



Dallas County Pioneer Association

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

WINTER 2000

QUARTERLY MEETING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2000

Family Hall
Royal Lane Baptist Church
Hillcrest Road and Royal Lane

Dinner: 6 p.m., \$8.00 per person
Catered by Grande Affair

Make reservations by Tuesday, December 5
Bill McRae 214/521-8654, or
DCPA Call Notes 214/969-0926

Program: 7 p.m.
Election of officers for 2001
Featured speaker: **Dr. Rose-Mary Rumbley**

Dr. Rose-Mary Rumbley is well-known as an entertaining and informative speaker and is one of DCPA's favorites. She is an actress, author, historian, humorist, teacher, tour guide, playwright, *and* public speaker. Her list of accomplishments is long and varied and includes:

- Doctorate in Communications from North Texas State University
- Head of RMR Communications in Dallas
- Authorship of five books
- Authorship of two plays
- Twelve years as head of the Drama Department at Dallas Baptist University
- Over four hundred speaking engagements per year.

Dr. Rumbley's presentation for our December meeting is "Dear Santa, Thanks for the Piano" and will contain many nostalgic memories of taking music lessons in the Metroplex. We are sure it will be hilarious—don't miss this program. Ω

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The DCPA picnic held on October 14 was a great success. Although the skies threatened all day, the weather held and some forty of our members attended. The delicious food contributed by the attendees was adequate for at least sixty people! **David Vilbig's** Dutch oven cobbler was a favorite of all. The newly-redesigned gardens of **Kathy John** and **Marjori Sharp** provided a festive venue for the gathering, as well as showcasing the landscape design of **Suellen Thompson**. **Gene Gaddy** arranged for some friends, the "Lake Highland Bluegrass Band", to provide some most enjoyable entertainment. Thanks to all who made the function such a success!

This special affair specifically was held during daylight hours on a weekend to comply with requests from several members. It also reestablished an old tradition of the early pioneers who had a yearly picnic meeting. Be sure to let your officers know if you want to do this again next year.

Speaking of officers, the Nominating Committee, composed of **Frances James**, Chair, **Mattie Hughes** and **Nancy McRae**, have made the following nominations for 2001 officers:

President: Bill McRae
 Vice-President: Bill Clark
 Secretary: Irma Janicek
 Treasurer: Gene Gaddy
 Historian: Mae Riek
 Newsletter Editor: Marjori Sharp

Members-at-Large appointed by the president are **John Winniford**, **Carolyn Selzer**, and **Karen Gassett**.

Nominations from the floor will be accepted at the December 7 meeting.

The Second Annual Dallas History Conference, coordinated by **Mike Hazel**, was held October 21, and DCPA was well-represented. DCPA books, histories, and promotional literature were on display during the Conference. I was asked to introduce one of the speakers and was glad for the chance to call attention to our Association.

To me, the highlights of the Conference were two personal accounts: Robert Hyer Thomas' excellent presentation, "The Founding of SMU from the Hyer Family Perspective", and **Darwin Payne's** "Up and Down Second Avenue", a nostalgic account of growing up in South Dallas.

Next year's Conference will feature women's contributions to Dallas history and will be held at the Hockaday School on Saturday, October 6. Proposals for papers are solicited.

A "Historical Summit" of county historical organizations was held on October 24 at the Belo Mansion in downtown Dallas. **Jeff Dunn**, Chairman of the Dallas Historical Commission, organized and hosted the event. **Mike Hayslip** described the Texas Historical Marker Program, **Frances James** talked about Historic Texas Cemeteries, and **Mike Coker** reviewed his firm's survey of county historic resources. The event was attended by about twenty people who were representing numerous county organizations.

Irma Janicek utilized her computer skills to save our organization about \$70 by updating our information brochure and membership application. Corrected originals are now ready for reproduction. Thank you, Irma!

Thanks are also due **Irma** and **Mattie Hughes** for manning DCPA tables at recent genealogical society seminars. Books and histories were sold and good advertising of DCPA was accomplished.

The Volume III planning committee, composed of **Bill Clark**, **Gene Gaddy**, **Mattie Hughes**, **Irma Janicek**, **June Shipley**, and **Carolyn Selzer** met and are working on guidelines for the new book, are selecting an editor, and are collecting stories already written. This long-awaited project will be underway very soon. See the related article in this newsletter.

Following the September 7 meeting, a U.S. Postal Service key with a red tag and the number 5501 was found on the floor. Whoever lost the key can claim it at the December meeting.

Kudos to the Vilbig youths! Student members **Tommy** and **Jennifer Vilbig** deserve a big THANK YOU for their excellent work on the Butler-Nelson Memorial Park Cemetery. The cleanup and cataloging of the Cemetery was well done and the written report was outstanding. Keep up the good work, Vilbigs!!! Ω



Some of our picnic group were **Frances James**, **Barabara Vilbig**, **Mary Frances Walsh**, **Jennifer Vilbig**, **David Vilbig** and **Nellie O'Connell**.

