

Dallas County Pioneer Association

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

FALL 2003

QUARTERLY MEETING

When: Thursday, September 4, 2003
Catered Dinner: 6:00 p.m.
Program: 7:00 p.m.

Where: Family Hall of Royal Lane Baptist Church
Hillcrest Road and Royal Lane

What: Speaker—Clare Weakley on "The Dallas Hunting and Fishing Club"

Why: Interesting Dallas history, great fellowship, good food!

Make reservations by Tuesday September 2 by calling DCPA Call Notes at 214/969-0926, or Bill McRae at 214/521-8654.
Cost is \$8.00/plate.

In 1992 Clare G. Weakley, Jr., wrote a book, *The Dallas Hunting and Fishing Club*, a thorough research of the historical background of the oldest club of its type in Texas. Established in 1885, six months before the birth of *The Dallas Morning News*, it is Dallas' second oldest existing club (Idlewild, 1884). Clare's personal connection with it began in 1936 when his father joined and included eight-year-old Clare in his outings there.

The Club became a retreat for Dallas' leading businessmen, many of them Civil War veterans, where they came to know and respect each other, and, Clare says, it became the breeding ground for that renowned "Dallas Spirit".

Traditionally a businessman, Clare received a miraculous and unexpected call to Christ's ministry in 1956. He earned a Master of Theology degree at S M U in 1967, supporting his ministry through his insurance brokerage business.

"The Chaplain", as Clare is known, has over forty years' experience in his specialty of teaching and counseling. He is non-denominational, to better act as chaplain to all people. He has published five books on England's eighteenth century non-denominational Wesleyan revival, known as "The Wesley Library for Today's Readers." He has made eight visits to the USSR and has taught free enterprise business management and Christian business ethics at what is now the St. Petersburg International Management Institute.

Clare is listed in *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who in the World*, *Who's Who in Finance and Industry*, and *Who's Who in the South and Southwest*.

And, we are most happy to say that he is a cherished member of DCPA!

Sisters Susan Cargile and Jimmie Ruth Woodfin, who have done extensive research in locating the Pegasus sculptures that were displayed throughout the Dallas area last year, will have a display at our September meeting. They are still trying to locate five. Can you help?

Histoian Carolyn Selzer

FROM THE PRESIDENT

- **Clare Weakley** has volunteered to spearhead a project to interview DCPA members and others to record their impressions and stories of life before 1936. He will build a library of taped accounts for the DCPA archives. Those born before 1936 are part of the transition generation that has seen a tremendous change in the way we live and in the way we think and act. Clare has already interviewed many members of the Executive Committee and now wants to schedule interviews with the general membership of the Association. This oral history project should be invaluable to those who follow us. Please contact Clare (972/497-9590) if you are willing to be interviewed.

- A large portion of our civic activity is holding funds for small cemeteries around the County and paying maintenance items out of their accounts. **Frances James** is the county-wide expert on cemeteries, but we need DCPA members from each area of the County to act as coordinators for cemeteries in their area. If you are willing to act in this capacity, please contact me at 214/521-8654. This group of volunteers is envisioned as a standing committee within our Association.

- The DCPA has received a large fund of money for maintenance of the Western Hills Cemetery in west Dallas. Rolling Hills Church of Christ in DeSoto no longer wanted this responsibility and has turned over the fund to DCPA. The Cemetery not only contains the graves of many pioneers, but also contains the grave of notorious outlaw **Clyde Barrow** of "Bonnie and Clyde" infamy.

- **Jim Foster** has published another book! His latest book is entitled *Cottonwood's Pioneer Cemetery*. Congratulations, Jim! I asked Jim how he had time to accomplish all that he does and he answered, "I don't sleep much!"

- The next Cemetery Bus Tour led by Frances James will be conducted on November 1. These tours fill up fast, so make your reservations early.

- The Fifth Annual Legacies Dallas History Conference will be held Saturday morning, September 20, at the Dallas Central Library. The Conference will begin at 8:30 a.m. and will last a half day. Mark your

calendar for this Conference. Subjects will be people who made a difference in Dallas.

- It's time to think about selecting Association officers for 2004. **Nancy McRae** will chair a Nominating Committee consisting of **Mary Webb Davis, Frances James, Irma Janicek, Luther McCommas, and June Shipley**. Please contact any of these members with your nominations for officers or with your desire to serve as an officer of the Association.

