

Beyond the Badge:
Texas Ranger Resources at TSLAC

Archives and Information Services

Webinar Series

July 28, 2023



What This Session Covers

- Locating Ranger records
- Ranger research
- Visiting TSLAC

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)

www.tsl.texas.gov



The Rangers



- Security, military, investigative functions since 1823
- Early Rangers hired on a temporary basis to protect the frontier (“ranging”)
- Later Rangers became employees of the Texas Department of Public Safety

The Records

- Texas Adjutant General's Department (1835-1934)
- Texas Department of Public Safety (1935-present)
- Individual collections
- Photograph collections
- Publications

TEXAS RANGING SERVICE.

KNOW YE, That *Saml. McElhatch* *Private*
of Captain *J. S. Boone's* company of Mounted Volunteers, enrolled on the 16th day
of October, 1854, to serve for the term of twelve months in defending the Texas frontier,
has been honorably discharged from from service of the State, by reason of being transferred
into the United States service at San Antonio, Texas, on the 23d day of December, 1854.
Said *McElhatch* was born in the State of *La*
years of age, *five* feet *eight* inches high
complexion *dark*, eyes *gray*, hair *black* and occupation when
mustered into service a *farmer*
Given at San Antonio, this 23d day of December 1854.

Wm. H. Hagg

Comptroller's Office July 29th 1860
I hereby certify that receipt of Samuel S.
McElhatch for \$77.00 Dollars - as on file -
In Witness Whereof I have set my hand
and Seal of Office - this date above
written - *Clarence L. Jones*
(Compt.)

Texas State Library and Archives

Adjutant General Service Records

- Database: www.tsl.texas.gov/apps/arc/service/
- Organized into sixteen series by various military organizations, including the following predecessor organizations of the Texas Rangers:
 - Regular Rangers service records, 1855-1861; 1901-1935;
 - Special Rangers service records, 1916-1934
 - Loyalty Rangers, 1918
 - Railroad Rangers, 1922-1935

Service records **could** include:

- Name on muster roll
- Designation (rank and company)
- Name of commanding officer
- Dates of service
- Campaigns
- Personal description
- Age
- Occupation
- Place of birth
- Oath of service
- Warrant of authority & descriptive list
- Residence address

THE STATE OF TEXAS



ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Warrant of Authority and Descriptive List

THIS IS TO CERTIFY, That the bearer Frank A. Hamer

is a State Ranger in Company HQ. Ranger Force, State of Texas, and this is his Warrant of Authority as a Ranger, under an Act of the 36th Legislature of the State of Texas, approved March 31, 1919, and Descriptive List for identification, and will be exhibited as his authority to Act as a Ranger when called upon for his credentials. This warrant must be surrendered to Company Commander by bearer when discharged. This Warrant of Authority and Descriptive List is signed by The Adjutant General under seal of office and attested by Company Commander.

Name Frank A. Hamer Rank Captain
Age 46 yrs. 10 mo. Where born Wilson County, Texas.
Height 6 ft. 3 in. Occupation State Ranger
Weight 230 lbs. Residence Austin, Texas.
Hair Brown Enlisted Where Austin, Texas.
Eyes Blue Enlisted When February 2, 1931.
Complexion Fair Enlisted by Whom W. V. Sterling, The Adjutant General.

This warrant of authority is void after February 1, 1933. and must be returned to this Department for Cancellation.

Given under my hand and seal of office, this 2nd day of February 193 1

W. V. Sterling The Adjutant General

Attest: Frank A. Hamer Captain Ranger Force Commanding Co.

Republic of Texas Claims

- Database: www.tsl.texas.gov/arc/repclaims/repintro.html -
- The government authorized compensation to individuals for their military service
- Claims were submitted to the Texas Comptroller or Treasurer to request compensation for military service or engagement during the period October 1835 – 1845
- Numerous individuals who served as rangers submitted claims for reimbursement for their services
- These claim files can include useful information

No. 3027

PUBLIC DEBT
OF THE LATE

2d Class.

