

# THE PORTAL TO TEXAS HISTORY<sup>SM</sup>

## *Beyond the Bytes*

### Inside:

- Read more about exciting new grant projects, pg. 3 & 4
- My Texas History Notebook grant is complete, p. 2.
- 98 volumes of the *Inventory of County Records* books are now online, p. 2

### Exciting news - three new grant projects

This summer proved to be an exciting time for the Portal to Texas History team! With the heat and drenching summer rains came great news about three new grant projects.

The UNT Libraries received a two year *We the People* grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to digitize historic Texas newspapers, totaling over \$397,000.

The Amon Carter Foundation

donated \$25,000 towards "Where the West Begins: Capturing Fort Worth's Historic Treasures."

The Tocker Foundation awarded \$30,000 towards digitizing early issues of the *Tulia Herald* newspaper, in partnership with the Swisher County Library.

Turn to page 3 and 4 to read more about these exciting new initiatives.

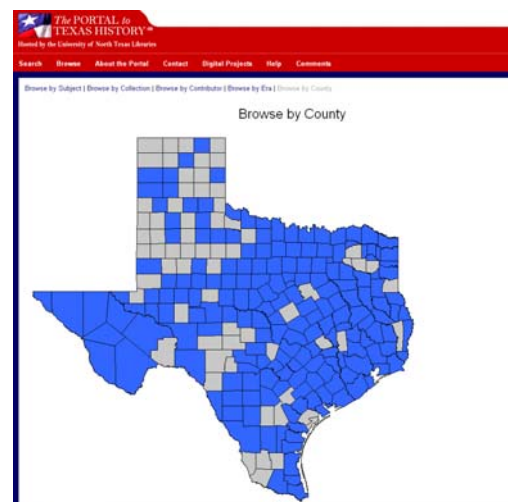
### A new way to browse materials ... a clickable county map of Texas!

The Portal to Texas History team is proud to announce a new browse interface for the Portal, a clickable county map of Texas.

Roll your mouse over a county to have the county name pop up, then just click to see all of the great materials we have about that county. To use the map, go to the Researcher's Portal, and select "Browse" from the top bar.

You can also browse materials by subject, by collection by contributor, and by historical era.

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



Click on any county in blue to see all the materials about that county.

<http://texashistory.unt.edu/>  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS<sup>SM</sup>

## My Texas History Notebook—twenty new lesson plans available

Humanities Texas funded a new educational initiative for the Portal to Texas History, and master teachers developed twenty new lesson plans which are now online.

These lesson plans were developed using the interactive notebook method of learning, in which student's work and notes are kept in a binder. The lesson plans engage students with content rich problem-based learning.

Lesson plans include a presidential debate between Sam Houston

and Mirabeau Lamar. A lesson plan on Spanish Missions requires students to "experience" the daily events in the lives of Native Americans living at the mission.

In "Human Statues to the Progressive Era," students identify the leaders and movements of the Progressive Era, and its impact on Texans.

The "Branches of State Government" lesson uses Trading Cards that emphasize the roles and responsibilities of each branch of the Texas State Government.



## Focus on Books: the Texas County Records Inventory Project is now online

In the fall of 1973, a team of researchers at UNT undertook the daunting task of coordinating a statewide survey of county records. A network of volunteers that included historians, archivists, students, and local historical societies, pressed forward in documenting the types of records available in various

Texas counties.

When the project was defunded in 1981, nearly a hundred *Inventory of County Records* had been published, and hundreds of volunteers had contributed their time to the project.

The *Inventory of County Records* books describe the roles of different county government offices, then detail

the location, types, quantity and condition of the records. These powerful tools provide researchers with valuable information concerning the location and availability of county records.

The Portal team decided these would be a wonderful online resource, and in July we uploaded 98 volumes.

