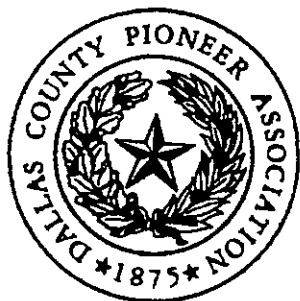


1999



Dallas County Pioneer Association

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

WINTER 1999

DINNER MEETING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1999

**Family Hall
Royal Lane Baptist Church
Hillcrest Road and Royal Lane**

**Dinner by Reservation at 6 p.m.
\$8 per person**

Program at 7 p.m.

Make your dinner reservations by Monday, November 29, with **Bill McRae** at 214/521-8654 or at DCPA Call Notes at 214/969-0926.

Our program will be presented by Mrs. **Ebby Halliday Acers**. As president of the Thanksgiving Square Foundation, we hope she will update us on "2000, Year of Thanksgiving", which evolved from a Dallas tradition of "Thanksgiving Together." It will be observed by the United Nations (Spring 1998 and Spring 1999 newsletters).

Ebby's one-office business founded in 1945 has grown into a world-renowned 25-office operation, one of the world's largest independently-owned real estate firms. She is recognized on national and international levels for her business acumen. She has received every honor her fellow realtors can bestow, including Texas Realtor of the Year from the Texas Association of Realtors, the first woman to receive this honor. Among recent honors are: in 1996, she was inducted into the Texas Business Hall of Fame; in 1997, she received the Regional Entrepreneur of the Year Award; and in 1999, she was named to the Dallas Business Hall of Fame. She also received the "Distinguished Leader for '99" by the Texas Association of Business & Chambers of Commerce.

Ebby is deeply involved in community affairs, as evidenced by the pages listing her affiliations with civic organizations and the recognition she has received from them. To name just a few awards: Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge 1999 Annual Leavey; Oak Cliff Lions Club Humanitarian; Preservation Dallas Griffon; Keep America Beautiful Lady Bird Johnson; and Les Femme du Monde.

And in the stores for Christmas giving, find Ebby on a Chance card in the new Monopoly Game: Texas Edition.

We will have the election of officers for the year 2000. We hope to see all of you at this last meeting of the year and the century. Ω

FROM THE PRESIDENT

• Dallas County Pioneer Association is moving into the internet! Thanks to *The Dallas Morning News* and other Belo Corporation affiliates, DCPA now has a free web site. Nancy and I attended an orientation session at the *Morning News* ' training room and received two hours of instruction on how to set up and maintain a web site. We were very impressed with the knowledge and friendliness of **Sherri Hicks** and **Chrissy Heinke** who run the Community Publishing efforts for the *Morning News*. Our site's URL (internet address) is <community.dallasnews.com/dmn/dcpa> and is linked to *The Dallas Morning News* and Channel 8's web sites.

We will be in the process of building the site over the next several weeks. It will contain the DCPA logo, a brief introduction to the organization, membership information, meeting information, and publications offered for sale. A calendar of events will list all scheduled meetings. Many other features are available, as well as links to other web sites.

For us "gray heads", this is probably not too important a deal, but it will allow us to be exposed to many more people. The internet seems to be the wave of the future.

~~If there is a computer-literate member out there who would like~~ to be "Web master", please call me at 214.521.8654. We need help!

• The First Annual Dallas History Conference was a big success and was well attended by DCPA members. It was worth the trip just to see the beautiful Scottish Rite Cathedral. Presentations were made on Freedman's Town, the Flood of 1908, the Kessler Plan for development of the City, Belle Starr, the development of automobile roads in Dallas County during the period 1905-1926, Stoney Burns and the "Dallas Notes" newspaper, and vignettes of two influential Jewish rabbis, **David Lefkowitz** and **Levi Olan**. Be sure to plan attendance at next year's Conference.

• Revision of the DCPA history booklet, *120 Years*, has been postponed until Spring 2000. Although we have received some excellent ones, we need more stories of members' WWII experiences. Everyone's experiences are solicited, whether you were on active duty, in essential industry, on the homefront, or just your remembrances of rationing, bond drives, etc.

• Several excellent accounts of family history and other articles have been received and should be a good nucleus for *Proud Heritage, Book III*. We will be developing criteria for the book in early 2000. If you want to see your family story or stories in print, start now on that research and writing!

• Design for a DCPA historical marker continues to be developed. An alternate design for a smaller marker is now being

pursued. The marker program is another activity we hope to kick off in 2000. You will be kept posted on developments.

• We are pleased for and proud of DCPA member **Jim Foster** who has received an award for his second book about northeast Dallas County history. Jim has generously donated copies of both books to DCPA, as reported earlier. Jim is now working on a third book about the Pioneer Cemetery in Pleasant Grove. Keep up the good work, Jim.

• A new feature of our quarterly meetings will be a table display of a member's family memorabilia and photos. For the December 2 meeting, DCPA Historian **Carolyn Selzer** will have a display of her families. We hope each member will display his families' histories. Contact me for a time to schedule your family memorabilia. This should be an interesting addition to our quarterly meetings.

