



# DALLAS COUNTY PIONEER ASSOCIATION

*History Lives Here!*  
2025

FALL

Next Meeting: 9/4/25 at 7pm

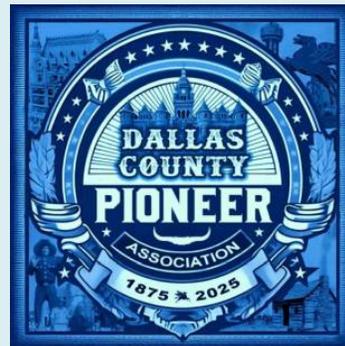


## President's Message

*by Mike Judd*

Please join us to celebrate the Dallas County Pioneer Association's Sesquicentennial at a gala event on Sunday October 19, 2025 at El Fenix Mexican Restaurant on Northwest Highway & Hillcrest.

We've reserved the entire restaurant from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. for our celebration where our guests will enjoy a TexMex buffet and a full cash bar. Attendees will also receive gift bags with wonderful items donated by our friends and event sponsors. And our silent auction features unique historical items never before offered for purchase. Mark your calendars and save the date. Friends and neighbors are also invited!



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## NEW MEMBERS

Help us welcome our most recent New Members:

- Patsy Caropresi
- Marty Dall
- Zachary Leonard
- Brenda Nelson
- Jeanette Pritchett
- Corlie Storey

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## NEXT MEETING - Sep 4th

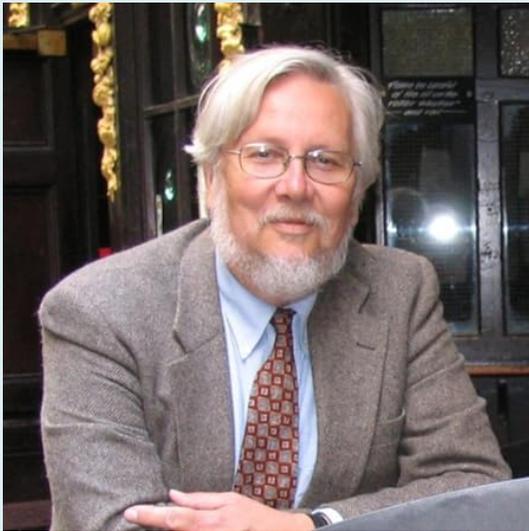
We're looking forward to seeing you at our next quarterly meeting on Thursday, September 4th. Our guest speaker is local historian and prolific author Dr. Stephen R. Butler Ph.D. and he'll be presenting to us from his new book:

## Presidential Visits to "Big D"

outlining the many times past, present, or future US Presidents came to Dallas. Some visits were publicized, some were infamous, and others were secret and clandestine:

*"Since Theodore Roosevelt in 1905, to present day, every U.S. President has visited Dallas at least once. Some before being elected, some while in office, and others after leaving office. JFK visited Dallas four times before 1963. This one-of-a-kind collection, illustrated with official White House photographs as well as photos taken by the author, includes descriptions of two visits by nearly-President Robert F. Kennedy."*

Many of you know Dr. Butler for his popular 2014 biography of [John Neely Bryan](#) and he's agreed to answer questions about *that* book from our members and guests. He will also be selling and signing copies of his [latest book](#) for us. For more information about Dr. Butler, please visit his [website](#).



*Dr. Stephen R. Butler*



*Presidential Visits to "Big D"*

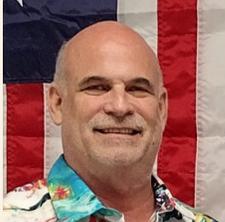
If you're a first-time guest or simply a new member that's never attended one of our meetings, please join us for dinner at 6:00p prior to the 7:00p meeting. Let us know you're a first-timer and enjoy a complimentary meal on us! Please make your dinner reservation by clicking the red button below, or on our website [dallaspioneer.org](http://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](mailto:vp@dallaspioneer.org) that you're a guest.

[Make a Dinner Reservation](#)

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### From the Vice-President

We are fast approaching our 150th year celebration. At our



event in October, we'll be having a silent auction. Please consider bringing something for the auction to our next meeting. I'd like to have 35-45 or more items for the auction.

