



Dallas County Pioneer Association

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

SUMMER 2004

QUARTERLY MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2004

Family Hall
Royal Lane Baptist Church
Hillcrest Road and Royal Lane

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

Make reservations by Tuesday June 1
Through DCPA Call Notes @ 214-969-0926

Program 7 p.m.
Rose-Mary Rumbley, "Dallas Parks Department"

Program Chairman **Eva Jane Morgan** is bringing us a program with everyone's favorite, **Dr. Rose-Mary Rumbley**. Rose-Mary is an Honorary member of DCPA and a longtime friend.

Dr. Rumbley, head of RMR Communications, is a public speaker in demand, actress, historian, teacher, columnist, playwright, tour guide (not just for Dallas: we recently enjoyed her experienced and entertaining commentary on a trip to the George Bush Library in College Station). We all have her books and plays about family life and education in Dallas on our bookshelves and anticipate the one she is currently working on.

Dr. Rumbley has a doctorate in communications from North Texas State University and was head of the Drama Department at Dallas Baptist University for twelve years.

You don't want to miss Rose-Mary Rumbley. We not only learn something new from an evening with her: we are entertained, and hope for a quote about her mentor, **Dr. W.A. Criswell**, delivered in an excellent rendition of his booming voice.

* * *

Our members are in for a real patriotic treat for our June table display. No one has worked harder than our own **Lloyd White** to acknowledge our veterans of many wars. He will share with us pictures of the many memorials he has worked on over the past years!! This will include the Spanish-American War, Korean War, 112th Cavalry Division who served in the South Pacific, the U.S. Arizonas' ten Dallas boys killed at Pearl Harbor, 36th Army Infantry Division who were in major battles in Italy and France in World War II, Texas National Guard, Gold Star Mothers, and much more!! Thank you, Lloyd, for honoring these service personnel and for sharing your information and hard work with us.

Carolyn Selzer, historian

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The old Pioneers would almost always close their meetings by singing "God Be With You, 'til We Meet Again".

I'm beginning to think that we need to start doing the same. It seems like more and more of our senior members are passing on. While we can never fill the void that they have left behind, we do need to step up to the plate and actively begin recruiting new members, if we want the DCPA to continue playing a vital role toward preserving the history and heritage of Dallas County.

The DCPA also needs to begin recognizing our community leaders and encouraging them to spread the word about Dallas County's best-kept secret. Let us all resolve that this will be the year that we spread the word.

Cottonwood Cemetery in unincorporated northeast Dallas County will hold its official Texas Historical Cemetery Dedication at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 5. Plans are under way for Congressman **Ralph Hall** to deliver the keynote address. The Cemetery is located at the corner of Vinson and Whitely Roads.

Your Board of Directors has announced that the DCPA will again serve as one of the sponsors for the Annual *Legacies* Dallas History Conference, the Sixth. This year's Conference will take place at the downtown Dallas Public Library on Saturday, September 18, and will run from 8:30 a.m. through 1:00 p.m.

One of my ancestors, **Thomas K. Flowers**, was featured in the just-released book entitled *A History of Rowlett*. He was born in Wilson County, Tennessee on December 25, 1840. He rented land on the Red River around 1865 before buying 200 acres near Rowlett around 1872. His second wife was **Martha Jane Hamilton**, whose grandfather, Colonel **Robert S. Hamilton**, was born in 1783 and immigrated to the United States from Scotland in 1807. He settled at

Granville County, North Carolina, but later moved to an area of the Red River which was claimed by both Arkansas and Texas. He arrived there, a single man, on December 15, 1834, according to a statement he made before the Red River County Commissioners in 1838.

Hamilton, a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence, was one of the five men sent by the Red River District to Washington-on-the-Brazos in 1836. Then, along with **George C. Childress**, he was appointed to go to Washington, D.C. in an effort to gain recognition of Texas' independence and to establish a commercial trade relationship with the United States. President **Sam Houston** later appointed him Chief Justice of Red River County.

