

# Local History & Genealogical Society

COOPERATING WITH THE DALLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Volume 1

SEPTEMBER 15, 1955

Number 6

**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

(Part II of the story of the life of the late Mrs. Alice West Floyd in Dallas County, as told to her daughter, Miss Willie Floyd.)

"Many delicacies were brought with supplies which the wagons brought from Shreveport. The flour, meat and such other supplies as we produced on our farm were added to the loads and freighted West to supply the government forts with food for soldiers and horses. Father had the contract for supplying Fort Cooper, Belknap, Graham, Phantom, and others. Mr. Tom Chenoweth was employed to be in charge of the supply train on the trips to the forts. A son of this man, Mr. C. C. Chenoweth, now lives in Abilene. Mr. Tom Chenoweth married Hannah Keenan, who had gone to school to my mother in 1845.

"The cooking was done in a kitchen separate from the house and was brought to the house by the negro cook or her helper. Aunt Jane was our negro mammy and did the cooking as well as taking care of us.

"As a child, I went out and gathered passion flowers and hung them from the top of the windows over the white curtains. The shades were made of braided grass.

"At evening time when the hands came by with the oxen, they put a bell on each and turned them loose. The toll of the bell at each step as they placidly walked to the pool for a drink echoed and re-echoed with a beautiful sound. We were always entranced by this scene of pastoral serenity. But the prettiest view was this same pool when the migrating birds stopped in the fall as they went South: long legged cranes, geese, ducks and black, white, red birds, many of which I never knew. For many years these birds came every spring and fall.

"Bedsteads were made of oak. They had four posts, sides fitted in and ropes used to lace them together. The underbed tick was made of cloth filled with hay, then the featherbed placed on top of that. The outside cover for the bed had a duffle that reached the floor, then a counterpane hung over the ruffles, and last a bolster trimmed to match the counterpane at the head of the bed and pillows on top of that. Beds were high enough to accommodate a trundle bed underneath. The beds were so high we

had to use stools to get on the bed. Some people had high old-fashioned four-posters with curtains.

"The chairs were made with 'rawhide' bottoms with the hair left on the hide. We had a big cherry chest and a small table used only for the Bible. The bookcase was built from the floor to the ceiling, covering half of one wall of a sixteen-foot room. The chimney was made of rock, the floors were oak. We had no rugs.

"Mr. Keenan's family lived about one miles west of us, Mr. Cochran's family about the same distance southwest. Dr. Gilbert lived about one-half mile south of us. Mr. Isaac Webb lived about a mile south and the Marsh family lived a mile east of Mr. Webb, and Tom Marsh lived a miles east of his father, and Ed Hunter lived a mile north of Tom Harsh. Noah Good lived east of Ed Hunter, and east of Mr. Good was the Fyke land then White Rock Creek. Mr. Cook lived north of us one mile. There were no other houses on the north side of us for three miles, then came the homes of the Nix family, the Chenoweth family and Hamp Witt. Other families more distant whom we knew were Rev. James A. Smith, and in the English Colony were the Jacksons, Morgans, Furneaux, Simpsons, Warners, Stanleys, and the Winns."

(To be continued in next issue.)

## FORMAL LIBRARY OPENING SEPTEMBER 29

Formal opening ceremonies for the new Dallas Public Library will be held Sunday afternoon, September 25. Mrs. Margaret Pratt, department librarian, has issued a cordial invitation to members of the Society and their friends to make this particular day one in which to tour the building and enjoy the festivities. Visitors to Mrs. Pratt's department will be pleased to find controlled lighting, wide picture windows, blonde contemporary furniture, and material arranged for easy accessibility. Two new-model microfilm projectors, a new-model micro-card projector, and a rental typewriter have been provided to make research more comfortable. New glass of literature, history, biography, and cases display the fine Texas Collection other phases of Texas life and culture. The staff assistants will include Mrs. A. Watkins, Miss Hunter, and Miss Peter-

## BOOKS OF INTEREST

Mrs. Margaret Pratt, the librarian for the Texas, Local History & Genealogy Department of the Dallas Public Library, announces that the following books of interest are available for research:

David Nelson Family — The Nelson family of Pennsylvania and Ohio, in manuscript book, including Nelson's career. Also donated by Mrs. Thos. M. Eldridge and Mrs. A. E. Kucera. (Ask at desk for it.)

Compiled by Leon deValinger, Jr., Delaware State Archivist — Calendar of Kent County, Delaware, Probate Records, 1680-1800. Donated by the Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America, in honor of Miss Mary Ethyl Walter.

Morton, Frederic — The Story of Winchester in Virginia.

Caldwell, J. W. — Bench and Bar of Tennessee. Published in 1898, biographical data.

Cyclopedia of Eminent and Representative Men of the Carolinas, Nineteenth Century, in two volumes. Written by various authors in 1892, covers both North and South Carolina biographies.

Compiled by H. P. Yoshepe and Philip P. Brower — Preliminary Inventory of the Land-Entry Papers of the General Land Office, Preliminary Inventory No. 22. The U. S. National Archives, 1949. Donated by the Texas Society of Daughters of American Colonists.

