Texas
Research Outline

Table of Contents
Records Of The Family History Library
Family History Library Catalog
Archives And Libraries
Bible Records
Biography
Cemeteries
Census
Church Records
Court Records
Directories
Emigration And Immigration
Gazetteers
Genealogy
History
Land And Property
Maps
Military Records
Naturalization And Citizenship
Newspapers
Periodicals
Probate Records
Vital Records
For Further Reading
Comments And Suggestions
This outline describes major sources of information about families from Texas. As you read this outline, study the United States Research Outline (30972), which will help you understand terminology and the contents and uses of genealogical records.

RECORDS OF THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

The Family History Library has many of the records listed in this outline. The major holdings include vital, probate, land, court, history, military, church, cemetery, and naturalization records. Most of these have been microfilmed at the county courthouses.

Some of the sources described in this outline list the Family History Library's book, microfilm, and microfiche numbers. These are preceded by FHL, the abbreviation for Family History Library. These numbers may be used to locate materials in the library and to order microfilm and microfiche at Family History Centers.

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG

The library's records are listed in the Family History Library Catalog found at the library and at each Family History Center. To find a record, look in the locality search of the catalog for:

The place where your ancestor lived, such as:

UNITED STATES - CENSUS RECORDS
TEXAS - HISTORY
TEXAS, BEXAR - VITAL RECORDS
TEXAS, BEXAR, SAN ANTONIO - CHURCH RECORDS

The record type you want to search, such as:

UNITED STATES - CENSUS RECORDS
TEXAS - HISTORY
TEXAS, BEXAR - VITAL RECORDS
TEXAS, BEXAR, SAN ANTONIO - CHURCH RECORDS

The section headings in this outline match the names of record types used in the catalog.

ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

The following archives, libraries, and societies have collections or services helpful to genealogical researchers.

- Texas State Library and Archives Commission
  Genealogy Collection
  1201 Brazos St.
  P.O. Box 12927
  Austin, TX 78711-2927
  Telephone: 512-463-5463
  Fax: 512-463-3560
  E-mail: geninfo@tsl.state.tx.us
  Internet: www.tsl.state.tx.us/arc

Three divisions of the Texas State Library house materials of interest to genealogists: the Information Services, the Archives, and the Local Records divisions. The Information Services Division contains such records as published histories, vital record indexes, census records, and military records. The Archives Division preserves colonial, republic, and state government records, while the Local Records Division maintains valuable city and county government records. Microfilm copies of the city and county records are distributed among 26 Texas repositories.

A helpful guide to important sources at the Texas State Archives is Jean Carefoot, Guide to Genealogical Resources in the Texas State Archives (Austin, Tex.: Archives Division, Texas State Library, 1984; FHL book 976.4 A3cj 1984; a 1972 edition is on film 1,036,849 item 11).

The Texas State Library will loan selected materials from their Genealogy Collection. For a list of materials available for circulation, see Texas State Library, Texas State Library Circulating Genealogy Duplicates List (Austin, Tex.: Texas State Library, 1992; FHL book 976.4 A3t; 1985 edition is on fiche 6,047,934).

- National Archives—Fort Worth Branch
  501 West Felix Street
  Building 1, Dock 1
  P.O. Box 6216
  Fort Worth, TX 76115
  Telephone: 817-334-5525
  Fax: 817-334-5621
  Internet: http://www.archives.gov/southwest/
• Texas State Genealogical Society
  Internet: www.rootsweb.com/~txsgs/

• Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library
  P.O. Box 1401
  San Antonio, TX 78295-1401
  Telephone: 210-225-1071
  Fax: 210-212-8514
  Internet: www.drtl.org

• Rosenberg Library Archives
  2310 Sealy Avenue
  Galveston, TX 77550
  Telephone: 409-763-8854
  Internet: www.rosenberg-library.org

• Clayton Library
  Center for Genealogical Research
  5300 Caroline St.
  Houston, TX 77004
  Telephone: 832-393-2600

The Clayton Library has produced a series of subject
guides to their collection. The Family History Library
has copies of a number of these guides.

• Houston Public Library
  Houston Metropolitan Research Center
  500 McKinney Street
  Houston, TX 77002
  Telephone: 832-393-1313
  Fax: 832-393-1324
  Internet: www.houstonlibrary.org

• Dallas Public Library
  1515 Young Street
  Dallas, TX 75201
  Telephone: 214-670-1433
  Internet: http://dallaslibrary.org/

• Center for American History
  Sid Richardson Hall, 2.101
  University of Texas at Austin
  Austin, TX 78712
  Telephone: 512-495-4532
  Fax: 512-495-4542
  Internet: www.cah.utexas.edu

• Baylor University
  Texas Collection
  Carroll Building
  1 Bear Place # 97142
  Waco, TX 76798-7142
  Telephone: 254-710-1268
  Fax: 254-710-1368
  Internet: www.baylor.edu

To learn more about the history and record-keeping
systems of Texas counties, use the 24 inventories of
the county archives produced by the Historical
Records Survey around 1940. The Family History
Library has copies of all of these inventories.

The Texas County Records Inventory Project of North
Texas State University Center for Community Services
has produced more recent inventories of the records of
about a third of the state's counties. These can be
purchased from the Texas State Archives. The Family
History Library has copies of most of these
inventories. They are listed in the catalog under
TEXAS, [COUNTY] - ARCHIVES AND
LIBRARIES.

Computer Networks and Bulletin Boards

Computers with modems can be useful tools for
obtaining information from selected archives and
libraries. In a way, computer networks themselves
serve as a library. The Internet, certain computer
bulletin boards, and commercial on-line services help
family history researchers:

• Locate other researchers
• Post queries
• Send and receive e-mail
• Search large databases
• Search computer libraries
• Join in computer chat and lecture sessions

You can find computerized research tips and
information about ancestors from Texas in a variety of
sources at local, state, national, and international
levels. The list of sources is growing rapidly. Most of
the information is available at no cost.

Addresses on the Internet change frequently. As of
April 1997, the following sites are important gateways
linking you to many more network and bulletin board
sites:

• USGenWeb
  http://usgenweb.org/
  A cooperative effort by many volunteers to list
genealogical databases, libraries, bulletin boards,
and other resources available on the Internet for
each county, state, and country.

• Roots-L
  http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/roots-l/
  A useful list of sites and resources. Includes a
large, regularly-updated research coordination
list.
For further details about using computer networks, bulletin boards, and news groups for family history research, see the United States Research Outline (30972), 2nd ed., “Archives and Libraries” section.

**FamilySearch™**
The Family History Library and some Family History Centers have computers with FamilySearch. FamilySearch is a collection of computer files containing several million names. FamilySearch is a good place to begin your research. Some of the records come from compiled sources; some have been automated from original sources.

An increasing number of family history centers have access to the Internet. These services are also available at many public libraries, college libraries, and private locations.

**BIBLE RECORDS**

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) have copied many Bible records from Texas. Some of these have been microfilmed and are available at the Family History Library. A large set is on FHL films 227500-16. Some are listed separately in the catalog under the specific county or city they are from. Still others are part of the collection described in the “Genealogy” section of this outline.

They are partially indexed by E. Kay Kirkham, An Index to Some of the Bibles and Family Records of the United States, Vol. 2 (Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1984; FHL book Ref 973 D22kk v.2; 6,089,184).

**BIOGRAPHY**

Most of the major archives mentioned in the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline have collections of biographical materials.

An ongoing project to index more than 200 biographical and historical publications in the Texas Collection at Baylor University has produced the Biographical Gazetteer of Texas (Austin, Tex.: W.M. Morrison Books, 1985- vols. 1-6, alphabetical; FHL book 976.4 D3bg). The Family History Library acquires many published sources of biographical information. State, regional, and county histories often include helpful biographical sections. Representative biographical encyclopedias are:

* Bailey, Ernest Emory. Texas Historical and Biographical Record With a Genealogical Study of Historical Family Records. Austin, Tex.: Texas Historical and Biographical Record, N.d. (FHL film 873,974 item 2.)


* Davis, Ellis Arthur and Edwin H. Grobe. Encyclopedia of Texas. Dallas: Texas Development Bureau, 190? (FHL book 976.4 D3de; film 1,000,595 items 1-3; fiche 6,046,947; 1929 ed. on films 962,725-29 [larger print] or fiche 6,046,992.)


**CEMETERIES**

Two important collections of cemetery records are:


* Cemetery Records of Texas. 6 vols. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society, 1956-63. (FHL book 976.4 V3d; films 897,234-35.)

Lists of the cemeteries in each county that are included in the above collections are in Sherry Crofford-Gould, Texas Cemetery Inscriptions: A Source Index (San Antonio: Limited Editions, 1977; FHL book 976.4 A1 no. 56).

Some of the earliest burials in Texas are recorded in Mrs. Malcolm B. Biggerstaff, Four Thousand Tombstone Inscriptions from Texas, 1745-1870: Along the Old San Antonio Road and the Trail of Austin’s Colonists (Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society, 1952; FHL book 976.4 V3b).

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) collection also contains tombstone inscriptions from many Texas cemeteries. This collection is described in the “Genealogy” section of this outline.
CENSUS

Federal

Many federal census records are found at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The United States Research Outline provides more detailed information regarding these records.

The Family History Library has the U.S. federal censuses for the state of Texas from 1850 to 1920. The 1890 census has been destroyed. The 1890 Union veterans schedule and index are available at the Family History Library and at the National Archives. Statewide indexes are available for the 1850 and 1860 censuses in book and microfiche format. There are statewide indexes for 1870 and 1880 in book form. A Soundex (phonetic) index is available on microfilm for part of the 1880 and all of the 1900, 1910, and 1920 censuses. Many county indexes are available for the 1870 census.

Mortality schedules exist for the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses. The schedules for 1850 to 1870 are indexed in book format. The schedules and indexes are available at the Family History Library. The original records are at the Texas State Library. There are also copies at the National Archives.

Republic and State

Several censuses were taken in Texas prior to statehood, including censuses taken of many municipalities, and of some mission and military districts between 1792 and 1836. Many of the surviving records have been published, along with information from other records made at the time, in the following sources:


White, Gifford E. *1830 Citizens of Texas*. Austin, Tex.: Eakin Press, 1983. (FHL book 976.4 X2wh; fiche 6,051,297.)


The available mission censuses have been translated and are available on microfilm at the University of Texas, Institute of Texas Cultures, San Antonio, TX.

School censuses were taken in 1854 and 1855 by some counties. The original records are at the Texas State Archives. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of some school censuses. They are listed in the catalog under TEXAS, [COUNTY] - CENSUS.

CHURCH RECORDS

Before 1900 the largest religious groups in Texas were the Baptist, Methodist Episcopal, Roman Catholic, and Christian (Disciples of Christ).

The Family History Library has some church records for Texas. For example, the library has microfilm copies of original documents from the Catholic archives in El Paso, Galveston, and San Antonio. The records from the San Antonio archdiocese include 100 microfilms for the city of San Antonio for the years 1703 to 1957.

Many denominations have collected their records into central repositories. You can write to the following addresses to learn where their records are located.

Baptist

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
A. Webb Roberts Library
2001 West Seminary Drive
P.O. Box 22490
Fort Worth, TX 76122
Telephone: 817-923-1921 (ext. 3330)
Fax: 817-921-8765
Internet: www.swbts.edu

Baylor University
Moody Memorial Library
P.O. Box 97146
Waco, TX 76703
Telephone: 254-710-2111
Fax: 254-710-3116
Internet: www.baylor.edu/library

Disciples of Christ

Brite Divinity School Collection
Mary Couts Burnett Library
2800 South University Drive
Texas Christian University
Box 298130
Fort Worth, TX 76129
Telephone: 817-257-7575
Fax: 817-257-7305
Internet: www.brite.tcu.edu

Methodist

Center for Methodist Studies
United Methodist Historical Collection
Bridwell Library
Southern Methodist University
6005 Bishop Boulevard
P.O. Box 750476
Dallas, TX 75275
Telephone: 214-768-2000
Internet: www.smu.edu

For a history of the Methodist Church, see Macum Phelan, History of Early Methodism in Texas, 1817-1866 (Nashville: Cokesbury Press, 1924; FHL film 599,530).

Roman Catholic

Catholic Archives of Texas
1600 North Congress
Capitol Station P.O. Box 13327
Austin, TX 78711-3327
Telephone: 512-476-6296
Fax: 512-469-3715
Internet: http://www.onr.com/user/cat/

For a history of the Catholic Church, see Mary Angela Fitzmorris, Four Decades of Catholicism in Texas 1820-1860 (Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America, 1926; FHL book 976.4 A1 no. 21; film 924,684 item 3).

COURT RECORDS

Major Texas courts that kept records of genealogical value were established as follows:

Commissioners courts are countywide courts that have kept records of taxes, juries, county financial affairs, and police matters. These files often include records of other courts, such as county courts. The Family History Library has commissioners courts records for some Texas counties. From Bexar County, for example, the library has the county commissioners' minutes from 1837 to 1909.

District courts have countywide jurisdiction over divorces, felonies, misdemeanors, probate appeals, and civil suits, as well as adoptions since 1931. The Family History Library has district court records for half of the Texas counties, often dating to the early 1900s. From Bexar County, for example, the library has microfilm copies of San Antonio court minutes from 1837 to 1911. The original records are in the various county courthouses.

County courts have been established in each county and have jurisdiction over major criminal cases, civil matters, and some naturalizations. A judge oversees matters and a county clerk keeps the records. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of county court records from many counties of Texas. From Galveston County, for example, county court minutes are available from 1867 to 1908.