REPUBLIC OF TEXAS.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY, That *Antonio Coy* has, under the provisions
 of AN ACT of the LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, entitled "An Act to provide for ascertaining
 the Debt of the late Republic of Texas," approved 23rd March, 1857, filed with the Auditor and Comptroller
Clarius for services under Capt Sharp in the Spring
of 1842, and on the Somervell Campaign
 amounting to *One hundred & ninety five* ^{no}
 Dollars; which is sufficiently authenticated to authorize the auditing of the same under the laws of the late Republic of Texas.
 The said claims, according to the data before us, are unto *one hundred &*
ninety five ^{no} Dollars, in Par Funds, as having been at that rate so available to the Government.

17
 22
 29

In Testimony whereof, We have hereunto set our hands and affixed our seals of office,
 at Austin, this *First* day
 of *September*, O. D. 1857

Samuel Shaud
 Comptroller.

J. M. Fisher
 Auditor.

Texas State Archives Commission

Adjutant General Ranger Muster Roll Index

- Approximately 170,000 index cards
- Muster rolls, payrolls, rosters, returns, and election returns, of approximately 1,500 companies of both Texas State Troops (including Rangers) stationed in Texas during Civil War (1861-1865)
- Transcribed to 3x5 index cards in the 1900s to limit need to access fragile originals (Archives Reading Room card catalog cabinet)
- Includes all information from muster roll
- Also available on Ancestry.com in database *Texas, Muster Roll Index Cards, 1838-1900* (free access for Texas residents)
- Many Civil War era muster rolls have been digitized through the Texas Digital Archive (TDA)

Searching for Civil War military rolls in the Texas Digital Archive (TDA)

Please note: our collection of digitized military rolls is growing. If you don't find the military roll number you need, please contact us at ref@tsl.texas.gov.

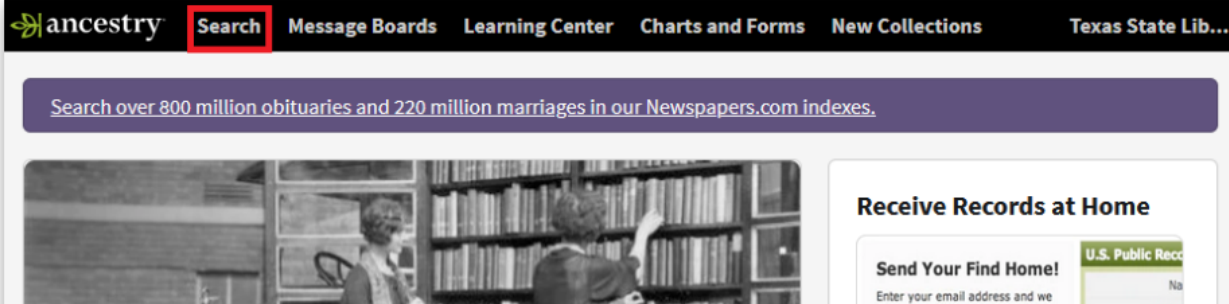
Searching the TDA for a soldier's name, unit, or location where the unit was organized will likely not retrieve results for military rolls, so we suggest using the following tips.

Locating a military roll number

To search the TDA for a soldier or unit's military roll, commonly known as a muster roll, you will first want to locate the soldier or unit's military roll number. Using resources available through [Ancestry](#) or [Ancestry.com Texas](#), you can identify a military roll number and then locate the military roll on the TDA if it has been digitized.

Ancestry.com Texas is available for free to all Texas residents. You can access Ancestry.com Texas through our website at <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/arc/ancestry>. If you are not a Texas resident and do not have a subscription to Ancestry, you may wish to check with your local library to see if they have a subscription to Ancestry Library edition.

From the Ancestry or Ancestry.com Texas home page, click on the "Search" button at the top, then select "Card Catalog" (see Figure 1, below).



