



Dallas County Pioneer Association

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

WINTER 1993

President:
Frances James

PROGRAM FOR DECEMBER 2, 1993

Vice-President:
Nancy McRae

Our program for the December meeting of the DCPA will be presented by Caliente, Inc., a quartette. They will perform from six to six-thirty, before dinner. They said they will sing BEFORE their supper, then join us for dinner.

Secretary:
Nona Williams

This group has been singing together for about three months, and are all members of the Sweet Adelines and the Greater Dallas Chorus. Marlene Snare sings Lead; Judy Adams sings Bass; Judy Heal-Murphy is Baritone; and, Nancy Ratcliff sings Tenor.

Treasurer:
John Winniford

Historian:
Edna Hart

Marlene Snare is their contact person, and she can be reached at 661-4911 from 9 to 5 and at 495-3096 from 6 to 10 p.m.

Program Chairman:
Edna Hart

We are having the short musical program to accommodate the election and installation of new officers and a BIG NOTICE about *Proud Heritage, Volume II*.

Edna Hart

* * * *

Membership Chairman:
Nancy McRae

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Telephone Chairman:
Bill McRae

It seems the year just started and already we are planning the December 2, 1993, meeting of the Dallas County Pioneer Association! One of the best happenings is that Volume II of *Proud Heritage* is finally at the publishers! Anyone who has ever been involved in this type of project knows that it does not just happen. All members of the DCPA need to thank Mattie Hughes and her committee for persevering through computer language, photographic jargon, and publishers' desires to follow this project from start to finish. Now it will be up to all of us to get them all sold!!!

Newsletter:
Marjori Sharp

Meetings:
Wyatt's Cafeteria
Forest & Marsh Lanes

Several months ago we were asked to participate in fund-raising for Old Red. The project was moving along at a rather slow pace and has now ground to a halt, I am told. Seems the County Commissioners put all current plans on hold and hired a consultant from Toronto, who recommended using the space in various ways, including a children's museum. The Steering Committee for the Friends of Old Red report that progress is being made in their plans for the historic building.

I believe it will be worth the time for many of us to go downtown and check out the Pioneer Cemetery by the Convention Center. The Downtown Improvement District funded two separate contracts to have the Cemetery restored. Stones are now upright, old glue that discolored the stones has been removed, dangerous stones that were wobbling and tilted have been stabilized, and several descendants are attempting to have new stones placed. Thanks go to the DID members, and especially to **Patti Kleinknecht** for her personal care and concern. She walked over from her office building on Pacific Avenue periodically to ascertain that the work was progressing to her high standards. **David Herold** was determined to do a good job as cemetery restorer and he is now working on the Mills Cemetery in Garland. The Job Corps crews spent part of the summer at the site, and we all hope they were helped by their experience at working (it was our tax dollars that funded their wages).

Jim Terry, one of our newest members, volunteered to alphabetize the names of pioneers buried at the Pioneer Cemetery. This has been a great help, and now when I am asked about a burial site I can look up the information quickly. This especially helps if the call is long distance!

Another DRT Chapter is investigating the republishing of the small book about the Pioneer Cemetery compiled by **Willie Flowers Carlisle** and her committee back in the 1940s. More on this later.

In October I was asked to speak to the Highland Park DAR Chapter about markers. I also talked to the Hiram Bennett Chapter of the DRT in Mesquite about **Eleanor Heady Russell**, who is buried in Pioneer Cemetery. They are going to pursue a DRT marker for her. I also spoke to the West Dallas Community Council, composed of a large group of the staff members of various community centers in West Dallas. They asked me to describe where West Dallas really was and to tell them some of the history of the area. **Bonnie and Clyde** came up for discussion, but I tried to veer away from that subject - seems there are too many of that ilk driving around our County now.

The Sons of Herman, located at 3414 Elm Street, had the dedication for placing a Dallas Landmark Marker on the building on November 6. This association has been housed in this same wood frame building since 1911. The German fraternal organization sponsors social and benevolent activities that help preserve German traditions. A reception followed the ceremonies.

This 1993 has been a busy year, and we should all look forward to 1994 - can you believe only six years from a new century! I wonder about our ancestors one hundred years ago in 1893. There was a depression and cotton was King!

