



DALLAS COUNTY PIONEER ASSOCIATION

FOUNDED 1875, REORGANIZED 1979

P O BOX 12496 DALLAS TX 75225

972-260-9334

SPRING 2017



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

**Quarterly Meeting
Thursday March 2, 2017**

**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

Research in Texas From Home- Presented by Kelvin L. Meyers

Kelvin will discuss what records are available on your home computer or tablet and what resources are available to the genealogist when visiting these great sources of Texas research. Even if you are across the world you don't have to leave home to locate records about your Texas ancestors. We will also look at the records concerning the family whose home was at the current site of FUMC Dallas.

Kelvin L. Meyers is a fifth generation Texan and professional forensic genealogist since 1996, Kelvin is a frequent speaker to genealogical societies and family associations throughout the United States. As a graduate of Texas Tech University with a history major, he is an avid research-historian. After being employed for ten years in the Genealogy Department of the Dallas Public Library, Kelvin now has a solo practice as a forensic genealogist serving clients that include probate attorneys, trust department of banks, the US Immigration Service and energy companies. He also specializes in southern brick wall problems for clients.

Kelvin is a 1989 and 1990 alumni of the Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research at Samford University and is returning to IGHR as lecturer in 2017 and 2018. In 2016 he co-coordinated with J. Mark Lowe, "A Swing Through the South" at SLIG (Salt Lake Institute of Genealogical Research). He along with 2 fellow forensic genealogists coordinated a week long course in forensic genealogy at GRIP, (Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh.)

Kelvin is the director of the Texas Institute of Genealogical Research which will be held in Austin, Texas May 22-25. He is a past board member of the Association of Professional Genealogist, a past President of the Lone Star Chapter of APG, and a founding member for the Council for the Advancement of Forensic Genealogy (CAFG).

Kelvin has recently published Research in Texas for NGS (National Genealogical Society) Research in the states series. Kelvin also currently serves as the chairman of the history and archives committee for First United Methodist Church in Dallas.



WEST DALLAS FARMHOUSE, SCHOOL HOUSE TAKE FIRST STEPS TOWARD BECOMING PROTECTED LANDMARKS

From Dallas News by Robert Wilonsky, City Columnist

The celebration was measured — some polite applause, a few hugs, some congratulations and picture-taking, more than a few whews. For now, at least, two once-overlooked pieces of West Dallas' estimable history will not be vaporized. They've been given a reprieve — two years, and the clock has begun ticking. Still, better than nothing.

"Relieved," said Albert Gonzalez, the co-founder, eight years ago, of the Dallas Mexican American Historical League. Which is as far as he'd take it. Not thrilled; not ecstatic. For now, only relieved. The battle is won; the war, far from over.

On Monday afternoon Dallas' Landmark Commission voted to begin the process of turning two primordial West Dallas structures into official landmarks: a 127-year-old Victorian farmhouse that once belonged to saloon owner and German immigrant Heinrich Struck; and the nearly century-old Eagle Ford School, which once educated the kids, most of them Mexican, whose parents had come to Dallas to work for the Trinity Portland Cement Co. The votes, taken separately, were unanimous — despite the opposition from the properties' owners and potential buyers who are vehemently against designation.

Let's be clear about this, though, so there is no confusion: The house and school are not landmarks. Far from.

The vote to initiate designation is merely a two-year timeout while members of the Landmark Commission and the property owners work to figure out a way to save the structures. They will develop preservation criteria; they will assemble a plan; they will determine if the structures are even viable enough to spare. Initiation does not always lead to designation, which would act as a force field keeping the wrecking balls and excavators at bay.

But what happened Monday was significant nonetheless, yet another signal that the once reactive Landmark Commission will no longer stand for the vanishing of Dallas' history without putting up a fight. Landmark used to be loath to initiate designation over the objections of owners. How times have changed: Its chair, Katherine Seale, brought the Struck farmhouse to the commission; commissioner Michael Amonett put the Eagle Ford School on the agenda.

"We've lost a lot of gems," said commissioner Mattia Flabiano, appointed by North Dallas' Lee Kleinman. "I am glad to be part of a commission that helps saves them for our kids and grandkids."

If the commission hadn't acted Monday, the Struck house and Eagle Ford School could have been vanished without warning and without penalty. And both are imperiled: David Weekley Homes wants to raze the Struck manse on North Edgefield Avenue and Stafford Street to build town homes, over the objections of neighbors loath to see their rustic neighborhood near the city's auto pound drowned by developers. Weekley did not send reps to Landmark and has said it would help move the house, which is owned by a woman in San Antonio.