*"Wow! What a resource! I thought the Handbook of Texas Online was the only and/or best online resource for Texas history. I've been wanting to read something about Bigfoot Wallace and have now found it. Thanks for putting this site out in cyberspace."*

- R. D. Wesson  
Texas

116. REGISTER OF LAND CERTIFICATES. 1830-1852. 1 vol., 15" x 6" x 1".

Register of land grant applications, showing application number, name of applicant, amount of land applying for, length of residence on land, and date. Arranged numerically by application number. Handwritten. Indexed in INDEX TO LAND GRANTS (118.).

117. RECORD OF LAND GRANT. 1838-1843. 1 vol., 12 1/2" x 8" x 1".

Extract from Inventory of County Records Nacogdoches County

## UNT Libraries' Digital Projects Unit receives \$397,552 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

The UNT Libraries received a two year *We the people* grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to digitize historic Texas newspapers. UNT is serving as the lead institution, and is partners with both the Center for American History at UT and Texas Tech University.

The National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP) will digitize newspapers from 1836 to 1923 and place them online at

the Library of Congress, the technical advisors for this twenty year initiative. UNT intends to also host the newspapers online at the Portal to Texas History.

This NDNP phase will cover digitization of newspaper titles from 1880-1910. An advisory board coordinated by the Center for American History will select the titles to be digitized based on criteria from the Library of Congress. In this two year phase,

100,000 newspaper pages will be posted online.

Funding from NEH will provide a good foundation for digitizing Texas newspapers, but greater effort will be needed to meet the needs of communities wanting access to their local historic newspapers. We intend to work with private foundations and community fund-raising efforts to further build this program.

See a beta version of *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers* at the Library of Congress: <http://www.loc.gov/chroniclingamerica/>

### Did you know . . .

#### Population Growth, 1880-1910

Year	U.S.	% increase from prev. decade (US)	Texas	% increase from prev. decade (TX)	Texas's population rank among all U. S. states
1880	49,371,340	28%	1,591,749	94%	11 <sup>th</sup>
1890	62,979,769	28%	2,235,527	40%	7 <sup>th</sup>
1900	76,212,168	21%	3,048,710	36%	6 <sup>th</sup>
1910	92,228,496	21%	3,896,542	27%	5 <sup>th</sup>

Compiled from data at:

(2004). Historical Census Browser. Retrieved [9/26/2006], from the University of Virginia, Geospatial and Statistical Data Center: <http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/collections/stats/histcensus/index.html>.

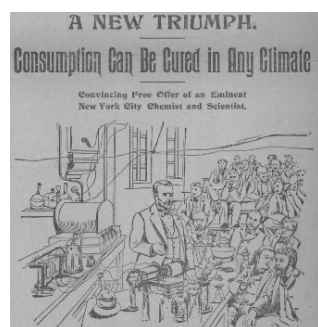
## Tocker Foundation gives \$30,000 towards digitizing the *Tulia Herald*

Working in partnership with the Swisher County Library, the Portal team will start work on digitizing early issues of the *Tulia*

*Herald* newspaper.

Located about half-way between Lubbock and Amarillo, Tulia serves as the county seat for Swisher

County, and was known as the "City of Windmills." This grant project will end in July of 2008.



From the *Ferris Wheel*

## Amon Carter Foundation funds “Where the West Begins: Capturing Fort Worth’s Historic Treasures”



Elisha Adam Eules and his  
deputies, courtesy of Tarrant  
County College NE



Armour & Company Packing  
House, courtesy of Tarrant  
County College NE

Thanks to funding from the Amon Carter Foundation, the Portal team will be begin working with sixteen collaborative partners to digitize and place their historic materials online, starting this fall.

In the past 150 years, the Fort Worth area has grown from a frontier army outpost to a bustling metropolis, while assuming a leadership position in the social and cultural development of the State of Texas.

Whether as a resting point for cowboys driving their cattle to Kansas or the home of world-class museums and concert halls, the growth of Fort Worth mirrors the rise of Texas to its prominent place in the nation and world.

