



Dallas County Pioneer Association

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

FALL 2002

QUARTERLY MEETING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2002

Family Hall
Royal Lane Baptist Church
Hillcrest Road and Royal Lane

Dinner: 6 p.m., \$8 per person
Reservations Required

Make reservations by Tuesday September 3
Call Bill McRae @ 214/521-8654 or
DCPA Call Notes @ 214/969-0926

Program 7 p.m.
Dr. Rose-Mary Rumbley speaking on
"Significant Dates in Texas and Everywhere Else"

Dr. Rose-Mary Rumbley needs no introduction to our Association, as she has been one of our most favorite speakers for many years. Among the many hats she wears, besides public speaker, are actress, historian, author, humorist, teacher, tour guide, playwright—and on and on.

She is head of RMR Communications in Dallas, and her doctorate is in Communications from North Texas State University. She was head of the Drama Department at Dallas Baptist University for twelve years, and has authored five books and two plays and is presently working on another book.

We know her presentation will be both informative and entertaining. Don't miss this program!

Historian Carolyn Selzer asks us to bring anything related to State Fairs for our September display table, or other items not yet displayed that you think will be of general interest. And she says thank you for your participation.

Carolyn adds a note: "If you are interested in the history of our neighboring city Fort Worth, there is a great new book out entitled *The Fort in Fort Worth*, detailing the history of the Fort, which was established in 1849 and closed in 1853. It relates some very good pioneer soldier stories. It was written by Clay Perkins, MD, who worked on it for ten years. It was published by Cross-Timbers Heritage Company, \$29.95, and can be ordered from Borders Books."

FROM THE PRESIDENT

• Have the summer doldrums got you? There are several activities available for those interested in Dallas history. The Hyatt Regency at Reunion and the Woodbine Development Corporation will be celebrating Dallas History Week September 28 to October 6. The purpose is to:

- help Dallas Historical Society celebrate its 80th anniversary
- support Dallas History Museum at Old Red Courthouse
- dispel the myth that Dallas has no history
- support the development of downtown Dallas

Dallas History Week begins Saturday, September 28 with the Fourth Annual Dallas History Conference, to be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. It will conclude with an open house on Sunday, October 6 at the Hotel from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. to display the extensive collection of artwork showcasing Dallas' rich history. Preliminary daily themes will be:

Sunday	Transportation in DFW
Monday	Dallas Churches/Synagogues
Tuesday	Evolution of Dallas Skyline
Wednesday	Dallas Hospitality/Tourism
Thursday	Dallas Museums/Libraries
Friday	Arts, Sports, Entertainment
Saturday	Dallas Parks.

Dr. **Michael V. Hazel** will conduct walking tours of downtown.

• **Allison Daniel** of Woodbine Development has indicated that the DCPA can have a display each day in Union Station, as well as at the open house in the Hyatt Regency on October 6. Ideas and volunteers are needed for these activities.

• Be sure to put Saturday, September 28 on your calendar for the Annual Dallas History Conference. DCPA will be a sponsor again this year.

• Nominations for 2003 officers are due. A nominating committee of **Gene Gaddy**, **Frances James**, **Nancy McRae**, and **John Winniford** has been formed. Those members wanting to take a more active part in our organization are urged to contact one of these members to express your interest.

• A baseball-style cap was left at the hat display after the last meeting. The cap is maroon with yellow letters "Sun'n Fun Raider." A button attached says "Sun'n Fun 95 Fly-in EAA Eras of Flight." This is bound to have some significance to someone. Call me at 214/521-8654 and I will return it to you.

• Volume III of *Proud Heritage* is ready to be sent to the printers and may be available in October — see page 11. Book Committee members have been working very hard to get the copy publisher-ready. Kudos are due **Jim Foster** and **Irma Janicek** for their leadership in this effort. Take advantage of the \$5 discount pre-publication offer to acquire some excellent Christmas gifts, and save!

• **Mattie Hughes** has consistently and faithfully represented DCPA at Dallas Genealogical Society seminars. She has some help at the three scheduled this fall, but would like to have some more. The dates are: September 14 (with **Sue Bucy**), October 5 (with **Faye Evans**), and November 2 (with **June Shipley**). Join these ladies and help boost DCPA. Call Mattie at 214/361-4405.