Frances James

* * * *

OFFICERS TO BE INSTALLED

John Winniford, chairman of the Nominating Committee for officers of the DCPA for the coming year, is pleased to report that all present officers have agreed to serve another term, if elected. He and the other members of the Committee, **Edna Hart** and **William F. Jacoby**, therefore, respectfully submit the following slate:

President, **Frances James**
Vice-president, **Nancy McRae**
Secretary, **Nona Williams**
Treasurer, **John Winniford**
Historian, **Edna Hart**
Newsletter, **Marjori Sharp**

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

* * * *

Dallas County Pioneers in Session at Oak Lawn Park



—Photo by Cummings, Dallas Photograph Company.

DALLAS COUNTY PIONEERS ARE HAVING REUNION

Meet and Talk Over Things of
Past, as Compared With
the Present.

Men and women who builded better than they knew in the pioneer days of Dallas County met in the annual session of the Dallas County Old Settlers' Association at Oak Lawn Park today to review the blessed memories of bygone years, and to rejoice in the glorious fruitage of their eventful lives.

Mayor Henry D. Lindsay gave them chief credit for Dallas' greatness in his welcome address. Former State Senator W. C. McKamy declared that the first demonstration of the "Dallas spirit" was on occasions when the men of Dallas and the surrounding country gathered to fight off Indians in their periodic raids. "Uncle Buck" Hughes, veteran Methodist minister, said a word of tearful memory to those who have gone on to a great pioneers' reunion since the last meeting of the society.

It was an event of signal interest not only to those honored, hoary-headed warriors who carved the first rude image of an empire from the heart of nature, but to their proud sons and daughters of mature years, who have spent their lives under the blessings of peace and happiness as a result of the bravery of their forbears. Grandchildren and great-grandchildren gathered about their beloved old people, supporting them in their infirmity, listening proudly to the tales of "I knew them in Dallas when," and wearing proudly the honor of being descended from such a noble ancestry of deeds and glory.

Epps G. Knight, for many years president of the association, called the assembly together at 10:30 o'clock. From all parts of the city they came in street cars, automobiles and old-fashioned, open-faced surreys, reminders of the grand old equipages of a generation gone. From the country they began to arrive hours before the program started, in wagons and on horseback.

Men were there who killed Indians that future Dallasites might live and flourish. Old-timers were there, and whom other old-timers jokingly called "ancient" and almost-forgotten jokes. Queenly old Southern grandmothers sat in rapture with their old-time friends and reviewed again the scenes of their girlhood.

How's "Possum Crop?"

"John, you remember when if the 'possum crop failed you didn't have much meat, don't you?" one gray-haired veteran asked, and pounded his friend unmercifully in a frontier expression of great mirth.

With his characteristic "Humph," uttered with an eloquent upward jerk of his head after each startling statement, Epps Knight told about the time when his cousin "lay behind a log and killed

seventeen Indians with a Winchester before they could say 'scat, 'lumph."

W. W. Glover of the Scyene community told about the time of a fight between officers and outlaws, in which Sheriff Charley Nichols at Scyene was killed.

"One of the bullets went into the ground right at my foot," said the kindly old man, as his blue eyes beamed like two stars from behind his great white beard. "If I hadn't a-been away from home just when it started I'd a-been in it, I reckon," he added.

The same old-timer told about how Scyene was named by an old settler, who thought he was naming it for the River Seine in France.

"There isn't another town or river in the United States called 'Scyene' except the community where I live," said Mr. Glover.

A. L. Overton was proud of the fact that his father was the second man to take out a marriage license in Dallas County.

"Uncle Buck" Hughes was reminded of the times when he had his sermons interrupted by the cry of "Indians," at which the men of the congregation would pull their sixshooters and drop their Bibles and go for the red devil.

Mayor Lindsay Talks.

"I am reminded," Mayor Lindsay said, "that if Dallas is today 'The City of the Hour,' it is not so much because of the men of brains and talent who have come to us from all parts of the world, and whom we welcome, but chief credit is due to the men and women who, with courage and fortitude, blazed the way for the proud city you enjoy today.

"If those who come to Dallas now and those who grow up here shall meet the problems of our day with the same fine courage and wisdom with which you met and solved the problems of your day, Dallas will continue to grow in greatness and in those principles upon which

NOTE:
SEE
NEXT
PAGE

our Nation is founded."

Responding to the address of welcome, Senator W. C. McKamy told of the staunch comradeship of the men of his father's day, whom he said he remembers as a boy.

