

THE PORTAL TO TEXAS HISTORYSM

Beyond the Bytes

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IMLS Grant—IOGENE

While developing and writing the grant for the IOGENE Project, the Portal team uncovered some amazing facts. Almost all of the user-needs research done in the digital library field focused on academic use by scholars, faculty, or students; or K-12 use by teachers and students. One large segment of avid digital library users remained virtually unexamined - genealogists.

Genealogy has emerged as one of the most popular forms of life-long learning, but almost no research has explored genealogists' information seeking behavior, or how that behavior might inform the design of a digital library interface. This is an incredible oversight when you con-

sider that the Pew Internet & American Life Project has found that nearly a quarter of all Internet users seek genealogy information on the Internet. This represents a group of over 50 million Americans.

This winter, the UNT Libraries began work on the grant, the IOGENE Project, a.k.a., Interface Optimization for Genealogists. This \$448,000 grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services will identify the user interface requirements of genealogists interacting with the Portal to Texas History. Visit the IOGENE website to learn more about the latest news about this exciting project.

<http://iogene.library.unt.edu/>

Texas Reports

The Portal to Texas History has added 67 volumes of the Texas Reports.

These contain decisions of the Supreme Court of the State of Texas beginning in 1846. The decisions are fascinating not only from a legal standpoint, but also because they provide a vibrant view of Texas's culture and politics throughout its history as part of the United States and the Confederate States of America. Of special interest are

the Reconstruction-era volumes which illuminate changes in the Court under the unpopular Constitution of 1869.

Read court decisions about cases of theft, forgery, counterfeiting, murder, divorce, deception, adultery, arson, and even patent infringement!

Materials in this and all collections can be browsed by subject, by contributor, by location, and by historical era.

<http://texashistory.unt.edu/>
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS



Museum of the American Railroad

The Summerlee Foundation provided funding for a collection that goes beyond our Texas borders in the Museum of the American Railroad Collection. Included in this fabulous collection are 338 images of trains such as the Texas Eagle, the Texas Special, the Sunshine Special, the Katy Flyer, the Texas Zephyr, the Cannon Ball, the Louisiana Limited and the Texas Chief, to name a few of the Texas trains. Also included are interior and exterior pictures of depots across America in places like

Albuquerque, Amarillo, Durango, Clovis, Los Angeles, Dearborn, Chicago, Penn Station, and others. Some interior shots show the observation cars and dining cars with their “modern” décor.

Those of you who love and even remember traveling America’s railways will enjoy browsing through this collection.



The “Sunbeam” at Dallas



Sunshine Special near Forney, Texas



Observation car on the Hiawatha

STIRPES

Stirpes is the quarterly newsletter of the Texas State Genealogical Society, whose purpose “is to stimulate and support research and teaching on the genealogical aspects of history.” Last year, the Portal team added back issues of the *Stirpes* from 1961-1990. The lab is currently working to add issues from 1991-2000.

The *Stirpes* includes wonderful information for genealogists, such as extracts of Vital Statistics from The Telegraph and Texas Register and information on early Austin County families in the December 1962 issue to articles such as “Texans at Fort Delaware,” “Bothered, Bewitched

and Bewiddered,” by Bea Fuddler, and “A Parable Illustrating the Potential and Limitations of Local Records” by Paul R. Scott in the March 1988 issue.

In the “Bothered, Bewitched and Bewiddered” article, Paul R. Scott shares an anecdote about Molly having difficulty finding her ancestor, Bea Fuddler. Molly “contacts all of her relatives to check for the family Bible. Aunt Callie thinks that the information she wants was in Ma Perkins’ old Bible, which she says she loaned to Cousin Rosalie. Rosalie says she has not seen it in years, but that her nephew Gene had it the last time she knew. Gene claims that his

cousin ‘Spud’ borrowed it a few years ago and ‘Spud’ insists that he mailed it back to Aunt Callie. None of them had made a full transcript of the listings. Shortly afterward the upcoming family reunion was postponed, permanently.”

To find out more go to the Portal to Texas History and search Texas State Genealogical Society, **Stirpes**.

Our many thanks to the Texas State Genealogical Society for their partnership in sponsoring the cost to provide online access to these useful documents.

“The Texas History Portal is such a great resource. My Texas history teachers love it. I use the Texas History notebook for great lessons in the library. My students learn so much more, besides just reading the textbook. Thanks for providing such a great resource to teachers and librarians.”

*- Jenniffer Witherspoon
Librarian, Azle ISD*

What's in the Lab now?

