



**Dallas County Pioneer Association**  
**Founded 1875, Reorganized 1979**  
**P O Box 12496 Dallas TX 75225**  
**972-260-9334 - dcpa1875@gmail.com**

## From the President



Greetings All,

Our upcoming meeting will be great. The speaker will be our own Rose-Mary Rumbley. She has a new program on Dallas County history. If you have never heard her, you've missed a very funny and informative speaker. **Please try to attend!** We are in an EXCEPTIONALLY large room where you can put as much distance between you and others as you feel is necessary so all should be safe. Do not forget to call 972-260-9334 and make your reservation by August 31. At the meeting I will announce the Nominating Committee for the 2022/2023 term elections to be held in December. Please let me know if you would serve in this capacity or as a Board member.

The 2019/2020 audit has been performed by the Audit Committee and they found no issues.

Fun facts:

Interesting resource: [Home - Atlas: Texas Historical Commission](#)

Dallas County Historical Markers: [Dallas County \(Master\) - Texas Historical Markers \(weebly.com\)](#)

1855 Dallas County Map: [Dallas County - Side: 1 of 1 . Magnified. The Portal to Texas History](#)

First Juries to sit women: <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=157921>

**“May God be with us till we meet again”**,  
Jim Bookhout, President

## From the Vice President



Good day Pioneer Members,

I hope all of you are well situated as we look forward to our Thursday, September 2nd meeting. For those of you who haven't been to a meeting at Highland Oaks I just want to emphasize the convenience of the location, with easy and close parking in the center or west parking lot, and the spaciousness of the room. I believe I can speak for all who have attended meetings at Highland Oaks and say that it is very easy to maintain a comfortable personal space. Please come out and support your Association!

Our guest speaker, Dr. Rose-Mary Rumbley, told me she has some new material and I'd hate for anybody to miss that.

Call and make your dinner reservations 972-260-9334.

Please keep in mind that when you make reservations the Association will have to pay for your meal whether you attend the meeting or not, which means **you will be responsible for paying for the meal even if you do not to attend if you make a reservation.**

I look forward to seeing you all on September 2nd!

Best Regards,  
Joe Watts  
Vice President

**Please join us for Our Next Meeting on September 2  
Highland Oaks Church of Christ  
10805 Walnut Hill Lane  
(Between Jupiter and Plano) Dallas 75238  
Call and make your dinner reservations 972-260-9334.**

**OUR JUNE SPEAKER - Dr Rose Mary Rumbley**



Rose-Mary Rumbley holds a Ph. D. in Communications from the University of North Texas. She served as a professor of Speech and Theatre at Dallas Baptist University for 12 years and as Single Adult Minister at First Baptist Church, Dallas, for 7 years. She also appeared on the stage at the Dallas Summer Musicals and at Casa Manana in Ft. Worth. Today, she is on the speaking circuit and enjoys researching each and every topic

**Book Auction for the next meeting!**

**Here are the books we will auction next:**

**LA Reunion Remembered - 150th Anniversary - 1855-2005 by Jim Foster**

**Dallas - A dynamic Century (Limited First Edition)**

**John W Carpenter 1881-1959**

**Profile of Dallas, Love Affair with a City by Donald F Mitchell**

**Dallas County History - from the Ground Up by Frances James**

**Dallas City Directory for the year commencing November 15th 1924**



## [On our Website](#)

If you haven't been to our website lately please take a look, there are articles about the [Pioneers of Dallas County](#), [Pictures of Dallas' Past](#), stories about churches and biographies of some of the people who built and lived here in Dallas' beginnings.

<http://dallaspioneer.org/>

The officers and members of the association hope you are staying safe and healthy.

If you have changed your mailing address, e-mail or phone numbers, please let Sheryl Curlee know by sending a note to [DCPA1875@gmail.com](mailto:DCPA1875@gmail.com)

If you haven't already paid your dues or you would like to make a donation please make your payments to:

Dallas County Pioneer Association  
PO Box 12496  
Dallas, TX 75225

# Membership

If you have friends or neighbors who are interested in history please invite them to a meeting, so they can also join us to enjoy the speakers and learn about the history of Dallas.

