

Texas Geographic Resource Guide – Region 3

For research and preservation of African American History in Texas

For selected cities:

Beaumont, Kilgore, Longview, Nacogdoches

Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches

East Texas Research Center, R. W. Steen Library

<http://libweb.sfasu.edu/etrc/default.htm#search>

Newspaper Collection

<http://libweb.sfasu.edu/etrc/collect/newsprr/newsmain.htm>

Online exhibit

African-American Lumbermen: Their Homes and Families (Ca.1908)

<http://libweb.sfasu.edu/etrc/collect/photos/afriam/afrmain.htm>

Archives of the African-American Heritage Project

<http://libweb.sfasu.edu/etrc/COLLECT/MANSCRIPT/PERSONAL/AAHP/AAHP.htm>

Dates: 1904-2001

Size: 2 oversized boxes, 2 archive box (6.5 linear feet)

Acquisition: 1999-2002

Access: Open for research

African American Heritage Project, Nacogdoches

<http://www.cets.sfasu.edu/AAHP2/aahp.htm>

The AAHP is a joint venture between the Department of History and the Center for East Texas Studies at Stephen F. Austin State University, and the Black Heritage Association of Nacogdoches. The main purpose of Project is research about the African American Community and bringing that research into the public domain. The goal of this initiative is to capture and to document the dynamics of local African American history and to place it into context of Nacogdoches' past and present. In order to achieve this goal, the project intends to engage in large-scale and systematic collection, recording, preservation, and dissemination of knowledge about African Americans in the Nacogdoches Community. This would involve the collection of extant written materials as well as that of oral histories from black and white community members regarding the various aspects of African American life and culture.

2) The African American Heritage Archive. The archive consists of documents, photography, and oral history tapes collected by the AAHP over the last six years. The archival material is housed in the Steen Library's East Texas Research Collection and is open to the public.

3) Oral History Program. The oral history program of the AAHP is conducted through the sponsorship of the Center for East Texas Studies at SFASU. The program cooperates with local churches and organizations like the E. J. Campbell Alumni Association. Every year we interview returning students of the former from the former Black High school alumni who return for the JuneTeenth reunion.

4) The Zion Hill Restoration Project. The Nacogdoches Heritage Foundation is actively involved in raising money to preserve and restore the Zion Hill Baptist Church building as a black heritage museum, as well as a museum to honor the other Nacogdoches works of Master Architect D. Rulfs (who designed the Zion Hill building.)

5) Shawnee Historical District. We have surveyed the buildings and businesses along the former center of the black community. We have done research to make this into a Texas Historical Landmark district, have done extensive research to put together a walking tour of the area, and have conducted workshops to help mark other landmarks in Nacogdoches which relate to the black community such as cemeteries, hospitals, etc.

Historical/archival research and oral history study of an area east of the Wallisville townsite and the associated African-American community, Wallisville Lake Project, Chambers County, Texas

Author: Shepard, Donna.

Publisher: Geo-Marine, Plano, Tex. : [1995]

Topic: African Americans, African Americans, Land tenure

Notes: Includes bibliographical references (p. 55-59 (2nd group)).

Notes: "For U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, contract no. DACW64-93-D-0002, delivery order 0003.", "February 1995."

Ard, H. D., interviewee

Topics: African Americans, Football players, Petroleum industry and trade, Public schools, School principals, World War, 1939-1945

Notes: Interviewed by Dr. Bobby H. Johnson for the repository's Nacogdoches oral history project.

Summary: Topics include playing football for Stephen F. Austin State Teachers College while attending Northwestern State College of Louisiana in Natchitoches; working for Pure Oil Company at Van, Tex.; marriage to Mary Alice Birdwell at Tyler, Tex.; attending Stephen F. Austin State Teachers College; experiences as a school principal in Nacogdoches County; county politics and campaigning for county clerk and county school superintendent; black voters and schools; experiences as a gunner officer in the Navy during World War II; and race relations in the 1930s and 1940s.

Baker, Thomas W., interviewee (1908-)

Type: Oral history interview

Collection Dates: 1974 Aug. 2

Extent: 1 sound cassette, transcript: 1 item

Description: Bank employee, of Nacogdoches, Tex. Experiences as a Nacogdoches Commercial Bank employee during the depression. Topics include the role of Nacogdoches banks in the East Texas farming system, personal experiences, and the condition of African Americans during the depression.

