

No Dancing in our Community

By Missy Cox Jones

When I was just a small child and we had moved back to Comanche County from West Texas, my brother Wilburn Cox was 18 years old and my sister Geneva Cox was 14 years old. My parents were William Cornelius Cox and Minnie Steward Cox. We were living near the community of Creamer, about half way between Comanche and Gustine in Comanche County.

This community was made up of farmers, and most had several children. There was a very popular Methodist church at Creamer and everyone, regardless of their church affiliation went to that church. There were probably 25 young people, and they were all great friends. Everyone was probably pretty poor, but as everyone was in the same boat, nobody thought anything about their money, or lack of it.

One thing the parents didn't want, they didn't want their children dancing. They considered this "the work of the devil". So, and I have no idea how this all came about, the young people would get together and play "ring games".

The parents didn't know it, but this was just about like square dancing. There was a caller, and my sister Geneva talked about this. She said that a young man named Bernice Stokes was usually their "caller". She said, "I can just hear him, singing, or calling:

"Rock old Dinah, Shoo, Shoo,
Rock old Dinah, Shoo
All in a motion, Shoo, Shoo
All in a motion, Shoo, Shoo.

And she said when he called out, "All in a motion", they would promenade just like the square dancers would.

Now, the house where we lived had two big post oak trees in the front yard. No, no electricity at any of the homes. My Daddy would hang up two lanterns on those big trees, so the young people would have plenty of light for their "ring games".

And, don't tell anyone, but my sister Geneva could do the Charleston, the Schottische, and other dances. How about that?