

Texas Geographic Resource Guide – Region 2

For research and preservation of African American History in Texas

Houston Public Library

<http://catalog.houstonlibrary.org/search/X>

keywords:

african and american and texas – 109

african and american and history and texas – 37

Project Row Houses, Houston

<http://www.projectrowhouses.org/index.htm>

Project Row Houses is public art project involving artists in issues of neighborhood revitalization, historic preservation, community service, and youth education. We are located in Houston's Third Ward, a neighborhood with deep historical and cultural traditions dating back to its formation at the end of the Civil War. Our site, with its twenty-two renovated shotgun-style houses, provides a place for the creation of art work that both engages the community in the creative process and celebrates African-American history and culture.

Texas Slavery Project, University of Houston

<http://www.texasslaveryproject.uh.edu/>

The Texas Slavery Project is currently unavailable due to renovations. Please check back at the end of the year.

The Buffalo Soldiers National Museum

1834 Southmore, Houston, TX 77004

<http://www.buffalosoldiermuseum.com>

The Buffalo Soldiers National Museum (BSNM) a non-profit 501(c)(3) institution was founded in the year 2000 by a Vietnam Veteran and African-American military historian Mr. Paul J. Matthews. The museum's Historian is Dr. Franklin D.B. Jackson, a highly decorated Vietnam veteran. The Museum's Chief Docent is Trooper Arthur Joseph, a Silver Star recipient and author of the World War II book "Driving at the Edge of Death".

The Buffalo Soldiers National Museum a proud member of the Houston Museum District is the only Museum dedicated primarily to preserving the legacy and honor of the African-American soldier, in the United States of America.

Monday – Friday 10:00 a.m.-- 5:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m. -- 4:00 p.m.

Admission: free

Houston - Historic Sites

www.soulofamerica.com

1. Freedmenstown

This historic district was founded just after 1865 and is the oldest African American district in the city; lots of wooden shotgun houses still serve as dwellings; the skyline of downtown Houston grew up as a backdrop on its east side; Rutherford B Yates, son of Jack Yates and the 1st AA printer in Houston lived here; Founder's Memorial Park sits of the northern edge of the district; call for tour info; Roughly bounded by I-45, Kirby, Montrose, and Gray; 713-739-9414

2. Jack Yates House

In 1870 former enslaved person, Rev John Henry "Jack" Yates (1828-1897) used his carpentry and leadership skills to build this home, which was formerly located in the Fourth Ward; Yates was widely respected for his ability to motivate former slaves to get an education, buy land, build homes and vote; Rev Yates helped establish the first Baptist College in the state which opened in Marshall, Texas in 1881; a few years later, 1885, he helped open the Houston Baptist Academy to prepare students for business, industrial trades, and the ministry; call The Heritage Society for tour times; Sam Houston Park at 1100 Bagby; 713-655-1912

3. Dowling Street

One of Houston's most notable and traditional Black neighborhoods is always worth a visit; when the city was a hotbed of Civil Rights activity in the 1950s and 60s, this area was the locus; while in 2106 Dowling Street, Eldrewey Stearns, George Washington, Jr, Hamah King and others plotted civil rights strategy that successfully desegregated the most of the city; Wesley Chapel AME Church at 2209 Dowling Street was designed by one of the countries first AA architects, William Sidney Pittman; the El Dorado Building on Dowling and Elgin, used to jump to the sounds of big bands in the first half of the 20th century; today there is a youth boxing center and a traditional soul food restaurant on the street; historic Dowling Street begins south of I-45 and extends to Wheeler Street;

4. Emancipation Park

One of the most enduring gifts to Houstonians by Rev Jack Yates and other former enslaved people in 1872 was this park; it was purchased for annual Junteenth celebrations; today the park is still widely used and includes ample picnic space and a swimming pool; 3108 Dowling Street

5. Phyllis Wheatley High School

Most older cities with large AA populations have historic schools which showcased the best and brightest; in Houston this Fifth Ward school was among the best; it includes Barbara Jordan and Mickey Leland as alumni since they were Fifth Ward residents; Solo and Market Streets, just south of I-10 freeway

6. Houston Negro Hospital

Now called "Riverside General Hospital", the Houston Negro Hospital completed in 1926, is a three-story building in Spanish Colonial Revival style located in the city's Third Ward; it was the first non-profit hospital for Black patients in Houston, and it provided a place of work for Black physicians; hospital campus is still in use for medical purposes; listed on the National Register of

Historic Places; 3204 Ennis Street

7. Independence Heights

The first Black community in Texas was established around 1908 as middle-class African American families began moving into north Houston; Independence Heights operated as a city from 1915 until its annexation by the city of Houston; it has a Texas Historical Marker at 7818 North Main and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places; bounded by N Yale, E 34th and I-610 freeway at 3204 Ennis Street

3. Barbara Jordan and Mickey Leland Archives

Robert J Terry Library is home to archives which chronicle local, state, national and international achievements of TSU's most famous alumnae who also represented the 18th District in the US Congress; Barbara Jordan (1936-1996) was the first African American from Texas elected to the US Congress after Reconstruction; a masterful orator, debate team captain and constitutional scholar she is best remembered nationally when arguing for the impeachment of Richard Nixon and delivering the keynote address at the 1976 Democratic Convention; perhaps her greatest compliment is the respect received from arch-conservative rivals who dared not to publicly debate her; due to multiple sclerosis she retired from the US Congress after three terms in 1979; Mickey Leland (1944-1989); before he died during a humanitarian mission to Ethiopia, he filled Barbara Jordan's seat and went on to chair the Congressional Black Caucus for the 99th US Congress; he successfully pushed for stronger sanctions that helped lead to the collapse of Apartheid; a federal office building downtown named in his honor since; TSU Campus at 3100 Cleburne Street; 713-313-7011

4. Project Row Houses

This collective of 22 restored "Shotgun" row houses is nurturing and reaffirming shelter for artists-in-residence, community services, and community galleries for primarily African American art; a major urban revitalization success story; guided tours available by appt; 2658 Delmar Blvd; 713-533-1003

