



DALLAS COUNTY PIONEER ASSOCIATION

FOUNDED 1875, REORGANIZED 1979
P O Box 12496 DALLAS TX 75225
972-260-9334

Fall 2009

QUARTERLY MEETING

Quarterly Meeting
Thursday, September 3, 2009
Cochran Chapel United Methodist Church
Meeting Room
9027 Midway Road at Northwest Highway
Room Opens at 5:30 Dinner at 6 PM
Meeting Begins At 7 PM.

**For Dinner Reservations - call by the Tuesday before
the meeting: 972-260-9334**

- ◆ Catered Dinner (\$15) begins at 6:00 pm
- ◆ Program to follow at 7:00 pm
- ◆ Activity Center of Cochran Chapel United Methodist Church
- ◆ Located at the corner of Midway Road and Northwest Highway.

PROGRAM

Speaker

Evelyn Montgomery

Presents

"From Family Showplace to Teeming Apartment House: The World War II Housing Shortage and the Redefinition of East Dallas Homes"

Bigger!

Reservations 972-260-9334



"Save the date"

**11th Annual Legacies
Dallas History
Conference**

January 30, 2010

Let's Welcome our New Members

(List HERE)



★ Committee to
announce passings

FINAL FAREWELLS

Sadly, we report the loss of Pioneer members this year.

Mary Ellen Pulliam Burtner, a native Dallasite, passed away March 21 at the age of 90. She was the great-granddaughter of Bill and Nancy Cochran, who settled in Dallas in 1843. She was only 8 when her dad registered her as a founding member of Highland Park Presbyterian Church. Mary Ellen was devoted to her children and served on the PTA, in school lunchrooms and in Sunday Schools. She belonged to the DAR, Dallas Southern Memorial Association, Hidden Hills Club, ZTA Mothers Club, Mary K Craig Class, Dallas Woman's Club and Dallas Garden Club. She also served her church as Circle Chairman, prayer teacher and Palee Class president.

Susan Alice Cargile, 82, passed away April 6. She was a dedicated teacher and guidance counselor at Highland Park Jr. High School. She organized and edited the school's first newspaper and year book and she was the organizing president of the Highland Park Educators Association. Two of the Ms. Cargile's ancestors, John Henry Dillard and Daniel William Clouse, were among the defenders at the Battle of the Alamo.

Dennis B DuPriest, Jr. passed away April 27. After graduation from San Marcos Academy and Texas A&M, he served proudly in the U.S. Army in World War II. His career as a fire insurance underwriter continued for more than 35 years.

Longtime member Mary Alice Cockrell Dealey, 90, known as Mackie, died May 19 and her service was held at Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church. She was a devoted family member who enjoyed trips across the country with her children. She participated in church activities, Junior Garden Club, water skiing, square dancing, ballroom dancing, Old City Park, Tri Delt, and Rotary Anns. Mackie was a descendant of Dallas' found Cockrell family and of the founders of the Reunion Colony.

- Lewis Moore -

Mary Cox -



NEXT DALLAS HISTORY CONFERENCE TO FEATURE FORGOTTEN TALES

Did you know that SMU had a medical school between 1911 and 1915, before the present campus even opened? Or that prostitution was legal in Dallas (at least within a defined area) between 1910 and 1913? Or that the son of Episcopal Bishop Alexander Garrett invented the first traffic lights in Dallas?

These and more "forgotten stories" will be featured at the 11th Annual *Legacies* Dallas History Conference on Saturday, January 30, 2010. Other topics include Long's Lake (a recreation site near today's In-fomart) and an outlaw named "Shilo" Scrivnor, who robbed the Jackson Street Post Office in 1921. The conference will be held in the theater of the Hughes-Trigg Student Center on the campus of SMU.

The Dallas County Pioneer Association is one of a dozen local historical organizations and libraries that jointly sponsor the conference. All DCPA members will receive a registration brochure in the mail in December. For more information, they are welcome to contact conference coordinator Michael V. Hazel at mvhazel@sbcglobal.net.



THE DANIEL FAMILY

Dallas County is 900 square miles, and when our ancestors arrived often alone or unless they traveled with other families from wherever they started from, sometimes they did not know anyone. They made friends, met other people and if single found a sweetheart.

While researching for Volume III, Dallas County History From the Ground Up, I found an article on the internet dated 1926 with a picture of Ed Daniel and a short story about his father J.H. Daniel being an early settler. There were several Daniel families who arrived as soon as they could get here, but I had never heard of this Daniel Family, so I started digging around.

