

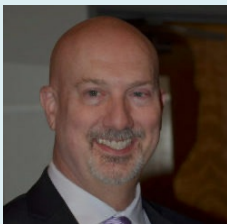


DALLAS COUNTY PIONEER ASSOCIATION

Dallas history lives here

NEWSLETTER FALL 2024

Next Meeting: 09/05/24 at 7pm



President's Message

Your DCPA board has had a busy summer and hopes you all found time to relax and recharge! We're ready for the Fall, cooler weather, and new adventures!

Cedar Hill Museum of History

DCPA was invited to speak at the Cedar Hill Museum of History on July 20th and we enjoyed sharing Dallas County history with about 75 attendees in the brand-new [Cedar Hill Central Public Library](#). DCPA Historian M.C. Toyer presented on the history of the Republic of Texas's building the Military Road that opened up North Texas for settlement and also shared the story of the Peters Colony that brought settlers to the area in the closing days of the Republic.



Mike Judd & M.C. Toyer

M.C.'s graphics and photos were outstanding and he's also a gifted public speaker. From DCPA's Proud Heritage Volume I, I shared photos and stories of some of Cedar Hill's earliest pioneer settlers. Although the room was filled with history buffs (and Toyer admirers) some attendees were new to the area. Channel 5 meteorologist (and history buff) David Finrock was also in attendance.

The museum will offer DCPA members a walking tour of historic [Cedar Hill](#) sometime this Fall when the weather cools off. Details will be shared on our website.



NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY



The Dallas County Pioneer Association will be participating in this year's **North Texas Giving Day** September 1st - 19th, 2024. All donations made through our special North Texas Giving Day page will be matched dollar for dollar by the Communities Foundation of Texas. Your ten-dollar donation for example would result in a twenty-dollar donation and so forth. Please consider making a special one-time donation to DCPA on September 19th on our special [North Texas Giving Day Page](#). If you'd like your donation to go towards a specific use (or

cemetery project) please note that on the donation form. Thank you all for your generous support of DCPA.

NEW MEMBERS

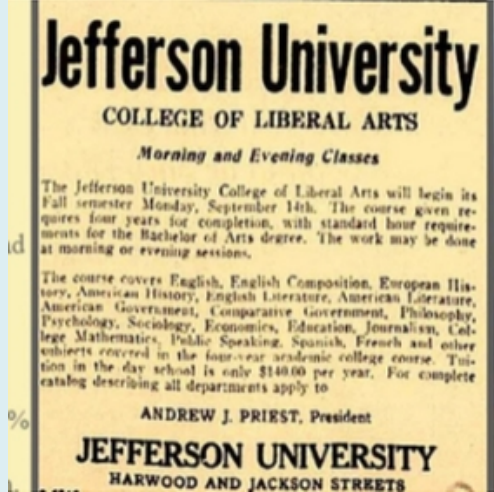
Since our last newsletter, four (4) new members have joined DCPA. Help us welcome **Laine Miller** of Midland, **June Time** of Dallas, **Dustin Durrett** of Mesquite, and **John C. Hughes** of Dallas. Each are eager to join us on the journey to learning (and preserving) local history!

NEXT MEETING - Sep 5 at 7pm

We hope to see you at our next quarterly meeting on Thursday September 5th. Our guest speaker is our very own Francis "Bud" Brooks. It's almost football season and Bud will be sharing with us the fascinating story of two Dallas universities struggling to survive in the Great Depression of the 1930s and using college football as a way to stay afloat. There's plenty of twists and turns in the story and colorful local characters you may not have heard of:

JEFFERSON & DIXIE

**2 Law Schools, 1 Collegiate Football Team,
and the NFL Championship Runner Up.**



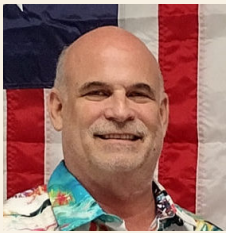
Jefferson University



Bud Brooks

If you're a first-time guest or simply a new member that's never attended one of our meetings, please join us for dinner at 6:00p prior to the 7:00p meeting. Let us know you're a first-timer and enjoy a complimentary meal on us! Please make your dinner reservation by clicking the red button below, or on our website dallaspioneer.org, or by voice mail at 972-260-9334 and mention that you're a guest. You can also email Vice President Paul Ridenour at vp@dallaspioneer.org that you're a guest. (insert meeting flyer)

[Make a Dinner Reservation](#)



From the Vice-President

For our next meeting in September, I would like all veterans of the US military who served between November 1, 1955 and March 15, 1975, to please attend. I would also like the widows of any veteran who served during this same time period to attend. There will be a special recognition during the meeting.

