



Dallas County Pioneer Association

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

SPRING 2002

QUARTERLY MEETING

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2002

Family Hall
Royal Lane Baptist Church
Hillcrest Road and Royal Lane

Dinner: 6 p.m., \$8 per person
Catered by Grande Affair

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

Program 7 p.m.

Our speaker, **Patricia Conner Coggan**, will bring us a program on "Miss Ela Builds a Home", The Hockaday Story.

Patricia Conner Coggan grew up in Oklahoma City and graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a BS in elementary education, where she was president of Mortar Board. She married a Dallas attorney and taught first grade in the DISD and received a Masters degree in Humanities at the University of Dallas.

Retiring from teaching to raise a son and a daughter, she was active in the DAR and established the Adopt-a-School Program at James Fannin Elementary School for her church, Highland Park Presbyterian.

Twenty-six years ago she returned to teaching at The Hockaday School, where she currently teaches social studies to second, third, and fourth grades. "Happy Happenings", an afterschool program, was initiated there by her. At Hockaday she is a member of The Cum Laude Society and is Lower School History Coordinator.

Learning about her pioneer ancestors led her to appreciate Ela Hockaday and her contributions to education in Dallas. Her interests are Dallas history, bookbinding, singing in her church choir, gardening, and her four grandchildren.

We look forward to a very interesting view of the forward-looking Ela Hockaday who built an internationally-known Dallas institution.

Carolyn Selzer says our show 'n tell table will be a potpourri of what you have of family or historical interest you will share with us. Bring any object you may not have been able to fit into a previous category, or something you failed to bring at that time—book, hand-work, document, toy, dinosaur egg found at Love Field, artifact—we want to see it.

Your new Roster for 2002 will be ready for you at this March meeting.
Be sure to pick up your copy.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

- The following have been appointed to non-elective office for calendar year 2002:

Executive Committee,

Member-at-Large **Louis Moore**

Mary Frances Walsh

Sue Bucy

Sunshine Chair **Millie Coffey**

Telephone Chair **Sue Bucy**

Publicity **Karen Gassett**

Jim Foster will remain Book Committee Chair and **Irma Janicek** will continue to be Editor of Volume III, *Proud Heritage*.

- Vice President and Membership Chair **Ken Cullum** has done a fine job in computerizing the membership rolls. An excellent printout summarizing 2001 shows that we had twenty-one new members join and deaths of three members. This is one of our best years in net membership increase.

- Treasurer **Gene Gaddy** has provided a summary of 2001 Association finances and also shows a very good year. A surplus of \$2,329.91 was realized, with \$1,920.00 of that amount coming from Life Memberships at year-end. While this will reduce dues income in future years, the hike in dues should provide a sound basis for future operations. Adequate reserves are on hand to publish Volume III, barring unexpected expenses. Detailed financial records will be available at the March 7 meeting for those interested in a more detailed report of the year's activity. **John Winniford** will conduct the in-house audit.

- Congratulations to **Jim Foster** on his appointment to the Dallas County Historical Commission. I am sure **Jim** will be a strong advocate for the purposes and ideals of the DCPA.

- Past-president **Mattie Hughes** continues to do yeoman duty as DCPA representative to many genealogy conventions. She recently sold five books at a Dallas Genealogy Society convention and contacted several potential new members for DCPA. It's good

to have the publicity and exposure for our Association. Thanks, **Mattie**!

- DCPA has been asked to sponsor "History Day" at Garland Independent School District on Saturday, March 23, and agreed to do so. The Association will provide up to \$50 for award ribbons, two judges of student presentations, and an awards presenter. Student presentations of personal research will occur 10-12 a.m., with awards presented at 2 p.m. All members of DCPA are invited to attend. Call **Bill McRae** at 214/521-8654 for further details.

