A Decade of Publications, 1963-1973

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by
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East Texas, a region rich in Texas history, has found its way into the literature of a diversified people over an extensive period of time. A comprehensive bibliography derived from all the literature on East Texas would be impossible to attempt in a journal format. Therefore, taking into consideration the amount of space available, the topic area has been narrowed considerably in regard to date of publication. However, a loss of quantity does not necessarily mean a loss of quality. The following selective bibliography represents the years 1963 through 1972. The publications reveal the history, development, and culture of that region of Texas east of the Trinity River, taking in part of Louisiana, and extending as far north as the Red River and as far south as the Gulf of Mexico.

There are three exceptions to the above mentioned inclusive dates. Two reprints are included because of the scarcity of the original material; these are Haltom's county histories which are now known in only two or three extant copies. A republication (Johnson's Smith County History) is included because it differs from the original 1900 edition due to the addition of an index and a biographical sketch of the author. Certain pamphlets are included because of the rarity or quality of their subject matter. For example, Frank Tolbert's The Story of Lyne Taliaferro Barret Who Drilled Texas' First Oil Well relates the life of a historically significant figure and supplies information on the economy of East Texas in a detailed manner not found in other sources.

The bibliography covers a rather wide range of subject material, including information on the following: stories of feuds and gunfights, descriptions and histories of ghost towns, county histories, histories of steamboating and railroading, Indian and Negro histories, biographies of famous East Texans, and information and stories on the Big Thicket. All of the material, regardless of its specific nature, relates the life and times of a vast region of Texas.


Anthony, Helen B. Lisbon West of the Trinity. Dallas: SMU Press, 1971. This book traces the history of a Dallas County town from its establishment in 1845 until its annexation to Dallas in 1929. It includes histories of various pioneer families.


Clark, Anne (Mrs. Edward) (Compiler). Historic Homes of San Augustine. Austin: Joint publication of The San Augustine Historical Society and The Encino Press, 1972. Historical sketches, illustrated with photographs give insight into the growth and development of San Augustine from 1717 to the 1890s.

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Combs, Joseph F. *Gunsmoke in the Redlands.* San Antonio: The Naylor Company, 1968. An account of what has been called a “reign of terror” in several East Texas counties. This book relates the story of the Wall-Border feuds which began in the 1880’s and lasted for ten years.

Combs, Joseph F. *Legends of the Pines.* San Antonio: The Naylor Company, 1965. This collection of stories told for generations in the forests of East Texas includes the legend of the “Lady in Blue”, the legend of Bone Hill, the tale of floating lights at Spindletop, and many others.

Connor, Seymour V. (ed.). *Dear America. Some Letters of Orange Cicero and Mary (Aiken) Connor.* Austin: Jenkins Publishing Company, 1971. Forty letters, dating from the 1850’s to the Reconstruction period, relate the opinions of a man fighting in the Civil War and his wife who was left at home in Cass County. The letters are documented in such a way as to be valuable to any East Texas historian.


Douglas, Lucia Rutherford (Compiler and ed.). *Douglas’s Texas Battery, CSA.* Waco: Texian Press, 1966. This compilation of material relates the history of the only Texas artillery unit (composed of men from Dallas and Tyler) to serve east of the Mississippi River during the Civil War. The book contains a biography, diary, and letters of James P. Douglas as well as illustrations and rosters.


Gunter, Dr. A. Y. “Pete”. *The Big Thicket: A Challenge for Conservation.* Austin, Texas and Riverside, Connecticut: Jenkins Publishing Company — The Chatham Press, Inc., 1971. This illustrated book describes the history and rich diversity of the region and calls for immediate action on the part of conservationists and politicians alike before nothing is left to conserve. The book has an appendix which contains a list of representative trees, shrubs, wildflowers, grasses, vines, birds, reptiles, and mammals.

Haltom, R. W. *History and Description of Angelina County, Texas.* Austin: The Pemberton Press, 1969. This is a reprint from the 1888 edition. The book was written as “a truthful record of facts . . .” The back of the book includes illustrations of many advertisements for merchants of that period.

