



# THE DALLAS COUNTY CHRONICLE

The Newsletter of the Dallas County Historical Commission

Volume XXXIII, Number 1

March 2005

## DALLAS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

### MEMBERSHIP

Buddy Frazer, Chairman  
ADDISON

Dr. Clare Buie Chaney  
Vice Chairman  
DALLAS

Carol Anderson Bell  
GRAND PRAIRIE

Charles Brown  
IRVING

Bill Burford  
DALLAS

Nelda Gentsch  
GARLAND

Joyce Hicks  
MESQUITE

Eric Johnson  
DALLAS

Michael Lowenberg  
DALLAS

Jann Patterson  
DALLAS

Pat Schenkel  
DALLAS

Melinda Thomas  
COPPELL

### COMMISSIONERS COURT LIAISON

Rick Loessberg  
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND  
DEVELOPMENT  
411 ELM STREET, 3RD FLOOR  
DALLAS, TX 75202-3301  
214-653-7601

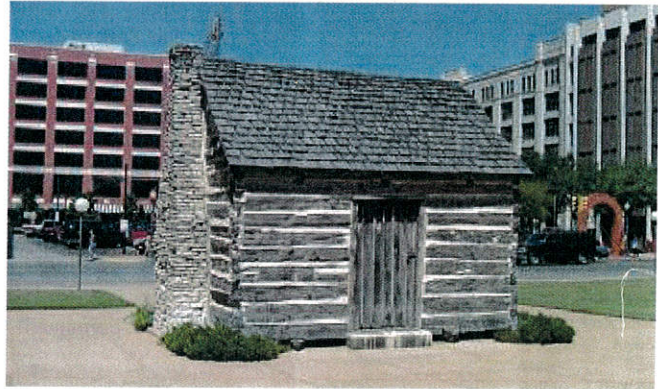
## DCHC 2004 Year In Review

By Buddy Frazer, DCHC Chairman

2004 was filled with accomplishments for the DCHC and its members. The Commission held eleven meetings in 2004, and its members contributed more than 1300 hours of history-related volunteer work.

The future home of the John Neely Bryan cabin highlighted the DCHC activities in 2004. A public hearing was held in August in response to a Commissioners Court request to recommend where the cabin should be located and to evaluate the sufficiency of recognition given the Bryan family. The DCHC recommended that the cabin should remain in the downtown area and that, although there had been adequate recognition of the Bryan family, there were other upcoming opportunities to further recognize them, such as within the Old Red Museum.

The Commission acted on ten marker applications. Eight were approved, one was rejected, and one was still pending at the end of the year. The DCHC participated in marker dedication ceremonies at The First Baptist Church of Hutchins and at the Beeman, Cottonwood, and Sachse Cemeteries.



The future location of the Bryan Cabin was the subject of a DCHC public hearing in August.

A contract was awarded for the final phase of the update to the 1982 Dallas County Historical Resource Survey (see related story on page 2).

The DCHC coordinated volunteer help for the Texas Historical Commission's Historic Cemetery Survey, participated in the Sixth Annual *Legacies* Dallas History Conference, hosted an awards ceremony for two recipients of the Texas Historical Commission's Awards of Merit, and participated in discus-

sions of the relocation of the Coyle House, a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark, in Rowlett.

The DCHC reluctantly said good-bye to three members at the end of 2004. Mike Hayslip of Garland and Jon Eric Simmons of Carrollton had served the maximum of three consecutive terms, and Elizabeth Chandler left the Commission due to time constraints. All three made significant contributions to the preservation of Dallas County's history.

### Inside this issue:

- Meeting at Dallas Historical Society, page 2
- County Cemetery Survey completed, page 2
- History Conference planned, page 3
- New Sixth Floor Exhibit, page 3
- Historic Resource Survey completed, page 4



## DCHC Meets at Dallas Historical Society

By Buddy Frazer, DCHC Chairman

The DCHC held its December 2004 meeting at the Hall of State in Fair Park, home of the Dallas Historical Society (DHS). Following the business meeting, the DCHC was given a tour of the historic building.

Frank Wilson, DHS Chief Operating

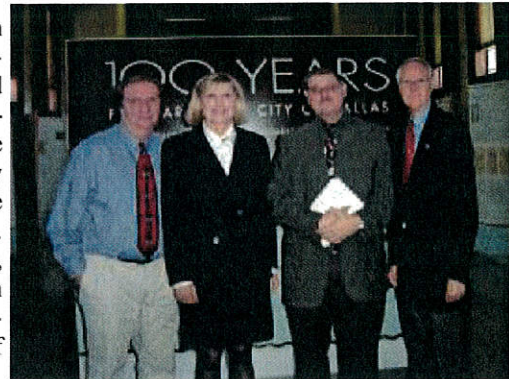


Rachael Roberts (right) shows the DHS archives to DCHC members.