- We are saddened by the death of member **Edna Lee Oates**. Since an obituary did not appear in the *News*, most of us did not know of the service on February 7. **June Shipley** represented DCPA at a memorial service held by the Dallas Arboretum, where **Edna** was a faithful volunteer, often driving the handicap cart. Ω **Bill McRae**

MINUTES OF MEETING DECEMBER 6

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

President **McRae** passed out new membership certificates to **James Guinn**, **Sue Kubin**, **Paul Strucely**, and **Beverly Stone**. Also, Life members, **Luther Calvin McCommas, III**, **Billy Joe Denton**, and **Paul Price**.

The slate of officers for the year 2002 are as follows: President **William D. McRae**, Vice President **Kenneth H. Cullum**, Secretary **Eva Jane Morgan**, Treasurer **Eugene Gaddy**, Historian **Carolyn Selzer**, and Newsletter Editor **Marjori Sharp**.

Irma Janicek reported that over two hundred stories have been submitted for our book *Proud Heritage-Pioneers of Dallas County*.

Frances James reported information on the future renovation of the Dallas Theater Center and the current renovation of Arlington Hall at Lee Park.

President McRae introduced Dr. **William J. Bryan, III** as our speaker. Dr. Bryan is Director of Intern Program and Professional Formation at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University.

Carolyn Selzer displayed dolls and old toys on our show 'n tell table.

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

Eva Jane Morgan, secretary

FINAL FAREWELLS

We said goodbye to "**Doc**" **Miller** just before Christmas. Carol Maurice Miller, a longtime member of DCPA, died of complications of heart-bypass surgery and was buried at Temple Emanu-El Cemetery.

When Doc returned from service in World War II he passed the state pharmacy boards and picked up the nickname, but he never practiced pharmacy. He was considered the dean of photography retailers in Dallas. After working for camera stores, in 1969 he opened his own, Doc Miller & Co., from which he retired last April and his family closed the business.

Doc was a man of many talents: he was known for his musical talent, but could not read music and played entirely by ear. In 1993 he composed an anthem, "Oh Joshua, Hear My Voice", which was premiered on his seventieth birthday at Temple Emanu-El, where his great-grandfather had been a charter member 120 years ago.

He entertained troops during the War, performing as a magician and ventriloquist, before such audiences as Truman, Churchill, and Stalin at the Potsdam Conference. He was wounded during a mission as a waist gunner on a B-17 and received a Purple Heart and a Distinguished Flying Cross for his services in the War.

Doc is survived by his wife, **Evelyn**, one son, two daughters and five grandchildren.

A "Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration for the Life of **Edna Lee Oates**" was held on February 7 at the First United Methodist Church.

Edna's body was found lying in her garage by friends who became alarmed by her absence. No one knows just when she died, apparently from a heart attack. She had willed her body to Southwestern Medical.

Edna was a Master Gardener and was active in groups that depend on volunteers all over town: The Heritage Society, The Arboretum. The officers of the Cross-roads #3489, her AARP chapter, had nominated her for "Volunteer of the Year".

Edna left no family; friends arranged the Service at First Methodist. We asked who spoke "Words of Remembrance" during the Service, shown on the printed program, and were told that there were fifteen people who came forward.

We are indebted to **June Shipley** for notice of Edna's death, albeit too late for any of us to attend the Service, as there was no obituary in the paper. June was notified by the Arboretum, and gave us a copy of the program for the Service.

Edna had belonged to DCPA for several years and had just become a Life member. Ω

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

We welcome three new members who have very early roots in the County, some of whom were here during the Republic of Texas.

Mary Catherine Fisher Cox is descended from **Paralee Rupard** and **John Fisher** who arrived in Dallas County before 1872 and settled on a farm near White Rock Lake. Their son, **Silas Hall**, married **Lenora Williamson** and they became the parents of

John Wyatt. He married **Catherine Corbin Stalnaker**, and Mary Catherine is their daughter.

Mary Catherine's husband, **Howard J. Cox**, traces his ancestry first to **Mary Hughes** and **Isaac B. Webb** who came to Farmers Branch in 1844, where they were granted 640 acres in Peters Colony. (Mary was one of the seven Hughes sisters who made early Dallas history.) They were farmers and formed the first Methodist society which became the Webb Chapel Methodist Church.