• **Karen Gassett** is preparing a list of possible Volume III purchasers (other than DCPA members) who might be interested in the pre-publication discount offer. If you know someone who should be on the list (certainly those who have stories in the book), send the name and address to either Karen or me and we will notify them of the publication date.

• We have some very sick members. Special prayers for **Ken Cullum** and **Mary Frances Walsh** are in order. Let us know if there are others. Ω
Bill McRae

MINUTES OF MEETING JUNE 6

The June meeting of the Dallas County Pioneer Association was held in 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 the Texas flags.

President McRae passed out membership certificates to **Jerry D. Bailey, Charles W. Binford, Bradley Sue Howell, Richard D. Howell, and Paul E. McLin.**

Members were asked to pay dues and to pick up their rosters. **Jim Foster** collected advance payments for Volume III.

Frances James reported a good attendance for both the Pioneer Cemetery marker dedication and the Webb Chapel marker celebration.

Mattie Hughes will be manning the DCPA tables at the Dallas Genealogical Society seminars and needs help. The first Saturday in September, October, November, and December.

Frances James says the Mexican Cemetery on Chalk Hill has been cleaned up. The Memorial Auditorium near the Dallas Convention Center will be renamed Veteran Memorial Auditorium.

President McRae introduced **Dr. Tom Smith** and **Dr. Mike Hazel**. They brought us up to date on the status of the Museum of Dallas History planned for our Old Red Courthouse.

Dr. Hazel's latest book is *The Dallas Public Library: Celebrating a Century of Service 1901-2001*. Copies were sold at the meeting.

Carolyn Selzer had a large collection of caps at her show-and-tell table.

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

FINAL FAREWELL

Gerard Dickinson, born in Dallas in 1916, passed away on June 13. She was a descendant of a Dallas pioneer family, **Edith Gerard** and **Henry Carl Soelter**, who came to Dallas in 1889-90.

Gerard attended North Dallas High School, SMU, and Texas Women's College (then C.I.A.) in Denton. She was an active member of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, serving on The Altar Guild, The Bookshop, The Prayer Ministry, and as a teacher in the St. Michael's School for eleven years.

She and her late husband founded St. Crispins Bindery bookbinders and restorationists of old and rare books.

Gerard is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, to whom we extend our sincere sympathies. Ω

WELCOME, NEW MEMBER

We welcome **Mary Margaret Webb Davis**, the great-great granddaughter of **Mary Hughes** and **Isaac B. Webb**, who moved to Dallas County, the Republic of Texas, in 1844. They had nine children, six of whom were born in Texas.

Mary Margaret's great grandfather, **Isaac Newton**, born in Dallas County in 1848, married **Frances Elizabeth Donald**, and their son, **James Holman** and his wife **Margaret Jane Huffman** became the parents of **Joe Huffman**. Joe and his wife, **Judith Loreen Brigham**, were Mary Margaret's parents.

It would take another book to recite the contributions of Isaac B. Webb to early Dallas County, but to cite a few: his home became the first church in the County; the first school was built on Webb land; he was a County commissioner 1862-1866; he was named vice-president of the DCPA at its first meeting in 1875.

Mary Margaret is a member of the Webb Chapel Cemetery Association and presided at the ceremonies

for the presentation of a Historic Texas Cemetery marker from the Texas Historical Commission, one hundred and fifty-five years after the first burial there. (See story elsewhere in this newsletter.) She is a retired journalist, from *The El Paso Times*. She and her late husband, **George Ford Davis, Jr.** are the parents of **Daphne Davis (Mrs. Garland) Head**.

Mary Margaret lives at 3224 Chapel Downs Drive, 75229, and her telephone number is 214/357-3221. Ω

SPREADING SUNSHINE

Since our last meeting I have sent the following:

Sympathy card to the family of **Gerard S. Dickinson**.

Get-well card to **Gloria Jacobus**, who had hip surgery, I think on the 19th. My last telephone contact was that she was still in the hospital but doing quite well.

Get-well card to **Ken Cullum**, who has undergone a series of cancer treatments and is recovering at home.

Get-well card to **Mary Frances Walsh**, who has had gall bladder surgery and is recovering at home.

Please help me keep in touch with our fellow members. Ω

Millie Coffey, Sunshine chair

AARP HONORS EDNA OATES POSTHUMOUSLY

We said a final farewell to Life Member **Edna Oates** in our Spring 2002 newsletter and noted that she "was active in groups that depend on volunteers all over town."