Officer, briefed the Commission on the DHS work, and Rachael Roberts, Archives Director, conducted a tour of the archives. The Commission was also able to view the "100 Years: Fair Park and The City of Dallas" exhibit put on by the Dallas Municipal Archives. John Slate, City Archivist, discussed the exhibit, which was a collection of rare documents and photographs of Fair Park history.

The Dallas Municipal Archives, which are a part of the City Secretary's Office, were established in 1985 as a repository for historic records of city government. The collection is open to the public.

The Dallas Historical Society hosts permanent and special ex-



Shown left to right are DHS COO Frank Wilson, DCHC Vice Chair Clare Chaney, Dallas City Archivist John Slate, & DCHC Chairman Buddy Frazer.

hibits during the year, including a major exhibition during the State Fair. It also conducts excellent city tours at various times during the year. For more information, visit [www.dallashistory.com](http://www.dallashistory.com).

## Dallas County Cemetery Survey Completed

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) has completed a survey of the cemeteries in Dallas County. The survey was conducted by Gregory Staples.



He recorded a total of 157 cemeteries in Dallas County. There were some 65 cemeteries from previous lists that could not be located. The complete list is available on the DCHC website at [www.dallaschc.org](http://www.dallaschc.org).

THC requests that anyone who has additional information that will fill voids or supplement the material already gathered can contact the THC at 512-463-6100.

According to Staples, several people provided valuable assistance with the project. They are Francis James, Cecil Morgan, Deborah Franklin and Jim Foster and several others. Foster identified a previously unrecorded cemetery near Lake Ray Hubbard, Morgan had a useful cemetery list and helped with identification, and Ms. James opened her cemetery files which are the most complete in the County.

The THC's cemetery program, called RIP for Record, Investigate, Protect, was begun in 2004. The completed information will eventually be posted to the THC's Atlas website to enable research to be conducted on the cemeteries throughout Texas. The THC staff is attempting to visit every cemetery in Texas, collecting data location, taking photographs and completing a data form.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- The Dallas County Historical Commission will hold its April 14 meeting at the Meadows Museum on the SMU campus.
- An El Camino Real workshop will be held from April 22-23 in Rockdale. The El Camino Real was a network of Spanish roads running from Mexico City through Texas and into Louisiana. For more information call 512-446-3404.
- A Preservation Leadership Training Conference will be held in San Antonio June 4-11. The event is sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. For information visit [www.lisc.org/whatwedo/trainconf.shtml#uf05](http://www.lisc.org/whatwedo/trainconf.shtml#uf05).



# History Conference To Focus on Law and Disorder

By Mike Hazel, Conference Coordinator

"Law and Disorder in Dallas" will be the theme for the Seventh Annual *Legacies* Dallas History Conference, which will be held January 28, 2006.

Throughout its history, Dallas County has experienced periods when outlaws presented special challenges to the forces of order. The 1870s, when the coming of the railroads turned Dallas into a boomtown, saw a huge increase in saloons, gambling, and related crimes. The early 20<sup>th</sup> century saw concern over red-light districts, with prostitution and drugs. The 1920s were the era of bootleg whiskey and the KKK, while the 1930s saw Bonnie and Clyde grab the headlines. Organized crime flourished for a time in the 1940s, and the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, while riding in

a motorcade through downtown Dallas in 1963, became one of the most-debated crimes of history.

However, throughout these periods, dedicated law enforcement officers—in and out of uniform—fought to maintain order and justice.

The organizers of the conference welcome proposals from both professional and lay historians. Papers presented at the conference may focus on either side of the equation—law or disorder—and might examine an incident, an individual, or a group.

All papers must be based on original research and must not have been presented or published elsewhere. The best papers will be published in a subsequent issue of *Legacies: A History*

## ANNUAL PRESERVATION CONFERENCE APRIL 14-16

The Texas Historical Commission's 2005 Annual Historic Preservation Conference will be held in Austin April 14-16 this year.

The keynote address will be "Why Diversity?" presented by Cassandra Berry, from the University of North Texas. Workshops and awards ceremonies round out the program.

Information and registration materials are available on the THC website [www.thc.state.tx.us](http://www.thc.state.tx.us).

*Journal for Dallas and North Central Texas.* Those interested in presenting papers should submit a brief summary of their proposal by May 1, 2005, to "Dallas History Conference, 1717 Gano St., Dallas, TX 75215." Those selected will be notified by June 1, 2005.

The Dallas County Historical Commission is one of eleven historical groups that jointly sponsor the conference.

## "True Colors" Opens at Sixth Floor Museum

*True Colors: Meditations on the American Spirit* is the current exhibit on the Seventh Floor of the Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza. It features the work of 64 artists who communicate powerful expressions of loss, pride, and patriotism in response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Seldom seen items from the collections of The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza added exclusively for the exhibition in Dallas illustrate the comparison between ways people expressed themselves creatively in the aftermath of two significant events: September 11 and the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963. Organized by the Meridian International Center, Washington, D.C., the exhibition has traveled throughout the United States and the world but only at The Sixth Floor Museum will visitors experience the unique combination of art and artifacts.