Howard's second line is **Margaret Noland** and **Joseph H. Cox** who came to Carrollton in 1858 and bought 640 acres to farm. Their son, **Howard**, married **Mary Jane Webb** and they were the parents of **Isaac Howard**, who married **Mary Eleanora Harry** and they became Howard J.'s parents.

All of the early family members were buried in the Cox Cemetery.

Mary Catherine and Howard have two children: **Howard Joseph, Jr.**, and **Eleanor Katherine Cunningham**. Howard is an accountant retired from Machinists Tools & Supplies. Mary Catherine also belongs to Dallas Southern Memorial Association. They have already contributed to Volume III of *Proud Heritage*.

Their address is 8302 Chadbourne Road, 75209. Telephone 214/350-3096.

Luther Calvin McCommas, III, new Life member, lives in Hillsboro but his Dallas roots go back to Elder **Amon McCommas**, chaplain at the first meeting of the DCPA in 1875. Amon had many Dallas firsts, including one of the first sermons and first Chief Justice (County Judge) of the Commissioners Court.

Mary Brumfield and husband Amon came to Dallas County in 1844 with a land grant from Peters Colony. Their son **Elisha** married **Rhoda Ann Tucker**, served in the Civil War, returned to farm in

Dallas and with his wife served as officers in the early DCPA.

Their son, **Alexander**, married **Nettie Ann H. White** who lived in Hill County, and they became the parents of **Luther McCommas, Sr.** This first Luther married **Vertie Mae Duncan** and their son, **Luther, Jr.**, married **Mary Lois Harvey** and they had son Luther, III.

Luther is self-employed, with interests in investments and farming. He belongs to the Hillsboro Heritage League, the Cox Cemetery Association (Dallas), and the Hillsboro Cemetery Association, serving as director in these organizations. Amon and Elisha were buried in the Cox Cemetery.

Luther's address is 1119 Park Drive, Hillsboro 76645, telephone 254/582-2825. Ω

SPREADING SUNSHINE

For the most part, our members have kept their health for the past few months; however, two cards have been sent: one to **Mae Riek**, who broke her foot, and one to **Earl Cullum**, who has been hospitalized.

We do hope that each of them will enjoy a speedy and complete recovery.

We did suffer the loss of one of our good members, **Edna Lee Oates**, and a sympathy card has been sent to her family. It is with sincere regret that we learned of her death. Ω

Millie Coffey, chair

HERE and THERE with FRANCES JAMES

- The current owners of Crozier Tech did not want to—and protested all the way—but to look better in the eyes of the court as they go back this month, they have finally boarded up the windows to stop any further deterioration. They still want a demolition

permit—claiming hardship! The alumni and others have gathered the troops for over thirty meetings to protest the sale and deterioration of the building.

The building should never have been sold by DISD, and now that the bonds have passed and DISD has some money, it might help if many of us would write and ask DISD to buy it or lease it back. It is still in better shape than some of the buildings now being used and really does beat a frame portable for heating and cooling. Plumbing and electrical wiring can be updated quicker than constructing a new building. There are examples all over the U.S. (as close as Fort Worth) of older buildings being rejuvenated and adaptively re-used.

Another use could be found, too: as you go to your council-person's Town Hall meetings concerning what is to be included in the upcoming bond election, you will notice an item concerning an "Incubation Building for the Arts". Suggest that the Cultural Affairs section for the City look at purchasing the original Dallas High School and incorporating it into the Arts District. It has the classrooms, an auditorium, and a Dart station at the front door.

- One of the very first businesses established in Oak Cliff, in 1887, was a paper mill, started by **F.N. Oliver** in order to produce paper so that he could publish his newspaper, *The Oak Cliff Sunday Tribune*. This was the first paper published in Texas on paper made in Texas. Oliver came to Oak Cliff and worked with **T.L. Marsalis** selling lots in the new town. When he was elected as the second mayor of Oak Cliff in 1892, he (along with his banker) put the mill on the market.

