

Dallas County Pioneer Association

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

SUMMER 2003

QUARTERLY MEETING

THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2003

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

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

**Make reservations by Tuesday June 3
Call Bill McRae @ 214/521-8654 or
DCPA Call Notes @ 214/969-0926
(Leave a message as to how many and for whom)**

**Program 7 p.m.
Dr. Rose-Mary Rumbley
"New Material You May Not Know About Dallas"**

Rose-Mary Rumbley continues to be one of the most sought-after speakers in Dallas, and has been a good friend of the Dallas County Pioneer Association, contributing to Volume III and being a frequent speaker for our group. Her presentations are always entertaining and are full of facts. This "new material" she uncovered while researching a new book should be interesting.

Rose-Mary is head of RMR Communications in Dallas, and in addition to being a favorite public speaker, she is actress, historian, author, humorist, teacher, playwright, tour guide—and the list goes on. She has a doctorate 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 working on another book.

* * *

Historian Carolyn Selzer thanks Luther McCommas for our table display for the June meeting. He will show a wonderful collection of heirloom quilts from his family. Don't miss this!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

- We are saddened by the loss of three members: **Mary Frances Walsh**, who died March 28; **Marie McMahan**, who died April 8; and **Screna Horton Campbell**, who died April 27. These members will be sorely missed. Our sympathy is extended to the families and friends of each.
- **Tommy Vilbig**, our youngest student member, has received his Eagle Scout ranking. His project was to clean up and improve the El Camposanta Cemetery in West Dallas, a most worthy project. Congratulations, Tommy!
- **Jennifer Vilbig**, another student member, has taken the time out of her busy school schedule to construct a web site for DPCA. It is looking very good! Nice work, Jennifer!
- Be sure to mark Saturday, September 20 on your calendar. The Dallas County Pioneer Association will be a sponsor for the Fifth Annual *Legacies Dallas* History Conference that day at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library. Free parking will be in the Library garage. The theme of the Conference will be "People Who Shaped Dallas". A streamlined format will feature shorter presentations that allow the Conference to occur between 8:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
- Nancy and I were privileged to attend the dedication ceremony at Greenwood Cemetery for a marker placed on the gravestone of **Alexander McRae Deschman**, the first mayor of Grand Prairie. The City of Grand Prairie and the Grand Prairie Historical Society are endeavoring to place markers on the graves of all past mayors of their city. A nice group of Grand Prairie residents were on hand for the ceremony conducted by Mayor Pro-tem **Ruthe Jackson**.
- The Old Red Museum of Dallas County History and Culture is still searching for pictures and artifacts that will help tell the story of the County's development and its past. Posters, souvenirs, personal items, business signs or logos—anything of historical interest

is sought. Should you have an item or items you think might be of interest, contact me and I will put you in touch with the proper people to follow up.

Pictures for the pioneer section of the Museum are still needed. If you have an original or a good copy of the following, the Museum staff will scan a copy and return the picture to you:

Volume I

John H. and Elizabeth Preston Cole
John Wesley Davis
Trezevant Hawpe
James E. Jackson
Crawford T. and Anna M. Kimmel

Volume II

Henry Boll, Sr. and Elizabeth Knopfli
Rev. William H. Hughes
Andy Moore and wife
Jackson and Elizabeth Rape
J.D. and Mary Ann Stratton

Your help in getting these photos to the Museum staff will be appreciated. Thanks to all who provided the other requested pictures. They will be returned to you at the June 5 meeting.

- **Sam Holman**, a member of the Sons of the Republic of Texas, has presented the DCPA with an excellent book entitled *The Descendants of Mabel Gilbert, 1797-1870, Texas Pioneer in Fannin, Dallas, Montague and Wichita Counties*. This book was compiled by **Robert L. Crecelius** in 2002, with an extensive genealogy section in addition to many stories by Gilbert family members and newspaper articles concerning the family. There are some intriguing glimpses into the life and times of early settlers.

According to the book, here are some firsts for Mabel Gilbert:

One of the first settlers in Republic of Texas in Fannin County.
Built Camp Gilbert, a refuge for fellow settlers.
A Texas Ranger and an Indian fighter.