DIRECTORIES

Directories of heads of households were published for major cities in Texas. For example, the Family History Library has the following directories for Dallas:

1875-1935 ............... FHL films 1,376,774-78; 1,759,674-96

The Family History Library has city directories for as early as 1856 for Galveston, Austin (1857), Houston (1866), and San Antonio and Fort Worth (1877).

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

People

The first settlers of Texas generally came from Spain, although a few Frenchmen settled in eastern Texas. Between 1821 and 1836 about 38,000 settlers came from the United States, especially from the southern states. In the thirty years before the Civil War, many European emigrants came to Texas. They were mostly Germans, Poles, Czechs, Swedes, Norwegians, and Irish. By 1850, some 33,000 Germans had settled in Texas.

After the Civil War many people left the South and went to Texas. Others came from the North Central states, especially farmers of Swedish, Polish, and Irish descent. More Europeans came at this time, including Belgians, Danes, and Greeks. Most of these settled in the cities.
Numerous Mexicans came to Texas in the late 19th and early 20th century. Records of 20th century Mexican border crossings are available at the National Archives. These include:

- Brownsville, lists for 1905-24 and 1929-57, indexes for 1905-52
- Eagle Pass, lists and indexes for 1905-53
- El Paso, lists for 1903-52, indexes for 1903-24
- Laredo, lists and indexes for 1903-55

Two excellent histories that include the names of families who migrated to Texas from southern states are:


Records of major ethnic groups are listed in the catalog under TEXAS - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION and TEXAS - MINORITIES. You will find information about immigrant groups from Belgium, France, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Norway, Poland, and Sweden, as well as African-Americans, Ukrainians, and Wends. Records of Native Americans are listed in the locality search under TEXAS - NATIVE RACES and in the subject section of the catalog under the name of the tribe or language group.

Some excellent examples of ethnic sources that include lists of names are:


- Geue, Chester W. and Ethel H. *A New Land Beckoned: German Immigration to Texas, 1844-7*. Enlarged ed. Waco: Texian Press, 1972. (FHL book 976.4 W2g 1972; 1966 ed. on film 1,000,608 item 5.)


**Passenger Arrival Records**

Many people who moved to Texas originally arrived in the United States at the port of New Orleans. The National Archives and the Family History Library have passenger lists for New Orleans dating from 1820 to 1921, with indexes to 1952.

Galveston passenger lists from 1846 to 1871, 1896 to 1921, and index 1896-1951 are available at the National Archives and the Family History Library (FHL film 830,233), and are indexed in two sources:


The National Archives and the Family History Library also have Galveston arrival lists for 1893 and 1896 to 1921 (FHL films 1,414,827-40; 1,414,865-70) and indexes from 1896 to 1906 and 1906 to 1951 (FHL films 1,402,451-60). Passenger lists and indexes are listed in the catalog under TEXAS - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

**GAZETTEERS**

Several helpful guides to places in Texas have been published. These include:


**GENEALOGY**

The Texas State Library and most university libraries, historical societies, and genealogical societies have special collections and indexes of genealogical value. These must usually be searched in person. The following are major manuscript collections and published sources.
Manuscript Collections

**Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Collection.** This collection consists of transcripts of Bible records, cemetery records, church records, marriages, deaths, obituaries, and wills. It was microfilmed in 1971 at the DAR Library in Washington, D.C., and is available on 49 films at the Family History Library. (FHL films 850,123—.) A similar DAR collection was filmed in 1961 (FHL film 227,500-16).

**Spanish-American Mission Collection.** This is a collection of family group forms showing the ancestry of members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from the Southwest. It is on microfilm at the Family History Library (FHL Latin America films 940,001-6). The original forms are interfiled with the Patron Section of the Family Group Records Collection.

Published Sources


Morris, Mrs. Harry Joseph. *Citizens of the Republic of Texas.* Dallas: Texas State Genealogical Society, 1977. (FHL book 976.4 D2m.) This includes over 8,000 names on pedigrees contributed to the society. It is indexed.

*Residents of Texas, 1782-1836.* 3 vols. San Antonio, Tex.: The University of Texas, Institute of Texan Cultures, 1984. (FHL book 976.4 D2re.)

*Texas Family Land Heritage Registry,* 8 vols. Austin, Tex.: Texas Department of Agriculture, 1974—. (FHL book 976.4 R25t.) The Department of Agriculture inaugurated a program in 1974 to identify pre-1874 farms and ranches that have been operated continually by the same family. The published volumes list the original owners, location of the land, date of ownership, and names of the present owners.

A complete set of the published records are available at the Texas State Library. It is listed in the catalog under:

**TEXAS - GENEALOGY - PERIODICALS.**

HISTORY

The following important events affected political boundaries, record keeping, and family movements.

1682 Spaniards founded the first permanent settlement near present-day El Paso. Catholic missions soon followed in east Texas.

1821 Texas became part of the new nation of Mexico. Stephen F. Austin brought the first Anglo-American colonists to Texas. They settled the Austin Colony in south central Texas. Several other impresarios soon brought other colonists.

1836 Texas declared independence from Mexico after a military confrontation. Municipalities were soon organized into counties. The Republic of Texas existed until 1845.

1845 United States acquired Texas as the 28th state.

1846-1848 Mexico declared war on the United States in an effort to reclaim Texas and other territory claimed by both countries. Over 6,000 Texas citizens served in the Mexican-American War. Mexico gave up its claim to Texas.

1850 Texas relinquished its claims to Colorado, Wyoming, Kansas, and Oklahoma.

1861-1865 Texas seceded from the Union during the Civil War. In 1870 it was readmitted to the union.

1870s Most Indians were removed to the Indian Territory in present-day eastern Oklahoma. Some escaped to Mexico.

1901 The oil boom attracted many new residents.

1987 The oil boom collapsed.

The Family History Library has many county and local histories of Texas. A good source for a general background is Frank W. Johnson, *History of Texas and Texans,* 5 vols. (Chicago: American Historical Society, 1914; FHL book 976.4 H2j; 1916 ed. is on film 1,000,592). Volumes 3-5 have biographical information.

Bibliographies of local histories include:

Jenkins, John Holmes. *Cracker Barrel Chronicles: A Bibliography of Texas Town and County Histories.* Austin, Tex.: Pemberton Press, 1965. (FHL book 976.4 H2jc; film 1,000,609 item 2.)

Munnerlyn, Tom. *Texas Local History: A Source*
LAND AND PROPERTY

Land Grants by Spain and Mexico

Large tracts of land were granted by Spain and Mexico between 1716 and 1836. From 1823 to 1830, Mexico established a colonization policy providing land for immigrants to settle in colonies under impresarios such as Stephen F. Austin. Each colony had its own land office. All land offices were closed by the provisional government of Texas in November 1835 due to the pending revolution.

Lists of early settlers and landowners that have been transcribed and published include:

Taylor, Virginia H. *Index to Spanish and Mexican Land Grants in Texas*. Austin, Tex.: Lone Star Press, 1974. (FHL book 976.4 R2tv.) This includes records not found in the Class 1 Headright Grants described below.

An Abstract of the Original Titles of Records in the General Land Office: 1838. Reprint. Austin, Tex.: Pemberton Press, 1964. (FHL book 976.4 R2u; film 1,000,607 item 10; fiche 6,051,319.) This lists the land records of several colonies for the years 1791 to 1836.

Records of headright grants prior to 1 March 1936 are now at the state land office, and are described below.

Grants by the Republic and State of Texas

After the revolution, the General Land Office of the Republic of Texas was established at Austin in February 1837. The Republic of Texas recognized all previous grants and settled any disputes in the state courts. In 1845 Texas became a state-land state and the land office continued to administer land grants.

Land was granted for various reasons. The General Land Office, (Austin Building, 17th and N. Congress, Austin, TX 78701) has over 10,000,000 documents including patents, plat maps, and indexes, for the following:

- **Headright grants, 1836 to 1842.** These are records of grants issued to heads of families and single men who settled in Texas. The records are filed and indexed by time periods called classes:
  - Class 1. Settlers who arrived prior to 1 March 1836 (grants by Spain and Mexico)
  - Class 2. Arrivals from 2 March 1836 to 1 October, 1837
  - Class 3. Arrivals from 1 October 1837 to 1 January 1840
  - Class 4. Arrivals from 1 January 1840 to 1 January 1842

Some of these headright grants have been published in *First Settlers of the Republic of Texas: Headright Land Grants, 1840*, 2 vols., 1841, Reprint (Nacogdoches, Tex.: Carolyn R. Ericson, 1982—; FHL book 976.4 R2f). This includes the class 1-3 grants.

- **Preemption Grants, January 1845 to 1899.** These are homestead or settler's claims given to persons who lived on a tract for three years.

- **Contracts made by the German Emigration Company, about 1845-46.** The German Emigration Company was created to help German immigrants come to Texas and obtain land. The records include 19 volumes of contracts made with emigrants emigrating from Europe around 1845. The records are in German.

- **School Lands, April 1874 to present.** These are records of public lands sold to provide revenue for schools. The records are indexed.

- **Bounty and Donation Lands, 1836 to 1888.** Warrants were issued as payment for service in the Army of the Republic of Texas in 1836 when Texas declared its independence from Mexico. Confederate scrip lands were issued to Confederate veterans who were permanently disabled in the Civil War and to widows of soldiers who were killed during the Civil War. Some of these records can be found in:

  Miller, Thomas Lloyd. *Bounty and Donation Land Grants of Texas, 1835-1888*. Austin, Texas: University of Texas Press, 1967. (FHL book 976.4 R21m; film 1,000,608 item 9.)


- **Public lands sold by the land office.** The land office still sells the public land in the state.

Numerous name lists of settlers and landowners have been transcribed and published. These include:

**Abstract of Land Titles of Texas Comprising the Titled, Patented, and Located Lands in the State.** Galveston: Shaw and Blaylock, 1878. (FHL films 397,783-4.) This is arranged by counties for about 1833 to 31 August 1877 and is alphabetical by county.
White, Gifford. *Character Certificates in the General Land Office of Texas.* [Austin: G. White, 1985.] (FHL book 976.4 R2c.) This includes genealogical data for 1821 to 1835. These character certificates were required by Mexico in order to obtain land.

*Abstract of Land Claims, Compiled From the Records of the General Land Office.* Galveston: Civilian Book Office, 1852. (FHL film 0874497.) These are private land claims submitted up to 1852 for land previously granted by Spain, Mexico, the Republic of Texas, and the State of Texas. It is alphabetical by district.

From 1847 to 1870 the office of the Texas Adjutant General was responsible for verifying land claims of veterans. A fire in 1855 destroyed the records of this office except for copies of the muster rolls of the War of Texas Independence from Mexico from 1835 to 1836. After the fire, a Court of Claims was established in 1856 for persons who had been entitled to land grants from the Republic of Texas but had never received them. The muster rolls were used to verify eligibility for a land grant.

**County Land Records**

After land was transferred to private ownership, subsequent transactions, including deeds and mortgages, have been recorded by the county. You can obtain copies of these land records by writing to the county clerk at the county courthouse.

The Family History Library has microfilm copies of deeds, trust deeds, and mortgages of many counties. The library's holdings include:

- Bexar County Spanish land grants, 1736 to 1836 (5 films); county clerk's deeds, 1837 to 1889, and index, 1830 to 1890 (49 films)
- Galveston County deeds, 1838 to 1902, and index, 1838 to 1890 (49 films)
- Harris County deeds, 1837 to 1886, and index, 1836 to 1904 (44 films)

**MAPS**

One of the best map collections is at the Texas State Library. A bibliography of over 2,000 maps in this collection is James M. Day, *Maps of Texas, 1527-1900: The Map Collection of the Texas State Archives* (Austin, Tex.: Pemberton Press, 1964; FHL book 976.4 A5d). Other good collections of maps are available at:

- University of Texas at Austin
  Perry-Castaneda Library
  101 East 21st St.
  P.O. Box P
  Austin, TX 78713-8916
  Telephone: 512-495-4350
  Fax: 512-495-4347
  Internet: [www.lib.utexas.edu/pcl/](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/pcl/)

- University of Texas at El Paso Library
  Documents and Maps
  500 W. University
  El Paso, TX 79968-0582
  Telephone: 915-747-5672
  Fax: 915-747-5327
  Internet: [http://libraryweb.utep.edu](http://libraryweb.utep.edu)

- Southern Methodist University
  Central University Libraries
  P.O. Box 750135
  Dallas, TX 75275-0135
  Telephone: 214-768-2401
  Fax: 214-768-1842 (attention Map Library)
  Internet: [www.smu.edu](http://www.smu.edu)

The Family History Library has several maps and the following atlases:


- Pool, William C. *A Historical Atlas of Texas.* Austin, Tex.: Encino Press, 1975. (FHL book 976.4 E3p.) This includes maps of Texas during the frontier era, Indian territories, and travel routes.

**MILITARY RECORDS**

The U.S. Military Records Research Outline (34118) provides more information on federal military records and search strategies.

Many military records are found at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The *United States Research Outline* provides more information about the federal records. For Texas the following sources are also very helpful.

**War of 1812 (1812-1815)**

War of Texas Independence (1835-1836)
Published muster rolls of soldiers who served in the
war are in *Muster Rolls of the Texas Revolution* (Austin, Tex.: Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Inc., 1986; FHL book 976.4 M2mr).


