

## **SPECIAL COLLECTIONS RESOURCES FOR STUDY**

### **African-American History**

Jones Papers contain a deed of sale of a slave child in Austin County, Texas 1859

Dempsey Nelson's collection documents his service as a member of the famed Tuskegee Airmen during World War II.

St. Paul African Episcopal Church papers include a booklet written by Fay Etta Donovan about the history of the church

The Langham Papers include a notation from 1865 in which Henry E. Simpson proclaims two African-Americans as free men.

Lamar University History Department Oral History Collection

#10 African American Experience serving in the Navy, playing baseball in the Negro League, integration of schools in Jasper, Texas

#13 poll tax in Texas, Depression at the Tuskegee Institute, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt visit to the Tuskegee Institute

#15 Beaumont Race Riot, working to earn money to attend Prairie View A&M

#32 violence against African-Americans in the Depression

#38 Depression in Beaumont and conditions in black schools in segregation

#48 African-Americans' work in domestic service

#53 African-Americans perspective on the Beaumont Race Riot

#56 Treatment of African-Americans in the military, racial identity of light-skinned blacks

#74 Race Riots in Beaumont 1943

#214 growing up in Pear Orchard

#264 Buster Turner's work as an African-American police officer in Beaumont

### **Latinix collections**

Two video files of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ordination to the priesthood of Rev. Luis Urriza Tres OSA at Christo Rey Catholic Church  
Lamar University History Department Oral History Collection

#2 Experience of a Mexican immigrant in Port Arthur, Texas and Mexico 1930s-1950s

#33 prejudice against Mexican-Americans

### **Unique Treasures**

Dishman-Justice Cookbook Collection contains over 1,000 volumes dating as early as 1500. Many are rare, available at only a few prestigious libraries around the globe. The books are in languages spanning Latin, French, German, and Swedish, and document not only cooking but home remedies, care and management of servants, and social class. The collection provides unique documentation of landmarks in culinary history including the first cookbook published in America.

The Sir Isaac Newton Manuscript is a medical treatise which includes remedies and formulas for preparing medicines.

Peter Wells Texana Collection contains over 1,000 books on the Lone Star State with an emphasis on the Big Thicket and local history.

### **Women's History**

Wanda Landrey's papers document betting, booze, and brothels in the Golden Triangle with photographs, legal documents, and oral histories

documenting notorious madams including Rita Ainsworth of the Dixie Hotel. Landrey also documented the work of women as entrepreneurs operating boarding houses in the Big Thicket.

Dorothy Becker Papers document her experiences as a nurse in France including graphic images of battlefield hospitals.

Mildred “Babe” Didrikson Zaharias Collection documents the life and career of Olympic medalist, pro golfer through photographs, correspondence, and newspaper clippings.

Bette Ann Stead's collection documents her education at Lamar including her work on the newspaper staff, and her career as a teacher and journalist.

Aline Michaelis’ papers document her work as a poet and newspaper columnist whose work was carried by King Features for over 16 years and reached over three million daily readers. She was the first Poet Laureate of Texas.

Mary Campbell Papers document Lamar’s role in aiding the war effort in World War II.

Sabine Area Association of Occupational Health Nurses Records include information on the local chapters activities including membership records, political correspondence, and conference reports.

## **Big Thicket**

Big Thicket Association Collection contains the records of the BTA, as well as photographs, and subjects files on many Big Thicket topics.

A.Y. “Pete” Gunter’s papers which include correspondence, photographs, and newspaper clippings, document the long movement

to create the Big Thicket National Preserve and the continuing work to save the natural environment of the Big Thicket.

Wanda A. Landrey's collection documents the social history of the Big Thicket through oral histories complete with transcriptions, photographs, and newspaper clippings.

David Lewis Collection contains papers and thousands of images of Big Thicket fauna and flora particularly fungi, as well as Big Thicket preservationists, Big Thicket Association meetings and field trips, historical sites, and images of daily life in the Big Thicket.

Larry Jene Fisher Collection contains approximately 8,000 images documenting Big Thicket fauna and flora, preservationists Lance Rosier and R.E. Jackson, and the Big Thicket's unique way of life that was rapidly dying out.

Lance Rosier Papers document his work as a Big Thicket naturalist and preservationist as well as papers documenting his uncle Robert E. "Bobby" Evans work as an oilfield labor organizer.

Milton Turner's collection contains human interest articles and detailed drawings of Big Thicket personalities including Mattie Jordan Evans and the famed Vines Hotel.

Oral history with Tom Bean in which he discussed Houston Thompson's views on Hardin County and the *Pine Needle*, a newspaper published in the 1960s.

