



DALLAS COUNTY PIONEER ASSOCIATION

FOUNDED 1875, REORGANIZED 1979

P O Box 12496 DALLAS TX 75225

972-260-9334

FALL 2016



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

Quarterly Meeting

Thursday September 1, 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

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

“Building a Church, Building a City ”

Presented by Sheryl Taylor Curlee

Sheryl Taylor Curlee graduated in 1967 from W. F. George High School in Iowa Park, Texas, and from Abilene Christian University in 1971 with a degree in communications. She worked for KIXL Radio, Ratcliff Advertising, KNUS Radio and McLendon Broadcasting in Dallas and Cessna Aircraft Company in Wichita, Kansas. In 1983 she began work at Highland Oaks Church of Christ as the bookkeeper and in 1984 was named Finance Manager and held that position until October 2011.

Sheryl began researching the history of Highland Oaks Church of Christ in 2002 and published that history in December, 2015, in a book titled Building a Church, Building a City. The heritage of this church includes being the first church to be erected in the city of Dallas.

Sheryl enjoys traveling and genealogy and is a member of the Dallas County Pioneer Association. Sheryl enjoys singing and was a member of Sweet Adelines International, a women's organization for 4-part Barbershop harmony singing, for 35 years. She earned five International Gold Medals singing with the Rich Tone Chorus of Richardson, Texas.

Sheryl Taylor Curlee was born in 1948 to J. Boyd Taylor, long-time minister for Churches of Christ in Iowa Park, Wichita Falls, Irving, Garland and Heath, Texas, and the late Geneva Campbell Taylor, long-time elementary school teacher. She has one brother, Derl Taylor. Her husband, David Curlee, died in 2014.

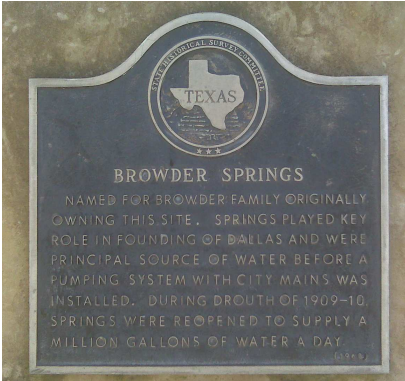
Contact Sheryl for additional information or copies of this book at hugatree1948@sbcglobal.net.

Meeting Schedule

December 3, 2016 (Saturday) March 2, 2017 June 1, 2017 September 7, 2017 December 2, 2017 (Saturday)



Browder Springs



BROWDER'S SPRINGS. Browder's (Browder) Springs, located a mile southeast of the Dallas County Courthouse (at 32°43' N, 96°45' W), played two important roles in the early history of Dallas: as the first public water supply for the town and subsequently as a ruse by which Dallas captured the Texas and Pacific Railway. The artesian springs were named for Lucy Jane Browder and her two sons, Edward and Isham, who acquired the property before 1850. They served as a source of fresh water for residents in the vicinity, while the picturesque location, which included Mill Creek, was a popular site for picnics; it later became the city's first public park, City Park. In 1878 the privately owned Dallas Water Supply Company purchased Browder's Springs and two surrounding acres and expanded the pumping facilities it had inaugurated two years earlier on Mill Creek. Relations between the company and the

city became increasingly strained because of poor service, and in 1881 the city bought the entire system, including the land, engines, boiler, pumps, standpipes, machinery, hydrants, hoses, and fire plugs, for \$65,000. This first public station was closed in 1886 because water consumption was surpassing the capacity of the springs. A well was drilled from which residents could draw their own water. The station was reopened during droughts in 1909–10 and 1937 and then closed permanently. The springs disappeared when Mill Creek became a sewer in the 1930s, and the location was buried under R. L. Thornton Freeway in the 1960s.

