

Dallas County Pioneer Association

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

SUMMER 1996

President:
Nancy McRae

DINNER MEETING

THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1996

Vice-President:
William D. McRae

Oak Corner Building
Center for Community Cooperation
(Meadows Foundation Complex)
2900 Live Oak Street
(corner Live Oak and Oak Street)

Secretary:
Rhonda Morris

\$6.00 per person 6:30 p.m.

RSVP

Treasurer:
John Winniford

Historian:
Helen Swint

There will be a choice of chicken or meat loaf dinner catered by Twelve Oaks Catering (the same we had at our Christmas meeting), and reservations are required. If you do not care to eat, come for the meeting at 7:30, but we do have to have a "head count" for the caterer. Please call **Bill McRae @ 521-8654** to make reservations no later than Monday, June 3. It would be very helpful if you mailed your check, payable to DCPA, to Bill @ 3500 Dartmouth, Dallas 75205. You will be called by the Telephone Committee. If you make a reservation and do not come, you will be expected to pay.

Program Chair:
Helen Swint

There will be a well-lighted and patrolled parking area right by the building. Enter off Oak Street into the parking area of The Center for Community Cooperation (see map on page 2). You will enjoy this lovely facility!

Membership Chair:
William D. McRae

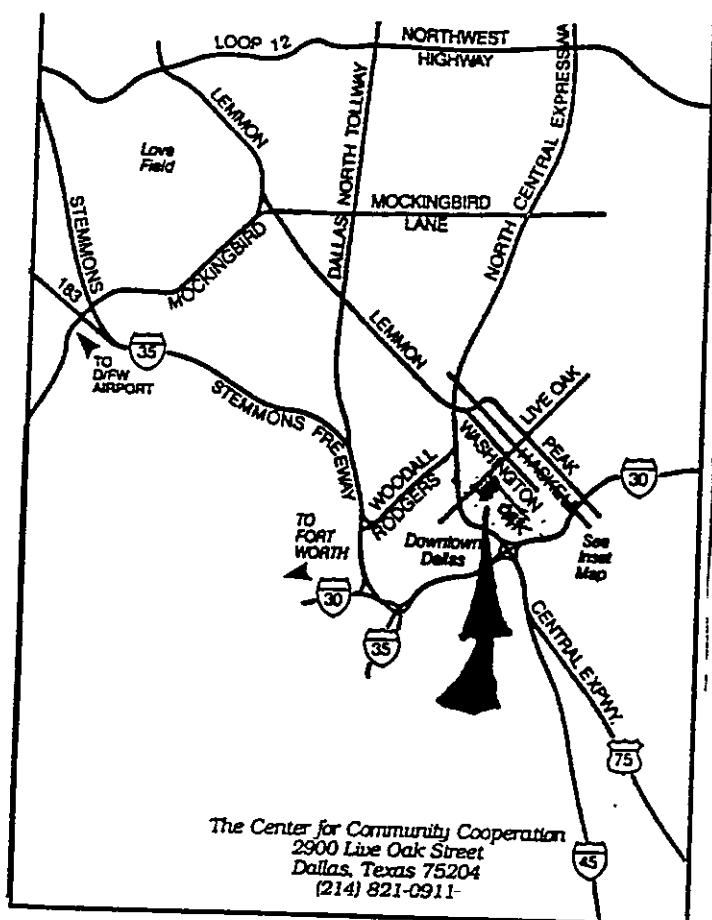
Telephone Chair:
Faye Evans

Charles R. Tucker, director of Transportation, Planning, and Development for the Texas Department of Transportation, will bring us our program for the June meeting. Mr. Tucker may be able to answer many of our questions about the idea to relieve the bottleneck in downtown Dallas. What is the Trinity Parkway Major Investment Study? What about the truck traffic from Mexico and Canada on Highway 135? What is going to happen on Highways 121, 160, 190, George Bush, Loop 635, the toll roads; the estimated date of completion on Central Expressway, HOV lanes, and many other projects planned or unplanned. Many of Dallas County towns will be impacted, and maybe we can help find the historical sites along the way.

Newsletter:
Marjori Sharp

Plan on attending the meeting and hearing this interesting and informative program.

Bill McRae



supplies to make pennants with names of pioneer DCPA families. It was accented with Texas and U.S. flags, flowers, and balloons, plus banners proclaiming **DALLAS COUNTY PIONEER ASSOCIATION** "Past, Present, Future". The float was decorated in the two shades of blue plus white of the DCPA flag, which happens to be the Dallas County flag with "DCPA" superimposed.

