



# DALLAS COUNTY PIONEER ASSOCIATION

FOUNDED 1875, REORGANIZED 1979

P O Box 12496 DALLAS TX 75225

972-260-9334

## WINTER 2011



### Quarterly Meeting

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Cochran Chapel United Methodist Church

Meeting Room

9027 Midway Road at Northwest Highway

Room Opens at 5:30 Dinner at 6 PM

Meeting Begins At 7 PM.

For Dinner Reservation

call by the Tuesday before the meeting.

972-260-9334



## December Program to Spotlight Early Dallas Inventor

Presented by Steven Butler

Have you ever wondered where automatic traffic lights originated? They are so much a part of daily urban life that we tend to take them for granted—except when they are out of service. In fact, they were invented right here in Dallas by Henry “Dad” Garrett, the son of revered Episcopal Bishop Alexander C. Garrett. Henry had been something of an auto pioneer in this region, opening the first car dealership in Texas. He also invented a radio broadcast system that became WRR, still very much a valued part of our local airwaves. Both inventions came rather late in Garrett’s life, earning him the nickname of “the Wizard of Dallas, Texas.” Steven Butler will tell us more about this fascinating man when the DCPA meets on Thursday, December 1.

Steven Butler is a Dallas native who happens to be a second cousin seven times removed from Dallas founder John Neely Bryan. He earned his Ph.D. in history at the University of Texas at Arlington and is currently a Professor of History at both Richland College in Dallas and Collin College in Plano. Well known as “the historian of White Rock Lake,” Butler has published a centennial history of the lake, as well as several articles in *Legacies*.



## 13<sup>th</sup> Annual *Legacies* Dallas History Conference

Saturday, January 28, 2012

### Speakers Will Help Define “the Dallas Spirit”

The Thirteenth Annual *Legacies* History Conference will be held on Saturday, January 28, 2012 at the Hall of State at Fair Park. The Dallas County Pioneer Association is among twelve historical groups that jointly sponsor the conference each year.

Five scholars will present papers at the Conference on Saturday, January 28, 2012, all related to the theme, “Defining the Dallas Spirit.”

Jane Elder will speak on “Cokesbury Book Store, The Premiere Book Store in the Southwest.”

Deborah Kilgore’s talk is entitled, “Fifteen Cents and Shoe Leather: The Rise of Clarence Miller, the Textile King of the Southwest.”

Paula Lupkin will discuss “A Dallas Palimpsest: Uncovering Layers of St. Louis at Akard and Commerce.”

Mark Rice will analyze the career of Dallas business leader and mayor R. L. Thornton.

Libby Willis will recount “The Life and Work of Judge Thomas Fletcher Nash (1850-1908).” Ms. Willis’ paper will be of special interest to members of the DCPA since Thomas Nash served as Dallas County Judge from 1893 to 1896, the period when the “Old Red” Courthouse opened for business, and he addressed the original DCPA in the early 1900s.



The musical ensemble “The Merrie Olde Players,” which has entertained the DCPA in the past, will provide entertainment based on the theme, “Meet Me in Dallas.”

Picture courtesy of Dallas Historical Society, a piece of sheet music (1916) owned by the Society.



## CEMETERY NEWS

A lot of activity concerning cemeteries in the county:

The McCree Cemetery on Audelia behind the Telephone Company was the Eagle Project chosen by Hayden Meeks. His Boy Scout troop reset many of the headstones that had been vandalized and scattered. Not only did the Boy Scouts work, but their Dads, and Grandfathers took time to help! Mom Meeks was under the tent with the food and drinks. This troop and its leaders have more or less adopted this site and have cut back the vines and overgrowth during the growing season. It was HOT out there but the results are wonderful.

A few weeks before they had been in contact with the Fields family and met with them and helped clean up that Fields Cemetery up the hill on Skillman. The Fields came to Dallas as the slaves of the Caruths in the 1850s and purchased this land. The troop was not through yet as they contacted Bill and Nancy McRea and spent time cleaning up the Routh Cemetery site. Access for this site has been improved now and Bill said they did a really good job!

The signs should now be attached to the brick walls enclosing the Myers Graves and the West Graves in Garland near the intersection of Bob Town and I 30. Jay Jones of Garland volunteered to attach the signs.

The City of Dallas and the West Dallas Community is looking forward to the dedication of the new bridge across the Trinity River this Spring. A big event is being planned and the Dallas County Pioneers have been invited to participate. The La Reunion Cemetery may be one point of interest for this celebration! These early settlers should not be forgotten!

Members of the Fort Worth Avenue Development Group spent Saturday morning last month cleaning up the Western Heights Cemetery. This site is within the area and they see it as a point of interest for their efforts to enhance that section of town. With the wrought iron fence donated by the Sunnyvale Fence Company across the front and the care and concern of Carl Struck, who lives nearby, and checks the site out daily, the cemetery has a rosy future.

