

Local History & Genealogical Society

COOPERATING WITH THE DALLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Volume 1

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Number 7

OUR CREED: "What you have inherited from your fathers, you must earn for yourself, before you can call it yours."—Goethe.

EARLY DAYS IN DALLAS COUNTY

(Concluding installment of the story of early life, as told by the late Mrs. Alice West Floyd to Miss Willie Floyd, and contributed by Mrs. Geo. F. Carlisle.)

"Usually we rode horseback everywhere; every member of a family had his saddle horse. My older sisters had their riding habits, high hats trimmed with long plumes which curled down to their shoulders.

"Father and mother brought three children with them to Texas and three more were born here — myself in 1846, brother Robert in 1848, and Mary Catherine in 1850. Brother Robert became a lawyer, studying at Lebanon, Tennessee. He was County Treasurer for two terms and the County Judge, the first native son to become judge in Dallas County.

"My sister, Helena, married Tom Winn during the war. He died within two years. Her second marriage was to Dr. C. C. Gillespie, the father of Charles Gillespie, who was so long a county officer in later years. Dr. Gillespie was also a preacher. Their children, Constance and Zilla, died soon after reaching maturity. Brother John married Emma Winn in 1865. Their son, John R. West, now county surveyor, has held that office for many years. Sister Ann married William M. Winn in 1860. Their sons, William, Hubert, Harland, Edward and Frank lived and served their county as good Christian citizens and their daughter, Mary Winn, is a teacher in the Dallas city schools. I married Thomas Henry Floyd in 1865. Of our ten children, five are now living: Mrs. Chas. Woolridge of El Paso, J. Douglas of Abilene, Mrs. W. E. Ryan of Abilene, Mrs. J. R. Williamson of Cross Plains and Willie M., a teacher in Abilene. Mrs. R. T. Davis, Nat and Thomas Henry all left families.

"My grandmother taught school in Tennessee during early days. My mother first taught in Tennessee, then in Texas. I taught during the Civil War and my daughter is teaching now.

"When I was twelve years of age, one moonlight night I awakened to find men in the yard dressed in white sheets and masks. I crawled across the hallway to Brother John's room, waked him and he got up, went to the door with a six-

shooter in his hand and confronted them. They wanted the negro, Jordan. They wanted to search the house for him but John refused permission, standing with the sixshooter in his hand. They left the yard quietly on horseback. I have often wondered how I had the nerve to crawl across the open hallway. These men were trying to stir up trouble between the whites and the blacks. Jordan was an inoffensive negro, kindly and well-mannered, but they wanted to hang him.

"I played a dulcimer at Mr. Huffines, rode in the Santa Anna carriage at Mr. Witt's, and went to school at J. W. P. McKenzie's school at Clarksville, Texas. He was the beloved 'Old Massa' to many young men who later became famous in Texas' religious, political and educational circles. My sister, Helena, taught at McKenzie's College, and I was there as a student in 1859-1860. In 1864 we had no school in our community. People came and asked me to teach and after they insisted I consented, teaching for one year in my father's house.

"After the war we planned a double wedding — my brother John and Emma Winn, Thomas Henry Floyd and myself. We had the wedding on Sunday night before church services at Cochran's Chapel, the first wedding performed in the chapel and Mr. Masters said the ceremony, and Mr. McKenzie was there. We would have had him say the ceremony if we had known he would be present, for Tom, John and I were his old pupils. We went home in buggies and some forty or more people came to my father's house for the bridal supper, but I do not remember what we had to eat."

MRS. CARLISLE HOSPITALIZED

Members of the Society will be sorry to hear that Mrs. Geo. F. Carlisle, ardent supporter of historical work and close friend of many Dallasites, was hurt in a fall. She suffered a broken arm and other injuries. As this publication went to press, Mrs. Carlisle was in Baylor Hospital. (We hope you'll soon be up and about again, Mrs. Carlisle!)

LA REUNION HISTORY

George H. Santerre, one of the Society's members, has just published **WHITE CLIFFS OF DALLAS**, a very fine book on the old French settlement

of La Reunion and its contribution to Dallas history. This book has been "jacketed" by The Book Craft in white with gold lettering which readers will find very attractive.

OLD FORT RESTORED

The restoration of Fort Belknap has been completed through the efforts of various organizations in Texas and is open for visitors. It is currently being used as a county social center, and was also the meeting place for the Texas Library Association's Division of Archives and State and Local History, held October 15. Fort Belknap is located about two miles from New Castle, in Young County.

POETRY COLLECTION PRESENTED

The Poetry Society of Texas presented their permanent collection of poetry and other works of Texas writers to the Texas, Local History, and Genealogy Department of the Dallas Public Library on September 21. Over 500 publications were in the collection and had been acquired through the work of David Russell and other writers, over a period of several years. Presentation was made by the Society's president Martin Shockley and accepted by James D. Meeks, the library director. This valuable collection will be maintained in a special cabinet and will be added to by the Poetry Society, as new volumes are published.

