

## DECLARACION DEL PUEBLO DE TEJAS, Reunido en Convencion General.

POR CUANTO el general Antonio Lopez de Santa Ana, asociado con otros gefes militares han destruido por medio de la fuerza armada las Instituciones Federales de la Nacion Mejicana, y disuelto el pacto social que existia entre el Pueblo de Tejas y las demas partes de la confederacion Mejicana, el buen Pueblo de Tejas, usando de sus derechos naturales,

### DECLARA SOLEMNEMENTE,

Primero. Que ha tomado las armas en defensa de sus derechos y libertades amezados por los ataques del despotismo militar; y en defensa de los principios republicanos de la Constitucion Federal de Mejico, sancionada en 1824.

Segundo. Que aunque Tejas no está ya ni politica ni moralmente ligado por los lazos de la Union Federal, movido por la simpatia y generosidad naturales á los pueblos libres, ofrece ayuda y asistencia á aquellos miembros de la confederacion que tomasen las armas contra el despotismo militar.

Tercero. Que no reconoce en las actuales autoridades de la *nominal* Republica Mejicana ningun derecho para gobernar en el territorio de Tejas.

Cuarto. Que no cesará de hacer la guerra contra las mencionadas autoridades mientras mantengan tropas en los terminos de Tejas.

Quinto. Que se considera con derecho de separarse de la Union á Mejico durante la desorganizacion del Sistema Federal y el regimen del despotismo, y para organizar un gobierno independiente ó adoptar aquellas medidas que sean adecuadas para proteger sus derechos y libertades; pero continuará fiel al gobierno Mejicano en el caso de que la nacion sea gobernada por la Constitucion y las leyes que fueron formadas para el regimen de su asociacion politica.

Sesto. Que Tejas se obliga á pagar los gastos de sus tropas en actividad actualmente en la campaña.

Septimo. Que Tejas empeña su credito y fé publica para el pago de las deudas que contrageren sus agentes.

Octavo. Que recompensará con donaciones de tierra y los derechos de ciudadanía á los voluntarios que prestasen servicios en la presente lucha.

Esta es la declaracion que profesamos delante del mundo, llamando á Dios por testigo de la sinceridad de nuestras intenciones, invocando su maldicion sobre nuestras cabezas en el caso de faltar á ella por doblez ó intencion dañada.

B. T. ARCHER, *Presidente.*

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# Texas Libraries

Fall 1975

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**Editor: Millicent Huff**

Texas Libraries is published quarterly by the Texas Library and Historical Commission. Views expressed in signed articles are not necessarily those of the Texas Library and Historical Commission or the Texas State Library. Contributions and editorial correspondence should be sent to Editor, Texas Libraries, Texas State Library, Box 12927, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711. Indexed in Library Literature. Printed and bound by Lamar Press, Austin, Texas.



## About the Cover

With increased interest in history of all kinds this year because of the American Revolution Bicentennial, the Texas State Library is expecting even more visitors than usual to see the Texas Declaration of Independence that is on display in the Lorenzo de Zavala State Archives and Library Building. When the building was constructed in 1961, a specially designed case was built to house the document. Signed on March 2, 1836, at Washington-on-the-Brazos, this statement of the Texans' belief in their right to freedom signaled the beginning of the fight for independence.

Even before this document was signed, Texans drafted and published in both Spanish and English a statement often called the Declaration of Causes for Taking Up Arms Against Mexico. In this document, they called upon Mexicans who opposed what they considered to be the dictatorial rule of General Antonio Lopez de Santa Ana to join with them. After drafting the document in English, they asked Lorenzo de Zavala to translate it into Spanish and had 1,000 copies printed for distribution.

The Spanish edition of this declaration now hangs in the State Library. Although 1,000 copies of both the Spanish edition and the English one were published, only a few remain today. The one that hangs at the State Library was apparently originally the property of Mirabeau B. Lamar and came to the State Library when his papers were purchased in 1909.



## Study Now Underway Of Systems Governance

An in-depth study of the organization and governance of library systems in Texas is being conducted by the Public Administration Service under a contract with the Texas State Library during the winter of 1975-76. Specific problems concerning the role of Major Resource Center libraries as both headquarters and members of the systems and the question of the advisory nature of lay councils elected in each system which were already apparent needed careful examination. Difficulties in supporting interlibrary loan activity under present methods for system grants had led to a separation of this in the budget for the current biennium. In addition, it was the feeling of many that the study would provide much-needed information on the entire question of voluntary cooperative endeavor among Texas libraries of all kinds under State legislation.

It was within this context that the Texas Library and Historical Commission approved plans for a study of the organization and governance of systems. Since the Texas Library Systems Act was passed in 1969, many changes have taken place in Texas libraries, not only public ones but also academic, school, and special ones. In addition, experience in states where systems have developed more fully gives Texas the advantage of a sizeable body of information, not only on satisfactory solutions to problems but also on unsatisfactory ones.

An eleven-member Systems Study Advisory Committee was appointed to advise the staff of the State Library in drawing up the request for a proposal for the study and to advise the Commission on the study itself. Members of this committee include Alvin C. Cage, Robert E. Davis, Maurine Gray, Alice Green, Shirley Igo, Zella Lewis, Paul Medley, Dr. David Speck, Ronald P. Steensland, Margaret Waring, and Heartsill Young.

The Phase I report was devoted primarily to data gathering. Data gathered on libraries included the statistics collected by the State Library, returns from an extensive questionnaire sent to all





*Committee members Frances Williams and Shirley Igo listen*

system members and members of system advisory councils, and on-site visits to each of the Major Resource Center libraries by PAS staff members and consultants.

The PAS staff for the study include Dr. John O. Hall and James Doyle. Special consultants participating were Lester Stoffel, Alphonse F. Trezza, Keith Doms, Katherine McMurrey, Ellen Altman, and Edward G. Holley. The first two of the three-phase study have been completed and copies widely distributed throughout the state.

A reply rate of 71 percent of member libraries to the questionnaire sent gave surveyors not only a significant body of information but also reflected considerable interest on the part of these libraries in the systems study. Although replies reflected overwhelming support for systems, comments on related questions indicated limited experience in the kind of cooperative endeavor that system organization facilitates. In addition, the replies suggested that many respondents were unsure about the roles of libraries other than Major Resource Centers in decision making. The low response of members of the advisory councils (in only two systems did a majority reply) may have resulted from the feeling of limited involvement among members of these groups.





*as James Doyle and Dr. John Hall discuss the systems study.*

The Systems Study Advisory Committee met on December 16 to consider Phase I of the study. After discussion, committee members recommended that the Texas Library and Historical Commission accept Phase I and authorize the consultants to proceed to Phase II. Under the study plan adopted when the contract was signed, this was to deal with Alternative Models for Organization and Governance.

Ten broad questions were raised in Phase II.

1. Is the recommended system capable of effectively working with other systems, multi-state and national?
2. What powers are necessary in the State Library?
3. What are the roles of the State Library in program planning, system coordination, setting of standards, financial management, evaluating and reporting?
4. What structural arrangements facilitate participation of libraries and librarians in policy formulation at the state level?
5. What are the criteria for determining the size of effective library systems in terms of number of libraries, types and sizes of libraries, geography, and demography?
6. How may library systems within the State be best organized to achieve their objectives in the spirit of voluntary collaboration of





*Committee Member Maurine Gray*

independent library authorities? How will system governing authorities be created and made responsive to member libraries' needs?

7. Should cooperative systems be open to all libraries, regardless of type?

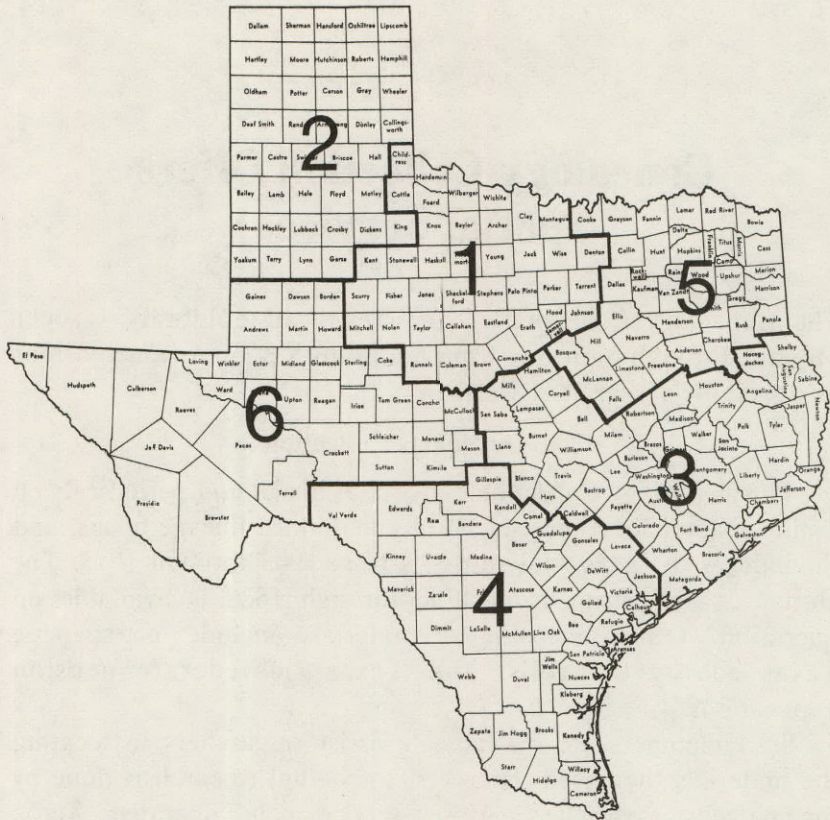
8. Should standards of quality and service be required for membership in a library system, and how should these be determined?

9. How may systems be organized to participate in, benefit from, and give strength to programs currently being carried on outside the cooperative scheme, such as interlibrary loan and services to the blind and physically handicapped?

10. What elements of flexibility may be introduced in the legislation which will enable systems to adapt to future changes in circumstances and program needs while still incorporating the essential elements of organizational relationships among participating entities?

The report itself focused on a series of 33 recommendations—each supported by explanations—to answer the questions or resolve problems raised by these questions. Among these were suggestions that systems be allowed to establish separate system headquarters, that systems be answerable to lay governing boards, that membership be open to all kinds of libraries, and that interlibrary loan be a system activity. In addition, intersystem activities should be encouraged, methods for review of system plans should be incorporated in the law, decision-making should be placed at the lowest level possible, and that grants should be allocated on a formula.





