

Find your place in history at the library

Tucked into a corner of the library's second floor is a room with a view ... and a purpose. Those with an interest in genealogy, local architecture or local history may want to make a visit to the Clara Scarbrough Texas History Room. Clara May Stearns Scarbrough (1914-2008) served as the editor and the publisher of the *Taylor Times* and *The Williamson County Sun*. She was a historian, teacher, musician and author as well as one of the founders of the Georgetown Public Library. She wrote *Land of Good Water: Takachue Pouetsu: a Williamson County, Texas, History*, a copy of which is in the room's collection, not too far from a photograph of Clara herself.

The Texas History Room's three large study tables make it a favorite place for library patrons to read or work. It is also a destination for researchers using local history, genealogy and architecture resources. The materials do not circulate, but a color photocopier and a scanner are close by.

The following are some of the room's contents cover local history, genealogy and architecture.

■ The Georgetown Reference Collection (abbreviated GTN in the catalog) includes cataloged materials on city history, organizations and government

BIBLIOFILES

Dana Hendrix

such as a scrapbook for the San Gabriel Women's Club that includes newspaper articles, photographs, flyers and more. The collection also houses City of Georgetown documents for public review, ordinances and budget planning documents and other local history resources.

■ The Williamson County Reference Collection (abbreviated WC in the catalog) includes books, government publications, scrapbooks from organizations and bound volumes of periodicals like *The Chisholm Trail*, which has genealogy and bibliography information from the Williamson County Genealogical Society. Williamson County cemetery organization publications and a few indexes to county birth records also are available.

■ A map case near the door holds historic Texas maps including cemetery, highway and county maps.

■ The Historic Resource Collection (abbreviated HRC in the catalog) includes books about immigration rolls, land grants, manuals for genealogical research and bound copies of the National Genealogical Society Quarterly and



Joyce May

John M. Barcus built this model of the Williamson County Jail between 1969 and 1973.

New England Historical and Genealogical Register. Books about researching and writing your family's history and about researching and writing your home's history also are available.

■ Helpful brochures and handouts include guides to genealogy databases and genealogy forms.

■ Current genealogy periodicals in the center of room are the *American Ancestors: New England Historic Genealogical Society*, *Family Tree Magazine*, *Internet Genealogy*, *NGS Magazine* (National Genealogical Society), *Your Genealogy Today*, *Journal of American Genealogy* (The New England Historical and Genealogical Register) and *The Medallion* (Texas Historical Commission).

■ Historic Buildings Survey Files created by Preservation Georgetown (formerly Georgetown Heritage Society) are housed in the Texas History Room. The files include background information on select Old Town homes and other buildings in two file cabinets with files arranged by street name. Some files have

photographs and some photographs also are digitized.

■ The Gael Dillard Historical Homes Collection contains books about historic architecture (these materials are not listed in the catalog).

■ Just outside the Texas History Room, microfilm of The Williamson County Sun back to 1877 is filed by date in metal cabinets, and Texas Census and Williamson County Tax Rolls from 1848-1910 are there as well. There is a workstation where patrons can read, scan, and print information from microfilm or access Ancestry.com Library Edition, Heritage Quest Online or American Ancestors.

To see all cataloged publications in the Texas History Room, go to the library's online catalog. You can get a list of more than 1,000 items. Click Label at the top of the third column to sort the results by collection.

When you are ready to take a break from your research in the Texas History Room, look up to see the detailed models of historic buildings and homes created by John M. Barcus, a Georgetown resident who

died in 1976 at age 85. Mr. Barcus used cardboard (provided by a friend who worked at Gold's Department Store on the Square and saved the shirt cardboards for him), as well as glue, string, bamboo, paper towels and other odds and ends to make the models. Also gracing this room are a needlepoint of the Georgetown Square created and donated this year by local resident Ray Carter, and the Ralph Dixon Love window commemorating the library's dedicated local historian who died in 2012.

Stop by to see what you can find in the files and books — the Clara Scarbrough Texas History Room is a treasure trove for those with an interest in the local area and people.

For further information:

■ Library online catalog: catalog.georgetown.org

■ Genealogy links: library.georgetown.org/genealogy

■ Local history links, including links to historic photographs, videos about Georgetown's historic architecture, and a set of oral histories of school desegregation in Georgetown:

Upcoming library events

■ Through December 28, Marissa Palmer: *Eye See Divergence & Dissent* exhibit (first floor)

■ Through December 28, Central Texas Pastel Society: *Celebrate 20 Years of Brilliant Color!* exhibit (second floor)

■ Through December 28, Susan Hoppenworth: *Elevate* exhibit (second floor)

■ December 14, 7 p.m. Adultish Holiday Craft Crawl

■ December 16, 2 p.m. Danielle Reich, jazz vocalist (Live Music at the Library)

■ December 29, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Noon Year's Eve (children of all ages)

■ December 31-January 25, Curly Clark: *Trilogy: Freedom - Peace-Wisdom*

■ January 3-March 1, 2019, Robert Rosamond: *Longhorns and Lobsters: Watercolors of Texas and Maine* (first floor)

■ January 6, 2-4 p.m. artist reception for Curly Clark

Consult the Library Events Calendar at library.georgetown.org for more information about these and other library programs.

library.georgetown.org/local-history-georgetown-williamson-county
See you at the library!