We have just received a copy of the letter accompanying the "Edna Oates AARP Award for Community Service", dated April 22, 2002. We quote:

"We are pleased to present you with this award and this pin, honoring your exceptional community service through a chapter- or unit-sponsored project.

"You have enriched the lives of your friends and neighbors and have made your community a better place in which to live. We join with your fellow members in commending you and thanking you for the gift of your time and talents."

The nomination of Edna for this award was made in January by AARP Crossroads No. 3489 Chapter. Ω

GENEALOGICAL WORKSHOP

"How to Find Your Ancestors in North Carolina, South Carolina and the Southern States to Texas" will be the subject of the Fall Workshop of the Mesquite Historical and Genealogical Society on Saturday, September 14.

Lloyd Bockstruck, supervisor of the Genealogy Section of the Dallas Public Library, will be guest speaker for the Workshop to be held at the Mimosa Lane Baptist Church, 1233 N. Beltline Road, Mesquite. He will focus on the states along our east coast, with research dating back to the beginning of the colonies.

Hours for the Workshop are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with registration beginning at 8:30 a.m. Registration fee is \$23 per person, and may include ten surnames if the registration arrives by September 7. Vendors will be present and door prizes given. Tape recording of the lectures will not be permitted.

Call Workshop Chairman **Taylor Pendley** @ 972/ 285-1146 for information. We already know of four DCPA members who are attending. Ω

An ample supply of *Proud Heritage* Volume I has been reprinted (photocopied). They are available at \$30/copy.

HERE AND THERE WITH FRANCES JAMES

- Take time to drive by the Old Letot Cemetery on Shady Trail just south of Walnut Hill Lane and just west of Harry Hines! This is an industrial district, but this small cemetery is in a grove of trees next to a business. The owner of the business has always kept a pretty close watch on the site.

Most of the maintenance of the cemetery has been due to the Boy Scouts these last twenty years or so. If there were any family members that still came by, their visits had gotten farther and farther apart.

Several years ago a Boy Scout, **Mike Horak**, and his troop, who had the project to clean up the site, also prepared a computer model of the site and we now have an inventory and numbered graves. It helps to have a dad like **Frank Horak** who works with Circle Ten projects all over the County.

This summer Boy Scout **Landon Applegate**, decided he would take on Letot Cemetery, but not just to mow the grass or trim the trees. He decided to apply for a Historic Texas Cemetery Designation for the site and raise the funds to have a new fence installed and pave the entrance with bricks. (This looks great.) Through a letter-writing campaign (with business associates of his father and others—it helps to have parents like Mr. and Mrs. **Wayne Applegate**, too) he raised over \$2000 to pay for the fence! (DCPA contributed \$150 from our Cemetery Fund to the fence fund.) Landon has done the necessary research to complete the application for the State designation and forwarded that to Austin. (He now knows what the deed records section of the County looks like.)

If this was not enough, a man who is a native of Vermont and works in one of the businesses nearby has become actively involved in the site and has already discovered other stones that were buried in the dirt! He also monitors the gravesite of a Union veteran buried here.

But that is not all! The employees of John Deere Company, who are located around the corner at 10650 Harry Hines, wanted to do a Community Service project and a vote was taken among these employees and they decided to adopt the maintenance of the cemetery—all summer. The company representative who called said, "After all—we have the equipment."

A "Thank You" letter was in *The Dallas Morning News* to all of these interested parties from a reader, **Florine Cross Jayroe**, who lives in Carrollton. She said her father, **Herman Cross**, worked on this project before his illness and death.

We hope to hear from her some day, as we asked the *News* to forward our telephone number to her. There has been very little knowledge found of any of the people buried here as this was not an addition to the City of Dallas until a long time after their deaths, and they do not appear in the City Directories.

The late **Gus Letot**, grandson of **Clement Letot**, who once owned all this land, was a member of the DCPA. In 1991 Gus had received a belated award, nearly fifty years after the fact, from the Soviet Union for his role in the Murmansk Run as a merchant marine during World War II. This is a great story for all Dallas County Pioneers!

- The original hospital for the City of Dallas was in a building leased for \$10 a month in 1872. The next year a building was constructed for \$1,209.05 at 616 So. Lamar. With the insistence from the City of Dallas, the Commissioners Court was persuaded to pay for the treatment of paupers. From 1877 to 1959 the County operated an infirmary called the Convalescent Center on 339 acres near Hutchins later known as the Poor Farm.

