

Texas Libraries



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Archives and State and Local History

The Texas State Archives

Dorman H. Winfrey

The Texas State Archives, the official documentary remains produced or accumulated by the agencies of the various governments of Texas, include records from the period of Spanish domination in Texas, 1729-1820; Mexican rule, 1821-1836; Republic of Texas, 1836-1845; State of Texas, 1846 to the present. Historians and others generally agree that the collection of material comprising the State Archives is remarkably complete in spite of all the vicissitudes which have marked the history of Texas and the shifting from pillar to post which the archives have undergone for more than a century.

During the Texas Revolution in 1836, the archives were moved from one locality to another by the *ad interim* government to avoid capture by the Mexicans. For a time, in 1836, the archives were at the seat of government at Columbia; the following year they were moved to Houston. In 1839 the town of Austin became the capital and some fifty wagons were used to haul the archives to the new location. Three years later, in 1842, with another threat of Mexican invasion, Sam Houston ordered the archives removed to Washington-on-the-Brazos. Aus-

tin residents, who thought Sam Houston wished to move the capital to Houston, formed a vigilance committee and guarded the archives. A colorful letter written by John Welsh to President Sam Houston provides an interesting measure of the public attitude toward moving the records of the government: "Sir Old Sam We did hear that you was goin to move the seat of government and the publick papers and that you swore you would do it, and then when you come to Austin and found out the boys would not let you do it you sed you never was goin to move it. . . . We dont thank you because we would shot you and every dam waggoner that could start with the papers you cant do it and we ax you no odds. . . . You shant budge with the papers. . . . Now old fellow if you was to try Ned Burlesons* spunk just try to move these papers. . . . You shall hear more from me when I am ready. John Welsh."

*Edward Burleson, vice-president of the Republic of Texas at this time, was strongly in favor of keeping both the archives and the seat of government in Austin.

Houston sent a company of rangers who loaded the archives in wagons and drove from Austin after being fired upon by a cannon set off by Mrs. Angelina Eberly. This incident has come down in Texas history as the Archive War. After the wagons were a few miles out of Austin some shots were exchanged between the vigilance committee and the rangers, without bloodshed, and the archives were returned to Austin where they have since remained.

In Austin, with the manuscripts stored in attics, basements, closets, warehouses, and other unsuitable places, the State Archives were frequently in a danger greater than the precarious situation during the grim days of frequent removal at the time of the Texas Revolution. A fire in 1845 destroyed the treasurer's office but fortunately there was slight loss. Another fire in 1855 in the adjutant general's office caused the irreplaceable loss of the muster rolls of the Texas Revolution and other valuable records. Governor E. M. Pease in his message to the Sixth Legislature on November 5, 1855, called attention to the fire and referred to it as a "truly lamentable occurrence, by which all the original archives of the War and Navy Departments of the late Republic of Texas, have been destroyed. This great loss should impress upon us the necessity of providing suitable fire proof buildings, for the security of the remaining archives of our government." An appropriation was made to erect a fireproof building for the use of the General Land Office, but this was not adequate to protect all the records of the state. Fortunately, when the state capitol burned in 1881, there was but a small loss of archival

material, since many manuscripts were stored in vaults and considerable archives had been removed to the General Land Office.

The Texas State Archives were housed in the present capitol, after its completion in 1888, in first one spot and then another. In 1951 demand for space in the capitol forced the removal of the priceless records to the basement of the Highway Building. In less than five years the expanding highway program in Texas "ricocheted against the State Archives." To take care of the increase in highway construction, the Highway Department secured an "electrical brain" (an IBM electronic computer) and the only available place to put such a machine was that area being occupied by the State Archives in the basement of the Highway Building. So in September, 1956, it became necessary once again to move the manuscripts and documents of Texas history. The Highway Department continued to furnish housing for the Texas State Archives—the new home was an inconveniently located Quonset hut at Camp Hubbard in northwest Austin, the area the Highway Department uses for repair shops, testing of materials, and the like.

