



# DALLAS COUNTY PIONEER ASSOCIATION

FOUNDED 1875, REORGANIZED 1979

P O Box 12496 DALLAS TX 75225

972-260-9334

**FALL 2017**



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

**Quarterly Meeting  
Thursday September 7, 2017**

**The Point, Center for Arts and Education  
Campus of C. C. Young  
4847 W. Lawther Dr.  
Room Opens at 5:30 PM 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**

**The history of Dallas County Pioneer Association  
Presented by David Vilbig, Sally Veazey and Frances James**

The Dallas County Pioneer Association was founded 1875 and reorganized 1979. The Association is dedicated to preserving the history of Dallas County and those pioneers who settled the County before the year 1880. The original Dallas County Pioneer Association was founded July 13, 1875, at the Dallas County Courthouse. All persons interested in joining may apply for membership, regardless of when they or their ancestors came to the County.

### **NEXT MEETING**

**December 2, 2017 Program Sarah Horton Cockrell presented by Susan Reno**

### **MEETING SCHEDULE 2018**

**March 1, 2018**

**June 7, 2018**

**September 6, 2018**

**December 1, 2018**



## CEMETERY NEWS

The Old Oak Cliff (Beaty) Cemetery was finally mowed and looked really nice. The oldest marked burials in what is now Dallas County and some other first settlers are buried here.

With all the current fanfare about monuments in the news it will be interesting to see if and when any monuments in Dallas County are moved and where. DCPA folks need to remain involved as sites are being discussed.

The dedication of a Texas Historical Marker for the Sharrock campus and cabin was held. The Dallas Park and Recreation Department has cleared out all debris and has strong fences around each structure. The construction dates in the 1840s and is one of, if not the only site like this in Dallas County.

*Submitted by Francis James*

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## THE HISTORY OF DALLAS COUNTY

DALLAS COUNTY. Dallas County, in north central Texas, is bordered by Kaufman and Rockwall counties to the east, Tarrant County to the west, Denton and Collin counties to the north, and Ellis County to the south. Dallas is the county seat and largest city. The county's center point is at 32°46' north latitude and 96°48' west longitude. Dallas County comprises 902 square miles of the primarily flat, heavy Blackland Prairie. Elevations in the county range from 382 to 850 feet above sea level. The Elm Fork and West Fork of the Trinity River meet near downtown Dallas. The county is drained by the Trinity River and its tributaries, including White Rock, Mountain, Fivemile, Tenmile, Muddy, Duck, Turtle, and Mesquite creeks. These streams feed reservoirs for municipal water and recreational use, including Lake Ray Hubbard, Lake North, Joe Pool, Mountain Creek and White Rock Lakes. The terrain is generally undulating. The eastern two-thirds of the county and the land along the western border is surfaced by slightly acidic clayey soils with loamy topsoil. The rest of the county's soil is alkaline and loamy. The county has tall grasses with pecan and oak trees along streams and mesquite on the prairies. Though the rich soil is the main mineral resource of Dallas County, gravel and sand have been mined from the Trinity floodplain, cement has been made from the local soft limestone, and bricks have been manufactured from the county's clay. Temperatures range from an average high of 95° F in July to an average low of 36° in January. The average rainfall is thirty-six inches a year. The growing season lasts 235 days. Interstate highways 20, 30, 35E, and 635 and U.S. highways 67, 75, 80, and 175 cross the county, in addition to other prominent roads, and the area is also served by several railroad lines, including the Union Pacific, the Burlington Northern Santa Fe, and the Kansas City Southern.

The primary Indians in the region were the Anadarkos, a Caddoan group, who settled in villages along the Trinity River. Probably the first European contact with the area occurred when the [Moscoso expedition](#) entered the northeastern corner of the future Dallas County in 1542. In the eighteenth century French explorers and traders were in the vicinity. In 1760 a missionary from Nacogdoches, [José Francisco Calahorra y Saenz](#), made treaties with the Indians throughout the area. In 1819 or 1820 sixty Cherokee warriors and their families arrived from Arkansas under the leadership of Chief [Bowli](#), a Scots-Indian. After a three-year battle with prairie tribes, during which the Cherokees lost a third of their warriors, the Cherokees withdrew. In 1837 rangers from an expedition under the command of Lt. A. B. Van Benthuyzen camped on Turtle Creek after an engagement with Indians fifty miles to the north. By 1840 American explorers had begun to enter the area. The first to remain was [John Neely Bryan](#), who arrived in November 1841 with his dog and a Cherokee friend, Ned.