The most dramatic recommendation contained in the report is that the number of systems be reduced to six. As the map shows, each of these areas has the advantage of having at least two large libraries. By system, and alphabetically, they are as follows:

1. Abilene, Fort Worth
2. Amarillo, Lubbock
3. Austin, Houston
4. Corpus Christi, San Antonio
5. Dallas, Waco
6. El Paso, Odessa

Copies of the reports are being sent to all public and academic libraries in Texas and are available on interlibrary loan from the Professional Librarianship Collection at the Texas State Library.

A session has been scheduled for Texas Library Association on April for a discussion of the study. During the months that follow there will be further opportunities for both formal and informal discussion of the implications of the study. All comments will be welcomed by the Texas State Library.



## **Genealogy Collection Offers Special Services**

The Genealogy Collection of the Texas State Library is open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Anyone wishing to do family research is welcome.

### **The Genealogy Collection**

The Genealogy Collection consists of books and periodicals on family history, court records, county materials, lineage books, and the indexes to Texas vital statistics from 1903 through 1973. The United States census from 1790 through 1880 is available on microfilm. Other microfilmed materials include newspapers, Texas county tax rolls, and Texas Confederate pension applications.

Staff members are available to assist researchers in locating the materials they need. However, the actual research is done by the patrons themselves. A self-service coin operated Xerox machine is located in the genealogy library. Copies can be made of microfilmed material upon request.

The genealogy staff will check any indexed materials in answer to mail requests. Xerox copies are made at the rate of 10 cents per page, plus tax. A bill for the exact amount due will be mailed with the completed copy work.

The Genealogy Collection moved from the Reference Room in January, 1974. At that time, a separate card catalog was begun.

### **Other Materials at the State Library**

The Reference Collection of the Library includes a number of Texas county histories, biographies of Texans, facsimiles of out-of-print books, and general reference materials on Texas. General historical materials for other states are also available in more limited quantities.

Researchers may also wish to use periodicals not listed in the card catalog that may be of interest. The Circulation Desk maintains a list which includes the publications of state historical societies. Some of these are housed in the Genealogy Collection.



Books in the Archives Division's collection are also listed in the Reference Room catalog. A biographical index to the most frequently used sources is located in the Archives Division Search Room.

### Getting Started

Beginning genealogists usually start with the present and work backwards. One method of organizing research is shown by the chart on the following page. The researcher completes the chart with as much information as is known, and then begins his research with a clear idea of what facts are necessary to establish his family history. It may be possible to trace some family lines to much earlier dates than others if more records have survived for that line, or if family members have been interested in genealogy.

Materials for research fall into three categories:

- Records, letters, and other information kept by the family
- Official records housed in archival facilities
- Books and other printed materials in libraries (these may include microfilm or printed copies of official records)

The following information is needed about each person:

- Full name (nickname also)
- Date and place of birth
- Date and place of death
- Date and place of marriages
- Places where they lived
- Names of children, with birthdates and names of persons they married
- Interesting facts or information about the family or individuals.

The first source of information may be the family itself. Access to family records may eliminate some of the searching of archival and library resources. Family traditions handed down from one generation to the next may be important clues to the needed data. Valuable sources of information that family members may have retained through the years are military records and discharge papers, records of land ownership, and marriage certificates. Family Bibles, scrapbooks, and photograph albums may also provide needed information.

### Public Records

County governments have long been the principal collectors of public records. The principal records maintained at the county





*The Genealogy Collection*

level fall into three broad categories; vital statistics (birth, death); marriage records; probate records (wills, administrations, guardianships, inventories of estates); real property records (land patents, deeds, powers of attorney, affidavits or heirship, probate records from another county or state, etc.). Although records of vital statistics are of relatively recent origin in many places, probate and real property records are continuous from the date of the county's organization.

The records maintained at the state level vary from state to state, as well as the methods for maintaining them. They may include land records, old wills, applications for state veterans' benefits, oaths and bonds for State appointees, and petitions to the Legislature by individuals and groups.

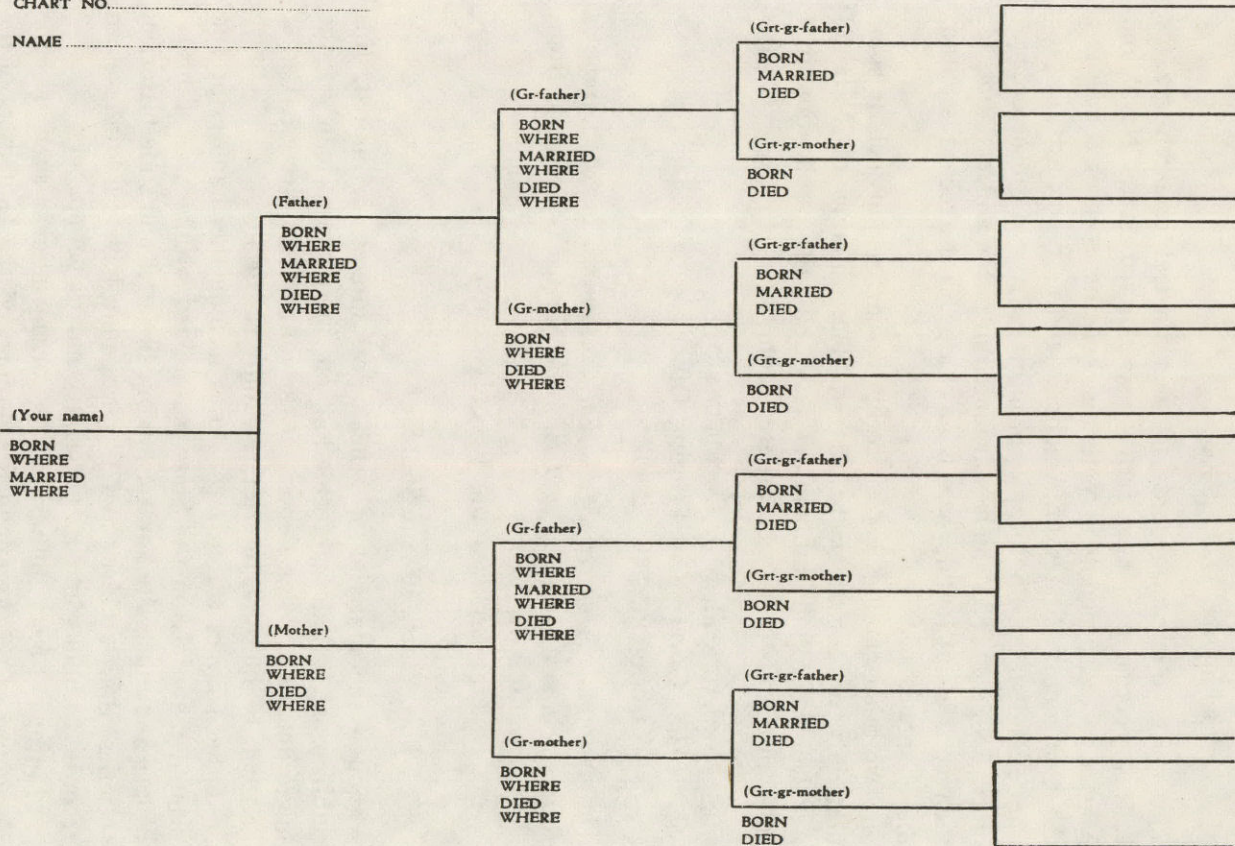
The most widely used federal records are the United States Census that are available on microfilm. This census material from 1790 through 1880—with the limited surviving rolls of the 1890 count—is available at the Texas State Library.

To assist family researchers in locating materials, the National Archives has published a 145-page *Guide to Genealogical Records in the National Archives*. It is available from the address below for 50 cents.



CHART NO. ....

NAME .....





Collection Officer  
General Services Administration  
National Archives and Records Service  
Washington, D.C. 20408

The most important records for genealogical research are the census records, passenger arrival lists, United States Naval and Marine records, records of Veterans' benefits, records concerning the Confederate States of America, land-entry records for the public land states. Photocopies of military records can be ordered on NARS Form 288, which is available from the address above. If the record is not found, there is no charge. If the record is found, the charge is \$2.00.

Two other catalogs list microfilm resources that include some materials of genealogical interest. The Catalog of National Archives Microfilm Publications is a 183-page publication that sells for \$2.00. It may be ordered from:

Superintendent of Documents  
U.S. Government Printing Office  
Washington, D.C. 20402

The *National Archives Microfilm Resources in the Archives Branch Federal Archives and Records Service* is available from  
Archives Branch  
Federal Archives and Records Center  
Box 6216  
Fort Worth, Texas 76115

Although the material of genealogical interest is limited, this publication includes information on interlibrary loan of the microfilm material on deposit at the Fort Worth Records Center and will be of some interest to family researchers.

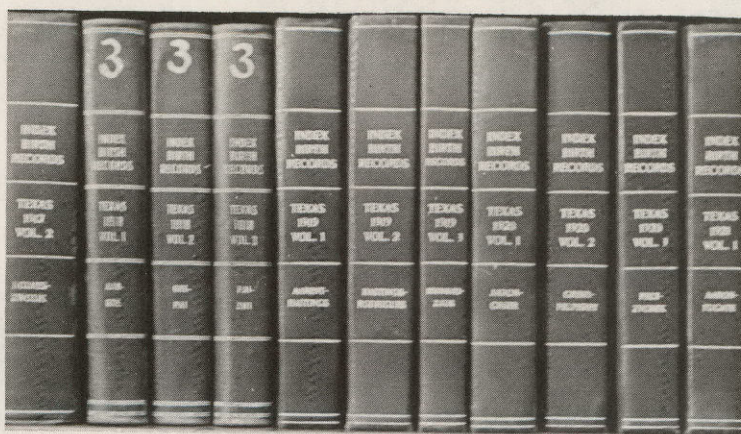
Other sources within most states include the manuscript and printed materials on the State maintained by the State Library, college and university libraries, public libraries and state historical societies. Both archives and libraries may have card indexes to records, to books and manuscripts, and to newspapers.

Lineage books published by organizations such as the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Daughters of the American Colonists may be helpful if persons in your family have joined them. The records of a proven line are available, with the member's consent, from the organization's main library.



Keeping track of where information was located is extremely important. A convenient way of keeping up with material photocopied from printed books is to make a habit of also copying the title page of the book. If the name of the collection is not indicated on the title page, you may want to write this information on your copy. Many researchers find it convenient to make a file of bibliography cards. These may include both volumes that have been examined and used, and those to which references have been located. If such a file is kept, the data on individual note cards can be brief.