T. K. Flowers' daughter, **Willie Flowers Carlisle**, was well known for her 1948 book entitled *Old Cemeteries of Dallas County*. This rare book is especially important since many of the names and headstones listed have since been lost due to vandalism.

Flowers was a Democrat, a Civil War veteran, a member of the Knight of Honor Lodge, a member of the historic Dallas Hunting and Fishing Club, and a charter member of the Dallas County Pioneer Association. Ω

Jim Foster

SPREADING SUNSHINE

We have lost two members and the mother of a member, and I have sent sympathy cards to each family. They were **Willie Beeman**, wife of **William B. Beeman**; **Robert M. Skiles**, husband of **Gladys Skiles**; and **Eva Mae Guinn**, mother of **James M. Guinn**. Ω **Millie Coffey**, Sunshine chair

Note: Our Sunshine Lady, **Millie Coffey**, is beside herself with joy at being up on her feet—albeit aided by a 4-footed cane—for the first time in over a year! Surgery helped!

MINUTES OF MEETING MARCH 4

The Dallas County Pioneer Association met on Thursday, March 4, 2004, at the Royal Lane Methodist Church, at 6 p.m. for dinner.

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by President **Jim Foster**. President Foster asked Vice-President **Clare Weakley** to proceed with the meeting because Jim had another meeting to attend.

Vice-President Weakley asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and to the Texas flags.

New members and visitors were acknowledged by Clare, then he asked **Bill** and **Nancy McRae** to come forward. He presented a Certificate of Recognition to Bill and Nancy for their years of outstanding service to the DCPA and to Dallas.

Frances James gave a report on the Dallas cemeteries. There is a man who will take care of the upkeep of abandoned cemeteries in Dallas County.

Clare introduced our speaker, **David Schulz**, chairman of the restoration of "Old Red" (historic Dallas County Courthouse).

With the oldtime benediction, "God be with you 'til we meet again", Clare closed the meeting at 8 p.m. Ω
Irma Janicek, secretary

FINAL FAREWELLS

We said goodbye to **Willie Roye Beeman**, wife of **William B. Beeman**, on April 6.

Willie was born in Lampasas County ninety years ago and attended schools in Wichita Falls and the University of North Texas before marrying William in 1936. They moved to Dallas in 1939, where they were active in Skillman Church of Christ and in raising two

children and three grandchildren, after the death of their father.

Willie is survived by her husband, two children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Services were held at Skillman Church of Christ, with burial at Restland.

Robert M. Skiles, descendant of Dallas pioneers, passed away in March and was buried in Restland Memorial Park. Robert and his wife **Gladys** have been longtime members of DCPA.

Robert was a descendant of **Sara** and **Jacob Skiles**, who came with thirty families from Kentucky to Dallas County in 1852. He took a degree in Civil Engineering from SMU and was a self-employed engineer for forty-eight years. Robert traveled abroad and all over the U.S. tracing his family tree and writing the family history.

He is survived by his wife **Gladys**, sons **Philip** and **John Skiles**, brother and sister-in-law **Raymond** and **Helen Skiles**, sister **Jean Phillips**, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

We are saddened by the death of **Eva Mae Guinn**, mother of our **James M. Guinn**, early in March. Mrs. Guinn was ninety-seven years old and leaves James as her only immediate survivor.

James, who has been incapacitated for some time by problems stemming from a broken hip, was an invaluable contributor to our *Proud Heritage, Volume III*. He had moved to his mother's home on Elmwood to care for her. Services were held at Laurel Land Memorial Chapel.

We extend our sympathies and best wishes to each of these families in the loss of their loved ones. We shall miss them, too. Ω

HELP!!! WE NEED A RESERVATIONS CHAIR FOR OUR DINNER MEETINGS. WANNA VOLUNTEER?
CALL JIM FOSTER, 214-942-2119

FROM THE DALLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY

March 11, 2004

Dear Dallas County Pioneer Association members:

On behalf of the Texas/Dallas History and Archives Division of the Dallas Public Library, I want to thank you for your generous gift honoring Bill and Nancy McRae's service as leaders in the Dallas County Pioneer Association.

