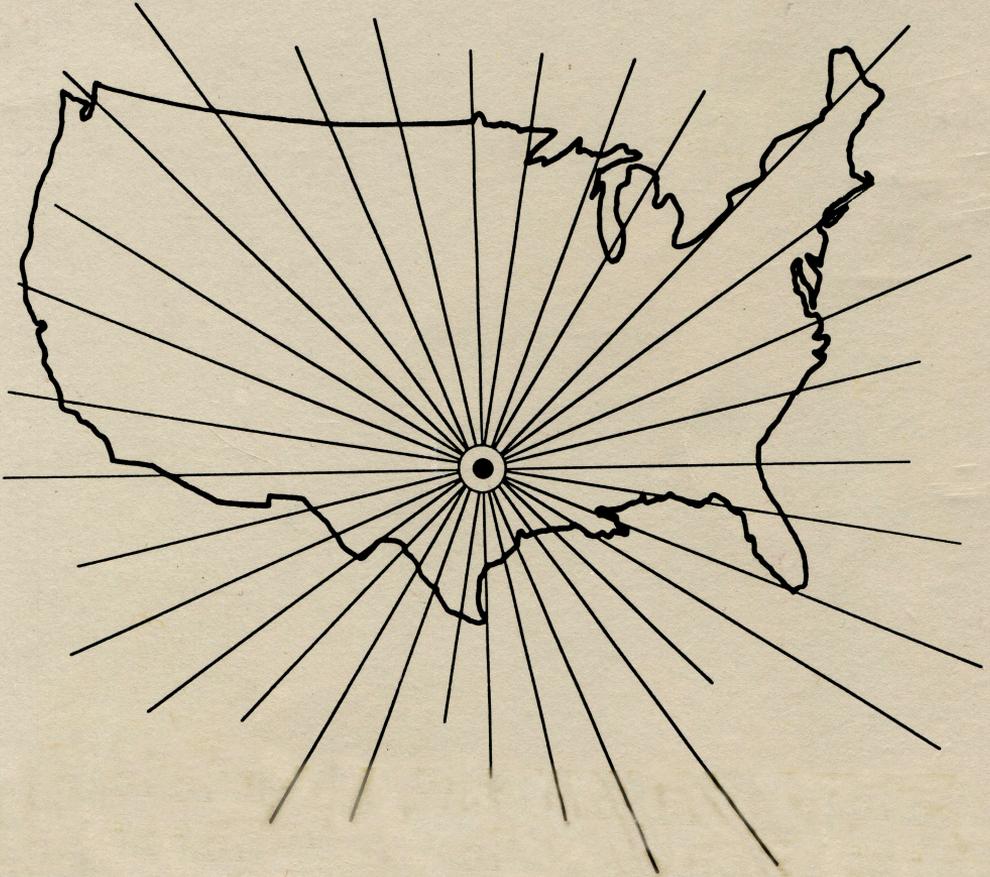


# DALLASEARCH

A Guide to Genealogical Resources  
in Dallas County, Texas



Published by  
The Dallas Genealogical Society



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in Dallas County, Texas



Published  
by

**The Dallas Genealogical Society**

P. O. Box 12648

Dallas, Texas 75225

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Dallas, Texas 75225

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## DALLAS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The Dallas Genealogical Society, founded in 1955, is the oldest continuous organization of its kind in Texas. Present membership is in excess of 700. Its objectives are as follows:

- TO CREATE, FOSTER AND MAINTAIN INTEREST IN GENEALOGY AND FAMILY HISTORY.
- TO RAISE STANDARDS OF GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH THROUGH EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, WORKSHOPS AND THE PUBLICATION OF DATA.
- TO PROMOTE THE COLLECTION AND PRESERVATION OF MATERIAL RELATING TO THE EARLY HISTORY OF DALLAS COUNTY AND THOSE PIONEERS WHO SETTLED THE AREA.
- TO COPY, INDEX AND PUBLISH RECORDS, DOCUMENTS, INSCRIPTIONS AND OTHER GENEALOGICAL SOURCE MATERIALS.
- TO SUPPORT THE GENEALOGY SECTION OF THE DALLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY.
- TO STIMULATE THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BETWEEN SOCIETY MEMBERS AND GENEALOGICAL RESEARCHERS ACROSS THE NATION.

**MEMBERSHIP:** The Dallas Genealogical Society is a non-profit, federally tax-exempt organization. Individuals, libraries or societies may apply for membership. Annual dues are \$12.00 for the calendar year if paid by January 31; after January 31 they are \$14.00. All current members receive the quarterly journal and the newsletter.

**QUARTERLY:** **The Dallas Quarterly** publishes source material and articles of general interest concerning Dallas County and Texas. Manuscripts, together with a cover letter giving the Society permission to publish the material should be submitted to the Editor at the DGS mailing address. While our intention is to present original authoritative articles, the Dallas Genealogical Society and the editor of **The Dallas Quarterly** cannot be responsible for the accuracy or publishing rights of the material furnished by others.

**QUERIES:** Queries are printed in the **DGS Newsletter**. They do not require a Texas connection and are free to members of the Dallas Genealogical Society. Non-members should include \$3.00 with each query submitted. To eliminate correspondence and delay, we reserve the right to abbreviate or condense. Queries should be addressed to the Query Editor at the DGS mailing address.

**BOOK REVIEWS:** Any book donated to the Dallas Genealogical Society relating to genealogy or family history which is currently in print and available for sale will be considered for review in **The Dallas Quarterly**. The book will be placed in the Genealogy section of the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library of the Dallas Public Library System. All publications to be reviewed should be sent to the Dallas Genealogical Society together with price and complete ordering information.

MAILING ADDRESS: DALLAS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
P. O. Box 12648  
Dallas, Texas 75225

## **INTRODUCTION**

Whether you're a first-time visitor to Dallas or a lifelong resident, this booklet is intended to make your genealogical research in Dallas County more enjoyable and more productive. The Dallas area is blessed with an abundance of genealogical and historical research materials, and no matter where your search leads--Texas, the South, New England, Europe--you'll find a resource here which can further that search.

Even if you've lived and researched in Dallas for years, this booklet can help lead you to new and potentially rewarding sources of information.

If you live outside of Dallas, we hope you'll come for a visit, and to that end we've included information designed to help you plan a trip to the Dallas area. Perhaps you'll want to combine your research trip with a family vacation. While you're zeroing in on that elusive immigrant ancestor, the rest of the family can have the time of their lives. Amusement parks, world-class museums, sports facilities, live theater, parks, lakes, professional sports, shopping--there's something for everyone.

The Dallas Genealogical Society wishes to express its thanks to the people and organizations who helped make this publication possible: To Sammie Lee and Margaret Hudson whose original work was the basis for this booklet. To our authors, Bill Jacoby, Lloyd Bockstruck, Cindy Smolovik and Peggy Riddle, for their considerable contribution of time and expertise. To Helen Lu and Adrienne Jamieson for their advice and support. To Mapsco, Inc., for allowing us to reprint its excellent maps of Dallas.

The Society plans a periodic update and republication of *DALLASEARCH* to help keep you current on the constantly-expanding genealogical resource base in the area. Your comments and suggestions for future editions will be most welcome.

Good hunting!

**Jan Bishop McFarland**  
**Director of Publications**  
**Dallas Genealogical Society**

## VISITING DALLAS

If you're planning a trip to Dallas, one of your first moves should be to write the Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau. They will send you, at no cost, a packet of information which includes, among other things, maps, information about local attractions, a guide to a wide variety of hotels and restaurants in all price ranges, as well as addresses and phone numbers for specific information and reservations. Their Special Events Info-Line provides daily information on special events in Dallas.

Dallas/Ft. Worth International Airport, located between Dallas and Ft. Worth, is served by all major national airlines, as well as a number of international air carriers. No matter where you live in the continental US, you're three hours or less from Dallas. Ground transportation from D/FW is readily available with fares to downtown Dallas ranging from \$8.00 to \$20.00, depending on the type of transportation you choose. When you arrive at the airport, call D/FW Transportation Information; they'll be happy to direct you to whichever type of transportation you prefer.

Dallas Love Field, located just north of downtown, serves Texas and surrounding states. Ground transportation information is available in the main terminal.

Texas has an outstanding state highway system, and if you're planning on traveling to Dallas by car, you'll find four major interstate highways which will bring you straight to the heart of Big D. Mapsco, Inc., produces an excellent street guide which should take you anywhere you want to go in Dallas. The Mapsco is available at book stores, office supply stores and some supermarkets and convenience stores, as well as from Mapsco, Inc., 5308 Maple Avenue, Dallas, 75235.

Once here, you'll find a wide variety of accommodations, ranging from four-star-extravagant to down-home-budget. If your preference is for the European-style bed-and-breakfast, you'll have a choice of locations and price ranges, as well.