A detailed history of the Alamo siege and a roster of the garrison will be found in Phil Tosenthal and Bill Groneman, *Roll Call at the Alamo* (Ft. Collins, Colo.: The Old Army Press, 1985; FHL book 976.4351 M2r).

Biographical sketches of soldiers who served in the Battle of San Jacinto are in Sam Houston Dixon and Louis Wiltz Kemp, *The Heroes of San Jacinto* (Houston: The Anson Jones Press, 1932; FHL book 976.4141 M2d; film 1,000,606).

Mexican War (1846-1848)
Many soldiers from Texas served in this conflict. The
National Archives and the Family History Library have the service records for Texas volunteers (FHL films 471519-37) and the indexes to service and pension records. The pension records have not been filmed and are only available at the National Archives.


Civil War (1861-1865)
Soldiers from Texas served in both the Union and Confederate armies. The National Archives and the Family History Library have:

- Indexes to the service records (FHL films 881,592-3 Union; 880,014-54 Confederate)
- Service records for Union soldiers (FHL films 1,292,646-58)
- Index to Union pensions

The Union pension records are not on microfilm and are available only at the National Archives.

Service records for Confederate soldiers are available at the National Archives and at the Texas State Library. Approved and rejected pensions for Confederate veterans are at the Controller's Office in Austin and on 700 microfilms at the Family History Library (FHL film 960,664—; index is on FHL film 960,279).

A published index to the pension papers is John M. Kinney, *Index to Applications for Texas Confederate Pensions*, Rev. ed. (Austin, Tex.: Archives Division, Texas State Library, 1977; FHL book 976.4 M22k 1977; 1975 ed. is on film 928,040 item 3; 1977 ed. is on fiche 6,019,976).

Additional documents are in *Texas Confederate Index: Confederate Soldiers of the State of Texas* (FHL films 227,483-96.) This lists each soldier's name, enlistment date and place, discharge date and place, age, residence, physical description, and other information.

A published roster of some Texas regiments is Martin Hardwick Hall, *The Confederate Army of New Mexico* (Austin, Tex.: Presidial Press, 1978; FHL book 978.9 M2ha; fiche 6,087,304). This lists soldiers of Texas stationed in New Mexico during the war.

Spanish-American War (1898)
The Texas Volunteer Guard was mustered into federal service in 1898. Records of these volunteers are at the National Archives. The Texas State Library has some records and muster-out rolls (records of soldiers discharged from military service) for 1899.

World War I (1917-1918) to the present
Records of Texans who have participated in any war since World War I are filed in the National Archives and the National Archives—Fort Worth Branch. See the *United States Research Outline* for more information.

Records of the National Guard units drafted into federal forces are at the Adjutant General's Office, Camp Mabry, Austin, TX.

Additional Military Records
The Texas State Library has pre-statehood records for groups such as the Rangers and Minute companies. The following volumes summarize many of these early records:


World War I draft registration cards for men age 18 to 45 may list address, birth date, birthplace, race, nationality, citizenship, and next of kin. Not all registrants served in the war. For registration cards for Texas see:


To find an individual's draft card, it helps to know his name and residence at the time of registration. The cards are arranged alphabetically by county, within the county by draft board, and then alphabetically by surname within each draft board.

Most counties had only one board; large cities had several. A map showing the boundaries of individual draft boards is available for most large cities. Finding an ancestor's street address in a city directory will help you in using the draft board map. There is an alphabetical list of cities that are on the map. For a copy of this map see:


NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

Naturalization records have generally been filed with the clerk of the district court in each county. You can obtain copies of the declarations, affidavits, orders of admission, and other documents by contacting the clerk's office. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of some county records. For example, from Harris County the library has naturalization records from 1891 to 1906 and an index from 1855 to 1906.

For naturalization records after September 1906, contact the National Archives—Fort Worth Branch or the local office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

NEWSPAPERS

The best collections of Texas newspapers are in the archives listed in the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of a few newspapers, such as the Galveston Daily News from 1865 to 1900.

Guides to help you locate newspapers are:


Texas Newspapers, 1813-1939: A Union List. Houston: San Jacinto Museum of History Association, 1951. (FHL book 976.4 B3h; 1941 edition is on film 1,036,813 item 4.)

Some obituaries and other vital statistics have been abstracted and published. An example is

Pearl Hendricks, comp., Texas Obituaries: Death Notices Taken From Early Texas Newspapers, 1835-1890. 2 vols. in 1 (Typescripts at the Clayton Library in Houston; FHL book 976.4 V4t; film 845,442) a revised version with the dates 1832-1885 is on film 1,398,600 items 6-7).

PERIODICALS

The major periodicals and magazines helpful for Texas research are:

Footprints. 1968—. Published by the Fort Worth Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 9767, Ft. Worth, TX 76147-2167. (FHL book 976.4 B2fa; films 1,425,706-07, vols. 11-26.)

Heart of Texas Records. (Formerly the Central Texas Genealogical Society Bulletin.) 1958—. Published by the Central Texas Genealogical Society, 1717 Austin Ave., Waco, TX 76701. (FHL book 976.4 B2c; films 1,425,706-9, vols. 15-27.)

Our Heritage. 1959—. Published by the San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society, P.O. Box 790087, San Antonio, TX 78279-0087. (FHL book 976.4 B2o.)

The Roadrunner. 1974-1991 (final issue). Published by the Chaparral Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 606, Tomball, TX 77375-0606. (FHL book 976.4 B2ro.)

Stalkin' Kin. 1973—. Published by the San Angelo Genealogical and Historical Society, P.O. Box 3433, San Angelo, TX 76902. (FHL book 976.4 B2sk.)

Stirpes. 1961—. Published by the Texas State Genealogical Society, 204 Glentower, San Antonio, TX 78213. (FHL book 976.4 B2st.)
PROBATE RECORDS

Probate records of Texas have been kept by the probate clerk in each county courthouse. You can obtain copies of the records from the clerk's office. In most counties, all information pertaining to a probate case is recorded in the “probate minutes.”

The Family History Library has microfilmed key probate records for about half of the counties in Texas. For example, the library has 55 microfilms of files from Bexar County, including an index to probate minutes (1836-1973), minute books (1837-1913), wills (1865-83), general probate index (1837-74), final records (1837-59), bonds (1848-82), and exhibits (1864-78).

VITAL RECORDS

City and County Records of Births and Deaths

As early as 1873 some cities and towns had authorized the registration of births and deaths. For a brief period from 1873 to 1876, the county recorders also recorded births. For records from early times to 1903, write to the clerk's office in the county where the event occurred. The records are open to public inspection.

State Records of Births and Deaths

Statewide registration of births and deaths began in 1903 with the formation of the Texas Department of Public Health. For copies of records from 1903 to the present, write to:

Bureau of Vital Statistics
Texas Department of Health
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, TX 78756-3199
Telephone: 888-963-7111 or 512-458-7111
Fax: 512-458-7506
Internet: www.tdh.state.tx.us

Only authorized personnel may search the records. The current fees for obtaining copies of the state's records are listed in Where to Write for Vital Records: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Divorces (Hyattsville, MD.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, March 1993 [FHL book 973 V24w]). Copies of this booklet are at the Family History Library and many family history centers. The Texas State Library and Archives has indexes to birth, "probate births" (delayed registrations), and death records from 1903 to 1973. These are available for public searches.

Marriage Records

Prior to 1836, only the Catholic Church could legally solemnize marriages. As a result, many Protestants will be listed in the Catholic records. From 1837 to 1966, the county recorders issued marriage licenses and kept marriage registers. Copies of the records can be obtained by writing to the clerk of the county where the license was issued. For information from 1966 to the present, write to the Bureau of Vital Statistics (see address above).

The Family History Library has acquired copies of marriage records from many county courthouses. From the clerk of the county court in Bexar County, for example, the library has 49 microfilms of marriages and indexes for 1837 to 1925.

The Texas Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution and other societies have compiled many early vital records. Examples of published transcripts of marriages are:


We appreciate the archivists, librarians, and others who have reviewed this outline and shared helpful information.

**Divorce Records**

From 1837 to 1841, divorces were obtained by special acts of Congress. In 1841, the district courts were given jurisdiction, with some restrictions, over divorces. Since 1846, they have had jurisdiction over all cases. You can write to the clerk of the district court in the county where the decree was granted for copies of records.

**Inventory of Vital Records**

You can learn more about the history and availability of the records in Guide to Public Vital Statistics Records in Texas (N.p.: Historical Records Survey, 1941; FHL book 976.4 A3gp; film 1,000,610 item 14.)

**FOR FURTHER READING**


Eichholz, Alice, ed. Ancestry's Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources. Rev. ed. Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1992. (FHL book 973 D27rb 1992; computer number 594021.) Contains bibliographies and background information on history and ethnic groups. Also contains maps and tables showing when each county was created.


**COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS**

The Family History Library welcomes additions and corrections that will improve future editions of this outline. Please send your suggestions to:

Publications Coordination
Family History Library
35 N. West Temple

Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3400
USA
Texas Historical Background

History

Effective family research requires some understanding of the historical events that may have affected your family and the records about them. Learning about wars, governments, laws, migrations, and religious trends may help you understand political boundaries, family movements, and settlement patterns. These events may have led to the creation of records that your family was listed in, such as land and military documents.

The following are important events in the history of Texas that affected political boundaries, record keeping, and family movements.

1682 Spaniards founded the first permanent settlement near present-day El Paso. Catholic missions soon followed in east Texas.

1821 Texas became part of the new nation of Mexico. Stephen F. Austin brought the first Anglo-American colonists to Texas. They settled the Austin Colony in south central Texas. Several other impresarios soon brought other colonists.

1836 Texas declared independence from Mexico after a military confrontation. Municipalities were soon organized into counties. The Republic of Texas existed until 1845.

1845 The United States acquired Texas as the 28th state.

1846-1848 There was a dispute over the boundary of Texas, with the Mexicans desiring the Nueces River; the Americans, the Rio Grande. When the Mexicans sent troops over the Rio Grande, President Polk declared War on Mexico on May 13, 1846. Over 6,000 Texas citizens served in the Mexican-American War. Mexico gave up its claim to Texas.

1850 Texas relinquished its claims to Colorado, Wyoming, Kansas, and Oklahoma.

1861 Texas seceded from the Union during the Civil War. In 1870 it was readmitted to the Union.

1870s Most Indians were removed to the Indian Territory in present-day eastern Oklahoma. Some escaped to Mexico.

1898 Over 300,000 men were involved in the Spanish-American War, which was fought mainly in Cuba and the Philippines.

1901 The oil boom attracted many new residents.

1917–1918 More than 26 million men from the United States ages 18 through 45 registered with the Selective Service for World War I, and over 4.7 million American men and women served during the war.

1930s The Great Depression closed many factories and mills. Many small farms were abandoned, and many families moved to cities.

1940–1945 Over 50.6 million men ages 18 to 65 registered with the Selective Service. Over 16.3 million American men and women served in the armed forces during World War II.
Texas, Historical Background

1950–1953 Over 5.7 million American men and women served in the Korean War.
1950s–1960s The building of interstate highways made it easier for people to move long distances.

Your ancestors will become more interesting to you if you also use histories to learn about the events that were of interest to them or that they may have been involved in. For example, by using a history you might learn about the events that occurred in the year your great-grandparents were married.

Historical Sources

You may find state or local histories in the Family History Catalog under Texas or the county or the town. For descriptions of records available through Family History Centers or the Family History Library, click on Family History Library Catalog in the window to the left. The descriptions give book or film numbers, which you need to find or to order the records.

Local Histories

Some of the most valuable sources for family history research are local histories. Published histories of towns, counties, and states usually contain accounts of families. They describe the settlement of the area and the founding of churches, schools, and businesses. You can also find lists of pioneers, soldiers, and civil officials. Even if your ancestor is not listed, information on other relatives may be included that will provide important clues for locating your ancestor. A local history may also suggest other records to search.

Most county and town histories include separate sections or volumes containing biographical information. These may include information on 50 percent or more of the families in the locality.

In addition, local histories should be studied and enjoyed for the background information they can provide about your family's lifestyle and the community and environment in which your family lived.

About 5,000 county histories have been published for over 80 percent of the counties in the United States. For many counties there is more than one history. In addition, tens of thousands of histories have been written about local towns and communities. Bibliographies that list these histories are available for nearly every state.

For descriptions of bibliographies for Texas available through Family History Centers or the Family History Library, click on Family History Library Catalog in the window to the left. Look under BIBLIOGRAPHY or HISTORY - BIBLIOGRAPHY.

Bibliographies of local histories include:


Local histories are extensively collected by the Family History Library, public and university libraries, and state and local historical societies. Two useful guides are:


State History
A good source for a general background is:

United States History
The following are only a few of the many sources that are available at most large libraries:
Dictionary of American History, Revised ed., 8 vols. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1976. (FHL book 973 H2ad.) This includes historical sketches on various topics in U.S. history, such as wars, people, laws, and organizations.
Texas Statewide Indexes and Collections

Guide

Introduction

In the United States, information about your ancestors is often found in town and county records. If you know which state but not the town or county your ancestor lived in, check the following statewide indexes to find the town or county. Then search records for that town or county.

The indexes and collections listed below index various sources of information, such as histories, vital records, biographies, tax lists, immigration records, etc. You may find additional information about your ancestor other than the town or county of residence. The listings may contain:

• The author and title of the source.
• The Family History Library (FHL) book, film, fiche, or compact disc number. If the words beginning with appear are before the film number, check the Family History Library Catalog for additional films.
• The name of the repository where the source can be found if the source is not available at the Family History Library.

