# Genealogical Resources: Dallas History & Archives (And Beyond)

03

A Division of the Dallas Public Library By Brandon Murray, CA

## Who We Are...

## 03

- The collection of materials at the Dallas History & Archives Division is one of the largest of its kind in the nation. Our holdings span many aspects of the diverse history of not only Dallas and the surrounding area, but the entire state of Texas.
- The Dallas History & Archives Division collects, preserves, and makes available to patrons information in text, graphic, audio, and video formats.
- Please note that because of the many unique and fragile resources in the Dallas collection, no items circulate outside the Library.
- The Dallas History & Archives Division is part of the Special Collections department, which also houses the Fine Books Division.

## Our Renovation

## CB

## **™**Background

- \* The 7<sup>th</sup> floor of Central Library closed on March 21, 2015 and re-opened on August 20, 2016 after renovation.
- ❖ Over 250 pallets of materials and tens of thousands of reference books were moved back to the 7<sup>th</sup> floor for our re-opening.
- The total renovation project cost was nearly \$6 million.

## 7th Floor Reading Room





### Cataloged Materials > Other Items

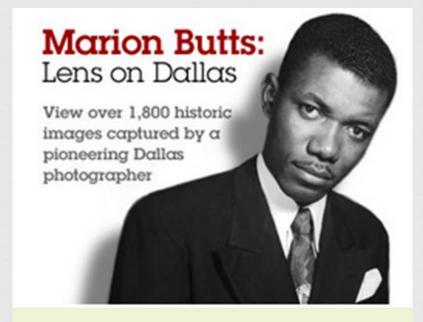
- ♦ 65,000+ books
- City Directories
- School Annuals
- JFK Assassination
- Serials (current and historical)
- Bios



- Vertical Files
- Maps and Blueprints
- 475+ Manuscript Collections
- DPL Archive- old photographs, paperwork, blueprints and programs (contact us to donate material)
- Dallas County Court district minutes on microfilm
- \* Dallas Times Herald on microfilm

CS

Photographs - Over 1.5 million Photographs (~7,000 are in PAC)



Bonus! African-American history lesson plans for seventh-grade Texas history teachers. Details here!





- **Manuscripts**
- 475+ Collections
  - Pioneer families
  - Architectural
  - Ethnic communities in Dallas
  - Women's history
  - Council members and mayors
  - Business history
  - \* Dallas Genealogical Society Collection (MA1982.04) material covers the years 1960 through 2019, with additions being made periodically.

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### Fine Books Division

- ❖ Dallas Public Library's Fine Books collection numbers over 2,750 volumes donated by Dallas citizens or purchased with endowment or gift funds.
- Fine Books Areas of Focus:
- History of Printing and the Book
- The History of Ideas particularly those that have exerted major influence on Western civilization
- Fine Printing the Art of the Book

## Visit Our Division Online



cahttp://dallaslibrary2.org/dallashistory



## How Does This Help Genealogists?

### CB

#### **A Local Emphasis**

- \*While the 8th floor Genealogy Department of the Central Library has been previously rated by a leading family history magazine as one of the top ten genealogy collections in the United States, those researching family histories with strong Dallas and/or Texas connections can benefit from the holdings of the 7th floor Dallas History & Archives Division.
- \* The Dallas Public Library system (as a whole) has a number of useful resources as well.

## Documenting Ancestors

- ™ To successfully document an ancestor, you must know the following:
  - Ancestor's name
  - Approximate date of birth and deathLocation where ancestor resided
- To find that information, genealogists rely on the following records resources:
  - Census & Census substitutes
  - Tax Records
  - Vital Records
  - Cemeteries
  - Obituaries
  - Marriage Records

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#### Census & Census substitutes:

- ❖ The United States Census can identify an ancestor's residence every ten years from 1790 to 1940 (census records are closed to the public for a period of 72 years). All of the census records for Texas and the United States are on Ancestry.com
- One exception is 1890 due to a fire in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century which destroyed many of those records.
- ❖ 1880 census started listing family.
- ❖ 8<sup>th</sup> floor also has census on microfilm: 1790-1930.

### CS

#### Census & Census substitutes:

- \* 8<sup>th</sup> floor also has Soundex System, which is a coding system for the census used to group people's last names together based on how they sound.
- It is useful for names with different spellings.



