

**Dallas County Pioneer Association**  
Founded 1875, Reorganized 1979  
P O Box 12496 Dallas TX 75225  
972-260-9334 - [info@dallaspioneer.org](mailto:info@dallaspioneer.org)

## From the President



Hot, Hot and more Hot!!! I hope you are being safe and cool from the Texas Summer.

The average temperature in Dallas in August is normally a high of 96 and low of 77! This year's temperatures are way above average! Hopefully in September it will cool down into the low 90s.

Our next meeting is September 7th at 7 pm meeting at the **Point Center for Arts and Education** in CC Young Senior Living. Please remember that our buffet meal will begin serving at 6 and our speaker will begin at 7.

Please **"Bring a Guest;"** if you bring a new guest to our meeting, you and your guest will enjoy the meal with our complements.

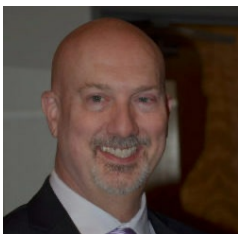
If you don't bring a guest the cost of meals is \$20. All we ask is that you call 972-260-9334 and make reservations for you and your guest by Tuesday September 5, 2023.

[If you have not done so, please remember to pay your 2023 dues, please send them to DCPA, P O Box 12496, Dallas, TX 75225. \\$20 for an individual and \\$30 for a couple per year.](#)

**"May God be with us till we meet again"**

[Jim Griffin,](#)  
President

## From the Vice President



Hello friends,

This has been a banner year for DCPA in many ways as we grow and expand our network and develop new partnerships. Especially rewarding was our partnership with Preservation Dallas in April as co-presenters of the Frankford Church / Cemetery / Native Prairie tour at the old townsite of Frankford in North Dallas. Then in June, we partnered with Preservation Dallas again for "The Meaning of Juneteenth" which featured a large

crowd and delicious dinner at Old City Park. Both wonderful events raised our profile and connected DCPA to a wider scope of local historians, preservationists, and prospective new members. We hope to continue partnering with Preservation Dallas going forward and you'll see us out and about at various events across town the rest of the year.

Your membership and support are important!

Hope to see you all on September 7th! Call [972-260-9334](tel:972-260-9334) to RSVP by Tuesday, September 5th if you'd like to have supper at 6:00 p.m. before the 7:00 p.m. meeting. The cost is \$20.00 per person (unless you bring a guest) and includes a fully-catered meal and dessert by the C. C. Young hospitality team.

[Mike Judd](#)  
Vice President

**Please join us for Our Next Meeting on  
September 7th at 7 pm (6pm for meal)  
CC Young Senior Living  
4847 W Lawther Dr  
(Northwest Hwy & Lawther) Dallas 75214**

Call and make your reservations [972-260-9334](tel:972-260-9334) before the Cutoff for meal reservation is Tuesday September 5, 2023.

## OUR SPEAKER - Sally Rodriguez



Sally Rodriguez is the author of two books about the history of White Rock Lake both published by Arcadia Press. *White Rock Lake* in 2010 followed by *White Rock Lake Revisited* in 2014. Sally retired from a career with the Dallas Parks Department in their Planning, Design, and Construction division and now travels and speaks on parks and parkland development. Sally is also the Department's unofficial historian. Growing up in Dallas' Lake Highlands neighborhood, Sally has had a lifelong appreciation for the 1930s Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) workers who built the lake's pavilions and amenities that we still enjoy today.



Just so happens we have an article about [White Rock Creek](#) on our website if you would like to catch up on the history before the lake courtesy of Frances James.

## Book Auction for the next meeting!

Please arrive early for the surprise of some of the books in our archives you can take home!!!

### 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](#), [Frances James Tribute](#), [Outings and Events](#), stories about churches and biographies of some of the people who built and lived here in Dallas' beginnings.

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

### Donations

The Dallas County Pioneer Association (DCPA) established in 1875 is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization that operates on the generosity of people to take care of abandoned cemeteries and promote the history of Dallas County. It is operated by folks who have a passion for history and are volunteering their time and money.

Please consider giving to our mission by clicking the button below.