Many libraries will make copies of information in books if specific information on author, title, and page is given.



### Guides and Indexes Worth Noting

Dewey Decimal numbers from the Texas State Library collection are included for the convenience of users of this collection.

GEN 929.1 D265i Daughters of the American Revolution, *Is That Lineage Right?*, Washington, 1958.

A training manual for the examiner of lineage papers, with helpful hints for the beginner in genealogical research.

GEN 292.1 D65 Doane, Gilbert H., *Searching for Your Ancestors*. Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1960.

Fourth revised edition of a favorite guide for amateur genealogists. An added chapter on how to hunt for ancestors in Europe is especially helpful for anyone planning to go abroad.



- GEN  
929.1  
Ev27  
1971  
Everton, George B., *The Handy Book for Genealogists*. 6th edition, Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1971.  
A guide to regional histories, maps, libraries, etc., more advanced than Everton's *How Book*. Contains bibliographies, including Canada and European countries.
- GEN  
929.1  
Ev27h  
Everton, George B., *The How Book for Genealogists*. 7th edition, Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1973.  
Answers most elementary questions. A "must" book for the beginner.
- GEN  
929.016  
F472  
Filby, P. William, *American and British Genealogy and Heraldry*. Chicago: American Library Association, 1970.  
This book presents a list of books needed to meet the wants of genealogists and family searchers.
- PER  
Fisher, Carleton Edward. *Topical Index to National Genealogical Society Quarterly*: Vols. 1-50, 1912-1962. Washington: National Genealogical Society, 1964.
- GEN  
929.1  
G172  
Gardner, David E., *Genealogical Research in England and Wales*. 2 vols. Salt Lake City: Bookcraft Publishers, 1956-59.  
A guide to churchyards and cemeteries, offices of civil registration, census, Bishops' Transcripts, with reference to Non-Conformists, Jews, and Roman Catholics in Great Britain and the Commonwealth.
- GEN  
929.016  
G286  
*Genealogical Periodical Annual Index*. Edited by Ellen Stanley Rogers, Bladensburg, Maryland, 1962-date.
- GEN  
929.016  
J159  
Jacobus, Donald Lines. *Index to Genealogical Periodicals*. 3 vols. 1932-1948-1953.
- GEN  
929.1  
G859  
Greenwood, Val D., *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1973.  
Part I deals with basic principles of genealogical research as they apply to American ancestral



problems, and part II deals exclusively with those records in which the student will do most of his research.

GEN  
929.1  
K635 Kirkham, E. Kay, *Research in American Genealogy*. Salt Lake City: Desert Book Co., 1962.

It gives information on how to search in various record depositories throughout the United States and territories.

GEN  
929.1  
St48  
1959 Stevenson, Noel C., *Search and Research, the Researcher's Handbook*. Revised Edition. Salt Lake City: Desert Book Company, 1959.

The main part of the book is concerned with locating books and records in individual states.

GEN  
975.5  
Sw41 Swem, Earl Gregg. *Virginia Historical Index*. 2 vols. Roanoke, Virginia: Stone Printing and Manufacturing Company, 1936.

Indexes names in the *Calendar of Virginia State Papers; Hening's Statutes at Large; Lower Norfolk County Virginia Antiquary; Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine; Virginia Historical Register; Virginia Magazine of History and Biography; and William and Mary College Quarterly*, Series 1 and 2.

GEN  
929.1  
W671 Williams, Ethel W., *Know Your Ancestors*. Rutland, Vermont: Charles E. Tuttle Company, 1960.

The primary purpose of this book is to acquaint the reader with the principles of original research in American genealogy. An excellent guide, of wide scope, including a dictionary of terms.

GEN  
929.016  
Un3 *Genealogies in the Library of Congress*. Edited by Marion J. Kaminkow. Baltimore: Magna Carta Book Company, 1972.

This bibliography lists genealogical books and other related materials in the collections of the Library of Congress.



## Session for Trustees Provides Discussion Time on Library Roles

*by Richard Harper*

What makes a library successful? What ingredients are always found in libraries that are constantly active, used by every segment of the community and considered one of the most vital services a city can offer?

These and other questions were raised during a panel discussion conducted by the Trustees Roundtable during the 1975 TLA Conference. Librarians joined trustees on the panel and the conclusions were used as the basis for a post-conference workshop. The thought-provoking ideas that resulted may well be worth discussing in local meetings or used as a guide to measure the performance of any library. Conclusions reached during these sessions are summarized in the following comments.

What is the most important human element in a successful library? The librarian? The trustee whose family donated the building? No. The most important human element is the citizen, both the user and the non-user, who is offered the services.

While an individual can often make a lasting contribution, that person is subject to all the human frailties. A dynamic administrator may leave for a better position or be forced by age or health into retirement. The "indispensable" board member will someday have to be replaced...and probably should leave while he or she is still considered indispensable. The user, and non-user, remain. Like successful executives in business and industry, they must train and inspire others who can assume the important positions at any time.

Why is a library successful? Analysis almost invariably reveals three key ingredients: a competent professional staff, an active board, and an interested, involved community. These ingredients *must* be carefully blended under a planned program involving long-range goals and clearly defined areas of responsibility.



### The Professional Staff

A professional librarian (M.L.S. degree) has become vital if a library is to provide quality service.

The size of the staff naturally depends upon the size of the budget, the size of the collection and the needs of the community. While the Library Board normally has a voice in the original selection of a librarian, the responsibility for the operation rests with this professional who must therefore have authority to develop the balance of the staff, whether paid employees or volunteers.

### The Library Board

Most library boards serve in an advisory capacity. The relatively few having responsibility for administration could still work within the framework suggested, separating administrative details for greater efficiency.

*Board Membership and Tenure:* Boards should be of reasonable size to be effective, usually from six to ten members. The largest cities may desire more members for adequate representation of areas and ethnic groups, but the size should remain workable.

Board members should be citizens not only interested in library service but who possess backgrounds and talents which permit them to contribute to discussions and decisions. Clearly but courteously object to purely political appointments that can hinder positive programs.

Some governmental bodies for the sake of efficiency establish boards consisting of representatives from each organization in the area. Such boards seldom have a quorum and instead of being a positive factor, often prevent a library from obtaining membership in a library system and make them ineligible for other benefits. Governing bodies can usually be convinced to change this concept, perhaps by having club representatives select a workable board from among themselves.

The term of an appointment should always be limited. Two-year terms are effective, but some cities prefer four years. Terms should be on a rotating basis so experienced members can guide newcomers. The number of times an individual can be reappointed should be limited, permitting exceptions for special projects such as building programs.

Definitely avoid lifetime appointments which tend to be popular in smaller communities or in cases involving major





*Richard Harper, facing center, is a former member of the Advisory Council for the Northeast Texas Library System.*

donors. Individuals could be given special recognition in the form of an honorary lifetime membership on the board without creating a need for their attendance at meetings.

*Orientation and Meetings:* An annual meeting at the start of each new term can effectively explain the duties of a library board to new members while reminding veteran members of their responsibilities. The board's by-laws and/or city charter should be read. Every member needs a clear understanding of the scope and limitations of the board's responsibilities. This is an ideal time to explain the modern concept of a library, the goal program established for continued development of the library, and the relationship of the board with the professional staff. This meeting should be carefully planned by the board chairman and the librarian to make it one of the most important meetings of the year.

The number of regularly scheduled meetings any individual can miss during a given period must be limited. Special called meetings should be an exception. People who have conflicting business commitments or lingering health problems should not be



on an active board although circumstances may make it advisable to consider granting a leave of absence in a unique case. Usually a lack of attendance results from a low priority being given this activity.

The number of meetings needed depends on the amount of work the board is expected to perform. Even the smallest library should schedule at least four meetings each year while larger libraries seldom need more than monthly sessions. Make every meeting worthwhile by properly scheduling business matters or having work sessions covering specific phases of library service. A year's work cannot be covered in one session, but all current business must be covered. The agenda should be prepared in advance, printed, and posted, and open meetings must be held as prescribed by state law. Prior to meetings, send study materials to all board members so they have an opportunity to prepare for the discussions and decisions.

Contributing board members should not merely be dismissed after a period of dedicated service but instead be guided into other phases of volunteer service. Their interest and experience can be invaluable in the constant development of a Friends of the Library organization or other volunteer groups. They may welcome an assignment on a special committee to plan such important programs as public relations.

### **The Involved Community**

Too many libraries are content with support from special interest groups such as clubs and a dedicated Friends of the Library group. This support is important but encompasses a small percentage of the citizens regardless of how aggressive these groups may be. They may be instrumental in promoting bond issues and selling the need for increased services, but the vast majority of the citizens are likely to remain uninvolved and unserved if only by choice.

Most citizens must be lured into a library, and when they arrive, they must feel as much at ease as they would on a visit to the post office or supermarket. Once they are encouraged to return, they have to feel they are a part of the operation, that this is their library.

Most communities feel adequate tax support is the total solution. The average citizen does not associate such financial support with personal involvement. Taxation has become a way of life and even local taxes make the funds impersonal. Grants from





*Librarians and Trustees at the session in Richardson*

county, state and federal agencies are invariably considered “free money” as few people even consider that such funds are probably their own dollars that have been processed through bureaus and returned for local use.

Community support requires personal involvement. Use the library as a place for meetings. Encourage special programs, sessions on farming techniques in rural-oriented communities or social problems in an urban setting. General interest movies, seminars or lectures can be tailored to the needs of the local area. Make such programs interesting and of specific value.

Think far beyond printed materials. Exchange art objects, house plants and other items. Hold art shows, flower shows and special displays on subjects of local interest. Become the main source of information for elections and civic events.

Personal contributions almost automatically create personal involvement and one of the easiest and most effective methods is a drive for books. People who otherwise could not afford a contribution will share what they have. Be sure to emphasize many books and periodicals cannot be used in the library but that all



books benefit the library. You'll find some real treasures, and useful books not needed by one library can be passed to another in a neighboring community.

Be careful to eliminate books containing obsolete and incorrect information unless they are valuable from a historical standpoint and segregated from current reference materials.

Books sales are also effective as everyone loves to browse and search for a bargain. When sales become a periodic event, as many men as women are likely to attend. Hold the sale in a portion of the library, if possible, or nearby so people will be tempted to inspect library facilities.