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Ancestry website. The "ancestry" logo is on the left, followed by a "Search" button highlighted with a red box. Other navigation items include "Message Boards", "Learning Center", "Charts and Forms", "New Collections", and "Texas State Lib...". Below the navigation bar is a purple banner with the text: "Search over 800 million obituaries and 220 million marriages in our Newspapers.com indexes." Below the banner is a large image of a library interior with people looking at books. To the right of the image is a "Receive Records at Home" section with a form titled "Send Your Find Home!" and a "U.S. Public Rec" dropdown menu.

Search > Military

Texas, U.S., Muster Roll Index Cards, 1838-1900

Search

 Match all terms exactly

First & Middle Name(s)

curtis

 Exact...

Last Name

herring

 Exact...

	Day	Month	Year	Location
Birth	—	—	<input type="text"/>	—
Military	<input type="text" value="v"/>	<input type="text" value="v"/>	<input type="text"/>	City, County, State, Country
Any Event	—	—	—	City, County, State, Country

Keyword

e.g. pilot or "Flying Tigers" v

	Day	Month	Year
Enlistment Date	<input type="text" value="v"/>	<input type="text" value="v"/>	<input type="text"/>

Search

Clear search

Browse this collection

To browse this image set, select from the options below.

Record Type

Choose... v

Choose...

- Civil War Index- Abstracts of Muster Rolls
- Civil War Index- Captains
- Civil War Index- Units
- Navy Muster Rolls
- Navy Muster Rolls Index
- Ranger Rolls - Minute Men
- Ranger Rolls - Republic Era (Excludes Minute Men)
- Ranger Rolls - Statehood
- Spanish American War Rolls
- Volunteer Guard Rolls

[Camp Travis, Texas, World War I Records](#)

This is an index of those in service of Camp Travis, Texas in World War I

[Texas, U.S., Marriage Index, 1824-2019](#)

This database is a collection of marriage indexes from the State of

Name & Rank: Herring, Curtis, 3rd Lieut.,
Comm. Off: Donelson, John, Capt.,
Organ: Mtd. Rangers, Rio Grande Regt., Col.
John S. Ford Comdg., TST
Enlist: F.20-61 at Oakville to serve from
F.21 to S.13 unless sooner dischg'd.
Disch:
Descrip: Age 26
R&F 81; En.Off. Capt. Donelson; 220
Remarks: miles trav. to place of rendez.; Co.
called into serv. of state by au-
thority of Conv. of
Texas acting through
the Committee of Pub
mus. roll dtd. F.

1861

Donelson, John

Captain Company Mounted Rangers,
Rio Grande Regiment, T. S. T.
1 roll.

1141

Location: Box: 401-1155 | Folder: 25.

Date(s) (Inclusive): 1861

Administrative Information

Scope and Contents *[Records include vouchers for transportation, ambulance repair, and other services rendered for Col. Dalrymple, Lt. McFaddin, and Captains Erath, Harrison, and Mays' companies; copies of state treasury warrants for " protection of the frontier " for privates in Captain Burlison and Conner's companies and for Joseph Walker; a letter regarding claims against the state to Comptroller C.R. Johns; and letters from S.M. Swenson and E.P. Nicholson to C.R. Johns regarding treasury warrants.]*

Title: Quartermaster records, 1862

Location: Box: 401-1155 | Folder: 26.

Date(s) (Inclusive): 1862

Administrative Information

Scope and Contents *[Records include a voucher for services rendered in Capt. John Davidson's company in Cortina's War and abstracts of claims for services in Captains Burlison, Donelson, S. Friend Frost, Price, and Sansom's companies during Cortina's War.]*

