



Dallas County Pioneer Association

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

SPRING 1997

President:
Nancy McRae

PROGRAM FOR MARCH 6, 1997

No speaker for the Spring meeting—each of us is expected to participate in this program.

Vice-President:
William D. McRae

Clare Weakley will preside at an explanation and discussion about the growth and development of the Dallas County Pioneer Association. President **Nancy McRae**, with the approval of the Executive Board, appointed a committee to brainstorm the goals and the future of our organization. Chaired by Clare, other members are **Bill Clark, Bill Jacoby, Frances James, Nancy and Bill McRae, and John Winniford.**

Secretary:
Marcelle Hull

Some of the committee's plans and ideas will be presented, giving the entire membership a chance to add, change, approve, or disapprove. If time permits, Frances will bring us up to date on various historic projects underway in Dallas County of which she is aware.

Treasurer:
John Winniford

Join us on Thursday, March 6, at Wyatt's, and participate in setting the goals for the DCPA. Ω

Historian:
Susan Cargile

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Membership:
William D. McRae

We are indeed sorry to lose our Historian, **Helen Swint**, who found it necessary to resign because of changed job and personal responsibilities. We will still see her at meetings, as she expects to participate in the organization as a member.

Program:
Marcelle Hull

The good news is that **Susan Cargile** has agreed to serve as Historian. Susan is already an active member who has been on the Telephone Committee for many years. We are happy to welcome Susan as our new Historian.

Public Relations:
Clare G. Weakley, Jr.

There was an interesting article on the first page of the February 24th issue of *The Dallas Morning News* regarding our past president, Dr. **William D. Baird**, and the Routh Cemetery located near Spring Creek and the Dallas-Collin Counties line. It also mentions DCPA member **Henry W. Coit**, who inventoried and has been instrumental in caring for the Cemetery.

Telephone:
Faye Evans

Sunshine:
Sara McGee

At our Executive Committee meeting on January 28, **Clare Weakley**, a member-at-large, reviewed a plan to revitalize and expand our organization. This plan will be presented at our March meeting, after which we plan to canvas the membership for interests and suggestions. The Executive Committee was enthusiastic about Clare's well-thought-out plans, so we hope everyone will make a special effort to attend and participate.

Newsletter:
Marjori Sharp

Nancy McRae

MINUTES OF MEETING DECEMBER 5, 1996

The meeting was called to order by President **Nancy McRae** at 6:50 p.m. at Wyatt's Cafeteria. **Clare Weakley** led members in the opening prayer. **Tommy and Jennifer Vilbig** led pledges of allegiance to the American and Texas flags.

Under new business **Bill McRae** reported on the recent death of member **John Collins**. New member **Jack Warner Mackey** was introduced. Visitors present included **Ruth Ann Horton, Laura Mackey, Pat White, Daniel Boone, and Elva Taylor**.

Nancy announced the slate of officers for 1997 as recommended by the Nominating Committee, consisting of **Doris Barnes, Marsha Leach, and Nona Williams**, as follows:

President	Nancy McRae
Vice-President	Bill McRae
Treasurer	John Winniford
Secretary	Marcelle Hull
Newsletter Editor	Marjori Sharp
Historian	Helen Swint

The slate was elected by acclamation and **Earl Cullum** installed the new officers.

Nancy McRae then reported about the twenty-one members of the DCPA who attended the Dallas County Historical Commission Awards Banquet, during which the following members received awards: **Earl O. Cullum, Michael Hayslip, William F. Jacoby, Jr., Frances James, Marjori Sharp, Lloyd White, and Honorary member Lindalyn Adams**.

Helen Swint, historian, introduced our speaker, **Rose-Mary Rumbley**, whose topic was "Christmas Miracles" and included many humorous anecdotes about Dallas County and its residents.

Lloyd White encouraged all members to visit the Texas/Dallas Division of the Dallas Public Library to see the exhibit relating to the sinking of the Arizona during the December 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor.

The exhibit focuses on the ten sailors from Dallas who lost their lives with the sinking of the battleship.

Frances James shared the story of the woman in Joppa who takes care of needy elderly people.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m. Ω

Marcelle Hull

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Our welcome to new members this month is saddened by the loss of one before we could introduce her to our membership.