Many Texas citizens by this time were deeply concerned for the safety of the State Archives. The Quonset hut assigned to the State Archives had suffered one fire, and there were rumors that the manuscripts would soon deteriorate because of rats, termites, and dampness. The reaction which set in resulted in what present-day historians call the Second Archive War in Texas. Newspaper editors and writers, members of patriotic organizations, groups in learned societies

and historical organizations, and teachers and school children in all parts of the state raised strong and bitter protests against the treatment given to the relics of Texas' past history. Using the letter-writing method pioneer John Welsh had employed so effectively in the First Archive War in 1842, irate citizens by the thousands voiced their sentiments to responsible officials in state government. A great number of petitions deploring the situation of the Texas State Archives were circulated, and at least one of these contained more than five thousand signatures.

When the Fifty-fifth State Legislature met in January, 1957, Governor Price Daniel called to the lawmakers' attention the deplorable housing condition of the State Archives. Governor Daniel said:

. . . another temporary move of the archives is highly undesirable. In my opinion one of the most priceless treasures of the people of Texas will continue to suffer damage and possible destruction as long as the archives, Texas history collection, and historical records remain housed in a quonset hut in the repair yards of the Highway Department. I visited this building several days ago and could hardly believe that the Texas Declaration of Independence, the Travis letter written in the Alamo, and many other priceless documents are crowded into a vault which is only fire resistant. The gas stoves remain on all night in the corrugated iron building, and they are so close to some of the books and records that the paper is hot to the touch, and the dam-

age is readily apparent. I believe that every member of the Legislature who visits the repair yards of the Highway Department to see these archives will be convinced that this part of our Texas heritage deserves better treatment and that we should not allow this disgraceful condition to continue.

Members of the legislature realized there was a real possibility that unless conditions improved Texas might conceivably be without the State Archives within a short span of time. Before the legislature adjourned in May, the necessary funds had been provided to erect a permanent home for the Texas State Archives. Completion of the building is now scheduled in 1961.

The State Archives, as an agency within the government, dates from 1876 when the Legislature created the Department of Insurance, Statistics, and History. In 1887 the department was reorganized to include the Bureau of Agriculture. The Texas State Library was made a separate establishment in 1907, and the State Archives has operated as a division within the State Library since that time. Fortunately for Texas history and the State Archives there were such capable persons as V. O. King, first commissioner of the Department of Insurance, Statistics, and History, who contributed his valuable collection of Texana to the Texas State Library; State Librarians C. W. Raines, A. W. Spaight, and Ernest W. Winkler; and State Archivist Harriet Smither. These persons, often doing the work themselves because small legislative appropriations made any assistants or part-time help prohibi-

tive, saw to it that the voluminous archival material was catalogued, classified, and indexed.

One Texas historian has stated the Texas State Archives "embody some of the most significant historical material to be found anywhere in America." An examination of some of the particular collections included in the several million documents in the State Archives will substantiate this statement.

The Nacogdoches Archives were the first collection to be transferred to the State Archives when it became an agency of the government. These archives date from 1729 to 1836 and are a part of what is known as the Spanish Archives of Texas which include the Bexar Archives (deposited in the library of the University of Texas in 1898 by the commissioners' court of Bexar County), and the Laredo Archives. The great portion of these Spanish Archives date from the achievement of Mexican independence in 1821 and the beginning of Anglo-American colonization in the same year. These collections have a great amount of varied material which includes royal and federal decrees, communications to the governors of Texas, communications to the political chiefs of the departments, proceedings of ayuntamientos, records of military companies, census records, civil and criminal litigation, registry of wills, and the like. The most recently acquired collection for the period of Spanish domination is the transcript of the Laredo Archives, consisting of about eight thousand documents covering the official, municipal, church, and social affairs in Laredo, Texas, between 1755 and 1846.

The archives of the Republic and State of Texas make up the major part of the collections housed in the State Archives. These include the records from the various departments of the government of the Republic and the state, including many state agencies. Most of the correspondence of the executive department has been transferred to the State Archives. This includes letters written by and to the governors of Texas and the presidents of the Republic.