Jay Taylor provided a van and trailer for the float and drove it in the parade, accompanied by **Clinton Hines**. On the float in authentic handmade pioneer costumes representing "Past" were **Carolyn Seltzer** in a rocking chair, **Marilyn Miller** carding cotton, and **Shannon Bowling** "churning butter", with **Mary Reed** helping. Representing "Present" was **Linda Hines** in cowgirl attire with her children, **Andrea** and **Cullen** in western wear, representing "Future".

Michael Yeatman, manager of Silk Feed Store on Harry Hines Blvd. at Royal Lane, was kind enough to lend three bales of hay to the DCPA, and M.J. Designs on Mockingbird Lane gave us a nice discount. They both deserve a special note of thanks.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thanks to all those who helped make the Dallas County Pioneer Association's participation in the County Sesquicentennial Celebration opening day so successful. (This Celebration will continue throughout the year, with something special happening at least monthly. Watch for the announcement of these events and take part when you can.)

First of all, our own **Lindalyn Adams** was chairman and did a great job in coordinating the day-long activities.

The **Barnes Family**, represented by four generations of **Beeman** descendants, rode in a white Cadillac convertible and provided an auspicious preview of the DCPA's two-unit entry in the parade.

The DCPA float was planned and decorated by **Bill McRae**, with help from **Nancy McRae** in locating hay bales, bluebonnets, other flowers and balloons, and

Manning the tables in "Old Red" and selling DCPA books were **Bill Clark**, **Earl Cullum**, **Faye Evans**, **Joan Howell**, **Frances James**, and **Bill and Nancy McRae**, plus many others who stopped by and offered to help. The efforts of all were successful in that two histories and five books were sold, garnering the organization \$185! A large supply of information brochures and application forms were also distributed.

Copies of the official opening day commemorative program for the Sesquicentennial Celebration will be available at the June meeting. We will also have pictures of the float, parade, table, and participants (and hopefully a video of the parade) at the meeting.

While on the subject of "thanks", we hope that as many as possible of our Telephone Committee members (past and present) will be able to attend our June 6 meeting. We want to recognize this dedicated segment of the membership. They have had double duty, taking reservations for our dinner meetings.

Nancy McRae

MINUTES OF MEETING MARCH 7, 1996

The quarterly meeting of the DCPA was held at Asbury Hall of Lovers Lane United Methodist Church in Dallas on March 7. Prior to the meeting, a catered dinner was served by Be Our Guest Catering, and was enjoyed by ninety-four persons. Total attendance was one hundred.

President **Nancy McRae** called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and called on our guest Dr. **William J. Bryan**, senior minister of Lovers Lane, for the invocation. **Cullen Hines** led the pledge to the U.S. flag and **Robyn Bowling** led the pledge to the Texas flag.

Bill McRae, vice president, gave the membership report, as follows: nine new members since the December meeting, and four deaths. New members introduced were **Susan (Mrs. Martin L.) Gilbert**, **Clarence M. Cockrell**, **Betty (Mrs. Louis E.) Moore, Jr.**, **Nellie O'Connell**, **Natalie Newton (Mrs. G.W.) Massengale**, **Robert V. Barnes, Jr.**, **Joan Simpson Moore**, **M'Layne Wallace Murphy**, and **Martha Gracey**. Deaths included **Mary Beth Lasiter**, **Mary E. Jackson**, **Dr. Ruth Hibbard**, and **Nita Butler**. Fourteen guests were recognized.

Past presidents of the reorganized Association were honored. They included Judge **John R. Nelms**, Dr. **William D. Baird**, Colonel **Earl O. Cullum**, **William F. Jacoby, Jr.**, **Edna J. Hart**, **Sara J. McGee**, **Mattie Hughes**, and **Frances James**. Mrs. Hart and Judge Nelms were unable to attend, but all others were present and were given a round of applause for their outstanding contributions to the organization.

John Winniford presented the treasurer's report, indicating that the Association is in good shape financially, but has a large stock of unsold books valued at about \$27,000, and urged everyone to find ways to sell books, particularly Volume II.

France James provided an update on happenings in the historical community touching on Trinity River plans, the situation of "Old Red" courthouse, status of

Crozier Tech, and the upcoming County Sesquicentennial celebration on April 20.

Helen Swint introduced the speaker for the evening, **Kirk Dooley**, author of *Hidden Dallas* and other books. His talk focused on generally unknown events that shaped presentday Dallas such as the Trinity River navigation (or lack thereof), railroads coming to town via political ploys and community payments, location of the State Fair of Texas, development of the semiconductor, and construction of D/FW International Airport. His talk was well-received.

