

After Slavery: Exercising the Rights of Citizenship in 19th-Century Texas



Subject and Grade Texas History and Geography, 7th (can be adapted for grades 4th – 8th)

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Time duration Two sessions of 45-60 minutes

Overview Students will explore a variety of county government records to learn how Ransom Williams, an African American living in post-Civil War Texas, began the transition to freedom by exercising the right to vote and own property. Students will work with partners to analyze a 19th-century primary source document, then create their own county government documents and answer questions about Ransom Williams and the functions of county government.

- Objectives**
- To learn about the role of county government in the lives of Texans, past and present
 - To use technology
 - To work cooperatively with partners

TEKS *Social Studies, 7th Grade*

(1A), identify the major eras in Texas history, describe their defining characteristics, and explain the purpose of dividing the past into eras, including Natural Texas and its People; Age of Contact; Spanish Colonial; Mexican National; Revolution and Republic; Early Statehood; Texas in the Civil War and Reconstruction; Cotton, Cattle, and Railroads; Age of Oil; Texas in the Great Depression and World War II; Civil Rights; and Contemporary Texas

(1C), explain the political, economic, and social effects of the Civil War and Reconstruction in Texas

(14A), describe the structure and functions of government at municipal, county, and state levels; and

(14B), identify major sources of revenue for state and local governments such as property taxes, sales taxes, bonds, and fees

(15A), explain rights of Texas citizens

(20A), differentiate between, locate, and use valid primary and secondary sources such as media and news services, biographies, interviews, and artifacts to acquire information about Texas

(22A), use social studies terminology correctly

Materials

- Access to Internet; Texas Beyond History (TBH) website:
www.texasbeyondhistory.net/ransom/index.html
- student computers (iPods, iPads, etc.)
- Interactive Whiteboard (or document camera, overhead projector, etc.)
- The following documents (included) can be enlarged:

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- 1860 Slave Schedule, Hays County
 - 1925 Property Plat Map
 - Ransom Williams' Property Tax Record, Travis County 1884
 - Texas Voter Registration Application
 - Ransom Williams' 1867 Voter Registration Record, Hays County
 - Mark & Brand Record listing Ransom Williams (1872)
 - Analyzing a Written Primary Source Document
 - Ransom Williams: A Nineteenth-Century Travis County Citizen
 - Photo of Ransom Williams' horse branding iron
 - Mark & Brand Application Form (also available at www.tscrabrands.com)

Activities and procedures

Prior to beginning activity, teacher will:

- Familiarize students with all necessary technology tools and applications.
- Print out copies of: Analyzing A Written Primary Source Document form and Ransom Williams: A Nineteenth-Century Travis County Citizen form.
- Review history of slavery and emancipation in Texas.

Day 1

Step 1: Display the *Williams Farmstead* exhibit (www.texasbeyondhistory.net/ransom/index.html) and briefly go over main titles and pictures with students. Explain that as they learn about the life of Ransom Williams, an African American freedman living in post-Civil War Texas, they will discover how the

functions of his county government helped him succeed as a citizen and property owner.

Step 2: Display the 1860 Slave Schedule. This document illustrates how enslaved African Americans were listed only by age, gender, and color on U.S. Census Rolls. Point to the names of the slave owners, and show that the names of the enslaved themselves were not given, only a number and description. After emancipation, most freedmen had to establish a legal identity of their own.

Step 3: Display the Travis County 1925 Property Plat Map. Explain that before emancipation, African Americans themselves were owned as property. After emancipation, freedmen like Ransom Williams managed to buy their own land. To prove ownership of his land, he registered his property deed at his county courthouse. This plat is one county record of Ransom Williams' land ownership.

Step 4: Display Ransom Williams' Property Tax Record. Point out that this document recorded Williams' legal ownership of his land, horses, and wagon as well as his property's value.

Step 5: Display the Texas Voter Registration Application (included and available on your county website). Point out that all Texas voters must register to vote and that in most Texas counties, the County Tax Assessor-Collector is also the County Voter Registrar. Briefly go over the application questions aloud with students. Ask why so much information is required of voter registrants.

Step 6: Display the Ransom Williams' Voter Registration document on the Interactive Whiteboard. Explain that enslaved African Americans could not vote or hold office. Becoming a registered voter gave Ransom Williams a legal identity that he hadn't had as when he was enslaved.