Marie Lanham Seidenberg, who attended her first DCPA meeting in December, died on January 27. She would have been ninety years old in April. She was a descendant of **Garfield B. and Mary Ann Beeman Lanham**. Garfield came to Dallas County from Kentucky in 1852. Mary Ann, who was a niece of **Margaret Beeman and John Neely Bryan**, was buried in the Pleasant Mound Cemetery, where Marie was also buried. In our Fall 1996 newsletter **Frances James** told us about meeting Marie and called her one of our "National Treasures". Her son, **Gordon Davis**, is also a member of DCPA since she gave him a membership as a birthday present last year.

Suzanne Johnson Cain has written an interesting history of her earliest Dallas County ancestor, **Henry F. Chaplin Johnson**, who came to the County in 1858. A widower with six children, he met and married a young widow, **Delilah Hall Burke**, shortly after his arrival and moved onto her acreage off Pleasant Run Road. They had three more children. Suzanne traces her line through her father, also named **Henry Frank Chaplin Johnson**, his father **J. Roll Johnson** and wife **Alice Susanna Roby**, and the first **H.F.C. Johnson** and his first wife, **Easter Sidney Brown**. She has taught school in Gainesville, Midland, and Mesquite and now lives in Sherman with her husband, **Bill Carroll Cain**. We hope to have room for more of her story in later newsletters and hope she can attend some of our meetings.

Suzanne lives at 2310 San Miguel, Sherman, TX 75092. Her phone number is 903/892-4229.

Jack Warner Mackey's earliest County ancestor was his grandfather, **James T. Mackey**, who came to Dallas in 1873 from Springfield, Illinois. Jack's father, **Taylor Hanks Mackey**, carried the Hanks family name from their relationship to **Mary Hanks Lincoln**, wife of the president. An uncle, **Allen Bailey**, was Sergeant-at-Arms of the U.S. Senate during the administration of President **Woodrow Wilson**.

Jack is retired from the Gulf Insurance Company, and he and his wife, **Laura Cleaveland Mackey**, live at 6923 Meadow Lake, Dallas TX 75214. Their phone number is 214/321-6879.

Peter Flagg Maxson, new Life member, is an architectural historian, formerly with the Texas Historical Commission and currently self-employed. An article on his paternal grandparents, **Harry and Marion Flagg Maxson**, who arrived in Dallas County in 1915, is part of our Proud Heritage II, and he also is descended from the late noted oilman, **Everett Lee DeGolyer**. His first DeGolyer arrivals were **Narcissus K. Huddle** and **John William DeGolyer**, parents of Everett, in 1936.

Peter is a graduate of St. Mark's School of Texas in Dallas, was in military intelligence in the U.S. Army and has been an assistant to the Curator of the Smithsonian Castle of the Smithsonian Institute in Washington. He has had published various articles and book reviews in such publications as *Texas Parks and Wildlife* and the Texas Historical Commission's *Medallion*. His address is 4212 Avenue F, Austin TX 78751, telephone number 512/474-1912.

Thomas Lee Vilbig is our latest Student member, joining sister **Jennifer** and father **David** in the DCPA. Tommy and Jennifer have already participated by leading our Salute to the Flag, and we commend David for bringing them in early.

Tommy's first ancestor in Dallas County was **John Christopher Vilbig**, who was born in Bavaria and came to Dallas in 1876. John farmed in south Dallas and was the father of **August M.**, who founded Vilbig Brothers Excavation in 1886 and excavated many Dallas landmarks, including the Adolphus Hotel, the Magnolia Building, and North Dallas High School.

Ten-year-old Tommy (February 11) lives at 10259 Gooding, Dallas 75229, telephone number 214/352-1325. Ω

FINAL FAREWELLS

We have made telephone calls and sent sympathy cards to a number of our members recently.

We lost our long-time member, **Herbert G. Hughes**, husband of former DCPA President **Mattie Hughes**, on January 13. They were married for fifty-seven years, and have twenty-eight great grandchildren and twelve great great grandchildren. Burial was in Grove Hill Memorial Park.

Marie McMahan lost her sister, **Barbara Strickland Drobnies**, on December 23. She had her PhD in nursing and at the time of her retirement was Director of Nursing Services at Terrell State Hospital. She was buried in Restland Memorial Park.