Soundex System. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), September 26, 2016: https://www.archives.gov/research/census/soundex.html

#### Basic Soundex Coding Rule Every soundex code consists of a letter and three numbers, such as W-252. The letter is always the first letter of the surname. The numbers are assigned to the remaining letters of the surname according to the soundex guide shown below. Zeroes are added at the end if necessary to produce a four-character code. Additional letters are disregarded. Examples: Washington is coded W-252 (W, 2 for the S, 5 for the N, 2 for the G, remaining letters disregarded). Lee is coded L-000 (L, 000 added). Soundex Coding Guide See also this online Soundex Calculator 🗗 🗦 Number Represents the Letters 1 B, F, P, V 2 C, G, J, K, Q, S, X, Z 3 D, T 5 M, N Disregard the letters A, E, I, O, U, H, W, and Y.

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#### Records:

- Generally, tax records are a yearly listing of residence and status and come in to play once locality is established.
- \* Helpful in determining when a person arrives and departs an area, either by relocating or death. If by death, the next year may reflect the name of the widow.
- \* Tax records on microfilm are currently housed in the 8th floor Genealogy Department.

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- City Directories help identify the ancestor's residence every year.
  - The 7<sup>th</sup> floor Archives Division maintains a collection of telephone, city, and criss-cross directories for cities across Texas, in hard copy and microfilm.
    - Lists ancestor's residence and occupation. In many cases, the name of the wife is included.
      - Note that it took a year to compile and publish. Therefore 1950 directory reflects information from 1949.
    - A complete list of Texas/Dallas city directories holdings is located on the department web page, www.dallaslibrary2.org/dallashistory

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- Older city directories have three types of listings:
  - Name (by name of person or business).
  - Street (after 1901; arranged alphabetically by street name and then by number).
  - Type of business or occupation (i.e. grocers, attorneys, banks, etc.).



- - ❖ Streets were renumbered at least two times (1891-92 and 1911).
  - ❖ The 1911 directory gives both the old and new numbers.
- If the building you are researching pre-dates 1901, find the 1901 directory street listing and note the name of the occupant. Then try to trace the name of the occupant in earlier directories.
- When using city directories, refer to beginning of directory for lists of helpful abbreviations, symbols, and demographic information.
- Some early directories may even indicate death dates.



## It's the AMERICAN LAUNDRY In Dallas VI 8177

### **WORLEY'S** GREATER DALLAS CITY DIRECTORY 1952

Including Town of Highland Park and City of University Park

Copyright, 1952, by John F. Worley Directory Co.

For List of General Abbreviations see opposite page

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Worley's Greater Dallas City Directory, 1952

Among retailers of fine foods, the most famous name in the world!



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Worley's Greater Dallas City Directory, 1952

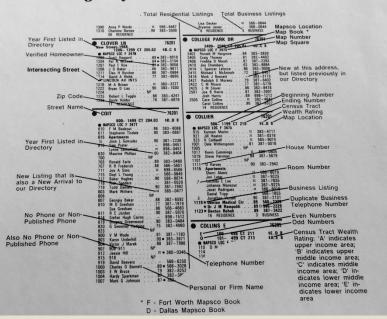


From 1998 Cole Directory - Denton, Lewisville, & Vicinity

## Look at All the Information You'll Find in These Pages

#### A STREET DIRECTORY

Arranged by street and house number





From 1998 Cole Directory - Denton, Lewisville, & Vicinity

#### A NUMERICAL DIRECTORY

#### Arranged by telephone number

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#### **W**Vital Records:

- ❖ Birth and death records in Texas are a "modern" record. Vital records were not required to be recorded prior to 1903, except for a very brief time in the 1870s. Many births and deaths from 1903 up to as late as 1930 were never recorded.
- Some births during this time were later recorded in the late 1930s as Probated or Delayed births. What is available for Texas is located on Ancestry.com.
- Death certificates is a primary source but contains secondary information.