We pledge to make good use of your donations in our efforts to preserve Dallas County history! DCPA is a long-time 501(c)3 organization, EIN 75-1641669. Donations can be made on our [website](#) or through banks utilizing Zelle by simply using our email address Donate@dallaspioneer.org as the recipient.

[DONATE](#)

CEMETERY REPORT

by Kathy Ann Reid

SOWERS CEMETERY NEW

Betsy Farris who is on our Cemetery Team is also a member of Native Plant Society of Texas and a caretaker of Sowers Cemetery. Betsy reports that several of the wildflower and no-mow areas are coming along nicely. One

no-mow area had to be mowed for a burial but contained only grasses. The Association volunteers have taken on mowing maintenance themselves because of the high cost of mowing by contractors and the frequent rains. They are considering other options like mowing only paths or adding more no-mow areas.

MERRELL CEMETERY ANNUAL PICNIC 2024

June Jordan Time reports that for more than 50 years, Merrell Cemetery Maintenance Association annually gathers its members with a picnic on the grounds of the cemetery. This year's picnic was held on June 22 with thirty descendants of the founding families in attendance. Some drove over 100 miles picking up cousins along the way to reminisce. Everyone enjoyed the stories told about ancestors across the table. They stay personally connected to each other through the picnic and their [website](#). The old style and the new intertwining. Merrell Cemetery is one of the oldest documented cemeteries in Dallas County.

FALL FUN DAYS

On September 28 there are two opportunities for volunteers and history lovers. Cleaning up and mowing at **Wesley Cockrell Cemetery** will be in the morning, and the Sowers Cemetery Appreciation Day will be from 10:00 until 2:00.

DCPA members **Mike & Shelly Rowlands** of Michelangelo Historic Stone Preservation and Restoration plan to demonstrate tombstone repairs at W. W. Glover Cemetery's Harvest Day on October 12 and then again on November 2nd at Albert Carver Cemetery.



On November 23 we will be joined by a neighborhood association to clean **McAdams Cemetery**.

McKinney Family Cemetery will get our attention on a fair weather day in December.

These cemeteries need your help in order to be preserved. Please see more on our **Events page** at dallaspioneer.org

To view past field trips see our [Outings and Events](#) page

FUTURE EVENTS BEING PLANNED

Beri Kaplan Schwitzer, Executive Director of the Dallas Jewish Historical Society, says that they offer guided tours of the homes, businesses, synagogues, and organizations which have defined Jewish life in Dallas from the beginning and they are planning a **cemetery tour** including Shearith Israel Cemetery. The land of Shearith Israel is immediately next to that of the Beeman Cemetery which DCPA members have visited many times. Both cemeteries are on land granted to Thomas Lagow for his service in the Texas Revolution and later owned by John and Emily (Hunnicut) Beeman. Several members have expressed a desire to visit Shearith Israel. Frances James' articles on [Shearith Israel Memorial Park](#), as well as [Beeman Memorial](#)

A Pioneer Preacher

by *Dustin Durrett*

I was looking into my wife's family history and I came across her great great grandfather, Thomas Vernie Walker. He was a gospel preacher that was baptized by Joseph Sale Warlick. This is where the story of Joseph Sale Warlick begins.



Joseph Sale Warlick was born in St. Louis County, Missouri on November 1, 1866. He was the son of Newton Sanford and Mary Ann (Stafford) Warlick.

