



DALLAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
*"Remembering Dallas' past builds her future"*

## Frances James cemetery collection,

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### Overview

<b>Creator:</b>	James, Frances
<b>Title:</b>	Frances James cemetery collection
<b>Dates:</b>	
<b>Abstract:</b>	Frances James, also known as “The Cemetery Lady,” due to her passion for the preservation of cemeteries. She has written three informative books covering Dallas County history and its cemeteries. Ms. James has been involved in saving and preserving Dallas County cemeteries since the 1970s. Her knowledge and her work is revered and sought after by historians, politicians, archaeologists, TxDot and families of loved ones buried in these historic cemeteries.
<b>Identification:</b>	2019.7, unprocessed
<b>Quantity:</b>	10 boxes; 9.92 linear ft.; 800 folders
<b>Language:</b>	Material is in English
<b>Repository:</b>	<a href="#">Dallas Historical Society</a>

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### Biographical Note

Frances tells others she became the “Cemetery Lady” because she has talked to every television reporter and newspaper in Dallas about cemeteries. Whenever a historical society, library, or genealogical society has a question related to cemeteries, they all call Frances. For her, everything started in 1978, after Frances retired. There was a small neighborhood cleanup of a local cemetery, Pioneer Cemetery, and Frances decided to help out. A few years later (1981), Frances assisted in cleaning up the Glover Cemetery and started to do research into the Texas Historical Marker program. After compiling all of the information and history behind Glover Cemetery, Frances applied for her first historical marker and it was accepted. She was then put on the Dallas County Historical Commission from 1983-1989. Over the years Frances has written over fifty applications for historical markers, accumulated hundreds of hours of research, and documentation of cemeteries all over Dallas and North Texas.

When the city of Dallas wanted to expand the convention center, it was thanks to Frances James and her research that archeologists were called in to recover the remains of 15 citizens of Dallas who were reburied in another part of the cemetery. Dallas Pioneer Park Cemetery is secure today and was named a landmark in May of 2002. Protecting cemeteries became James' life work, largely because, as she puts it, no one else was doing it. Through the various media outlets, publicity was key in enforcing these laws and protecting the cemeteries. Dallas County alone has over 200 cemeteries, each with their own histories and stories. Frances James has helped countless cemetery associations and historical organizations not only provide upkeep for local cemeteries, but also to gain their historical markers. In doing so, she amassed a massive collection of research files, and even wrote three books on Dallas cemeteries. Her historic cemetery tours are always a favorite of guests who participate in the Dallas Historical Society's Historic City Tours program. Her last tour was in 2011.

Sources: Sources: Samantha Dodd, Dallas Historical Society.

<https://www.smudailycampus.com/news/freedmans-cemetery-has-a-history-as-complicated-as-its-buried-members>

<http://drgraveyard.com/books/>

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## **Scope and Contents Note**

Collection is comprised of maps, correspondence, notes, newspaper clippings, printed material, research, historical marker information, Historical Commission correspondence, United Confederate Veterans and Civil War cemeteries, and cemetery management.

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## **Arrangement of the Collection**

The collection is organized into one series. The collection is unprocessed and folders were left the way they were found box. The box list is the order they are currently in. Box number is on lid.

Series 1: Cemeteries

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## **Restrictions**

### **Access Restrictions**

Collection is open for research use.

**Publication Rights:**

Permission to publish materials must be obtained from the staff of the Dallas Historical Society.

**Copyright Statement:**

It is the responsibility of the user to obtain copyright authorization.

**Sensitive Material Statement:**

Manuscript collections and archival records may contain materials with sensitive or confidential information that is protected under federal or state right to privacy laws and regulations. Researchers are advised that the disclosure of certain information pertaining to identifiable living individuals represented in this collection without the consent of those individuals may have legal ramifications for which the Dallas Historical Society assumes no responsibility.

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**Index Terms**

This collection is indexed under the following terms.

**Subjects**

Cemeteries -- Texas

**Subjects (Organizations)**

Historical Commission -- Texas

United Confederate Veterans – Dallas, Texas

Civil War cemeteries – Dallas, Texas

Texas Historical Marker program

**Alternate names**

Historical Manuscripts Collection

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**Related Material**

L.2013.19.2-L.2013.19.4; L.2018.1.944

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## **Administrative Information**

### **Preferred Citation**

Collection of the Dallas Historical Society, Frances James cemetery collection.

### **Acquisition Information**

Gift of Frances James.

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## **Detailed Description of the Collection**

### **Series 1: Cemeteries, 10 boxes; 9.92; 800 folders**

#### **Box**

1 American Memorial, Anderson, Bailey, Beeman, Bethel, Big A, Big Spring, Blewett, Alice Brown, Buckner Bullock, Calvary Hill, Cameron, Carver,

Each folder in this box has been accessed and processed.

#### **Box**

2 Coats, Cochran Chapel, Confederate, Cottonwood, Cox, Crawford, Crown Hills, Dallas City, Daniel, Edgewood, El Cemento Grande.

#### **Box**

3 Elam, Elmwood, Emanu-El, Ferris, Fields, Fishtrap/La Reunion, Five Mile, Fletcher.

#### **Box**

4 Forest Lawn, Frankford, Freedman, Fuget, Garland Memorial, Garvin.

#### **Box**

5 Garvin, Glover, Greenwood, Grove Hill, Haley, Harrington.

#### **Box**

6 Haught, Honey Springs, Horton, Housley, Hutchins, Jordan Height, Keenan, Kinnard, Kings Daughters, Kit, Kleburg, Lagow, Ledbetter, Lee, Letot, Lincoln, Lisbon, Little Bethel.

#### **Box**

7 Longcreek, Lanley, Lyon, Marsh, McCombs, McCree, McKinney, McShan, Merrells, Mesquite, Miller, Motley, Mt. Auburn, Mt. Calvary, Mission Baptist, Myers, L. Butler Nelson.

**Box**

8

Oak Cliff, Oakland, Overton, Parrish, Perry, Pioneer, Pleasant Mound.

**Box**

9

Pleasant Mound, Pleasant Valley, Potter, Patrick Pruitt, Rancho Grande, Rawlins, Rhodes, Ritter, Robinson, Routh, Rylie, Sachse, Shady Grove, Sheath Israel, Shelton's Bear Creek, Smith, Southland, Sowers, Spring Fellow, Stadden, Snyder, Floyd Taylor, Tompkins.

**Box**

10

Garvin, Wheatland, Carver, Oak Cliff, Pleasant Mound.

**Box**

11

Trees, Trinity Farms, Vincent, Waco Line, Warner, Webb, Western Heights, Wheatland, White Rock Celestial, Wolf Creek.

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