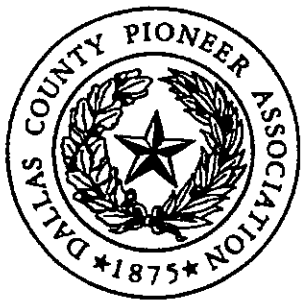




Dallas County Pioneer Association

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

FALL 2001

QUARTERLY MEETING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2001

Family Hall
Royal Lane Baptist Church
Hillcrest Road and Royal Lane

Dinner: 6 p.m., \$8.00 per person
Catered by Grande Affair (Iva Stewart)
(Iva will have samples of her Holiday baked goods)

Make reservations by Tuesday, September 4
Call **Bill McRae** @ 214/521-8654, or
DCPA Call Notes @ 214/969-0926

Program 7 p.m.

Dr. **Michael V. Hazel**, "Three Gutsy Women: May Exall, Cleora Clanton, & Lillian Bradshaw;
Building, Defending, and Expanding the Dallas Public Library"

Dr. Michael V. Hazel is currently a lecturer on Dallas history in the History Department of SMU and is editor of *Heritage News*, quarterly newsletter of the Dallas County Heritage Society, and editor of *Legacies*, a joint history journal of the Heritage Society and the Dallas Historical Society.

Mike is the author of many books about Dallas County, including *Dallas, A Dynamic Century* and *Dallas Reconsidered: Essays in Local History*, taken from *Legacies* and *Heritage News*.

He took his B.A. degree (with honors) from SMU and his M.A. and Ph D. degrees from the University of Chicago, and he has taught at the University of North Texas, Denton, and the University of Texas at Dallas. He is Archivist for A.H. Belo Corporation and maintains an office at Old City Park, where he frequently serves as interim executive director.

Mike is currently working on a 100-year history of the Dallas Public Library, which will go to press during this centennial year of the Library. He will give us a preview of this eagerly-awaited book.

You know, of course, that our own first president, **John C. McCoy**, started the first public library in Dallas by renting a room over a music store and calling it "a public reading room"?

Our Publicity Chair, **Carolyn Selzer**, who arranges the outstanding table displays for our meetings, recognizes a golden opportunity: "Since Mike Hazel is presenting a program on the history of the Library, we are going to have a display of interesting old books. Bring your old books for this display, with a small sign telling the significance of each: old annuals, history, or family books will be most welcome. We will have signs on the table that say 'Do not Touch', so books will be safe."

FROM THE PRESIDENT

- Book Chair **Jim Foster** has sent a letter to all historical organizations in the County informing them of the DCPA intent to publish Volume III of *Proud Heritage*. This letter solicited stories for possible publishing, with a deadline of October 30, 2001. Approximately 128 stories have been received from DCPA members to date with quite a few more "in the mill". Be sure to get your stories in promptly. Our goal is to be able to go to the printer by yearend and have the books available for our March 2002 meeting.
- **Eva Jane Potter Morgan's** book *Preston Hollow* has some delightful and informative stories about the short-lived town of Preston Hollow and its struggles to incorporate, provide city services, and accommodate rapid growth. It's worth a read!
- **Elizabeth York Enstam**, in her book *Women and the Creation of Urban Life in Dallas, Texas, 1843-1920* provides interesting insight into the development of services we take for granted today. Also, on page 50, Enstam writes, "Older residents, especially, understood the significance of what they were witnessing. In July 1875, 122 original settlers met in the courthouse to form the Dallas County Pioneers (sic) Association, electing two women as vice-presidents and four others to the executive committee. Nearly half (55) of the charter members were women..."
- It was with great sadness that we learned of **Bill Daniel's** passing. Bill was working on two stories for Volume III, one about his pioneer family and one about Daniel Cleaners that was so familiar to SMU students. It is hoped that these stories can be completed and included in the book. Our sincere sympathies to Bill's wife **Theresa** and his family.
- Be sure to mark your calendars for October 6 on which date the third annual Dallas History Conference will be held at the Hockaday School. Dr. **Mike Hazel** will tell more about this one-day Conference as he brings a program on the 100th anniversary of the Dallas Public Library for our September 6 meeting. The display theme will be "Old Books" in honor of this anniversary. Be sure to bring your significant old books!

