

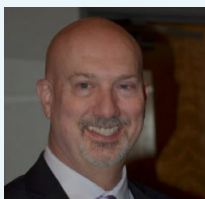


# DALLAS COUNTY PIONEER ASSOCIATION

*Dallas history lives here*

**NEWSLETTER** SPRING 2024

**Next Meeting: March 7, 2024 at 7:00pm**



## President's Message

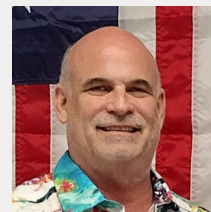
Welcome to 2024! Looking forward to seeing everyone at our quarterly meeting on March 7th and at one of our events in April! We're continuing our "Guests Eat Free" offer this year too. Just bring a first-time guest to dinner at 6:00 p.m. (before our 7:00 p.m. meeting) and both you and your guest eat free. Please call the DCPA message center at 972-260-9334 and leave you and your guest's name to reserve a spot for dinner. Members can also pay for dinner in advance on our website. Just show your confirmation email at the registration table when you sign-in at the next meeting. We'll also have a drawing for a door prize (or two) on March 7th. We appreciate your support and are looking forward to a great 2024!

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 with the address [Donate@dallaspioneer.org](mailto:Donate@dallaspioneer.org) on Zelle.

**DONATE**

## Vice-President's Message

It is with great pride and excitement that as the newly appointed Vice President of the Dallas County Pioneer Association, I'm privileged to serve alongside other dedicated individuals who are committed to preserving our rich history. I am filled with a sense of responsibility and determination to uphold the values and traditions that have been cherished by the generations



before us. Our association plays a vital role in connecting past and present, ensuring that the stories of our pioneers are not forgotten but celebrated. I am committed to working tirelessly with each and every one of you to continue the important work of our association: honoring the legacy of our pioneers, promoting historical preservation efforts, and fostering a sense of community among all who call Dallas County home. I am humbled by the confidence placed in me, and I promise to serve with integrity, passion, and dedication. Together, let us embark on this journey to preserve our history and build a brighter future for generations to come.



### WHAT'S IN A NAME?

One of the oldest parks in Dallas is the beautiful Reverchon Park. Bounded by Maple Ave, the Katy Trail, and the Tollway, the park was built in 1915 and named after Julien Reverchon (1837-1905), a botanist and a member of the La Reunion Community.

He came to Dallas with his father when he was 18. Over the next 50 years he became a professor of botany at Baylor College of Medicine and one of the most distinguished naturalists in the country. In fact, it was the onslaught of letters of recommendation from his colleagues around the country that led to the naming of the park after him. He had basically defined Texas' flora. Julien and his wife, Marie Henry, had 2 sons who died from typhoid fever at an early age. All four are buried in La Reunion Cemetery in West Dallas.



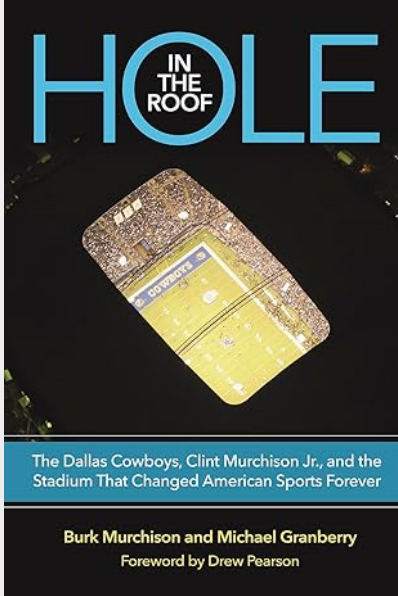
### W. DALLAS GATEWAY PECAN

Sitting at the southeast corner of Commerce & Beckley Ave, this historic tree has been the Gateway to West Dallas for over 175 years. The tree has seen the last of the bison herds, to cattle drives, stagecoaches, and covered wagons, to today's automobiles and rush hour traffic.

Before the arrival of the Bryans, the Cockrells, or the Beemans, the tree stood as a witness. It saw the construction of the the 1st Commerce street bridge in 1855, and the infamous flood of 1908. Fortunately it sat just outside the levee construction in 1930 and was able to once again witness the growth of transportation - this time by the automobile. Thanks to the vigilance of Dallas City Planner Don Raines, the impact on the tree was kept to a minimum during the Commerce St Bridge reconstruction.

**Next Meeting - 03/07/2024**

Our March meeting will feature authors of



the new book "Hole in the Roof"; Dallas Morning News columnist Michael Granberry and Burk Murchison, son of Dallas Cowboys owner Clint Murchison Jr. chronicle the Dallas Cowboys, Clint Murchison Jr, and the (iconic) Stadium That Changed American Sports Forever.

Michael Granberry recently retired from The Dallas Morning News where he'd been an Arts & Features writer since 1997. A Dallas native and alumni of W. W. Samuell High School, Michael graduated from SMU's School of Journalism and subsequently interned at the Washington Post. Burk Murchison is the son of Dallas Cowboys' founder Clint Murchison, Jr. and is also a Dallas native. He's a partner in Murchison Capital Partners, LP, a Dallas-based investment management firm. Our meeting will be Thursday, March 7th at 7:00pm (dinner at 6:00pm) in **The Point** auditorium at CC Young. If you would like dinner, please make a reservation by calling 972-260-9334 or clicking the button below.

