



# Republic of Texas Records

- Introduction to the challenge
- · Locating records available
  - Migration patterns
  - Timeline of Events at State and Local Level
  - County and State boundary changes
- Mostly Likely Way to Locate Texas Ancestors
  - Land Records
  - Tax Records
  - Court Records
  - Others

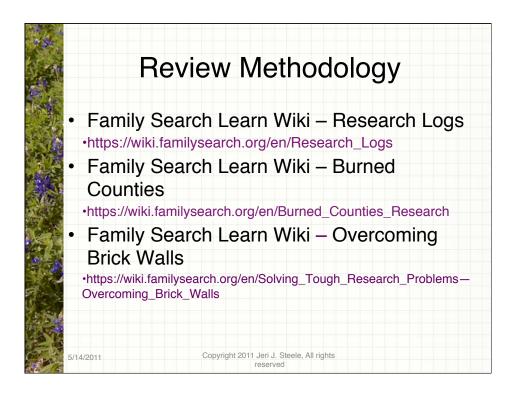
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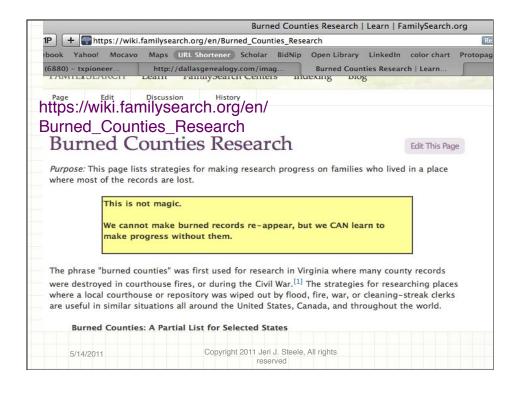
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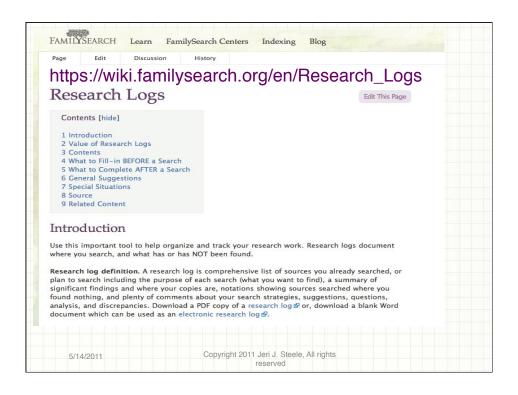
# Texas Research Challenges

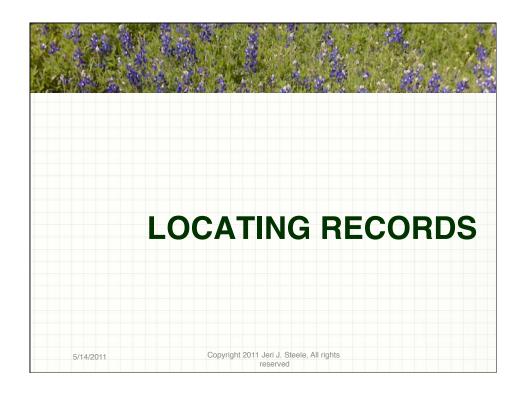
- Everyone was on the move
- Many people coming were running away from the law or someone.
- New jurisdiction, new laws, and changing boundaries

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# Determine what you know

- Review all previous research
- Locate all pictures, records, and artifacts on the family you are researching
- Research Migration paths and maps
- Find what records are available
- Then draw up a research plan

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### **Books**

- Red Book for county histories and what is available [1]
- Lloyd Bockstruck, Research in Texas [2]
- Gournay for Texas county boundary changes [4]
- Dollarhide for migration routes [9]

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### Online Resources

- TSLA Genealogy Resources and Records on Microfilm [42] and [40]
- Family Search Wiki [47]
- Portal to Texas History [39]
- Northeast Texas digital archive at TAMU (website
  - •Search for county name, state, or record type (all three!)