*The Pine Needle*, a Hardin County newspaper whose owners wished to expose what they believed to be corruption in that county. The publication included local news, articles on the history of the Thicket, and the Big Thicket Association. The newspaper has been fully digitized and is available, here

<https://texashistory.unt.edu/explore/collections/PINENE/>

Carl Knight Collection contains films of interviews with Big Thicket preservationists Maxine Johnston, Pete Gunter, and Geraldine Watson, and Eastfield College students doing science experiments in the Big Thicket.

Hardin County Salt Water Company Records, a company which removed salt water from oil fields, include financial records, correspondence, and stockholders lists. Their stockholders included the famed oil man Frank Yount.

The R.E. Jackson Collection contains photographs of Jackson and his wife Velma. Jackson was the leader of the East Texas Big Thicket Association which worked for the creation of a Big Thicket national park in the 1930s.

Nona Mills, a prominent lumber company in Texas and Louisiana, records include auditors reports, board minutes, and business ledgers.

John L. Tveten Papers, renowned naturalist who wrote books on birds, wildflowers, and butterflies, document plant and animal life in the United States.

East Texas Nature Club Records document the club's work for environmental protection including the Big Thicket.

Ada Belle Oil Company Records document the financial activities of this company which operated in Hardin County.

The East Batson Oil Company Records document this company's business transactions.

## **Petroleum History**

Schultz-Sparks Collection documents the Yount-Lee Oil Company and the Second Spindletop through materials collected by his chief

engineer, Willet M. Schultz, including photographs, original correspondence from Frank Yount, and artifacts.

Fred McKinley's collection contains materials gathered in research for his book, *Black Gold to Bluegrass* about Frank Yount's life and the Second Spindletop

Yount-Manion Collection includes copies of photographs of Frank Yount's home and family, and hundreds of telegrams received by the family at Yount's death in 1933.

Yount-Manion Film Collection contains over 40 reels of motion pictures which documents oil magnate Frank Yount's family and lavish way of life as well as scenes from the Yount-Lee Oil Company's working oil field and vast tank farms.

Judge John B. Stevens Collection includes an early twentieth century photograph of the construction of an oil derrick.

Kevin Grinnell Collection consists of 96 maps of Texas and Louisiana illustrating oil and gas production 1930s-1970s.

Rolfe and Gary Christopher Negative Collection contains images of thousands of oil company manufacturing processes, facilities, and portraits of company personnel.

Larry Jene Fisher's photographic collection contains images of derricks and crews from the early 1900s in Hardin County, 1950s Permian Basin drilling crews, and Spindletop as a deserted field.

Hardin County Salt Water Company Records, a company which removed salt water from oil fields, include financial records, correspondence, and stockholders lists. Their stockholders included the famed oil man Frank Yount.

Beaumont Geological Society Records document the chapters' activities through membership records, treasurer's reports, and financial records.

### **Lumber Industry**

The Langham Papers document the burgeoning lumber industry in East Texas in the 1860s.

The Nona Mills Company Records document the lumber industry in East Texas and Western Louisiana through ledger books and other financial records.

The Wanda Landrey Papers provide a social history of life in sawmill towns in East Texas through oral histories which have been fully digitized and transcribed.

### **Local history**

The Rolfe and Gary Christopher Negative Collection, which contains over 1.2 million negatives, dating from the late 1940s to 2010 includes portraits of family events such as weddings, birthdays, and anniversaries, thousands of images from the Neches River Festival including parades, coronations, and dinners, visits from U.S. Presidents, and images of businesses and industry.

The Rohn Wenner Photographic Collection contains thousands of negatives and video tapes including weddings, graduations, and anniversaries, dance recitals, and businesses.

The Langham Papers document life in East Texas from the 1850s-1960s through photographs, ledger books, and correspondence.

Lamar University History Department Oral History Collection contains over 300 oral histories on diverse subjects including the Great Depression, World War II, social life and customs, and the experiences of ethnic minorities. Here is the link to the collection:

<https://www.lamar.edu/library/services/university-archive/Finding%20Guides/oral-history.html>

Combs Collection documents the political career of Judge J.M. Combs who was a judge, Congressman, and tireless crusader for Lamar.

David Cargill Collection contains photographs of Beaumont in the 1920s-1930s, and photographs and records documenting Gulf State Utilities, 1921-1946.

Ruth Scurlock Papers include photographs of Beaumont dating from the 1880s-1960s including aerial views of Downtown Beaumont and the Port, fraternal organizations, and snow scenes.

The Cokinos Collection documents the political career of Jimmie Cokinos, mayor of Beaumont during the 1950s including the desegregation of Lamar.

Golden Triangle Sierra Club Records document the environmental activities of the organization from 1970-2021 including board minutes, agendas, and newsletters.

Beverly Williams' students documented their memories of tragic events including September 11, 2001 and Hurricanes Rita and Ike.

