

Suggested Readings

The following sources should provide the interested reader with considerably more information than is provided in the brief overviews presented on this website.

General Texas History

Campbell, Randolph B. *Gone To Texas: A History of the Lone Star State*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003. (Excellent general text.)

Handbook of Texas Online. Texas State Historical Association.
www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online (Comprehensive and convenient encyclopedic reference source for all aspects of Texas history.)

Olmsted, Frederick Law. *A Journey Through Texas Or, A Saddle-Trip on the Southwestern Frontier*. New York: Dix, Edwards & Co., 1857. Reprint, Austin: University of Texas Press, 1978. (A reprint of Olmsted's 1857 account of his travels.)

Russell, T. J. *Pioneer Reminiscences of Jefferson County: A Sesquicentennial Project of the Southeast Texas Genealogical & Historical Society*. Bertie Holmes Boodry, ed. Beaumont, TX: Southeast Texas Genealogical & Historical Society, 1986. (A compilation of newspaper articles published in the *Beaumont Journal* from 1905 – 1913.)

Sons of the Republic of Texas. *Biographical Directory of the Texan Conventions and Congresses, 1832 - 1845*. Sesquicentennial Re-Print Edition, 1986. (Identifies men who served as delegates before the Revolution and members of the Republic's Administrations and Congresses. Includes useful thumbnail biographies.)

Woodrick, James V. *Elusive Dreams: Early exploration and colonization of the Upper Texas Coast*. Liberty County Historical Commission, Hardin, TX: 2009. (An analysis of Spanish and French documents to identify the nature and location of early settlements in the Liberty and Chambers County area.)

Writers' Program of the Work Projects Administration in the State of Texas. *Texas: A Guide to the Lone Star State: Compiled by Workers of the Writers' Program of the Works Project Administration in the State of Texas*. New York: Hastings House, 1940. Reprint as *The WPA Guide to Texas with a New Introduction by Don Graham The Federal Writers' Project Guide to Texas*. Austin: Texas Monthly Press, 1986. (Part history and part 1930s tour guide.)

Yellowed Pages (Beaumont). Newsletter of the Southeast Texas Genealogical & Historical Society. (Contains a wide variety of topics.)

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Jefferson County

Block, W. T. *A History of Jefferson County, Texas: From Wilderness to Reconstruction*. Nederland, Texas: Nederland Publishing Co., 1976. (Excellent detailed account of all aspects of early Jefferson County history until the end of the Civil war. Originally Block's Master's thesis in history from Lamar University. Contains numerous thumbnail biographies of early Jefferson County residents.)

Beaumont

Linsley, Judith Walker and Ellen Walker Rienstra. *Beaumont, A Chronicle of Promise: An Illustrated History*. Woodland Hills, CA: Windsor Publications, 1982. (Richly illustrated with comprehensive text.)

Robertson, Robert J. *Fair Ways: How Six Black Golfers Won Civil Rights in Beaumont, Texas*. College Station, Texas A & M Press, 2005. (Contains descriptions of Beaumont neighborhoods in the 1950s.)

Walker, John H. and Gwendolyn Wingate. *Beaumont: A Pictorial History*. Norfolk, Virginia: Donning Co., 1983. (Extensive collection of photographs detailing all aspects of Beaumont's growth.)

Nederland

Nederland Diamond Jubilee and History Committee. *Nederland, 1898 – 1973: Diamond Jubilee*. Nederland, Texas: Nederland Publishing Co., 1973. (Excellent discussion of early rice cultivation at Nederland; brief community-driven history with many photographs.)

Port Arthur

Cate, Michael, ed. *Port Arthur, Centennial History, 1898 – 1989*, 2 vols. Port Arthur, Texas: Looking Glass Media, 1997. (Extensively illustrated with accompanying history.)

Writers' Program (U.S.) Texas. *Port Arthur, Compiled and Written by the Writers' Program of the Work Projects Administration in the State of Texas*. Houston: Anson Jones Press, 1940. (Significant expansion of the history of the Port Arthur/Sabine Pass area history from that provided in the *WPA Texas* chapter on Port Arthur.)

Port Neches

Suggested Readings

Block, W. T. *Sapphire City of the Neches: A Brief History of Port Neches, Texas from Wilderness to Industrialization*. Austin: Nortex Press, 1987. (Anecdotal history covering many topics from Port Neches' history.)

