

# Dallas Spirit

Dallas County Pioneer Association

Founded 1875, Reorganized 1979

Pioneer News of Dallas County

WINTER 2005

**QUARTERLY MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2005**

Family Hall  
Royal Lane Baptist Church  
Hillcrest Road and Royal Lane

Dinner 6 p.m., \$10 per person  
Reservations Required  
Make reservations by Tuesday, November 29  
Call DCPA @ 214/944-5400

Program 7 p.m.  
David Spence: Bishop Arts District

David Spence is one of our newest Life members, but one of our long-term friends. Not only has he appeared in *Dallas Spirit* more than once, but he is a familiar face and opinion on the Viewpoints page of *The Dallas Morning News*. We bragged about him as recently as our Winter 2004 *Dallas Spirit*, and will try not to repeat too much.

David has been called the unofficial mayor of the Bishop Arts District, and there should be an appropriate title for him for his devotion to restoration in all of Oak Cliff. His reclamation of old apartment buildings and warehouses, especially, is outstanding. We love to see our once-considered over-the-hill historic structures brought back to life and put to good use again.

We also enjoy watching David pile up the awards and honors and they are many. He is appreciated. Our summer newsletter congratulated him on the Preservation Dallas 2005 Preservation Achievement Award.

David is a Texas Aggie, with an MBA/Law degree from the University of North Carolina. He serves on many Dallas and Oak Cliff boards and commissions.

David and his wife Cindy live with their children, Parker and Sarah, in Stevens Park in Oak Cliff. David and Cindy were Peace Corps volunteers in their college days.

Don't miss this special program: David is a great speaker, too. Ω  
Eva Jane Morgan, Programs

\* \* \* \*

Let's do it again!

Our December Show'N Tell Table last year was a smashing success, and  
we know you have lots more to share with us.

So, bring your beloved Christmas items—decorations, stockings, ornaments, cards, letters, whatever—  
let's give the Season a good sendoff!

Carolyn Selzer, History Table

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

**Steve Butler** and his White Rock Lake presentation brought in a "standing room only" crowd for our September meeting. We also had some surprise guest who brought along two display tables of White Rock Lake memorabilia.

**Dave Spence** and his Bishop Arts District program should be just as interesting. Dave (DCPA Life member) is widely known throughout the Dallas area for his work in restoring some of the most magnificent old buildings in the Bishop Street area, so be sure to make your reservations early by calling 214/944-5400.

Your Executive Committee continue to be involved in recording and preserving Dallas County history. Here's a quick snapshot of recent events that Executive Committee members participated in:

October 11: Pelt House Historical Marker dedication in Duncanville.

October 12: Last living member of Stamps Quartet performed at Northway Christian Church.

October 15: Pioneer Families Reunion at Rowlett United Methodist Church.

October 29: Five Irving Historical Markers were dedicated.

October 29: John W. Lane Marker dedicated at Pioneer Cemetery in downtown Dallas.

November 4: I presented a program on DCPA and La Reunion to about sixty members of the Lakewood Shepherd Center.

We have received some very interesting books at your DCPA Library, including a pocket notebook owned by La Reunion colonist Professor Remond. You can help our Library grow by donating books and bringing them to our December meeting.

The new member roster continues to grow, but we also need your help here. Be sure to mention DCPA to your friends. Ω

**Jim Foster**

**MINUTES OF MEETING SEPTEMBER 1**

President **Jim Foster** called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. He opened with a prayer, then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag and pledge to the Texas flag. He then led the singing of the song "My Country 'Tis of Thee".

**Christine Kallstrom** introduced her sister, **Ann Wilson**, who was visiting from Hot Springs Village, Arkansas.

President Foster welcomed new members **Jean P. Adams**; **Jessica LeBeau** and **Jerry**, her son; **Christopher B. Thevenet**; **Margaret Upham** and her son, **Steve**; **Margaret Wilson Webb**; and welcomed back former-members **Elizabeth** and **Jack Hittson**.

We welcomed our visitors: **Jim Thompson**, **Jim** and **Wendie Burnett**, and **Deanna**, **Bob** and **Jeff Bunch**.

