

# Billy W. Sills Center for Archives/FWISD

*presents*

## *Ruth Karbach*

“Reforming the Women of Hell’s Half Acre:  
Delia Collins’ Home”



Back in the mid-1800s, there was an oasis of bawdy pleasures in Fort Worth that was called “Hell’s Half-Acre.” It was a place you went if you were a cattle drover dusty and dry from long days on the trail, a gunman looking for trouble, or a con man or card shark seeking profit. There was gambling, strong drink and shady ladies eager to scratch lusty itches.

The infamous and rambunctious activity of “The Acre” did not go unnoticed by the good citizens of Fort Worth. They were disapproving, but they were also concerned about the welfare of souls who lived there, especially the women involved in prostitution. One of the most concerned was Delia Collins, the leader of the Woman’s Christian Temperance League in Fort Worth.

Join us on Saturday morning, January 19, to learn the story of the valiant efforts of Delia Collins and other temperance workers to rescue the “fallen women” of Fort Worth’s Hell’s Half Acre from the clutches of prostitution and drug and alcohol addiction.

Ruth Karbach, historian, author and community volunteer, will share her research into the 19<sup>th</sup> century struggle of Delia Collins and her group to rid Fort Worth of its enclave of sin and to free and reform the ladies of the night who worked there.

Join us for coffee and “nibbles” beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Saturday morning, January 19

10:00 to 12:00

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**NO ADMISSION FEE**

