

**Municipal Court**  
2004 N. Cleveland St.



**Dayton Fire Dept**  
302 S. Cleveland St.



### Featured Dayton Texas Stars

**FREE ADMISSION!**

### OLD SCHOOL MUSEUM & LOG CABIN

**111 West Houston Street - Dayton**

**Open Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm**

The Old School Museum & Log Cabin are located at 111 West Houston St. across from post office

Dayton Historical Society members serve as hosts for visitors.

**For more history/information, visit:**

- Website: [daytontxhistory.com](http://daytontxhistory.com)
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DaytonTxHistory>



### Dayton Historical Society Meetings

6 P.M. on last Monday of month  
at Parker Hall (behind Old School Museum)  
Guest speaker program is preceded by a short  
business meeting and followed by refreshments.  
**Public is welcome!**

### To Rent Parker Hall

call Aline 713-927-1629 or Josh 832-233-3894

### Website & Newsletter Contact/Author

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# Dayton History News

## History of School Superintendents

Prominently mounted on the west wall of the meeting room inside Dayton's Old School Museum are photographs of the past and present school superintendents of Dayton Independent School District along with years when they served in that capacity beginning with the first superintendent, J. H. Hill (1911-1913).

*"By 1910, the town (Dayton) had a bank, two cotton gins, a weekly newspaper, and 750 inhabitants. Dayton was recorded as an incorporated municipality on May 3, 1911."*

*(<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/dayton-tx>)*

The DISD superintendents include:

- J. H. Hill (1911-1913)
- William Outlaw (1913-1917)
- E. K. Barden (1917-1923)
- Hugh Orten Davis (1923-1924)
- J. J. Brecheen (1924-1926)
- Fount Bright (1934-1936)
- V. W. Miller (1936-1945)
- Lloyd E. Gilbert (1945-1970)
- Kenneth Almond (1970-1985)
- Will O. Moore (1985-1996)
- Jack Shanks (1996-1998)
- Nancy Fuller (1999-2003)
- Greg Hayman (2003-2010)
- Michael S. Kuhrt (2010-2013)
- Dr. Jessica Johnson (2013-)



Among these school district leaders was Lloyd Elvy Gilbert who served the longest term as a superintendent of Dayton ISD – 25 years from 1945-1970.

Of the 15 current and past school superintendents, only 3 others have served in the capacity of 10 or more years – Kenneth Almond, Will Moore and Dr. Jessica Johnson (current).

**Lloyd Elvy Gilbert  
(1904-2000)**

Lloyd Elvy Gilbert was born in Leonard, Fannin County, Texas on 10 November 1904 to James Sanford Gilbert (1880-1931) and Mary Delia Ballard (1898-1955).

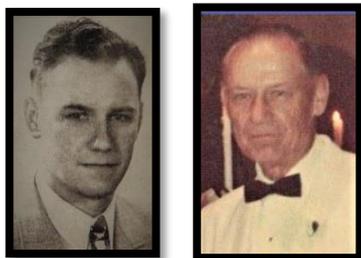
He was the youngest of 2 boys. His older brother was Horace Greeley Gilbert (1903-1984). Lloyd married Louise Thompson in 1940 and they were the parents of 4 children – Frances, Susan, Jim and Joe.

Per both the 1930 and 1940 census records, Lloyd had achieved his college degree and was single working as a music teacher in Commerce, Texas.

By the 1950 census, Lloyd was married, living in Dayton and working as school superintendent of Dayton Independent School District where he served for 25 years as superintendent in addition to being an instructor at San Jacinto Junior College in Pasadena.

A privilege he achieved was that of being the president of the Texas State Teachers Association – the oldest education organization in Texas founded in 1880.

Lloyd died 8 October 2000 and Louise died 30 August 2001. They are buried at Laurel Oaks Memorial Park in Mesquite.



**Lloyd Elvy Gilbert  
(1904-2000)**

**James Kenneth Almond  
(1929-2013)**

James Kenneth Almond was born 25 January 1929 in Port Arthur, TX to parents James Manuel Almond (1903-1990) and Dorothy Dessie Batson (1909-1988).

Kenneth’s father was a native of Keystone, LA and lived in Groves-Port Arthur for 40 years followed by Woodville for 32 years where he and Kenneth’s mother were buried at Magnolia Cemetery.

As of the 1940 U.S. Census, Kenneth was age 11 and living in Nederland along with his parents and sister. By 1944, Kenneth was playing football for Port Neches-Groves High School.

He served in the U.S. Marines during World War II and subsequently received his Bachelor’s degree and Masters in Education from SFASU.

Kenneth dedicated over 36 years to coaching football and administration – 20 years of which were in Dayton including 15 years as superintendent.

He married Arrie Nell Ross on 19 May 1951 in Orange, TX – a marriage that lasted 62 years until Kenneth’s death on 14 December 2013 in the Woodlands. A family ceremony was held on Mount Franklin in El Paso.



**James Kenneth Almond  
(1929-2013)**

**Will Owen Moore Jr.  
(1932-2005)**

Will Owen Moore, Jr. was born 31 October 1932 in Philadelphia, Mississippi - the elder of 2 boys (brother Brookshire Cooper Moore – 1917-1995) born to parents Will Owen Moore, Sr. (1912-1979) and Mildred Robinson (unknown).

He graduated from Humble High School, received an Associate of Arts from Lon Morris College, a Bachelor of Science from Stephen F. Austin State College and a Master of Education from Sam Houston State Teachers College.

Subsequently, Will served in the U.S. Army from 1955 until 1957 where he received the National Defense Service Medal.

He married E. Maureen Moore of Dayton with whom he had 3 children Jane Anne, Craig Owen and Laurie Lynne. Will was an active community member serving in a variety of clubs and associations.

Numerous honors in his name were granted including being recognized on the Dayton I.S.D. Wall of Fame and having the administration building named in his honor.

Will died at age 73 on 22 Nov. 2005 in Dayton and was buried at Rosewood Funeral Home/Cemetery in Humble.



**Will Owen Moore  
(1932-2005)**

**Jessica Allene Ford  
(2013-Present)**

Jessica Ford-Johnson was born and raised in Dayton – daughter of Milo Westel Ford Jr. (1918-2014) and Dorothy Fay Russell-Ford (1922-2013).

A 4<sup>th</sup> generation Dayton citizen, her father Milo was renowned for various accomplishments from being a graduate of Rice University to bank president and town mayor.

He and his wife Dorothy are buried at Magnolia Park Cemetery in Dayton.

Jessica’s education included an all-levels Bachelor of Science in PE from Lamar University in 1988, Generalist endorsement from Sam Houston State in 1990, Masters of Science from the University of Houston in Educational Leadership in 2002 and Educational Doctorate in Educational Leadership in 2007.

She worked at Dayton ISD from 1986 to 2007 in various roles including math teacher before accepting positions at Cleveland ISD and Sheldon ISD which gave her insights into an even wider variety of school functions.



**Jessica Ford-Johnson  
(1959- )**