### CS

#### **Wital Records:**

- Dallas History & Archives Division has indexes to births and deaths in microform.
  - ❖ Birth Records: Indexes for 1903-1997; Birth certificates, 1903-1932. Birth records are closed/confidential in Texas for a period of seventy-five years.
  - ❖ Death Records: Indexes from 1903-2000; Death certificates from 1903-1982. Death certificates are closed/confidential for a period of twenty-five years.
  - ❖ To find these records use the following web sites: <u>www.ancestrylibrary.com</u> or <u>www.familysearch.org</u> (set up a user name and password)

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- Rureau of Vital Statistics: A New Addition to Central Library Building
- $\approx$  (214) 670-3248
- For Fee-Based, Same Day Service (by appointment):
  - Birth Certificates.
  - Death Certificates.
  - ❖ Birth Abstract (certificates from State records for all births outside of Dallas in Texas).
  - Acknowledgement of Paternity.
  - Funeral Home Service.
  - Notary Service.

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#### **Cemeteries**:

- Burial records often provide birth and death dates.
- Mortuary records are also helpful.
  - ❖ A number of Dallas cemeteries have been published.
    - Shirley Remnant Sloat's book, Dallas County Records of Interest to the Genealogist at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library Dallas Public Library System, to determine what has been abstracted and where it was published. A copy is available at the 7<sup>th</sup> floor reference desk.

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#### **Cemeteries**:

- ❖ Oakland Cemetery, one of largest and earliest cemeteries in Dallas, is online (<a href="www.dallasgenealogy.org">www.dallasgenealogy.org</a>) and on microfilm in the Genealogy Section.
- ☐ Physical collection: interment, lot and section cards:
- Name, date of birth, death and burial.
- Next of kin.
- Extended cause of death (if death was notable).
- Names of all those buried in the plot.
- Whether or not there is a gravestone.
- Obituaries, some with photographs, of all burials in lot.
- Family tree (limited) information.

### CB

#### **Cemeteries**:

- Published abstracts for other Texas Counties are on the 7th and 8th floors.
- Other online cemetery resources:
  - \* www.findagrave.com
  - \* www.billiongraves.com

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#### **©**Obituaries:

- Modern obituaries are a great source for obtaining information about the deceased. The further back you go, however, information may become less helpful.
- Newspapers are a vital source for birth and death information contained in obituaries. Dallas and other Texas newspapers are maintained on microfilm. A complete list of newspaper holdings is located on the CDH web page, <a href="https://www.dallaslibrary2.org/dallashistory">www.dallaslibrary2.org/dallashistory</a>
- Obituaries are just a small part of information to be located in newspapers.
- Archives Division vertical clipping files can be useful for obituaries, marriage information, and more...

### CS

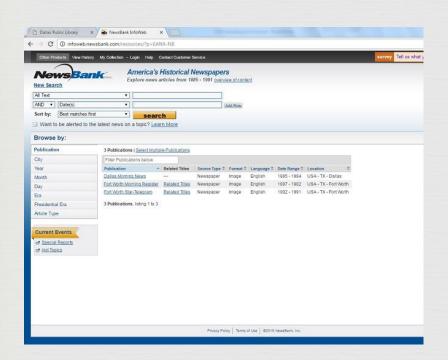
#### Rewspapers as a resource:

- Notices of deeds of transfer.
- Probate matters.
- Civil and criminal court proceedings.
- Marriages
- Births
- Anniversaries
- ... and more...
- Dallas newspapers pick up information from all over the state.

#### ○ Funeral Homes as resource:

Recent obituaries are sometimes published on funeral home websites, rather than the newspaper.





- The Historical Dallas Morning News
- A part of Newsbank, Inc., this database has:
  - The Dallas Morning News (October 1, 1885 to December 31, 1984)
  - Fort Worth Star Telegram(July 2, 1902 to May 31, 1991)
  - \* Fort Worth Morning Register (January 1, 1897 to June 30, 1902) digitized and indexed for easy access.

## 03

### **™**Marriage Records:

- Best source for learning the female's maiden name.
  - ❖ Dallas County's index to Dallas marriages, 1846-1963, is located on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor on microfilm.
    - The date in this index reflects the date the license was issued, not the date of marriage.
  - ❖ Marriage records are ONLY at the Dallas County Clerk office on 21st Floor of Renaissance Tower - 1201 Elm Street.
  - ❖ Marriage Records indexes for most Texas counties are on microfilm on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor.
  - Published abstracts for Dallas County have been published by the Dallas Genealogical Society.