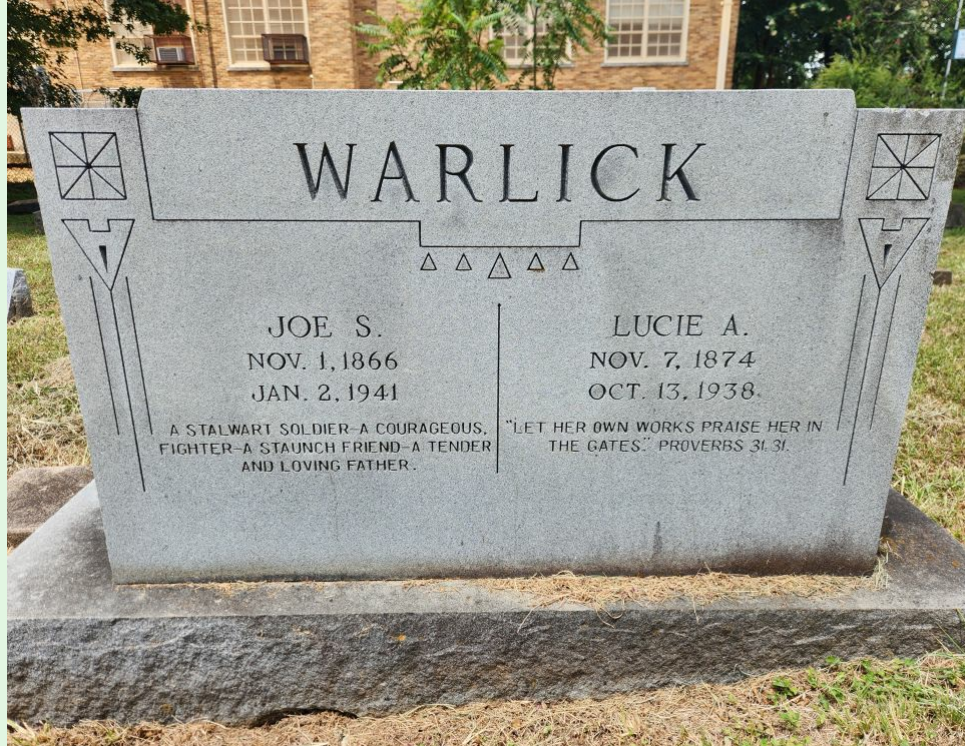
He acquired a better than average education, though his parents were poor. They gave him every advantage they could. His brothers and sisters happily worked on the farm so he could pursue his studies. Though his meticulous personal study and devotion to the Bible, Joe became well acquainted with the scriptures and developed early the ability to teach effectively.

Joe Warlick preached his first sermon in July, 1885. His parents have previously moved to Baylor County, Texas, near the small town of Seymour and Settled in the Cache Creek community. There was a small group of Christians meeting at the Cache Creek Schoolhouse and Joe began to preach for them. He was only 19 years old. He moved to Dallas in 1900, taking the pastorate of the Pearl & Bryan street Church of Christ. From the time he first started preaching he was in constant demand by churches for gospel meetings or debates. He preached in nearly all the Southern states and a few of the Northern states, and made one trip to Canada.

As a writer and editor, Joe Warlick was very productive. On March 1, 1903, Warlick was the founding editor of the Gospel Review. The Gospel Review was a high class monthly magazine that published the very best writing from all over. The magazine lasted only a little over a year and then failed due to the high cost of production. Warlick also wrote many other articles for other papers.

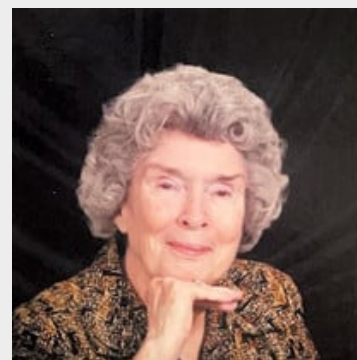
He preached for 54 years until stopped by illness in December of 1939. The end came on January 2, 1941, in his home at 911 West Tenth Street in Dallas. His life was clean, his preaching pure, and there was never the slightest suggestion of sin connected with him.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday, January 5th in the auditorium of Sunset Church of Christ in Dallas. Joseph Sale Warlick was laid to rest at Oak Cliff Cemetery.



In Loving Memory of Ms. Helen J. Sullivan

We mourn the recent passing of Ms. Helen J. Sullivan, a cherished fifth-generation Dallas native with deep roots in the city's history. As a proud descendant of the Hunnicutt family, co-founders of Dallas alongside John N. Bryan, Helen's connection to our community ran deep. Her dedication to preserving Dallas's rich heritage was evident through her lifelong membership in the Dallas County Pioneer Association, where she contributed to the first volume of *Proud Heritage*.



