



DALLAS COUNTY PIONEER ASSOCIATION

FOUNDED 1875, REORGANIZED 1979

P O Box 12496 DALLAS TX 75225

972-260-9334

SPRING 2016



**RESERVATION REQUIRED
IF YOU INTEND TO EAT!**

Quarterly Meeting

Thursday March 3, 2016

The Point, Center for Arts and Education

Campus of C. C. Young

4847 W. Lawther Dr.

Room Opens at 5:30 Dinner at 6 PM

Program Begins At 7 PM

Dinner \$15.00 per person

DINNER RESERVATION

call by the Tuesday before the meeting.

972-260-9334

MARCH PROGRAM

“Dallas and Denton Counties - Common Threads”

Presented by Peggy Riddle

Peggy Riddle has over thirty-five years of experience in the field of historical interpretation. Peggy is currently the Director of Denton County's Office of History and Culture where she oversees a staff of five and a volunteer force of over 75. She manages a budget of \$610,000 that provides support for exhibits, educational programs and historic preservation projects.

She is the former Historic Preservation Manager for the City of Grapevine, former Assistant Director of the Legends of the Game Baseball Museum for the Texas Rangers Baseball Club, former Executive Director of the Heritage Farmstead Museum in Plano, and former Director of Research and Public Programs for the Dallas Historical Society.

Before joining Denton County in 2011, Peggy planned exhibits and coordinated historic preservation projects for several towns across Texas including Dallas, Fort Worth, Weatherford, Coppell, Big Spring, Marshall, Lancaster, and Longview. She has served as associate editor and contributor for Legacies: a History Journal for Dallas and North Central Texas, and is the author of several manuals for educators, historical organizations and museums.

In the area of municipal preservation planning, Peggy has served as both a consultant and a volunteer on projects in the DFW area since 1978. She is a former President of the Society of Architectural Historians, Texas Chapter, a former Officer and Board Member of Preservation Dallas, a former task force member of the City of Dallas Landmark Commission, a former Board Member of Friends of Fair Park, and former Co-chair of Black Dallas Remembered. Peggy currently chairs the City of Denton Historic Landmark Commission and Denton County Historic Preservation Officer.

Meeting Schedule for 2016

June 2, 2016 (Thursday)

September 1, 2016 (Thursday)

December 3, 2016 (Saturday)



Cemetery News

Oakland Cemetery has a new sexton and maintenance man. The site is much improved. All the old vehicles are gone. Over 70 people attended The Dallas Historical Society tour in October led by DCPA member Paul McLin. You need to come see the cemetery.

In May the Dallas Historical Society tour will be at the Downtown Pioneer Cemetery. The new headstones in memory of W. C. C. Akard have been placed at the gravesite for W. C. C. and one of his sons Porter Akard. The old fragments of the original headstones found in the lower level at the City Hall are preserved and placed flat on the ground. Akard's great grandson a retired judge who lives in Houston is responsible for this and perhaps he will be able to be present during the May DHS tour. The walking tour will be May 14, 2016. Registration and more information at the Dallas Historical Society.



Friends of Old Calvary is now a group of people who are interested in seeing that this cemetery on Hall Street is carefully preserved. It was established in 1874 by the Catholic Church. When it began to run out of spaces another site was purchased on Lombardy Lane. The new land was purchased from the Letot family. The Friends have been able to move the homeless who built their hovel in the back corner of the old cemetery on Hall Street and left a lot of residue adjacent to The Emanu El cemetery. The trees are being trimmed by an arborist and every Friday fresh flowers are placed by the gravesites of the priests and nuns who are buried in the circle in the center of the site.

The Thomas Family Cemetery was destroyed by the developers when houses were built on Royal Park in the 1960s. Several years ago one of the headstones was discovered north of Dallas at Hebron where an addition was being constructed. A kin of the Thomas family, DCPA member Louis Moore, was contacted at that time. He had pictures of the old cemetery. He made arrangements and the stone was brought back to Dallas and is in another plot with other family members at Greenwood Cemetery. Louis is gone now, but, his widow DCPA member, Betty Moore, will remember all the details of this find! I have recently been called by a man who played in the cemetery as a boy and he tells me there are more headstones in the creek behind the houses on this cul-de-sac. Anyone interested in getting involved with this research let me know.

The dam at Lewisville has been under a lot of discussion lately. The Ritter Cemetery, now on land owned by the Corps of Engineer, is adjacent to the dam - you need to have permission to get to the cemetery as the gate is kept locked. This is not in Dallas County, but I was asked by family members who live in Dallas to get a Texas Historical Marker for the site and met many of the families who have kinfolk buried there. This cemetery site could be impacted if work on the dam passes this area.

