

Dallas County Pioneer Association

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

WINTER 1996

President:
Nancy McRae

PROGRAM FOR DECEMBER 5, 1996

Vice-President:
William D. McRae

Our Christmas present to you: everyone's favorite, **Rose-Mary Rumbley!** Native Dallas-ite, Dallas historian, humorist, lecturer, and author, she is in demand for Dallas' historical organizations and local book clubs. She will bring us a program titled "Christmas Miracles".

Secretary:
Rhonda Morris

Her latest book, *What! No Chili!*, is about Texas food festivals. Her two books about Dallas are *The Unauthorized History of Dallas*, written for the City's 150th birthday in 1991, and *A Century of Class*, a history of public education in Dallas, and she is working on a third.

Treasurer:
John Winniford

Rose-Mary holds a Ph.D. from the University of North Texas. She served as head of the drama department at Dallas Baptist University for twelve years and has been on the staff of First Baptist Church. She has appeared many times at the Dallas Summer Musicals and at Casa Manana in Fort Worth. Her husband is a professional musician. They have two children and one grandson.

Historian:
Helen Swint

We guarantee a program of fun and facts, and a full house! Come early or take a chance on having to double up with someone. Or better, come early, eat, and move over for someone else—we will have a capacity crowd.

Program Chair:
Helen Swint

Also, the Nominating Committee will present the slate of officers for 1997 to be voted on and installed at this meeting, at which time nominations can be made from the floor.

Membership Chair:
William D. McRae

We will see you all on Thursday, December 5, at Wyatt's Cafeteria, for our regular meeting. Ω

Telephone Chair:
Faye Evans

ROSTER UPDATE

Our 1997 Membership Roster will be delivered at the March 6 meeting. Press time will be around the first of February.

Newsletter:
Marjori Sharp

If you want any changes made in the new Roster, including the new 972 area code, please contact **Marjori Sharp**. Her telephone number and address are correct as in your current Roster. Feel free to leave a message on the answering machine. Do it as soon as possible, please. Ω

FROM THE PRESIDENT

We missed the **Rieks** at the September meeting. This was the first meeting of the reorganized Association where the Riek family was not represented. The family was in Ohio, celebrating the 75th birthday of **Mae B. Riek's** eldest son, **F.B. Riek**.

The Dallas County Historical Commission will hold the Sesquicentennial Awards Banquet on Thursday, November 21, at Union Station in downtown Dallas. Six members of the DCPA will be recognized for their historical contributions! Those to be honored are **Earl O. Cullum, Michael Hayslip, Bill Jacoby, Frances James, Marjori Sharp, and Lloyd White**. At this writing, the DCPA will have two tables of participants cheering our honorees.

A grant of \$500 has been received from an anonymous foundation for use in cemetery repairs. It has been placed in the Association's fund for that purpose.

The Mesquite Historical and Genealogical Society has written asking for speakers at their monthly meetings. Any of you DCPA historians want to participate?

Joan Simpson Moore, DCPA member from Houston, writes about ancestor **Wade Hampton Witt** who was an original member of DCPA when it was formed in 1875. Wade's older brother, **Preston**, started one of the first grist mills in North Texas at Carrollton (Trinity Mills) and later turned it over to Wade. Preston fought at the Battle of San Jacinto at age seventeen, was later a Texas Ranger, a Minute Man, and fought in the war with Mexico, as well as fought Indians on the frontier.

Joan's great-great grandfather, **John Simpson**, was born in County Meath, Ireland, and emigrated to America in 1849 shortly after he married **Margaret Ann Cox** of County Monaghan, Ireland. They first settled in Wisconsin, then migrated to Dallas County in 1858, settling eight miles south of the community of Dallas. He had two large farms, one in Oak Cliff and one in Lancaster. Many of the Simpsons are buried in the Lisbon Cemetery near the Veterans Hospital.

Crozier Tech, the first high school in Dallas, has been taken off the market "for the time being" by the Dallas Independent School District. They were asking for a minimum bid of \$3.5 million and had no offers. It is a shame that a use for this historic structure can't be found in preserving Dallas County history. Anyone have any ideas or high-level connections that could cause this to take place?