Ed's father was John Henry Daniel (1826-1911), born in Kentucky but came to Texas as a twenty-one year old single man in 1847 from Missouri. He qualified for 320 acres of Peters Colony land and chose one site where Ferguson Road and Lakeland intersect. This land is adjacent to the Lovejoy Survey where Warren Ferris settled down and where the Ferris Cemetery is located. He found another piece of property, where the addition to Dallas called Pasadena is, near White Rock Lake. John H. Daniel served as Commissary Sergeant for the Dallas County Company in the War with Mexico in 1847. After he returned he served as Constable for Dallas County from 1850 to 1852 and again from 1854-1856.

In 1849 he had found Rebecca McCommas (1832-1912) and they were married. They had at least ten children, several died very young. From what I can tell there are many family members buried in the Cox Cemetery. DCPA member Carolyn Sue Chenault created a great inventory of the Cox Cemetery. She combed through several earlier partial inventories and created a dependable, complete one with available information and accurate dates.

The article from the Dallas Daily Times Herald quoted Ed Daniel who said they had a log cabin and plenty of timber and deer in the wood. He said when White Rock Creek was dammed to form the lake for a water supply in 1910-11, that J.H. showed the engineers where to build the dam as he knew the lay of the land better than anyone else. Ed W. whose picture was included in the 1926 article had been a Dallas fireman for 34 years before retiring. He and his first wife are two members of this family that are buried at the Cox Cemetery.

Submitted by Frances James



DISPLAY TABLES

Be sure to stop and look at the display tables.

Powers Vintage Item

Last month Charles featured a 1928 Radio and had a "guess the date" contest.



OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORDS

The Dallas County Clerk's Office recently approved a contract for the digitization, scanning and indexing of the County Clerk's Official Public Records from 1989 back to 1846. The contract also requires that the images be made available on the internet along with the existing set of records from 1988 to current. The link to the new website is: <https://dallas.landrecordsonline.com/>.



MEMBER PROFILE

William D. McRae, an outstanding former president of our Dallas County Pioneer Association, was born in Jackson, Tennessee. His mother was Margaret Davis McRae and his father, William Knox McRae. He graduated from Duke University and in 1952 he moved to Houston, Texas and then Dallas in 1987. Bill's career was spent in the petroleum refinery and supply industry. The companies he worked with included International Petroleum, Humble Oil CO, Enco, Exxon USA and Fina, Inc.

When Bill and his wife, Nancy married their combined family included 5 children; Margaret Ottmann, Steve McRae, Martha McRae, Leigh McRae and Linda Hines. They now have 9 grandchildren and July 7, 2009 they welcomed their first great-grandson who weighed 7 lbs. 7 Oz.

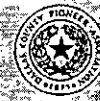
Bill has participated in a number of community activities and Dallas has been fortunate for his capable leadership. Yet, when he does have some free time, he enjoys traveling and doing crossword puzzles. One of his favorite sayings is, quote; "I wish I thought of that."

Thank you, Bill for your strong support of our Pioneer Association.



DALLAS COUNTY CLERK JOHN WARREN KICKS OFF HISTORICAL BOOK PRESERVATION PROJECT

Dallas County has over 12,000 historical books that have been stored away and poorly maintained. Over the years, these historical books have slowly deteriorated due to improper storage and handling. Mr. Warren has taken action regarding this issue and has contracted with GTSI, Inc., AmCad and Louisiana Binding Services, Inc. to spear head the preservation project. This project is estimated to take approximately seven (7) years to complete. The preservation process of the books will be done in several phases depending on the severity of the books condition. The condition of the books range from torn and brittle pages to ripped binding and mold. "It is very important that we preserve the history of Dallas County and its land records." Mr. Warren noted.



CEMETERY NEWS

The news from Western Heights Cemetery has been disturbing this summer. With the new six foot wrought iron fence and specially designed gate things began to look very nice. The Fort Worth Avenue Development Group donated \$2000.00 from their beautification fund to the Dallas County Pioneer Organization and good use was made of the funds by Dan Fauver and the volunteers (mostly Dan doing a lot of encouragement) when many of the headstones were reset and leveled. One headstone that had fallen over and sank into the ground for many years was discovered and dug up. This was for Henry Elam Mills, Army Field Clerk U.S. Army, died August 20, 1933. An attempt has been made to locate any descendants but so far no one has been found. We may have a clue as DCPA member Rose Marie Price has found that a Robert Price married Elfreda Ellis Coombs and they had six children. One was named Henry! There are other members of the Coombs family buried in Western Heights Cemetery. Some of you genealogist need to see what you can find with this strong clue!

In June, Carl Struck who lives nearby and checks daily on the cemetery called to say that the gates were gone! These were the large drive through gates under the arch. After checking with the FWADG and company who had installed the new fencing as a project for their organization and a donation to these pioneers, a police report was made. Sadly though the thieves were not through as they came back and removed another section of the fence. Again a police report was made. The nice surprise was when the fence company told us a new gate had been ordered and would be installed!