- DCPA has a web site on the internet! Thanks to **Jennifer Vilbig**, the Association has a domain name and a UIL (internet address) of <http://dallaspioneer.org>. This should greatly widen our reach to people interested in Dallas history as well as give us expanded opportunities to advertise and sell our publications. Jennifer has accomplished this work as her project for a Girl Scout Gold Award. Check out the site and then send Jennifer an email at jvilbig@comcast.net to let her know what you think of her work. Many thanks, Jennifer!

- **Dr. Rose-Mary Rumbley** sent a nice letter thanking the Association for making her an Honorary Member. In her letter she commented, "You are dear, dear people, and I am 'Proud to know you'".

- Publicity Chair **Pat Randolph** continues to work with Border's Books to sell *Proud Heritage, Volume III*. The first volumes tendered have sold and a second group has been placed for sale. Thanks for your efforts, Pat!

- There is no Sunshine Report this time, because our Sunshine Lady, **Millie Coffey**, is recuperating from a broken leg! Best wishes, Millie!

Bill McRae

MINUTES OF MEETING JUNE 5

The June 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 Tyson Binford, Charles Barry Eaton,**

and **W. Kent Adair**, Pioneer Life Member.

Dr. Rose-Mary Rumbley was awarded an Honorary Membership.

Special Recognition Awards were given to **Jennifer** and **Tommy Vilbig**.

Mike Hazel assured members that photos and other items will be returned to them by the Museum of Dallas History.

"New Material You May Not Know About Dallas" was presented by **Dr. Rumbley** as the evening's program.

We want to thank **Luther McCommas** for the beautiful quilt display at **Historian Carolyn Selzer's** table.

A meeting of the Executive Committee immediately followed the adjournment.

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

FINAL FAREWELL

Services were held July 22 for **Anna Smith Peters** at Restland Memorial Chapel with interment at Restland.

Anna had been a member of DCPA since 1997 and attended meetings faithfully with friend **Mackie Dealey** until failing health some months ago. **Anna** was a longtime member of the Heritage Society and a dedicated volunteer at Old City Park, where she served as president of the Herb Society. She was also a member of the Dallas Women's Forum, the Seekers Antique Club, Dallas Southern Memorial Association, Swingin' Saints Square Dance Club, the Preston Citadel Club, and St. Andrews Presbyterian Church.

Anna is survived by her son, **Robert Matthew Peters**; son **David A. Peters** and his wife, **Trennis**; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Ω

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

• We welcome another descendant of the first family of Beemans who came to Dallas County. **William Edwin Beeman** is the grandson of **John S. Beeman**, a nephew of **John** and **James J. Beeman**, who brought his family on the trip with them and arrived in the very early 1840s. **William** and his wife, nee **Helen Elizabeth Martin**, are our newest members.

John and **James** urged their brother in Illinois to come to the "Three Forks of the Trinity" and **John S.** also wrote to his parents, urging them to come. Consequently, his parents, **Mary Ann Smelser** and **Samuel Beeman** came to the County in 1847 and were among the founding members of the DCPA in 1875. **Samuel** was a veteran of the War of 1812.

Samuel and **Mary Ann** brought some of their children, including **Peter Carpenter Smelser Beeman**, who married **Matilda Caroline Riggs**, and they became the parents of **William Anderson**. He married **Eula Jane Gilliland** and they were **William Edwin's** parents.

William is a retired math professor of the University of Texas at Arlington. He and **Helen** have three daughters: **Anne Louise**, **Karen Elizabeth**, and **Helen Gail**. They live at 1406 W. Tucker Boulevard, Arlington 76013, and their phone number is 817/275-3985.

• We also welcome to membership **Leola Ramsey Searles**, who is a teacher in the DISD, and a member of the DAR.

Leola's first ancestors in Dallas County were **James Franklin Ramsey** and his wife, **Margaret M. Stewart**. They came in 1872 from Georgia and settled south of Garland. Their son, **Frank L.**, married **Maude Jackson Meyers**, and their son, **J. Frank**, married **Nola Irene Taber**. They were the parents of **Leola**, who married **Jonathan W. Searles**.