But a representative from Diamond Communications did come to City Hall Monday; the owners of a cell tower behind the Eagle Ford School want to buy the building from longtime owner Randy Dumse, who is also opposed to landmarking, then raze the structure to plant more towers.

Speakers lined up to make their cases for both buildings — preservationists, folks who grew up in the Western Heights neighborhood, where the Struck house is, men and women who'd attended Eagle Ford School. They noted how few landmarks there are in West Dallas, and how poorly the the city has acknowledged the Hispanics, who, according to census records unearthed by the Dallas Mexican American Historical League, settled the city as early as 1850.

"We cannot bring history back," said Eladio Martinez, speaking on behalf of Eagle Ford. "If we can save it from being demolished, we have accomplished something."

And so they have — for two years, at least. Which isn't forever. Not yet. But a relief, at least.





FINAL FAREWELLS

Sadly, we report the loss of Pioneer members



HOWELL MCRAE, Nancy Lee Nancy was born in Dallas on August 22, 1927, the fourth child of John Mashman and Ruth Killough Howell. She died on December 3, 2016 at the Plaza at Edgemere. She was a fifth generation Dallasite and graduated from North Dallas High School and SMU. She was employed as a legal secretary by several leading Dallas law firms. For forty-two years she was part of the "Wednesday morning tennis game" at Brook Hollow Golf Club where she cherished the friendship of the players. Nancy was an active volunteer for many causes including summer reading programs in West Dallas, a two church summer program for disadvantaged children in the Stepping-ton area of North Dallas, and an active participant in outreach programs of Highland Park United Methodist Church where she also served on the Finance Committee, delegate to Annual Conferences and long time greeter. She was a member of the Seekers Sunday School Class and the Shepherd Group, a small church study group for

which she revered. She was on the Board of Directors of Dickinson Place Senior Living, Greenwood Cemetery Association, Killough Massacre Memorial Site and was a founder and officer in The Routh Cemeteries Association. She also was a long time member and past President of the Dallas County Pioneer Association. Throughout her life, Nancy enjoyed tennis, travel, family and friends. Nancy is survived by her husband, William D. McRae; daughter, Linda Poe Hines; granddaughter, Andrea Hines Nelson and husband Craig; grandsons, Howard Cullen Hines and wife Kathryn; Howard Clinton Hines and wife Candace and eight great grandchildren; her extended family includes four children; six grandchildren and six great grandchildren.



SELZER, Carolyn Downey Carolyn Jane Selzer was born January 21, 1927 to Samuel and Pauline Downey. She passed away on January 10, 2017 in Dallas, Texas. She grew up in South Dallas a fourth generation Texan. She was involved for many years in the Dallas County Pioneer Association, and was a member of Colonial Baptist and then First Baptist Churches, where she taught Sunday school. She lived a life of service to others working in PTA, neighborhood associations, Camp Fire girls, and other organizations. She was known for her humor and story-telling growing up as an identical twin. She was married fifty-five years to Simon Selzer, Jr. who preceded her in death. She also survived her sister, Adelyn Hancock and brother, Walter Fannin. She is survived by daughter, Paula Selzer, her partner, Vera Guillen, her nieces Kim Houze, Carol Puryer, Delores LeTart, nephews John and Mike Fannin and their spouses.

DALLAS LANDMARK COMMISSION — MORE GOOD NEWS

The Sharrock farm and buildings are going to be dedicated as a Dallas Landmark in March. This large family came from England, then to Ohio. Everard and his sons came to Texas and received land in 1846. These early settlers later left Texas and went to Cuba to go to where the Panama Canal is now, walked across the site of the Panama Canal and went to San Francisco. They had settled on the west side of Dallas County near Camp Wisdom Road. The wonderful thing about this farm is the cabin (although modified), the barn and other structures are still standing. This has sometimes been called the Niblo Cabin as Dr. Niblo and his family were owners of the site and lived in the area for many years. Several members of the Sharrock family are buried in the Five Mile Cemetery on Kiest Blvd.

Submitted by Frances James

NEWS AND MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2017

March 2, 2017
June 1, 2017

September 7, 2017
December 2, 2017

2017 ANNUAL DUES ARE NOW DUE

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	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.

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