Zion Hill Baptist Church, Nacogdoches

<http://www.cets.sfasu.edu/VR/pages/zhill.htm>

Smith County

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txsmith/africam.htm>

A wealth of resources, including:

Cemeteries, predominately African American, **Smith County**

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txsmith/african-am/cemetery.html>

includes directions, lists of names on markers

African American Genealogy Resources, **Tyler Public Library**, Local & Family History Collection

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txsmith/african-am/aframsou.html>

County Line Missionary Baptist Church

The County Line Missionary Baptist Church is located approximately 12 miles west of Tyler off Highway 64 West, which reaches out to the Red Land Community to provide "Education for all concerned". The County Line Missionary Baptist Church was founded in 1872 by a few Baptist believers in the Red Land Community in Van Zandt County. Mr. Will Manley, a concerned citizen of the community, donated two acres of land for the church which was constructed in 1872. The name "County Line" was derived from its location on the boundary lines of Smith and Van Zandt Counties. Since its beginning in 1872, three church buildings have been constructed with the most recent being built in 1967. The first Pastor of the church was Rev. Rabb, and serving as Deacons were: Isaih Isabell, Thomas Kennedy; Jack Raibon; Henry Bell; Alford Hopper, treasurer; and Jack Isabell, secretary. During its tenure of 125 years, the church has had 24 Ministers, with the present Pastor being Rev. Abel V. Armstrong.

Galilee Baptist Church, Tyler

St. James Baptist Church, Smith County

Tyrrell Historical Library

695 Pearl Street, Beaumont 77704-3827, (409) 833-2759

<http://www.ci.beaumont.tx.us/Library.htm>

The Tyrrell Historical Library Archives contain many rare documents. Included are materials from the Jefferson Beaumont family; the George W. O'Brien diaries from the Civil War and the O'Brien family papers; and an autograph album which belonged to Captain Randolph Owen of

Alabama which included autographs of Confederate military leaders imprisoned by Union Forces at Johnson's Island, Ohio after the War Between the States. The Tyrrell has census microfilm and indexes for the years 1790 through 1920. The years 1790-1850 are complete. Work continues to complete the other years. Other microfilm is owned by the Tyrrell such as the Magna Carta Barons and their descendants (1-7), Family History Library Catalog-Localities, the AGLL Catalogue, Everton Publishers "Roots" cellar, The Genealogical Helper, 1950-70. LDS Parish and Vital Records List, the U.S. Postal Guide - alphabetical lists of post offices in 1905, and materials on many states with particular emphasis on Texas and Louisiana. Included are such things as city directories, marriage lists, lists of confederate soldiers, Texas newspapers, Galveston passenger lists, indexes to deeds, tax rolls, probate records, and much more. Some family genealogies are also found on microfilm.

Africa, TX

<http://www.toledo-bend.com/shelbyco/history/index.asp?request=africa>

A poor, rural unincorporated community tucked in the state's eastern Piney Woods. Africa, also known as Webb, after an early property owner, or St. John's, after Africa's Baptist Church, is in deep East Texas by the Louisiana border. The town's history is largely unwritten. Freed slaves with a dream of a new home founded Africa 135 years ago. About 75 people live in Africa.

St. Paul's Baptist Church

617 Hopkins Street, Center 75935

A local black church has bought the black school and are creating a Black Heritage Center.

San Augustine

A house by the railroad track that was used as a hotel for African-American employees of the railroad. Currently owned by Bill Lewis and his wife. We have had a grant to purchase it and have stabilized the roof. It will be an African-American museum, eventually.

Marshall, TX

Home of James Farmer, Jr., the founder of CORE.

James Leonard Farmer, Texas' first black Ph.D., was a professor of religion at Wiley College.

Pemberton High School has a memorabilia room

Harrison County Historical Museum

http://www.cets.sfasu.edu/Harrison/face_lift4.htm

Has made a major effort to collect as much as it can on its many citizens, including a prodigious effort to record the names of every slave in Harrison County. Long-time Wiley College President Matthew Dogan; poet, playwright, and debate coach Melvin Tolson; educator H.B. Pemberton, among many others, all have vertical files there.