[Make a Dinner Reservation](#)

## CEMETERY REPORT

### THE DURRETT'S AND GARVIN CEMETERY

Our memories of the amazing Durrett Family - Dottie, Tim, and Mike (Tim's brother) can be refreshed by the [Durrett Cemetery Project](#) and the [Nancy C. Strong Reinterment and Memorial Service](#). The couple has quite great resumes, and now we feature their son, Dustin Durrett, and his children. The grandchildren (future DCPA members!) love walking through old cemeteries helping Dottie place flags, and they practiced their elementary reading and math by reading tombstones.

We say, "If you visit a cemetery, please let us know the condition" and were happy to hear recent news on Garvin Cemetery from Dustin. He was out driving around visiting cemeteries. At the Garvin Cemetery, he noticed a shiny new for sale sign and messaged Dottie to ask how it could be sold to be developed. This is a question that has hung in the air for many years. A short answer is that in previous years lawsuits were selfishly used that allowed much of the land of the cemetery to be wrenched into private ownership.

The Garvin Cemetery Landmark Nomination Form is helpful in understanding the situation as it was; City Ordinance No. 26727 (found on the city's website) defines three Tracts of the cemetery land in its map. The ordinance reads in part:

#### 8. NEW CONSTRUCTION.

8.1 New construction is prohibited in Tracts A and B.

8.2 New construction is allowed in Tract C.

Our main question to City of Dallas, Office of Historic Preservation was:  
*“Considering Section 8.2 of the ordinance, what new construction could be allowed in Tract C?”*

A response with a request was received from Dr. Rhonda Dunn, “The property was sold to a developer in early January [2024]. I spoke with the developer’s representative and explained that any development on the property must go through the certificate of appropriateness process. Also, archaeological studies must be conducted prior to any ground disturbance. I also flagged the address the developer is using to reference the property, with the city (4010 W. Northwest Highway).

With respect to the type of structures allowed on Tract C, zoning and the landmark commission would make that judgment. **Please, if you or members of your organization see new construction on the grounds of Garvin Cemetery contact...[our office at (214) 671-5173].** The new owners have been made aware of the process.”

Thank you Dustin Durrett and family for your membership in many prestigious organizations and your contributions to the preservation of history! We look forward to meeting you in March at our next meeting.

## OLD PEACOCK MILITARY SCHOOL

The W. W. Glover Cemetery is on Military Parkway near the historical Peacock Military School in the Urbandale area of southeast Dallas. At a breakfast meeting of volunteers, we happened to meet Brenda Greer of Urbandale United Association whose mission is the improvement and preservation of the area. Coincidentally around the same time, the Senior Project Manager for Ratcliff Construction, Rita Ingram, contacted us, and we were able to get clarification on the future of the original masonry symbols over the front doors of the building, now known as Urban Park Elementary. She said, “We are FULLY removing and RESTORING the Peacock as well as all four historical masonry plaques and then re-installing them on a landscaping element at the front of the new building. They will be preserved/stored prior to the demolition of the building.” Brenda and Rita plan to join us at our next Glover volunteer day which is the second Saturday in March.

## FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Mike & Shelly Rowlands of Historic Stone Preservation & Restoration are planning volunteer days at several Dallas County cemeteries. Although they spent their

30th wedding anniversary with us at the Wesley Cockrell Cemetery, this year they might decline.

Two spring [Events](#) on the calendar are:

1. The [Wesley Cockrell Cemetery cleanup & workday](#), Sat, March 16 at Wesley Cockrell Cemetery.
2. Our [Annual Pioneer Picnic](#), Sat, April 27 at W. W. Glover Cemetery is a great social time and all are invited.

Opportunities to be of service and to be social in 2024 are posted at [dallaspioneer.org/events/](http://dallaspioneer.org/events/)

---

## Constellation of Living Memorial *by Gwyneva Winters*

For many years Dallas County Pioneer Association has helped preserve several Dallas County cemeteries that have otherwise been neglected. On occasion we provide funds for mowing, fence repair, and even monument repair.

Recently, the DCPA joined with The Friends of Warren Ferris Cemetery in a 2 year pilot program to restore and revitalize selected cemeteries titled **Constellation of Living Memorials**. This program selected 8 historic Dallas County cemeteries for this pilot program: Oak Cliff, Tarver Persimmon Rd, Campo de Santo Cemento, Beeman, W. W. Glover, Albert Carver, Oakland, and Western Heights.

The project will lead to the restoration of the cemetery's native flora and encourage wildlife and pollinators to these areas. Restoring the native flora will transform the cemetery grounds into self-sustaining and thriving native habitats, rich with renewed life.

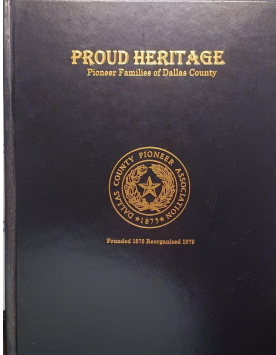
Citizen scientists trained by Texas A & M Agrilife will collect, track and upload data to a portal supplied by Texas A & M Agrilife. Texas A & M University has agreed to partner with this program, and will analyze, report and publish the pollinator population growth and native flora reemergence of this program.

Volunteer opportunities are open to Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists and Native Plant Society as well as those that are interested in this worthwhile project.

Contact [Ebony Brock](#) at (773) 592-5453

---





Thanks to the herculean efforts of webmaster Mike Magers, our Proud Heritage Vol 1 has been completely digitized and is now online. This is a GREAT resource of more than 200 biographies of early Dallas Pioneers. And if you can't find the time to read these online, signup below and have a bio (or other historical article) sent straight to your inbox!

[Sign up for Enews](#)

[Visit our Website](#)



Dallas County Pioneer Association | PO Box 12496, Dallas, TX 75225

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

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by dcpa1875@gmail.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!