**DONATE**

If you have changed your mailing address, e-mail or phone numbers, please let our Membership Chairperson know by sending a note to [membership@dallaspioneer.org](mailto:membership@dallaspioneer.org)

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 County. **Remember when you bring a first time guest, you and your guest enjoy a complimentary meal on us!**

If you haven't paid your dues for 2023 please pay them using the [donate button below](#) or pay them at the meeting. We operate on a very thin budget and depend on you to help us with our mission.

**If you are a paid member, we have a surprise for you at the meeting!**

[Membership Chairperson](#)

## Volunteers

It's that time every two years when it is time to elect a new slate of officers to guide this organization into the future. The officers to be elected at the December meeting are **President, Vice President, Secretary** and **Treasurer**.

If you or anyone you know would be interested in sharing their gift of leadership, business or marketing, please [send a note to membership](#).

Besides the officers, we are always looking for volunteers. If your gift is writing we are looking for a [Newsletter](#) person. If your gift is a love of history we are looking for a **Historian**. If you like the outdoors and working with your hands our [Cemetery Committee](#) always needs help.

Everyone has gifts, if you would like to share those gifts, we would love for you to help this organization continue to thrive into the future so the generations that follow will know the people and events that made Dallas County what it is today!

## Cemetery Report

by [Kathy Ann Reid](#)

Myers Family Cemetery that was on our 2018 endangered list is safe and beautified thanks to the D. R. Horton, DFW East Division. The "Fireside By The Lake" home owners association (HOA) coordinator added the installation of new fencing around the cemetery and ongoing maintenance to the HOA contract. The iron fencing is in place and can be seen on the east side of Bobtown Rd. (north of Barnes Bridge Rd. near city limit of Garland) and from the residential street, George Brown Drive.

Mooneyham Sparkman Cemetery at 2800 Virgo Lane in Dallas was also on our 2018 endangered list. We were very excited to receive an email from a property manager with Link Logistics Real Estate expressing their interest in the cemetery. For pictures of our recent visit see [recent cemetery visits](#).

During our May 2023 meeting with new friends at Bullock Chapel CME Church we walked to Overton Cemetery. We walked in the alley behind the cemetery and it was apparent that the apartment construction is NOT encroaching on cemetery land. Subsequently, we were able to contact Ophelia Overton, who is founder and president of the newly formed Historic Overton Cemetery Association. [See the](#)

[article by Frances James](#) and [pictures](#) of our recent visit.

Due to the interest of Five Mile Neighborhood Association, the almost forgotten Persimmon Road Cemetery in Dallas is being investigated. We are curious to find out if this is connected to the Tarver Cemetery that was reported to be on the south side at 3034 Persimmon Rd. President of the association, Tammy Derricks who will be joining DCPA for future pioneer events, said her goal is to get historical designations for the cemetery and for Elizabeth Chapel/Freewill Baptist Church that was founded 136 years ago.

Congratulations to our new DCPA member Mike Rowlands (and Shelly) on getting record fast approval from the Dallas Office of Historic Preservation for his application to work on the McAdams Cemetery tombstones. The approval for his beautifully done application was received in ten days, rather than the average six weeks. This was on our 2018 endangered list and at that time Marsha Leach wrote, "Looks like vacant lot, like a jungle, three large tombstones and a metal sign on a pole." Our next cleaning of this cemetery is set for November 4, 2023.

Congratulations to Betsy Farris for inspiring two Dallas Morning News articles featuring the love of cemeteries. "The Graveyard Whisperer" and "Preserving the Past" were written by Holly Haber and were published by the Dallas Morning News on June 27, 2023. In preparation for the Irving Cemetery Tour, Betsy and Marilyn Kosanke got together to research background on Shady Oak Cemetery. Betsy topped it off by inviting a high school friend who grew up in that neighborhood for his input and asked him to join us on the tour in September. His brother is buried at Shady Oak.

## Warren Ferris Cemetery

Great things are happening with our good friends at the [Friends of the Warren Ferris Cemetery](#), located in the Forest Hills neighborhood of Dallas.