16. Mickey Leland Library & Museum

George Thomas "Mickey" Leland Library and Museum of African History, Culture and Social Change, was created in 1996; for your reading comfort has a sitting library with a tea room; the center works with the community to preserve and interpret African history, natural history, and cultural materials beyond the walls of the library. The library also support research, collect speeches of well known orators, generate publications, display exhibitions, and other educational activities to advance the public's understanding and appreciation of Black art, history and culture with particular emphasis on the work of the late Congressman George Thomas "Mickey" Leland; weekdays by appt and weekends 10a-2p; 5407 Chenevert Suite 102; 713-524-3334; mlmuseum@webtv.net

Houston Metropolitan Research Center

Julia Ideson Building, 500 McKinney St., 2nd Floor

<http://www.hpl.lib.tx.us/research/hmrc.html>

Purpose

Houston Metropolitan Research Center (HMRC) includes two departments of the Houston Public Library with the primary objectives of locating, preserving, and making available to researchers the documentary evidence of Houston's history.

General Description

In its archival component, HMRC collects non-current records of area businesses, community and civic organizations, religious institutions, and other public or private groups which have influenced Houston's development. The manuscript component consists of the private papers and records of persons who helped shape the city's history. On deposit are the collections of civic leaders, businessmen, educators, politicians, and professional people.

In addition to traditional manuscript and archival records, the Archives and Manuscripts Department collects non-textual materials documenting the area such as maps, photographs, films and tapes, and architectural drawings. Finding aids for processed collections are available in the Texas and Local History Department.

African-American Component

Documenting Houston's substantial black community in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries adds vital insight into the city's history. African-American collections emphasize prominent individuals, long-established families, churches, black newspapers, cultural groups, community institutions, and business/labor activities.

Photographic Collections

One of the most important components is historical photographs. Consisting of more than 3.5 million images of Houston from its nineteenth-century beginning to the present, the collection visually records all aspects of Houston's growth. HMRC builds this component through donations as small as one photograph and as large as the entire negative collections of longtime Houston commercial photographers. The Library History page features some of these historical photographs.

A segment of the component is catalogued and available for research through the Texas and Local History Department. The remainder may be used by appointment. HMRC operates a photo preservation lab with copying facilities. Information about reproduction fees is available on request.

Oral History

An active oral history program complements the archival and manuscript collections by providing information not available through written sources. The collection consists of reminiscences and analyses of events from persons who have a firsthand knowledge of significant political, cultural, and economic events in the growth of metropolitan Houston. Use of some of the tapes is restricted by the interviewee. Access to the oral history collection is by appointment.

Jazz Component

The Texas Jazz Archive component consists of oral history interviews and photographs from jazz musicians native to Houston or elsewhere in Texas. The jazz component is open by appointment. Donors have placed user restrictions on some of the collections.

Texas Southern University

3100 Cleburne Street, Houston 77004, 713-313-7011

History: <http://www.tsu.edu/about/history/>

Library: <http://www.tsu.edu/about/library/index.asp>

Special Collections: <http://www.tsu.edu/about/library/special.asp>

HEARTMAN COLLECTION

The Heartman Collection contains over 11,000 books, pamphlets, slave narratives, journals, musical scores, and other documents relating to the black experience in the United States and the world. The University acquired the original collection from Heartman in 1948 for the sum of \$20,000. The Heartman Collection is named for Charles Frederick Heartman, a well-known antiquarian book dealer. One of his strongest legacies is in the field of Afro-Americana. During his lifetime, he developed two Heartman Collections. One is at Xavier University in New Orleans and of course, the other is at Texas Southern University and is considered the largest African American collection in the southwest. The Department of Special Collections has continued to purchase books that are culturally, political and socially landmark works that interpret and preserve the African American experience. The collection now includes over 22000 volumes.

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

Barbara Jordan Papers

Barbara Jordan (1936-1996) was the first African American woman to serve in the Texas State Senate; she was the first African American U.S. Representative from Texas and the first African American to deliver a keynote speech at the Democratic National Convention. Jordan donated her papers to Texas Southern University in 1978. When Jordan attended Texas Southern University 1952-1956, she was active on the Debate Team and graduate magna cum laude.

Curtis Graves Papers

Curtis Graves (1938) was the first African American to serve in the State House since Texas Reconstruction. Graves served in the House 1966-1972. Graves graduated from Texas Southern University with a BBA in 1962.

Thomas Freeman Papers

The Freeman Papers are still being processed. Dr. Freeman has taught Philosophy at Texas Southern University since 1949. He has also been the debate coach since 1949. Under Dr. Freeman's leadership and guidance, the Texas Southern Debate Team has attained international fame. He has been a powerful intellectual force in the African American community and has had

a number of outstanding students on the debate team. Some of them include Barbara Jordan, Texas State Senator Rodney Ellis, Otis King, the first African American City Attorney, Judge Andrew Jefferson and Dr. James Race.

<http://www.tsu.edu/about/history/museum.asp>

The University Museum is the realization of a dream that began with the very first administration of Texas Southern University and was kept alive by dedicated faculty of the Fine Arts Department. In 1949, President R. O'Hare Lanier promoted the idea of a "museum of Negro arts and history." Dr. John T. Biggers, Carroll Harris Simms and other art faculty promoted the concept in their teaching philosophy by systematically developing over four decades a unique collection of African and African American art with a major focus on the work of TSU art majors.

Hours and Admission: The University Museum is open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 12 p.m.-5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. Located in the south wing of the Fairchild Building, the museum also sponsors special evening lectures, concerts, and openings throughout the year. Admission to the museum is free; however donations for museum expenses are always welcome.

Collection, 1967-1971

Author(s): Graves, Curtis M., 1938-

Year: 1967-1971

Description: 1.5 linear ft.

