



Dallas County Pioneer Association

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

SPRING 1994

PROGRAM FOR MARCH 3, 1994

President:
Frances James

One person can make a difference. Several years ago Verlana Whiteley Bush, a native Dallasite, moved back to Dallas and became interested in the history of art in the City and early Dallas artists. She discovered Frank Reaugh and has become one of his most avid collectors. She has researched his life, including his companions - for instance, Temple Houston, son of Sam Houston, who was also called "Romeo". Her personal collection of Reaugh's art and artifacts include a box camera as well as materials related to some of his inventions, his poetry, and his friends. She currently works for the City of Dallas in the Planning Department.

Vice-President:
Nancy McRae

Secretary:
Nona Williams

Treasurer:
John Winniford

Historian:
Edna Hart

Verlana will bring our program on Thursday night, March 3, speaking to us on the artist, Frank Reaugh. He came to Texas as a young man, and was smitten with the beauty of the land, especially fascinated with Texas longhorns and bluebonnets, as evidenced by his paintings. He did considerable research on bluebonnets and on longhorns and other cattle.

Program Chairman:
Edna Hart

On a personal note, Reaugh's studio, El Sivil, was across the street from Lake Cliff Park in Oak Cliff, and I walked past his house many times on my way to swim in the Park as a girl. Also, my aunt had lessons in pastels with him. I didn't know him, myself.

Membership Chairman:
Nancy McRae

Don't miss this meeting, and don't forget to pick up your new Roster.

Edna Hart

Telephone Chairman:
Bill McRae

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Newsletter:
Marjori Sharp

By now, many of you have had time to read your copy of *Proud Heritage, Volume II*. It did arrive from the printers in time for 1993 Christmas presents, which had been requested by many of you.

Meetings:
Wyatt's Cafeteria
Forest & Marsh Lanes

There is one subject that I really want to emphasize, and that is about the material included in the book: some of the individual family stories were written by family members and pertained to information not available anywhere else. This has really added to the history of Dallas County and will be referred to from now on by researchers.

My concern is with some of the articles in the book that were submitted by some of us. For instance, the material concerning **Warren A. Ferris** was researched and prepared for inclusion in a book by **Susanne Starling**. She is the author of a forthcoming biography of Warren Ferris and has traveled across the United States compiling the material for her book. Susanne is a retired instructor of Dallas Community College. She co-authored *A Stake in the Prairie*, the history of Mesquite and east Dallas County. She deserves all the credit for the history of Warren Ferris, one of Dallas County's first surveyors.

The *History of the City of Dallas* was compiled by **Gerald Saxon**, while he was still with the City's library system. Gerald prepared this information that was included in an application for a Texas Historical Marker for the City. By the way, this Marker is placed across the street from the Library in a wall at the corner of Ervay and Young Streets. We can also thank Gerald for all his work, research, interest, and perseverance in getting the WPA book published. Gerald Saxon is currently the Assistant Director for Special Collections at the University of Texas at Arlington Libraries. He and our own Marcelle Hull share their working lives at this great facility.

Sometimes, in assembling a book like our *Proud Heritage, Volume II*, the credits get lost. I want everyone to know about the above friends of the Dallas County Pioneer Association.

Frances James

* * * * *

Frances had unwelcome news from another good friend of DCPA, **Joan Dobson**, who was our liaison with the Dallas Public Library and kept us abreast of new books that we should know about. Here is a copy of her letter:

Dear Frances:

I would like to thank all of the members of the Dallas County Pioneers for making me feel so welcome at the meetings and for all of their help in many research projects. I have enjoyed attending the meetings and I have learned so much from all of you. Even though my roots are in Chicago, you have made me feel as though I really am from Texas.

I am leaving the library and the Dallas area at the end of December. My husband and I are building a bed and breakfast on the gorge of the Rio Grande River, just north of Taos, New Mexico. We are going to have a true pioneer experience as we are actually constructing this ourselves. As the area is remote and sensitive environmentally, we will have solar power, a deep well, and some very strange plumbing arrangements. To begin with, we will have none of the above, very primitive.

