

Dallas County Pioneer Association

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

SPRING 1998

President:
William D. McRae

SPRING DINNER MEETING

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 1998

Vice-President:
Clare G. Weakley, Jr.

Family Hall, Royal Lane Baptist Church

6707 Royal Lane (Royal Lane and Hillcrest Road)

Secretary:
Mae Riek

\$7 per person 6 p.m.

**RSVP to DCPA message center 214/969-0926
or**

Bill McRae @ 214/521-8654

Treasurer:
John Winniford

Historian:
Susan Cargile

Membership:
Clare G. Weakley, Jr.

Program:
Nancy McRae

Telephone:
Faye Evans

Sunshine:
Nona Williams

Newsletter:
Marjori Sharp

We are having a catered dinner and reservations will be required. If you do not care to eat, just come for the meeting at 7 p.m., but we must have a "head count" for the caterer. The serving line will be open from 6 to 6:30 so that the program can start at 7. Please make reservations no later than Monday, March 2 (earlier, if possible). It would be helpful if you mailed your check, payable to DCPA, to Bill at 3500 Dartmouth, Dallas 75205. You will be called by the Telephone Committee. If you make a reservation and cannot come, you will be expected to pay. You may enter from Hillcrest or from Royal Lane. If you enter off Royal at Thackery (west side of complex) you can park right by the Family Hall and enter through the glass door. (See Mapsco 25G.)

Our program will be presented by **Henry Tatum**, associate editor of the editorial page for *The Dallas Morning News*. He joined *The News* in 1967, after working as a reporter for the *McKinney Courier-Gazette*. Before being named associate editor in 1986, Tatum served as an editorial writer, religion writer, county courthouse reporter, and was city hall reporter for ten years.

Tatum received his bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Oklahoma in 1965. He has received a Public Service Award from the United Press International and an Associated Press Managing Editors First Place Award for editorial writing. In 1993 Tatum was part of a group of editorial staff members who were Pulitzer Prize finalists for a series featuring the plight of West Dallas.

Tatum's topics will be City Government; Dallas, Past and Future; Local Politics. Don't miss this very timely program by a true professional. Ω

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I take over responsibility as your president, I appreciate your confidence in me and ask your help in making DCPA the kind of organization you want it to be. Please call me at my home phone 214/521-8654, or better yet, the DCPA "Call Notes" line at **214/969-0926**, with any suggestions you have for programs, speakers, or any other activities you would like to see incorporated in our Association. When you call the DCPA "Call Notes" line, please leave your message and also let me know what information you would like to have in the greeting. The number again is **214/969-0926**.

I have made the following appointments of Members-at-Large to the Executive Committee for 1998: **William E. Clark, A. Eugene Gaddy, and June A. Shipley**.

Faye Evans will continue as Telephone Committee chair, and **Nona Williams** will serve as Sunshine Chair.

At the December 1997 meeting member **Jim Forster** presented DCPA with a copy of his book *The Bois D'arc at Nacogdoches*. This is a great addition to the archives of DCPA and tells some fascinating stories of the pioneers who settled the northeastern corner of our County. As examples, on page 14 Forster quotes a story told by **Wes Ross**: "Ole George Sims was lead'n sangin. It was just about dark. Six or so babies was sleeping in the back of them wagons. Some of us older boys decided to swap them babies around. Church turned out and they left without even looking at them babies. It was good and dark by the time they got home. People was up half the night figur'n out who had their baby." **Ruth Poovy Poore** is quoted on page 64: "On the trip to Jefferson, Lucretia was shaken when a river boat slave slipped overboard and was eaten by an alligator. She was scared for weeks." Forster states on page 82: "Sweet potatoes and turnips were sealed with corn stalks and covered with hills of dirt. They were dug out as needed during the winter." What interesting glimpses at our past! Congratula-

tions, Jim, and THANKS! The book is available for DCPA members to borrow and read.

