

Book Review  
*By Rosemarie Coyle, Library Chairperson*

**NGS Research in the State Series; Research in Texas**

by Kelvin L. Meyers Published 2016 by the National Genealogical Society, Arlington, Virginia. **Status:** Currently being in-processed at the Lakes Region Library.

Long before the Spanish explorer Alzono De Pineda arrived in 1519 in what is “what is now called Texas” Indian tribes including “the Karankawas...the Lipan Apache...the Caddo...the Wichita and Tonkawa...the Coahuiltecans...the Jumanos...the Comanche and Kio-Apache “populated the area.” The author states that “a French intrusion...was short-lived.”

The first permanent Spanish settlement began in the 1680's with the establishment of “a mission at Ysleta (near present day El Paso).” After, a “string of missions” was built across the area. “In 1820 the Spanish Cortes (ruling council) opened up all Spanish lands for colonization to any foreigners who would respect the constitution.” Records from some of the early settlers are available.

During the early years of settlement, a diverse ethnic group made their homes here. Among the settlers were Czech, French, German, Polish, Swedish and Norwegians who were all drawn by the promise of land. In present day Texas one will find that this diversity still exists.

On October 2, 1835, a battle between Texas and Mexican people started and didn't end until April 21 of 1836. The establishment of the Republic of Texas lasted for 10 years. “On 19 February 1846 Texas became the twenty-eighth state.” Seceded from the Union on 1 February 1861 and fought “the last battle of the Civil War at Palmetto Ranch, in far south Texas, more than a month after Lee surrendered at Appomattox. Texas rejoined the Union on 30 March 1870.”

Similar in style and format to the previously reviewed books in this series, the author reviews statewide archives, libraries, and societies. Below is a sampling of where records may be found.

Texas State Library and Archive Commission (TSLAC) <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/>  
“which includes claims for payment, reimbursement, or restitution submitted by citizens to the Republic of Texas government from 1783 through 1846.”  
“Thousands of original records pertaining to the history of the state as well as manuscript, newspaper, photograph, and many other collections.”

**The National Archives at Fort Worth <https://www.archives.gov/fort-worth/>**  
“Federal population censuses for all the United States...census cards and enrollment and allotment packets for the Five Civilized Tribes—Choctaw, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Creek and Seminole; selected military service indexes, passenger arrival lists; pension indexes; and naturalization records.”

**The East Texas Research Center (ETRC) <http://digital.sfasu.edu/cdm>** located on the campus of Stephen F. Austin State University. Their collections “emphasize eastern Texas culture, economy, life, and history including county records, maps, newspapers, oral histories, photographs, and manuscript collections covering business, family, political and forest history.

**Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library (Alamo Research Center)**  
<http://www.drtl.org/> This collection “focuses on the history of Texas, San Antonio, and the Alamo.”

**Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin**  
<http://www.cah.utexas.edu/index.php> “is a leading history research center...engaged in the collecting, preserving, and providing public access to documents, manuscript collections, newspapers, records, and other historical items.” Among their holdings is the Perry-Castaneda Library Map Collection.”

**Clayton Library for Genealogical Research**  
<https://library.hccs.edu/c.php?q=1064815&p=7872881> Is recognized as one of the nation’s top genealogical research collections. Their collections “cover the ENTIRE United States, as well as international sources for identifying immigrant origins in Europe, Canada and Mexico. In addition, Clayton has 100% of its books in open stacks for public access.”

**Dallas Public Library Genealogy Section**  
<https://dallaslibrary2.org/genealogy/collection.php> Which the author describes as “one of the largest and best collections in the nation featuring over 115,000 print volumes, 65,000 microfilm rolls, 96,000 microfiche, 3,000 family research files, and 700 maps and charts.” Records from other states and foreign countries are included. Their military collection is praised for its “breadth and depth.” This reviewer has looked at their “Recent Additions to the Collections” and found more than 4,290 books available for review. The Dallas Genealogical Society has their meetings at the library and welcomes all to freely join the meetings thru their DGS website <https://dallasgenealogy.org/>

**The Texas State Historical Association (TSHA) <https://www.tshaonline.org/home>**  
publishes the “Southwestern Historical Quarterly, which began in 1897.”