What You Are Looking For

• Your ancestor's name in an index or collection.
• Where the ancestor was living.

Steps

These 2 steps will help you find information about your ancestor in statewide indexes or collections.

Step 1. Find your ancestor's name in statewide indexes or collections.

On the list below, if your ancestor lived between the years shown on the left, he or she may be listed in the source on the right.

1600–present  Ancestral File
                International Genealogical Index
                Family History Library Catalog - Surname Search


1600–1940 Rider, Fremont, ed. *American Genealogical-Biographical Index to American Genealogical, Biographical and Local History Materials.* (FHL book 973 D22am ser. 2, vols. 1–189+; on 31 films beginning with 1698167.) The new series now has surnames A to W and is continuing. The old series has surnames A to Z.

1600–1915 Newberry Library (Chicago, Illinois). *The Genealogical Index of the Newberry Library, Chicago.* (FHL book 929 N424g, vols. 1–4; films 928135, A to Fe; 928136, Fe to Sa; 928137, Sa to Z.) This is an index, like to the one above and the one below, to many family histories, local histories, and biographies.

1600–1908 Index to American Genealogies: And to Genealogical Material Contained in All Works as Town Histories, County Histories, Local Histories, Historical Society Publications, Biographies, Historical Periodicals, and Kindred Works. (FHL book 973 D22m 1984; film 599811 items 2–3; fiche 6051301.) The 1908 supplement is part of the book, and on (film 599811 item 3), known as Munsell's Index.


1600–1990 Snell, Mary Kay, comp. *The Amarillo, Texas Genealogical Society Family Charts.* (FHL book 976.4 D2s.) Has pedigree charts with the name and address of the submitter in 1990.

1700–1900 University of Texas, Institute of Texan Cultures. *Residents of Texas, 1782–1836.* (FHL book 976.4 D2rte, vols. 1–3.) From original censuses 1790–1835 and court records.


1700–1860 *Cemetery Records of Texas.* (FHL book 976.4 V3d, vols. 1–6; films 897234–5, item 1–2.)

1700–1870 Biggerstaff, Mrs. Malcolm B. *4,000 Tombstone Inscriptions from Texas, 1745–1870: Along the Old San Antonio Road and the Trail of Austin’s Colonists.* (FHL book 976.4 V3b.)


1700–1940 Kirkham, E. Kay. *An Index to Some of the Family Records of the Southern States: 35,000 microfilm References From the N.S.D.A.R. Files and Elsewhere.* (FHL book 973 D22kk, vol. 2; liche 6089183.) For the index to Texas see section 2, pp. 66–93. This book indexes by surname the forty-four reels below.

1700–1940 Daughters of the American Revolution. (Texas). *Genealogical Collection.* (On 44 FHL films beginning with 850123.) For index, see Kirkham’s book above.


1700–present *Bulletin of the Central Texas Genealogical Society* [a periodical]. (FHL book 976.4 B2c vols. 1–6; film 1425708, items 1–2, vols. 1–5.)

1700–present *Footprints.* (FHL book 976.4 B2fa vols. 1–39; films 1425706 items 2–11 have vols. 11–20; film 1425707 has vols. 21–26.) See annual indexes and see index below. This is a periodical of the Fort Worth Genealogical Society.


1740–1900 White, Virgil D. *Index to War of 1812 Pension Files*. (FHL book 973 M22i, vols. 1–2.) Lists soldiers, and often has the name of the soldier's spouse.


1750–1845 Mullins, Marion Day. *The First Census of Texas, 1829–1836: To Which are added Texas Citizenship Lists 1821–1845 and Other Early Records of the Republic of Texas*. (FHL book 976.4 X2mm; film 844966 or, film 1000607 item 12.)


1790–1920 Census indexes, 1850–1880 and 1900–1920. In the window to the left, click on *Family History Library Catalog*. Then select CENSUS or CENSUS - INDEXES from the topics that are listed.

1750–1890 *Texas Obituaries, Death Notices Taken From Early Texas Newspapers, 1835–1890: References in Texas Newspapers*. (FHL book 976.4 V4t; film 845442 item 1–2.)


1760–1836  Williams, Villamae, comp. *Stephen F. Austin’s Register of Families*. (FHL book 976.4 W2au, vols. 1–2.) Lists husband and wife with their ages, lists the number of children, and the state of origin.


1760–1809  Automated Archives. *Marriage Records*. (FHL compact disc # 9 pts. 2–5.) Dates of the marriages vary for the different counties. For Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri, Texas, 1830s–1909.


1770–1900  White, Gifford Elmore. *1830 Citizens of Texas*. (FHL book 976.4 X2wh; fiche 6051297.) From Spanish censuses and other sources.


1770–1835  Taylor, Virginia H. *Index to Spanish and Mexican Land Grants in Texas*. (FHL book 976.4 R2tv.) For the years 1824–1836. Gives county of land grant, and colony to which person belonged.

1770–1885  Texas. *Texas Family Land Heritage Registry*. (FHL book 976.4 R25t, vols. 1–7.) Has histories of families who have held a ranch over 100 years.


1770–1835  White, Gifford, ed. *Character Certificates in the General Land Office of Texas*. (FHL book 976.4 R2c.) For years 1833–1835. Testimonies of good character; year of immigration to Texas, occupation, residence, native state, or country. Often mentions the number of children in the family. Sometimes gives ages, wife's name, and slaves' names with name of witness.


1770–1846 Mullins, Marion Day. *Republic of Texas: Poll Lists for 1846.* (FHL book 976.4 R4m.) Lists all men over 21 and women who were heads of households.

1770–1850 Woods, Frances. *1850 Mortality Schedules of Texas.* (FHL book 976.4 X2wf; film 1000607 item 7.) Gives name, age, sex, where born, month of death, cause of death, length of illness.

1770–1850 Marsh, Helen C. *Tennesseans in Texas.* (FHL book 976.4 X2mh 1850.) Families in Texas 1850 census in which one or more persons were born in Tennessee.

1770–1880 Dixon, Sam Houston. *The Heroes of San Jacinto.* (FHL book 976.4141 M2d; film 1000606 item 1.)

1770–1888 *Biographical Souvenir of the State of Texas Containing Biographical Sketches of the Representative Public, and Many Early Settled Families.* (FHL book 976.4 D3bs; film 1000596 item 2.)


1780–1860 Wood, Frances. *1860 Mortality Schedules of Texas.* (FHL book 976.4 X2wf 1860; film 1000607 item 8.)

1790–1920 Ray, Worth S. *Austin Colony Pioneers: Including History of Bastrop, Fayette, Grimes, Montgomery, and Washington Counties, Texas and Their Earliest Settlers.* (FHL book 976.4 D2r.)


1800–1920  Kinney, John M. *Index to Applications for Texas Confederate Pensions*. (FHL book 976.4 M22k; film 928040 item 3; fiche 6019976.)

1800–1920  Texas. Comptroller's Office. Confederate Pensions: Applications Approved and Rejected. (On 700 FHL films beginning with 960279; index is on film 960279.)

1800–1865  United States. Adjutant General's Office. *Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who served in Organizations from the State of Texas*. (FHL films 881592–93.) The compiled records are also on film.

1800–1934  United States. Veterans Administration. *General Index to Pension Files, 1861–1934*. (On 544 FHL films beginning with 540757.) This is a card index to pension applications of Civil War and Spanish-American War veterans. Copies of the original files may be ordered from the National Archives.

1800–1890  Davis, Kathryn Hooper. *Yanks & Some Rebs in Texas, 1890*. (FHL book 976.4 M2dk.) Civil War soldiers or their widows, Union and Confederate, in 1890 census.

1800–1890  Dilts, Bryan Lee, ed. *1890 Texas Census Index of Civil War Veterans or Their Widows*. (FHL book 976.4 X22dv 1890.)


1800–1920  United States. Record and Pension Office. *Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who served in Organizations From the State of Texas*. (FHL films 1292646–58.) For Union Civil War soldiers. For index see source above.
Texas Statewide Indexes and Collections

1800–1933 United States. Veterans Administration. Veterans Administration Pension Payment Cards, 1907–1933. (On 2539 FHL films beginning with 1634036.) For pensions from 1907–1933. Indexes names of soldiers or their widows who received pensions from the Civil War, the War with Spain, and W. W. I.

1800–1920 Texas Confederate Index: Confederate Soldiers of The State of Texas. (FHL films 227483–96.)


1820–1945 Texas State Library. Genealogy Division. Texas Probate Birth (Delayed Birth) and Death Records Index, ca. 1900–1945. (On 26 FHL films beginning with 1380768.)

1838–1878 Gracy, Alice Duggan. Early Texas Birth Records 1838–1878. (FHL book 976.4 V21g, vols. 1–2; film 496645 item 6 vol. 1, and 897482 vol. 2.) Has civil birth records from 43 counties.


1873–1918 United States. Selective Service System. Texas, World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 19171918. (On 183 FHL films beginning with 1927189.) Men ages 18 to 45 are listed alphabetically by county or draft board.

For ideas on ways your ancestor's name might be spelled by indexers or in collections, see Name Variations.
Step 2. Copy and document the information.

The best method of copying information is to:

- Make a photocopy of the page(s) that include your ancestor's name.
- Document where the information came from by writing the title, call number, and page number of the index or collection on the photocopy. Also write the name of the library or archive.

Where to Find It

Family History Centers and the Family History Library

You can use the Family History Library book collection only at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, but many of our books have been microfilmed. Most of our films can be requested and used at our Family History Centers. To locate the address for the nearest Family History Center, click here.

For information about contacting or visiting the library or a center, see Family History Library and Family History Centers.

Libraries and Archives

You may be able to find the books at public or college libraries. If these libraries do not have a copy of the book you need, you may be able to order it from another library on interlibrary loan.

To use interlibrary loan:
- Go to a public or college library.
- Ask a librarian to order a book or microfilm for you through interlibrary loan from another library. You will need the title of the item and the name of the author.
- The library staff will direct you in their procedures. Sometimes this is free; sometimes there is a small fee.

You can find addresses and phone numbers for most libraries and archives in the American Library Directory, published by the American Library Association. The American Library Directory is available at most public and college libraries.
Maps
Computer Resources

MapQuest Maps
Summary: Must know address, city, state, and zip code; more recent maps

Animap
BYU FHL – on computer
Summary: Has each state with maps. Shows county boundary changes and allows marking of cities and finds distances.

Google Maps
Summary: Has address finder, allows keyword searching, and allows street, satellite, or terrain views

Geology.com Maps
Summary: Has Relief, Elevation, Drainage, Political and Road Maps for each state.
Texas Maps Bibliography


**Summary:** Shows “minor county subdivisions” maps start after 1930 and are provided by the Bureau of the Census. Census county subdivisions or minor civil division. Does not include Hawaii or Alaska.
**Evaluation of Texas Maps:** pp. 955-1001. General history of counties with precincts, census county division, public land surveys and townships.

Kirkham, E. Kay. *A Genealogical and Historical Atlas of the United States.* Utah:

**Summary:** Shows changes in boundaries in the United States from colonial days up to 1909. Civil War maps and information.
**Evaluation of Texas Maps:** State historical information, p 46. Maps: 1838, 132; 1855, 139; 1860, 155; 1878, 170-171; 1883, 184-185; 1909, 246.


**Summary:** General state information.
**Evaluation of Texas Maps:** pp.300-307. General state information includes; Maps with highways, climate & environment, history & important events, population & government, ethnicity & education, economy & resources.

Mic/Gen Ref – G 1201 .F7 T5 1987

**Summary:** Outlines counties and charges in 10 year intervals. Gives brief history on census, its growth and accuracy. Sources for maps come from state/territorial laws.
**Evaluation of Texas Maps:** pp.326-341. Shows modern boundaries and changes.
Map Collection on 2nd Floor of the old section of the HBLL


**Summary:** Location, Physical, Population, Agriculture, Mining, Manufacturing Maps with appendixes.
**Evaluation:** Agriculture maps are really good to get a sense of what your ancestor might have done.


**Summary:** Maps from 1519 – 1944
**Evaluation:** Ethnic settlements, railroads, Indian campaigns, frontier towns, war routes of Indians and early French and Spanish explorations.

Map Collection – Map Cases G 4031 – G 4034. Individual maps that illustrate things from military movement to censuses.

**Web Sites/Computer Programs**

www.topozone.com

**Summary:** Gives options, of place name searches, coordinate searches, UTM searches.
**Evaluation:** Excellent for finding what new town your old town (etc) may be in.

www.MapQuest.com

**Summary:** Must know address, city, state and zip code, more recent maps.
**Evaluation:** Good, to find an existing relative if you have their address.

**Animap**

Mic/Gen Family Search room – on computer and C.D. version available

**Summary:** Each state is different, with maps. Shows boundary changes with new boundaries.
**Evaluation:** Excellent to find older maps quick.
Texas Federal Census Population Schedules, 1850 to 1920

Guide

Introduction

Federal censuses are taken every 10 years. Texas residents are included in censuses from 1850 through 1920.

- The 1850 census was the first federal census to give the names of all members of each household.

For more information about the U.S. Federal Censuses, see Background.

What You Are Looking For

The information you find varies from record to record. These records may include:

- Names of family members.
- Ages of family members, which you can use to calculate birth or marriage years.
- The county and state where your ancestors lived.
- People living with (or gone from) the family.
- Relatives that may have lived nearby.