- The December program will feature Dr. **William J. Bryan, III** who will tell us about the founding and development of four major downtown Dallas churches. With Bill's expertise and delivery, this should be entertaining, as well as informative.
- A nominating committee composed of former DCPA officers has been selected to recommend a slate of officers for 2002. **Nancy McRae, Frances James, and John Winniford**, all Executive Committee members and former officers, compose the committee and will welcome input from members. Please let one of these people know if you would be interested in becoming an officer in the Association.
- The Executive Committee made a careful review of midyear finances and requirements for the future, especially when considering publication of our third book, and has concluded that dues and initiation fees be modestly raised, beginning January 2002. No increase in fees has been made, ever, since the reorganization of the DCPA in 1979 (we never have known what they were in 1875), while inflation has increased by 106% in that time!

Initiation fees and annual dues will increase \$5: \$15 for individuals and \$20 for couples for initiation; \$20 per individual and \$30 per couple for dues. Life memberships will increase \$50: \$200 for individuals and \$300 for couples. Give those life memberships to your loved ones before January 2002!

- "Friends of Old Red" were treated to a tour of the second-fourth floors and attic spaces of the old Courthouse that have been stripped of their non-original "improvements" or modernizations. We were able to see details of the structure and the magnificent size of some of the spaces. This renovation project is certainly worth continuing to its completion. This building is a treasure the County surely needs to preserve and utilize. Its prime location, charm, and historical significance surely warrant its opening and use by the public.
 - Be sure to register your attendance at our quarterly meetings by signing the sign-in sheet. Dinner checks sent in ahead of the meeting help **Gene Gaddy** with the money-handling at the door and expedite everyone's entry. Ω
- Bill McRae**

MINUTES OF JUNE 7 MEETING

The June 2001 meeting of the Dallas County Pioneer Association was held in the Family Hall of Royal Lane Baptist Church on June 7. President **Bill McRae** called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. He opened with the Invocation, followed by pledges to the United States and the Texas flags.

President McRae passed out new membership certificates to **John Potter**, **Dorothy Smith** (through her sister, **Lottie McWilliams**), and **Norma** and **David Stults**. He also expressed our sorrow on the passing of our longtime member and Vice-President, **Bill Clark**.

Elizabeth York Enstam was introduced as our speaker. She reviewed her new book *Women, Families, Frontiers: 1843-1920*. In keeping with this program, **Carolyn Selzer** had assembled a family history collection of pictures from our members.

With the words, "God be with you 'til we meet again", the meeting was adjourned. Ω

Irma Janicek, Secretary

WELCOME, NEW MEMBER

We welcome one new member this quarter, **Susan Baker Kubin**, born and bred in Dallas.

Susan's earliest Dallas County ancestor was **William Alexander Harwood**, who came from Tennessee sometime before 1872 with his wife, **Elizabeth Thompson**. Their daughter, **Agnes Val**, born in Dallas, married **Wilson Thomas Pace**. They became the parents of **Elizabeth**, who married **Benjamin F. Corder**, and after his death married **John Evans**.

Daughter **Patricia Corder** married **Louis Spaulding Baker, Jr.**, and they were the parents of Susan, who married **John Kubin**.

William A. Harwood was the first District Clerk in Dallas. His daughter **Agnes** sang, danced, and taught "elocution" and was billed as the "Whistling Coon".

Susan is a registered nurse with the Parkland Health & Hospital System. She and **John** live at 2315 Madera, Dallas 75206. Their telephone number is 214/827-3876, and Susan's work number is 214/590-5094. Ω

FINAL FAREWELL

William Harper Daniel died suddenly on July 19. Born in Dallas, Bill was a lifelong resident.

He and his brother, **Max**, were longtime partners in **Daniel Cleaners**, a landmark facility to Park Cities residents and SMU students. He was an avid gardener and a member of the Dallas Orchid Society.

Bill's ancestors were early settlers and members at the first meeting of the original DCPA.

Bill is survived by his wife, **Theresa**, brother **Max**, and numerous nieces and nephews.

We send our sympathies to his family. Ω

SPREADING SUNSHINE

Back in June, too late for our Summer newsletter, a Get Well card was sent to **Lindalyn Adams**. We are happy to report that she has recovered and is doing well.

A Sympathy card was sent to Mrs. **William H. Daniel** upon the death of her husband.

A Get Well card has been sent to **Frances James**, who is not feeling well. She has had some tests and is scheduled for more. We wish her a speedy and complete recovery. Ω

Mildred Coffey, Sunshine Chair

AROUND THE COUNTY

by Frances James

Texas Historical Marker Dedication for Cox Cemetery. Mark your calendar for Saturday October 20, at 11 a.m. This should be a wonderful time for all to get together at the site of the Cox Cemetery, on Fisher Road near White Rock Lake. There are so many pioneer families in Dallas County that have ties to this sacred spot. Through these many years vandals have destroyed many of the older stones and elaborate family markers. To help prevent further destruction, funds are being raised to erect a wrought iron fence across the front. This is one of the older pioneer cemeteries in Dallas County and is still being used by descendants.