We are saddened by the death of Dr. Reuben Adams, beloved Dallas obstetrician and gynecologist and husband of Lindalyn Adams. Our sincere sympathies and love to Lindalyn and her family.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

We welcome **Rebecca Sue Bucy** to Life membership in the DCPA. Her first ancestors in Dallas County were **Mary Snow** and **James R. Riley**, who came prior to 1846, with their son and three daughters. They also lived in Scyene and started the town of Rylie. James was on the County tax rolls in 1846, and died in 1849.

John Armstrong, the only son, married **Harriet Harding**, and they became the parents of **Ina Bell**. She married **Calvin Low**, and they had daughter **Zelma Inez**. Zelma and her husband, **Otis Borden Bucy**, were the parents of **Richard Eugene**, who married **Bennie Lou Dockhorn**. Richard and Bennie Lou were Rebecca Sue's parents. Richard was born in Dallas; Sue and her mother were born in Nebraska.

Sue's address is 2726 Golfing Green Dr., Dallas 75234, and her phone number is 972/484-9611.

Almola Clements James is descended from Peters Colony member **Solomon W. Dixon**, who came to Dallas County between 1841 and 1844. He and his wife, **Lydia**, became the parents of **Nancy Annis**, the first white female born in Dallas County, on January 1, 1845.

Nancy Annis married **Benjamin Thomas Nanny**, and they had daughter **Daisy Ann**. She and her husband, **Wiley Rufus Clements**, were the parents of **Archie Rufus**, who married **Dora Williams**, and they became the parents of Almola.

Solomon and Lydia Dixon had a land grant near White Rock Lake. Their daughter, **Margaret Frances**, was the first to be buried in the Cox Cemetery, in 1848, where many other family members are buried. Almola says, "He was a hard-working man who instilled within those around him strong traits of moral character, willingness to work, and love for his God, family, and country."

Almola is retired from teaching, and shows her interest in genealogy with membership in Daughters of the American Revolution, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Texas First Families, and now the DCPA. She and her husband, **Joe N.**

James, are the parents of **David Neil** and **Denise Almola Boyd**. Almola and Joe live at 2403 11th Street, Brownwood, TX 76801, phone number 915/646-1529. We hope they get back to the old "home" county once in a while and come meet with us.

Fayanne Meller Teague was born in Shreveport, Louisiana, and has lived in Dallas County for forty-six years. She was a secretary in the National Office of The Boy Scouts of America in Irving, and calls herself a "professional volunteer". She is interested in genealogy and is a member of the Texas Folklore Society and the Irving Genealogical Society, and we welcome her into the DCPA.

Fayanne is the mother of **Billy Frank Teague, II**, and **Kathryn Anne Teague Waldman**. Her address is 1508 Mayflower, Irving, TX 75061, phone number 972/253-3481. We look forward to meeting Fayanne at our December meeting.

We were happy to welcome to our September meeting another of the Beeman posterity and her husband: **Annette Beeman** and **Kenneth Wallace**. Annette's brother, **William B. Beeman**, and his wife, **Willie**, are long-time members, and they finally got Annette and Ken to join us.

Annette goes back to **Emily Hunnicutt** and **John Beeman** (parents of **Margaret**, who married **John Neely Bryan**), whose son, **William Hunnicutt**, married **Martha Dye**. They became the parents of **Lee Oren**, and he and his wife, **Maude Herrin**, were the parents of **William Oren**. William and his wife, **Montague L. Anderson**, had daughter Annette.

Lee Oren Beeman owned a blacksmith shop on Exposition Avenue 1900-1915. Son William attended a one-room school in East Dallas until he completed all their books, then attended Draughton's Business College.

Annette was a teacher in the DISD and the Mary Boswell School. Her "chosen profession" spilled over onto Sundays: she taught the Bible Credit Course to some of our children at Midway Hills Christian Church (that's why they turned out so good!).

Ken was born in San Antonio but grew up in Dallas and Fort Worth and became a pioneer in air conditioning in Dallas (he air conditioned the buildings at Buckner's Children Home, where he spent part of his childhood). The last several years of his career he spent as vice-president of Blum Engineering, with a tenure of several years in Iran.

Both Annette and Ken are now retired, enjoying grandchildren. She has one son, having lost another several years ago, and he has two daughters, and between them they have five grandchildren. They live at 3218 Lockmoor Lane, Dallas 75220, telephone 214/352-0822. Ω

MINUTES OF MEETING SEPTEMBER 7

The September meeting was held in the Family Hall of Royal Lane Baptist Church. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. and President **Bill McRae** began with an invocation. Pledges to the United States and Texas flags followed. Fifty-three members and fifteen guests signed the registration sheets. Several members did not sign the sheets and are not included in the above totals.

The Beeman family presented an interesting and informative display of family memorabilia. Of particular interest were the magnificent old family Bible and their genealogy chart that went back many generations. Their display was much appreciated by the attendees.

President McRae reported that nine new members have joined the Association and membership certificates were presented.

To help recapture the feeling of our ancestors who had many "picnic meetings", the Association is planning a picnic at the home of **Kathy John** and **Marjori Sharp** on Saturday, October 14. This will not be a regular meeting, but will be a fun time for fellowship and enjoyment.

The December 7, 2000 quarterly meeting will feature **Rose-Mary Rumbley** as speaker. In addition, a display of World War II memorabilia will be featured in remembrance of Pearl Harbor and those who served in that terrible war. **Carolyn Selzer**, our historian, will coordinate the display and requests that members call her if they have something they plan to display.