Helped establish Bird's Fort, the first settlement in Tarrant County.

The first white man known to navigate the Trinity River to Dallas.

Wife **Charity** was first known white woman to set foot on Dallas soil.

Wife **Charity** named Dallas, according to accounts at that time.

Son **Morris** was first white child born in Dallas.

Slave **Smith** was first black citizen of Dallas.

He and wife **Charity** owned and inhabited Dallas' first cabin, located on "grassy knoll" on banks of Trinity River.

First family to settle on west side of Trinity River in Dallas County.

Had three creeks and two springs named in his honor.

Built first grist mill and steam sawmill in Fannin County.

Was first white settler in Wichita County.

Daughter **Hattie** was the first white child born in Wichita County;

Was first man to build a buffalo moat.

- As is the DCPA custom, the Association is donating copies of *Volume III* to the following libraries in and around the County which have genealogical sections: Dallas Central Library, Carrollton, Coppell, DeSoto, Duncanville, Farmers Branch, Garland, Grand Prairie, Grapevine, Irving, Lancaster, Mesquite, Richardson and Plano. If we have missed one, let us know! Libraries without a genealogical section may purchase a copy or be made a gift by one of our members.

- **Nell D. Walker**, member from Mabank, has been elected Regent of the Sarah Maples Chapter of Daughters of the American Republic. She is also a Colonial Dame, 17th Century through her Pace ancestors. Congratulations, Nell! Ω

Bill McRae

MINUTES OF MEETING MARCH 6

The March 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 **Mary L. Cook** and **Thomas Frederick Sharp, III**.

President **McRae** announced that the finances are strong, but we need to sell more books. An annual report was given by Treasurer **Gene Gaddy**, along with an internal audit by **John Winniford**.

The new rosters were passed out by **Marjori Sharp**. Dues were paid to **Gene Gaddy**. Also, Volumes I, II, and III of *Proud Heritage* were available for sale.

President **McRae** reported that **Mike Hazel** is still collecting old pictures for the "Founders" section of the Old Red Courthouse Museum of Dallas County History.

Frances James reported that the Pioneer Cemetery booklet is now available at the Dallas Public Library.

Talmage Boston "Baseball!" was the title of the program for the evening.

Carolyn Selzer's table displayed baby pictures of our members.

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

Eva Jane Morgan, Secretary

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

- **Charles Barry Eaton** is a descendant of **William Brown Miller**, who built Millermore mansion which became the nucleus of our Old City Park, the historical and cultural village of Dallas.

Miller and his wife, **Emma Dewey**, came to Dallas County in 1847 and settled in a log cabin in Hord's

Ridge (now Oak Cliff). Their daughter, **Minerva**, married former Lieutenant Governor **Barry Miller**, and they became the parents of **William Brown Miller, II**. He and his wife, **Helen Gilbough**, were the parents of DCPA member **Helen Eaton**, and she and her husband **Charles Eaton** are the parents of **C. Barry**.

William Brown Miller moved to Texas because of his frail health, which quickly improved. Besides being responsible for the formation of the **Dallas County Heritage Society**, formed to save **Millermore**, the last antebellum mansion in the Dallas area, **Miller** is credited with a number of other firsts. He became the first president of the **North Texas Agricultural, Mechanical & Blood Stock Association**, forerunner of the **State Fair of Texas**; he exhibited the first registered bull and the only race horse in this part of Texas at the 1872 Fair; he supplied cedar for ties and bridging for the **Houston & Texas Central**, Dallas' first railroad, in 1872; and he became a director in building the first bridge over the **Trinity River** in Dallas.

His second wife, who lived with him and the family in the log cabin, designed the layout for the new home, but died before it was finished. His third wife, who moved into the log cabin from a grand home, probably speeded up the construction for the birth of her second son in 1862. The log cabin and the mansion are now located in **Old City Park**.

Barry is a semi-retired mechanical engineer, with **ElectroSpace Systems, Inc.** He is a member of the **Southwest Railroad Historical Society** and the **Railway and Locomotive Historical Society**, and he joins his mother, **Helen**, in the DCPA. His address is 11004 **Westwood Drive**, **Waco 76712**, telephone number 254/772-0565.