### **The Delicate Balance**

Like walking a tightrope, failure to balance the three main ingredients can result in a crashing defeat. Define specific areas of responsibility and establish long-range goals. These need constant review in even the best established library.

The professional librarian who fails to recognize the need for a good board misses one of the major assets available to properly serve a community. Trustees can be used as a "sounding board" and should never be expected to merely rubber stamp every idea. They should be advised of all successes and also alerted to both existing and potential problems. An uninformed board cannot function in an advisory capacity, and probably will be ineffective when they are genuinely needed. Genuine communications are needed to insure mutual respect and coordinated efforts.

The library board that directly interferes with the actual operation of the library can create havoc. Any complaint or suggestion must be processed through the librarian. If a problem is not solved, the librarian should be expected to provide a reasonable explanation. In most cases, the board has not been established to solve operational problems but to serve as a bridge between the professional staff and the community. They should be in a position to reflect the needs and desires of the community and in turn be able to explain the services to the citizens.

An understanding of the philosophy of the governing body that made the board appointments is important. Board members should attend city council or commissioners meetings from time to time so that they are prepared to report on the needs of the community and the library in an effective manner. It is seldom enough to merely appear when additional funds are needed.

When a new librarian is hired, be sure an explanation is



provided during the interviewing period of exactly how the board is operated and coordinated with the professional staff. This is just as essential as the orientation program for new board members.

Involved citizens, especially those in organized groups such as the Friends of the Library, must also fit into a balanced program or they can inadvertently defeat the very goal they work so hard to accomplish. Once again, communications are essential.

No business or organization will be successful until it knows where it is going. Establish a direction by defining both immediate and long-range goals.

In establishing goals, temper the idealistic with the realistic. Standards of excellence established by the American Library Association or any other organization may serve as a guide but are ineffective unless you first analyze the needs of your own community. A farming community has different requirements than a city that is industrially-oriented or a town that is dominated by a large college. The average educational level of the citizens is another major factor as well as forecasts for population growth.

Establish the goals, based on the specific community requirements, and then coordinate all efforts by the professionals, the board and the citizens into a unified effort to implement the goals. Get the facts. Seeking funds or support for a project that is not clearly defined is unrealistic. No one can successfully sell the need for funds without first going through the careful planning process. Be creative. Bounce back after a defeat. Have alternate plans for accomplishing your goals. This procedure is as important in requesting an increased book budget as it is in requesting funds for a new building.

When all the elements are properly blended, the goals established and the library is being developed according to a specific plan, you'll be able to see the results. Patrons will no longer be just the children attending story hours and checking out the easy reading books or the mothers who seek the novels on the best-seller lists. Businessmen will become regular readers of periodicals and rely on the reference section for important information. The school dropout will be dropping in to read the latest information on hot rods and perhaps be exposed to more substantial literature. And you'll know you are successful when teenagers on "library dates" are still there at closing time listening to records or engrossed in a book or a magazine.



# Waxahachie's Sims Library One Of the State's Oldest

*by Steve Fulton*

When the sun dawned on Waxahachie on April 26, 1905, the some 4,000 residents knew that it was not just another day. For several months, citizens had been meeting to plan for the day to insure that it would be one of the greatest days in the history of Waxahachie. Everyone planned to take part in the event, and even the schools were closed for the day. The *Daily Light* printed 2,000 copies of the day's issue on special book paper and sold them for 5 cents a copy. Even the weather cooperated, and the residents enjoyed a comfortable 85° temperature. Besides all the local preparation, much work had gone into inviting the proper out-of-town dignitaries, including Dr. Charles F. Thwing, president of Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. Perhaps Dr. Thwing was the most prestigious of the guests for he had the honor of speaking at the inauguration of Dr. A. E. Turner, president of Trinity University, as well as at the dedication of the N. P. Sims Library and Lyceum.

The people who attended the joint inauguration-dedication ceremonies had no way of knowing how great a day it was in terms of the future of these institutions in Waxahachie. Only time could tell that. Unfortunately for Waxahachie, Trinity University later moved to San Antonio. But N. P. Sims Library and Lyceum observed its seventieth year of service in 1975. Unlike a great many public libraries that had their start in the early 1900's from grants provided by Andrew Carnegie, N. P. Sims Library and Lyceum owes its beginnings to a prominent Waxahachie resident. Nicholas P. Sims, a successful landowner, died on May 2, 1902. When his will was read, it revealed that he had left the bulk of his estate to establish and maintain a public library for Waxahachie and Ellis County. In the will, Sims also named the library and left instructions for maintaining the library. He named his stepsons, O. E. Dunlap and S. M. Dunlap, and his friend, George H. Cunningham, as trustees of the library. O. E. Dunlap was the Ellis County judge at that time and is generally believed to have



suggested to Sims that he leave the main portion of his estate for the establishment of a library. Sims named his institution the N. P. Sims Library and Lyceum. While this is the official name, through the years, the institution's name has been shortened to Nicholas P. Sims Library and simply Sims Library.

Sims directed that after funds had been used for building and furnishing the library, the remaining money would be invested in good securities, U.S. bonds, bonds of the State of Texas or of good and solvent counties and cities in Texas, or mortgages on real estate in Ellis County.

The first decision the new trustees had to make was where to locate the library. This problem was easily solved, thanks to the generosity of another prominent Waxahachie resident. In 1895, Captain W. H. Getzendaner, the first mayor of Waxahachie, had given the city of Waxahachie a two-acre plot of land for a park. If desired, it could be used as a site for a public library. The park had not been used for a library previous to Sim's death and the trustees found the city very receptive to the proposal of building the library in the park.

The dedication of the library was held at 8:30 p.m. on April 26. The building had been open for inspection prior to that hour. Those who had inspected the building had found a magnificent and dignified structure. The overall design of the library was conceived in classic renaissance with all parts bearing a strict relation to each other with all forms and details conforming to the Roman Doric revival. The two-story building had an entrance which consisted of a pediment flanked by massive Doric columns, supporting an entablature above which bore the name of the donor and the date of the building's erection. In the center and upon the very top of the feature, was a splendidly modeled cartouche covering the pediment. The front entrance doorway was accented and featured a stone-carved and festooned pediment. On each side of the central motive stood the building proper, with its large, spacious windows, the corners being reinforced by large piers, expressive of stability and strength. The brick on the exterior of the building was Tiffany enameled. Above the windows was a weather-stained copper cornice and the building had a mottled slate roof, which was crowned with copper.

The two stories of the library were respectively equipped for the library on the first floor and an atheneum on the second. From an entrance hall, people had access to the delivery room or to a





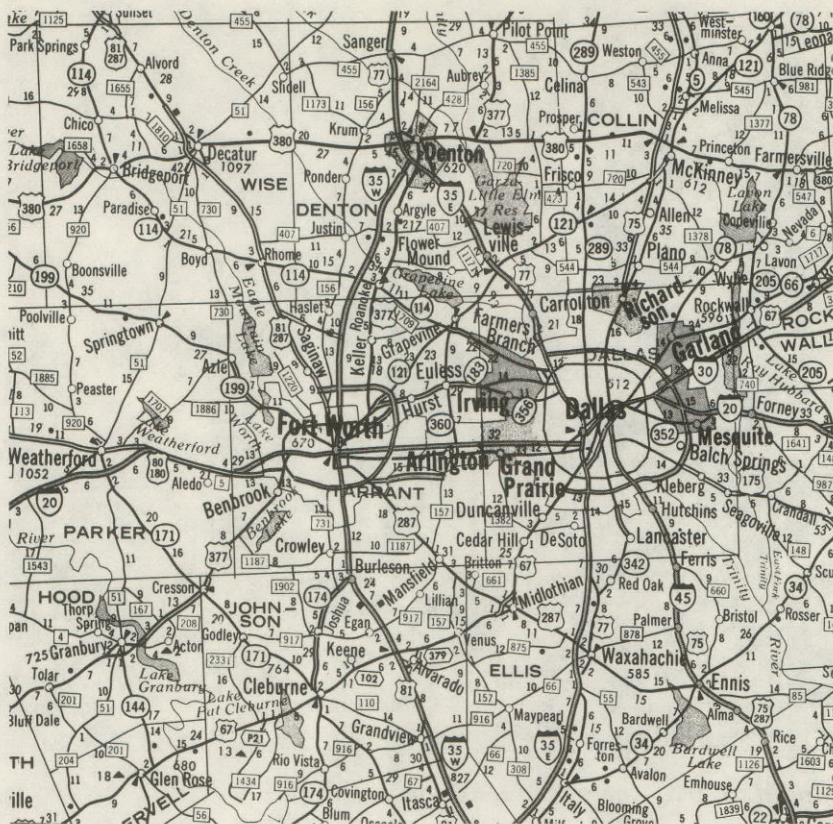
*Sims Library, where Steve Fulton is Librarian.*

stair going up to the second floor. This arrangement made it possible to use the second floor independently. The entrance hall was done in white polished marble with a marble dado continuing around the walls and up the stairway. The floor was marble tile. The delivery room was furnished with reading rooms and stack room being portiered with polished columns of white Carrara marble and a paneled ceiling with rich carving, all finished with old ivory. The floor was of marble tile and the walls of the reading rooms were finished in a delicate tone of green and the corresponding wood finish in flemish. The delivery room served as a key to the whole plan. From it, there was access to the reading rooms on each side and to the delivery counter in front as well as the stack room at the back.

The second floor provided for committee and art rooms and the atheneum, stage and anteroom. A praiseworthy feature of the auditorium was the sculptured proscenium arch which was finished in gold.

When the library opened, Miss Irene Galloway served as the





first librarian. The library was open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Only one book could be checked out at a time and only then if the borrower had put up the \$3.00 deposit required in order for a person to check out a book. These early years were marked by events in which the library began to make itself known to the community and to reach out and become a real part of the community. "Library Notes" was a regular column in the local newspaper and featured library policies, lists of new books, names of people who donated books, and other news items. The Shakespeare Club cooperated with the library in furnishing a traveling library to be used by any Ellis County community that would arrange for its transportation to and from the library. Special programs were held in the auditorium on the anniversary of selected authors' birthdays. Women's clubs in Waxahachie held their regular meetings in the upstairs club room. In the early part of 1909, the library began to stay open from seven to nine on Monday evenings. But that did not work out too well, and a later listing of library hours shows that the library closed at 5 p.m. every



day. In the spring of 1909, the library was open on Sunday afternoons from three to six for reading and studying purposes only. Young men who had no home ties in Waxahachie were encouraged to come to the library on Sunday afternoons. The library also worked closely with the students and faculty of Trinity University.

