

GREENWOOD CEMETERY



William H. Gaston
was a leader and first estate procurer who was more described by the Dallas Herald as "most responsible for reorganization of Dallas cemetery." He not only gave land for the cemetery, but also donated \$5,000 of East Dallas land in 1868 as the site of the State Fair of Texas - now Fair Park.

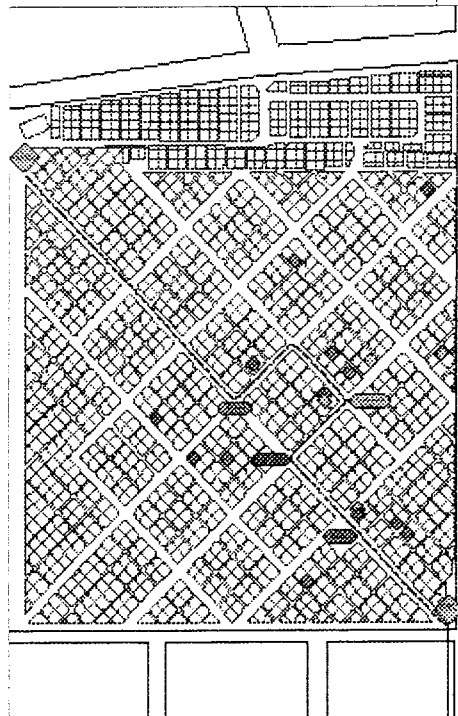
Col. William H. Gaston, Civil War veteran and Dallas entrepreneur, and his banking partner W. H. Thomas purchased land from the John Cole family here in 1874 and opened the Trinity Cemetery. In the earliest decades of settlement of Dallas County, many pioneer families had established family graveyards on their farms and a few rural churches also had created burial grounds. Dallas' first "community" graveyards - the City, Odd Fellows and Masons and the Hebrew Benevolent Association cemeteries - were located near the growing city. (Portions of the city and Mason's cemeteries remain adjacent to the Dallas Convention Center; the graves of the Hebrew burial grounds were moved in the 1950s to the Emanu-El Cemetery near here.)

Gaston's and Thomas' Trinity Cemetery was located two miles from the Courthouse downtown. It was remote, surrounded by the farms of several families, including the Thomases, Worthingtons, Overands and the huge Caruth farm to the north.

The first recorded burial at Trinity was Mrs. Susan Bradford in March 1875. Also in 1875 Gaston deeded five acres on the southwest side to the city for burial of the indigent, and such burials occurred there until at least 1910. W. H. Thomas himself was buried here following his death in 1879, as was John Thomas, the first chief justice (now called County Judge) of Dallas County. By 1896, although many prominent Dallas families had purchased lots and many burials had taken place, the cemetery had fallen into disrepair and neglect. A commentator noted: "The fence is down in twenty places, cattle roam all over the graves and wagons use the main street as a common thoroughfare." As a result of such criticism, the privately endowed Greenwood Cemetery Association was formed, assumed care and operation of the graveyard and renamed it "Greenwood."

Around the turn of the century, a tract adjacent to the city's paupers graveyard was given over to the Order of King's Daughters, a voluntary organization founded by Dallas activist Virginia Knight Johnson, which provided burials to indigent families.

In 1921 another improvement effort by the Cemetery Association resulted in paving of the streets and repair of some of the oldest headstones. The 1940s saw Dallasisites enjoying spring visits to Greenwood to view the 3,000 flowering redbud and 300 white-flower peach trees. In 1945, Hall Street on the northern boundary was widened and some graves were moved to the interior of the cemetery.



D A L L A S M A Y O R S

Dallas' first mayor was John M. Crockett, elected for the first three terms in 1857, the year following the city's incorporation. As Dallas grew and the political and economic climate evolved, the role of mayor in the political life of the city changed as well. For a time at the beginning of the 20th century, the office of mayor was particularly powerful, with patronage positions in city government dispensed to political cronies. Business leaders later urged reforms that would lead to the council/manager form of government. Eight former mayors are buried near here.



JOHN HENRY TRAYLOR, a descendant of one of the first Virginia colonist families, fought with General Stonewall Jackson in the Confederate Army before moving to Jefferson, then Granbury, Texas and serving in the legislature. He moved again, to Dallas in 1887 and was elected mayor for one two year term in 1898. It was during Mayor Traylor's administration that the first brick and asphalt paving was placed on city streets, probably including McKinney Avenue.

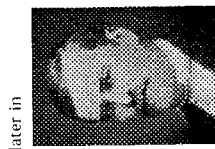
BEN LONG, a Swiss immigrant who settled with fellow Utopians at the La Reunion colony near Dallas in 1855, was appointed mayor of the city in 1868 by the post-Civil War Reconstruction administration, then elected by the citizens in 1872. Long was shot in 1877 by a drunk who didn't want to pay for his beer in a downtown saloon. His funeral procession to Trinity (Greenwood) Cemetery drew the largest crowd of mourners - 49 carriages! - yet seen here.



The General's son **BEN CABELL** arrived in Texas with his parents in 1872 and, after seeking his fortune in the mines of Colorado and Utah, served as U.S. Marshal and sheriff of Dallas County, until he was elected mayor in 1900. The younger Cabell served two terms until 1904 - taking responsibility for improvements to the city's water system and other public utilities. Ben's youngest son, Earle, also served as mayor (1961 - 1964).

General **WILLIAM L. CABELL**, West Point graduate and Confederate war veteran, came to Dallas in 1872 and made his fortune in railroads and farming. He served six terms as mayor, succeeding Ben Long.

Attorney J. M. THURMOND, elected mayor in 1880, also died violently.

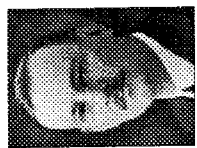


A "reform" candidate when he ran for office, Thurmond was removed a year later in a "no confidence" vote by the City Council for not fulfilling his campaign promises. A long-standing feud ensued with fellow lawyer Robert Cowart, who had represented his political enemies. In 1882, Thurmond, clutching a nickel-plated revolver, was shot to death by Cowart in a courtroom in the county courthouse. The shooter claimed self-defense, and though convicted in a first trial, was acquitted upon appeal.

Newspaperman and author **JOHN HENRY BROWN** first settled in Austin in 1839, later owned a paper in and was mayor of Galveston in 1857. He served five terms in the Texas legislature, where he "never spoke for more than five minutes and only on subjects on which he could throw light." He served the Mexican Imperial Government as Commissioner of Immigration - all before coming to Dallas in 1871 and being elected mayor in 1885.



Dallas native **FRANK W. WOZENCRAFT** returned home in 1919 as a Captain from heroic service in World War I to be elected the youngest mayor in history - aged 27. He presided over major changes such as removal of the railroad tracks from Pacific Avenue downtown and adoption of the plan to move and rein in the Trinity River. A strong advocate of political reform and ethics in government, he served only one 2-year term and had to decline strong encouragement to run for Texas Governor - because he was too young to serve.



SAWNIE ROBERTSON ALDREDGE, the son of Civil War Veteran and prominent lawyer and judge George N. Aldredge, was elected mayor in 1921. An attorney who returned to Dallas to practice law following World War I service in the air corps, Sawnie Aldredge served as mayor while Dallas was struggling with rapid growth and the need to expand the city's inadequate water supply.

C O N F E D E R A T E S

The "Confederate Lot," a resting place for veterans of military service for the Confederacy in the Civil War, was established by the local chapters of the United Confederate Veterans (UCV) and the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Gen. William L. Cabell, three-time mayor, and Col. William H. Gaston, prominent local banker, entrepreneur and the original developer of Greenwood Cemetery, created the Dallas "camp" of the UCV in 1889. The "Daughters," meanwhile, was founded in 1895 by Katie Cabell Muse, General Cabell's daughter, who remained as president of the Dallas chapter for 32 years until her death in 1927.

Nearly 200 Confederate war veterans are identified as buried throughout the Cemetery, most in family plots. Among them are **COL. WILLIAM SIMKINS** who, as a lieutenant in the Confederate artillery, it is believed, fired the first shot of the Civil War at Ft. Sumpter in Charleston Harbor. Simkins later co-founded the Florida Ku Klux Klan, practiced law in Dallas and became a colorful law professor at the University of Texas in Austin. Also buried in Greenwood is **Col. J.C. Griffis** who was so badly injured at the first Battle of Manassas that he was shifted from combat duty to become Gen. Robert E. Lee's quartermaster. However, those veterans who could not afford a private plot in the Cemetery were "approved" by the United Daughters of the Confederacy group and provided with burial space here. For many years, on Memorial (originally Decoration) Day, the UDC members decorated all the veterans' graves.

