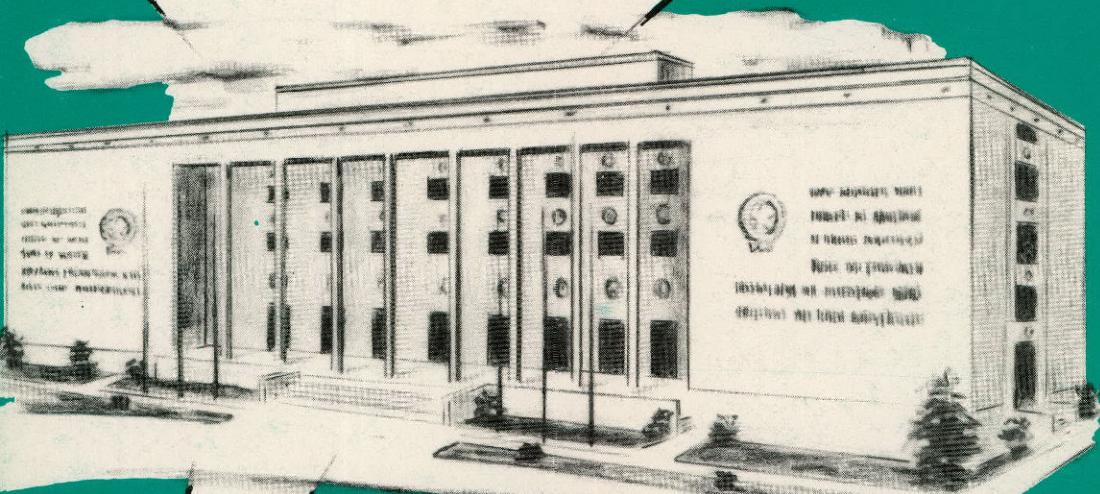


# Texas Libraries



TEXAS  
STATE  
LIBRARY

May-June, 1960  
Volume 22 Number 3





# Texas Libraries

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*Texas Libraries* is issued bi-monthly by the Texas State Library. Opinions expressed in signed articles are not necessarily those of the Texas Library and Historical Commission. Persons are urged to submit articles and items on every phase of librarianship and library development to: Robert E. Lee, *Editor*, Texas State Library, State Capitol, Austin.



# *Archives and State and Local History*

DORMAN H. WINFREY, EDITOR

## **Genealogical Research in the Texas State Archives**

*Dorman H. Winfrey\**

If all goes well on the construction schedule, October 17 of this year should see the completion of the new State Archives and Library Building. The days of the quonset hut as the home of the Texas Archives are numbered, and maybe before the first autumn frost we can move out of the "little old shack by the railroad track."

The new State Archives and Library Building is located just east of the Capitol. The \$2,500,000 four-story building was designed by the architectural firm of Adams and Adams. The T-shaped building containing approximately 95,000 square feet of floor space, will be of semi-classic design with a flame-treated granite exterior, trimmed in polished granite. The main portion of the building—the top of the "T"—will be 257 feet long and 67 feet deep, with a wing 111 feet by 48 feet extending to the rear.

In addition to the library and archives space the building will contain a complete section with a separate entrance to house the

General Land Office. This will mean that for the first time in many decades the basic documents of Texas history will be housed under one roof. Although my subject tonight concerns genealogical research in the State Archives I thought you would be interested in knowing something about our new building since it does belong to all the people of Texas.

An ideal situation for a talk on the genealogical sources in the State Archives would be for you to be present in the Archives and to examine the manuscripts, books, and indexes as I mention and talk about them. This is not possible, of course, but since most of you are experts in this field I am certain we can communicate on this subject without too much difficulty.