The collections of records of the state department from 1835 to about 1900 are now at the State Archives. The documents making up the archives of the provisional government of Texas as a state of the Mexican Union from November 1, 1835, to March 1, 1836, are part of these records transferred from the state department. Other highly significant manuscript collections include the records of the convention which declared independence and drew up a Constitution for the Republic from March 1 to 17, 1836; the Declaration of Independence and a working draft of the Constitution of 1836; papers of all congresses of the Republic and of the legislatures of the state; the treaties with foreign powers and the Indian tribes; customs papers; diplomatic, consular, and domestic correspondence of the state department, the first two dating from 1836 to 1845, and the last from 1845 to the present; the records of the Convention of 1845, which adopted annexation and drew up the first Constitution of the state; records of the Secession Convention and the Ordinance of Secession; papers of the reconstruction Constitutional Convention of 1866; re-

ports of the Constitutional Convention of 1875; election returns and election registers, beginning in 1835; pardons and remissions, rewards and extraditions beginning in 1838; memorials and petitions to the congresses; executive record books of Republic and state, 1836-1900; election registers, 1838-1900; reconstruction papers, including correspondence of military commanders and of the provisional and military governors. In this vast collection of records there is a large amount of miscellaneous papers such as colonization papers, Indian affairs, army and navy papers, post office records, Austin city lots, Galveston lots, boundary papers, Texas Santa Fe Expedition papers, penitentiary records, and railroad papers.

The archives of the adjutant general office is another important division of the archival material and consists of records through about 1910. This collection consists of a large number of muster and pay rolls of the soldiers of the Republic and of the early ranger forces of the state; some thousand or more Confederate muster and pay rolls; rolls of the state police, state guard, and reserve militia of the reconstruction era; rolls of the rangers of the post war period known under several names—frontier forces, minute men, frontier battalion, volunteer guard, Texas National Guard, and Texas State Guard; and rolls of the soldiers of the Spanish-American War. In addition, there are enlistment papers, certificates of service, quartermaster's papers, and miscellaneous correspondence.

The material from the comptroller's department and the treasury consists of the financial records of the Republic and state

from about 1835 to 1900. A sampling of this section of the State Archives includes such documents as bonds, currency, other obligations, cash books, custom registers, bond registers, warrant registers, tax registers, ledgers, journals, reports, letter books, civil service records, and a voluminous correspondence. Among the most valuable records in this collection are the military service records, public debt papers, and claims papers. These service records represent the money claims for service of the soldiers of the Texas Revolution and the Texas Republic which, with bounty certificates in the land office, are the only records of this type in existence.

The archival material of the education department is of more recent date and includes minutes of the board of education, registers of county school boards, journals, ledgers, letter books, school population, and tax rolls.

There is much manuscript material in the form of personal collections which has found its way in the State Archives by either purchase or gift. The papers of Mirabeau B. Lamar, dating from 1789 to 1859, contain personal letters, official documents, and a great number of historical papers. The John H. Reagan papers, 1847-1905, have been purchased. Other personal collections are those of Washington D. Miller, George W. Smyth, Hugh McLeod, James R. Kerr, Adolphus Sterne, Andrew Neill, and Thomas F. McKinney.

Many transcripts and photostats of documents and records pertaining to Texas have been acquired from the British Public Records Office, The Archivo General de Mexico, the Archivo de Gobierno in Saltillo, Archivo General de In-

dias in Seville, Spain; Cuban Archives in Havana; Archives of Matamoroes; and the Franciscan records from Mexico City. Also, microfilms of some records have been obtained, chiefly of census records and newspapers. A recent microfilm acquisition has been forty-one rolls of the National Archives Index to Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers from Texas. The Texas State Archives has many of the early out-of-state newspapers of historical interest to Texas. Probably the most complete collection of maps of Texas is to be found in the State Archives, as are several thousand pictures pertaining to significant Texans, localities, and items dealing with Texas history.