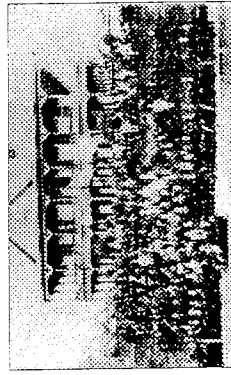


COL. NATHANIEL BURFORD, a Tennessee lawyer who came to Dallas in 1848 with five dollars, letters of recommendation and big career ambitions, drafted the city's charter in 1856. While serving as judge, he was appointed Colonel in the Confederate Army and served from 1862 until he resigned in 1864, admitting that he did not possess the ability to lead troops in combat. He returned to Dallas, resumed his law practice and became president of the Soldiers' Home Association. Married to Mary Knight, daughter of a pioneer Dallas family, Nat Burford fathered eight children, owned large tracts of land near here, and after his death in 1898 was buried in a family plot in Greenwood Cemetery near this spot.



GEN. WILLIAM L. CABELL was an 1850 graduate of West Point who resigned his commission as a captain in the U.S. Army upon the outbreak of the Civil War and was made a Major in the Confederate Army. Chief quartermaster of the Army of the Potomac, he was later transferred west of the Mississippi, wounded in two battles and captured and held as a prisoner of war by Union forces until the war's end. His law practice and three terms as Dallas mayor were augmented by long-standing leadership of the United Confederate Veterans. Cabell served as regional commander and honorary commander until just before his death and burial near here in 1911.

KATIE CABELL MUSE maintained a life-long devotion to honoring the memory of her father and other Confederate veterans of the Civil War. Her civic commitments did not end with the United Daughters of the Confederacy, however. She served several terms as an activist president of the Dallas Federation of Women's Clubs, leading women's efforts to improve hygiene, housing and living conditions for the poor, among many activities. A longtime member and occasional president of the Pierian Club, she participated with that literary and educational society from its inception in the late 1880s.



Thousands of Confederate veterans from across the United States gathered in Dallas in 1902 for one of the periodic Confederate Reunions (which, of course, have since become more the norm than the exception of the Civil War period). Here some of the veterans (not all of them) are seen in front of an unidentified Dallas building.

S T R E E T N A M E S A K E S

As in most communities, Dallas streets were often named for those people and families – settlers, pioneers and city builders – who contributed to the growth and development of the city. Buried near here are people whose names visitors will recognize as now designating streets in Dallas. Some of the many street namesake families in Greenwood are:

ALEXANDER COCKRELL was a veteran of the U.S./Mexican War who purchased the homestead and townsite of Dallas' founder, John Neeley Bryan, in 1852. Although Alex was unable to read or write, he made a small fortune in businesses like brick making, sawmills, a lumberyard, a hotel, gristmills and freighting. Cockrell was killed in a gunfight with the city marshal in 1858. His widow Sarah moved his remains here from the downtown (now Pioneer) Cemetery before her death in 1892. **COCKRELL STREET**, located just south of downtown Dallas, bisects much of the land owned by Alex Cockrell and his family.



Photo: Dallas Historical Society

Swiss scientist **JACOB BOLL** was German educated and came to Boston, where the great Harvard University scientist Louis Agassiz suggested he go to Texas to collect animal specimens for Harvard's Museum of Zoology. After a number of years exploring the west, and following his wife's death here, he settled in Dallas in 1874. (His brother, Henry, had been a member of the ill-fated La Reunion colony and was a successful Dallas businessman.) Jacob Boll discovered fossil animals in west Texas and contributed to science's knowledge of ancient life forms and geologic formations. He collected and catalogued important specimens of butterflies, moths, amphibians, reptiles and fish. Widely published and respected, the distinguished scientist died in Dallas in 1880. **BOLL STREET** is located just a few blocks from Greenwood Cemetery.

COL. WILLIAM HENRY GASTON was born in Alabama in 1840 and emigrated with his family to Texas, where his father was soon elected to the state legislature. As a Captain in the Confederate 1st Texas infantry regiment of Hood's Texas Brigade, he served with distinction in several important Virginia battles. After the war, a successful Texas cotton crop netted Gaston \$20,000 in gold and he came to Dallas, where he invested in banks, real estate and other ventures that made him a wealthy and influential leader in the city. The Daily Herald once declared him to be "most responsible for transformation of Dallas into a city." In 1886, Gaston donated 80 acres of land for the site of the State Fair (now Fair Park). Gaston died in Dallas in 1927. **GASTON AVENUE** is a major thoroughfare in Old East Dallas



Photo: Dallas Historical Society

ORAM STREET in East Dallas is named for **JOHN M. ORAM**, a skilled inventor who in 1871 opened a jewelry store in downtown Dallas that was soon the largest such establishment in the city. Oram also made astronomical observations and perfected instruments used in electrical and telephone equipment. He purportedly installed Dallas' first telephone line in 1878 from his home on Federal Street to his store at Elm and Akard. In the late 1880s he was named general manager of Dallas Electric Light & Power Co. and wrote the city's first electrical code. Also a pioneer director of the Dallas YMCA, John Oram died in Dallas in 1914.

Missouri schoolteacher **WILLIAM H. LEMMON** came to Dallas following Confederate service as a Captain in Co. A, Jackman's Cavalry Regiment. In 1876 he and his partner O. P. Bowser owned a downtown hardware and implement business. By 1887, Bowser and Lemmon had acquired large parcels of suburban farmland. Having sold the hardware business, they subdivided the land into Bowser & Lemmon's Oak Lawn Addition, now the heart of the Oak Lawn area of the city. They also joined other prominent businessmen and invested in the North Dallas Circuit Railway, which brought city dwellers to this neighborhood to buy suburban homes in the 1880s. Lemmon built an imposing home – Elmwood – at the corner of Cole and his namesake **LEMMON AVENUE** just a few blocks from here.

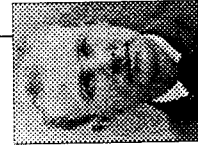


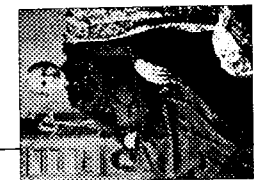
Photo: Dallas Historical Society

THOMAS W. FIELD came to Dallas in 1872 and soon became a major downtown landowner. Married to Florence Peak, granddaughter of East Dallas developer Jefferson Peak, Thomas opened the Field Opera House on Main Street, for many years the center of cultural life in the young city. A major player in Dallas' business and political elite, he was a director of the first State Fair in Dallas in 1886, and was the developer of the Oriental Hotel, Dallas' most fashionable when it opened in 1893. Costing the astronomical sum of \$500,000, "Field's Folly" eventually bankrupted him, and he sold the rest of his holdings, living in quiet retirement in Oak Lawn until his death in about 1912. **FIELD STREET** crosses Main Street near the site of the old Opera House.

UPTOWN
DALLAS

D A L L A S W O M E N

By the last quarter of the 19th century, Dallas' rough edges as a frontier agricultural town had been smoothed somewhat. Increasing prosperity gave middle and upper class women the opportunity to turn from subsistence care and support of their families to civic and educational issues. Women's leadership in Dallas brought first private, then public, education to the city in the 1870s and 1880s and the first public library in 1902. Living conditions of the poor and particularly among newly arrived immigrants, clean food and a safe water supply were all civic welfare problems that women in Dallas provided the impetus to solve. Many of the women who contributed to the improvement of urban life in Dallas are buried here.



Left: Sarah Cokrell, who, although she was the majority shareholder of many business concerns, as was common at the time Sarah Cokrell never served on the companies' boards, allowing her sons and sons-in-law to represent her.