I will send you a brochure when we are ready to receive guests.

Sincerely,

Joan L. Dobson
Texas/Dallas History

* * * * *

**ANOTHER GOOD REASON TO COME TO THE SPRING
MEETING ON MARCH 3: OUR NEW ROSTERS WILL BE
AVAILABLE THERE. PICK UP YOURS, AND KEEP IN
TOUCH WITH EACH OTHER. WE WILL MAIL THEM TO
OUT-OF-TOWNERS, AS USUAL.**

MINUTES OF MEETING DECEMBER 2, 1993

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

Registered members and guests totalled only sixty-seven, probably due to inclement weather. Guests included Robyn and Jimmie Bowling, children of Shannon Bowling; Rebecca Reed, granddaughter of Irma Janicek; Nita Butler, guest of Mary Louise Dodge; Beverly Dyer Sewell, daughter of Louie-Payne Dyer; Carolyn McCoy Slaughter, guest of Helen Swint; and the four members of the "Caliente, Inc." quartette: Judy Adams, Marlene Snare, Judy Heal-Murphy, and Nancy Ratcliff.

Edna Hart introduced the "Caliente, Inc." quartette, whose members entertained us with a bit of slapstick comedy along with their rendition of traditional Christmas carols.

Mattie Hughes announced that the long-awaited *Proud Heritage, II* is on hand. Mattie extended her thanks to the Book Committee and others who contributed their time and effort to the preparation of the book for publishing. Tables were set up for distribution to prepaid purchasers and new sales of Vol. I and Vol. II. Future orders may be made by contacting one of the officers or writing to DCPA, P.O. Box 12496, Dallas, Texas 75226-0496. Photographs submitted with stories will be made available after Christmas by calling Mattie Hughes at 361-4405.

President Frances James announced the names of the slate of officers presented by Nominating Committee John Winniford, Edna Hart, and Bill Jacoby. No nominations were made from the floor. Sara McGee moved and Barney Jones seconded the motion that we accept the Committee's recommendations. The following were elected by acclamation and duly installed by Past President Sara McGee:

President - Frances James
Vice-President - Nancy McRae
Treasurer - John C. Winniford
Secretary - Nona Williams
Newsletter Editor - Marjori Sharp
Historian - Edna Hart

A Student Membership certificate was presented to Mary Elizabeth Reed, granddaughter of Irma Janicek. Other membership certificates will be mailed.

Edna Hart asked if anyone interested in taking a more active role in the organization will please let us know.

Dues for 1994 are due January 1 and are delinquent in March.

Frances James brought us up to date on historical markers being processed: Trinity Farms, Knox-Henderson Shopping Center, and Highland Park Pharmacy; and upon cemetery restorations completed or in process, i.e. Pioneer, Beeman, and Mills in Garland. Information is being sought on the Horton Cemetery. Frances asked that we take time to stop and read historical markers and be aware of the time and effort which go into the research involved in securing them. Perpetuating the memory and history of Dallas County, its people and its buildings, is a primary objective of this organization.

Frances extended condolences to the Robert Skiles family in the loss of their loved one.

Mary Cullum is not doing well, and will undergo further chemotherapy.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Nona Williams

BE SURE TO PICK UP YOUR NEW ROSTER AT THE MEETING

FINAL FAREWELLS

On December 10, 1993, **Leon James**, husband of our president, **Frances James**, passed away after a long and complicated illness. Though most of us did not know Leon personally, our sincerest sympathies go to Frances and the family. We know the trials she endured during his illness, making sure that he was lovingly cared for, yet never missing her responsibilities to our organization and all the others to which she gives so much. Frances, our thoughts and prayers are with you. We all share your grief.

