



Dallas County Pioneer Association

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

WINTER 1994

President:
Frances James

PROGRAM FOR DECEMBER 1, 1994

Vice-President:
Nancy McRae

We are fortunate to have Judge **David D. Jackson**, Dallas resident and Civil War historian, as our speaker for the December 1 meeting. Judge Jackson heads the Summerlee Foundation, a Texas historical benefactor located in Preston Center, and he travels throughout the State providing historical facts to interested groups.

Secretary:
Nona Williams

Judge Jackson will speak to us on "The Formation and Arming of the Third Texas Cavalry, CSA". Many of our members had ancestors who volunteered when the Third was formed in Dallas in the summer of 1861. We are especially pleased to know that he will bring his wife with him to the meeting.

Treasurer:
John Winniford

Historian:
Edna Hart

Many of you will remember **Kent Biffle's** "Texana" column in *The Dallas Morning News*, Sunday, February 27, on Judge Jackson, who Biffle termed "a firearms historian and collector". His opening sentence was: "The Civil War pitted brother against brother and Yankee guns against well. Yankee guns". (This will give you a hint as to the chief supplier of firearms to the Confederate forces.)

Edna Hart

Program Chairman:
Edna Hart

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Membership Chairman:
Nancy McRae

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Telephone Chairman:
Bill McRae

A large group of citizens of Dallas County are participating in the series of meetings pertaining to the Trinity River. I informed one of the City Council members who is chairing the committee that this is the most democratic process I have ever been involved in. Now we shall see when the final plan is agreed to, if we actually have some input, or if this was futile on the part of the citizens. At some point in time we shall have a say-so when a Bond Package comes up and we can vote it up or down.

Newsletter:
Marjori Sharp

Meetings:
Wyatt's Cafeteria
Forest & Marsh Lanes

Pioneer Cemetery in downtown Dallas has finally generated more interest. On September 24 the James Butler Bonham Chapter and the Hiram Bennett Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas dedicated the gravemarker to **Eleanor Heady Russell**. One of her great great granddaughters came to Dallas with a niece from Corpus Christi for the occasion. Mrs. Russell came to Texas before 1836. Are there any other families that have Austin Colonist ancestors buried in Dallas?

See announcement in another place in this newsletter about a Cemetery Picnic on October 29. I still have a few of the reprint booklets for sale (\$7).

The all-day seminar at the University of Texas in Arlington on October 15 was well-attended. Some of us could not fit it into our schedule, but hopefully, this will not be the only preserving- history conference. Maybe **Marcelle Hull** can fill us in on what some of the program highlights were.

Buckner Home for Children, on the corner of Buckner and Samuell Boulevards, has been demolishing many of their red brick, with matching red tile roofs, buildings. Their large sign at the corner announces it is for progress' sake. I have had a number of calls concerning the demolition, but the buildings are owned by the Baptist Benevolence and are on site at their campus and we must presume they have explored all options. The Texas Historical Marker they have received is for the institution that was started by R.C. **Buckner** in 1879. Many citizens of Dallas County have some connection with the Home.

Remember that Volume II of *Proud Heritage* makes great Christmas gifts for family and friends, so do your shopping early at our meeting on December 1, 1994.

Frances James

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Honoring their past



The Dallas Morning News: Carol T. Powers

Jean Kielof of Kingsville, Texas, photographs Raydie Neck (left) and her niece, Molly Neck, at the dedication of a grave marker for Eleanor Heady Russell on

Saturday at Dallas' Pioneer Park Cemetery. Raydie is Russell's great-great-granddaughter; Molly is a great-great-granddaughter.

MINUTES OF DCPA MEETING SEPTEMBER 1, 1994

The Dallas County Pioneer Association held its quarterly meeting at Wyatt's Cafeteria, Marsh and Forest Lanes, on Thursday, September 1. The meeting room is open at 5:30, allowing time for eating and visiting before the program at 7 p.m.

The meeting was opened with pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States and the Texas flag. Student member **Robyn Bowling** led the pledge to the flag of Texas.

President **Frances James** read the auditor's report from **Robert Cammack**, which commended Treasurer **John Winniford** on the excellent condition of the organization's receipts and disbursements.

Announcements were made of several upcoming meetings and seminars of interest to the membership.

Frances reported on the Dallas Plan and the Trinity River Plan.

Sickbay reports impending hip surgeries for **Jeanne Deis** and **Gerard Dickinson**.