**Frances James** gave a report of happenings from Dallas County:

1. We have let the Commissioners know that we want the founder's cabin to be put back by the "Old Red" Courthouse.

2. On September 26 the Deed Records will be on the Web. We need to thank Judge **Margaret Kelliher** for cleaning these records.

President Foster introduced **Steve Butler** to speak on the history of White Rock Lake. Ω

**Irma Janicek**, Secretary

**DUES ARE DUE**

Treasurer **Luther McCommas** will take them at the December meeting, or you may mail them to DCPA.

## **FINAL FAREWELL**

Our DCP **M'Layne Wesbrooks** wrote a lovely obituary for her mother, our **Sibyl Skipworth**. In her words:

"Sibyl Nell Moore Skipworth, 91, longtime member of the DCPA, died Sept. 14 at Hospice of Wichita Falls following a courageous battle with cancer. Born on July 25, 1914, near Oklaunion, Texas, she was a resident of Dallas during the 1980s and 1990s, returning to Wichita Falls, her former home, in 2002.

"...her favorite hobby was genealogy, which she shared with her cousin, the late **Mary Jackson Sutherland** of Garland. Sibyl was the daughter of **Joseph Cobb Moore** and **Elsie Mae Lain Moore**. Her maternal grandfather was **Samuel Lain**, who came to Dallas County in 1879 at age 18 with his father **Lee Thomas Lain** and brother **Lester C. Lain**.

"Survivors include daughter **Mary Layne (M'Layne) Wesbrooks** of Wichita Falls, two grandchildren **Andrew Lawrence Murphy** of Dallas and **Meaghan M'Layne Murphy** of Portland, Oregon, [and] one sister **Jan Moore Grantham** of Euless.

"Services were held in Vernon, Texas with burial at Eastview Memorial Cemetery. Her great grandparents **Benjamin** and **Lucinda Prigmore** are buried in McCree Cemetery as is her grandmother **Texas Anna Prigmore Lain**. Her grandfather **Samuel Lain** was buried at Eastview.

"She truly loved researching the roots of our family. She will be missed."

Sibyl will be missed. We extend our sympathies and best wishes to her family. Ω

## **WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS**

• **Cynthia Gail Brown Burgwin**, new Pioneer member, traces her Dallas County ancestry back seven

generations to **Ahab Bowen**, who was listed in the voter registration of 1867.

Bowen was a farmer and a landowner of the property now known as The Quadrangle, which has Bowen Street named for him. His granddaughter, **Alice Clara Bowen**, married **Edward T. Overand**, who was a builder of residential property in the area.

Cynthia is also a member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Daughters of 1812. Her daughters are **Jennifer K. Jones**, married to **Eugene Michael Davis**, and **Ashlea C. Jones**, married to **Vu Hoang Thach**.

Cynthia and her husband, **Douglas Jon Burgwin**, live at 3222 Morning Dove, Midlothian, Texas, 76065. Their phone number is 972/723-0887.

• **Jerry T. Dealey** is, of course, descended from **George Bannerman Dealey**, founder of *The Dallas Morning News*, and therefore a kind of relation of our **Mackie Dealey**. He says the family came to Dallas County in 1883.

Jerry is a member of the Dallas Historical Society. He has his own business, the Dealey Insurance Company. He and his wife **Diana K.** and their two daughters, **Jessica A.** and **Alison C.**, live at 2321 Kingthood Lane, Garland, Texas 75044, telephone number 972/530-8056.

• **Dee "John" DeLay** is the son of **Clyde DeLay**, who joined us last spring and was introduced in the summer *Dallas Spirit*.

"John" DeLay still operates the insurance business his father started on West Jefferson, which is now located on Central Expressway and is known as Alliance Insurance Agency.

He and his wife, **Laura Elizabeth DeLay**, live at 108 Eastshore Drive, Gun Barrel City, Texas, 75156, telephone 903/887-2400.

