

L1900.1 G286rea 1991

d



Genealogical
Resources
at the
Texas State Library

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
AT ARLINGTON
LIBRARY
JUL 23 1991

TEXAS
DOCUMENT

UT ARLINGTON LIBRARIES



3 1334 00995 8030



Published by the Information Services Division
May 1991



Introduction

This guide is designed to inform potential researchers about genealogical resources available at the Texas State Library. A general overview of each collection is provided. Patrons may obtain more information by writing, calling, or visiting the State Library.

A Word of Advice

The key to successful genealogical research is patience. Beginners must realize that research is often complex and time-consuming. A complete family history cannot be constructed in an afternoon. In fact, dedicated researchers may spend years tracing a particular family line.

To simplify the process beginners should first learn about the methods involved in genealogical research. Numerous books are available to provide information on good research techniques and search strategies. The following titles, suggested to help the beginning researcher, are available in the Genealogy Collection of the Texas State Library and in many public and academic libraries.

Andereck, Paul and Richard Pence. *Computer Genealogy*. Ancestry, Inc., 1985.

Doane, Gilbert H. and James B. Bell. *Searching for Your Ancestors: the How and Why of Genealogy*. University of Minnesota Press, 1980.

Greenwood, Val D. *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy*. Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc., 2nd ed., 1990.

Linder, Bill R. *How to Trace Your Family History*. Everest House Publications, 1978.

Stratton, Eugene A. *Applied Genealogy*. Ancestry, Inc., 1988.

Stryker-Rodda, Harriet. *How to Climb Your Family Tree: Genealogy for Beginners*. Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc., 1987.

Genealogical Resources at the Texas State Library

Three divisions of the Texas State Library contain materials of interest to genealogists:

- I. Information Services Division
(including the Genealogy Collection and Reference Services)
- II. Archives Division
- III. Local Records Division

Information on each of these divisions follows. With this guide, we hope to encourage the widest possible use of the Library's genealogical resources.



INFORMATION SERVICES/ GENEALOGY COLLECTION

The primary location of genealogical information in the Texas State Library is the Genealogy Collection. Materials in the collection are shelved in open stacks and are available for direct use by the public. Researchers will find microforms, books, periodicals, and family file material.

Microforms

Federal Population Census Schedules and Soundex - The Collection owns all available census schedules for all states from 1790 through 1910. (Most of the 1890 census was destroyed by fire in 1921.)

The usefulness of the census is enhanced by a large collection of printed census indexes and by Soundex microfilm. The Soundex filing system is based on an alphanumeric code that groups together names of the same and similar sounds but of variant spellings. The Genealogy Collection has Soundex for the following years and states:

1880: Texas, Mississippi, South Carolina

1900: Texas, Oklahoma Territory, Indian Territory, Institutions, and U.S. Military and Naval Forces

1910: Texas

Special Schedules: 1890 Census Enumerating Union Veterans and Widows of Union Veterans of the Civil War - This official record of Union veterans and widows provides information about individual military service, including the veteran's rank, company, regiment or vessel, date of enlistment, date of discharge, and length of service in years, months, and days.

Texas Mortality Schedules: 1850-1880 - These schedules include information on all persons who died within the twelve (12) months preceding the census, including date and cause of death. These schedules predate vital records and contain more than thirteen percent of all deaths in Texas for the period covered.

Texas Agricultural Schedules: 1850-1880 - Exact information in the schedules varies from year to year but will include data on the quantity and value of acreage, machinery, livestock, and produce.

Texas County Tax Rolls - Yearly tax rolls are available from the formation date of each county through approximately 1979. They are arranged alphabetically by the taxpayer's name under each year. Tax rolls do not give genealogical data but do provide the name of the taxpayer, the amount of land and personal property owned, and the amount of tax paid.

Military Records - Military service records on microfilm include:

1. Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers During the Mexican War from Texas, 1846-1848. These records are arranged alphabetically by name under each company, such as Mounted Rifles and 1st Mounted Volunteers.
2. Index to Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers from Texas. This is a name index for Texas Confederate military service records which are housed in the National Archives.

