

The Inkwell

A publication of the
Dallas County Pioneer Association



2006 #3

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Fall 2005, Issue

Historian, James Butler, Presents a History of White Rock Lake Park

Our speaker for the September 1, 2005 meeting was, historian, Steven Butler, who gave a presentation on the history of White Rock Lake Park.

This park was a favorite playground of many of us growing up in Dallas. Before there was a lake, there was a shallow, tree-lined valley with a small creek where Indians came for water. White settlers started homesteads on the high ground surrounding the creek in the 1840s. It was 1913 before the first water from the reservoir at White Rock was pumped into the City mains and it was Dallas' principal water source until 1929. It became our playground in 1930 when the firm of Carsey & Linskie designed the bathhouse and bathing beach. (Carsey was Irma Carsey Janicek's Uncle John.)

Steven Butler is a professor at Richland College. His book, *From Water Supply to Urban Oasis: A History of White Rock Lake Park*, can be ordered by visiting his website www.watermelon-kid.com.

La Reunion 150th Anniversary Celebration Draws Descendants

In June, we celebrated the 150th Anniversary of the La Reunion Colony. Everyone connected with the event did an outstanding job, putting it together.

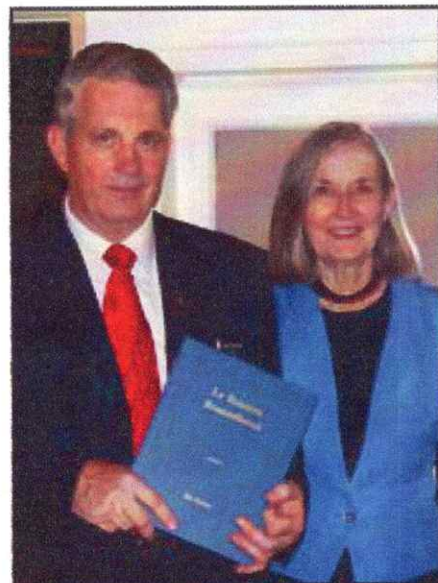
We would like to recognize present-day descendants of La Reunion who were there, and have been helped considerably by Marie Caillet in rounding up these names. Marie is a great-granddaughter and granddaughter of Eugenie Reverchon,

wife of Georges Caillet.

Nancy Kurrus and Shirley Lusk are great-great-granddaughter and daughter of Louise Caillet Dietrich. Shirley's daughter, Jane Sears, and her husband, Dwight, attended with their sons, Kevin, Jason, and John with his wife, Kathy and their two children. Nancy brought a Caillet family cookbook to sell and a family history written by her mother.

Julien Reverchon, the botanist,

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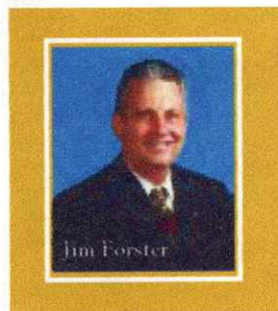


President, Jim Forster and Program Chair, Eva Potter Morgan, at La Reunion Celebration enjoyed brisk sales of Jim Forster's newest book, *La Reunion Remembered*.



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From the President

You can feel proud when talking to your friends and family members about the DCPA. This year, we've seen tremendous growth and our future has never looked brighter. Many of you were on hand when we launched the 150th anniversary celebration of La Reunion at our June 2nd meeting. The celebration continued with the opening of our very own DCPA Library on June 11th, and culminated with almost three hundred visitors attending the grand finale celebration which was held at the Central Square Park and historic Wilson House on June 15th.

Many of you put in a tremendous amount of time and effort in order to make this celebration a complete success and your contribution of time and talent is greatly appreciated.

LIBRARY DONATIONS

James Larkin "Jim" Toler, former mayor of Garland and author, presented to the DCPA Library his latest three books. These books contain almost 2,000 pages and are filled with information about his family roots. They are greatly appreciated, and a very significant addition to our Library.

The Library is located in the offices of Paramount Alarm Systems at 630 North Bishop.

My latest book, *La Reunion Remembered*, was completed and available only hours prior to the June 15th event. This book, along with other DCPA publications, is available online at:

www.DallasPioneer.org.

Don't forget to visit our new website. You will find many interesting stories and photos already posted there, including the La Reunion celebration photos. Remember, your stories and photos can be submitted for posting.

Our new website has led to a couple of interesting developments this month. First of all, our Hill County neighbors lost their Lexington Village state historical marker several years ago and all hope of replacing it had vanished. A contact on the Internet agreed to mail it (anonymously) to me and I was able to return it to County Judge Kenneth Davis, who says that it will now be mounted at the courthouse instead of the State highway.

Second, Tim Mosby of the Kingman, Arizona, area saw my posting about the John Higgs Cole family and notified us that he had one of the Cole bricks. It turns out that it



President Jim Foster with Hill County Judge Kenneth Davis and the Lexington Village marker.

is an authentic Cole brick and it now proudly takes its position in the DCPA Library. John Higgs Cole was one of the founding members of a small early day church that traces its origin back to a little log cabin in downtown Dallas. The church later became known as the Highland Oaks Church of Christ and now has well over 1,000 members attending its Sunday morning service. Several of our DCPs were in attendance at the church's 150th anniversary celebration on Saturday, August 6th.