"In those days the men of Dallas got in the habit of standing together," Senator McKamy said, "and they have kept at it ever since. The same spirit with which they fought off raiding Indians has built a great city, with all its magnificent institutions."

At 11 o'clock the sad hour of the day arrived and "Uncle Buck" Hughes delivered the memorial address for the departed ones. He read the following names in memory:

Judge T. G. T. Kendall, Miss Connie Jenkins, Mrs. W. D. Chapman, J. T. Ellis, A. B. Rawlins, Dr. Miller, J. C. Garrison, W. M. Bruton, Frank Lovett, W. L. White, Captain E. A. Gracey, W. H. Kennedy, A. C. Jones, Frank Motley, W. R. Brown, Eugene Lively, John D. Cochran and Harvey Newman.

Committees were as follows:

General Arrangements—Captain S. E. Moss, chairman; Captain John H. Gaston and Captain John T. Witt.

Finance—M. L. Buckner, chairman;

Captain June Peak and Tom P. Scott.

Meats—Sam Peterson, chairman; L.

Hughes and H. B. Johnston.

Coffee and Refreshments—John H.

Peargan, chairman; James W. Barton.

Tables, Etc.—W. R. Hughes and P. H.

Peargan.

Officers of Association.

The officers of the association are Epps G. Knight, president; John T. Jones, vice president; the Rev. W. H. Hughes, chaplain; the Hon. W. C. McKamy, secretary; Miss Ada Rawlins, assistant secretary; Captain H. H. Smith, historian. The late E. A. Gracey was treasurer.

Executive Committee—J. H. Ellis, Lancaster; John T. Jones, Garland; Col. E. E. Moss, J. M. Cochran, John T. Witt, June Peak, John H. Gaston, H. B. Johnston and Lee H. Hughes.

A LOOK AT OUR (DCPA) PAST

Earl Cullum sent us a clipping from the *Dallas Evening Journal* dated September 16, 1915, which featured the Dallas County Old Settlers Reunion held at Oak Lawn Park. We have attempted to reproduce it on the previous page, and would like to give you here some more information from that issue of the paper.

The *Journal* consisted of ten pages and sold for one (1) cent. It also featured World War I news stories (see clipping below), and some of the local news was the \$30,000 collected in the SMU fund drive for a new dormitory; the Maple Avenue underpass at the Katy RR tracks, to cost \$56,000; and business men of Dallas organizing in an effort to "stamp out" thefts.

Other tidbits: Colonel W.E. Hughes offered to donate 150 acres of land for a park in North Dallas; Sheriff W.K. Reynolds said he had one auto and one motorcycle, and would "try" to enforce the 18 mph speed limit in the County; the Waldorf Hotel in Dallas advertised rooms at \$1 and \$2 rates; Neiman's advertised womens' trimmed hats at \$5 each; and five Dallas theaters advertised movies and vaudeville at ten cents to eighty-five cents. The paper's scoreboard downtown would post the day's major league baseball results inning by inning as they came in over the wire. And speaking of wire, United Press was doing its thing on that long-ago day, from Vienna "by Courier to Berlin, Thence Via The Hague".

To encourage you to go get that magnifying glass and read the whole story, here are other goodies from the Reunion:

Everyone reminisced about the "good old days", with President Epps G. Knight telling about his consin's killing seventeen Indians in one fight; Rev. "Uncle Buck" Hughes told about the cry of "Indians!" interrupting his sermons, with men grabbing their six-shooters and dropping their Bibles; A.L. Overton said that his father was the second man to take out a marriage license in the County.

And an unsung poet paid tribute to the old settlers with this poem:

OLD SETTLERS MEET IN DALLAS.

With hoary heads and halting steps
They come together once a year,
To talk of days long past and gone,
And lovingly to drop a tear
For those who helped to bear the brunt;
But do not answer "Here!" today,
Nor are they found among the crowd,
For they have fallen by the way.

And yet the light of life is strong,
In eyes that still in fondness gaze,
Afar to where a village lies
Surrounded by a tender haze;
The nucleus of what, today,
We know as Dallas, spreading, grand,
The hub of Texas, thrifty State,
And proudest city in the land.

Where stretch our mettled streets, in
pride,
Old settlers' vision muddy roads,
Along which oxen, yoke on yoke,
Were wont to drag their heavy loads;
While men of rough and savage mien
Conducted them with oaths and whips,
And spiced their labor cheerfully
With laugh and song from smiling lips.

