



DALLAS COUNTY PIONEER ASSOCIATION

FOUNDED 1875, REORGANIZED 1979

P O Box 12496 DALLAS TX 75225

972-260-9334

WINTER 2016



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

Quarterly Meeting

Saturday December 3, 2016

Dallas Heritage Village

Browder Springs Hall

1515 South Harwood Street

Room Opens at 8:30 am Brunch at 9:00 am

Program begins at 10:00 am

Brunch \$15.00 per person

BRUNCH RESERVATION

call by the Thursday before the meeting.

972-260-9334



Dallas Heritage Village

Join us for our December meeting at Dallas Heritage Village. **Parking is free and admission to the park is free.** Please let the ticket office know that you are with the Dallas County Pioneer Association. A brunch will be served with coffee, hot chocolate or bottled water.

Please note that the Annual Christmas Parade in downtown is the same day so plan your route and drive time accordingly.

DECEMBER PROGRAM

Sophia Porter - Presented by Peggy Helmick-Richardson

Sophia Porter, an early Texas settler, unwittingly lived by the philosophy of "If you can't behave, be interesting." And she certainly was. Although her morals were often called into question, she later came to be lauded as a Confederate heroine during the Civil War and passed away as a well-to-do icon of Grayson County.

A professional storyteller since 2000, Peggy Helmick-Richardson is one-half of the storytelling duo Twice Upon a Time Storytellers with her husband Gene. They have been on the Texas Commission on the Arts Touring Artists Roster since 2003 and a part of the Mid-America Arts Alliance Regional Touring Program since 2006. Both recipients of John Henry Faulk Award, the highest award presented to storytellers in Texas, the couple travels the state telling in schools, libraries, special events and prisons. In addition, in 2016 they established a groundbreaking storytelling program at a 120-bed drug and alcohol treatment facility in Dallas with the purpose of assisting the clients in using their stories as a part of their personal healing process. Currently Peggy serves as secretary of the board of the Dallas Storytelling Guild.



William H. Gaston

GASTON, WILLIAM HENRY (1840–1927). William H. Gaston, a founder of Dallas, was born on October 25, 1840, near Prairie Bluff, Alabama, the son of Robert Kilpatrick and Letitia (Suddeth) Gaston. He and his family moved to Mississippi and then to Plentitude, Texas, in 1849. His father farmed extensive landholdings in that region and served two terms in the Texas legislature. William, along with his brothers Robert and George, attended the nearby Mound Prairie Institute. All three later served in the Confederate Army. The family was en route to Dallas in 1861 when an outbreak of typhoid fever caused them to stay temporarily near Mount Sylvan in Smith County. From there Gaston left to join a volunteer company being recruited in Anderson County for Confederate service. By October 1861 he had been elected captain, and his company became part of the First Texas Infantry regiment of Hood's Texas Brigade, Army of Northern Virginia.

Gaston commanded his company with distinction through the terrible battles in Virginia in 1862. After recovering from typhoid fever, he was detailed to Texas on recruiting duty for the regiment. While on leave he married a former schoolmate, Laura Furlow. He was subsequently reassigned to serve as Confederate purchasing agent in the Trans-Mississippi Department, where he spent the remainder of the war.

After Gaston was discharged in June 1865 he returned to Anderson County and farmed. His wife died in 1867, and a year later he married her sister Ione. After a successful cotton crop, they moved to Dallas with \$20,000 in gold. Sources disagree about the source of the gold. Some of it came from cotton; some may have come from Gaston's days as a purchasing agent. Gaston entered into partnership with Aaron C. Camp, and they opened the Gaston and Camp Bank of Dallas, the first permanent bank in Dallas. Within a short time Gaston had expanded into real estate, merchandising, and general speculation; the bank became the Exchange Bank and later the First National Bank of Dallas. Only five years after his arrival the Dallas Herald (see DALLAS TIMES HERALD) declared that William Gaston was most responsible for the transformation of Dallas into a city. He was reported to be one of the city's first millionaires, and another of his banks, Gaston and Gaston Bank, was the predecessor of the Republic National Bank. A Dallas Thoroughfare bears his name.

In 1886 Gaston donated eighty acres for the State Fair of Texas grounds. He and his wife raised three sons and two daughters. He died on January 24, 1927, and was buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Dallas.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Dallas Morning News, January 25, 1927. Dallas Times Herald, January 25, 1927. Robert W. Glover, ed., Tyler to Sharpsburg: The War Letters of Robert H. and William H. Gaston (Waco: Texian Press, 1960). Ralph W. Widener, Jr., William Henry Gaston, A Builder of Dallas (Dallas: Historical Publishing, 1977).

