

## Using the Dallas Municipal Archives for genealogy research

The Dallas Municipal Archives houses the records of Dallas local government, dating back to the 1866. These documents include ordinances and resolutions; governing body minutes; annual reports, financial reports, development plans, and other documents. These documents can be a useful source for filling in various pieces of family history. We aren't a traditional genealogy resource, but we can still help!

**Minutes of Governing Bodies/Elected Officials:** Researching a person who served in elective office, or on a board or commission? Someone who had business with the City of Dallas? Meeting minutes also shed light on the development of neighborhoods and subdivisions, as well as historic street names.

**Tax Records:** Useful to genealogists to track ancestors between census years or serve as a census substitute when census records are missing such as the 1890 federal census. Assessment and taxation records can provide information on the economic status of your ancestor, and who their neighbors were.

**Vital Statistics:** We don't maintain them! City of Dallas has birth records 1926 to present, spotty records from 1870+. Death records 1903+

**Frances James Cemetery Records:** These personal records of the "Cemetery Lady" document primarily the historic preservation of North Texas cemeteries and the work of local historian Frances James. The collection focuses on cemeteries in Dallas and North Texas, many of them having a connection to Dallas government through ownership, litigation, or other issues. While it is not comprehensive, the collection largely concerns endangered, neglected, and abandoned cemeteries. Files often have family history in "family" cemeteries, and may – *but not always* – contain interment records.

**Maps and Photographs:** Limited photographs of residences and businesses are in the following collections: City Photographer Collection, (indexed); Dallas Historic Preservation Program (not indexed, currently organized by neighborhood); Park and Recreation Department Photographs (aerial photos of parks show surrounding neighborhoods). Maps show land features, past street configurations, and city limits over time.