The documents and papers in the Texas Archives relating to the army and military affairs of the Republic have been probably the most thoroughly consulted of any papers in the Archives. Valuable especially to genealogists is the file on Audited Military Claims—the file containing military claims against the Republic of Texas which were audited and paid. The file originated as such by the work

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\*Talk delivered to the Local History and Genealogical Society Workshop, Dallas Public Library, May 20, 1960.



done by the first auditor who handled army accounts. Since the file's organization, however, numerous pieces have been added to it from other files, such as the Public Debt Papers, Army Papers, Paymasters, and such. The Audited Military Claims file contains about 30,000 pieces—indexed—arranged alphabetically under the name of claimant—and this is a big help to genealogists. Other sources for research in the period of the Republic include:

(1) Enlistment Papers—enlistment certificates in the Army of the Republic. Arranged alphabetically under the name of the individual.

(2) Muster Rolls—muster rolls of the Texas Army and Texas Militia. Arranged under name of captains. Some so-called Ranger service is included in this group.

(3) Pension Papers—These valuable papers contain much genealogical information on pension applications such as date of birth, age, residence, wife, unit or organization in which one served.

Since the subject of the Republic has a strong leaning to the military, this might be a good time to examine the other military sources available to persons doing genealogical research in the State Archives.

Historians will recall that the Adjutant General's Office burned in 1856 and records of the office from 1846-1856 are not extant, presumably having been lost in the fire.

Confederate Muster Rolls in the Archives are those which had been submitted to the Adjutant General during the Civil War and some of which have been collected since the war. At a rough estimate these muster rolls cover only

about forty or fifty per cent of the names of individuals from Texas who had Confederate service. The Confederate Muster Rolls are indexed and are arranged alphabetically—the index cards give all the information on the muster rolls. Many persons think we have all records for Civil War service, but this is not true.

The State Archives acquired some time ago through the Texas Historical Survey Committee forty-one rolls of microfilm of the National Archives card index file of all Texans who fought in the Confederacy. This is only an index, however, and the information is scanty. Full information concerning the military service of a Confederate soldier can be secured from the National Archives for a nominal charge.

Another important source for Confederate soldiers is the roster of persons who lived in the Confederate Home in Austin. Rather complete information was recorded when a veteran entered the home.

Other military service records with an index include:

(1) Card index to "Ranger" muster rolls. Cards give complete statement of service and cover the period of approximately 1840-1880.

(2) Spanish - American War Service Card index to Muster Out Rolls of Texas Volunteer Guard which had been mustered into federal service—about 9000 cards.

(3) Volunteer Guards—card index to muster rolls of Texas Volunteer Guard, about 1885-1900—about 6500 cards.

For the most part there is a fairly good index to the military service rendered to Texas, and genealogists should be able to have pretty good luck for such search-



ing in the Texas State Archives.

The genealogist will consult the census a great deal in the State Archives. Some census material will be available before Texas became a State (Nacogdoches Archives, Austin's Colony) but most helpful will be the federal census for 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880. On each census schedule the names of individuals are listed in the order of enumeration, and the schedules are arranged by counties. The Archives Division has copies of the microfilm of the population schedules for all Texas counties from 1850 through 1880. Since the names of persons are not alphabetized, a tedious search is required to locate a given entry. With the more populated counties such a search may take several hours or longer. There is an index at the Barker History Center at the University to the Census for 1850 and 1860.

Especially valuable to genealogists are the Public Debt Papers, 1848-1854. These are files of claims against the Republic of Texas which were acknowledged, audited, and paid. Contents include certificates, correspondence, affidavits, etc., for each claim, for first, second, and third class debts. The claims are arranged alphabetically under name of claimant.

The Bureau of Vital Statistics of the State Department of Health has made available to the State Archives copies of Index to Birth Records, Index to Probate Birth Records, and Index to Death Records. These records totaling more than 300 volumes contain information on several hundred thousand Texans. Not all genealogists are acquainted with these sources.

The Texas Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution,

through its state chairman of genealogical records committee, has made available to the State Archives a number of valuable records. These include such things as marriage records of various Texas counties, Texas cemetery records, probate records, church records, and the like. The members of the DAR have spent a great many hours gathering this material and are to be commended on what has been done.

Briefly let me call attention to the following sources which genealogists will find helpful in the State Archives:

(1) Notaries public—card index to some of the notaries public files. Though not complete the file contains about 10,000 cards.