Standifer Collection contains black and white photographs of Lamar in the 1940s and Beaumont High School football in the 1930s.

Rhea Hudson Collection contains six black and white photographs of the Texas City Disaster.

The Willard G. Lovell Collection documents his experiences as a Northern transplant to Southeast Texas in 1800s where he fenced his land signaling the end of the open range, became a large-scale rice farmer, and was a devoted Rotarian.

W.T. Block, the most prolific author of East Texas, papers' include copies of his work and research materials. The collection, which only contains a select part of his writings, penned books and articles on many diverse subjects.

H.A. Perlstein Papers include a scrapbook documenting the steel industry in East Texas as well as a holograph of Perlstein's funeral eulogy.

The Joseph Combs Collection primarily documents the history and folklore of Shelby and San Augustine Counties.

Lois Parker Local History Collection documents the history of Beaumont and East Texas through photographs and newspaper clippings.

Joseph J. Vincent Papers document the Vincent/State Manpower Development Act Advisory Committee 1966-1969.

William McFaddin Alexander Records include correspondence related to his inherited property holdings in Beaumont, Texas.

### **Dance and Fine Arts**

Joseph Truncale Collection documents opera productions at Lamar through photographs, audio recordings, and models of musical sets.

The Cokinos Collection includes Bonnie Cokinos' papers including photographs, dance programs, and correspondence documenting her study of dance under the famed Judith Sproule and her work as a teacher of dance.

Lynn Sweat Papers include illustrations, correspondence, programs documenting the Lamar alum's career as an illustrator.

Dr. Joseph B. Carlucci's collection documents his education at Yale University and his career as a professor and symphony conductor.

The South Texas Association of Dance Teachers (STADT) includes documentation on the careers of dance teachers throughout the region including Ann and Judith Sproule, Rebecca Hill, and Emmamae Horn. The materials in the collection include photographs, programs, and Dance Masters of America notes.

The J.D. Feigelson Collection documents the work of a Beaumont native and Lamar graduate who became a well-known Hollywood writer and producer. The collection includes films, scripts, and photographs.

The Combs Collection documents Bonnie Tatman Combs's dance activities as a student of Judith Sproule through photographs, newspaper clippings, and programs.

Rohn Wenner's Collection contains video and photographs of performances at many local dance studios.

Marlyn Duhon Munsterman's Collection documents her life and work as a student at Lamar, work as a teacher, and involvement in Beaumont theatre groups.

Ronald H. High Papers include programs from his performances as a singer dating 1979-2012.

## **World War II**

Dorothy Becker Papers document her experiences as a nurse in France including graphic images of battlefield hospitals.

Dempsey Nelson's collection documents his service as a member of the famed Tuskegee Airmen during World War II.

Leif Oistad Collection documents Oistad's service with NORSO, a forerunner of the CIA in Europe during World War II, through books, newspaper articles, correspondence, and photographs.

Interviews with Leif Oistad about his experiences in NORSO during World War II conducted by Lamar University history professors.

Larry Jene Fisher's collection documents the work of the Beaumont chapter of the Civil Air Patrol, a quasi-military organization which flew over the Gulf of Mexico during World War II protecting American shipping from attacks by German submarines.

George Schaumberg Papers documents the role that The XIX Corps of Engineers played in the defeat of the Germans in World War II.

Ross Family Papers document the experiences of a Southeast Texas family in World War II.

J. Mark Heumann's collection contains interviews his students did in which they interviewed senior citizens about their experiences in the Great Depression and World War II.

Rhea Hudson's collection documents his service as a Marine in World War II.

Margaret Petty Adams' collection documents her work as a nurse in France during World War II as well as memorials and honors to veterans after the war.

The McMaster Papers include photographs of the Pennsylvania Shipyard during the war including aerial views of the yard, shiplaunchings, and images of the ships.

*Pennship Log*, was a company newspaper for the Pennsylvania Shipyard which constructed over 100 ships for World War II. *The Pennship Log* can be accessed here.

<https://texashistory.unt.edu/search/?q=Pennship+log&t=fulltext&sort=&fq=>

**Lamar University History**

Ralph Wooster's Collection contains oral history tapes and transcriptions which document his life as a scholar and professor.

Rohn Wenner collection includes video and negatives of Lamar University events including commencements.

Herman Iles Papers document Lamar's Board of Trustees while he was a member.

Howell Gwin Papers include Lamar memorabilia, and reminiscences of Lamar during difficult times.

### **Labor History**

Lamar University professor Sam Parigi's Papers document labor unions work with local companies, including petroleum refineries, in hammering out trade agreements and resolving strikes.

The Lance Rosier Papers include memoirs from his uncle, Robert "Bobby" Evans who was an early oilfield labor organizer.