Hope to see all of you at our December 2 meeting to elect officers for the coming year and to hear the presentation by **Ebby Halliday Acers**, one of Dallas County's most distinguished citizens. Ω

Bill McRae

FINAL FAREWELLS

We were saddened to hear of the death of **B. Porter Cochran**, Sr., who passed away on October 17. Porter was the grandson of **W.M. and Nancy Jane Hughes Cochran**, pioneers who came to Dallas County in 1843 and founded the Cochran Chapel Methodist Church on Bachman Creek.

We extend our deepest sympathies to **Mary Bergen Cochran**, Porter's widow, and to his son **B. Porter, Jr.**, and his daughter, **Anita Cay Lacey**, and their families. It is fitting that the funeral services and interment were held at Cochran Chapel Cemetery at Northwest Highway and Midway Road, on land donated by Nancy Jane Cochran in 1856.

We just have news of the passing of **Irma Janicek's** husband, **Clifford Thomas Janicek**, on November 3.

Besides Irma, his wife of fifty-six years, Mr. Janicek is survived by his mother, two sons and a daughter, and six grandchildren. Services were held at Restland Memorial Park.

We send our sympathies and love to Irma and her family. Ω
Nona Williams, Sunshine Chair

GIVE A DCPA MEMBERSHIP

Your Children Can't Inherit Yours: Give Them Their Very Own "Life" Membership At An Early Age So As To Get The Very Most Out Of It!!!!

MINUTES OF MEETING SEPTEMBER 2

The meeting was held at the Family Hall of the Royal Lane Baptist Church and was called to order by President **Bill McRae** at 7 p.m. He welcomed members and guests and said it was a pleasure to see everyone. After he gave the Invocation, he led the pledges to the U.S. and Texas flags. Fifty-five members and seven guests were registered for the meeting.

President McRae told about a Fiesta to be held at Old City Park on September 19. He said it was organized by **Bob Phillips**, 8-Country Reporter, and would have many interesting artists and characters to see and visit. A Dallas History Conference will be held October 2 at the Scottish Rite Cathedral on Harwood at Young Street. Flyers for both of these events are on the table just outside the meeting room.

Nancy McRae will chair the Nominating Committee for next year's officers. Working with her will be **Barney Jones**, **Betsy Halford**, and **Karley Smith**. All members are welcome to call any of these Committee members to make suggestions.

President McRae was pleased to advise that **Clare Weakley** has an artist designing a marker for our Marker Program. There are many places in Dallas County that need to be marked so that history will be preserved. A committee will take suggestions and decide which the DCPA will mark. Then sponsors for each site will be needed.

As reported earlier, we need stories from members about their own experiences in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. These stories can be from actual combat or what you did on the homefront to help the War effort. These must be turned in by February 1 to get in the revised history book.

Membership Certificates were passed out and President McRae reported on new members, the sick, one death, and other special events. He then asked **Frances James** to report on State of Texas markers. She said she had written to Austin because they were taking so long on the seven markers she is working on. She was sent the inscriptions for them but they were so poorly written they will have to be done over.

President McRae introduced Dr. **Michael V. Hazel** who gave a talk on the history of Southern Methodist University, which proved to be very interesting. We had a number of SMU alumni present, so Historian **Carolyn Selzer** asked them to pose for a picture.

The meeting ended with President McRae saying, "God be with you 'til we meet again." **Mae Riek**, Secretary

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

What a coincidence! (Or maybe not, really.) *Three* descendants of **Emily Hunnicutt** and **John Beeman** have joined us this month. We hope they all will come to the December meeting and have a family reunion.

Karen Kay Gassett is one of our two newest Life members. Her second generation Dallas Countians were son **John Scott Winfield Beeman** and **Elizabeth B. Merrifield**. Their daughter, **Elizabeth Boone**, and her husband, **Arthur E.C. Daniel**, were the parents of **Myrtle Estelle**, who married **James George Brey**. They became the parents of **Fay Marie**, who married **William Parma Gassett**, and Karen is their daughter.

Karen is a Loan Officer with a mortgage firm. She lives at 16301 Ledgeмонт Lane, #262, Addison 75001, and her telephone number is 972/248-9513.

Charles H. Herndon, Jr., is a great-great nephew of **Margaret Beeman Bryan**, wife of **John Neely**. John and Emily Hunnicutt Beeman's daughter, **Nancy**, married **William W. Hobbs** and they became the parents of **Josephine**, who married **John David Herndon**, and Charles is their son. He says the genealogy of his family is spelled out in the "Books on the Herndons of the American Revolution"; Part I through Part IX.

Charles is retired from service with the U.S. government and lives with his wife, **Marcie Ware**, at 238 Shockley, DeSoto 75115, telephone number 972/224-1730. They are the parents of four children.