The people of Waxahachie began to feel that the library was theirs to use, enjoy and support. Perhaps they did not realize that it was possible that someday this new institution would run into financial trouble. However, some people had the insight to realize that the money received from Sims, even after it was invested, would not last forever. In a speech to the Rotary Club in June, 1924, Judge G. C. Groce reported that very few new books had been purchased within recent years and that the book collection needed to be brought up-to-date. He also spoke of needed repairs to the building and its furnishings. Judge Groce told the Rotary Club that \$34,355.76 of the original \$62,723.73 was used in the building and furnishing of the library and that the library now had \$26,049.80 invested in loans, \$15,500 in U.S. bonds and \$8,441.45 in the bank. Judge Groce explained that these funds would have to be supplemented if the library were to serve the purpose for which it was intended. It is not recorded how the community reacted to the judge's revelation. It appears that there was little reaction at all, for the normal activities of the library continued at about the same pace as before.

The year 1928 is an important year in the history of the library. That is the year that Mrs. J. R. Hood began her 40-year career as librarian. Mrs. Hood worked harder than anyone else had in promoting the library and in creating the institution's high standards. She made sure that the library was properly decorated for holidays and rarely missed an opportunity to talk to a club about the library. She began a service to the schools of Ellis County in which classes came to the library for instruction on the use of the library and for study. The Texana collection had its beginning during this time. Mrs. Hood also began a summer story hour for children which was conducted by volunteers. Mrs. Hood had worked very hard and it was with a great deal of pride that she stood in the receiving line at the reception for the library's twenty-fifth anniversary in 1930, knowing that her efforts had paid off.

The life of the library almost ended shortly after this



anniversary because of the institution's severe financial crisis. It was finally announced that the library would be closed on February 1, 1932, unless sufficient funds were obtained. Now that people realized the library's dire financial situation, they began to encourage the City to include the library in its budget. As good as such a plan might be, it could not be worked out before the library's proposed closing date. Something else had to be done quickly. The American Legion came to the rescue and led a drive for funds for the library. They were aided in their door-to-door effort by other service clubs and by many individuals, including Mrs. Hood. The drive was successful, and the library was able to remain open.

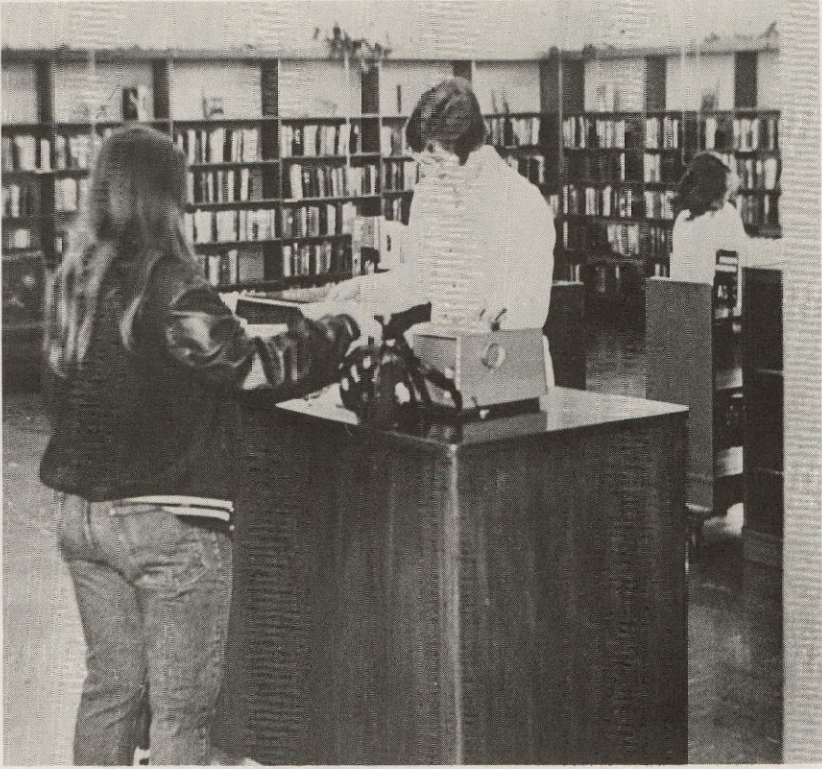
By this time, the financial situation of the library was fully realized. In addition, people realized that the worthwhile efforts of service clubs and individuals could only sustain the library for a limited period of time. In April, 1933, the citizens went to the polls to vote on a tax proposal for the support of the library. If passed, the proposal provided that there would be a tax not to exceed 5 cents per \$100 valuation. The proposition was not without opposition, but it carried by a vote of two to one.

With the immediate future of the library secure, Mrs. Hood resumed her programs and services at the library. This time some of the programs benefitted the library and the citizens of the community. A community-wide book drive was held and Mrs. Hood began the memorial book program by which people could place books in the library in memory of friends and relatives. In addition to many of the programs which had previously been started by Mrs. Hood, new ones were added such as a puppet show for the children. The library also experimented with staying open late on Monday night again, but the experiment was again unsuccessful.

In 1951, the City Council was presented with a petition requesting that the 5 cent tax be increased to 10 cents per \$100 valuation. Although the funds of the library had not diminished since the city had put it in its budget, the funds were not adequate for the upkeep of a growing institution. The City Council understood the situation and called an election. The proposition passed, and the current support from the city is a tax not to exceed 10 cents per \$100 valuation.

In 1955, the library celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. Time was taken for an open house and a reception one afternoon and





### *A Young Patron*

then the library quickly began its third quarter of the first century of service to Waxahachie and Ellis County. One of the new programs started was a weekly pre-school picture book story hour sponsored by the Junior Service League.

When Mrs. Hood gave the 1956 annual report for the library, she reported that a new wing for the children's books was needed. Not long after her report, Mrs. Hood learned that a man in Waxahachie was anonymously giving money to various institutions. She learned the identity of the man and asked the library board to consider talking to the man about giving enough money to the library to build a children's wing. One of the board members knew the man in question and doubted that he could be persuaded to donate the money. But the board member agreed to approach him. The man, who was a bachelor, is said to have been shocked by the idea that children read and would use a children's wing at the library. Mrs. Hood was able to convince him by circulation figures and attendance at story hours





### *Saturday Morning at the Library*

that children did indeed read. As a result, he agreed to donate the money. He gave \$40,000 which provided funds to build and furnish the new wing, air condition the entire first floor and build a parking area for the library. In June, 1958, the J. Harry Phillips Library for Boys and Girls was opened. Phillips had lived most of his life in Chicago where he was an inventor. His most famous invention was the Phillips screw and screwdriver. When he retired, he returned to his boyhood home and shared his wealth not only with the library, but with other institutions in Waxahachie.

The library was recipient of more good fortune in 1963 when Mrs. Robert A. Watson, whose husband had been city secretary for many years, died and left her personal home and library to Sims Library to be used for library purposes or disposed of as the trustees saw fit. It was this \$7,000 bequest that the trustees used as the basic funding when they pledged in January, 1965, to raise \$50,000 for a new wing by January 1, 1976. Not long after this action, the library received anonymously \$1,000 from a will. And at about the same time, the wife of a local industrialist expressed



to her husband her desire to furnish the rest of the money for the new wing. On March 28, 1965, the W. H. Larkin family presented the library with sufficient funds to erect and furnish the new wing which included a basement level. The W. H. Larkin Library was opened in June, 1969. Larkin was associated with the Larkin Packer Company of Waxahachie, an oil field equipment company. He has since sold the company and now serves as mayor of Waxahachie. Shortly before the new wing opened, an office was built for Mrs. Hood with a gift of \$2,000 from Mr. and Mrs. Herbert N. Peters, Jr.

Throughout the years, Sims Library has strived to meet the needs of its patrons to the best of its ability. Sometimes its efforts have been held back by a limited budget and a lack of enough staff members. And even though it may not have offered services that other libraries have, through the years, the people of the community and county have developed a sense of pride in the library. This pride, carried over from generation to generation, has developed because people have come to feel that they not only have benefitted from the library but have also contributed to its success. A recently acquired historical marker will insure that this heritage will be preserved for future generations.

In the first part of the third quarter of the library's life, the emphasis was on building. The last part of this period has stressed new services to the patrons and continued financial support. The last five years have been marked by the library's reaching out even more and providing more services to the community. In 1970, a copy machine was purchased and has been a service to the library and the community, since it is one of the few public copy machines in Waxahachie. When Mrs. J. R. Hood died in 1973, her friends purchased a display case in her memory. The case has provided a place for people in Waxahachie and Ellis County to display various personal collections. A paperback exchange was started. In addition, telephone books of major Texas cities and catalogs of several Texas colleges and universities were added to the collection. Large-print books were also added. Tables and chairs were purchased to furnish a small meeting room intended for use by various clubs and organizations. Due to an increase in bicycle riders, a bicycle rack was purchased. The library received gifts of an American flag and a flagpole from the Waxahachie Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3894. A record player was given to the library for use in the children's wing. A suggestion box now