Many neighbors and friends in the area are contributing to the fence fund and plan to have it completed before the Texas Historical Marker is set. If you want to contribute, please send check to Cox Cemetery Association, % Gene Soltero, 7127 Hillgreen Dr., Dallas, 75214. Mr. and Mrs. Soltero live nearby and are most interested in the site, as that is where their daughter Wendy, who was murdered, was buried last year.

You will remember our own Sara McGee was involved in gathering stories and doing research on this cemetery when she died. DCPA made a donation for the Marker several years ago.

The Dallas Historical Society has scheduled another bus tour for October 27, and the final decision has not been made as to where we shall go. Sometimes construction has to be considered before the bus routes can be completed.

The Pioneer Cemetery downtown is in the last phases of being made a Dallas Landmark. There is some new information concerning this site. This may be on the list for the bus tour. Some of the oldest cemetery sites are being considered, if we can get access. Either way, it shall be interesting.

The City of Dallas has now digitized the cemetery map in their records. When access is available we will be informed. This should keep developers from thinking they can move the stones and develop the land.

The long lost headstone for Julia Moon Thomas that was discovered on vacant land in Hebron had been carefully fenced in by a new developer, as he thought it might be a cemetery site. When it was ascertained the marker came from somewhere else, **Louis Moore** and other family members arranged to move the very heavy stone to Greenwood Cemetery and place it on the family plot. The original site was near Royal Lane and Boedecker and was obliterated by developers several years ago.

Although Texas is a very large state and Dallas County is thirty miles square, and there is vacant property in all directions, some people are still trying to outmaneuver, legally or illegally, the Garvin/Smith Hall cemetery site on Northwest Highway. They want to build over it, on it, back of it, front of it, or whatever, to squeeze into this (they think) empty piece of land.

Records show that more than eighty graves are here. Most descendants are dead or moved away and the Boy Scouts maintain it when they can. There are several veterans of the Confederacy buried here and new stones were placed a few years ago. Vandals and developers and slick lawyers keep trying to obtain the site. Quite a history of the greed in our world could be written about this site. Ω

DAR MARKED GRAVE OF ELLENDER PENNY WITT

by Linda S. Hart

On October 18, 1997, the Richard Bard Chapter of The Daughters of the American Revolution held a service to mark the grave of **Ellender Penny Witt** at the Edgewood Cemetery in Lancaster, to honor her as

the daughter of Captain **William Penny**, who served in the Revolutionary War.

The significance of this story to the Dallas County Pioneer Association is that Ellender's and John Witt's son, Captain **Wade Hampton Witt**, was called to act as president at the formation meeting of the DCPA in 1875.

Two other sons, **Preston** and **Pleasant**, and their families were also charter members, and their grandson's wife, **Mrs. Thomas Ellis**, served on the first Executive Committee.

Ellender Penny was born in Rowan County, North Carolina, on January 19, 1782, to **Elizabeth Barkley** and **William Penny**. At the age of seventeen her family moved to Smith County, Tennessee, which was still a virtual wilderness at that time. She met and married **John Witt** in 1800.

They had six children in Smith County, then moved to the newly-opened territory of southern Illinois, to what is now Pope County and the National Shawnee Indian Forest, a remote and beautiful area. Farming for a living, they remained in Pope County for twenty years, had six more children, then moved north westward to Greene County. They remained there for some ten years, then John and five of his sons came to Dallas County. Ellender stayed behind with her eldest son and his family. One can imagine that she was tired of moving to new wilderness areas while trying to raise twelve children!

Texas was then a still newly-opened Republic and sparsely settled. It is noted that many residents of Greene County, Illinois, moved to Dallas County during the 1840s and 1850s. John and the five sons were adventurers: three of the sons served in the Mexican War and two became Texas Rangers, and they all left many records of their lives. One became a Baptist minister, one a successful farmer, one a wealthy plantation owner and mill owner and operator and a banker, and a captain in the Confederate Army.

Captain **Wade Hampton Witt** and his brother, **Preston**, owned and operated the first grist mill in Dallas County, called **Trinity Mills**. Their father, **John**, was eighty years old by this time, and it is known that he lived out his life with his son, **Preston**, the Texas Ranger and Indian fighter, in the **Trinity Mills** area of Dallas County. **John** died in 1861.