Florence Boone Long Stone is another descendant of the Hunnicutt-Beeman line, on through Beeman-Merrifield and Beeman-Daniel (yes, she and Karen Kay Gassett are second cousins). Elizabeth Boone Beeman and Arthur E.C. Daniel became the parents of **Clara Mae**, who married **Nash Edward Long, Sr.**, and they were the parents of Florence.

Florence is retired from the nursing profession. Interested in genealogy, she is a member of the Garland Genealogical Society. She and her husband, **Robert**, are the parents of three children, and their address is 1518 Carroll Drive, Garland 75041, telephone number 972/278-6716.

Joseph H. Sullivan, our other newest Life member, also has ties to the Hunnicutt-Beemans: one of his three lines of Dallas County ancestry is through **Anna Hunnicutt Cox**, aunt of **Margaret Beeman Bryan**, who came to Dallas County in 1844.

Hartwell B. Cox, son of Anna and husband **William Bolin Cox**, was the first postmaster of Rylie Prairie (now Rylie), and Anna's

brother, **W.C. Hunnicutt**, started a school on Orphans Home Road (now Samuel Blvd.) which now is Bayles Elementary in the DISD.

Another line Joseph traces is that of **Mary Coppock Coats**, who came to the County in the 1850s from South Carolina. Her granddaughter, **Harriett Coats** married **George W. Cootes**, and their granddaughter, **Lillie L. Cootes** and her husband, **Howard D. Thompson**, became the parents of **Helen**, who, with her husband, **Robert A. Sullivan**, were the parents of Joseph. **Thomas D. Coats**, one of Mary's grandsons, was a Dallas County Commissioner.

Joseph's third line starts in the County with **George Washington Cootes**, who came after the Civil War, about 1870, and connected with the Coats line by marrying Harriett. Their son, **Henry Andrew Cootes**, ran one of the early mule-driven streetcars in Dallas.

Joseph's address is 5115 Eagles Nest, Arlington 76017. His telephone number is 817/483-9718.

Mary Frances Walsh is the daughter of **Letha Martha Bruce** and **Edward H. Walsh**, who came to Dallas in 1922 and lived at 413 So. Ervay, the historic Ambassador Hotel. They owned and operated the Walsh-Pharmacy at 431 So. Ervay.

Mary Frances is retired from teaching in the Dallas public schools for forty-six years. She is a member of the Jane Douglas Chapter of the DAR and is working on papers for the National Society of Colonial Dames XVII and for the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

She lives at 5502 Mercedes, Dallas 75206, and her telephone number is 214/827-9813.

We welcome these new members, some of whom have already visited with us at meetings. Ω

WHOIZIT???

Our handsome teenager in the September newsletter—did you recognize **William D. McRae**?

Our president had lots of training for his current office: in his business career, mostly concerned with oil and oilfield operations, he served as president or vice president of various subsidiaries of Exxon and Wyoming Pipe Line Companies. He has crisscrossed the nation: born in Tennessee, east to Florida, west to Louisiana and Wyoming, finally in Texas with Fina in 1987, from which he retired to take up volunteering and get really busy.

Somewhere in there he did a stint with the Corps of Engineers during the Korean "conflict", after which he returned to Humble and was assigned to jobs all over the states of Texas and Louisiana. The first half of his career was concerned with oilfield construction, maintenance, drilling, and reservoir analysis; the latter half was in domestic and international oil trading.

Finally settling in Dallas, Bill married a five-generation Dallas native, **Nancy Howell Lemmon**, who brought him into the Dallas County Pioneer Association. They are active in local and County historical associations; enjoy travelling, gardening, church activities—and volunteering. The two of them were named "Outstanding Volunteer Coordinators of the Year" in April by the Volunteer Center of Dallas County (see our summer newsletter).

Between them they have five children, nine grandchildren, and a Siberian husky named "Kitty". And thank goodness, they have us—DCPA! Ω

KEN WOODFIN, WOODROW HALL OF FAME

Another of our many gifted DCPA members has been honored by his high school: **Kenneth Woodfin** was inducted into the Woodrow Wilson High School Hall of Fame in August.

Ken retired as a Rear Admiral in 1975 after thirty-two years of service in the U.S. Navy. Among his assignments during his distinguished career in the Navy he served as a principal business assistant to Admiral Hyman G. Rickover in the Navy Nuclear Power Program, as Logistics Officer with the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean, Commander of the Navy Finance Center in Cleveland, and Deputy Commander for Contracts in the Naval Ships Systems Command.

After he left government service, Ken spent a year as civilian deputy administrator of NASA for Procurement, then became vice president of an engineering and construction firm in New Jersey. When he retired in 1985 he and his wife, **Jimmie Ruth** (also a WW graduate), returned to Dallas and he has since been engaged in management and tax consulting and as an adjunct professor at the University of Dallas Graduate School of Management.

Ken has had a lot of experience with "retiring"; wonder if he will ever really do it.

