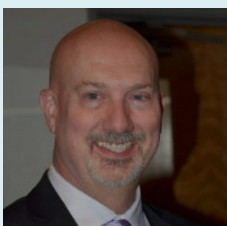




DALLAS COUNTY PIONEER ASSOCIATION

History Lives Here!
WINTER 2024

Next Meeting: 12/07/24 at 10am

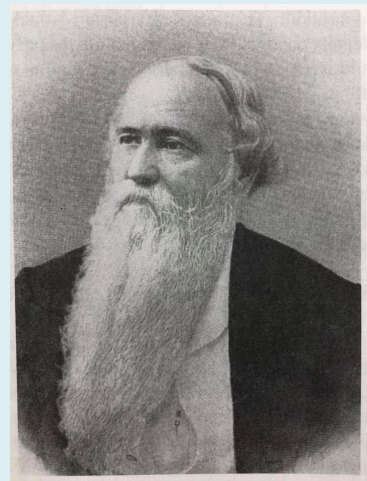


President's Message

Your DCPA board is ending 2024 strong with big plans for next year! 2025 will be the 150th anniversary of when the original Dallas County Pioneers Association was founded on July 13, 1875. We'd like you to help us plan a special event to celebrate our sesquicentennial next summer!

DCPA To Celebrate Sesquicentennial

The original Dallas County Pioneers Association held its first meeting on July 13, 1875 and elected its first officers among several worthy candidates. Although that original association dissolved in the early 1950s, our current organization (founded in 1979 as a successor) traces its history to that first meeting almost 150 years ago. DCPA will therefore celebrate its sesquicentennial next July on the 12th at a location still being determined. We need your input and participation. If you'd like to serve on a committee to plan and execute our historic 150th birthday celebration, please let me know at 972-365-3779 or president@dallaspioneer.org.



*First DCPA President
John C. McCoy*

2024 ARCHIVES BAZAAR



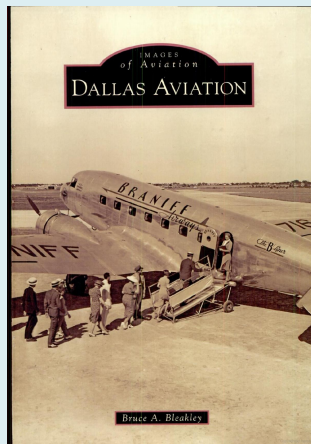
Dallas city archivist John Slate and assistant city archivist Kristi Nedderman hosted last month's 2024 DFW Archives Bazaar at Old City Park. This bi-annual event brings together historians, archivists, and lovers of local history to view artifacts provided by libraries, schools, newspapers, and other document custodians. This event is open to the public and is a great opportunity for people to view historical photos

and documents that typically stay locked away from public view. John and Kristi were excellent hosts and the bazaar brings together most of the libraries and archives in North Texas for an entire afternoon of sharing history. Be sure and attend the next archives bazaar in 2026. The location will be announced next summer.

NEXT MEETING - Sat, Dec 7 at 10am

We're looking forward to seeing you at our next quarterly meeting on Saturday December 7th. Our guest speaker is Lt. Col. Bruce A. Bleakley:

Images of Aviation DALLAS AVIATION



Dallas Aviation



Lt. Col. Bruce A. Bleakley

Bruce has authored three books on historic local aviation starting with “Dallas Aviation” in 2011 and more recent books on the history of Dallas Love Field and the history of DFW International Airport.

A former director of the Frontiers of Flight Museum at Love Field, he’s a gifted speaker whose multi-media presentation is full of fascinating photos. Did you know that Dallas Love Field’s original first terminal building is still standing today?