The mill was purchased in 1893 by a native from Ireland, **John G. Fleming**, who was brought to America as a child and was a fourth-generation Fleming involved in the manufacture of paper. The Fleming family had gone to the west coast after the Civil War and John was working for Crown Zellerbach Paper Co. in Oregon when he read in a catalog devoted to the industry about the Oak Cliff Paper Mill (1116 E. 12th Street) being for sale. Coming to Dallas he

negotiated with the National Bank of Commerce for \$11,150 to purchase the property and all land and machines associated with the operation. The Company sold in 1969, and the Rock-Tenn Company is now at this same location.

- A rather lengthy "battle" has been underway since last June concerning a packet to be distributed to students in DISD regarding the memorial at the Freedman's Cemetery on Central Expressway. This memorial was designed by **David Newton**, who was chosen after a search over the United States and is on the site purchased by the City after it was determined where the burials actually were.

All of this process took years and over \$6,000,000 of taxpayer money from the Texas Department of Transportation which provided for the archeology work to be done and the graves moved from under the service road for Central and re-interred in the Cemetery.

Someone who was not familiar with Dallas history prepared the packet, although documented information was provided in two volumes following the completion of the archeological work. These books document every button found, tooth, toy, clothing, age of person to be re-interred, and sometimes the cause of death; each deed record on land, neighborhood, nearby businesses and much more. Probably there is no other area of Dallas that has so much documented history available!

The draft copy of the workbook and teacher's manual being prepared was so full of errors that the Dallas County Historical Commission and I questioned the work. The chair of the Commission, **Jeff Dunn**, a member of DCPA and an attorney in Dallas, and I itemized the errors and requested the books not be published as written. Several letters were sent to the mayor and to the superintendent of schools, starting in July.

The correspondence was on-going and I was requested by DISD to attend a seven-hour seminar on January 3, 2002, and tell the teachers about early Dallas County

and Texas history. I did, and gave each a copy of information pertaining to our County and State.

These were teachers who were involved with students from middle schools. The biggest problem with that was the workbook and teacher's manual were to be distributed to students at the fourth and fifth grade level. The people who attended the seminar did not know what I was talking about, as they had never seen the material. Some of the many errors in the material:

Designated by the city as a safe place for African-Americans to live after Emancipation

Proclamation. The truth is that people lived in whatever they could build, along the railroad tracks that were being constructed (1870s) from downtown to about Hall Street. Dallas was only eight miles square at the time and the land (part of the Grigsby League) did not belong to the City. It was nearly thirty years before the City annexed that section of land.

The material stated "even soldiers in the Army" (there was the African American U.S. Army Regiment in the early 1900s). The truth is the only record found so far is of the Buffalo Soldiers in west Texas in the 1870s. Not sure what this was supposed to mean.

The material stated the community boasted the Knights of Pythias (which in 1905 boasted some 70,000 members). The truth is the Knights of Pythias, a charitable, benevolent, and fraternal order was established in Texas in Houston in 1872, eight years after the first lodge had been established in Washington, D.C. It was not an exclusive African American organization. At first it grew rapidly but many lodges (both black and white) ceased to exist by 1877. The State granted a charter in 1895, the zenith in number of lodges was attained in 1910, and by 1922 had 30,507 members, nationally. The other fact is that in 1900 there were only 42,000 people in the entire Dallas County.

The material stated that an original chapter of the NAACP was established during this time. The truth

is that the NAACP was started in Massachusetts by a group of white and black citizens in 1920!

I have protested the distribution of 20,000 copies of this material to the students at DISD schools. The company that paid for the publishing was Montgomery Watson, and I believe this company has done some contract work for the City associated with water and sewer construction.