Nancy McRae closed the meeting with the title of a song that ended many of the old pioneer meetings, "God be with you 'til we meet again."

W.D. McRae, for the secretary

CONGRATULATIONS to Mae Boeckling Riek on her ninety-eighth (98th!) birthday on May 28, and best wishes for many, many more! Mrs. Riek and her family are our most faithful members.

DO YOU HAVE IRMA'S PICTURE?

Have you looked at your pictures you had returned from the publication of *Proud Heritage, Volume II*? That is, have you sorted through them and determined that you got back yours, and only yours?

Irma Janicek recently looked at hers and found that one she values highly is missing, and she hopes that you will look through yours and find hers. It is the picture on page 231, *Volume II*, the only picture on that page. Please check yours, and if you find that one, call Irma at 579-0801, and she will figure out a way to get it from you.

This seems like a good idea for all of us: if you have assumed that you got back what you should have, check them out and be sure, and let us know if we need to advertise for you. Ω



ANTIQUE MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE AVAILABLE AT OCP

Newly-weds and couples celebrating or anticipating an anniversary can do it in 1800s style with a beautiful antique Marriage Certificate, authenticated by the presiding minister and/or other witnesses of your choice.

The 14x18-inch acid-free Certificate also depicts five beautiful Texas yellow roses, a stream and arched stone bridge, and a church spire in the distance, all in the 1800s style.

Arrange for it in person or by mail at McCall's Store at Old City Park, 1717 Gano Street, Dallas, TX 75215. Cost is \$7.95, with calligraphy for \$7.00 additional (if desired), beautifully done by **Pat Dobbin**, McCall's Store manager. It includes name, city and state of each participant, place and date of marriage, and space for witness signatures, ready for framing. (See the real thing at our June meeting.)

One Philadelphia couple lost their Certificate in a fire and he wrote back to the Park for a replacement,

saying, "She is unaware of this letter just in case my efforts are fruitless. . . It was only a piece of paper, but it was priceless to us."

The 1889 original from which these copies are made is part of the collection of the Heritage Society at Old City Park in Dallas. Ω

Be sure to see the picture of Bill McRae dancing the Funky Chicken on Page 11 of *The Texas Country Reporter* at our June meeting. Wife Nancy is pictured (more sedately) on Page 9 and again on Page 10. Don't we all wish we could have that much fun?

TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER FOR COCHRAN CHAPEL CEMETERY

by Frances James

On Sunday afternoon, April 21, **John Winniford** presided at the ceremony dedicating a Texas Historical Marker for the Cochran Chapel Cemetery. This beautifully-maintained site, near the Cochran home-place and the Church, is where many of the members of this pioneer family are buried. Current politicians have found the word **FAMILY**, and most all agree that we should strengthen our family ties. This Cemetery is the ultimate as far as family is concerned.

It was a lovely day and a large group gathered to celebrate the occasion. Many members of the DCPA were there and many others who should join our organization. It was obvious that much thought and concern went into planning the ceremony. John and other members of the family were responsible for its success.

The descendants of **Nancy Jane** and **William Cochran** and of her sisters and their families are still together. Nancy Jane kept her brood together after William died at a very early age. She raised the children, managed the farm, contributed to the church, was a vice-president of the original DCPA, and much more. One other item needs to be noted: Nancy Jane never was able to cast a vote, but her influence is still being felt in 1996! Ω

IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL DAY!

by Frances James

The 150th birthday of Dallas County was celebrated on April 20th, belated, but great. The storm of the night before had passed over and the sky was blue. There was a breeze blowing down Main Street, which was blocked off for the ceremony, and the Marine Corp Band was excellent. The Choir from the Dallas Baptist University was beautiful. They practiced a few bars of the National Anthem and some of us practiced standing up with hand over heart. Eventually, the real thing took place.

Old Red looked very noble from the outside, but inside it was shambles, with wiring exposed, plaster chipped off, and air conditioning ducts going every which way. The 1985 bond issue was to rehabilitate the first floor and work was started, but stopped several years ago. Makes one wonder how it will ever be made presentable again. Some very expensive outside lights were designed and mounted several years ago. They were paid for with private funds, but so far no one seems to know what happened to them???

During the day over forty different organizations in the County set up tables in Old Red and displayed artifacts from their towns or groups. Among these were Historical, Genealogy, Archeology, Landmark, German, African-American, the Jewish Historical, Dallas Heritage, Dallas Historical, and many others. It was quite a display.