They were the van of Progress then,
The harbingers of rail and steam,
While interurbans, auto cars,
And such at that, were not a dream!
Nor were the shafts of steel and stone
That pierce the arching sky today
Gigantic temples built for trade—
Mile-stones of progress, by the way.

The scroll of memory, I ween,
In many a good old settler's brain,
Can call the hamlet, Dallas, back,
In retrospect, and see it plain;
Its shanty stores, its muddy streets,
Its early days with hardships rife.
The friendly faces dead and gone,
And all the scenes of frontier life.

Aladdin, though, has rubbed his lamp,
And lo! observe the startling change;
Why to those hoary-headed ones
Their present homesteads must seem
... strange,
Surrounded as they are today
By all that makes a city great;
The clang of commerce, hum of trade,
And bustle of a thriving State.
—Jake H. Harrison.

DALLAS TEXAS, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1915 — TEN PAGES

VALUABLE AMERICAN CARGOES ARE SEIZED BY THE BRITISH

By The United Press.

London, Sept. 16.—Valuable cargoes on several ships bound from America to Copenhagen were seized by the Admiralty prize court in a judgment handed down today. In delivering the judgment Sir Samuel Evans charged that a number of American shippers had attempted to evade the British blockade of Germany through false manifests and warned them that their acts would

"weigh heavily against them in the future."

Sir Samuel said that it was very plain that portions of some cargoes consigned by American shippers to Copenhagen were intended for Germany. He specified in particular cargoes of tinned meats and rubber found aboard the ships brought into English harbors while en route to Copenhagen.

All of the cargoes were confiscated

except small portions which the claimants proved were consigned to neutrals and were for neutral consumption.

The cases disposed of today are those of the Norwegian steamers Kim, Alfred Nobel and Bjornhtjarne Bjornson, and the Swedish steamer Fridland, all bound to Copenhagen from America.

The value of the goods confiscated is estimated at more than \$10,000,000. American meat packers are the heaviest sufferers.

IT'S COMING - IT REALLY IS!

Proud Heritage, Volume II is now being printed and will be available in December - yes, this year!

Mattie Hughes, chairman, and her Book Committee have doggedly worked their way through all obstacles - you wouldn't believe the stops and starts they have had to make. They stayed the course, and we thank them, because it is paying off.

If you want your book(s) mailed to you, please use the "coupon" on the inside page of the address page of this newsletter - "for your convenience" - where you will find given the price of the book and postage for each.

* * * *

NATIVE DALLASITE DIES AT AGE NINETY-FIVE

September 26 marked the passing, at age ninety-five, of **Nora Armine Williams**, aunt and dear friend to three DCPA members: **Linda Frank** and **Rayburn** and **Nona Williams**.

Armine was born July 16, 1898, on the old Lumley place in Lawson, Dallas County. She was the daughter of **Stephen Harvey Moore** and his second wife **Rhoda Culbertson**, who settled in the village of Lawson (formerly Haught's Store) about 1890. Her father, in addition to being a farmer, was an excellent carpenter who assisted in the construction of the wooden bridges, schools, and churches in this rural community where Armine grew to maturity.

She retained an exceptional memory and enjoyed telling stories about her childhood in Dallas County with recollections of her Culbertson and her **Burke** grandparents, who lived a day's wagon-drive away at Chalk Hill, and of her neighbors, some of whom were descendants of the **Haughts**. Several of these stories are the basis of articles in DCPA's forthcoming book, *Proud Heritage, Volume II*.

Armine married **Doyle W. Williams** when he returned from World War I, and they farmed for several years at Lawson before moving into the City of Dallas.

She also left a brother, **Lowell Moore**; two daughters, **Theda Miller** and **Fredna Kurz**; two daughters-in-law, **Jean Williams** and **Alta Ackerman**; and numerous grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Nona Williams

* * * *

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome eleven year-old Student Member **Mary Elizabeth ^①Reed**, daughter of **Dianne Janicek** and **Albert William Reed, III**, and granddaughter of **Clyde Thomas** and our member **Irma Carsey Janicek**. Irma's parents were **George Thomas Carsey**, born 1888 and **Bertha Peterman**, born 1893 in Dallas. Bertha's parents were **Michael Henry Peterman**, born 1861 in Canada, and **Bertha Christine Frichot**, born 1866 in Dallas. Bertha Christine was the daughter of **Christopher Desiree Frichot** born in France and **Suzanna Boll**, born in Switzerland, who married in 1857 in Dallas. Christopher and his brother **Pierre** were early brick manufacturers in Dallas. Mary Elizabeth lives at 10447 Cromwell Drive, Dallas 75229, 350-3794.