There is a great history of the hospital that was compiled by **Dorothy Garland** who was on the Landmark Commission at the time several years ago that describes how the City and County of Dallas were so

reluctant to fund a hospital, in spite of the need. At first there was no money and some doctors donated their time to caring for patients. There was a meningitis epidemic, small pox epidemic, influenza epidemic, and others before adequate facilities were ever provided. Men, women, and children were sometimes housed in the same room. Sometimes the sick were housed in tents!

Finally, after years of inadequate care in inadequate facilities, the City in 1894 built a frame hospital on land that had previously been purchased for a park—thus the name Parkland Hospital. This was replaced in 1913 by the Parkland Hospital buildings now seen at Oak Lawn and Maple. These buildings, not all constructed at the same time, have been used for various projects for many years, ever since the “new” Parkland Hospital was completed on Harry Hines. There are now pending plans to utilize some of these buildings that have Landmark status in the City. The nurses’ quarters are also being looked at.

Due to this new interest in the site, there is a problem. Through the years reference has been made to the Cemetery used by the County. Now no one seems to know, remember, or want anyone else to know, where on the grounds of the hospital this site was. If you have a clue, let me know!

- Dallas’ first high school, last known as Crozier Tech, is being carefully scrutinized again. The current owner, pleading hardship, asked for a demolition permit. Since the school has National Register and Landmark protection, the owner was required to reveal his attempts to utilize the building. By hiring the correct appraiser, engineer, and realtor, his paperwork revealed it would be too costly to rehabilitate the building. The new additions to the original building were hastily demolished a few years ago, illegally.

To further investigate the hardship request, a preservation architect from Chicago, a Fort Worth developer, and a Dallas appraiser, were asked to serve on a panel to review the owner’s paperwork and listen to the presentation. After a two-day hearing, the decision of

this panel will be presented to the Landmark Commission on September 9. There have been offers through these last six or seven years to purchase the property, but the current owner (not a native Dallasite) and his Dallas attorney have loaded all of their costs from fighting the demolition to the sale price, making rehabilitation uneconomical!

At the moment, the history of the site has taken a back seat—proving the financial opportunity of the building is what this is all about, now. This is not over yet!

- On August 15, 2002, under the beautiful trees at Greenwood Cemetery, a reburial ceremony for fourteen people was held. Due to the large Public Works Project by the City to enlarge the storm drainage system in the McKinney Avenue area, an archaeology survey was made, as burials were suspected. These early citizens of Dallas were removed from Clyde Alley. They had been buried in what was the Potters Field Cemetery, adjacent to Greenwood Cemetery, many years ago before there was a fence. Inadequate records were kept, so the nine adults and five babies, whose names are known only to God, are now in a sacred place rather than in an alley. Ω

CONFERENCE TO KICK OFF CELEBRATION OF DALLAS HISTORY

by Mike Hazel

Thanks to the support of Woodbine Development Corporation and the Hyatt Regency Dallas Hotel, the Fourth Annual Dallas History Conference, on Saturday, September 28, will be only the first of several activities, stretching over the next week, celebrating Dallas History.

The Old Red Museum is planning walking tours for the following Saturday, October 5, that will include a tour of the courthouse as well as lunch at Antares, atop Reunion Tower. The tours will be led by local historians Mike Hazel and Darwin Payne. And on Sunday, October 6, the Hyatt will host a free, public open house, featuring food and music of the many

ethnic groups that make up Dallas. Guests will also have an opportunity to view the many historical photographs recently placed throughout the public areas of the hotel.

Other local groups planning events during the week include Preservation Dallas, which will host a "1950s Modern" architectural bus tour Saturday, October 5.

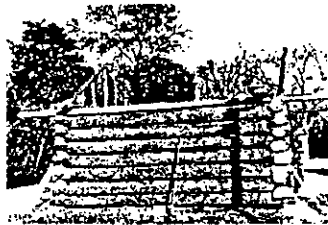
The theme for this year's Dallas History Conference is "Historic Neighborhoods," and papers will examine communities such as The Cedars, Preston Hollow, and Wynnewood, as well as bungalow neighborhoods and historic parks. A panel will discuss lost or disappearing neighborhoods such as Little Mexico, Eagle Ford (West Dallas), and Twelfth Street. Former Dallas Mayor **Adlene Harrison** will be the luncheon speaker.