We congratulate Ken on achieving this distinction and recognition by Woodrow Wilson. We are proud to have him and Jimmie Ruth as part of DCPA. Ω

OFFICERS FOR 2000

The Nominating Committee has recommended the following slate of officers for the DCPA for the year 2000:

President	Bill McRae
Vice-president	Bill Clark
Treasurer	Gene Gaddy
Secretary	Mae Riek
Historian	Carolyn Selzer
Newsletter Editor	Marjori Sharp

The Nominating Committee consists of the following members: Nancy McRae, chair; Betsy Halford, Barney Jones, and Karlee Smith.

I want to thank those serving on this Committee with me. Serving in any capacity is an important part of keeping our organization alive and growing, so please, "JUST SAY YES" when asked!

Nancy McRae, Chair

FROM OUR MAILBAG

Dallas County Pioneer Association

Your card made my 95th Birthday perfect. I hope the Chapter all the best.

Helen Williams

(Our historian, **Carolyn Selzer**, said Helen's note is proudly ensconced in our Scrapbook.)

A HOLIDAY TREAT

Do you still have a copy of Leon Harris' *The Night Before Christmas—In Texas, That Is?* Do you want to see it in living color?

In Bedford, in the Glenbrook area near Central and Cummings Drives, the neighborhood has been using the book as their theme for years. Giant pages from the book are placed in front of houses, together with cowboy Christmas paraphernalia. The residents hold a neighborhood decorating party to get ready for the Holidays.

It's really worth the drive. Ω

THE TRINITY RIVER **and WHY WE ARE HERE**

by Clare Weakley

The Trinity River is Texas' longest river entirely in Texas. It is not with three branches, as the name Trinity implies, but with four: Clear, West, Elm, and East forks.

Clear Fork starts in Parker County and meanders east to join West Fork just west of downtown Fort Worth, where it becomes West Fork. West then does what few from Fort Worth would dare, and heads east to Dallas, where it joins hands with Elm. That confluence is between Loop 12 and I-35E, north of I-30. There its name changes to the "Trinity River". East Fork joins the flow just below the southeast corner of Dallas County for Trinity's continued 550-mile muddy drift to the grand Trinity Bay, that lies between Baytown and Galveston. Trinity Bay and the Gulf of Mexico meet at the free ferry Bolivar Pass.

While wandering through Texas' extensive blackland plains, Trinity's waters nourished huge hardwood forests, and the Dallas area and its environs became known as The Timbers. This great Trinity Valley was home to a variety of exotic wild life: ten thousand years ago mammoths roamed South Dallas County. The County's ancient Palmetto Swamp endlessly manufactured alligators. In pioneer times, deer were said to be as limitless as sparrows. Bear and bison were abundant. The River abounded with fish that were accused of striking almost any type of bait.

Running through its steep banks, too often at flood levels, this untamed Trinity that was a boon to nature, lay as a barrier to man. For pioneers headed west, hard bottom fords were vital for their crossings with livestock and wagons.

Explorer John Neely Bryan found a hard bottom ford overlooked by a bluff, and determined to plant a trading post on that spot. So, from its beginning, Dallas was here because of the River and for the purpose of marketing. His dream of mating the two—marketing with the River for transporting goods—never came to pass. But Dallas is here as a celebrity marketing city because of the River. Ω

GIVE US CORRECTIONS FOR THE ROSTER

Our new, year 2000, Roster will be in your hands at the March meeting. You can send us your corrections, additions, deletions and whatever, up to January 15, but the sooner the better, please.



After Mike Hazel's most interesting program on SMU at our September meeting (we hope you didn't miss it), Carolyn Selzer gathered all present SMU alumni around Mike for a picture.

GREAT CITIES

"This letter will evidence the support of the Dallas County Pioneer Association for the proposed new preservation ordinance sponsored by Preservation Dallas and recently passed by the Landmark Commission and the Plan Commission. Our 220-member organization has long supported the retention and preservation of sites and names that will carry forth the history of our city and county. We trust that our collective voice will be heard and that the City Council will heed our plea for adoption of this ordinance.

"Progress is desirable and is to be commended and supported, but care should be exercised to prevent destruction of unique treasures that can illuminate and honor our past. What would any great city be without a strong and remembered past on which to build?"

William D. McRae, president
Dallas County Pioneer Association
(From Letters in *The Dallas Morning News*, October 20)

I REMEMBER...

by William D. "Bill" Baird

Sometime back in the late thirties while a student at Woodrow, I had a date with Betty Mae Wyatt. She was probably daughter of one of the food store folks. Her parents lived on Live Oak in the

circle which made the circumference of the little round parkway in the middle of Live Oak about at the intersection with Munger, as I recall.

The houses along Live Oak at that point were large and pretentious. Toward town a few blocks from Betty Mae's house was a stone archway announcing that this was Munger Place.

Even as a kid I wondered why in the world someone would put a silly little island in the middle of the street. It seemed a waste of land and was too small to be a park. The neighbors had to keep it up because the City ignored it.