Step 7: Display a copy of the 1870s Mark & Brand Record (or distribute downloaded copies to students). Explain that Ransom Williams owned mules and horses, and wanted to be able to prove that they were his.

Step 8: Have students choose a partner to work with. Distribute copies of Analyzing a Written Primary Source Document to students. Explain that a primary source document is one that was created at the time under study, (e.g., this document was created during the lifetime of Ransom Williams). Read the questions aloud with students and have them complete the form with their partners.

Step 9: Students turn in completed Analyzing a Written Primary Source Document forms to teacher.

Step 10: Display Ransom Williams' Horse Brand photo (included) and explain that it was one of thousands of artifacts found on the Williams' farmstead site. Point out that this brand was most likely a discard, as it is backwards (the shank was on the wrong side) and it doesn't display the "A" shown on his brand application.

The complete brand was registered at Williams' county courthouse.

Step 11: Ask students to create a working definition of the word "ownership". Then have them make a list of everything they, themselves, own. Ask them how they can prove ownership of each of their belongings. Point out that proving ownership of items can be difficult and in order to prove ownership of our vehicles, homes, and properties, we must register them with the government and pay taxes on them.

Day 2

Step 1: Have students pair up again with their partners.

Step 2: Distribute copies of the Ransom Williams: A Nineteenth-Century Travis County Citizen form. Read the questions aloud with students. Have them use the Internet to help them answer the form's questions and complete their brand registration forms.

Step 3. Have students attach their Ransom Williams: A Nineteenth Century Travis County Citizen form to their downloaded and printed Mark and Brand Record and turn them in to the teacher.

Step 4: Ask students to volunteer examples of services that their county provides. Possible correct answers may include: birth, marriage, and death records; land deeds and deed transfers; property tax and foreclosure records; livestock brand registrations; sheriff and sheriff deputies services; county court and jury information;

child and adult protective services; automobile title transfers; etc.

Step 5: Explain that in the 19th century, county government was the most useful form of government to citizens because it directly influenced their everyday lives and was usually the closest government office to them geographically. Today, federal and state governments are important, too, but county governments continue to serve many vital functions.

Modifications: For students with specific learning needs or IEPs, have step-by-step instructions for the computer and all necessary applications available and allow more time for completing forms, if necessary.

Extension Activities

Have students play Counties Work, an interactive game about county governments:

<http://www.icivics.org/games/counties-work>

Assessment

- Completed Analyzing a Written Primary Source Document form
- Completed Mark & Brand Application Form
- Completed Ransom Williams: A Nineteenth Century Travis County Citizen form

Related Websites

National Association of Counties - interactive map:
<http://www.naco.org/Counties/Pages/FindACounty.aspx>

Texas 4-H Organization:
<http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/>

Texas Secretary of State - voting information:
<http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/pamphlets/largepamp.shtml>

SCHEDULE 2.—Slave Inhabitants in Sub-Division No in the County of Hays State of Texas, enumerated by me, on the 11th day of June, 1860. J H Cooks Ass't Marshal.

1	2	3			6	7	8	9	1	2	3			6	7	8	9		
		4	5	4							5	4	5						
NAMES OF SLAVE OWNERS.		Number of Slaves.	Age.	Sex.	Color.	Fugitives from the State.	Number manumitted.	Deaf & dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.	No. of Slave houses.	NAMES OF SLAVE OWNERS.		Number of Slaves.	Age.	Sex.	Color.	Fugitives from the State.	Number manumitted.	Deaf & dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.	No. of Slave houses.
1	J M Brunton	1	7	F	B	.	.	.	1	D W. Funtress	1	25	F	B	.	.	.	.	.
2		1	1	"	"	.	.	.			1	23	M	"	.	.	.	.	.
3		1	1	"	"	.	.	.			1	19	F	"	.	.	.	.	.
4	J W Brunton	1	42	"	"	.	.	.	1		1	18	M	M	.	.	.	.	.
5		1	19	M	"	.	.	.			1	16	F	B	.	.	.	.	.
6		1	14	"	M	.	.	.			1	13	"	"	.	.	.	.	.
7		1	14	F	"	.	.	.			1	9	M	"	.	.	.	.	.
8	Nancy Brown	1	80	M	B	.	.	.	5		1	3	F	M	.	.	.	.	.
9		1	40	"	M	.	.	.			1	1/2	"	"	.	.	.	.	.
10		1	27	"	B	.	.	.		Daniel Mayo	1	13	M	M	.	.	.	.	1