Lee Halford has graciously offered to audit the Association's books at the end of the calendar year. A report will be made at the March, 1997 meeting.

A committee has been appointed to explore DCPA's possible role in collecting and cataloging historical research efforts countywide. **Clare Weakley** will chair the committee and **Bill Clark, Bill Jacoby, Frances James, John Winniford** and **Nancy McRae** will serve as members.

I know you will not want to miss **Rose-Mary Rumbley's** "Christmas Miracles" at our December 5th meeting. Mark your calendars NOW! Ω
Nancy McRae

Reprinted from the newsletter of Oak Lawn Methodist Church:

JUST CALL ME THIRTY

He's been our Church Historian for 30 years; a member of the Dallas Rotary for 30 years, served 30 years in the army Reserve, and 30 years with the FBI. Who is this person who has served both his church and country these many years? **Col. Earl Owen Cullum**. Congratulations and thanks for all you do for us! Ω

MINUTES OF MEETING SEPTEMBER 5, 1996

The autumn regular meeting of the Dallas County Pioneer Association was held Thursday, September 5, at Wyatt's Cafeteria, Marsh Lane at Forest Lane.

Nancy McRae, president, called the meeting to order.

John Winniford gave the invocation. **Col. Earl O. Cullum** led the pledge to the flag of the United States of America and **Nancy McRae** led the pledge to the Texas flag.

New members recognized included **Eugene Gaddy**, **Gordon Davis**, and **Tommy Vilbig**, who becomes our youngest member. Membership certificates presented included **Susan Gilbert**, **Doris Barnes**, **Marsha Leach**, and **Betty Moore**. Guests included **Lynn Vogt**, **Jan Johnson**, **Helen Duret**, **Mary Anderson**, and **Jack and Laura Mackey**. Member **Linda Simpson** recently passed away. Our condolences to the family.

Lynn Vogt, of Preservation Texas, presented **Marjori Sharp**, newsletter editor, with an award of Honorable Mention for Best Newsletter. The award, given at the Texas Historical Commission's annual conference in Abilene last May, recognizes the hard work **Marjori** puts into our newsletter. Congratulations, **Marjori**!

A monument to honor the soldiers of the 36th Infantry who fought in World War II was recently dedicated. It is located just north of the Dallas Convention Center in Pioneer Cemetery.

M'Layne Murphy of Phillips Productions announced that filming will take place on September 29 at 5 p.m. at Old City Park at the newly-constructed Chautauqua Pavilion. On October 6, a festival, also at Old City Park, will feature some of the previous guests of the show, Texas Country Reporter, and will commemorate the 25th anniversary of the program. Tickets are \$4 each and the event lasts from noon to 4 p.m.

The James Butler Bonham Chapter of the DRT has produced a booklet on the burials at Pioneer Park Cemetery. Each book costs \$7.50.

The Texas Cultural Partnership, a group promoting ethnic days at the State Fair of Texas, will host Heritage Day during the State Fair, October 6, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Helen Swint, program chair, introduced the speaker, **Andy Eads**. Andy is employed by the Town of Addison and is working toward his master's degree in public administration at the University of North Texas. At the request of the city manager, Andy was directed to find and preserve the history of Addison. Andy's research produced numerous taped interviews and photographs. These photographs were converted to slides, which Andy presented. Addison, first known as Knowles Junction, was incorporated in 1902. The area was settled as early as 1846. Slides shown included the cotton gin, the first school, churches, basketball teams, and early families of the area. The program was very entertaining and informative. A brief question-and-answer period followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m., with "God be with you 'til we meet again". Ω

Rhonda Morris

LLOYD WHITE HEADS CAMPAIGN FOR MEMORIAL

DCPA member **Lloyd White** is heading a campaign for a permanent exhibit and monument to honor ten Dallas men who died on the USS Arizona at the start of World War II, to be established at Pioneer Park in downtown Dallas. Lloyd served in the Pacific with the Navy.

On Veterans Day, November 11, relatives of the men were invited to a special ceremony at a temporary exhibit at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library. Lloyd and his group opened the exhibit and their aim is to have a permanent exhibit to memorialize these men.