Our program, "150 Years of Dreams and Visions of the Trinity River", was presented by **Jackie McElhaney**, who was accompanied by her husband and two friends. The slide program, with commentary by Mrs. McElhaney, covered the history of the unsuccessful attempts to open the Trinity River to navigation from the 1840s to recent times. Slides depicted logjams, floods, and shallow waters which impeded the efforts. A number of the pictures were made before the levees were built in Dallas and vividly portray the devastation done to properties in the Dallas/Oak Cliff area. Flood control is an ongoing project. In more recent years bond proposals have been met with opposition from environmental groups because of present and future ecological damage due to industrial wastes. The current focus appears to be on preservation of the Trinity's natural beauty with the creation of recreational facilities, including parks and lakes.

A question-and-answer period followed.

Membership certificates were presented to **Robyn Bowling** and **Johnny Rogers**. Others will be mailed.

Visitors were introduced and included **Irma Janicek's** two cousins from Czechoslovakia; **Genevieve Glover**; **Mike Allison**, a guest of **Marie Hunter**; **Marcelle Hull's** guest, **Mary Dabney Wilson**; **Jimmie** and **Justin Bowling**, and **Billie Griffin Miller**, guests of **Marilyn Miller** and **Shannon Bowling**; **Chet Lemon**, guest of **Robbye Jaggi**; and, **Pete Wheelice, Jr.** of Coppell.

Mary Sue Rogers reported the demolition of the old Marsh home in Farmers Branch. The old Cox home will receive its historical marker.

There were approximately seventy in attendance, even though the weather was threatening.

Frances advises that the Half Price Bookstore has copies of *Proud Heritage, Volume II* at no increase in price. Also, *Daughters of Dallas* by **Vivian Castleberry** has been released. It contains stories of several ancestors of DCPA members.

Late word is that **Marie Bewley**, the little cashier who takes our money at Wyatt's, broke her hip and has now had a stroke. She is presently in a coma. Her address is 121 Perry Drive, Sanger, Texas 76266.

Nona Williams

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WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

William E. Clark, regional manager for Mainstream, Inc., joined DCPA in September. He didn't give us any background on his ancestors (maybe we can get that later), but he seems to be enthusiastic about historic preservation. He also belongs to Preservation Dallas, Old Oak Cliff Conservation League, Park Cities Historical Society, Dallas Historical Society, Texas State Historical Association, and the National Trust.

William's address is 4400 Potomac Avenue, Dallas 75205, telephone 528-1891.

Ramona Faye Curry Roberts also lists membership in many historic preservation organizations, including the Texas Historical Commission. She descends from **James and Mary Ann Ellis Green**, who came to Dallas County from Illinois and settled near Lancaster. He died in 1864 and she in 1916, and both are buried in Edgewood Cemetery in Lancaster. Their daughter **Lucy** married **John William Curry**, who was born in Virginia, in 1878. She died in 1919 and he in 1922, and they also are buried in Edgewood Cemetery. Their son **Samuel Eric**, married **Faye Belle Marlin** in 1923 and both are buried in Plainview. Ramona is their daughter, and she was born in Plainview. She married **J.B. Roberts**, born in Quanah, in 1951, and they are the parents of three children.

James Green came to Dallas County in 1843. Behind his wagon was a young colt which became the famous quarter horse Steel Dust, founder of the American Quarter Horse.

Ramona lives at 1400 Amarillo Street, Plainview 79072. Telephone 806/296-7546.

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NEWS FROM SICKBAY

Happily, says **Sara McGee**, there isn't much to report from Sickbay, only that **Jeanne Deis** had hip surgery in September.

We do want to extend our sympathies to **Louise Bocquin** in the loss of her sister, **Mary Belle (Hughes) Bailey**.

Our news of another nonmember but a near and dear associate also is not good. Our very own personal cashier at Wyatt's for our quarterly meetings, **Marie Bewley**, succumbed to the stroke she suffered after breaking her hip. She will be missed by all of us.

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NEW DALLAS PLAN

by Frances James

(This concludes an article started in the September newsletter)

The Dallas Central District Report was prepared by the Department of Planning for the City in 1961. This plan concentrated on the downtown area and projected 19,588,000 square feet of office space and over 6000 units of housing in the CBD by 1980. Actually, there were more square feet of office space and only one complex of residential homes, 252 unit Manor House. Our current City Council is struggling with converting vacant office space into housing - it could happen yet if the Federal Government comes through with \$25,000,000.00.