- We welcome another new member who has family in the DCPA: **Mary Beth (Tyson) Binford** joins husband **Charles W. Binford** to form a dual membership. She is a programmer with **Affiliated Computer Services**, and a member of the **Dallas County Genea-**

logical Society and the **Van Zandt County Genealogical Society**.

Charles joined us just about a year ago and told us about his ancestor, **Abraham Hart**, who helped build our **Old Red Courthouse** in 1892. Their three children are **Davis**, **Lee Ann**, and **Tanya B.** They live at 2376 **Monticello Circle** in **Plano, 75075**, phone number 972/596-1827. Ω

- **W. Kent Adair**, our newest Life member, joins us through two lines of ancestry.

The first **Adairs** in **Dallas County** were **William Franklin** and his wife **Mary L. Robberson**, who came in 1874 and settled on **Swiss Avenue**. Their son, **James Hiram**, married **Jane Harville**, and they became the parents of **William Percy**, who married **Maude S. Word**.

Maude was the daughter of **Elia V. Wheeler** and **George A. Word**, Kent's second line. **George's** parents, **Mary Reeves** and **Jefferson Word**, came to **Dallas County** in 1877 and lived on **Ross Avenue**. **Maude** and **William Percy** were the parents of **James A. Adair**, and **W. Kent** is the son of **James** and his wife, **Diane L. McFarland**.

Kent, a **Funeral Director**, is also a member of the **Peters Colony Historical Society** and the **Ellis County Historical Society**. His address is **P.O. Box 815486**, **75381**, phone 214/695-1710. Ω

SPREADING SUNSHINE

We have sent the following "Get Well" cards: **Jimmie D. McSween**, who had a bad siege of shingles; **Lloyd White, Jr.**, had a five-way bypass in February; **Genevieve Glover**, had gall bladder surgery.

All of these were sent in early March, so we sincerely hope all who were ill are well on the road to complete recovery.

We sent sympathy cards to the following: the family of Mary Frances Walsh; Marie Caillet and Margaret Caillet Swann, on the death of their sister, Shirley Welch; Nancy Dieterick Kurrus, on the death of her aunt, Shirley Welch; Pam DeVoe, on the death of her grandmother, Marie McMahan.

Millie Coffey, Sunshine Chair

THANK YOU. TELEPHONE COMMITTEE

We don't say it often enough to dedicated volunteers: "Thank you, so much."

Our Telephone Committee routinely call the membership before each quarterly meeting, plus occasions in between for announcements or alerts, and we pretty much take them for granted. This is a big heartfelt THANK YOU to the following Committee members:

Doris Barnes, Susan Cargile, Carolyn Chenault, Mary Margaret Webb Davis, Martha Gracey, Sue Kimmel, Lottie Sue McWilliams, Sandra Neal, Joan Pickard, and Karlee Smith.

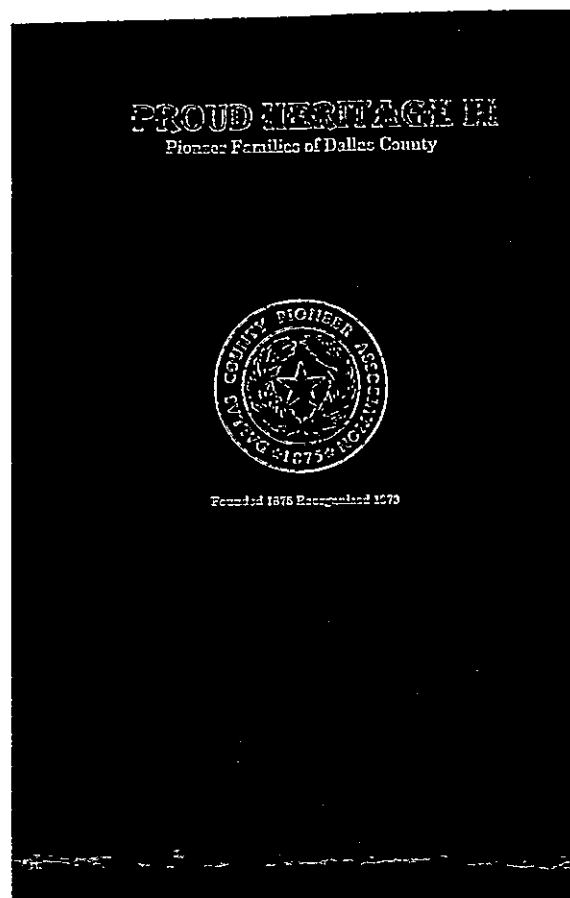
Lottie Sue was new on the committee last year, and newcomers this year are Mary Margaret and Sue.

