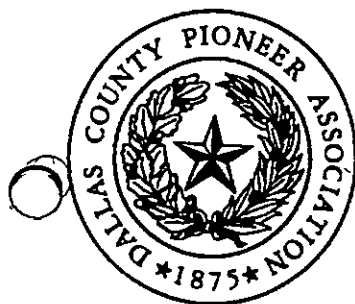




Dallas County Pioneer Association

Founded 1875, Reorganized 1979
P.O. Box 12496, Dallas, Texas 75225-0496
214/969-0926

SPRING 1999

DINNER MEETING

THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1999

Family Hall
Royal Lane Baptist Church
Royal Lane and Hillcrest Avenue

Dinner 6 p.m.; Program 7 p.m.
\$8 per person

Dinner reservations are required. Please call **Bill McRae** at 214/521-8654 or DCPA Call Notes, 214/969-0926.

Professional Consultant, Lecturer, Instructor of Genealogy Classes—this is **Paula Parke**, who will bring us a program on "Peters Colony & the Pioneer Settlers of Texas". A past president of the Peters Colony Historical Society and the Collin County Genealogical Society; some of the hats Paula currently wears are: Regional Representative for Ancestry, Inc.; *Family Newsletter* editor; Course Coordinator for local PBS station's community outreach program in conjunction with PBS series "Ancestors", and she is a member of every genealogical society in the area.

Paula became interested in family history as a child while visiting with both sides of her family, and she began her serious research about sixteen years ago with genealogical educational seminars and workshops. She is a native Texan with ancestors spanning our great state for several generations. She has been a featured speaker since 1992 and is editor of *Speaker's Bureau Directory* and is Texas State Genealogical Society 8 County District Representative.

Paula sent us a brief synopsis of her program: "The first land contract agreement was signed August 10, 1841, between the Texas Land and Emigration Company and the Republic of Texas. This agreement was not the start of colonization. This 'land company' was started by a group of businessmen from Louisville, Kentucky, and London, England.

"The Peters Colony settlement covered a large portion of North Texas. Many counties cover this area known as Peters Colony, including Dallas. Many people may not realize that about two thirds of the settlers came by boat via New Orleans to the Port of Galveston and then overland to their Peters Colony Land Grant. Learn about who and where these settlers came from. Understand their trials and tribulations of traveling during this time period and settling in unknown territory."

See you there, on Thursday, March 4. Ω
Nancy McRae

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Executive Committee has been busy lining up speakers for the 1999 quarterly meetings. **Paula Parke** will lead off on March 4 informing us about Peters Colony. Pioneer member **Gene Gaddy** will share with us on June 3 from his vast knowledge of the post offices in Dallas County. Honorary Member **Dr. Michael Hazel** is developing a talk on SMU, past, present, and future and will deliver it to us on September 2. Our year will be topped off by **Ebby Halliday Acers** on December 2 when she will tell us about her life and her contributions to the development of Dallas County as well as the Ecumenical Worldwide Thanksgiving which had its origin in Dallas some 92 years ago.

DCPA member **Dr. Christine Kallstrom** has invited all DCPA members to attend Treetop School International for their special presentation "Significant Moments in Texas History" on Wednesday, March 3, from one till four in the afternoon. This charter school, for which Dr. Kallstrom is Director Emeritus, has invited other charter schools across the state to join in 10-minute presentations on historic Texas topics. It should be a most interesting afternoon and the young historians need our support. The school is located at 12500 South Pipeline south of State 183 and one-half block east of State 157. Call me at 214/521-8654 if you would like to carpool there or call the school at 817/283-1771 for more information.

Several of our members have been working over a year to form a cemetery association for the Jacob Routh Cemeteries located just over the line in Collin County. Many Dallas pioneer families lived and farmed in that area, which is now in the middle of the telecom corridor. A Texas Historical Marker has been received for the cemeteries and will be dedicated on Sunday, April 11, at 2 p.m. The cemeteries (Jacob Routh Pioneer Cemetery and Jacob Routh Family Cemetery) are located just east of US 75 (Central Expressway) north of Glenville Road and south of Renner Road. If you are driving up from Dallas, exit at Campbell Road and continue on the access road to

Glenville then turn right (east) across the DART tracks for about one-quarter mile. The large cemetery is about 300 yards north along a caliche trail. Refer to MAPSCO maps 7 and 8 for the Dallas area.

Opening events for the Thanksgiving World Assembly will be held in Dallas March 12-15. [See Item by **Ebby Halliday** on page 8.] This is the kick-off event of *2000: International Year of Thanksgiving* approved by the 52nd session of the United Nations General Assembly. DCPA members hope to have a table of eight for the closing ceremonies and lunch at the Meyerson Symphony Center. Call **Marjori Sharp** at 241/358-4838 or me at 214/521-8654 if you would like to attend.