With the funds you donated, we were able to purchase a wonderful photographic scrapbook documenting the training that the Texas Wing of the Civil Air Patrol provided to a group of foreign cadet pilots during the summer of 1950. Flying lessons were offered at Grand Prairie Airport and Hensley Field, and the cadets spent their free time experiencing Texas hospitality at Fair Park and at parties in private homes. All of this is documented in an excellent series of photographs that are fully identified. The scrapbook also includes a three-page typed history detailing the cadets' experiences and a souvenir program.

One regular aviation researcher has already ordered copy prints of some of the airport images for an upcoming book, and we plan to make a number of photographs available via our online catalog. I would invite any Pioneer Association member interested in looking at the Civil Air Patrol Foreign Cadet Exchange scrapbook to visit us on the seventh floor of the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library. It is truly a fitting gift in honor of a couple that has meant so much to the Association, and we are grateful for your longstanding support.

Sincerely,
/s/ Carol Roark, Manager
Texas/Dallas History and Archives Division

Note: We had this note from Bill on March 29: Marjori, Nancy and I were so stunned at the recognition and honor we received at the last DCPA meeting

that we didn't properly respond. [We thought they did!] This letter (copy) from Carol Roark brought to our attention again how much thought and work went into this recognition. We are truly appreciative! See ya! Bill

PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

by Clare Weakley

Friends, please be meditating on these items that are open from the last meeting.

I am working on the By-laws revision. The revision will need Board approval, so it will be a long meeting if I wait 'til then to tell you what is cooking. Here are some items for your meditations.

1. A second vice-president to be added, as requested by President **Jim Foster**. I suggest this office always be filled by a past president, with no duties attached. Jim wants a parachute to take over if the president and vice-president are both out at the same time. A past president would always be capable of handling the duties on short notice, if not asked to continue too long in the office.

Perhaps we can create an office titled "President Emeritus" to be automatically filled by the most recently retired, but still active, president. Thus, the President Emeritus would be **Bill McRae** if he remains an active member, next would be **Nancy McRae**, and next in line would be **Frances James**.

This could be an automatic appointment, not requiring nomination and election.

2. Cemetery trusts. We need to add an article concerning the cemetery money we have taken in and make acknowledgement of the responsibilities we have assumed. There should be a committee for the "perpetual care" agreements we have made and a chair person appointed. I suggest we ask **Frances James** to write the article and have first refusal on the office of chair.

3. When we add a second vice-president or President Emeritus to the officer list, we write in a clause giving the Executive Board the authority to hire an Executive Director, with both duties and pay to be determined by the Board.

This person should not be required to perform the duties that we are now doing as volunteers. The Executive Director should be one who can find ways, and DO THEM, that will benefit, improve, and enlarge the DCPA. Additionally, that person would find direction and assistance from the general membership (which includes the Board) in promoting and increasing the performance of the DCPA.

4. Remember that the DCPA has been here since 1875 and we plan to be here until the end of time.

By your volunteer efforts we have been financially successful and have a healthy bank account. I think it is a good time to safely invest some of our funds in ourselves by hiring the Executive Director.

Thanks for noodling these items. Ω

CHRISTINE KALLSTROM WANTS YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

Dr. Christine Kallstrom, a charter and life member of DCPA, is doing research on the Swedenborgian and Fourier connections in the LaReunion Colony and among other early residents.

She would appreciate any information you might have to share from the experiences or memoirs of your ancestors, or your own interest in the topic.

Her number is 972-262-2816. Email
pegasus1@airmail.net. Ω

AROUND THE COUNTY WITH FRANCES JAMES

On May 8 the Dallas Historical Society Bus Tour covered part of the area in the northeast portion of Dallas County. The weatherman cooperated—no sprinkles. The beautiful Shumard Red Oak Tree in the Garland Memorial Cemetery on Highway 78 is already on the list of Champion North Texas Trees. This Cemetery and the Knights of Pythias and Masonic Cemetery adjacent to it are the final resting place for many of the Garland area Pioneers.

