

## **The Henley Family Farm**

When Patti Smith moved to Coppell in 2003 she never dreamed she was returning to her roots.

While researching family history, Smith came across her great, great grandfather's death certificate. Written in neat cursive, the paper recorded that one Charles E. Crook, originally of Jackson, Mississippi, died on August 29, 1938 at 11:30 p.m. in Coppell.

The discovery lead Smith on a hunt that uncovered a 40-acre family farm, which once sat at the corner of present day S.H. 121 and Sandy Lake Road. The property was purchased by Crook's daughter, Margaret Crook Henley, and her husband Charles Henley in 1933. It served the family as a weekend getaway from the hectic pace of life in Dallas.

Charles Henley made his living as an insurance salesmen, while Margaret's primary vocation was homemaker, raising the couple's two children. She occasionally performed seamstress work and even taught dance classes. The passion for dance ran in the family. Margaret's daughter Margie eventually left the sleepy world of Coppell to work as a professional dancer in New York.

Old family movies reveal that a house, barn and water tower were built on the property. The Henley's also had a fondness for riding and kept a number of horses on the land, which remained in the family until 1968.

For Smith, these discoveries have spurred a passion for uncovering her family story, as well as for the town they called home.