

A Very Big Project

Pete Malmberg, Museum Curator

A small number of clubs, fraternal organizations, food pantries and other groups have emerged from the turmoil of the last few years with very active members who are tackling some big projects. One of these groups, the Dallas County educators of the Nu Alpha Gamma Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, has been a big help to Forest Park Museum.

This group was established in 1956 and has been very involved in awarding college scholarships to education majors, awarding grants to Dallas County educators to promote literacy in their classrooms, and supporting the local women's crisis center. They also developed the interactive audio exhibit in the Alton School in 2018.



A one-room schoolhouse that was located in Washington Township, Dallas County

The Alton School project has been very well received by Forest Park visitors. In addition to creating the audio, the group made visual displays and maps of some of the other long-forgotten schools around the county. These displays complement several graphics and signs about the history of the Alton School.

Now, in the fall of 2023, Nu Alpha Gamma Chapter is launching what may be the most ambitious project since it was founded. The group is working with historians throughout Dallas County to identify the location of the over 140 one-room schools that dotted the landscape from 1847-1961. Using a series of articles sharing what is known about the locations to date, the group is reaching out for additional

information. This will be used to gauge the interest in plotting all of the one-room school locations throughout the county and marking them with appropriate signage.

Watch for their articles in local news outlets and on the Dallas County Conservation Board website. If you have any information about these schools, such as their location or stories of students who attended them, the group would like to hear from you. Please contact Myrna Griffith at wpldirector@minburncomm.net, Sue Leslie at densueles@aol.com, or Deanette Snyder at deanettesnyder@gmail.com.