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### County Records Available on Microfilm

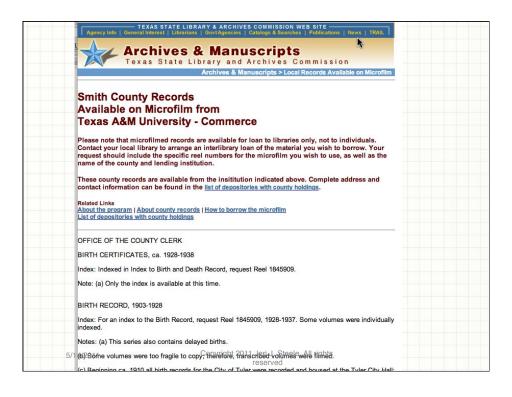
Chapter 1192 (Senate Bill No. 861), 78th Legislature, Regular Session (2003) took effect on September 1, 2003. A birth record now becomes public information and available to the public on and after the 75th anniversary of the date of birth as shown on the record filed with the Bureau of Vital Statistics or local registration official. One immediate impact of the law is that many reels of microfilmed county records contain restricted information and, therefore, are no longer available to the public. Unfortunately, some of the reels that contain restricted information contain unrestricted information as well. However, we have no choice but to restrict access to the entire reel in those instances

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we restrict access to microfilm no longer in compliance with the law. We would also remind researchers that birth records older than 75 years can be obtained from the Texas Department of State Health Services, Vital Statistics Unit.

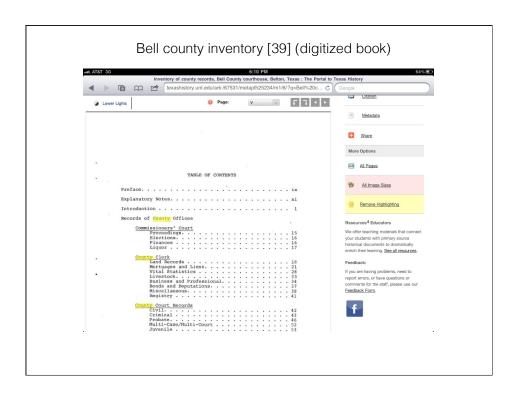
Related Links About the Program | About County Records | How to Borrow the Microfilm List of Depositories with County Holdings | Not Finding Your County?

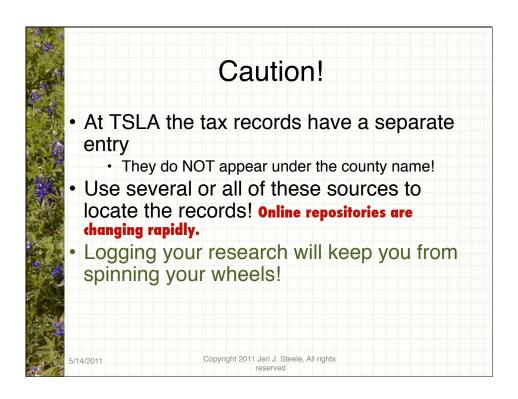
Select a County Below to See Which Records Are Available
Anderson | Andrews | Angelina | Aransas | Archer | Atascosa | Austin | Bandera
Bastrop | Bee | Bell | Bexar | Blanco | Bosque | Bowie | Brazoria | Brazos | Brewster
Brooks | Brown | Burleson | Burnet | Caldwell | Calhoun | Callahan | Cameron | Camp | Cass
Chambers | Cherokee | Clay | Coke | Collin | Colorado | Comal | Cooke | Coryell | Crane
Crosby | Culberson | Dallas | Dawson | Delta | Denton | DeWitt | Dimmit | Duval | Ector | Ellis
Erath | Falls | Fannin | Fayette | Fisher | Floyd | Fort Bend | Franklin | Freestone | Frio
Gaines | Galveston | Garza | Gillespie | Goliad | Gonzales | Grayson | Greer | Gregg
Grimes | Guadalupe | Hamilton | Hardin | Harris | Harrison | Haskell | Hays | Henderson
Hidalgo | Hill | Hood | Hopkins | Houston | Hudsperh | Hunt | Jackson | Jasper