Gerard Dickinson, a faithful member, will present to DCPA at our March meeting a book written by **Justin F. Kimball**, entitled *Our City Dallas*. Kimball was a longtime administrator in the Dallas public schools, a leader in city planning, and a Southern Methodist University scholar. He wrote the book so that Dallas students would have a history of their town from which to learn more about their home. The book was published in 1927 by The Kessler Plan Association of Dallas and has been wrapped in a fine new binding by **Polly Waddington**. Gerard will present the book in memory of her husband, **Andrew G. Dickinson**. It will be another valuable addition to our archives.

The Executive Committee is exploring possible sites for permanent storage of the DCPA archives. Do any other members have historical items you wish to present to DCPA? Contact me, if you do.

Joan S. Moore writes from Houston about ancestor **Preston Witt**: "...he is recorded as being their first inhabitant [Addison, TX]. Preston brought a grist mill in his covered wagon drawn by oxen which he set up on the Trinity River near Carrollton and it was one of the first in north Texas. Later he turned it into a steam-powered one and turned the mill over to his younger brother, **Wade Hampton**, as he [Preston] was becoming more involved in the protection of the pioneers against Indian attacks and as a Texas Ranger." Joan goes on to say how fascinating the history of our ancestors is and what an ongoing source of opportunity it offers us for discovery and preservation. True! True!

Several members have commented that all of our meetings are at night and that they cannot drive at night and therefore cannot attend the meetings. I have recently met with **Andy Wolber**, executive director of the Dallas Historical Society, to explore areas of collaboration. Among the information obtained was a list of city tours for 1998, sponsored by the Education Department of the DHS, as follows:

- February 28 Downtown Dallas tour
- March 21 Fair Park and East Dallas tour led by **Darwin Payne**
- April 18 Bonnie and Clyde tour led by local author **John Neal Phillips**
- October 24 Cemetery tour led by **Frances James**
- November 7 Oak Cliff tour led by **Darwin Payne**

Each tour departs from the Hall of State parking lot at 9 a.m. and returns by 2 p.m., with lunch included. Tickets are \$25 for members of DHS, Dallas County Heritage Society, or Sixth Floor Museum, and \$35 for others. You can call 214/421-4500 for more information. The Executive Committee will be exploring other daytime activities or extra meetings on weekends to accommodate your needs. Your comments as to time and day preferences will be appreciated. Remember, this is YOUR Association!

We were sad to see the Oakland Avenue name change because it represents an erasure of another historic name. Why couldn't Second Avenue or some other street name without historical significance have been changed? The name change of part of Floyd Road is at least ameliorated by Texas Instruments's promise to erect a monument and plaque to recognize the Floyd Farm and the part it played in early county history. It is fine to recognize modern heroes with street names, but why at the expense of old or historic ones? All of us should be alert to such happenings and should let our elected representatives know our feelings.

See you at our March 5 meeting! Ω
Bill McRae

DUES ARE DUE

You can still pay your dues and pick up your new Roster at the March meeting.

Bring your dues to the meeting, or mail to our Treasurer, John Winniford
6927 Chevy Chase
Dallas, TX 75225

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Deborah Dee Barnes, who was a member of **Pat Robertson's** 700 Club ministry, joined us in January. We hope to have something about her family history for you in our next newsletter.

Deborah and her husband **Robert V. Barnes, Jr.**, have three children, and they live at 10036 Rustleleaf Drive, 75238. Their phone number is 214/348-6728.

Anna Schmid Peters was brought to us by charter member **Mary Alice Dealey**, and she has given us some of the history of the family of her late husband, **Joseph James Peters**. Joe was descended from a Joseph Peters who had a Texas land grant from the king of Spain. Anna says there has always been a Joseph in the Peters family and she and Joe continued the tradition with **Joseph James, Jr.**, as well as other sons Robert and David.

Anna's family came to Dallas in 1930 by way of New Orleans and many other locales when her father was transferred through his job with the Harry Drake Hotels of Chicago.

Anna is a member of the National Trust and The Dallas County Heritage Society. She and Mackie Dealey and Marjori Sharp have been longtime friends in the Guild of the Park. She lives at 6423 Turner Way, 75230, and her phone number is 972/239-1675.