We want highly desirable items that people actually *want* to purchase. These could be things like framed paintings, a Texas bottle of bourbon or rum, rare maps, historical relics, or signed memorabilia. For example, I'll be bringing signed books from 3 former Dallas Cowboys.

What we *don't want* are old, falling apart books but at the same time, we'd love books about pioneer history or Dallas history.

When you bring your item(s) to our next meeting, please ensure you include the following five pieces of information: Your name, the name of the item, your guesstimate of the opening bid price, the actual value of the item, and the suggested "Buy It Now" price.

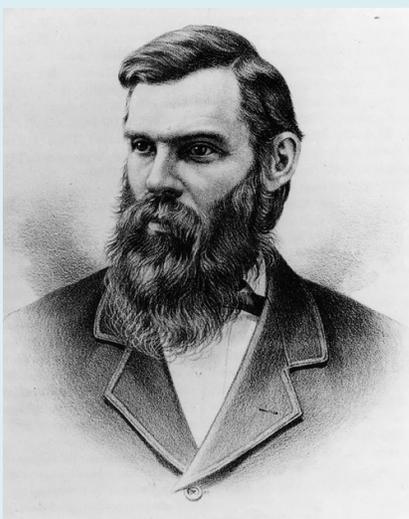
We'd much rather have people actually **Buy It Now**, pay for it, and take it with them when they leave. It would be great for the auction tables to be empty by the end of the event, allowing us to eliminate long lines of people waiting to pay.

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](mailto:Donate@dallaspioneer.org) as the recipient.

**DONATE**

## The Life and Legacy of Julien Reverchon

by *Dustin Durrett*



Julien Reverchon was born on August 3, 1837, in Diémoz, France, to Jacques Maximilien and Florine (Pete) Reverchon. He grew up alongside his brothers, Elisée and Paul-Alphonse, in a household that nurtured curiosity about the natural world. From a young age, Julien displayed a passion for botany, and together with his brother he assembled a remarkable childhood collection of nearly 2,000 plant species. This early devotion to nature laid the foundation for the career he would later pursue in the United States.

At 19, Julien and his father emigrated from France to join the Fourierist utopian colony at La Réunion in Dallas County, Texas. The community, founded by French philosopher Victor Prosper Considerant, was already faltering by the time of their arrival in December 1856. Soon after, the colony formally dissolved. In exchange for their shares in the failed enterprise, Maximilien Reverchon received a plot of land on the colony's southeastern edge. There, the family established a farm, and Julien turned

his attention to the unfamiliar plants of North Texas, beginning his lifelong study of the region's flora.

On July 24, 1864, Reverchon married Marie Henri. The couple had two sons, but tragedy struck in 1884 when both boys died of typhoid fever.

After a period of stepping away from botany, Reverchon returned to scientific work in 1869. That year, he joined Jacob Boll on an expedition to collect fossils in West Texas. Revived in his passion, he went on to assemble extensive plant collections that were later studied and utilized by leading American botanists, including Asa Gray and Charles Sprague Sargent. His specimens were widely distributed through Allen Hiram Curtiss's North American Plants series, ensuring that Reverchon's discoveries reached herbaria and research institutions across the country.

In his later years, Reverchon shared his knowledge by teaching botany in Dallas. By this time, he had amassed an extraordinary herbarium at his home, known as the Rose Cottage. The collection contained more than 2,600 species and over 20,000 specimens—an invaluable record of the biodiversity of Texas.

Tragedy struck once again in July 1905. While examining insects near a railroad track in Greenville, Texas, Reverchon was struck by a passing train. He sustained a fractured arm and severe back injuries. Though he survived the initial accident, he never fully recovered. On December 30, 1905, Reverchon died at the home of his adopted son, R. M. Freeman.

Julien Reverchon was laid to rest in La Réunion Cemetery, not far from the site of the colony where his American journey had begun nearly 50 years earlier. His legacy endures not only through the thousands of specimens preserved in botanical collections but also in the recognition he continues to receive as one of the most influential naturalists of early Texas.



## CEMETERY REPORT

### SAVING HAUGHT CEMETERY

by Linda Haught Ortega

March of 2025, my oldest sister, Georgia Mae Haught Lann (aged 89) of Payson, Arizona called to tell me that a weird thing had happened to her. A Gila County Deputy Sheriff had to served her with papers for a Tax Lawsuit from Dallas. She assumed it was a “scam.” Time passed before she came to my house in Globe, Arizona to give me a copy of the citation.



