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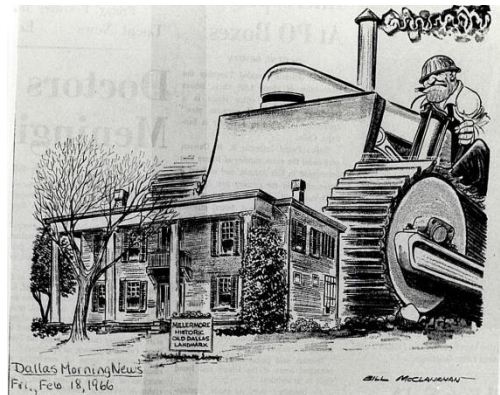
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **CELEBRATING 50 YEARS AT DALLAS HERITAGE VILLAGE**

*Golden Anniversary Coincides with Renaissance of Historic Cedars Area of Dallas*

**DALLAS, TEXAS – April 1, 2016** –Dallas Heritage Village marks a golden milestone this year with plans to honor the vision of its founders, celebrate the supportive community, and honor the historic buildings and the history they each contain – the true foundation of the Village.

It all began with a house scheduled for demolition in Dallas in February 1966. The Millermore house, a historic antebellum plantation home built between 1855 and 1862 was saved from the wrecking ball by a newly formed group of citizens called the Dallas County Heritage Society. Disassembled and reassembled on the grounds of Old City Park, Dallas' oldest park established in 1876, the Millermore home was the first historic structure of Dallas Heritage Village and remains the museum's focal point today. Always fighting for history, the staff of Dallas Heritage Village, 50 years later, helped save a historic Cedars area home on Griffin Street, destined for demolition this past February.



“It is almost a cliché in the world of historic preservation: a group of citizens came together to save a beloved old home that was to be flattened for a parking lot,” said Melissa Prycer, president and executive director, Dallas Heritage Village. “It is uncanny that almost 50 years to the day that the Millermore home was saved, Dallas Heritage Village helped to stop bulldozing of the historic blue house in the Cedars area.”

Millermore opened as a house museum in 1969 with admission of 25 cents. While the Dallas County Heritage Society was formed to save just one house, the group went on to move and restore almost 30 historic structures depicting life in Dallas from 1840-1910 at Old City Park – creating the Dallas Heritage Village of today. Set on 20 acres, Dallas Heritage Village has grown into an immersive history landscape including a Victorian Main Street, a railroad complex, a log cabin, a pre-Civil war home, an 1860's farmstead with livestock, a 19<sup>th</sup> century church, and schoolhouse. Originally run by volunteers, the museum gradually gained a professional staff, became nationally accredited, and developed events and educational programming. Over 25,000 school children visit every year.

Events planned throughout the year at the Village will focus on the anniversary, including incorporating a 1960s theme for the annual History with a Twist fundraiser; a joint lecture with Preservation Dallas; and the annual Old Fashioned Fourth, free this year and featuring favorite activities of the past.

“As we move the past forward, we find ourselves in the middle of an exciting renaissance of the Cedars area,” added Prycer. “The Village has been here for 50 years, and it has survived. More than a museum, we are an active partner in this exciting redevelopment, serving as a place for meetings, working with developers, and providing a voice for the neighborhood. It's an exciting time as we look forward to bringing new visitors into the area.”

(more)



Dallas Heritage Village announces its Golden Anniversary Honorary Committee, which includes several descendants of the Village's founders as well as board leaders, past directors and more: **Lindalyn Adams, Pat Bateman, Barbara Baynham, Linda Beach, Barbara Brockett, Vincent and Anne Carrozza, Marie and John Chiles, Don Clampitt, Susan Cooper, Marty Davis, Gano Ehlers, Toogie Elkins, Jo Jean Farquharson, David Fisher, Helen Garrot, Mike Hazel, Mary Jane Hinnant, Mary Ellen**