DCPA Charter member **Cecil McComas**, descendant of a pioneer Dallas family, died at age ninety-three on December 10 in a Temple hospital and was buried at Cox Cemetery in Dallas. Although he was blind, Cecil asked that his DCPA newsletter continue to be sent to him at the Veterans Hospital in Temple.

Bertha E. Fritz, another Charter member and cousin of DCPA member **Louise Buhrer**, passed away on January 19. A charter member of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Dallas, Bertha was buried at Restland Memorial Park. Our love and sympathies go to Louise and other members of the family.

Early Thursday morning January 7, our dear **Mary Cullum** lost a long, brave and valiant fight against cancer. Mary, with husband Col. (Ret.) **Earl O. Cullum**, joined the Dallas County Pioneer Association at the time of the reorganization, in 1979, as Life and Charter members. She served as secretary for five years and was named to the Roll of Honor during that time. She retired only because of her failing health. Even though gravely ill, she continued to attend as many meetings as she could, the last being September, 1993.

Not only was Mary a most dedicated and efficient officer, she was always willing to lend a helping hand to those of us who relied so heavily on her expertise and knowledge. Her gentle charm, her cheerful smile and generous giving of herself, will be missed by all whose lives she touched - and we are many.

Words cannot express our sorrow. Our most sincere sympathies and prayers are with Earl and all the family. Though she will be missed, because we know how much she loved our organization, she will always be with us in spirit.

Sara H. McGee, for all the members of the
Dallas County Pioneer Association

* * * * *

DCPA GETS A PLUG IN HOUSTON PAPER

Mic Barnette, who writes the column "Your Family Tree" in *The Houston Chronicle*, sent us a copy of his column of August 14, 1993, in which he wrote:

"The Dallas County Pioneer Association was founded July 13, 1875, and disappeared during the 1920s. It was revived and reorganized April 5, 1979. Membership is open to anyone who is a direct descendant or a person who resided in what is today Dallas County before Jan. 1, 1880. Associate membership also is open.

"The purpose of this society is to perpetuate the memory and spirit of men and women who lived in Dallas County prior 1880; to encourage historical research of Dallas County and cities of Dallas County; and to foster the preservation of historical buildings, documents and relics."

He also gave meeting dates and information pertaining to membership.

Barnette added a note: "Attached is a column of which I wrote of your Society. You might wish to put me on your list to receive your newsletter so I may tell Houstonians or Dallasites in Houston of your progress."

You bet we will!

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Gloria Nell Wolford Stone, wife of Dr. James Louis Stone, Sr., joined us in January. She descends from Willis Lapsley Wolford, born 1827, who with his wife, Prudence Chamberland, born 1833, came to Dallas County in 1856 from Kentucky. They lived in the Garland-Mesquite-Housley (Rose Hill) section of the County. He died in 1869, and she in 1926, and they are buried at the Lyons Cemetery in Mesquite. Their son, William Willis Wolford, born 1849 in Russell County, Kentucky, married Eliza Jane Killgore, born 1862 in Tennessee, in Dallas in 1877. They both died in 1924 and also are buried at the Lyons Cemetery. Their son, Mideon Clifton, was born in 1899 in Mesquite. He married Ira Blanche Pearce in Dallas in 1922, and they were the parents of Gloria Nell.

James L. "Jim" Terry, who joined us in November, has an impressive list of Dallas County pioneer ancestors. He is descended from Jacob Hart, born in North Carolina, and Elizabeth Huffines, who came to Dallas in 1844 and first lived in what is now downtown Dallas. Their son, Abraham, married Elizabeth Ray in 1848; both of them are buried in Cox Cemetery. Their daughter, Elizabeth Jane, born 1852, married Robert P. Bethurum, Jr., in Waxahachie in 1866. They, too, are buried in Cox Cemetery.

Robert was the son of Robert P. Bethurum, born about 1791 in Kentucky, who came to Dallas with his wife Electa Ann Underwood in 1844. (She was buried at Grove Hill Cemetery.) Their daughter, Edna A. Bethurum, born 1889, married Lester P. Abel in 1906, and they were the parents of Frances Sue, who married A.J. Terry, and they were the parents of Jim.