Registration for the conference, which will be held at the Hyatt Regency Dallas Hotel, remains at \$25, which includes morning refreshments and lunch.

Registration forms will be mailed to the members of the eleven sponsoring organizations, including the Dallas County Pioneer Association, in late August. More information can be obtained by calling Michael V. Hazel, conference coordinator, at 214/421-5141, ext. 105. Ω

PETERS COLONY LAND GRANT OFFICE ARRIVES AT HISTORICAL PARK

The Farmers Branch Historical Park has a new addition, a replica of the Peters Colony Land Grant Office! The structure is a 'rough' log cabin with simple round logs, a dirt floor, a weighted pole roof and a stick and mud chimney.



The Historical Preservation and Restoration Board recommended building the Land Grant Office to replace the log barn that was lost to fire in 1997. As Farmers Branch was home to the original Peters

Colony Land Grant Office, the Board felt it was appropriate that this structure be integrated into the Historical Park setting and recommended it to the City Council.

The Land Grant Office is built directly across from the existing log house, allowing easy access from the brick path and rounding out the log culture area.

"We're looking forward to the addition of the Land Grant Office to add more interactive programs for our visitors," stated Museum Educator Jennifer Kirker.

"Visitors will be encouraged to learn the timeless art of surveying, using 19th century tools and techniques, which were nowhere near as accurate as our modern day Global Positioning Systems."

Construction should be completed by the end of Spring! Feel free to stop by to watch the construction or call the Superintendent for more information.

Historical Headlines, Volume 2, Issue 1
Farmers Branch Historical Park

WEBB CHAPEL CEMETERY: A HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY

Webb Chapel Cemetery in Farmers Branch has been designated a Historic Texas Cemetery by the Texas Historical Commission, one hundred and fifty-five years after its first burial.

Dedication of the marker bearing the State medallion and an interpretative plaque was held on June 1 at the Cemetery located at 12600 Webb Chapel Road. This was the original site of the Cemetery and the Webb Chapel United Methodist Church, founded in 1845. The Church is now located at 2536 Valley View Lane, just a short distance away.

June 1 was the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of **Isaac Blackman Webb**, founder of the Cemetery and the Church, the first church in the Peters Colony. It was a WEBB2002 day of reunion for many descendants of the Webbs and others buried there.

Our newest member, **Mary Margaret Webb Davis**, a member of the WEBB2002 committee, presided at the dedication and unveiling ceremony. Other DCPA members of the committee who were present were **Sarah Coursey, Howard Cox, Ida Downs, Jan Jones and Richard Monroe**. Several other members of DCPA attended the day-long event. Ω

A FOURTH OF JULY TO REMEMBER

by **Bill McRae**

Nancy and I recently took a trip to France that included a three-day extension in Normandy. I discovered that we were scheduled to be on the Normandy D-Day beaches on July 4 and mentioned to our tour director that this would have special meaning for our group of Americans. When asked if anyone had family or friends interred in the Normandy American Cemetery, one of the men said his father landed on Omaha Beach in the second wave on D-Day and survived the war. This man had his teen-age son with him and was eager to show the son where his grandfather had fought.

On July 4, we visited the seaside village of Arromanches, site of Churchill's famous "Mulberry Harbor" towed over from England in pieces and assembled to make a port where there was none. After visiting the excellent museum there, we had a delightful lunch in a seaside restaurant with red, white, and blue flowers and small US flags on the tables. Our tour director said not to dawdle because we had a special appointment at the Normandy American Cemetery.

Upon arrival at the Cemetery, we were asked to wait a few minutes for an official. Soon a sharply-dressed gentleman appeared with a beautiful spray of flowers and escorted us to the Memorial Colonnade. He formed us into two parallel lines fronting the "Spirit of American Youth Rising From the Sea" statue. Handing the spray to the teenager, he instructed the youth to walk slowly and with dignity between our lines when the music began. To our surprise, the carillon in the Colonnade began playing "Taps", and as the last note

sounded, the spray of flowers was placed at the foot of the statue. All of us were teary-eyed with emotion; then the carillon played "The Star Spangled Banner" and there wasn't a dry eye in the crowd.

