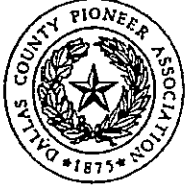


2008 #4



Dallas County Pioneer Association

Founded 1876, Reorganized 1979
P.O. Box 12496 Dallas, TX 75225
214.944.6400

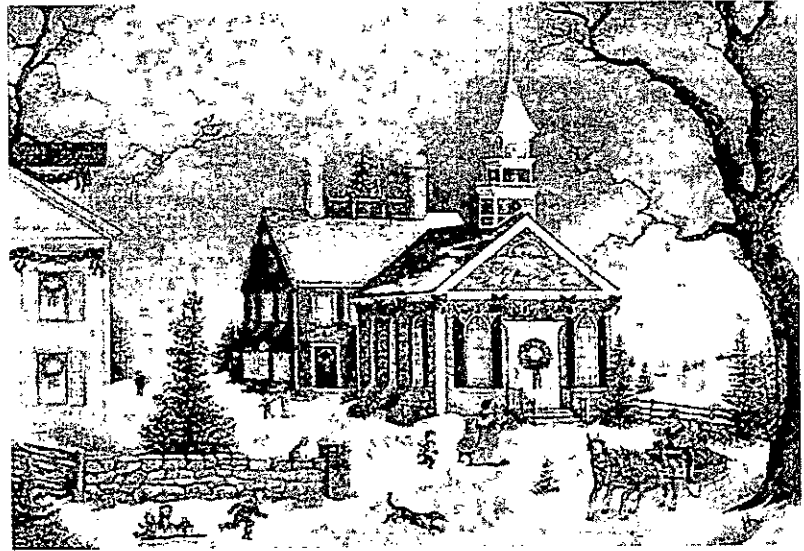
Winter – 2008

December 4

Christmas Program Ye Merrie Olde Players

Meeting begins at 5:30 pm with a catered dinner (\$15) at 6:00 pm and program to follow at 7 pm.

Activity Center
Cochran Chapel United Methodist Church
9027 Midway Rd. @ Northwest Hwy
Reservations by Mon. December 1
214-944-5400



A Holiday Medley of early Dallas songs. Performers in the group include: Shirley Kochman, Doris Griffith, Sarah Chalk, Carrie Jane Loftis, Mary Jane Ogden, Brownie Shytles, Betty Taylor Cox, and Sally Luoma. They have been performing in the Dallas area for many years and they have also taught in local schools.

Nominations Committee

Bill McRae, Frances James and Eva Jane Morgan have been appointed to nominate DCPA officers for 2009. They will ask for your thoughts on leadership at the December meeting.

History Table

Frances James will set up a Christmas table. Please bring your favorite items of the past.

The 10th Annual Legacies Dallas History Conference
January 31, 2009

Dallas City Hall

Dallas Lost and Found: More Hidden Treasures and Forgotten Stories

Reminder:
Dues, Dec. 31,
2008



CEMETERY NEWS

By Frances James

The Texas Fence Association erected a six foot wrought iron fence across the front of the Western Heights Cemetery. They also repainted the arch over the entrance & placed a six foot Cox fence along the Neal Street side. This association won a National contest in 2007 for a similar project and were trying to win again. The Western Heights project cost them over \$26,000 & has really improved this area along Ft. Worth Ave. The Ft. Worth Ave. Development Group, a number of property owners & businesses along the street, have decided to adopt the Western Heights Cemetery as one of their beautification projects & will help with the costs of maintenance for this important site. They are sponsoring an event on Nov. 29, & they encourage everyone to come & bring tools to participate in a clean-up.

On Nov. 15th the bronze plaque for the Fletcher Cemetery in Garland was dedicated. Russell Fletcher was the first person buried in this site. Russell lived only 2 years after coming to Texas. His wife, Eliza, was a sister of Catherine Embree, the mother of Dr. Kelly H. Embree who was a well known early doctor in the Garland area.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

At the recent Board Meeting, Bill McRae, who chaired the Nominating Committee, presented the following names for officers in 2009: Pres., David Vilbig; Vice-Pres., Dianne J. Reed; Sec., Marsha Leach; Treas., Charles Powers; Historian, Eva Jane Morgan; and Newsletter Editor, Pat Randolph. Additional nominations may be made by members attending the upcoming meeting.