It was frustrating to read about the "accidental" demolishing of the old Ice House/Brewery building. Seems like it is becoming harder to preserve the past in this "knock down and rebuild" city.

Member **Kenneth Woodfin** was kind enough to perform a review of the Association books for the period ending December 31, 1998. The last paragraph of his report reads as follows: "It is my opinion that the Treasurer's report fairly states the current financial condition of the DCPA. Since this is **John Winniford**'s final report as treasurer, it is highly recommended that his extraordinarily capable and thoroughly dependable service to the DCPA over many years be appropriately recognized." Thank you, Ken, and many, many thanks, John!

Our sincere condolences are extended to Mrs. **Genevieve Harris**, whose husband, **John N. Harris**, passed away in the spring of 1998. We are chagrined we did not know of his passing sooner.

Historian **Carolyn Selzer** has suggested having tables reserved for Peters Colony descendants at the March meeting so they may become better acquainted and can swap stories and family information. When you make your dinner reservations, let me know you are a Peters Colony descendant and we will try to get all seated close together.

At our last meeting **Jimmie Woodfin** gave me four quarterly publications of the Local History and Genealogical Society for 1976. Some very interesting articles are contained in these publications, which will become part of the DCPA archives. The June 1976 Summer issue contained a copy of the Criminal Code published in Nacogdoches in 1783 by Captain **Don Antonio Gil Y'Barbo**, Military and Civil Lieutenant Governor for the town and district of Nuestra Senora Del Pilar de Nacogdoches. Some of the "enlightened" laws are copied below:

- #11 Any person who shall treacherously kill another, shall be quartered alive, previous to being hanged.
- #35 False witnesses shall be sent to the galleys for a term of ten years, after having been exposed publicly.
- #38 Any person who shall proffer or sing indecent and improper language or songs in the streets, public squares, or any other place where scandal may be occasioned, shall receive lashes, as prescribed by law, and besides, be expelled from town for a term of one year.
- #41 Any persons convicted to be vagrants, and to live in idleness, shall receive 80 lashes as prescribed by law, and be expelled from town.
- #52 From and after the beating of a retreat, no person shall, for what motive or under what pretence soever, walk without a light, through the streets and on the public square; any contravention to this prescription being punished by confinement in jail for a period of eight days.

It is no wonder we rebelled from Mexican rule!

Would you like a cemetery to receive an Official Historic Texas Cemetery designation? Contact **Ger-ron Hite**, Texas Historical Commission, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX for information and application forms. This is something DCPA can probably help you achieve. Ω
Bill McRae

MINUTES OF MEETING DECEMBER 3

The meeting was held in the Family Hall of the Royal Lane Baptist Church, and was called to order by President **Bill McRae** at 7 p.m. He welcomed the members, including two new members and seventeen guests. After giving the Invocation, he also led the Pledge to the American and the Texas flags.

President **McRae** reported we have two members on the sick list and two others who have moved to Care Centers. Three members passed away recently: **Mae B. Riek**, **Mary Sullivan**, and **Mary Nancy Bowen**. (Mae and Mary Nancy's husbands were first cousins and grandsons of early Dallas Mayor **Ben Long**.)

Five membership certificates were passed out and President **McRae** thanked **Marjori Sharp** for the good newsletter. The new format is nice as well as all the written material.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by **Mattie Hughes** and including **Irma Janicek** and **Kenneth Woodfin**, submitted their suggested list of officers for 1999: president, **Bill McRae**; vice president, **Clare Weakley**; secretary, **Mae E. Riek**; treasurer, **Gene Gaddy**; historian, **Carolyn Selzer**; newsletter, **Marjori Sharp**; and At Large members **William E. Clark**, **June A. Shipley**, and **John Winniford**. The membership vote was unanimous in accepting this slate of officers.

The Dallas History Conference wants anyone interested in doing research to write an original article on "The Forces That Have Shaped Dallas". The article must be submitted by February 1 and if selected to be published will be paid \$500.

The membership was reminded that dues for 1999 are due at this time.

Frances James reminded everyone that "everything is political" and we should be part of a "Good Clean Fight" by writing and calling every time we see something bad in the newspaper. Right now, help is needed to save old Crozier Tech High School. One of our missions in the DCPA is to preserve the past.

Our speaker for the evening was introduced, Dr. **Rose-Mary Rumbley**. She gave a fun-filled talk on her newest book, *Dallas, Too*. Ω
Mae Riek

PICK UP A NEW ROSTER AT THE MEETING!

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to welcome to membership two spouses of longtime members: **Sheryl Gaddy**, wife of **Gene**, and **Simon Selzer**, husband of **Carolyn**. We know we have already benefitted from these two through the services of **Gene** and **Carolyn**.