Jim has already helped us immensely by indexing the Pioneer Cemetery in downtown Dallas.

* * * * *

Most of us have paid our 1994 dues, but some of us have forgotten. If you are one who has, please do it now. We put you in the new Roster this time, but we won't again, unless you ante up. If you aren't sure about yours, call me at 368-6672. Thanks.

John Winniford, Treasurer

* * * * *

We would like to share with you a nice letter from a long-time member who stays in touch long distance with DCPA through the newsletter:

Dear Mr. Winniford, Treasurer

November 24, 1993

The last Pioneer Association newsletter was very interesting and also a reminder to pay dues.

Members need good reminders, especially at this time of the year when nearly everyone is thinking about holidays and responsibilities regarding families. I subscribe to a few other newsletters where ancestors lived and I wish all would place a well-worded item in their newsletters since I have a tendency to forget to pay dues until a month or so after January 1st. I suspect others may do the same thing.

Best wishes to all good folks at the Pioneer Association for the new year 1994.

I have enclosed my check in the amount of \$15.00 for renewal membership 1994.

Sincerely,
(Charles G. Bowen)
San Diego, California

Isn't it nice to hear from some of our friends in other climes who we can't visit in person. Thanks, Charles.

The pictures used in *Proud Heritage, Volume II*, will be available at our March meeting. Be prepared with the name of the story and page number, so we will be sure to get it all right.

You will be asked to sign for your pictures as you pick them up, so we can keep an accurate record of where they are. Thank you.

Mattie Hughes, Chairman

* * * * *

John Winniford and Nancy McRae have passed to us some very nice comments about *Proud Heritage, Volume II*, and we would like to have you enjoy them, too:

"Whoops! I thought I had purchased a copy of *Proud Heritage, Volume II*, some time ago, but yesterday, I mailed in an order for two more copies. I hope this note will reach you before you fill it. I want only 1 more copy of Vol. II, and I want 1 copy of Vol. I instead.

"The Vol. II I received today was very nice. I appreciate the coverage you gave our article."

Mrs. Alfred S. Jackson, Canadian TX.

"I received my copy of *Proud Heritage II Pioneers of Dallas County* today and words cannot express my appreciation to the Dallas County Pioneer Association for publishing it. For many years now I have tried time and time again to make known the story of the Myers and Shipley families and the part that they played in Dallas County, but to no avail, until now. What a thrill it was for me to open the book and see the pictures of my relatives and to read the articles about them.

"I know that many many hours went into prepublication preparation and many of those that worked so hard to turn out this first class edition will remain unknown to the readers - I wish that I could say 'thank you' to each and every one of them.

"The workmanship, the beautiful paper, the large size easy to read type make this book a real bargain for a mere \$37.50, and I am sure that you will quickly sell every copy that you have.

"Thank you for the order forms - I have mailed them to other family members and I am sure that you will receive additional orders from them soon.

"I can die happy now as all of the one of a kind picture of relatives I own have now been reproduced for all to see.

"Thank you so much."

Wilbur Thomas Myers, Sulphur Springs TX

(Wilbur wrote on stationery stating that he is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, the Sons of the Republic of Texas, and Sons of the Confederate Veterans. We are proud to have such an American patriot make a contribution to our book, and we do appreciate his letter.)

We have one more on the next page.

"The new 'Proud Heritage II' is a beautiful book and everyone should be proud. I have both volumes and have sincerely enjoyed the memories it brought back to me and my family."

Gloria N. Stone, Mt. Pleasant TX

Gloria is a new member of DCPA, but says she has been enjoying the newsletters since 1992. She needs some help in digging out more roots of her late husband's family tree. Dr. James L. Stone, Sr. was descended from James S. Brady, who, Gloria has reason to believe, was buried in Pioneer Cemetery. James' first wife, Emma O'Bannon Brady, was buried in Greenwood Cemetery. She would appreciate a listing of burial plots of the Pioneer Cemetery (Frances?) and any other information anyone can give to her. She says she seldom can get to Dallas.