Helen J. Sullivan

For over 50 years, Helen served as the devoted guardian & advocate of the W.W. Glover Cemetery, tirelessly working to restore and maintain this historic site. Her passion for history was unmatched, and even in her later years, she ensured the smooth running of the annual Pioneer Picnic, a tradition she held dear.

We take solace in knowing that her family continues to uphold her legacy of care and commitment to the W.W. Glover Cemetery. Helen's passing is a profound loss to our community and to all who knew her as a wonderful historian and friend.

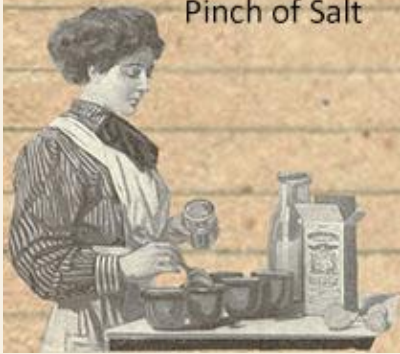


Pioneer Pantry

The following recipe is from Hellon Beeman Ferguson, wife of John L Ferguson, for whom Ferguson Road is named. Hellon Beeman Ferguson was the niece of John Neely Bryan, the founder of Dallas. Her mother was Margaret Beeman's sister.

Boiled Custard

½ Gal milk, heated for 15 min, stirring often
8 Eggs separated
4 T Flour
1 Cup Sugar
1 T Vanilla
Pinch of Salt



Use an 8-quart pan to cook in. Mix sugar and flour and mix with the egg yolks. Add to hot milk. Beat egg whites to stand. Fold and whip in stirring from bottom of pan so it won't stick. Add salt and vanilla. Cool and serve

Fascinating Archeological Exhibit of Dallas Artifacts

DCPA friend and (regular meeting attendee) Bob Rigdon is the subject of an exhibit of historical artifacts on display at the Dallas Public Library's History and Archives division. Bob is an urban archaeologist and the fascinating items he's unearthed tell the stories of generations of Dallasites that preceded us. The display cases on the 7th floor of the downtown central library will show the most interesting artifacts he's found over the years and will be displayed through the end of December.

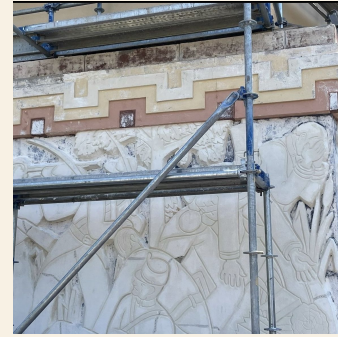


My personal favorite are the display cases of things found digging in the Tenth Street Historical District. The toys and dolls from bygone eras are especially intriguing - and a bit haunting. Please stop and enjoy Bob's collection if you're at the library and let him know how much you enjoyed it at a future DCPA meeting.

RESTORATION OF TOWER BUILDING AT FAIR PARK

We're pleased to report that the repair and restoration of the external

frieases outside the iconic Tower Building at Fair Park is nearly complete! This much-needed restoration will return the building to its 1936 art deco glory.



This building was originally the Hall of the United States at the original Texas Centennial celebration and is a local treasure! Kudos to Fair Park First and those who will have this completed prior to the kickoff of this year's State Fair of Texas!

THE HISTORY OF RADIO STATION WRR

Congratulations to Assistant City Archivist **Kristi Nedderman** on the publishing of her new book, "WRR, Dallas' Radio Station". This wonderful book tells the story of the first radio station west of the Mississippi and its founding. Kristi included dozens of photos of WRR throughout the years and includes many untold stories of the station's past courtesy of several longtime insiders. If you didn't appreciate WRR's importance locally and nationally, you will after reading Kristi's new book. After preparing the historical exhibit for WRR's 100th birthday that was displayed at NorthPark Center, authoring this book was the next logical step for the Municipal Archives team. The book can be ordered online through Arcadia Publishing at their website.