While most of us wandered through the 9,387 Latin Crosses and Stars of David, including 307 unknowns, one of our group who is a professor of English at Rutgers University, sat on a bench in the Cemetery and wrote the following poem on a paper sack. I asked and received permission to share it with others, since I feel it expresses the thoughts of us all.

WHITE CROSSES AND STARS

*The waves roll gently to shore;
it is a battlefield no more.
But in eternal rest lie here
the men we shall always hold dear.*

*They gave their lives for liberty,
equality, fraternity.
And so we gather on this day
to pay them homage in some way.*

*In youth eternal they will dwell
from the moment when they fell.
So when we hear the tolling bell
heroic stories we can tell.*

*Written with gratitude and reverence by Ann Dow
in Normandy, France on Independence Day, 2002*

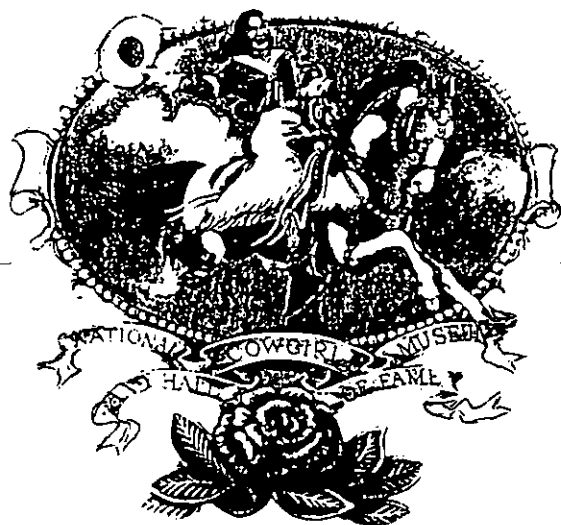


COWGIRL MUSEUM MOVES TO FT. WORTH

The National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame has moved from Hereford in the Texas Panhandle to Fort Worth's Cultural District, which has been named the Western Heritage Center.



NATIONAL COWGIRL MUSEUM AND HALL OF FAME



The only museum in the world dedicated to honoring and documenting the lives of women who exemplify the pioneer spirit of the American West, the Museum has built a new 33,000-square-foot home on a 1.5-acre site in the Center. It includes five exhibit galleries filled with pictures, stories, and handwritten personal experiences of the women who have contributed to the growth and development of the American West.

The designations of the five galleries are Spirit of the Cowgirl, Saddle Up/Ranching, Ranch Life, Rodeo, and Wild West Shows and Popular Culture. The lives of pioneers, artists, writers, businesswomen, educators, ranchers, and rodeo cowgirls are documented, including:

Sacajawea, guide for the Lewis and Clark Expedition; Georgia O'Keefe, renowned painter; Maria Martinez, pueblo potter; Clara Brown, former slave, businesswoman, and humanitarian; Laura Ingalls Wilder, author of the *Little House* books; Wilma Mankiller, first woman chief of the Cherokee Nation; Enid Justin, who built the Nocona Boot Company into a multimillion-dollar enterprise; Henrietta Chamberlain King, matriarch of the King Ranch; Tad Lucas, world's greatest female rodeo rider; Julie Krone, pioneering female jockey; Annie Oakley, sharpshooter and Wild West performer; Patsy Cline, country singer; and Dale Evans, actor, singer, and author—among many others.

Will Rogers is credited with coining the term "cowgirl" to describe Lucille Mulhall, who won many roping competitions throughout the nation in the early 1900s. "Cowgirl" soon took on a life of its own, becoming the defining term for those courageous, independent women who "stood tall" in shaping the American West. The Museum had its inception in 1975 in Hereford and has been a nationally-known educational resource for its exhibits, research library, rare photograph collection, and the honorees in its Hall of Fame.

The Western Heritage Center in Fort Worth will also include the new facility for the Cattle Raisers Museum, the new western-oriented wing of the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, and the Will Rogers Memorial Center.

