

Dallas County Pioneer Association
Founded 1875, Reorganized 1979
P O Box 12496 Dallas TX 75225
972-260-9334 - info@dallaspioneer.org

From the President



We hope you had a very Happy Thanksgiving! It is hard to believe it's almost December and before you can say Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, 2023 will be over and we'll be ready for spring trying to get rid of the pounds we accumulated during the holiday season.

Our next meeting is Saturday December 2nd at 9 am meeting at the **Point Center for Arts and Education** in CC Young Senior Living.

Breakfast will begin serving at 9 and our speaker will begin at 10.

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 November 28, 2023.

[If you have not done so, please remember to pay your 2023 dues and 2024 dues, please send them to DCPA, P O Box 12496, Dallas, TX 75225. \\$20 for an individual and \\$30 for a couple per year.](#)

This is my last meeting as your President. I have enjoyed serving this organization and meeting many of our members, guests and the many new faces and during the last two years.

We are building new relationships with other historical organizations in the area that share our love for the history of Dallas County.

The Dallas County Pioneer Association was founded in 1875 and has had a very colorful past and I believe a very bright future. DCPA needs new people who are interested in history to share their gifts and talents where needed to help make this organization prosper for the generations to come.

"May God be with us till we meet again"

[Jim Griffin,](#)
President

From the Vice President



Hello friends,

As we near the end of 2023, I'd like to recognize the many new friends we've made and the new partnerships we've developed. It's been a year of progress for DCPA and we look forward to continued growth and expansion in 2024. I'd also like to thank Jim Griffin for his vision and leadership as President the past two years. Our group honors the memories and sacrifices of the early pioneers in many ways. And possibly the most important way is by growing and attracting new members to DCPA. Stay tuned for new events in 2024 and have a happy and safe holiday season!!

Your membership and support are important!

Hope to see you all on December 2nd! Call [972-260-9334](tel:972-260-9334) to RSVP by Tuesday November 28th if you'd like to have breakfast at 9 a.m. before the 10 a.m. meeting. The cost is \$20.00 per person (unless you bring a guest) and includes a fully-catered meal by the C. C. Young hospitality team.

[Mike Judd](#)
Vice President

**Please join us for Our Next Meeting on
December 2nd at 9 am
CC Young Senior Living
4847 W Lawther Dr
(Northwest Hwy & Lawther) Dallas 75214**

Call and make your reservations 972-260-9334 before the
Cutoff for meal reservation is Tuesday November 28, 2023.

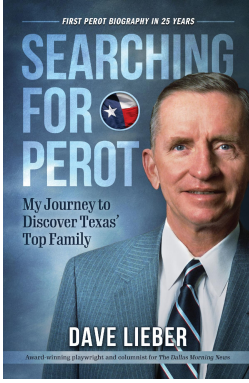
OUR SPEAKER - Dave Lieber



Dave Lieber
Columnist
"The Watchdog", The Dallas Morning News

Our Guest speaker in December is Dallas Morning News columnist [Dave Lieber](#). He's authored an outstanding book about Ross Perot and the Perot family and their legacy on the Dallas area. The book is [Searching For Perot](#).

Born during the Great Depression into a happy, peaceful East Texas life, he became one of America's most beloved billionaires. Whether it was creating the



computer services industry with his landmark company Electronic Data Systems, battling General Motors to build better cars, helping veterans or running (twice) for president of the United States, Perot was all in. He woke up every day excited about who he could help and problems he could solve.

Nomination of Officers

Every two years a nominations committee is appointed by the president to find volunteers to serve as officers for the next two year term. I would like to thank Sheryl Curlee and Kathy Ann Reed for getting commitments from the slate of officers up for election at our next general meeting. The nominations are as follows:

President- Mike Judd
VP-Paul Ridenour
Secretary- Sheryl Curlee
Treasurer-Bill Vilbig
Historian-MC Toyer

If you would like to volunteer for any of these positions we will ask for nominations from the floor before the vote.

There are other needs of the organization if you would like to help, please talk to any one of the officers during breakfast.

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 some exciting new features and articles about the [Pioneers of Dallas County](#), [Pictures of Dallas' Past](#), [Francis 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

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.

We are in the **THANKSGIVING** season and soon will be in the **Spirit of GIVING** season! Just a reminder that you can GIVE to DCPA during this season too! If you have an IRA and have to take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) you can GIVE to Charitable organizations from your IRA to reduce your taxable income for the year. So while we are in the seasons of GIVING and being THANKFUL, we hope that you will remember DCPA with a THANKFUL HEART for all the work we do to preserve Dallas History.

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

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 or 2024 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.

[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, Treasurer and Historian**.

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 always looking for people to help share the history and work with our **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!

Book Committee

DCCA's "Book Committee" was created in 2023 to transition the pioneer biographies published in the three-volume Proud Heritage book series to DCCA's website [Publications](#). The committee has started imaging Proud Heritage Volume 1 (currently out of print) page by page and has been adding pioneers to the website alphabetically for several months now. Currently, we're through the letter "M" with the pioneer Mellersh Family being the most recent website addition. Thanks for Mike Magers for taking the lead on this. DCCA members that would like to join the committee and help with this project are encouraged to contact chair [Mike Judd](#).

Cemetery Report

by [Kathy Ann Reid](#)

Thank you to Anne Belli Perez, Editorial Writer, The Dallas Morning News for her writing a great appreciation for the many year in, year out volunteers at pioneer cemeteries. A picture of a DCCA member was featured and some names mentioned in her October 31, 2023 editorial.

Betsy Farris' Irving Cemetery Tour began at Kit Cemetery on E. Irving Blvd. with DCCA president and vice president, several lifetime members and a potential member soaking up the sights and information. As is customary we met for hamburgers and great conversation afterwards. At a later date, her Sowers Cemetery (Irving) 2023 appreciation day and fundraiser was successful with fun for all.