Whether you're most at home in jeans or designer originals, whether your tastes run to beans and rice or to European haute cuisine, you'll be comfortable in Dallas. Dallasites come in all shapes and sizes, a variety of wonderful colors, and a wide range of ethnic & cultural backgrounds. We urge you to come take advantage of our outstanding genealogical research materials. We'll do our best to make you feel right at home.

## WHERE TO WRITE:

Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau  
1201 Elm Street, Suite 2000  
Dallas, Texas 75270  
214-746-6677

Bed and Breakfast Texas Style  
4224 W. Red Bird Lane  
Dallas, Texas 75234  
214-298-5433 -or- 214-298-858

## PHONE NUMBERS

(Area Code 214)

D/FW Transportation Information . . . . .	574-5878
DCVB Special Events Info Line . . . . .	746-6679
Amtrak . . . . .	800-872-7245
Charter Bus Services . . . . .	828-6841
Dallas Transit System . . . . .	979-1111
Genealogy Section, J. Erik Jonsson Central Library . . . . .	670-1433
Texas/Dallas Collection, J. Erik Jonsson Central Library . . . . .	670-1435
Dallas Historical Society . . . . .	421-4500
Dallas Chamber of Commerce . . . . .	746-6600
Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce . . . . .	421-5200
Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce . . . . .	637-2420
Senior Citizens of Greater Dallas . . . . .	823-5700
Post Office (General Information) . . . . .	741-5508
National Weather Service (Local Weather) . . . . .	787-1700
Road Conditions/Texas . . . . .	320-6100
Time/Temperature . . . . .	844-4444
Telephone Directory Assistance . . . . .	1411

### Handicapped Services Information:

Dallas Center for Independent Living . . . . .	631-6900
TDD . . . . .	630-5411

### Emergency Numbers:

Fire/Police/Ambulance . . . . .	911
Texas Highway Patrol . . . . .	226-7611
Parkland Memorial Hospital . . . . .	590-8000
Baylor University Medical Center . . . . .	820-0111
Dental Emergencies . . . . .	596-6668



## RESEARCHING IN DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS An Overview

By W. F. (Bill) Jacoby, Jr.

Dallas County was created by the first legislature of the State of Texas on March 30, 1846, comprising 900 square miles out of what was then Nacogdoches County, east of the Elm Fork of the Trinity River, and what was then Robertson County, west of the Trinity. The area is home to a diverse collection of genealogical and historical resources for both the amateur and professional researcher.

**J. Erik Jonsson Central Library**  
1515 Young Street, Dallas, Texas 75201  
Genealogy: 670-1433 Texas/Dallas: 670-1436

Newspapers covering early events in Dallas, as well as other areas of Texas, are available on microfilm in the Texas/Dallas History and Archives Division, 7th floor of the Central Library building. This department also has the Texas death rolls and an index of early pioneers whose names have appeared in major newspapers. These records include all Texas Counties to the early 1900's.

Texas/Dallas has copies of early magazines including *Dallas* (published by the Dallas Chamber of Commerce), *Farm & Ranch*, *Beau Monde*, and *Holland's*. They have a collection of Dallas City Directories on microfilm from 1875 to 1975 and have actual directories from 1902 until the current issue. City directories from many other Texas towns or cities may also be found there. They have a large collection of early maps, an extensive photographic collection, oral history, and files of private collections for family or subject research (including collections such as the *Streeter Collection* and the *Sanborn Insurance Maps* for Dallas and towns throughout Texas).

More detailed information regarding both the Genealogy Section and the Texas/Dallas Division may be found elsewhere in this booklet.

Other resources in the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library include:

(1) Government publications-6th Floor (atlases, maps, patents, and state, federal and international government publications); (2) Business and Technology-5th Floor.

The Jonsson Central Library has an outstanding collection of material with an exceptionally competent staff that has earned for it the reputation of being one of the ten best libraries in the United States.

## Southern Methodist University

SMU Post Office

Dallas, Texas 75275

Fondren-General Library: 692-2327

Bridwell-Theology: 692-4046 DeGolyer-Special Collections: 692-2253

Science/Engineering: 692-2282 Underwood-Law: 692-3216

Another major source with a number of specialized libraries is Southern Methodist University, located on Hillcrest between Daniel and Mockingbird Lane. These unique resources include the DeGolyer Library which houses the collections of the DeGolyer Family. The collection of Everette Lee DeGolyer, Sr., contains 80,000 titles on America west of the Mississippi, with major emphasis on the Spanish Southwest. Everette Lee DeGolyer, Jr. assembled a major collection on railroads. Homer DeGolyer specialized in local events, and microfilmed many articles from *The Dallas Morning News* (which have been transferred to prints). His collection also includes many volumes of Texas county histories. The staff of this library has an ongoing project of indexing their collections, preparing exhibits, and publishing information from their collections.

A brochure for DeGolyer Library states, "The library is open to all serious researchers without fee. There are, however, special fees for photocopying, other types of reproduction, special searching, and the use of the library's materials in non-scholarly publication. The library reserves the right to determine what may be reproduced, published, or used. Permission forms and fee schedules are available upon request."

SMU's theological library is the Bridwell Library, which is the depository for the Methodist Church. They have a complete collection of the *Texas Christian Advocate*, which was a Methodist newspaper published from about 1850 until 2 August 1917.

Bridwell, Fondren, and Science/Engineering materials may be used in the library but cannot be checked out by non-students. An Associate, Sustaining Associate, Benefactor, or Library Fellow Membership in Colophon includes library privileges.

### Other Colleges and Universities

Other possible sources of information may be found in area college or university libraries. Some of my most important information has come from university archives. Following is a partial list of these Dallas area resources. It is recommended you call before visiting these locations to check on their library policies and material (When calling from Dallas, numbers labeled "Metro" are toll-free and do not require that you dial "1" before dialing the area code.)

Austin College  
P. O. Box 1177  
Sherman, Texas 75091  
214-813-2216

Dallas Baptist University  
7777 W. Keist Blvd.  
Dallas, Texas 75211  
333-5320

East Texas State University  
James Gee Library  
Commerce, Texas 75428  
826-8961

Navarro County College  
Learning Resource Center  
3200 W. Seventh Avenue  
Corsicana, Texas 75110  
214-874-6501

Texas Woman's University  
Blagg-Huey Library  
P. O. Box 23715, TWU Station  
Denton, Texas 76204  
817-898-2665

University of Dallas  
1845 Northgate  
Irving, Texas 75062  
214-721-5329

University of Texas at Dallas  
2601 Floyd Road  
Richardson, Texas 75080  
721-5329

University of North Texas Library  
P. O. Box 5188  
Denton, Texas 76203  
Metro: 817-267-3731

Cooke County College  
1525 W. California  
Gainesville, Texas 76240  
Metro: 817-430-0352, Ext. 238

Dallas Christian College  
2700 Christian Parkway  
Dallas, Texas 75234  
241-3371

Grayson County College  
6101 Grayson Drive  
Denison, Texas 75020  
214-465-6030

Texas Christian University  
Mary Couets Burnett Library  
P. O. Box 32904  
Lowden Street  
Ft. Worth, Texas 76129  
817-921-7000 (Limited access.)

Hill County College  
Simpson Confederate Research Center  
P. O. Box 619  
Hillsboro, Texas 76645  
817-582-2555

Texas Wesleyan University  
1201 Wesleyan Street  
Fort Worth, Texas 76105  
Metro: 817-429-8224

University of Texas at Arlington Library  
P. O. Box 19497  
Arlington, Texas 76019  
Metro: 817-273-3394

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary  
Roberts Library  
P. O. Box 22000-2E  
Ft. Worth, Texas 76122  
817-923-1921, Ext. 277

**Dallas Historical Society**  
Fair Park Hall of State  
P. O. Box 26038, Dallas, Texas 75226  
Phone: 421-4500

Another excellent source of information is the Dallas Historical Society. This organization was chartered 15 August 1922, with Rhodes Baker, George B. Dealey, Edward Titcher, C. B. Gillespie and John Wayne Barton as incorporators; Pat Beaird of SMU was Secretary. Professor Herbert Gambrell and Virginia Leddy Gambrell were early directors and archivists of the Dallas Historical Society and secured the Hall of State on the State Fair grounds in October, 1938, as home for the Society.

It has what is probably the largest collection of early Dallas photographs, posters, maps, diaries, paintings, clothing, guns, and other items. Its collections include those of Sam Acheson, Joseph Bailey, George Waverly Briggs, William and Walter Caruth, Ann Chase, Sarah Horton Cockrell, John Coit, George B. Dealey, Royal Ferris, Thomas B. Love, Edward Parkinson, Hatton W. Sumners, John Milton McCoy, Reverchon Papers, William Howard, Elmer Scott, Leslie A. Stemmons, C. B. Gillespie, W. H. Gaston Collection, Allan Mariam Papers, and others. It also has the early *Dallas Morning News* Library. At this writing, the Society's offices are undergoing renovation; work is expected to be completed in late the fall of 1990.