The state law that was passed by the legislature last May says the Storm Water Management fee should not be on the water bill of certain cemeteries. This was to happen immediately! I asked the Dallas City Manager for a list of the cemeteries that would be affected by this law. State representative Ken Sheets came to DCPA meeting and this bill was discussed. As of this date I have not received a list of the cemeteries nor do I receive a reply when I call, write, or e-mail. If asked I just tell each person to not pay the fee. Oakland cemetery has been sent a statement for over \$3000!

Jim Foster retired Dallas County Judge of the Commissioner's Court now lives in Florida. He and many friends lived in the far north-east corner of Dallas County. He has managed to put together a group called the Pioneers of Dallas County on Facebook. A lot of stories about early settlers and their descendants is now available for all of us all over the county.

The Veterans who work for AT&T cleaned up the cemetery behind the AT&T building in west Dallas. This is where many of the people who came to Dallas worked at the cement plants are buried. These folks, looking for work received a green card for \$.25 and walked from the border to Dallas to work! Volunteer Eladio Martinez was killed in the Philippines in WWII and his remains are here.

Submitted by Frances James



Preserving the Religious Artwork of St. Paul University Hospital

When the new William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital opened in December 2014, it meant saying a bittersweet goodbye to St. Paul University Hospital, which closed after serving patients for more than 50 years. To preserve St. Paul's historical and religious heritage, mosaics that adorned the hospital walls and stained-glass windows from a small chapel have been painstakingly removed and will soon be relocated. The artwork was installed when the hospital relocated to Inwood Road and Harry Hines Boulevard in 1963. Full Story with several pictures located in the publication http://www.utsouthwestern.edu/edumedia/edufiles/about_us/Giving/fall-2015.pdf on page 18.



Hopes of Preserving Historic Treasures

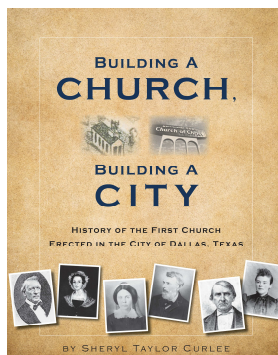
The City of Dallas is trying some new ideas in hopes of preserving historic treasures in all the sections of the City (that through bad zoning rules and expanding highways were destroyed through the years.) At one time Park Row and South Boulevard had beautiful homes built by the same Architects as Gaston Avenue and Swiss Avenue. A few of the fine homes are still standing. The Cedars was also an addition with large single family houses.

The Blue House is one you can see from Hwy I-30 when you are just leaving downtown. It was the home at 1015 Browder in the Cedars Addition built 130 years ago later owned by Max Rosenfield. His son, John Rosenfield, became the drama and music critic for the Dallas Morning News beginning 1924 when George Dealey, publisher of the News asked him to cover that position.

In the last few years until October 2015 it had been used as a halfway house for recovering drug addicts. Now vacant and boarded up it was headed for demolition - but that has changed and it will be moved to another location and rehabbed by Time Warner who want to build a large facility at this spot.

The Dallas Landmark Commission was involved in this building's preservation.

The Landmark Commission is also involved in the preservation of a spring on land originally owned in Dallas County by the John Beeman family. This portion of the land was inherited by Margaret Beeman who married John Neely Bryan and they owned it a few years. It was sold to Case Pemberton when he came to Texas in the 1840s. Case had two wives and two families with seven sons. He eventually owned hundreds of acres of land and a store which was divided among these boys. Some went to Oklahoma. The Big Spring has never dried up and now is included in a Green Belt along White Rock Creek. Much of the history of the Beeman and Pemberton families has been included in the application for Landmark status by the interested folks who are determined to save the spring. This is the beginning of Dallas!



“Building a Church, Building a City” History of the First Church Erected in the City of Dallas, Texas

By DCPA Member Sheryl Taylor Curlee

Read these stories and more about the men and women who have served this congregation for 160 years in Dallas: A father and son have served this congregation as preachers. Itinerant preachers in the early years included a dentist, a school teacher, a judge and a decorated Confederate general.

DALLAS COUNTY PIONEER ASSOCIATION

P O Box 12496
Dallas, Texas 75225-0496

NEWSLETTER



DALLAS COUNTY PIONEER ASSOCIATION

PAGE 4

We're on the web!

www.dallaspioneer.org

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President	David Vilbig
Vice-Pres	Howard Cox
Secretary	Marsha B. Leach
Treasurer	William Vilbig
Historian	Eva Jane Morgan
Membership	Open
Programs	Sally Jacoby Veazey
Telephone Committee	Sally Jacoby Veazey
Sunshine Committee	Sally Jacoby Veazey
Publicity & Newsletter	Open
Newsletter Publisher	Barbara 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 any officer 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 the first Saturday of December for a lunch meeting. Visitors are welcome.

Phone Number 972-260-9334 Email dcpa1875@gmail.com