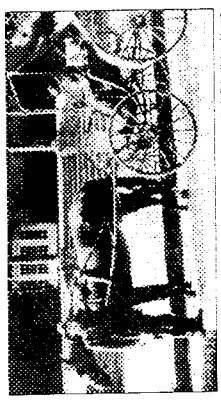
SARAH COCKRELL, born in Virginia in 1819, came to Dallas with her husband Alexander in 1852 when they bought John Neely Bryant's townsite. Sarah kept the illiterate Alex's books for his numerous business enterprises and expanded many of them after his death in 1858. She opened the St. Nicholas Hotel downtown, then rebuilt it after it was destroyed in the 1860 citywide fire. Receiving a charter from the Texas Legislature, she built the first iron bridge across the Trinity River to what is now Oak Cliff in 1872, which was called her most significant contribution to the economic life of Dallas. Just before her death in 1892, Sarah owned a quarter of downtown Dallas and several thousand acres of valuable nearby farmland. Rearing five children, Sarah Cokrell was remembered for her warm hospitality and charitable generosity.

LUCINDA COUGHANOUR opened one of the first private schools in Dallas in 1865. Her school, at the corner of Main and Lamar Streets, was described by the Dallas Herald as "an architectural conceit, very chaste and charming...erected at a cost of \$500." Her "Academy" was later relocated to Bryan Street on the site of what would eventually be the Dallas High School/Crozier Tech. In 1878 she tutored 40 pupils. Lucinda's husband Richard D. Coughanour taught alongside his wife for a time and, as an attorney, was one of three civic leaders who set up the public school system in 1884.



Left: Anna Moser, who, although she was the majority shareholder of many business concerns, as was common at the time Anna Moser never served on the companies' boards, allowing her sons and sons-in-law to represent her.

Swiss immigrants Anna Buhner and Christian Moser married in 1879, had six children and ran a 37-acre dairy farm east of Dallas. After Christian's death at age 48 in 1893, **ANNA MOSER** raised her children alone, successfully ran the dairy and expanded her real estate holdings to include a downtown hotel. After her last child entered Texas A & M University in 1910, she closed the dairy, subdivided the property and sold house lots near what is now Ross and Henderson Avenues where a street still bears the family name.



Left: Leila Patience Cowart, who, although she was the majority shareholder of many business concerns, as was common at the time Leila Patience Cowart never served on the companies' boards, allowing her sons and sons-in-law to represent her.

LEILA PATIENCE COWART was one of the first four elementary school principals appointed when the public schools were founded in Dallas in 1884. By 1905 she was principal of the Columbian Primary School, located on the site of the present Convention Center downtown. Columbian served the fashionable Cedars neighborhood just south of the central business district, where many prominent merchant families resided. Miss Cowart ruled "as a kind of majestic autocrat," impressing teachers and students alike. Her contributions to the development of public education are also remembered, and she was honored after her death when an elementary school was named for her.



Left: Virginia Knight Johnson, who, although she was the majority shareholder of many business concerns, as was common at the time Virginia Knight Johnson never served on the companies' boards, allowing her sons and sons-in-law to represent her.

Coming to Dallas in 1880 from Virginia with her husband, **VIRGINIA KNIGHT JOHNSON** joined the social whirl of the young city. After Judge W. H. Johnson's death in the 1890s, however, Virginia soon became what a contemporary described as a "one woman welfare organization." She used the back porch of her home to store food and clothes for the needy. Her efforts to rescue "unfortunate girls and their children" resulted in the founding of Sheltering Arms, which would later become the Virginia K. Johnson Home and School. At the turn of the century, her efforts were focused on helping prostitutes to find a more respectable occupation than those afforded by Dallas' more than 300 saloons and "houses of ill repute." Virginia also found time to raise funds to create a "Mothers Memorial" on the SMU campus, describing herself as a "Professional Boggart." Meanwhile, she was founder of the Kings Daughters, a charitable organization that had contracts with the County to bury the indigent poor "in a respectable manner" in a five-acre plot adjacent to the city's Paupers Burial Ground next to Greenwood Cemetery.

CALVARY CEMETERY

Calvary Cemetery was established here following the land's purchase in 1878 by the Bishop of Galveston, whose diocese stretched all the way to North Texas at the time.

It was not, however, the first burying ground in Dallas established for the region's growing Catholic population.

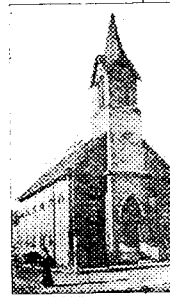
Perhaps the first Catholic settler in Dallas, French immigrant carriage maker Maxime Guillot had settled in the tiny village on the Trinity River in 1852. Upon the establishment of the nearby utopian colony of La Reunion in 1855, Guillot's home at Elm and Houston Streets was the site of the early Catholic masses held in the area. Father Sebastian Augagneur came twice a year from Nacogdoches to minister to the Guillot family and the mostly French and Belgian La Reunion colonists. Burials occurred in the La Reunion (also known as Fishtrap) Cemetery in West Dallas.

Missionary priests continued to visit Dallas until 1872, when Rev. M. Perrier was sent to establish the first parish, coming by wagon (he was described as being too fat to ride horseback) from San Angelo. Masses in the early years were held in the Odd Fellows Hall on Austin Street.



Father Joseph Martinere served as pastor at Sacred Heart Cathedral, as well as founder of St. Joseph's Orphanage in Oak Cliff, from 1874 until his death in 1910.

In 1874, Father Joseph Martinere was in charge of the new parish of the Sacred Heart. The first Sacred Heart Church was built in 1875 on Bryan Street on the block that would later be the site of the downtown Post Office.



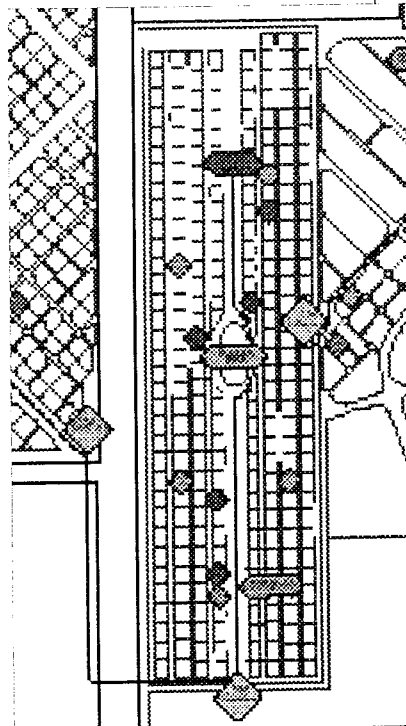
Sacred Heart Church

In 1878, Bishop Claude Marie Dubuis purchased this land from Jacob and Katie Wagner, near the Trinity (now Greenwood) Cemetery established by William Gaston four years earlier. Written burial records have been lost, but the earliest dated headstone remaining is that of carpenter P.T. Clark.

proprietor of the Railroad Planing Mill, who died on April 22, 1877, suggesting that the cemetery was in use prior to its purchase from the Wagners.

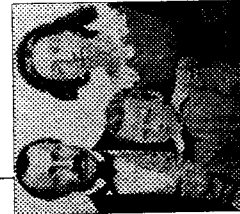
In 1926, the Diocese bought land adjacent to a family cemetery north of Love Field Airport and established Calvary Hill Cemetery there. The city's expansion and establishment of additional Catholic cemeteries meant that few burials occurred here at "Old Calvary Cemetery" after about 1945.

Many families chose to move graves of relatives to the newer cemeteries, but visitors will find markers remaining in Calvary Cemetery that celebrate some of the people buried here who contributed to the rich history and life of Dallas.



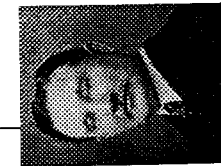
C I V I C L E A D E R S

A yellow fever outbreak in New Orleans brought French native Maxime Guillot to Texas, and eventually to Dallas, in 1852. He is the first known Catholic to settle in the region. Within three years, some 200 colonists from France, Switzerland and Belgium settled at La Reunion, a utopian community founded on the bank of the Trinity River a few miles west of Dallas. The colony failed, most of its inhabitants having come not from professional or artisan backgrounds. Many La Reunion residents moved to Dallas and quickly became important community leaders and business people. Through the rest of the century German, Irish and Italian immigrants settled in Dallas seeking economic opportunity and swelling the city's small but influential Catholic community. Many civic leaders are buried here.



Maxime Guillot, pictured with second wife Mary and son Maxime Jr., purchased almost 170 acres of farmland near here in 1850; then began selling building lots to African-American laborers and porters. A short street bearing his name remains as a reminder of the association with the neighborhood.