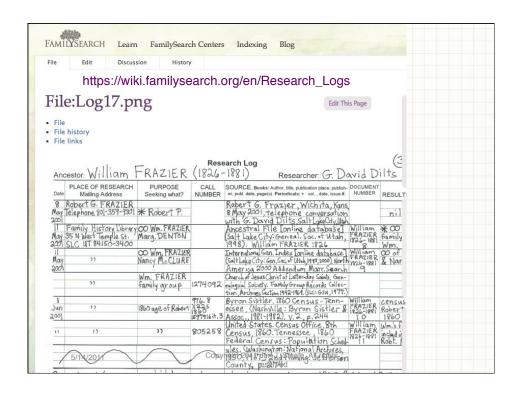
5/14 (Jeff Davis | Jefferson | Jim Hogg | Johnson | Karriss | Kalifinan | Kendall | Kenedy
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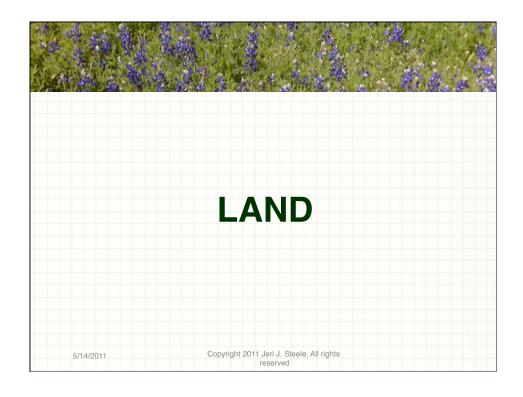


### Shelby County Records Available on Microfilm from Stephen F. Austin State University Please note that microfilmed records are available for loan to libraries only, not to individuals. Contact your local library to arrange an interlibrary loan of the material you wish to borrow. Your request should include the specific reel numbers for the microfilm you wish to use, as well as the name of the county and lending institution. These county records are available from the insititution indicated above. Complete address and contact information can be found in the list of depositories with county holdings. Related Links About the program | About county records | How to borrow the microfilm List of depositories with county holdings OFFICE OF THE COUNTY SURVEYOR FIELD NOTES, 1838-1948 Index: For an index to the Field Notes, 1838-1891, Volumes 1 to 4, request Reel 2210.01. For an index to the Private Surveys, Volumes 1 & 2, 1837-1902, request Reel 2210.02. For an index to the Field Notes, Volume 1-4, 1882-1937, request Reel 2210.03 Reel 2210.01 1838-1841 Vol. 1 1840-1858 Vol. 2 1838-1877 Vol. 3 1877-1891 Vol. 4 Reel 2210.02 1882-1902 Vol. 1-A 1885-1902 Vol. 1 (Private Surveys) 1837-1878 Vol. 2 (Private Surveys) Reel 2210.03 1872-1892 Vol. 3 (Survey Record) 1877-1897 Vol. 4 1882-1937 Vol. 1-A 1941-1946 Vol. 1-B (Survey Record) Reel 2210.04 1901-1948 (Survey Record) Copyright 2011 Jeri J. Steele, All rights 5/14/2011 reserved











### Considerations

- Migration paths, maps, and circumstances
- The lure of cheap land
- Serving in the military gave men a chance to see other parts of the state or country

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# Major Routes in the Republic of Texas

- 1. From Fulton, Arkansas crossing the Red River and on to Clarksville
- Southern road across the Sabine at Gaines Ferry
- From New Orleans or elsewhere in the ports of the coast (Galveston)
- 4. Across the Sabine into Nacodoches

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# [54]