One day I mentioned this little nuisance of a park to my grandmother—or maybe to my aunt Bud—they were both born and raised in Dallas. Then I learned the reason for its existence: it seems that the developer of Munger Place had in mind a very exclusive neighborhood with large expensive houses. As he was preparing to develop his property the transit authority announced that the streetcar route for the Belmont and Vickery lines would run from downtown out Live Oak Street to Greenville Avenue—smack dab through Munger Place.

Who ever heard of an exclusive neighborhood with a trolley line running right down the middle of the street?

The developer, whose name escapes me (maybe it was Munger) had other ideas. He dedicated a small round park to the City of Dallas right in the middle of live Oak. The City Council happily accepted this gift from a generous citizen. Then, to seal the bargain, he built arched entry gates on the downtown side of the property over Live Oak and the adjoining streets in his subdivision.

The park was of such a small diameter that it could not be navigated by a streetcar. The gates made it next to impossible to put up trolley lines.

So the Dallas Transit folks moved the Belmont and Vickery lines over a block to Bryan Street. The little park is no longer there. Most of the large houses are replaced by apartments.

And I have no idea what ever happened to Betty Mae Wyatt. Ω

WE STILL WANT YOUR WAR-TIME STORIES

Some folks have already submitted great stories of their experiences on the home front and on the front lines. These stories are so good, we just have to have yours, too. Please take some time to capture your memories for us (and for your own amusement and amazement, too!).

NEWS OF THE COUNTY

by Frances James

• Cliff Temple Baptist Church celebrated its 100th birthday on November 7 and many former members came "home" for the occasion. A Texas Historical Marker for the site was dedicated during the celebration. This was the second Baptist congregation formed in Oak Cliff, which was being called "The Beautiful Residential and Educational City of the Southwest". A lot on Beckley and Tenth was purchased in 1908 for the "Memorial Baptist Church". After years of rivalry and after much discussion, the First Baptist Church of Oak Cliff and the Memorial Baptist Church merged in 1912 and the name was changed to Central Baptist.

In 1918 Dr. Wallace Bassett, then only thirty-four years old, began what would become the longest pastorate in Southern Baptist history: he was minister for forty-eight years, ending in 1966. In 1923 Dr. Bassett prevailed on the congregation to once again change the name to Cliff Temple Baptist Church, which it has remained to this day.

• On the Cemetery Bus Tour sponsored by the Dallas Historical Society we visited the Merrell, Cochran Chapel, Crown Hill, and Greenwood Cemeteries on November 6. Early pioneers were buried among family and friends in these sites and the headstones tell the story of those ancestors of ours who set the pace for our County and State.

• The Landmark Commission recommended to the City Council that a permit to demolish the Old Dallas High School not be issued. The buildings, which were sold for the second time in three years, are on the National Register of Historic Structures and were the site for the Female Academy started by the Methodist Church in the 1860s. In 1884 three men began to address the lack of an educational system and facilities in Dallas and decided to hire a school superintendent, resulting in the first high school classes held in the City. After the turn of the century, the administrators planned to construct new buildings to house the secondary classes, and the first building was the beginning of this great school that provided vocational training for several generations of Dallas County citizens.

The current owners have said that they did not know of the significance of the building and that perhaps they will sell to someone who can appreciate the importance of this historic structure. Too bad the DISD was led to believe it was a surplus building, when hundreds of portables are growing all around the schools at a fast pace. Somebody cannot count!

• The First United Methodist Church will dedicate its Texas Historical Marker before the next newsletter. The history of this congregation began in 1846 when the circuit rider ministers

stopped to worship with a handful of settlers in the village of Dallas, and they celebrated their 150th anniversary in 1996. Several locations and several name changes later the beautiful building we now see on Ross Avenue was built to house these Methodists in 1926. Watch your newspaper for the date of the dedication of the Marker.

• The Dallas Plan, a privately-funded organization initiated in 1992, was created to form a partnership with the City of Dallas, hundreds of organizations, and committed individuals to build a road map for Dallas' future. They asked me to speak at the 1999 conference to discuss Dallas' past, and I was given twenty minutes to tell them the history of the Trinity River! With such a short time allotted, I suggested that they put signs on all the creeks and crossings and name the bridges! I also suggested that they take a canoe trip down the Trinity.

• I understand there is another For Sale sign up on the Garvin Cemetery. Since the land behind the Cemetery that is "land-locked" changed owners during the summer, I must presume that the newest owner is trying to peddle it to someone else. There were survey stakes on the property for a while; maybe they were trying to find the easement. Many people have called, and that tells me that you are aware of this sacred site that has several veterans' graves, and are watching it. This site is too desirable for the greedy developers to leave alone.

• The expansion of the downtown Convention Center has started. After the research was done, the bodies of fifteen early graves were found and will be reinterred. Eight of these were babies. The headstones on this side of the Odd Fellows section of the Pioneer Cemetery were removed in the 1960s when the Convention Center was built. Archeologists are carefully documenting what they have found and in the near future will re-bury nearby. It is hoped that there will be a short service at that time. The City has decided to follow the State law in this instance. This has not always been the case.