The DCPA was reminded that the Second Annual Dallas History Conference will be held at the Hughes-Trigg Student Center on the SMU campus Saturday, October 21. DCPA is a sponsor of this event.

Nominations for the year 2001 officers are now open. Any nominations or those desiring an office in which to serve should contact **Nancy McRae**.

President McRae introduced the speaker of the evening, Mrs. **Jerre Simmons**, who is a retired teacher, author, and award-winning English coordinator in the Duncanville School System. Mrs. Simmons gave an extremely interesting and personalized account of life as an orphan in the Buckner Orphans Home. Her presentation was well received and a lively question-and-answer period followed her talk.

The meeting ended at 8:05 p.m. with the saying "God be with you 'til we meet again". Ω
Mae Riek, secretary

PROUD HERITAGE III

by **Bill Clark**

A committee of DCPA members met on Saturday, November 11, to discuss startup for Volume III of Proud Heritage. The members of this committee include **Mattie Hughes, Gene Gaddy, Carolyn Selzer, Bill Clark, June Shipley**, and **Karen Gassett**. We hope **Irma Janicek** will join us, along with anyone else who has interest.

Several guidelines were established. The inclusion date will be 1950. As you may remember, the inclusion date for Volume II was 1925 and for Volume I was 1885. Each submission should be no longer than 750 words. An article about a company can be longer.

Please consider this a call for papers! If you have articles about families, please bring them to the December meeting. The cut-off date for submission will be June 30, 2001.

A very important aspect of this book will be the selection of an editor. If you have ideas, please share them with a member of the committee, or if you would like to serve on the committee, please contact Bill Clark at 214/969-0118 (B) or 214/528-1891 (H).

The production of Volume III is an important part of our mission. We hope to have the support of the entire membership as we go forward.

The next meeting of the Book Committee will be on Saturday, January 13, 2001, 1 to 2:30 p.m., at my home, 4400 Potomac. Ω

WHOIZIT???

Did you say "Bernie Coffey"? Did you recognize the grin on the face of the GI snuggling the skeleton in our last newsletter as the same on the picture below of **Bernard M. Coffey**? It didn't change much.

Bernie kinda stumbled into being born in Dallas: his parents, Margarita Agramonte and Bernard James Coffey, left New York headed for California, but got sidetracked and settled in Cockrell Hill, where Bernie was born. Five years after the death of his father his mother married the first **Wesley Cockrell**, so he was the stepson of "Wes" (cousin of **Alexander**), who came to Texas in 1842. Bernie attended Sunset High School, St. Mark's, and UTA. He participated in all of the civic affairs of the Cockrell Hill community: City Council meetings, Planning and Zoning Commission, Board of Tax Equalization, Park Planning, and on and on.

Bernie and his wife, **Mildred**, met at a square dance and honeymooned at the National Square Dance Convention in San Diego in 1956. Their subsequent love of square dancing evolved into their organizing "Coffey's College", three- and four-day events complete with lectures and seminars, as well as square and round dancing. These sessions extended from Galveston to Hutchinson, Kansas, and continued for twenty-three years, through 1980.

He joined the Boy Scouts at age twelve and his interest in scouting never waned: he was a charter member of the Silver Scouters and recipient of the Silver Beaver Award in Scouting, and in April 1997 received his 70-Year Veteran Award. Scouting was a vital part of his life and that of his family: he attributed much of his survival in the military to his Boy Scout training.

He began his service to his country in World War II in 1941 in the 49th Field Artillery Battalion as a Forward Observer. Transferring to the Medical Division, he trained to become a Surgical Technician (hence, the service picture with his friend). He served in four major battles and received a chestful of campaign ribbons and citations.

Bernie's employment with the Dallas Railway & Terminal Company (now DART) was interrupted by the War, but he retired in 1976 after thirty-eight years of service. Millie says he enjoyed his membership in DCPA, Texas and Dallas Genealogical Societies, Service-related groups, and other organizations.

Bernie passed away September 23, 1997. Millie says, "Bernie Coffey loved people, loved his little community, and led a full, happy, and beautiful life." What a loving tribute! Ω



THANKS & PLEAS FROM HISTORIAN

Carolyn Selzer

We appreciate clippings and information for the Historian's book received from **Kathy Culver, Frances James, Marjori Sharp**, and **Bill McRae**.

Mae Riek donated a newspaper article dated 1939 about a Dallas County Pioneer Association meeting that she found in her mother's belongings.

Our December 7 meeting will feature displays of World War II memorabilia brought by our members. We have heard from **Lloyd White, Karen Gassett, Irma Janicek, Bill McRae**, and **Simon Selzer**. We would love to hear from you in advance if you can contribute to this display. Please call **Carolyn Selzer**, 214/327-0473. Thank you! What a great time to share your memories!