Dr. Emerson Emory's first ancestor in Dallas County was **Charley Emory**, who came in 1897 and settled near the corner of Argyle and Cedar Springs. Charley married **Sallie Robinson**, who was born in Jacksonville. Their son, **Corry Bates**, was born in Jacksonville in 1895 and married **Louise Linthecom**, who was born in Nacogdoches. Emerson, the son of Corry and Louise, married **Peggy Herold**, and has three children.

Dr. Emory's father was a World War I veteran. He lives at 4931 W. Mockingbird Lane, 75209, and his telephone number is 214/352-7684.

John D. Threadgill has joined us with a Life membership and has joined up his three daughters, **Whitney Regan**, **Erin Edwards**, and **Abigail Grace** as Student members.

John is descended from **William Worley Pile (Pyle)**, who came to Dallas County in 1849 and settled in the Witt's Mill area. He and his wife, **Ann Marriott**, were the parents of **Mary Lidia Jane**, who married **J.L. Edwards** in Dallas in 1852. When Mary died he married her stepsister, **Margaret Thompson**, and she raised his son, **William Thomas**. This son married **Serena Petty** in Fort Worth, and they became the parents of **Oscar Lindsey**. Oscar and his wife, **Emma M. Park**, had daughter **Doris**, and she and her husband, **A. Jack Threadgill**, were the parents of John.

John and his wife, **Karen Kay McCasland**, live with their three daughters at 9104 Kingsley Creek, 75231. Their phone number is 214/348-1715. Ω

SICK CALL

Our beautiful "Sunshine Lady", **Sara McGee**, has been very ill in Doctors Hospital. She is unable to speak well due to a tumor pressing against her vocal cords. Also, a blood clot was discovered in her leg. She cannot have visitors at this time, but I am sure she would appreciate cards or letters addressed to her home. Sara is home again and **David** says she is almost her old cranky self (!) so she is doing much better. David has been having trouble with a torn bicep which he got helping out in the hospital, but he says it is better.

I talked with **Marcelle Hull**, who is home from the hospital after completing a series of chemotherapy treatments. She will go back to the doctor on February 11 for further consultation. She sends her best wishes to us all and misses seeing us.

Colonel Earl Cullum is at Presbyterian for surgery for blood clots, after suffering from two herniated discs which have interfered with his busy schedule. The

discs had to be put on the back burner when two blood clots on the brain appeared after an automobile accident on January 4. Earl was still in Intensive Care at this writing, but we hope he will be out by the time you receive this, so get those cards and letters going to his home address.

Jackie and Bill Jacoby have suffered a series of health problems, including falls. Jackie is recovering from pneumonia and Bill is undergoing treatment with a new drug for prostate cancer.

Please keep all of these members in your thoughts and prayers.

Be sure to let our new Sunshine Chairman, **Nona Williams**, know of any illness in our membership. Ω
Nancy McRae
for Sara McGee

CONFERENCE ON POSITIVE PARENTING TO BE HELD IN DALLAS

Vivian Castleberry, one of our favorite speakers, is chairing a national conference called the Power of Positive Parenting to be held in Dallas at the Hyatt Regency Hotel September 10-13. An open-to-the-public meeting was held by the steering committee on February 10, to announce their plans to Dallas and prepare to welcome participants in September.

This conference was organized under the auspices of American Mothers, Inc. (a nonprofit, interracial, interfaith organization with chapters in all fifty states), which honored Mrs. Castleberry in 1996 as Texas Mother of the Year. She has written to **Frances James** for her support.

"We will have participants from throughout the country for this event and we want them to know that Dallas is much more than its stereotype. Its 'can do' spirit extends beyond the marketplace and sports arenas to include and embrace families," says Mrs. Castleberry. "It is also a community with a heart, a spiritual place." Ω

FROM OUR MAILBAG

All good wishes for the New Year!", Margaret Swann, Nashville, Tennessee. And we wish the same for her. It is just great to hear from our far-away friends. Margaret is one of our Charter members and we wish she could get back home once in a while.

Brand new member Eulene Wilkerson from Bluffton writes: "It is my desire to be able to attend and meet everyone." She said she would appreciate more notice for the next meeting. John Winniford replied to her letter and told her that her newsletter will give her details about the meeting. We do hope that she will come in March and let us all meet her.

