Historically archives and museums have sought out collections to keep in their institution. Many members of the community are not ready to donate their cherished family heirlooms to a museum or archive. The East Texas Research Center (ETRC) at Ralph W. Steen Library views collecting material in a different light. They are helping to preserve and disseminate Texas cultural heritage through the promotion of preservation of Community Collections. ETRC temporarily borrows material from the community or members of the community bring their historic material to be digitized and added to the TIDES database.
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Land Transfer from Nacogdoches University to Bennet Blake, 1847
Sale of Slave, 1864
Oscar Farish Diary
Postcard Advertisement
One Dollar Wooden Certificate
Celebrating Nacogdoches 175th Anniversary, 1954
100 Dollar Republic of Texas Treasury Note, 1837
10 Cent Fractional Currency, 1874
Republic of Texas Currency
Silk Scarf Map of Burma
Spanish Flintlock Pistol, ca. 1760
Spanish Escopeta Musket, ca. 1780
Bandolero Bullet Belt
Arkansas Toothpick Knife, ca. 1860’s
Confederate Bowie Knife, ca. 1860
Sheriff Milton Mast Watch and Badge
Sheriff Milton Mast’s handcuffs, 1870’s
Ceremonial Pipe Tomahawk
Quilting Stories of East Texas

The purpose of the project is to find, survey and document quilts in eastern Texas. The project highlights the unique stories behind East Texas quilts.
“Sunny Lone Star” Quilt, 1928

“Sun Rise” Quilt, ca. 1856
“Chips and Whetstones” Quilt, 1800’s
“Log Cabin” Quilt, 1860’s
“Butterfly” Quilt, 1920’s