Family members and local survivors of the War say the memorial is long overdue. Laurel Land Memorial Park dedicated a monument to Pearl Harbor in 1942, immediately after the notorious attack, but nothing yet has been done by the City or County of Dallas and nothing specific has been done to recognize the men killed on the Arizona.

The current exhibit is on the seventh floor of the Library, in the Texas/Dallas History and Archives Division and will be on display until January 13.

Lloyd was also instrumental in acquiring the Pioneer Park site for the monument honoring the Texas 36th Infantry Division, which was dedicated on September 7. This ceremony was attended by a number of our members, besides Lloyd: **Susan Cargile, Frances James, Mark Mueller, Nancy and Bill McRae, Carolyn Selzer, Kenneth and Jimmie Ruth Woodfin.**

It appears that it is up to the veterans themselves, after a half century, to memorialize their comrades. Ω

FINAL FAREWELLS

We extend our sincere sympathies to **Mildred Collins**, whose husband and our member, **John E. Collins**, passed away on September 18, after eight years of illness. Mildred has a new address: 550 E. Ann Arbor #B-17, Dallas 75216-6799. Her new phone number is 214/372-3512.

Earl O. Cullum lost a second cousin, **Judith Tate McCall**, who died November 13 following a fall in her home. A member of the pioneer Cullum family, she was the daughter of **Lillian Cullum Tate**, who was raised at King's Road and Cedar Springs, site of the original Cedar Springs townsite on Cedar Branch.

Judith had served as Chief of Protocol for the City of Dallas and also on the first Dallas Mayor's International Committee. Ω

Sara McGee

HISTORIC MESQUITE TO RESTORE ANOTHER HISTORIC HOUSE

Historic Mesquite Inc. is the administrator of a project to restore the historic Lawrence house on Kearney Street, which was built and occupied by members of the Lawrence family for more than a century.

The present-day eighteen-room farmhouse was started by **Steven Decatur Lawrence** with a three-room structure in 1876. As the family grew so did the home, and it will be restored as it was in 1895.

Two daughters, **Opal** and **Onyx Lawrence** lived in the house until their deaths in 1995. In her will Opal stipulated that the home be preserved in her name, and the house and two acres become the property of the City of Mesquite. The City will purchase eleven more acres and establish the Opal Lawrence Historical Park. Plans are to move other historic structures to the Park and create a historic village.

Among other historic restorations in Mesquite is the Florence Ranch Homestead, which was donated to the City by DCPA members **Florence Florence Schulz** and her daughter, **Julie Morris**. We reported on the opening of this home in our newsletter of Summer 1993, and there is an article on it in *Proud Heritage, Volume II*. Ω

SICK BAY

We do hope that all of those who were in "sick bay" are better and doing OK now: **Jackie and Bill Jacoby, Ruby Ledbetter, Mattie and Herbert Hughes**, and anyone else who has been under the weather. Ω

Sara McGee

A.C. GREENE REVISITED

by Earl O. Cullum

Once again it is a great experience to pick up **A.C. Greene's Dallas, the Deciding Years: a Historical Portrait** (1973) and re-read his text and captions on the wide variety of pictures of early Dallas County. Very early we find Lieutenant **Van Benthuyzen's** little 1837 group, badly beaten in an Indian attack, limping back to civilization. They camped beside a creek which became known as "Turtle", then on to present downtown Dallas, and finally back to LaGrange.

Later Colonel **William E. Cooke** came to establish a military road, and he too had to struggle just to survive. Then came **John Neely Bryan**, who decided to build a city. His sketch of a proposed townsite can still be recognized in the layout of the courthouse area of modern Dallas. And soon came the **Gilberts** and the **Beemans**, the Peters Colony, and Hord's cabin "on the ridge" in 1845.

LaReunion came in 1854, but was soon absorbed by Dallas. The Cockrell wooden bridge over the Trinity came in 1855, and Dallas became a city in 1856. We had a brick courthouse in 1857. **Nat Burford** wrote the first city charter and was a district attorney and judge and colonel of the 19th Texas Confederate Cavalry Regiment. Later came **John Henry Brown**, an Indian fighter, legislator, and the first Dallas historian. His home was at Live Oak and Pearl streets.