**Public Records Of Dallas County**  
Dallas County Records Building  
500 Main Street, Dallas, Texas 75202  
Birth, Death & Marriage Records: 653-7477  
Probate Records: 653-7244    Index & Deeds: 653-7102

The Records Building houses the deeds, public contracts, current court records, probate court records, leases and other public documents in the County Clerk's office located on the second floor. These records cover the period from 1846 until the present time. The current (1990) charge is \$3.00 for the first page and \$2.00 for each additional page. (Pages are 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> x 14 inches.) The County Clerk's office is open from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Dallas County marriage records may also be found in the County Clerk's office. Certified copies are \$2.00 each.

The Birth and Death Records for Dallas County are filed according to the area in which the birth or death occurred. To get copies of birth records, you must provide the name of the person, date of birth, father's name, mother's maiden

name, and where the birth took place. For copies of death records, provide the full name, date of death, and where it took place. Unless otherwise indicated, the charge for copies is \$8.00 for the first copy and \$2.00 for each additional copy. Texas has recently passed a law restricting release of public records and/or indexes. Compliance rests with individual clerks or office supervisors.

If the birth or death took place in the City of Dallas, Highland Park or University Park, write directly to the municipality for records. As stated above, you must have the essential information about the event in order to get a copy of the record. Each of these agencies will honor mail requests if sufficient information is furnished, and if the request is accompanied by a check or money order. They suggest your telephone number be included in case additional information is required. The City of Dallas Vital Statistics office is a very busy one, sometimes requiring two hours to obtain the copy, so you may wish to write for that copy.

These municipal locations can usually fill your request for birth or death records in only a few minutes. (The fees listed are set by the State of Texas as of March, 1990.) They include:

1. City of Dallas

Births and deaths are in the Vital Statistics Department, Dallas City Hall, 1500 Marilla Street, Dallas, Texas, 75201 (across from the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library). Hours are from 8:15 a.m. until 4:40 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; Tuesdays, from 7:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and Thursdays from 8:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.. The telephone number is 670-3092 or 670-3248. Birth and death certificate copies are \$8.00 for the first copy and \$2.00 for each additional copy.

2. Town of Highland Park:

Records are in the Town Hall located at 4700 Drexel Drive (near Euclid), Dallas, Texas, 75205, at the office of the Town Registrar on the first floor. Hours are from 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The telephone number is 521-4161. Birth and death certificate fees are the same as stated above for Dallas.

3. Town of University Park:

Records are kept in the Town Hall located at 3800 University Boulevard, Dallas, Texas, 75205, in the Finance Department on the first floor. Hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The telephone number is 363-1644. Birth and death certificate fees are as above.

4. Dallas County:

Records are in the County Clerk's office for all births and deaths outside the three municipalities listed above.

(The Dallas Genealogical Society has published many Dallas County probate, death and cemetery records. For a complete listing, see Page 34 of this booklet.)

***The Dallas Morning News***

Communications Center

P. O. Box 655237

Dallas, Texas 75265

Newspaper columns are a good source for information about current activities in the genealogical and historical field. Among the best is *Family Tree*, authored by Margaret Ann Thetford, which normally appears in *The Dallas Morning News* each Thursday and Saturday. If you have a question or need assistance with a problem, queries for this column are free. They should be brief, giving full names, at least one date or time period, and at least one location. Queries from Texas may be about any area; queries from outside Texas must have a Texas connection.

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS) is one of the leading collectors of genealogical information. Each LDS Library is connected to a stake (church) which builds its own library, so each library is different. Collections include:

- International Genealogical Index (IGI) for all 50 states and almost all the countries of the world.
- Accelerated Indexing System (AIS)
- Family Registry Index (FRI)

(These indexes are also available in the Genealogy Section of the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library.)

There are three LDS libraries in the Dallas area; they have varying schedules, so it is necessary to contact them before making your visit.

Seventh Ward  
1019 Big Stone Gap  
Duncanville, Texas 75137  
214-709-0066

Plano Stake  
2700 Roundrock Trail  
Plano, Texas 75075  
214-867-6479

Dallas East Stake  
10701 Lake Highlands  
Dallas, Texas 75218  
214-749-0730

## State of Texas Resources

The Texas State Library and Archives, located in the Lorenzo de Zavala Building just east of the State Capitol in Austin, Texas, has a large Genealogy Collection. Staff does limited research by mail. Mailing address is: Genealogy Collection, Texas State Library and Archives, 1201 Brazos, P. O. Box 12927, Austin, Texas, 78711. Telephone numbers: Genealogy-512-463-5463; Archives-512-463-5480; Reference-512-463-5455.

The General Land Office of the State of Texas has records of original land grants. Mailing address is: Records Division, General Land Office, 1700 North Congress, Austin, TX, 78701. Phone: 512-463-5001.

Send SASE to the above addresses for more information on these collections.

## Genealogical & Historical Societies

Dallas and surrounding counties have many excellent genealogical and historical societies which may be helpful for local inquiries. Although we are unable to include all societies in the North Texas area, following is a partial list.

- Arlington Genealogical Society, c/o Arlington Public Library, 101 East Abram, Arlington, TX, 76010
- Arlington Historical Society, P.O. Box 13025, Arlington, TX, 76013
- Collin County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 864752, Plano, TX, 75086
- **Dallas Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 12648, Dallas, TX, 75225**
- Dallas Historical Society, Hall of State, Fair Park, P.O. Box 26038, Dallas, TX, 75226
- Denton County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 23322, TWU Station, Denton, TX, 76204
- Duncanville Genealogical Society, c/o Duncanville Public Library, 103 East Wheatland Road, Duncanville, TX 75116
- Ellis County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 385, Waxahachie, TX, 75165
- Forney Heritage Society, P.O. Box 1292, Forney, TX, 75126
- Fort Worth Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 9767, Fort Worth, TX, 76147
- Garland Genealogical Society, P. O. Box 461882, Garland, TX 75046
- Grand Prairie Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 532026, Grand Prairie, TX, 75053
- Irving Genealogical Society/Irving Heritage Society, P.O. Box 15172, Irving, TX, 75015
- Kaufman County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 337, Terrell, TX, 75160
- Lancaster Genealogical Society, c/o Lancaster Public Library, 220 W. Main, Lancaster, TX 75146

- Mesquite Historical and Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 165, Mesquite, TX, 75149
- Mid-Cities Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 171, Bedford, TX, 76021
- Peters Colony Historical Society of Dallas County (Carrollton/Farmers Branch), P.O. Box 110846, Carrollton, TX, 75011
- Rockwall County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 90, Rockwall, TX, 75087

*About the Author: Mr. W. F. (Bill) Jacoby, Jr., is an accountant, a member of the Dallas Genealogical Society Board and is active in the movement to preserve historic resources and to record family history and genealogy. He is a member of many organizations, including: the Dallas Historical Society, Dallas Heritage Council, Friends of the Dallas Public Library, Colophon-Friends of the SMU Libraries, Sons of the Republic of Texas, and is a past president of the Dallas County Pioneer Association.*

## GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH USING THE DALLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY

By Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck

Located in the center of Dallas at 1515 Young Street in the vicinity of the Dallas Convention Center and the Dallas City Hall, the Dallas Public Library is open to the public without charge. Parking is available in the library's subterranean garage entered on the Wood Street side of the building with rates comparable to other locations in the area.

The library is open from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM, Monday through Thursday; from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Friday and Saturday; and from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM on Sundays. Exceptions would include inclement weather conditions during the winter. Official city holidays include New Year's Day, Martin Luther King's birthday, President's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day (and the Friday following), and Christmas. The library also closes on Easter.

The central library building is the largest public library structure in the nation. Opened in 1982, the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library consists of nine floors above ground and two below, occupying an entire city block. Located on the eighth level is the Genealogy Section and, on the seventh, the Texas/Dallas Archives and History Division. The genealogical materials housed therein are some of the richest in the southern half of the nation. With more than 55,800 volumes in the Genealogy Section, the collection is the largest book collection in the southern and southwestern United States. Complemented by more than 65,700 microforms, the materials comprise an especially vast array for genealogical research. Because Dallas area residents hail from virtually every state in the Union, the staff of the Genealogy Section endeavor to collect material representative of the entire nation. The southern and midwestern states and the thirteen original colonies have always been emphasized and remain stronger than the western, northern or northwestern states.

The Genealogy Section strives to acquire all printed census indexes and owns all of the federal decennial census records on microfilm for the country from 1790 through 1900, the 1880 soundex for every state and territory; the 1910 census for Mississippi, Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Missouri, Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, and New Jersey; and the census for numerous other counties for 1910.