Needed Picnic Pictures: If you have any pictures of DCPA's oldtime picnic taken on October 14, please share them with me for our Historian's book, and thank you very much. Ω

6TH GENERATION CULLUM BAPTIZED IN HISTORIC CHURCH

Family Tradition Continues

On Sunday, October 22nd the family of young Zachary Owen Cullum of Birmingham, Alabama, gathered at Oak Lawn for the baptism of its youngest family member, a direct descendant of Rev. M.H. Cullum, who founded Oak Lawn Methodist Church in 1874. Zach's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chad Owen Cullum and Zach's sister Emily (previously baptized here) drove from Birmingham for the event. This was the sixth great-grandchild of Earl Owen Cullum to be so honored at Oak Lawn in recent years. Other names on this growing list have included Burkard, Miller and McDonald.

Family attending on this occasion included Great Aunt Kaye Cullum Lee, Great Uncles Capt. Kenneth H. Cullum, M/Sgt. Edward G. Lee, Col. Earl O. Cullum, representing Zach's deceased grandfather, Col. Richard O. Cullum (the latter four all veterans of war in Asia). Zach's great great grandmother Elizabeth M. Owen's beautiful paintings "Joseph's Workshop" and "Three Wise Men" hang on the walls of Oak Lawn Methodist Church. Ω

*North Texas United Methodist Reporter, 10/27/00
Oak Lawn United Methodist Church edition*

**OUR NEW ROSTER WILL GO TO THE PRINTER IN
MID-JANUARY. GIVE US YOUR UPDATES AND
CORRECTIONS. ASAP.**

BRYAN-BEEMAN and DANIEL REUNIONS

by Karen Gassett

A small group of approximately forty Bryan and Beeman descendants gathered in the Dallas area during the weekend of October 21-23. Most of the group had previously met via the Internet on various sites such as genforum.com, so this was the first time for many of us to meet face-to-face. **M.C. Toyer** did an excellent job of organizing the reunion.

The group toured many cemeteries, including the Beeman, Ferris, Glover, Pleasant Mound, and Pioneer. Other tour sites included John Neely Bryan's Cabin, the Old Red Courthouse, Dealey Plaza, Union Station, Bird's Fort, and the Hall of State. Many descendants shared family information and websites where family information could be viewed. There are two private family sites on www.MyFamily.com for the Beeman Family and Mr. Toyer is working on two sites for "Gone to Texas" pioneers and the other for descendants of John Neely and Margaret Beeman Bryan.

I attended the dinner on Sunday night and represented the Dallas County Pioneer Association by telling the group about the mission of the DCPA and why they should become members. I told them about some of their Beeman and Daniel descendants who attended the first DCPA meeting and who held office. Also, I explained how they could help preserve their family cemeteries and become involved with the Dallas community.

The Internet has opened up a way to communicate with relatives who were once considered "long lost relatives". Thanks to the Internet this family is becoming its own organization. And by sharing information, everyone can maximize their research and don't have to duplicate someone else's efforts. To summarize, I believe I have doubled my Christmas card list!

The Annual Daniel Family Reunion was held on November 4. My Grandmother was a Daniel and told me that this reunion used to be held on Thanksgiving each year at her Grandpa Daniel's home. Her grandpa was **John Herndon Daniel, Sr.** To give you an idea of how long this reunion has been going on, John H. Daniel, Sr. and his wife, **Rebecca Ray**, were among the original members of the DCPA and he was the first Dallas County Constable (1850-52, 1853, 1854-56). His son, **Arthur Ellis Combs Daniel**, married **Elizabeth Boone Beeman**. Elizabeth's parents were **John Scott Winfield Beeman** (son of **John Beeman** and brother to **Margaret Beeman Bryan**) and **Elizabeth Betty Boone Merrifield**.

The reunion has been held in Garland all of my life and I have many fond memories of attending over the years. Nowadays, we invite Beemans, Bryans, and other related families to the reunion. We get to know one another, share some great food, share family information, and try to figure out how we are all related. The

eldest Daniels are now in their mid-nineties. They would like to share the Beeman and Daniel histories, so I hope to sit down with them before Christmas and record as much as possible. Ω

COUNTY CEMETERIES IN THE NEWS

by Frances James

Nearly fifty people were on the bus for our cemetery tour sponsored by the Dallas Historical Society on October 28. The cemeteries toured were the Caruth Family, Floyd Family, Fields Family, Ferris Family, the McCree and the Cox Cemetery. There were descendants of other Dallas settlers on the tour and they have all been invited to our next meeting.

The Miller Family Cemetery was the site of a dedication of a Marker that stated it was a Texas Historic Cemetery, a new concept to preserve these historic sites in Texas. Since DCPA sponsored the registration of this Marker with the State, our name appears on it. If you want to drive by and visit the site, it is on Mapsco 56, off Bonnie View behind 2823 King Cole Circle. During the dedication the Miller family graciously displayed some of the family artifacts. There are living members of this family who were born in Millermore Mansion before it was moved to Old City Park.

The Wesley Cockrell Family Cemetery is now registered with the State as a Texas Historic Cemetery. This site, at the end of Dwight Street in the Arcadia Park area of Dallas, is now surrounded on two sides by acres of land that has the possibility of becoming a new country club. The Boy Scouts from Troop 769 worked very hard on one of the hottest days of the year to set the granite marker in concrete so that it would be permanently placed in the corner of the site. We have two members who participated in this registration: **Mildred Coffey**, wife of the late **Bernie Coffey**, a member of the Cockrell family and a Boy Scout for over seventy years, and **Mackie Dealey**, also a member of the Cockrell family who has helped with the maintenance of this site through the years. Mildred still volunteers at Circle Ten Scout Headquarters.