The parade was impressive, and it is too bad there was more coverage in the local paper on an automobile show in Houston than space given to our County's Birthday Affair! We did have longhorn cattle. The Dallas County Pioneer Association had a float, and certain people now know how to churn butter! The names of many of our earliest families were on the flags on our float.

The official souvenir program for the day was edited by **Mike Hazel** and included many known and

unknown tidbits about our history, in Mike's time-line from 1846 to 1996.

The DCPA was well represented, as a special area was set aside so that we could all sit together for the ceremony. **Nancy McRae** had done a magnificent job of calling everyone she could get in touch with, and we were there in force.

Many of us ate Bar-B-Que lunch with dessert, and that, too, was delicious. A happy day, and thanks to all who participated. Ω

FINAL FAREWELLS

Nita Bogue Butler, a founding member of St. Lukes Episcopal Church, passed away on February 26. She is survived by two sons, **John Bogue Butler** and **Grady Robert Butler**, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Lloyd Melone Miller, a former president of the reorganized DCPA, died on May 8. He was a direct descendant of the Miller family who built Millermooore Mansion, now located in Old City Park. Lloyd and his wife, **Anne**, have lived at Lake Texoma since 1993.

Other members to whom we have said goodbye are **Totsy Letot**, wife of **Augustus R. Letot**, who died on March 19; **Virginia Stallings**, who died on April 26; **Aleene Jackson**, who died on May 14; and **Polly Ann Wright**, who died on May 15. Aleene is survived by her husband, **John W. Jackson**, who is our member, and by **Edna Hart**, sister-in-law. Polly Ann was related to **Mary Alice Winniford**, **Mary Ellen Burtner**, **Alice Styron**, **Gail Madden**, **Bill Jacoby**, and **Louise Boquin**.

Among our members who have lost loved ones since our last meeting are **Louie Payne Dyer**, who lost her brother, **Tom Currie**, and **Donald Huffhines**, who lost his mother, both in April.

We send our sympathies to these families. Ω

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Gay Lynn Prugel, descended from the Beeman family, has joined DCPA and when her completed application has been received we will tell you all about her. Her address is Route 2, Box 750, Nocona, TX 76255.

We are glad to welcome back **Charles E. Campbell** who has renewed his membership after a short absence away. His address is 3501 Dartmouth, Dallas 75205, telephone 522-7062.

Mary Layne (M'Layne) Wallace Murphy is descended from **Mahala Dixon** and **Joseph Prigmore, Jr.**, who came to Dallas County in 1844 and settled in the vicinity of present-day Audelia Road and Church Road. They were the parents of **Benjamin J. Prigmore**, married to **Nancy L. Jackson**, and their daughter **Texas Anna Prigmore** married **Samuel Lain**; they became the parents of **Elsie Mae**, who married **Joseph Cobb Moore**. Their daughter, **Sibyl Nell**, married **W.L. Wallace**, and they were the parents of M'Layne. Joseph Prigmore, Jr., served on the first Dallas County Grand Jury. Benjamin gave the land for the Jackson School which was built on the northwest corner of Audelia Road and Forest Lane, before 1890.

M'Layne Wallace Murphy's address is 3701 Turtle Creek Blvd. #5C, Dallas 75219. Her telephone number is 520-7067.

Martha Tucker Gracey is descended from **Charles M. Tucker**, born in England, who came to Sachse in Collin County in 1853 and bought land near Rowlett/Garland in 1858. His wife was **Kissiah Kirby** and they had four sons, one of which, **Jesse Fitzgerald**, married **Elizabeth Lee Cherry**. Their son, **Jesse Clifton** married **Maude V. Hardy**, and they were the parents of Martha.

Martha, a registered nurse, lives at 2130 Province Lane, Dallas 75228, telephone 327-3524.

Joan M. Davis Pickard's first ancestor in Dallas County was **Jacob W. Davis**, born in 1828, who

married **Sarah A. Trammell**. Their son **Joseph E. Davis** and his wife **May Smith** were the parents of **Joseph E. Davis, Jr.** who married **Ruby N. Harrison**, and they became the parents of Joan.

Her address is 1210 McHam, Irving 75062, telephone 255-4372. Ω

MARKER COMMEMORATES EARLY DALLAS FARM WORKERS

A part of Dallas' Mexican-American history, mostly forgotten except by a handful of devoted caretakers, is about to get some much-deserved recognition.