The Genealogy Section is the depository for the lineage papers of several hereditary societies in Texas, namely, the Order of Founders and Patriots of America, the Sons of the American Revolution, the Society of Colonial Wars, and

the Society of the War of 1812. The only set of membership applications of the Sons of the Republic of Texas available to researchers is here. The Dallas Genealogical Society, the oldest genealogical society in the state, has been a long-time force in the growth of the Genealogy Section. Through the efforts of the Society, the support of hereditary societies in the area, and the interest of genealogical researchers across the nation, the Genealogy Section has become one of the centers for genealogical research in the country.

### **Military Records**

While the library's holdings contain few unique items, the collection of military-related records is one of the most complete in the nation. All of the service records, pensions, and bounty-land applications files for the Revolutionary War, both army and navy, are available on microfilm. The papers of Continental Congress, the ledgers of payment (1818-1872), the Virginia half-pay pensions, the South Carolina audited accounts, the Virginia public service claims, the North Carolina Revolutionary Army accounts, the Massachusetts Archives Revolutionary War service appendix, and the numbered records books relating to both military and civilian personnel enrich the potential for Revolutionary War research.

The Genealogy Section also has all of the service records of volunteers who served from 1784 to 1811. It has the index to those in the War of 1812, the Indian Wars (1815-1858), the Mexican War (1846-1848), the Confederacy (1861-1865), the Spanish American War (1898), and the Philippine Insurrection (1899). Moreover, the library also has the registers of enlistments in the United States Army from 1798 to 1914. The indexes to pensions for the War of 1812, the Indian Wars, the Mexican War, the Old War series, and the Union Civil War veterans are also available.

There are indexes for volunteer Union soldiers from Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Dakota, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, the U.S. colored troops, and volunteers in organizations not raised by states or territories. There are indexes for Confederate pensions for Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas.

### **Passenger Lists**

The collection of passenger lists indexes is strong for a state somewhat removed from the Atlantic seaboard. There are indexes for the ports of

Baltimore (1829-1897, 1833-1866, and 1897-1952); Boston (1848-1891, 1902-1906, and 1906-1920); Galveston (1846-1871, 1896-1906, and 1906-1951); New Orleans (1850's-1900 and 1900-1952); New York (1820-1846 and 1897-1902); Philadelphia (1800-1906 and 1883-1948); miscellaneous Gulf, Atlantic, and Great Lakes ports (1820-1874); Providence (1911-1954); New Bedford (1902-1954); Gulfport (1904-1954); and Portland (1893-1954). For some ports there are also quarterly abstracts of the lists (e.g. Baltimore from 1820-1869) and/or the lists themselves (e.g. New York from 1820-1897).

### Local History & Resources

The Genealogy Section has acquired the Research Publications' micropublications of county histories and atlases for the states of New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin, Michigan, and California. It also has the Cox Library equivalent for Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, and Washington. Other major sets include the Draper Papers, all U. S. City Directories prior to 1861, the Accelerated Indexing Systems Registry of the Genealogical Society of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and the Documentary Relations of the Southwest, Biofile, and Master Index. The tax lists of every Texas County are available from 1836, or the year of the creation of the county, through 1910.

### Foreign Reference Materials

Griffith's *Valuation of Ireland*, the British Record Society's publications, the Harleian Society's series for England, the *Deutsches Geschlechterbuch* and Sibmacher's *Wappenbuch* for Germanic-speaking Europe, the publications of the Huguenot Society of London, and the vital statistics and census of French Quebec prepared by the Demography Department of the University of Montreal are some of the more frequently consulted foreign reference materials.

### Periodicals

The library has an excellent representation of genealogical periodicals. Complete runs exist of such important ones as the *New England Historic Genealogical Register*, *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, *Publications of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania*, *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*, *American Genealogist*, *Virginia Genealogist*, *William and Mary Quarterly*, *Confederate Veteran*, and *Tyler's Quarterly*.

### Other Resources

Among frequently consulted sources are the 1907 Alabama Census of Confederate Veterans; the *Arkansas Gazette* and its index (1819-1870); the California death index (1940-1983); the California marriage index (1960-1981); the *Barbour and Hale Collections* of Connecticut vital statistics; the archives of Spanish West Florida and the Spanish land grants of Florida; the *Hollingsworth Collection* for Georgia; the Georgia Military Affairs (1773-1837); the public domain land sales index for Illinois; the Illinois military census of 1862-1863; the 88-roll set of Illinois county history index; the honor roll of veterans buried in Illinois; the Indiana WPA transcripts of vital records, the Indiana biographical index; the Kentucky tax lists; the Kentucky Vital Records Indexes (1911-1954); the Louisiana Voter Registration books for 1898; the records of the dioceses of Louisiana and the Floridas; the Maine Old Cemetery Association records; the genealogies of Cape Cod families; the *Corbin Collection* for Massachusetts; the Massachusetts vital records on microfiche from the Holbrook Institute; the Michigan Historical Collections; Mississippi marriages prior to 1926; the Mississippi tax lists; the index to the fur trade ledgers at the Missouri Historical Society; ; the index to New England naturalizations (1791-1906); the Charles E. Banks manuscripts for New England; the *Torrey Collection* of New England marriages prior to 1700; the Seversmith manuscripts for New York; the *Vosburgh Collection* of New York church records; the North Carolina marriage bonds prior to 1868; the *McCubbins Collection*; the DAR Ohio County records transcripts; the Ohio County History Surname index; the Oklahoma Confederate pension applications; Starr's Old Cherokee families and genealogies; the Indian Pioneer History; the Oregon death index (1903-1970); the county will abstracts of Pennsylvania; the South Carolina will transcripts; the South Carolina memorials; the WPA tombstone inscriptions index for South Carolina; the *South Carolina Council Journals* (1734-1773); the Tennessee land grant index; the Tennessee State Library Bible collection; the Tennessee WPA county records transcripts; the Records of the Cherokee Indian in Tennessee (1801-1835); Texas land grants; the 1867-1869 Texas voter registration lists; the probate and land records for Dallas County, Texas, prior to 1900; the index to Texas deaths (1903-1973); the Biographical Dictionary for Early Virginia; the Bowman Files of the Mayflower Society; the Washington death index (1907-1979); the *International Genealogical Index* of the Genealogical Society of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints; genealogies of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Donations are the life blood of any vibrant library and are actively solicited. Within the last year, nearly \$20,000 in cash has been contributed by supporters of

the library, and more than 1,800 volumes have been donated. Without such support from the genealogical community, the library could not offer the resources for all of the nearly 30,000 users who visit it annually for genealogical research. The mailing address is the Genealogy Section, J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, Dallas Public Library, 1515 Young Street, Dallas, Texas 75201

*About the Author: Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck, author of Virginia's Colonial Soldiers, is supervisor of the Genealogy Section of the Dallas Public Library. He has served on the faculty of the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research at Samford University since 1974. He has been a speaker at many of the National Genealogical Society Conferences and received the NGS Distinguished Service Award in 1983.*



# RESEARCHING IN THE TEXAS/DALLAS HISTORY & ARCHIVES DIVISION

By Cindy C. Smolovik

## Texas Family Ties at the Dallas Public Library

The Texas/Dallas History and Archives Division of the Dallas Public Library system is located on the 7th Floor of the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young Street. This Division collects and makes available to researchers materials related to Dallas and the State of Texas. The Texas/Dallas Collection is a treasure trove of local and state history. A trained staff, archival finding guides, and subject indexes provide access to the collection. Because of the many unique and fragile sources in the collection, no items circulate outside the library. They are located in a limited access area and retrieved by staff members for researchers.

The Texas/Dallas Collection contains a number of resources for genealogists with family ties in Texas. Included in the holdings are newspapers, tax rolls, county histories, biographical encyclopedias, archives collections, photographs, maps and books relating to Texas.

## Newspapers

Although not always accurate, newspapers are one of the best sources for giving a glimpse of the past. Newspapers are available for Dallas and the Houston area, as well as smaller holdings for other Texas towns. A detailed list is available from the staff at the service desk.

Dallas:

- The Dallas Herald*, 8 December 1855–1885
- Dallas Daily Herald*, 11 February 1873–1886
- Dallas Times Herald*, 6 October 1886–Present
- Dallas Morning News*, October 1885–Present

Other newspapers around the state include:

- Galveston Daily News*, 21 February 1865–February 1919
- Houston Chronicle*, 15 October 1901–1954, and 1963–1986
- Clarksville Northern Standard*, 20 August 1842–December 1888

Texas Newspaper Name Index, 1830–1885:

Newspapers are often the only available information regarding people and events. Unfortunately, due to the lack of indexes, access is not always easy. The Texas Newspaper Name Index is one helpful source for the years 1830 through

1885. Developed by the University of Texas in Austin, this card file is available on microfilm. The index is alphabetical by last name and includes obituaries, advertising, minor mentions, as well as longer feature stories and in-depth articles. A wide variety of early Texas newspapers, such as the *Dallas News*, *Dallas Herald*, *Clarksville Northern Standard* and the *Telegraph and Texas Register* are included in this 19th-century resource, making it one of the few tools for biographical research using newspapers.