We express our sympathies to **Lejeune Wilson** and his family in the loss of his wife, **Mary Ruth**, who died peacefully on January 7 after many years of illness. Among her survivors are eight grandchildren. Services were handled by Sparkman-Hillcrest. Ω

Sara McGee

Pick up your brand new 1997 Roster
at the March meeting and keep up with
Who's Who in the DCPA!

COUNTY RECORDS MICROFILMING PROJECT COMPLETED

The Dallas Genealogical Society's November 1996 "DGS Newsletter" stated that the microfilming of records from the Dallas County District Court, a year-long project, has been completed.

DCPA made a gift of \$1,000 to the Texas/Dallas History and Archives Division of the Dallas Public Library for the purpose of purchasing a microfilm storage cabinet for this project (see our Spring 1996 Newsletter). Combined with a gift from the Forest Avenue High School Alumni, this made possible the purchase of the special cabinet. Ω

THC HISTORICAL MARKERS DUE THIS SPRING

The approved inscriptions for the Texas Historical Markers for four graves are at the foundry for casting, and some spring day we will have a dedication for them. Three will be at the Pioneer Cemetery in downtown Dallas: **John Jay Good**, **Alexander Harwood**, and **James Martin Patterson**.

Good practiced law in Alabama before moving to Dallas in 1851. He was involved in early local and state government, served in the Confederate Army, became a district judge and was elected mayor of Dallas in 1880.

Harwood came to Dallas in 1844 from Tennessee. He was elected county clerk six times between 1850 and 1880, served the Confederacy as assistant to Postmaster General **John H. Reagan**, and represented Dallas County at the 1866 State Constitutional Convention.

Kentucky native Patterson arrived in Dallas in 1846. He and his partner in one of the City's first stores, **John W. Smith**, built a flatboat and tried to ship cotton down the Trinity River to the Gulf Coast in 1851. He served as chief justice (county judge) 1854-1866.

The marker for Mississippi native **Daniel Webster Gilbert** will be dedicated at the Sowers Cemetery in Irving. A graduate of Missouri Medical College, he began his practice in Euless and Grapevine and moved to Sowers in 1884. He moved to Irving in 1903, becoming one of the area's first doctors and civic leaders.

Plan to attend these marker dedications and tour the other interesting markers in these old cemeteries. Ω

MOUNT AUBURN SCHOOL OBSERVES ANNIVERSARY

On Saturday, January 18, Mount Auburn Elementary School celebrated its seventy-fifth birthday, beginning with the reenactment of a historic parade.

In January 1922 the principal, teachers, and students of the new school paraded down Grand Avenue from O.M. Roberts to the new Mount Auburn building. Some 750 to 1,000 current and former students retraced this march during the anniversary celebration, among them Pioneers **Frances James** and **John Winniford**. Ω

JFK FOR A NEW GENERATION

Historian **Conover Hunt** has done it again: she has authored another book, one for our children and their children: *JFK for a New Generation*. Conover was the project director who organized The Sixth Floor Museum to preserve the site of **John F. Kennedy's** assassination, and the author of the new A Visitor's Guide to Dealey Plaza National Historic Landmark in 1996.

Devoted to the generation that was born after 1963, the book provides insights into the myths, history, and arguments surrounding the events which took place around November 22, 1963, as well as a look at Kennedy's life and legacy. The foreword is by **Hugh Sidey**, who says this is the best account yet of the assassination.

JFK for a New Generation is for sale at the Visitor's Center of The Sixth Floor Museum. Paperback price is \$19.95 and hard cover is \$34.95. Ω

NEW BOOK TO SPOTLIGHT DALLAS

We took the following from the Fall issue of *The Gazette*, publication of The Heritage Society.

Wyndham Publications of Seattle, Washington, is planning to publish a limited edition book focusing on business in Dallas during the past 100 years. Entitled *Dallas: A Dynamic Century*, the volume is being sponsored by, and will benefit, the Dallas County Heritage Society.

Wyndham has contracted with Dr. **Michael Hazel** to write the text for the book, which will examine various aspects of business in Dallas, including transportation, manufacturing, health care, the arts and education. A special section of the book will salute individual businesses which sponsor the publication.