Gwyneva Winters  
Membership Chairperson

## Cemetery Report

by Kathy Ann Reid



The **RYLIE CEMETERY** at 10377 Rylie Road is watched over by the Rylie Cemetery Association which was founded in 1962. They maintain the cemetery grounds through private donations, mostly from family descendants. The cemetery is protected by a chain link fence and is in good condition. The Texas Historical Commission placed a Texas Historical Site marker at the cemetery in 1993. Civil War veteran Hartwell Bolin Cox is buried here along with many of Rylie Prairie community's earliest settlers and their descendants.



The exact locations of the **MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH/HAYMARKET CEMETERY** and the nearby **AFRICAN AMERICAN CEMETERY** have been lost to history. They were located along Haymarket Road in the area of the Oak Grove Church and the Missionary Baptist Church.

The **TRINITY CEMETERY** at 501 N. Goode Road was in good condition. There is a black wrought iron fence at the entrance, but the gate has disappeared.



The **GRAVEL SLOUGH CEMETERY** is in a field on the north side Malloy Bridge Road, 0.1 mile west of Gravel Slough Road just west of Cottonwood Creek. It does not have a fence, but the cemetery is in good condition.



The **PATRICK-PRUITT CEMETERY** is about 0.3 mile down a private road that is next to the house at 457 Nokes Road. The land owner is S.O. Creek I, Ltd. It is very large compared to other family cemeteries. The front part of the cemetery is mowed but the back half where the older graves are located has not been mowed. There is a fence and a gate with the common cemetery arch with the name.

The **TENNESSEE/WOLF SPRINGS CEMETERY** on Wolff Springs Road may no longer exist, but we do know its former location. Frances James wrote about the cemetery in "Dallas County History – From the Ground Up Book II". It is a very interesting story about the mistreatment of this cemetery. Fortunately, Frances included a picture of a map from the Public Works Section of Dallas County that shows the location of the cemetery. The land owner is S.O. Creek I, Ltd.



And if you need a quick history fix...

## **E.L. Burks Variety Stores**

E. Logan Burks (1902-1991) came to Dallas in 1920 from his parents' farm near Bullard, Texas, after attending Toby's Business College in Waco, Texas. He found a place to live at the Y.M.C.A., as many young men did in that day. After a stint as a bookkeeper for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company and other businesses, he began work for Love Field Potteries as a bookkeeper, then as a salesman. While there, in about 1925, he established a retail shop on Denton Drive at Factory Street, not far from Love Field, for the sale of pottery.

His most profitable business days were on Sunday afternoons when families would take a "Sunday drive out in the country." He and his small family lived for a short while in the tiny living quarters in the rear part of the building, separated only by a curtain in the doorway. They soon moved to a home on Model Street, just a couple of blocks away. The shop expanded into a brick building at 7700 Denton Drive and sold dry goods and hardware as well as pottery. In the absence of air conditioning, the store had many ceiling fans that were turned on and off individually by inserting a yardstick (which had a v-shaped slot in the end) around the switch at the bottom of the fan and rotating the stick. Fresh air was provided by open transoms on one side of the building and open front doors. Some years later, "washed air" units were installed which made the store more comfortable on summer days. Refrigerated air conditioning would come when the whole store was "modernized." The concrete floors were swept clean using a broad broom and "sweeping compound." The counters were divided into bins by 4-inch-wide ribbons of glass, joined together with metal clips, to hold merchandise. Each bin had its own price tag that clipped onto the glass. At the rear of the counter, larger signs announced the type of items in the bins. All these components could be moved around as needed to fit the merchandise on the counter. Extra merchandise was stored behind and beneath counters, where the public did not go, and also in a storeroom in the rear of the building.