Welcome back former member **Mary Elizabeth ^②Hart Range**. She descends from **Jacob Hart**, born 1794 in North Carolina, who married **Elizabeth Hofheintz/Huffines** and came to Dallas in 1844. They lived in the area of the old courthouse in downtown Dallas. Their son, **Abraham**, born 1822, married **Elizabeth Ray** in 1848 and is buried in the Cox Cemetery in Dallas. Their son, **Edward Crosby Hart**, born 1862, married **Elva Paxton**, and their son was **Jesse William Hart**, born 1886 in Reinhardt, who ran a cotton gin with his father. Mary Elizabeth's address is 718 N. Wall Street, Belton, TX 76513, (817) 933-1416.

Please welcome new Associate Member, **Marjorie McKee Anderson**, retired teacher, whose family came to Dallas from Navarro County and were charter members of the Highland Park Presbyterian Church. Marjorie is interested in history and genealogy. She lives at 13930 Rolling Hills Lane, Dallas 75240-3830, 907-0703.

We also welcome **Gloria Nell Wolford Stone** and **Myra Best Glass**, whose profiles will follow on receipt of their applications for membership. Gloria lives in Mount Pleasant, P.O. Box 1050, 75456, and Myra's address is 6335 W. Northwest Highway #515, 75225, 361-5379.

* * * *

MINUTES OF MEETING SEPTEMBER 2, 1993

The DCPA held its quarterly meeting on 2 September, 1993, at Wyatt's Cafeteria on Marsh and Forest Lanes.

President **Frances James** opened the meeting with Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States and the Texas flag.

Membership certificates were presented to **Marlin Lee Gilbert**, **Mary Louise Dodge**, **Bernard Coffey**, **Howard Christopher**, **Linda Lee Hines** (which was accepted by **Nancy McRae**, mother of Linda), **Faye Thomas Evans**, **Victoria Elizabeth Duncan**, and **Helen Swint**.

Earl Cullum was congratulated on his upcoming eightieth birthday. **Marilyn Miller** was commended for the research done on the **Connor-Crowdus** family, whose members are buried at the Pioneer Cemetery. **Jim Terry** was acknowledged for his intent to computerize the burial records at Pioneer Cemetery for DCPA. Dedication of Grapevine Springs was announced for September 25. Frances reported further delay on Volume II, attributed to indexing problems. **John Winniford** was appointed chairman of the Nominating Committee for new officers for the coming year.

Guests were asked to stand and identify themselves. Registered guests were **Richard and Katherine Hulen**, **Josephine Schrock**, **Joan Pickard**, **Jo Blont**, **Curtis A. Flatt**, **Jane and Pat Patillo**, **Oliver and Mildred Huffhines**, **Mary Reed**, **Betty and Kelly Bailey**, **Rod and Susan Gilbert**, **Robin Bowling**, **Elizabeth C. Downing**, **Marylou Buntyn**, **Martha Gracey**, **Conway Thetford**, **Mary Stephens**, **Judy B. Vance**, **Billie McCulloch**, **Stan A. Penner**, **Pattie Sue Shoaf**, **Jim Terry**, **Rose Béderman**, **Ms. D.J. Young**, **Gladys Carnes**, and **Wayne Shipley**.

Edna Hart introduced **Rose-Mary Rumbley**, who delighted the overflow crowd with a pre-television stroll down memory lane with noted radio personalities of the 20s and 30s - newscasters, **Walter Winchell** and others; comedians, such as **George Burns** and **Gracie Allen**; radio evangelists; gospel musicians, such as the **Stamps Quartet**; sportscasters; patent medicines - **Dr. Brinkley** from Del Rio, Texas, and **Crazy Water Crystals** from Mineral Wells; **Burrus Mills**, with **W. Lee O'Daniel** and the **Light Crust Doughboys**; **Soap Operas** - **Ma Perkins**, **Stella Dallas**, and **Helen Trent**; and mystery stories, such as **Inner Sanctum**.

Joan Dobson offered for sale copies of the book *Hidden City - Oak Cliff, Texas*.

The meeting was adjourned.