The Heritage Society will be a beneficiary of sales of the books, as well as sponsorships. Wyndham, which has recently published volumes on Pittsburgh and San Francisco, hopes to have the book ready by the end of 1997. For more information, call 421-5141, x230. Ω

LOCAL TRIVIA

For anyone who rode in a military truck or jeep anywhere in the world during World War II, there is a good chance it was one built in Dallas. Over 100,000 were built here, at the Ford Plant on East Grand.

The first-ever night football game in Dallas was played before 45,000 fans at the new Fair Park Stadium in 1930, with North Dallas High winning 7-6. The first player listed in the line-up was a N.D. end named **E.O. Cullum**. That stadium is today's Cotton Bowl. Ω

from *Hidden Dallas* by Kirk Dooley

EARL'S PEARLS

(from *Earl O. Cullum's Archives*)

The new six-volume *New Handbook of Texas*, published by the Texas State Historical Association in 1996, has 23,000 articles on 6,944 pages. Thus, it reaches from **Juan Abamillo**, who was killed defending the Alamo, to **Louis Anthony Zurcher, Jr.**

Zurcher was born in San Francisco and earned his PhD in sociology at the University of Arizona in 1965. He was a professor and a dean at the University of Texas at Austin from 1958 until his death in 1987. He wrote sixteen books and was also a naval reserve captain in the Medical Service Corps.

The forty-eight color pages extend from the 16th century Indians to **Lyndon B. Johnson**, and include **Stephen F. Austin**, **David Crockett**, and **Sam Houston**. But the set of books isn't quite perfect. A photograph of **John Neely Bryan's** wife **Margaret Beeman Bryan** is printed backwards, and shows her wedding ring on her right hand. Ω

SIXTH FLOOR MUSEUM BEGINS EXPANSION PROJECT

Presidents' Day, February 17, 1997, marks the eighth anniversary of the opening of the Sixth Floor Museum. Since opening, over 2.85 million people have visited the Museum, with a record of 432,000 in 1996.

The growth in attendance has created the need to increase the size of the Visitors Center. On January 28 a renovation project was begun. It includes expansion of the west lobby, creating three box office windows, enhancing visitors' amenities, and enlarging the Museum Store.

The Museum will remain open for business—seven days a week from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. This is an important step in preparing for eventual expansion to the seventh floor, increasing exhibit space and creating a multi-purpose classroom.

THE STORY OF THE PARK CITIES HERITAGE HOUSE AT OCP

At the December 5 meeting-Christmas party of the Dallas County Historical Commission at the Park Cities Heritage House in Old City Park, **Lindalyn Adams** gave the participants a history of the historic house. It was a very informative and entertaining program; herewith a sorta synopsis.

The oldest remaining home in Highland Park was scheduled for razing in order to free up the lot on which it was built, but there were forward-looking lovers of heritage who, thankfully, couldn't allow that to happen. This was in the mid-1980s. It was rescued and maintained by the Park Cities Historical Society while wannabe preservationists schemed overtime to find ways to finance its removal to a safe location.

Finally, in 1985, it was trundled from north Dallas and through downtown to Old City Park (our favorite place for those heirloom structures we love), in two afterdark segments which necessitated the backing-off of power and telephone lines and had people rubbing their eyes in disbelief.

Then the next miracle happened: the Texas Homes magazine named it the "Showcase House" of the year, and it was beautifully restored in time for Texas' Sesquicentennial celebration in 1986.

Today it is a magnificent part of the history and culture of Dallas' Museum of Architectural History in Old City Park, the "Village Within a City". It is a favorite place for small weddings and meetings of small groups.

Lindalyn gave a warm first-hand history of the resurrection of the House: she was there, all the way! Ω

THE FUTURE PROTECTS THE PAST

We hope you saw the writeup in the February 4 *The Dallas Morning News* about former president of DCPA Dr. **William D. Baird** and his joy at finding

the gravesite of his grandfather, **Thomas Sloss Baird** who died in 1920. Here is the essence of it:

The small cemetery seemed to be in the middle of nowhere when Dr. Baird's ancestors were buried there more than seventy-five years ago; now it is on the edge of Richardson's Telecom Corridor and the center of some impressive development plans. He had visited a little family cemetery years ago with his father, trying to find the grave of his grandfather. They found a small cemetery, but failed to find a slightly larger one a few hundred yards away. The larger cemetery, a little less than an acre in size, contains about 200 graves, the oldest one dating to 1850 and only two since the turn of the century, one of them Dr. Baird's grandfather. It also holds the graves of his great grandparents and two of his great aunts.