We welcome **Jim Gatewood**, a second-generation Dallas Countian: his parents, **James Raleigh** and **Evelyn Mullaney Gatewood**, came to Dallas in 1929 and settled close to Rose Hill in Garland. James was head of the Dallas War Bond sales during World War II, and worked at Rauscher-Pierce until his retirement in 1947. He died in 1963 and Evelyn in 1971.

Jim belongs to Dallas Historical Society, Garland Historical Society, and the Sheriff J.E. "Bill" Decker Association. He is a self-employed insurance agent.

Jim and his wife **Ruth Snoddy Gatewood** have three children: **Donna**, married to **Randy Brown**; **James R.**, married to **Kathy Rector**; and **Christine**, married to **Charles Ross**. They live at 220 West Rio Grande, Garland 75041; telephone number 972/278-5763.

Several of our longtime (not *old*) members who know her well will welcome **Edna Oates** to our Association. We who have worked with her before know of her many talents and her dedication to all of her volunteer projects, and they are many.

Edna brought herself to Dallas from Ellis County. Her grandfather, **Thomas Monroe Oates** and his wife, **Mary Ann Hays**, settled two miles east of Palmer in Ellis County on what is now Oates Road, in 1877. Their son, **Ned**, and his wife **Sallie E. Turnipseed**, were Edna's parents. All of these family members are buried in the Palmer Memorial Cemetery, and Edna still divides her time between Dallas and Ellis Counties taking care of the homestead. She is retired from teaching and administration in the Dallas Independent School District, the Dallas County Community College District, and the Texas Institute of Technology.

She is a member of the Palmer Preservation Society and the Dallas County Heritage Society, where she volunteers many hours and works with some people you know: **Mackie Dealey**, **Anna Peters**, **Nellie O'Connell**, **Michael Hazel**, and **Marjori Sharp**. We are going to be very happy to have her in DCPA.

Edna lives at 2511 Wedglea Drive, #1110, Dallas 75211-2044 (close to **Edna Hart**), and her telephone number is 214/337-5667.

Katherine John and **Suellen Thompson**, daughters of **Marjori Sharp**, have joined as Life members. Their Dallas County ancestry naturally parallels **Marjori's**.

Their earliest ancestors in the County were **Lucy Jane Monroe Browder** and her two sons, **Edward** and **Isham Bell**, who came from Missouri in 1845. **Isham's** son, **James Patterson**, had a daughter, **Mabel**, who married **A.A. Gibson** and they were the parents of **Marjori**. **Isham** died during the Civil War, but **Edward** became the first District Clerk of the County and the first secretary of the original DCPA in 1875. He and his mother started the first residential development in the city, The Cedars: **Edward** surveyed and developed the lots and **Lucy Jane** sold them, thereby becoming known as Dallas' first realtor.

Kathy and **Susi** both are active members of the Dallas County Heritage Society. **Kathy** also belongs to the Dallas Historical Society and **Susi** to the Old Oak Cliff Conservation League. **Kathy** is a vice-president in investments of Nations Bank and **Susi** has her own business, Thompson Landscape Architect.

Kathy and her husband, **Philip W. John**, have three seventh-generation Dallasites: son **Jordan** and twin daughters **Allison** and **Beth**. They live at 4544 Harry's Lane, 75229, telephone 214/358-2777.

Susi and husband **David Thompson** have two little sons: **Benjamin Browder** and **Paul David**. Their address is 1805 Mayflower, 75208, telephone 214/948-8993. 

Mae Riek

FINAL FAREWELLS

We have just learned of the death of our longtime member **John N. Harris** on March 22, 1998. We are sorry for such a delay in extending our heartfelt sympathies to his wife, **Genevieve**, who remains our member.

Our twin sisters, **Marie Caillet** of Little Elm and **Margaret Swann** of Nashville, Tennessee, lost a devoted nephew, **Paul R. Caillet**, last November. He lived in Little Elm, and kept a close watch on Marie. He has been honored by the Little Elm High School, where he taught for nineteen years, with the Paul Caillet Theater Arts Scholarship Fund.

Norman Dyer, husband of **Louie-Payne Dyer**, died on December 4 at age ninety-three. Over a period of sixty years he pastored several Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ), including those in Memphis, McAllen, Belton, Grand Prairie, Rowlett, Dallas, and Mesquite. Memorial services were held for him at the First Christian Church in Plano.

June Shipley's husband, **Wayne**, lost a long fight with cancer on February 6. A former president of the Texas Association of Realtors and college teacher of real estate, Wayne was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Our thoughts and prayers are with each of these families. Ω

HELP PLEASE!

Please send any information, pictures, articles, clippings, notices of deaths, notices of achievements, etc., that would be of interest to our DCPA to me for inclusion in our permanent history Scrapbook. Former Historian **Susan Cargile** prepared a beautiful book for us. Thanks.