Please help them, when they call you, with any news you have about your family or any other DCPA members you know. Ω

Sue Bucy, Chair

David Ayres, a veteran of the War of 1812, came to Texas in 1833 to distribute Bibles for the American Bible Society, and has been called the most outstanding Methodist layman of his time. In 1847 he moved to Galveston where he was publisher of the *Texas Christian Advocate*.

William B. Travis left his son, Charles, in the care of the Ayres' when he went to the Alamo. Ω



BORDERS IS SELLING VOLUME III

We are happy to say that Borders in Preston Royal is selling our book!

The DCPA's popular new book, *Proud Heritage, Vol. III*, is now available at Borders Books & Music at Preston Road and Royal Lane. The book contains 211 fascinating stories of pioneer Dallas County families, small businesses, World War II remembrances, and other interesting features.

We are keeping Borders' shelves stocked, and are pleased with the way the book is selling.

As a longtime baseball fan, we really enjoyed the program at the March meeting—and happily rebounded from Mother's Day dinner just in time to turn on the game and see Palmeiro hit No. 500! Ω
Pat Randolph, Publicity Chair

HERE AND THERE WITH FRANCES JAMES

The Cemetery Bus Tour sponsored by the Dallas Historical Society on May 10 started off rather scary as the bus (we found out later) had the wrong type of fuel and was running poorly! We circled back to the Hall of State and car-pooled to the first two cemeteries while the bus driver made arrangements to get another bus.

The first site was back of Oakland Cemetery at a cemetery known as Mt. Auburn. At one time there were probably over one hundred buried here, but so many of the stones are missing now, all we have are lists with no locations. One particular stone reads that this slave, born in 1814, was brought to Dallas in the 1860s and died in 1916 at age 102! This cemetery has veterans, Mexicans, a preacher, a member of the Daughters of Tabor—a secret black order with an elaborate ritual at a gravesite. It is not far from the Confederate Cemetery, and unusual for its time in Dallas.

The next stop was at the Beeman Cemetery, with separate plots for the descendants of this family who came to Dallas so early and stayed.

The next site we visited was the Glover on Military Parkway. Lagows, Hunnicutts, Grays, Moores, and Lanhams are buried here. All with a story of when, where, why they arrived in Dallas before 1850!

Lunch was at St. Petes in Historic Deep Elm, and we headed for The National DFW Veterans Cemetery out by Mountain Creek Lake. One of the men on the bus had just returned from Baghdad on a charity project and told us of his experiences. He even had a picture of himself sitting in Saddam Hussein's hot tub in his palace!

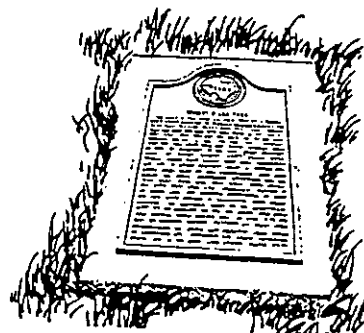
The National Cemetery is very impressive, the site of all the markers lined up in straight rows is emotional. There were over 400 re-interments the first two weeks after it opened in 2000. So far, more than 7000 veterans or their wives from the north Texas area have been

buried here. The columbarium has spaces left and when needed, they will expand that section. There is a walk with memorials from various organizations that is also remarkable.

One of the boys killed in Iraq has been buried here. There are docents available every day and the site is open from sunup to sunset 365 days a year.

The Handbook of Texas was revised a few years ago and is now available over the Internet. This is a marvelous resource for finding out about Texas. One item I was recently told about had to do with the Federal Prison at Seagoville.