The smaller cemetery was the family plot for the **Jacob Routh** family and has the gravesites of only four people inside a low wrought-iron fence, with family pets buried outside the fence. Jacob Routh led the caravan of settlers from Tennessee in 1851 and he owned the land on which both cemeteries are located. The railroad came to Dallas twenty years after the Rouths arrived and the tracks, which soon could carry DART's light rail between Plano and downtown Dallas, still run along the edge of the property. Slightly beyond is Central Expressway.

Henry W. Coit, also a DCPA member who is descended from the Rouths on his mother's side, is the self-appointed caretaker of the cemeteries, which are in pretty good shape, considering their age and forays by armadillos. Both men hope that the State will someday mark the cemeteries with an historical plaque. They have been assured by developers that the cemeteries are not threatened; the developers say they are part of the history and heritage of the area and will enhance any development around them. Ω

"REAL ESTATE" HAS A HISTORY

Now that you have paid your current taxes, read this and see how it all began. Condensed from an article by **Georgia Clement** in *The Dallas Morning News*, June 9, 1996.

The first actual real estate transaction is recorded in Genesis, when Abraham bought a plot of ground from a Hittite to bury his wife. The Bible also describes a system in the Book of Joshua by which land records were maintained: "the men went and passed up and down the land and set down in a book a description of it."

In 3000 B.C. the king of Babylonia issued a decree that a real estate contract was only legal if it was entered into freely by both parties. The earliest known title company on record, the firm of Egibi & Sons, operated in the fifth century B.C. during the reign of King Nebuchadnezzar. Archaeologists have discovered hundreds of small clay tablets upon which the firm issued checks throughout Asia Minor and maintained records of all real estate transactions.

Usually documents were made legal by a carved seal or a thumbprint; even in B.C. times people knew that no two fingerprints are exactly alike.

The earliest record of property tax payments is found in Egypt around 2000 B.C. All land and property were recorded and taxes assessed to residents based on these records.

William Penn was one of the first great pioneers in the American real estate industry. He was one of the first to zone land solely for recreational use. Citizens got the right to own property after the American Revolution and the end of England's control over land in America. The bankrupt government paid its veterans with land and the real estate industry began to grow with the new financial businesses.

The oldest U.S. real estate company on record was Cruikshank & Co. in New York in 1794. By the 1850s real estate transactions became so complex and occurred so frequently that individuals with specific knowledge of the industry were required and brokerage companies grew rapidly. However, ethical practices varied and anyone could be called a real estate agent.

In 1908 the National Association of Real Estate Exchanges, now called the National Association of

Realtors, was formed with the goal of promoting ethical conduct by brokers and to guarantee safe real estate transactions throughout the country. Ω

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MARJORIE BEARD WRITES US FROM AUSTIN

Helen Swint, program chairman last year, received the following letter from DCPA member, Marjorie Beard of Austin, and we want to share her comments with you. How nice to hear from our out-of-town members and to know that they are keeping up.

Dear Ms. Swint:

The recent DCPA Winter 1996 newsletter was of special interest to me, because of the program you had in September. I grew up on Preston Road in the '30s and early '40s and went to school in Richardson. Although my grandparents' home was located in the Richardson School District, their property was partially in the Addison School District. Since children in both schools rode the same school-bus, I became acquainted with many of the Addison students, and was familiar with the surrounding territory.

My ultimate reason in writing you is in reference to Andy Eads' history of Addison. I believe Addison was first known as *Noell* or *Noell's Junction*, not *Knowles Junction*, as was given in the account on Page 3. It is easy to see that this could possibly be a clerical error. A book was published in February 1990 titled *The Noell Family, a Westward Journey from the Netherlands, Virginia, Georgia to Texas*, compiled by Milton J. & Millard D. Noell and Frances Dennis Truman. The book contains a partial history of Addison. Mr. Ead might like to correspond with some of the Noell family, since their grandparents were Sidney Smith Noell and Nanny Lively Noell, early settlers of the area.

I will be sending my 1997 dues to Mr. Winniford, as suggested in the newsletter.

Sincerely yours,
Marjorie Pierce Beard

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. Meeting room opens 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
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