- In the 1920s and for many years **Daisy Polk** was associated with music in Dallas. She lived on Reagan Street in Oak Lawn and at one time taught voice at Hockaday and then for several years at Texas Womens University in Denton. There is very little information on Miss Polk, and I would like to compile a few facts about her. The clipping file at the Library has only a few items. Does anyone remember taking voice lessons or know anything about Daisy Polk? Ω

DALLAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
STARTS 80th BIRTHDAY SERIES

by Karen Gassett

A small crowd brown-bagged it at high noon in the lobby of the Old Red Courthouse on January 31. The Dallas Historical Society (DHS) presented its first program in a series to celebrate its eightieth anniversary.

The program was titled "When Dallas Became a City: The Legacy of John Neely Bryan", with Emcee Lisa Hembry, Executive Director of the DHS. **Karen Gassett** introduced the **John Neely Bryan and John Beeman** descendants in the audience. Some of the descendants attending were **M.C. Toyer, John Neely Bryan** of Austin, **Dana Krehbiel** of Camdenton, Missouri, and Karen.

David Schulz briefly talked about Old Red and made a pitch for items to be donated or loaned to the museum. **Darwin Payne**, Ph D., talked about the founder of Dallas, John Neely Bryan, and what is known about him. **Mike Hazel**, Ph D., talked about Bryan's accomplishments for the City of Dallas and

Dallas County and why they are important. Gassett, Payne, and Hazel answered questions about Bryan and Beeman from the audience of about fifty people during an interactive audience discussion. Toyer talked about why Bryan's gravesite may never be found in Austin.

A mini-exhibit of Bryan/Beeman related items followed the program, along with an informal tour of Old Red. Ω

MILLERMORE MANSION AT OCP

Millermore, the stately centerpiece of Old City Park, is the reason for the being of the Dallas County Heritage Society.

The Society was organized by a group of concerned citizens to save this last antebellum structure in Dallas from the bulldozer. Millermore had been sold to the Good Street Baptist Church in 1966, whose members wanted to raze the old building and build their new church on the property in Oak Cliff.

First among the would-be saviours was **W.R. Conger**, a history teacher and member of the Texas State Historical Association. He was soon joined by members of the Founders Garden Club of Dallas, whose members initiated the saving of Millermore and contributed to its rebirth. As it became evident that the task was too big for any existing organization, the Dallas County Heritage Society was formed and chartered by the State of Texas in 1966 to preserve historic landmarks in the Dallas area.

William Brown Miller came to Dallas from Missouri about 1846 on orders from his doctor to move to Texas, and bought two sections, 1,280 acres, of the Van Cleve grant of the Peters Colony. This land overlooked the Trinity River on Hord's Ridge. He went back to Missouri in a few months and returned with his family. They were his second wife, **Minerva**, their five children, an eighteen-year-old son from his first marriage, and four adult slaves.

They erected a log cabin on a site near a running creek, with logs cut from the land and fitted together with wooden pegs. The doors, window frames and glass were brought from Missouri, and stone for the chimney was cut from a quarry near Mountain Creek, west of present-day Oak Cliff.

The Millers lived in the log house until early 1862, with numerous other log structures being built, including cabins for slaves, barns for livestock, and corn cribs. Miller became one of the largest landowners and livestock producers in north Texas, owning around 7,000 acres in Dallas and Tarrant Counties by 1868.

Minerva died in 1856, but, using the North Star at night as a compass, she saw to the layout of the floor plan for the new home, situated precisely on a north-south location to catch the prevailing breeze. After a short lapse following her death, work continued on the new house with cedar beams cut from the land and finished lumber hauled by ox-drawn wagons from Jefferson. The basic design of Millermore is that of the early log house, with a central hallway and rooms to each side, a Texas version of Greek Revival architecture.

Miller was an educated man, a graduate of Huntsville Academy in Alabama, and valued education. Determined to begin a school for his five daughters, he converted the original home, the little log cabin, into a school and sent to Kentucky for a teacher, **Sarah B. Gray**. He invited all the girls in the county to join his daughters in the school and seven girls accepted.