Title: Quartermaster records, undated

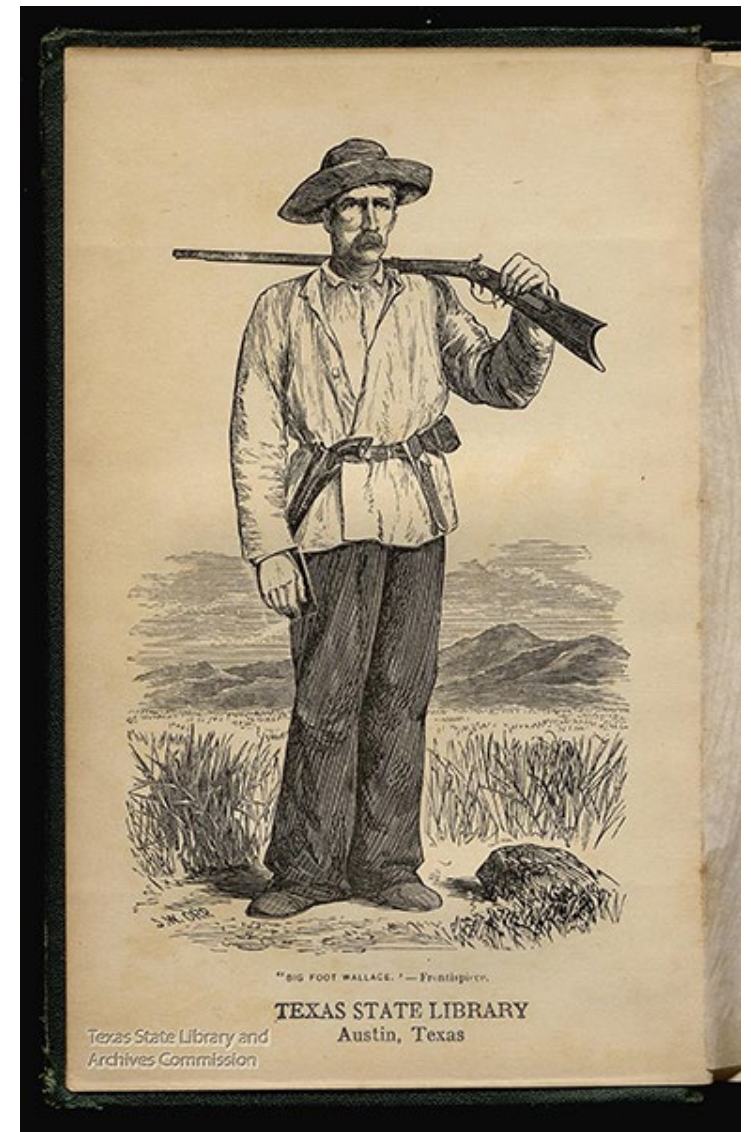
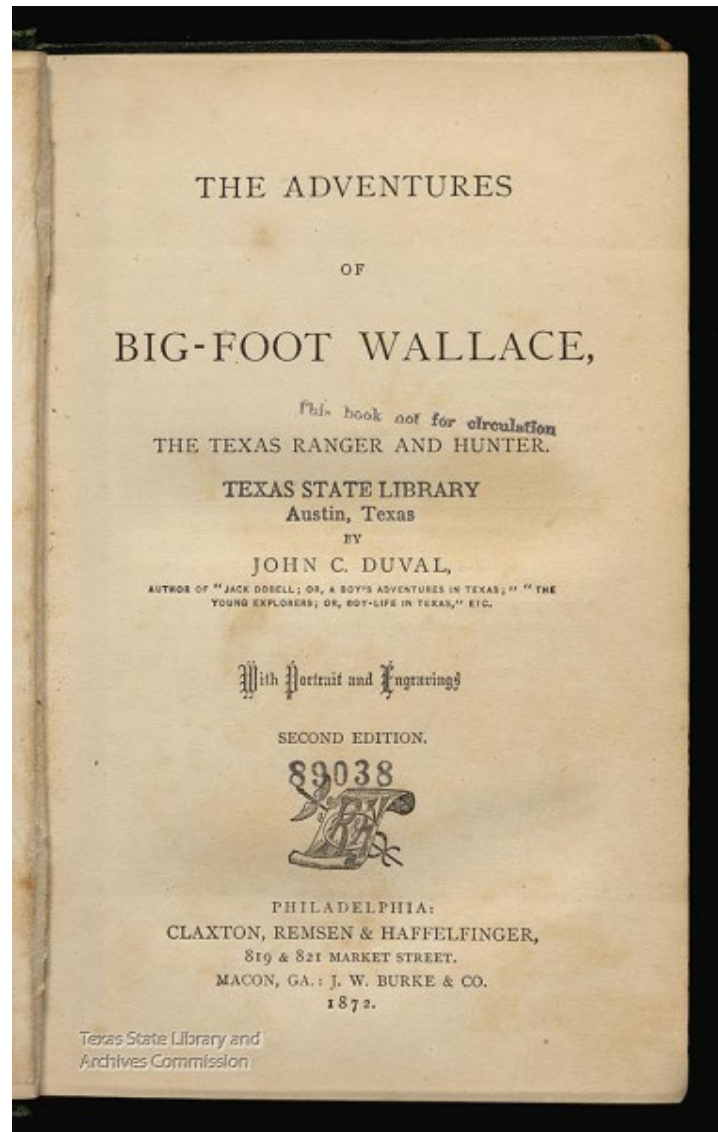
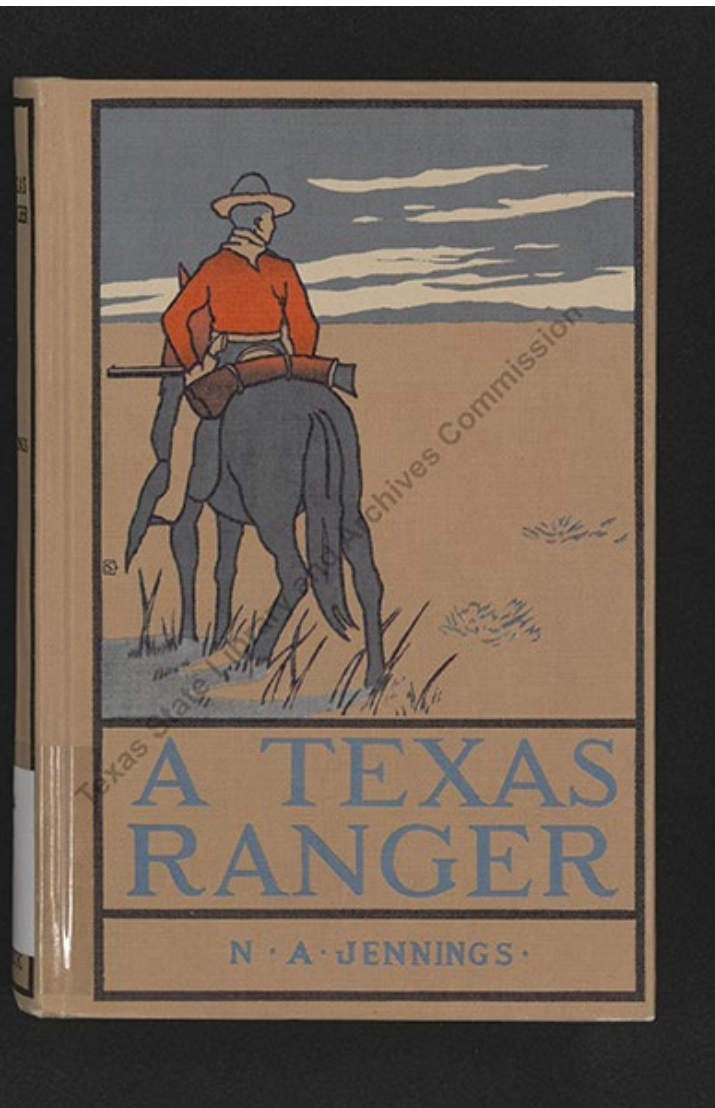
Location: Box: 401-1155 | Folder: 27.

Date(s) (Inclusive): undated

Administrative Information

Scope and Contents *[Records include abstracts of forage stoppages for men under J.E. McCord's and Capt. E. Burlison's command and of claims drawn by members of Capt. Sansom's company; a report estimating subsistence funds required for the three Ranger companies commanded by Captains H. Clay Davis, G.K. Lewis, and Owen Shaw; reports of ordnance stores used by Capt. John S. Ford's*

Published histories



Contact Us

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I FOUND IT AT



TEXAS STATE LIBRARY
AND
ARCHIVES COMMISSION



Thank you!
Questions?