Dana Hendrix is the Fine Arts Librarian at the Georgetown Public Library.

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Garden books make great Christmas gifts

WELCOME TO MY GARDEN

Judy Marrou

If you have a gardener in the house, I hope this collection of books will give you some ideas for a nice Christmas gift. Some are brand new, others have been around for a while. All have proven their value by their wide variety of information, their "reader friendly" text and colorful photos.

Easy Container Gardens by Pamela Crawford. Canton, GA, 2008 (Pamela Crawford's Container Gardening Series, Vol. 2), paperback, about \$20.

I have many books in my library about container gardening and each has merit in one way or another. This text is in the most dog-eared condition, which means it is the book I refer to the most.

Two of the book's features stand out — simple photos and text show the gardener how to plant a traditional container plant step-by-step, and sections contain photos of Blue Ribbon and Red Ribbon plants.

Blue Ribbon plants are the easiest to grow in a container. They are dependable, require little maintenance, adjust to most climates, lead long lives, have little pest susceptibility and have proven, established records.

Red Ribbon plants also have proven records but may require more time and care. The book includes many plant profiles of both kinds, showing photos and descriptions of each.

This book will help a gardener come out with a winning plant arrangement every time. I wish I had these tips when I was first trying my luck at container gardening.



Books are wonderful resources for gardeners.

Best Garden Plants for Texas by Leslie Hallock and Don Williamson. Lone Tree Publishing, 2016. (\$16.95, paperback)

The book is organized into eight groups: annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs, roses, vines, herbs, bulbs, and grasses and ferns.

The 475 plants in this paperback have been selected because they grow well in our climate and offer the best features for many different gardens. Each of the accounts includes: height and spread, flower color and bloom time, planting information, recommended varieties, hardiness zones, and extra tips for Texas gardeners.

I probably use this little reference book more than any text in my collection. Each descriptor includes a color photo along with important information succinctly presented. It serves as a valuable tool for a beginning gardener and an accurate reference point for someone with more experience.

How Not to Kill Your Houseplant: Survival Tips for the Horticulturally Challenged by Veronica Peerless. DK Penguin Random House, 2017. (Hardback, \$15)

This colorful little hard-

back contains illustrations and specific care details for 119 different plants. It provides all of the basic information you need to maintain your houseplants and troubleshoot any problems they may have. Many books are available on the care of houseplants but this is my favorite. Beginning with guidelines on how to pick out a healthy plant, it moves into chapters on how to pot, place and care for the plant. It includes a useful chapter on recognizing and combating plant pests and diseases.

The part I liked best about the book was its section on how to choose the top five plants for your desk, sunny spots, your bathroom, low light areas and your living room. We have all struggled with those dilemmas.

This attractive, compact guide, along with a pretty house plant would make a great \$20 purchase for a friend or family member.

The Vegetable Gardener's Container Bible by Edward C. Smith. Store Publishing, 2011 (large paperback, \$20).

You may have seen Ed Smith's first book, *The Vegetable Gardener's Bible*. It was a great success on the market. Because Ed and his wife Sylvia continued to grow more than 100 varieties of fruits, vegetables and

herbs on their 2,000 square feet of both gardens and containers, he wrote his second best seller on how to grow delicious fruits and vegetables in another medium.

The pros of the book is its many color photographs and simple, large text that show the gardener what to do step-by-step. The cons include the fact that the book is large and cumbersome and that Ed hails from Vermont, not Texas. I do like the book. Ed has chosen, planted and tasted dozens of vegetables, fruits and herbs in all kinds of containers and he shows how simple and rewarding it is to grow a backyard garden even without a backyard.

The book also appealed to me because I am a container gardener. I get so much satisfaction from watching my small crop of vegetables and herbs emerge each year. Ed helps make that possible.

Neil Sperry's Lone Star Gardening by Neil Sperry. Neil Sperry's Garden Magazine, 2018. (\$33.95, hardback)

Neil's new book is hot off the presses and it holds some new features: beautiful color photos taken by Neil and a new addition called a Gardening Planning Calendar: 12 months of information on how to take care of seasonal garden maintenance.

Neil is a skillful writer and my favorite part of the book is the short gardening tips he includes throughout his text. The book is a good resource but is heavy to tote at around 2.5 pounds.

Do you have a favorite gardening book? Send me the name, author and a few sentences about why you like it. When I receive enough entries, I'll write a column around them. Contact me at marrou.bj@sudenlink.net
Merry Christmas!

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