• **Andree Guillot Hawkins**, another new Pioneer member, is descended from the **Maxime Guillot** family familiar to all of us through **Ellie Guillot's** book *French Carriages on the Trinity*. The Guillots came from France to Dallas County in 1842, and, as translators, were especially helpful to the La Reunion colony some ten or twelve years later.

A second or third generation Guillot married **George Herbert Potter**, making Andree some sort of cousin to our **Eva Jane Potter Morgan**, great grand-niece of George.

Andree's children are **Matthew Kendrick Hawkins** and his wife, **Samantha Holmes; Mollie;** and **Laura Michelle Girand** and her husband **Todd**.

Andree and her husband, **James C. Hawkins, Jr.**, live at 4325 Greenbrier, 75225, telephone 214/369-2310.

• **Ed F. Vanston, II**, Pioneer member, had Dallas County first generation ancestors in 1846: **George Roberts Paschall** and his wife, **Elizabeth Williams**.

Their son, **Daniel**, was one of the first doctors in Dallas County, and served in the Confederate Army. He married **Virginia Haught**, daughter of **Sam**, one of the first 1000 citizens in Dallas, who owned Haught's Store. Their daughter, **Jessie**, married **Ed F. Vanston**, an alderman in Mesquite in 1906, and they were the parents of **Barney Lynn**, who married **Margaret Blackburn**. Ed is the son of Barney and Margaret.

Ed's children are **Vicki V. Rothschild**, **Ed F. Vanston, III**, **Mark H. Vanston**, and **Caroline V. Poe**. His address is 9202 Esplanade, 75220, telephone 214/351-0135.

• We are so happy to welcome the daughter of a beloved founding member of the reorganized DCPA, **Sally L. Jacoby Veazey**. **William F. Jacoby, Jr.**, Sally's father, was our fifth president and the guiding light for the first volume of *Proud Heritage*.

We have lost both **Bill** and **Jackie**, his wife, this year, and we miss them very much.

Sally, and Bill, go 'way back to 1843 with their Dallas County history. That is when **William M. Cochran** and his wife, **Nancy Jane Hughes** (one of those seven Hughes sisters) settled at Mustang Branch, present-day Midway Road and Northwest Highway. Their granddaughter, **Laura Jane Harris**, married **Henry H. Jacoby** in 1888.

Nancy Jane Cochran was one of four vice-presidents elected to the DCPA when it formed in 1875. She and other Cochrans were very active in the early organization. Bill's father, the Senior Bill Jacoby, was the first Parks & Recreation Center Director of Dallas. Sally is a member of the Cross Timbers Chapter of the DAR.

Sally's husband, **Fred L. Veazey**, joins her in a dual Pioneer Life membership. Their children are **Brian Patrick** and **Kendall Elizabeth**. They live at 103 Elmwood, Highland Village, Texas, 75077, telephone 972/317-6595. ☺

### PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee, composed of **Frances James**, **Carolyn Selzer** and **Bill McRae**, hereby nominate the following persons for election as officers of the Association for the calendar year 2006:

|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| President         | Jim Foster      |
| Vice-President    | Paul Price      |
| Secretary         | Marsha Leach    |
| Treasurer         | Luther McCommas |
| Historian         | Carolyn Selzer  |
| Newsletter Editor | Jessica LeBeau  |

Each of the persons above has expressed a willingness to serve in the capacity nominated if so elected. ☺  
**Bill McRae, Chair**

## **SPREADING SUNSHINE**

We were sorry to hear of the death of **Sibyl Skipworth** in a letter from her daughter, **M'Layne Wesbrooks**. We sent a card with our love and sympathy to M'Layne and her family.

As we "go to press", we are told of Jim Foster's eye surgery on November 1. He just skipped another day and was back in harness, so he has responded nicely.

We had no reports of illness from our members. So glad everyone is doing so well. Ω  
Mildred Coffey, Sunshine Chair

## **DCPA THANKS A REAL BENEFACTOR**

The first we really heard from him, about a year after he joined DCPA, was this letter to our newsletter editor:

"I noticed your note [article in the Winter 1998 newsletter] 'So Who Cares?'.

