*, 9-26-1991

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UPDATE ON PIONEER CEMETERY

By the time we have our September meeting the work that has been in progress since last May at the Pioneer Cemetery may be nearly complete. After the inventory of gravestones by volunteers from the DCPA last spring, we were asked to help select which stones should be repaired.

The Downtown Improvement District, a group of the owners of downtown Dallas properties, funded the repair to many of the old stones. **David Herold**, who has done cemetery restoration at over twenty cemeteries in our area, presented a proposal to

Patricia Kleinknecht, operations manager of the DID for the work, and was told to get started. David was also hired to work with a team of youths from the Dallas Youth Services Corporation. In spite of the fact that some of the youths did not really want to work, just get paid, the Cemetery does look much better. The funds to pay the youths came from the federal government Job Corps funds. Many years of mildew and pollution have been scrubbed away from the old stones. You can actually read the dates on several that were illegible. Many large monuments are now standing level with the upper broken pieces reattached.

One of the interesting tidbits that came out of all this is about the marker for **John Crockett**, which was gone. After a search by the Dallas Parks and Recreation Department, it was found in two pieces in a storage shed. I remembered talking with Sheryl and Gene Gaddy at a supper one night, and Gene told me he was related to John Crockett. I called Sheryl and told her the stone had been found and needed repairing. She was so excited - said she would pay for it for Gene's birthday present! That kept her from having to buy him another tie!!! It is now repaired and ready for viewing.

Some of you may know Gene: he is a source of information about early post offices.

In case you do not remember who John Crockett was - he was born in Lancaster County, South Carolina. Came to Texas in 1846 and had a Peters Colony grant. He participated in the so-called Hedgecoxe War in Collin County and Farmers Branch in 1852. He was a practicing lawyer, and later was elected mayor of Dallas in 1857 and reelected in 1859. He was lieutenant governor of Texas, 1861-1863. Kate Polk's stone (his wife) was standing next to his spot throughout all of this.

Another interesting item that has turned up since the inventory concerns **William Washington Noble** and other veterans. His marker is missing. He qualifies for a government marker and forms are being completed to have that shipped. Other markers for veter-

ans that are missing can also be placed or replaced. Of course, these markers are available at any cemetery and for all veterans.

There is also an emblem available for citizens of the Republic of Texas that attaches to a grave marker. Sons or Daughters of the Republic should be able to make these arrangements.

Call me if interested, and I will follow up.

Frances James

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Vic Armstrong gave us the March 1993 newsletter of the Mesquite Historical and Genealogical Society, from which we have copied the following. We think it is a great personal look at the beginnings of the Peters Colony that you won't find in schoolbooks - or libraries, for that matter. Mrs. Peggy Perry Oliver of Carrollton gave the narrative at the February meeting of the Society.

Wheelin' an' Dealin'

For 200-plus years there had been farming in Virginia. The east coast land was farmed out and practically no new land was available. There was virtually little to build to after the Revolution. So, some of the populace started looking for land to farm and they looked to Texas.

The Republic of Texas had a great deal of land, but no money. Therefore, the state offered land to companies for them to bring in settlers/taxpayers. One of these companies was the Peters Company. This company was one of the most successful for bringing settlers into north Texas. However, this enterprise apparently had shadowy agreements and its legalities were questioned. Part of the company's owners were Englishmen, who never came to Texas, let alone this country. It has been thought by some that the Peters Company was probably the first shady real estate dealer in Texas.

The company advertised broadly on the eastern coast telling about the wonderful land giveaway in Texas. For only \$20, given to an agent in Louisville, Kentucky, the future settler would be given a certificate and directions to Farmers Branch, Texas. The

money was to go, on the most part, for surveying, but it necessarily didn't go for that. Mostly into the company's pocket. Also the company would get 100 acres of land, which the settler didn't know about until they got to Texas, then it was too late.

According to the company's advertisements, a married man with a family would receive 640 acres and a single man would receive 320 acres. So, a man with a lot of sons about to leave home could get a fair parcel of land. Needless to say, the company's administration failed to live up to their deals with the settlers and the only truth in the ads was the claim of how bountiful was the land.

So, the western movement began. Settlers left their homes on the eastern coast crossing Kentucky, Ohio, and Illinois. Other pioneers crossed the Gulf coast states all headed for Texas. Some of the immigrants dropped off along the way, thus settling these states, but most moved on.

Trips westward took a lot of planning, in fact, about a year. Crops had to be raised for food for the journey and sometimes it took a year just to move the family to the headright.

Settlers started to arrive in Dallas County about 1843 and were rather disappointed to see just a log cabin rather than a large office as had earlier been advertised. Most of the good land in the county was taken by 1848. The greatest number of immigrants arrived between 1865 and 1870. The Peters Company offices were later moved to what is now "The Colony", and named the settlement "Office Creek".

There was a lot of trading of the land certificates. They were endorsed like checks and possibly changed hands several times, before the land was ever located. When the certificate was finally filed, the original owner's name was still on it. So, be aware that the first landowner may not be where "Grandpa" lived.

The first year the settlers were here, a great number died from the fever. Settlers in the southwest and

and the northwest part of Dallas County had to build houses and fences. Not much timber in that area so they went to the Trinity bottoms and paid 50 cents an acre for 20-30 acres for a woodright. "Pa" and the boys would go to the land in the summer to cut and stack the wood for fall. At that time they would go to the woodright to get the wood and use it.

Churches were started all over the county in 1844, 1845, and 1846. But, most of the marriages were performed by Justices of the Peace. On the other hand, taverns were built and were well patronized in all areas. Horse racing was a favorite pastime.

The Civil War had a great effect on these settlers. They were living on the edge of the frontier and felt secure until the war. There were slave owners here, but felt no great losses when the slaves left. The people here seemed to be better off than the people moving in from the South after the war.

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Here is a little gem culled by Earl Cullum from his copy of the 1919 Dallas City Directory:

RAILROADS SERVING DALLAS

Chicago, Rock Island & Gulf - "Rock Island"
to Ringgold & Graham
Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe - "Santa Fe"
to Galveston & Paris (Texas)
Gulf, Texas & Western
Office in Praetorian Building
Houston & Texas Central - "H & TC"
to Chicago, Galveston, New Orleans
Missouri, Kansas & Texas - "Katy"
to St. Louis, Wichita Falls, Galveston
St. Louis & Southwestern (Cotton Belt)
to Memphis & St. Louis
St. Louis & San Francisco (Frisco)
at Union Terminal Station
Texas & Pacific - "T&P"
to El Paso & Texarkana
Texas & New Orleans
to Beaumont
Texas & Northern
Office in Praetorian Building

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.

Dallas County Pioneer Association



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



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