The exhibit opened on February 21, 2005 and closes on May 30, 2005.

Artists who were witnesses to the terrorist attacks on Washington D.C. and New York City and those who watched the intense media coverage surrounding the devastation wanted to give an artistic voice to their feelings. Several artists affiliated with the Meridian International Center called on the organization to take the lead on the exhibition. Since the Meridian manages successful international touring exhibitions intended to build bridges between nations and cultures, *True Colors* was a perfect fit. The exhibit features internationally known artists such as John Alexander, Herb Alpert, Will Barnet, Bruce Davidson, Richard Estes, Red Grooms, Sally Mann, Robert Rauschenberg, and Jamie Wyeth. Others, perhaps less widely known, were

just as passionate about their desire to participate. Some of the artists created new pieces while others found previous works resonated in a profound new way. The result is a visual poem to the American spirit.

*True Colors: Meditations on the American Spirit* was organized and is circulated by Meridian International Center, Washington, D.C. Support for this exhibition has been provided by Abb, Inc; The Coca-Cola Company; the Dillon Fund; The Kaiser Family Foundation; and King & Spalding, Atlanta. Additional support for the Dallas venue has been provided by Adolphus Hotel, American Airlines, The Dallas Morning News, and WFAA Channel 8.

**True Colors**  
Meditations on the American Spirit

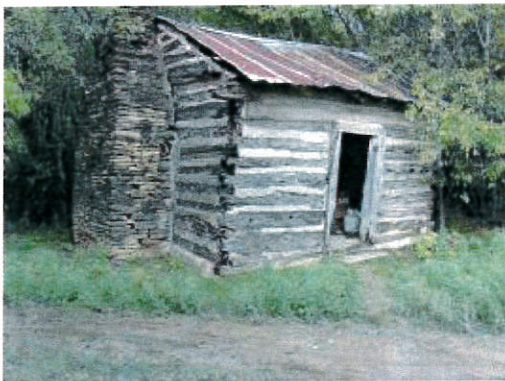


# Historic Resource Survey Completed

By Rick Loessberg

The third phase of Dallas County's effort to update an historic resource survey last conducted in 1982 was completed in early February. Conducted by the Coker Company, Phase III identified, described, and photographed all of the historic structures located within the cities of Duncanville, DeSoto, and Grand Prairie. The survey also provided an overview of each city's history, assessed the significance of the identified structures, compared the list of the structures identified as being historic with those identified in the 1982 survey, and recommended, where appropriate, geographic areas that might be worthy of historic designation.

A total of 183 structures were identified as being historic in these three cities. This figure is slightly higher than the 174 that was identified in the 1982 report. Structures identified by Phase III as be-



150-year-old log cabin in Duncanville

ing especially noteworthy include a 150-year-old log cabin in Duncanville, a 130-year-old Victorian-style house in DeSoto, and a subdivision that was built in Grand Prairie in 1941 for defense industry workers; one of the houses built in this subdivision was constructed in less than one hour as part of a contest, and the entire subdivision of 300 homes was built in 100 days.

Funding for the \$17,500 survey was provided by the County's community development block grant program, the Dallas County Historical Commission, and the cities of DeSoto and Grand Prairie.

Cities use the information from such surveys to assist with zoning, the location of public infrastructure, and the promotion of tourism. Kathy Maples from the City of DeSoto notes that DeSoto is especially interested in the survey since it provides a written record of that city, which had its origins in 1847.

With the publication of the Phase III survey, the County's effort to update the 1982 survey has been completed. This effort began in 1998 under the direction of



Victorian house in DeSoto built about 1875

then Historical Commission Chairman Lloyd Henderson who developed the multi-phase approach of having the survey update done and who recommended that it become one of the Commission's major priorities.



Avion Village in Grand Prairie

*Rick Loessberg is Dallas County's Director of Planning and Development.*

## THE DALLAS COUNTY CHRONICLE

The Newsletter of the Dallas County Historical Commission

The Dallas County Historical Commission is a county board appointed by the Dallas County Commissioners Court. The Dallas County Chronicle is a quarterly publication of the DCHC for historical groups in Dallas County and the general public. This issue was edited by Buddy Frazer, and Rick Loessberg. It is published with the assistance of The Sixth Floor Museum. Articles should be sent to Buddy Frazer, via email at [email@mpfservices.net](mailto:email@mpfservices.net), or by mail to the Dallas County Historical Commission, 411 Elm Street, 3rd Floor, Dallas, TX 75202-3301. Visit the DCHC on the web at [www.dallaschc.org](http://www.dallaschc.org) and the Dallas County government website at [www.dallascounty.org](http://www.dallascounty.org).

## NEW DCHC MEMBERS FOR 2005

The Commission begins the year with four new members. Bill Burford and Pat Schenkel will represent District 1, Nelda Gentsch will represent District 2, Eric Johnson represents District 3, and Michael Lowenberg, who was appointed in December, is a County Judge appointee.