**Holt, Betty Josey, Betty Littlejohn, Jolene Masur, Council Member Adam Medrano, Bette Miller, Dan and Jean Millet, Ruth Ann Montgomery, Jesse Moreno, Mary Moyer, Donald Payton, Ann Phy, Regina Pistor, Patsie Potts, Gene and Robert Rain, Diane Scovell, Joanna Shampine, Gary Smith, Peter Smith, Tom Smith, Pat (deceased) and Mary Spillman, Lynn Vogt, Ben and Marilyn Weber, Max Wells, Willis Winters, Barbara Zimmerman. Terri Brown is chair of the anniversary steering committee.**

*Photo Caption: Members of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Honorary Committee gathered March 1 for a special birthday party to toast Millermore. Pictured on the steps of Millermore: Pat Bateman, Regina Pistor, Ann Phy, Barbara Zimmerman, Joanna Shampine, Jesse Moreno, Lynn Vogt, Melissa Prycer, Adam Medrano, Lindalyn Adams, Mike Hazel, Susan Cooper, Mary Moyer, Mary Spillman, Helen Garrot, Terri Brown.*

**(HISTORICAL AND PRESENT DAY PHOTOS ARE AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD)**

<https://www.dallasheritagevillage.org/50th-anniversary/>

**Additionally, a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Souvenir Book "Fifty Years of Preserving the Past" is available for purchase at the Dallas Heritage Village museum store for \$7.50.**

**###**

Dallas Heritage Village, celebrating 50 years in 2016, is an immersive history landscape that features a wide variety of authentic 19<sup>th</sup> century pioneer and Victorian homes and commercial buildings in Texas. The Village is set on 20 acres with over 25 historic structures depicting life in Dallas from 1840-1910. Dallas Heritage Village is one of only 5 nationally accredited museums in the Dallas area. The Village showcases a Victorian Main Street, a railroad complex, a log cabin, a pre-Civil war home, an 1860's farmstead with livestock, a 19<sup>th</sup> century church, schoolhouse and more. Dallas Heritage Village has been recognized for multiple awards. It is located at 1515 South Harwood, in the Cedars area with urban living and restaurants, near downtown Dallas and the popular Farmer's Market complex. Hours of operation are Tuesday – Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. The Village is closed the months of January and August. General Admission is \$9 for adults, \$7 for seniors 65+ and \$5 for children ages 4 through 12 years. Children under 4 and members of Dallas Heritage Village are admitted free of charge. There is special pricing for groups of 15 or more people. For more information call 214-421-5141, email [info@dallasheritagevillage.org](mailto:info@dallasheritagevillage.org), or visit [www.DallasHeritageVillage.org](http://www.DallasHeritageVillage.org)

## THREE PERSPECTIVES ON THE PAST 50 YEARS AT DALLAS HERITAGE VILLAGE



(To schedule any interviews, contact Elizabeth Lenart, [el@vgsmarketing.com](mailto:el@vgsmarketing.com), 214-394-7457)

**Lindalyn Adams:** *Dallas civic leader and preservationist whose first history project was at the Village. She began the docent program, served as fourth president of Dallas County Heritage Society, and is a Life Trustee of Dallas Heritage Village.*

Born on the fourth of July, Lindalyn Adams gained her love for history and preservation as a little girl from her father and was destined to make a powerful impact within the community in which she lived. From the family's patriotic celebrations and parades at their East Texas ranch to their many family car trips including stops at every battlefield and all historic sites including Lincoln's birthplace and historic village, where he was a young man – much like Dallas Heritage Village today, Lindalyn Adams adored exploring the past and would develop that passion into preserving Dallas history. Many know her as the founder of the Sixth Floor Museum and for her pivotal role in the renovation and preservation of the Old Red Courthouse as well as the establishment of the Dallas County Historical Foundation. Adams is also a Life Trustee of Dallas Heritage. Her interest in the Village was one of her first history projects as a young adult in Dallas. In the 1960s, when Adams was active in the Junior League, she had been reading about the things happening at Old City Park. It was across the street from one of her father's candy factories, and she had been going to the park since she was a young child. Millermore had just been brought to the Village, and she was fascinated.