Carolyn Selzer, Historian
2359 Chart Drive
Dallas, TX 75228-5379

1999 OFFICERS INSTALLED

The following officers for the DCPA for 1999 were elected and installed at the December 1998 meeting:

President: William D. McRae
Vice-president: Clare G. Weakley, Jr.
Secretary: Mae Riek
Treasurer: Gene Gaddy
Historian: Carolyn Selzer
Membership: Clare G. Weakley, Jr.
Programs: Nancy McRae
Newsletter: Marjori Sharp

The Executive Committee also includes:

Past presidents: Earl O. Cullum, Edna J. Hart, Mattie L. Hughes, William F. Jacoby, Frances James, and Nancy H. McRae.

Members at Large: June A. Shipley, William E. Clark, and John Winniford. Ω

PIONEERS NEW MEMBER PLAN

We are all dedicated to the early Dallas County pioneers, to the first pioneers' organization (1875-1952), and to the modern pioneers' association founded by Judge **John Nelms** in 1979.

Now we, too, are getting older day by day, and thus our total membership is aging. So now, as we enter "Century 21" we must look ahead and bring in younger members to carry on this great organization into its third century: 19, 20, 21.

Each of us should act now to identify a younger person(s) who would enjoy our pioneers' association, invite them to our meetings, and encourage them to become members. Not all of us will live to be 100, so let's start now with our pledge to each bring in a younger members(s) in 1999, the twentieth anniversary year of our "modern" pioneers association. Ω
Earl Cullum

FROM OUR MAILBAG

A note from **Simon Selzer**:

Thank you for your concern, cards and Nona Williams' call following my emergency 4-by-pass surgery on New Year's Day.

We are happy to report that Simon is continuing to recover nicely, and we look forward to seeing him with wife **Carolyn** at our March meeting.

We really don't like to receive mail like this from **Charles Bowen**, who lives in San Diego, written by his wife, **Mary**:

It is with deep regret that I must inform you that I will no longer be able to continue membership in your society due to my sudden loss of eyesight on April 30, 1998. It was my hope that this condition could be reversed, but that does not appear to be possible at this time.

Your publication has provided me with many happy hours of valuable research clues and my wish was that it would not end so soon in my life. As a dedicated researcher, I appreciate more than most the great effort that goes into the production of your very valuable publication.

The devotion of your present staff for the preservation of our heritage will hopefully be continued by future generations of members.

We will keep Charles on our mailing list. We send our love and best wishes to him and Mary.

Jan Grantham gave us an okay on the new look for the newsletter and we thank her for that. She asked to have the new Roster mailed to her; said she didn't get one last year, and we apologize for that and will be sure to get her one this time. Ω

MILITARY SERVICE BY DCPA MEMBERS

Hopefully, we will never have another "greatest" war like that we call "Two", or even the lesser wars in Korea, Vietnam, and later "actions". These veterans, too, are getting older and will soon be gone.

It is not too late to recognize these persons who answered the call to serve our country, so let's do it while we can.

We need to assemble data on each of our members who served in peace as well as in war. Each of you should submit data you are aware of, a page for each such veteran, living or deceased. We can then combine these and leave our own memorial to our veterans.

Submit them now, to me, preferably typed, but at least readable.

We will also include this proud bit of our legacy in the remake of *One Hundred Twenty Years*. Ω
Earl Cullum

OBSERVING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February, Black History Month, brings out bits of history and lore that are interesting and educational, such as the following:

Lawn Jockeys Marked Safe Houses

by Pamela Sherrod, *Chicago Tribune*

Most people shudder at the sight of a black lawn jockey. Sightings are pretty infrequent today, but the yard ornaments



that portray blacks in subservient roles gnaw at the spirit of African-Americans and disgust others who are unaware of the furtive and noble role these "Jockos" played in the first half of the 19th century.

But escaping slaves understood. The jockey pointed to safe houses along the Underground Railroad. . . Green ribbons were tied to the arms of the statue to indicate safety; red ribbons meant to keep going. . . [It] was a positive and supportive image to African-Americans on the road to freedom.

It's because of this role that jockeys—or their precursors, the groomsmen, which were dressed in slave's clothing—have become sought-after collectibles. . .

There is no consensus on the statue's origin and several theories are passed around.

One legend has it that George Washington created the first groomsmen hitching post or "Jocko" in honor of a frozen slave in the 1770s.

According to Florida Atlantic University history professor Kenneth W. Goings. . . Gen. Washington wanted to mount a surprise attack on a British encampment during the Revolutionary War. Several African-Americans—slaves and free men—joined the group.

A young African-American named Tom Graves wanted to fight but Washington said he was too young and asked the boy to hold a lantern for the troops as they crossed the Delaware. . .

When the troops rowed back after the battle, instead of finding their horses hitched to a post, the reins were in the hands of Graves, who had frozen to death. Moved by the boy's dedication, Washington ordered a statue made in his honor.