James F. Ramsey was a farmer and raised Indian horses and Durham cattle. He served as deputy sheriff

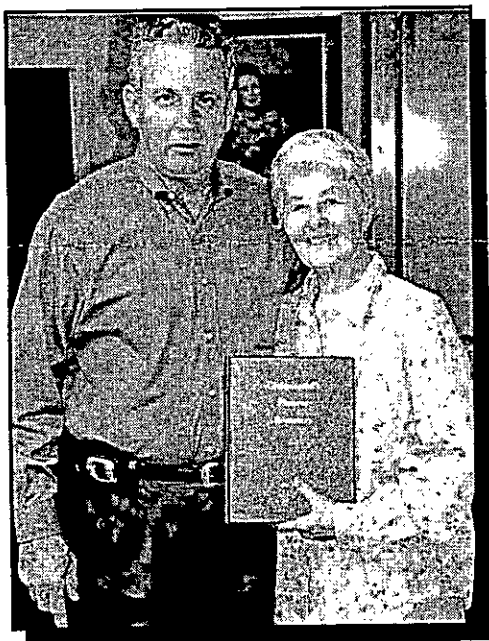
for five years in Dallas County and was a member of the Masonic Order, Duck Creek Lodge #441 and #304, IOOF, and the Knights of Honor. He and Margaret were members of the Presbyterian church.

Leola and Jonathan live at 4105 Candlenut, 75244, phone number 972/484-2595. Ω

"CEMETERY LADY" PRESENTED PIONEER CEMETERY BOOK

Dallas County Pioneer Association members **Frances James** and **Jim Foster** continue their work toward preserving the history of our Dallas County pioneers.

Jim presented Frances, official "Cemetery Lady" of Dallas County, with a copy of his latest book, entitled *Cottonwood's Pioneer Cemetery*, during DCPA's Executive Committee meeting earlier this month.



The first marked grave in this pioneer cemetery dates back to 1875. The cemetery still remains in unincorporated Dallas County, located northeast of Rowlett at Vinson and Whitely Roads. Jim has applied for state historical status and is hopeful that word of historical declaration will be received in time for a formal dedication this fall.

This is Jim's fourth historical book on northeastern Dallas County to be published since 1997. The others are *The Bois D'arc of Nacogdoches*, Vol. I and Vol. II, and *Pleasant Valley's Pioneer Cemetery*.

Jim is also heading up the committee in charge of preparing a book about recollections on pioneer families and early settlers in and around the Rowlett area. Any photos or stories you may have pertaining to the history of the Rowlett area families, churches, cemeteries, or businesses, would be greatly appreciated. You may reach him at 214/942-2119. Ω

RECOGNITION FOR LOVE FIELD—FINALLY!

by Frances James

Recently, a Texas Historical Marker was dedicated by Mayor **Laura Miller** and others for Love Field. This was long overdue, as several years ago someone attempted to generate some interest for this historic site and was rebuffed. In 1970, **Sam Acheson** published parts of the information in the history of Love Field compiled by **Mary Jacobie**, who was a granddaughter of **William B. Taylor** and was born on this land. The following is excerpted from her information and Sam Acheson's article.

The land for Love Field was a portion of the Dickerson Parker Survey, and in 1866 Civil War veteran **William Berry Taylor** (1844-1929) rode on horseback to Palestine to purchase 400 acres from the Parker heirs, **Mary Parker Curry** and her husband, **Isaac J. Curry**. They were paid \$2.50 an acre.

William Taylor met and soon married **Zuleika Bachman**, the daughter of Rev. **John B. Bachman**, and his wife, **Margaret Hughes Bachman**, who owned the land just north of this survey. They had five children before she died, still a young woman, in 1883. In 1903 William Taylor's estate was divided among his five children. These descendants, who still farmed and had a dairy on the land, sold nearly fifty acres to the City of Dallas for the creation of Bachman's Dam. They were paid \$7,000.

In 1917 the United States government chose the spot south of Bachman's Lake on which to locate a training school for pilots. The Dallas Chamber of Commerce and Manufacturers Association bought some of the Taylor land at this time and leased it to the government for a flying school. One of William Taylor's sons, **William Stephen**, sold 111 acres, but kept a strip next to the Lake and the original colonial farm home. Another son, **Fletcher Floyd**, sold 190 acres, keeping his home and ten acres along Lemmon Avenue just north of the old airport terminal. **Margaret Taylor Root** (Mrs. John Poole Root) sold her acreage and her home. The Chamber also bought land from **J.M. Cochran** and **J.B. Wright**. The government had the option of buying all of this land when the War (World War I) was over.