Steps

These 5 steps will help you use census records.

Step 1. Determine which censuses might include your ancestors.

Match the probable time your ancestor was in Texas with the census years. This will determine which censuses you will search.

Example of a time an ancestor was in Texas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Texas censuses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1850</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1860</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1870</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1880</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This person would be included in Texas censuses from 1880 to 1900.

(The 1890 census was mostly destroyed.)
Step 2. Determine a census to start with.

Start with the last census taken during the life of your ancestor. The censuses from 1790 to 1840 give the name of the head of each household and the number of males and females in age groups without their names. The censuses from 1850 to 1920 give more information and include the name, age, and birthplace of every person in each household.

The censuses for 1930 and later are available from the U.S. Census Bureau only. For ways the census can help you find your ancestor’s parents, see Tip 1.

Step 3. Search the census.

For instructions on how to search a specific census, click on one of the following years:

1850  1860  1870  1880  1890  1900  1910  1920

For information about archives and libraries that have census records, see Where to Find It.

Step 4. Search another census.

Repeat steps 2 and 3 until you search all the censuses taken during the life span of your ancestor. Each census may contain additional information.

If you skip a census taken when your ancestor lived, you risk missing additional information, such as names of in-laws or other relatives who may have lived with or near the family. Those names and relationships may help you identify earlier generations.

For other information about how to search the census, see Tips.

Step 5. Analyze the information you obtain from the censuses.

To effectively use the information from the census, ask yourself these questions:
- Who was in the family?
- About when were they born?
- Where were they born? (Birthplaces are shown in censuses for 1850 to 1920.)
- Where were they living—town or township, county, and state?
- Where were their parents born? (Birthplaces are shown in censuses for 1880 to 1920.)
- Do they have neighbors with the same last name? Could they be relatives?

For more about comparing information in several censuses, see Tip 3.

Tips

Tip 1. How can the census help me find my ancestor's parents?

Searching the census taken closest to the time the ancestor married has the best possibility of finding your ancestor and spouse living close to their parents and other family members.
Tip 2. How can I understand the information better?

Sometimes knowing why the census taker asked a question can help you understand the answer. Detailed instructions given to census takers are in the book, *Twenty Censuses: Population and Housing Questions 1790–1980*, updated as *200 Years of U.S. Census Taking*, both by the United States Census Bureau.

Tip 3. How can comparing information in more than one census help me?

Comparing censuses indicates:

- Changes in who was in the household, such as children leaving home or the death of grandparents or a child.
- Changes in neighbors. Remember, neighbors might be relatives or in-laws.
- Changes about each individual, such as age.
- Movement of the family within Texas to a different county or town.
- Movement of the family out of Texas if the family no longer appears in the census for Texas.

You will eventually want to know every country, state, county, township, and town where your ancestor was located. You can then check information in other records for those places. A careful check of all available federal census records can help you identify those places.

The ages and estimated birth date of an individual may vary greatly from census to census. Often ages are listed more accurately for young children than for adults.

Background

Description

A census is a count and a description of the population of a country, colony, territory, state, county, or city. Census records are also called census schedules or population schedules. Early censuses are basically head counts. Later censuses give information about marriage, immigration, and literacy. United States censuses are useful because they begin early and cover a large portion of the population.

What U.S. Federal Censuses Are Available

Censuses have been taken by the United States government every 10 years since 1790. The 1920 census is the most recent federal census available to the public; the 1930 census will be released in 2002. In 1885 the federal government also helped 5 states or territories (Colorado, Florida, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Dakota Territory) conduct special censuses.

Most of the 1890 census was destroyed by fire. For Texas, portions for Ellis County are available. Also, portions of a special schedule taken in 1890, of Union Civil War veterans and their widows, have survived. The surviving 1890 veterans' schedules cover Washington D.C., half of Kentucky, and all of Louisiana through Wyoming (states are in alphabetical order from K through W). These schedules contain approximately 700,000 names.
Types of Census Schedules

The following census schedules are available for Texas and were created in various years by the federal government:

- Population schedules list a large portion of the population; most are well-indexed and are available at many repositories.
- Mortality schedules list those who died in the 12 months prior to the day the census was taken for the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses.
- 1890 veterans’ schedules list Union veterans from the Civil War or their widows who were living in 1890.
- Slave schedules for Southern states list slave owners and the number of slaves they owned in 1850 and 1860.
- Agricultural schedules list data about farms and the names of the farmers for the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses.
- Manufacturing or industrial schedules list data about businesses and industries for the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses.

How Censuses Were Taken

People called enumerators were hired by the United States government to take the census. The enumerators were given forms to fill out and were assigned to gather information about everyone living in a certain area or district. Enumerators could visit houses in any order, so families who are listed together in the census may or may not have been neighbors. The accuracy of the enumerators and the readability of their handwriting varies.

After the census was taken, usually one copy was sent to the state and another to the federal government. Sometimes copies were also kept by the counties. Few of the state and county copies survived.

When Censuses Were Taken

Census takers were supposed to gather information about the people who were part of each household on the following dates:

- 1790 to 1820: First Monday in August
- 1830 to 1900: June 1 (June 2 in 1890)
- 1910: 15 April
- 1920: 1 January
- 1930: 1 April

If your ancestor was born in the census year, your ancestor should be listed only if he or she was born before the census date.

If your ancestor died in the census year, your ancestor should be listed only if he or she died after the census date.

The census may have actually taken several months to complete and may reflect births and deaths after the census date.
Censuses from 1930 to the Present

U.S. Federal Censuses from 1930 to the present are confidential. The 1930 census will be available in 2002. You may ask the U.S. Census Bureau to send information about:

- Yourself.
- Another living person, if you are that person's "authorized representative."
- Deceased individuals, if you are "their heirs or administrators."

You may request information for only one person at a time. There is a fee for each search. To request information, you must provide the person's name, address at the time of the census, and other details on Form BC-600, available from the U.S. Census Bureau.

For the address of the U.S. Census Bureau, see Where to Find It.

State, and Local Censuses

Colonial, state, and local governments also took censuses. Nonfederal censuses generally contain information similar to and sometimes more than federal censuses of the same period. The Texas area is included in some Spanish censuses and mission rolls taken from 1782 to 1836. Several books contain names found in these censuses. See the census section of the Texas Research Outline. See also the genealogy section (published sources) in the same outline. Texas became a state in 1845. There are no state censuses for Texas. Colonial, state, and local censuses may be available on the Internet, at Family History Centers, at the Family History Library, and in state and local archives and libraries.

Where to Find It

Internet

Many Internet sites include census records, census indexes, or information about censuses. You may find the following sites helpful:

- Texas GenWeb and USGenWeb have links to indexes and records and may have links to archives, libraries, and genealogical and historical societies.
- CensusLinks on the 'Net includes links to Internet sites that have United States and Canada censuses and indexes. It includes information about censuses and how to use them, a Soundex calculator, census forms you can print, an age calculator, and more.
- The Archives and Libraries section of the Texas Research Outline lists Internet addresses for several Texas archives, libraries, and historical societies. These organizations may have microfilms and indexes of Texas censuses, and the Internet sites may list what records they have.

Family History Centers

Many Family History Centers keep copies of some census microfilms. Family History Centers can borrow microfilms of a U.S. Federal Census from the Family History Library. A small fee is charged to have a microfilm sent to a center.

You may request photocopies of U.S. Federal Censuses from the Family History Library. Staff at the Family History Center can show you how to request this service.

Family History Centers are located throughout the United States and other areas of the world. See "Family History Centers" for the address and phone number of the center nearest you.
Family History Library

The Family History Library has complete sets of the existing U.S. Federal Censuses from 1790 to 1920. No fee is charged for using census microfilms in person. For a list of indexes and other census records, click on Family History Library Catalog in the window to the left. Select from the list of titles to see descriptions of the records with the film or book call numbers. Use that information to obtain the records at a family history center or at the Family History Library.

For information about contacting or visiting the library, see Family History Library and Family History Centers.

National Archives

Copies of the existing federal censuses from 1790 to 1920 are available in the Microfilm Research Room in the National Archives Building and at the 13 Regional National Archives. The National Archives has a microfilm rental program for census records. Call 301-604-3699 for rental information. For information on how to order photocopies of census records from the National Archives, click here.

College and Public Libraries

Many college libraries have copies of census microfilms, particularly for their own states. Many larger public libraries have copies of the census soundex and populations schedules. Smaller public libraries may be able to obtain the records through interlibrary loan.

State Archives, Libraries and Historical Societies

The Archives and Libraries section of the Texas Research Outline lists Internet and mailing addresses for several Texas archives, libraries, and historical societies. These organizations may have microfilms and indexes of Texas censuses, and the Internet sites may list what records they have.

U. S. Census Bureau

To request information from the 1930 census and later censuses, you must provide your relative's name, address, and other details on Form BC-600, available from:

The U.S. Census Bureau
P.O. Box 1545
Jeffersonville, IN 47131
812-218-3300

Genealogical Search Services

Many genealogical search services will search the census for a fee. These sources can help you find a genealogical search service:

- CyndisList lists many companies and individuals who do research and mentions publications about how to hire a professional genealogist.
- Advertisements in major genealogical journals may help you find a researcher.

For more information, see Hiring a Professional Genealogist.
1829-36
The first census of Texas, 1829-1836; to which are added, Texas citizenship lists, 1821-1845, and other early records of the Republic of Texas.

1830
Citizens of Texas

1830-39
Texas 1830-1839.

1840-49
Texas 1840-1849.


Brown, John Henry. *History of Texas, from 1685 to 1892.* St. Louis, Missouri: L. E. Daniell, 1892-93. F 386.B86 vol. 1-2 also Microfiche 976.4 also Special Collections: Americana; Rare F 386.B86


Daniell, Lewis E. *Texas, the Country and its Men: Historical, Biographical, Descriptive.* Austin, 1924. F 386.D22 1924 also Microfiche F 386.D22


History of Texas. Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH12163

History of Texas: Together With A Biographical History of Milam, Williamson, Bastrop, Travis, Lee and Burleson Counties. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1893. Special Collections: Americana; Rare F 386 .H7 1893


Pennybacker, Mrs. Percy V.  *A New History of Texas for Schools, Also for General Reading and for Teachers Preparing Themselves for Examination*.  Tyler, Texas: Published for the author, 1888.  *F 386 .P41 also Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 9573*


Thrall, Homer S. *A Pictorial History of Texas*. New York: N.D. Thompson & Co., 1885. **F 386 .T56 1885** also **Special Collections: Americana; Rare F 386 .T56**


Wooten, Dudley Goodall. *Comprehensive History of Texas, 1685 to 1897*. Dallas: William G. Scarff, 1898. **Microfiche 976.4 (2 vols)** also **Special Collections: Vault 976.4 W889ca 1898 (3 vols)**

Yoakum, Henderson K.  *History of Texas from Its First Settlement in 1685 to Its Annexation to the United States in 1846.* Austin, Texas: Steck, 1935.  *F 386 .Y56 1855* also *Microfiche 976.4* also *Microfiche Z 1236 .L5 1971 no.22369-70* also *Special Collections: Americana; Rare F 386 .Y56 1856*

### Anderson County
Anderson County was created and organized on 24 March 1846 from Houston County. County seat: Palestine.


### Andrews County
Andrews County was created in 1875 and established 21 August 1876 from Bexar County and organized in 1910. County seat: Andrews.

### Angelina County
Angelina County was created and organized on April 22, 1846 from Nacogdoches County. The courthouse burned in early 1893 and many records were damaged. County seat: Marion (1846-1854), Jonesville (1854-1858), Homer (1858-1892), Lufkin (1898-present).


Archer County
Archer County was created 22 January 1858 and organized in 1880 from Cooke County and Fannin Land District. Parent county was Fannin. County seat: Archer City.

Aransas County
Aransas County was created and organized 18 September 1871 from Refugio County. County seat: Rockport.

Armstrong County
Armstrong County was created 21 August 1876 from Bexar District and organized in 1890. County seat: Claude.

Atascosa County
Atascosa County was created and organized 25 January 1856 from Bexar County. County seat: Navatasco (1856-1858); Pleasanton (1858- present).

Austin County
Austin County was one of the original twenty-three counties of Texas, created on 17 March 1836 and organized in 1837. Parent county was old Mexican Municipality. County seat: San Felipe de Austin (1837-1848); Bellville (1848-present).

Bailey County
Bailey County was created 21 August 1876 from Bexar County and organized in 1917. County seat: Muleshoe.

Bandera County
Bandera County was created and organized 26 January 1856 from Bexar and Uvalde counties. County seat: Bandera.


Bastrop County
Bastrop County was one of the original twenty-three counties of Texas, created on 17 March 1836 and organized in 1837 as Mina County. Renamed Bastrop at a later date. Parent county Old Mexican Municipality. County seat: Bastrop. Part of Stephen F. Austin's Colony.


Baylor County
Baylor County was created 1 February 1858 from Fannin County and organized in 1879. County seat: Seymour.


Bee County
Bee County was created 8 December 1857 and organized in 1858 from Goliad, Karnes, Live Oak, Refugio, and San Patricio counties. County seat: Beeville (1858-1860); Maryville (1860-present, Maryville was subsequently designed as Beeville on-the-Poesta and is now known as Beeville).


Bell County
Bell County was created and organized 22 January 1850 from Milam County. County seat: Belton. Settled, abandoned and resettled several times due to Indian troubles.

