

Welcome!

The Zoom webinar will begin shortly. All participants are muted.



African American Genealogy Resources

Archives and Information Services

Research Webinar Series

August 26, 2022



What This Session Covers

- Basic research strategies
 - Work back in time
 - Expand from 1870 census
- African American genealogy resources
 - TSLAC records
 - Additional valuable records



Texas State Library and Archives Commission 1201 Brazos Street, Austin, Texas 78701

Casey Dunn Professional Photography

ALL POLITICAL POWER IS INHERENT IN THE PEOPLE AND ALL FREE GOVERNMENTS ARE FOUNDED ON THEIR AUTHORITY

AND INSTITUTED FOR THEIR BENEFIT;---FIRST CONSTITUTION STATE OF TEXAS, 1845



Texas State Library and Archives Commission

• Mission:

- Provide Texans access to needed information
- Preserve the archival record of Texas
- Enhance the service capacity of public, academic, and school libraries
- Assist public agencies in the maintenance of their records
- Meet the reading needs of Texans with disabilities
- Service Areas:
 - Reference and Information Center
 - Texas State Archives
 - Sam Houston Center (Liberty, TX)

Visit our website: www.tsl.texas.gov



- Please note that the terminology used to describe slavery and enslaved individuals may include certain offensive words, terms, or phrases from the time periods of the resources being discussed.
- These terms are used only when citing directly from primary sources, or in reference to proper names of records, events, or concepts.
- Throughout this presentation we use the phrase "enslaved person", "human", "individual", "laborer", etc., to indicate that the condition of slavery was imposed upon, and not inherent to, the African American individuals being discussed.

More information is on our website:

www.tsl.texas.gov/exhibits/terminology



Where to Start?

- Start from the present and work back
- Search for ancestor in every possible record
 - Look for all known family members
 - Document your search and results
- Think creatively: what is the connection between individual and government?
- Beware of name variations and remember records do not always reflect race



1870 Census

- First census where African Americans listed as individuals
- First name, last name
- Often living near family members
- Often living near area of enslavement
- Research connections

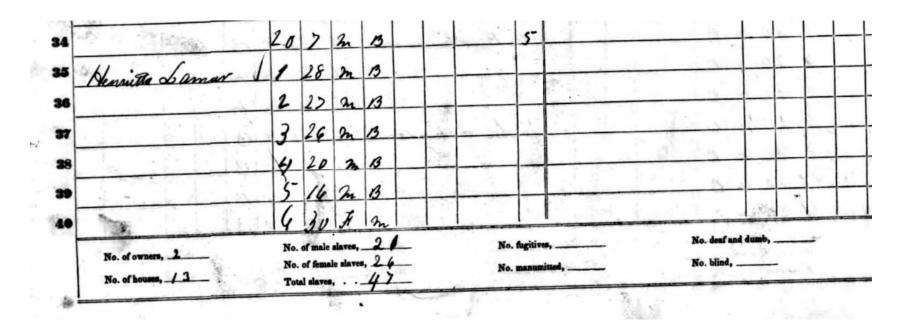
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"Slave Schedules"

- Show slaveholders in a particular area for 1850 & 1860
- Can correlate with other data to strengthen hypothesis
- No definitive connections made

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Family History in Official Records

State Records with genealogical value include:

- Military service records
- Confederate pensions
- Republic pensions
- Republic claims
- Muster rolls
- 1867 voter registration
- Confederate indigent family lists
- Convict record ledgers and conduct registers



- Voters records
- Education
- Banking
- Land ownership
- Service in state organizations such as
 - State Police
 - Legislature
- Time served in state institution such as
 - State prison
 - Eleemosynary (state-supported) institutions



Voter Registration of 1867

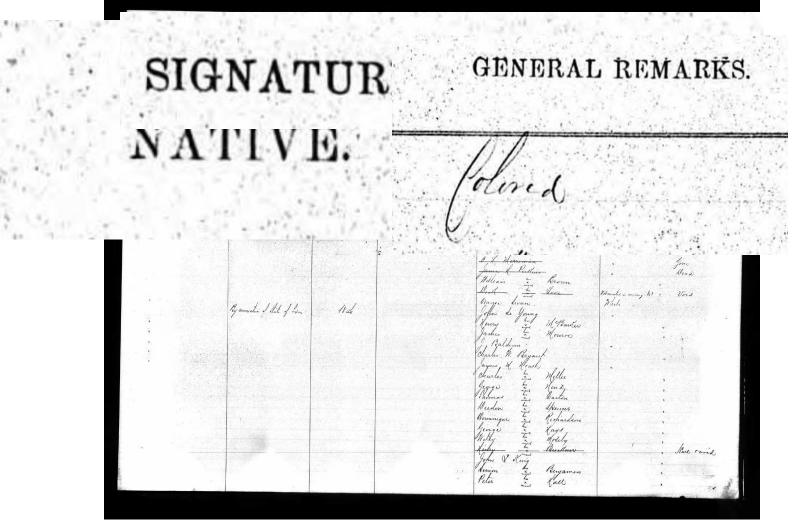
Voter registration records include:

- Name
- Time of residence in the state, in the county, and in the precinct
- Place of nativity
- When and where naturalized
- Remarks.