The federal government did not exercise this option to buy, so the citizens of Dallas formed a Trust Estate called the Love Field Industrial District on June 6, 1920. The trustees of this organization were **Lewis Lipstitz**, **C.W. Hobson**, **J.E. Lawther**, **T.E. Jackson**, and **Lewis T. Carpenter**. They raised \$83,187.62 by selling shares to the people of Dallas. With this money the Love Field Industrial District purchased the Taylor land and adjoining acreage from the Dallas Chamber of Commerce and Manufacturers Association. (This was all in the name of **S.D. Hanley**, who allowed his name to be used on the deeds.)

Aviation plays a large role in the economy of Dallas County. The weather in Texas provides safe conditions for flying into and out of all the airports a majority of the year. Love Field is really an asset for Dallas and Southwest Airlines may be one of the only airlines in the United States that made a profit last year! It all started on the Taylors' farmland. William and Zuleika were members of the Cochran Chapel Methodist Church and are buried in the Cochran Chapel Cemetery with other family and friends.

Footnote: Obituaries in *The Dallas Morning News*, August 15, 2003: "**Frances Root Pace** was born into a pioneer family on August 3, 1906, the only child of **Margaret Ada Taylor** and **Frank Poole Root**." (She, too, was buried at Cochran Chapel Cemetery.) Ω

THANK YOU and GET WELL, JAMES

Carolyn Selzer

James Guinn, an important member of our book committee for *DCPA Proud Heritage*, Vol. III, is very ill at home. A pump attached to his spine is controlling the pain.

James proof-read our book and put many hours into this project. We want to again express our appreciation to him and let him know he is in our prayers. His elderly mother, who resides with him, also needs our prayers.

James would love to have a card or a call from you. Ω

THE DALLAS SPIRIT

Its seedbed and hothouse

by Clare Weakley

It can be said the Dallas Spirit was first planted here when the visionary **John Neely Bryan** arrived in November 1841. More of these early dreamers and schemers soon followed him. **Alex Cockrell**, owner of an ox cart transportation enterprise, was one of these. Cockrell bought the town from Bryan on August 7, 1851(?) for \$7,000 when only eighty-six lots had been sold. Cockrell became Dallas' first "lead belly" by stopping a load of buckshot on April 3, 1858. Using Alex's debts and assets as a foundation, his widow, **Sarah**, improved Dallas' image and prospered.

But Dallas was still a little two-horse town yet to burn to the ground (1860) and suffer the deprivations of the Civil War and its Reconstruction aftermath. Because of those calamities, Dallas became the right place at the right time to attract the men who turned it into the largest city in Texas, the Queen City of Texas, and the only one with north-south (1872) and east-west (1873) railroad trackage crossing in the city.

The end of the Civil War (1865) caused defeated Confederate officers to find new places, away from the devastated "Old South", to exercise their entrepre-

neural energy. These were the men who came to Dallas, started businesses, and raised it from its "ashes"—its black dirt—like the Phoenix:

These former Confederate officers were the men who created Texas' first country club, the Dallas Hunting and Fishing Club, an informal fraternal fellowship.

The Club was where these Dallas leaders came to play, and plot great things for their town. There they "occasionally" drank a little whiskey, had long-lasting poker games, hunted, fished, and schemed together. And Dallas grew! Ω

DALLAS COUNTY HISTORY 101

Company Post Offices of Dallas County, Texas

by Eugene Gaddy

During the early 1900s there were two Dallas County, Texas post offices that existed to primarily serve industrial companies and their employees. The *Cement* and *Gates* post offices were in the industrial area of West Dallas along the Texas and Pacific Railway (figure 1).

Cement was located at the Texas Portland Cement Company plant, adjacent to and south of the Texas and Pacific Railway, three miles west of the Dallas County courthouse. The community was referred to as *Cement City* and included the area generally west of the

present Hampton Road and north and south of West Commerce Street. The original plant and company housing no longer exist and the area is an industrial development.