Nona Williams

* * * *

*Pay your dues. They are due in January and will be delinquent in March. You do want to be included in the new Roster, coming along between March and June, don't you? Dues are still the same: \$15 per person, \$25 per couple. Initiation fee (if you are just joining us) is \$10 each and \$15 per couple. Pay to Treasurer **John Winniford** at the December meeting or mail to him at 6927 Chevy Chase, Dallas, TX 75225-2416.*

FINAL FAREWELLS

New member **Lucille Rorex Preston**, died on October 26 at the age of seventy-seven, of an apparent heart attack. She was a "pioneer Texas career woman", according to her nephew, **Jack Ridley** of Boston, and was active in the business world and politics. Her Rorex grandparents came to Dallas in 1888 from Alabama and grew cotton in the area now included in the grounds of the State Fair of Texas. Her father, **Charles William Rorex**, was four years old when the family arrived. They later moved to the Watson community of Arlington, where the grandparents lived out their lives. Charles, born 1884, married **Essie Mae Wheeler**, born 1890, and they were the parents of **Lassie Marie**, **Nell**, and **Lucille**. Lucille was interred at the P.A. Watson Cemetery in Arlington, where her family is buried.

DCPA member **Walter H. Thompson, Jr.**, died on August 24. He was descended from **Eli Merrill**, and for the last several years had kept the records on the Merrill Cemetery.

Ellen C. Du Priest, who died on October 6, is survived by her son **Dennis** and his wife **Bette Du Priest**, who are members of DCPA. She was buried at Grove Hill Memorial Park.

Dr. Ruth Hibbard, longtime DCPA member, survives her brother, **Harold N. (Hap) Arnold**, who died on October 31 and was entombed at Restland Chapel Gardens Mausoleum. He was a veteran of World War II, serving in the Pacific.

John Winniford and his wife **Mary Alice** are among survivors of his brother, **Charles E. (Chabby), Jr.**, who died on August 20. He was interred at Edgewood Cemetery in Lancaster. A native of Dallas, he had lived in McKinney, where he was active in civic affairs, church and school boards, volunteer fire department, Camp Fire, the Heritage Guild of Collin County, and various social organizations.

* * * *

*We made a typo in the September newsletter: in the Profile of new member **Ora Nell Deets Walker**, nine lines down, the name "Maggie" should be "Mattie". We apologize, Nell.*

* * * *

UPDATE FROM SICKBAY

Florence Schulz had a pacemaker installed on Monday, November 1, and at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, November 3 she kept an appointment at the beauty parlor. So? So!!! Florence is eighty-four years young! (She gave us her permission to tell you.) **Sara McGee** sent us this message on October 24: "Florence Schulz will have pacemaker surgery around November 1. We surely hope she is up and at 'em by now (publication time)". Boy, was she ever!

Mary Sutherland was in Presbyterian for surgery in late October, and the latest word from her daughter **Glenda Cammack** is that she is doing fine and is all the better for it.

Sara sent cards to each from us.

* * * *

*Aren't we pleased to have new member, eleven year-old **Mary Elizabeth Reed**? Are you aware that the Dallas County Pioneer Association has no restrictions on age? We don't come too young or too old. So, as soon as they are allowed to stay up past 8 p.m., let's sign 'em up and rope 'em in.*

* * * *

PAY YOUR DUES!

Wednesday, October 20, 1993

©1993, The Dallas Morning News

The Dallas Morning News



Judging at the State Fair isn't a piece of cake for John Winniford (left) and Warren Gould.

A sampling of entries in the cake contest (below), which attracted 358 entries this year.

The Dallas Morning News: Randy Eli Grothe

It's a tough job ...

... but someone has to do it!



The Dallas Morning News: Randy Eli Gro

DEALEY PLAZA DEDICATION

by Frances James

There will be another dedication at Dealey Plaza on November 22. This is to commemorate Dallas' newest National Historic Landmark, to be called the Dealey Plaza National Historic Landmark.

This site in downtown Dallas was important to Dallasites for many years before it became Dealey Plaza. On the map of the original Town of Dallas which was platted in 1846, this was Block No. 1. The first deed records that appear regarding this block indicate that **John Neely Bryan** and wife **Margaret** transferred Lots 6 and 7 to **James B. Bryan** in October 1846. Lots 1 and 4 were transferred to **Charles Durgen**, **C.N. Stankey**, and **Mortimer Ward** on the same date. Lots 2 and 3 were transferred to **William Traughber** later in the same month. The last segment was a bond for a deed to **J.M. Patterson**. The note on this transaction states that this bond was confirmed by a deed that was dated February 6, 1852.