For the grant, UNT will partner with the Fort Worth Public Library, Texas Christian University's Mary Couts Burnett Library, the Amon Carter Museum, UT Arlington's Special Collections Library, the

Fort Worth Jewish Archives, Tarrant County College NE, the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame, the Log Cabin Village, the Cattle Raisers Museum, the Lockheed Martin Archives, the Archives of the Central Texas Conference United Methodist Church, the UNT Archives, the Dallas Public Library, the University of Houston, and the Cowtown Coliseum.

This \$25,000 grant project will end in August of 2008.

**Yes, I want to support Texas history!**

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Your name as you would like it to appear on UNT publications and on the website:  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Check enclosed [amount] \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(payable to UNT Libraries Digital Projects Unit)

Thank you for supporting the Portal to Texas History! Please return this card and a check in the enclosed envelope. Your donation is tax-deductible, and all proceeds will go directly towards digitizing treasures of Texas history.

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





## What's in the Lab now?

from the Boyce Ditto Public Library,  
a *Pictorial History of Fort Wolters*



Col. Willie H. Casper  
with Jim Wright

The Boyce Ditto Public Library in Mineral Wells is working with us to digitize a multi-volume collection of photographs that document the

history of Fort Wolters from its inception as a National Guard Training Center in 1921 to its role as a U.S. Army Helicopter Training Center/School to its closing, as Fort Wolters, in 1974.

The collection was compiled by Col. Willie H. Casper, from public sources and declassified government photographs and documents. Col. Casper was the deputy commander of Fort Wolters from 1965 to 1971.

Thirteen volumes are currently available online, with eight left to go.



Lt. Gen. Jark inspects the  
military police



Daniel J. Hawkins and Capt.  
Frederick D. Whiting

## Summerlee Foundation grants, "Rescuing Texas History . . ." with the Bosque County Historical Commission



Texas Central steam engine,  
Bosque County Historical Commission

letters from Jacob de Cordova, a noted Texas land agent who at one time owned over a million acres of Texas land. These letters discuss land transactions and Mr. de Cordova's travel throughout the U.S. and Europe.

In June, members of the Bosque County Historical Commission delivered a fascinating treasure trove of local history materials to the lab. From glass plate negatives to fragile prints, these images document the fascinating history of Bosque County. In total, over a thousand images will be available online by December.

In addition to the grant materials, we also scanned several handwritten



Children with a goat cart, Bosque County  
Historical Commission

*Upcoming: Materials from the Museum of the American Railroad will arrive in September.*

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

**UNT LIBRARIES'  
PORTAL TO TEXAS HISTORY<sup>SM</sup>**

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**Mission Statement:** The Portal to Texas History<sup>SM</sup> 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.



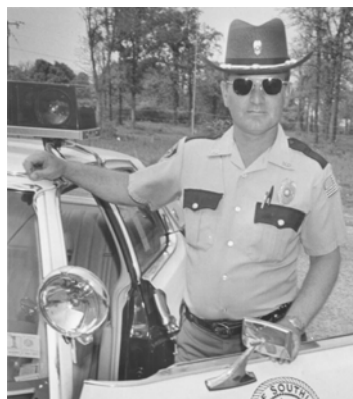
Aboard the "Mohawk", Galveston, Tex., George Ranch Historical Park



Immigrants' Rights March,  
UNT, José L. Castillo Collection



Ben Hur, the first motor car in  
Mineral Wells, Boyce Ditto Public  
Library



Douglas Hughes, Southlake Police  
Chief, Tarrant County College NE

## The Portal on YouTube!

In May, the Portal team uploaded their first YouTube video, a fast, exhilarating tour of the Portal covering over 250 images in just two minutes. The video uses exciting music and a quick-moving format to showcase the breadth and diversity of the online collections.

Go see what thousands have already discovered at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rIDx9n4wFb0>, or just go to YouTube, and search on "Portal to Texas History"

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