Atkinson, Bertha, History of Bell County, Texas. Bell County, Texas: Bell County Historical Society, 1970. Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 11903


Tyler, George W. The History of Bell County. San Antonio, Texas: Naylor, 1936. F 392 .B34 T8 also Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 12131

**Bexar County**
Bexar County was one of the original twenty-three counties of Texas, created on 17 March 1836 and organized in 1837. County seat: San Antonio. The villa of San Fernando de Bexar was the first municipality in the Spanish province of Texas in 1731. In 1772 the seat of the government of Spanish Texas moved to Bexar. The original county was divided into 128 additional counties.

Corner, William. San Antonio de Bexar: A Guide and History. San Antonio, Texas: Bainbridge & Corner, 1890. F 394 .S2 C8, also Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 9631, also Microfilm 300 no. 241


**Blanco County**
Blanco County was created and organized in 12 February 1858 from Burnet, Comal, Gillespie, and Hays counties. Courthouse and most, if not all, county records were destroyed by fire in August 1876. County seat: Blanco (1858-1891); Johnson City (1891-present). Blanco Valley was first settled in 1853.

**Borden County**
Borden County was created 21 August 1876 from Bexar District and organized in 1892. County seat: Gail.

**Bosque County**
Bosque County was created and organized 4 February 1854 from Milam District and McLennan County. County seat: Meridian. Settled mostly by Norwegians in the western part of the county and Germans in the eastern part of the county.

**Bowie County**
Bowie County was created 17 December 1840 from Red River County. County seat: Boston.

**Brazoria County**
Brazoria County was one of the original twenty-three counties of Texas, created on 17 March 1836 and organized in 1837 from an Old Mexican Municipality. County seat: Brazoria (1836-1897); Angleton (1897-present). In 1836 Velasco was the site of the provisional government of Texas and the site of the signing of the Treaty of Belasco which ended the Texas Revolution. Part of Stephen F. Austin's Colony.

History of Brazoria County. Angelton, Texas: Brazoria County Federation of Women's Clubs, 1940. F 392 .B82 H57x 1940
Brazos County
Brazos County was created as Navasota County 30 January 1841 from Robertson and Washington counties, renamed in 1842, and organized in 1843. County seat: Boonville (1843-1866), Bryan (1866-present).


Brewster County
Brewster County was organized and created 2 February 1887 from Presidio County. County seat: Murpheyville (renamed Alpine in 1887). The addition to Brewster county in 1897 of two proposed new counties made Brewster County the largest in Texas in terms of land area.


Briscoe County
Briscoe County was created 21 August 1876 from Bexar Land District.

Brooks County
Brooks County was created 11 March 1911 from Starr, Zapata, Hidalgo, and Live Oak counties and organized in 1912. County seat: Falfurrias. Mexican colonists settled the area before 1883. The first Anglo-Americans arrived in 1883.

Brown County
Brown County was created 27 August 1856 and organized in 1858 from Comanche and Travis counties. Courthouse and many county records were destroyed by fire in March 1880 and February 1894. County seat: Brownwood.


Buchanan County
Buchanan County was created in 1858, renamed Stephens County in 1861.

Burleson County
Burleson County was created 15 January 1842 and organized on March 24, 1846 from Milam and Washington counties. County seat: Caldwell.
Burnet County
Burnet County was created 5 February 1852 and organized in 1854 from Bell, Travis, and Williamson counties. County seat: Burnet. The county is known as "the Versatile County".

Bowden, M.C. History of Burnet County. Austin, Texas: Texas University, 1940. Microfilm 378.2 no.5

Caldwell County
Caldwell County was created and organized 6 March 1848 from Gonzales and Bastrop counties. County seat: Lockhart. The first settlers received land grants from the Mexican government between 1831 and 1835.

O'Banion, Maurine O. The History of Caldwell County. Austin, Texas: University of Texas Library, 1931. Microfilm 900.2 #3

Calhoun County
Calhoun County was created and organized on April 4, 1846 from Jackson, Victoria, and Matagorda counties. County seat: Lavaca (1846-1850's), Indianola (1850's-1886), Port Lavaca (1886-present, originally known as Lavaca).

Callahan County
Callahan County was created 1 February 1858 from Bexar, Travis and Bosque counties and organized in 1877. County seat: Belle Plain (1877-1880); Baird (1880-present).


Cameron County
Cameron County was created and organized 12 February 1848 from Nueces County. County seat: Brownsville. By 1761 Spanish ranches were established. In 1845 Fort Brown was established and Anglo-Americans came to the area.

Camp County
Camp County was created and organized 6 April 1874 from Upshur County. County seat: Pittsburg. The first settlement was in 1854 at Pittsburg.

Carson County
Carson County was created 21 August 1876 from Bexar District and organized in 1888. County seat: Panhandle. First settled by Mexican farmers and ranchers in the early 1800's.

Cass County
Cass County was created and organized 25 April 1846 from Bowie County. Known as Davis County from 17 December 1861 to 18 May 1871 then returned to the name of Cass County. County seat: Jefferson (1846-1860); Linden (1860-present).


Castro County
Castro County was created 21 August 1876 from Bexar District and organized in 1891. County seat: Dimmitt.


Chambers County
Chambers County was created and organized 12 February 1858 from Jefferson and Liberty counties. Courthouse and most, if not all, county records were destroyed by fire on 2 December 1875. County seat: Wallisville (1858-1908); Anahuac (1908-present). The first permanent settlement began in 1821 when the Spanish established a fortress at Anahuac and allowed American colonists to enter.

Cherokee County
Cherokee County was created and organized on April 11, 1846 from Nacogdoches County. County seat: Rusk.


Childress County
Childress County was created 21 May 1876 from Bexar and Young Land Districts and organized in 1887. County seat: Childress.


Clay County
Clay County was created 24 December 1857 and organized in 1861 from Cooke County; abandoned in 1862 and reorganized in 1873. Records of the first organization were transferred to Montague County, where many were destroyed in a courthouse fire on 25 February 1873. County seat: Cambridge (1873-1882); Henrietta (1882-present).


Updated 7/07
Cochran County
Cochran County was created in 1876 from Bexar and Young Land Districts and organized in 1924. County seat: Morton.

Coke County
Coke County was organized and created 13 March 1889 from Tom Green County. County seat: Hayrick (1889-1891); Robert Lee (1891-present).

Coleman County
Coleman County was created 1 February 1858 from Travis and Brown counties and organized in 1876. County seat: Coleman. The federal highways that cross the county follow the Jingle Bob Cattle Trail and the Van Dorn Military Road, which followed old buffalo trails.


Collin County
Collin County was created and organized on 3 April 1846 from Fannin County. County seat: Buckner (1846-1848), McKinney (1848-present).


Collingsworth County
Collingsworth County was created 21 August 1876 from Bexar and Young Land Districts and organized in 1890. County seat: Wellington.


Colorado County
Colorado County was one of the original twenty-three counties of Texas, created on 17 March 1836 and organized in 1837 from an Old Mexican Municipality. County seat: Columbus. Includes Moses Austin's colonists.

Comal County
Comal County was created and organized on 24 March 1846 from Bexar, Gonzales and Travis counties. County seat: New Braunfels. The county was the site of the unofficial Spanish mission, Neustra Senora de Guadalupe from December 1756 to March 1758.

Comanche County
Comanche County was created 25 January 1856 from Bosque and Coryell counties. County seat: Cora (1856-1859); Comanche (1859-present). The area was part of the land grant to Stephen F. Austin, the first settlement was in 1854, development of area started about 1873.

Concho County
Concho County was created 1 February 1858 from Bexar County and organized in 1879. County seat: Paint Rock.

Cooke County
Cooke County was created 20 March 1848 and organized in 1849 from Fannin County. County seat: Gainesville.

Roff, Joe T. A Brief History of Early Days in North Texas and the Indian Territory. Roff, Oklahoma: 1930. Special Collections: Americana 976.4 A1 no.14

Coryell County
Coryell County was created and organized 4 February 1854 from Bell and McLennan counties. County seat: Gatesville. Fort Gate established in 1849 to protect the settlers.


Simmons, Frank E. History of Coryell County. Gatesville, Texas: Coryell County News, 1936. F 392 .C8 S6 1936 also CS 43 .G46x LH 12142

Cottle County
Cottle County was created 21 August 1876 from Fannin County and organized in January 1892. From 1877 until January 1892 Cottle County was attached to Childress County for judicial purposes. County seat: Paducah.

Crane County
Crane County was created 26 February 1887 from Tom Green County and organized in 1927. County seat: Crane.

Crockett County
Crockett County was created 22 January 1875 from Bexar County and organized in 1891. County seat: Ozona.

Crosby County

Crosby County was created 21 August 1876 from Bexar Land District and organized in 1886. County seat: Estacado (1886-1891); Emma (1891-1912); Crosbyton (1912-present). The first permanent settler arrived in 1877.

Spikes, Nellie Witt. Through the Years: A History of Crosby County, Texas. F 392 .C85 S6x

Culberson County
Culberson County was created 10 March 1911 from El Paso County and organized in 1912. County seat: Van Horn. The first settlers arrived in 1882.


Dallam County
Dallam County was created 21 August 1876 from Bexar Land District and organized in 1891. County seat: Texline (1891-1893); Dalhart (1893- present).


Dallas County
Dallas County was created and organized on 30 March 1846 from Robertson and Nacogdoches counties. County seat: Dallas.

Brown, John Henry. History of Dallas County, Texas, From 1837 to 1887. Dallas, Texas: Milligan, Cornett, & Farnham, 1887. Special Collections: Americana; Rare F 392 .D14 B7 1887


Memorial and Biographical History of Dallas County, Texas. Chicago: Lewis Pub. Co., 1892. Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 12392 also Special Collections: Americana; Rare CT 262 .M455 1892

Davis County
Davis County was created in 1846 as Cass County, renamed Davis 17 December 1861, renamed as Cass County 18 May 1871.

Dawson County
Dawson County was created 1 February 1858 (August 21, 1876) from Bexar Land District and organized in 1905. County seat: Lamesa.

**Deaf Smith County**
Deaf Smith County was created 21 August 1876 from Bexar District and organized in 1890. County seat: Hereford.

**Delta County**
Delta County was created and organized 29 July 1870 from Hopkins and Lamar counties. Sometimes referred to as the Vetch Capital of the World. County seat: Cooper. The first settlers arrived in the early 1840's.

**Denton County**
Denton County was created and organized on April 11, 1846 from Fannin County. Courthouse and almost all county records were destroyed by fire in December 1875. County seat: Denton.

Bates, Edmond Franklin. *History and Reminiscences of Denton County*. Denton, Texas: McNitzky Printing Co., 1918. **Special Collections: Americana; Rare F 392 .D4 B3 1918**

**DeWitt County**
DeWitt County was created and organized on 24 March 1846 from Goliad, Gonzales and Victoria counties. County seat: Clinton (1846-1876), Cuero (1876-present).


**Dickens County**
Dickens County was created 21 August 1876 from Bexar Land District and organized in 1891. County seat: Dickens.


**Dimmit County**
Dimmit County was created 1 February 1858 and organized in 1880 from Bexar, Webb, Uvalde, and Maverick counties. County seat: Carrizo Springs. Area is known as the Winter Garden. The first permanent settlement was in 1865.

**Donley County**
Donley County was created 21 August 1881 from Jack County and Bexar Land District. Originally named Wegefarth County and organized in 1882, the county was renamed Donley. County seat: Clarendon.


Duval County
Duval County was created 1 February 1858 and organized in 1876 from Hidalgo, Live Oak, Nueces, and Starr counties. County seat: San Diego. The earliest settlement was by Mexican ranchers in the early 1800's.

Eastland County
Eastland County was created 1 February 1858 from Bosque, Coryell and Travis counties and organized in 1873. County seat: Merriman (1873-1875); Eastland (1875-present).


Ector County
Ector County was created 26 February 1887 from Tom Green County and organized in 1891. County seat: Odessa.

Edwards County
Edwards County was created 1 February 1858 from Bexar District and organized in 1883. County seat: Leakey (1883-1891); Rock Springs (1891-present).


Ellis County
Ellis County was created 20 December 1849 and organized in 1850 from Navarro and Robertson counties. County seat: Waxahachie. The first settlement was in 1843.

El Paso County
El Paso County was created 3 January 1850 from Bexar County. County seat: San Elizario (1850-1866); Ysleta (1866-1868); San Elizario (1868-1873); Ysleta (1873-1883); El Paso (1883-present).


Updated 7/07
TEXAS


**Erath County**

Erath County was created and organized 25 January 1856 from Bosque and Coryell counties. Courthouse and most of the county records were destroyed by fire in the summer of 1866. County seat: Stephenville. Permanent settlers arrived in Stephenville in 1854.


**Falls County**

Falls County was created and organized 28 January 1850 from Limestone and Milam counties. County seat: Old Viesca (1850); Marlin (1850- present).

A Memorial and Biographical History of McLennan, Falls, Bell, and Coryell Counties, Texas. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1893. *Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 12394* also *Special Collections: Americana; Quarto F 392 .A2 M5 1893*


St. Romain, Lillian Schiller. *Western Falls County, Texas.* Austin, Texas: Texas State Historical Association, 1951. *CS 43 .G46x LH 12138*

**Fannin County**

Fannin County was created on 14 December 1837 and organized in 1838 from Red River County. County seat: Bonham. The first permanent settlement was at Tulip in 1836.