The above information was taken from a copy of the local History and Genealogical Society, Volume XII, Number One, dated March 1966. **Robert T. Gill** compiled all this information for the future students of history in Dallas to use!

In 1935-36 this Plaza was proposed on vacant land that had been cleared to allow the Triple Underpass to be constructed. There had been quite a long battle between property owners of this land who held out for higher prices when the State, County, and City finally decided to condemn the land and run Commerce, Main, and Elm Streets under the railroad tracks - instead of lowering the tracks. Does this sound familiar? In the Dealey papers at the Hall of State at Fair Park there are many notes and clippings attesting to this 1930s battle.

The original park on three and one-half acres of land was designed by a landscape architectural firm from Kansas City. This firm, **Hare and Hare**, designed parks, cemeteries, building grounds, and urban design in twenty-eight states. The son, **S. Herbert Hare**, studied under **Frederick Law Olmstead** at Harvard. Many of the plans submitted for Dallas from the Kessler Plan were continued by **Hare and Hare** after Kessler's death in 1923. They were friends and contemporaries.

When the Trinity River was relocated and the railroad tracks moved over for the Triple Underpass, it was said to be the largest project of its kind in the United States. The Park Board, at that time headed by **President Jim Dan Sullivan**, announced in 1935 that they would "name the Plaza 'Dealey Plaza' so that the City would always have a reminder of the good Mr. Dealey is doing and has done in the years he has lived and worked among us." **George Bannerman Dealey** was among the strong, dedicated men in Dallas who worked so hard to keep the levee project for the Trinity on track for over twenty years. Through the Great Depression these civic leaders remained focused on saving Dallas from flooding again.

In November 1949, at the Plaza, a bronze figure of **George Bannerman Dealey** was dedicated. Four panels of bas-relief further memorialize the life and deeds of Dealey. The description on this monument depicts his life's endeavor: Journalism, History, Philanthropy, and Civics. The sculptor of this monument was Austrian-born **Felix De Weldon**, who later worked on the huge bronze group depicting the flag-raising at Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima.

Part of the funding for the Plaza came from WPA. It was originally planned to have the statue of **Robert E. Lee** placed at this site, but as we all know, that is now at Lee Park on Turtle Creek. **George Dahl** was the architect for both projects. There are plaques and markers referring to **Sarah and Alexander Cockrell** who lived nearby, as well as other sad events that have taken place in this vicinity in the last thirty years.

It is too bad that something so proudly designed and carefully planned to be the Gateway to the City of Dallas has become associated with the few seconds in time when **John F. Kennedy** was assassinated as he was driven past in 1963.

* * * *

GARVIN MEMORIAL CEMETERY - SMITH HALL CEMETERY

by Frances James

This Garvin Memorial Cemetery, in the 3800 block of Northwest Highway, has generated a lot of calls and interest this last ten years. It is flanked by the Sherwood Forest Apartments on the west side, Cochran Heights addition on the east side, and extends nearly to Bachman Creek on the south side. There is a Texas Historical Marker on the site, placed there in 1981.

Part of the interest in this spot was generated by developers, who hoped to "find" another spot to erect apartments. Other grateful interest was from Boy Scouts looking for an Eagle Project, as it seemed to always need a cleanup.

I had been in contact with **Jesse Swor**, the only interested person in 1983. He once told me, "If you ever read my obituary - you can plan on taking over the maintenance, as no one else is interested. Jesse died in November 1986. He was correct in regard to the maintenance of the Cemetery.

Mr. Swor attempted to "give" the site to the County, but they did not accept the gift.

I made an attempt to contact the Smith Hall Lodge in Farmers Branch, as this Cemetery was called the Smith Hall Cemetery at one time, and I understood that the Lodge met in a building nearby. That was to no avail.

In 1988 a member of Boy Scout Troup No. 712 contacted me and this group did a great job of cleaning it up, even sending me a "thank you" for furnishing them a history of the Cemetery! This Troop had hoped to keep the site maintained for a Troop Project, but these plans did not materialize. In 1990 another Boy Scout Troop, No. 106, cleaned it up in November and it looked nice all winter.