The *Cement* post office was established 19 July 1907 with the appointment of Jesse W. DeFever as postmaster. He was probably a company employee but was not found in the 1900 or 1910 census. The second postmaster, Lynn Weatherford, was appointed 12 September 1910. The 1910 census shows Weatherford living in cement company housing and his occupation as "bookkeeper-cement plant". This census also shows Lloyd Whitsitt as "clerk-post office" and John Robertson as "mail carrier-cement plant". It would appear that Weatherford's postmaster duties were done by Whitsitt and Robertson. On 21 January 1913, Lloyd Whitsitt was appointed the third and last postmaster of *Cement*. The office was closed on 30 April 1915 and the mail was directed to Dallas.

Postal items from *Cement* are not scarce, and an example is shown in figures 2 and 3. The cement company sent business correspondence to customers and there was a large number of employees. The post office also served an area of West Dallas that extended past the company property.

Gates was at the Texas Company petroleum refinery and storage plant, only one and one-half miles west of

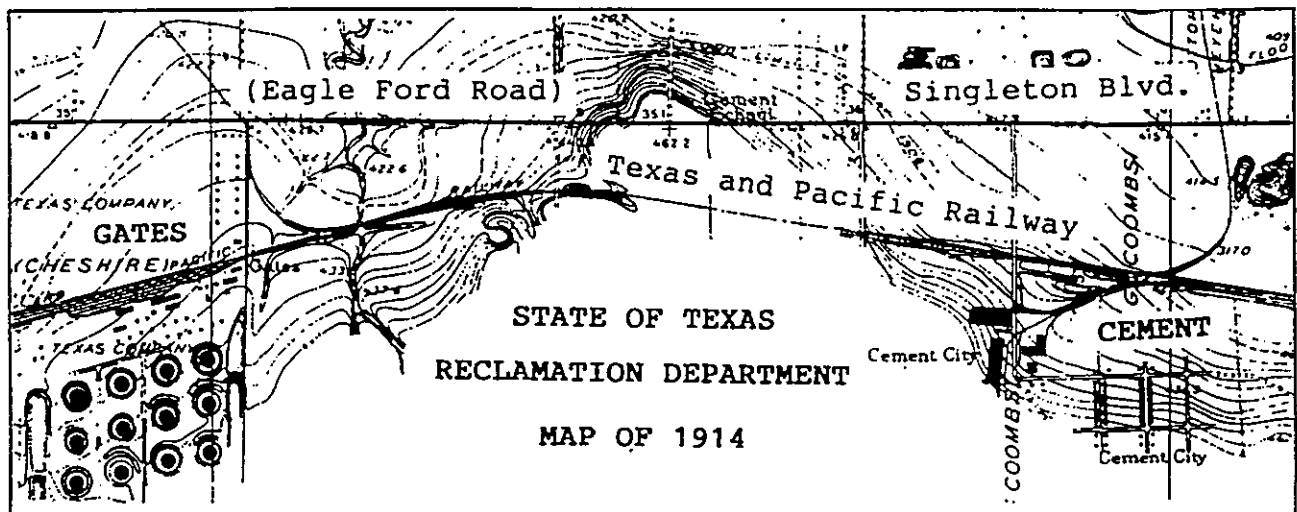


Figure 1. Detailed Map of Gates and Cement -- 1914, adjacent to the T&PRR

Cement and one mile east of the *Eagle Ford* post office. This was one of the earliest facilities of now Texaco. The post office was probably named for **John Warne Gates**, one of the founders and the major stock holder of The Texas Company. The refinery and storage tanks were adjacent to and south of the Texas and Pacific Railway. Company housing was provided north of the railroad and south of Singleton Boulevard. The present Norwich Street is along the east side of the site. The property between the T&P and Singleton is still owned by Texaco and is now a gasoline distribution facility. The refinery and storage tanks south of the railroad are now gone. Employee housing has also been removed.

The *Gates* post office was opened on 15 July 1908 with the appointment of **E.M. Burlington** as first postmaster. Burlington has not been found in the 1910 census; but was probably a company employee. The second postmaster, appointed 7 January 1910 was **James B. Saint**, who is shown on the 1910 census as "office manager-oil refinery". He was a renter in the "Village of Gates on Eagle Ford Road". Also a renter in Gates was **Addison D. Walker**. In 1910

Walker's occupation was "telegrapher-railroad". On 10 October 1913 Walker became the third and last

postmaster of *Gates*. Probably for both Saint and Walker the postmaster job was part-time. The railroad sidings shown on the map give an indication of the joint activities of the railroad and the company. The *Gates* post office was closed on 22 November 1918.