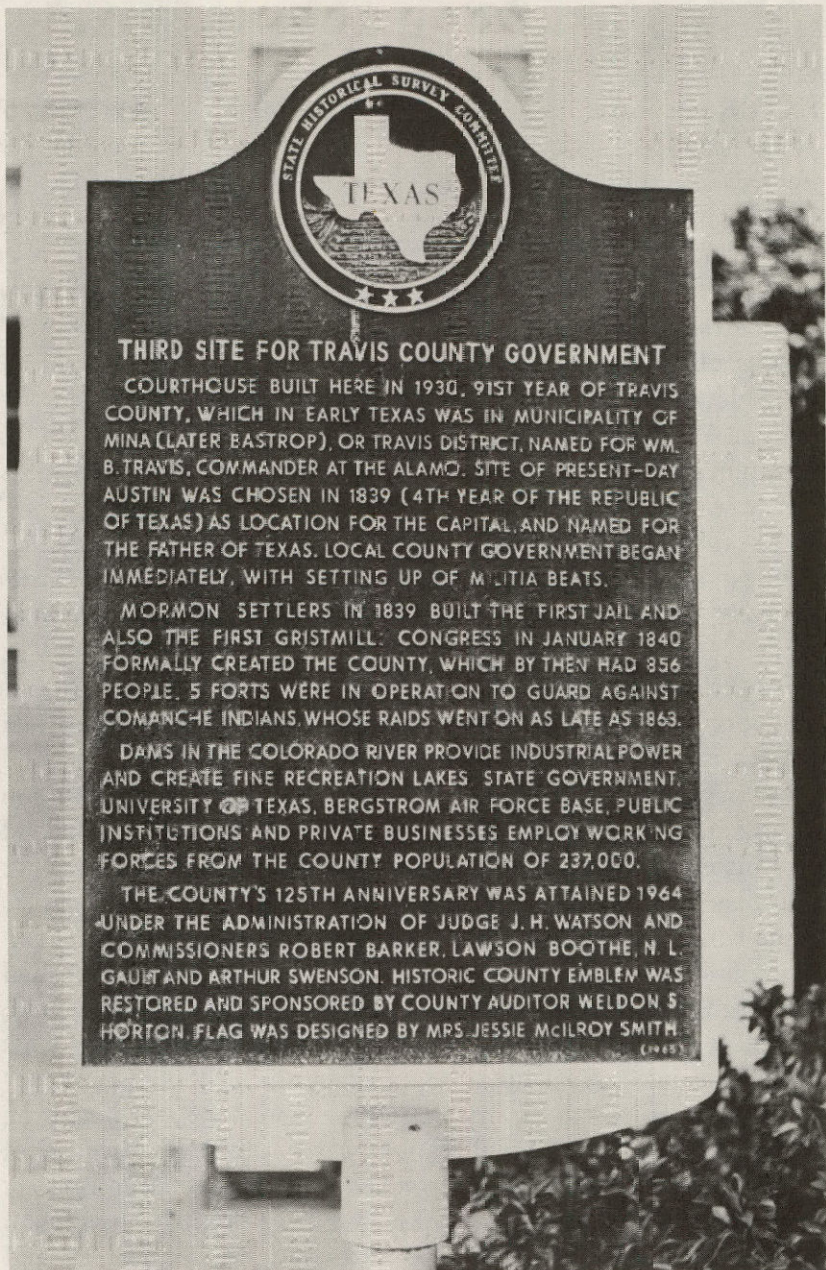
permits patrons to submit ideas about new books and services for consideration. Most recently, floor plans of the library have been added to help patrons find their way about the library.

Perhaps one of the most visible signs of growth has been the circulation figures for 1975. In June, 9,074 books were checked out. This figure was more than had ever been checked out in one month in the entire 70-year history of the library. In July, 10,698 books were circulated. Not only did this establish a new record, but it marked the first time in the history of the library that 10,000 books were circulated in one month. For most of the months in 1975, there was a 1,000 book increase in circulation over the same period in 1974. This increase can be attributed to several factors, including a very popular Summer Reading Club and books received through the Northeast Texas Library System.

The basic concept of a library requires that it must change in order to meet the needs of patrons who live in a fast-changing world. The changes cannot be sudden, but they must be continuously planned. Plans are constantly being made for the future of Sims Library. Many of our plans are still "on the drawing board" and have not yet been given a starting date. A microfilm reader-printer with a microfiche attachment has been purchased and old local newspapers are being microfilmed. The first order of magazines on microfiche has arrived. Requests for films and records indicate they will be used when time and money permit adding them to the collection. As the number of patrons continues to grow, staff and the number of hours will increase. In 1974, hours were extended until 9:00 p.m. every Tuesday night. The response has been so favorable that another night will be added. Plans are now being made to expand our services to the aged. And, someday, we may even add a bookmobile or a branch library. And even though the library has always had friends, there has been no official "friends" group thus far. There is interest in such a group, and it will probably be organized soon.

If the people who attended the dedication ceremony of the libraries could be here today, they would realize that the dedication of the library was a significant day for Waxahachie and for Sims Library. For seventy years, the library has served its patrons and they have cooperated and served the library. With the spirit of pride and cooperation that has developed over the years, the Nicholas P. Sims Library will continue to be an important part of the community for years to come.





*by Jane Rogers*

## **Records Survey Attempt to Inventory County Records**



The Historical Records Survey was a Federal Works Projects Administration project formed to inventory the records (or archives) of each of the nation's 3,066 counties during the 1930's. Because of this nationwide scope and the need for uniformity in format and content of the inventories, the survey was organized as a project in Federal Project One to allow direct administration by the central office in Washington.

The other projects in Federal One—the Federal Art Project, the Federal Music Project, the Federal Theater Project and the Federal Writers' Project—were designed to give direct aid to unemployed professionals in each field, but the Historical Records Survey was professional only in its supervisory positions.

The objective of the Historical Records Survey was another manifestation of one of the hallmarks of the New Deal, its emphasis on conservation: conservation of natural resources as applied in reforestation, soil erosion control and the TVA; conservation of human resources by replacing the charitable handouts of the dole with work relief projects which nourished and upgraded the workers' skills; conservation of national and ethnic heritages through art, music, theater, historical restoration projects and the Writers' Project *Guides*, which became mines of local history. In this atmosphere, a project to recover and restore local historical records was welcomed. The labor intensive nature of the work and the fact that it could reach into every county in the nation were further recommendations for a project which had long been desired by archivists and historians.

Before the WPA, work relief projects were conducted by state agencies, using federal funds supplied by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. A brief experiment with federal operation under Civil Works Administration was terminated because of prohibitive cost.<sup>1</sup> The state agencies tended to concentrate on construction projects, which represented more familiar operational procedures, to the exclusion of projects designed for women and white-collar workers. Nevertheless, a few records projects, notably in Alabama and Pennsylvania, demonstrated the possibilities inherent in such work.<sup>2</sup>

Luther H. Evans is generally given the credit for inaugurating the Historical Records Survey. While others had suggested the desirability of such a project, Evans presented the detailed



proposals for organization and finance necessary to accomplish the task.

In January, 1934, Francis S. Philbrick of the University of Pennsylvania Law School, inspired by the Pennsylvania project, outlined a tentative plan for a national survey of county archives in a letter to Robert C. Binkley, professor of history at Western Reserve University and chairman of the Joint Committee on Materials for Research of the American Council of Learned Societies and the Social Science Research Council. Binkley immediately called a conference in Washington; and when the Joint Committee met in New York in February, T. R. Schellenberg, its executive secretary, was directed to draft a formal proposal for such a project under CWA. The Joint Committee also named a subcommittee, the Commission on National Archives Survey, to keep the idea alive. Just as the commission's work was well under way, Congress prohibited federal projects.<sup>3</sup>

Evans was an assistant professor of history at Princeton when he came to Washington during the summer of 1935 to discuss the matter with Harry Hopkins. Born in Sayersville (Bastrop County), Texas, in 1902, Evans received his B.A. from the University of Texas in 1923, with a major in political science and a minor in economics. Four years later, he received his Ph.D. from Stanford University. He had visited Europe twice to study the League of Nations and European governments and had taught at New York University and Dartmouth before going to Princeton in 1930. Other than a friendship with Binkley, his chief qualification for the survey seemed to be a tenuous connection with Raymond Moley who recommended him to Hopkins.<sup>4</sup>

However, once Evans arrived in Washington, he began to acquaint himself with the earlier proposals, and Schellenberg opened the files of the Commission on National Archives Survey to him. With the assistance of Schellenberg, WPA officials, and representatives of the National Archives, the National Park Service, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the Social Science Research Council, Evans drafted a preliminary proposal for a survey of state and local archives during his first week. Within three weeks, he had sufficient staffing and budget details worked out for tentative approval to be given to two archival projects: a



survey of federal records located outside the District of Columbia and a survey of state and local records. By the time the project was officially approved in November, 1935, plans were almost complete except for the manual of technical instructions.<sup>5</sup> It was probably the speed with which Evans was able to organize general proposals into concrete recommendations for implementation which led to Hopkins' appointment of Evans to head the Survey, as Hopkins was always obsessed with the necessity of putting people to work yesterday.

Evans was appointed to the technical staff of the Washington office on October 1, 1935, as "supervisor of historic projects." The Historical Records Survey was established November 16 by Executive Letters 1090 and 1188 as a unit of Federal One under the Federal Writers' Project.<sup>6</sup>

The placement of the Historical Records Survey in the Federal Writers' Project seems to have been considered a matter of administrative convenience and not a misguided belief that the two projects had anything in common. But even though Evans and Harry Alsberg, head of the Writers' Project, had the best of intentions for cooperation at the beginning, and this was but one of many administrative anomalies in the WPA, the subordination of the Survey to the Writers' Project severely handicapped the Survey. In order to reach as many of the unemployed as possible, supervisory positions were limited in all WPA projects. A quota of 10 percent of supervisory positions was established for most projects, but Federal One projects, because of their professional nature, were allowed 25 percent. This quota was vital to the operation of the projects and was jealously guarded. Yet in Texas, the director of the Writers' Project stated that since the workers of FWP and HRS were interchangeable and the Guidebook needed more nonrelief workers, the FWP would use the HRS supervisory quota.<sup>7</sup> This attitude seemed to prevail in all the states, and Evans estimated that by August, 1936, the Survey had lost between \$50,000 and \$100,000 by such practices.<sup>8</sup> In October, the two projects were separated; and the Survey operated independently until September, 1939, when all federal sponsorship was withdrawn. The Washington office then became a project sponsored by the Library of Congress and retained technical direction of all HRS publications. The work of the Survey in the various states continued under state sponsors, usually a university or state agency, until World War II forced the closing of all



non-war related activities. Evans resigned in November, 1939, and was succeeded by Sargent B. Child, who had been in the Survey in various capacities since its inception.

The Historical Records Survey in Texas opened March 14, 1936, in the State WPA headquarters in the Smith-Young Tower in San Antonio. J. Frank Davis, director of the Federal Writers' Project in Texas, was in charge with Ike Moore as assistant director for the Historical Records Survey.<sup>9</sup> While a graduate student at the University of Texas, Moore had become known for his research into early Texas newspapers and printing. When the two projects were separated later that year, Moore became the director of HRS. He resigned on February 1, 1939, to become the first director of the San Jacinto Museum of History. He was succeeded by Charles Hodges, former assistant director. In September, 1939, the survey became a statewide project under the direction of Hodges. Two months later, it was incorporated into the Texas Statewide Records Project that was directed by Paul Fidler and sponsored by the University of Texas Bureau of Research in the Social Sciences; John W. B. Foringer became assistant state supervisor in charge of the Historical Records Survey editorial unit and Hodges became field supervisor. After Foringer's resignation in September, 1940, the Survey was headed by a succession of clerks who had been associated with the work in San Antonio or in the districts.<sup>10</sup>

The suitability of a records survey program as a WPA project rested first on the fact that such a survey would be labor intensive, a basic prerequisite for all projects. A further premise held that while the archival discipline itself required professional training, the expertise of the professional could be extended by breaking down the basic enumeration process into small, easily learned segments with data outlined on printed forms which the professional could then meld and edit. As Evans put it, "...to perform scholarly work on a mass basis with the hearts and brains of workers whose previous experience had not been scholarly."<sup>11</sup> This concept of assembly-line research was fundamental to the HRS and the success or failure of individual projects rested on its implementation at local levels.

