

THE PORTAL TO TEXAS HISTORY

Beyond the Bytes

A new way to keep in touch

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Portal to Texas History's quarterly newsletter, "*Beyond the Bytes*". Inside you will find stories about interesting materials, helpful tips for using the collection, and highlights and updates on our projects.

This month we're sharing news about progress on completing digitization on Gammel's *The Laws of Texas*, and we're more than halfway done with this important collection.

Learn important tips for navigating through his-



Denton streetcar, c. 1910, from the UNT Archives

toric books on the Portal. We currently have 88 complete volumes online, and plan to add a significant number of

books in the next two years.

Gammel's Laws of Texas — moving forward

Since 2001, the University of North Texas has offered the first ten volumes of Gammel's *Laws of Texas* online, providing a great benefit to those interested in Texas law and history. This popular resource provides convenient access to the inner workings of early Texas

law. Through Phase II of this project, UNT intends to provide access to the remaining volumes of the *Laws of Texas*, bringing the 26,100 pages currently searchable up to a total of 49,500 pages. Volumes 1-16 are now on the Portal to Texas History, and this project will be

completed in Spring of 2007.

Gammel's compilation charts Texas laws from colonization to statehood and reveals Texas's history during crucial times in its development.

Special points of interest:

- H. K. Yoakum's *History of Texas* and W. W. Mills *Forty Years at El Paso*
- Update on the "Rescuing Texas History" grant
- What's in the Lab now?



Primary Source Adventures helping Texas history teachers

The Portal to Texas History offers Primary Source Adventures to enrich students' knowledge of Texas History by providing exciting materials that correspond to multiple aspects of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for teaching Texas History.

Each Primary Source Adventure incorporates fascinating materials brought together to spark interest and get young minds thinking

about history in a new way. Students quickly grasp the difference between reading their textbooks, and exploring a first-hand account from someone who was actually there as it happened.

Since the Primary Source Adventures are online, they are freely accessible 24 hours a day. Materials can be shown on audio visual equipment in the classroom, or downloaded and printed as convenient handouts.



World War I Poster

“Teachers have found the “Primary Source Adventures” activities extremely useful in connecting students to the use of primary documents.”

*Bonita Marshall
Hays CISD*

A sampler of images from the Primary Source Adventures



Focus on Books

Many aficionados of Texas history love H. K. Yoakum's two volume history, *History of Texas: From its First Settlement in 1685 to its annexation to the United States in 1846*. Both volumes can be found on the Portal to Texas History in digital form, easy to read; but what's more, all books on the Portal are fully word searchable—go to just the page you want!



*As ever
W.W. Mills
1901.*

The image to the left is of William Wallace Mills, El Paso pioneer, and author of another book on the Portal, *Forty Years at El Paso*. His memoirs provide a telling picture of the early days of this Texas city.

“In 1858, when still a youth, accident and adventure brought me to El Paso . . . “



What's in the Lab now?

From the Deaf Smith County Public Library

In "Deaf Smith County: Frontier Communities of the Llano Estacado", the Portal team partnered with the Deaf Smith County Public Library to provide access to the Bill and Marcella Bradly photograph collection. This collection features over 3900 large format negatives that capture valuable insight into the early history of this remote Panhandle county. Photographer Bill Bradly

documented the people and businesses of the area and created preservation negatives of historic photographs.

For this project, we'll also provide access to a local history book, *Deaf*

Smith County, the Land and its People, 1876-1981, and other books and pamphlets about Deaf Smith county.

You can currently see over 1300 images online, and the other items will be available this summer.

This project was supported in part by Humanities Texas, the state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Hereford Fire Dept., 1928

Summerlee Foundation grants, "Rescuing Texas History through the Digitization of At-risk Photographs and Maps"

Materials from the Clay County Historical Society will include cabinet cards of American Indians from the 1890s, including a Kiowa girl, Monicahgoy, and a Commanche Warrior, Moolie Tatsuh.

Through funds provided by the Summerlee Foundation of Dallas, the Portal to Texas History offered digitization mini-grants for at-risk local history materials. We fielded a tremendous response from cultural heritage institutions, and after a tough decision making process, selected 11 participants to contribute materials.

Scanning began a month ago with some fascinating photographs from the Palestine Public Library. Palestine

Selected partners:

Clay County Historical Society
Genevieve Miller Public Library
Palestine Public Library
Laredo Public Library
Archives of the Big Bend at Sul Ross State University

Moore Memorial Public Library
UT Pan-American
Clark Hotel Museum
Austin Public Library
Killeen Public Library
Concordia University at Austin

was incorporated as a city in 1846, and photos will include images of early settlers and businesses, with some photographs dating from the Civil War era. The collection also features images of all the Palestine Mayors.



Conway Family Photos
Palestine Public Library

<http://texashistory.unt.edu/>

**UNT LIBRARIES'
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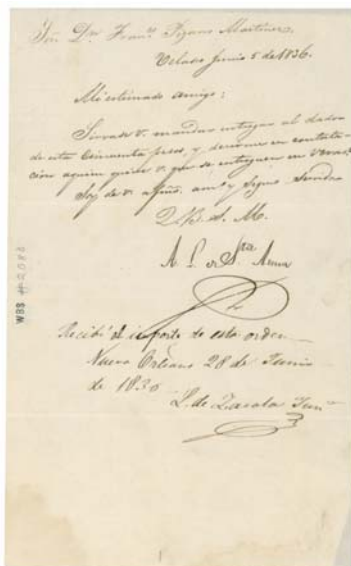
Mission Statement: The Portal to Texas History offers students and lifelong learners a digital gateway to the rich collections held in Texas libraries, museums, archives, historical societies, and private collections. The Portal team at the University of North Texas provides strong leadership by supporting collaborative efforts with its partners, while pursuing the goals of accessibility, best practices, and preservation of historical material.



Sinking of the snagboat Trinity,
February 13, 1910.
Dallas Historical Society



Earl Steele delivering mail, c. 1910.
Irving Archives



Santa Anna Letter,
June 5, 1836, Center for American
History, University of Texas

Tips!

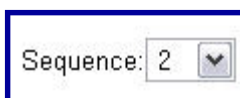
Did you know that you can navigate through books on the Portal in three different ways? We make it easy for you to get to the page you want.

Method 1:



Use the navigation bars to move through the books.

Method 2:



Use the sequence function to jump to any page in a book. Go from page 5 to page 674! Just click the down arrow and select a page.

Method 3:

Click on the right side of any page to move forward, or on the left side of the page to go back a page. This unique page

turning feature is a Portal exclusive!

