

# GENEALOGY & LOCAL HISTORY

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY MEMORIAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

*Information, Ideas, and Interaction*



### JOURNEY TO THE PAST

Search through over 30,000 items in one of the largest genealogy and local history collections in Texas. Discover details for your family tree by connecting to multimedia resources, attending classes, and visiting with staff to chart your journey.

## How do I start genealogy research?

Genealogy research is a growing national pastime that enriches the lives of those who trace ancestors. To begin genealogy, start with what you know and record information on a pedigree chart available through the library. Estimate birth years and places when possible. Next, ask relatives, friends, and neighbors about ancestors and the family history to add to the pedigree chart. Be sure to ask about names, dates, and locations about ancestors. Some may have copies of vital records or obituaries that have more information.

Visiting the library can introduce new records to research. Census records are especially important in documenting family history. Other records to examine are: passenger and immigration lists, tax records, wills, deeds, manuscript collections, county histories, vertical files, and databases. Be sure to keep track of where information is found. Remember, librarians are always available to help!

The Genealogy & Local History Room was established in 1976 due to the efforts of Imogene Kennedy, first genealogy librarian, and the Montgomery County Genealogical Society. What began as a 100 volume collection in the balcony of the old county tax office has grown to a 5,500 sq. ft. facility, with over 33,000 books, 12,000+ records on microfilm & microfiche, with new resources added continuously.



*Imogene Kinnard Kennedy  
Librarian 1976-1992*

## *Montgomery County History*

*Founded 1837*



*Old jailhouse, Conroe*

From Attakapas and Kickapoo Indians to Austin's Second Colony to saw mills and lumber companies, Montgomery County has a rich and variable history. Early settlements include Danville and the town of Montgomery, which became the first county seat. Other early towns include Old Waverly, New Caney, Esperanza, Willis, and Magnolia. The city of Conroe was established about 1886 and became a crossroads for the railroad in the county. Conroe became the county seat in 1889. Today Montgomery County is home to 455,746 residents.



## *The Library*

Let our wonderful staff provide guidance through the library's multimedia resources of books, databases, maps, vertical files, and microfilm. Our book section is organized into several sections: Family Histories, General, States, Counties, Local History, Foreign, and Periodicals. Family History Books are arranged alphabetically by surname. State books are organized into General sections and counties, in Alphabetical order, with books organized by Dewey Decimal order subsequently.

Several databases, including Ancestry Library Edition, Fold3, Heritage Quest, Historic Map Works, and Portal to Texas History are available for use on three public computers. Digital microfilm readers provide special enhancements for microfilm and are flash drive optional. Copy cards are available for purchase to print paper copies of materials, or save digital copies onto your flash drive with our Ristech book scanner. Wi-fi and power strips are available for laptops.

The Genealogy Department also houses the Preservation pad, a series of four machines that will help users to convert their old photographs, documents, slides, negatives and VHS tapes into a digital format, helping preserve these memories.

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## *Special Collections*

The Genealogy & Local History Room contains many research collections to support various interests:

- Montgomery County Records
- The Courier (newspaper), 1911-Present
- Montgomery County News (newspaper), 1922-1963
- Conroe City Directories, 1930-1995 (incomplete)
- Texas Voter's Registration 1867-1869
- Texas Rangers Collection
- Republic of Texas Donation Voucher Files & Confederate Scrip Vouchers
- Texas Adjutant's Records Collection, 1861-1884
- Ronald Jackson Census Index Book Collection
- Dawe's Rolls (Native American)
- Tennessee Land Grants
- Nacogdoches Archives (Spanish)
- Civil War Book Collection
- Revolutionary War records
- Texas Convict Record Ledgers

# Family History Starts Here—Visit us

## *Genealogy & Local History Room*

**MCMLS**

104 I-45 North

Conroe, Texas 77301

(936) 788-8363

x6249

## **HOURS**

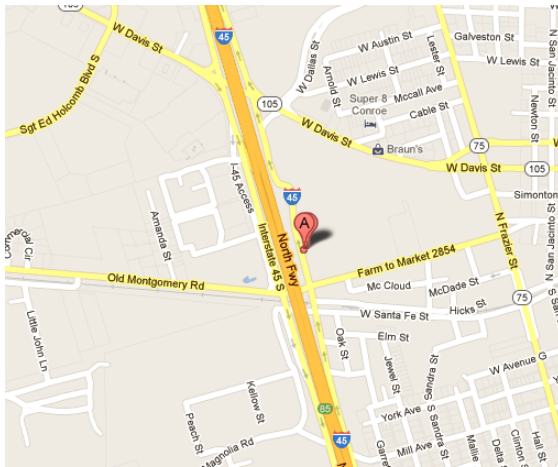
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

9am-9pm

Monday, Friday, Saturday

9am-5pm

Sunday CLOSED



## *Directions*

**From Dallas:** Take I-45 South towards Houston; exit at Hwy 2854 and Hwy 105; go to the T intersection and make a left; at stop light turn left; library is on the right.

**From Houston:** Take I-45 North towards Dallas; exit at Hwy 2854 and Hwy 105; stay in the right hand lane; turn right on the frontage road exit; library is on the left.