Plans are to mark the Overton Family Cemetery as soon as possible in a like manner. These first three sites are where our early pioneer families settled when they first came to Dallas County before 1850.

The first meeting of North Texas people interested in the preservation of pioneer cemeteries was held at the downtown Library on September 30. Over forty persons attended this session to hear about what the City of Plano is doing, what records are available in the Dallas archives, and an explanation of the newest designation given by **Gerron Hite**, Cemetery Preservation Coordinator for the State of Texas. Another meeting is planned for early January 2001. Ω

OLD CITY PARK WELCOMES NEW RESIDENTS, "NIP AND TUCK"



Nip and Tuck

Four-year olds Nip and Tuck took up residence at Old City Park in August and quickly made themselves at home. They are a matched pair of Mammoth Jack Stock Donkeys and are being trained to pull the Park's wagonette and brougham.

Mammoth Jack Stock are one of the largest breeds of donkey in the world and were developed in the late 1700s by Farmer **George Washington**. His purpose was to develop a large donkey to breed with horses to produce large mules for heavy work. Today they are a rare breed, estimated to number less than 5,000.

The breed are smart, friendly, and docile, and are especially good around children. Nip and Tuck come right over to the fence on their enclosure to welcome visitors. To tell them apart, Nip has a white patch on his forehead.

The wagonette will be used to give visitors rides and also to assist with on-site deliveries, to help cut down on the use of motorized vehicles in the Park. It and the Rockaway Brougham are also available for rental.

Doug Holt will be Wagon Master in charge of Nip and Tuck and the wagonette rides. Ω

SIXTH FLOOR MUSEUM OPENS "KENNEDY and CUBA" EXHIBIT

The Board of Directors of the Sixth Floor Museum hosted a reception on October 29 for the opening of the new exhibit, "Unfinished Business: Kennedy and Cuba".

The program held on the seventh floor, a work-in-progress, was a discussion led by Executive Director **Jeff West**, with special guests **Ruben Esquivel**, **Hector Garcia**, and **Delia Reyes**, all of whom were children in Cuba when Castro came into power.

The purpose of the exhibit was set out in the Program: "The chain of historic events that occurred during the presidency of John F. Kennedy continues to shape U.S. perceptions of Cuba today. **Unfinished Business: Kennedy and Cuba** explores the history of the Bay of Pigs Invasion, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the assassination in the context of contemporary events. Incorporating over 150 photographs and artifacts, the exhibit also includes a video featuring oral history interviews with members of the Dallas community." Ω

ALL AROUND THE COUNTY WITH FRANCES JAMES

The Second Annual Dallas History Conference was a great success and plans are underway for the Third Conference to be held next October. If you missed this one, plan to attend next year—DCPA members are all getting the advance information, so read your mail!

The newest on the Old Red Courthouse is that it has now been turned over to the Dallas Historical Society and the Old Red Foundation to manage. This combined group will come up with ideas and funding for using space in the building. The Hall of State is managed by the same group; it will be exciting to see how these new plans work out.

Many of our downtown buildings that have been vacant for a long time are being rehabilitated:

- The Olive-Myers Building at 2200 Young Street near the Farmers Market was one of the first manufacturing plants in Dallas to use electricity to power their machinery, in 1903. Descendants of **Horace Spalti**, one of the owners of this company, are still participating in events in Dallas County.
- The Paramount Hotel has changed hands again and the newest owners are planning on rehabilitating it. This is the hotel across from Union Terminal which was built in 1923 to accommodate people who came to Dallas by train.
- The Awalt Building, the last major building in the West End Historical District that has not already been put to use has been purchased by a company which plans to have retail on the ground floor and office development on the other five floors. This site is near the Dart Station, and whatever goes in there should be successful. Many pieces of furniture now in our houses were purchased from the Awalt Furniture Store after World War II—the price was reasonable and the furniture was sturdy, which may be all you can say for it.
- The City is planning to rehabilitate the City Hall built in 1912 on Harwood Street which has been Police Department headquarters for many years. It has not been well-maintained, so extensive repairs will be forthcoming. It is a shame that our Police Department has been forced to operate in such dirty facilities for so long. Their new headquarters is being built on Lamar Street near the Sears Building.

- The Interurban Building at 1500 Jackson across from the Library is being completely renovated for office space. Those of us who ever rode buses into and out of Dallas will remember this facility.
- Two buildings on the west side of Stone Street, one facing Main Street and one facing Elm, have been purchased and are to undergo full restoration. The one on Elm was Woolworth's downtown store, next to the former W.A. Green Store. **Ebby Halliday** started by selling hats in W.A. Green! This lot is leased from the family of **C.C. Slaughter**.
- A few years ago the preservation community was up in arms about the Dr Pepper Plant on Mockingbird—but that was not the first home of the Dr Pepper Bottling Company in Dallas: the complex of buildings near Fair Park at 409-429 Second Avenue was the first facility used for the manufacture of one of our favorite soft drinks. It is now under restoration for various uses.
- The buildings at the corner of Pearl and Commerce, just down the block from the old City Hall, have recently changed hands. A sign on one of them says "Bluitt's Sanitarium", and this was the first clinic for blacks in Dallas. The second small building is called the **R.F. Aspley Building**. Aspley was a grandson of **John Grigsby**, who once owned over 4000 acres of downtown Dallas, and Aspley's mother inherited a portion of the Grigsby land. These buildings were constructed at the turn of the century.