Subject files primarily consist of legislative publications and papers and speeches, 1967-1971. There are no family or personal papers. There is one folder of black and white 8x10" photographs of Curtis Graves. In the vertical files, there are newspaper clippings on his candidacies for the Texas House of Representatives and the mayoral election.

Note(s): Curtis Graves (1938-) was one of the first two African Americans to serve in the Texas State Legislature since Reconstruction. Graves was elected to successive terms in the state legislature (1966-72). In 1969, Graves was a candidate in the mayoral race against incumbent Mayor Louie Welch. In 1972, Graves relocated from Houston, Texas to Washington, D.C. There he became director of Continuing Education with the National Civil Service League. Graves served as Chief of the Education and Communications Affairs Board of NASA and Deputy Director of Civil Affairs for the Leadership Institute for Communications Development, 1977-1987. Graves was a Woodrow Wilson Fellow at Princeton University, 1984-85. He became President of the World Aerospace Education Organization in 1983. In addition Graves published a two-volume book entitled Famous Black Americans.

Papers, 1948-1972

Author(s): Smith, Ollington E., 1908-1991.

Year: 1948-1972

Description: 6.5 linear ft.

The University Files series consists of reports, syllabi, lecture notes, and departmental recommendations relating to the evolution of the Departments of English, Speech and Drama. A subseries of the University files is on the Texas Southern Players. This subseries includes information on play production, play programs costume designs the Fine Arts Festive and photographs of various play productions directed by Mr. Smith. The Subject Files Series contains programs from Morgan State Players productions, 9x12 photographs of Professor

Ollington E. Smith, a collection of Playbills and miscellaneous pictures and information on costumes. The Ollington E. Smith Papers is related to the University Archives because of the information contained on the Division of Humanities and the Texas Southern University Players. This collection also explains why the Little Theater was re-named the Ollington E. Smith Theater.

Note(s): In the Heartman Archival Expansion Project, Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas./ Bio/History: Ollington E. Smith (1908-1991) was the first Chairman of the Department of Speech and Drama at Texas Southern University. He organized the Theater Department and established the Texas Southern University Players. Mr. Smith gained an outstanding reputation for his theater productions. Because of his contributions to the dramatic arts at Texas Southern University, the campus theater (formerly the Little Theater) was renamed the Ollington E. Smith Theater. Mr. Smith retired from Texas Southern University in 1972. Upon retirement, Mr Smith became active with the Boy Scouts. In 1981, he received the prestigious Silver Beaver Award from the Boy Scouts of America and it was presented to him by President Gerald Ford in Washington, D.C.

Colored Carnegie Library, Houston

In 1912, the Colored Carnegie Library opened to the public. A group of African-American community leaders had applied for and received a grant from Andrew Carnegie to create a library for the community. In 1921, thanks in large part to Julia Ideson's efforts, this Library became a branch of the Houston Public Library and was supported with City funds. The building was demolished in 1962 to make way for the extension of Clay Avenue. The library was reimbursed for its loss, and these funds were used to build another branch.

Houston's Colored Carnegie Library, 1907-1922 (article from *Libraries & Culture*)

http://www.gslis.utexas.edu/~landc/fulltext/LandC_34_2_Malone.pdf

<http://www.houstonarchitecture.info/BuildingDetail.php?BuildingName=Antioch%20Missionary%20Baptist%20Church>

Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, Houston

500 Clay Street, Houston

Built: 1875- 1879

Designed by: Richard Allen

Renovated: 1895

Renovated: 1936

This is perhaps Houston's most historic church. The congregation was founded by two white Baptist ministers and nine former slaves in 1865 upon hearing that they had been emancipated. It was Houston's first black church. The original sanctuary was built a year later, but not on this site. The current building dates from 1875, but was much smaller than the structure you see today. Just 16 years later, it had to be enlarged. By 1936, it was once again in need of expansion, and as part of that project it gained height, ornamentation, and the trademark "Jesus Saves" sign. But the original marble cornerstone remains, cemented neatly in place below the sandstone one that followed it. Antioch Missionary Baptist Church is often thought to be the oldest church in Houston. It is not.

History:

http://www.antiochfamily.org/pb/wp_a1471605/wp_a1471605.html?0.3811967702497836

The Rutherford B. H. Yates Museum

<http://www.publicarchaeology.org/yates/history.html>

1314 Andrews St., Houston (between W. Dallas and W. Gray streets and Wilson and Matthews streets) 713-739-0163

The Yates Museum is a Houston historic landmark. With the collaboration of the Museum of Printing History, the museum will house information about the Rutherford B. H. Yates Printing company and other African American-owned companies and their founders.

Rosenberg Library

2310 Sealy, Galveston 77550

Manuscripts, newspapers, photographs, and oral histories relating to Galveston's African American community. Holdings include the *City Times*, 1900-1927, an African American newspaper; papers of Alfreda Houston, community activist and former executive director of St. Vincent's Episcopal House; and records of W. K. Hebert Company, an African American funeral home. Also, several Special Collections (photograph albums and loose images) that concern Galveston's African American community.

Galveston and Texas History Center, Rosenberg Library

<http://www.gthcenter.org/>

Archival collections

Affleck Family

Type: Papers
Collection Dates: ca. 1897-1975

Armstead, Bert Carson, Jr. (1950-1989)

Type: Papers
Collection Dates: 1923-1989

Avenue L Baptist Church (Galveston, Tex.)

Type: Records
Collection Dates: 1840-1861
Extent: 50 items
Description: Forty-eight letters of dismissal (recommendations for membership from masters and other churches) to First Baptist Church, Galveston, Tex.; church notice denying authorization for public meetings of black persons (1840); and list of donations received toward the black church (1845).

Barnes, Sarah M.

Type: Papers
Collection Dates: 1867-1871

International Longshoremen's Association. Local 851

Type: Records
Collection Dates: 1953-1965

Morgan, Leon A. (1909-)

Type: Papers

Collection Dates: 1954-1981

Extent: 20 in.