"I have been disappointed that an organization such as ours does not have a place to call home. There are many books, papers, articles and other items that need a permanent display location.

"I am sure that other members must feel the same. Let me know if there is anything that I can do to help.

"Sincerely,  
**Jim Foster**"

Yep, we had groused about not having a place to show off our historically-significant treasures. In "So Who Cares?" we wrote "In an old, *old* book (1886) I found a number of faded items, including two dated 1899 from 'Oak Cliff, Texas'... Isn't this just the kind of thing we want to have on display for visitors to our very own DCPA room in one of our historic buildings? Am I the only one who wants such a place for

us? Is it not of any importance to anyone else?" (Two prior requests for such a room had fallen on deaf ears.)

Did Jim continue to think "DCPA Library" 24/7 for several years? Must have. He gave us our first Library this spring, a room in his newly-acquired office building in the vicinity of the historic Bishop Arts District in Oak Cliff. A repository for the accumulations of the first historical organization in Dallas County—DCPA!

Now we have a place for all those historic items that have begged for a home, all those precious bits of Dallas County that should be available in one place to all of us. A place to gather those fast-disappearing books, one-of-a-kind papers, letters, pictures, apparel—bits of furnishings—all kinds of memorabilia preserving Dallas history.

'Way back in 1997 President **Nancy McRae** mentioned our need for "proper preservation and storage arrangements" for items of historical interest that we have. This was in connection with acceptance of an 1872 "Bird's Eye View of the City" from **G.J. Brittain**. Now we will have a place where you can come look at it!

We have had a tremendous response—apparently, many other members did feel the same— and we expect to outgrow our first home quickly. So we urge you to add your treasures to ours and then visit them often.

And, say a loud and hearty "Thank You!" to our President Jim Foster! Ω

## **LA REUNION BIRTHDAY AFTERGLOW**

DCP **Ray Story** had his photo in the Metro section of *The Dallas Morning News* after our 150th birthday party for the pioneer settlement of LaReunion in June.

Ray was quite emotional about finding a previously-unknown cousin, **Mark Wilson**. His cousin brought a photo of Ray's grandfather and says that he will come by our Library and let us scan the photo. Ω

**Jim Foster**



DANNY GAWLOWSKI/Staff Photographer

Mark Wilson lent a hand to newfound cousin Raymond Story at Thursday's 150th anniversary celebration of La Reunion, a colony founded in the Dallas area. The men learned they share an ancestor in colonist Nicolas Farine.

*The Dallas Morning News*, 6-17-05

## **DALLAS HISTORY CONFERENCE LOOKS AT LAW AND DISORDER**

by **Michael V. Hazel**

Bonnie Parker and Blanche Barrow (the two women in the "Bonnie & Clyde" gang), a sensational trial, vice in Dallas, and the role of the Dallas police in the aftermath of the Kennedy assassination are among the topics being featured at the Seventh Annual *Legacies* Dallas History Conference, Saturday, January 28, 2006, 8:30 am. to 1 p.m.

Appropriately for the theme, "Law and Disorder", the conference will be held at the new Jack Evans Police Headquarters on South Lamar, where attendees will view a special historical exhibit on the Dallas police.

Conference patrons (\$100 level) will be offered the rare opportunity to view the jail cell in the old City Hall where Lee Harvey Oswald was held following his arrest in November 1963. This tour will be part of the reception the evening of January 27, at which patrons can also visit with the conference speakers.

The Dallas County Pioneer Association is one of eleven institutional sponsors for the conference. Registration forms will be mailed in December to all DCPA members and will also be available at the Dallas Public Library and other locations. For additional information, please contact Mike Hazel, the conference coordinator, at 214-421-5141, ext. 3801, or at [mvhazel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mvhazel@sbcglobal.net). Ω

## **MEMORIALS**

We continue to be overwhelmed and gratefully so for the additions to our Library in the form of memorials.

We can't think of a better way to memorialize those who have left us, but a tribute to the living in the gift of a book is also an outstanding way to honor and to say thank you. Consider this next time you are having difficulty deciding on a gift. If you don't have a book in mind, make a cash donation to the Library, and your name will be placed in a future book or books.