Another highlight on the tour was the Sacred Heart Catholic Church north of Rowlett. This is the second oldest church in Dallas County still in existence. The Guadalupe Cathedral was built in 1902. This Church, built ca 1899, was moved from downtown Rowlett about six years ago and has been lovingly restored by the members of that Church. The original pews and kneelers have been refinished and the church, with its center aisle, has been used for weddings. The beautiful stained glass windows were donated by the families around the turn of the century (20th) and were imported from Germany. A local company carefully replaced any broken or lost pieces and re-lead the windows. A real treasure for Dallas County.

This tour was exceptionally interesting, as Jim Foster, DCPA president, who is quite involved in this area of the County, was along and shared his stories on the communities, the town of Rowlett, Lake Ray Hubbard, and especially Cottonwood Cemetery, Pleasant Valley Cemetery (there is a Pleasant Valley in Southwest Dallas County also), the Big A Cemetery, and the Sacred Heart Cemetery.

There is a community named for the Chiesa family, who had heard about Dallas County from other friends in Switzerland. Giovanni Chiesa came to Texas in 1870, and married Mayor Ben Long's sister. They owned land near the East Fork of the Trinity. Those pioneers got around, as family names are scattered all over the County.

Dan Fauver, a parole officer with the State, has an endless supply of manpower, and through donations of equipment and some funds has kept the Western Heights Cemetery maintained this year so that the funds deposited in the Cemetery Account for DCPA is not being depleted as rapidly. A check is being sent to his non-profit organization to help with gasoline and other expenses. When gasoline hits \$1.80 a gallon, even a weed whip costs money to operate! His crews have expended over 275 hours to help keep our pioneer cemeteries neat and cleaned of vines and briars.

Christ Church, an Episcopal church in Oak Cliff, is bringing its history up to date and applying for Landmark status in the City of Dallas. Anyone with tidbits to share about this beautiful building, let us know. These documented accounts add to the fabric of Dallas County history.

The original name for the elementary school on Marsalis was Trinity Heights, but in the 1950s the name was changed to **Harold Budd**, for a well-loved principal. The current principal, **Sheila Patterson**, and others are gathering information to get a Texas Historical Marker. A special program is planned for May 20, and alumni, retired teachers, and students are invited. I will attend, to explain what the Historical Marker will mean.

There are very few historical buildings or sites to mark in Duncanville. It is one of the newest towns in Dallas County, although there have been settlers in the area as long ago as in any other area of Dallas County. One of, if not the, oldest brick house still being lived in in Duncanville, was built in 1925 and the current owner has applied for a Registered Texas Historic Landmark for the house. It is in immaculate condition, with the original hardwood floors, windows, and doors, and other interesting aspects are outstanding! The house faces the Chicago, Texas, and Mexican Central Railroad that had come to this area in 1880. This application is wending its way from the Dallas County Historical Commission to Austin; perhaps we will hear next year about the designation.

Has anyone ever heard about Gravel Slough in the Trinity River bottoms? An amazing natural habitat for herds of elk, deer, guineas, goats, and no telling what else is near this road. The owner of many acres of this part of Dallas County shares his land with all these animals, takes children on tours to observe, and hires a crew to manage all this. A large segment of this long wasted cotton land is now growing various grasses, with huge sprinkling systems to help out when Mother Nature has something else to do. The Patrick Pruitt Cemetery is nearby, also a black cemetery that some landowner had all the headstones removed and hauled over to the banks of the Trinity and dumped several years ago.