On October 9 a Texas Historical Marker was placed on the White Rock Chapel Independent Methodist Church, a black church founded in 1884 near what we now think of as Addison. The land for the Church was given by **S.S. Noell**, whose descendant, **Leslie Noell**, lives in Richardson, and there is a road in this vicinity named for the family. A family named Scott came to Dallas with grown sons and all received land grants. They brought their slaves with them and these families are members of the Church, which has suffered both a flood and a fire. Descendants of the early black families who started the Church were at the dedication of the Marker. The City of Addison sponsored the service and served a delicious lunch and the Church choir provided music.

Oak Cliff United Methodist Church is planning the dedication of their Texas Historical Marker on November 19. This Church has already received Landmark status for the City of Dallas. The history of this congregation has so many interesting points, one of which is that the ladies of the church cooked meals and served them at the State Fair each year to provide money for various construction details they deemed important. If they had small children too young for school the children went along—some of our members may remember that!

A Texas Historical Grave Marker has been placed at the site of the grave of **Trezevant Calhoun Hawpe**, who was sheriff of the County 1850-1854. He was also a Justice of Peace and an officer in Tannehill Lodge and organized and was the first

colonel of the 31st Texas Cavalry in the Civil War. He was stabbed to death by a friend after an argument on the Courthouse steps in 1863. DCPA member **Mark Mueller**, a great grandson, and other family members were present for the dedication. Dr. **Emerson Emory** and **Tom Jones**, also our members, Sheriff **Jim Bowles**, the Tannehill Lodge, and Sons of the Confederates, also participated in this dedication.

The designation of a Recorded Texas Historical Landmark was finally made on the home of Dr. **Clay Gilbert** at 309 S. O'Connor in Irving, one of the lots in the original townsite of Irving when it was laid out in 1903. It was built by **Joffre**, the son of one of the LaReunion colonists who came to Texas in 1855. He went back to France to train to be an architect, returned and built this one as his home in 1915. It was purchased by Dr. **Franklin M. Gilbert**, one of the first and for a while the only, doctor in Irving, and has been occupied by a member of this family for over sixty years. Dr. Clay Gilbert has lovingly cared for the home, which still contains many family treasures. The Texas Historical Commission was reluctant to place the RTHL because in the 1940s the ground floor of the house was covered with PermaStone, a new concept using manmade stones. After waiting nearly twenty years, the PermaStone was fifty years old, and the RTHL was finally granted. (It looks the same as it did twenty years ago.) Oh well, rules are rules.

The fate of Crozier Tech, Dallas' first high school, is still hanging. The City Council approved Landmark designation on only the oldest portion, built in 1907. For some reason, the Council members had a mean streak come over them so they wanted to allow the developer to rip out the section which is the back portion added on in 1911. To show how clever the managers of the property are, they applied for a demolition permit for another portion of the building using a different street address, which fooled the staff issuing the permit. Thankfully, one of the guardians of the site (it will take us all) found out and the demolition has been stopped until all requirements are met. Talk about city slickers—we have them in Dallas. Ω

The first Thanksgiving was in Texas! A celebration of thanksgiving was held near present-day El Paso on April 30, 1598, by members of the Juan de Onate expedition and natives of the area. The Spaniards provided the game and the Indians the fish for the feast. The Franciscan missionaries held a Mass, and Onate claimed all the land drained by the Rio Grande in the name of Philip II of Spain.

DUES ARE DUE
TIME TO PAY 2001 DUES AT
DECEMBER MEETING OR
MAIL TO TREASURER GENE GADDY



AMERICAN HISTORY 101

A Piece of the Rock

from *Yankee*, November 2000

by Jeff Baker

ARGUABLY THE MOST FAMOUS BOULDER in the world, Plymouth Rock is a four-ton hunk of Dedham granite, roughly 608 million years old, that slid over to the New England coast from Atlantica, or present-day Africa. Known as a glacial erratic, it was upheaved and moved southward from the Boston area on a conveyor belt of ice. For the next 20,000 years it sat undisturbed but for the eroding effects of the tides and winds. When it became the threshold to a new country—and the emblem of America—everyone wanted a piece of it. And nearly everyone got it. The rock we know today is about one-twentieth its original size, having been chipped away by souvenir hunters, rockhounds, and even town officials. Among the culprits:

- In 1774 Plymouth townspeople decided to relocate their landmark, engaging 30 yoke of oxen for the job. The screws they installed to help move it served as wedges, splitting the rock in half as soon as the oxen pulled.
- In an 1834 Independence Day parade, a *Mayflower* replica accompanied a two-wheeled cart transporting the upper half of the rock from the town common to Pilgrim Hall. When a pin reportedly dislodged, causing the cart to tilt, the rock hit the ground and broke into pieces.
- The lower half remained at the waterfront, vulnerable to the elements and part of a commercial wharf, across which iron-wheeled carts of fish, coal, and other goods rolled. A merchant kept a hammer and chisel on hand for souvenir seekers.
- In 1880 the halves were reunited, though by then the pieces no longer matched. Town officials chinked in the spaces with random (less-historic) stones and chiseled in the date 1620.
- Where chips off the old block have come to rest: a 50-pound chunk in the Plymouth Congregational Church in Brooklyn; the Conoco refinery at Hull, Massachusetts; at the Smithsonian; and in museums in California and Nevada.
- In the 1920s the Antiquarian Society of Plymouth sold pieces as paperweights (to raise money to preserve Plymouth?). Other uses: tie tacks, cuff links, pendants, earrings, a 400-pound doorstep, aggregate for a concrete floor, and to weigh down a barrel of corned beef.
- In 1954 a citizen sent a piece of the rock to President Eisenhower as a gift. Ω

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO PIG STANDS??

by Bill Baird

There was once a Pig Stand in every part of town. Before the War, the Woodrow kids congregated at the Gaston Avenue Pig Stand out on Garland Road where Gaston ended. That is, when they decided not to congregate at Sammy's on Greenville Avenue. The kids from North Dallas had their Pig Stand on Oak Lawn, and I'm sure the kids from Oak Cliff had Pig Stands in that part of town, but I didn't get over that way very often.

There was a Pig Stand out on Greenville Avenue, and that was what put me in mind of the Pig Stands. We went to the Kirby's steak house there the other night. It is in the same location where the Pig Stand once was. The house salad dressing at Kirby's is like the dressing that was served at Brockles' Restaurant in downtown Dallas. I often wonder if it is the same. Once upon a time you could buy Brockles' dressing in the restaurant to take home in quart jars. As I recall, it even sold in grocery stores. I don't remember much about the food but the dressing was very good.

Anyway, on Saturday nights once a month there would be a dance at the Lakewood Country Club for high school kids and on different Friday nights there would be a dance at the Dallas Athletic Club downtown. It was pretty inexpensive—a buck or two for admission. Those who paid would get a little lapel button gadget. We collected the gadgets and would go to the dances equipped with an assortment of gadgets. Whatever one was being used that night we would put on our lapel and march in.

I'm talking about those of us who went stag, of course. Those who had dates would pay.

I never had a date.

After the dance was over we would congregate at Sammy's or the Pig Stand and sit around telling lies and drinking beer until time to carry the *Dallas Morning News*. Most of us had a route. Some guys had a *Times Herald* route, but we looked down our noses at them. Real carriers carried the morning paper.

We always ordered a basket of French fries to go with our beer. We got the catsup bottle and used copious quantities on the fries. Carlos Messina ran the joint at Sammy's. He would come over and take the catsup bottle away; said we cost him money eating all that catsup on ten cents' worth of fries. Carlos was a big guy who had played football for Adamson. If anybody got rowdy, Carlos would take his huge finger and raise a frog on their arm. He kept us in line.

When came time for the paper to be delivered we would jump in someone's car and go "throw" the routes. One would be driving,

two folding, and two throwing—one on each side. We could carry several routes in jigtime that way.

Then we would all go home to bed.

Whatever happened to Pig Stands and Brockles' Dressing? Oh, yes, and Rockefeller's—the little stands that sold hamburgers???? After the War they all disappeared. Ω

TEXAS HISTORY 101

Recently we mentioned (bragged?) in a gathering that Texas had once saved the wine industry of France, of all places. No one present seemed to know this little bit of Texas history. The October issue of Texas Highways had this account, written by Randy Mallory, who does a lot of outstanding features for this must-read publication.

Veni, Vidi, Vici Vini

It was the impassioned act of a desperate nation. In 1887, French winemakers sent their premier wine researcher, Professor Pierre Viala, to Denison to consult with America's foremost grape expert, Thomas Volney Munson.

For several decades, vineyards in France (and other European countries) had been ravaged by disastrous diseases—first, a fungus, then a plant louse (*phylloxera*)—that had almost wiped out the country's wine industry. Viala's hopes rested with the man responsible for groundbreaking research in grape hybridization, a man who called the grape “the most beautiful, most wholesome and nutritious, most certain and profitable fruit”.

Munson made that declaration in 1870, soon after graduating from the Agricultural and Mechanical College of the University of Kentucky. Enthralled by his chemistry professor's elaborate vineyard, Munson vowed to identify all American grape species. (The quest, which would last most of his life, took him by horseback, rail, and on foot more than 50,000 miles through 41 states and Mexico. His 1909 book, *Foundations of American Grape Culture*, remains the standard reference on native grapes.)

But Munson also wanted to develop superior varieties of grapes from native species. To that end, he moved to Denison in 1876 and began gathering wild grapevines from the bluffs of the Red River and its tributaries—an area he called “my grape paradise.” Over time, he hybridized more than 300 varieties of improved grapes at his Denison vineyard.

The hybridized varieties—some resistant to *phylloxera*—proved to be exactly what Professor Viala and French winemakers were looking for. Millions of cuttings from Munson's disease-resistant rootstocks were distributed to vineyards across France and other parts of Europe for grafting with local *vinifera* varieties.

To honor Munson's contributions, the French government sent a delegation to Denison in 1888 that presented him with the French Legion of Honor, *Chevalier du Merite Agricole*. Several

French regions erected monuments to him.

