



A note about
SKETCHES OF KATE JAMES

“What makes them special is her keen sense of detail—how church services and school lessons were conducted; what games children played; what sort of clothing people wore and how it was made; how the early homes were furnished and cared for; what crops and animals were raised...These details form the basic fabric of pioneer life, yet they seldom made their way into newspapers, letters, or traditional histories because everyone took them for granted.”

– **Michael V. Hazel, Ph.D.**,
Editor of *Legacies:*
A History Journal for Dallas and
North Central Texas



Garland Landmark Society, Inc.
PO Box 462232
Garland, Texas 75046

Garland Landmark Society, Inc.
proudly announces
our publication of

SKETCHES OF
KATE JAMES:
DALLAS COUNTY PIONEER



Edited by
Michael R. Hayslip

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SKETCHES OF KATE JAMES: DALLAS COUNTY PIONEER

WHETHER YOU HAVE GARLAND connections or a general historical interest in early Texas, you will definitely prize *Sketches of Kate James: Dallas County Pioneer*.

Kate James saw northeast Dallas County for the first time in the fall of 1855, when she looked out of the family wagon as a three-year-old. During the next 76 years she matured, married, raised a family and died within six miles of the site at which she arrived. Though plagued from her youth with progressive hearing loss, Kate recorded her lifetime of observations with monographs about friends, family and activities in the neighborhood of present Garland, Texas.

Building on 13 stand-alone commentaries serialized by *The Garland News* in 1927, editor Michael R. Hayslip has added other works, many originals of which he assembled as Kate's great-great grandson. "Make all needed corrections," she added, so he's attempted just that with topical arrangement.

Readers of all ages will discover Kate's "good looking [schoolmates] who never had to work," but later robbed trains as members of the Sam Bass gang. They will also meet her first cousin, a Union general, whom Kate omitted from public writings in her Confederate surroundings. And many will reflect on how the pioneers ever survived the hardships of the Blackland Prairie.