Note: **Eva Jane Morgan** has already contributed more than thirty books to our Library! Plus table and chairs! Thank you, thank you, Eva Jane! Ω

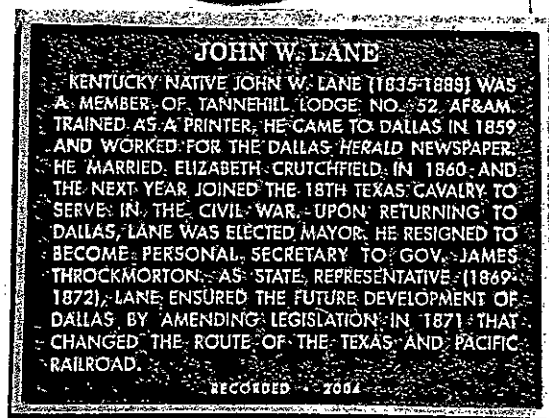
## **BRAVO, JOHN W. LANE—FINALLY!**

For well over one hundred years we have been admitting that we owe the early growth of Dallas to the coming of the second railroad, and we owe the coming

of that railroad to having a little creek named Browder Springs in our borders.

We have admitted to possibly a little chicanery by a Dallas legislator in demanding that the railroad be routed within a mile of Browder Springs, and we have been grateful to him, but we have studiously avoided naming **John W. Lane**—and thanking him! Until now.

On October 29, President **Jim Foster** presided at the dedication of a Historical Marker to John W. Lane (1835-1881) in Pioneer Cemetery.



Also participating in the Marker ceremonies was **Frances James**, who gave the story of Lane's life and history to the group. Many of us have long wondered about him; in fact, we have had to even wonder his name. Frances has shared her research with us.

Inventories of Pioneer Cemetery show Lot #69 in the Masonic Section as the final resting place of John W. Lane, with a headstone which refers to his service in

the Civil War, but no mention of what he is credited with doing for the City of Dallas.

Kentucky native Lane came to East Texas with his parents in 1841. The 1860 Dallas County census listed him as a twenty-four-year old printer living at the Crutchfield Hotel. He had married **Elizabeth Crutchfield**, daughter of the proprietors of the first hotel in Dallas. It was among the buildings lost in the 1860 fire that destroyed most of downtown Dallas. The office and printing press of *The Dallas Herald*, (first Dallas newspaper) also were lost.

In 1861 Lane served in Captain **E.C. Browder's** 18th Texas Cavalry. While home on leave in 1863, he was initiated into the Tannehill Lodge, where he is identified as a printer. He and Elizabeth had one son, **Clarence**, who followed in his father's footsteps by becoming involved in civic affairs.

John W. Lane was elected mayor of Dallas in 1866 by sixty-six votes over twenty-six for his opponent, original-DCP **John M. Crockett**. He served as mayor only three or four months, resigning to become secretary to Governor **James W. Throckmorton**. Then, from 1869 to 1872 he was State Representative from Dallas, where his most memorable act was a ten-word amendment changing the route of the Texas & Pacific to within one mile of Browder Springs.

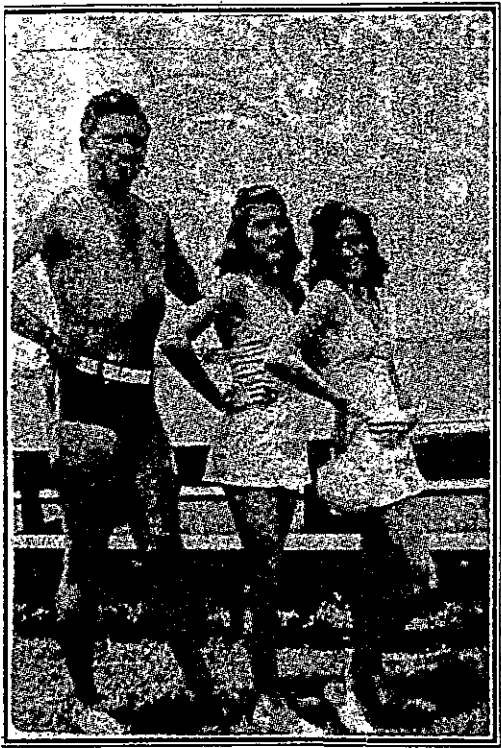
A small item in *The Dallas Morning News* on September 18, 1888, announced the death of John W. Lane. Now there is a Historical Marker to show that we recognize his contribution to our City. Ω