The DeLeuw Cather Transportation Plan of 1965 completed a long range transportation plan for the Central Business District. This plan was the first to use computer modeling techniques to simulate the future. They estimated there would be 210,000 people employed downtown by the year 2000.

Yet again in 1969 the City of Dallas and the Central Business District Association (a suggestion of the 1956 plan) employed **Vincent Ponte and Warren Travers** to develop a plan for the CBD.

They recommended parks, landscaped boulevards, and peripheral parking to do away with surface parking lots. About this time is when underground tunnels, malls, and sky bridges were conceived. This was called climate-controlled pedestrian circulation needs. Check the structure across the street in front of the Majestic Theater as an example.

The Interim Comprehensive Plan was the project of the Department of Urban Planning between 1968-1972. Thirty-six separate community plans were proposed and thirty-four were completed. Neighborhood and community meetings were held and various issues were addressed. Much of the City was rezoned about this time. Some of this information is still valid and new recommendations were developed because of changing conditions.

Subarea Plans/System Plans 1970-1990 were prepared for specific areas by the Planning Staff. During this time the Arts District was conceived and the West End Historic District Plan to encourage the preservation of the warehouse buildings was instituted. There was a plan for the Farmers Market, Love Field, Far North Dallas, and South Dallas/Fair Park area. Preston Center was also evaluated.

Hundreds of citizens spent many hours in meetings discussing and participating in Dallas 2000. This series of meetings looked at Dallas in 1983 and what to expect in the year 2000. Each section of the City was studied during the long process. Ten years later the expectations are still evolving.

In 1986, yet again a Plan was devised for the CBD. This plan, Ponte/Travers Central Business District Plan, did not make many new proposals. It did note the development pattern generated by the creation of the Arts District and the fact that one-half of the office space in the CBD was north of Pacific Avenue!

The Growth Policy Plan in 1987 indicated a need to revise the zoning ordinances and noted that suburban growth and high density clusters overloaded the existing infrastructure. This caused the tax payers to have to subsidize the development in order to alleviate the impact. Remember when the Galleria was built and the shape of the roadways available to get there?

Downtown Dallas: 2010 was produced by Corgan Association in 1989. This proposal recommended linking downtown Dallas to the rest of the City. Town Lake was resurrected, streetscape improvements to enhance the image of the CBD, pedestrian-oriented streets, and altogether, the visual image of Dallas was proposed.

Dallas Visions - 1990 had been the last plan until the current one. This plan was predominately an Urban Design Plan and is based on quality of life: to link Fair Park with downtown Dallas along Main Street, and this vision picks up on several of the plans for linear

parks as proposed in the original Kessler Plan. It emphasizes the Trinity River Greenbelt and the proposed lake between the levees.

All of this planning puts the City of Dallas in direct competition with other cities in the County. Richardson, Irving, Mesquite, Rowlett, Coppell, and others have evolved from rural communities since our ancestors arrived. Each is unique with special attributes and the history is what holds us all together!

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THE "AYES" HAVE IT: EXERCISE YOUR VOTE

Our December meeting will give you another chance to take part in our democratic process (you *did* vote in the November elections, didn't you?), and you don't want to miss it.

Nominations for the officers to serve on the DCPA Executive Board for the coming year will be presented and voted on at this meeting. The Executive Board also includes all past presidents. The Nominating Committee, **Irma Janicek, Marilyn Miller, and June Shipley**, will offer the following slate for the consideration of the membership:

President	Frances James
Vice-president	Nancy McRae
Treasurer	John Winniford
Secretary	Rhonda Morris
Programs/Historian	Helen Swint
Editor, newsletter	Marjori Sharp
Past presidents	Earl O. Cullum
	William F. Jacoby
	Edna Hart
	Sara McGee
	Mattie Hughes

Nominations from the floor will then be accepted.

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DALLAS AND THE CATTLE INDUSTRY

by Frances James

(This concludes an article started in the September newsletter)

Randi Smith, current head of the James Butler Bonham Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, has her great-grandfather's diary. He tells of camping out in the Trinity River bottoms near Dallas on a cattle drive.

Earl Cullum has a yellowed newspaper clipping stating that **A.V. Hester** told how he drove cattle down Commerce Street in Dallas ca. 1860.