She said, "This is what I really want to do." And the rest is history.

At the Village she loved the fact that you could look across the historic park and see the skyline of Dallas. One day she went to Millermore and told the organizers that she wanted to be a docent and proceeded to organize the first docent program. "I called my friends and told them to join me. It's just like when all the young mothers would volunteer at the Highland Park school cafeteria. You can come and volunteer once a month."



*Mary Aldredge with the Miller grandchildren*

She fondly recalls sitting around the table in Millermore with Mary Aldredge, the founder of the Dallas County Heritage Society who was instrumental in saving Millermore and bringing it to Old City Park. We studied the history of the Miller family, and it became the story of Millermore. "It was such an exciting time," added Adams. The ladies who made up the Dallas County Heritage Society went to work. She fondly recalls friendships she formed with: Isabelle Decherd, Mary Frances Yancy who was always looking for décor for structures at the Village, Mary

Nell Clampitt who had a station wagon and drove around with

Joanne Wynne to load up treasures and bring to the Village; and William Seale, who was brought in as a consultant. Seale is a historian and author of numerous books, including *The President's House: a History*.

In the 70s Ruth Ann Montgomery, president of the Dallas County Heritage Society, and Adams realized the Bicentennial was coming and worked to have Old City Park as the Dallas project of the Bicentennial. And so it was. Members and their families dressed up and hosted the big event. Old City Park was also asked to host the British Bicentennial group, which included the Duke



*The Bicentennial Celebration at Old City Park*

of Marlborough, and Adams was asked to tour the group around the park. In 1976, Adams also chaired the Crystal Charity Ball and was Chairman of the Dallas County Historical Commission. She also helped to found La Fiesta de las Seis Banderas during the 1986 Sesquicentennial. It originated as a benefit to save the oldest house in Highland Park from demolition by moving it to Dallas Heritage Village at Old City Park, owned and maintained by the Dallas County Heritage Society. The “Save the House Committee” coordinated efforts of school children, civic officials, families and businesses rallying to preserve the historic home.

“Dallas Heritage Village will always be part of my life,” added Adams. “My fondest memories of it all were the friendships gained. The growth of Dallas Heritage Village was so important, and we all played our part in it because it was needed. The Village gives you a glimpse into what Dallas was like. And now we are seeing the redevelopment of the Cedars – so much of which dates back to early Dallas. Everyone needs to go and see it.”



**Lynn Vogt:** *Granddaughter of the founder, Mary Aldredge, and lifelong supporter and board member at the Village*

As the granddaughter of Mary Aldredge, the first president of the Dallas County Heritage Society, who began the fight to save Millermore, Lynn Vogt’s passion for Dallas history and preserving it comes naturally. Her earliest memory of the Village was as a teenager. Once the founders decided that Old City Park was the appropriate “home” for Millermore, she accompanied her family to take a look at the grounds.

“Of course there were no structures there at that point, but there was a great swimming pool in the meadow which is now behind the saloon and general store. My siblings and I bemoaned the fact that the pool would probably be removed!”



She has always loved the park setting with the historical buildings set against the backdrop of the Dallas skyline. She has also witnessed how Dallas Heritage Village inspires such loyalty among those who’ve been involved for years – past board members still gather for monthly lunches, volunteers and staff members stay connected, and so many families return year after year for Candlelight or July 4 celebrations.

“I’ve brought my children (and now grandkids) to great events at the Village, but one of my fondest memories is the wedding of my youngest daughter in the Pilot Grove Church in year 2000. A perfect setting!” added Vogt. “I also have some fun memories around being a docent in the Doctor’s Office. The expressions and questions from school kids as they viewed the skeleton were wonderful: ‘Was he a patient here?’ ‘I guess the doctor messed up?’ I’m sure all of the Village docents have stories to tell!”