What is known is that the jockey's precursor, the groomsmen, was born in the Old South. Dressed in clothes that slaves wore, the groomsmen later evolved into its jockey image and became a national figure after World War II.

"Residents of new housing developments," writes Mr. Goings, "perhaps to give themselves more of a sense of being a member of the privileged master class, began placing 'Jocko' on their lawns in great numbers."

Charles Blockson says he still spots the jockey statues in parts of America. For him, these sightings are reminders of the path that was taken to escape slavery.

"There's a spirituality about the path that was taken to bring African-Americans to freedom," he says. "When you visit the stops along the way of the Underground Railroad, you still feel it. It's there. It's not the kind of thing you can show to somebody. It's the kind of thing you either feel or you don't." Ω

WE HAVE A NEW HISTORIAN

YOU are it! Our Board has been advised that *you* had a part in making Dallas County history. The Board realizes that *you* know things about City and County history that no one else knows. From bended knees, your Board asks you to write any experience you have had that will be of general interest. Send it to the

newsletter editor for publication. Don't worry about writing or spelling; we will edit it. Do be worried that some of your best memories and best tales will be forever lost if you don't let us print them. Hurry along now. You hear? Help the Board get up off their knees, real soon.



Sonja Henie? Nah. She's one of our very own. Remember Dot Franey's Ice Review at the Century Room? She's still just as cute, and she is now serving the DCPA in the same position once held by her mother. Tell us who she is!

A GIFT FOR OUR CEMETERY FUND

The Urban Park Home Owners League—acronym UPHOLD—an organization devoted to the betterment of that community, recently disbanded. **Mary Lou Kochanski**, treasurer, reported a balance of \$330.83 remaining in the bank account, and at the suggestion of **Frances James**, she remitted this balance to the DCPA.

This gift will be deposited in our general Cemetery Fund, to be used at our discretion.

We send our sincere thanks to Ms. Kochanski and to the members of this organization. Ω

KICKOFF EVENT SCHEDULED FOR "2000: YEAR OF THANKSGIVING"

Major religious leaders of the world, including the Archbishop of Canterbury, will convene in Dallas in March for the "Thanksgiving World Assembly", the opening event of the celebration "2000: Year of Thanksgiving".

Three sessions of the meetings will be open to the public: the Public Procession and Introduction of Delegates on Friday, March 12, at Thanks-Giving Square; the Opening Celebration with two keynote speakers on Saturday, March 13 at the Wyndham Anatole Hotel; and, the Closing Ceremonies with two keynote speakers on Monday, March 15 at the Meyer-son Symphony Center. For tickets and ticketing information, call 214/219-0388.

In our Spring 1998 newsletter in the review of an item from *The Dallas Morning News* by Ebby Halliday Acers, we told you that a Dallas tradition, "Thanksgiving Together", has evolved into 2000: *International Year of Thanksgiving* to be observed by the United Nations. Today we reprint an article by Mrs. Acers, who is president of the Thanksgiving Square Foundation board, to refresh our memory and bring us up to date on this phenomenon which had its beginning right here in Dallas.

THANKSGIVING TRADITION PREDATES NATION



Ebby Halliday Acers

As we prepare to celebrate the most American of holidays, we should pause to reflect upon the roots of Thanksgiving.

Sister Jose Hobday, a Seneca Indian and a Texan, tells us that American Indians have offered prayers of thanksgiving since prehistoric times. Tribes in Texas gave thanks to the creator for harvests of corn, beans and squash many centuries before the Europeans arrived.

Ninety years before the Pilgrims celebrated what has been thought to be America's "first Thanksgiving", Spanish explorer Francisco de Coronado celebrated a Eucharistic thanksgiving on Ascension Thursday in Palo Duro Canyon near what now is Amarillo. The Spanish expedition, surrounded by friendly Teya Indians, offered thanks for its miraculous survival from a tornado and hailstorm.

Thanksgiving remained central to the lives of Texans during the Republic. President Sam Houston proclaimed a "profound belief in an Almighty God" and noted that Texans "have been the objects of the peculiar care of a Divine Providence." When Texas became a state, Gov. George T. Wood made ours the first Southern state to officially celebrate Thanksgiving.

In 1907, "Thanksgiving Together" originated in Dallas. A newly arrived rabbi asked priests and ministers of other faiths to join in celebrating the one religious holiday they all shared. Thus was born an interfaith ceremony of gratitude and thanksgiving. Year after year, hundreds of people gathered in downtown Dallas to give thanks to God under a banner that read, "Have We Not All One Father". The tradition continued until the late 1950s, when suburban life and professional football changed how Dallas spent Thanksgiving afternoon.