This was the opening paragraph of **Frank Trejo**'s column in *The Dallas Morning News*, May 5. It referred to the upcoming May 12 dedication of a Texas Historical Marker for the Trinity Farms-Rancho Grande Cemetery, the last remaining physical reminder of people who lived and worked on a large commercial farm in the Trinity River bottoms between 1915 and 1946, before the levees were built.

Tucked away behind St. Paul Medical Center, on Lee Hall Street, few people know that it even exists. One who does is Dallas resident **Lee V. Suarez**, who has dim memories of life on the farm but does know that his father was one of the many laborers there, and his mother, a brother, and a little sister are buried in the Cemetery. He was inspired to get recognition for the Cemetery's historical importance after reading about the success of the Ledbetter Neighborhood Association in getting a Marker for the Trinity Portland Cement Cemetery in 1992.

It has taken more than three years for Mr. Suarez to collect the documentation to obtain the historical designation for the Trinity Farms Cemetery, and of course, our "Cemetery Lady" **Frances James**, has worked with him every step of the way. Frances says that the cemetery used by the Mexican families is in relatively good condition, but the adjacent black cemetery is virtually nonexistent. Both are commemorated on the historical marker. Ω

METRO PASTfrom *The Dallas Morning News* Files

April 30, 1896

The Daughters of the Confederacy held an enthusiastic meeting yesterday at the residence of their president, Mrs. Katie Cabell Currie on Ervay street. May 23 was chosen as "Dirt Digging Day," for then they will dig the first dirt for the monument. It will be celebrated at the City park with a basket picnic to which all friends are invited, bringing their basket of good things. After dinner there will be short speeches and music on the spot where the monument will stand. Then the spot will be marked off for the foundation and every veteran will be asked to throw a shovel of the dirt. A motion was then offered that an appeal be made to every southern woman to join this organization, "appreciating how much more good can be done by the multitude than the few, letting them know that the dues are only \$1 per year and are used to prepare a suitable burial spot for the confederate dead and to suitably mark each grave."

From *The Dallas Morning News*, April 30, 1996.

UPCOMING DEDICATIONS OF TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKERS

by Frances James

Dedication ceremonies for the Texas Historical Grave Marker for **John Crockett** have been scheduled for some time in June. Crockett was Lieutenant Governor of Texas during the Civil War and had been mayor of Dallas 1859-1861. He was also an officer of the early DCPA. His gravesite is in the Pioneer Cemetery in downtown Dallas. As soon as a date is confirmed we shall announce it.

The Texas Historical Marker for the Horton Cemetery will be dedicated in July and the date will be announced later. The Horton family settled near Mountain Creek Lake and the daughter, **Sarah Horton Cockrell**, was one of the first female entrepreneurs in Dallas County. This Cemetery is where the early members of the family are buried, near Arcadia Park.

A dedication will be planned for a Texas Historical Grave Marker for **Daniel Webster Gilbert**, one of the first doctors in Irving. Dr. Gilbert was one of four brothers who came to Texas as doctors. He had four

sons who also became doctors in the area. His grandson, **Dr. Clay Gilbert**, makes his home in Irving and lives in one of the houses built in the first residential addition in Irving. Date and time of this dedication will also be announced.

Before the year is over a Texas Historical Marker will be received for the Hutchins Methodist Church and for the Garland Methodist Church. Both churches are planning to have fitting ceremonies for the dedications when dates are set.

There are several other Marker applications in the process of being approved and as soon as they are received the dedication ceremonies will be announced. This is another good way to commemorate the 150th birthday of Dallas County.

OUR NAME IN THE NEWS

DCPA was featured with a full page of the Summer 1996 edition of *The Texas Country Reporter*, quarterly publication of Phillips Productions, Inc. That's Phillips as in **Bob Phillips**, radio and television's "Texas Country Reporter".

DCPA new member **M'Layne Murphy**, assistant editor of the paper, conceived the idea of a page of recipes from our forebears, complete with pictures of the original cooks. Those contributing were M'Layne with "Five Minute Devils Food Cake" from grandmother **Elsie Mae Lain Moore**; **Ruth Carnes** with "Swiss Fried Cakes" from her mother **Lida Peterman Carnes**; **Nancy McRae**, with "Chicken Soup" from her great-grandmother **Lodemia Ann Campbell Routh**; **Marjori Sharp**, with "Mabel Browder's Pinto Beans" from her mother **Mabel Browder**; and **Mary Alice Winniford** with "Boiled Custard" from her grandmother **Hattie Bowlin Cochran**.

Nancy will have copies of the paper at the June meeting for us to see. M'Layne has written a column about the DCPA on the previous page, titled "What's Cookin'?", so be sure to see it, too. Ω

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



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