*Kristi Nedderman with her new book *The History of WRR**

HISTORIC CHURCH FIRE

On July 29th, [CBS 11 News](#) mentioned the excellent [written history of Dallas' First Baptist Church](#) on DCPA's website that was authored by our own **Mike Magers**. Reporters contacted DCPA for comments about the church's historic 1891 sanctuary and cited us and our website in their [10:00pm newscast](#) on the aftermath of the recent fire there. Since the fire, Brian

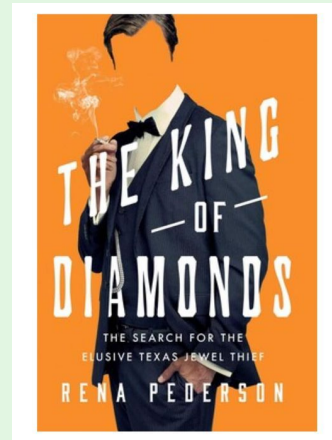


Gunn has uncovered numerous rarely seen [historical photos](#) of the sanctuary and shared them, along with a [special video](#), on social media. DCPA will continue to monitor the sanctuary's rebuilding and update our members accordingly.

BOOK REVIEW: The King of Diamonds

by Rena Pederson, 400 pages, published April 2024

Longtime Dallas Morning News columnist and feature-writer Rena Pederson has authored a new book about one of the most interesting true crime stories in recent Dallas history. *The King of Diamonds* tells the story of the elusive high society jewel thief who pilfered fine jewels from the most prominent and wealthy residents of Dallas for more than a decade.



Starting in 1959 during the society season from October through April, members of the city's upper crust began noticing jewels missing from their respective jewel collections. Not all their jewels, but typically only the most precious and unique pieces were being stolen right under their noses - in many cases while they were home hosting parties or galas. The thief had a discerning eye and only stole women's jewelry - particularly diamonds. As the jewel thefts continued during the 1960s, local media dubbed the unknown thief, "The King of Diamonds" and publicized his exploits. The thief knew the dates on the social calendar and also knew that society women typically kept their jewels locked away in safes, except during "the season" when they brought them out of storage to keep them handy in nightstands and dressers. Although the "King" was more than just a cat burglar, he routinely climbed to second story windows to gain access to master bedrooms during (or after) a society ball or cotillion. And the "King" worked alone and never left evidence behind. Although police determined the crimes occurred within a compact area bounded by Highland Park on the south and Preston Hollow on the north, they never identified the thief or a chief suspect. Their best guess was that the "King" was himself a member of high society -- and young and athletic. The thefts tapered off in the late 1960s with the last occurring in 1970. Rena Pederson attempts to solve the case in this wonderful new book and identifies one person in particular as the likely "King of Diamonds". Readers will learn fascinating details about the inner-workings of the social scene - particularly society's "Grande Dame" Nancy Hamon. Readers will also learn unknown things about Dallas' organized crime scene, especially crime boss Joe Civello who died the same year the "King" retired from his lucrative hobby. And the book's photos are also wonderful.

This book is highly recommended and kudos to Rena Pederson for taking time out of her retirement to research and publish this outstanding non-fiction work. Four-and-a half out of five stars!

HONORARY MEMBER

Marilyn Kosanke is a longtime resident of Dallas County: first in Dallas and presently in Garland. Her knowledge of Dallas County has evolved from personal experience to sharing the results of historical research. Marilyn joined DCPA in 2006 and continued until recent years. In gratitude for her continued history research and support to the efforts and goals of DCPA, we have granted to Marilyn a life-time Honorary Membership in our organization.

In 2006 Marilyn was a guest at a meeting of the Balch Springs Chamber of Commerce. An announcement was made that the city's library had no local history collection, and an appeal was made for a collection to be established. Based on her work as the past chairman of the Texas Utilities Company History Committee and experience in genealogy research, Marilyn volunteered to lead the project.

A Balch Springs History Committee was formed, and Marilyn served as chairman from 2006-2018. The committee discovered that although settlers arrived in the Balch Springs area in the 1840s, little research had been done, and much of the information being reported was incorrect. During many years of research the committee was able to establish a local history collection housed at the public library. The collection also includes information on the Rylie community, which is now part of the city of Dallas.

In 2008 Marilyn became a contributor to Find a Grave, a website for cemetery burials. Since then she has created almost 9,000 memorials on the website, most of which are for burials in Dallas County. She specializes in documenting unmarked graves. The creation of the memorials is based on death certificates and published obituaries. Identification of the burial locations has allowed cemetery associations to increase their knowledge regarding the number of burials in a cemetery and for descendants of the deceased to know where their family members were buried. Her research has enabled many families, especially those no longer living in Texas, to solve mysteries regarding their ancestors.

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