*Haught Cemetery marker*

She warned me not call the phone number because “We don’t know what they are up to.” I thought this might be legitimate and be related to the Haught Store Cemetery. Turns out Georgia was one of few living descendants that were served. Many “served” have been in their own graves for many decades. I make phone calls to Texas, ordered a certified copy of the Warranty Deed that our great-grandfather S.A. Haught Sr. had recorded 29th December of 1883. I talked to the Dallas County Assessor’s Office, and found out that yearly notices had been sent to a Lucille Maxwell with no reply in over 20 years. I talked with the Manager of Historic Preservation, City of Mesquite who was very helpful and made several suggestions, one of which was to contact the Dallas County Pioneer Association.

My son, Dutch Ortega, contacted a Dallas area co-worker who suggested contacting DCPA’s Cemetery Committee, and Texas Historical Commission Cemetery Preservation. I found notes from 2018 where a realtor from Mesquite had called me wanting to sell me the property that surrounds the cemetery so it could be protected. I called him and asked if he knew Lucille Maxwell, because at that time I didn’t know that this lady, Lucille Maxwell, was the same as Lucille Cole, a favorite cousin of my grandfather. I then called one of the few distant cousins in Mesquite. I learned that Lucille Maxwell had died in 2000 at the age of 94, after applying for reinstatement of the revoked Tax Exemption.

I made many calls to the Dallas Central Appraisal District’s Tax Exemption office and applied for Tax Exemption. When the application was rejected, I experienced the same problems that Lucille Maxwell had because the form did not fit the unusual situation of a historical cemetery. For example the City of Mesquite did not have a record of the cemetery’s dedication. The land was not in a city at the time the dedication was done by the deed. Once we got around the cemetery’s situation not fitting the form, I was instructed that I could apply only for the most recent 5 years, which I did.

I talked to a member of the DCPA Cemetery Committee who turned out to be a distant “Hunnicutt” cousin. This committee has been a great and responsive advocate in my attempt to rectify a horrible error made concerning the tax exempt status of this historical cemetery and the subsequent filing of the lawsuit. Marilyn Kosanke has helped find and identify 20 graves in the cemetery, Amelia Hill provided photos and biographies of some interred in the graveyard, Tim Durrett filed the Notice of Existence, Dottie Durrett did the application for Historical Texas Cemetery, Jay Haught of Arizona provided confirmation of the legal description in the handwritten deed and map work. Tony Hanson of Dallas Genealogical Society posted

document scans and updates on their [website](#). Many others have helped behind the scenes.

Here we are with the historical cemetery with the remains of 20 precious people. The first request for a Tax Exemption back in April was denied, then July 1st, I was notified that it was granted exemption for 2020-2025. Remaining are the years from 2003-2020 showing taxes delinquent. I mailed a second letter to the Dallas County Appraisal Review Board asking for exemption to be restored for the remaining 17 years of taxes and penalties. Hoping and praying we can avoid the Tax Auction in October.

## DCPA MEMBER FEATURED

*by Kathy Ann Reid*

Our Betsy Farris was featured in the July online newsletter called “Tui’s Tombstone Travels” by Tui (Too-eee) Snider whose latest book is ‘Around the World in 80 Graves’. Betsy virtually attended the Association for Gravestone Studies’ June symposium and enjoyed Tui’s talk about “Rock of Ages” monuments. This prompted Betsy to share her own story on researching and cleaning a Rock of Ages monument at her Farris family cemetery, Owens Chapel, Fannin County. Tui was impressed and included a condensed version in her [newsletter](#). In Owens Chapel, Betsy has researched, cleaned and restored headstones and published stories on the association’s [Facebook page](#).

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## COCKRELL CEMETERY

Meet us at the Wesley Cockrell Cemetery for a much needed cleaning! We will meet at 10:00a at the cemetery at the end of the road.

**WHEN:** Saturday, November 8, 2025  
**WHERE:** Wesley Cockrell Cemetery  
[800 S. Dwight Avenue](#), Dallas, Texas



For details, please contact Dustin Durrett, [dustin.wdurrett@gmail.com](mailto:dustin.wdurrett@gmail.com) or text 214.854.6942, For more about the [cemetery](#), see the [Cemetery List](#) on [dallaspioneer.org](http://dallaspioneer.org).