Ellender's son, **Franklin**, with whom she stayed in Illinois, became a very successful farmer and business man, and served in the Illinois State Legislature. When he died at an early age, Ellender moved in with the next eldest son, **Henry Harrison**, who was a Baptist minister. **Henry** also died at an early age, and that is when Ellender decided to move to Texas to live out her days with her daughter, **Mary Witt Ellis**, who had come to Texas with her husband, **Thomas McKee Ellis**, and nine of their ten children in 1845. They had received a 640-acre headright in Lancaster. Ellender came to Texas in 1853 and lived until 1858. She was buried in the Edgewood Cemetery, which is located on land from their original headright donated by her daughter and her husband.

I was pleased to serve as Chaplain for my DAR Chapter at the ceremony of the grave marking, and very pleased to have my granddaughter, **Stacie Lenae Witcher**, also participate by laying a memorial wreath on Ellender's grave, as I am the fourth great granddaughter and **Stacie** is the sixth great granddaughter of Ellender Penny Witt.

We have a wonderful heritage in this family line, and I must thank cousins **Ramona Roberts** of Plainview, **Joan Moore** of Houston, and **Shirley Dal Pozzo** of Staunton, Illinois (now deceased) for their generosity in sharing all their family records to help me record and document this lineage. Ω

MARIE CAILLET AUTHORS A NEW BOOK, **The History of Cedar Pine Lane**

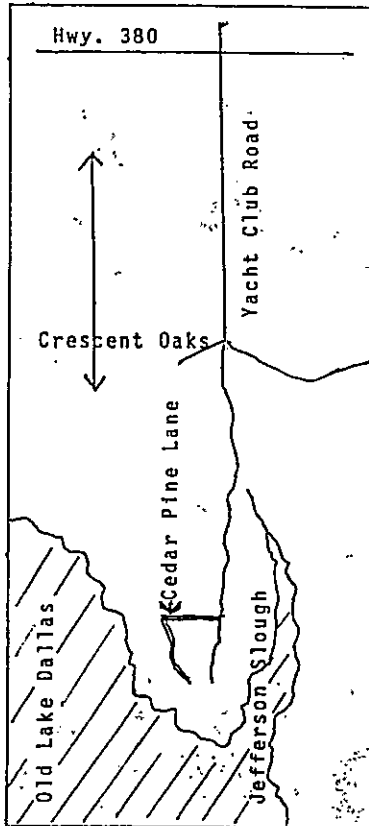
"Cedar Pine Lane is a narrow gravel road near the end of the Yacht Club Road in Oak Point, Texas, beginning four and a half miles south of Highway 380."

The Iris Lady of North Texas has come out with another book, this time for history buffs, not for green thumbs.

Marie Caillet has rallied to preserve the story of her own bit of the landscape in *The History of Cedar Pine Lane—1929-2001*. Cedar Pine Lane isn't part of Dallas County, but Marie, Charter and Life member, sure is: she and her twin sister, **Margaret Swann** of Nashville, come from the settlers of La Reunion and a farm on Lovers Lane, Inwood Road, and University Boulevard, then the outskirts of north Dallas.

In a letter to her neighbors on the Lane she says, "Many of you are new to this area and may wonder what went on before you bought land here and built your home. I don't know all of it, but am the last person living here who goes back to the time this lake was built... The F.P. Caillet family was the first to build and use what might be called a vacation cabin here on the lake shores."

"This lake" is Lewisville Lake, but back then it was Lake Dallas, as many of us will remember. It is a manmade lake made by damming the Elm Fork of the Trinity River. The dam was completed in 1927 and, because of an unusually wet year, filled faster than was expected. In 1929 the Caillets braved the all but non-existent roads (many of the existing ones had been cut off by the lake and ended at the water's edge) looking for a "camp site." After looking for more than a year, they stumbled onto an almost inaccessible peninsula, higher than any possible flooding, with no road leading to it.



Marie and her sister, **Shirley Welch**, who bought property across the road, gave the little dirt road its name because of all the cedars and pines planted along the roadside.

Marie recalls her first visit to the property chosen by **Laura and Fleury Paul Caillet**, her parents: "I remember having to crawl through underbrush and briars to get a view of the lake, which was full of dead trees, stumps and floating logs. I was not impressed!" Her father had been building houses in University Park and Greenway Parks, but building was pretty much at a standstill, so he and some of his men built their cabin on the lake that year. By that time others buying property along the lake were ready to build, which gave her father and his men income during the early Depression days.