• The Dallas County Historical Commission has now been allocated space in Old Red and files, books, and materials have been hauled to the new space. As time permits, the DCHC will request volunteers and former members to help sort out the office so that it can function as a resource for the citizens of Dallas County.

• **Jim Foster**, a DCPA member, has received an award from the Texas State Genealogical Society for his second book, *The Bois D'Arc at Nacogdoches, Vol. II*. Jim compiled all the material and had the book printed himself. His ancestors came to Dallas County and settled along the East Fork of the Trinity very close to Rockwall County. Volume III is underway now, documenting two of the cemeteries in the area and their history. Ω

POPPY PROJECT

Too late for Veterans Day, but still a good idea. We hope that the following item, written by Sue Martin in *Birds and Blooms*, October/November, will inspire some from our area to participate.

IN A FEW YEARS, my hometown— Bedford, Virginia— will be a very important place on the map when it becomes the home of the National D-Day Memorial.

Bedford was selected for this honor because on June 6, 1944, the town lost more men during the invasion of Normandy than any other U.S. community its size.

To complement this special monument, our community has been diligently working on what we call The Poppy Project, which is aimed at filling every nook and cranny of the county with red corn poppies. Poppies are the universal symbol of remembrance. For centuries, they have bloomed on battlefields in honor of fallen soldiers.

We're encouraging gardeners nationwide to scatter poppy seeds (any type will do) in their gardens, containers, window boxes or in public places as a remembrance of our veterans.

When the poppies go to seed, collect some and mail them to the D-Day Memorial. They'll be scattered on a hillside that includes special sections for seeds from each state. Pass a few seeds on to your friends, too, so they can start their own remembrance garden.

The hillside covered with poppies will be a monument unto itself and should be blooming long before the memorial is completed.

Send your seeds to me at The Poppy Project, 1881 Fancy Farm Road, Bedford, VA 24523. For more information, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the same address. Ω



That's Mae Riek sitting on the shelf during a war bond campaign for the BPOE convention in Dallas in 1943. Mae was a Sweetheart in the Elks Drum and Bugle Corps. Doing her part!

NOVEMBER-THANKSGIVING NOTE

A letter from Jim Cooke in *Yankee*, July 1999

Here's to the Founding Mothers

Your February "Books Received" column on *Memory's Nation* reminded me that in 1822 Daniel Webster was the speaker of the day for the 200th anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims. When he concluded his address, he was the speaker of the nation for the rest of his life. It was a day of great celebration. Numerous toasts were given, mainly honoring our Pilgrim forefathers and chronicling their sacrifices and hardships. Webster's friend Rufus Choate was present and offered a toast to our Pilgrim foremothers, who, Choate said, "not only bore all the many hardships and afflictions visited upon the Pilgrim forefathers, but in addition, had to bear the Pilgrim forefathers." Ω

MORE EARLY MEMORIES

by Earl O. Cullum

Do you remember? When you could first order groceries by telephone? and the Operator's greeting—"Number, please"? When the Oak Lawn community extended from Turtle Creek and Maple Avenue to the Cotton Belt Railroad and Highland Park? When big fire horses pulled the fire wagons, at a full gallop? Then, when the motorized wagons came, two trucks from Oak Lawn Fire Station went by different routes, and crashed at an Oak Lawn intersection? When the 5-cent Jitney Touring Car ran from Oak Lawn to Sanger's corner at Elm and Lamar, before the street cars came to Oak Lawn?

When silent "moving pictures" were shown at Oak Lawn Park on a bedsheet screen? It would be years before the Melrose and Oak Lawn theaters came. When the Boy Scouts of Troop 22 at Oak

 Lawn Methodist walked to the downtown "Court of Honor" in a group or rode on a one-seated Model T Ford, boys riding on every fender? When the Dallas High School football practice field was at Reverchon Park, and the team members walked, trotted, or hitched rides from the school each day? And the impressive red brick "Dallas University" came to Oak Lawn and small boys watched football practice and determined to become football players themselves?

When elderly gentlemen retirees met daily to play croquet, talk, or just "be there"? When the gasoline gauge of a Model T Ford was a wooden ruler, stuck into the gas tank under the driver's seat to show the gas level? When World War I brought planes to Love Field and Fair Park, and later a daring young man could take a ride in a plane, if he had 50 cents? When church members had lawn parties and bake sales to raise funds? When small boys learned to swim in Turtle Creek, and a drowning reminded adults of the dangers involved? When the ice cream truck came along, with the thrill of a heaping I-C cone, if you had a nickel?

When new homes under construction were magnets for small boys in evenings or weekends when they were deserted, and always a challenge to daredevil young climbers? When paving came to a few selected streets, and even paved sidewalks in some areas? When the young people of a church spent Sunday afternoons at Reverchon or Oak Lawn Park, and many "church group" flirtations led to happy marriages in years ahead? When budding actors and actresses reached stardom in local plays, musicals, or "minstrels" and proud parents spent their nickels to watch the shows?

Each community had its sources of happy memories. Yours??   