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

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## Celebrating 150 Years of DCPA

*by Brian Gunn*

This year marks an extraordinary milestone for us: the 150th anniversary of the Dallas County Pioneer Association. Since 1875, our organization has been focused on preserving the memory, stories, and contributions of Dallas County’s earliest families.

To reach a century and a half of continuous service is no small achievement. It is both a testament to those who came before us and a reminder of the responsibility we all carry forward. From its beginnings as a small group gathering at the Dallas County courthouse, the Association has grown into a vital steward of our county's history. Through our work publishing pioneer bios, preserving cemeteries, and advocating for historic landmarks, we have kept alive the legacy of the people who built Dallas County from the ground up.



### Marking the Milestone

On Sunday, October 19, 2025, we'll gather at El Fenix on Northwest Highway to celebrate our Sesquicentennial. While the event will be a time of camaraderie for members, its larger purpose is to share our story with the citizens of Dallas County. This 150th anniversary is more than a date on the calendar. It's an opportunity to remind our community that "History lives here," and the past *continues* to shape the future.

### Why It Matters to All of Us

As members, we know firsthand how significantly our Association has impacted the history of Dallas County. This anniversary is not just a celebration - it gives us the chance to amplify our presence in the wider community. For a century and a half, we've safeguarded the legacy of the county's pioneers. Now, with this milestone, we declare *again* that their story, *and ours*, continues to shape the character and spirit of Dallas County today.

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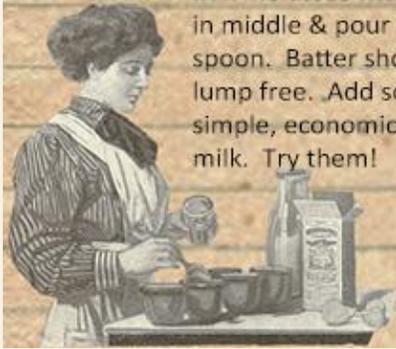
## Pioneer Pantry

Step back in time with this month's historic recipe from member archives.

### Sour Milk Cakes

1 qt. Sour or "loppered" milk  
About 4 cups sifted flour  
2 tsp. soda, dissolved in boiling water  
3 T molasses  
Salt to taste

Mix molasses with milk. Put flour into deep bowl, mix salt through it, make hole in middle & pour in milk, gradually stirring flour down into it with wooden spoon. Batter should not be too thick. When milk is in, beat until mixture is lump free. Add soda water, stir up fast and bake immediately. These cakes are simple, economical, and extremely nice. "Loppered" milk is better than butter-milk. Try them!

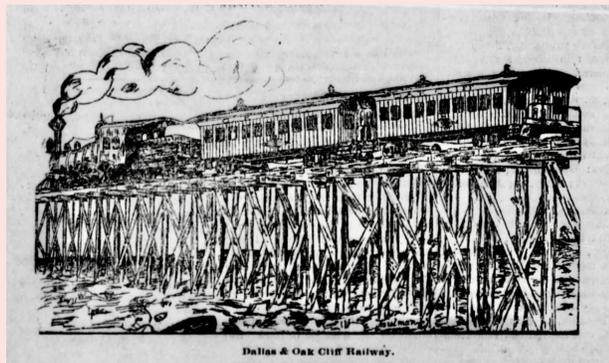


*This recipe is from Lucy Harwood,  
daughter-in-law of Sarah Peak Harwood*

## "Bridging" the Gap Between Mule-Drawn Coaches and Electric Streetcars

*by Mike Magers*

Streetcars began to run in Dallas around 1873. Captain G. M. Swink was President of Dallas City Railroad Company. One of the first configurations used mule drawn coaches. In the very early days there were two coaches, one named for John Neely Bryan and the other



named for Belle Swink, daughter of Capt. Swink. The lines in Dallas were not converted to electric power until around 1889. A few years earlier, interest had begun to rise regarding a means to connect the new town of Oak Cliff to Dallas via rail. Around that time, the Dallas and Oak Cliff Railway Company was founded by Thomas L. Marsalis and John S. Armstrong.