MAXIME GUILLOT was born in Angers, France in 1824 and trained as a wagon and carriage builder. First a military wagonmaker at nearby Fort Worth, he moved to Dallas in 1852 and opened a carriage shop, which may have been the first manufacturing plant in Dallas. Later he established the city's first bakery. Guillot's wagon-making reputation attracted customers from hundreds of miles around. Some were elaborately designed carriages, lined with imported French damask, while others were plain buckboards designed for prairie travel. During the Civil War, Guillot served as superintendent of a Confederate wagon factory in Lancaster, Texas. He returned to Dallas after the war and resumed both his carriage business and investing in real estate. Retired in 1869 with a comfortable fortune, he is said to have lost much of it in a fruitless search for pirate Jean Lafitte's buried treasure.



A Dallas Morning News editorial published upon the death of **EDWARD J. GANNON** in 1932 described the prominent banker's stature and respect in the community: "Men who dealt with Gannon... put their money in the bank... but they would have cheerfully put it in E.J. Gannon's vest pocket. The name "Gannon" was its own bank examiner, its own Federal Reserve, its own guarantee of deposit, its own code of ethics." Gannon's parents were political exiles from Ireland, and the young E.J. grew up in Chicago. He and his brother opened a private bank, "Gannon Brothers," on Elm Street in Dallas in 1874. He later became head cashier for C. C. Slaughter's American National Bank, and eventually became president of the institution that would become the First National Bank. His wife, **MARY ETTA WARD GANNON**, was active in the socially prominent Shakespeare Club and in the parish of the Sacred Heart Cathedral, helping to found the Christ Child Society there.



Photo by Robert Lawrence

The unique design of the Klein family plot suggests the business in which **ALBERT J. KLEIN** excelled throughout his life: concrete contracting. Born in Illinois, he and his brother established Klein Brothers Company, "general contractors in cement work," which quickly grew in four states (Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma & Texas). By about 1910, the company claimed it had constructed five million square feet of cement sidewalks in Dallas, "an essential that contributes to health and comfort as well as to... beautification." Permanent reminders of Klein's contribution to the building of Dallas can be found in neighborhoods throughout older sections of the city where the Klein name is impressed in the concrete sidewalks and driveways

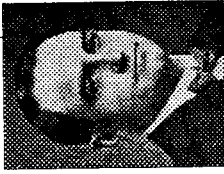
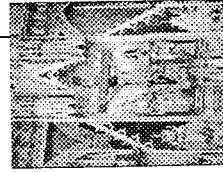


Photo by Robert Lawrence

Described upon his death in 1907 at 92 as "the first millionaire citizen of Dallas when he arrived in 1886," French Canadian **LOUIS CYRIAC DESSAINT** brought to Texas a fortune made as the first furniture dealer in the city of St. Louis and later as a lumber dealer in Iowa. In his retirement years in Dallas, he invested in real estate and resided with his wife Marie Claire, his daughter Emilie and his extended family in an imposing home across the street from the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart on Ross Avenue.



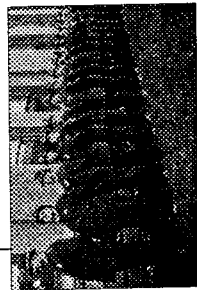
Michael Coerver designed the elaborate altar that his father-in-law carved for the new Cathedral of the Sacred Heart that opened on Ross Avenue in 1902.

Trained in fine woodcarving and furniture making as an apprentice in a St. Louis casket factory, **MICHAEL COERVER** came to Dallas in 1884 at age 25 to work for the Marten Showcase workshop. He married the owner's daughter, acquired the business, and built the Dallas Showcase Manufacturing Company into the primary source for fixtures and furnishings for banks and other prestigious businesses in the region. A fourth-degree Knight of Columbus and officer in the Dallas Tinn Verein, Michael and wife Mary Frances were active in St. Joseph's Church on lower Swiss Avenue, the parish serving the German community in Dallas. The eldest of the Coervers' nine children continued to speak German with their parents at home, and four of his sons inherited the business upon Coerver's death in 1922.

UPTOWN
DALLAS

I M M I G R A N T S

Reflecting the experience of many cities across the United States in the late 1800s and into the early 1900s, Dallas became home to hundreds and later thousands of European immigrants, mostly from Germany, Ireland and Italy. Immigrant families brought traditional values and ethnic customs to their new homes in Texas, quickly prospering and contributing to the economic and cultural life of their adopted community. The growth of the European immigrant population – the Census indicates that the population of foreign-born Italians living here tripled between 1900 and 1920, for example – caused a rapid expansion of Catholic churches and institutions in Dallas.



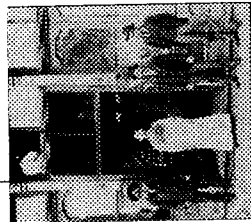
UPTOWN DALLAS

Naturalization records from 1872 to 1900 show that many Irish immigrants in Dallas were wage earners and laborers working for the railroads or in hotels, saloons and restaurants. Many worked in construction or as police officers and firefighters. Large numbers of native Italians began arriving a little later, and many in Dallas at the beginning of the 20th century were grocers, fruit and vegetable dealers, shoemakers or barbers.

Among those buried here are members of many first generation German, Irish and Italian immigrant families who came to Dallas before 1920.

Natives of Germany, **BARBARA** and **JOHN VILBIG** were married in Wisconsin but later came to Dallas where he was a shoemaker and later a farmer, until his death at age 48 in 1883. Their sons became successful building contractors in the city.

Among the early Irish immigrants was **MICHAEL ROE**, who by 1875 was running the "Old Corner" boarding house and saloon near the intersection of the H&TC and Texas & Pacific railroad lines. Upon his death, his wife **MARY** and family member **JOHN CULLEN** continued to run the hotel. Mary's son, **JAMES ROE**, was among many Irish-Americans who worked for the city, first as a driver for the Dallas Fire Department and in 1905 as captain of Fire Engine Company No. 7. After a brief stint as proprietor of the Planters Hotel and Bar in the cotton gin district on east Elm Street, James returned to the city payroll as a police sergeant at City Hall in 1916.



UPTOWN DALLAS

Records show that many first generation Irish and Italian-Americans in the 1880s and 1890s owned or were employed in restaurants or bars like the Martin's saloon (top photo) near the West End and the Roe and Cullen families' "Old Corner" across from the old Union Depot in East Dallas. John Foy, born in County Cavan, Ireland, ran saloons downtown and on Elm Street until Prohibition, when he sold "soft drinks" in the same location.

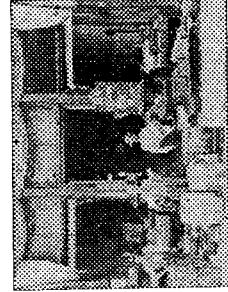
THOMAS F. KING came to America from Ireland as a young man and served as a deckhand on Mississippi riverboats before and after his service as a Union soldier – and prisoner of war – during the Civil War. King and his wife, Irish native **MARY CONE KING**, were in Dallas by 1883, where he eventually established a prosperous roofing contracting business and was elected president of the Irish American Social Club. The Club was one of the many religious and fraternal organizations that Catholics established in Dallas, such as the Catholic Knights of America branch, founded by 15 "friendly sons and daughters of St. Patrick," which provided aid and housing assistance for needy families.



With the equivalent of a second grade education, Vincent Giangrosso could neither speak nor write English, but the produce business proved successful for him as well as many other non-English speakers.

VINCENT GIANGROSSO emigrated from Sicily to Birmingham, Alabama and worked as a coal miner until his first wife died in a flu epidemic. He met and arranged a marriage to **JOSEPHINE ZABY** in New Orleans in 1914 and they joined members of her family in Dallas soon thereafter. Giangrosso opened a grocery store and later started a vegetable vending business, making purchases at the Dallas market and trucking produce to local stores.

PASQUALE AND ROSA SCOTTINO came to the United States from Italy in 1887 and settled in Dallas in 1902. Proprietors of the Green Tree Saloon on Hall Street a few blocks east from here, they later built a grocery store and bakery on the same location. Pasquale was a member of the Societa Roma, founded in 1890 in Dallas as one of



The Deam brothers' meat and produce market was one of many vegetable, fruit and grocery businesses operated by or employing mostly Italian and Irish immigrant families in Dallas.

several Italian-American benevolent and fraternal associations, among them the Italian-American Women's Club, founded in 1923. His funeral here in 1929 marked the last time the Roma Society's band played at a member's burial ceremony.