## Documenting Ancestors - Library Resources - A More Complete Picture



- After names have been identified, a locality established, and birth and death information obtained for an ancestor... what next?
- - Land Records
  - Probate Records
  - Court Records
  - Maps
  - Published Histories
  - Military Records
  - Church Records
  - Yearbooks

  - Serials/MagazinesManuscript Collections
- leaves more records than an individual."

## Documenting Ancestors – Library Resources – A More Complete Picture

## CS

#### **CR**Land Records:

- Land Grants: see *Texas Land Survey Maps for Dallas County* and *Sam Street's Map* (available in library catalog). Published land survey maps are available for other Texas counties.
- Deeds: Indexes and early deed records are on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor

## Documenting Ancestors – Library Resources – A More Complete Picture

## 03

#### **Records:**

- ❖ Wills and estate case papers, 1846-1900. On microfilm on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> floors.
- ❖ After 1900, the indexes are at the County Clerk's office. The records are located off-site and must be ordered from the clerk and viewed during a second visit.
- During slavery, slaves were sometimes included as property and may have the person's name.

## Documenting Ancestors – Library Resources – A More Complete Picture

## CB

#### **Ca**Court Records:

- All of the following records are currently located on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor.
  - District Court Records: divorces and civil cases; microfilm.
  - Naturalizations: Published index; Case Papers, 1872-1912 and Declarations of Intention, 1889-1903 on microfilm.
  - Inquest Records, microfilm for each district in Dallas.
  - May have death certificate from justice of the peace or a coroner.

#### 03

#### **Republished Histories:**

- "Mug Book" histories about Dallas.
- Family histories and biographies.
- Historical overviews about Dallas.
- The same for other Texas Counties.

## 03

#### ™Military Records:

- ❖ Best source for Texas military materials are located on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor.
- ❖ They have National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) records from the American Revolution to the Philippine Insurrection. Starting to get World War I.
- fold3 database available through Dallas Public Library contains "...military records, including the stories, photos, and personal documents of the men and women who served."

## 03

#### **Church Records:**

- Establishing an ancestor's religion is necessary before a search can begin for church records.
- Not all church records are created equal.
  - ❖ If the ancestor is Catholic, vital information is often contained in registers belonging to the diocese.
  - ❖ If the ancestor was Baptist, expect to find church histories and records of membership, but very little vital information.

#### CB

#### **X**Yearbooks:

May contain early photos of an ancestor.

#### **∝**Serials/Magazines:

\* May have articles about the locality where ancestors lived and events that may have influenced their lives.

#### 

- May contain letters, diaries, & other papers or ephemera.
- May have information about your ancestor or people who touched their lives or places where they resided.
- Certain genealogical collections exist within manuscript collections.