Thanks-Giving Square germinated from those early seeds of Thanksgiving in Texas. John Stemmons, Joe Neuhoof, Julius Schepps and Peter Stewart enlisted such intellectual and spiritual leaders as Louise Cowan, Albert Outler, and Rabbi Levi Olan to explore the use of gratitude and thanksgiving to unite people of all faiths. These and other leading thinkers and religious leaders of the world have sought the deepest meaning of the words "gratitude", "praise", and "thanksgiving". They engaged in passionate roundtable discussions. The book *The Spirit of Thanksgiving* emanated from those conversations.

Since 1977, Thanks-Giving Square has been a physical presence in the heart of Dallas. In the midst of a vibrant and bustling urban center, it is a place of beauty and serenity. The Square provides an island of tranquillity for hundreds of people every day.

Today, the seeds of Dallas' thanksgiving have been scattered to the four winds and are putting down roots in other nations. A group of courageous individuals in Belfast, Northern Ireland, has been working to create a Thanks-Giving Square. A donation of land in the center of Belfast and an impressive architectural design promise to make their dream a reality.

At the urging of Thanks-Giving Square, the 185 nations of the United Nations have declared 2000 to be the "International Year of Thanksgiving". The opening event of the millennium celebration, the Thanksgiving World Assembly, will be held in Dallas from March 12 to 15, 1999, when major religious leaders of the world will gather for seminars, worship and celebration.

On this blessed holiday, Thanks-Giving Square wishes each of you a heart filled with gratitude. For, indeed, gratitude is the heart of humanity.

The Dallas Morning News, November 26, 1998

ANOTHER HISTORIC CEMETERY VANDALIZED

"We've seen vandalism before, but never anything like this."

Some of them date back to the mid-1800s and represent Fort Worth's founding families, which includes Dr. **Adolphus Gouhenant**, great-great grandfather of our **Carolyn Selzer**.

More than forty headstones were damaged or destroyed by vandals in Pioneer's Rest Cemetery in Fort Worth last Thanksgiving weekend. Among them were those of Gen. **Edward H. Tarrant**, for whom the county was named, and Maj. **Ripley A. Arnold**, who founded the original military fort on the bluffs above the Trinity.

Business leaders, monument companies, and volunteers have rallied to do whatever can be done to repair the damage and a bank account has been established for donations. Much of the materials used for the monuments cannot be restored; some have been reduced to gravel. Those only toppled can be reset.

Pioneer's Rest is the largest burial site of Confederate soldiers in the city. Many of the graves are simply marked "Unknown Soldier". It also holds the graves of twenty prostitutes killed in an Indian raid. The last burial was in 1997; however, a few paid-for lots are still empty.

Gouhenant donated the land for this Cemetery for Maj. Arnold's children when they died while visiting the fort. He is not buried in the Cemetery: he died from injuries in a railway accident in Springfield, Missouri, and was buried there (Carolyn gave us the story of the search for his grave in our Fall 1995 newsletter). Gouhenant came to Texas with **Zachary Taylor**, assigned to the regiment of Col. **William J. Worth**, for whom then "Camp" Worth was named.

"What a tragedy!" says Carolyn. "I am glad I took pictures in 1992 before the vandals struck. **Paula Jane** [daughter] just called from Washington to say that the same thing has just happened to a historical cemetery there. Who are these people?"

(Gouhenant's story is the first one in **Rose-Mary Rumbley's** latest book, *Dallas, Too.*) Ω

DALLAS DIARY

Downtown is being made new again

"Old, Schmold."

That's what the building says. On the side of the elegant Kirby Building in the heart of downtown, a banner proclaims that office buildings can be reborn. The sign goes on, "I have high-speed internet connections, spanking new appliances and a killer rooftop pool."

Right now, the Kirby, which takes up most of the block between Elm and Main, is surrounded by construction cranes and is crawling with workers in hard hats. But by May, the late-Gothic revival tower will be transformed into 156 lofts and apartments by the Hall Financial Corp.

In fact, the model units recently were opened the same weekend as the Adolphus Christmas Parade. Within a few hours, 42 had been pre-leased.

Built in 1913 by Adolphus Busch, who also masterminded the Adolphus Hotel, the building originally was called the Busch Building. But it was subsequently sold to the Kirby Oil Co. and was renamed the Kirby Building. It was one of the first mixed-use buildings in the city, with the A. Harris department store on the first five floors and office suites on the rest of the floors.

Today's visitors are charmed by the graceful vaulted ceilings in the entry, the solid maple floors, the marble halls, the massive oak doors. In keeping with today's culture, those aged amenities will be joined with exercise facilities, a business center and a boutique grocery store.

What's amazing is that within a few blocks of the Kirby, two other history [sic] buildings are undergoing a similar metamorphosis and will be open in late spring as well. The lovely beaux arts-style Wilson Building, which used to be obscured by the garish H.L. Green Department Store frontage, is being restored as mixed-use apartments and retail space. And the Magnolia Building, the one with the famous flying red horse on top, is being reborn as a residential hotel.