Hayes, Robert M. *It Really Happened in East Texas*. Fort Worth: Branch-Smith, Inc., 1971. This book consists of "a compilation of [the author's] articles as they appeared through the years in The Dallas News." The articles reviewed events depicting the life and times of the region and its people.

Henley, Dempie. *The Big Thicket Story*. Waco: Texian Press, 1967. This book, "the story of the efforts to save the Big Thicket from destruction," is illustrated with pictures, correspondence, and newspaper clippings. It contains a list of the members of the Big Thicket Association and "selected articles for the amusement and interest of the reader."

Hodge, Floy Crandall. *A History of Fannin County Featuring Pioneer Families*. Hereford, Texas: Pioneer Publishers, 1966. This is an illustrated social and economic history with records which list soldiers, sheriffs, district clerks, judges, and business houses of the city of Bonham in 1860. The book includes genealogical information on various families.

House, Aline. *Big Thicket: Its Heritage*. San Antonio: The Naylor Company, 1967. Discussions of the early settlement of Hardin County highlight this book. Among the topics mentioned are the Civil War, the lumber and oil industries, and hunting activities. The book also includes a brief résumé of the beginning efforts to preserve the Big Thicket.

Hunt, Robert L., Sr. *Recollection of Farm Life*. San Antonio: The Naylor Company, 1965. This is an account of Northeast Texas farm life during the turn of the century. It includes information on education, religion, land, roads, and families.


Jaynes, Nita Mac, and Willard G. Jaynes (Compilers). *History of Cass County, Texas*. Cass County: Nita Mac and Willard Jaynes for the Cass County Historical Society, 1972. This detailed history provides information on the early heritage, the courthouses, the communities, the schools, the newspapers, the people, and the economy of the county.


Kubiak, Daniel James. *Monument to a Black Man*. San Antonio: The Naylor Company, 1972. This is the biography of William Goyens, a Negro who played a significant part in Texas history. Goyens earned the friendship of Sam Houston, acted as interpreter for the Mexican government during land claim negotiations, and contributed to the development of a struggling Nacogdoches.

Landrum, Graham, and Allan Smith. *Grayson County. An Illustrated History of Grayson County, Texas*. 2nd ed. Fort Worth: Historical Publishers, 1967. Landrum and Smith have provided historians with an illustrated account of Grayson County’s history that includes an index of the pioneers, 1836-1869.

Lasswell, Mary (Smith). *John Henry Kirby, Prince of the Pines*. Austin: The Encino Press, 1967. This is the biography of an East Texas lumberman who is often called the Father of Industrial Texas.

Loyd, Doyal T., *A History of Upshur County, Texas*, ed. Sarah Greene. Gilmer, Texas: The Gilmer Mirror, 1966. This illustrated, indexed volume tells the story of the county prior to its organization and up to recent years. The book covers such things as education, church life, the Civil War days, and communities throughout the county.

McDonald, Archie P. *By Early Candlelight: The Story of Old Milam*. Fort Worth: Masonic Home Press, 1967. This is the story of Masonry in Nacogdoches, Texas from 1837 to 1967. The story is told through the study of a Lodge “that was founded in the wilderness and labored for over ninety years to build a suitable Temple.”

McDonald, Archie P. (ed.), *“Hurrah for Texas” – The Diary of Adolphus Sterne, 1838-1851*. Waco: The Texian Press, 1969. This diary of a man who played an important part in the early period of Texas history relates much of the life and times of Nacogdoches and other parts of East Texas. Sterne was a merchant, a land agent, a postmaster, and a State Congressman.

MaKay, Mrs. Arch, and Mrs. H. A. Spellings (Compilers). *A History of Jefferson: 1836-1936*. Marion County, Texas, 1964. This story of an East Texas town that was established in 1836 depicts its growth and development into a manufacturing district on the banks of Big Cypress Bayou.

McLeod, Claude A. *The Big Thicket of East Texas, Its History, Location, and Description*. Huntsville, Texas: Sam Houston Press, 1967. McLeod's work is a brief twenty-four page ecological report which supplies information on the soils, topography development, forest type, and recent changes in the Big Thicket region. The report also includes a list of plants found in the area and a glossary of words and terms used.