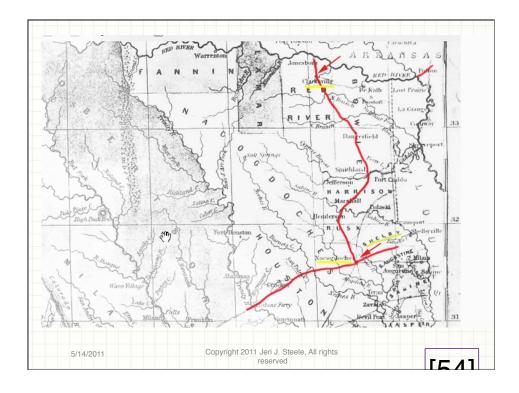
Early Texas Maps, 1777-1899

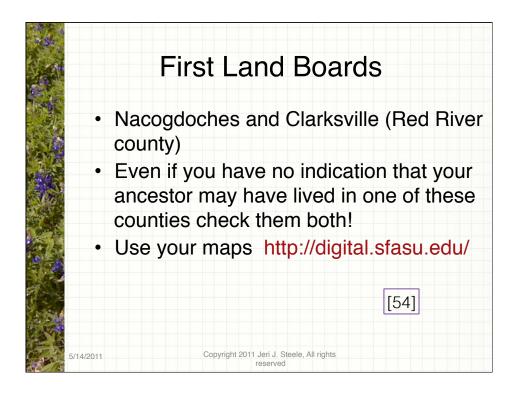
Texas; Maps

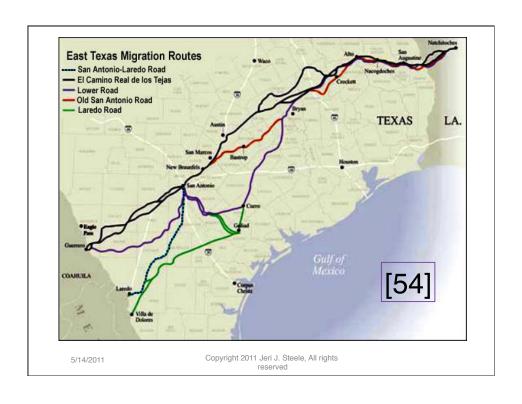
SHH IX:22 J. De Cordova's Map of the State of Texas. 1851. By Robert Creuzbaur, Houston. SHHMaps/SHHIX/22/SHHIX\_22p1.jpg

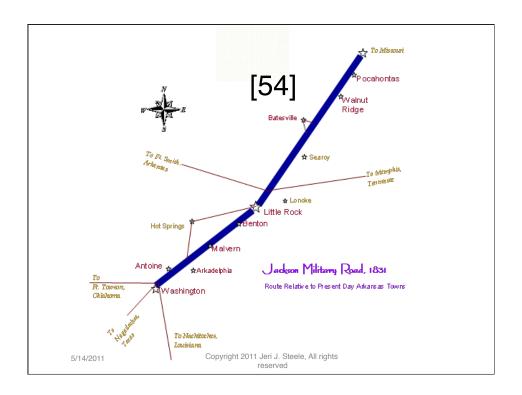
Map Cases arThe earliest of the maps was drawn by Thomas Kitchen for the Reverend Dr. Robertson's History of America and is titled 'Mexico or New Spain in Which the Motion of Cortes May be Traced." Another of the early maps appears as the frontispiece in Henderson Yoakum's History of Texas, and shows rivers, location of Indian tribes, Indian Villages, missions, crossings, roads with dates of origin, presidios and trails. Texas is listed as "New Phillipines." There is a set of military maps of the Texas Revolution, which accompanies Andrew Jackson Houston's Texas Independence. The U. S. War Department's map by W. H. Emory is titled 'Map of Texas and the Countries Adjacent,' dated 1844, prior to annexation. The Walker map of 1949 and the Marcy maps of 1850 and 1853 show additions to knowledge of Indian tribes, fortifications, wagon routes, rivers and numerous notes on topography. In 1857-60, the United State Department of the Interior, J. H. Clark, Commissioner, produced the 'Map of the United States and Texas-Boundary Line and Adjacent Territory Determined and Surveyed. The 'New Map of Texas as it is in 1874,' was prepared 'expressly for Morphis' History of Texas." Robert T. Hill produced the Map of Texas and Parts of Adjoining Territories' for the U. S. Geological Surveye in 1899. Many of the map descriptions are found in Day's Maps of Texas 1527-1900: The Map Collection of the Texas State Archives, Austin, 1964.

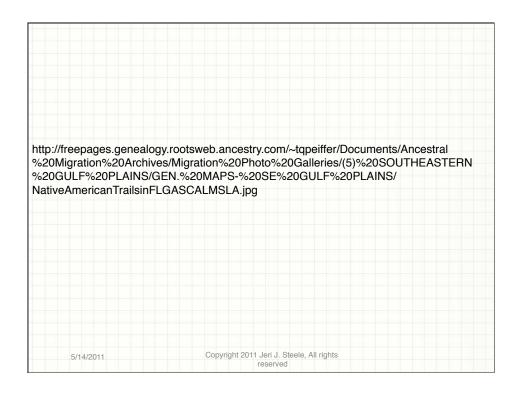
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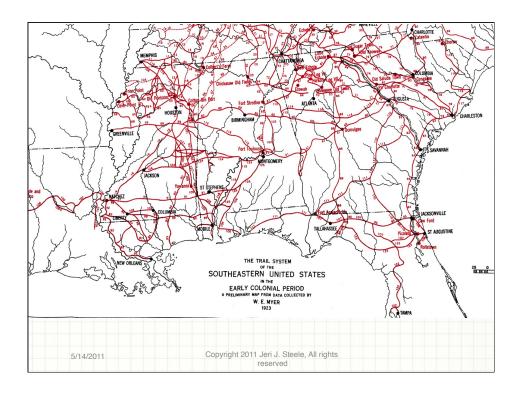