Marie Caillet, another Charter and Life member, wrote a newsy letter about her goings-on and she is hard to believe! She continues to write and publish, and also to maintain a showplace of Louisiana iris culture at her family home in Little Elm. If you haven't been there, you should go. Besides helping with iris society newsletters, she is presently revising her beautiful book *The Louisiana Iris*, 1988, to be published in 1999. And she and her sister, Shirley Welch, are working on a short history of Cedar Pine Lane in Little Elm. It was first occupied by her parents and about six other Dallas families with weekend houses after the lake was filled, four of which are still occupied. Look for something about her and Shirley in April *Southern Living* magazine.

We will want her book about her home for our archives. (We claimed her as one of our "writer" members in our history, *One Hundred Twenty Years*.) We are so glad she took time to write to us. She would try to make our meetings if they were not at night. Ω

This is a call to inventory all items that belong to DCPA.

We know that we have a significant inventory of valuable records and other materials. Unfortunately, all these things are mostly spread out among our members, so we're not sure what we have and/or where it is. So if you have anything, such as applications, family records, etc. in your possession that belongs to the Association, please make a list and send it to Bill McRae so that we will know what we have and where.

SARA MCGEE, NEW LIFE MEMBER

"BE IT RESOLVED, THAT Sara Hibbits McGee be designated a Life Member in said DCPA in recognition of her long and faithful service." Thus decreed the Executive Committee of the DCPA in session on February 9, 1998, by unanimous vote.

Sara's long and faithful service to the DCPA began with her charter membership in the reorganized DCPA in 1979. She has served as our President and continued to serve as Sunshine Chair and on the Telephone Committee until recent health problems caused her to step aside. She has been a steadfast promoter and supporter of our organization whenever called upon.

We don't have too many tangible ways to show our appreciation for long and faithful service other than a heartfelt "Thank you!", so it is with love and gratitude that we welcome Sara as a Life Member in DCPA. Ω



WHO IS THIS VIVACIOUS TEENAGER? She has kept her enthusiasm and drive to this very day! A fifth generation Dallas Countian and charter member of DCPA, she has been a great leader.

TELEPHONE COMMITTEE 1998

Faye Evans, Telephone Committee Chair, announces the following members of the Committee for 1998:

Doris Barnes
Louise Buhrer
Glenda and Robert Cammack
Susan Cargile
Kathy Culver
Gerard Dickenson
Martha Gracey
Linda Hart
Jack Mackey
Sandra Neal
Joan Pickard
Carolyn Selzer

Thanks to each of the Committee members for their past help as well as for their work to come. Be sure to let these callers know of any information you would like them to pass on to the Association. Ω



HISTORY OF GANO HOUSE AT OLD CITY PARK

The following is from notes taken on a speech by Gene Wharton Rain for the Guild of the Heritage Society. We need to get her for a program. She is a great granddaughter of General Gano, and her grandfather was the first child born in this cabin.

The only "dogtrot" house at Old City Park is the **R.M. Gano** log house, which was moved to the Park in

1974 from its original location in Tarrant County. It is a favorite of visitors, young and old. Because the Ganos later became leading citizens of Dallas, their story is of interest to us.

First known evidence of the house is found in the diary of a daughter of Judge **J.T. Morehead**, who moved with his family to Texas in 1854 from Virginia. She writes of seeing it as a two-room, dirt floor, log cabin sitting on the prairie. By 1857 the cabin had been enlarged and sold to Dr. **Richard Montgomery Gano**, who came from Bourbon County Kentucky with his wife and two children. In his memoirs he stated that he moved by wagon and carriage with his brother-in-law, his brother, his servants, and some horses, and shortly before reaching their destination they stopped at a house for a drink of water. They told the old lady where they were going and she remarked, "You have a fine home; there is a dining room in the house."

The original cabin was built of post oak logs with half dovetail notching. There was a brick fireplace in each room with a dogtrot between the two rooms. By 1858 it was a residence of six rooms, four down and two up, "with an excellent kitchen, meat house, granary, dairy, cribs, stable, fowl houses. . . peach and apple orchard . . . sixty acres . . . title undisputed, a good warrantee (sic) deed."