Marsalis was born in 1852 in southwestern Mississippi, near New Orleans, Louisiana. When he was still a young man, he moved to Dallas and opened a wholesale business that became quite successful. John S. Armstrong was born in 1850 in Tennessee and came to Texas to operate a wholesale meat business with members of his family. Marsalis formed a partnership with Armstrong. They had a vision for establishing a town in what was previously vacant land across the Trinity River from Dallas. The two laid out streets and are considered to be the founders of Oak Cliff.

The rail system they created primarily served Oak Cliff (now part of Dallas).

It provided surface transportation and also crossed the Trinity River. Its name was later changed to the Dallas and Oak Cliff Elevated Railway Company, though very little of it was "elevated" in the traditional sense. It operated for about 15 years until 1902 when it was acquired by the Northern Texas Traction Company, an interurban company that also operated a rail line between Fort Worth and Dallas.

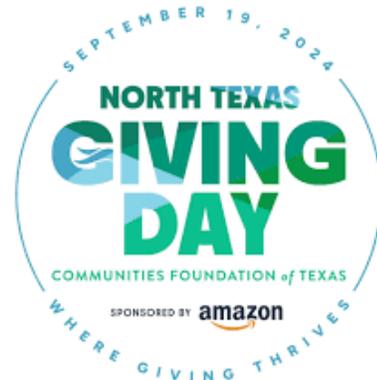
During its lifetime, the Dallas and Oak Cliff Elevated Railway Company used small steam locomotives for power. An article in the Dallas Daily Herald issue of December 29, 1887 noted that the Trinity was crossed by means of a temporary wooden bridge, but that a new iron bridge was nearing completion. The newspaper had no photographs but included the sketch above that illustrated how the locomotive and two cars looked.

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## NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY

DCPA is participating in North Texas Giving Day again this year and would appreciate any and all contributions to help us preserve the history of the earliest Dallas County pioneers.

Although North Texas Giving Day isn't until September 18th, our DCPA [donation page](#) is now live and ready to accept donations! We appreciate your support and generosity!



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## DGS FALL SEMINAR



DALLAS  
GENEALOGICAL  
SOCIETY

Our friends at the Dallas Genealogical Society announced their Fall Seminar scheduled for the Saturday after our 150th gala celebration. Please consider attending their **October 25th** seminar at the Dallas Public Library's downtown location to hear Kelli Jo Bergheimer present "*Strategies For DNA Breakthroughs*". The seminar starts at 9:30 a.m. and runs through 3:30 p.m. with emphasis on the following:

- Successful Sleuthing, Not Stalking, for DNA Matches
- Ancestry Pro Tools: Increase Your DNA Analysis
- The Power of Ancestry Clusters and Inferred Matching
- Tale of 2 Grandfathers & an Adoption - Privacy Concerns with DNA

Details are on their [website](#).

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## NEW SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILE: LinkedIn

Thank you to everyone that follows DCPA on Tumblr, Instagram, X, and Facebook. We've launched a new profile on [LinkedIn](#) which we'll be using to connect with other historical organizations & history lovers. Please connect with us the next time you're



## UPDATES TO OUR WEBSITE

Did you happen to see our new biographical sketch about John Henry “Doc” Holliday who practiced dentistry in Dallas in the 1870s before moving westward and entering popular folklore in Tombstone, AZ?

[Doc Holliday, Briefly a Dallas Dentist](#)

Did you read about the 1875 founding of *another* historical organization here in Dallas - “The Association of the Soldiers of the Texas Revolution and Mexican War, of Dallas County.”? This interesting article features a photo of a 1905 reunion of veterans of the Mexican War meeting at Dallas’ old First Methodist Church on Commerce Street.

[Association of Soldiers of the Texas Revolution & Mexican War \(1875\)](#)

And our recent piece about the history and importance of the incomparably beautiful 1903 [Wilson Building](#).

There’s always something new and informative being added to our website so bookmark us and visit often. This is *your* association and we need your contributions to both our website and our newsletter. If your pioneer ancestors need to be profiled online, please email us at:

[webmaster@dallaspioneer.org](mailto:webmaster@dallaspioneer.org)

And if you’d like to include an interesting bit of pioneer history in our quarterly newsletter, hit us up at

[newsletter@dallaspioneer.org](mailto:newsletter@dallaspioneer.org)

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