Officers of the Poetry Society are: Martin Shockley, President; Arthur Sampley, Vice President; Pauline Crittentend, Treasurer; Catherine Case Lubbe, Corresponding Secretary; Lois Upshaw and William D. Barney, Directors. Miss Upshaw represented the group during the library's formal opening, when several thousand visitors saw the poetry collection displayed.

NOTES FOR MEMBERS

The series of lectures on learning how to preserve family records and do historical research will be presented Saturdays at 10 to 12 A.M. on October 22, October 29, November 5, and November 12. The meetings will be held in the auditorium of the new Dallas Public Library and will be open to all interested

persons without charge. Copies of the lectures are to be made available to those desiring them for a nominal fee.

The next regular meeting of the Society will be on Monday, October 31, at the YMCA, for 12:00 luncheon. Visitors are cordially invited at all times.

Mr. Charles Noland is Chairman of the Nominating Committee to suggest officers for 1955-56. He will be assisted by Mrs. Jane Alvis and Mrs. George F. Carlisle.

Mrs. Helen Anthony is working on records of the Lisbon Cemetery, and compiling associated genealogical data. She will, of course, welcome additional assistance.

MANUSCRIPTS IN LIBRARY

Among copies of local records and family papers, the following are in files of the Texas, Local History and Genealogy Department of the Dallas library and may be of interest to historians. (Mrs. Margaret Pratt, department librarian, suggests that you ask for them at the desk.)

"Dallas County Surveys (exclusive of Peters Colony Grants)" including First Class, Second Class, Script and Donation, Bounty Grants, and map. Listed and contributed by Mrs. Geo. F. Carlisle.

"Abstracts of Navarro County Wills" 1848-1890, and other court records of Navarro County, 1835-1847. Contributed by Mrs. Balfour Clark of Corsicana.

"Fannin County Marriage Licenses, 1841-1845." Contributed by Mrs. Eddie Hodge of Bonham.

"Records from William Forman Family Bible, Plano, Collin County." Copied from papers of Mrs. Susan Dowell Reece of Waco.

"Chinn Chapel Cemetery Records," Denton County. Copied and donated by Mrs. Alma Lain Chambers, from "DAR"

records of Benjamin Lyon Chapter. "Collin County Land Grants," exclusive of Peters Colony Grants, and

"Grayson County Land Grants," exclusive of Peters Colony Grants. Listed and contributed by Mrs. Geo. F. Carlisle. (Also several manuscripts written by pioneers of early Dallas).

Material on Virginia families and records for William Waters, George Head, and Bowdo in (Boudouin) family donated by Mrs. Lucille Krish of San Antonio.

SURNAMES UNDER SEARCH

Information is desired on the following families and persons. Anyone wishing to exchange data may contact the interested historian at the address listed:

Ball family — Virginia and Tennessee. Parents of Tennessee Ball needed, married Anna Carr; with five brothers in Confederate Army. Oldest son John Davis Ball, born 1856.

Mrs. M. H. Walker, Route 1, Box 66, Grapevine, Texas.

Ballard, Barlett — son of John and Phoebe Ballard. Born 1803, Monroe Co., Va., died 1875 Boone Co., Ky. Married March 19, 1829, Sallie R. Hughes (daughter of George and Mary I. Hughes). Both lines needed.

Mrs. Robert H. Hayes, Box 741, Tyler, Texas.

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Christian family of Augusta County, Virginia. Mary Christian, daughter of Gilbert Christian and Margaret Stuart. Dates?

Mrs. Edward C. Clack, Burkburnett, Texas.

Evans family from England — Henry Adams Evans born Jan. 3, 1834, Gayton, England; came to America before Civil War, buried Terrell, Texas. Brother Alfred lived in Louisiana. English brothers and sisters: Louisa Richards, Hanna Whitehead, Catherine Edmunds, Elizabeth Whitehead, Betsy Whitehead, Ellen Ratledge, William, John, Tom, Harriet.

Joseph C. Hammond, P. O. Box 708, Carlsbad, N. M.

Parker family — from South Carolina to N. E. Mississippi; from latter state to Texas in 1873.

Miss Mabel Wilkerson, 423½ Neches, Dallas, Texas.

Roark family — Franklin and Henderson counties, Tennessee. Brothers William, John, and Russell; father John born in Virginia, uncle Barnett Roark.

Miss A. M. Trimble, 2911 Falls Drive, Dallas, Texas.

Tannehill (Tawnyhill) — Kentucky and South Carolina, 1796-1810-1820. James B. and Andrew Jackson.

Mr. and Mrs. Earnest L. Thaxton, 1917 8th St., Lubbock, Texas.

Tansey (Tanzy, Tansy) family — Matthews Tansey died about 1888, possibly near Waco. Married Annie ("Duckie") Rowe who came from near Montgomery, Alabama, with brother Ben. License taken out at Marlin. Matthew had relatives in St. Louis.

Mrs. Rosalie Walker, 5421 Victor, Dallas, Texas.