Extensive research has been done on the house by not only the Dallas County Heritage Society, but by professional restorationists as well. The Texas Historical Commission prepared "An Architectural Analysis of the R.M. Gano House", with measured drawings which were submitted to the American Historical Building Survey, and is in their library. Dr. **William Seale** of the Smithsonian Institute called it "a real jewel of a house that well may be the most important building in the Park".

The House had approximately four major revisions, the second stage being the one to which it was restored in the Park. The dogtrot had been enclosed and was reopened for this restoration.

The Heritage Society undertook the restoration of the house for two reasons: First, it is an outstanding example of a log structure of the mid-nineteenth century in the north Texas area, and was in danger of being razed to make room for commercial development. Second, it was the first Texas home of one of the leading citizens.

Dr. Gano was a young man of 27 when he came to Texas. Born in Bourbon County, Kentucky, in 1830, he married **Martha Jane Welch** in 1853. His father was a founder of the Disciples of Christ Church in Kentucky, and his great-grandfather, a chaplain in the Revolutionary Army, baptized **George Washington**. He was the only doctor in the area when he came to Texas. When Indian trouble arose he rode west with a posse to suppress the uprising, and was rewarded by the grateful citizens of Tarrant County with a sword. He served as a Texas legislator from Tarrant County in the 1861 session.

With the start of the Civil War he organized Gano's Squadron and rode with two hundred men to Tennessee to join his friend, **Albert Sidney Johnston**. They arrived a few days after the Battle of Shiloh in which Johnston was killed and joined Morgan's Raiders, where he eventually attained the rank of Brigadier General. He returned to Texas in 1863, where he took on the command as Brigadier General of the Texas Brigade, operating in the Indian territory.

After the War General Gano and his family moved back to Kentucky and he became a minister in the Disciples of Christ church. They returned to Texas in 1874 and settled in Dallas, where he became a leading citizen, serving the ministry, breeding cattle, and developing real estate. He had twelve children, nine of whom lived to maturity. He died in Dallas in 1913 and is buried in Oakland Cemetery, where there is a Texas Historical marker at his grave, commemorating his contributions to the history of Texas and to the Confederacy.

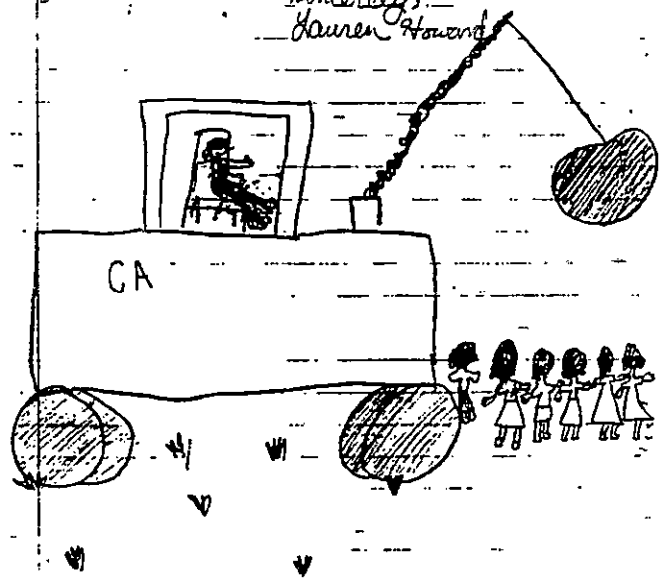
The Gano House, because of its age and association with one of Dallas' earliest civic leaders, is one of the most important structures in Old City Park. Ω

Mrs. Rain receives fan mail from her listeners: below is the reprint of a letter from a school child. Lauren has drawn a picture of the members of the garden club thwarting the razing of Millermore, first structure moved to Old City Park.