Daily transportation was out of the question, so these seven girls and Mrs. Gray lived in the Miller home, probably sleeping in the big loft above the main room in the log house. Besides the three R's, they were taught stitchery, music, and dancing. Miller thought the girls should be taught the social graces, so he played dance tunes and taught the girls to dance. They also participated in rabbit hunts on horseback—he used the fine horses he raised to make them good

riders. He followed the rabbit chase with a hunt breakfast, a pioneer version of English fox hunts.

The Miller school was the first in the City of Dallas and the third in the County.

Miller's third marriage was to **Emma Dewey Miller**, the young widow of a close friend but no relation, in 1860. Miller was a few weeks away from fifty-three and his bride was twenty. The mansion was not completed when they married and she moved into the old log house with her rosewood-, mahogany- and marble-topped furniture. In fact, their first child was born there in 1861, but she apparently speeded up the construction, as the family was moved in before the birth of her second child in 1862.

William Brown Miller was a leading citizen in the development of Dallas after the Civil War. He was the first president of the association which evolved into the State Fair of Texas and exhibited the first registered bull in north Texas at the 1872 fair and the only race horse. He was a director of the group who built the first bridge over the Trinity. He was a leader in the community until the end of his life.

Family members lived in Millermore until 1966 when it was sold. The house was updated and renovated several times, with the present Colonial Revival facade added in 1912 while Miller's youngest daughter was the occupant.



Through the Heritage Society Millermore was deeded to the City of Dallas by the Good Street Church, and the Park Board accepted it provided it was moved to Old City Park and restored. The Society carried out its complete restoration in the Park, the first of a collection of buildings from north Texas dating from 1840 to 1910.

The little log cabin is there, too. Right beside the mansion that replaced it. Ω

A SMITHSONIAN EXHIBIT RIGHT NEXT DOOR

The City of Allen isn't in Dallas County, but it is just a skip and jump north of us, and, more than one of our members can boast of living in Allen.

Their brag: the Allen Public Library is the only library in Texas to host a Smithsonian Institution traveling national exhibit this spring, "Listening to the Prairie: Farming in Nature's Image". The exhibit will stop in only twenty cities nationwide.

"Listening to the Prairie" will present a chance to learn more about our North American prairie, its ecosystem and new alternative farming practices used today. It will feature murals, photographs, an audio system, and a replica of a windmill—just the place to take the kids for a little bit of Americana.

Provided through the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, the exhibit is co-sponsored by the Kellogg Foundation and the American Library Association. It will be on view March 9 through April 14 during regular library hours.

The Library will also host a distinguished lecture series in conjunction with the exhibit March 12, 19, and 25, and April 2. Some of the speakers will be **Jim Eidson**, Nature Conservancy; **Lynda Strain**, Native Plant Society; **Dr. George Diggs**, professor at Austin College and co-author of *Illustrated Flora of Texas*; **Dr. James Reid**, Texas Agricultural Experiment

Station professor; Dr. **John Sloan**, TAES assistant professor; and storytellers **Gene Richardson**, Tejas Storytelling Association president, and **Peggy Helmick-Richardson**, freelance writer.

All presentations will be in the main meeting room of the Library, Two Allen Civic Plaza. Call 972/727-0190. Ω

HATTIE'S TRIP TO TEXAS

by **John Winniford**

Many of us today might find it interesting to trace the route taken by our ancestors when they migrated to Texas. For most pioneer families it was probably in a covered wagon, but travel by water was not unusual. **Mary Harriett Bowlin** (Hattie) was eight years old when her family had that adventure.

The year was 1868. Hattie's parents were **Mary Ann** (1826-1902) and **James Bowlin** (1810-1871) of Lee County Virginia, who organized the trip after suffering severe financial losses during the Civil War. Two related families headed by **Charles** and **John Blackburn** were included, making a total of twenty-five persons in the party.