Members of DCPA are invited to put their Family History on the Pioneer Website:

www.dallaspioneer.org

BOOK NEWS

A splendid new book, *GREAT AMERICAN SUBURBS, THE HOMES OF THE PARK CITIES, DALLAS* is 480 pages of history, photographs and eventful stories from early Dallasites. The project was penned by Dallas author and architectural historian Virginia Savage McAlester, along with Dallas architect and scholar Willis Cecil Winters. Virginia is a life member of the DCPA.

FINAL FAREWELL

Andrew Anthony "Andy" Hanson was a noted and well liked photographer who died October 22, 2008 at his home in Dallas. He chronicled nearly half a century of celebrities in Dallas. He also captured three decades of everyday Dallas history as the society photographer with the *Dallas Times Herald*. His flawless negatives and 23,000 eight-by-ten photographs and 11,000 rolls are important archives at the Dallas Public Library. Andy, who was 76, will be missed by all who knew him!



Minutes Of The Quarterly Meeting September 4, 2008

Frances James reported that the Western Heights Cemetery is getting a brand new fence, on the Fort Worth Avenue side, as part of a national contest among fence companies. The Fort Worth Avenue Development Group has volunteered to help with maintenance of the cemetery.

Frances has spent hours working on the Fletcher Cemetery which is known as "The Cemetery In The Alley." She has contacted members of the Fletcher Family in New York, California, Colorado and South Texas. The Pioneer Fletcher Family came to Dallas in 1854. The father, Russell Fletcher, died in 1856 and is the first person buried in the cemetery. He was followed by his wife, Eliza, and their children and anyone else in the neighborhood who needed a place to rest. All the headstones are gone. A bronze marker will be placed at the cemetery with the names of everyone buried there.

Two other cemeteries under investigation are in Garland at 1-30 and Bobtown Road. Both have been paved over by developers. There are two brick enclosures that contain headstones from the cemeteries embedded in concrete. Frances is requesting that the City of Garland place a marker on the two brick enclosures commemorating the headstones. The stories of these cemeteries will be included in Book Two of "Dallas County History From The Ground Up."

Marsha Leach introduced the guests including her daughter, Melanie Griffin; Tommy and Jennifer Vilbig, son and daughter of David Vilbig; Linda Boggess, sister of David Vilbig; J.D. Peazler, grandson of Martha Gracey; Mary Hart, friend of Pat Randolph, and Betty Winsor, guest of Jerry Dealey.

David Vilbig drafted a letter in the name of the Dallas County Pioneer Association Board to the Dallas City Council opposing the Ross Avenue name change and the possibility of changing any other historically named street in Dallas.

Richard Monroe announced the program for December: "Ye Merrie Olde Players" will perform a Christmas medley. Mike Hazel will become Program Chairman for 2009.

Jim Gatewood presented the program, "New Evidence Of Mafia Ties To the JFK Assassination" and those attending the meeting were mesmerized.

Respectfully Submitted: Marsha Leach, Secretary

FINAL FAREWELL

We lost a longtime member of DCPA recently. Mary Louise Dodge died Oct. 15 in California, where her son lived. A native of Dallas, Mrs. Dodge was the daughter of Pauline Farracy Brown & Charles W. Brown. She was born July 18, 1916 at her grandfather's home on the corner of Cole & Elizabeth Streets. She attended Ursuline Academy, Woodrow Wilson High School, SMU, and the U. of Buffalo. Besides her son, she is survived by her sister, 3 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. She was a member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Episcopal Cathedral, Dallas Southern Memorial Assn., Dallas Co Pioneer Assn., Pan American Round Table & active in local & national politics.



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: Any person 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 members

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

Association Officers

President	David Vilbig
Vice-Pres.	Dianne Janisek Reed
Secretary	Marsha B. Leach
Treasurer	Sally Jacoby Veazey
Historian	Eva Jane Morgan
Membership	Dan Fauver
Programs	Richard Monroe
Telephone	R. Sue Bucy
Sunshine	Mildred Coffey
News Editor	Pat Randolph

Phone: 214-944-5400

Dallas County Pioneer Association
P.O. Box 12496
Dallas, Texas 75225-0496