April 15, 1993

Dear Mrs. Rain,
Thank you for the talk you gave about Old City Park. I think it was neat when these women by in front of the bulldozer just to save an old house from the 1800's.
(Here is a picture of it)

Sincerely,
Lauren Howard



RECYCLED HISTORY — The stately brick building on Oak Lawn Avenue has looked forlorn for years. It was Parkland Hospital's first home; later other county departments used it. Now the local American Institute of Architects chapter hopes to help transform it into a health education center. Good! Dallas needs to reuse its historic structures; we've torn down too many already.

from *The Dallas Morning News*

PICK UP YOUR NEW ROSTER AT THE MARCH MEETING!

THIS'N THAT FROM FRANCES' NOTES

• The latest news about Old Red— straight from **Lindalyn Adams**, who is very involved in the plans for a museum in this favorite structure of Dallas County. Lindalyn was the chair of the Dallas County Historical Commission during the 1970-80s and has remained fervent in her efforts to preserve our County history.

The architect for the restoration of the building is **James Pratt**, who has been the overseer of all the reproductions necessary to bring the building up to the present stage. The report that the restoration of the first floor is complete is not quite true; at some time during the reconstruction, asbestos was discovered and that slowed up the project. But, the laying of the tile floors is nearly complete and the wooden doors and door frames are now being installed. The staircase is being refurbished and, of course, the electrical and heating have been modernized. The State of Texas Historical architects are involved in each phase of this project and have approved the renovation.

The Convention and Visitors Center for Dallas will be occupying a section of the first floor and their goal is to be situated by June. There will be a reception desk, and space for the historical museum is being carefully considered. Hopefully, there will be some space for the DCPA and others in the building. The Dallas County Historical Commission has even discussed having a reception or banquet this fall! Further discussion is still underway for uses in the entire building.

More exciting information next time.

• You know that one of the largest taxpayers in the City of Dallas is getting what they want: Floyd Road, which was named many years ago for the pioneer family that first occupied this section of Dallas County, is being changed. This change has been under consideration for over a year, although the only way it was discovered was by the large signs placed on the corner of the property at Restland Road and

Floyd. When called, the staff person in Dallas did not know the reason the change was requested, but he did know the ordinance to change the street name was being revised to suit Texas Instruments.

Further letter-writing and conversation with TI revealed that they had sold off part of their business to Raytheon and were moving their headquarters to the Forest Lane facilities. This explanation was somewhat confusing to me, but they wanted Floyd Road renamed TI Boulevard. To soothe their conscience, TI had contacted all businesses affected along the way and offered to pay for any expense with checks, letterheads, etc. The person in charge had also contacted the only member of the Floyd family they could find (a band director for the Richardson School District who was moving to Austin) and he "okayed" the change. In the future a large sign or plaque will be erected mentioning the pioneer Floyd family.

Hopefully, everyone else understands this explanation. **I did not!**

• By now probably everyone has read the papers about the ongoing problems at Dallas Independent School District. You will remember over three years ago, many of us tried to save the old Dallas High School building and wrote letters, called various elected officials, attended a tour of the facilities, etc. All to no avail, as the elected officials refused any offers of a meeting to discuss the sale or demolition of the building.

In 1995 we did get the site accepted for a listing on the National Register of Historic Places, without the consent of the Superintendent. Even this did not change the minds of the determined people trying to sell. A halfhearted attempt was made to find a buyer, but the person hired did not know who to contact, so after six months and no buyer, his contract ran out. That only cost the tax-paying citizens of Dallas about \$40,000. (He was paid to drive around in his car.)

Now a real estate broker has been paid \$355,000 as commission to sell it. The policy of the school district

is not to pay commission on a sale, but they broke that rule and paid her anyway.

Unfortunately, it may be too late, but there are still efforts being researched to save the perfectly good building and adaptively reuse it for the citizens of Dallas who did own it. Some of the various people involved in this fiasco believe that just because they are elected to a board or hired by DISD **they own all the facilities, land, etc.** If there is any attempt to present another bond issue for Dallas schools, the voters will have a say and we will be important to them then.

Due to mismanagement, thousands of children are now being taught in frame portable buildings. The money was voted through the years to avoid this, if the School Board and staff had been doing their jobs. All the wasted money, fraud, and corruption could have paid for excellent facilities for all. Dallas, the tenth largest city in the United States, should be embarrassed.