* * * * *

UPDATE FROM SICKBAY

Gerard Dickinson's son Pete, is in M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston, recovering from surgery for bone marrow transplant on February 4. He seems to be doing very well, and says he feels like he has a new lease on life. Our best wishes to the family for a full and speedy recovery.

We were extremely sad to receive the news that Earl O. Cullum's son, Richard O. Cullum, did not survive his bone marrow transplant surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. He passed away on February 15. Services were held in St. Petersburg, Florida. Our love and deepest sympathies are with you, Earl.

Sara McGee

* * * * *

DCPA NAMES IN THE "NEWS" - DALLAS MORNING NEWS, THAT IS

"Rat Race Dropouts" was the headline on the *Dallas Morning News* story on January 20. "Joan and John Dobson had steady jobs, grown children, a house in Lakewood and 14 years of roots in Dallas. She was a librarian and he was a college professor. Together they dreamed of owning their own bed-and-breakfast inn. Someday."

In early January Joan (DCPA member) and her husband John chucked it all and moved to Taos, New Mexico, to live in a solar house they had built themselves, to prepare for the summer when they expect to have paying guests at Dobson House B&B. They have five guest rooms and two suites on a 25-acre tract about thirteen miles northwest of Taos, overlooking a gorge above natural hot springs.

Joan was DCPA's liaison with the Dallas Public Library - she kept us abreast of new books about our heritage that we should know about. We will miss her, and hope she will stay in touch.

Another of our members who made headline news recently is C.M. "Doc" Miller. This "camera store proprietor, nonpracticing pharmacist, former Temple Emanu-El Religious School Teacher, and World War II Purple Heart and Distinguished Flying Cross recipient, has been on the *Dallas* scene all of his 70 years" (quoting *The Dallas Morning News*, December 12). His great-grandfather was a charter member of the Temple 120 years ago.

What makes Doc "news" is his new-found talent for composing religious music. He made his debut on November 19 at Temple Emanu-El at the evening service with the world premiere of his *Oh Joshua, Hear My Voice*, adapted from the *Book of Joshua*. The Temple was packed for the performance, which was videotaped, with copies put into its library.

Simon Sargon, music director of the Temple, says Doc is obviously gifted (his only musical training was in group piano lessons in public school - he plays by ear). And Doc is enjoying working at his new avocation.

FIRST EIGHT (NINE?) WHITE CHILDREN BORN IN DALLAS COUNTY

When **John Henry Brown** compiled his list of the first white children born in Dallas County, published in 1887, he thought it was correct. In 1928 **John Cochran** amended the list after much research. This is his corrected list:

John Keenan, b. September 1843
Amos H. Fortner, b. March 1844
G.W.L. Shahan, b. July 1844
Mary M. Cochran, b. March 1845
Robert B. Merrell, b. March 1845
Mary E. Cole, b. December 1845
G.W. Keenan, b. December 1845
John N. Bryan, Jr., b. February 1846

Now, in 1994, another name can be added to the list, amending it again. In the Fugitt Cemetery out at the Naval Air Station near Grand Prairie, is a gravemarker which says, "Born in Dallas County, Texas, 10 October 1845. **John Voris Conover**". He was the son of **Dr. W.W. Conover**, who is mentioned on page 204 of the *Memorial and Biographical History of Dallas County* (published in 1892). Conover and his family came to Dallas County in 1845 and settled on Cedar Springs on the lot "where **Jack Coles'** handsome residence now stands". Conover had 160 acres of land out of the John Coles Survey. Other land was owned by Conover in what is now Oak Cliff between Illinois, Hampton, Westmoreland, and Clarendon, Survey No. 293.