A new courthouse came in 1871, and **Sarah Cockrell's** iron bridge in 1872. Then came the railroads, and Sanger Brothers opened a new store here. Mules pulled the streetcars along the tracks for nearly twenty years. A city hall came in 1877, when the streets were still mostly mud. A. Harris was a partner in an 1877 store.

The electric streetcar came in 1891, and "Snagboat Dallas" was launched in 1892. The "Harvey" came upriver from Galveston in 1893, and Parkland Hospital, a wood-frame structure, was at Maple and Oak Lawn in 1894. The red brick St. Paul Hospital on Bryan Street came in 1898.

The Cadillac Auto Agency came in 1903, and a new library at Commerce and Harwood. The Elks Arch spanned Main Street near Akard in 1908, but was used for a hanging, and so removed in 1910.

And A.C. Greene goes on and on. Some of us still recall reading at the Commerce/Harwood library, and surgery at St. Paul's on Bryan Street. An open top jitney ran from Oak Lawn to Sanger's downtown, and the fare was 5 cents.

Were you there? Ω

RESOLUTION

The Executive Committee of the Dallas County Pioneer Association in session on July 6, 1996, unanimously approved the following:

WHEREAS the mission of Dallas County Pioneer Association is to:

(1) perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who resided in what is today Dallas County before January 1, 1880;

(2) encourage historical research concerning Dallas County, its cities, towns, communities, and early citizens so that a comprehensive knowledge of the same may be preserved for future generations;

(3) foster the preservation of historical buildings, documents, and relics; and

(4) use its influence to have places of historical significance in Dallas County appropriately marked, so as to keep alive the memory of important persons, places, and events of the past; and

WHEREAS the Dallas County Pioneer Association is concerned about the lack of preservation of the history and heritage of Dallas County, including the renaming of locations and streets, destruction of historic sites and buildings as well as a general lack of sensitivity or concern for those persons who established and developed this great County and City,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dallas Parks Board be informed of such concerns and said Parks Board be offered the services and expertise of the Dallas County Pioneer Association in the identification, historical documentation and preservation of all such street and place names, structures, historic sites, relics, documents and other items pertaining to the history and heritage of Dallas County.

Signed this fifth day of September, 1996

/s/ Nancy McRae, President

Extracted from the July 1996 "Virginia Genealogical Society" newsletter:

"Cemetery Angels deserve a special place in the heart of the (genealogical) researcher. Few records face the onslaught of weather, vandalism, and abandonment that cemeteries do."

[In Dallas, we all pay tribute to our own Angel, **Frances James.**]

LETTER FROM A HOMESTEADER

We have received this letter from **Joan Dobson**, a former member who helped our organization so much when she was with the Dallas Public Library. She and husband **John** have opened Dobson House in El Prado, New Mexico, a bed-and-breakfast inn.

If you want to read a chronicle of modern homesteading, read on:

Dear Friends: No, we have not dropped off the edge of the earth, but we have fallen under the spell of the land of enchantment. After 3 years of construction, Dobson House is open. Never did we imagine how long and arduous this project would be. Nor could we have conjured up the adventures we've had. It wasn't quite Around the World in 80 Days, but we have taken off in a balloon from the front yard...We are just offbeat and outrageous enough to blend in with the Taos lifestyle. Here the doctors and lawyers wear jeans to the office. I've given up any hope of ever getting John dressed up again.

Our first year we lusted for water. The search took on the proportions of a medieval crusade. We carried our precious cargo in garbage cans and a water bed. A true Olympic sport should be water bed wrestling. You cannot imagine how fast a full water bed can roll down a 100' hill when it slides off a pickup bed in a sleet storm. Chasing one hurtling through sagebrush and cactus and then wrestling it to the ground is a challenge, especially when it is headed for the gorge (a 400' drop).

With no doors the first summer we were able to commune Thoreau-like with the sage, the cactus, the no-see-ums, and the other residents of the desert. Just let your imagination conjure up who lives here.

We have been able to experience real pioneer life in a very rural setting. Our first year I had no refrigeration, a barbecue for a stove, very little water, 2 lights... We finally set down 40 TONS of stone for our floors last fall. It had been dirt and rocks for 2

years. My Christmas gift in 1995 was hot water in the kitchen sink. What little things we learn to appreciate!

