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- Mike’s BBQ Restaurant
- New Day Massage
- Nottingham Alt. Education Center

**Interested? Contact Caroline Wadzeck
936-402-3797 or cwadzeck@hotmail.com**

Historical Society

The Society meets in Parker Hall at 6 P.M. the last Monday of each month for a historical program presented by guest speakers. The program is preceded by a Society business/project status meeting and followed by refreshments.

Newsletter or Website Contact Information

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<http://daytonxhistory.com>

Rent Parker Hall For Your Event

To reserve Parker Hall, contact: **713-927-1629** or **832-233-3894**

Old School Museum

The Old School Museum is located next to Parker Hall at 111 West Houston St. in Dayton and is open Saturdays from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.

Dayton History News

The W. T. Jamison Family

The Jamison family has made an indelible mark on the history of Dayton – which began with the arrival of William Thomas (W.T.) Jamison Sr.

On May 3, 1911, Dayton became an incorporated municipality. One of the four town aldermen working with Dayton’s first mayor, W. M. Babcock, was W. T. Jamison Sr.

He was born in Angleton, Texas on September 22, 1878 to Sloan Jamison and Sallie Brumer. His paternal grandparents, William Jamison and Sarah Sloan, were both born in Ireland.

Note that his birth was only 32 years after Texas went from operating as a sovereign country to being part of the United States in 1846. Parts of Texas still had actively manned forts to protect Texans from Indian raids.

W.T.’s World War I draft registration card dated September 12, 1918 indicates that he was a bank cashier at Dayton State Bank which had been established on March 7, 1907.

His World War II draft registration card dated April 27, 1942 confirms that he was still employed at Dayton State Bank – where he worked for the rest of his career.

Allene Solomon became W.T.’s bride around 1915. Her parents were Emmett Wales Solomon (1851-1942) and Mamie Allen (1848-1927).



**Jamison gravestone
Magnolia Park Cemetery**

Allene’s father, Emmett, served as a Methodist minister for 76 years and was recognized as the Dean of American Methodist preachers.

W.T. and Allene had 4 children:

- Louise (1918-2000) was buried in Dayton Palms Memorial Park.
 - Allene (1922-2010) was buried in Edna Cemetery in Edna, Texas.
 - Bill (1927-2010) was buried in Dayton Magnolia Park Cemetery.
 - Bob (1930-2012) was buried in Dayton Magnolia Park Cemetery.
- W. T. died April 15, 1962 at age 83 and Allene died December 28, 1973 at age 84. Both are buried at Dayton’s Magnolia Park Cemetery.



Original Dayton State Bank

James Robert “Bob” Jamison

Dayton is and has been home to a variety of incredibly fascinating people such as James Robert “Bob” Jamison.

He was born and raised in Dayton. After graduating from Dayton High School, he went on to receive a Bachelor’s degree in Finance from Huntsville’s Sam Houston University.

He also served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and with the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF) in Paris, France.

Ultimately, the youngest son of William Thomas (W.T.) Jamison Sr. followed in the footsteps of his father and utilized his Finance degree at Dayton State Bank as President for several decades.

He had a keen ability to assess the character of people wanting to borrow money and the level of risk for the debt to be repaid.

Bob practiced his faith in Jesus Christ as a Sunday school teacher at Dayton’s First United Methodist Church in addition to participating on the church’s Board of Stewards and Administrative Council.

He loved the outdoors which manifested in his being an avid sportsman and conservationist as well as being State Chairman of Ducks Unlimited and serving on its National Board. Be it hunting, fishing, flying or traveling – Bob was enthusiastic about all things outdoors.

He served on the Dayton Volunteer Fire Department for 25 years in

addition to being a member of the Dayton City Council.

He was awarded “Citizen of the Year” by the Liberty-Dayton Chamber of Commerce.

In spite of all his benevolent expressions of service, Bob was probably most widely known for his writing skills expressed through a variety of newspapers, magazines and sporting publications.

Precious to those who love history is his book *“Airplanes, Alligators and Hi-Fin Blues”* published in 2001 by Morgan Printing.

A short excerpt quoted from the chapter entitled *“Santa, His Reindeer Airplane, and the Dayton Volunteer Fire Department”* is provided in this newsletter to illustrate Bob’s ability to iterate Dayton history in an incredibly entertaining way.



**James Robert “Bob” Jamison
(1930-2012)**

***Santa, His Reindeer Airplane,
and the Dayton Volunteer Fire Department****

“Dayton is a small town of fewer than 6000 people but with a higher per capita ratio of genuine characters than you’ll likely find anywhere.

The town is about five miles from Liberty, the seat of Liberty County, in Southeast Texas - just a little east of Houston and a little north of Galveston Bay.

We raise a lot of rice, pump a little oil, and make time for the truly important things of life like hunting and fishing.

I guess you can say Dayton is as different from Belize as you can imagine. About the only things we share in common are humidity and alligators.

Since its earliest days, the town of Dayton has had the protection of a fire department composed entirely of volunteers.

Most early Texas communities started out the same way, depending upon business and professional men and townspeople equipped with no more than buckets of water which they passed from hand to hand.

Nothing sparks a community’s realization of its need for a fire department like a really destructive fire. Dayton had two.

The 1913 fire was well before my time, but some early Daytonites still remember being told how winds whipped the flames from one wooden building to the next in the downtown business block.

The blaze gutted the saloon - which also served as a popular social gathering place - and the Hunnicutt Hotel on Depot Street. Dayton was not alone when it came to destructive fires.

As newly discovered oil fields offered a chance at prosperity, many newcomers moved into hastily

constructed temporary houses, shacks and tin buildings crowded into the business block and around the depot.

Liberty citizens, realizing the potential for fire, met to discuss ‘the question of providing some means of fire protection.’

About a week later, the Liberty City Council voted to buy the town’s ‘first piece of fire-fighting equipment - a combination chemical and hose car’

The new unit, with the ‘engine mounted on a pretty red Ford chassis, fully equipment with ladders, lanterns [and] hose arrived ... with the gong ringing and siren sounding.’

The people of Liberty were justified in their concern. On August 1, 1925, less than two months after the new unit arrived, fire broke out and consumed much of the business block.

Only an occasional brick building or a street checked the flames. The new ‘pretty red’ fire truck was not enough.

Telephone operators in Liberty sent out SOS calls to Dayton, asking for volunteers.

Soon the road ‘was a solid procession of vehicles bringing men and boys to the conflagration.

Their assistance in the bucket lines and with the moving vans was deeply appreciated by the entire city.’

Another fire, almost as destructive, broke out in Dayton around Christmas time in 1929. About half a foot of snow covered the ground. Once again, bucket brigades were not enough.

Clearly Dayton needed more protection than a crowd of people wielding water buckets could provide. The town needed a fire department composed of men who could respond as an organized body with a common purpose.

The need led to the formation of the Dayton Volunteer Fire Department.”

*quote from pgs. 43-45 *Airplanes, Alligators & Hi-Fin Blues* by J. R. “Bob” Jamison