I WAS A NURSE'S AIDE DURING WORLD WAR II

by Louise Buhrer

December 8, 1941: War had been declared. My father, **Herman H. Buhrer**, had just sold his dairy (Live Oak Dairy) in South Dallas and he and my mother, **Julia**, purchased a farm in Richardson and moved there. I had lived at home, but needed to live in Dallas, as I worked at Liberty State Bank. Gasoline was rationed for only three gallons per week—riding the interurban between Dallas and Richardson was the only alternative!

 A girl friend with whom I had gone through high school invited me to move in with her family in the Oak Lawn neighborhood. She also had a sister who lived at home. The three of us decided to take a Red Cross First Aid Course and work at the local hospital, after workday jobs.

Time went on, so did the War. My friend and I thought we might help the war effort more by working as Aides at an Army hospital. We applied for the Civil Service job the last of 1944. Our orders came and we were to report to the Regional Army Hospital at Camp Maxey, Paris, Texas, April 4, 1945—Easter Sunday.

We were assigned to the nurses' (Army) barracks. Our rooms were pretty basic—no frills—the furniture was one army bed, one chest-of-drawers, one chair, one table (bedside, for alarm clock!). Our barracks were connected to the hospital with halls and covered ramps. Work hours were the same as nurse shifts, but we did not work the night shift. We were off duty every other Sunday and off one weekend per month.

The Aides wore striped blue-and-white pinafores, white blouses, white hose, white shoes. All dressed up, I was assigned to the Contagious Disease ward, the foremost barracks in the complex. Soon developing callouses! Each ward had a nurse supervisor and one or two male orderlies besides the Aide. A majority of the soldiers at this base were from the Eastern U.S. and did not like our hot Texas summers, chiggers, grasshoppers, etc.!

As the War ended, we were dismissed on September 25, 1945.  

ONLY YESTERDAY 'Thank God and REA!'

One of the highlights of my life was the day I plugged in my newly purchased electric iron in 1938. For years I had used a gasoline iron, which had a tiny regulator pin to control gas flow. If the flow was too much, it would burst into flame. Since my spouse, a farmer, was usually in the field, I became an expert repairperson. I even learned to make my own regulator pins out of screen wire. These worked well but needed frequent changes.

Having electricity really changed life on the farm and ranch. Eventually, after a few propane leaks, we became all-electric throughout both houses. Thank God and REA for bringing electricity to the farm!

Mary A. Elzner, Taft

In the mid-1920s, a power plant was built in Blanco, one block from the town square. My grandfather, Bernhardt Michael Olfers, was hired to run the plant. This plant furnished electricity for lights and appliances for the city proper. Grandpa would go early in the morning and turn on more power and stay until about 10 o'clock at night to turn the power down. About once a month, soot in the chimney would catch fire and burn for an hour or so. Excitement ran high the first time it happened, but after that no one paid much attention. The plant was in operation until

Buchanan Dam was built and the Texas Power and Light Co. furnished the power, but Grandpa Olfers still read the meter for them.

Mary Ann Steigleder, San Antonio

In 1939, Cooke County Electric Cooperative was running electric lines in the rural area. My father, Roy Herman Speake of the Spring Branch community southwest of Gainesville, was dying of lung cancer. I don't know just how far away from my father's home the workers were at the time, but my mother went to see if they could run the line ahead to her home, so my father could have an electric fan. They were kind enough to do that, and it was appreciated very much. My father died August 31, 1939.

Gladys Sparkman, Denton

Another feature from *Texas Co-op Power*, July 1999

Ring any bells? Spark any memories? Tell us your stories.

AMERICAN HISTORY 101

New England's GREATEST Invention

In 1930 Ken and Ruth Wakefield opened a restaurant on the old toll road between Boston and New Bedford, Massachusetts. The 1709 building had been the toll house, so they called it the Toll House Inn. Toll House cookies were born (so the story goes) when Mrs. Wakefield ran out of nuts for her "Butter Drop-Do" cookies and put a chopped bar of Nestlé's semisweet chocolate into the dough instead.

She thought she was saving time, that the chopped chocolate would melt and swirl, making a sort of marble cookie. It didn't. The cookies, christened "chocolate crispies", were nevertheless a success, and the inn became known for them. As the recipe got around, the folks at Nestlé noticed an increase in sales in the Boston area, figured out the cause, and started scoring their chocolate bars for easier breaking. Shortly after that, some genius in the marketing department got Mrs. Wakefield's permission to print the recipe on the wrapper. They also came up with a special chopper for the bars, but it wasn't needed for long—the morsels made their debut in 1939.

Nestlé bought the Toll House name in the 1940s and has never stopped printing the recipe right where you need it. As their original name made clear, Toll House cookies are crisp, and their butter-cookie ancestry is apparent. They are about 2 and 1/2 inches across, perfect for dispatching in a maximum of three bites. They do not have the general size and weight of manhole covers. That came later, in the 1980s, when franchise chocolate-chip treat outfits started working on the concept "one cookie, two bucks".