John and I have done all of the construction for the past 33 months: plumbing, gas pipes, adobe, stone work, electricity, roofing, can walls, tiling. We dug out the 100' corridor between the upper level and the guest rooms with picks and shovels. That was a chore.

We have been quite out of mainstream here with no TV, no radio, and no newspaper except the Taos weekly. We do read everything we can get. We plunder the library. Our greatest treat is to receive care packages of readers' copies of new books from a terrific bookstore owner in Texas, Donna Cressman. She's kept us sane.

Our family has been so supportive. They keep our spirits up: our cheerleaders. They send boxes of goodies, funny articles, recipes and love. They have helped us hire some help to get this place finished.

We can still laugh. We love to look out each morning to see the mountains and the gorge. Our spectacular sunsets amaze us daily. I have become an enthusiastic bird-watcher.

The house is much more dramatic and lovely than I imagined it would be. Adobe allows you to create curved and sexy surfaces. We are solar-powered and we do have a well.

We are both available as speakers on the rubber chicken circuit if you'd like to hear more of our adventures. People keep telling me —you'll just have to write a book about this. Most days the grocery list is a challenge.

We have missed you all but by evening we have brains like wilted parsley. We hope that you will forgive our lapse in contact and that you will visit us soon. Or write. Or send money. Or pies. Or relatives.

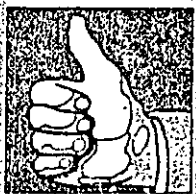
Cheers,

Joan and John Dobson Ω

DUES ARE DUE!!!

A reminder from Treasurer **John Winniford**: 1997 dues are due and payable. Mail to John (6927 Chevy Chase, Dallas 75225) or better still, bring to him at the December meeting—and guarantee your spot in the upcoming new Roster. Ω

Thumbs up



Dallas has a new gathering place. The Chautauqua Pavilion, a graceful reminder of the community pavilions of bygone days, was dedicated this week in the heart of Old City Park. At the same time, the turn-of-the-century collection of houses and shops was renamed the Historical Village of Dallas. The name befits this living museum of the way things used to be. Thanks are due to the Charles Pistor family for helping add the pavilion to the downtown park.

The Dallas Morning News, November 6, 1996

unique new choice for weddings, parties, corporate meetings, and retreats — "A New Meeting Place in an Old Village".

The Board also announced the new designation of the Park, "Old City Park, The Historical Village of Dallas". President Smith said, "We're communicating the scope of the Park as a nationally accredited museum — that it is an actual village depicting North Texas' rich cultural and architectural heritage." Ω



OCP DEDICATES CHAUTAUQUA PAVILION

The Dallas County Heritage Society dedicated The Chautauqua Pavilion in Old City Park to the City of Dallas with a ceremony and reception in the Pavilion on November 4.

Stanley Marcus, longtime supporter of Old City Park, was principal speaker at the dedication ceremony, sharing reflections on Dallas. Guests were treated to authentic early Texas food and entertainment.

Charles Pistor, member of the Board of the Heritage Society, made the lead gift for the Pavilion in 1995 to honor the birthday of his wife, **Regina**, and to recognize her leadership and inspiration to Old City Park for nearly three decades of volunteer service. He and other donors were recognized during the ceremony.

Gary Smith, president of the Heritage Society, presented the gift of the Pavilion to the City and it was accepted by **Paul Dyer**, director of the Parks and Recreation Department.

The Chautauqua Pavilion is an octagonal-shaped meeting place that can be glassed-in or open-air. It is a 4,000-square-foot facility, situated near the center of the wooded 13-acre Park. It can accommodate up to 250 banquet-style and up to 400 theatre-style, and is a

"GONE TO TEXAS": 3,000 MILES BY WATER

This from **John Winniford**:

"This 1938 newspaper interview with **Richmond Bowlin** recounts the family's migration trip from Virginia to Texas in 1868. The description of their houseboat and of the trip by water is very interesting. They built a houseboat on the Powell River in the western part of the state and floated into the Clinch River. From there the route took them into the Tennessee River, the Ohio River, and the Mississippi. They finally reached Jefferson and came west from there by ox wagon as many other settlers did.