A legislative responsibility charged to the Texas State Archives is to "edit and preface for publication copies of the Texas Archives." The purpose is to make available significant documents of Texas history which are generally inaccessible to the public. A great deal of the archival material has been edited and printed. The journals of the congresses of the Republic and their laws have been printed, as have the state journals and laws except those of the Ninth Legislature and the Tenth Legislature. Other archives printed at public expense include: E. W. Winkler's *Secret Journals of the Senate, Republic of Texas, 1836-1845*, and *Journals of the Secession Convention, 1861. Governors' Messages—Coke to Ross, 1874-1891*, was edited by and for the Archive and History Department of the Texas State Library in 1916. *The Papers of Mirabeau Buonaparte Lamar* were published in six volumes. *The Journals of the Fourth Congress of the Republic*

of Texas, 1839-1840, edited by Harriet Smither, was published in 1929, and the *Journals of the Sixth Congress of the Republic of Texas, 1841-1842*, was published in 1940. *The Texas Treasury Papers* were edited by Seymour V. Connor and Virginia H. Taylor. *A Preliminary Guide to the Archives of Texas* by Seymour V. Connor was published in 1956 and serves as a reference for persons wishing to use the State Archives. *The Letters of Antonio Martinez, Last Spanish Governor of Texas, 1817-1822* was translated and edited by Virginia H. Taylor, in 1957, and recently the *Texas Indian Papers, 1825-1843* and *Texas Indian Papers, 1844-1845*, edited by Dorman H. Winfrey, the Archivist, were printed and a third volume of the Indian Papers is in the process of publication.

The Texas State Archives, as a depository for the administrative records of the state's various departments, are preserved to be used by state agencies as the need arises. During recent months, for example, the State Archives staff assisted the Attorney General's Office whenever and wherever possible in an extensive search for all documents which would aid the Attorney General in his arguments for the Texas Tidelands before the United States Supreme Court. It is understandable that the assistance of the State Archives should be rendered to state agencies which are engaged in carrying out Constitutional duties.

A lapse of time, as Dr. Waldo Gifford Leland of the National Archives observed, generally causes the administrative value of any given body of official documents to decrease, while the historical value, presumably, in-

creases. This increase in historical value brings about a secondary and more popular use of the archival material—that research done by individuals. In this area genealogists, scholars, historians, writers, students of Texas history, and others have always had access to the Texas State Archives. There is ample evidence that archival materials have been utilized most advantageously from the standpoint of individual research. Without the State Archives we would not have had Walter P. Webb's *The Texas Rangers*, George P. Garrison's *Diplomatic Correspondence of the Republic of Texas*, W. C. Binkley's *Official Correspondence of the Texas Revolution, 1835-1836*, Rupert N. Richardson's *Texas: The Lone Star State*, Amelia Williams' definitive study of the Alamo, and countless other

fine books, articles, theses, and dissertations.

The best positive proof of the good to come from the State Archives is the available information done by researchers and found on the printed or typed pages—whether in the form of a Tideland's brief or scholarly books and articles. Even a casual glance at the great amount of writings done by Texans, and others, on Texas history subjects indicates that the Texas State Archives have been used to good advantage. This is as it should be. Probably the outstanding contribution of the Texas State Archives has been in making archival material publicly available, and a great number of the customers served during the years have returned to society a wealth of rewarding literature.

The Archives Collection at the Heights Branch of the Houston Public Library

Sister M. Agatha

The question of archives presupposes an organization able in systematic fashion to put together its recorded history and care for the collection. The Heights Branch of the Houston Public Library was interested in an archives collection for its area. That fact was a guarantee that a reliable depository would make worthwhile the effort of collecting material on the history of the Heights. The library's interest in such a project gave promise of benefit to the public that would come from such a collection in the midst of local historians or interested patrons.

Miss Jimmie Mae Hicks, the Branch Librarian, had for years saved clippings, old pictures and miscellaneous material. She was not a native of the place and therefore needed help from old timers who could lead to sources.

In 1941 the Heights celebrated the 50th anniversary of its founding. The community had grown to a population of about 50,000. At that time the newspapers carried special sections on Heights history but the articles were principally reminiscences, true accounts in general flavor, but often inaccurate as to details. The stories needed checking, and the old spots that had completely changed needed to be located on maps.

I had promised Miss Hicks that I would work with her in the summer of 1955 and together we planned our program. Since I had

grown up in the Heights I knew many of the early settlers, among them children of the founders. These people could be counted on for written records, papers, deeds, and pictures.

One resident of the Heights employed in the County Clerk's office was most efficient in tracking down deeds. Miss Ruby Bernard proved one of our most substantial contributors. We learned that when a deed was listed in the old days the circumstances entered as pertinent matter made history.