Description: Principal of Central High School, Galveston, Tex. Correspondence, speeches, writings, reports, notes, surveys, and other papers, relating to Morgan's career, including activities with Galveston Independent School District, and Texas Principals Association (formerly Texas Negro Principals Improvement Committee), and his activities with black community affairs and community service organizations in Galveston, including Moody House for retirees, Old Central Cultural Center, for the preservation of Afro-American history, Lone Star Historical Drama Association, and Reedy Chapel A.M.E. Church, Galveston, Tex.

Victoria Regional History Center

<http://vrhc.uhv.edu/>

Library of Victoria College/University of Houston-Victoria

2602 N. Ben Jordan, Victoria 77901, (361) 570-4176

Hours: 8:00am-5:00pm, Monday-Friday

The Victoria Regional History Center acquires, preserves, and makes available to students, faculty and the public, archival records of enduring value that document the histories of the institutions on the Victoria College/ University of Houston-Victoria campus as well as those records that preserve the social, political, economic, and cultural history of Texas, particularly the region of Texas that includes Victoria and surrounding counties.

Our extensive collection of books, maps, and other published materials as well as county records, personal papers, business and association records, newspapers, photographs, and non-print media support the curricula of the Victoria College and the University of Houston-Victoria and serve the community and region of scholars, students, genealogists, and lifelong learners.

http://www.viptx.net/vcgs/libry_univ.html

Photographs of local and area African Americans: ranchers, preachers, and more. Some historical/genealogical information on local area people of color. The Barry Crouch Collection includes information on the Freedman's Bureau and that collection is not just local but state and national.

George Ranch Historical Park

<http://www.georgeranch.org/>

10215 FM 762 Richmond 77469, 281-343-0218

In the last ten years, the George Ranch Historical Park has emerged as one of the premiere heritage attractions in the Houston area. Visitors to the Park step back in time to experience more than 100 years of Texas history. Through innovative and interactive programs, visitors can get their hands on the past. The sights, smells, sounds and tastes of a Texas gone by will bring your

senses alive. Set amid 23,000 acres of working ranch and farmland, the Historical Park shares the stories of Texas with visitors in authentic historical settings.

Visitors to the Park are invited to see, learn, and participate in the role of black cowboys on developing Texas ranches

Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site

1702 N. 17th St., West Columbia 77486

979/345-4656

http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/varner_hogg_plantation/

Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site is 65 acres, along Varner Creek, 50 miles south of Houston in Brazoria County. The park was donated to the state in 1957 by Miss Ima Hogg, daughter of the early-day governor, and was dedicated/opened on March 24, 1958, the 107th birthday of Governor James S. Hogg.

History: The completely furnished old plantation manor was the home of Governor James S. Hogg. It pictures colonial life in the early days of Texas (1835-50), established by Martin Varner, member of Stephen F. Austin's "Old Three Hundred." The park is located on Varner Creek, which was used to transport sugar to market from the sugar mill once located on the site. The first rum distillery in Texas was established in 1829 by Varner.

Activities: Activities include interpretation of the historical plantation house, the grounds and barn facilities; pecan picking, picnicking and walking; and birding and nature watching within the park's 66 beautiful acres. Annual events center around Black History Month, Texas Independence Day, San Jacinto Day and Christmas time. For more information, please call the Park at 979/345-4656.

African-American Historical Society

P.O. Box 14011

Houston, TX 77221

(713) 485-0923

Matagorda County African-American Historical Society

PO Box 1386, Bay City 77404-1386

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txmatago/mcaahs.htm>

GOALS: To study, research and document the vast amount of past and present history of African-Americans in Matagorda County.

To cooperate with the Matagorda County Historical Commission and the Texas State Historical Commission to collect materials of significance to the area so the findings can be made available to students and researchers.

To disseminate historical information and to arouse interest in the past life of African-Americans by publishing historical findings, presenting heritage facts, hosting informational lectures, interviewing county citizens, and photographing buildings and sites.

Levi Jordan Plantation

Brazoria

history links: <http://www.webarchaeology.com/html/history.htm>

The plantation was built in 1848 by Levi Jordan, his family, and the people who worked for them as slaves and, later, as tenant farmers and sharecroppers.

For the past 14 years, Ken Brown and his students at the University of Houston have been excavating and studying the Levi Jordan Plantation. For the most part, excavation has focused on the slave and tenant quarters of the plantation. The quarters were occupied by slaves from 1848 until 1865, and by sharecroppers and tenant farmers (many of whom were the same people and their children) until about 1888-1892. Some excavation has also taken place in the yard area and around the still-standing plantation house. In addition, the cemetery used by the African American residents has also been surveyed (but not disturbed).

I heard it through the Grapevine: Oral Tradition in a Rural African American Community in Brazoria, Texas

by Cheryl Wright

Master's Thesis, University of Houston, 1994

<http://www.webarchaeology.com/html/cheryl.htm>

(Levi Jordan Plantation)

Brazoria County Historical Museum Library

100 East Cedar, Courthouse Square, Angleton 77515, (979) 864-1208

<http://www.bchm.org/>

a few photographs of African Americans

a few oral history tapes of African Americans (most of the tapes were copied from the collection at Varner Hogg State Park)

Information files include copies from some courthouse records and some file folders of Black History (miscellaneous articles and documents). Also, tax rolls for the county from 1837 to 1910 on microfilm. On the Internet, we have a database of burials in Brazoria County that includes many African American names.

Nia Cultural Center

2627 Avenue M, Galveston

<http://psy.utmb.edu/community/galveston/resource/nia/nia.htm>

The Nia Cultural Center sponsors programs intended to educate the community about the strengths and positive values of the African-American cultural heritage. An outstanding collection on African Americans in Galveston County.

Gonzales County Records Center and Archives

1709 Sarah Dewitt Dr. (Located on US 90A between US 183 and Texas 97)

Gonzales 78629-0114, 830-672-7970

<http://www.gvec.net/gonzalesco/>

The Records Center offers much to the researcher, whether it be history, genealogy, architecture, social customs, or any interest that requires a knowledge of the past.