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Voter Registration of 1867



More information is on our website: www.tsl.texas.gov/arc/votersreg.html



Scholastic Census Records

- For early census lists, students or heads of household are named, depending on county
- Later cards list students individually or with family, and include birthdates, parents name, school, grade, race, and in some instances, disabilities
- Some information may be confidential under federal law protecting privacy

Census, 1917-1918, Blanco County

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Scholastic Census Records

School records that were filmed by or transferred to TSLAC:

Anderson, Bell, Blanco, Bowie, Brooks, Brown, Caldwell, Colorado, Collin, Cooke, Coryell, Ellis, Falls, Fayette, Gillespie, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Haskell, Henderson, Johnson, Kaufman, Leon, Llano, Marion, McLennan, Milam, Navarro, Parker, Robertson, Shackelford, Smith, Willacy, Wise, Young, Van Zandt, Waller, and Washington

- Paper finding aids at TSLAC available for: Bastrop, McLennan, and Milam
- Microfilm at TSLAC available for: Blanco, Caldwell, Gillespie, Guadalupe, & Llano

Additional records not filmed by TSLAC may still be held at the county level. More information is on our website: <u>www.tsl.texas.gov/arc/local/index.html</u>



Records of Teachers

Teacher certification records, on microfilm and paper

- May include address, college, age, years as teacher
- May contain test scores (confidential under state law)

Annual reports of school funds, on microfilm

• Often lists teachers and pay

Normal college records

• Reports may include lists of students, graduates



Freedmen's Bureau

In addition to records of local field offices and administrators, the Freedmen's Bureau maintained records of:

- Schools
- Marriages
- Claims
- Hospitals
- Rations
- Persons hired, labor contracts, indentures, apprenticeships
- Land
- Courts



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Adjutant General Records

State Police and State Guard military rolls

• Finding aid available online: <u>txarchives.org/tslac/finding_aids/30074.xml</u>

Reconstruction records

• Finding aid available online: <u>txarchives.org/tslac/finding_aids/30022.xml</u>

Service records

• Digital images available online: www.tsl.texas.gov/apps/arc/service/



Adjutant General Records



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Convict Ledgers

- Convict Record ledgers, 1849-1954
- Ledger indexes, 1849-1970
- Conduct Registers, 1855-1945 (notes through 1970s)

More information is on our website: <u>www.tsl.texas.gov/arc/convict.html</u>

- Microfilm is available for borrowing through interlibrary loan
- Digital images are available on Ancestry



Clemency and Court Records

Pardon proclamations and applications

- Proclamation, 1846-2009
- Indexes, 1846-1970

Court of Criminal Appeals records (1892-2010)

- Index available through Ancestry or in Archives
- Case files at State Archives may include testimony from district court

Supreme Court records (1840 – c. 2005)

- Card file index to early records can be searched by Archives staff
- Case files at State Archives



Capitol Building Commission Records (1881-1888)

Payroll lists or vouchers may include the following information:

Department or Location

Month and Year of Employment

Name of the contractor and/or subcontractor

Names of the workers

Occupation

Time worked

Hourly wage

Amount Earned

Deductions for board or time checks

Amount Paid

Signature

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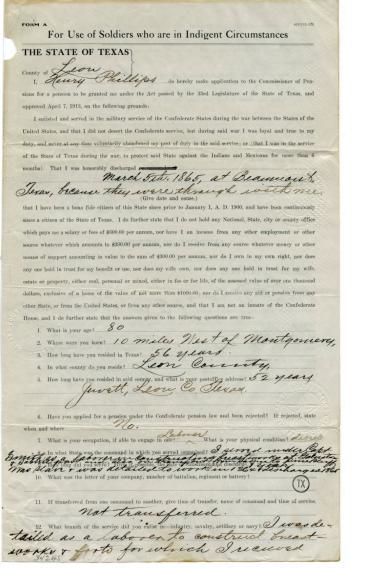
Civil War-Era Records

- Adjutant General's Department, Confederate records, Reports of slave impressment, 1863, 1865
 - Finding aid available online: txarchives.org/tslac/finding_aids/30021.xml

Reports can include:

- Name of the enslaved
- Name of slaveholders
- Total number enslaved
- Total number in service
- Residence
- Date of hire
- Age
- Term of service

Civil War Era Records



Confederate Pension applications:

- About 20 applications have been identified as belonging to African-Americans.
- Henry Phillips, pension #34245, says he constructed breastworks (low defense walls) in Galveston and Sabine while enslaved





Free persons of color were not allowed to remain in Texas unless exempt by legislative action:

- Memorials and petitions document requests to remain in Texas
- General and special laws document Congressional response to memorials/petitions



County of Harris 3 Tak a and House of Representatives of the State of Jeyas We the undersigned present to the favorable Consideration of the Representations of the Price inhabitants of the flate of Texas The Coloris homan Liley, who has been an resident of the City of Houston for the lash Five years. By her industry and good Conduc The has been enabled to realize Dufficient of means to surchase les Freedom, and we feel interested in her case and feel it is me of Three easis that any lato receive the favorable notice of a Free and generaus people and as such we ask that a law may be passed emenei in Teyas. Houston New 11/847 - Cuntria Living lately the of the Coloro Wiman Liley, do Certify is a woman of a good moral character the has fully paid me for herdil and I ask that the Legislature of imancipali hass a daw Daniel G. Wheiles The &. Borry

Memorials and Petitions

Petition submitted by Cynthia Ewing, requesting that her former slave Liley or Delilah, who purchased her freedom, be allowed to remain in Texas. The petition was submitted November 1, 1847. Several pages of signatures include testaments to her ability as a cook.