The initial plan for the survey of county and state records was to execute an inventory form for each series of records found in the county courthouse or state office, deposit one copy of all forms with the county or other unit of government, and send the



originals to Washington for compilation. Over the next few months, this plan was re-examined; and by June, 1936, Evans informed the state directors that each county inventory would be a separate publication with additional publications for any state or municipal archives.<sup>12</sup> The smaller publications would be easier to use, they could be published piece-meal as they were prepared, and the publication process was dispersed throughout the country.

Each county was numbered according to its alphabetical place in the list of counties in the state. Each inventory followed a standard format: a brief historical sketch and a map of the county was followed by statements of previous and present governmental organizations, charts of the terms of county officials, and essays on the housing, care, and accessibility of the records. The latter were often accompanied by a floor plan of the courthouse or of the outlying buildings showing specific locations of the records. Next were the numbered entries for each record series, with the offices arranged in logical sequence: chief executive agencies, followed by judicial, office, legal, and service agencies. Under each office was given a detailed legal history and statement of the duties and records required by law. Subject indexes, chronological indexes, lists of laws applying only to that county, and a bibliography of legal and historical sources pertaining to that county concluded the volume. By 1939, in an attempt to speed up publication of completed inventories, the introductory essays were curtailed, the historical maps were eliminated, and a master volume for the state described the offices found in each county.<sup>13</sup> The Texas master volume was not completed but the *Check List of Records Required or Permitted by Law in Texas, 1937*, provides some of this information.

Field operations of the HRS in Texas were carried out by district supervisors in Administrative Fields which corresponded to the usual WPA Districts. While exact coverage is difficult to pin down and operations varied considerably over the seven-year life of the Survey, it is clear that many areas were never included in the Survey.

Workers were hired at the local level. While WPA employment personnel made an effort to fit the worker to the job, workers with the educational background for records survey were often not available and those who were placed in that work often were not competent. Training seems to have been a haphazard, trial-and-error situation. The 1939 legislation which withdrew



federal sponsorship also forbade further employment of any WPA worker with eighteen consecutive months on WPA rolls. The number of trained HRS workers in Texas who had to be terminated under this rule is not as important as the effect their release may have had on individual projects; unfortunately, neither can be determined at this time.

Even before records could be inventoried, they had to be located and frequently had to be cleaned and arranged. Often, records which were very fragile had to be transcribed. In the days before Xerox, faithful reproduction of records, with marginal notes, interlinings, etc., was a time-consuming task. No serious estimate can be given as to the amount of this sort of work that was carried on nor as to any current usage in the counties of the transcribed materials.

Completed forms were sent to the district supervisor who checked them for obvious errors and either returned them for correction or sent them on to San Antonio for editing and compilation. Draft typescripts were sent to Washington for approval before publication. Again, training seems to have been an on-the-job affair with one draft being returned accompanied by a three-page critique of the index and a lesson in indexing procedures. The final publication was in mimeograph form with stencils, printing, and binding done in the San Antonio headquarters. Five hundred copies seem to have been the usual publication run with copies distributed to the counties, to libraries within the state, and to designated out-of-state libraries. Moore sent President Roosevelt a copy of the first county inventory produced.

The first inventory, that of Denton County, was published in August, 1937. Nearly two years passed before the second, Sabine, appeared in 1939. At about this time, Charles Clark and Perry Davis, field supervisors, were assigned additional territory and seem to have personally rechecked all entries at the courthouse level.<sup>14</sup> Twenty-two more inventories were published in the next two and one-half years; the last, Orange County, was issued in December, 1941. Others in progress were halted by the termination of the project. In all, Texas published 24 county inventories for just under 10 percent of the 254 counties; nationally, 664 inventories were published for 21 percent of the nation's counties.<sup>15</sup> At the close of the project, all inventory forms and incomplete work were transferred to the University of Texas.





*Archives of the Historical Records Survey are housed at the Barker Texas History Center at the University of Texas at Austin.*

The Statewide Records Project emphasized cleaning, arranging, and indexing county records for current local use. Copies of the indexes produced were presented to the County Clerk and to the Commissioner's Court. However, name indexes of Probate Records were published for 30 counties covering more than 400,000 estates.<sup>16</sup> Production of these probate indexes was centered in the Houston Field Office (Administrative Field No. 6) under the direction of Sam W. Adkins.<sup>17</sup> At the close of the Project, all work concerning probate records was transferred to the San Jacinto Museum of History. Several years later, it was added to the other HRS archives at the University of Texas.

State archives inventories were included in the program of publications but were published in scattered series for only ten states.<sup>18</sup> Considerable work was done in Texas in arranging the records of the State Land Office, but no inventories were completed. It must be remembered that at this time the Archives Division of the State Library was trying to operate in the State Capitol under extremely crowded conditions, and most non-current records were in dead storage in the basement. Many State records were still in originating offices in the Capitol or the Walton Building.

An inventory of the archives of the *Municipality of Brazoria 1832-1837* was published in June, 1940. Many of the records in the



Alamo Museum were transcribed but were never published. The Laredo Archives had been discovered only in 1934; and a project, first to index them, then to transcribe and publish them was begun under the direction of Ricardo de la Garza, a direct descendant of Captain Tomás Sanchez, who founded Laredo in 1755. This was one of the projects closed by the war, but the transcriptions were later transferred to the Texas State Library.<sup>19</sup> Through 1938, Malcolm D. McLean, field editor on the state headquarters staff, supervised all work in the Spanish archives.<sup>20</sup>

The Survey of Federal Archives outside the District of Columbia became Federal Project Number Four, sponsored by and directed from the National Archives. In June, 1937, it was transferred to the Historical Records Survey.<sup>21</sup> In Texas, the work was begun under the direction of Dr. Richard S. Sternberg; he was succeeded in August, 1936, by D. Roy Parker; in June, 1937, Cecil T. May headed the project. In December, 1937, Mrs. Blanche LaDura became supervisor and carried the project through to its completion.<sup>22</sup> Mrs. LaDura seems to have been one of the few certified WPA workers who made the transition to a supervisory position.<sup>23</sup>

A standard series format was established for the Federal Archives publications. Each department carried a standard Roman numeral in every state which published an inventory for that department, and each state was numbered alphabetically. Thus, in each series, Texas was number 42. Series I was assigned to the records of the Historical Records Survey; II, the Federal Courts; III, Department of the Treasury; IV, Department of War; V, Department of Justice; VI, Post Office Department; VII, Department of the Navy; VIII, Department of the Interior; IX, Department of Agriculture; X, Department of Commerce; XI, Department of Labor; XII, Veterans' Administration; XIII, Federal Civil Works Administration; XIV, Emergency Relief Administration; XV, Works Progress Administration; XVI, Farm Credit Administration; XVII, Miscellaneous Agencies.<sup>24</sup> Series I was never published but Sargent Child is reported to have ordered an inventory prepared for "practically all the states" before the Survey was dismantled and copies were deposited at the National Archives, the Library of Congress, and in state depositories.<sup>25</sup> The Post Office (VI), the CWA and ERA inventories were not published,<sup>26</sup> and the WPA inventory was held in abeyance pending an inactive records program which WPA began in 1940.<sup>27</sup> By



January, 1941, the Texas portion of the federal inventory was completed.

After the fall of France in June, 1940, all WPA projects were increasingly oriented toward national defense and still later, toward directly aiding the war effort. As the HRS was dealing with local records, it was assigned the emergency task of locating vital statistics for the birth certificates or substitutes which were becoming increasingly necessary to individuals under the social legislation of the Thirties, the 1940 draft law, and employment in security-conscious industrial defense plants. The *Guide to Public Vital Statistics Records in Texas* was produced in June, 1941. Not published but prepared and sent to Washington was a summary of state agencies concerned with World War I emergency activities.<sup>28</sup>

A survey of church archives was considered a part of the HRS program as early as March, 1936. The *Inventory of the Protestant Episcopal Church Records of the Diocese of Washington* was produced as a test and training project and sheets of a completed inventory of church records in Delaware were circulated to the other states as a model but final instructions for preparation of inventories were never issued.<sup>29</sup> Church records were examined in some counties in Texas under state-issued instructions,<sup>30</sup> but this project was not given a high priority. Although 33 states published some church archives, the impression remains that it was likely the interest of the church organizations involved which led to successful compilation of these records. Church directories were issued by 20 states.<sup>31</sup>

The Early American Imprints Inventory was one of the two HRS projects dealing with historical sources other than archives. From the standpoint of immediate dissemination of the information gathered and eventual publication, this was probably one of the most successful of the HRS projects, and was certainly the most productive of the Texas Survey projects. New titles were added to the Library of Congress National Catalog (over 90 percent of the titles in some Western states were new to the Catalog), and publication of preliminary checklists of imprints by states led progressively to more inclusive bibliographies of early imprints.

The Early American Imprints Inventory was directed by Douglas C. McMurtrie from the HRS office in Chicago. Title slips for all imprints earlier than 1876 (1890 in the Rocky Mountain states) were sent to McMurtrie weekly for editing and comments on style. The Chicago file contained about fifteen million slips



representing nearly one and one-half million separate imprints of books, pamphlets and broadsides. A copy of each slip representing a new title was sent to the National Catalog. Plans to publish a bibliography in Chicago with completely described title pages bogged down and the slips were returned to the state of imprint for publication.<sup>32</sup>

The Texas Imprint Inventory was implemented August 13, 1938, under the direction of Joseph Milton Nance. In 1939, when the HRS became a state project, the Imprint Inventory was transferred to the Statewide Library Project which was sponsored by the Texas State Library. The Imprint Inventory retained a co-sponsorship by the University of Texas. In September 1940, Nance was succeeded by William L. Strauss who remained until the end of the project in 1942.<sup>33</sup>

At this time, Thomas W. Streeter was preparing a bibliography of Texas imprints covering the years 1795 to 1845. The returned Imprint Inventory title slips covering these years were sent to him for inclusion in his work. E. W. Winkler, bibliographer at the University of Texas, continued to work with the later imprints after the project closed and published a preliminary checklist in the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* beginning in April, 1943. In 1949, the Texas State Historical Association published Volume I of Winkler's *Check List of Texas Imprints 1846-1860* with 700 more titles than had appeared in the *Quarterly*. Volume II, published in 1963 and covering the years 1861-1876, was completed by Llerena B. Friend after Winkler's death.<sup>34</sup> *Texas Newspapers, 1813-1939* was also produced by the Texas Imprint Inventory. After its publication by the San Jacinto Museum Association, it quickly became a standard reference tool for Texas historical research.