The Crow Holdings has been remodeling the old 1911 Parkland Hospital site on Maple and Oak Lawn for several years. This is the company's corporate offices now. In doing some excavation work they discovered a headstone and from the research they did they found this child was buried in the Union Cemetery. They called me wanting to know where the Union Cemetery was so that they could return this headstone to its rightful place. After much research I believe the cemetery site was close to the original frame, little better than a shack hospital that provided for victims of smallpox or meningitis – the Pest House! This was the Union Hospital! Although small pox vaccination was available by this time it was not mandatory and there were many victims of this disease. This hospital was supported by the City and County of Dallas when it was established in 1886, thus the name Union. This is where the Rev. Jeffrey Aloysious Hartnett in the cold February night in 1899 walked from the Sacred Heart Cathedral the three miles to the Pest House/Union Hospital to deliver last rites at the request of a dying patient, and from this contact fell victim to small pox and died himself. He is buried at Calvary Cemetery on Hall Street in the circle reserved for priests and nuns. Hartnett has been described as a "martyr on duty" and Crow Holdings is doing further research in the vicinity.

Oakland Cemetery is in the news again and plans are being formulated with members of the cemetery Association to help provide some improvement. If we can get this going there will be more info later.

Turn your computer on or If your pen has ink in it and your pencil has a point, write to the Mayor of Dallas, the Dallas County Judge and/or the newspaper and tell them what you think about a 174 foot tall Ferris Wheel in downtown. Tell them to put it in the West End or other vacant property owned by the City or the County! (They both have acres and acres of land available that would be more appropriate than a carnival ride adjacent to the Kennedy Memorial or Old Red.) Phillip Jones is the current CEO for the Convention Center in Dallas and may not know how we feel about this, I have been told this was his idea. They are even looking at the Pioneer Cemetery downtown! Let them all know what you think!  
Some of this is subject to change weekly.

*Submitted by Frances James*



## Who are the McAllister's in the Marsh Cemetery?

Submitted by Joseph McAllister

A synopsis of my records show that my great grandfather, James Joseph McAllister, born 1832 in Virginia, came to Farmers Branch soon after graduating from the Virginia Military Institute in 1856. From a biographical sketch by E. Polk Johnson in 1912, I quote: "After leaving school he removed to Texas, where he married and became a prominent and influential farmer." He apparently made himself known as a good man, hard worker and not a drinker.

The 1860 census shows him rooming with F. M. Wiggington's family in the district that is now Farmers Branch. Most records have him as J.J. McAllister, which seemed to be his preference. Neighbors of the Wiggintons were the Harrison Corbin Marsh family, who came to Farmers Branch in 1845, listed as #226 in an Aug 11 emigrant list. H.C. Marsh and his family settled on a section east of I.B. Webb's. Eventually H.C. and his sons settled on two more sections east of and adjoining their father's. (from the Sam's Map of Dallas County, 1900). In 1863 James married Mary Frances, H. C.'s daughter.

Sometime after their wedding, James and Mary moved to "East of the Brazos River, McLennan County, Post Office, Waco", where they are found in the 1870 census, with three children listed. Clara 6, Elizabeth 4, and Helen (Ella) 2. My grandfather, Joseph Edward, would be born that November in Farmers Branch. Logic tells me that they must have returned to Farmers Branch in the few months between. Mary Frances lost her daughter Elizabeth on September 9, 1874, when she was only 8 years old. She is the earliest death recorded in the Marsh Family Cemetery, which wasn't official until John David Marsh donated an acre of land for that purpose.

Once back in Farmers Branch, James Joseph started a dairy farm. The evidence that a dairy was run is found in a lawsuit filed by James in 1892 against Dallas City for negligence for leaving a cover off a manhole on the street, resulting in injuries to his mule, damages to his wagon, and the spilling of many gallons of milk. Unknown is which one of the McAllisters was driving the mule at the time. But the stubborn 60 year old Scot patriarch took this suit all the way to the State Supreme Court after Dallas, then Dallas County, denied his claim for \$189. The Court finally ruled in his favor in 1898 to the tune of \$159 plus all costs, to be paid by the city of Dallas.

I have not yet discovered if J.J. bought the land he used from the Marsh family. Perhaps it's use was a delayed wedding gift and J.J. was only a tenant farmer. His name is not listed in the 1900 Sams Map of Dallas County, which legend says non-land-owners homes are triangles, and not identified. But there is a description of J.J.'s property in Farmers Branch that was dug out by some friends of my father, William and Mary Eaton, which read "Valley View Ln West of Webb Chapel (sic) to Templeton Trail, then south to the northwest corner of intersection of Rock Martin Drive and Chapparral Dr., copied 1979". Here we must assume east back to Webb Chapel, because Rock Martin has never been finished through to Webb Chapel. The land was very good, with Farmers Branch of the Trinity running through it, which helped J.J. create a very profitable enterprise.