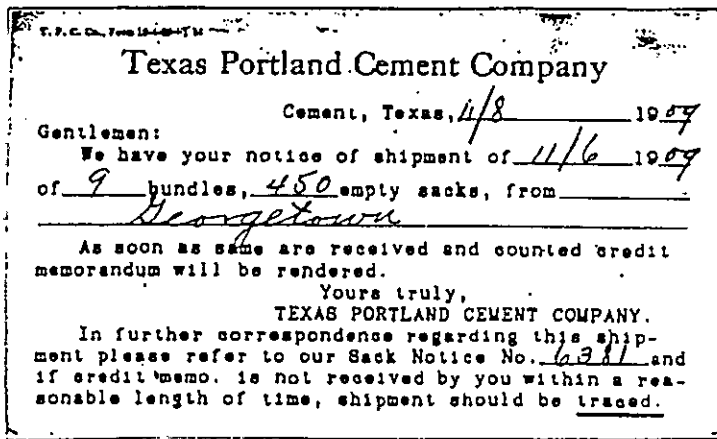
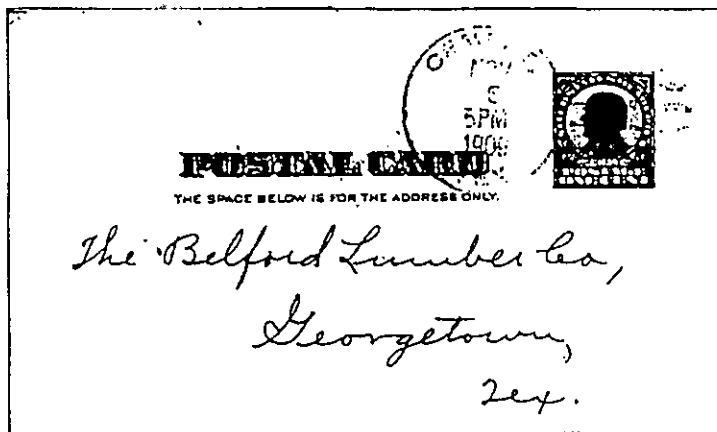
Postal items from *Gates* appear to be fairly scarce. The facility's business correspondence would be expected to be the responsibility of an off-site corporate office and the number of employees was never great. The author has seen only one, the item shown below. The postmark date is September 21,

1910. The card, probably from a new refinery worker states, "This is some fine job, not."

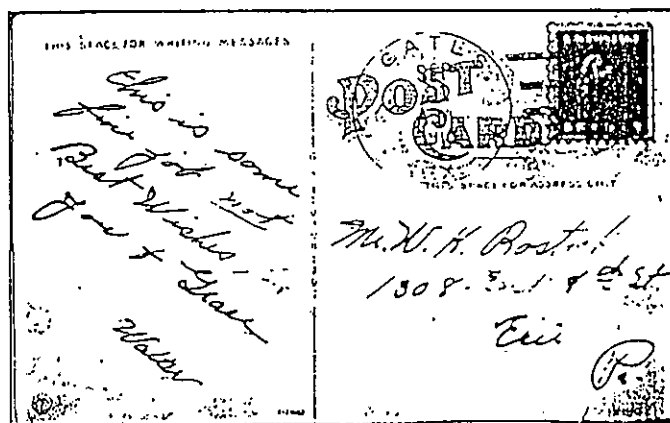
Cement and *Gates* represent situations not common to north Texas post offices.

The area was served by a rural route, but the companies saw the need for full post office service. Transportation for the labor forces at the facilities was limited and most of the employees were from other areas. These two post offices certainly were a benefit to the workers.

They were not terminated because of a revision of



Figures 2 & 3. Front and back of postal card postmarked at Cement, Tex, on Nov. 8, 1909. This is typical business correspondence from the Texas Portland Cement Company.



business, but because the employees gained transportation to the nearby post offices of Dallas to the east and Eagle Ford to the west. Ω

This is a reprint from an article Gene wrote for the December 2002-January 2003 issue of La Posta: A Journal of American Postal History, published in Scappoose, Oregon.