An application for a Texas Historical Grave Marker for John W. Lane has been sent to Austin. He was the State representative in 1871, when he was able to attach an amendment to a bill that specified the proposed Texas & Pacific Railroad must pass close enough to get water from Browders Spring (he had a little help from a State senator from Fort Worth and a few of the movers and shakers in Dallas).



John W. Lane is buried in the City of Dallas Land-marked Pioneer Cemetery in downtown Dallas. His name is on the inventories, but there is no headstone remaining. This gravemarker will remedy that. His first wife was **Betty Crutchfield**, and they had one son, **Clarence**.

This change in the location for the right-of-way for this railroad coming from Marshall started Dallas on the growth pattern it has held all these years. Now the seventh largest city in the United States! Ω

LOCALS RECOGNIZED AT THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

Two Dallasites, Dr. Kathleen Gilmore and Jeff West, were among winners of preservation awards by the Texas Historical Commission at the Annual Historic Preservation Conference, held in Austin May 15-17. We quote the following citations from the May-June 2003 edition of *The Medallion*:

Curtis D. Tunnell Lifetime Achievement Award in Archeology: Dr. Kathleen Gilmore, Dallas
Dr. Kathleen Gilmore is considered one of the leading figures in Texas archeology.

Although she is most recognized for her research on Texas' Spanish missions, Dr. Gilmore is also known for her published materials and her fieldwork at the site of French explorer LaSalle's Fort St. Louis.

Dr. Gilmore's efforts were pivotal in finding several missions, and her extensive excavations resulted in the discovery of thousands of artifacts to interpret the mission sites. She is responsible for conclusively identifying the Keeran Ranch site near Victoria as the location of Fort St. Louis.

In 1995, Dr. Gilmore received the Society for Historical Archaeology's most prestigious award—the J.C. Harrington Medal. She is a past president of the Texas Archeological Society, the Society for Historical Archaeology and the Council of Texas Archeologists.

John L. Nau, III, Award of Excellence in Museums: Jeff West, Dallas

As executive director of the Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza in Dallas, Jeff West successfully oversees a \$5 million museum with 50 staff members. Under his leadership, the museum's programs and reputation have grown significantly, serving more than 460,000 visitors annually.

Adding to the museum's collection is a priority for West. The museum's recent acquisitions include

original films, photos, sketches and other artifacts related to the John F. Kennedy assassination.

West serves as vice president for development for the Texas Association of Museums and is a founding board member of the National Historic Landmark Stewards Association. He is also active in public speaking, education and community advocacy, and is a visiting professor at the University of Texas at Dallas. Ω

PRESERVATION DALLAS IS THIRTY YEARS OLD

Preservation Dallas, nee the Historic Preservation League, was formed in late 1972 by a small group of concerned citizens bent on neighborhood revitalization.

Today, more than 1000 active members are celebrating thirty years of preservation and revitalization of our city's buildings and neighborhoods.

The big birthday bash, "Celebrate Downtown!", took place on May 10 in Pegasus Plaza at Main and Akard, surrounded by landmarks in the heart of Big D. Special refreshments were provided by several of downtown's premiere restaurants.

It was a party to celebrate the past and the future of downtown Dallas, and drew historians, preservationists, architects, developers, past officers, and other citizens.

The annual meeting of Preservation Dallas will be held on Tuesday, June 17, 6-8 p.m. Ω

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION CELEBRATES FIFTY YEARS

The Texas Historical Commission is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2003, which it calls its banner year, with a display of bold, bright, colorful banners

on main streets and courthouse squares throughout the State. The first ones debuted in Gainesville in January.

The banners proudly proclaim: "50 Years: Preserving Our Texas Heritage" and sport a huge white lone star on a teal background. Made of durable plastic, they will be displayed on lampposts in downtowns throughout twenty-o-three.

Also, as a tribute to the THC's yearlong anniversary celebration, the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission has mounted a king-sized exhibit featuring images of the Commission's many projects and programs, which is traveling across Texas. The exhibit, which is aimed at educating Texans about the programs of the THC, is a series of cubes approximately three feet by two feet that can be stacked like building blocks. All sides of each cube feature separate images designed to teach the importance and benefits of historic preservation.