James Joseph McAllister and Mary Frances had four more children by the 1880 census, counting Joseph Edward. Another son Thomas, and daughters Polly and Francis (Fannie). Joseph Edward McAllister married Caroline A. Tanner (daughter of the McAllister's neighbors, of course) in 1899, and they started turning out children. Edward Tanner, Corbin Ewing (died 11 months), Dowell Thomas, Raymond Joseph, Remus Griffus, James Joseph, Virginia Elizabeth, Mary Frances, Carroll, and Susan

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### Dallas Pioneers Email Distribution

Subscribe to our email distribution list. Emails to members will include meeting notices, reminders, roster updates, cemetery work days, etc. All email addresses will be confidential and email lists will be private.

Send an email with your name to [dcpa1875@gmail.com](mailto:dcpa1875@gmail.com)

The quarterly newsletters are also available on the web [www.dallaspioneer.org](http://www.dallaspioneer.org)



## Who are the McAllister's

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Alice. My father Remus Griffus also preferred to be known by his initials, R.G. McAllister, and once of legal age changed his middle name to Griffith. Didn't like Ruffus!.

James Joseph died in 1915, his wife Mary Frances Marsh in 1917. While the older boys, Ed and Dowell, stayed working the dairy in Farmers Branch, Joseph Edward moved his family to homestead a section of land west of Socorro, NM. Carrie and her four youngest at this time were put up in a Socorro hotel for almost a year. After Joseph and Raymond had fenced the land, the family came out of Socorro and lived the summer in a tent while the men built a two room log home.

Unfortunately, once they moved in and had their livestock well cared for, they suffered two severe winters in a row that left them with no livestock at all. So Joseph returned to Farmers Branch, drew some more money out of that enterprise, then returned to Socorro and bought 160 acres on the Rio Grande, where they built a lovely farm with an orchard of fruit trees, nut trees, and a large vegetable garden, along with a new flock of sheep. The kids loved it, rowing a boat around in the lake on the southern border of the land, named McAllister Lake, until sometime recently when it's name was changed to "McAllister Drain". So embarrassing!

Joseph had a female cousin who somehow convinced the older brothers in Farmers Branch to join his family and move them all to Glendale, Arizona in November of 1926 where they bought 80 acres split on each side of Glendale Ave.. Joseph and his two oldest sons, Edward and Dowell built a couple of lovely farmhouses, one on each piece of land, and ran a successful dairy farm on which I was fortunate enough to spend several long periods over time. Sadly, the two youngest children, both born in New Mexico, died the first year they moved in, of polio.

The farm was eventually sold to developers in the late 70s. The farmhouse was burned down by the Glendale Fire Department for practice. Now tall stuccoed walls surrounding stuccoed designer homes take the land on which they grew their feed and turned out their cows. You would never know the land was worked as a farm for 45 years, just as the land in Farmers Branch is now filled with nice homes and a few swimming pools.

My Uncle Edward and his wife "Aunt Polly" Lou Edna retained 6 acres and built an elegant rambling ranch house with the ability to entertain the clan gatherings, which these days number over 350, from running screaming children to creaky old men and women. Ed and Lou Edna have passed away now, and the house is occupied by one of their daughters and her husband.

James Joseph and Mary Frances McAllister, as well as their daughter Polly Ellen McAllister (Hudson) and her husband John M. Hudson, and Cynthia Field McAllister from that era are buried in the Marsh Family Cemetery, located at the the corner of Rockmartin Lane and Chaparral Lane in Farmers Branch, Dallas County, Texas, a recent named historical site.

Bottom line is that my ancestors were in Farmers Branch and Dallas from about 1857 until 1926 or later. I currently live in Everett, WA, near Seattle. If someone could go where land records are kept, I'd sure like to find out whether my grandfather, his father James Joseph, and the brothers that were working the farm between 1870 and 1926. Any possibility that someone could wander over to wherever Dallas County keeps the land records of old and email me copies of whatever they find?

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## Bridge-o-Rama - Parade of Giants

At **1:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 3, 2012**, the Parade of Giants will promenade along Singleton Boulevard and across the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge. These "giants" will be oversized, hand-carried figures of individuals who are no longer living and who have a historical connection to West Dallas. The giant puppets will be created and carried by school-age children, neighborhood groups, non-profit institutions and other organizations.

Helping these groups build these puppets will be artists from the non-profit organization La Reunion TX, a partner non-profit in this Bridge-o-Rama signature event.

**DALLAS COUNTY PIONEER ASSOCIATION**

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Dallas, Texas 75225-0496

NEWSLETTER



DALLAS COUNTY PIONEER ASSOCIATION

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**We're on the web!**

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

**ASSOCIATION OFFICERS**

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Vice-Pres	Howard Cox
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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**

**[dcpa1875@gmail.com](mailto:dcpa1875@gmail.com)**