Online Databases - Dallas Public Library

#### **Access in the Library only**

- Ancestry Library
  Edition (at home until
  12/31)
- **American Ancestors**

#### **△** Access from home\*

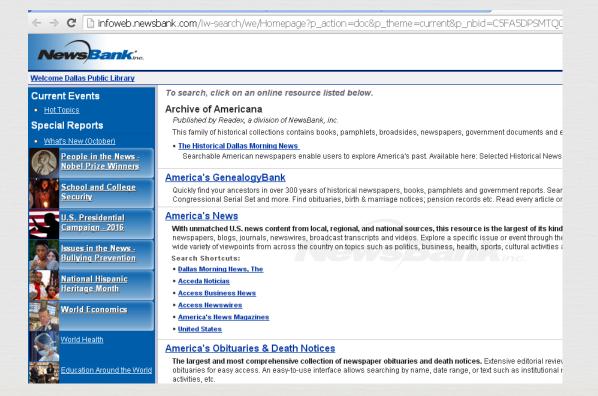
- **c**Fold3
- **™**Genealogy Bank

- **™**Sanborn Maps (Texas)
- **™**Handbook of Texas
- Western & Native American

  Databases

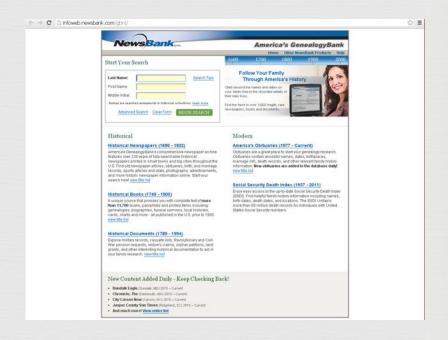


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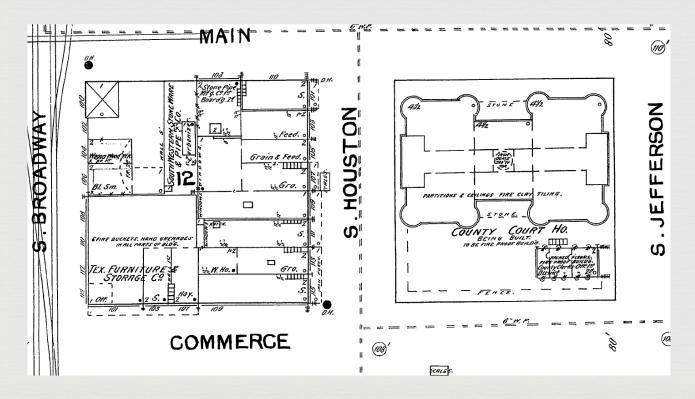


- America's Genealogy
  Bank
- Conduct genealogical searches with over 300 years of historical newspapers, books, pamphlets, and government reports.





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Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1892

# But wait, there's more!

03

The Central Library's 8th Floor - Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck Genealogy Collection



- One of the top 5 genealogy collections in the United States

# CF

#### **What they collect:**

- ☐ Records & record transcriptions
- ☐ Guides and how-to resources
- ☐ Family and local histories
- ☐ Social and ethnic histories
- Military histories
- ☐ Primary source material
  - They offer programs including those in partnership with Dallas Genealogical Society.

## 03

#### **Reserve** Holdings:

- Over 123,000 volumes
- ♦ 64,500 rolls of microfilm
- ❖ 89,000 microfiche
- ❖ 700 maps and charts
- Census on microfilm: 1790-1930. digital resources like AncestryLibrary edition is available to DPL cardholders remotely through December 31.
- Tax records on microfilm are currently housed in the 8th floor Genealogy Department
- Ed C. Smith Funeral Home (1880-1978)funeral files & ledgers
- McGowan Funeral Home (1956-1995)
  - funeral files
  - indexed on the Dallas Genealogical Society's website by the society's African-American Special Interest Group.



- Vertical Family Files
- ☐ Family histories and unpublished manuscripts
- Pages from family bibles
- ☐ Family group sheets
- Newspaper clippings
- Photographs
- ☐ Loose papers

#### CB

#### **Vertical Family Files (Finding Aid)**

- Indexed by surname
- Available at reference desk and online

#### Index to the Dallas Public Library Surname Vertical Files Created and indexed by Mic Barnette Surname See Folder For Bible Orig. Docs Newsletter **Photos** AA Derks AA Nonson Abbas Abee Abee See Eby Abels Abernathy Abney **Abshier** See Brashear Abshier **Abshire** See Barrow Absire See Abshier Abston Acer



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Texas County Tax Rolls

**≈** 1846-1910

Republic of Texas

Great way to locate people between census years



DGS volunteers and resources

- Genealogical advice
- DGS publications & resources available for purchase
- Links to online transcriptions& searchable databases









#### **Family Histories**

- One-of-a-kind family histories
- Out of print books

# Crecilve Spaces Heritage Lab



#### Make digital copies of:

- Books, Manuscripts & Letters
- Large Scrapbooks & Ledgers
- Photographs
- VHS, DVCAM or HDV Tapes
- Super 8 & 8 MM film
- Audio Cassettes
- Slides and Negatives

#### MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TO USE THE HERITAGE LAB

CB

- Appointments can be made by calling (214) 670-1433 or emailing <u>LIBCreativeSpaces@dallascityhall.com</u>
- Learn about Heritage Lab equipment, online training and upcoming classes at <a href="http://www.dallaslibrary.org/creativespaces">http://www.dallaslibrary.org/creativespaces</a>
- Questions?
- Stephanie Bennett Genealogy & History Division Manager
- stephanie.bennett@dallascityhall.com



#### Contact Us

03

Dallas Public Library
Dallas History & Archives Division
1515 Young St.
Dallas, TX 75201

214-670-1435 | texas@dallaslibrary.org

# Thank you for listening!