#### **PAULA NEEDS HELP DOCUMENTING MOM** by Carolyn Selzer

**Paula Selzer**, daughter of **Carolyn Downey** and **Simon Selzer**, is making a documentary video about her mother and her mother's twin sister, **Adelyn**, growing up in South Dallas in the 30s and 40s. She is looking for photographs to use in this film.

If you have photographs of any of the following, and would be willing to share them for use in this project, please contact Paula at paulaselzer@yahoo.com or call 202/882-5781. Her address is 500 Whittier N.W., Washington, D.C. 20012-2746.

Photos: White Rock Lake swimming area in the 30s and 40s, any photographs of South Dallas neighborhoods or landmarks, especially kids playing, riding the street car, Forest Theater, or Fair Park. Ω



From *The White Rocker*, Adelyn and Carolyn Downey and their brother, Walter Charles Fannin (later a Deputy Chief on the Dallas Police Force), at White Rock in the days when swimming was allowed there. Bathing suits were rented and worn whether they fit or not!

We bring you the following story because it concerns one of us—albeit a while back. Tom Gooch, editor and publisher of the *Dallas Times Herald*, was also a columnist. This is a column from November 29, 1934.

### Table Talk

Thanksgiving, we feel, is as good a day as any to conduct a deer hunt. We were a few hours ahead of schedule last night when we went on an expedition of this kind by proxy—or rather, by shamelessly eavesdropping.

It was a very swank affair at the Woman's Club, with toppers and tails, and all that. Most of the celebrities were there, including the biggest of big game hunters. This distinguished guest was bounded on the north and south by two charming young ladies who had never been on a deer hunt. Our hero was in his element. Across from him was the mild-mannered Dean Wood of the Episcopal church, who looked upon this valiant nimrod with astonishment, as he (our hero) was in the midst of his exploits as a deer hunter.

With our ear over the dean's shoulder we heard all about how to bring home the bacon—er, venison. It seems that you have to keep on the windward side of a deer when you stalk him. It's got to be a "him" or you get fined \$200. A gentleman deer always wears horns in the hunting season so you can the more easily pick him out in the midst of his harem.

You ride to the hunting ground in a flivver and then get out and walk and walk for miles. After you arrive at some indefinite destination, you try to disguise yourself as a boulder or a mesquite tree. From here on we quote the big game hunter, as nearly accurately as possible under the handicap of the orderly confusion of big dinner parties.

"Some hunters", said our hero to his fair listeners and the preacher, "use old deer horns as a decoy. They rattle them together and that makes the buck think



### Think Christmas!

A DCPA membership is a wonderful gift, and everyone is eligible - - one year or a Lifetime membership!



there is a fight on. If there is any Irish in him he will lope to the scene in the hope of participating. I, however, do not think it sporting to indulge in tricks of this kind. The proper way to get your buck is to stalk him down—run him to his lair, so to speak. You mustn't shoot a deer standing still—I mean the deer must not be standing still. It is all right for the hunter to be running, in fact, I generally shoot 'em from the hip as I am on the move. However, most hunters, who are not accurate marksmen, lie down and rest their rifles on a rock before they shoot. That method is abhorred by all good hunters.

"It is entirely unorthodox and anyone who gets a buck that way has nothing to brag about. A deer should not be shot at a distance less than 1,000 yards; any closer would be plain assassination. After you have been hunting for a few years like I have, you travel light and use a small bore rifle. I, for instance, generally carry a .22 on my shoulder and three or four shells in my vest pocket. Any good hunter can get his legal bag of two bucks and have shells left over to use in shooting a wild turkey or two on his way home. I remember the last time I was out at the King ranch—"

Just at that moment Mrs. Buckner stepped up and interrupted the monologue.