Compiled by L. H. Pendell and Elizabeth Bethel — Preliminary Inventory of the Adjutant General's Office, Preliminary Inventory No. 17, 1949. The U. S. National Archives. Also donated by the Texas Society of Daughters of American Colonists.

Bodge, G. M. — Soldiers in King Philip's War. Published in 1896, has considerable data on New England soldiers particularly. Donated by Mrs. Geo. W. DuBral.

Mississippi Genealogical Society — Cemetery and Bible Records, Volume 1, 1954.

Clement, M. C. — History of Pittsylvania County, Virginia, 1929.

Oldham, B. M. — Tennessee and Ten-

son—who already welcoming numerous patrons into the comfortable, air-conditioned quarters.

nesseans, 1903. Donated by Mrs. George W. DuBrul.

William, C. W. — The Old Town Speaks — Recollections of Washington, Hempstead County, Arkansas, Gateway to Texas, 1835, Confederate Capital, 1863. Published 1951.

Lackey, W. F. — History of Newton County, Arkansas; 1950.

Haywood, John — The Civil and Political History of the State of Tennessee. 1915 reprint of 1823 edition. No index, but valuable data on the early history of Tennessee and its origin from North Carolina.

Eno, C. B. — History of Crawford County, Arkansas.

Bailey, R. F. — Guide to Genealogical and Biographical Sources for New York City (Manhattan), 1783-1898; 1954.

Skinner, Lt. Col. Eugene E. — The Ancestry of Carolyn Gail Skinner. Compilation of data on the Skinner and numerous associated families, in manuscript form. Donated by the author. (Ask for it at desk).

#### SURNAMES UNDER SEARCH

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

Bigby family, also Bigbee, Bigbie, Big-bea)

Oliver married Bigbee of Abbeville, S. C., and LeFlore County, Miss.

Mrs. V. A. English, 5041 Milam, Dallas, Texas.

Bradford family — Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee.

Was Joseph Bennett Bradford, Virginia soldier, descendant of William Bradford of Plymouth

Mr. Clifton B. Coffey, 2122 S. Valentine, Little Rock, Ark.

Davis, Elizabeth — married Edward Stretcher 4-13-1763 at Philadelphia. Fenwick was second son — who were other five or more children?

Mr. Nolan Stretcher, 1235 S. Westmoreland, Dallas, Texas.

Hunt, James — married Sarah Whitlock, will dated 1791, Virginia family....

Mrs. Marie Irion Turner, 233 Wichita Street, Shreveport, La.

Jacks, Nathaniel Wilson — probably born North or South Carolina, moved near Memphis, Tenn., then to Stewart, Miss. Son William Martin Jacks, born 1813.

Lt. Col. Eugene E. Skinner, c/o Mrs. E. R. Laney, 4815 East Side Avenue, Dallas, Texas.

Lowry (or Lowrey) — from Mississippi, William Chapel Lowry born 6-6-1830, came to Texas, Smith County, about 1848; brother "Hutt" Lowry settled in Eufaula, Oklahoma.

Mrs. A. Otto Allen, 510 North Center Street, Arlington, Texas.

Marshall, William — of Fredericksburg, Virginia, had son Roger Banks Marshall by first wife. Second wife was Roslie Meullon — they lived in Louisiana, where William died. Who was first wife?

Mrs. Marie Irion Turner, 233 Wichita Street, Shreveport, La.

McIntosh, General Alexander, as well as Captain Alexander McIntosh — first died 1780, South Carolina; second died 1828 South Carolina. Children and descendants?

Mrs. L. E. Allen, 5424 Edlen Drive, Dallas, Texas.

Noland family of Richmond, Ky. Levi Noland—Jackson Noland—John W. Noland—Charles Noland. Kentucky to Missouri—did family come from Virginia or from Carolinas originally?

Mr. Charles L. Noland, 10155 Easterwood Drive, Dallas, Texas.

Orr, Jonathon and son Daniel J.—Georgia and Alabama.

Mrs. Dan J. Orr, 4007 Prescott, Dallas, Texas.

Phillips, Catherine — married 1855 Jacob Daniels in Randolph County, Va. Parents John Phillips and Catherine Isner. Grandparents?

Miss Naidene Goy, 211 North Phillips, Hinsdale, Illinois.

Rogers, James Knox — of Natchez, Miss. (also John Byers, Jesse Lester, Peden families).

Mrs. Nell Anderson, 4128 Cole, Dallas, Texas.

Spearman, Thomas — wife Jane, son Wesley born Oct. 10, 1799. Virginia or Carolinas

Miss Roberta Rogers, Box 133, Denton, Texas.

---

#### Published monthly by the Local History & Genealogical Society Dallas, Texas

President:.....John Plath Green

Secretary:.....Mrs. Dee Brown Walker

Treasurer:.....C. C. Hayley

Editors:.....Charles Noland and

Hazel A. Peterson

Editorial Assistants:.....E. M. Comstock,

Chas. L. Syron, Mrs. Margaret Scruggs

Carruth, Tom L. Tipton, Jr.

**NOTE: Next meeting of the Local History & Genealogical Society will be Thursday, Sept. 29, 1955, at 7:30 P.M., in the Conference Room of the Dallas Public Library. Program will include an inspection of new facilities of the library for Genealogy and Local History.**