It was primitive living: no electricity, no telephones, no running water, no bathroom facilities. Electricity came in 1937, and then they were able to pump water from the lake, then came the telephone, which worked erratically and was an eight-party line. Hunting and fishing were routine in the area, and wild game was the standard meat on the family table. There are still many wild animals in the area: coyote, fox, armadillo, bobcat, skunk, squirrel, rabbit, and sometimes a deer. Many birds live here year around. Plus many migratory birds, especially waterbirds, pass through the area in spring and fall.

Before her retirement, when she moved to the lake to live, Shirley Welch had been principal of the Walnut Hill Elementary School on Midway Road, and she had several visitors from the DISD who fell in love with the area and bought property there! Also, real estate agent **Ellen Terry** owned a house there for a few years, and the Corinthian Yacht Club moved to the point of land at the end of the peninsula sometime before 1960.

Marie's history of the Lane was written primarily for her family and that of **Tom Kirk**, son of **Bessie**. Laura and Bessie had had a small commercial iris

her family and that of **Tom Kirk**, son of **Bessie**. Laura and Bessie had had a small commercial iris business on the Caillet farm; when Bessie also bought lake property, they continued with their iris business, which Marie would take over.

Shirley and Clyde Welch took over the original Caillet property on which the cabin had burned in the fifties and in 1964 Marie bought the house and acre of land from Bessie Kirk. She used it in summers and holidays (she was teaching in Lafayette, Louisiana), and Bessie, neighbors, and friends used it until she moved into it to live in 1980.

She got really serious about raising irises, especially Louisiana Iris, and in April 2000 her place was on tour for the American Iris Society Convention in Dallas, with 550 members touring. Shirley's yard and others in the area were also on tour. Another 400 to 500 come during blooming season each year with gardening clubs and other groups. Marie said, "I wished that Bessie Kirk and Laura Caillet could see the results of their influence."

Marie has co-written a book, *The Louisiana Iris*, and numerous articles for publications such as *Southern Living* and has been a popular judge for conventions and competitions.

About this book she says, "Not as elaborate as the one done on Preston Hollow, but then neither is our area! It is an example of what an amateur can do to preserve history and especially so for a family." □

A HOT SPOT IN A COLD WAR

by Lee D. Smith

My plan for military service in 1960 was to spend a quiet but developmental couple of years before resuming my engineering career. So much for plans ...

Following Officers' Basic in New Jersey, I was assigned platoon leader in Combat Command A of the First Armored Division at Fort Hood in central Texas.

The First Armored was a tactical unit prepared to deploy to any place in the world in a matter of days. Part of the price for this "instant" mobility was that we had only about one third of a normal armored division. (A full armored division has three combat commands.)

How a chemical engineer became the signal (communications) officer in an armored division is still somewhat of a mystery. **Jimmie** (my wife) and I lived on the base in officers' quarters and had a son in the spring of 1961. In midsummer we began to think a bit about what to do when I got out of the Service the following spring. Life was good!

Then, "The Wall" went up in Berlin in early August. Intense speculation on America's military response began immediately.

It was clear to the career officers in First Armored what would happen. Since First Armored was only part of a division, it would remain at Ft. Hood and be expanded to a full armored division. Further, the Second Armored Division (Elvis Presley's division), also at Ft. Hood, which had a training mission and was full strength, would be shipped to Germany. The obvious implication of all that was that we would all stay at Ft. Hood and help expand the division to include Combat Commands B and C. Life would continue to be reasonably good and in good time I would resume my career, probably back home in Dallas.

And they were right—almost. Only one officer was transferred out of First Armored: me.

I went to the 53rd Signal Battalion at Ft. Hood as D Company Commander. The battalion prepared to move to West Germany. Jimmie and our son went to live with her folks in Lubbock. Christmas 1961 was a rather grim affair: the 53rd was on a small troop ship with a high center of gravity in the middle of a North Atlantic winter storm. I was blessed to be among the few who did not get seasick.

In the spring of 1962 it seemed that nothing was going to happen to turn this into a shooting war. So another

lieutenant and I decided to drive to Berlin to see personally the centerpiece of it all. It took a lot of paper in three layers, USA, Russian, and East German. We cleared all three at the West German-East German border to drive through East Germany. That was certainly no place to run out of gas! Then we had the layers in reverse at the East German-West Berlin border.