Kendleton is an incorporated community in Fort Bend County that was settled by freed slaves and is rich in history.

See the Handbook of Texas Online entry:

<http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/KK/hlk5.html>

George Memorial Library

1001 Golfview Drive, Richmond 77469, 281-342-4455

<http://www.fortbend.lib.tx.us/>

The George Memorial Library in Richmond has a local history section run by W.M. Von-Mazewski with numerous files of data on Kendleton and its people.

http://www.fortbend.lib.tx.us/aboutus/gene_dept.html

The department's resources focus on the southeastern United States, and include materials relating to the history of the south, federal censuses, genealogy, and the Civil War.

Lake Jackson Historical Museum

249 Circle Way and This Way, Lake Jackson, TX, 979-297-1570

Open Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

<http://www.lakejacksonmuseum.org/index.html>

Through the interactive touch screen and artifacts collected from area plantations you can learn about plantation life in the mid 1800's. See the "ghost" of Abner Jackson on the front porch of his mansion.

Nesbitt Memorial Library, Columbus

Colorado County Cemetery Records

<http://www.columbus.texas.net/library/cemeteries/abtcem.htm>

Prairie View A&M University

P.O. Box 188 , Prairie View 77446 , (409) 857-3311

History: <http://www.pvamu.edu/pages/605.asp>

African American Studies: http://www.tamu.edu/pvamu/library/guides/african_americans.html

Library: <http://www.tamu.edu/pvamu/library/>

RARE BOOKS, devoted primarily, although not entirely, to rare works by African-Americans;

BLACK HERITAGE OF THE WEST, specializing in material about the American Southwest;

BLACKS IN THE MILITARY, focusing on the contributions of African-Americans to U.S. military history;

T.K. LAWLESS COLLECTION of materials by and about African-Americans; and the

DELCO ARCHIVES of the memorabilia of former Texas State Senator Wilhelmina Delco.

<http://www.tamu.edu/pvamu/library/delco.htm>

The Wilhelmina Delco Collection consists of more than 130 boxes of official documents, reports, memorabilia, correspondence, letters, memos, newspaper clippings and photographs stored in the Special Collections/Archives Department of the John B. Coleman Library. As part of a consultation grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the collection is being processed with the goal of providing access in the near future.

Wilhelmina Delco archives, 1995-1996

Author: Delco, Wilhelmina R. (Wilhelmina Ruth), 1929-

Ten term member of the Texas House of Representatives; b. Wilhelmina Ruth Fitzgerald; married Exalton Alfonso Delco.

Description: 11 items.

Collection consists of materials pertaining to the retirement of the Honorable Wilhelmina Delco including Texas Senate resolution (1995), programs of events honoring Delco (1995-1996), letters of congratulations (1995), and guest book.

Self-study records, 1981

Author: Prairie View A & M University.

Description: 2 linear ft.

Prairie View A & M University had its beginnings in 1876 as a Texas state institution under the provisions of the Morrill Land Grant College Act; on Mar. 11, 1878, The Agricultural and Mechanical College for Colored Youth opened with eight young Negro men and two professors; the first baccalaureate degrees were granted in 1903; name changes include Prairie View State Normal and Industrial College in 1889, Prairie View University in 1945, Prairie View Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas in 1947, and Prairie View A & M University in ca. 1970.

Materials include reports and multi-volume long range plan (1981-1987).

School of Nursing records, 1968-1978

Author: Prairie View A & M University.

Description: 0.75 linear ft.

Materials include self-study; reports; proposals, student handbooks, publicity brochures

Registrar records, [19--]

Author: Prairie View A & M University.

Description: 2 linear ft.

Materials include the files of Dr. Thomas R. Solomon, registrar (1942-1954).

Radio station records, 1948-1981

Author: Prairie View A & M University.

Description: 1 linear ft.

Materials include scripts, correspondence, and minutes. Topics include radio skits, radio programs, requisitions, finances, and Intercollegiate Broadcasting System Regional Board of Directors Conference. Radio station is KPVU.

Office of the President records, 1967-1990

Author: Prairie View A & M University.

Description: 3 linear ft.

Files of Dr. A.I. Thomas (1969-1983) contain mostly correspondence. Additional materials include reports; minutes; issues of the Guardian; and faculty and staff rosters.

Library records, 1979-1982

Author: Prairie View A & M University.

Description: 1 linear ft.

Notes: Part of the Cooperative HBCU Archival Survey

Materials consist of correspondence, minutes, reports, and other materials pertaining to the library.

Health, Physical Education and Athletics Department records, 1945-[ongoing]

Author: Prairie View A & M University.

Description: 4 linear ft.

Materials include annual reports, self-study reports, standards of attainments, sports banquet programs, sports events schedules, football programs, basketball programs, miscellaneous programs, and news clippings.

Graduate School records, 1938-1976

Author: Prairie View A & M University.

Description: 0.5 linear ft.

Materials include self studies (1969, 1976), annual reports (1958, 1969), proceedings of a symposium on improving the graduate program (1938), Committee on Graduate Work materials (1937), faculty appointments (1970), and publicity brochures.

General historical records, 1935-1989

Author: Prairie View A & M University.

Description: 1 linear ft.

Materials include news clippings, publicity and informational brochures and calendars (1935-1980), agenda books of the Board of Directors of the Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College System (1957), and administrative files(1970-1989, 25 ft.).

College publications, 1913-[ongoing]

Author: Prairie View A & M University.

Description: 50 linear ft.

Materials include anniversary programs, catalogs, class schedules, employee handbooks, directories, newsletters, newspapers, handbooks, yearbooks.

Alumni records, 1954-1990

Author: Prairie View A & M University.

Description: 0.5 linear ft.

Collection consists of materials pertaining to the national and local alumni clubs including issues of The Alumni Voice (1988-1990), National Association programs (1975-1987), correspondence, constitution and bylaws (ca. 1986), and club handbooks.