Bill Files and Laws

Bill files and laws document the response by the Texas Congress or Legislature to memorials and petitions.

TSLAC holds the bill files for Texas from this time period.

- House Bill 51, 7th Legislature in 1858 provides information about Nancy Coleman, a free person of color, her children and grandchildren
- Peter Allen, a free person of color, and musician with Colonel Fannin during the Texas Revolution is described in a legislative committee report



Slave manifests

Two collections on Ancestry:

- U.S., Southeast Coastwise Inward and Outward Slave Manifests, 1790-1860
- New Orleans, Louisiana, U.S., Slave Manifests, 1807-1860

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County Records

- County Records on Microfilm: <u>www.tsl.texas.gov/arc/local/index.html</u>
- "Locating County Records" webinar and slides: <u>www.tsl.texas.gov/arc/workshops</u>

Tax Rolls

- All counties available in Austin
- Usually begin with creation of county
- Some counties available through 1970s
- County Tax Rolls on Microfilm: <u>www.tsl.texas.gov/arc/taxrolls.html</u>



LONGCOPE & NORTON'S tatis January 27th, 1851. app cour \$300 REWARD. Mor RANAWAY from me in Septemther mak ber last, a NEGRO BOY, GIB, succ b ack complexion, likely, No. 1 and smart, He is about thirty years old, six feet high, a m put Fay a Blacksmith by trade, and a good fiddler. His shoulders and arms look small and bony from old disease, but still weighs about 180 pounds, active and strong. believe he has gone to Mexico ; if so I wil' 51 pay three hundred dollars for him if caught ton west of the Rio Grande, and two hundred if west of San Antonio river, and delivered IIIIhere to me, or in Galveston to W. Hendley & Co. I understand that about four weeks ago the boy was riding a grav stallion with ted a rifle gun; being lost and nearly starved. Ir he gave himself up to a Dutchman on the ile Medina, near San Antonio ; the Dutchman the ich gave him to an American to carry to San Mon Gra Antonio jail; he soon returned stating that negro, horse and gun were all gone. . C. H. TAYLOR. Round Top, Fayette county. January 26, 1851. i29 2t 7 M. BAILEY'S MEDICINES, --- Bailey' Sarsaparilla; Bailey's Tonic Mixture, and Hon

TSLAC Newspapers

- Microfilm
- Original
- Subscriptions

Portal to Texas History

• TDNP (1700+)

TX "Runaway Slave" Project

• 2500 records

SW Christian Advocate

- A.M.E. Church
- <u>"Lost Friends"</u>

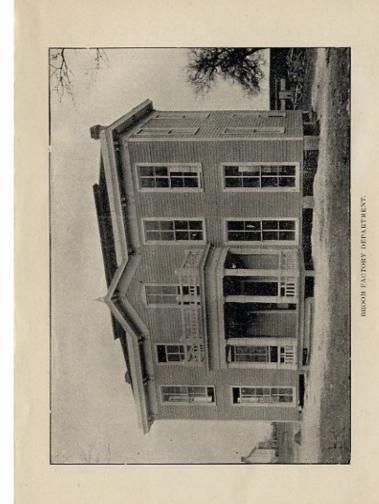
MR. EDITOR-I wish to inquire for my sister, Mary Tronard. Tilman Trouard was ber husband, and our mother was Matilda, and father Dick Robinson. They had five children. The oldest brother was Frederick, the next child was Mary, then Moses, then Levi, and next the baby Martha. We have an uncle Levi who belonged to Gid Leavitt, and we were all set free in Columbus county, Alabama. n We have an uncle and aunt in West Point Ga., Harry and Anna Zachary. My name was Moses n Ballard, but I now go by the name of Moses Robinson. Address me e at Calvert, Texas. .6 Internan Thana ingt log

SOIL.

For more information about newspaper research, visit our website: <u>www.tsl.texas.gov/ref/newspapers</u> Please view our recorded webinar and slides on this topic: <u>www.tsl.texas.gov/arc/workshops</u>



Publications



TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TRUSTEES AND SUPERINTENDENT

OF THE

Institute for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind Colored Youths

OF THE

STATE OF TEXAS.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING OCTOBER 31, 1899.



AUSTIN: von Borckhann, noore & scretze, state contractors. 100.



- Start from the present and work back in time
- Expand research from 1870 census
- TSLAC may have records of your ancestor
- Republic-era resources covered in March 2022 webinar
- African American genealogy research guide: <u>www.tsl.texas.gov/ref/africanamericangenealogy</u>





Contact Us

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Thank you for attending.