Photos from the Heritage House Museum in Orange, Texas



Oil derrick on the lawn of a home in Orangefield, c. 1915.

The Heritage House Museum in Orange, Texas, has provided over 1700 photographs to the Portal to Texas History depicting life, nature, and industry in the

Orange, Texas area from the late nineteenth century through modern times. Orange was an important area for lumber, oil, and shipbuilding in the early 20th Century. There was a booming oilfield in Orangefield prior to 1920, a US Naval base in the 1940s-60s, numerous shipbuilding companies from the 1950s through the present and chemical plants such as DuPont along "Chemical Row."

This collection includes photos of the many historic homes, churches, businesses and people from the area including the Stark mansion; the Link home; First Presbyterian

Church (also known as Lutcher Memorial); and Pinehurst Ranch. Also included are current attractions, such as the Stark Museum and Lutcher Theater.

The Sabine River, the bayous and forests that provide natural beauty and attract birds and wildlife to the area, can also be seen in the collection.



Ferryboat John F. Kennedy, built in Orange, Texas 1965

Amon Carter Foundation and "Where the West Begins: Capturing Fort Worth's Historic Treasures"

We have just received an installment of archival items from the University of Texas at Arlington for digitization that is funded by a grant from the Amon Carter Foundation. The historic materials include approximately 500 photographs from the Fort Worth Star Telegram Collection and the Southwestern Mechanical Company Photograph Album,

depicting early Texas life. Along with these photos, we are currently digitizing 25 maps, select pages from 3 atlases, and a number of books and booklets published in

late 19th and early 20th century Texas. The photos depict street scenes and architecture from cities and towns across Texas, including some rare images of hurricane damage in Galveston in 1900; portraits of individuals and groups, such as Judge Roy Bean and the Texas Rangers; railroads and ranches; and schools and businesses.



Early Wichita Falls Fire Department,, from the Fort. Worth Star Telegram Collection at UT Arlington.

Upcoming: This summer we are adding fantastic collections from the Fort Worth Jewish Archives, Log Cabin Village, and UT Arlington.

**UNT LIBRARIES'
PORTAL TO TEXAS HISTORYSM**

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Mission Statement: The Portal to Texas HistorySM offers students and lifelong learners a digital gateway to the rich collections held in Texas libraries, museums, archives, historical societies, and private collections. The Portal team at the University of North Texas provides strong leadership by supporting collaborative efforts with its partners, while pursuing the goals of

Four of the over 500 aerial photographs on the Portal:



Aerial view of UNT in 1964,
Denton Public Library



Aerial view of Hereford,
Deaf Smith County
Public Library



Aerial view of Kemah,
Kemah Historical Society



Aerial view of Killeen,
Killeen City Library System

Making a difference with students . . .

Meet **Jerrell Jones**, an undergraduate student who has been working with us here in the lab since spring of '07. Jerrell, whose hometown is Houston, is majoring in Photography and will be graduating in December this year.

Jerrell says, "While working at the DPU Lab, I have learned a lot of exciting methods in digital imaging technology on top of the knowledge I have gained on my own and in school. I am very fortunate to have the opportunity to gain this knowledge while preserving the past. I have gained a better understanding of why the Portal to Texas History is special and why what we do as student assistants is so important. To scan one book in the lab is almost like a needle in a haystack, but saving a book before it falls apart could make a difference in someone's life.

When I am correcting my photographs for printing, I often use

knowledge that I have learned from Digital Projects. It's also nice when I can share what I have learned while working at the lab with fellow photographers and other artists."

Jerrell continues to do a fantastic job working for us while he's been earning his degree. UNT is a student-centered public research university, and the digital projects unit is proud to offer rewarding work experiences to so many of our wonderful students.



New! Texas Digital Newspaper Program!

We have been approached by numerous institutions about providing online access to their local historic newspapers. With all the historic news events that have happened in our great state we are convinced that this is an area of digitization that we must include on the Portal to Texas History. So we are pushing forward with a program to do just this. After becoming familiar with newspaper digitization through our work with the National Digital Newspaper Program, we are happy to announce the Texas Digital Newspaper Program as a means to digitize and provide access to many more Texas newspaper titles than we are able to do in

the national program alone.

We are actively seeking partnerships with others to digitize Texas' historic newspapers. Our goal is to create a digitized newspaper resource that covers a broad geographical area, and this will only be possible through cooperation and multiple funding sources. This program will follow the same high standards set forth by the Library of Congress for the national program. For more information about the process, standards, funding opportunities, and other FAQs, please visit our Texas Digital Newspaper Program website at

<http://texashistory.unt.edu/>