We particularly wanted to see what was happening at Checkpoint Charlie, the access between the US sector and East Berlin. Just before our arrival, a Russian tank and a US tank had been muzzle to muzzle there. When we got to Checkpoint Charlie, the tanks were still there, but had been negotiated back to where both muzzles were pointing north (I have pictures!).

As we were walking around in the British sector I came to understand just how close we really were to another shooting war, the tanks notwithstanding.

The Brits had built a temporary road all along their segment of the Wall. A halftrack (roughly, a heavy duty panel truck with wheels in front and tank tracks in back) was patrolling the Wall. A fifty-caliber machine gun was mounted over the cab. Two British soldiers were on the roof of the halftrack as the machine gun crew. The halftrack was moving fast enough to give the soldiers a pretty rough ride as it crossed curbs and other bumps and obstacles in the "road".

A fifty-caliber machine gun has a unique handle/trigger arrangement. The handle is two vertical pieces at the back of the gun and the trigger is a butterfly-shaped piece between them. The gunner grips a handle with each hand and his thumbs are naturally on top of the butterfly. Push the butterfly down with either or both thumbs to fire.

One of the crewmen had a belt of ammunition loaded into the breach ready to feed. The gunner was spread out in the firing position with both hands on the handles, his thumbs on the butterfly. Ω

REMEMBERING WALTER DAMROSCH AND MUSIC APPRECIATION HOUR

by Bill Baird

Sitting here pecking on the computer I am listening to Mozart's "Don Giovanni". It goes back to Vickery Place School and Walter Damrosch and Miss Brandon, the auditorium lady. One day a week—or maybe every other week—or maybe once a month—we all went to the auditorium for the Music Appreciation Hour with **Walter Damrosch** on the radio.

Mr. Damrosch would play classical music and tell us to listen for the sounds made by different instruments. "Listen for the flutes—hear the flutes? Listen for the violas. They are lower than the violins!"

We would sit for an hour listening to the music and squirming. Who would have believed that we would end up decades later listening to Mozart while pecking on the computer?

I forget what else Miss Brandon did besides run the auditorium when Walter Damrosch did his Music Appreciation Hour. I guess she was in charge of the plays we put on from time to time. I don't recall a study period. Anyway, Miss Brandon was the auditorium teacher at Vickery Place School.

The auditorium was in the middle of the building, probably on the first floor. One of these days I'm going by there and stroll through the building and reacquaint myself with where things are, were. The building is still there and being used.

I started out there when I was six years old—in kindergarten. We went through the seventh grade there, so we were there for eight years. Most of us stayed together for the whole eight years. There was **Vincent Ahern** and **Ray Schumacher** and **Ben Curry** and **Tony LaBarba** and **Ruth Frances Schumm** and **Eleanor Ott** and some others, but these stayed all the way through. Folks didn't move around a lot during the depression years.

Most of them went on to high school at North Dallas and I went to Woodrow Wilson, so I lost touch with them. I see Tony LaBarba occasionally when I eat at the Italian restaurant. Tony goes there to eat once in a while. He had a wine importing company for years and still works in the business, I understand.

I am going to stop by Vickery Place School one of these days and stroll through the halls. Maybe the ghost of one of the teachers will greet me. I wonder what the present principal would say if I introduced myself and told her I went to school there from 1929 to 1937?

I wonder if they still have Music Appreciation Hour? Ω

MY GRANDFATHER

by Ralph Kerr

My grandfather, **James Henry Morriss**, was born on a farm near Beaver Creek in Barren County, Kentucky, in 1848. His mother, **Mary Jane Ready**, and her daughter, **Amanda**, died in 1853 of typhoid fever. James and his older brother, **John T.**, were cared for by his aunt, **America Ready**. Their father left in 1856 with a string of horses to be sold and never came back. He was, probably, killed by the Indians for the horses.

John Ready, Mary Jane's father, had moved to Denton County about 1849 and Grandpa and his brother John were delivered to an uncle in Dallas in 1858. Both boys broke away from that situation as soon as possible and by 1863 Grandpa was working for Colonel **Cockrell**, who owned a store on South Lamar about where the Sears Roebuck mail order store was when I lived in Dallas.

Grandpa's job was to drive a team of oxen, pulling a wagon loaded with cow hides and furs to the nearest railhead, which was at Shreveport, and return with goods for the store, usually salt. The round trip took two weeks, including loading and unloading the wagon.