The future Dallas County east of the Trinity was then part of Nacogdoches County, and the part west of the Trinity belonged to Robertson County. The area was an ideal place to settle because of its rich soil and ample water. The [Republic of Texas](#) was planning to build the [Military Road](#) from Austin through the site of future Dallas to the Red River. Other roads leading to Jefferson, Houston, and the Gulf Coast soon crossed at Dallas. The underlying Austin chalk made a firm foundation for roadways. The location on the Trinity was even more valuable because at the time it was thought that the river was navigable from the [Gulf of Mexico](#) (see [RIVER NAVIGATION](#)). Settlers found useful trees, including post oak, bois d'arc, pecan, and mesquite<sup>qv</sup>. The available game included deer, buffalo, bear, and jackrabbits. Settlers in the area had difficulties with Indians, however, and many had settled for protection at Fort Bird or Bird's Fort, located near the site of present-day Euless. In 1841 the Republic of Texas had authorized the Texas Emigration and Land Company, also known as W. S. Peters and Associates or the [Peters colony](#) to recruit settlers for a 1,300-square-mile area. The land claims of the Bird's Fort settlers were blocked by the Peters colony grant, and in the spring of 1842 Bryan invited several families to join him at his dugout site. Deed records referred to this site as the new town of Dallas by August 1842. Indians continued to attack outlying settlements in the vicinity, and in 1843 [Sam Houston](#), president of the Republic of Texas, went to Grapevine Springs, later called Coppell, to meet with Indian leaders. When the chiefs failed to show up, the meeting was rescheduled at Fort Bird, and in 1843 a treaty was signed that kept the Indians west of the site of present-day Fort Worth. By the mid-1840s there were several other communities in the area in addition to Dallas. Farmers Branch, near the Peters colony field office in Stewartsville, had more residents than Dallas at the time. Cedar Springs, 3½ miles northwest of Dallas, and Hord's Ridge, the predecessor of Oak Cliff, were competing with Dallas for settlers.

From TSHA, full article on the History of Dallas County can be found here: <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hcd02>



## FINAL FAREWELLS

*Sadly, we report the loss of Pioneer members*

Reilly, Jean Riek

January 4, 1927 - March 10, 2017 Life time member of DCPA, Jean Riek Reilly of Coppell, Texas passed away on Friday, March 10, 2017 at the age of 90.

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## 1840's OAK CLIFF CABIN RECEIVES HISTORIC LANDMARK

Article and Picture from the Advocate OakCliff

One of the few remaining structures in Dallas that dates to early Texas statehood stands safe and sound in far south-west Oak Cliff. Just five years ago, that wasn't quite the case.

The Sharrock cabin was built in 1847 on land that belonged to the Peters Colony; the Republic of Texas had granted the colony more than 600 acres near where Spur 408 meets Grady Niblo Road today.

The Sharrock family built this cabin, and the land later was owned by Judge Grady Niblo and, after his death, by his son. In 2005, a holding company bought 78 acres of the land, including the Sharrock cabin, which was donated to the City of Dallas Park and Recreation Department.

The cabin and a barn were in bad condition, and preservationists worked to shore it up. Advocates worked to restore the cabin and worked to make it a designated historic landmark.

From City Councilman Scott Griggs (his original district included the cabin, but it since has been drawn out):

“Settlers constructed the log cabin, hand-dug well, root cellar and log barn in 1847. The site and its historic structures have exceptional historic significance, because they represent one of the few sites with intact structures that date from the first years of Texas’ statehood. Importantly, the structures have remained on its original site.

The cabin and its structures are also of historic significance because of their association with Everard Sharrock Jr., a Peters’ colonist. Those colonists were among the early settlers in Dallas County – some arrived shortly after John Neely Bryan established Dallas as the first permanent settlement in 1841.

On behalf of the City of Dallas, I would like to thank the Texas Historic Commission. The Dallas County Historical Commission, Dallas County Commissioners, The Dallas Park and Recreation Department, Grady Niblo Estates, the Sharrock family, and the Young family.”





## LEADERSHIP For The DCPA

DCPA is looking for a new leader. David Vilbig is stepping down as President of the DCPA after almost a decade of leading DCPA. The bylaws have been revised to where elections are held every two years instead of every year. Are you proud of your Dallas heritage or interested in the history of Dallas and think you have some good ideas to help grow the DCPA?

If you are interested in serving as President or any of the other six offices on the slate (Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Historian or Publicity), please contact SALLY JACOBY VEAZEY at [darsallyvz@gmail.com](mailto:darsallyvz@gmail.com) or 972-317-6595. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting Thursday evening September 7 when we discuss the history of DCPA and what is involved when you're an officer.

## NEWSLETTER NEW FORMAT

Due to postal regulations requiring multiple sticky tab closures on pamphlet style mailings, it will be easier to send the newsletter in envelopes in the future, so the format has been slightly altered. In addition there is a small cost savings when the newsletter is printed front and back, not booklet style. Hope you like the new format. Please send any information or articles you would like to see included in the newsletter to [dcpa1875@gmail.com](mailto:dcpa1875@gmail.com)

## FALL SEMINAR DALLAS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The Dallas Genealogical Society is excited to announce that nationally-recognized genealogy researcher, educator, and speaker D. Joshua Taylor will headline our **2017 Fall Seminar on Saturday, September 30**.

The Seminar is titled "Resource Goldmines: Societies, Religion, & Politics".

Mr. Taylor will present four topics during the all-day event:

- Session 1: Beyond Belief: The Wealth of Genealogical and Historical Societies
- Session 2: Online Resources: Religious Archives and Organizations
- Session 3: Printed Legends and Missing Footnotes: Dissecting 19th and 20th Century Compiled Genealogies
- Session 4: Untapped Resources: Your Ancestors' Political Affiliations

More information and registration forms available at <http://dallasgenealogy.com/dgs/category/seminars/fall-seminar/>

## DALLAS COUNTY PIONEER ASSOCIATION INFORMATION

### 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	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 on the first Thursday of each March, June, September, and on the first Saturday of December.

Visitors are welcome.

**Phone Number** 972-260-9334      **Email** [dcpa1875@gmail.com](mailto:dcpa1875@gmail.com)

**Web Address** [www.dallaspioneer.org](http://www.dallaspioneer.org)