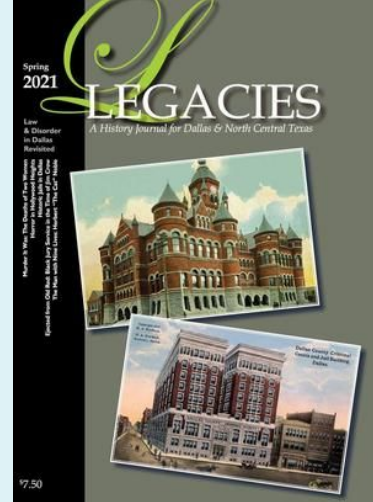
If you’re a first-time guest or simply a new member that’s never attended one of our meetings, please join us for breakfast at 9:00a prior to the 10:00p meeting. Let us know you’re a first-timer and enjoy a complimentary meal on us! Please make your breakfast reservation by clicking the red button below, 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.

[Make a Breakfast Reservation](#)

2025 LEGACIES HISTORY CONFERENCE

DCPA will be a sponsor of the 2025 Legacies Dallas History Conference again in January. This is always a great way to start the new year and

meet other history buffs and network with other groups. This is the 26th annual history conference and the theme this year is “Pop Culture In Dallas”. The conference will be held on Saturday January 25th in the 7th floor auditorium at the Dallas Public Library downtown. DCPA’s table will be inside the meeting area. Individual tickets will be available through Eventbrite in late December and we’ll share the link once it goes live.



Saturday, January 25, 2024

LA REUNION SETTLER SYMPOSIUM

This past Spring, DCPA was invited to help the French Alliance of Dallas (Alliance Francais de Dallas) prepare for a history symposium they hosted on October 5th. The group wanted to publicize a brand-new English language translation of Victor Considerant’s 1875 memoir “Un Naufrage Au Texas / The Road To Texas” by SMU professor Paola Buckley. Former DCPA president Judge Jim Foster was a guest speaker and shared excerpts from his 2005 book on La Reunion. Also present were descendants of pioneer La Reunion settlers. These descendants shared stories handed down through the generations as well as family photos and keepsakes. Kudos to the AFD for putting on an excellent Saturday symposium that taught our local pioneer history to about 100 attendees who’d never heard the La Reunion story until now.



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

TOMBSTONE REPAIRS

DCPA members Mike and Shelly Rowlands of Michelangelo Historic Stone Preservation & Restoration demonstrated tombstone repairs at W. W. Glover Cemetery and also at Albert Carver Cemetery. At Glover, the focus was on straightening sunken or leaning stones using the correct rocks and sand for

the base and proper leveling. Mike stressed that one never knows what is underground on a tombstone. Maybe shallow in the ground and easy to remove or deep in the ground and embedded in heavy concrete. On our next volunteer day we found examples of both scenarios with identical looking stones. One stone was in the ground half a foot with no base taking 15 minutes to finish. The other was two feet of hard digging to find roots twined tightly around the stone and a concrete base taking us 2.5 hours to complete. At Carver the stones that were vandalized were given attention. The stone broken in half and off of its base was repaired using the correct agent to fasten it together, so that if broken again the break would occur at the fastened spot, and the stone would not be further damaged.

Dustin Durrett recently visited at least six cemeteries and took pictures. Some are being added to the website as this newsletter is being composed. Included are Fletcher Cemetery (also known as Axe and Loudermilk), Smith Family Cemetery (also known as Kinnard-Smith), McAdams Cemetery, Housley Cemetery (Myers and West graves only remaining), Potter Cemetery, and Elmwood Cemetery.

McKinney Family Cemetery A recent drive-by reminded me of the many little Mimosa trees growing outside and into the front fence. These are hard to deal with because of the steep ditch that is close to the fence. We will keep an eye on the weather forecast in order to pick a fair weather day in December to work there.

FUTURE EVENTS

Beeman Memorial Cemetery

February 22, 2025, 11:00 to 1:00

Our DCPA Cemetery Committee is sponsoring its first field trip of the year, weather permitting, to visit the [Beeman Memorial Cemetery](#) located at 3599 Osage Circle in Dallas. The purpose is to see progress of native plant nurturing and help with maintenance such as picking up litter and cleaning up wooded area. Several Beeman descendants will be among us, including Marsha Leach who over the years has attended family gatherings and dedications of historical markers at the cemetery.