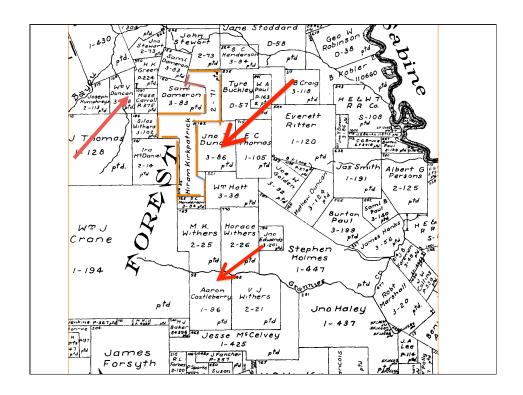


# How to Use Land Records

- Pay attention to dates on Land Grants
- What entitled them to receive the grant?
  - (arrival date, military service ?)
- Make complete transcriptions of all grants, surveys, and deeds
- Find the neighbors, put into research plan
- (county biographies, published works, census)
- Examine the Surveys for Chain Carriers.
  - (maybe a relative or a neighbor)

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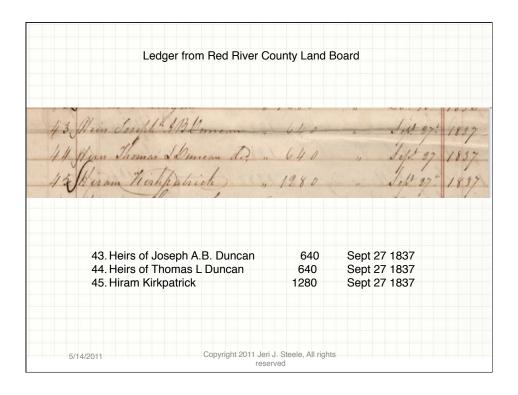
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Country of Shelby 3 This is to Certify that Hiram
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said F.E. E. Praman he is hereby appointed administrator

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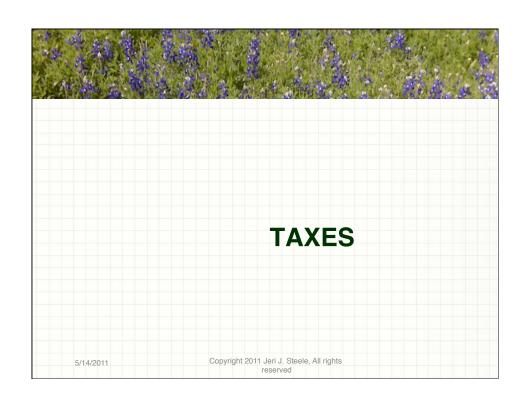
madenee may and ought to be given to his acts as such administrator.

Given under my hand and the seal of the

Protect Court at Matagorda this 20 day of Protate

Attest.

Attest.





# Why & Who

- Person Purchases or sells land only a few times in a life.
- Would appeared on the property tax rolls every year.
- Adult men, as well as a few widows and single women.
- Taxed farm animals, wagons, and buggies.

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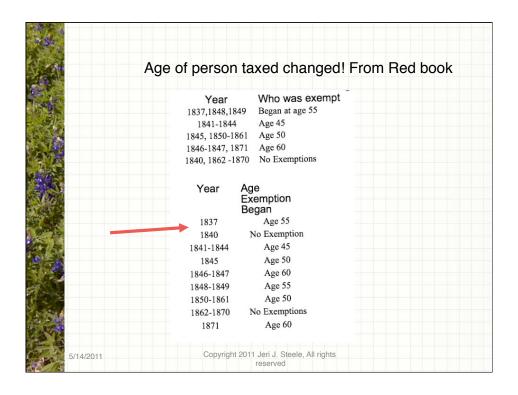
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# Tax records, cont.