Although the downtown and uptown area is now honeycombed with new-old residential projects, the market for urban living with a reminiscence of the past still seems strong.

That's good news for the downtown area. And the city's tax base. The city is replenishing itself. Old, schmold indeed. *The Dallas Morning News*, 12-23-98

RARE TEXAS MAPS ON DISPLAY AT HEARD MUSEUM

An exhibit of rare Texas maps, entitled "Terra Incognita to Tejas: The Evolution of a State", is on display at the Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary near McKinney through March 15. They include maps of the earliest discoveries of Columbus

as well as the development of the vast area that became Texas.

A 1508 map by **Johann Ruysch**, who is thought to have come to the New World with **Sebastian Cabot**, is very rare and is the earliest map showing the New World, to be had in today's market. **Stephen F. Austin's** 1830 map encouraging settlers is included. Only two copies are known to exist of **James T.D. Wilson's** 1845 map. He was a mayor of Houston, and this is considered the best depiction of Texas at the time of annexation, illustrating the almost total lack of information on the western part of the State.

This collection shows how immigrants saw the development of the sprawling space of Texas as a province of Mexico, as its own nation, and as a state in the USA. They also have special interest to those who track the progress of railroads and communication lines. The twenty-two maps in the collection provide a statement of change over time and reflect the world in which they were created.

The Heard Museum phone number is 972/562-5566, ext. 226. Ω

Old City Park Hosts Texas Historians

Old City Park will host an evening reception Thursday, March 4, for members of the Texas State Historical Association, who will be attending their annual meeting, being held in Dallas for the first time since 1991. The annual meeting attracts Texas history authors, professors, and museum and historical agency employees as well as members of the public who love Texas history. Because the two-and-a-half day meeting is filled with sessions, three luncheons, and an evening dinner, there is only one opportunity for members, as a group, to visit a local historical site. Old City Park is pleased that it has been chosen as the attraction for the Dallas meeting. Approximately 250 attendees will enjoy a light dinner and tours of Old City Park, with dinner expenses being underwritten through the generosity of the Dallas-based Summerlee Foundation.

The Old City Park Gazette, February-March 1999

CREEKS THAT DRAIN INTO THE TRINITY: MOUNTAIN CREEK

by Frances James

Below the southwest corner of Dallas County (since this was west of the Trinity this area was in Robertson County until 1846 when Dallas County was formed) where Tarrant County and Ellis County touch on the map is the beginning of Mountain Creek. If some real explorer wanted to look for it, I would expect he could look for a spring. This confluence of creeks is west of Cedar Hill and to name the creek for mountains is correct, as this is as close as we get to mountains near Dallas. It is very beautiful and the old maps called the high places the Face of the Cedar Ridge. The creek was as far as 250 feet below the cliffs.

Cedar Hill area is the highest elevation in Dallas County and to that we can attribute all the TV towers and antennas. West of Cedar Hill, Mountain Creek has been washing over this rough terrain along the cliffs for many years, as the geologist and anthropologist, amateur and otherwise, have found shark teeth and various bones. There is an article that talks about "Finny Fossil" and old big eye (a pachyrhizodus) that has been dated back 60 million years.

The 7500 acre Joe Pool Lake is the newest addition in a chain of lakes to guarantee a dependable water supply for the area as well as control flooding and provide recreation facilities. Plans for this lake took over thirty years to materialize. This was part of the project to tame the Trinity that the Army Corps of Engineers devised after five years of drought in the 1950s followed by sudden drenching rains. The lake was completed in 1988, but had to wait until 1989 to open as there was not enough rain in 1988. The lake is named for Joe Pool, state legislator who helped create the Trinity River Authority in 1955. In 1961, as an appointee of President John Kennedy to the Natural Resources Advisory Committee, he proposed a second lake in the Mountain Creek watershed not far from his native Oak Cliff. It became his namesake.

It is difficult to imagine the difference in the terrain in this area and some other parts of Dallas County. There is a pioneer cemetery called Pleasant Valley in this vicinity where many of the hardy pioneers are buried. The Penn Farm, which was high enough that the Joe Pool Lake did not inundate it, is a project kept alive by the Cedar Hill Historic Society and by volunteers working with the Texas Parks and Wildlife and is open for special occasions. Representatives of the Penn family are still around and

active. It was finally declared a part of the State Park. In 1856 a cyclone struck the small community killing ten people and demolishing all but two of the houses.

The Grady Niblo Cabin is still standing and is probably more authentic than any other log cabin in the area. There are members of the Niblo family still living in a rehabilitated home nearby. The County Open Spaces Committee wants to purchase the land, but cannot purchase the structure (against somebody's rules).