Vogt first joined the board in 1975. Early board duties included researching/assembling exhibits for the second floor of the Renner School, to creating artwork for items sold in the gift shop. She left the board in 1983, but “recycled” around 1989. For many years, she and her family have enjoyed the Village as visitors. In 2009, she rejoined the board and has served on or chaired several committees.

“Through its historic buildings, programs and unique urban park setting, Dallas Heritage Village brings to life the history of Dallas and North Texas between 1840 and 1910. But besides being a living history museum, it’s the perfect place for family reunions, weddings, engagement parties and picnics – I know because I’ve done all of those!” added Vogt.

Reflecting on change over the years, Vogt focuses on technology and the way we communicate.

“Fifty years ago, we had carbon paper, typewriters, our landline phones and the Heritage News. Who would have imagined e-mail, Facebook, and cell phone apps? Change also involves closing programs that remain dear - many of us have fond memories of Brent Place, our wonderful restaurant and, of course, McCall’s Store. The Village has also experienced an evolving neighborhood. The Cedars area, Farmers Market, and the number of residents living in downtown Dallas all hold tremendous promise for Dallas Heritage Village in the future. The revitalization of The Cedars is tremendously exciting and can only have a positive impact on the Village. I know the current board and staff are working hard with the City, with developers, and with the surrounding neighborhood to take advantage of every opportunity for the Village. As we look to the future, it’s critical to inspire the next generation to be good stewards of the Village. The staff of the Village reminds us that these historic structures were never meant for thousands of people to walk through them, and consequently, maintenance costs are overwhelming. The founders saved the wonderful historical buildings we treasure, and it’s our turn to preserve them. Whether it’s through personal involvement or introducing new people to the Village, we all can look for ways to better serve Dallas Heritage Village.”

“The Village also has an important role in partnering with other history groups in advocating for history and preservation in Dallas,” continued Vogt. “We already do this through the publication of *Legacies* (a Dallas history journal published twice a year), sponsorship of the Dallas History Conference and smaller events. I hope we’ll have even further opportunities for our history groups to work together.”

“Back in 1975, the Dallas County Heritage Society published *A Place Called Dallas* by A.C. Greene. In the Prologue, the author writes: “How people have lived is the basis for how we see life. . . .” and he reminds us of our debt to those who’ve gone before us. Walking through the Village, attending a lecture or event, it’s easy to see how Dallas Heritage Village shares the spirit and gives us a glimpse of the people who made Dallas the city it is today.”



*Pictured positioning the 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Candles for the Toast to Millermore party!*

**Terri Brown:** *Chair of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Steering Committee, teacher who has brought students to the Village, and mom of a Dallas Heritage Village Junior Historian*

As a high school teacher at Ursuline Academy in 1981, Brown first brought her American Studies students to the Village to examine architecture and spend the day there. She continued to bring students for five years and then brought her daughter, Isabel, to camps at the Village. One of her fondest memories is watching her then 6-year-old daughter, dressed historically, acting out a scene from the book “All-of-a-Kind Family,” by Sidney Taylor, in the Village’s Blum House – where she still volunteers now at age 18 during

the Village’s Candlelight event. Seven years ago, Isabel first became a member of the Village’s Junior Historians, a group of student volunteers, ages 11-18, who share a love for history. Brown joined the board two years ago and serves on the Building and Grounds Committee. During the anniversary year, she is most looking forward to the Old Fashioned Fourth event and resurrecting some of the past events. The Village’s holiday Candlelight celebration has been a family favorite for 14 years.

“Dallas Heritage Village is a remarkable place to revisit Dallas’ history, learn the stories of its earlier citizens, and connect with some of Dallas’ vibrant art communities – story-tellers, actors and musicians,” added Brown. “In addition it’s quite wonderful that the Village has helped preserve the site of Dallas’ first public park. It’s a perfect venue for other civic functions.”

Brown notes that there is a gradual change in the variety of people visiting the Village and is excited about the new redevelopment of the Cedars. “It’s always exciting to see the students from Dallas area schools, but the numbers of young adults without children is always the surprise card – and wonderful.”