Agriculture records, [196-]

Author: Prairie View Agricultural and Mechanical College.

Description: 1 linear ft.

Collection consists of the files of the Dean of Agriculture. Topics include teaching loads, research projects, annual reports, inventory, personnel, evaluation of agriculture program, Soil Conservation Service, livestock daily production sheets, and grass nursery.

Agricultural Extension Service records, [ca. 1935]-1980

Author: Prairie View A & M University.

Description: 51 linear ft.

Collection documents agricultural extension service to African Americans in Texas. Materials include county files arranged alphabetically by county, consumer education materials, 4-H club information, administrative files, correspondence, and agricultural publications.

Collections

Cook-Maddrey Family Papers, 1843-1914, (bulk 1851-1914)

Author(s): Wise, Mary Jane (Mollie) Cook,; 1838-1870. ; Wise, Harvey. ; Maddrey, Peter B.,; d. 1875. ; Maddrey, P. B. (Peter B.) ; Boon, Jimmie F. ; Hearne, Lydia. ; Clendenen, Alma Maddrey. ; Maddrey, Kate.

Year: 1843-1952

Description: 1 box (.4 linear ft.)

Correspondence, financial documents, legal documents, printed materials, photographs, an autograph album and a personal journal were collected and preserved by Sarah Adaline Cook Maddrey. The correspondence of family members Robert Watkins Cook, Mary Jane (Mollie) Cook, Harvey Wise, P.B. Madrey, and Peter B. Maddrey, Sr., comprises the bulk of the Cook-Maddrey Papers and documents the connections between Sumner County, Tennessee, and Fannin County, Texas, between 1843 and 1895. Of particular interest are the letters written by Jimmie S. Boon to Mollie 1861-1863 posted from Memphis, Murfreesboro, Shelbyville, and Chattanooga, Tennessee, the Big Black River, Iuka, Meridian, and Yazoo City, Mississippi, and Bridgeport, Alabama, while Boon served in the Confederate Army. Subjects covered include slavery, illness and hospitalization, states rights, soldier's life, and military deployments. The personal correspondence between family and friends include discussions of family life, farming, illness and death, a Negro insurrection in 1856, emigration, slavery, Reconstruction, the Klu Klux Klan, and economic hardships. Other correspondents are Lydia Hearne, Tennie Talyor Rawlins, E.V. Martin, Albert J. Duggen, W.J. Thomas and Elizabeth Wise. Financial documents include tax receipts and personal receipts of P.B. Maddrey. Of interest are Robert W. Cook's military commission in the Fannin Cavaliers, his Masonic demit, and the By-laws of King Solomon's Lodge. Alma Maddrey Clendenen's autograph album (1883) records the names of school friends from the Maple Hill Seminary. Kate Maddrey's journal, 1901-1952 includes the minutes of the Art League in Bonham, genealogical notes of the Cook family, and poetry.

Descriptor: Slavery -- United States.

Reconstruction.

Ku-Klux Klan -- Tennessee.
Bonham (Tex.)
Fannin County (Tex.)
Texas -- History -- 1846-1950.

Note(s): Sarah Adaline Cook, born March 15, 1831 in Christian County, Kentucky, married P.B. Maddrey in 1853 in Sumner County, Tennessee. In 1855 they followed family members to Fannin County, Texas, and then moved to Bonham, Texas where they resided for 68 years. Adaline gave birth to ten children. She died in 1924.

Location: SAN JACINTO MUSEUM OF HISTORY, 1 Monument Circle, La Porte, TX 77571-9585

<http://www.sanjacinto-museum.org/>

Papers 1988-2000

Author(s): Bradley, Jack Carter

Year: 1988-2000

Description: 1 box

Materials consist of photographs, resolutions, and biographical information that pertain to his musical career. The majority of the collection consists of Bradley's own photographs.

Note(s): Violinist, conductor, and longtime chair of the Texas Southern University Music Department.

Location: BLAIR-CALDWELL AFRICAN AMERICAN RESEARCH LIBRARY, DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Papers of Walter H. Moursund, M.D.

manuscript collection no. 42 in the Harris County Medical Archive, /f 1914-1959.

Author(s): Moursund, Walter Henrik, 1884-1959. ; Ferry, Joan R. ; Papers of Walter H. Moursund, M.D.

Year: 1914-1959

Description: 7 boxes (3 linear ft.)

Newspaper clippings, bibliographical information, and correspondence, 1914-1959. The collection has clippings and materials on virtually every medical institution in Houston, including the Houston Negro Hospital.

Includes miscellaneous correspondence and pamphlets, 1925-1959.

Location: HOUSTON ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, TEXAS MEDICAL CENTER LIBRARY
1133 John Freeman Blvd., Houston, TX 77030-2809

<http://www.library.tmc.edu/>

Papers, 1929-1999

Author(s): Groves, Harry E.

Year: 1929-1999

Description: 2500 items (3.5 linear ft.).

Correspondence and other items, 1951-1999, relating to Groves's work with Texas Southern University, the University of Malaya, the Asia Foundation, Central State University, North Carolina Central University, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; to his interest in constitutional law, particularly relating to Malaysia; and to his law practice. Writings, 1942-1999, include articles, speeches, and lectures on affirmative action, domestic law, constitutional

law, African-Americans in education, and the future of African-American institutions; unpublished book-length manuscripts, one of which is a Groves family history; and day journals containing travel descriptions, including one from 1984 with Groves's impressions of South Africa. Personal papers include items relating to Groves's school career and activities of family and friends, 1929-1998; military service, 1944-1946; real estate holdings in Ohio, North Carolina, and Houston, Tex.; Groves family history; and other items. There are also a few photographs of Groves engaged in various activities and of the institutions in which he served. Location: SOUTHERN HISTORICAL COLLECTION, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

The Houston Freedom Ride

oral history transcript /

Steven McNichols; Donald J Schippers

1964, English, Archival Material [6], 404 leaves, bound ; 28 cm.