Texas Voter Registers, 1867-1869 - After the Civil War, citizens of seceded states had to sign a loyalty oath to qualify to vote. In some cases, the entries give the number of years the voter had lived in the state, county, and precinct; whether the voter was a native or naturalized; home address and place of birth.

Naturalization Records - An index to Naturalization Records found in Texas State District and County Courts from approximately 1846 to 1939. These records were in the custody of the San Antonio District Office of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. Each entry gives subject's name, birth date or age, country of allegiance, where the record is located, date of the proceeding, and whether the record is a petition, declaration, or affidavit.

Port of Galveston Records - The index and lists contain information from approximately 1896 through 1951. Entries are for passengers arriving at Texas Gulf ports and clearing U.S. Customs. Information includes name, age, sex, vessel's name, country of citizenship, and last residence.

Archives of Nuevo Leon - The history of this region in northeastern Mexico is closely interrelated with that of Texas. The Archives contain a variety of records of genealogical interest created between 1713 and 1966. The records are in Spanish.

Nacogdoches Archives - This major Hispanic collection has been reorganized into its original order. Entrance certificates and citizenship applications are heavily used by genealogists. The Archives are in Spanish and cover the years 1756-1836.

Books

Materials are selected on the basis of their usefulness to genealogists. Patrons will find books that contain genealogical data and books that help guide them to information in other sources. The Collection also includes material on how to begin genealogical research, the origins of family names, heraldry, research in foreign countries, and family histories.

The Collection's emphasis on the Southern states reflects migration patterns to Texas. Patrons will find extensive materials on Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Kentucky, and Tennessee. There is also a strong New England collection. Important holdings include:

- *Alabama Records*
- *American Genealogical-Biographical Index*
- *Archives of Maryland*
- *Colonial and State Records of North Carolina*
- *Daughters of the American Revolution Lineage Books*
- *Massachusetts Vital Records*
- *Pennsylvania Archives*
- *E. G. Swem's Virginia Historical Index and a complete set of the materials it indexes*

In addition, patrons will find a comprehensive collection of Texas genealogical materials, including marriage records, cemetery records, and county histories.

Texas Collection

A collection of general interest books on Texas, including biographies and county histories, is maintained within the Genealogy Collection. Some of this material may be of interest to genealogists. Materials in the Texas Collection are available for loan to local users (residents of Travis, Hays, and Williamson Counties) with a valid borrower's card. They are also available for loan to libraries throughout the state and nation.

Texas Birth and Death Indexes

The Genealogy Collection has indexes to Texas birth and death certificates covering 1903 through 1976 and "probate" or delayed birth indexes covering approximately 1880 through 1960. The indexes were produced by the Bureau of Vital Statistics of the Texas Department of Health.

The law providing for registration of births and deaths went into effect in 1903 but was not mandatory until 1921. Many births went completely unrecorded before that date, especially if they occurred in rural areas. Some births and deaths may have been recorded only in the county where the event occurred. An individual who established a birth record later in life may be listed in the "probate," or delayed birth indexes.

The birth and death indexes, arranged alphabetically by surname, include the following information: name, county of birth or death, date of birth or death, and certificate number at the Bureau of Vital Statistics.

The Genealogy Collection does not house birth or death certificates. Patrons may obtain copies of birth or death certificates by sending a fee of \$8.00 per certificate to the Bureau of Vital Statistics, 1100 W. 49th Street, Austin, Texas 78756.

Periodicals

Patrons will find a collection of periodicals published by major American genealogical societies and quarterly publications from most Texas county and area genealogical societies. Periodical titles of major importance include *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, *Virginia Genealogist*, *Kentucky Genealogist*, *Family Puzzlers*, *New Orleans Genesis* and the quarterly publication of the Texas State Genealogical Society, *Stirpes*.