Carter, W.A. *History of Fannin County, Texas: History, Statistics and Biographies; Business Cards, etc.* Bonham, Texas: 1885. *Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 12139*
Fayette County
Fayette County was created on 14 December 1837 and organized in 1838 from Bastrop and Colorado counties. County seat: LaGrange. Part of Stephen F. Austin's Colony.

- Lotto, Frank. *Fayette County, Texas: Her History and Her People*. Schulenburg, Texas: Frank Lotto, 1902. Special Collections: Americana; Rare F 392 .F2 L8 1902

Fisher County
Fisher County was created 21 August 1876 from Bexar Land District and organized in 1886. County seat: Roby. The first settlers arrived in 1876.

Floyd County
Floyd County was created 21 August 1876 from Bexar and Young Land Districts, and was organized in 1890. County seat: Floyd City (later renamed Floydada). The first permanent settlers arrived in 1884.


Foard County
Foard County was organized and created 3 March 1891 from Hardman, Knox, King, and Cottle counties. County seat: Crowell.


Fort Bend County
Fort Bend County was created on 29 December 1837 and organized in 1838 from Austin, Brazoria and Harris counties. County seat: Richmond. In 1889 the county was the scene of the "Jaybird-Woodpecker War". Named for Fort Bend, and blockhouse built by Stephen F. Austin's Colony.


Wharton, Clarence R. Wharton's History of Fort Bend County. San Antonio, Texas: Naylor, 1939. F 392 .F7 W5 also Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 12136

Franklin County
Franklin County was created and organized 6 March 1875 from Titus County. County seat: Mount Vernon. The first settlers arrived in 1836.

Freestone County
Freestone County was created 6 September 1850 and organized in 1851 from Limestone County. County seat: Fairfield. The first settlement of the area was about 1830.

Frio County
Frio County was created 1 February 1858 and organized in 1871 from Atascosa, Bexar, and Uvalde counties. County seat: Frio Town (1871-1883); Pearsal (1883-present).


Gaines County
Gaines County was created 21 August 1876 from Bexar Land District and organized in 1905. County seat: Seminole.


Galveston County
Galveston County was created on 15 May 1838 and organized in 1839 from Brazoria and Liberty counties. County seat: Galveston. Galveston Island was the temporary seat of government of the Republic of Texas during the Texas Revolution.

Houston and Galveston in the Years 1837-8. Houston: Union National Bank. Special Collections: Americana 976.4 A1 #37

Garza County
Garza County was created 21 August 1876 from Bexar Land District and organized in 1907. County seat: Post.

Gillespie County
Gillespie County was created and organized 23 February 1848 from Bexar and Travis counties. Courthouse and many county records were destroyed by fire in July 1850. County seat: Fredericksburg. A cholera epidemic in 1849 took a heavy toll of the early settlers.


Curtis, Sara Kay. A History of Gillespie County, Texas. Austin: Texas University, 1943. Microfiche 378.2 no.5

Glasscock County
Glasscock County was created 4 April 1887 from Tom Green County and organized in 1893. County seat: Garden City. Land for homesteads opened in 1908 and the land rush lasted until 1922.

Goliad County
Goliad County was one of the original twenty-three counties of Texas, created on 17 March 1836 and organized in 1837 from an Old Mexican Municipality. Courthouse and almost all county records were destroyed by fire in June 1870. County seat: Goliad.


Gonzales County
Gonzales County was one of the original twenty-three counties of Texas, created on 17 March 1836 and organized in 1837 from an Old Mexican Municipality. County seat: Gonzales.


Gray County
Gray County was created 21 August 1876 from Bexar Land District and organized in 1902. County seat: Lefors (1902-1928); Pampa (1928- present).

Grayson County
Grayson County was created and organized in 17 March 1846 from Fannin County. County seat: Sherman. The first courthouse was constructed in 1847 and torn down in 1858. The courthouse was burned by a mob on May 9, 1930.
Gregg County
Gregg County was created and organized 12 April 1873 from Rusk and Upshur counties. County seat: Longview. Settlement started around 1838.

Grimes County
Grimes County was created and organized on April 6, 1846 from Montgomery County. County records were destroyed by fire in late 1848. County seat: Anderson.


Guadalupe County
Guadalupe County was created and organized on 30 March 1846 from Bexar and Gonzales counties. County seat: Sequin.

Hale County
Hale County was created 21 August 1876 from Bexar Land District and organized in 1888. County seat: Plainview. The first settlers arrived in March 1883.

Cox, Mary L. History of Hale County, Texas. Plainview, Texas: 1937. F 392 .H3 C7 also Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 12149

Hall County
Hall County was created 21 August 1876 from Bexar and Young Land Districts and was organized in 1890. County seat: Memphis. The first settler arrived in 1877.


Hamilton County
Hamilton County was created February 2, 1842 and organized in 1858 from Bosque, Comanche, Lampasas, and Coryell counties. Courthouses and many county records were destroyed by fires in September 1863, March 1877, and February 1886. County seat: Hamilton.

Hansford County
Hansford County was created 21 August 1876 from Bexar and Young Land Districts and organized in 1889. County seat: Hansford (1889-1920); Spearman (1920-present). The first permanent settlement was established around 1874.

Hardeman County
Hardeman County was created 1 February 1858 from Fannin County, recreated in 1876, organized in 1884. County seat: Margaret (1884-1890; originally called Argurita); Quanah (1890-present; town laid out during an 1885 railroad survey).


Hardin County
Hardin County was created and organized 22 January 1858 from Jefferson and Liberty counties. County seat: Hardin (1858-1887); Kountze (1887-present). The first Anglo-American settlement was in 1832.


Harris County
Harris County was one of the original twenty-three counties in Texas, created on 17 March 1836 and organized in 1837 from Harrisburg Municipality. Known as Harrisburg County until 28 December 1839. County seat: Harrisburg (1836); Houston (1836-present).

Harrison County
Harrison County was created on 28 January 1839 and organized in 1842 from Shelby County. County seat: Marshall.


Hartley County
Hartley County was created 21 August 1876 from Bexar and Young Land Districts and organized in 1891. County seat: Channing.


Haskell County
Haskell County was created 1 February 1858 from Fannin and Milam counties and organized in 1885. County seat: Haskell (known as Rice Springs until 1885, when the Post Office Department changed its name to Haskell).
**Hays County**
Hays County was created and organized 1 March 1848 from Travis County. County seat: San Marcos. A Spanish settlement was in the area from 1808 to 1812. Mexican land grants date as early as 1831. The first Anglo-American arrived around 1835, the first church was organized in 1847 and the first school was organized in 1849.

**Hemphill County**
Hemphill County was created 21 August 1876 from Bexar and Young Land Districts and organized in 1887. County seat: Canadian.


**Henderson County**
Henderson County was created and organized 27 April 1846 from Houston and Nacogdoches counties. County seat: Buffalo (1846-1850); Athens (1850-present). The first permanent settlements were established in 1837.


**Hidalgo County**
Hidalgo County was created and organized 24 January 1852 from Cameron and Starr counties. County seat: Edinburg (1852-1908, now Hidalgo); Edinburg (1908-present). Spanish mission and settlements were established by 1750 and Anglo-American settlements by 1883.


**Hill County**
Hill County was created and organized 7 February 1853 from Navarro County. Many county records were destroyed in a courthouse fire in September 1872. County seat: Hillsboro. Settlements occurred after the establishment of Fort Graham in 1848.


Hockley County
Hockley County was created 21 August 1876 from Bexar and Young Land Districts and organized in 1921. County seat: Levelland (originally known as Hockley City).

Hood County
Hood County was created and organized 3 November 1865 from Johnson county. Courthouse and most of the county records, if not all, were destroyed by fire in March 1875. County seat: Granbury.


Hopkins County
Hopkins County was created and organized on 25 March 1846 from Lamar and Nacogdoches counties. County seat: Tarrant (1846-1871), Sulphur Springs (1871-present).

Fleming, E.B. *Early History of Hopkins County, Texas*. 1902. *Microfiche CS 43 G46x LH 12150*

Houston County
Houston County was created and organized on 12 June 1837 from Nacogdoches County. Many county records were destroyed in courthouse fires in February 1865 and November 1882. County seat: Crockett. San Francisco de los Tejas, the first Spanish mission in East Texas, was founded in 1690 and abandoned in 1693.

Howard County
Howard County was created 21 August 1876 from Bexar and Young Land Districts and organized in 1882. County seat: Big Spring. The first settlers arrived in 1870.

Hutto, John R. *Howard County in the Making*. 1938. *F 392 H75 H87 1938*

Hudspeth County
Hudspeth County was organized and created 16 February 1917 from El Paso County. County seat: Sierra Blanc.

Hunt County
Hunt County was created and organized on April 11, 1846 from Fannin and Nacogdoches counties. County seat: Greenville.

Hutchinson County
Hutchinson County was created 21 August 1876 from Bexar Land District and organized in 1901. County seat: Stinnett.
Irion County
Irion County was organized and created 7 March 1889 from Tom Green County. County seat: Sherwood (1880-late 1930's); Mertson (late 1930's-present). Early settlements began in the early 1870's.

Jack County
Jack County was created 27 August 1856 from Cooke County and organized in 1857. County seat: Jacksboro (originally known as Lost Creek, the town's name was changed to Mesquiteville in 1856, to Jacksborough in 1858 and to Jacksboro in 1899). The first settlement was in 1854.


Jackson County
Jackson County was one of the original twenty-three counties of Texas, created on 17 March 1836 and organized in 1837 from an Old Mexican Municipality. County seat: Texana (1836-1883; originally known as Santa Anna); Edna (1883-present). Included land grants to Stephen F. Austin and Martin de Leon.


Jasper County
Jasper County was one of the original twenty-three counties of Texas, created on 17 March 1836 and organized in 1836 from an Old Mexican Municipality. Courthouse and all county records were destroyed by fire in October 1849. County seat: Jasper.

Jeff Davis County
Jeff Davis County was organized and created 15 March 1887 from Presidio County. County seat: Fort Davis (formerly the county seat of Presidio County (established in 1854)).

Jefferson County
Jefferson County was one of the original twenty-three counties of Texas, created on 17 March 1836 and organized in 1837 from an Old Mexican Municipality. County seat: Jefferson (1837-1838); Beaumont (1838-present). The Cypress Bayou Settlement in the Mexican municipality of Liberty was the nucleus from which the present area of Jefferson County grew.

Jim Hogg County
Jim Hogg County was created on 31 March 1913 from Brooks and Duval counties.

Jim Wells County
Jim Wells County was created on 25 March 1911 from Nueces county.

Johnson County
Johnson County was created and organized 13 February 1854 from McLennan, Hill, Ellis, and Navarro counties. County seat: Wardville (1855-1856); Buchanan (1856-1867); Cleburne (1867-present, originally known as Camp Henderson).


Byrd, A.J. *History and Description of Johnson County, and its Principal Towns*. Marshall, Texas: Jennings Brothers, printers, 1879. Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 12395


Jones County
Jones County was created 1 February 1858 from Bexar and Bosque counties and organized in 1881. County seat: Anson (originally call Jones City). The earliest settlement occurred in 1851 with the establishment of Fort Phantom hill, which was abandoned in 1854 and re-established in 1872.

Karnes County
Karnes County was created and organized 4 February 1854 from Bexar, DeWitt, Goliad, and San Patricio counties. Courthouse and most records of the county clerk were destroyed by fire in July 1865. County seat: Helena (1854-1894); Karnes City (1894-present).

Kaufman County
Kaufman County was created 26 February 1848 from Henderson County. Organized in 1878. County seat: Kaufman (originally called Kingsborough). The first settlers arrived around 1841. Area was inhabited by Caddo, Cherokee, Delaware and Kickapoo Indians.


Kendall County
Kendall County was created and organized 10 January 1862 from Blanco and Kerr counties. County seat: Boerne.

Kenedy County
Kenedy was organized and created 2 April 1921 from Willacy, Hidalgo, and Cameron counties. County seat: Sarita.

Kent County
Kent County was created 21 August 1876 from Bexar and Young Land Districts and organized in 1892. County seat: Clairemont (1892-1954); Jayton (1954-present).

Kerr County
Kerr County was created and organized 26 January 1856 from Bexar Land District no. 2. County seat: Kerrville (1856-1860, originally known as Brownsborough); Comfort (1860-1862); Kerrville (1862-present).


Kimble County
Kimble County was created 22 January 1858 from Bexar Territory and organized in 1876. County seat: Kimbleville (1876-1877); Junction (1877-present; originally called Junction City).

Kimble County and the Llanos. Junction, Texas: 1927. Special Collections: Americana 976.4 A1 #9


King County
King County was created 21 August 1876 from Bexar Land District and organized in 1891. County seat: Guthrie.

Kinney County
Kinney County was created 28 January 1850 and organized in 1872 from Bexar County. County seat: Brackettville (originally called Brackett). First settlement in 1834 was abandoned until the establishment of Fort Clark in 1852.

Kleberg County
Kleberg County was created 27 February 1913 from Nueces County.

Knox County
Knox County was created 1 February 1858, recreated in 1876 and in 1879, and organized in 1886 from Cooke, Bexar and Young counties. County seat: Benjamin.
Lamar County
Lamar County was created 17 December 1840 and organized in 1841 from Red River County. Most records of the district clerk were destroyed in a courthouse fire in March 1916. County seat: Lafayette (1841-1843), Mount Vernon (1843-1844), Paris (1844-present).