A FINAL FAREWELL

We said goodbye in May to Life Member, Dr. Roy Patton Howell, descendant of John M. Howell, who was the father of Dallas horticulture. Dr. Howell graduated from the Highland Park school system and earned a doctorate in psycho-physiology from the Saybrook Institute, of which he was a trustee. He had been a United Press staff correspondent, a teacher, and president of a consulting firm specializing in international affairs. He was currently president of the Dallas Discussion Group, which he had founded.

Pat wrote or edited eleven books, for which he had received numerous awards, and served as a nominator for the Nobel Prize Committee for Literature, 2001.

His ancestor, John, came to Texas from Tennessee in 1872 and opened the first commercial greenhouse in the County. He introduced peach trees to Parker County and magnolias to Dallas, and named five streets between McKinney and Cedar Springs, including Howell and Routh for his family.

Pat is survived by his wife, Joan, three daughters, one son, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and first cousin, Nancy McRae. A memorial service was held at The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, with burial at Greenwood Cemetery.



NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to our organization:

Jean Priot Adams, was born in Arkansas but has made her home in Texas for nearly thirty years. She was employed by General Dynamics in Fort Worth. Jean and her husband, Frankie, have one daughter, Brenda Kay, who lives in Fort Worth.

Mother and son, **Jessica and Jeremy LeBeau**, are our newest members from Rowlett. They are members of the Rowlett Historical Society, and Jessica belongs to the Dallas Historical Society. She is a Marketing Consultant and Jeremy is a senior at Sachse High School. Jeremy's paternal great-grandparents, Otis and Nell (Culpepper) LeBeau lived and worked in Oak Cliff in the first decade of the 1900s.

Christopher B. Thevenet is our new pioneer Life member. He is descended from Michel Thevenet, born in France in 1821. Michel and his wife, Adele Jean Jacques, were the parents of Henry Benjamin, born in Dallas in 1865. This birth was documented in the La Reunion Colony.

Henry and his wife, Laura Anna Eimer, became the parents of Henry Benjamin, Jr. who, with his wife Mary Addison, settled into a home on Velasco after their marriage in 1927. They were the parents of Henry Addison Thevenet, who married Judith M. Scruggs, and they had son Christopher.

Margaret Adams Upham, and her son, **Steve R. Upham** join us. Their family stretches back seven generations in Dallas County, even unto La Reunion! Margaret and Steve are descendants of the Frichots and Priots of La Reunion, and are cousins of our dear Eloise Santerre, descendant of Emanuel Santerre, the last living member of La Reunion.

The Frichots and Priots established the first kilns for making bricks used in many homes, buildings, and streets in the Dallas area.

Margaret (Mickey) Wilson Webb, whose grandmother Bessie Eldridge Simpson King, was born in East Dallas at Elam (now part of Dallas) in 1890 and was buried in the La Reunion Cemetery in 1940. Margaret is the youngest of three children born to Margaret Lorraine King and James Frederick Wilson.

We welcome back **Elizabeth and Jack Hittson**, almost-Charter members of the revived DCPA who have been missing for several years.

Jack is descended from Edward Browder, first secretary of the original DCPA in 1875. He and Elizabeth collaborated on the first volume of *Proud Heritage*, then lost it and all their family records in a house fire and have had to start from scratch again.

Dr. Hittson is a retired dentist, and with wife, Elizabeth raised four more doctors.

AWARDS

Marie Caillet, our La Reunion descendant and "Iris Lady," has received the American Iris Society's highest honor: the Gold Medal for Lifetime Achievement.

The medal is given for outstanding contributions to the Society and to irises as a garden flower. Marie is the thirteenth recipient since the Medal was begun in 1930, and recognizes her sixty-five years of promoting the native Louisianas found in the Gulf coast states from Texas to Florida.

Marie comes from a long line of gardeners: her father's people in France, the Reverchons, grew grapes and made wine. Her grandmother, Eugenie Reverchon, was known for her pretty flower garden near Lovers Lane and her great uncle, Julien Reverchon was an early Texas botanist. Marie is neither a botanist nor a horticulturist, but has made gardening a life-time hobby.

Since retirement in 1972 she has developed a tour-type garden and gives programs to gardening groups in Dallas.

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left no descendants, as his two children died in their teens. His wife was Marie Henry and, according to Marie Caillet, some of the Henry family were in attendance.



Visit our web site at: www.dallaspioneer.org

The Dallas County Pioneer Association is dedicated to preserving the history of Dallas County and those who settled here before 1880. Anyone who is interested may apply for membership regardless of when they, or their ancestors, came to Dallas County. Contact the Membership Chairman for an application.

Membership Dues:

\$20	Per year	\$200	Life membership
\$30	Couple	\$300	Couple Life membership

The Association meets quarterly for dinner and a program at 6:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of each March, June, September, and December. The meeting room opens at 5:30 p.m. for fellowship and dining. The program starts promptly at 7 p.m.. Visitors are always welcome.

Phone: 214-944-5400

DALLAS COUNTY PIONEER
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ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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