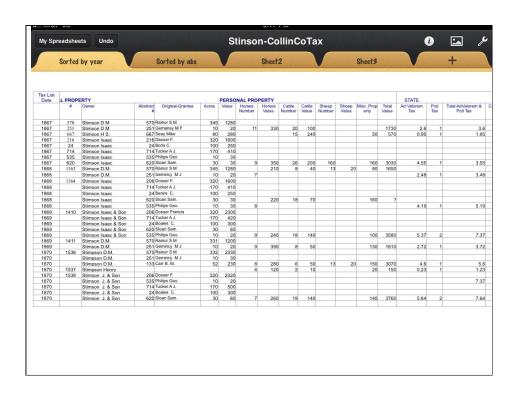
- Tax records listed each person who was taxed, even not head of a households.
- When someone appears: moving into county, becoming an adult, purchasing land or farm animals.
- When he stopped appearing on the rolls, he may have moved, died, gotten too old.
- An older man may have given his farm to a son and moved into the son's home.

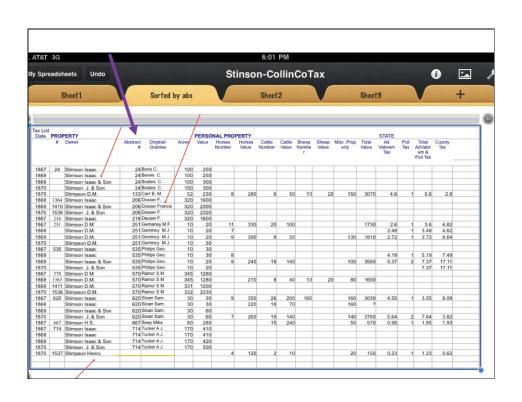
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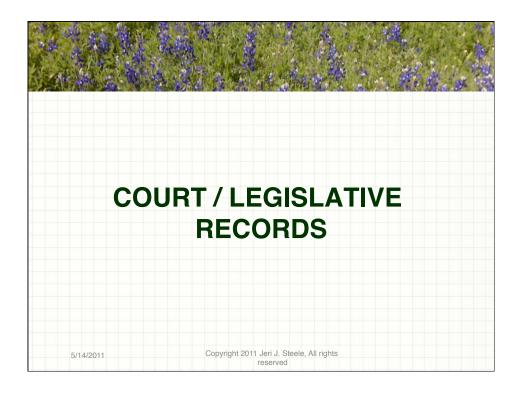


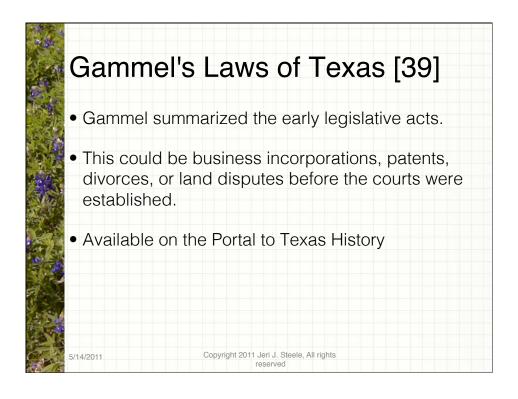
# Transcribe tax lists

- Transcribe them over a period of years. Not less than 5, preferably 10.
- Look for name changes on same property.
- Look for long form of names and different spellings.
- Notice who is new and who is missing.











# Courts jurisdictions evolved over time!

- Justice of Peace Courts
- Lowest level of court, maybe multiple due to size of county
- Any case punishable by fine only
  - Municipal Courts
  - Only for incorporated cities, cases involve public safety and quality of life