#### Dallas Morning News Index, 1917–1976:

Another index on microfilm is for the *Dallas Morning News*, covering the years 1917 through 1976. This source is tedious to use and is not recommended for the faint of heart. It is inconsistent, not always accurate, has bizarre subject headings, and is in date order within subject entries. However, it is the only index to a Dallas newspaper for this time period. Sometimes something is better than nothing at all.

#### Datetimes–Newspaper Computer Index Service:

The *Dallas Morning News* from August, 1984, *The Houston Chronicle* from May, 1985, and the *Austin American Statesman* from January, 1989, are indexed through a computer service called Datetimes. The *Houston Chronicle* is the only Texas newspaper on this service that is fully indexed, including obituaries. The Dallas and Austin papers do not include obituaries. Datetimes is available at the Dallas Public Library (and other libraries in the country) as a fee service. The fee is based on the time the computer operator is using the database. The *Dallas Times Herald* is not indexed at this time. These indexes can be helpful in locating national, statewide and local events.

#### Other Indexes:

There are a few other indexes to more current newspapers in Texas. The *Houston Post* has an index in book form beginning in 1977 and is continuing.

#### Newspaper Vertical Files, 1945–Current:

One other newspaper resource worth mentioning is the vertical files. These consist of newspaper clippings and other pamphlet materials ranging from the late 1940's to current date. A wide range of subject headings such as cities, county, tornadoes, crime, current events, biographies, and elections make up this extensive collection. The papers currently being clipped by the Texas/Dallas staff are the *Dallas Morning News*, *Dallas Times Herald*, *Dallas Downtown News*, and the *Dallas Observer*. Although these are more current and more subject-oriented than biographical, these files can help genealogists with events in the

lives of their family members.

### **Texas Tax Rolls**

One of the essential tools of genealogical research is tax rolls. This source helps to locate a person and their property. The tax rolls on microfilm include (1) Ad Valorem Taxes—Import duties or other fees levied in proportion to the certified value of the merchandise or goods, and (2) Poll Taxes—A head tax, a tax of a specific sum levied upon each person within a certain class “such as all males of a certain age” without reference to his property or lack of it. Poll tax records are very valuable when locating laborers or tradesmen who did not own property but did vote.

The Texas/Dallas collection has available on microfilm tax rolls for the State of Texas between 1837 and 1921. The earliest rolls for each county depends on the year the county was created. Since many of the counties were formed from larger counties, researchers should know enough of the county history in order to trace older county records if necessary. One of the best sources for brief county histories is the *Handbook of Texas*, or use *The Handy Book for Genealogists* by Everton Publishers. The rolls between 1837 and 1910 are in individual sets by county. The rolls from 1911-1921 are in sets by the individual year. Each year begins with Anderson County through Zavala County, with the exception of 1911 which includes Abernathy County. After 1921 tax information must be obtained at the individual county.

#### Dallas County and City of Dallas Tax Rolls:

The tax rolls for Dallas County are available for the years 1846–1921 and are extended with two more sets covering 1911–1947 and 1948–1959. In addition, the City of Dallas real estate and personal property tax rolls from 1879 to 1919 are also available on microfilm. Included in these reels are Oak Cliff and the City of East Dallas. After 1919 the tax rolls are not available on film. The original tax records for the City of Dallas are retained by the Dallas City Secretary's Office.

### **County & City Histories Biographical Encyclopedias**

The Texas/Dallas Collection maintains histories written about counties and cities as a major portion of our holdings. County histories and biographical encyclopedias are a wonderful resource; however, many have no index. One of the tools available in Texas/Dallas is an extensive card file that indexes some of these histories. The “*Index to Biographical Studies of Texans*” was prepared by the Texas Historical Survey and sponsored by the University of Texas in 1933–1935.

This card file indexes such titles as *Indian Wars and Pioneers of Texas*, by John Henry Brown; *The Heroes of San Jacinto*, by Sam H. Dixon and Louis W. Kemp; Davis's *Encyclopedia of Texas*; Philip Lindsley's *History of Greater Dallas and Vicinity*; and Francis White Johnson's *History of Texas and Texans*, as well as many of the memorial and biographical county histories. This card file makes these histories even more valuable and usable. The file is accessible, easy to use, and basically accurate. It is a definite place to start when looking for Texas relatives.

### **City & Social Directories/Phone Books**

City directories, social directories and phone books are also valuable resources for finding Texas people. Our holdings include various towns from around the state from the 1950's forward, although many cities have significant gaps. We have large cities as well as smaller towns such as Yoakum, Greenville, Victoria, Zapata, Fairview and Post.

A city directory is more than an address. This one source can give spouses' names as well as occupation. City directories, which in many cases predate telephone books, list people who do not have a telephone, as well as those who do. Directories also provide information for the city, county, societies, associations, churches, schools and businesses.

Some of the Dallas City Directories are on microfilm, but the majority of them are the originals. Because these are printed on the worst possible paper their condition is very fragile. The ones that are extremely brittle may not be photocopied.

Social directories range from a listing of members of various clubs to those considered to be first families of an area. Usually you will find names, addresses, children, schools attended, affiliation with organizations, etc. Titles of the Dallas social directories changed over the years due to the changes in publishers. These materials are a good place to begin, once relatives have been located in a particular city at a certain time.

#### Dallas City Directories:

Dallas City Directory, 1873-1975 (Original & Microfilm)

Dallas City Directory, 1975-Current (Original)

#### Other City Directories:

Galveston, 1886-1889, 1914, 1923-1938, 1951-1959

Plainview, 1955-1957

Denton, 1951-1986 with some gaps

El Paso, 1957-1987

### Dallas City Social Directories:

*Red Book of Dallas*, 1895–1896

*Dallas Social Directory*, 1900, 1907, 1909

*Dallas Blue Book*, 1925–1941

*Dallas Social Directory*, 1943, 1953, 1955/56, 1968–1987

### Dallas Phone Books:

Dallas Phone Books, 1873–Current

Dallas Phone Books, 1927, 1929, 1932, 1935, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1943, 1947, 1949–1960 (Microfilm)

### Other City Phone Books:

Abilene, 1952–1988 with some gaps

Galveston, 1965–1987 with some gaps

Plainview, 1955–1985 with some gaps

Denton, 1951–1986 with some gaps

El Paso, 1957–1987

## **The City and County of Dallas, Texas**

A portion of the Texas/Dallas holdings concentrates on the City and County of Dallas. Beginning with the *Memorial and Biographical History of Dallas County*, *Dallas Rediscovered*, Dallas City Directories and the Dallas newspapers, researchers can find a wealth of materials in this area. One of the best genealogical resources are the county records which are housed in the Texas/Dallas collection as a member of the Regional Historical Resource Depositories (RHRD) system.

### **Regional Historical Resource Depository for Dallas County, Texas**

The Regional Historical Resource Depository and Local Records Program (RHRD) of the Texas State Library is a network of local libraries created to preserve historical materials. The Texas State Library states the purpose of the RHRD 25-regional-depositories system as: “To locate, identify, and preserve local government records and private records of permanent value; to make them available to the public for research and to assist researchers in using them...”

This network of libraries was developed in order to give better access to the records by locating them in various areas instead of everything being stored in Austin. The Texas/Dallas History and Archives Division of the Dallas Public Library is one of the depositories in the RHRD system.

Although the RHRD holdings for Dallas County have scattered dates, are incomplete and have not been filmed, some of the other counties in the RHRD system have most of the early court records, which have been microfilmed. Each

county decides when and what records will be placed in the RHRD holdings.

A variety of interesting and useful resources for Dallas County can be found in the RHRD holdings. Probably the most important are the Civil Courts Minutes Books for the 14th, 44th, 68th, 95th, 101st, and 116th District Courts. These records include divorce cases, land disputes, and some adoptions. (Adoptions are difficult to find without the names of the natural and adoptive parents.) The years covered in each of these courts are as follows:

14th/A District, 1846–March 1939

44th/B District, July, 1889–8 March 1940

68th/C District, 2 February 1909–28 January 1939

95th/D District, 26 June 1923–10 November 1939

101st/E District, 1 May 1925–16 November 1939

116th/F District, 23 June 1930–September 1939

Access to the civil minutes are through the direct and reverse indexes. Due to their size and fragile condition, access to these is restricted. As a general rule the library staff will look up the cases in the indexes and bring the minutes books to researchers. Copies can be obtained for \$1.00 per page, plus \$.50 postage.