Lamb County
Lamb County was created 21 August 1876 from Bexar Land District and organized in 1908. County seat: Olton (1908-1946); Littlefield (1946-present).


Lampasas County
Lampasas County was created and organized 1 February 1856 from Bell and Travis counties. County records were destroyed by fire or flood in 1870, 1871, and 1875. County seat: Lampasas (formerly known as Burleson).

LaSalle County
LaSalle County was created 1 February 1858 and organized in 1880 from Bexar and Webb counties. County seat: La Salle (1880-1882); Cotulla (1882-present). The first Anglo-American settlement came with the establishment of Fort Ewell in 1852.


Lavaca County
Lavaca County was created and organized on April 6, 1846 from Colorado, Gonzales, Fayette, Jackson, and Victoria counties. County seat: Hallettsville (1852-present).


Lee County
Lee County was created and organized 14 April 1874 from Bastrop, Burleson, Fayette, and Washington counties (formerly the Milam Land District). County seat: Giddings.
Texas


Leon County
Leon County was created 17 March 1846 and organized in 1846 from Robertson County. County seat: Leona (1846-1851) and Centerville (1856-present).


Liberty County
Liberty County was one of the original twenty-three counties of Texas, created on 17 March 1836 and organized in 1837 from the Old Spanish Municipality of Libertad. Courthouse and county records were destroyed by fire in December 1874. County seat: Liberty.


Limestone County
Limestone County was created and organized on April 11, 1846 from Robertson County. Courthouse and most county records were destroyed by fire in October 1873. County seat: Springfield (1846-1873), Groesbeck (1873-present).


Lipscomb County
Lipscomb County was created 21 August 1876 from Bexar Land District and organized in 1887. County seat: Lipscomb.

Live Oak County
Live Oak County was created and organized 2 February 1856 from Nueces and San Patricio counties. County seat: Oakville (1856-1919); George West (1919-present).


Updated 7/07
Llano County
Llano County was created and organized 1 February 1856 from Bexar and Gillespie counties. Courthouses and many county records were destroyed by fires in December 1873 and October 1880. County seat: Llano. The first settlers arrived in 1847.

Loving County
Loving County was created 26 February 1887 from Tom Green County. The county was reorganized in 1931 having been attached to Reeves County for judicial purposes. County seat: Mentone (1931-present). Loving County was the last county in Texas to be organized.

Lubbock County
Lubbock County was created 21 August 1876 from Bexar Land District and Crosby County and organized in 1891. At one time this county was attached to Crosby County for judicial purposes. County seat: Lubbock. The first permanent settlers arrived in 1879.

Lynn County
Lynn County was created 21 August 1876 from Bexar Land District and organized in 1903. County seat: Tahoka.


Madison County
Madison County was created 2 February 1853 and organized in 1854 from Grimes, Leon, and Walker counties. Courthouses and county records were destroyed by fire in June 1865 and January 1873. County seat: Madisonville.

Marion County
Marion County was created and organized 8 February 1860 from Cass and Titus counties. County seat: Jefferson.

Martin County
Martin County was created 21 August 1876 from Bexar Land District and organized in 1884. County seat: Stanton (formerly Mariensfield). The first settlers arrived in 1881.

Mason County
Mason County was organized and created 22 January 1858 from Gillespie County. County seat: Mason (1861-present). Settlement of the county began about 1846.

Matagorda County
Matagorda County was one of the original twenty-three counties of Texas, created on 17 March 1836 and organized in 1836 from an Old Mexican Municipality. County seat: Matagorda (1836-1894); Bay City (1894-present). Part of Stephen F. Austin's Colony.
Bay City Lions Club. Historic Matagorda County: In the Heart of the Rich Gulf Coast. Bay City, Texas: Bay City Lions Club, 1947. Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 11939

Helm, Mary S. Scraps of Early Texas History. Austin, Texas: The Author, 1884. Special Collections: Americana; Rare F 389 .H47 1884


Maverick County
Maverick County was created 2 February 1856 and organized in 1871 from Kinney and Kenedy counties. County seat: Eagle Pass.


McCulloch County
McCulloch County was created 27 August 1856 from Bexar County and organized in 1876. County seat: Brady (originally Brady City).


McLennan County
McLennan County was created and organized 22 January 1850 from Milam, Limestone, and Navarro counties. County seat: Waco. The area was originally part of the Robertson Colony but was occupied exclusively by Waco Indians in the 1802's and 1830's. A trading post was set up near the present site of Waco in 1842.

A Memorial and Biographical History of McLennan, Falls, Bell, and Coryell Counties, Texas. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1893. Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 12394 also Special Collections: Americana; Quarto F 392 .A2 M5 1893

McMullen County
McMullen county was created 1 February 1858, organized in 1862, and re-organized in 1877 from Atascosa, Bexar, and Live Oak counties. Records from the first, short-lived organization have not survived. County seat: Tilden.
**Medina County**  
Medina County was created and organized 12 February 1848 from Bexar County. County seat: Castroville (1844-1892); Hondo (1892-present).

**Menard County**  
Menard County was created 22 January 1858 from Bexar County and organized in 1871. County seat: Menard. The first permanent Anglo-American settlement was Menard in 1867.


**Midland County**  
Midland County was organized and created 4 March 1885 from Tom Green County. County seat: Midland.


**Milam County**  
Milam County was one of the original twenty-three counties of Texas, created on 17 March 1836 and organized in 1846 (with present boundaries) from the Old Mexican Municipality of Milam. County seat: Cameron. Courthouse and all county records were destroyed by fire in April 1874. In 1836 Milam County constituted one-sixth of the land in the territory in Texas.


**Mills County**  
Mills County was organized and created 15 March 1887 from Comanche, Brown, Hamilton, and Lampasas counties. County seat: Goldthwaite. The first white settlers arrived in 1856 and established Hanna Valley.

**Mitchell County**  
Mitchell County was created 21 August 1876 from Bexar Land District and organized in 1881. County seat: Colorado City. The first settlers arrived in 1875.

**Montague County**  
Montague County was created 24 December 1857 and organized in 1858 from Cooke County. Courthouse and many county records were destroyed by fire in February 1873. County seat: Montague. The first Anglo-American settlers arrived in 1854. French and Spanish were in the area as early as 1719.
Henderson, Jeff S.  100 Years in Montague County.  Saint Jo, Texas: IPTA Printers, 1958.  *Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 12162*

*Special Collections: Americana F 392 .M67 P68x*

**Montgomery County**
Montgomery County was created 14 December 1834 and organized in 1837 from Washington County. County seat: Montgomery (1837-1874); Willis (1874-1880); Montgomery (1880-1889); Conroe (1889-present).

Montgomery County Genealogical Society, History Book Committee.  
*F 392 .M7 M69 1981 (Quarto)*


**Moore County**
Moore County was created 21 August 1876 from Bexar Land District and organized in 1892. County seat: Dumas.

**Morris County**
Morris County was created and organized 6 March 1875 from Titus County. County seat: Daingerfield.

**Motley County**
Motley County was created 21 August 1876 from Bexar Land District and organized in 1891. County seat: Matador. The first settlers arrived in 1878. The first settlement was Matador in 1891.


**Nacogdoches County**

Updated 7/07  34
Nacogdoches County was one of the original twenty-three counties of Texas, created on 17 March 1836 and organized in 1836 from the Old Mexican Municipality, Nacogdoches Department. County seat: Nacogdoches. Following the revolution the original 23 counties were created from the Nacogdoches Department; subsequently 20 other counties were created from Nacogdoches County. The Fredonia Rebellion took place in 1826-1827, the battle of Belasco (Nacogdoches) was fought on August 2, 1832, and the Cordova Rebellion occurred in 1838.


A Pen Picture of the City of Nacogdoches and Nacogdoches County.  Nacogdoches, Texas: Spradley & Hutt, 1895.  Special Collections: Americana 976.4 A1 #112

Navarro County
Navarro County was created and organized 25 April 1846 from Robertson County. Records of the district clerk were destroyed by fire in October 1855. County seat: Corsicana. First settled in 1838.


Newton County
Newton County was created and organized 22 April 1846 from Jasper County. County seat: Newton (1846-1848), Burkeville (1848-1853), Newton (1853-present). Settled as early as 1834.

Nolan County
Nolan County was created 21 August 1876 from Young and Bexar Land Districts and organized in 1881. County seat: Sweetwater. The first post office was established at Sweetwater in 1879.
Nueces County
Nueces County was created and organized on April 18, 1846 from San Patricio and Bexar counties. County seat: Corpus Christi.


Ochiltree County
Ochiltree County was created 21 August 1876 from Bexar Land District and organized in 1889. County seat: Ochiltree (1889-1919); Perryton (1919-present). The first settlers arrived after 1880.


Oldham County
Oldham County was created 21 August 1876 from Bexar Land District and organized in 1880. County seat: Tascosa (1880-1915); Vega (1915-present).


Orange County
Orange County was created and organized 5 February 1852 from Jefferson County. County seat: Orange (formerly known as Madison).

Palo Pinto County
Palo Pinto County was created 27 August 1856 from Navarro and Bosque counties and organized in 1857. County seat: Palo Pinto (formerly known as Golconda). The first settlement was in 1854.

Panola County
Panola County was created and organized on 30 March 1846 from Shelby and Harrison counties. County seat: Pulaski (1846-1848), Carthage (1848-present).
Parker County
Parker County was created 12 December 1855 and organized in 1856 from Bosque and Navarro counties. Courthouse and almost all county records were destroyed by fire in May 1874. County seat: Weatherford. The first permanent settlement occurred after 1849.


Holland, Gustavus A. *History of Parker County and the Double Log Cabin*. Weatherford, Texas: Herald Publishing Co., 1937. *Microfilm 300 no. 236 also Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 12160 also Special Collections: Americana Rare; F 392 .P2 H74x

Parker County Centennial Association. *Panorama of the Past; 100 Years Progress*. Weatherford, Texas: Parker County Centennial Association, 1956. *Microfilm 300 #241*

Smythe, Henry. *Historical Sketch of Parker County and Weatherford, Texas*. Saint Louis, Missouri: L.C. Lavat, 1877. *Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 12241 also Microfiche Z 1201 .S32 Unit 222 32402-32407 also Special Collections: Americana; Rare F 392 .P2 S6 1877*

Parmer County
Parmer County was created 21 August 1876 from Bexar Land District and organized in 1907. County seat: Farwell.

Pecos County


Updated 7/07
TEXAS

F 392 .P28 W54 1982


Polk County


Potter County


Presidio County


Rains County

Hebison, William Oscar. Early Days in Texas and Rains County. Emory, Texas: Leader Print, 1917. Special Collections: Americana; Rare F 392 .R15 H4 1917

Randall County


Reagan County


Real County

Updated 7/07

Red River County

Clark, Pat B. The History of Clarksville and Old Red River County. Dallas, Texas: Mathis, Van Nort & Co., 1937. F 392 .R3 C5 also Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 12166


Reeves County

Refugio County

Roberts County


Robertson County


Rockwell County

Runnels County

Rusk County


Updated 7/07
Sabine County

San Augustine County

San Jacinto County

San Patricio County

San Saba County


Schleicher County

Eldorado High School. Schleicher County, or Eighty Years of Development in Southwest Texas. Eldorado, Texas: Eldorado Success, 1930. F 392 .S35 H6 also Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 12167

Scurry County

Shackelford County


Shelby County


Sherman County


Updated 7/07
Smith County


Somervell County

Ewell, Thomas T. *A History of Hood County, Texas, from its Earliest Settlement to the Present: Also a Sketch of the History of Somerville County*. Granbury, Texas: The Granbury News, 1895. Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 12151 also Special Collections: Americana; Rare F 392 .H65 E9 1895


Starr County

Stephens County

Sterling County

Stonewall County

Sutton County

Swisher County


Tarrant County

Taylor County

Terrell County


Terry County

Throckmorton County


Titus County

Tom Green County


Travis County

Trinity County


Tyler County


Upshur County

**Upton County**

**Uvalde County**

**Val Verde County**


**Van Zandt County**


**Victoria County**


**Walker County**

**Waller County**


**Ward County**

Updated 7/07

Washington County


Pennington, R. E., Mrs. The History of Brenham and Washington County. Houston, Texas: Standard Printing and Lithographing Co., 1915. Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 12164 also Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 11949 also Special Collections: Americana; Rare F 394 .B43 P4 1915


Webb County


Wharton County

Wheeler County

Wichita County


Wilbarger County

Ross, Charles P. Early Day History of Wilbarger County. Vernon, Texas: Vernon Times, 1933. F 392 .W6 R67 1933 also Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 12240 also Special Collections: Americana; Rare F 392 .W6 R67 1933

**Willacy County**

**Williamson County**


Makemson, W. K. *Historical Sketches of the First Settlement and Organization of Williamson County*. Georgetown, Texas: Sun Print, 1904. **Special Collections: Americana 976.4 A1 #16**


**Wilson County**

**Winkler County**

**Wise County**

Cates, Cliff D. *Pioneer History of Wise County: From Red Men to Railroads--Twenty Years of Intrepid History*. Decatur, Texas: The Association, 1907. **Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 12165 also Special Collections: Americana; Rare F 392 .W8 C2 1907**


**Wood County**

**Yoakum County**

**Young County**
Other Texas Resources

Texas State Archives Genealogy Resources
http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/arc/genfirst.html

Montgomery County Genealogical and Historical Society
http://www.rootsweb.com/~txmcghs/mcghs.htm