O. M. Carter in 1891 negotiated the purchase of the "upper league" of John Austin's original grant which had become known as "Erashear's John Austin Grant." While working with this detail we learned much on the life and circumstances of Austin's widow who married T. F. L. Parrott and who after 1836 signed deeds to lots in the new city of Houston, developed by the Allen Brothers from her inherited lower league.

Interesting to research workers is the fact that these deeds identify Elizabeth Parrott as John Austin's widow and correct the error that she died when he did, of cholera in 1833. The Harris County Court House was the chief depository of records on the history of the Heights, for Carter bought the upper league and named his addition Houston Heights.

When the independent municipality of Houston Heights was annexed in 1918 the local records

were placed in Houston's City Hall. This was our second source of information.

Noteworthy to a research worker was the fact that penmanship was an art around 1900 and later. All of the records of council meetings and city ordinances were handwritten, but in clear legible script. There was history in between the lines so plain that any amateur could copy it.

We tapped our third source through courtesy of the main center of the Houston Public Library. The Texas Collection there had accumulated an almost complete file of the old Heights *Suburbanite*. That weekly paper omitted no detail of local interest, who visited whom on Sunday afternoon, who went riding in the new automobile that had just come out, and the news that electricity would soon be furnished "to the people of the Heights."

At the library, too, the city directories and old phone books proved a tremendous help for checking on residents and for dates. All this information is so easily available that any person willing to work hard can track down the simple facts. A community sincerely devoted to its traditions can set up an archives without benefit of professional and without recourse to technicalities that would confuse the uninitiated.

We asked the Houston *Chronicle* in its neighborhood section to give publicity to our project and to solicit information and possibly old records. A printed copy of "The Houston Heights Charter" was brought in. Even at the City Hall we had not been able to track down this and here a copy was donated to the library. The newspaper publicity had paid off.

People proved they were interested. At one time the realty company that laid out the Heights printed exceptionally beautiful view books. Old residents brought in copies of each printing and each was bound for permanent saving. Maps of the original plat of the Heights were donated. Persons associated with early activities contacted us or responded to our call for assistance.

The clippings that the Heights Branch Library had accumulated were mounted into an elegant scrapbook made to order. Interleaved with perforated pages that we could tear out, we produced an excellent source book of miscellaneous material completely indexed. During the war the library had kept clippings and pictures of its "boys" in the service. These we made into a second scrapbook with name index. J. B. Marmion, son of the last mayor of old Houston Heights, had saved innumerable clippings and pictures of his father's term of office and these went into a third scrapbook.

For use on occasions we had outstanding pictures from the view books photographed and mounted. Other pictures were added to this group so that the library built up a significant gallery of persons, scenes, and incidents.

Naturally enough our project depended upon local enthusiasm. Many people who no longer lived in the Heights helped because of family pride and old memories.

We had acquired such an amount of material that we decided to put the record into a mimeographed pamphlet but finally settled for a small book.

This printing should have been a simple matter but it was not. A book restricted in interest to what

is today a suburban community could hardly be expected to sell well. Its limited edition therefore would raise its price. Nor was there any sense in approaching a publisher. It would have to be printed and paid for on a printing basis. The transaction was risky but a thousand copies were ordered. The printer on his own kindly stashed away sheets for another 135. The thousand sold out in good fashion and now only a few of the extras are left.

The permanent value of this whole project has been a steadily increasing interest on the part of the library's patrons. The *History*

of *Houston Heights* continues a good circulation and it evidently keeps alive the idea of saving records. Miss Hicks declares that there is a steady interest evinced by the tangible evidence of material donated to the archives.

The Heights project proved that people are interested in their heritage. A community is enthusiastic if once awakened. And amateurs can track down sources of information if only the personnel of a wide-awake library backs up its people and takes the lead in systematizing the scramble for its archives.

Report on the Historic Papers, Archives, and Documents Section

Abby Moran

The section on "Historic Papers, Archives, and Documents" of the Statewide Historical Heritage Meeting, met in the Capitol Room of the Commodore Perry Hotel, Saturday, October 8, 1960, Austin, Texas.