They used timber from the family farm to build a houseboat that measured 22x65 feet. It had a kitchen, three bedrooms, and two fireplaces. There were large paddles fitted to the boat and a rudder, but it was meant to mainly drift with the flow of the river. An interview by *The Dallas Morning News* in 1938 with **Richmond Bowlin**, who was one of the older sons at the time, gave this description of the craft.

He also told of life on board for the inexperienced party. Provisions were apparently plentiful, being amply supplemented by hunting and fishing. There was no night travel, of course, since the only light was from candles or from a skillet of grease with a twisted cotton cloth as a wick.

The men of the families had constructed the raft on the Powell River, and on the afternoon of February 2, 1868, rising waters floated it from its moorings, and the long, long trip began. They drifted into the Clinch River, then into the Tennessee River, and across Tennessee into the Ohio River, and finally into the mighty Mississippi at Cairo, Illinois. One time of special excitement was when they encountered the Tennessee River rapids at Muscle Shoals. Another was entering the Mississippi and joining a procession of craft of many descriptions and sizes.

The group reached Memphis, Tennessee, in May 1868 where they sold the houseboat that had been their home for three months and continued the trip by commercial steamboat to Jefferson, Texas. The last leg of the journey was by wagon to Sulphur Springs and later to the Grapevine area, and then to Dallas County.

Hattie grew up in Texas and in 1884 married **James Monroe Cochran**, whose family had settled in the Farmers Branch area in 1843. She became the mother of seven children, in addition to three teenagers from James' former marriage, and is the ancestor of several presentday members of our Dallas County Pioneer Association. The Cochrans' Lemmon Avenue home and farm was on land now part of Love Field. They later moved to 3315 Oak Lawn Avenue. They were active in the Oak Lawn Methodist Church, even though they retained ties to Cochran Chapel Methodist Church.

It is there, in the family cemetery, that Hattie and James Monroe are buried, both having passed away in 1924. Ω

The last president of the Republic of Texas, Anson Jones, ended his address to the first meeting of the first Legislature of the twenty-eighth state of the Union with the words:

"The Republic of Texas is no more."

AMERICAN HISTORY 101

This was the inspiration for making a stuffed bear-cub toy called Teddy. In November 1902, President Theodore Roosevelt went bear hunting in Smedes, Mississippi, at a time when the state was wrangling with Louisiana over exactly where their common borderline was.

This cartoon-drawn by Clifford Berryman, who was then on the staff of the Washington Post, ran in the paper during the hunt. The caption refers to a story, filed by a reporter at the hunt, to the effect that a small bear either blundered into the campsite or was captured and brought there for the President to shoot—which he refused to do.

Our Next Generation Speaks:**THE DALLAS PERSPECTIVE**

by Jordan John

I have lived in Dallas all my life and I know it has affected me in ways I cannot yet understand. Dallas, its way of life, and my experiences here have had a profound influence on my perception of the world. To understand the soul of Dallas you have to search its history and I am lucky enough to feel like I am a part of that history because of my family's Dallas heritage.

John Neely Bryan was the first person to settle near the three forks of the Trinity River that is now Dallas. He arrived in 1840 and set up a trading post to trade with the local Indians. He soon returned to his native Tennessee and began promoting a settlement near the Trinity. In 1843, my ancestors, the Browder family, came to Dallas and acquired a land grant around the natural springs that was named for them. Browder Springs became the first water source for the young city of Dallas.

Edward Browder, a surveyor, and his brother Isham started a real estate development called The Cedars, the first exclusive residential area in Dallas. Edward developed the lots and his mother, Lucy Jane Monroe Browder, the niece and ward of President James Monroe, sold them, making her the first realtor in Dallas.

The township prospered and in 1850, Dallas became the county seat. The railroad became its most valuable asset, and the city owed its coming to the location of Browder Springs. The interesting thing about Dallas is that it has no good reason for existing; it has no port, no navigable river, and no natural resources other than its central location. What it did possess was pioneer spirit and manpower, its people have a will and determination to succeed and in turn make their city prosperous by bringing business and jobs.