Today in Denison, Grayson County College carries on his legacy with research and educational programs at the T.V. Munson Viticulture and Enology Center (903/463-8717). The adjacent vineyard bearing Munson's name contains 65 varieties developed by the grape man of Texas, whose passion helped save the French wine industry. Ω

“THAT BUTTER LOOKED LIKE A POUND OF GOLD”

by Mae E. Riek

My mother, **Mae B. Riek***, sent her sister, **Lillian**, some ham and butter during W.W. II when Lillian could not buy that food in California. Her letter of thanks from Lillian and her husband, **Dick**, is a funny “war story” for those at home.

Jan. 7, 1944

Dear Mae,

We received the wonderful Christmas presents and just haven't words to express our thanks. To say we were surprised is to put it mildly, that is the first pound of butter I have seen in one piece since the war. We can't get it all the time out here and when we can, all we get is 1/4 pound. It certainly was a grand gift. Can we give you any meat stamps? I always have loads left over because it is so hard to get meat—so we just eat out. It seems the restaurants have a pull (or else just plain black market) but as long as we can eat we aren't asking questions, and then it is easier on me. I haven't been feeling so hot, and it is so much exertion to get a good dinner. ... So if you can use any meat stamps let me know and I will always send you my surplus. Dick has a few friends he gives them to, but he would rather you get them if you can use them.

We would like to hear where the boys are located. Mae wrote us once about F.B. I am glad she is going to college. We have an insurance policy for Laureen that will fall due when she is ready for college... She loves the cross and has a letter started to the girls thanking them for it. ...

Again, we say “Thanks” and hope to hear from you soon.
Lovingly,
/s/ Lillian

That butter looked like a pound of gold and the ham like a stockholders certificate in a packing company. My little word of gratitude will seem small to the effort you must have put forth for such a very fine gift, but please be assured that I am most sincere when I say that it was appreciated.
/s/ Dick

***Mae B. Riek** was a Charter and Life member of DCPA, as are her children, Mae E., **George**, and **Jean R. Reilly**. We lost her in

October 1998, but we got to say "Happy 100th Birthday" to her the previous June. Ω



Mother sitting on the front porch. The flag with two stars hanging in the window signified that she had two sons serving in WW II

TEXAS DECLARATION OF CAUSES???

Back in June 1999 the Central Library downtown received one of the only six known-copies of the 1835 "The Texas Declaration of Causes". This was a gift to the Library from the Friends of the Dallas Public Library.

This rare document, in the Spanish language, lists the causes that justified Texas' rebelling against Mexico and was succeeded by the Texas Declaration of Independence four months later.

The only copy owned by a public library, it was on display through August 27 this year, framed and in its own glass case, where it formed the cornerstone of the "Texas and the Path to Independence" exhibit on the seventh floor of the Library. This exhibit took one from the first Spanish explorations through reminiscences of men who fought on both sides of the Texas Revolution.

It now is in the Rare Books Division, and *locked up*. But you can ask to see it. Ω

1916 CORNER STONE LAYING SERVICES. OAK CLIFF CHRISTIAN CHURCH

We have been given a copy of the Program for the Laying of the Corner Stone of the Oak Cliff Christian Church in 1916, by one of our newest members, **Lottie Sue (Clanton) McWilliams**.

The minister was **L.B. Haskins**, and the service included many names familiar to us: **E.P. House** (Building Committee), **E.W. Muse**, **G.D. Smith**, **Rev. J.G. Slayter** (he was minister of East Dallas Christian Church), **Rev. H.D. Smith**, **Rev. L.D. Anderson** (minister of church in Fort Worth), and **Mrs. A.W. Jones**.

Lottie Sue has contacted various people and organizations in an effort to find out what articles were placed in the corner stone, but no one seems to remember or have a record.

An interesting note: the three visiting ministers were limited to ten minutes each for their comments. Ω



CANDLELIGHT *at Old City Park*

It's just about time to step back in time with Candlelight at Old City Park, where the holiday spirit of yesteryear comes through to put us in a joyous Christmas mood.

Dates for this annual rite of passage are Saturday and Sunday, December 2-3 and December 9-10, the first two weekends in December.

Bring the family to stroll the candlelit streets of the Park, take a ride in a surrey-with-the-fringe-on-top, enjoy the costumed carolers, watch the weavers, potters, blacksmith, quilters, take the children to visit the live animals in the 1860s Living Farmstead and to visit Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Bandstand and the new Victorian Puppet House—one evening won't be enough.

Shuttle buses will take you from the free parking area at the Farmers Market, 1010 S. Pearl Street, or park at the Park itself if you are early enough. Valet parking at the Gano entrance can be had for \$10.

Call 214/421-5141 for information. Ω

Happy Holidays

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: William E. Clark

Secretary: Mae Riek

Treasurer: Gene Gaddy

Historian: Carolyn Selzer

Membership: William E. Clark.

Program: Nancy McRae

Telephone: Nancy McRae

Sunshine: Mildred Coffey

Newsletter: Marjori Sharp

Dallas County Pioneer Association



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

M/M William D. McRae
3500 Dartmouth
Dallas, TX 75205-3237