With the simple, albeit labor-intensive, act of ridding the cemetery grounds of invasive plant species, we embarked on a learn-as-you go lesson of discovery. More appropriate and sustainable plants were introduced. In time, not only did these "new kids on the block" take root, but we found that other species that had been suppressed, were now stepping out of the shadows.

As the land was reverting to a more natural landscape, we saw an opportunity to enhance the discovery experience for wider audiences. We are instigating self-guided tours using QR-coded signage on site that can be easily updated as our recovery and reclamation for both natural and cultural efforts continue.

In further outreach, we have created and promoted our program known as Constellation of Memories. With template in hand, we are sharing with other groups how to organize and bring this renewal to fruition. Our vision is to have a network of once abandoned cemeteries brought back to life as living, breathing green oases, for all the community to enjoy.

The re-introduction of native plants in these spaces, whether urban or rural, is a reclamation for future generations and a testimony to the people who have gone before us.

If you are in the area, drop by and see our little oasis for yourself. You can also keep up with us by visiting our [website](#) whenever the fancy strikes!

## Upcoming Cemetery Events

**Betsy Farris' Irving Cemetery** Tour on Saturday, September 16 begins at 9:30 a.m. sharp, for an agenda [click here](#).

Sowers Cemetery (Irving) 2023 Appreciation day and fund raiser on Saturday, September 30 at 10:30 a.m.

McKinney Family Cemetery (Dallas) Cleanup on Saturday, October 21 at 10:00 a.m.

McAdams Cemetery (Dallas) Cleanup on Saturday, November 4 at 10:00 a.m. (Possibly tombstone repair if Mike and Shelly available)

Oakland Cemetery (Dallas) Veterans Day on Saturday, November 11 cleaning, raising and leveling military memorials by Mike Rowlands.

White Rock Cemetery Garden of Memories (Dallas), on Saturday, November 18. The cemetery association will host a DCPA cemetery tour.

For details see <https://dallaspioneer.org/events/> or email [cemetery@dallaspioneer.org](mailto:cemetery@dallaspioneer.org).

## Cemetery Preservation Donations

Donations for preservation of cemeteries can be made to DCPA by clicking on the link below, Zelle can be used with the email address [Donate@dallaspioneer.org](mailto:Donate@dallaspioneer.org), or by mailing a check (please write Cemetery on the memo line).

Check out our website [dallaspioneer.org](http://dallaspioneer.org) we post new articles all the time.

**[Please consider a generous donation to the Cemetery Fund.](#)**

**Please like the DCPA on [Facebook](#), join in the conversations and share interesting posts with friends!**

## Poor Farm



Did you know Dallas had a "Poor Farm?" The farm was designed to provide for the paupers in the county by furnishing some sort of housing, and those that were able worked in the fields raising crops. The vegetables were used on the farm and also sold for cash [more...](#)

# Dallas' Interesting Past

[Jimtown](#)? Who wouldn't want to know about a town named Jim!

[Shootout at A Church](#) and [Murder at a Hat Factory](#). You thought this stuff only makes today's headlines?

[Mabel Gilbert and Family](#) early Dallas pioneers

[Elijah Fisher and Ladonna Jernigan Fisher](#) early African American pioneers

**There are these articles and more on our website!**

## Resources on our website

We have information and links available on our website to help you with your love of history. Go to [DallasPioneer.org](http://DallasPioneer.org).

- [Preservation Dallas](#)
- [Beginner's Guide to Genealogy](#)
- [City of Dallas – Dallas Municipal Archives](#)
- [Civil War Soldiers & Sailors System](#)
- [Dallas County Historical Commission](#)
- [Dallas Genealogical Society](#)
- [Dallas Historical Society](#)
- [Dallas Public Library – Dallas History and Archives](#)
- [DeGolyer Library — Southern Methodist University](#)
- [Friends of the Warren Ferris Cemetery](#)
- [Handbook of Texas Online](#)
- [Jim Wheat's Dallas County Texas Archives](#)
- [Museum of the American Railroad](#)
- [Old Red Courthouse](#)
- [Park Cities Historic and Preservation Society](#)
- [Steve Butler's Dallas History Page](#)

[DCPA](#)