The room was filled to capacity with a responsive audience. The meeting was a forum with Dr. Rupert N. Richardson of Abilene, presiding. After introducing the panel individually, he stepped aside and the participants proceeded each with his appointed talk.

SPEAKER NO. 1, MR. JAMES DAY

Mr. Day, State Archivist, spoke on "Plans for the New State Archives Building—A Projection of the State Archives Program." He first gave a brief resume of the housing troubles of the archives in the past, and announced that the

opening of the new building was being delayed from October 1960 to the "first part of 1961."

He briefly outlined his plans for the move from the Quonset huts, and though he is handicapped with an insufficient number of staff assistants, said the move could be smooth and efficient if he were allowed to close the archives to the public for a few weeks prior to the move in order to systematize and conduct the operation without interruption.

His plan of organization for the archives will be in three parts: I. Official and State Documents. II. Rare Texana Book Collection. III. Personal and Historical Manuscripts Collection.

In the new building there will be, 1) A large reading and search room; 2) Typing room; 3) Map room; 4) Microfilm readers' room.

Offices of the staff will be arranged around this center in glass partitions for good supervision.

Mr. Day's Four-Point Projection Program which he hopes to implement successfully is:

1. Service to the people.
2. A system of receiving, filtering, processing incoming materials and records, and a criterion of selection and preservation of same, in place of the haphazardness of the past.

3. The collection of private manuscripts concerning Texas will continue to be active. He emphasized that the Archives will not be in competition to other depositories in the State, but will cooperate; and finally, he has no money for purchases; that he is limited to gifts.

4. An ambitious program of publishing and editing, continuing the precedent of his predecessors. Immediately coming up will be the third and fourth volumes of *The Indian Papers*, of which two volumes have already been released, edited by Dorman Winfrey. One project in particular will be important and timely, the publication for the first time of the manuscript records of the 9th and 10th Texas Civil War Legislatures, as a contribution to the Civil War Centennial, 1961.

SPEAKER NO. 2,

MISS WINNIE ALLEN

Miss Allen, retired Archivist of the University of Texas, organizer and ex-officio chairman of the Archives and State and Local History Division of the Texas Library Association, as well as consultant to TSHSC and THF, gave a paper entitled, "The Program of the Texas Library Association, Archives Division."

She summarized the history of

this particular division of the Texas Library Association, telling of its participation in three important activities: a new archives building, making copies of the famous Blake Collection, and in obtaining the sponsorship of the University of Texas bringing Dr. T. R. Schellenberg to Texas for the first archival management institute to be held in this State.

The purposes of the Archives Division of TLA, Miss Allen said, are: 1) Fellowship in the field; 2) Cooperation in the work of collecting archival materials for Texas depositories; 3) Disseminating information about existing archives and their holdings.

Miss Allen presented the following needs and ideals, with suggestions for solving same:

1. That a librarian member of the TLA Archives Division be appointed to each historic survey committee in each county of Texas to act as liaison agent watching out for new collection possibilities, reporting them, and assisting in obtaining and preparing same for her community's Historic Survey Committee.

2. That a cooperative agreement be worked out between collecting institutions allocating types of materials to certain depositories, so that like kinds won't be broken up and scattered over the State as they now are. To illustrate, she said that Rice University is setting up an archives of business records similar to Harvard's Baker Library of Business Records; so that all such materials should, in her opinion, be turned over to Rice and let them be the State's center for that type of archives.

3. The need for a uniform inventory form sheet that all collect-

ing institutions in Texas would use. Then each of these depositories would turn in its filled out forms to the Texas State Historical Survey Committee, which in turn would study these inventories, compile and edit and publish the result in book form to be distributed to all interested. Anticipating additions, Miss Allen suggested supplements could be issued as required.

4. A systematic, methodical program for microfilming county records all over the State. This would require professional archival aid to survey, select, organize, edit, and prepare the records and manuscripts in professional style for microfilming, and supervising the actual microfilming procedure.

5. The Archives Division, TLA, should promote and propagate information as to what archives are; what is needed and wanted. Also, Miss Allen believes that this Division should emphasize that there are three periods of State archives, therefore three specific divisions between Colonial, Republic and State.