"Murrell," she said, MURRELL, it is time to go home."

And the big, big game hunter dutifully and meekly trotted away.

"Who is that charming gentleman?" asked the Episcopal dean.

"He's a big Baptist," we replied.

The dean nodded, knowingly. Ω

Murrell L. Buckner was president of the original DCPA from 1943 to 1952, presiding at the last meeting.

## 1920 MOVIE MADE OF DCPA REUNION

*From an unknown newspaper, possibly Lancaster's, September 14, 1920 (taken from the internet)*

### PIONEERS ANNUAL REUNION IS HELD

### MOVING PICTURES ARE TAKEN OF OLD SETTLERS AT BIG GATHERING HERE

"Step lively—make it snappy!" came the camera man's command as he ground out several hundred feet of movie film showing the Dallas County Pioneers' Association's thirty-ninth annual session at Oak Lawn Park Thursday. Led by Lee Hughes, Epps Knight and P.B. Yeargan, the men and women old settlers of the county marched in review before the picture machine. Some were hale and hearty, and their step had not lost the spring of youth; others walked with faltering tread, reinforced by children and grand-children.

Conspicuous among the conventional black and blue peace times was the Confederate gray uniform of H.K. Hughes of the Third Kentucky Cavalry, under John Morgan's command. Mr. Hughes has worn his uniform to every reunion since the association was organized, in 1873, and says he intends to wear it to several more. Mr. Hughes lives in the Belmont addition to the city. The oldest man at the reunion, Sam Uhl of Wheat [unreadable...] ...3 years old, walked before the [unreadable] with a step as firm as that of his companion, [?] a man of perhaps 50.

The Dallas County Pioneers' Association was organized at Lancaster in 1873. Persons who were born in or moved to Dallas County before that time are eligible for membership in the association. Five presidents, elected for life, have served, as follows: John C. McCoy of Dallas, Gov. John M. Crockett of Dallas, Col. John Henry Brown of Dallas, Col. R. A. Rawlins of Lancaster, and Epps G. Knight of Dallas. Mr. Knight has served twelve years. The Rev. John M. Meyers, who established the First Baptist Church in Dallas County, served as first chaplain for the associa-

tion. He was followed by the Rev. Buck Hughes, who established the first Methodist Church in the county. The association has held its annual reunion every year since 1873, with the exception of three years during the world war.

The following members have died since the last meeting of the association, in September, 1916: the Rev. W. H. ("Uncle Buck") Hughes, Samuel Peterman, H.B. Johnston, Mrs. Annie Rumby, Virgil Scott, Mrs. Eva Roddy, C.H. Crum, Tom Uhl, Charles Orr, Mrs. Mattie White, Mrs. Mary Rawlins, R.P. Henry, J.H. Peacock, Mrs. Katy Lavender, Mrs. Catherine Mills, Mrs. Lucy Curry, Frank Trigg, S.P. Samuels, Jordan Patrick, Lawrence Lavender, Mrs. Bryson, George W. Owens, Mrs. Ann George, Mrs. Kittie Brotherton, Mrs. Sallie McFall, Col. W.R. McEntire, Mrs. C.W. King, John Stokes, Enoch Strait, Mrs. Viola Hunt, Mrs. Emma West, Mrs. Frona Smith, Mrs. Allice Penn, Mrs. Mary Weston, Mrs. J.M. Harvey, Mrs. John Hughes, M.M. Fondren, Mrs. M.M. Fondren, Mrs. Amanda Bass, Ben Strait, Mrs. Jennie Rogers, Mrs. R.D. Coughanour, Mrs. Maggie Brooks, Miss Lida Branson, Mrs. Fannie Furneaux, Alexander Cockrell, Randolph Latimore, Col. W.L. Crawford, Mrs. Thomas McKamy, T.A. Ramby, Millie Brotherton, Issac Story, G.C. Merrell, Mrs. C.B. Gillespie, Ben F. Brandenburg, John Sanders, Henry Lacy, Joseph Chenoweth, Howard Cox, Mrs. Mary Jane Cox, and G.L. Ford.) Ω

## **HURRICANES**

by Frances James

This entire month the news has been about hurricanes and the comparison of the one in Galveston in 1900 with the ones in 2005, Katrina and Rita. Our neighborhood has been involved with two of these.