Memberships in the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame are available, and the Museum is a 501(c)(3) organization. The address is 111 West 4th Street, Suite 300, Fort Worth, Texas 76102. Telephone 800/476-3263. Ω



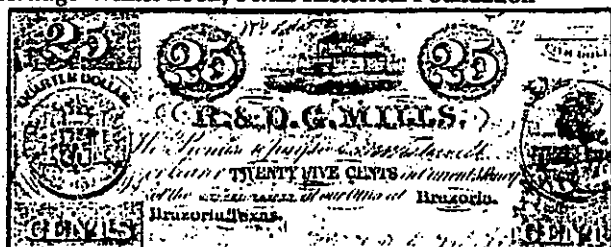
TEXAS HISTORY 101**Texas Biography: Robert Mills**

Though he was born in Kentucky (in 1809), it was in Texas where Robert Mills acquired his great wealth as a merchant, cotton producer, and banker. He began small—as a supply trader—but eventually became known as one of the richest men in the whole state. In 1837, he was one of the principals of the first insurance company in Texas. A short time later Mills acquired property near Galveston and built the first cotton compress in the state at San Luis. He was a partner in two shipping companies—Mills, McDowell, and Company of New York and McDowell, Mills and Company of New Orleans—and their ships brought Texas sugar and cotton to all parts of the world.

From there, his business exploits continued to grow. Mills became president and director of the Galveston and Brazos Navigation Company and was associated with the Galveston Wharves. It was as if everything that Mills touched turned to gold, and this was true of the plantations that he owned along with his brother, David. In 1852, two of their plantations produced more sugar than any other in the state, and together, they owned more than 200,000 acres of land.

The Civil War brought a great reversal of fortune to many, including Robert Mills. Several of his steamboats were acquired for use by the Confederacy, and Mills operated others as blockade runners. Following the war and the collapse of the cotton market, many of Mills' customers were not able to pay their debts, and his empire crumbled. Faced with financial ruin, Mills declared bankruptcy in 1873, giving up his home and most of his possessions. He lived 15 more years, relying primarily on the kindness of relatives. Ω

Heritage Winter 2002, Texas Historical Foundation



"Mills Money"

Texas History Museum in Jefferson, Texas

AMERICAN HISTORY 101**Parker Housekeeping**

by Lauren Clark

The longest continuously operating hotel in America, the Omni Parker House recently underwent a three-year, \$70-million restoration in keeping with founder Harvey Parker's mission to offer his guests the most up-to-date conveniences. Back in 1855, that meant an elevator, hot and cold running water, and continuous meal service—all firsts in a Boston hotel.

Today it means new plumbing, climate controls, Internet ports in every guest room, and vintage decor re-finished but left intact. The Boston cream pie was invented here, as were the Parker House roll and the term "scrod", meaning catch of the day. But more than these contributions to gracious living, what makes the Parker House notable is the people who have slept, eaten, and worked there.

—**Literati:** Longfellow, Holmes, Hawthorne, and Emerson met here regularly, eventually forming the Saturday Club, an informal gathering that led to the birth of the *Atlantic Monthly* in 1857. And Charles Dickens slept here.

—**Pol:** The hotel is situated between the old City Hall and the State House, and regulars included JFK, who announced his first congressional bid in its Press Room, and James Michael Curley, a fixture throughout his near 60-year career in Massachusetts politics. Bill Clinton staged a successful fund-raiser here during the 1992 campaign.

—**Notables:** Former employees include Ho Chi Minh, a baker from 1911 to 1913; Malcolm X, a busboy in the early 1940s; and celebrity chef Emeril Lagasse, who cut his culinary teeth in its kitchen.

Perhaps the Parker House's most infamous guest is John Wilkes Booth, who stayed at the hotel a week before he assassinated Abraham Lincoln. Booth reportedly plotted his deed at the hotel, even practicing his marksmanship in the alley. Ω *Yankee*, June 2001

VOLUME III IS COMPLETE

Thanks to each and every member of the Book Committee. The results from all those meetings are now evident. The book should be on its way to the publisher by now, and we hope to have the printed books in Dallas around September 20. I think that we will all be pleased with *Proud Heritage Volume III*, and what a wonderful Christmas gift!

Jim Foster, Book Committee chair

.....
Pre-Publish Order Form

Name _____ Address _____ Zip _____
[] Will Pick Up [] Please Mail
Telephone _____

Title	Qty	Price Each	Extended Price
Proud Heritage, Vol. III		\$30	
Proud Heritage, Vol. II		\$35	
Proud Heritage, Vol. I		\$30	
Three Volume Bundle		\$90	
Shipping Charge for one book		\$3	
Shipping Charge, 3-Volume Set		\$6	

Order Total \$

Please deliver this form, along with your check, to a committee member or mail to:

DCPA P.O. Box 12496 Dallas, TX 75225

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

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