Vertical File

More than 2,500 files of loose manuscript materials are available. These materials, on many subjects and families, are arranged alphabetically. Types of materials found in these files include family charts, clippings, maps, and pamphlets on research facilities in other states.

Equipment

Microfilm and microfiche readers are available for patron use. A two-hour limit on use of readers may be imposed during peak periods. A coin-operated reader-printer is available for making copies from microfilm at a cost of 25¢ per page.

Two coin-operated photocopiers are available in the Genealogy Collection. Copies are 10¢ per page.

A bill changer for \$1 and \$5 bills is also available.

Staff Services

Staff members will provide orientations to the collection, assist in locating and using materials, and direct patrons to useful resources outside the Genealogy Collection. Patrons are expected to conduct actual research themselves. A current list of professional researchers is available on request.

Mail Requests

Staff members will search indexed materials in response to specific requests. They cannot, however, do extensive research by mail. When requesting information by mail, please write concisely, make specific requests, and type or print all names and places legibly.

There is a minimum charge of \$1.00 for photocopies or reader-printer copies provided through the mail. **DO NOT SEND CHECKS OR CASH WITH REQUESTS.** The Genealogy staff will include an invoice for the exact amount with the response.

Weekend Checkout

The Genealogy Collection is a reference collection and materials normally do not circulate; however, a limited weekend checkout service is available to local residents. Patrons may check out materials only after 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays. Those materials must be returned by 9:00 a.m. the following day of operation (usually a Tuesday). Census indexes, birth and death indexes, microfilm, and items the staff considers too fragile are excluded from the checkout policy.

Interlibrary Loan

The staff will request genealogy materials on interlibrary loan for local residents. Many libraries will not lend genealogical materials, however, and the process of locating a library willing to lend may take several weeks. Complete information, including author, title, and publisher will speed the interlibrary loan process.

Only duplicates from the Genealogy Collection's book holdings circulate on interlibrary loan. All materials from the Texas Collection, however, are available on interlibrary loan to libraries throughout the state and the nation. In addition the following microfilmed materials are available for loan:

- Index to Texas Births, 1903-1976
- Index to Texas Deaths, 1903-1940
- Index to Texas Deaths, 1941-1945
- Index to Texas Deaths, 1946-1973
- Index to Texas Probate Births, approximately 1880-1940
- Texas County Tax Rolls (from the creation date of the county through 1901)

Any library may request this microfilm with a standard ALA interlibrary loan form. The 1903-1940 and 1941-1945 death indexes and the probate birth indexes are arranged alphabetically, so patrons must provide their local librarians with the specific surname. Requests for death index microfilm after 1945 and the 1903-1976 birth indexes must include the year as well as the surname. For tax rolls, patrons must provide the name of the county and the year(s) in which they are interested.

Gifts

The Genealogy Collection welcomes gifts of family history books but does not purchase them. Family histories are cataloged and become a permanent part of the library's holdings. Patrons may wish to consider donations to the Genealogy Collection to honor or memorialize a friend or relative. The staff will select a

INFORMATION SERVICES/ REFERENCE SERVICES

Reference Services maintains a library for state agency employees, and it serves as one of the two regional depositories in Texas for U.S. government documents. It also houses a permanent depository of Texas state documents.

Card Catalog

A card catalog uniting the holdings of the Genealogy Collection, the Archives Division, and Reference Services is maintained in Room 300. By consulting this catalog, patrons can find the Library's combined book holdings on any subject.

Reference Material Helpful to Genealogists

Genealogists working in other areas of the Texas State Library may find the general reference materials housed in Room 300 useful. These include biographical reference works, atlases, gazetteers, almanacs, dictionaries, and current Texas telephone directories.

Federal Documents

As a regional depository for U.S. government documents, Reference Services receives thousands of publications. Some of these government documents which are useful to genealogists, include:

The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies - This multi-volume publication includes an index that contains references to hundreds of Civil War soldiers mentioned in the records.