McNichols discusses his participation in the 1961 Houston freedom ride, conditions in Texas, and the CORE movement in general.

Location: ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

Houston in Retrospect

oral history transcript / Steven McNichols; Elizabeth I Dixon

1965, Archival Material [3], 43 leaves, bound

McNichols reflects on his return to Houston in 1962, after his participation in the 1961 freedom ride, discusses CORE operations in Houston, and encounters with the FBI in Houston and Los Angeles.

Location: ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

Dissertations

On Parallel Tracks: A Comparison of the African-American and Latino Civil Rights Movements in Houston (Texas)

Author Behnken, Brian David

Degree MA

School University Of Houston

Date 2001

Scholars largely view the history of the civil rights movement in terms of only two communities, black and white. In a state like Texas, the presence of a large Mexican-American population also came into play. In Houston, the needs and goals of all three of these groups came into conflict during the civil rights movement. This thesis investigates the history of both groups' experiences during the civil rights movement. Besides examining each group's particular experiences during the civil rights period, the author compared both groups with the goal of demarcating points of unity and contention between African-Americans and Latinos. Evidence used in this thesis was garnered from primary source material archived at the Houston Metropolitan Resource Center. Additional sources include the HMRC's Oral History Interview Collection, newspapers, interviews conducted by the author, as well as a variety of secondary sources.

For the Advancement of the Race: African-American Migration and Community Building in Houston, 1914--1945 (Texas)

Author Pruitt, Bernadette
Degree PhD
School University Of Houston
Date 2001

This dissertation examines the migration and community building experiences of African Americans in Houston, Texas, in the early twentieth century. Utilizing census data, manuscript collections, government records, and oral history interviews, it details who migrants were, why they embarked on their journeys to Houston, the migration networks on which they relied, the jobs they held, the neighborhoods into which they settled, the culture and institutions they transplanted into the city, and the communities and people they transformed in Houston. In part, this study emphasizes migration as a form of black activism and resistance to institutionalized racism in both the rural and urban Jim Crow South. For several reasons, thousands of blacks left their rural communities in Texas and other states for Houston between the years 1914 and 1945 & Jim Crow segregation, disfranchisement, acts of violence and brutality, and rural poverty & reach enhanced social and economic opportunities. The city's prosperity & due to its close proximity to basic minerals, innovations in transportation, increased trade, augmented economic revenue, and industrial development & prompted white families, commercial businesses, and industries near and along the Houston Ship Channel to recruit large numbers of blacks, whites, Mexican Americans, and Mexican immigrant workers. Heightened class consciousness, racial autonomy, and union-organizing in the late 1930s and 1940s among black wage earners led to a process called proletariat formation. Their fight for economic and social justice on the job galvanized the entire African-American community and sealed a growing bond between the black working and middle class. The growth of Houston's black working class, along with other sectors of the community & teachers, ministers, social workers, entrepreneurs, lawyers, physicians, journalists & stimulated extensive community building. Community formation laid the foundation for the city's and nation's Civil Rights Movement. For example, through the diligent efforts of community builders & members of the rank and file along with the bourgeoisie & blacks successfully dismantled the Texas white Democratic primary in 1944. The victory signaled the birth of the national Civil Rights Movement. Black migrants, therefore, contributed to the economic and social transformation of Houston, which in 2001 is America's fourth largest city and energy capital, the South's largest metropolis, and the most-populated city along the Upper Texas Gulf Coast industrial region.

Craft Specialization in a 19th Century African-American Community: The Shell Carver's Cabin on the Levi Jordan Plantation, Brazoria County, Texas

Author Harris, Robert Norman
Degree MA
School University Of Houston
Date 1999

Archaeological research at the slave and tenant quarters of the Levi Jordan Plantation, Brazoria County, Texas has provided detailed insights into the structure and function of a Nineteenth Century African American community. These include a number of adaptive responses that the slave and tenant community made to their living conditions. The development of specialized

craft practitioners within the community to serve its members is one such adaptation. This thesis tests the archaeological record of a hypothesized “Carver's Cabin” on the Levi Jordan Plantation for evidence of this craft specialization, with the goal of supporting or refuting that hypothesis. This thesis will also discuss the role of this craft specialist in the plantation community.

J. Mason Brewer: An African American Folklorist from Texas

Author White, Sandra Flowers
Degree MA
School University Of Houston-Clear Lake
Date 1997

This body of work explores the history of a man and his contributions in Western Literature. J. Mason Brewer was a writer, author, historian and folklorist from Texas of whom many may be unaware, perhaps because Zora Neale Hurston has carried the distinction as the most notable African American folklorist. This thesis will reinvigorate our sense of Brewer's contributions and widen our knowledge about another notable folklorist whose place in folklore history we must acknowledge. There are many prolific authors who have given Literature some of its best works, and many of the world's best literary gifts are those we bring forth time and time again. The beauty of Literature is that there is so much to savor. Not only do we have the present and future literary gifts, we have those treasures that lay buried, forgotten, remembered as the past, or as 'once upon a time.' J. Mason Brewer's gift to Literature and the African American experience, is an outstanding one. This body of work will chronicle the transitional journey of this Texan, his extensive and pioneering work in collecting folktales and his many contributions to our nation's literary greatness. This academically historic journey--there is no other scholarly paper on Brewer alone--will start from his family's early slave history in Tennessee, move to their frontier life in Texas, and end with their present struggle to preserve the family homestead as an historic dwelling. Reviving and preserving Brewer's story and his works is imperative for many reasons. Many of them will become evident in this thesis. (Abstract shortened by UMI.)