(2) Pictures—This file contains about 21,000 cards to pictures in the Archives picture collection and to many books in the Texas collection.

(3) Early Texas newspapers—There are in the State Archives about 1500 bound files of Texas newspapers prior to 1900. There is great wealth in these papers but unfortunately there is no index.

(4) Registered Voters—1867—List of registered voters for all counties in Texas.

(5) Memorials and Petitions—Memorials and petitions to the Legislature for various requests. Arranged alphabetically — about 15,000 pieces.

(6) Bonds and Oaths—for officials of both Republic and State—15,000 items.

(7) Election Registers — 1836-1900—Manuscript books in which the Secretary of State recorded the official election returns. Valuable. 34 books.



(8) General Land Office Letters—1837-1884—Original copies of all letters received in the General Land Office. Priceless history, seldom used. Indexed.

Some printed sources in the State Archives are of much help to genealogists. Basic to almost any research in Texas history would be the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* which contains an excellent index in each volume. A *Cumulative Index* to the first forty volumes of the *Quarterly* was published in 1950, and a second index for the past twenty volumes was published this year.

Especially helpful to the genealogist is *Abstracts of Titles to Patented Lands*, the first volume appeared in 1838 and others were published during the Republic and early statehood. Since 1875 these volumes have been issued yearly by the land office and comptroller's department. In 1941 the sixty-two volumes were reprinted in eight volumes.

Not to be overlooked would be such publications as *The Papers*

of *Mirabeau B. Lamar*, *The Austin Papers*, *The Writings of Sam Houston*, just to mention a few books containing valuable indexes to voluminous materials. Recently the Texas State Historical Association brought out two splendid bibliographic items on Texas history: *Theses on Texas History* and *Texas History Theses*. These two works make available for the first time a key to the wealth found in theses done on Texas history, and genealogists doing research would certainly want to examine these publications.

Last, but not least, should be mentioned the General Index File in the State Archives. This card index, primarily to books in the Texas collection, also contains some references to manuscript materials. This index originated in part with a transcript of the biographical index made at the University of Texas by the W.P.A. and has subsequently been increased with additional references. It is the chief finding aid in the Archives.





Governor Price Daniel receives the first copy of Texas Indian Papers, Volume I, from Witt B. Harwell, State Librarian (right) and Dorman H. Winfrey, State Archivist.

## Texas Indian Papers, 1844-1845

Compiled and edited by State Archivist Dorman H. Winfrey and the staff of the Archives Division of the Texas State Library, the book is the second volume of a trilogy concerning the Indian Papers of Texas. An earlier volume dealt with the period from 1825-1843. The final volume covering the Statehood period is scheduled for publication in the fall of 1960.

The book contains 401 documents, including the Indian treaties, letters, map, and index. Other features include the introduction written by Joe B. Frantz, his-

tory professor at the University of Texas, and illustrations by Seth Eastman, noted artist who was stationed in Texas with the United States Army before the Civil War.

The Texas Indian Papers pertain mainly to manuscripts deposited with the Bureau of Indian Affairs but also include miscellaneous papers of other departments dealing with Indian matters. Publication of these documents have been brought out in order to preserve the original manuscript copies in the State Archives and at the same time make their valuable contents available. Price: \$7.



## Texas Rural Library Service Program

The Texas Rural Library Service Program is financed with funds made available under the provisions of the Library Services Act of 1956. This Act authorized an appropriation, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1957 and for each of the four succeeding fiscal years, of \$7,500,000 to be paid to the States for the purpose of extending public library services to rural areas. At the present time, all but one of the fifty (50) states—Indiana—are receiving such payments.

The authorized amount, \$7,500,000, has been appropriated only once, the fourth year of the program, fiscal year 1960. The preceding three years Congress appropriated \$2,050,000, \$5,000,000, and \$6,000,000. For the fifth year, fiscal 1961, Congress is considering the maximum appropriation.