John Padgitt, who came to Dallas as a railroad merchant, stayed to establish Padgitt Brothers which became one of the world's largest saddle makers. The Padgitt home was on Ross Avenue. The Padgitts made a fortune in this business. The leather came from cows.

Remember how that leather shop on the lower end of Elm Street smelled? They sold boots, saddles, suit cases, jackets. It was the Tenison Bros. Saddlery Company. Their leather also came from cows. The Tenison son, E.O., was in the business of banking and became quite wealthy. **E.O. Tenison** paid Dr. **W.W. Samuel** \$100,000 for 104 acres of land and donated it to Dallas for Tenison Park. This is a memorial to his son, **Edward Hugh Tenison**, who died as a young man of the flu in 1920.

The Wilson Building in downtown Dallas was built by **J.B. Wilson** in 1903-04. Much of Wilson's fortune was from cattle. J.B. and his brother, **Frederick**, came to Dallas from Toronto, Canada, in 1872 to enter the cattle business as dealers. They both became quite wealthy and definitely were good for Dallas. The Wilson Block on Swiss Avenue is attributed to Frederick. Some of their money came from cows.

Another prominent resident of Dallas was **C.C. Slaughter**. At one time Slaughter was the largest single taxpayer in the State of Texas. He was presi-

dent of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association and was also involved in many other interests. His Dallas home was on Worth Street about where the Tom Landry Sports Medicine and Research Center is now. His many gifts to the First Baptist Church and Baylor Hospital are well known. Much of his wealth came from cows.

The G.H. Schoellkopf Saddlery Company was another well known name. Many members of that family were associated with the Company: **Gottlieb H. Schoellkopf**, **J. Fred**, and **Hugo W.** came to Dallas from New York. Fred lived on Gaston Avenue and Hugo on Crutcher (now Tremont). Some of their money came from cows. They eventually expanded into hardware and other items. The saddles they made were bought and used by "cowboys".

There were other industries that branched off from cattle: DCPA member **Marie Brady Hunter**'s ancestors were in the "hide" business and she has among her family memorabilia letterhead stationery from their business.

I have copies of several old *Texas Almanacs* that include a history of the cattle industry in Texas. This history reiterates how the direction of the cattle industry changed as the settlements moved west. The Civil War and the blockade affected this industry, as did the coming of the railroads to Dallas and three years later to Fort Worth.

When it was discovered that cottonseed, a by-product of cotton, could be used as feed for livestock, that was another valuable contribution to Texas and the Dallas County economy. As cotton was King around here! For many years certain sections of South Dallas around Lamar Street were permeated with the odor from the plants that produced cottonseed meal and other by-products.

Packing houses prepared the meat for the homes, and butchers from Europe looking for work came to Dallas. Don't forget the dairies in Dallas that

employed hundreds of people. Also, the first ice cream plant in Dallas was started by the descendants of **J.W. Smith**, who came to Texas in the 1840s and settled on Bachman Creek.

I really do believe that for many decades the cattle industry and its by-products have been as important to early Dallas as other commercial enterprises. The dictionary says that the word "cattle" comes from the medieval Latin "capitale", which means wealth, capital. In some countries a man's wealth is still reckoned by the number of cattle he owns.

I believe that the Longhorn Steers in Pioneer Plaza are a suitable symbol for Dallas County.

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FROM THE MAILBAG AND THE MEDIA

We have had lots of interesting mail these last months we would like to "paraphrase" and share with you; also, we pick up items from various publications that you might have missed and that just might pique your interest.

Here's a letter from DCPA member **Marjorie Beard** who lives in Austin and keeps up with what Dallas County is doing to keep its history alive by reading our newsletter (thanks to history-minded **Frances James** and "archivist" **Earl Cullum** and their ilk). Marjorie had a book published in 1989 titled *Growing Up On Preston Road: A Family Portrait, 1844-1964*. She says it is in a number of libraries in the Dallas area and she would like to get it into other libraries and organizations.

Pioneer Cemetery in downtown Dallas was the site for the Cemetery Picnic sponsored by the Dallas Genealogical Society and the Dallas Parks Foundation on Saturday, October 29. Dr. **Richard Miller**, assistant director of the Longview Public Library (he was formerly with the Dallas Public Library) entertained with his collection of unusual epitaphs he has collected over the years. His hobby resulted in a book,

Gone But Not Forgotten, Genealogy and Grave Hunting, which he published in 1988. **Barbara Baylis** of the DGS led a tour through the Cemetery, giving tips on cemetery research.