- The Trinity River is the reason many of our pioneer families came to Dallas County. There is not an inch along the Trinity that does not have some history attached to it. From the northwest corner near Trinity Mills to the southeast corner below Hutchins, someone can tell a story. The current mayor of Dallas, **Ron Kirk**, has stated that this is his ambition—to make a difference regarding the River.

Various factions are involved: the Texas Highway Department, the Federal Government (with some funds voted as long ago as 1965!), then we have the Texas Parks and Wildlife, Dallas Park and Recreation, and the list goes on. Behind all of these entities are the citizens of Dallas who will get to vote in May on bonds to get some things started.

One of the smaller items under consideration will be the badly-needed canoe launch sites. There will be a canoe trip in February, weather permitting, and another later on.

As the bond issue is explained, carefully consider each item: some are good for the City, some are not. I hope the issue is designed so that the citizens will be able to pick and choose.

- There was a particularly interesting find in the wonderful book **Jim Forster** compiled on the northeast corner of Dallas County! This book chronicles the history of the Pleasant Valley, Liberty Grove communities.

Many of us have used the book at the library called "Old Cemeteries of Dallas County" as a primary resource when trying to find a longlost pioneer. I have been told that the James Butler Bonham chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas adopted a project of inventorying all the old cemeteries fifty years ago, back in 1948. They were prophets of what would happen later. Now this ongoing inventory is being conducted by the Dallas Genealogical Society.

The person whose name appeared on the book at the library was **Willie Flowers Carlisle**. I was told that she and her daughter did a lot of the searching around to find the old sites and the copy at the library was typed on onionskin paper. By the time I started using it those sheets were falling apart. Because our very own Pioneer, **Faye Evans**, volunteered to spend the necessary hours, the entire book was copied on the Xerox at the library and **Carol Roark** made the necessary arrangements to have the sheets bound in a new book.

The gist of this entire story is that Jim Forster's new book that he has just donated a copy to the DCPA, has the history of the Thomas K. Flowers family and Willie is mentioned on page 27. Now we know who these people were. **That is what the Dallas County Pioneers do best—preserve our history!** Ω
Frances James

HOLLYWOOD IS KNOCKING ON ONE OF OUR DOORS! WATCH THIS SPACE!

UNITED NATIONS APPROVES 2000 AS YEAR OF THANKSGIVING

A Dallas tradition—"Thanksgiving Together"—has evolved into "The International Year of Thanksgiving 2000."



Our first notice of this event designed to celebrate the millenium was in the article by **Ebby Halliday Acers** on the "Viewpoints" page of *The Dallas Morning News* on November 22, 1997, barely too late for our December newsletter.

We wrote to Mrs. Acers thanking her for this lovely, timely review of the conception of Dallas' Thanks-Giving Foundation and Thanks-Giving Square. She replied with the information that **Peter Stewart**, one of the founders of Thanks-Giving Square, has received word from the United Nations of full approval of Year 2000 as International Year of Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Acers tells us: "Ninety years ago, a rabbi, newly arrived in Dallas, suggested to his fellow clerics, 'We share only one religious holiday, why don't we celebrate it together?'" The suggestion was greeted with enthusiasm and a community-wide Thanksgiving celebration was held downtown where Jews, Protestants, and Catholics produced an overflowing crowd.

On Thanksgiving Eve 1997 the ninetieth anniversary of our Dallas tradition, "Thanksgiving Together" was celebrated by hundreds at Thanks-Giving Square with its beautiful waterfalls, fountains, and trees, and its Hall of Thanksgiving where presidential proclamations of Thanksgiving are located.

We will keep in touch with Mrs. Acers, who is president of the Thanks-Giving Foundation, as plans are made for 2000. Ω

(If you missed Mrs. Acers' story of Thanks-Giving Square in *The News*, and would like to have us reprint it here, let us know. It is inspiring and will make you proud of Dallas.)