6. There is a vital need for establishing two professional seminars, or institutes, in Texas annually, patterned after those in Washington, D. C. and Cambridge, Massachusetts:

a. Genealogical Methods. Furthermore, Miss Allen would like to see a union record centrally located of who is working on which families.

b. Archival Management, continuing the successful first one held this past summer at UT. Librarians and Historical Survey Committee members who are called upon to set up archival-types of materials, badly need pro-

fessional training here in Texas.

SPEAKER NO. 3,

MISS ADA MARGARET SMITH

Miss Smith, of the Cameron Public Schools, gave "The Highlights of the Institute on Archival Management." She said that this institute was conducted by Dr. Theodore Schellenberg, Assistant Archivist of the United States, and sponsored by the University of Texas for four weeks from July 18 to August 12, 1960. It was both theoretical and practical with orientation sessions of slides and pictures and discussions, as well as trips to repositories in Austin. The four institutions visited were the State Archives in its different Quonset huts; the University of Texas Archives; the new Catholic Archives (with records from the 16th century); and the General Land Office.

The class had actual problems and projects to work out. They observed lamination in process. They developed a sense of fellowship between the 22 who received certificates at the end of the course. She quoted Dr. Schellenberg as saying that a 150-mile radius of Austin was one of the richest historically of any place in the United States.

SPEAKER NO. 4, MR. DAN KILGORE

Mr. Kilgore, of Corpus Christi, representing Nueces County Historic Survey Committee, gave a paper on "Retrieving Texas Civil War Materials." He outlined briefly how his group had developed its Civil War program, and gave concrete suggestions of sources from which other counties could find information of their own Civil War participation. Specifically, he mentioned the following:

1. *The War of the Rebellion* series for both the Union and Con-

federate armies, and including the Navy records. He said Volume 53 of Series I was particularly valuable; that though the Navy records "somewhat duplicate" the Army's, they give additional information; and that the Union reports gave additional and complementary information.

2. The National Archives will send a list of prisoners of war omitted from the printed books.

3. The State Library has records of eight home guard units.

4. Each county's Commissioner's Court records reveal the troops quartered in that community (if they were there at all), as well as other local information of the period.

5. Local newspapers of the period.

6. Diaries. If the original cannot be obtained, get a microfilm or photostatic copy to study and to preserve.

Finally, Mr. Kilgore remarked on the good cooperation he found between the users and the makers of archives.

SPEAKER NO. 5, MR. HARVEY RUST

Mr. Rust, Microfilm Consultant, Microfilm Service and Sales Company of Dallas, gave his talk on "Microfilming County and Local Records." Mr. Rust's concern was finding out that only 40% of Texas counties have microfilmed some part of their records. Fifteen or more counties have appropriated funds for a program of microfilming, but in most cases apathy of the officials seemed to be the main deterrent.

The promotion of, and understanding of, the importance of saving county records by microfilm process is the most necessary work to be done, and right away, Mr. Rust urged. Instances where

there were no church marriages, the only records of such marriages are those in the County Court Houses. If these are not microfilmed now they may be lost forever, as no one can foresee a fire or other catastrophe. Mr. Hill recommended that the Historic Survey Committee assume the responsibility of conducting this program (getting all county records microfilmed), and not leave it up to each county's officials.

Mr. Rust also discussed the necessity of professional services in microfilming because amateur efforts have been found to fade, due to improper "washing," etc. He emphasized the necessity of caring for original papers; that they must have their acidity removed by professional procedures, or they will deteriorate.

Then Mr. Rust told about his company in Dallas. It has 170 Texas newspapers on microfilm and a bonded depository of 16,000 negative films. This depository is not open to the public. This company has microfilmed some material for sentimental and historical reasons rather than for mercenary ones, meaning diaries and books of no sale value. He explained that contract equipment is available for institutions to do their own microfilming.

SPEAKER NO. 6,

MR. LAWRENCE DITTERT

Mr. Dittert, County Clerk of Austin County, did not deliver the paper, "The Preservation of County Records," but said he would answer any questions.

The balance of the time allotted for the session was spent in questions and answers between the audience and the panelists. This proved a clarifying and instructive period.

