

# DALMATIAN CITY HISTORY

It was in 1695 that a young Dutch orphan boy by the name of Herbert Dekker came to the new world colonies to seek peace, solitude and the freedom of being on his own. By the spring of 1703 he felt that the colonies were getting restrictive and over populated. During the eight years he had been here he learned how to hunt, fish, farm, forage off the land and how to build a respectable shelter from the materials at hand.

He asked the community to support him by supplying him with the essential necessities to exist on his own. Because he had worked with the community to make it thrive they reluctantly agreed to help him leave, even though they would miss him. So it was that Herbert left 'civilization' with all the implements that he thought he would need on two pack mules and a horse that he and his cat rode, looking for a more serene life.

Herbert, and his cat named Companion, headed west and a little south. Days turned into weeks and weeks turned into months as he meandered further and further. During his travels Herbert met and made friends with the natives who were curious about this lone white man in the wilderness. Some told him of a far away place where nothing seemed to live.

This he thought would be the land for him.

Late in the year of 1703, Herbert believed that he had found the land that he was looking for. It was quiet. Very, quiet. No birds, no animals. The land had low rolling hills, trees and rocky ground. By and by he found a creek. This, he was sure, would be his new home.

He and Companion got down from his horse and went to the creek. The cat quickly drank from the creek and suddenly died. Herbert found out why the natives, birds and animals did not live here. The water in the creek was poisonous. He was very depressed at the loss of Companion, but decided that this would be the place he would live.

He buried Companion and found a suitable location to build his homestead a few miles from the creek, which he named Kat Kill. Herbert's new home would be in the center of an area that measured approximately six miles by six miles with Kat Kill at the southern boundary of his land.

Over the years that followed, Herbert Dekker was very happy. He survived off the land with his skills as a woodsman. Hunting and fishing was done far from his home. Farming was difficult in the rocky ground, but the soil was rich and his food grew bountifully. It was not an easy life, but it was a good life for him. Once or twice a year strangers would pass by. They would move on when Herbert told them about the land and his desire to be alone. Many, as time went on settled outside of his property, as they also liked the peace and solitude of the land.

Over fifty years passed and now many settlers had gathered into a community outside of Herbert's land known as Kat Kill. By now he even welcomed the settlers because they felt as he did and he was now becoming an old man.

One day there was a terrible fire in the woods and many homes were destroyed and many settlers died. But as miracles do happen from time to time, a Dalmatian Dog saved a baby from the fire. The dog brought the child to Herbert's home.

In the days that followed the tragedy, no one knew the identity of the child. Herbert agreed to adopt the child if another would raise it, for he was elder at 72. He had prospered and lived a long time and wanted to give something back to the growing community. He also kept the dog to replace his long lost Companion.

Herbert decreed that on August 3, 1754 that there should be a party for the baby and the dog, and that the entire community should celebrate. During the party he announced the baby's name shall be Phillip Herbert, and that to honor the heroic dog he was changing the name of his reserve to Dalmatian, and that Kat Kill would be no more.

As Dalmatian came together to raise the child and Herbert provided for all the needs, a strange thing happened. The water in the creek was somehow purified and was cold, sweet and very delicious. Fish grew and were plentiful. Wild life came to the woods and hunting was easy. The stones in the ground were found to be shallow and easily removed. Crops grew swiftly. There was prosperity for all and the community grew.

As more years passed, the child grew and learned. Herbert, now 87, was a very old man, but he had joy and happiness over what was happening. Dalmatian was a kind Village, then a town and later became a City.

Herbert died at the age of 88, in 1774, just as it looked like the Colonies would seek their Independence from all rulers beyond the Shores of the New World. After the War of Independence, this area grew rapidly. Before long Dalmatian was the hub of this growing community. It became a city with a reputation of great splendor. The City of Dalmatian became the seat of the county of East Cupcake, in what was later to become the State of Confusion, in the country of Never Never Land.

During the 1850's the governing fathers of Dalmatian tried in vain to get the builders of a new transportation system, called a railroad, to serve the City, but the Big Boys Conglomerate Railroad wanted no part of Dalmatian. The BBCR built their line away from Dalmatian but said later they would build a branch line to Dalmatian and into the forest beyond for the lumber. When the branch was built, in 1869, it went west of the city and not through it. This angered the city officials greatly. Dalmatian built a rail yard next to the branch and forced the BBCR to make connections to the yard and serve it, through a court order. The City of Dalmatian got into the railroad business and built a railroad to serve the city. It was named the Dalmatian Switching District.

The BBCR called this Needless Yard, for there was no business at Dalmatian. The court order angered the BBCR and over the years service was not with a smile. The arrangement did turn out to be very rewarding for the BBCR from all the businesses that either originated or terminated cars in Dalmatian.

Herbert Dekker's fortunes passed on to Phillip Herbert. Phillip worked, over the years, with the community and so did his heirs. The Herbert family had built up an outstanding freight business and contributed over half of the money to build the railroad into the city. They knew that if they prospered from

the railroad so would the city. And as Dalmatian grew so would they. Other businesses in the city today are; F.A.T. Meat, Scatee Fish Company, Splitz Lumber, The Dalmatian Daily Tattler, Lasting Sole, Black Sheep Woolens, Good Nite Mattress Company, Bauers' Better Butter, Spink's Dehydrated Water Works, Will Wosties Wonder Widget Works, I. B. Wilted Produce, Udder Farms Dairy, Fragmented Distributors, Soggy Cereals, The Foo Bar Candy Company, Bounce Spring, The Bagly Bag Company and The Foam Company.

As time has gone on other business on the branch have dwindled to nothing, other than what the City of Dalmatian and the Town of Argyle could provide. With the remembrance of the Court Order to serve Dalmatian the BBCR thought it could get rid of the problem altogether. They announced in 1950 that they were going to abandon the branch, because there was no profit in it.

Meetings were held in Dalmatian and Argyle. They wanted the branch to be saved. Again the BBCR said no. With that they said the last outbound train would be on April 1, 1950. The angered citizens went to court again and had the branch condemned. They asked the Court to set a Fair Market Value for the BBCR's Branch. The BBCR was not happy again and it was not cooperative with the Court. The Courts in Never Never Land did not like this very much and they set a price for the branch of \$1.00 per mile with the additional order that the connection at Calico Junction be left in place for as long as the BBCR or any of its successor Companies are in business. Service at the Junction would be adequate to meet the needs of the new owner of the branch, The Dalmatian and Calico Junction Railroad. Service quality would be overseen by the Court for as long as there was a Railroad Company. The BBCR had lost its final round and caved in to all of the orders for they saw that they would never win. Big Business was to finally serve the little guy, and the courts would see that it happened.

Our clock has stopped, in 1953. The Dalmatian Switching District is a prosperous entity for the City of Dalmatian and allows the city to have very little in the way of taxes charged to the citizens. The Dalmatian and Calico Junction Railroad is doing well also and contributing to the new owners. The D&C RR runs from Calico Junction to Infinity.