Maxwell, Robert S. *Whistle in the Piney Woods: Paul Bremond and the Houston, East and West Texas Railway*. Houston: Texas Gulf Coast Historical Association, 1963. As a history of railroading in the Big Thicket region of Texas from its beginning in 1875, this book also relates various facets of East Texas life along the railway.

Moore, Jack. *Angelina – Little Angel of the Tejas*. Jacksonville, Texas: Progress Publishing Co., 1967. This is a collection of twelve stories dealing with the early history of Cherokee County and the surrounding area. It includes stories of places, expeditions, missions, Indians, battles, and people.

Moore, Jack. *The Great Jacksonville Circus Fight and Other Cherokee County Stories*. Jacksonville, Texas: Kiely Printing Company, 1971. This is the story of a gun fight in 1873 between the members of Robinson's Circus and a group of local men. Also included in the book are brief histories of Rusk and Cherokee Counties.


Parker, Lois Williams (Compiler). *Big Thicket Bibliography*. Saratoga, Texas: Big Thicket Museum, 1970. An annotated list of books, parts of books, pamphlets, periodicals, theses, manuscripts, motion pictures, and government documents covering various aspects of the four core counties that comprise the Big Thicket (Hardin, Polk, Tyler, and Liberty) from 1819 to 1970.

Parmer, William Tellis. *Freemasonry in Shelby County, Texas: 1846-1900*. Nacogdoches, Texas: J. B. Sanders, 1965. This history was taken from Masonic records in Shelby County. It includes a brief account of Freemasonry in the United States as well.


Russell, Traylor. *History of Titus County*. 2 volumes. Waco: W. M. Morrison, 1965, 1967. Even though this two volume history emphasizes families in the county prior to 1870 it does relate events and "other items that were thought to be of interest." Volume 2 includes an index and a bibliography.


Schluter, Helen Gomer (Compiler). *Memories of Sabine County, Texas*. Center, Texas: J. B. Sanders, 1967. This county history was compiled from letters written by Robert A. Gomer. Genealogical records gathered by the compiler are also included in the book.

Seale, William. *San Augustine in the Texas Republic*. Austin: The Encino Press, 1969. Although only a brief twenty page pamphlet, this publication gives an account of the life, history, and economy of an Anglo-American town which was officially laid out in 1833 on the old San Antonio Road.

Seale, William. *Texas Riverman, the Life and Times of Captain Andrew Smith*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1966. This is a biography which relates the world of a riverboat captain and also covers much of the economy, social events, and history of East Texas during the middle 1800's.


Tarpley, Fred. *Place Names of Northeast Texas*. Commerce: East Texas State University, 1969. As a reference tool, this volume includes and goes beyond only the names of towns with post offices. It details the origins of 2,693 place names of twenty-six Northeast Texas counties.

Tolbert, Frank X. *The Story of Lyne Taliaferro Barret Who Drilled Texas' First Oil Well*. Dallas: Texas Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association, 1966. A small, sixteen page pamphlet relating Barret's life and the drilling of Texas' first accredited oil well in 1866.

Vernon, Walter N. and William Stevenson. *Riding Peacher*. Dallas: Southern Methodist University Press, 1964. This biography relates the life of a man who is believed to be the first Protestant minister to preach on Texas soil; and that sermon was preached in Northeast Texas.


White, Rev. C. C., and Ada Morehead Holland. *No Quittin' Sense*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1969. This biographical study of Charley White, a Black minister of Jacksonville, Texas, reveals how one man waged war on poverty. The story begins shortly after the Civil War and continues through the first years after the Supreme Court's decision on segregation.

Winfrey, Dorman H. *Julien Sidney Devereux and His Monte Verdi Plantation*. Waco: Texian Press, 1964. Not only is this book a documented, illustrated biography of one of the most successful plantation owners in Texas by 1850, it also portrays plantation life in Rusk County over a century ago.