The exhibit opened at the Texas State Capitol on February 7, with addresses by THC Chair John Nau, Texas House Speaker Tom Craddick, and Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson.

For information about the banners or the exhibit, call 512/463-6255. Ω



AMERICAN HISTORY 101

The "Lost State" of Franklin

"Franklin", the 14th state admitted to the Union? Well, almost.

This was a story in the *Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel*, written by Jean Allen. Like Rose-Mary Rumbley's new material about Dallas, maybe this is some history about colonial America that you didn't know.

It was almost the fourteenth state of the Union—existing from 1784 to 1788 and people born there during those years were indeed citizens of Franklin. Some of us probably do have ancestors who were born in the state of Franklin, now a part of Tennessee.

The state had first been named "Frankland" but was changed to "Franklin" to solicit the support of Benjamin Franklin in achieving statehood. It had a governor, legislature, and court system, and defended its frontiers and traded with the Cherokees. What it needed was the support of North Carolina, the state from which it broke away, and the approval of the U.S. Congress. It failed to become a state by one vote in Congress: because of bad weather, the Rhode Island delegate could not get to Philadelphia in time to vote.

Davy Crockett was a Franklinite, born in 1786 in a cabin on the Nolichucky River—not on a mountain-top, as the song says. His birthplace is still a tourist stop. Thousands of descendants of the settlers of the "lost state" are listed in the Book of Records at the Tipton-Haynes Living Historic Farm near Johnson City, Tennessee. First Family Certificates attesting to descentance are available at the Farm.

The Lost State of Franklin Historical Commission observed Franklin's Bicentennial in 1985 and hopes to soon have a historical drama about the Lost State to be staged in northeast Tennessee.

So, if your aunt claims that her great-grandfather was born in the state of Franklin, believe her! Ω

TEXAS HISTORY 101

WW II Internment Camps in Texas

Although many Americans are aware of the World War II imprisonment of West Coast Japanese Americans in relocation centers, few know of the smaller internment camps operated by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Under the authority of the Department of Justice, the INS directed about twenty such facilities.

Texas had three of them, located at Seagoville, Kenedy, and Crystal City. Prisoners included Japanese Americans arrested by the FBI, members of Axis nationalities residing in Latin-American countries, and Axis sailors arrested in American ports after the attack on Pearl Harbor. About 3,000 Japanese, Germans, and Italians from Latin America were deported to the United States, and most of them were placed in Texas internment camps.

Twelve Latin-American countries gave the United States Department of State custody of the Axis nationals. Eighty percent of the prisoners were from Peru, and about 70 percent were Japanese. The official reasons for the deportations were to secure the Western Hemisphere from internal sabotage and to provide bartering pawns for exchange of American citizens captured by Japan. However, the Axis nationals were often deported arbitrarily as a result of racial prejudice and because they provided economic competition for the other Latin Americans, not because they were a security threat.

Eventually, very few Japanese ever saw Latin America again, although some Germans and Italians were returned to their Latin American homes. The majority of Texas internment-camp prisoners were Axis nationals from Latin America.

The Seagoville internment camp, built by the Bureau of Prisons as a minimum-security women's reformatory in 1941, held prisoners from Central and South America, married couples without children from the

United States, and about fifty Japanese language teachers from California. The facilities at Seagoville made it the most unusual camp operated by the INS. Twelve colonial-style, red-brick buildings with cream limestone trim were surrounded by spacious lawns. Paved sidewalks and roads connected the buildings, and visitors remarked that the camp resembled a college campus. Nevertheless, a high, woven-wire fence surrounded the camp, which had a single guarded entrance. A white line painted down the middle of the paved road that encircled the camp marked a boundary that internees could not pass.

The six dormitories had single or double rooms and were furnished with chests of drawers, desks, chairs, and beds. Communal laundry, bathing, and toilet facilities were located on all floors. Each dormitory had a kitchen with refrigerators, gas stove, and dishwasher, as well as a dining room with four-person maple tables, linen table coverings, cloth napkins, and china. Internees prepared their own food under supervision.