Travis County Tax Record 1884

ASSESSMENT ROLL of Property in <i>Travis</i> County, Owned by Residents																	
OWNER	LAND					CITY AND TOWN LOTS				LAND GRANTEES			CARRIAGES, STAGES or WAGONS, ETC.		FURNITURE, ETC.		Totals and Remarks
	Acres	Value	City or Town	Acres	Value	Acres	Value	Acres	Value	No.	Value	Value	Value				
Wilson M R	6	19	1/4	Common	139	1390											
Wood Nathan	14	21	N	P. Hill	25	200						1	17	3			
Williams Homer	17	6	3/4	McLean	45	185						1	15	5			
Williams John	17	6	"	"	160	1000						3	75	8			
Williamson J. J.	27	2	1/2	Walton Wilson	2	500	Manchaen										
Washington Richard	27	2	"	"	40	250						1	34	8			
Walton William	33	78	B	Arnold	40	40											
Walden G A	169	25	Common	Colman	80	500						1	35	15			
Wall Man.	185	312	Jos P.	Cady	143 1/2	600						1	15				
Wimbush J. P.	311	4	Isaac	Yorkman	108	200						1	25	5			
Williams James J.	487	1	James	Jett	98 1/2	300											
Wentworth J. W.	491	486	1/4	Wm A. Travis	107	200											
Witt J. W.	510	16	Mancha	J. Momm	2147 1/2	1500						1	35	525			
Wright Robt	514	29	Green	McArg	63	120											
Wright S August	514	29	"	"	63	120						1	10	45			
Wells Geo M	547	20	Robt	B. Munn	160	160						1	40				
Wheeler E. J.	574	376	1/4	Trinity & Williams	260	650								10			
Williams G. F.	613	679	Charles	Dorron	143	256						1	25				5
Williams A. S.	676	19	Chas	H. Pierce	466	6000											
Wade John	697	7	Geo	H. Spurr	1/4	80											
Washington Lewis	697	7	"	"	1/4	100											
Watson George	718	702	B. K.	Stewart	80	250											5
Woods J. R.	771	609	Dunnell	Sabre	160	500						1	30	10			
Wright Geo M	798	62	Sam	Williams	300	300						1	20	10			
Walter Edmunds Sr	792	18	James	D. Wallaw	40	400						1	20	8			
Wells Erney Ann	792	18	"	"	3 1/2	30											
Wimbush G. A.	3139	E. A.	Wimbush		160	200											
Wright J. F.	2186	Archer	Dunn		857	420						1	20				
Witt J. C.		Thos	C. Witt		160	500						1	30	150			
Watson Geo J.		Geo	J. Watson		60	60						1	10	4			
Wilson W. J.																	
Witt W. J.												1	35	770			
Wheeler E.												1	50				
Wilson J. W.												1	35	100			
Wittley R. L.												1	40				
Williams Thomas												1	35				
Williams P.												1	30				

Please complete sections by printing LEGIBLY. If you have any questions about how to fill out this application, please call your local voter registrar. Please visit the Texas Secretary of State website, www.sos.state.tx.us, and for additional election information visit www.votetexas.gov. Este formulario está disponible en español. Favor de llamar a su registrador de votantes local para conseguir una versión en español.

Qualifications

- You must register to vote in the county in which you reside.
- You must be a citizen of the United States.
- You must be at least 17 years and 10 months old to register, and you must be 18 years of age by Election Day.
- You must not be finally convicted of a felony, or if you are a felon, you must have completed all of your punishment, including any term of incarceration, parole, supervision, period of probation, or you must have received a pardon.
- You must not have been determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote.

1 THESE QUESTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE PROCEEDING (Check one)

New Application Change of Address, Name, or Other Information Request for a Replacement Card

Are you a United States Citizen? Yes No Will you be 18 years of age on or before election day? Yes No

If you checked 'No' in response to either of the above, do not complete this form.