Other than being mentioned in that 1892 history of Dallas County, and mentioned on page 22 in John Cochran's 1928 book, very little has been found published concerning the doctor since that time. Super Sleuth **Marilyn Miller**, DCPA member, has discovered some clues that tie in with deed records I looked through. Dr. Conover died before the 1850 census, and widow **Rosanna** married a man named **Maccree Cole** in 1851.

A court case was filed in 1859 to ascertain the ownership of **W.W. Conover's** estate, which consisted of land, bonds, and cash. Several heirs - minors - were involved, heirs of **W.W.** and **Francis Elizabeth** and **Nancy Ann Conover**. **John Voris (Vandiver) Conover**, the son by now thirteen years old, was found in Van Zandt County in 1860 listed as a student living with a family named **C.B. Graham**, near Canton. In 1876 **John V.** was buying some land from **W.R. Snow**, who was probably a member of that family that came to Dallas County in the 1840s.

No date has been located as to the marriage of **John V.** and **Mary Frances Conover**, but the Fugitt Cemetery gives some information. **Mary Frances** and **John V.** lost several children as infants, as the gravemarkers tell the story: a son in 1872, a daughter in 1873, twins in 1879, and possibly **Mary Frances** at this time, as there is a marker with no dates for her.

Marriage records show **John V. Conover** married **Alice Newton** in March 1880. The 1880 "The Texas Federal Census" has **John V.** listed as a grocer married to **Alice**, with one daughter, **Margaret**, eleven years old (born in 1869). **John V. Conover** also is listed in Grand Prairie in 1881 in John Cochran's book as a storekeeper (general merchandise). This was not a very good year for **John** and **Alice**, as they also lost a nine-months old baby in December.

There is also a gravemarker for **Alice Conover (1858-1885)** in the Fugitt Cemetery, so **John** was widowed again. By 1900, the "Texas Federal Census" lists **Conover** as a widower, and he died in 1907. His daughter, **Margaret**, married **L.H. Prater**, and no research has been done on this family.

Maybe, by telling this information, we can locate other descendants of **W.W. Conover**, early Dallas doctor.

Frances James

Frances James found the following in some old papers someone gave her. It is from a DCPA program circa 1924. Col. Epps G. Knight, subject of the second poem, was president of DCPA for thirty-three years (1910-1943).

A NAME

The good names handed down by our Pioneers to their children, and how they should be honored and revered, is beautifully expressed by Edgar A. Guest in the following touching poem, entitled

Your Name

You got it from your father. 'Twas the best he had to give,
And right gladly he bestowed it—it is yours the while you live,
You may lose the watch he gave you and another you may claim,
But remember, when you're tempted, to be careful of his name.

It was fair the day you got it and a worthy name to wear,
When he took it from his father there was no dishonor there;
Through the years he proudly wore it, to his father he was true,
And the name was clean and spotless when he passed it on to you.

Oh, there's much that he has given that he values not at all,
He has watched you break your playthings in the days when you were
small,
And you've lost the knife he gave you and you've scattered many a game,
But you'll never hurt your father if you're careful of his name.

It is yours to wear forever, yours to wear the while you live;
Yours, perhaps, some distant morning to another boy to give;
And you'll smile, as did your father smile, above the baby there,
If a clean name and a good name you are giving him to wear.

PRINTED UPON REQUEST OF FRIENDS OF THE ASSOCIATIONS PRESIDENT

Contributed at a Dinner on the Occasion of Sixty-Sixth Birthday of
Epps G. Knight by his Life Long Friend and Neighbor—
Chas. B. Gillespie

The "Knights of old" were some bold cavaliers,
But they hadn't a thing on ours,
For we've known our Knight thru all these years,
And we cheerfully hand him the flowers.

Through three score and six, he's still a young Knight,
And ever stands ready to do,
The things that are right with all of his might,
And he turns quite a lot of them too.

So here's to a friend, a neighbor, a man,
Who never deserted his post,
Who stands four square, is under no ban,
We mention our Knight—the host.

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