I asked Grandpa about the dangers along the trail, thinking about Indians and outlaws. He said, "Yeah, son, it was dangerous because I would go to sleep and nearly fell off of the seat several times. A man could get killed that way." I don't know how long he worked that ox team, but the railroad came to Dallas in 1870 and put all ox carts out of business. Grandpa drove a horse team and wagon to East Texas hauling lumber for the store for a time. Later, still working for the Colonel, he was a "bronc buster". After breaking the wild horses to saddle he would peddle them out to neighboring ranches.

Grandpa told me about one delivery he made: he had sold all of the horses and was on his way home when a big thunderstorm came up and he stopped at the **Tom Hoard** ranch for shelter. He said, "It was a bad storm and I was glad to get out of it...(pause)...His daughter was the prettiest girl I ever saw." I teased him a little by asking, "Did you stop because of the rain or because of the daughter?" He just chuckled.

I was a voracious reader from six years of age to the present. Somewhere I had read about **Myra Maybelle Shirley**, better known as **Belle Starr** the "Outlaw Queen" so I asked Grandpa if he knew Belle Starr. Grandpa just chuckled and said, "Yeah, son, I knew her." I did not see anything funny about the question, but when I learned what kind of a woman she was I knew why he laughed. Many years later I learned that it was a Marshall's Deputy named John T. Morriss, Grandpa's brother, who had killed her first husband, **Jim Reed**, wanted for the holdup of a few stage-coaches and several citizens. Belle lived with **Cole Younger** in Indian Territory, then married a halfbreed Oklahoma Indian named Sam Starr. That is another story!

Grandpa liked to be driven around town. He told me once, "There was a time when I knew every man in Dallas and how he made his living. I helped most of them get their wagons out of the mud on Main Street." One day after school, I invited Grandpa to take a ride. I drove him to the Zoo and parked before the old ranch

house without saying anything. He suddenly turned to me and said, "That's the old Hoard ranch house. What is it doing here?"

in 1875 Grandpa married **Susan Adaline Keen**, daughter of the Rev. **John Winford Keen** and **Nancy Turner**. John W. came to Texas in 1846 and married Nancy and settled down near Garland in Dallas County in 1848. Just a year later he and eleven others organized the Duck Creek Methodist Church. Grandpa and his new wife moved to Farmers Branch. Their oldest son, **Carlton**, is buried there. After a few years they moved to Denton County and settled on a farm that is partially under water now because of the lake behind the dam at Lewisville. Ω

SESQUICENTENNIAL OF ROUTH FAMILY IN TEXAS CELEBRATED

by **William D. McRae**, with the Routh Cemeteries Association

On June 16 and 17, 2001, Routh descendants gathered to celebrate 150 years in Texas. **Jacob Routh**, from Dandridge, Jefferson County, in far-eastern Tennessee, came to Texas in 1849 to look over land a cousin, **John U. Vance**, had purchased in the Peters Colony. He purchased 640 acres in the Vance Survey in Collin and Dallas Counties for his home-place, and another 320 acres south of McKinney, all for \$2 per acre. The land for his home contained the confluence of Prairie and Spring Creeks and was crossed by a wagon road between Dallas and McKinney. He also arranged for the purchase of a tract of land for his brother, **Joseph**.

Routh returned to Tennessee and brought his family to Texas in 1851, accompanied by several other families. He brought his mother, **Elizabeth Mashman Routh**; his sister, **Elizabeth Thomas**; his niece, **Rachael Elizabeth Mann**; and a slave named **Ann** to care for his crippled mother. The wagon train of six four-horse wagons and a carriage took forty-five days to travel overland approximately 1000 miles to their land in

Texas. His detailed log of the trip indicated that his total expenditure on the trip was \$171.93, a large sum of money in those days. Jacob's other brother, **Thomas Jefferson Routh**, was already living on land adjacent to the east when his family arrived.

Other families travelling in the wagon train included **Robert Fleming Campbell**, his six children from his first wife (who had died in Tennessee) and his new wife **Mary Hoffer** and infant son, as well as Mary's parents. The **Mary and Jacob Skiles** family arrived in 1852 from Kentucky; the **Mary K. and Robert M. Rowland** family arrived from Tennessee in 1854; and the **Agnes and Dr. J.B. Baird** family came to Texas from Kentucky in 1847, but moved into the Dallas area a bit later.

Jacob married **Lodemia Campbell**, daughter of Robert F. Campbell. They lived in a log cabin that had been built by John Vance near the site where the current Greenville Road intersects Plano Road. In 1860 Jacob started to build a large home near the south bank of Spring Creek, but the Civil War delayed the completion of the home until 1871. Jacob and Lodemia had two sons, who died while young, and seven daughters. Five of the daughters married into the Barron, Howell, Malone, Mendenhall, and Coit families. Unmarried daughters **Rose** and **Clara** resided on the Routh farm until their deaths.