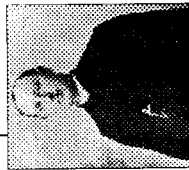
UPTOWN DALLAS

RELIGIOUS CIRCLE

The Catholic Diocese of Dallas was created in 1890 to serve the northern part of Texas, splitting from the statewide Diocese of Galveston. The first Bishop of Dallas, Fr. Thomas Brennan, was consecrated in 1891, the same year that the unmarked cross at the center of the Cemetery's "Religious Circle" was apparently erected. In the 1890s, two parishes served the Catholic population of the city: the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart and St. Patrick's (its site was near the present Farmer's Market under R.L. Thornton Freeway).

Swelled largely by waves of immigrants from Ireland, Italy and elsewhere in Europe who arrived in North Texas at the end of the 19th century, the Catholic population here tripled between 1894 and 1910, compelling the Diocese to embark on an aggressive expansion effort. Many priests who came to serve in the Dallas Diocese were responsible for the establishment and construction of churches across the region, and several orders of nuns created schools and hospitals in the area.

St. Mary's Orphanage was established in Oak Cliff in the 1880s, providing asylum for needy children. One of its early chaplains, Father **JOHN MOORE**, died in 1895 and was buried here, near Father **F. DERUE**, the earliest identified burial in the Religious Circle.

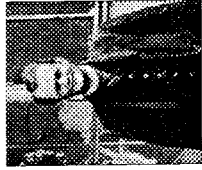


Father Hartnett, the "martyr priest," was born in Ireland and came to Texas with his family as a child. He helped his father, a railroad contractor, participate in the construction of the Texas & Pacific, Houston & Texas Central and Cotton Belt railroad lines through north Texas.

An outbreak of smallpox in the winter of 1899 caused near panic in the streets of Dallas, ultimately taking the life of Father **JEFFREY ALOYSIUS HARTNETT**, as he courageously fulfilled his calling. The first priest ordained in and for the Dallas Diocese in 1891, Fr. Hartnett helped build churches in Paris and Ennis, Texas before returning to Dallas and completing the handsome stone St. Patrick's Church on South Harwood Street in 1897.

He was then assigned as rector of the Cathedral, and it was from there that he walked to the city's "pest house" - the smallpox quarantine hospital - on a wintry February night in 1899 to administer last rites. He contracted the dreaded disease and died several days later, just as the epidemic was subsiding in the city. Described as a Christian folk hero of the time, Hartnett became known as a "martyr to duty" and inspired numerous poems and devotional stories.

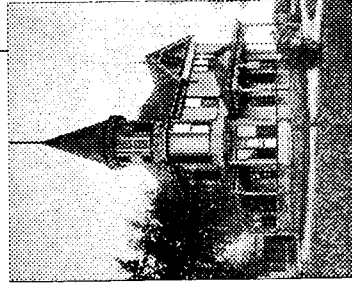
His experience building and managing large construction projects served Father Jeffrey Hartnett in good stead as he was responsible for completing construction of St. Patrick's Church and was then appointed pastor of Sacred Heart during construction of the massive red brick cathedral at Ross and Fort Streets.



Father **JAMES MULLOY** came to Dallas with Bishop Edward Dunne, second Bishop who was consecrated in 1894, and was responsible for building churches in Corsicana and Weatherford, Texas and All Saints in Fort Worth. He served, finally, as pastor of St. Patrick's in Dallas until his death at age 44 in 1912 at St. Paul's Sanitarium.

The Sisters of St. Mary of Namur arrived in Fort Worth in 1885, opening an academy there in that year. By 1902, the order had purchased the former James T. Dargan mansion on Mansalis Avenue in Dallas' Oak Cliff and converted it to the Our Lady of Good Counsel school. A decade later, Bishop Joseph Lynch laid the cornerstone of the Sisters' school at St. Edward's Church on Elm Street in East Dallas. By 1912, 140 pupils attended the Academy.

The four Sisters of St. Mary buried here died between 1913 and 1916, all of them under 25 years old. Sister **ANTONIA CONLON**, born in Ireland, came to Texas in 1907 and taught at schools in Wichita Falls and Fort Worth before coming to Dallas. She died following surgery, as did Sister **GERALDINE LAROCHELLE**, who was a music and academic teacher at St. Edward's School on Elm Street.



E M A N U - E L

C E M E T E R Y

The trustees of Temple Emanu-El, the city's oldest Jewish congregation, purchased land for a cemetery here in 1884 from the John Cole family. Already established nearby were the Freedman's Graveyard, created by and for former slaves and their families in the late 1860s; Greenwood (originally named Trinity Cemetery), established in 1874; and Calvary Cemetery, instituted by the Catholic Church in 1878. The Jewish burials here were not the first in Dallas, however. The first graveyard, located adjacent to the Masons', Odd Fellows' and City Cemeteries on Akard Street under what is now the Dallas Convention Center, was created by the Hebrew Benevolent Association in 1872.



David Goslin, the manager of the China Hall household goods and chinaware store on Elm Street, was elected the first president of Temple Emanu-El. Speaking on behalf of the congregation, many of whom were immigrants from central and eastern Europe, the native of Prussia proudly declared at the dedication of the first Temple building on Commerce Street in 1876: "This great United States is the land we recognize as our country, and glorious Texas and our prosperous city of Dallas as our home." Goslin died and was buried here in 1889.

The Hebrew Benevolent Association had been created as the first Jewish organization in the struggling town of Dallas and was the forerunner of a more structured religious body. Dr. Emmanuel Tillman, Alex and Philip Sanger and other civic leaders served as the founding members and, burying the dead being a first priority, recorded in the minutes of their second regular meeting in August of 1872 that "the fence on our burying ground (on Akard Street) is fixed." Aaron Miller, an Orthodox layman, conducted Jewish services for a time in a space rented in the Masonic Hall using a Torah borrowed from the New Orleans B'Nai Brith group. In 1875, 36 families organized the first formal religious congregation, named it Temple Emanu-El and elected merchant David Goslin as president. The first house of worship was built at the corner of Commerce and Field in what is now downtown Dallas.

The rapid growth of the city and the congregation caused Temple Emanu-El to move to another, larger temple at St. Louis and South Ervay Streets in 1898 and a still larger building in 1917 at Harwood and South Boulevard. No doubt the development of fashionable residential neighborhoods to the south of the original town center around and beyond the first cemeteries in the late 1870s and 1880s hastened the need for new, larger and more

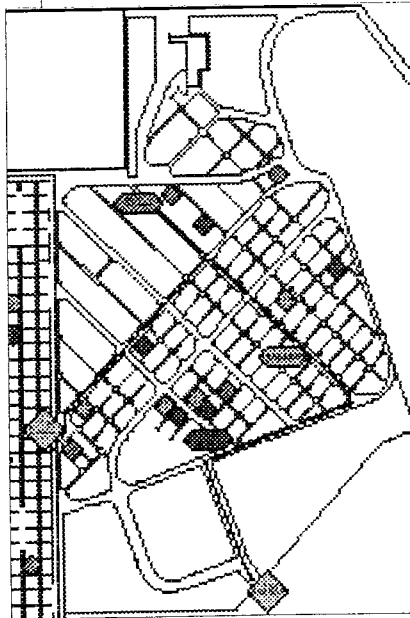
remote burial grounds for the city's Jewish, Catholic and Protestant residents.

In 1884, the Temple board purchased this land perhaps in part because of its proximity to the already established Greenwood, city paupers', Catholic and Freedman's graveyards.

Rabbis have continued to bury members (and non-members) of Temple Emanu-El here, many of whom have provided outstanding civic, business, arts and religious leadership in Dallas. A memorial to Jewish veterans of the two world wars was dedicated here in 1948, not far from graves of several Holocaust survivors.



In 1956, Temple Emanu-El leaders visit the old Akard Street Cemetery (its site now under the Dallas Convention Center) just before graves were moved here to Temple Emanu-El Cemetery.



CIVIC LEADERS

The first known Jew to settle in Dallas, Alexander Simon, opened a dry goods warehouse on the courthouse square in about 1858 and soon was a partner with William and Walter Canuth. Thus apparently began the long and important contribution of Jewish leaders to the business, cultural and institutional life of the city. Although the population remained small for many years - in 1905 it is estimated about 1,200 of the city's 42,000 citizens were Jewish - many members of the community were at the forefront of Dallas civic life.