The allotment to each state is based on the state's rural population. Because Texas ranks second only to Pennsylvania in rural population, its allotment is second largest. For the first four years of the Library Services Act, the amounts available to Texas were as follows:

|                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| 1957 Fiscal Year | \$ 40,000 |
| 1958 Fiscal Year | 191,212   |
| 1959 Fiscal Year | 242,643   |
| 1960 Fiscal Year | 319,792   |

To receive these funds Texas was required to provide matching funds based on a comparison between the State per capita income and the average per capita income of the nation. When this formula was applied, the ratio was set at 43.84% State to 56.16% Federal—a ratio in effect during the first

three years of the program. For the fourth and fifth years this ratio was changed to 43.95%, State, and 56.05%, Federal.

When a state cannot provide sufficient matching funds, the unpaid portion of the federal allotment remains available to that state until the end of the following fiscal year. Because Texas' matching funds have been insufficient, at the beginning of the 1961 Fiscal Year Texas had an unmatched balance of \$111,710. A bill before the 86th Congress extends the Library Services Act for a second five-year period (1961-1966), but eliminates this carry-over provision.

Matching funds in Texas are derived from two sources—the portion of the State Library budget used for library extension in rural areas, and county library appropriations of the 19 counties which are participating in projects outlined in the Texas Plan for Further Extension of Library Services. These funds are shown on paper only. For the 1961 Fiscal Year matching funds from the State Library budget amounted to \$101,160; matching funds from county library appropriations amount to \$150,202. To count the latter as matching funds it was necessary for the State Library to sign agreements with the 19 commissioners courts, providing for the extension of library services to rural areas.

The Texas Plan mentioned above provides for four types of projects—state-wide library extension through workshops, public relations, centralized processing, and emphasis on cooperative library practices; one-year bookmobile



demonstrations; operation of a Regional Library System; and post-demonstration aid, to encourage the development of multi-county library systems.

Agreements to supply post-demonstration library aid to 15 Texas counties has been signed with the Texas State Library. The post-demonstration aid program is available to counties that have participated in State Library bookmobile demonstrations.

Under this program each group of counties will receive up to \$10,000 in books from the State Library. The books will be selected

by the librarians of each county but will be processed and catalogued by the State Library. The books will be exchanged periodically with other libraries within each group of counties.

State Librarian W. B. Harwell points out that six of the 15 counties signing agreements have county library appropriations this year for the first time, attesting to the success of the bookmobile demonstrations. Total county library funds for the 15 counties totaled \$84,564 compared with \$62,225 for 1959, an increase of 35%.

## Death of a Library Bill

The following editorial appeared in a recent number of *The Idaho Librarian*.

The Editor thanks all of those persons in Idaho who were asked to convey to Representative Hamer Budge, the only western representative on the House Rules Committee, our concern over the failure of the five-year extension of the Library Services Act to be released from the Committee for a vote in the House of Representatives, that would make the extension law for a second five years.

That Mr. Budge received many messages of concern for the extension is evidenced in his news release to the *Idaho Statesman* of June 7th:

"Rep. Hamer Budge (R-Idaho) said Monday existing legislation will permit continuation of the federal library services act through June 30, 1961. He

said there has been misunderstanding regarding legislation now pending in Congress.

"Budge said it was reported incorrectly that the House Rules Committee had tabled a bill extending the library act. Actually, Budge said, the committee simply failed to act on the measure.

"The present law, under which all appropriations will be made for the next 13 months, continued the program until June 30, 1961," Budge said in a message from Washington. "The bill before the rules committee would simply extend the library services act beyond June 30, 1961."

"Budge said the delay by the rules committee is because of a move to sidetrack temporarily



legislation which is not of an emergency nature. It can be considered when Congress convenes again in January, Budge said."