Sarah Horton and Alexander Cockrell were married when he returned from the War with Mexico in 1848. They lived in a cabin called the "White House" with a small pond nearby. This shows up on Sam Street's Map ca. 1900. This land was traded to John Neely Bryan at the same time. The deed records state that "Bryan, John N. and Margaret, to Cockrell, Alexander, Entire amount of the present unsold portion of 640 acres of land, being Survey No. 7, Letter A, made for said Bryan by virtue of Colonial Headright Certificate as Colonist in Peters Colony, etc. 21 Mar., 1853. Volume C page 412." This was the home of the Bryans for a while as John Neely Bryan, Jr. is said to have been married here in 1867. John Neely had only been in and out of the picture during this time period.

Since water does run downhill, Mountain Creek did eventually flow into the West Fork of the Trinity near Grand Prairie. In 1931 the Dallas Power and Light Company started work on the dam site for Mountain Creek Lake after all the necessary land and right-of-way had been acquired. It was not completed until the late 1940s. The spillway is very near Hensley Field, established in 1928 (which is another story not necessarily connected to the Trinity River). There is a cemetery for the early settlers in the area on the shores of the lake within the Naval Air Station fenced area. Permission is granted and the cemetery was kept up by the Navy. This lake costing \$2,162,000 was built primarily to cool the boiling water that empties from the power plants's huge generators. The lake has eventually covered 4260 acres and in 1947 generated 40% of the power for the area. In 1959 it was proposed that a green-belt along the shores of the lake and along the Trinity River be considered.

Before Mountain Creek connects with the West Fork of the Trinity, it makes its way through Grand Prairie. In the flood plain just north of I30 is where the International Wildlife Park was struggling for several years. Several times the

animals had to be rescued from flood waters. You will recognize that area now as the Lone Star Racetrack. It took \$10,000,000 of levee and drainage work before the track could be started. Ω

BE SURE TO PICK UP YOUR NEW ROSTER AT THE MARCH MEETING

The moment of history:

The Convention of 1836 Journal

On the faded page . . . "March 6th/36 Sunday morning 10 o'clock. The President called the convention together and informed them that he had received by express a letter from Col. W.B. Travis, Commandant of the Alamo at Bexar, that might require the immediate action of the House . . ."

Here is the very moment of history, for the final Mexican assault on the Alamo had begun at dawn that morning, and William Barrett Travis and his men were dead even as the letter was read to the assembled delegates.

The G.B. Dealey Library has many treasures, great and small, but few are as important, or as inspiring, as the *Journal of Convention of All the People of All Texas*. A battered, undignified book, it is the only formal manuscript journal of the historic meetings that established the Republic of Texas.

The Convention of 1836 met at Washington, Texas, from March 1 to 17, 1836, as delegates gathered to create an interim government for Texas. An unknown secretary wrote the journal as the official record of the proceedings. The text not only includes the reading of Travis' letter, but also the appointment of Sam Houston as commander of the Texian army, the Texan Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution for the new republic.

The journal ends on March 10, by which time the Convention's important work was finished. On this and the succeeding days many members, including the secretary, went to take up arms.

Summerfield G. Roberts, an ardent supporter of the Society, loaned the journal to the archives in 1942, and the Summerlee Foundation formally donated it in 1995. For many years, the journal was displayed only at the Society's annual meeting.

Now, many Texans will be able to view it. The Texas Parks & Wildlife Department has completed a new visitors center at Washington-on-the-Brazos, and the journal will appear as the highlight of the center's historical exhibit on the Convention.

The journal is a chronicle of one of our proudest moments. Texan independence was earned at such places as the Alamo and San Jacinto. In the years after those battles, though, first the Republic, then the State of Texas were built on the foundation laid in Washington. (This is reprinted from "The Register", The Newsletter of the Dallas Historical Society, Spring 1998.) Ω

The DALLAS COUNTY PIONEER ASSOCIATION is dedicated to preserving the history of Dallas County and those who settled here before 1880. Anyone interested may apply for membership regardless of when their ancestors came.

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.

Message Center: 214/969-0926

The organization meets quarterly for dinner and a program at 6:00 p.m. the first Thursday of each March, June, September, and December.

Visitors are always welcome.

Meeting room opens at 5:30 p.m. for dining and fellowship. Program starts promptly at 7:00 p.m.

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President: William D. McRae

Vice-President: Clare G. Weakley, Jr.

Secretary: Mae Riek

Treasurer: Gene Gaddy

Historian: Carolyn Selzer

Membership: Clare G. Weakley, Jr.

Program: Nancy McRae

Telephone: Faye Evans

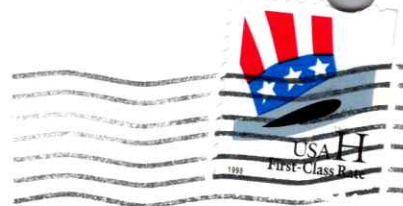
Sunshine: Nona Williams

Newsletter: Marjori Sharp

Dallas County Pioneer Association



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