#### Naturalization Papers and Dockets, 1865–1914:

Other useful resources are the Naturalization Papers and Naturalization Dockets for 1865–1914. Although many of these cases can be obtained through the district court civil minutes, the actual papers and documents can be quite valuable. The civil minutes will give the date of declaration to become a citizen and the country of birth. The very early naturalization papers do not give much more information but will often contain an original signature. However, after the change in naturalization laws in 1906, the declarations of intent are much more detailed. For those looking for immigrants between 1906 and 1914 these documents are simply a genealogist's dream. They contain full names, age, occupation, a wonderful physical description (including birthmarks or other distinctive marks and scars such as tattoos), place of birth, date of birth, where living at time of declaration, what vessel emigrated on, last foreign residence, and which port arrived at in the United States and the date of arrival. For the genealogist researching immigration records, these sources should not be overlooked.

#### **Other RHRD Records**

##### Chattel Mortgage Records, 1880–1910:

A mortgage on personal property, an article of personal or movable property as distinguished from real property; furniture, automobiles, livestock, farm equipment, etc. are chattels.

### Criminal Dockets and Minutes:

Docket Indexes: 1857–1905, 1897–1907

Criminal Minutes: 1874–1875

### Inquest Dockets and Minutes, 1893–1940's:

A judicial inquiry, especially when held before a jury, as a coroner's investigation of a death. Inquest gives name of deceased, place of death, date, informant, etc., and the minutes state cause of death.

### City of Dallas Calaboose Records:

Volumes 1 & 2, 24 August 1901–28 October 1902:

These records do not have an index, are listed by date and provide the person's name, valuables, charge, arresting officers, nationality, age, sex, residence and occupation.

### Probate Dockets, 1846–1900:

Index of names and dates of when the court case was heard.

### Miscellaneous Fee Books:

Fees paid to the county; lists person's name, amount and date.

### Medical Registers, 1887–1919, 1932–1981:

Medical Registers list when a doctor registered to practice in Dallas County and occasionally which school a doctor attended. These records are not as heavily used as the others, but they can be useful.

### RHRD Records:

The RHRD records for Dallas County have not been filmed, but some records from other counties in the RHRD system have. These microfilmed records are available through the interlibrary loan system. A listing by county shows which films can be ordered. A maximum of six reels can be requested at one time.

## **Other Dallas County Court Records**

Other helpful court records that are not part of the RHRD system are Dallas County probate records, county marriage records and death records.

### Probate Records, 1846–1900:

The probate records are generally related to wills; however, the cases regarding the mentally ill and the State Hospital are also found in these records. The Probate Dockets are part of the RHRD records, and basically indicate names and dates when the court case was heard. The actual probate papers are separate.

These are microfilm records of the documents in probate cases for Dallas County between 1846–1900. The microfilm contains all the documents available pertaining to a particular probate case at the time of filming. These include wills, affidavits and any other pertinent documents involved in the case. All original papers are located at the County Records Building. The Dallas Genealogical Society microfilmed all the original papers of the probate packets and published an index in 1978.

#### Marriage Records:

Another index compiled by the Dallas Genealogical Society in 1978 concerns the Marriage Records of Dallas County, Books A–E, 1846–1877. The second volume of Marriage Records for Dallas County starts with Book F–H, 1877–1885. Both volumes are available for purchase from the Society. These books are typed and index both brides and grooms, list the date of the marriage and who performed the ceremony. A few of the declarations of intent to marry are part of the RHRD holdings (June 1929–August 1933), but they are not comprehensive. After the time period indicated, these records must be obtained at the County Records Building.

#### Index to Texas Death Records, 1903–1973:

One of the best pieces of news for biographical research in Texas is the extension of the Surname Index to Texas Death Records on microfilm. For those unfamiliar with this source, the microfilm lists the date and county of death and the death certificate number. Previously these records ranged from 1903–1946. They now cover 1903–1973. This is a big improvement for searchers looking for more recent relatives. Using this index a researcher can then go to the newspapers for obituaries armed with a date.

### **Map Collection**

Maps can be very useful and beautiful. Cartography is an art form. This fact must be kept in mind because not all maps are accurate. However, most maps can be used to pinpoint cities, towns, and property. The smaller roads and trails are more difficult because the routes varied due to weather and other hazards. There are many different types of maps. The Texas/Dallas Collection contains railroad maps, Sanborn fire insurance maps, historic maps of Texas, commercial atlases, and city and county maps with heavy concentration on Dallas.

The map collection is an area that is now being processed with access and descriptions of our holdings to be available in the future. At this time Dallas city and county maps are accessible. The originals have been transferred to mylar, making them stronger for handling. Once a mylar map has been made, the

originals are no longer available for use. However, the mylar maps show essential details and can be copied.

Mylar Maps for the City of Dallas:

- 1846, Map of the Town of Dallas
- 1860, Grigsby League and Original Township of Dallas
- 1875, Official Map of Dallas, Texas
- 1878, Jones and Murphy's Map of Dallas (A reprint is available in the Library Store.)
- 1911, Kessler Plan for the City of Dallas
- 1930–1936, City Maps
- 1941, Zoning Map
- 1948, Ashburn's Dallas City Map
- 1950, Dallas Streetcar, Motor Coach, Trolley Coach Lines
- 1955, Ashburn's Dallas City Maps

Mylar Maps for Dallas County:

- 1836, Murphy and Bolanz's Official Map of Dallas County
- 1889, Reconnaissance Map Texas–Dallas Sheet
- 1900, Sam Street's Map of Dallas County (A reprint is available in the Library Store.)
- 1918, Geological Map
- 1920, Soil Map
- 1943, Road Map
- 1946, Post Offices, Dallas County
- 1955, Norman's Map of Dallas and Dallas County

Also available on mylar are the Texas Electric Railway System maps, 1938. A more complete list is available at the service desk. Paper copies can be ordered from the mylar maps for \$9.00, plus postage.

Texas Street and Highway Maps:

In addition to the mylar maps, a collection of street and highway maps is available. The Dallas holdings include 1930's–1980's. The Texas highway maps cover the years 1926–1980's. City maps from around the state between 1950 and the 1970's include Houston, Austin, Waco, Sherman and other cities. These are not inclusive; some cities may have only one map for a particular year. A card file lists the holdings. The division is also currently collecting all recent city and county maps that are available through area chambers of commerce. These maps are originals and can be carefully photocopied.

### Historic Texas Maps:

Some of the historic Texas maps in the collection are: 1838 Baker Map of Texas; 1840 General Austin's Map of Texas with Part Adjoining States; 1836 J. H. Colton's Map of Texas; and an 1886 Railroad and County Map of Texas. These are originals and should be handled with care. Some have been encapsulated for preservation and may be photocopied.

### Maps on Microfilm:

There are two microfilm map sources that are important: Land Grant Maps and Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. The Land Grant Records include an abstract index for Land Grants (1835–1889). From this index researchers are directed to county maps on film to locate the property.

### Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps:

Texas/Dallas has the following maps, as well as others from around the state with similar time frames. These maps enable researchers to locate homes, businesses, churches and other buildings. They are also useful for giving a more in-depth look at the layout of a city.

Dallas, 1885–1921

Alvarado, 1885–1944

Amarillo, 1902, 1904, 1908, 1913, 1921–1955

Austin, 1885, 1889, 1894, 1900, 1922, 1936–1961

Fredericksburg, 1896, 1902, 1910, 1915, 1924–1938

Palestine, 1885–1891, 1896, 1900, 1905, 1911, 1919, 1935–1949

### Cemetery Records:

*Dallas County, Texas: Genealogical Data from Early Cemeteries, Vol. I* was published in 1981 covering cemeteries in the following cities and towns: Addison, Carrollton, Coppell, Farmers Branch, Garland, Richardson, Rowlett, Sachse and Dallas north of Northwest Highway. Volume II, published in 1989, covers the following cemeteries located in the southwest portion of Dallas County: Edgewood, Floyd-Taylor, Hutchins, Patrick-Pruitt, Porter, Rawlins and Stadden. Both of these volumes were published by the Dallas Genealogical Society and can be purchased from them. Other information on cemeteries may be found in the vertical files.

### **School & College Yearbooks**

One resource available in the Texas/Dallas Collection which may seem unusual are the high school and college yearbooks. The annual collection covers schools from the entire state, with a heavier concentration on the Dallas area.

### Colleges:

Southern Methodist University, *Rotunda*, 1915–1917, 1919, 1922–1986  
Texas Tech, *LaVantana*, 1926, 1932–34, 1946–1948, 1951, 1954–1956,  
1962–1984  
Baylor University, *Round-up*, 1903, 1904, 1910, 1913–1915, 1921–22,  
1924–1967, 1971–72, 1975–1985  
Texas A & M, *Longhorn* and *Aggieland*, 1907–1910, 1923–1927, 1930–31,  
1933, 1937–1948, 1951–1967, 1973–1981, 1983

### High Schools:

The collection includes the following, as well as good representation from Oak Cliff High School, Adamson High School, Hockaday and Greenhill Schools, to name only a few. These are a wonderful source for researchers because they have photographs and highlight special interests of the students. This can give more insight into relatives' ideas and activities at this age. We are actively seeking donations in this area for Texas schools.