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DR. EMANUEL TILLMAN, a chemist trained in Germany at the University of Heidelberg, arrived in Dallas in 1871 at age 31. He was among the first recorded Jewish immigrants to the young city, and as the master of seven languages, he was probably one of the better-educated citizens as well. Dr. Tillman was one of 11 young men who met on July 1, 1872 to establish the Hebrew Benevolent Association in Dallas. The group established the Hebrew Cemetery near downtown and "pledged their honor" to help the sick & distressed. He was also one of the founding trustees of Congregation Emanu-El, the first Temple in Dallas, and served as president of the Benevolent Association in 1874 and Congregation Emanu-El from 1887 to 1889. With schoolteacher and lawyer Richard Coughanour and a third man, Tillman organized the first public school system in Dallas in 1884 and served as the first secretary of the School Board. He served three terms as Alderman in the 4th Ward (the area now known as The Cedars) and was Mayor pro tem under W.L. Cabell.



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ALEXANDER SANGER, fourth of the famed brothers who built a Texas retail empire, had worked in the dry goods business from the age of 13 in Bavaria, Germany. Joining brothers Isaac, Lehman and Philip in establishing stores that followed the expanding railroads northward through Texas after the Civil War, Alex was sent to open a Dallas store in 1872 when the Houston & Texas Central Railroad reached the city that year. Immediately jumping into local politics, he got involved in persuading the Texas & Pacific Railway to route through Dallas and was elected city alderman in 1873-74. Always a civic booster who "loved the spotlight," Alex served on the founding board of the State Fair of Texas in 1886, later served as its president and continued on the board until his death in 1925. He helped to found and later served as president of Temple Emanu-El and was a regent of the University of Texas in 1917. A strong supporter of efforts by Dallas women to establish the first public library in the city, he managed funds raised by local women's groups to open the Carnegie Library in 1901 and donated \$1,000 from the family business.

Dallas bakery owner **CHARLES KAHN** was the founding president of the local B'Nai B'rith Lodge, a branch of the nationwide secular Jewish organization, when it was created in 1873. Active in many civic groups, he also belonged to the Odd Fellows, was a leader in the Dallas Turn Verein (a gymnastics and social society founded by and for German immigrants) and was chief of the city's Volunteer Fire Department from 1881 to 1884. Kahn also served as Alderman from the 4th Ward, representing The Cedars, the fashionable area just south of present downtown Dallas.

MARTIN WEISS owned a millinery supply business in downtown Dallas, but Oak Cliff was his home and the focus of his civic devotion. Weiss founded and for 20 years was president of the Associated Civic Leagues West of the Trinity River. A tireless promoter of Oak Cliff's prosperity and quality of life, Weiss represented the area on the city's Ulrickson Plan Committee, which created a master plan for Dallas' future development in the 1920s. Also a strong advocate of aviation, he greeted Charles Lindbergh at Love Field during the hero pilot's 1927 visit to dedicate the opening of Dallas' first airport. Successful in business and community affairs, Martin Weiss himself had little formal schooling but was an ardent supporter of Temple Emanu-El's religious school.



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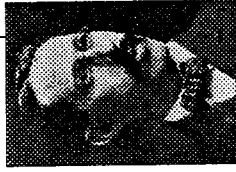
HENRY S. MILLER, SR., businessman and community leader, was born in Dallas in 1890, the son of Sam and Sophie Miller. He attended Dallas public schools and helped his father, a Polish immigrant, in his grocery business. In 1914 he began working for real estate companies and in 1919 he established his own real estate firm. Miller began his civic activities during World War I when real estate was selling slowly, by assisting in Liberty Loan campaigns and serving as a general in the Red Cross drive. Miller provided free real estate services to the Red Cross Chapter headquarters, the YMCA, and the Scottish Rite Hospital for Crippled Children, among other beneficiaries. Because of his generosity he was called "God's Real Estate Man." He was one of the founders of the Dallas Community Chest in 1953, chairman of the Dallas City Planning Commission, vice-president of Goodwill Industries, and president of Temple Emanu-El. In 1966 he was honored as a "Builder of Dallas."

DALLAS MERCHANTS

When the railroads reached Dallas in the early 1870s, the young city became the headquarters for a number of mercantile enterprises that would grow into some of the largest and most prestigious in the region – and the state. Recognizing that Dallas would become the dominant city in North Texas, these “terminus merchants” (for the stores they opened at each terminal along the railroads’ routes) put down roots in Dallas and contributed not only to the city’s economic, but cultural, civic and charitable life as well. Of mostly German-Jewish heritage, the merchants helped lead efforts over the next half century to promote the city. In 1905 their campaign to rapidly develop Dallas was called “Dallas: The City of Splendid Realities.”

SIMON LINZ was among five brothers whose successful jewelry business in downtown Dallas grew to national prominence. Following the construction of the MKT Railroad from St. Louis, Simon and brother Joseph established the first Linz store in Denison, Texas in 1877. The brothers finally established themselves in Dallas in 1891 and in 1899 constructed the lavishly appointed, seven-story Linz Building. Always having a reputation for luxuriousness and taste, the store’s opening featured a full orchestra amidst the twinkling lights of the lush roof garden. The Linz Brothers’ notoriety attracted patrons from around the world: actress Lillian Russell bought a lovely turquoise necklace in the store, and when Rudolph Valentino arrived to purchase a set of rare black pearl evening studs, four salesladies evidently fainted from the excitement! Joseph and Simon directed retail operations and brother Ben the wholesale department. Albert created a very successful traveling sales division that, even during the Great Depression, was known for personal service: when a sale was made in one town, the Linz Bros. representative obtained from the buyer a letter of reference to people in the next town.

One of the original members of Temple Emanu-El, **EMANUEL MEYER KAHN** founded what some said was the longest established retail business in Dallas just weeks before the Sanger Brothers in 1872. His men’s clothing emporium, first located on the Courthouse Square, remained in business until the 1970s. E.M. subscribed to the “Public Be Pleased Policy,” and as owner and proprietor he sat, not in an office, but on a raised platform in the center of the store to see if everyone was getting service. In those days, it was reported, everyone did! A lover of art and music, Kahn had been a cantor and schoolteacher in the Alsace region between France and Germany until he immigrated to the United States. He played the violin regularly until his death in 1923.



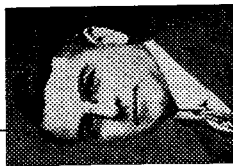
Edward Titcher, architect of the Red Cross headquarters. A strong supporter of many community organizations. Titcher advised all merchants. His store was located on McKinney Avenue in the Red Cross building headquarters.



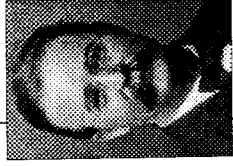
Philip Sanger's bookshop in a building office store business practices with charitable causes led to establishment of the Dallas United Charities, which later evolved into the Community Chest and eventually the United Way.

Louisiana native **EDWARD TITCHE** worked in his father’s store until 1894, when at age 28 he arrived in Dallas to take charge of a deceased uncle’s retail establishment. In 1902, Titcher entered into a partnership with Max Goettinger and in 1904 Titcher-Goettinger’s Department Store relocated to the elegant new skyscraper at Main and Ervay Streets – the Wilson Building. Titcher’s – its name shortened by Dallasites – quickly became one of the largest stores of its kind in the Southwest. Prominent architect Herbert Greene was hired to design a huge new store at Main and St. Paul in 1929 that mimicked Italy’s Florentine Pitti Palace. Edward Titcher, who never married, threw himself not only into the business of the store, but civic life as well. An original member of the Citizen’s Charter Association, he was a long time supporter of the Scottish Rite Hospital for Children and the Dallas chapter of the Red Cross.

PHILIP SANGER arrived in Dallas to join his brother Alexander in the family mercantile business in 1874. Philip soon took charge of the retail operations while Alex supervised the wholesale department and the employees and enthusiastically entered Dallas civic life. Regarded as the retailing genius and innovator of the family enterprise, Philip was largely responsible for establishing Texas’ first mail order department in 1880, and the first New York buying office. Sanger Brothers had the first gas lighting in Dallas, the first electric lights (1883), the first elevator (1889), and the first escalator (1911) and claimed to have the first telephone line (from the store to Philip’s house in The Cedars neighborhood). Philip also quietly supported important causes in the community, joining with Virginia Johnson in heading a clothing drive for the needy during the Depression of 1893 and supporting the Buckner Orphans Home.