OLD CITY PARK TO CHANGE ITS MODE OF OPERATION

We have an item from Old City Park, the Historical Village of Dallas, explaining the changes they are making for the operation of the Park. Following are excerpts from this notice:

Old City Park is changing the way it interacts with visitors to provide more of a historical village experience. In the future, for example, there will be less emphasis on providing a guided tour for each visitor. Instead, visitors will be provided interpretive information on a variety of levels, including through written materials, audio interpretations, hands-on activities, and interactions with interpreters. More buildings will be open on a self-guided basis, and visitors to the museum on any given day may encounter a variety of interpreters who might be performing tasks, demonstrating crafts, or providing information about a particular house and related activity.

The keystone of this new emphasis will be the new Pioneer Hands-On History Area in the Gano Complex. The Gano Complex, located in the northeast corner of Old City Park's 13 acres, consists of the 1850s Gano Dog Trot House, the Log Kitchen, and the Blacksmith Shop, a herb garden, and approximately 4000 square feet of open space.

Hands-on activities will be geared to families, and will include both adult and children's activities such as grinding corn, dipping candles, carding wool, preparing vegetables, helping tend the garden, or any other appropriate activity. Because of the large number of school children who visit OCP each year, special activities suitable for school groups will be a key component of this project.

This project is scheduled to be completed in the Spring of 1998. Research and procurement of reproduction of materials will be completed during the Fall months, and modifications to structures will be accomplished during the Winter. Ω

WHOIZIT???

Did you have a clue as to the identity of our handsome soldier in the December newsletter? Some of us knew him when and didn't have to guess.

John Winniford, our treasurer for the last ten or twelve years, is a Dallas native descended from **William Johnson Winniford**, who settled in southern Dallas County in 1845. John's wife, **Mary Alice**, is descended from **Nancy Jane** and **William Cochran**, who came in 1843. John attended Woodrow Wilson High School and SMU. He was a bomber pilot during World War II, and is now retired from a career in business. We hope he never retires from his current job. Ω

ARSON SUSPECTED IN BURNING OF CENTURY-OLD BARN

Late in November Farmers Branch Historical Park had the heartbreaking experience that Old City Park had several years ago: fire, probably by arson, destroyed one of its historical buildings.

A century-old barn used as a children's petting zoo was completely destroyed. Fire officials found a box of matches near the barn and several other pieces of evidence. The same vandals apparently also bashed in lights and decorations. The barn had been decorated for the holiday season, as the Park was getting ready for the estimated 65,000 visitors who come to see the historic buildings and festive decorations each year.

The barn had been saved from the wrecking ball about six years ago by moving it from a remote part of the Dallas-Forth Worth area, and thousands of dollars were spent restoring the barn, which had its original logs, and two other buildings in the "Log Cabin Cultures" exhibit. Ω

THANKS, NANCY

We watched one day as **Nancy McRae** coolly washed up the dishes from hosting a late morning board meeting and immediately reset the table for an afternoon group almost at her doorstep. They tell us to call on the busy ones to have a job well-done—and Nancy is that busy one.

When she stepped down after two years as our president, she probably thought she could consider one job completed: we have an idea she is a mite too close to our new president to feel out of a job. Also, she stepped out of the presidency and volunteered her way into the programs chair, which suddenly had become vacant.

Nancy excels at any undertaking because she totally commits herself to it. Conducting quarterly meetings for the DCPA, which she did with grace and skill, was a small part of her commitment to us; she had us on her mind and on her calendar every day. And we will always be grateful to her for bringing back our forefathers' benediction, "God be with you 'til we meet again."

Thanks to Nancy's enthusiasm and drive, DCPA had a spectacular part in the celebration of the sesquicentennial of Dallas County. Also on her watch we formed the Planning Committee (a concept from **Clare Weakley**). An immediate and tangible benefit is our new telephone number and message center. We will gain better control of our future through working committees such as this. She also established the Overview Committee to oversee all operations of our organization and make recommendations to the Executive Board for new or revised activities.

For everything you have already given us, Nancy, thank you, and God be with you. Ω

WE WISH YOU A ROLLYING ST. PATRICK'S DAY AND A HAPPY EASTER!

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.

Quotable Quotes: Our Association is unique and also has a respected pedigree.

Clare Weakley, Jr.

Dallas County Pioneer Association



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



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