Forest Avenue High School, *Foresters* (Complete)

Dal-Tech, *Dalhi* (Almost complete)

Crozier Tech, *Wolf Packs* (Almost complete)

### **Texas/Dallas Book Collection**

In addition to county histories and yearbooks, the overall book collection in the Texas/Dallas division concentrates on Texana and Dallas history. County history books are available for counties surrounding Dallas County, and for a majority of other Texas counties. The collection includes the famous works of J. Frank Dobie and Dr. Malcolm McClean's Papers Concerning Robertson's Colony in Texas, as well as lesser-known authors and rare books. This collection covers all aspects of Texas. Books on wildflowers, oil booms, cattle barons and historic buildings highlight the different aspects of Texas and Texas history.

### **Manuscript & Photograph Collection**

The Manuscript and Photograph archives compliment the book collection with a major concentration on Dallas.

### Manuscript Collection:

Some of the family papers include the Santerre and Cretien Families of the French and Swiss socialist colony, La Reunion, and the Crutcher Family of East Dallas. These collections are fully processed and have a finding guide available for researchers. They contain letters, photos, financial records, and scrapbooks

that highlight the lives of family members while giving a personal glimpse of living history. The Neiman-Marcus and Sanger-Harris archives give a business and fashion history of Dallas. Although not necessarily genealogical in nature, archives collections do give a genealogist insight into two very important areas. One is the history of a location with a personal view of the times, and the other is arrangement and preservation of family papers. As a genealogist begins to find family papers, letters, photographs, scrapbooks, and other keepsakes, the problem of proper storage and preservation arises. Visiting archives while doing research can be very helpful. Sometimes what cannot be found in published sources is available only in archives materials.

#### Photograph Collection:

The photograph collection concentrates on Dallas. The Texas/Dallas Collection maintains approximately 500,000 negatives, the majority from the Hayes, Rogers, Haskins and Dallas City Photographer collections. The collection has good representations of Dallas in the late 1880's, early 1900's, 1920's, 1930's and 1950's. The collection is growing stronger in the 1960's and 1970's. The City Photographer Collection will increase the 1970's and 1980's as the negatives are transferred after their usefulness to the City Photographer has passed. The images include street scenes, personalities, businesses, parades, and buildings. The collection is accessed by a visual file which consists of contact prints mounted on cards and arranged by subjects. Prints are currently available for \$7.00 (5x7), \$10.00 (8x10), plus tax and postage.

#### **Texas/Dallas History and Archives Division**

The staff of the Texas/Dallas History and Archives Division is proud of our holdings and happy to help researchers use them. The collection contains over 50,000 book titles, 6,000 rolls of microfilm and fiche, supported by maps, photographs, manuscript collections and other resource materials. The Texas/Dallas division is open to researchers during regular library hours. These resources are available and ready to aid in the search of Texas family ties.

*About the Author: Cindy C. Smolovik is the Archivist for the Texas/Dallas History and Archives Division for the Dallas Public Library System, located at the J. Erik Jonsson Library in Dallas. She has her B.A. and M.A. with Archival Administration Certificate from the University of Texas at Arlington and is certified by the Academy of Certified Archivists. Cindy has been with the Dallas Public Library since 1985. She is available to provide lectures concerning the Collection to interested groups. She may be contacted during normal library hours at 214-670-1435.*

## RESEARCHING THE HISTORY OF A STRUCTURE

By Peggy Riddle

The following is a guide for tracing the history of a structure in Dallas, Texas. The purpose of this guide is to help the researcher find information about property and buildings and where the information can be found.

### Dallas County Public Records

#### Property Information:

- Current Owner (Taxpayer of the property): If you do not know who owns the property, check the County Assessor's Records, located on the first floor of the Dallas County Records Building. You will need the Block and Lot numbers of the property. These can be found across the hall in the Map and Plat Room. You will need the address of the property. A clerk will help you locate the correct plat book.
- Additional Information from the Plat Book: When obtaining the Block, Lot and Tract numbers from the plat book, there usually will appear the current and/or past deed references, for example:

1220 Jones Street  
7931 (Block number)  
12 (Lot or tract number)  
Jane Smith  
to 2-23-54 (File date of deed)  
John Doe

210-420 (Deed book: Volume and Page numbers)

- Deed Records: To trace the chain of title of the property, you will need the legal description: the Block and Lot numbers, i.e., North or South, East or West half. If you do not have a current deed reference, then refer to the 1978 Grantee Index of Deed Records. (Deed indexes are located on the second floor of the Records Building.) If the building is a house, then use the private individual indexes. If the structure is a commercial or public building, then consult the firms and corporations indexes. If the property was transferred in 1978, then this index will give the names of the Grantee (buyer) and the Grantor (seller), the kind of instrument (Warranty Deed, Deed of Trust, Release, etc.), the description of the property, date filed, and the Volume and Page numbers of the deed. (See below for definitions of legal terms used for researching properties.) The property should be traced as far back as possible to determine when the structure was built. An increase in value of the property usually indicates an improvement was made, and this will probably

be a building. Of course, if the construction date of the structure is known, then this will simplify tracing the chain of title. Refer to the Grantee index of the year the structure was built. Accurate research requires a complete listing of owners of the property.

- Verbal Description: From the deed records you will find the verbal boundary description and the approximate acreage of the property.

#### Other Public Records to Check:

Marriage Records  
Birth Certificates  
Death Records  
Estate Records  
Probate Records  
Mechanic Liens  
Court Cases

### **Private Records**

#### Property Abstract

An abstract is a collection of all documents pertaining to real estate in chronological listing. The abstract is held by the property owner or the mortgage holder. Included in the abstract are all references to deeds, mortgages, wills, probate records, court litigation, and tax sales. Sometimes the abstract will include a description of buildings on the property. If the abstract is not available, then the researcher can find information about the property by tracing the chain of title from deed records and other legal records.

#### Family Documents

Some families have personal papers that might be helpful when researching the builder of the structure. Other personal items to check would be family Bibles, portraits, letters, diaries and journals.

### **J. Erik Jonsson Public Library**

1515 Young Street, Dallas, Texas

- City Directories:

City directories are a listing of who lives or works at a certain address. Be careful when using the directories because some street addresses have been renumbered, and sometimes residents were omitted. The 1911 City Directory gives both three- and four-digit listings for street addresses. The street addresses are not listed with residents until 1911; before this date, people are listed alphabetically with addresses following names.

- Biographical File Card Catalog
- Photographs—Historical and Present:
  1. Refer to Street and Subject photograph files; these are not always catalogued, so ask the librarians for assistance.
  2. Art Work of Dallas: A pictorial book including houses and street scenes.
- *Dallas* (Magazine):
 

A magazine published by the Dallas Chamber of Commerce beginning in the 1920's. They were printed monthly and are not indexed. They contain articles on new and past construction of buildings in Dallas.
- Books on Dallas History: (Refer to card catalog)
  1. *Dallas, Texas, a Bibliographical Guide to the Sources of its Serial History to 1930*; Graff, Harvey J., The University of Texas at Dallas, 1977. This is an excellent source to use when tracing the history of a building or family.
- Maps:
  1. Early maps of Dallas
  2. Sanborn Insurance Maps: They show the location and street address of a building, indicate the construction materials used, the roofing material, the existence of porches, how many stories of the building, and the location of outbuildings and wells.

### **Legal Terms for Researching Properties**

**ABSTRACT:** A collection of all documents pertaining to real estate, in chronological listing, held by (1) Property Owner, or (2) Mortgage Holder.

**GENERAL WARRANTY DEED:** An instrument which transfers title.

**DEED OF TRUST:** An instrument which secures a loan on property. It transfers title to a trustee but ignores the trustee in listing chain or title.

**TRUSTEE'S DEED:** Deed given the purchaser by a trustee upon foreclosure of the Deed of Trust.

**MECHANIC'S AND MATERIALMAN'S LIEN:** A contract lien (an encumbrance on the title) which secures payments to a workman or one who supplies material for construction or improvements.

**SHERIFF'S DEED:** A deed given by the Sheriff to the purchaser following foreclosure for failure to pay taxes or seizure and sale upon execution of a judgment against the owner.

**VENDOR'S LIEN:** A security interest in the property retained by the seller to secure payment of purchase price.

**QUIT-CLAIM DEED:** One of two or more owners conveys his interest to the other joint owners.

**LEASE:** A rental agreement

**CONTRACT FOR DEED:** A written contract by which the owner agrees to transfer title upon payment in full of the purchase price.