Simon Linz established the Linz Award in 1921, which still annually recognizes businessmen who have "brought the greatest benefit to the Dallas community."



One of the original members of Temple Emanu-El, Emanuel Meyer Kahn founded what some said was the longest established retail business in Dallas just weeks before the Sanger Brothers in 1872.

DALLAS WOMEN

From religious and educational to cultural and civic life in Dallas, contributions by Jewish women provided abundant support and leadership to the community. In 1876, the Ladies Hebrew Benevolent Association gave a series of "entertainments" attended by much of the city's population to raise money that paid for a lot on Commerce Street near Field. On that lot the first Temple Emanu-El would be built. At the turn of the 20th century, Blanche Greenburg was a leader in the Free Kindergarten Association and Neighborhood House, institutions that assisted immigrant families with English language and hygiene education. Among the women buried here who led community efforts on many fronts are:

REBA MALLISON WADEL, a local philanthropist who served for many years on the board of the Dallas Community Chest (which later became the United Way), was named National Chairman of the Women's Division of the United Jewish Appeal during World War II. Her efforts supported the cause for creation of the State of Israel. Returning home from an Appeal conference in 1947, Mrs. Wadel died when her plane crashed at Love Field.



SADIE BRAHAM LEFKOWITZ was a graduate of the Cincinnati College of Music who made significant contributions to the music programs at Temple Emanu-El during the 30 years that her husband, David, served as rabbi to the Congregation. She was a founder of the Temple Sisterhood soon after she and David arrived in Dallas from Ohio in 1920 and later served as vice-president of the National Federation of Sisterhoods. She said her goal was to tap "the powerful influence of women to bring the pulpit and home in unison," fostering both a religious spirit and sociability among the families of the congregation. A frequent and charismatic speaker who reached audiences of many faiths and interests throughout Dallas, she helped found the Dallas Visiting Nurse Association here in 1934. She also created the Temple Emanu-El Music Club and Choral Club and with formidable powers of persuasion induced many singers to participate. Sadie told one newcomer to Dallas that, as her husband was now a distinguished member of the community, it was her "duty" to sing in the choir.

ROSA SILBERSTEIN operated a nursery school in the Colonial Hill neighborhood. She was also involved in the women-led movement in Dallas to provide free milk to children of indigent families. Her husband Ascher was a Dallas businessman who emigrated from Germany after the Civil War and arrived in Dallas about 1878. Upon her husband's death in 1909, his \$5,000 bequest to the Dallas Public Schools to be used for public school purposes may have spurred Rosa to have portable buildings erected on Pine Street in South Dallas and the resulting school named for her husband. (The original Silberstein School was later renamed Charles Rice School). Rosa and Ascher Silberstein are interred in an imposing mausoleum near here.



FANNIE FECHENBACH SANGER was the wife of merchant and civic activist Alexander Sanger, and she was a leader in her own right as well. A prominent patron of the arts, she actively supported many cultural institutions in the city. Also active with the Dallas Woman's Home, she joined Virginia Johnson in creating the King's Daughters, which provided low- or no-cost burials for the indigent at nearby Greenwood Cemetery. A career fundraiser, Fannie organized the Jahmarkt, a week-long German-style fair that helped raise funds to build the second, larger Temple Emanu-El in 1899. She helped create a replica of a German village in which to stage the celebration, borrowing sets from the Dallas Opera House as backdrops. The Jahmarkt raised \$3,500 of the \$11,000 cost of the new Temple. Beloved and admired, Fannie died suddenly in New York in 1898 and 500 people gathered at the railroad station in Dallas to meet the train carrying her body home.

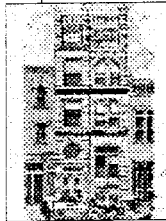


CARRIE MARCUS NEIMAN, a blouse buyer and top saleswoman for the A. Harris Department store, was widely regarded in Dallas at the beginning of the 20th century for her sense of style and knowledge of the fashion industry. Carrie, her brother Herbert Marcus, himself a buyer for the Sanger Bros., and her husband Al Neiman operated a retail establishment for a time in Atlanta, then sold out for cash (their other option was a franchise in Missouri for a new soft drink - Coca Cola). They returned to Dallas and founded Neiman-Marcus in 1907. Carrie paid \$17,000 in cash to buy the initial stock of silks, satins, woollens and furs in New York, which sold out in a month. Soon she was traveling to Paris on buying trips. Elected Chairman of the Board in 1950, she would interrupt board meetings to wait on favored customers. From 1907 and for more than fifty years, Carrie Neiman was the arbiter of taste and fashion in Dallas, her reputation helping to establish the specialty store featuring ready-to-wear apparel for ladies as a new concept when most women of means had private dressmakers.

STATE - T H O M A S H I S T O R I C D I S T R I C T

Now known as the State Thomas Historic District, the surrounding few blocks contain the most intact collection of historic residential structures of the late 1800s Victorian period remaining in Dallas. It is the last remnant of a once larger, fashionable upper-middle-class community.

Before 1880, parts of two families' farms on the southeast side of the McKinney Road made up present day State-Thomas.



Credit: Mary Elizabeth Thomas Frasier
Edward Overand built a handsome office building in the Thomas Brothers downtown on Main Street between Fickland Akard, across from the Imperial Hotel.

The James and Elizabeth Thomas family settled on 40 acres on this side of the McKinney Road and north of Pearl Street in 1868. James, who was a veteran of both the U.S./ Mexican and Civil Wars, was a prosperous downtown merchant and was also a major investor in the first iron bridge crossing the Trinity River – a significant economic development project for Dallas at the time. After James' death in 1875, his wife Elizabeth Routh Thomas and her children continued the family's successful business ventures.

Nearby, in 1869 Agnes Bast Overand and her second husband John Wesley Overand acquired 11 acres along present day Routh and Boll Streets east of the McKinney Road. Agnes and her carpenter stepson Edward Overand subdivided the property in 1886. Edward began building houses with all the "modern improvements – apparatus for gas, hot water, etc." in "Overand's Addition."

Meanwhile, Elizabeth Thomas' sons Oliver, Jefferson and Colby Thomas had embarked on their own real estate development venture in 1883 when most of the 40-acre family farm was platted as "Thomas' Addition." The lots were divided among Elizabeth and her seven surviving children. Neighbor Edward Overand built the family an imposing two-story frame house at the corner of Pearl and McKinney. The Thomas brothers sold lots in the neighborhood, commissioned Overand to build a few more houses, and later expanded into other real estate ventures as well as the insurance business.



Credit: Mary Elizabeth Thomas Frasier
Oliver Thomas, developer of Thomas' Addition, was a respected businessman and alderman. He built his own family home at the corner of McKinney Avenue and Fairmount Street (since demolished). His wife Mary operated a boarding house there after Oliver's untimely death in 1903.



Credit: Mary Elizabeth Thomas Frasier
Like his older brother and partner in the Thomas Bros. real estate business, Jeff D. Thomas lived nearly all his life on McKinney Avenue.

The Thomas-Colby neighborhood was soon served by the steam-powered Dallas Circuit Street Railway, which opened in 1887. The streetcar allowed businessmen like hardware merchant William B. Robinson, who lived at State and Boll, and Dallas Morning News publisher George B. Dealey, who lived at Thomas and Routh, to ride down McKinney Avenue to their offices. After 1903, a second, electric streetcar line operated on a loop along State Street, providing neighborhood residents with service not only to downtown but all the way to the State Fairgrounds in East Dallas.

The Dallas Social Register listed many of the Thomas-Colby neighborhood families until well after the turn of the century, indicating its residents were prosperous and influential community leaders. Michael Coerver, founder of the Dallas Showcase & Manufacturing Company and paper and printing magnate William Scarff lived here. So did attorneys Alex Coke, Martin Crane and Henry S. Simpson. The Rev. Robert Hill, pastor of the nearby Westminster Presbyterian Church, was also among the residents of the neighborhood.

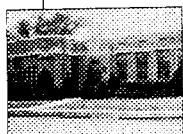
As more stylish residential districts like Highland Park and Munger Place/Swiss Avenue became the desirable areas by 1915, the fashionable character of Thomas-Colby began to fade. Many of the large houses were subdivided into duplexes or boarding houses. In the 1920s and 1930s, prosperous African-American residents of adjacent "Short North Dallas" or Freedman's Town purchased or rented many of the houses, preserving these few remaining examples of Victorian-era Dallas' residential heritage.