Territorial Papers of the United States - These papers are the official records of the territories, including the Northwest Territory, Mississippi, Illinois, Indiana, Orleans, Michigan, Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Wisconsin, and Louisiana. The information includes petitions from settlers, land claims, and tax rolls. Each volume is indexed.

American State Papers - Publications of the first twenty-five congresses, from 1789 to 1838, are contained in thirty-eight volumes. Included are pension records of Revolutionary War soldiers, as well as land claims in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Georgia, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, and Mississippi. Information may include an individual's name and location of land or place of residence when the claim was made. An index to these papers and *Grassroots of America* is available in the Genealogy Collection. A microfilm copy of many volumes is also available.

Library Cards

With proper identification, residents of Hays, Travis, and Williamson Counties may obtain borrower's cards. A borrower's card entitles a patron to check out circulating materials for a four-week period. Patrons outside these counties may borrow circulating materials on interlibrary loan through their local public library.



ARCHIVES DIVISION

The State Archives Division houses the permanently valuable, non-current records of Texas government. Both the government records and those private manuscript collections acquired over the years provide a vital resource for anyone researching family or local history.

Government records include colonial, republic, and state documents spanning a period from the mid-eighteenth century to the present. They include statistical abstracts of county government activities, application forms for government benefits, vouchers and warrants, muster rolls, election returns, agency correspondence, newspapers, photographs, and maps. Manuscript collections include the personal papers of many individuals prominent in Texas history.

Most state documents are filed in the order that they were received or maintained by government agencies; however, many records commonly used by genealogists are indexed by surname for easy access.

Researchers will need to consult the records of a number of different agencies in order to locate all records dealing with a particular individual. Which agency records to consult will be determined largely by when and where a person lived in Texas; however, state government records rarely call for information about anyone except the person with whom an agency is transacting business.

Since records in the State Archives are unique and irreplaceable, persons wishing to work with original records are required to complete a short registration form. All personal belongings are kept locked in individual lockers. Pencils and paper for note taking are provided by the division.

Staff will personally assist researchers at the State Archives. For telephone and mail requests, the staff will conduct limited searches for records of public individuals for a definite location and time period.

Copy facilities are available and patrons may bring their own cameras and equipment to make photographic copies of original documents.

LOCAL RECORDS DIVISION

The Local Records Division administers the State Library's program to preserve permanently valuable records originated at the local level. Its activities are extremely important to genealogists researching Texas county records.

The Local Records Division coordinates a statewide network of twenty-four archival facilities called Regional Historical Resource Depositories. These depositories maintain original and microfilm copies of marriage, deed, probate, naturalization, and other records important to genealogists. Researchers may request a temporary transfer of original records to any depository in the network or to the Texas State Library. Microfilm records may be transferred to any public library in the nation through interlibrary loan.

Texas County Records: A Guide to the Holdings of the Local Records Division of the Texas State Library of County Records on Microfilm, produced by the Local Records Division, is a useful resource for genealogists researching in Texas. *Texas County Records* is a county by county inventory which lists the type of record, the date and volume number of the record, and the microfilm reel number. Additional sections list the depository for each county with complete address and telephone information. The guide is available for use in public service areas of the library.

TEXAS STATE LIBRARY

1201 Brazos

Box 12927

Austin, Texas 78711-2927

INFORMATION SERVICES DIVISION

Genealogy Collection

Room 110

Hours: 8:00-5:00 Tuesday through Saturday

(512) 463-5463

Reference Services

Room 300

Hours: 8:00-5:00 Monday through Friday

(512) 463-5455

ARCHIVES DIVISION

Room 100

Hours: 8:00-5:00 Monday through Friday

(512) 463-5480

LOCAL RECORDS DIVISION

Room 402

Hours: 8:00-5:00 Monday through Friday

(512) 463-5478

Parking is available, with a parking permit, on the north, south, and west sides of the State Library. Patrons can get a permit from the receptionist on duty in the first floor lobby Monday through Friday. Parking permits are not required on Saturday.