Sandy "Burnett" Smotek of Houston asks for membership information, saying that one of her ancestors was in the Civil War and when he settled in Dallas (she had several ancestors who came here before 1880) he wrote stories about the War that were published in *The Dallas Times Herald*.

Pegasus Plaza at Main and Akard Streets opened on October 21, after fourteen years of planning. Pegasus, "The Flying Red Horse" statue atop the Magnolia Building (backdrop of the park), has long been a friendly symbol of the City of Dallas.

One historic landmark building gets a new lease on life; another bites the dust. Dallas County commissioners will sell the six-story County Services building (also known as the Purse Building) to a developer who plans five floors of apartments and street level retail space. The 1905 structure, which has the City's last cast-iron facade, narrowly escaped becoming another parking lot three years ago - now it will get back on the tax rolls.

The 46-year-old Dr Pepper building has not fared as well, in spite of heroic efforts by **Trudy O'Reilly**, chairman, and other members of the Dallas Landmarks Commission and other historic groups, including the National Trust for Historic Preservation. It has been sold to developers to be converted to a two-story glass and concrete shopping strip, retaining only the art deco building's clock tower and stone entryway.

While you are in Austin: Here is a flier (actually, a page from *The Medallion*, publication of the Texas Historical Commission) describing two guided walking tours of the capital city's historic districts. Since recognition in major newspapers and magazines the number of tour-takers has skyrocketed. Two good reasons: they are free; and they are good. "Walk where the buffaloes roamed", says a flier, referring to

Texas Ranger Big Foot Wallace's claim that he saw buffalo grazing on Austin's major streets in 1840.

From Albuquerque, NM, displaced Dallas Countian **Ralph F. Kerr** has requested an application for membership in DCPA. He cites ancestors who came to the County in 1858 and 1846, settling in Garland, and continues through his own residency until he moved to New Mexico in 1938. "With this background and a lifelong interest in history and genealogy, you can see why I am interested in joining the Pioneer Association."

From Oakland California comes a request to **Frances James** from **Grace Lusby** for help in family research. She said that **Marcelle Hull** had referred her to Frances, and she cited a story in Volume I of *Proud Heritage* about **George and Anna Roddy Preston**, her great great grandparents. How about that, gang? Our books are getting around!

The new National Cemetery in the Mountain Creek area is still in the planning stages, with construction slated to start in 1996, according to our latest report.

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THANKS TO A DEDICATED MEMBER

We don't do this often enough. We usually just pass the torch on from one willing worker to another just as dedicated and willing and let the retiree just fade into the woodwork. And that's OK - no one of us takes a job to hear our praises sung. But, this time, let's say thank you, *thank you*, to **Nona Williams** for a job so well done over so long a time.

The fact is, Nona has kept on keeping on long after she should have asked for relief. She has been under stress with family matters and has spread herself too thin for her own good. We hate to give her up as our secretary, but we know that her place is being taken by a winner.

Thank you again, Nona. We know you will be there whenever we need you, and we will.

Maybe some of you don't know of the recent brush with personal danger Nona and her husband, **Rayburn**, had. On September 21 they were kidnapped and robbed by a man with a handgun who entered their unlocked front door. He forced them to write several checks, then drive to the bank, where Nona was sent in to cash one, with Rayburn driving the car. Nona alerted the teller who activated the alarm and, upon seeing the police car, the robber had Rayburn drive back toward home. He fled on foot and has not been apprehended. No one was injured, but needless to say, one doesn't ever quite recover from an experience like this. Some of the facts in the story in the *Dallas News* were not quite accurate.

Nona and Rayburn want to thank everyone for their thoughtfulness and their prayers throughout this ordeal. They heard from people from whom they hadn't heard for years, and they are grateful.

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REPRINTED FROM THE DALLAS HERALD, APRIL 26, 1855

Belle Starr Wanted

Marshall Moores asks for citizen help in proving that the notorious bandit Queen is a fence for stolen goods.

Buffalo Herds Increase

At the present rate of growth, this area will be the buffalo capitol of the world by 1870. Beeman's letter from Bird's Fort documents counting over 700 head of buffalo, plus deer and bears.

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As we go to press:

Sunday's paper carries the notice of the death on Friday of **Iva Pearl Rippy Skiles**, mother of DCPA member **Robert M. Skiles**. We extend our sympathies to Robert and his family.

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Orders may also be placed through Texas A&M University Press.

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



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