The Idaho State Library and the American Library Association are aware of course (as Mr. Budge is) that the present Library Services Act does not expire until July 1, 1961. Our concern is that the Library Services Extension, having been passed by the Senate and the House Committees with overwhelming support from both the Administration and the Democratic Party, should die in Committee necessitating the inauguration of the legislation and the inauguration of the necessary legislation appropriating funds also, after January 1, 1961. The next Congress will be a new Congress with a new administration, requiring the complete organization of new committees, regarding the legisla-

tive business. With the failure of the extension of the Library Services Act in this session, it must be re-introduced and pass through all the committees it has cleared in this session. With Congress convening in January and state legislatures (including Idaho) meeting in January and February, the state legislatures will have passed their budgets and gone home long before librarians have any knowledge of whether or not the Library Services Act (and the necessary appropriations act to accompany it) will pass in the Spring of 1961, or die again in Committee.

Representative Budge has expressed his concern for library service. We do not think our present concern for the continuance of this Act, which is now making library service available to 90,000 residents in Idaho, is erroneous. We feel it is prudent and justified.

There is still a possibility that the Library Services Act will be extended when Congress reconvenes after the national conventions.



## Carnegie Grant on State Libraries

A \$45,000 grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York to establish standards for state libraries has been received by the American Library Association, according to an announcement by David H. Clift, executive director of the ALA.

Dr. Robert D. Leigh, dean emeritus of Columbia University's school of library service, will direct the project. Already appointed to the research staff are Dr. Leon Carnovsky, professor, graduate library school, University of Chicago; and Dr. Edward A. Wight, professor, school of librarianship, University of California at Berkeley.

The Library Services Act, passed five years ago to extend library services to rural areas, provided that the federal aid and the required matching funds in each case be administered by the state library agency. This has led to the establishment of agencies in states which had none before and placed added responsibility on existing ones. The dramatic success of the five year plan to get books to rural people in the United States having little or no public library service has underlined the uneven

development of state library agencies.

It has also made plain the need for stronger agencies by uncovering other areas in which a state library can play a vital role in serving the people of the state directly from its own shelves or indirectly through the agencies it develops.

About 18 months will be spent on the project which is slated to begin in January 1961 under the sponsorship of the American Library Association. The survey and standards committee of the American association of state libraries, a division of ALA, will act as an advisory group with the cooperation of the council of state governments. As a preliminary step the research staff will survey the 50 states through questionnaires, interviews, and direct observation. The survey is to provide basic information on all state agencies providing library services, including archives, extension, historical, law, legislative reference, and public documents.

The standards formulated as a result of the survey will be presented at the 81st annual conference of the American Library Association in 1962.

## A New Library for Baytown?

A preliminary report of the Baytown Public Library Committee indicated a proposed new library would cost about \$350,000 and another \$25,000 to \$30,000 a year to maintain.

At a committee meeting, attended by Baytown city council-

men, Mrs. Elmer Gray, chairman, said it would take an estimated \$296,000 to build the library and stock it with books.

The committee hopes the old library site can be sold for about \$50,000 which would be used to buy a new site. The proposed new



site is a 1.48 acre tract across from Graywood Addition on Decker Drive.

Mayor R. H. Pruett, serving both as a city councilman and a member of the four-man Goose Creek Library Board established by the estate of R. S. Sterling when the public library was built, said the site on Gulf could probably be sold for \$50,000.

The \$350,000 figure would include the library building and additional books to be combined with the books in the present library.

The committee proposed to hire a professional librarian and an assistant to handle the library work and their salaries would come

from the annual expense. Maintenance includes buying new books, grounds and building upkeep and normal operating expense.

The proposed library would be housed in about a 10,000 square foot building, designed for future additions.

Estimated cost of the building includes architect and engineering fees and furnishing the building.

Size of the building and number of books was determined by the committee based on the 1960 population estimate of Baytown and fringe areas, which would be invited to use the facilities. The library would serve 35,000 to 40,000 people.

## **Suggestions For Action For A City, County, or Regional Library**

1. Write to the State Library.
2. Talk to other people you think would be interested.
3. Organize an active, representative committee.
4. Invite a person from the State Library to a citizen's meeting.
5. When all the steps have been taken to inform people, draw up a definite plan for an appropriation with government officials.
6. Obtain formal action on the plan by the necessary governing body.