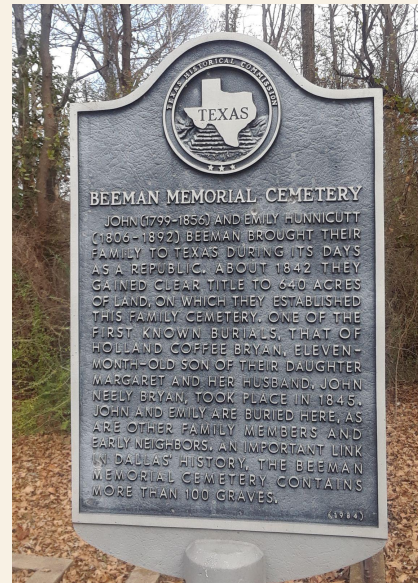
Take Dolphin Rd to Mingo. Go west on Mingo, then turn right on Gault St and continue to gate. The gate is at the end of the street. Please park on the right side of the road to leave space for residents to come and go. There's limited parking, so carpooling is recommended, if possible.

Wesley Cockrell Cemetery

March 15, 2025, 10:00 to 12:00

This date is for clean up and socializing. There's a beautiful view of the convent and the escarpment. Mike and Shelly Rowlands have restored and reset many of the tombstones. Located at end of S. Dwight Ave. off W. Jefferson Blvd.

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



A Giant of a Man

by *Dustin Durrett*

One of my favorite movies as a child was "The Wizard of Oz". I always liked the Munchkins and the flying monkeys. I found out earlier this year a Polish-American actor who played both a Munchkin and one of the winged flying Monkeys in "The Wizard of Oz" is buried in Shearith Israel Memorial Park off of Dolphin Road in Dallas. His common name was Harry Monty.



Hymie Lichtenstein, who is also known as Harry Monty was born in Dallas, April, 1 1904. His parents are Frank and Lydia Lichtenstein, who had immigrated from Poland in the 1890s. Harry started his career in vaudeville and was in numerous films from the 1930s to the 1970s and he was mostly uncredited. Some of his films and television series he appeared in are Hellzapoppin', Planet of the Apes, Hello Dolly!, Lost in Space, and Bonanza. He also worked as a stunt double for many child actors, and did all of Margaret O'Brien's stunt work. In addition, Monty served as a stuntperson in the films Tarzan Finds a Son!, Bad Bascomb, River of No Return, and Earthquake.

He was even a character actor for the 1978 animated film Lord of the Rings. Later on in his life he always considered the role as a Munchkin to be the most important of all his roles from his 50 years on stage and film.

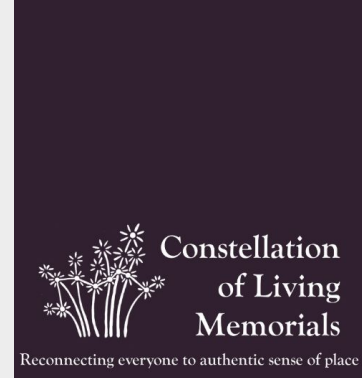
Harry Monty passed away on December 28, 1999, at the age of 95 in Beverly Hills, California.



CONSTELLATION OF LIVING MEMORIALS

by *Kathy Ann Reid*

The caretakers of six historical cemeteries in Dallas have committed to not mowing parts of the cemeteries while adding and nurturing existing native plants during 2024 through 2025. The cemeteries are Albert Carver Cemetery, Beeman Memorial Cemetery, Oakland Cemetery, W. W. Glover Cemetery, Western Heights Cemetery, and the model, Warren Ferris Cemetery. These projects provide us, along with neighborhood residents, opportunities to participate in outdoor service work while beautifying the areas.



A 2 year pilot program to transform neglected cemeteries into native landscapes and expanding local habitats while still honoring our pioneers and loved ones.