Cleanup of McKinney Family Cemetery (Dallas) was rewarding in that the work of the crew of four Beeman family descendants along with two other DCCA members was smoothly coordinated because of our working together so often! First the tombstones were marked with orange traffic

cones for protection. We moved out plenty of trash, cut saplings of many varieties (leaving the native nut tree at the directions of Marsah Leach and Gwyneva Winters) and Wally Daniels precisely mowed.

Mike and Shelly Rowlands of Historic Stone Preservation and Restoration met us at McAdams (Brookhaven) Cemetery with the result that a large multi-piece tombstone is standing tall and proud. Volunteers were Patti and Steve Erikson with Western Heights Cemetery, Keith Jernigan with the Callaway Cemetery in Euless, Gwyneva Winters and Kathy Ann Reid. This cemetery was on our 2018 endangered list compiled by Frances James and Marsha Leach.

For **details of past events** [click here](#); for **opportunities to be of service** in [click here](#).

We are open to questions, concerns, suggestions, new members, and friends. Please let us know which Dallas County cemeteries interest you. If you visit a cemetery, please let us know the condition by emailing the [Cemetery Committee](#).

Donations for preservation of cemeteries can be made to DCPA (501[c]3 organization, EIN 75-1641669) on our website or by check mailed to the address in the heading of this newsletter. Zelle can be used with the email address Donate@dallaspioneer.org.

THE CONSTELLATION OF LIVING MEMORIALS

The **CONSTELLATION OF LIVING MEMORIALS** (CLM), a program of Friends of [Warren Ferris Cemetery](#) has a new website. The stated mission is "to revive the sacred grounds of historic cemeteries by re-activating their true natural and cultural characteristics so that they can offer an authentic sense of place, heritage, and belonging to their surrounding communities." The vision is "a transformation of the land from invasive, overgrown pollinator deserts and cookie-cutter landscapes into self-sustaining and thriving native habitats, rich with renewed life."

Eight Dallas cemeteries are in the program at this time, as listed below. The lead volunteers who will need your help and encouragement will soon be on the CLM website.

Albert Carver Cemetery
Beeman Cemetery
El Campo Santo de Cemento Grande
Persimmon Road Cemetery
Oak Cliff Cemetery
Oakland Cemetery
W. W. Glover Cemetery
Western Heights Cemetery

In the previous newsletter we reported that Tammy Derricks of [Five Mile](#)

[Neighborhood Association](#) was interested in the almost forgotten Persimmon Rd. Cemetery and now are happy to say that the cemetery is accepted into the program.

Marshall Hinsley's article in [GREENSOURCEDFW](#), "Old cemeteries to get new life with self-sustaining and thriving native habitats program" featuring beautiful pictures and mentions of partners in the CLM program is much appreciated.

Scary Cemeteries are their Passion



Our own Betsy Farris and her brother Gerald

Old, spooky graveyards are all over North Texas. They lie off unpaved country roads outside of town, tucked beside commercial buildings in urban areas, even in the corners of some people's backyards.

Often they're old family plots with no relatives still alive to take care of them. Others are larger community cemeteries whose caretakers are long dead, leaving their crumbling headstones surrounded by overgrown brush.

So this Halloween, we applaud the dozens of hard-working volunteers who spend countless hours tending to the often-forgotten resting places, making them less scary and more sacred.

Among them is **Julie Fineman**, a master naturalist who recently transformed the 19th century Warren Ferris Cemetery near her East Dallas home into a wildlife refuge. She recruited neighbors and together they cleared out the dense, non-native plants that covered the graves and began restoring the ground to its original Blackland Prairie. They've also planted wildflower seeds. [more...](#)

By [Dallas Morning News Editorial](#) **Oct 31, 2023**

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, or mailing a check (please write cemetery on the memo line.

Check out our website 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!

What's in a Name

Collett Henry Munger (Collett Avenue) was the manager of the Munger Place development. Collett was the son of Robert S. and Mary Collett Munger and was born and died in Dallas. Collett died of a heart attack at the age of 48 after returning home from a theatrical performance. He is buried at Grove Hill Cemetery along with some of his uncles and their families.

Robert Sylvester Munger (Munger Place, Munger Avenue, etc.) lived in Dallas from about 1880 to 1890 but had a profound influence on East Dallas and the Deep Ellum area. He built a cotton gin equipment manufacturing company here before relocating to Alabama in order to build a similar facility to service markets in the southeastern states. After moving to Alabama, he bought land and developed Munger Place, managed by his son Collett Munger. He died and was buried in Birmingham, Alabama.

George Washington “Uncle Peahull” Ledbetter (Ledbetter Drive) was born at Cockrell Hill in 1859 and died in 1933. G. W. was a co-owner of a thresher and engine. He and his brother Arthur Leonard Ledbetter contracted to do virtually all of the threshing in southwestern Dallas County. Uncle Peahull was a Commissioner of Dallas County for 8 terms, 1916-1933, and Ledbetter Drive is named for Uncle Peahull Ledbetter.

Marvin Ezra Loving (Marvin Loving Drive) was a grandson of James Loving (1811-1869), and the son of William Bourland Loving (1850-1936). Marvin was born and died in Dallas County. His grandfather James Loving was an older brother of trail driver Oliver Loving.

Patrick Henry Lively (Lively Lane, Coppedge Lane, Woodfin Drive) came to Texas in 1853. Their second farm was 640 acres roughly bounded by Northwest Highway, Inwood Road, Midway Road and Park Lane. Typical of other developments when streets were platted they took often the names of the family members. Coppedge and Woodfin were family names of Lively descendants and spouses.

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.

- [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](#)