Jacob sold a strip of land very close to the house to the Texas Central Railroad (later the Houston and Texas Central, then the Southern Pacific). Years later the interurban ran on these tracks and now DART is using the same right-of-way. The old Routh home was clearly visible from both U.S. Hwy 75 and the railroad. It was destroyed by fire set by vandals in 1965 and a multi-story office building now occupies the site of the Routh home.

Jacob Routh became a Baptist preacher in 1853 and started a church known as the Spring Creek Baptist Church in the one-room log schoolhouse he had built near the intersection of presentday Renner and Plano

Roads. In 1872 the congregation moved north and became the First Baptist Church of Plano. He contributed money for the church, as well as a house and lot, and became its first pastor. He also journeyed to Dallas and began another church now located on Fisher Road just north of Mockingbird Lane near White Rock Lake, known as the Pleasant View Baptist Church, the oldest Baptist church in Dallas.

Routh preached to the scattered families in the area, both colored and white. He started what was later to become the First Baptist Church in Dallas, as well as two colored churches in the area (he was a staunch opponent of slavery). He served these churches like a circuit rider, travelling from one location to another on horseback.

He also established the first area mercantile store on his farm. Merchandise was ordered from Philadelphia, Cleveland, and Galveston, and was shipped by water and freight wagon. He operated a stage stop on the Dallas-McKinney stage line, offering food and occasional lodging to passengers and feed to the animals. (Breakfasts were 25 cents.)

Jacob Routh Established Family Cemeteries.

When Jacob Routh arrived to settle his property in 1851, he found three graves on a tree-covered hill not far from the site of his future home. One was that of **Nancy Beverly**, wife of **William Beverly**, who had died on June 16, 1851; one was for **William Klepper**, seven-year-old son of **Nancy Beverly Klepper** and **Joseph Klepper**; and the third was for the child of a passing immigrant who was camping on the banks of Spring Creek. Only flat rocks marked this last site, which is now lost.

Jacob set aside a one-acre tract on the wooded hilltop that now is the Routh Pioneer Cemetery, but then was known as the Spring Creek Cemetery. One of the first burials in the newly-established cemetery was that of **Elizabeth Routh**, the mother of the large Routh family, who lived only a year after arriving in Texas. His brother **Thomas Jefferson** was buried there in 1855

and his brother **Joseph** in 1856. The last interment in the cemetery was **Serepta Campbell Routh Miller** in 1922.

Jacob died of tuberculosis in 1879 and was buried in a separate small, fenced plot near the south bank of Spring Creek. This is known as the Jacob Routh Family Cemetery. At this special site Jacob's wife, **Lodemia**, and unmarried daughters, **Rose** (1954) and **Clara** (1962) are also interred. **Lodemia's** headstone is a large boulder brought from their vacation place at **Green Mountain Falls** in Colorado near the Garden of the Gods. Small markers outside the fenced area mark the graves of three horses, a cat, and dogs belonging to the sisters.

Clara cared for the family property until her death. The last parcels of the farm were sold for \$4000 per acre in 1965. (Remember \$2 per acre in 1849!?)

During a church service at the First Baptist Church of Plano on the June 17, ninety-two year old **Richard B. Coit** was recognized as the only surviving grandchild of Jacob Routh. Dick was baptized in this Church eighty years ago.

The Routh Cemeteries Association is well represented in the DCPA by **William D. Baird**, **Henry W. Coit**, **Lee Halford**, **Linda Lee Hines**, **John and Roy Howell**, **Nancy McRae**, **Sandra Neal**, and **Robert M. Skiles**. Ω

*This account was extracted from the history prepared by **Frances James** for the Texas State Historical Marker; maps furnished by **A. Eugene Gaddy**; family records of **Henry Coit**, which were documented by **Nancy McRae**; and newspaper articles by **Henry Coit**.*

Jim Foster, Chairman of the Book Committee, has sent letters to area organizations requesting items for our Volume III. Please personally follow up as appropriate to encourage these organizations to contribute.

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.

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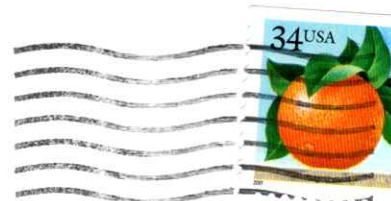
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