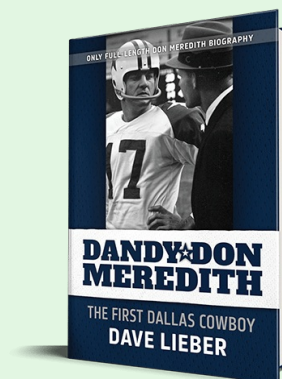
The Friends of the Warren Ferris Cemetery is the leader having shown the way with the transformation of the Warren Ferris Cemetery, forming and writing the plan, garnering grant funding, plus the gathering of the cemeteries to form the CLM Two-Year Pilot Program. At last look, their funding partners were Texas Historical Foundation, Texas Society of Professional Land Surveyors, Dallas Chapter 5, and Summerlee Foundation. CLM is the best hope with it's plan for the preservation of neglected pioneer cemeteries and help for the struggling volunteer caretakers of whom this writer is one. Cemeteries and neighborhoods need your help with funds to match the grant, along with your time in volunteering for social media postings, iNaturalist postings, and photography. This is an answer to many prayers of our ancestors and cemetery caretakers who have longed to see care and attention be given to pioneer cemeteries and the surrounding neighborhoods. See the [CLM website](#) for more info.

BOOK REVIEW:

Dandy Don Meredith-The 1st Dallas Cowboy

by Dave Lieber, published July 2024, 213 pages

Longtime columnist for The Dallas Morning News, Dave Lieber, recently published a new biography of legendary Dallas Cowboys quarterback Don Meredith. As Lieber explained during last December's DCPA meeting, because no one had yet written a biography of Dandy Don, he decided to be the first.



Lieber promised us a funny and enjoyable new book when he spoke to DCPA last year, and he didn't disappoint in this new book. The central theme of the book is how Don Meredith was specifically selected

by the fledgling Dallas Cowboys' first owner Clint Murchison, Jr. Mr. Murchison believed that signing Meredith would single-handedly ensure the franchise's success so he signed a personal-services contract with Meredith before fully-securing the new franchise from the NFL. As such, Don Meredith was truly the first Dallas Cowboy - before Tex Schramm, Tom Landry, Gil Brandt or anyone else. The author details how Meredith rose from obscurity in Mount Vernon, Texas to quarterbacking the SMU Mustangs and becoming a Dallas icon while still in college. Meredith famously explained why he chose SMU over other colleges - it was easy to spell and close to his hometown. Lieber has a knack for telling a good story and there are countless tales involving Don Meredith. The only slight issue with the book is that Lieber sometimes has to expand a humorous anecdote and stretch it to fill space. Because of this, some chapters are rather short, but this also makes the book easy for young readers to digest and enjoy. Younger readers likely won't believe how crazy and brash earlier generations of Texas football players were. Today's culture simply wouldn't create another Don Meredith, which makes him the perfect subject to this new biography. Lieber weaves the various threads of Meredith's life into a unified portrait of a fun-loving, highly-competitive true Texas legend. Four out of five stars. Available on [Amazon](#) or directly at donmeredithbook.com.

NEWS FROM THE PAST

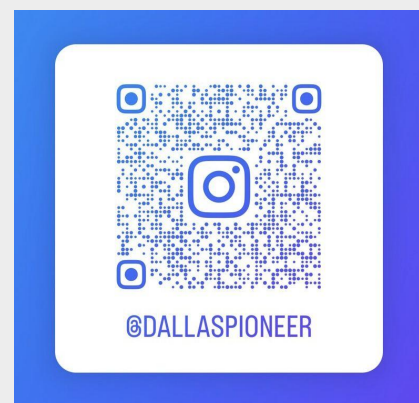
Would you like a weekly "history blast" sent directly to your email? Not only does DCPA's Mike Magers keep our social media presence updated, he also publishes a weekly email history blast to a special list of subscribers. If you'd like to receive a special weekly email containing an interesting story from local history, please subscribe at the link below. This weekly email is separate from DCPA's quarterly newsletter email and is an excellent way to learn more about Dallas history - one new topic at a time.

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