Jefferson County in the Civil War

Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, 4 vols. New York: Thomas Yoseloff, 1956.
(Comprehensive collection of articles from the Century Magazine, only sketchy accounts of actions in Jefferson County.)

Fletcher, William A. *Rebel Private: Front and Rear Memoirs of a Confederate Soldier*. New York: Meridian, 1997. (An entertaining account from an eventual Beaumont lumber magnate.)

Simpson, Col. Harold B. "The Battle of Sabine Pass." In *Battles of Texas*, ed. Donald M. Yena, 137 – 169. Waco: Texian Press, 1967. (Colorful account of the background, preparations, and action of this most famous Civil War battle in Texas.)

Townsend, Stephen A. *The Yankee Invasion of Texas*. College Station: Texas A & M University Press, 2006. (Describes some of the strategic considerations for an invasion of Texas that led to the attack on Sabine Pass.)

Wooster, Ralph A. *Lone Star Regiments in Gray*. Austin: Eakins Press, 2002. (Brief history of military units from Texas in the Confederate army.)

Cattle

Block, W. T. "Christian Hillebrandt, Cattle Baron." *Texas Gulf Historical and Biographical Review*. Vol. 7: 38 - 41 (Brief biography of one of Jefferson County's early landowners.)

Oil & Petroleum

Linsley, Judith Walker, Ellen Walker Rienstra, and Jo Ann Stiles. *Giant Under the Hill: A History of the Spindletop Oil Discovery at Beaumont, Texas, in 1901*. Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 2002. (Has been cited as "the most complete book on the subject.")

Suggested Readings

Olien, Dr. Roger. *Black Gold: The Story of Texas Oil & Gas*. San Antonio: Historical Publishing Network, 2004. (Focuses on petroleum exploration and production but also the economics and politics that made the industry what it is today.)

Spellman, Paul N. *Spindletop Boom Days*. College Station: Texas A & M University Press, 2001. (An anecdotal history based on oral history narratives from witnesses to the events at Spindletop and other early oil fields; also includes a nice selection of photographs.)

Steamboats

Lasworth, Virginia and Earl James Lasworth, compilers. *Texas: River Port State; Anecdotal Stories about Steamboats on Texas Rivers*. Marshall, Texas, 1998. (Contains much information, both specifications and personal accounts, on individual boats which plied Texas waters and elsewhere.)

Ship Building

Faucett, William T. *The Shipyard at Beaumont*. Beaumont: Ivy Lane Publication, 1991. (Extensive history by former shipyard executive.)

Schneurle, Angela M. *The Spirit of Gulfport*. History thesis. University of Houston, 1991. (History of the growth and decline of Gulfport Shipyard at Port Arthur.)

Lumbering

Block, W. T. *East Texas Mill Towns and Ghost Towns*, 3 vols. Lufkin, Texas: Best of East Texas Publishers, 1994. (Each of 21 counties is granted its own chapter in this history. Jefferson County appears in Volume 1.)

Easton, Hamilton Pratt. A.B., M.A. *The History of the Texas Lumbering Industry*, 2 vols. Ph.D. Dissertation, Austin: University of Texas, 1947.

Gerland, Jonathan K. "Sawdust City: Beaumont. Texas, on the Eve of the Petroleum Age," *Texas Gulf Historical & Biographical Record* (November, 1996): 20-47. (Article that captures the extent of Beaumont's growth prior to Spindle Top's oil boom.)

Maxwell, Robert S. and Robert D. Baker. *Sawdust Empire: The Texas Lumber Industry, 1830 – 1940*. College Station: Texas A & M University Press, 1983. (Excellent treatment of early mills and especially wooden ship building for WW I.)

Suggested Readings

Sitton, Thad and James H. Conrad. *Nameless Towns: Texas Sawmill Communities, 1880 – 1942*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1998. (Covers the period when new mill operations became railroad-based rather than dependent on floating logs down the rivers; as a result, the mills got much closer the timber source and the mill towns were railroad towns too.)

Rice Cultivation

Dethloff, Henry C. *A History of the American Rice Industry, 1685 – 1985*. College Station: Texas A & M University Press, 1988. (Contains very good descriptions of early rice production and the growth of the industry in Southeast Texas.)

Railroads

McLennan, A. D. *Texas & New Orleans: SP's Lines in Texas and Louisiana*. Wilton and Berkeley, California: Signature Press, 2008. (Minimal coverage of 19th century T & NO line.)