"Mr. Bowlin's younger sister, **Mary Harriett**, was seven years old at the time. She later married **James Monroe Cochran**, the son of **William** and **Nancy Jane Cochran**. She also became a member of the Dallas County Pioneer Association. Four of her direct descendants are present members of our organization: **Mary Alice Winniford**, **Mary Ellen Burtner**, **Alice Styron**, and **Gail Madden**."

(We have excerpted this really absorbing story from *The Dallas Morning News*, February 13, 1938, dateline Clarendon, Texas, Feb. 12. If this whets your curiosity or interest, get the whole story from John — it is a good one.)

Richmond Bowlin of Hedley, who will be 89 in April, came to Texas from Virginia seventy years ago. No prairie schooner bore him westward, but he rode, instead, a

houseboat, built of timber felled on his father's Virginia farm and followed river courses for 3,000 miles.

"After the War Between the States, my father was ruined in business...so the family decided to move to Texas. We planned a river trip, built a houseboat in the Powell River Basin and waited for a rise to start it...Three families planned the adventure. My father's group of ten and Charlie and John Blakemore's families would make the trip. There were twenty-five of us aboard...all related by marriage or family tree.

"The vessel... measured 22x65 feet. Atop the boat was a six-room structure...which afforded adequate quarters with a kitchen, a living and dining room and three bedrooms...The paddles could increase the speed when it was necessary to run a cross current, but the boat had no power of its own, and simply drifted with the varying flow of river water. Two large fireplaces with a single flue gave the houseboat its one touch of comfort.

"Late afternoon, Feb. 2, 1868, the long-awaited floodwaters swirled down the Powell River Valley, lifting the boat from its moorings. It was a moment of excitement, and considerable misgivings, too, for none of us knew anything of navigation...

"Progress was slow, for, unable to travel at night, we hove-to at sundown...Our only light was the feeble flicker of tallow candles or a skillet of grease with a twisted torch of cotton cloth.

"The children aboard kept several fish lines attached to the stern. The sport broke the monotony of the journey and furnished food...

"But a more picturesque impression was the day we reached Cairo and sailed into the Mississippi River. A panorama of ships moved before us and about us. Frigates and barks and brigs, sloops and schooners moved in orderly procession. Slipping into the mighty Father of Waters, we were soon a part of the procession ourselves...

"Jefferson, Texas was our destination. After a year there we moved to Sulphur Springs, using an ox team for transport. We moved again to Grapevine in 1882. It was virgin soil and teeming with wild game. There I built a dugout and moved in with my wife and baby. During my first three years... I earned a living by hunting and trapping. I shipped quail, prairie chickens and wild turkeys to Denver through I.E. Jones, the village butcher, and sold my pelts and furs on the market...

"The next spring I broke out 160 acres of my sandy land farm and am sure that during the first five years I plowed up

1,000 rattlesnakes...After a year or so I learned that a rattlesnake would not strike except in a coil and thereafter, instead of leaping plow handles when I turned one up, I would frequently just kick it from the furrow and follow the plow without looking back."

Now in the evening of life, Mr. Bowlin...loves...to visit with old friends and talk of the days when taxes were small and the wild game was big. Ω

TEXAS LOSES A PRESERVATIONIST

Faith Poorman Bybee, who, with her late husband, **Charles**, founded the Texas Pioneer Arts Foundation, died in Houston on October 26 at age ninety-six.

Mrs. Bybee was a former president of the Texas Historical Foundation and a founder of the Harris County Heritage Society. Much of her collection of American antiques has been on permanent display at the Dallas Museum of Art.

The Texas Pioneer Arts Foundation operates Henkel Square, a folk art museum village in Round Top. Ω

EARL'S PEARLS

(from Earl Cullum's Archives)

The Oak Lawn Methodist Church at Cedar Springs and Oak Lawn in Dallas has the following markers on its Cedar Springs front:

A "Dallas Landmark"

A "Texas Historical Commission"

A "National Register of Historic Places"

Is there a Dallas County marker appropriate to this historic 1874 church? The present cornerstone was laid in 1913, for today's brick building.