DCPA MEMBER FEATURED IN LOCAL MAGAZINE

DCPA member **Susi Thompson** was cited in a story by **Hailey Terrell**, "Back to the City", in the July 2003 issue of *Dallas/Fort Worth House & Home*.

The story concerns the salvage of a historic property in Oak Cliff, christened "Bishop Green" by **David Spence** and **Trey Bartosh** of Good Spaces, who have rescued and restored several significant "really bombed out buildings vacant for years and left to the pigeons and gang members" (Spence). Bishop Green, an abandoned pair of quadruplexes, is now side-by-side buildings with six units, with most of the one-third-acre site green space.

Quoting Terrell, "After Susi Thompson of Thompson Landscape Architects worked her magic, this property won the Award of Excellence from the American Society of Landscape Architects. She won the top honor of the year by using primarily recycled goods.

"'We got on a recycling kick here,' says Spence. 'Plants and bricks were recycled from demolition sites and there's an old fence from Highland Park.' More than 40 tons of concrete that Good Spaces removed from the parking area were reused in place of stone for retaining walls, sidewalks and planting borders."

We hope Spence and Bartosh can work a DCPA program on their restorations in the Bishop Arts District into their schedule in the near future. Maybe **Jim Foster** can help us: he installed the security system in The Bishop Arts Building, where both Good Spaces and Thompson Landscape Architects have offices. This is another historic building restored by Good Spaces. Ω

FALL WORKSHOPS PLANNED

by **Lottie McWilliams**

The Mesquite Historical and Genealogical Society will present **John H. Sellers**, who will speak on Texas Courthouses, at their fall workshop.

Mr. Sellers is a fifth generation native of Hopkins County, Texas, and an advertising/public relations graduate of Texas Tech University with a teaching certificate in history from Texas A&M, Commerce. Areas to be covered are:

- Gleaning the most important information from various courthouse record groups; unusual finds in common records such as deeds.
- Divorce, civil and criminal cases, and exparte cases.
- Probate research including wills, probate minutes, guardianships, inventories; courthouse research concerning land records.
- Using deed indexes and how to access deed records to prove relationship, deed contents and their meaning, affidavits of heirship.

The seminar will be presented Saturday, September 27, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Mimosa Lane Baptist Church. For additional information contact **Sue Hart** @ 972/288-6648, or **Marjorie Bays** @ 972/285-3777.

Covered in the Mid-Cities Genealogical Society fall workshop on Saturday, October 4 at Legacy Church of Christ in N. Richland Hills, will be discussions of Newspaper Research Beyond Obituaries, "Wife Unknown", and underused resources at college and university libraries. **Pat Gordon**, a newspaper reporter with a masters in journalism and currently teaching at a local university, will lead the seminar. For information contact **Jane Aronhalt** @ 817/285-9945.

Lloyd Bockstruck will speak on Saturday, October 25, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., highlighting the basics and not-so-basics needed to research Texas ancestors in the most cosmopolitan state in the Union. Lloyd will enlighten us on "finding aids" in both print and on-line

to extend pedigrees into the past, beyond Texas. Registration forms and location details are available from Dallas Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 12446, Dallas 75225-0446 and www.dallasgenealogy.org. Ω

MAINTAINING TEXAS BURIAL SITES: EVERYONE'S HELP IS NEEDED

by Frances James

There are two things in life that are beyond an individual's control—death and taxes. Since I have been a member of the Dallas County Pioneer Association I have spent a great deal of my time and effort trying to protect the sacred places our ancestors in Dallas County were buried. I do believe that in the last twenty years there is now more interest and concern in cemeteries than there had been.

In Dallas County there are more than 200 small cemeteries. Most do not have perpetual care. Some of these do have neighbors who maintain and watch over them. Some have organizations that were formed many years ago, who carefully guard the limited funds, send out annual letters of support, collect annual dues, or have workdays to maintain the sites. Then there are those who either left no descendants, or the descendants do not care enough to take charge.

Through the years Texas Historical Markers have been applied for to preserve the history of these sites. More recently, the newest program adopted by the State Historical Commission is to register these sites as Historic Texas Cemeteries. This designation provides for the site to be entered on the County Records. There are now about six of these so designated; some had Texas Historical Markers already. The DCPA has provided the \$25 registration fee that is required on some of these. Neither of these designations, unfortunately, offers protection from vandals, developers, bad neighbors, or felonies, thefts, or dumping. The Dallas Park Department maintains several sites, but that is mowing only and no preservation of the gravemarkers or headstones.