In 1871, when the state legislature was debating a bill granting right of way to the Texas and Pacific, the T&P was planning a line west from Marshall along the thirty-second parallel, intended to cross the Houston and Texas Central near Corsicana. Representative John W. Lane of Dallas managed to attach a rider to the bill specifying that the T&P must cross the H&TC "within one mile of Browder's Springs." The bill passed before it was discovered that Browder's Springs was only a mile from the Dallas County Courthouse. Dallas leaders mollified the outraged railroad officials by raising a large bond issue (\$100,000) for the benefit of the railroad and donating a right-of-way through town, now Pacific Avenue. Dallas thus became the first rail crossroads in the state and the shipping center for north central Texas.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: M. E. and Eric H. Bolding, *Origin and Growth of the Dallas Water Utilities* (Dallas, 1981). William L. McDonald, *Dallas Rediscovered: A Photographic Chronicle of Urban Expansion, 1870–1925* (Dallas: Dallas County Historical Society, 1978).

The following, adapted from the Chicago Manual of Style, 15th edition, is the preferred citation for this article. Handbook of Texas Online, Michael V. Hazel, "Browder's Springs," www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/rpb04.

Dallas Water Utilities

Private owners developed the first public water supply in Dallas in 1876. The first sewers were built in the 1880s primarily for storm water drainage. At that time the street runoff and domestic sewage went directly to the Trinity River. Dallas Water Utilities began as the City of Dallas Waterworks in 1881 when the city purchased a privately owned water company that had been providing Dallas with water since the 1870s. When Browder Springs proved an inadequate water source, the city turned to surface water sources such as the Trinity River and manmade lakes in 1903. Dallas Water Utilities (DWU) is the water and wastewater service operated by the City of Dallas, Texas, in the United States. DWU is a non-profit City of Dallas department. DWU's budget is completely funded through the rates charged for water and wastewater services provided to customers.



2016 Fall Seminar Dallas Genealogy Society

**Curt B. Witcher Sources & Methods for Family History Research
Saturday, 17 September 2016**

Registration: 9:30 AM | Seminar: 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM

J. Erik Jonsson Central Library | 1515 Young Street, Dallas, TX 75201

For more information and to register online at dallasgenealogy.org

FINAL FAREWELLS

Sadly, we report the loss of Pioneer members



SHARP, Marjori Gibson

Marjori Gibson Sharp passed away peacefully on June 14, 2016. Marjori grew up in Dallas and loved her city, state and nation. She is a direct descendent of the Browder Family who were among the earliest pioneer families to settle in Dallas. Their home site was at Browder Springs which is commemorated with a historical marker at Dallas Heritage Village at Old City Park. Marjori graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in 1935 and from TCU in 1939 with a degree in journalism. She was a true Horned Frog down to her purple suede shoes. She married Thomas Frederick Sharp Jr. in 1946 and was a "pioneer" in her own right, settling in the burgeoning post war North Dallas area where she raised her children, Katherine Sharp John, Thomas F. Sharp, Jr. and Suellen Sharp Thompson. Marjori was one of the original supporters of Dallas Heritage Village, one of the first docents at Old City Park and a long term member of the Guild. She served for 6 years on the Dallas County Historical Commission where she was an award winning editor of the Commission's newsletter which included stories from all over the state and nation as well as Dallas County. Following this, she took over the newsletter for the Dallas Pioneer Association for the next 15 years and again made it a publication, not just a meeting notice. Her vision cast a wide net. As a lasting gift to her children and grandchildren, she compiled a book of their father's letters written during his World War II service as well as recently completing a family history of the pioneer Browder Family's contribution to early Dallas filled with stories about their lives and experiences on the frontier. Marjori was generous and loving to all who knew her. She played a significant part in her grandchildren's lives and leaves them with a legacy of love and family. They are Christopher William Sharp, Philip Jordan John, Allison Marie John, Elizabeth Anne John, Benjamin Browder Thompson and Paul Frederick Thompson. Her interests were varied and her creative outlets included gardening, bonsai, needlepoint, poetry and cooking. Several generations of extended family and friends have gathered at her home for holidays, celebrations and for fun and games. Until just a few days before her death, she read the Dallas Morning News front to back every day, worked the crosswords and puzzles, played cards and listened to the nightly news on television. She was engaged in life and her family. We will miss her every day. Published in Dallas Morning News on June 17, 2016

The Sharp family and friends gathered to celebrate the life of
Marjori Joy Gibson Sharp May 24, 1918 – June 14, 2016
on Sunday, August 14, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.
Pilot Grove Church Dallas Heritage Village at Old City Park.

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	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