Few locations in Dallas County have qualified for all three of these markers: city, state, and national. Should the Dallas County Pioneer Association in some way recognize this historic church and other historic Dallas County sites? Ω

HISTORY OF GOLF IN DALLAS

In the "GAY NINETIES" the town of Dallas had about 38,000 people. There had been a depression in 1893 but by 1896 the area had started to recover. Cotton was King and foreign cotton merchants from all over the world came to Dallas. Among these cotton men was H.L. Edwards, listed in 1900 as a Cotton Buyer. Edwards was from Britain where he had been introduced to the game of golf. Another native of England, R.E. Potter, listed as a capitalist with the Texas Land and Mortgage Company, joined with Edwards and they were instrumental in laying out the first six hole golf course on Haskell and Keating near Turtle Creek. These entrepreneurs sent to Boston for clubs and balls and introduced golf to the area. Potter lived at the Dallas Club and Edwards lived at the Oriental Hotel.

This venture led to the formation of the Dallas Golf Club in 1900, with the first building erected at Argyle and Lemmon. Mr. Edwards was the first president of the Texas Golf Association which he helped organize in 1906. The Dallas Golf Club lives on as the Dallas Country Club, first institution of this kind in Dallas.

The Dallas Country Club was established in 1899 on thirty acres of land on the edge of Oak Lawn. By 1912, its directors decided to sell this land for homes and move three miles farther north on land they purchased in Highland Park which was just being developed as an addition. Highland Park and University Park have now long since enveloped this location, but the cities recognize the importance of open spaces and have made tax concessions for the Club.

In 1912, Collett Munger and George Aldredge founded the Lakewood Country Club at Gaston and Prospect Street. This was close to the new development of Munger Place and Junius Heights and would help draw developers and residents farther east. This was the second oldest country club in Dallas. George Aldredge, Chairman of the First National Bank in Dallas, must have really liked the game of golf as he won the cities state championship in 1916.

The next private club that was organized was because of the worm castings at the Dallas Country Club! Cameron Buxton, brother-in-law of H.L. Edwards was playing a game of golf and his ball hit the "handi-work" of the earthworms in March 1920. To say the least he was upset, and the next week he, and three other players started the search for land that did not have worms on it. They found 157 acres near the confluence of the Elm Fork and the main fork of the Trinity which had sandy soil and would be free of worm castings. In addition water could be pumped from the Trinity to water the greens. Brook Hollow was the first course in the United States to have a complete fairway watering system. Dallas cotton merchant Sheppard W. King, Sr. was the club's first president 1921 - 1922.

By 1914, while these three private clubs were being organized, the athletic citizens of Dallas approached the Park Department for public links so that they, too, could enjoy this newest sport from Scotland. To satisfy this request the Park Department leased 117 acres of land along Turtle Creek from the estate of John Cole and laid out a golf course. This course had sand greens to avoid the expense of installing greens on leased property. This facility was used from 1922 to 1935, when the land was returned to the Cole Estate. John Cole was one of the first physicians in Dallas. This large family settled along Turtle Creek in 1844 and owned many acres of what is now Oak Lawn, Highland Park and North Dallas.

In 1919 the Park Department which operated under Mayor Joe Lawther, appointed Foster Jacoby to be the Director of Playgrounds. He was an accomplished young athlete and was described as having "unlimited energy and pep." Jacoby had married the daughter of a socially prominent family in Dallas and was acquainted with the other families in the area who were successful businessmen and large landowners. Foster Jacoby encouraged recreation in the parks rather than just beautification of the parks. He was a good friend of and played golf with Dr. W.W. Samuell. ♪

Frances James

Editor's Note: Watch for details in subsequent editions.

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.

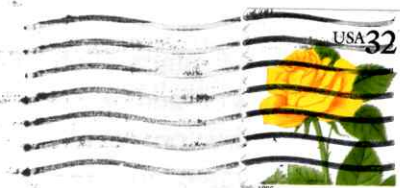
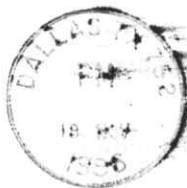
The organization meets for dinner and a program at 6:00 p.m. the first Thursday of each March, June, September, and December. Currently these quarterly meetings are held at Wyatt's Cafeteria, Forest Lane and Marsh Lane in Dallas.

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.

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