A Top Ten List of Books in our Library’s Genealogy Collection

These books are housed at the Northeast Branch Library and used at that facility. In the Arlington Public Library catalog (http://www.arlingtonlibrary.org/) enter each title and click on Full Display and Expand to get detailed descriptions. The cataloging system used here is not Dewey Decimal but it is easy to follow—the majority of items are shelved by state.

The first item on this list is a beauty, put out by The University of Oklahoma Press in 2010, but it is a Texas book through and through. It is Texas: a historical atlas by A. Ray Stevens. [Catalog # GEN REF TX.912S] Since this is an atlas, it contains 175 maps but has a wealth of historical material and the Appendix has transcribed historical documents. The APL record contains a full Annotation and a Table of Contents, so you can preview this book in the catalog to see if it has the information you need. It also has a good index, for those hard-to-find items in your research.

Speaking of Texas, one of the most used items in the large Texas part of the Genealogy collection is Little Towns of Texas by Kathleen E. St. Clair and Clifton R. St. Clair. [Catalog # GEN REF TX.9L] There are 961 pages of details here and it was published in 1982 in Jacksonville, Texas. Each town has about a one page write up that includes zip code, county, about where it is and the population in 1982, plus interesting details about each town. The authors signed this book. There is no index. Entries are alphabetical by town name.

Not researching Texas? How about something on colonial America? The Genealogy collection features Virginia Immigrants and Adventurers 1607-1635: a biographical dictionary by Jamestown historian Martha W. McCartney. [Catalog # GEN REF VA.29M] There are 833 pages of this book to enjoy and this author astutely includes name variations and a glossary of terms to understand colonial-era vocabulary. The catalog entry includes several reviews of this book so you can read them to learn about the book’s strengths and weaknesses.

This next book is an updated edition of a book originally written in 1879 by Thomas Corbett. Modern authors Laurel Michele Wickersham and Rawlene Le Baron add to our knowledge of frontier life with Mine Owners and Mines of the Colorado Gold Rush [Catalog # GEN REF CO.9W] When looking through this book, you may be able to find an ancestor who went West, but did not make it all the way to California. The APL catalog has a nice annotation of this book and a Table of Contents. Wickersham and Le Baron added a useful name Index of mine officers, owners and key employees to their work.
This book doesn’t have an exciting cover but its contents could be very useful to you, as a Genealogy searcher. Our collection owns 10 volumes of this title. Some Georgia County Records, was compiled by the Reverend Silas Emmet Lucas, Jr. in 1977. [Catalog # GEN REF GA.6S] When you get this title up in the APL catalog, there is a Contents Section listing which gives the specific county names in each volume. Armed with that information, when you find the book on the shelf, you can go to the exact volume you need.

Native American genealogy work can be difficult but there are records scattered throughout the Metroplex and the National Archives at Fort Worth to get you started. Our own collection in Arlington contains the book, Tracing Ancestors Among the Five Civilized Tribes: Southeastern Indians Prior to Removal. [Catalog # GEN REF AA.1L] This work is by Rachal Mills Lennon, a certified genealogical records specialist. It was published in 2002 and contains a few nice maps. The 5 Civilized Tribes are: Chickasaw, Cherokee, Choctaw, Creek and Seminole, so if you are researching people in one of those tribes, this book could help steer you in the right direction. The authors said the Index covers all personal names, place names, topics and tribes mentioned in the book. The Early Federal Records part of the book mentions manuscripts, books and films, as well. The library catalog contains 2 reviews of this book and it has a scanned copy of the Table of Contents. The Mansfield Library has a copy of this book to check out, under the Dewey number 970.004 LENNON. You can easily reserve this book with your library card and have it sent to your nearest library branch.

Another republished book that came out in 1900 and was reprinted in 1998 (always a plus for Genealogists) is Ohio Valley Genealogies: relating chiefly to families in Harrison, Belmont and Jefferson Counties, Ohio, and Washington, Westmoreland and Fayette Counties, Pennsylvania [Catalog # GEN REF WZ.2H] This book was not placed in the Ohio section of the Genealogy collection because the Ohio Valley spills over into Pennsylvania and three more counties are included. There is no Table of Contents in this book but family names come in alphabetical order by county. One of the best aspects of this book is the long Introduction which discusses different waves of settlers from elsewhere (Scotch-Irish, Germans, Quakers and Virginians.) This information gives the reader a good background for research.
If you are doing Ohio research, our Genealogy section has another set of books that may help you. We have 3 volumes of early Ohio settler books that list land purchasers. The one highlighted here is *Early Ohio Settlers: Purchasers of land in East and East Central Ohio, 1800-1840*, compiled by Ellen Thomas Berry and David A. Berry in 1989. [Catalog # GEN REF OF.6B] This particular book has 12 counties worth of material from the Steubenville and Zanesville areas of Ohio. The other two volumes concentrate on SW and SE Ohio. The Berry’s book has a list of purchasers in columnar form—not exciting but maybe worthwhile!

The female side of the world is often hard to research in old records. Luckily for people looking into the first settlers in America, Patty Barthell Myers made a female Index from an early Genealogical dictionary. *The Female Index to Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England by James Savage* [Catalog # GEN REF WZ.2M] contains an alphabetical list of women’s names from Savage’s 4 volume dictionary. There are variations of the surnames, plus the ladies are listed under maiden names and married names. The APL record for this has an Annotation and Myers’ Genealogical background is given. James Savage’s original tome is also in our collection and probably gets the prize for the longest title of the day—*A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England, showing three generations who came before May, 1692, on the basis of Farmer’s Register*.

The last book in this list includes research information for all of the Americas—North and South, plus the Caribbean. The family history section of the Arlington Public Library owns *Genealogical Encyclopedia of the Colonial Americas: a complete digest of the records of all the countries of the Western Hemisphere* by Christina K. Schaefer. [Catalog #AA.13S] The cataloging entry contains reviews of this book and a nice Table of Contents. The book itself contains a general Index. The timeline/chronology of this work may be helpful to put history in context, plus researchers for Canada and South America have areas to concentrate on.