The Road to Jericho: Black workers, the Fair Employment Practice Commission, and the Struggle for Racial Equality on the Upper Texas Gulf Coast, 1941-1947

Author Obadele-Starks, Ernest
Degree PhD
School University Of Houston
Date 1996

This dissertation examines discrimination as an obstacle to obtaining equality for African American industrial workers on the Upper Texas Gulf Coast during World War II. The primary emphasis is on the Fair Employment Practice Commission (FEPC). President Roosevelt's Executive Orders 8802 and 9346 prohibited discrimination by defense industries, government employers, and labor unions and also established FEPC to investigate workplace discrimination. The study moves beyond a narrative history of labor organization and collective bargaining by reconstructing the black workers' fight against inequities in hiring, wage, promotion, and job classification. Drawing widely from archival records, union documents, and oral histories, this work interprets the meaning of race relations in the America workplace. It argues that the numerical composition of black workers in certain industries and the lack of effective resistance by African Americans to racial discrimination influenced the forcefulness of white domination and affected how workers and employers received FEPC. The study also contends that

government, labor, and employers, failed to capitalize on the opportunity presented by FEPC to end race-based labor policies. The Upper Texas Gulf Coast affords a unique opportunity to examine FEPC and race struggle. As one of the fastest growing industrial regions in the South, in the first half of the twentieth century, this area experienced rapid economic growth spurred on by oil production and refining. As black workers migrated to the region's industries, racism and discrimination blocked their assimilation into the workplace. Although African American workers made some gains in unionization, increased wages, and improved employment, their success did not equal that of their white counterparts. Instead, a commitment to white supremacy by employers and unions in the region shaped labor race relations throughout the 1930s and the 1940s. The black wage earners' fight for equality on the Upper Texas Gulf Coast was an important issue in FEPC's investigations of workplace discrimination. Discouraged by the failed promises of trade unions, employers, the New Deal, and the National Labor Relations Board, black-Texans set out to eliminate racial inequities. They sought FEPC intercession to improve their occupational standing. A study of FEPC on the Upper Texas Gulf Coast tells a compelling story of race struggle, survival, and failed promises.

Freedmantown: The Evolution of a Black Neighborhood in Houston, 1865-1880 (Texas)

Author Passey, Mary Louise
Degree MA
School Rice University
Date 1993

This thesis attempts to provide a better understanding of the urban black experience in the first decade and a half following the war by focusing on the development of a single black neighborhood called Freedmantown in Houston's Fourth Ward. In the post-Civil War period, the black population in Houston increased dramatically. Through blacks' efforts to establish themselves as property owners, Freedmantown developed into a stable, black residential neighborhood quickly after the war's end. Black residents of Freedmantown, however, did not form their own separate social community, nor did Freedmantown become the focus for the rest of the ward's black community institutions. Instead, the residents of Freedmantown remained actively involved in the larger black community of the Fourth Ward. As a result, Freedmantown's residents formed only one part of a multi-neighborhood black community, indicating that individual neighborhoods could develop and prosper without threatening the cohesiveness of the city's larger black community.

The Darker Side of 'Heaven': The Black Community in Houston, Texas, 1917-1945

Author Sorelle, James Martin
Degree PhD
School Kent State University
Date 1980

Among the numerous urban studies to appear since the early 1960s, several have chronicled the development of the black community in some of the nation's leading urban centers. Unfortunately, the attention given Afro-American communities in such major northern cities as Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Detroit and Chicago seldom has been duplicated for the urban South. Even when scholars have treated the black urban experience in the states below the Mason-Dixon line, they have, with few exceptions, confined their focus to the slave era, the late nineteenth century, or the post-World War II period. By examining the development of the

black community in Houston, Texas, in the years between the two world wars, this work addresses a seldom studied period in Afro-American historiography. Blacks had resided in Houston since the earliest days of the town's settlement, and their numbers had increased rapidly following the Civil War. By 1920 the city's black population stood at 33,960, representing roughly one-fourth of all Houston residents, and making blacks the largest minority group in the Bayou City. But as in the case of most minority groups, black Houstonians rarely experienced the same range of citizenship rights enjoyed by their white counterparts. Patterns of segregation dictated many of their daily activities and contacts, and other forms of discrimination guaranteed their status as second-class citizens. Houston blacks found themselves not only restricted socially by Jim-Crow ordinances and customs but also forced to confront the economic burdens of occupational subordination and the political powerlessness imposed upon them by the Texas 'white primary' law, which served as an effective disfranchising agent until 1944 when the United States Supreme Court ruled such proscriptions unconstitutional. Given these conditions, black Houstonians naturally turned inward to their own communities to establish a sense of being. Though denied access to the broader society dominated by whites, local blacks could seek solace within the all-black neighborhoods created by the city's customary residential patterns, for it was within these neighborhoods that black community institutions and organizations, such as the church, fraternal orders, and social clubs, flourished. Moreover, the existence of a separate black community provided many local blacks the opportunity to develop their own business establishments which depended almost entirely upon black patronage. In the years between the two world wars, black Houstonians generally accommodated themselves to the realities of life in a dual society--one white and one black. But this did not preclude the appearance of black spokesmen who were critical of the Jim-Crow system in the Bayou City. Black protest, however, was of a conservative bent in that black leaders emphasized the 'equality' feature of the 'separate-but-equal' doctrine. Rarely did black spokesmen challenge Jim Crow or support the idea of integration, which would come to dominate the race relations scene in the post-World War II years. At the same time that they criticized the discriminatory features of Houston society, many local black leaders praised the Bayou City for its record of cordial race relations and extolled the virtues of their home by accepting and supporting the Chamber of Commerce's booster slogan, 'Heavenly Houston.' And yet, though Houston experienced no outbreak of racial violence after the riot of August 1917, local blacks were far from satisfied with their second-class citizenship. For them, as this study suggests, Houston was frequently a good deal less than 'heavenly.'

Negro Politics and the Rise of the Civil Rights Movement in Houston, Texas

Author	Davidson, Franklin Chandler
Degree	PhD
School	Princeton University
Date	1969

A Comparative Study of the School Facilities Offered White and Colored Pupils in Selected Schools in Eleven Counties in Southeast Texas in 1948-1949

Author	Williams, Ethel M.
Degree	PhD
School	University Of Houston
Date	1954