The land that my ancestors developed is now the site of Old City Park, Dallas' historical village. My link with the past of Dallas and my love of history gives me a unique perspective on Dallas and it has shaped my perception of the world and life itself. To be from Dallas makes you feel like a self-made man just like the city is a self-made city; you become the center of the American capitalist dream. From out of the prairie rises a metropolis built on the entrepreneurship and sweat of pioneers and their descendants seeking a better life for themselves and their children.

This spirit is an important part of my outlook on life: I view life as a grand opportunity to learn, love, and prosper. Like the first pioneers of Dallas, I am preparing to go out into the world and make my place in it. To date, I have left no mark on Dallas other than taxes paid and a school identification number; however, I am part of a community of which I feel gifted to be a part.

The experiences I have had and the people who have shaped my mind and my perspective are part of that community and if I leave a mark on Dallas it is through them. Ω

Jordan John, son of member Kathy John, wrote this paper as a high school assignment. Let's hear more from our younger generation.

TEXAS HISTORY 101

"Trade days" (flea markets) in Texas go back to the 1850s when judges "riding circuit" convened court in a different county each month. Rural folks went to town for court business, to catch up on the news, or just to visit. They took produce and livestock to trade for goods they needed, and the Monday the judge arrived became known as "trade day."

Canton's First Monday Trade Days is the largest flea market in the country.

PICK UP YOUR NEW ROSTER!

"RAGTIME" AT OLD CITY PARK

You still have time—but barely—to get in your reservation for "Ragtime" a historical fashion show in Old City Park's Chautauqua Pavilion.

This turn-of-the-century (19th, that is) fashion show will transport viewers to the era of corsets and bustles on Wednesday, February 27, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Visitors to the Park, observing costumed interpreters or looking at historic photographs in the buildings, often ask about the fashions of that day, wondering how women could wear such clothes. "Ragtime" will try to answer those questions, as they explore whether women of the past were victims of fashion or innovators of freedom and comfort.

Guests will be transported from the Park gates to the Pavilion in a Model T Ford, and fashions and food will be served as they are entertained with music, song, and activity. There will be displays of underwear through time, African-American fashions, and a full cast of living historians and fashion models exhibiting historic costumes from the 1890s through the Roaring 20s.

A silent auction, featuring both large and small items, will be a special feature and tickets include a catered luncheon.

Sponsored by the Old City Park Guild, "Ragtime" is a fundraiser for the Park's educational programs.

Tickets are available by advance reservation for only \$50. Mail checks to DCHS Guild c/o Eric Russell, 9816 Coldwater Circle, 75228 or contact Eric at 214/328-4418. Ω

"Ragtime" at Old City Park *Historical Fashion Theatre*

SPONSORED BY
WASHINGTON MUTUAL



"COUTURE AND CUISINE"

Full stage show with entertainment

LUNCHEON BY THE QUARTER CATERERS
SILENT AUCTION
DOOR PRIZES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2002
OLD CITY PARK PAVILION
11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

TICKETS: \$50 on/after Jan. 8, 2002

Valet Parking

For reservations & information call Eric Russell at 214-328-4418

Mail check to DCHS Guild
c/o Eric Russell
9816 Coldwater Circle
Dallas, TX 75228

PRESENTED BY THE GUILD OF THE DALLAS COUNTY HERITAGE SOCIETY
ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT OLD CITY PARK

PICK UP YOUR NEW ROSTER!

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, \$15 initiation fee and \$20 per year, or \$200 for a Life Membership; and Couple, \$20 initiation fee and \$30 per year, or \$300 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: Kenneth H. Cullum

Secretary: Eva Jane Morgan

Treasurer: Gene Gaddy

Historian: Carolyn Selzer

Membership: Kenneth H. Cullum

Program: Nancy McRae

Telephone: Sue Bucy

Sunshine: Mildred Coffey

Publicity: Karen Gassett

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