Robert W. Glover

Handbook of Texas Online, Robert W. Glover, "Gaston, William Henry," accessed November 03, 2016, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fga63>.

W. W. Glover Cemetery

6600 Block Military Parkway (Between Donna St. and Academy St.), Dallas, Texas



The chainlink fence at the back of the property was damaged years ago when a vehicle came in through the back and went out through the front wrought iron fencing. The wrought iron fence at the front was repaired at that time. The back fence was poorly repaired leaving around 75' of damaged chain-link.

Last spring Kathy Reid saw a large lawn mower in the alley that had mowed right into the fence, close to the back southeast corner and around 50' of the back fence was on the ground. Kathy found a contractor to repair the back fence.

Now there is 100' of new fencing. If you get in the direction of the cemetery, please stop to see it.

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2017

March 2, 2017
June 1, 2017

September 7, 2017
December 2, 2017

2017 ANNUAL DUES ARE NOW DUE



FINAL FAREWELLS

Sadly, we report the loss of Pioneer members



Irma Carsey Janicek, age 90 has gone home to her Lord and Savior, Thursday October 20, 2016. Irma was born in Dallas, Texas to George Thomas Carsey and Bertha Peterman Carsey on August 12, 1926. Irma was a decedent of the La Reunion Colony of Dallas. Irma graduated from Crozier Tech High School and studied art in night school at SMU. Irma became a Commercial artist opening her own studio. Irma married Clifford Thomas Janicek on December 4, 1943. She and Clifford settled in Irving, Texas after WW II and were married until Clifford passed away in 1999. Irma served in many organizations during her life Dallas County Pioneers, Irving Art Association, Irving Republican Club, served on the Irving School Board and most important her church. The last years as a member of Redeemer Bible Church in Dallas, Texas. One of the best memories is her love for the Lord and her favorite restaurant Tupy's (Tupinamba). Irma spent her last years back in Dallas and the last two in memory care home. Heartfelt warmth to this wonderful group. Irma is survived by her daughter, Dianne Janicek Reed, Dallas, sons George Janicek of Colorado, Michael Janicek of Dallas; 5 granddaughters, Crystal Janicek, Jessica Janicek, Jennifer Frazier, Rebekah Reed, and Mary Reed; 2 great grandchildren Josiah Janicek and Celeste Janicek.

Cemetery News

The City of Dallas has changed the fee for Storm Water Run Off and as I understand it the cemeteries that will be charged are the active ones. If you are aware of a cemetery that gets a statement (water bill) and there is no activity, please let me know and I will check it out.

These last few months have either been too hot, too wet, or too far away. More attention needs to be focused on the Pioneer cemeteries. If you know of one near where you live, drop by and check it out and let me know. If you do not have any ancestors buried in it go by and check on it anyway. I went by and checked on three one day and two were in good shape - the other so-so. I am just one person and there are 200 small cemeteries in Dallas County. With all the newcomers in Dallas County it is up to DCPA members to be aware of what is going on or the sites will just look like vacant land to them.

Submitted by Frances James

18th Annual Legacies Dallas History Conference "Dallas Rediscovered" January 28, 2017

"Dallas Rediscovered" is the theme of the upcoming 18th Annual Legacies Dallas History Conference. Speakers will look back at drive-in movie theaters, the Knights of Pythias building in Deep Ellum, and the 1937 Pan-American Exposition at Fair Park, among other topics. Lindalyn Adams, the stalwart behind so many preservation projects in Dallas (including Dallas Heritage Village at Old City Park, the Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza, and the Old Red Museum) will be featured in a "Conversation with a History Maker," conducted by Gary Smith. Mrs. Adams is an Honorary member of the DCPA.

The conference will be held on Saturday morning, January 28, 2017, at the Hall of State in Fair Park. Registration of \$35 includes morning refreshments as well as attendance at the conference, which runs from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. DCPA members will receive registration information in the mail in late December. The DCPA joins 13 other historical groups and libraries in sponsoring the annual conference.

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	Committee
Telephone Committee	Sally Jacoby Veazey
Sunshine Committee	Sally Jacoby Veazey
Publicity & Newsletter	Pat. B. Randolph
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 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.

New Phone Number 972-260-9334

EMAIL

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