

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: **Dianne Hall Wilson**

Dianne Wilson looks back on her 32 years as the elected County Clerk of Fort Bend County. Under her supervision, the original office had 18 employees in the historic courthouse. Since that time, the office has grown to four locations with 70 employees recording about a million documents a year. Dianne talks about the appalling condition the records were in when she took office in 1983 and what was involved in cleaning them up. She systematically converted all the records first to microfilm then to digital so that all the County records are now available online 24/7. And she discusses the laws that had to be changed in order to accomplish this.

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Interview Summary

People (in order mentioned in interview)

Stephen F. Austin - first to keep written land records

Jim Rau - owner of Key Maps

Tom Delay - Texas State Legislator

Jodie Stavinoha - County Judge

Ed Lou - American Astronaut

Yuri Malenchenko - Russian Cosmonaut

Ekaterina Dmitriev - Cosmonaut spouse

Jack Rains - Secretary of State

Governor George Bush

John Zerwas - Texas State Legislator

Governor Rick Perry

Tom Phillips - Chief Justice

Places / Businesses

NASA

Texana Center

Events

Took office January 1, 1983

Restored deteriorated records

'Lady Officials' sign

Converted records to digital and placed online

Female pay parity suit in Fort Bend County

Visit China in 1988 with 28 US court administrators and elected officials

Administer county elections

Cosmonaut wedding

Retire in 2014