A neighborhood group near the Lagow Cemetery on Carpenter Street has volunteered to clean up and care for this site in their area. Richard Lagow had donated land for a community cemetery from the portion of the Lagow league he inherited from his father Thomas Lagow. Richard traded a part of the land for Fair Park and donated more for a school not far from the cemetery. There are not any Lagows buried here. There have been two court cases involving this land one as early as 1889 as certain people tried to claim it and build on it. They were unsuccessful both times. This black neighborhood group is interested in researching the white folks buried here as the addresses of their homes may be someone's home now!

June Shipley and Charles Blackman are researching all Confederate Vets buried in two cemeteries in Lancaster, the Rawlins and Edgewood. They have found about eighty-five vets so far. They intend to write a book that will help preserve the stories of these pioneers. Nice article in the paper about this project. Lancaster is the city that will be high-lighted at the Old Red Museum in September. The Lancaster Library and others are collecting pictures and information for the display. Be sure and go to Old Red while this display is featured. If you have something that would add to the display get in touch with Mary Sykes at the Library.

The shocking news about the cemetery in Chicago was on TV and the local papers. The same thing has and does happen here in Dallas. A particular very old cemetery that had one section that looked bare since the first early pioneers had no head stones has a member of the cemetery organization who has decided she can probe and if she does not happen to hit a casket (not all had caskets) she sells the lots now. She is not a trained or licensed archeologist and only uses a rod. She moves stones



CEMETERY NEWS *con't*

around to fit her latest scheme. She has come up with names none of the old timers have ever heard of. So far, the District Attorney nor the sheriff's department is interested enough to do any thing about this although it has been reported to them. State law is very weak on protecting cemeteries.

In the 1850s and 60s one section of the state was represented in the Texas senate by Thomas Jefferson Weatherford (1810-1867). His Peters Colony Survey was south of Dallas near what is now Wilmer. He was married more than once and one of his wives was Mary McKee Stadden. There is a Stadden Cemetery on this survey that was inventoried by members of the Lancaster Historical Society in January 1986. Parker County was formed while he was senator and the county seat is named for Weatherford. He was the father of many children and some people in Weatherford are looking for any history we might have on the Thomas Jefferson Weatherford family. Any information will be appreciated.

A Dallas native who now lives on a 1500 acre farm in Kansas was looking for the "City Cemetery" as that is what was on the death certificate for a baby only twenty-three days old who died at Bradford Children's Hospital in 1935. Due to the diligent work done by Karen Riggs from Oklahoma in 2002 we found the site. While looking for her grandmother's burial spot, Karen used the nearly useless file from the Library and literally crawled around the cemetery finding the markers that were left and lining up the rows so that others could find their loved ones. The baby, Shirley Temple Harris' grave was found at the City Cemetery behind the warehouses at 10606 Shady Trail. This now well documented cemetery is included on Jim Wheat's Web page. Karen moved to Tarrant County to be near her daughter, but the inventory, location, and pictures in this project she spent so much time on is available for future generation to see.

The Volunteer Center has agreed to add that the maintenance of the cemeteries in Dallas County to the list of opportunities for people wishing to do this type of work. Members of DCPA can help make this program work by agreeing to supervise the volunteer and sign off on the hours spent. The volunteer labor is free and they must make arrangements to provide their own tools. If there is a cemetery in your neighborhood that needs tender loving care this is an opportunity to see that it gets done correctly.

Volume II of Dallas County History From the Ground Up is now available. The cost is \$40.00 and if mailed \$4.00 for postage. Remember \$7.50 of this is deposited for each book in the Dallas County Pioneer's Cemetery Fund to defray the expenses of signs, markers, emergency repairs for the over 200 cemeteries in Dallas County. Some have no one else but us to watch over them. *Submitted by Frances James*



DALLAS COUNTY PIONEER ASSOCIATION

P O Box 12496

Dallas, Texas 75225-0496

NEWSLETTER



DALLAS COUNTY PIONEER ASSOCIATION

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We're on the web!

www.dallaspioneer.org

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President	David Vilbig
Vice-Pres	Dianne Janisek Reed
Secretary	Marsha B. Leach
Treasurer	Charles W. Powers
Historian	Eva Jane Morgan
Membership	Open
Programs	Committee
Telephone Committee	Sally Jacoby Veazey
Sunshine Committee	Mildred Coffey
Publicity & Newsletter	Pat. B. Randolph
Newsletter Publisher	Jennifer. Vilbig

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 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 welcome.
Phone 972-260-9334