In 1992 one Boy Scout needed to hurry up and complete his project, as he was nearly eighteen. This was an inner city group and their leader was **Larry Kirk**. I saw Mr. Kirk recently and he has had both of his legs amputated at the knee. He had a big smile when he saw me and told me that he could do everything he had ever done before from his wheel chair. A real role model! This group also attacked the project with vigor and even repainted the wooden sign that faded so badly.

Recently, the homeowners along Cochran Heights whose area is adjacent to the Cemetery have expressed an interest in its maintenance and plan on cleaning it up at least twice a year. They were aghast at the vandalism taking place, with vehicles driving through the land. The crypt of **Joseph S. Garvin** had been broken into. Attorney **Tom Smith** of this neighborhood has been instrumental in this planned cleanup.

Some of you may remember the area before the Sherwood Forest Apartment complex was built, as it was the Lambert Gardens location in the 1960s.

James G. Garvin married four times and this has contributed to the mixup in the deed records and subsequent lack of family interest. James came to Dallas County in 1865 from Howard County, Missouri. According to the information provided by Jesse Swor when he applied for the Texas Historical Marker, Garvin had a grocery and feed store on Ross Avenue for six years before settling on his 200-acre farm. He and his wife **Catherine Tompkins** had six children: **William, Laura, Martha, Minerva, Robert, and Joseph**. Catherine died in October 1875 and was buried on this corner of the farm along with other early settlers who now lie in unmarked graves. Another early burial was that of **Martha Mathis**, April 1876, wife of **William H. Mathis**.

Later in 1876 Garvin married **Mollie Hedrick** of Denton County. In only two years Mollie had died and Garvin married **Louise Smith** in 1879. **Ann Eliza Haines** was the fourth wife, and he supposedly married her in 1883. Garvin recorded the deed to the Cemetery in 1897 before his own death.

Other donors of this site are Colonel **William L. Crawford** and brother Judge **M.L. Crawford**. It is not clear from this application what part the Crawfords had in the Cemetery, as there are no known members of these families buried here.

Other families who had members buried here are Captain Pleasant G. Swor, who died in 1878 and his wife Martha Winn, who died in 1888. They had married in 1871. Pleasant was a Confederate veteran and Martha was a member of the Winn family which has some members buried in the Pioneer Cemetery downtown. Saphronia Winn had married William Robert Smith in 1858. William was the son of the Rev. James A. Smith, and he named the Lodge he organized for his father. William was the first Worshipful Master of that Lodge. Two of the Swor children are buried in unmarked graves in this Cemetery.

The names of other persons who can be identified are Myrtle Morris, Eliza Mayes and Clint Sparkman, and Daniel and Jane Travis. Theo Belle Ferrell West (1859-1888) is also buried at this site. Theo and George F. West were married in 1882. This Cemetery was of special interest to DCPA members Nona Williams and Edna Hart, who recently inventoried it. Rayburn Williams' (Nona's husband) relatives, the James P. Fergusons, rented a farm from George West in 1860.

The Lively family owned property nearby, as well as the Cochrans. The Cochran Chapel Cemetery and Church are less than a mile from this site.

Another interesting aspect of the Garvin (Smith Hall) Cemetery is that about fifty feet further back toward Bachman Creek is the site of a Negro cemetery. Cynthia Jones called to tell me that her grandfather is still alive at age ninety-seven and he told her that John Cochran gave the land for the Old Negro Cemetery, where Cynthia's great grandparents are buried. Others from the Elm Thicket community, namely Turners, Greens, and Shepards are buried in this special place. No gravemarkers have been discovered in this area, but maps from County records verify this information. More research of the site is planned.

There is Dallas County history all around us: all we have to do is discover it!

* * * *

Aren't we blessed to have Frances James? She researches so diligently and intelligently, writes so beautifully and with such feeling, and presides so masterfully at our meetings. Long may she endure!

Clip and Mail

Dallas County Pioneer Association
P.O. Box 12496
Dallas, Texas 75225-0496

Price (per book) Volume II	\$35.00
" " " Volume I	35.00
Shipping Charge (per book)	2.50

Number of Copies _____	Amount \$ _____
Shipping Charges _____	_____
Total Amount Enclosed _____	_____

Please make check payable to Dallas County Pioneer Association

Your name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Telephone Number _____

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



Mrs. Frances James
4322 St. Francis
Dallas TX 75227-1726