Even the cemeteries that have perpetual care have suffered from the economy or poor management of the endowments. When our ancestors purchased a lot or plot in the perpetual care cemetery, they may have paid \$30 apiece. We all know there is not much income from a small endowment, and the forefathers who put together the by-laws for these endowments specified the principal could not be spent, only the interest income could be spent on maintenance.

Some of the most beautiful sculptures in Dallas County are in our cemeteries. If you think about it, these monuments were brought here, probably by a wagon, from a distant stone quarry—those made from granite or marble were not stone from a local rock quarry.

As soon as Dallas County had settlers, it was only days or months until someone in the family died. These first settlers picked a site and buried on the farm. Some managed to join together, set aside a site, and establish a community burying ground. In certain corners of the County the churches had land next to them that was used as a graveyard. If the church moved or burned the cemetery was still there. As the area evolved from farm land to town and then to cities with additions from time to time, the cemeteries did not always receive the respect they should have.

One of the problems is, that even though you discover the cemetery site, on a list or maybe even the block and lot number, if you cannot get through the brambles and high weeds, you have not discovered your ancestor's grave.

If persons appeared in Dallas County with no money (long before Social Security or other forms of identification) and died, they were buried as paupers, usually in an unmarked grave. After about fifty years, the County kept some form of record, usually difficult to find who had the record, and if found the employees were reluctant to go look it up. Finally, the County was given permission by the State to charge for the research and a few more dollars were collected. Then

there were discussions between the City and County as to whose job this was, anyway, to bury or keep the record. There are many people buried in Dallas County whose whereabouts are known only to God!

The Dallas Genealogy Society takes and records inventories, and the Eighth Floor of the downtown library has cabinets full of records available for research on the families and records for some of the cemeteries. Many volunteers are usually there to help direct the person to the correct file. Through their efforts money was raised to reconfigure this space, and their funds purchase new records and census when it becomes available. They have printed material, books, and other items for sale. Seminars that focus on different aspects of family history are planned in advance.

With the modern devices called computers, there are more and more web sites available that have information from all over the world. Dallas has history buffs who have made this their full time job to disperse this information. Much of it is free.

The Boy Scouts have done a magnificent job of volunteering the clean-up and/or inventory of many of the abandoned sites. With the long growing season in Texas, once a year is not really enough. It gets very hot in the summer, along with the poison ivy, the chiggers are rampant, and busy Moms and Dads rearrange their schedules to make this clean-up happen, across town or the County. The Boy Scouts do community service or receive their Eagle badge for their efforts. Eagle Scout is the highest award that Scouting has. This is an asset for the Scout all of his life: as he enters this on a resume, this sets him aside from others.

Dallas County Pioneer Association, as the oldest historical organization in Dallas County, is dedicated to preserving the history of Dallas County. In the list of four objectives of this organization, one covers the cemeteries. It says: To foster the preservation of historical sites, street and place names, documents,

and relics. This is a big job. If you would like to be more active, join the ones who remain actively engaged. There is enough work to share. Ω



Old-fashioned lemonade

Try lemonade the way it was made when folks had a little extra time and needed relief from the summer heat before the invention of the air conditioner. This recipe dates back to the 1800s.

4 lemons
1 cup sugar
1 quart water

To make it: Peel the rinds from the lemons with a paring knife, and cut them into slices. Set the lemons aside. Place the rinds in a mixing bowl, and sprinkle the sugar over them. Let stand for one hour so that the sugar begins to soak up the lemon oil. Bring the water to a boil in a covered saucepan, and carefully pour the hot water over the sugared lemon rinds.

Allow the mixture to cool for 20 minutes, and then remove the rinds with a mixing spoon. Squeeze the lemons into another bowl, then pour the juice through a strainer into the sugar mixture. Stir the mixture well, pour it into a pitcher, and refrigerate. Serve with ice cubes. Makes about four 8-ounce glasses.

Legacies 5th Dallas History Conference

"People Who Shaped Dallas"

Saturday, September 20, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

J. Erik Jonsson Central Library

1515 Young Steet

Call 214/421-5141 x3000

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

P.O. Box 12496

Dallas, Texas 75225-0496

214/969-0926