



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

Copyright © 1999-2008. All rights reserved.

Visiting the Tarrant County Courthouse

The Courthouse, constructed in 1895, is located at 100 Weatherford Street in downtown Fort Worth. The Criminal Courts Building is at 401 West Belknap. The Family Law Center is located at 200 E. Weatherford. There are two parking lots nearby charging from \$2.50 for the first 30 minutes to a maximum of \$10.00 for all day. The county operates a parking garage, two blocks east, where the price is just \$5.00 all day. There are many metered spaces available on the streets, but they are usually full by 8:00 a.m. The meters have time limits which are strictly enforced so you must move your car when time expires. If you have handicap plates or a placard, parking at the meters is free, but time limits still apply.

Do not plan to visit on the first Tuesday of the month since that day is reserved for trustee sales. Any other time, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except for holidays, the staff will be able to assist you. Please be patient as the staff may have a heavy workload and genealogists are almost never their top priority. **If you wish to see older records, it may be necessary to call 2 or 3 days in advance and ask that they be brought up from storage.**

County offices may be contacted by mail. You will need to be specific in your requests for information or for copies of documents and send payment with your request. Currently, certified copies of Birth Certificates are \$23.00, Death certificates are \$21.00, and Marriage Records are \$21.00. Prices are subject to change. Payment may be made by personal check or money order. Be sure to include your phone number with your request.

The Office of the County Clerk (817) 884-1195) located in Basement Room 30 in the old courthouse. Staff can help you and direct you to other offices if necessary. Records found there are: **Birth and Death Certificates**, 1903 to present; **Marriage Applications and Licenses**, 1876 to present; **Deed Records and Plats**, 1876 to present; **Military Discharges for World War II**; and **Naturalization Records**.

All records are indexed and may be viewed with exception of birth and death records. Under the Texas Open Records Act, these records are not available for public viewing if they are less than 50 years old. After completing the required forms, immediate family members however, may get copies with proper identification.

A great deal of documents will be found on microfilm and several readers are available for public use. Many later records are computerized and there are computer terminals available to view them with a 30 minute time limit.

Probate records are found in the Probate Court, Room 233 of the old courthouse. They date from the 1876 courthouse fire. More recent records are on microfilm or in book form and are indexed. You will need to furnish an approximate date of death and full name of the deceased for staff to retrieve the information. Copies are \$1.00 per page with an additional \$1.00 for certification. Some records are quite lengthy so it would be a good idea to ask the size of the record before ordering copies.

The District Clerk's Records Department, in the Family Law Center, has copies of early **Naturalization records**, **Divorce proceedings** and other **Civil Court records**. A court order is required to examine **Adoption records** which are sealed. If interested in divorce records (which are open to the public) you will need to know the year papers were filed and the last name of both parties. Indexes are computerized after 1983. It requires considerable staff time to locate older filings. The price is currently \$1.00 per page for certified copies. For more information on these records, call 817-884-1880.

The following Tarrant County records have been placed on-line by the County Clerk:

Marriage Records - 1948 to Present

<http://ccanthem.co.tarrant.tx.us/search.aspx?cabinet=marriage>

Official Public Records (deeds, probate, etc.) - 1970's to Present

<http://ccanthem.co.tarrant.tx.us/search.aspx?cabinet=opr>

Assumed Names Records - 1977 to present

<http://ccanthem.co.tarrant.tx.us/search.aspx?cabinet=asn>

UCC Records - 1983 to Present

<http://ccanthem.co.tarrant.tx.us/search.aspx?cabinet=ucc>

The images of some of these records will also be available to view and/or download.

All early records for Tarrant County were destroyed when the courthouse burned in 1876. Some deeds were re-recorded, and a few estate settlements were saved. The latter can be seen on microfiche at the courthouse or copies may be seen in the Genealogy/Local History Department of the Fort Worth Public Library. Recently, the Fort Worth Genealogical Society digitized the library's copy of these estate papers and will make them available upon request for a small fee. Transcripts are on-line at:

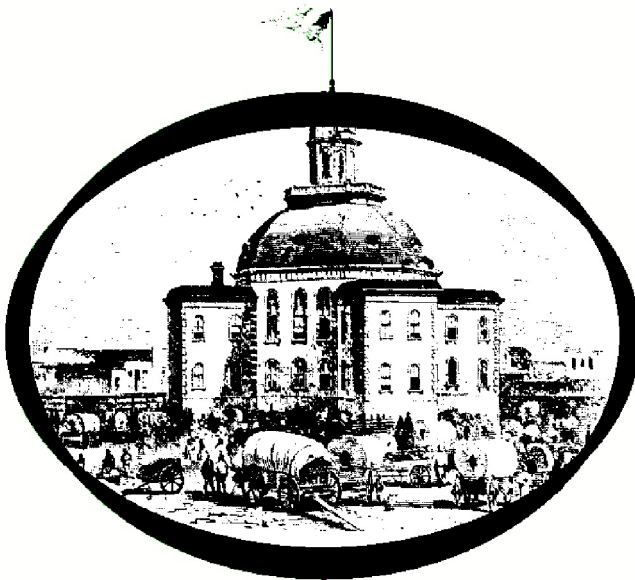
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txtarran/probate/probate.htm>

Birth and Death Records at the courthouse are only for county residents. Individuals who lived in Fort Worth or any county community with a population of 2400 or greater may be found at the Department of Public Health, 1800 University Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76107 (817) 871-7399. The Health Department charges \$23 for certified birth certificates while a certified death certificate is \$21 for the first copy plus \$4 each for additional copies.

There is a charge for a search even if the document is not located. The County Clerk's office has a computer link with the Texas Department of Health and can obtain certificates statewide, but the Open Records Act is still applicable.

**Tarrant County Courthouse
100 E. Weatherford Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76196
(817) 884-1111**

Homepage for Tarrant County Government: <http://www.tarrantcounty.com/>



This drawing depicts the Tarrant County Courthouse around 1890.