Two newspaper indexing projects were carried on in the Dallas and Houston Field Offices. In December, 1939, all materials for the Dallas *News* index were transferred to the Dallas Historical Society at the Hall of State in Dallas.<sup>35</sup> The disposition of the work on the Houston *Post* is not clear.<sup>36</sup>

Historical manuscripts were recognized by the Survey as a research tool equal in importance to the county archives and equally unknown to researchers. They posed different problems than those of county archives as they were frequently single items which did not fit into a series listing and frequently were located in private depositories which were not readily accessible. (A CWA

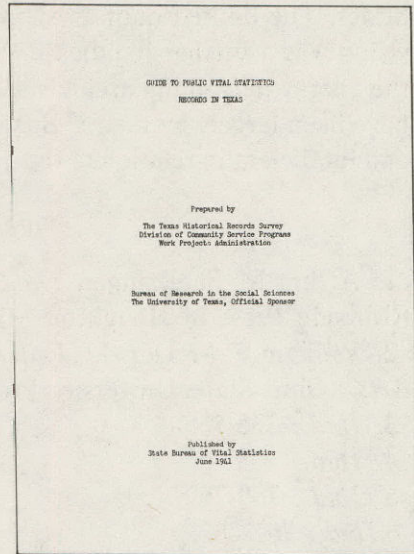
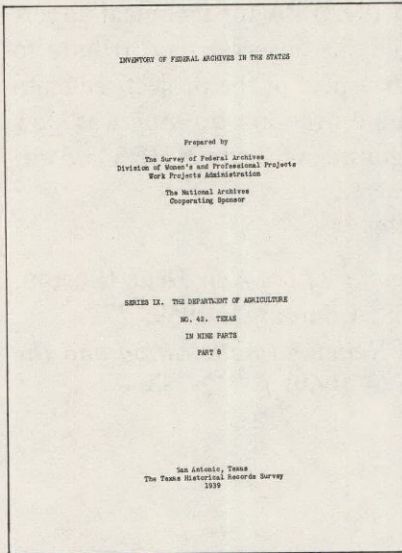


project in the Rosenberg Library at Galveston was cut short by the trustees who felt that the workers were not exercising enough care in their handling of the materials.<sup>37</sup>) Therefore, guides to depositories and later, to individual collections, were suggested by the Washington office as the preferred type of publication. (The contribution of these guides to Philip M. Hamer's later *Guide to Manuscript Depositories in the United States* has never been documented but seems probable.) In Texas, Nance directed the manuscripts program as well as the imprints inventory.<sup>38</sup> Rosenberg Library cooperated in this activity and portions of the Samuel May Williams papers there were transcribed with the objective of preparing a calendar of the papers.<sup>39</sup>

A survey of portraits and portrait busts in public buildings was a part of the original agenda of HRS, and a form for listing them was included in the Manual. However, the project was not pushed nationally until 1940, after several states in the northeast had published local checklists. New Jersey published a preliminary volume, *American Portrait Inventory: 1440 Early American Portrait Artists (1663-1860)*. With the cooperation of the Federal Art Project in New York, the Washington office of the Survey planned to expand this listing to more than 3,300 artists. The expanded list was submitted to the Library of Congress Project but was never published.<sup>40</sup> A tantalizing fragment of Texas' participation in this project is revealed in a January 9, 1942, letter from Sargent Child to Mary K. Taylor which refers to an extract of the listing "made in the early days of historical records (survey) in Texas" and to three of the forms sent to the New York project.<sup>41</sup> No other reference to this list has been found to indicate when it was compiled or under whose direction. If the list could be located, it would be a valuable addition to the art history of Texas.

One contemporary criticism of the Historical Records Survey which has remained constant is that it spread itself too thin, that it did not complete one project before beginning another several others. Such criticism ignores the reality of the employment situation within which the Survey was forced to operate. It was designed to be spread thin so as to absorb workers in every county to man multiple assembly lines. The fallacy was in the concept that anyone with a modicum of education could be put into the research so that a minimum of professional supervision need be expended to edit the output of the workers. The bottleneck in publication of the county records inventories was in the editorial





### *Two H.R.S. Publications*

end, a cumbersome process in which work had to be submitted to state and national levels for approval, often several times before it met manuscript and publication standards. Thus, raw research was churned out at the basic level faster than it could be polished and refined at the editorial level.

In contrast, a second attempt to inventory Texas county records begun in 1973 by the Center for Community Services at North Texas State University and the Archives Division of the Texas State Library, is already moving more rapidly in publication of county inventories than did the HRS. All editorial processing is conducted at the Center. The workers in each county are college students conducting the inventory as a class project in connection with the study of history, political science, economics, or other related fields which provides an understanding of the nature of the records inventoried. While the students are volunteers, they are well motivated by the incentive of the grade at the end of the course. An orientation film and audiovisual training aids prepare the students for the actual enumeration, and competent supervision is provided by the classroom instructor. The chief difficulty foreseen for this project will come when all the counties convenient to the schools involved have been inventoried, leaving those farther from a campus still lacking inventories.



Professional archivists were not plentiful forty years ago, and techniques were only beginning to be standardized in the United States. The limited quota system of the WPA for technical supervision was a further handicap. While one observer paid tribute to the Survey in training archivists, this aspect of the project seems to have been largely ignored.<sup>42</sup> But such on-the-job training was slow and inefficient in relation to the magnitude of the task HRS laid out

### Footnotes

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  35. Letter, Fidler to Herbert Gambrell, December 13, 1939, HRS Archives, Box 4G289.
  36. Information on the newspaper indexing project in Houston is found in HRS Archives, Boxes 4G337, 4G338, and 4G341.
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## AASLH Presents Awards to Texas Historical Activities

Two Awards of Merit and three Certificates of Commendation have been awarded in Texas this year by the American Association for State and Local History. They were among a total of 44 Awards of Merit and 48 Certificates of Commendation given by the organization for significant contributions to the study of state and local history throughout the United States and Canada.

The Smith County Historical Society received an Award of Merit for "its well-rounded program to promote interest in local history and particularly for the continuing excellence of the *Smith County Chronicles*."

Robert Weddle received an Award of Merit for his "research and writing on the Spanish period in Texas." Author of *San Juan Bautista* and *Wilderness Manhunt*, both published by the University of Texas Press, Weddle lives in Austin.

Three Certificates of Commendation were given to recognize activities of more limited scope.

The King William Association of San Antonio, a neighborhood organization in the city, was recognized for "fostering a sense of community pride that has encouraged a rebirth of a historically interesting neighborhood."

E. J. Lueckemeyer of Round Top received a Certificate of Commendation for "his skill in using historically accurate woodworking techniques in the restoration and rebuilding of nineteenth century structures in Central Texas."

The Texas Department of Agriculture received recognition for "initiating and implementing the Family Land Heritage Program to honor families who have lived on the same land for a century."

"Through the years, many Texans and Texas organizations have received recognition from AASLH for their outstanding contributions to state and local history," said Dr. Dorman H. Winfrey, director of the Texas State Library and regional chairman for the awards committee.



# DECLARACION DEL PUEBLO DE TEJAS, Reunido en Convencion General.

POR CUANTO el general Antonio Lopez de Santa Ana, asociado con otros gefes militares han destruido por medio de la fuerza armada las Instituciones Federales de la Nacion Mejicana, y disuelto el pacto social que existia entre el Pueblo de Tejas y las demas partes de la confederacion Mejicana, el buen Pueblo de Tejas, usando de sus derechos naturales,

## DECLARA SOLEMNEMENTE,

Primero. Que ha tomado las armas en defensa de sus derechos y libertades amenazados por los ataques del despotismo militar; y en defensa de los principios republicanos de la Constitucion Federal de Mejico, sancionada en 1824.

Segundo. Que aunque Tejas no está ya ni politica ni moralmente ligado por los lazos de la Union Federal, movido por la simpatia y generosidad naturales á los pueblos libres, ofrece ayuda y asistencia á aquellos miembros de la confederacion que tomasen las armas contra el despotismo militar.

Tercero. Que no reconoce en las actuales autoridades de la *nominal* Republica Mejicana ningun derecho para gobernar en el territorio de Tejas.

Cuarto. Que no cesará de hacer la guerra contra las mencionadas autoridades mientras mantengan tropas en los terminos de Tejas.

Quinto. Que se considera con derecho de separarse de la Union á Mejico durante la desorganizacion del Sistema Federal y el regimen del despotismo, y para organizar un gobierno independiente ó adoptar aquellas medidas que sean adecuadas para proteger sus derechos y libertades; pero continuará fiel al gobierno Mejicano en el caso de que la nacion sea gobernada por la Constitucion y las leyes que fueron formadas para el regimen de su asociacion politica.

Sesto. Que Tejas se obliga á pagar los gastos de sus tropas en actividad actualmente en la campaña.

Septimo. Que Tejas empeña su credito y fé publica para el pago de las deudas que contrageren sus agentes.

Octavo. Que recompensará con donaciones de tierra y los derechos de ciudadanía á los voluntarios que prestasen servicios en la presente lucha.

Esta es la declaracion que profesamos delante del mundo, llamando á Dios por testigo de la sinceridad de nuestras intenciones, invocando su maldicion sobre nuestras cabezas en el caso de faltar á ella por doblez ó intencion dañada.

B. T. ARCHER, *Presidente.*

*Municipalidad de Austin.*

THOMAS BARNETT,  
WYLY MARTIN,  
RANDALL JONES,  
WM. MENIFEE,  
JESSE BURNAM.

*Municipalidad de Matagorda.*

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CHARLES WILSON.

*Municipalidad de Washington.*

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ALEXANDER THOMPSON,  
J. W. PARKER.

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JAMES W. ROBERTSON,  
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