A canoe trip may be organized soon to see if these stones can be found. One was known to have been a Veteran's Marker. The banks of the Trinity are about ten feet above the water level and the surrounding property has been mined for sand and gravel, so it is difficult to access—except by water. One of the locks installed in the early part of 1900 to try to make the Trinity River navigable is still visible at a bend in the River. Ω

MARIE CAILLET MAKES NEWS AGAIN

We love to open our newspaper and find DCPA names in vibrant stories of the day. One name we can bet on every spring is **Marie Caillet**, our Iris Lady, and she has done it for us again.



FILE 2002/Staff photo

Marie Among Her Irises

The Society for Louisiana Irises can't have a gathering without its star, Marie Caillet. They met again in Dallas April 25-27 and Marie's acclaimed garden on a cliff above Lake Lewisville was among the five on tour, and *The Dallas Morning News* was there.

Louisianas were originally swamp irises and still thrive in places such as a minnow pond dug by her father in 1929; Marie and her cohorts have tested and hybridized until they now thrive well beyond their native habitats. Now they are grown from Arkansas to Australia, from Sweden to South Africa.

Marie was one of the two founders of the Society and she has co-authored a book, *The Louisiana Iris*, contributed articles to many publications such as *Southern Living* magazine, and has been a popular judge for competitions.

Her Dallas County forebears, members of the LaReunion settlers, included botanists and her mother raised irises on the family farm on Lovers Lane. When Marie retired from teaching at the University of Louisiana she settled down on the family's retreat in Little Elm and took up testing irises.

We are so glad that she is still at it—still making news for us to brag about and envy. Ω

JIM GATEWOOD WILL REVIEW HIS BOOK ON BENNY BINION

Mark your calendars for July 21 and hear **Jim Gatewood** review his newest book on early Dallas "characters", *The Legend of Benny Binion*.

This is a part of the Ermance Rejebian Summer Review Series at Highland Park United Methodist Church on Wednesday evenings throughout June and July.

This is the 46th season for the Review Series, which, for many years, started with a review given by Mrs. Rejebian. In 1991 the Series was named to honor her

memory, and a generous memorial gift from her husband, **Vahram Rejebian**, and their family, subsidizes the cost of the series.

There is no cost for the review, which is held in the Wesley Hall at 7 p.m. Dinner, for \$8, is at 5:30 in the Great Hall, and reservations for dinner are required by noon on the Monday before the Wednesday performance. Call 214-523-2240.

Highland Park United Methodist Church, 3300 Mockingbird Lane. Ω

WW II Omen ??? SETTING SUN PUTS GIGANTIC V IN SKIES TO THE EAST, THEN WEST

The Dallas Morning News, Summer 1944

Men of a less skeptical age would have read a promise of the war's end in the sky at sunset Tuesday.

A gigantic V shaded from cobalt to purple reached well-defined arms far up into the sky from a base just above the horizon in the east. And within thirty minutes after the sun set at 8:31 p.m. a like V was reflected in the west.

Even analytical Dallasites, trained in scientific education, stopped to look up and called to describe "the most glorious sight" they had ever seen. Beautiful, gorgeous, marvelous, were adjectives employed. Many callers described it to The News. One was inarticulate about the banks of rosecolored clouds that hung within the arms of the V, and the shades of purple, mauve, and blue that marked the path of the symbol.

The phenomenon, the first of its kind remembered in Dallas, was explained by Aubrey L. Haynie of the United States Weather Bureau as a reflection of the sunset against two banks of thunderclouds which hung uniformly to the north and south.

The V first appeared in the east at sunset and hung with its well-defined shape marked in rich hues for about fifteen minutes. Then the V shaded into lighter tones with its center turned to billowy white clouds. The other V, which appeared above the opposite horizon, lingered for almost thirty minutes.

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: James L. Forster

Vice-President: Clare G. Weakley, Jr.

Secretary: Irma C. Janicek

Treasurer: A. Eugene Gaddy

Historian: Carolyn Selzer

Membership: Clare G. Weakley, Jr.

Programs: Eva Jane P. Morgan

Telephone: R. Sue Bucy

Sunshine: Mildred Coffey

Publicity: Pat B. Randolph

Newsletter: Marjori G. Sharp

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