Are you interested in serving as an election worker? Yes No

2	Last Name Include Suffix if any (Jr, Sr, III)	First Name	Middle Name (if any)	Former Name (if any)
3	Residence Address: Street Address and Apartment Number. If none, describe where you live. (Do not include P.O. Box, Rural Rt. or Business Address)		City	TEXAS
			County	Zip Code
4	Mailing Address: Street Address and Apartment Number. (If mail cannot be delivered to your residence address.)		City	State
				Zip Code

5 **City and County of Former Residence in Texas**

6	Date of Birth: (mm/dd/yyyy)	7	Gender (Optional)	8	Telephone Number (Optional) Include Area Code
	<input type="text"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female		(<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>) <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>

9	Texas Driver's License No. or Texas Personal I.D. No. (Issued by the Department of Public Safety)	If no Texas Driver's License or Personal Identification, give last 4 digits of your Social Security Number
	<input type="text"/>	XXX-XX- <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/> I have not been issued a Texas Driver's License/Personal Identification Number or Social Security Number.	

10 I understand that giving false information to procure a voter registration is perjury, and a crime under state and federal law. Conviction of this crime may result in imprisonment up to one year in jail, a fine up to \$4,000, or both. Please read all three statements to affirm before signing.

- I am a resident of this county and a U.S. citizen;
- I have not been finally convicted of a felony, or if a felon, I have completed all of my punishment including any term of incarceration, parole, supervision, period of probation, or I have been pardoned; and
- I have not been determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote.

X

Date: _____

Signature of Applicant or Agent and Relationship to Applicant or Printed Name of Applicant if Signed by Witness and Date.

FOR VOLUNTEER DEPUTY REGISTRAR USE ONLY	
Deputy Number	Application must be delivered to Voter Registrar no later than 5 days after receipt
_____	_____
Signature of Volunteer Deputy Registrar	Date

REGISTRATION RECEIPT

Name of Applicant/Applicant's Agent (if applicable)	Receipt No.:
Name of Volunteer Deputy Registrar	Deputy No.:
Signature of Volunteer Deputy Registrar	Date:

Ransom Williams' 1867 Voter Registration Record, Hays County

1867 Hays County, Texas

Hays

DATE OF REGISTRY.	NAMES	PLACE OF RESIDENCE	PRECINCT.	NATIVE.	SIGNATURE OF ELECTOR.	GENERAL REMARKS.
July 22 1867	William J. Griffin	Hays County	D. 2	Summit	W. J. Griffin	White
22	George H. Hannaford			New York	Geo. H. Hannaford	
22	Richmond C. Robbins			Summit	R. C. Robbins	
22	Nelson Martin			Virginia	Nelson Martin	Colored
22	Thomas Kinchen			Louisiana	Thomas Kinchen	
22	Phymok Kinchen				Phymok Kinchen	
22	Ransom Bunton			Summit	Ransom Bunton	
22	William Kinchen			Summit	William Kinchen	
22	Nelson Bunton			Summit	Nelson Bunton	
22	James C. Hollabrite			Mississippi	James C. Hollabrite	
22	William Bredlow (Bredlow)			Kentucky	William Bredlow	
22	John L. Good			Texas	John L. Good	
22	James Janyay				James Janyay	
22	Primo Green			Alabama	Primo Green	
22	Bligh Kinchen			Mississippi	Bligh Kinchen	
22	Robert Martin			North Carolina	Robert Martin	
22	James H. Cavanaugh			South Carolina	James H. Cavanaugh	
22	William Proctor			Virginia	William Proctor	
22	Francis Kinchen			Illinois	Francis Kinchen	
22	George Washington			Kentucky	George Washington	
22	James Hamilton				James Hamilton	
22	Elias Bunton				Elias Bunton	
22	George Otom			Georgia	George Otom	
22	Stephen J. Good			Texas	Stephen J. Good	
22	Charles Thompson			Mississippi	Charles Thompson	
22	Stephen Jackson			Alabama	Stephen Jackson	
22	Kasper Cott			Mississippi	Kasper Cott	
22	Levine Kidepeth			Summit	Levine Kidepeth	
22	Henry Watson			North Carolina	Henry Watson	
22	Kasper Jackson			Kentucky	Kasper Jackson	
22	William Ewell			Virginia	William Ewell	
22	Henry Fraker			Texas	Henry Fraker	
22	William Nichols			Mississippi	William Nichols	
22	Berry Burnham			South Carolina	Berry Burnham	
22	Walter Benson			Mississippi	Walter Benson	
22	Gilbert M. Daniel			Alabama	Gilbert M. Daniel	
22	Hamilton Addison			Virginia	Hamilton Addison	
22	Henry Williams			North Carolina	Henry Williams	
22	Ransom Williams			Kentucky	Ransom Williams	
22	Virgus Kyle			Mississippi	Virgus Kyle	