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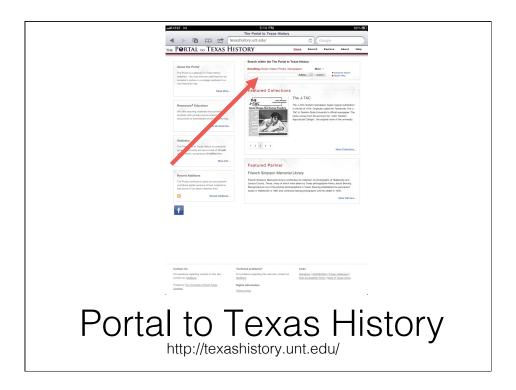
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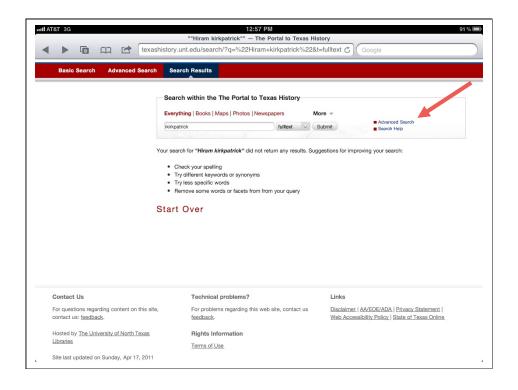
- County Courts
- Appeals from JP and municipal courts,
- District Courts
- Felony, title to land, election contest, divorces, probate Criminal law has separate courts now!
   Use ALL records available!

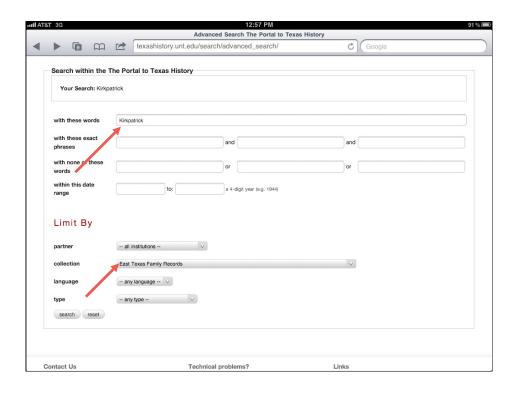
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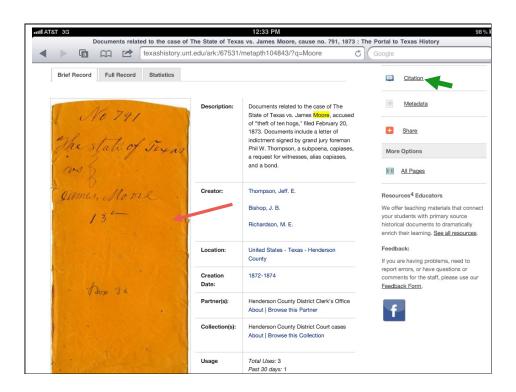


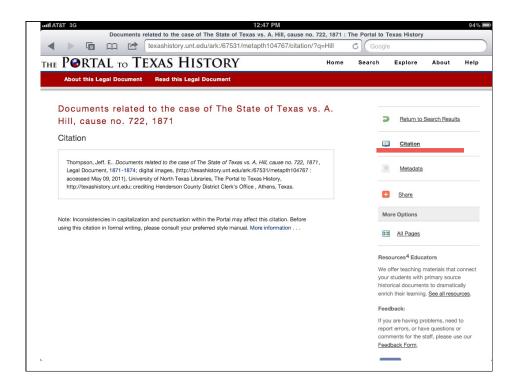


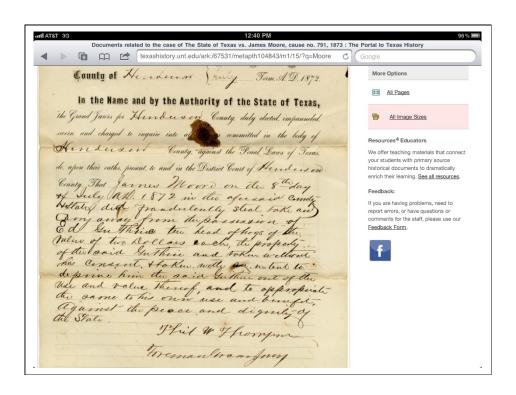


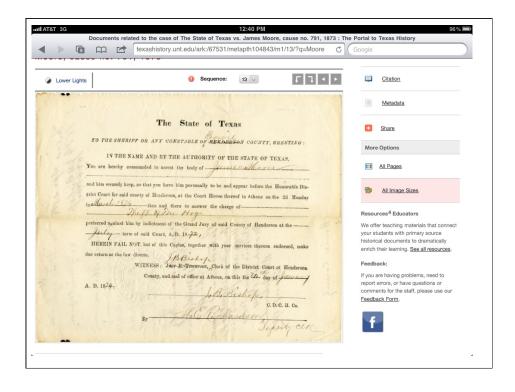














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http://dmc.tamu-commerce.edu/index.php