In September 1900 after that hurricane with twenty-four-foot crests and 100 mile an hour winds had destroyed so much of Galveston Island, the remaining people were stranded for days by the floods. There

has never been an actual count, as so many people washed out to sea! This has been called the worst natural disaster ever to hit the United States.

In 1900 Dr. R.C. Buckner was in Durant, Oklahoma attending a meeting, but heard of the impending hurricane. There had been a railroad connecting Dallas and Houston since 1872, so we must presume that is how he got to the coast. He got permission from the United States Army and headed toward Galveston. So less than a week after the storm had struck he had procured wagons, loaded them with over 100 orphan children who had been living at the Galveston Rosenberg Orphanage and barely survived the storm, and brought them all to Dallas and they stayed at Buckner's Orphan Home! He even went back for more the second time.

Dr. Buckner advertised in the Dallas papers and became quite involved in trying to locate children and parents, husbands and wives, and missing relatives. There are still letters in the archives at the Home about this tragedy.

In September 2005 bus loads of people were brought to the Dallas area and stopped off at Big Town before going to Reunion or the Convention Center or eventually to more permanent homes. At Big Town, they were very near the same place on Orphans Home Land.

Galveston Island never did fully recover from the severe damage of the 1900 hurricane. In 1899 President Grover Cleveland had appointed Henry Martyn Robert to a board of engineers to recommend a western Gulf port for the government to develop to handle tonnage that was increasing each year.

Robert selected Galveston and Congress approved his proposal and appropriated the funds. Work had just begun on his proposal at Galveston in 1900.

A three mile concrete seawall was constructed in

Galveston, and huge pieces of granite reinforced this seventeen foot tall structure. By 1910 the Island was 25 feet higher than it had been, as they pumped in tons and tons of sand behind the wall, and built and rebuilt the houses on stilts and filled in under them. Many of the houses were built with the lumber from the houses that had washed out to sea and came back ashore.

Other severe storms have hit Galveston since the seawall was constructed, but none caused the amount of damage as that caused by the 1900 hurricane.

From 1867 until he retired, Robert had been involved with major harbor and river improvements all across the United States. Just before he reached retirement

on April 30, 1901, H.M. Robert was promoted to brigadier general and named chief engineer of the United States Army.

Robert had another claim to fame! He was also known as the country's leading parliamentarian, as he is the person who published Robert's Rules of Order in 1876. This authoritative reference book has remained in print and has been updated several times in the last 130 years! There is a Texas Historical Marker on the seawall that tells the story of Brigadier General Robert. Ω

This is a reprint from the *Buckner Terrace Homeowners Association Newsletter* October 2005.



Merry Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year

The DALLAS COUNTY PIONEER ASSOCIATION is dedicated to preserving the history of Dallas County and those who settled here before 1880. All interested persons may apply for membership regardless of when they or their ancestors came to Dallas County.

Membership dues are: Individual \$20 per year, or \$200 for a Life Membership; and Couple \$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 membership application and brochure.

The Association 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 fellowship and dining. Program starts promptly at 7:00 p.m.

Telephone: 214/944-5400

Web site: [www.dallaspioneer.org](http://www.dallaspioneer.org)

#### ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President: James L. Foster

Vice-President: Paul R. Price

Secretary: Irma C. Janicek

Treasurer: Luther McCommas

Historian: Christine Kallstrom

Membership: Paul R. Price

Programs: Eva Jane P. Morgan

Telephone: R. Sue Bucy

Sunshine: Mildred Coffey

Publicity: Pat B. Randolph

Newsletter: Marjori G. Sharp



### Dallas Spirit

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