Each customer was "waited on" by a sales clerk who located all the right sizes and colors the buyer needed. The clerk then collected payment and counted out change to the customer from one of the several ornate National Cash Registers located throughout the store. Although small sacks were used, larger packages were wrapped with brown paper pulled from a large wrought iron holder mounted on the counter top. Sturdy string was used to secure the package. Years later, the store became self-serve and joined the coming fashion of having registers only at checkout stands near the door. The large enclosed windows facing Denton Drive were decorated according to the season and displayed appropriate seasonal merchandise currently

for sale. Some weekends, circulars were distributed to the neighboring homes boasting of special prices on selected items. When the Dallas Morning News began their weekly TV Guide insert, it included an ad for E.L. Burks 5c to \$5 Store.



E.L. Burks Pottery Shop 7700 Denton Drive – 1925

As the region became more populous, the small shopping area along Denton Drive grew to include an A & P Store, Sparks Cleaners, Love Field State Bank, Airway Drug, Airway Theatre, a Masonic Lodge Hall, an office for Dr. Shelton (the company doctor for the textile mill nearby), Askew's Café, Turner's Barber Shop, Blassingame Hardware, a beauty shop and a Ben Franklin Store. The center became a busy one as World War II loomed. Industries such as the textile mill, Tex-Lite Neon Signs, aircraft parts factories and other war related factories sprang up close by, as Love Field became more active. Saturdays were especially busy as farmers from Farmers Branch came to town to do their weekly shopping. Other customers were teachers and students from nearby Obadiah Knight Elementary School on Anson Road, factory workers and housewives. A P.O.W. camp for German soldiers could be seen during the war years behind the store, but it is doubtful any shopped there!

The store eventually discontinued the sale of pottery, but E.L. Burks 5c to \$5 Store carried a wide variety of merchandise to meet the needs of its customers. The store had school supplies, household necessities, hardware, clothing (such as work clothes,) house dresses, socks, underwear, ladies' hosiery, baby clothes and cloth diapers, toiletries and makeup, "Big Little Books," a book rental library, fabrics (also known as piece goods), Simplicity Patterns, sewing notions, ice cream cones and candy. Shoes for the whole family were also available. However, during wartime, the number of pairs of shoes in stock was frozen, and ration coupons were required by the government from shoe buyers in order for the store to purchase more shoes to sell. Shoes were the only rationed merchandise the store sold, but many other ordinary items were in very short supply during and immediately following the war. When new stock came in, customers were waiting to buy. Also, Christmas toys and Easter baskets were popular items. For 4th of July and New Year's celebrations, a fireworks stand was set up outside the front door and attended by Mr. Burks' young son, Bobby. Being on a city bus route before World War II made the store a handy place to shop.



### E.L. Burks Variety – Christmas 1939

Mr. Burks was a founding member of Texas Wholesale Distributors, Inc., which enabled small businesses such as his to join together to purchase merchandise in larger quantities, therefore at a lower cost.

Logan Burks and his wife Pauline (Hill) Burks had six children. They were often teased that they were raising their own “workforce,” as all the children worked at the store at some time. Mrs. Burks also worked at the store from time to time.

In the summer of 1947, Logan Burks opened another store on Lovers Lane at Inwood Road next to Skillern Drug. Lovers Lane was in the throes of reconstruction, and with the lack of modern air conditioning, it was a very messy summer for the new store. By the next summer, however, air conditioning was installed, which made both employees and customers happy. Bob Burks managed the store on Lovers Lane from 1952 to 1956. Around 1960, the Love Field expansion took over the Denton Drive property. About that time Skillern Drug needed to enlarge and took over the Burks store; so a new building was built on a side parking lot and E.L. Burks 5c to \$5 store moved there. The new store had a rear parking lot and entrance as well as a front entrance on Inwood Road. Therefore, cash registers were at both entrances. There was a balcony, used for office space and storage, which was accessed by a large freight elevator. Lovers Lane proved to be a popular location. The store carried a large assortment of merchandise and customers would say they liked coming in often because they never knew what new item they would find. The store thrived and remained open until 1969 when E.L. Burks retired and sold the store to Duke & Ayers

By Barbary Cotten

From Proud Heritage, Volume III by DCPA. This 352 page hardcover book is now available online.