They aren't there yet, but they're gaining. Meanwhile, home cooks and high-end bakers alike have kept playing around with the formula. When Chester Soling, owner of the Orchards Inn in Williamstown, Massachusetts, put on a recipe contest seeking "the perfect chocolate-chip cookie", he got 2,600 entries, including one that contained pinto beans.

That was in 1987. The Orchards Inn has long since been sold, and no further contests have been forthcoming (at least from that quarter), but the cookies march on. Ω

from *YANKEE*, February 1999

FOR THE HISTORY-MINDED

by **Earl O. Cullum**

The 1892 edition of the "Memorial and Biographical History of Dallas County" lists the following then-residents using military titles:

CONFEDERATE OFFICERS

Brig. Gen. William L. Cabell
Brig. Gen. Richard M. Gano
Brig. Gen. John S. Griffith
Col. R.R. Lawther
Col. Charles S. Mitchell
Col. D.A. Williams
Lt. Col. John M. Stemmons
Maj. Alex C. Lemmon
Capt. H.A. Carrell
Capt. Thomas Flynn
Capt. William H. Harris
Capt. William H. Lemmon
Capt. W.F. Morton
Capt. Middleton Perry

U.S. OFFICERS

Col. George W. Givens
Lt. Col. P.B. Hunt
Maj. Francis M. Ervay
Maj. I.B. Gibson
Capt. John Hunter

ARMY, NOT DESIGNATED

Col. John F. Elliott
Col. John C. McCoy
Col. George Noble

NEW ROSTER COMING

**Don't forget to get your changes to us -- soon!
Typewritten, if possible, so we will get them right.**

SHOW 'N TELL

Carolyn Selzer will inaugurate our new feature for our quarterly meetings by bringing us the first table display of her family history. As a preview, here is Carolyn's account of her first family member in the County.

Dr. Adolphus Gouhenant (Gounah) was the great-great grandfather of Carolyn Downey Selzer and the great-great-great grandfather of Paula Jane Selzer. He was born in France in 1804 and came to Dallas in 1847.

Dr. Gouhenant was a French political activist and journalist, whose views were popular with the people, but they differed greatly from those of the government. This caused him to be imprisoned for fifty-seven days, with only bread and water for sustenance. In July 1843 he and eleven followers were brought to trial (in Cabot's book at SMU DeGolyer Library, which is in French, there is an interesting sketch of the trial.)

He came to America by way of New Orleans as an Icarian leader, to Peters Colony near Justin, in 1847. He moved to Dallas (current downtown area) in 1848. He established the first art gallery and studio in 1851, becoming Dallas' first photographer. He taught music for a variety of instruments and taught the many languages of Europe. He also dealt in real estate, was a wine maker, and rented his studio for cultural events—balls, musicals and courthouse business—charging \$7.50.

Court records also show that on May 14, 1851, he adjured his allegiance to Emperor Napoleon III and was the first person to become a naturalized citizen of Dallas County. His many

accomplishments in the Dallas and Fort Worth area are recorded in at least thirty early history books and articles.

Major Arnold of the army post of Fort Worth invited him to come and teach army officers and their families (he even taught them embroidery and dancing). When Major Arnold's two children died while visiting the fort, Dr. Gouhenant donated land for the start of the Pioneer Cemetery, located at Gounah and Samuel streets. When the fort closed, he and other Fort Worth men purchased the area and started the village of Fort Worth. Spelling of Gouhenant was changed to Gounah by the soldiers.

His first wife, mother of son Ernest Gouhenant, must have stayed in France, as no mention is made of her. His second wife, Elizabeth Martin, was the daughter of Judge Jacob Martin, who appointed Dr. Gouhenant as Texas' first geologist. She had been a patient of his and was considerably younger. Elizabeth died in 1889. His son, Ernest, was a chief bugler in the Civil War, serving at Corinth, Mississippi.

In April 1871 he took a business trip to Washington by train, and when the train stopped in Springfield, Missouri for supper, he went to a nearby hotel. When he heard the train preparing to leave, he ran and jumped, but lost his balance and the train caught his foot. It had to be amputated, and several days later he died and was buried in Springfield.

On August 26, 1995, Historian Alex Troup went to Missouri, representing our family, and placed a tombstone on the grave. Until Alex had completed research on Dr. Gouhenant, no one had known for five generations where he was buried. We are indebted to him for his years of research in the pursuit of Dallas history. ♫

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, Century, and Millennium

*As we wind down the year, the century, and the millenium,
we realize that we are living an event that few people
in the history of our world have experienced:
marking another 1000 years.*

*Make it a time to remember
for you and yours.*

*God Bless Us
Everyone*

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

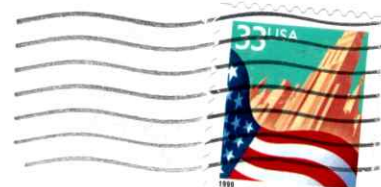
Sunshine: Nona Williams

Newsletter: Marjori Sharp

Dallas County Pioneer Association



Founded 1875, Reorganized 1979
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