Credit: Dallas Historical Society
George Bannerman Dealey, general manager and later publisher of the Dallas Morning News, Oliver Dealey and their children lived until 1901 in a brick house on the northwest corner of Thomas and Routh. Their son Ted recalled that the Dealey's new bathtub – the first installed in the neighborhood – was the talk of the street!

STATE - THOMAS

After 1900, many of the elite families living here were attracted to newer and more fashionable neighborhoods being developed further north. The solidly middle class white families of State Street and Thomas Avenue began to move away by World War I, blaming the increasing commercialization along nearby McKinney Avenue. In fact it was the growth of the nearby African-American Freedman's Town community and the prevailing views regarding racial segregation that brought change to State Thomas.



The Dunbar branch library on Thomas Avenue

Dallas' rapidly swelling black population after about 1915 was causing three nearby distinct African-American neighborhoods to expand and merge.

White families who at first tried to prevent black neighbors from moving in eventually themselves moved away instead. An ordinance added to the city charter in 1916 prohibiting black and white persons from living on the same block confirmed the practice of neighborhood racial segregation. By the mid-1920s, mostly African-American families were living in what is now the

State Thomas Historic District. Like their white predecessors, black professionals – doctors, ministers, undertakers and educators – occupied many of the larger houses on the street.

The racially exclusive policies of the time also forced African-Americans to establish their own service and other businesses within areas like Freedman's Town, which by the 1930s had expanded to include all of the State Thomas district. The Paul Lawrence Dunbar branch of the Dallas Public Library – the first library established within the city's black community – opened in 1931 on Thomas Avenue near Boll Street. In 1940, Thomas between Fairmount and Boll Streets was lined not only with homes and apartments but also beauty and barbershops, tailors, and grocery and variety stores.

Change came again for the larger Oak Lawn and Turtle Creek areas after World War II as many neighborhoods evolved into apartment sectors. Increasing numbers of homes in the State Thomas district fell into disrepair or were subdivided into rooming houses. Growth of the central business district to the south edged the neighborhood with warehouses, light industrial and secondary commercial establishments, making State Thomas less attractive as a residential

community. With the construction of nearby Woodall Rodgers Freeway, developers increasingly made offers on properties in the area and State Thomas and Freedman's Town continued to lose residents, churches and businesses. Many residents and business owners were willing to sell as they saw the drastic changes that had come to the community. Widespread abandonment of nearby areas of the old Freedman's Town by the 1970s saw continued deterioration of blocks of dilapidated small cottages and "shotgun" houses in areas immediately to the north of State Thomas.

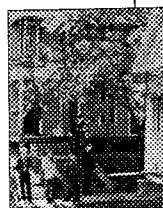


A. Macco Smith, long-time leader in Dallas African-American community, lived on Thomas Avenue starting in 1938. The first Executive Secretary of the Negro (later Black) Chamber of Commerce, Smith led efforts beginning in the early 1930s to promote political involvement and voting among the city's African-American citizens and helped found what would become the Progressive Voters League. He served for many years in federal housing agencies, seeking to end racial discrimination and promote decent and affordable housing in the city. A Dallas high school was named for him.

In the late 1970s, a citywide study of Victorian architecture noted that State Thomas enjoyed one of the largest remaining collections of such landmarks in the city. A small group of homeowners and historic preservationists recognized the architectural and historical value of the State Thomas neighborhood, and in 1979 the Inner City Improvement Committee was formed among some State Thomas residents. In partnership with Dallas' Historic Preservation League (now

Preservation Dallas), the neighborhood group began promoting the area for its history, charm and convenience to downtown. Declared a City of Dallas Historic District in 1984, State Thomas is protected by the city's landmark preservation ordinance, which encourages preservation, sympathetic restoration and rehabilitation of the Victorian-era homes. New construction on vacant lots among the historic houses must reflect the same architectural styles and traditions to protect the district's unique historic character. In 1999, the restored residences housed a vibrant mix of families who had lived in the neighborhood for 60 or more years, young professionals who often worked nearby, small professional offices and galleries and other retail establishments.

A distinctive zoning area immediately surrounding the historic district was adopted in 1986 as a result of extensive neighborhood and community input. The law requires new development to be designed in an urban style. New development mixes retail, office and residential uses and has created a "city within a city" that, ironically, mimics in many ways the history and traditions of the Freedman's Town community that once flourished here.



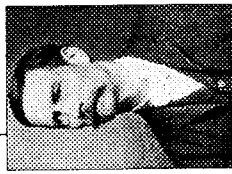
In the early 1980s, TU Electric Co. offered a group of historic "shotgun" houses from nearby Hallsville Street to anyone who would move them off their original sites. Two were saved and moved into the State Thomas Historic District. The restored shotguns are among the few physical reminders of the important history of Freedman's Town.

S T A T E - T H O M A S

STREETS, A CREEK & CATTLE DRIVES

As in many small communities, the streets in State Thomas were named by and for the builders who created the neighborhood.

Thomas Avenue acknowledged the family whose farm and later real estate development anchored the south end of the area. Elizabeth Thomas' family name, Routh, was chosen for an intersecting street, and a neighbor, Colby Smith, whose daughter married Oliver Thomas, was the namesake of both Oliver's younger brother and Colby Street in the Thomas Addition.



From: *State of TX Fair*
James B. Simpson

James B. Simpson acquired 95 acres from the farm of Maxime Guillot - translator for the La Reunion colonists and early Dallas carriage maker - in 1887. There Simpson and pioneer Dallasite Henry C. Clark created still another large subdivision near the four cemeteries. A street named for Simpson was later re-dubbed State Street, probably in honor of the Texas State Fair. Col. Simpson was named the founding president of the Fair in 1886.



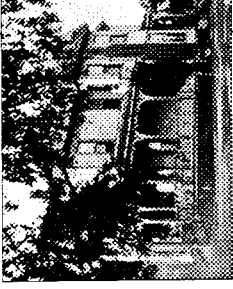
Maxime Guillot

Hibernia Street celebrated the Irish ancestry of Edward Overand. Samuel Worthington and his family, selling meats and poultry from their homestead just north of the Overands, self-named a street in their adjacent development, which was platted in 1887.



State Thomas

Among the fine homes constructed here by Edward Overand was the house still gracing the northwest corner of Routh and State Streets that he built in about 1890 for his newlywed daughter Eliza and husband Jacob Spake. Jacob was a prominent Dallas businessman himself, rising from cashier at the G.H. Schoellkopf leather-goods emporium to become its secretary-treasurer. The Spakes and their five children lived in the house on State Street for more than three decades.



From: *State of TX Fair*
Edward Overand even built a handsome home for Elizabeth Routh Thomas and her family at the corner of McKinney and Pearl

Except for McKinney Avenue, the neighborhood streets were left unpaved until after 1905, and the streetcars, horses, wagons and carriages raised clouds of dust in the hot summers. A scenic creek, the Dallas Branch, meandered through the neighborhood. The dirt streets, wooden bridges crossing the branch at Colby and Routh and Thomas near Boll, abundant wildlife and the nearby cemeteries all gave the neighborhood a distinctly rural character well into the 1900s. The city water supply was slow to provide service to State Thomas and was regarded as unsafe anyway, so Edward Overand dug water wells for most families in the neighborhood in the 1890s.

The Thomas Brothers and other real estate promoters advertised the area - "North Dallas" - as high ground that was a "healthful, cooler and less muddy" alternative to living closer to the city. Early residents even described the miniature cattle drives along Thomas Avenue as stockmen from nearby farms drove their herds to adjacent pastures.

In 1901, the owner of David & Son Grocers lived next to his small brick store at the southwest corner of Leonard and Colby. Started in 1889 as a feed and grain business, the firm was soon specializing in delivery of groceries to the well-to-do families on Thomas, Fairmount and Maple Avenues. Simon David's food delivery business moved from Leonard Street to Oak Lawn Avenue in the 1920s and would grow to become a still-thriving purveyor of specialty groceries.



Simon David's grocery business prospered on Leonard Street, affording him and his wife opportunities to vacation in the Catalina Rockies. David and his wife are buried in nearby Temple Emanuel Cemetery.