Marshall Public Library

300 S. Alamo, Marshall 75670, 903-935-4465

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

Has a large African American oral history collection, as well as the papers of Fred Lewis, who was the local NAACP secretary when it successfully challenged the Harrison County white primary in 1948. There are files in both the library and the historical museum on Bishop College, which moved to Dallas in 1960. Unfortunately, the Bishop papers, donated to the African American Museum in Dallas when the college closed, are not readily accessible.

Wiley College

711 Wiley Avenue, Marshall 75670, 903/927-3300

History:

http://www.wileyc.edu/index.php?option=com_content&task=category§ionid=4&id=14&Itemid=30

Library:

http://www.wileyc.edu/index.php?option=com_content&task=section&id=5&Itemid=38

Anderson County Historical Commission, 101 E. Oak Street, Palestine, Texas 75801

Oral histories, books, brochures located in library
eleven official Texas Historical site markers on African Americans
research files

Museum for East Texas Culture, 400 Micheaux Avenue, Palestine, Texas 75801

Black history collection consisting of a permanent display of memorabilia, documents, etc.

Texas College

2404 N. Grand Avenue, Tyler 75702, 903/593-8311

Library: <http://www.texascollege.edu/library.htm>

Special Collections Archives houses the historical data of Texas College, books of W. R Banks, (6th) President of Texas College, alumni records, and the history of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church (CME).

The Black Studies Collection contains extensive material by and about the African-American experience. This Collection complements the curriculum in American History, Black History, Education, Sociology, Art and Languages and Literature. The Black Studies Collection is one of the largest collections in East Texas; this Collection serves the public schools and the general community

Lamar University

<http://biblos.lamar.edu/>

4400 MLK Blvd., Beaumont 77710 Beaumont, (409) 880-7011

Papers

Author(s): Donovan, Fay Etta

Historical synopsis of the St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Year: 1977

Description: 1 folder (1 item)

Abstract: Consists of a booklet entitled "A historical synopsis of the St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church," written by Fay Etta Donovan.

Note(s): Bio/History: Present church grew out of a Methodist church organized for colored people in Beaumont, Texas circa 1868.

Jarvis Christian College

P.O. Drawer G, Highway 80, Hawkins 75765, 903/769-5700

A Historical perspective: http://www.jarvis.edu/pages/about_historical_perspec.htm

Library: http://www.jarvis.edu/pages/library_media.htm

Olin Library and Communication Center, College Archives

http://www.jarvis.edu/pages/library_media.htm

Top Teens Records, 1971-1992

Author: Top Teens of American.

Description: 1.5 linear ft.

Youth mentoring organization of the Top Ladies of Distinction, a national, nonprofit, educational, and humanitarian organization whose membership is composed of women who are interested in the well-being of individuals and the preservation of values significant to wholesome living.

Materials include photo album, handbook, directory, report, calendar of events, yearbooks, and scrapbook; papers.

Texas Christian Missionary Fellowship of Jarvis Christian College Records, 1981-1993

Author: Texas Christian Missionary Fellowship (Jarvis Christian College)

Description: 1 linear ft.

Materials include program booklets, committee assignments and functions papers, donations ledger, and guestbook.

Robert H. Peoples Papers, 1906-1982

Author: Peoples, Robert H. (Robert Hayes), 1903-1983.

Educator and minister, Disciples of Christ and Christian Church.

Description: 6 linear ft.

Materials include handwritten sermons and sermon notes, speeches, church programs, and published minutes of various annual conventions of the Disciples of Christ and the Christian Church.

President records, 1915-1995

Author: Jarvis Christian College (Hawkins, Tex.)

Description: 24 linear ft.

Materials include clippings, photographs, press releases, programs, reports, speeches, writings, budgets, financial records, administrative records, minutes, biographies, questionnaires, annual reports, invitations

Photographs, 1913-[ca. 1966]

Author: Jarvis Christian College (Hawkins, Tex.)

Description: 8 linear ft.

Founded as Jarvis Christian Institute in 1912 by the Christian Women's Board of Mission of the Christian Church (now Disciples of Christ).; college was patterned after Southern Institute, a Christian Church college in Edwards, Miss., and many of the early teachers were Southern Institute graduates; named in honor of Major James J. and Ida VanZandt Jarvis who donated 456 acres of land in 1910, the college was an elementary school and high school from 1912 to 1928, a junior college from 1928 to 1941 and a senior college from 1941 to the present; name changed to Jarvis Christian College in 1928.