Other facilities at the Seagoville camp included a hospital and a large recreation building. A female doctor directed the hospital and supervised a staff of six physicians, ten registered nurses, a dentist, and a laboratory technician. The recreation building provided a variety of activities, such as ballet and stage productions performed by internees in the auditorium. In addition, the recreation building had orchestral instruments, twelve classrooms for English and music instruction, a multilanguage library, and sewing and weaving rooms. Outside activities included gardening, farming, tennis, baseball, badminton, and walking around the prison grounds.

Although conditions at the Seagoville camp were unusually comfortable for a prison environment, the internees did have some complaints. Many resented being held at a penal institution, which was still administered by a warden, Amy N. Stannard. The prisoners also disliked the censorship of their letters and the limit on their outgoing correspondence.

In late summer of 1942, the INS planned to reunite Japanese men from other internment camps with their families already at Seagoville. Anticipating this transfer, Seagoville received fifty one-room, eighteen-square-foot plywood huts from the INS detention camp at Santa Fe, New Mexico, and a large building was constructed as a kitchen and mess hall. Laundry rooms and separate male and female communal toilet and bath facilities were built.

The largest population interned at Seagoville was 647. In June 1945 the Seagoville alien enemy internment camp was closed and detainees were repatriated, paroled, or moved to other INS internment camps.

In contrast to Seagoville, the Kenedy Alien Detention Camp housed only men. Before World War II, the site was a Civilian Conservation Corps camp; Kenedy business owners, in an effort to increase local prosperity, lobbied the INS to use the camp as an internment station. The camp received its first large group of prisoners on April 23, 1942, and during the course of its existence housed more than 3,500 aliens. The United States Army took over the operation on October 1, 1944, and from then until the end of the war it housed wounded and disabled German prisoners of war.

Crystal City was the location of the largest internment camp administered by the INS and Department of Justice. To reduce hardships during internment and to reunite families, the INS originally intended to detain only Japanese at Crystal City, especially the many Latin-American Japanese families brought to the United States for internment pending repatriation. Germans and Italians, however, were also held in Crystal City. In the fall of 1942 the INS assumed ownership of the Farm Security Administration's migratory farmworkers' camp on the outskirts of Crystal City. ...Eventually, the INS spent more than a million dollars to construct more than 500 buildings on the camp's 290 acres. ...

Like the camps at Kenedy and Seagoville, the Crystal City internment camp provided jobs and revenue for the town. The first German internees arrived in December 1942. The first Japanese arrived from Seagoville on March 10, 1943. In addition, prisoners were taken to Crystal City from other INS internment camps in Hawaii and Alaska (not states at the time), the United States, Puerto Rico, the West Indies, and South and Central American countries. The population at Crystal City peaked at 3,326 in May 1945. ...

The camp was divided into separate sections for Germans and Japanese. Though no physical boundaries separated the two groups, they did not interact often. They had separate auditoriums, community centers, schools, and stores. ... Administrators assigned housing and set food allowances based on the age and size of families. Token money was issued accordingly, and families purchased food at a large grocery store. Two separate, large canteens were called the German General Store and the Japanese Union Store; these stores took tokens like the central grocery. The majority of store positions were held by internees... The Japanese were provided with special foods, such as soy sauce, tofu, seaweed, dried shrimp, and large quantities of rice. ...

In December 1945 more than 600 Peruvian Japanese left for Japan because the Peruvian government would not allow them to return to Peru. That same month, a similar number of Japanese were allowed to go home to Hawaii. Some prisoners resisted repatriation to Japan and were not allowed to return to Central and South America. In late 1947 the United States determined to let them stay.

November 1, 1947, more than two years after the end of World War II, the Crystal City internment camp closed—the last facility detaining alien enemies to do so. Ω

This is an item excerpted from *The New Handbook of Texas*, spotted by Frances James on the internet

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: Mike Potter

Secretary: Eva Jane Morgan

Treasurer: Eugene Gaddy

Historian: Carolyn Selzer

Membership: Mike Potter

Telephone: Sue Bucy

Sunshine: Mildred Coffey

Publicity: Pat Randolph

Newsletter: Marjori Sharp

Dallas County Pioneer Association



Founded 1875, Reorganized 1979

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