

## **Texas Geographic Resource Guide – Region 1**

### **For research and preservation of African American History in Texas**

**The University of Texas-Pan American Library** Region I South Texas  
McAllen, Harlingen, Edinburg, Laredo, Corpus Christi

#### **Old Bayview Cemetery, Corpus Christi**

<http://www.library.ci.corpus-christi.tx.us/oldbayview/oldbayviewmain.htm>

The present Old Bayview Cemetery in Corpus Christi, Texas, comprises approximately three and a half acres bounded by West Broadway St., Waco St., Ramirez St., and the I-37 access road. There are a large number of African Americans interred in the cemetery. A number of these are former slaves now buried within a short distance from former slave owners. The earliest know burials are from 1845, and the latest burial is believed to be from the 1980s. The Web site has over 1500 searchable pages of primary source material including photos, obituaries, documents, newspaper articles, and journals.

#### **The University of Texas-Pan American Library**

Special Collections

1201 West University Drive

Edinburg, TX 78541-2999

<http://sp.lib.panam.edu/>

1. Valerie G. Ramirez Collection  
Blacks in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas (unprocessed)
2. Contact: Albert Rodriguez, The University of Texas-Pan American  
History master's student / Black communities in the Rio Grande Valley  
in the 20th century

#### **Restlawn Cemetery, Edinburg**

<http://www.cemeteries-of-tx.com/Etx/Hidalgo/Cemetery/restlawnB.htm>

Most of the graves in this African-American cemetery were unmarked. Through lengthy efforts, the community supplied the names and approximate burial locations of all of the people who were buried there. In addition to placing a simple marker on each grave, Mrs. Ramírez had a large sign painted, listing the burials. Each June 19 a program is held in the cemetery, including participation by school children, Scout troops, and interested adults of all ethnic groups in the community.

#### **Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church**

1021 E. Van Week St., Edinburg 78539, (956) 381-4344

A wonderful, small historic black church. It is one of the center points of an African-American community in the Rio Grande Valley.

One of the Edinburg public schools is named after Mrs. Betts, the schoolteacher who had taught at the only African-American primary school in the upper Valley before desegregation.

**Texas A & M University – Kingsville**

700 University Blvd., Kingsville 78363, 361-593-2111

<http://www.tamuk.edu/>

<http://168.53.200.7/search/Y>

keywords:

(black or african or afro or negro or colored) and texas: 239

Tape of oral history interview

Author(s): Best, Willie Delia, 1898-

Year: 1974

Description: 1 sound cassette (30 min.) : analog.

Series: Variation: South Texas Oral History and Folklore Collection.

Abstract: A Black woman who worked as a cook for the Park Hotel and Memorial Hospital in Falfurrias, Texas. She married, raised a family in the area and now relates some of her life's experiences.

Tape of oral history interview

Author(s): Cortez, Santana A., 1885-

Year: 1972

Description: 1 sound cassette : analog.

Language: Spanish

Series: Variation: South Texas Oral History and Folklore Collection.

Abstract: Description of events in South Texas history, including a story about slavery, buried money, a Brownsville incident with Black soldiers, and some folklore. The interview is in Spanish.

**The Museums of Port Isabel**

317 E. Railroad Ave., Port Isabel 78578, 956-943-7602

<http://www.portisabelmuseums.com>

Exhibit on Brazos Santiago, where African American soldiers were stationed during the Civil War. Also, a copy of a woodcut (*Harper's Weekly*) that depicts African American soldiers digging clay for the brick plant that was located near the Lighthouse in Port Isabel.

Contact: Cleopatra Peter, president of the African American Cultural Society, **Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi**

Personal history of Raymond L. Johnson  
<http://www.math.umd.edu/users/rlj/RJ.html>  
Discusses segregation in Alice, Kingsville, UT  
Dissertations

**An historical account of African-American life in the Kingsville, Texas community, especially during the early years, 1904-1975**

Author Wright, Leola Marie  
Degree Phd  
School The Union Institute  
Date 1997

This Project entitled: 'An Historical Account of African American Life in the Kingsville, Texas Community, Especially During the Early Years, 1904-1975', is designed to present an historical account of Kingsville's African American pioneering citizens, and includes research documenting the first families to arrive, the first African American born in Kingsville, and the first property owners. The Project is divided into two parts. Part I focuses on very early settlers in the Kingsville area, modes of survival and community life. Railroading was the main source of income for African Americans in the early years and aside from that income was the contribution each railroad worker made to the growth and prosperity of Kingsville by the nature of his/her work. The trains and workers were of vital importance in moving commodities out of the area to buyers across the nation. A valuable document, 'The Missouri Pacific Lines', Seniority List-Brakemen, Kingsville Division, January 15, 1934 is included in Appendix B. The document was used as a reference source in the study. Part II of the Project focuses on a progressive era for African Americans in Kingsville, and circumstances and events leading to that progress. Noteworthy is information concerning the author's New learning research papers, which concerned the early years of African American History, 1619-1900, at the National and State levels. Information from the research papers relative to this work which focuses on early years of Kingsville's African American History, 1904-1975, is included narratively throughout. A list of names of African American Veterans entering the United States Military Service from Kingsville, Texas is included in Part II of the Project. The contents of the document is designed to generate pride and self-esteem. Recognition in community history via the written word is long overdue for these veterans. This document, then, is a descriptive and historical account of the contributions and roles of African Americans in the Kingsville community in the state of Texas. A series of informal interviews, questionnaires and inspection of public records were utilized to collect and organize the heretofore obscure and unknown data.

**The Black Experience in Laredo**

Author: Gonzalez, Jorge O.  
M.A Thesis. Texas A&M International University, 1986.  
Texas A&M International University Library, Special Collection F394.L35 G65