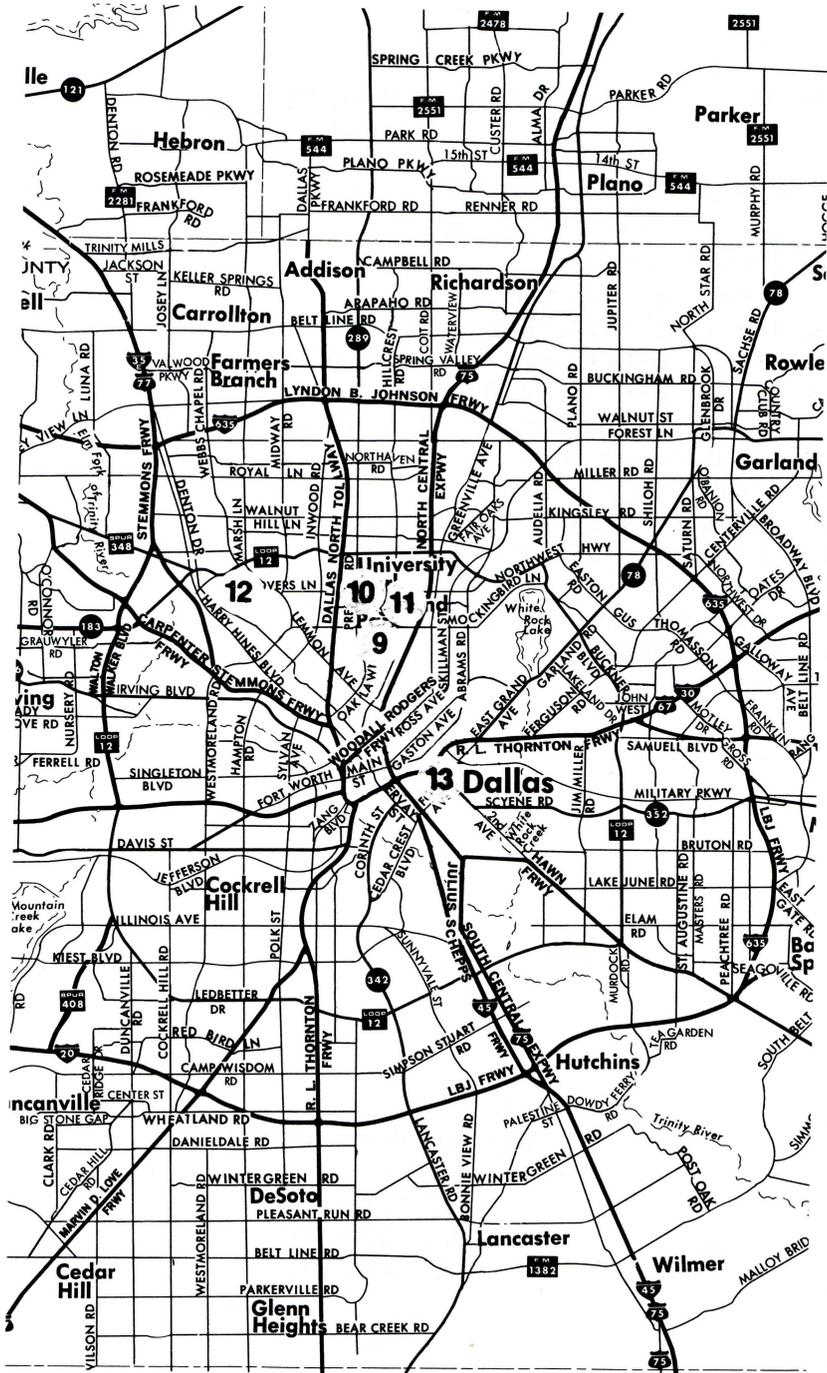
**TRESPASS TO TRY TITLE:** A lawsuit whereby legal title to property is judicially determined.

*About the Author: Peggy Riddle is the former Director of Research and Public Programs for the Dallas Historical Society and has earned degrees from both the University of Texas and S.M.U. She holds memberships with several historical associations and is involved in a variety of historical research projects in Texas.*

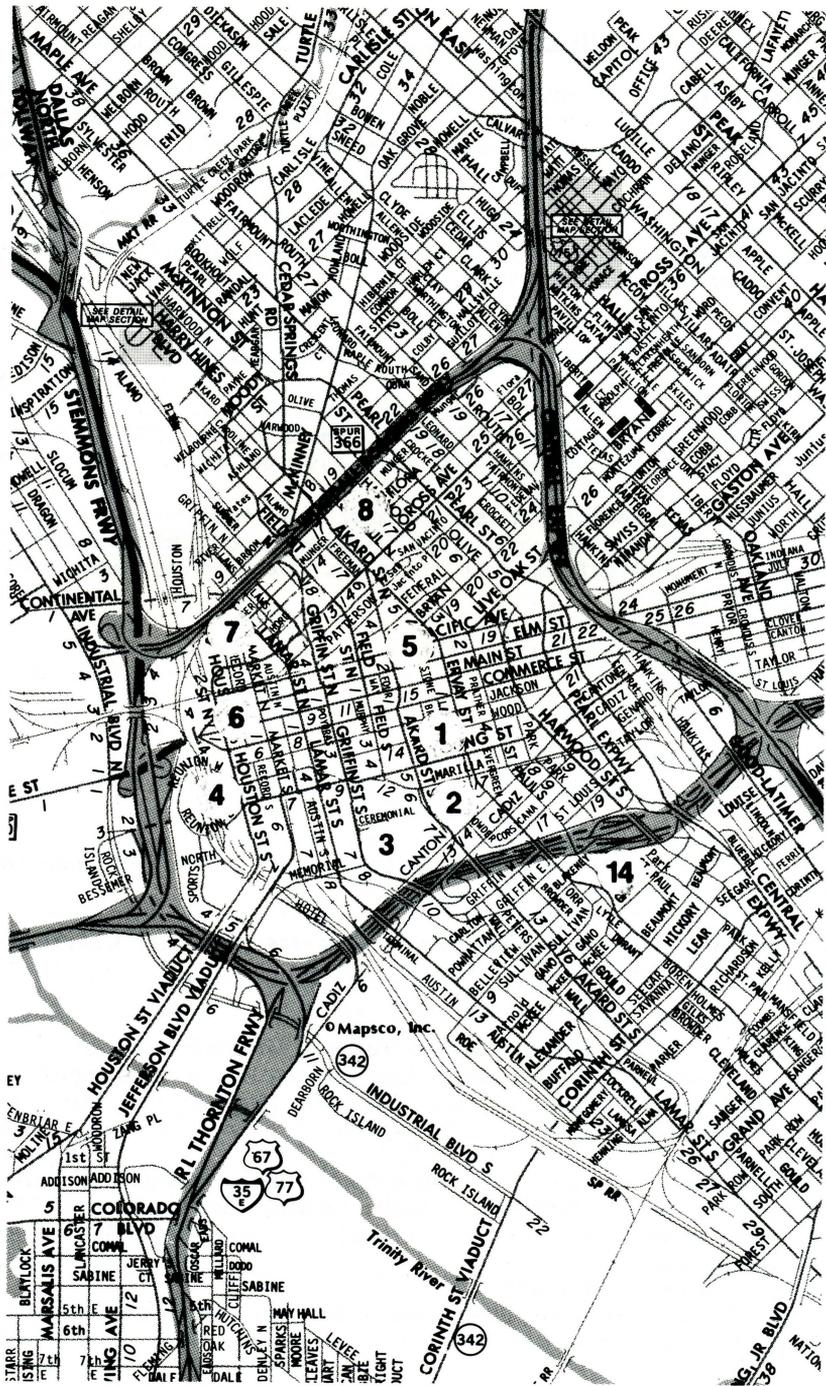
**KEY TO MAPS**  
**(Overleaf)**

1. J. Erik Jonsson Central Library
2. Dallas City Hall
3. Dallas Convention Center
4. Union Station (DCVB Visitor Center)
5. Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau
6. Dallas County Records Building
7. West End Marketplace (DCVB Visitor Center)
8. Dallas Museum of Art
9. Highland Park Town Hall
10. University Park Town Hall
11. Southern Methodist University
12. Love Field
13. Dallas Historical Society (Fair Park)
14. Old City Park

Maps provided courtesy of:  
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Dallas, Texas 75235  
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Back issues sold in sets by volume year (4 issues per set). Soft cover. . . . . Per set: **\$10.00**

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An index to the articles published in *The Dallas Quarterly* by category. 1984. Soft cover, 8-1/2" x 5-1/2", 28 pages. . . . . **\$2.00**

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***The Lone Star State, Memorial and Biographical History of Dallas County, Texas***

First published in 1892 by the Lewis Publishing Company, and reprinted in 1977 with an every-name index by the Local History and Genealogical Society, now the Dallas Genealogical Society. Microfilm, 1 roll, 16mm . . . . . **\$20.00**

***The Dallas Quarterly, 1955-1988***

Available as follows: 1955-1968, 1 roll, 35mm; 1969-1976, 1 roll, 16mm; 1977-1983, 1 roll, 16mm; 1984-1988, 1 roll, 16mm . . . . . Per roll: **\$20.00**