John Oliver Perpener Papers, 1952-1985

Author: Perpener, John Oliver, 1916-1985.

Fifth president of Jarvis Christian College.

Description: 3 linear ft.

Materials include speeches, lectures, sermons, presentations, thesis, and term papers; correspondence; memorial program and eulogy; news clippings

John Cornelius Long collection, 1930-1987

Description: 0.5 linear ft.

Material relating to John Cornelius Long, president of Southern Christian Institute, Edwards, Miss. Includes news clippings; Southern Christian Institute catalogs; correspondence; college pamphlets; writings; profiles of Southern Christian Institute graduates; appraisal of the property; paper pennants; ledger

General college records, 1913-1994

Author: Jarvis Christian College (Hawkins, Tex.)

Description: 39 linear ft.

Materials include activities calendars; committee minutes; correspondence; senior project files; clippings; press releases; reports; college calendars; commencement programs; first college catalog; programs; self study education handbooks; self-study reports; program books; directories; enrollment statistics and reports; financial reports

College publications, 1913-1991

Author: Jarvis Christian College (Hawkins, Tex.)

Description: 32.5 linear ft.

Materials include college catalogs, student handbooks; college publicity and academic program brochures; faculty handbooks; yearbooks

Black Disciple churches collection, 1944-1995

Description: 7.5 linear ft.

Materials consist of mainly programs.

Dissertations

'Freedom and Family': The Freedmen's Bureau and African-American Women in Texas in the Reconstruction Era, 1865-1872

Author Roberts-Jackson, Lavonne
Degree PhD
School Howard University
Date 1996

This study examines freedwomen during Reconstruction in Texas. It discusses how East Texas freedwomen asserted themselves in civil, judicial, educational, and social circumstances that influenced the black family during Reconstruction, and thus provides insight on African-American women's lives within the context of the black family from slavery to freedom. It considers strategies they used to confront personal and social issues inherent in their lives. It investigates how African-American women approached labor demands during and after slavery. Most importantly, this study demonstrates how freedwomen utilized the services of the Freedmen's Bureau in East Texas to cope with family, education, and labor challenges, while they made adjustments to their new status following emancipation. Therefore, to portray the significance of African-American women and the black family in East Texas, this study will center on their lives from slavery to freedom, with an emphasis upon their interrelationships with the Bureau and its agents.

The Freedmen's Bureau in Texas and its Impact on the Emerging Social Welfare System and Black-White Social Relations, 1865-1885 (Reconstruction, Segregation)

Author Colby, Ira Christopher
Degree DSW
School University Of Pennsylvania
Date 1984

The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, commonly referred to as the Freedmen's Bureau, was by its existence a deviation from previous federal experiences in regards to state-national welfare relations. This study examines the influence of the Texas Freedmen's Bureau on the development of the state's social welfare system and black-white social relations. The dissertation explores these issues for the years 1865-1885. The research demonstrates that the Texas Bureau, based on a fragile alliance between blacks and whites, facilitated the development of a segregated social system. Secondly, the Texas Bureau offered a minimal number of social welfare programs especially in comparison to other Southern states. By also considering the virtual explosion of the population and its westward migration in the state, the quantity and location of services illustrates a pronounced urban bias. Third, the data demonstrates that the Texas Bureau did not stimulate the development of a formal welfare system. Indoor relief programs were established prior to the Civil War with little expansion occurring for the remainder of the century; outdoor relief, while legislatively mandated, was minimal with little or no effort directed towards expansion. Finally, the responsibility for the poor served as a tenuous and sensitive vein in the relationship between the counties and state government. Local communities avoided bearing the financial costs for welfare services forcing the state government to provide minimal supports through the asylums.

The Origins and Development of Black Religious Colleges in East Texas

Author Thompson, Lloyd Kay
Degree PhD
School University Of North Texas
Date 1976

The Influence of School Desegregation on the Work Values and Occupational Aspiration Levels of Twelfth-Grade Negro Males in Texas Public High Schools

Author Hall, John Arlis
Degree PhD
School East Texas State University
Date 1971

The Development and Present Status of Negro Education in East Texas

Author Davis, William R.
Degree PhD
School Columbia University
Date 1935