131 Mark and Brand Record. Travis County.

NUMBER.	Date of Registration.	Name of Owner.	RESIDENCE.	To whom Sold, Residence and Remarks.	MARKS & BRANDS		PLACE
					Mark.	Brands.	
103	June 30, 1870	White Louis	res.	Cancelled at request of owner 22 Aug 71		LW	
106	Nov. 19, 1870	Hood Nathan		For value received I transfer this mark & brand to James Garrison Nov. 1871. Nathan T. Hood.		N	
107	Nov. 22, 1870	Hall James				OO	
108	Nov. 23, 1870	Washington James				JT	
109	Feb. 10, 1873	Washington Geo. est				OOO	
110	May 3, 1871	Kallau H. R.				W	
111	Jan. 3, 1871	Watson Army				F	
112	June 5, 1871	Wingard Rhoda J. & Co.				CW	
113	July 1, 1871	Waldron M. L. & Co.				E	Leads here
114	Oct. 21, 1871	White G. C. & Co. Delphi				E	
115	Nov. 6, 1871	Whipple Sarah E. Mrs				E	
116	Nov. 25, 1871	Wills H. B.				WLS	
117	May 10, 1872	Williams Mike				J	
118	Apr. 4, 1872	Williams Ransom		horse brand		RA	
119	May 23, 1873	Wilburn F. G.				FW	
120	July 24, 1872	Woody Jordan R.				8	
121	Apr. 10, 1872	Wilson Albert				AW	
122	June 1, 1872	Willford J.				U	
123	Apr. 27, 1872	Wilson Sam				33	
124	Apr. 30, 1872	Wade J. H.				JIM	with
125	Dec. 4, 1872	Waddell J. D.				IZ	
126	July 26, 1873	Wander Joseph		Cancelled & discontinued } Jan. 24, 1874		O	only
127	Dec. 3, 1873	Washington Richard				RC	
128	Dec. 18, 1873	Whitt Jesse				J	
129	Mar. 24, 1874	Wilson J. P.				PW	
130	May 11, 1874	Wormack Jesse				2	right

Analyzing A Written Primary Source Document

1. TYPE OF DOCUMENT (Circle one):

Newspaper

Magazine

Advertisement

Letter

Telegram

Government Record

Census Report

Map

Calendar

2. UNIQUE PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DOCUMENT (Circle one or more):

Interesting fonts

Information typed

Information hand-written

Dates

Drawings

Notations

3. What is the subject/purpose of the document?

4. Why would the information in this document need to be recorded?

5. What is the range of dates on this document? _____

6. On what date did Ransom Williams register his brand? _____

7. List two things this document tells you about life in Texas at the time it was written.

8. Write a question to Ransom Williams that is left unanswered in this document.

Ransom Williams: A Nineteenth-Century Travis County Citizen

In 1872, Ransom Williams had to travel approximately 13 miles by horse or wagon (which would have taken the better part of a day) from where he lived near Manchaca, Texas to the Travis County courthouse in Austin, Texas, to register his horse brand and take care of other county business. Color Travis County red on the map below.

Download and print out a current brand registration form at <http://www.tscrabands.com/> and use information on that website to help you design a brand and complete the form.

Completed registration forms would have to be taken to the courthouse in your county. What county do you live in?

Use the online map at <http://geology.com/county-map/texas.shtml> to locate your county and county seat. Color your county green on the map below. If you live in Travis County, draw a blue circle around it on the map.



Each of Texas' 254 counties has a county seat, a town or city where the county courthouse is located and where county business is conducted. In what town or city is your county seat?

Search the Web for your official county website. On it, find five services your county provides and list them below. Draw a star by any services that would not have been available to Ransom Williams in the 1800s.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Photo of Ransom Williams' horse branding iron



