Remembering John F. Kennedy: Sixty Years Later

The University of North Texas Libraries’ Portal to Texas History provides free online access to many archival collections that document the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Launched in 2004, the Portal to Texas History provides online access to a rich collection of newspapers, books, photographs, artifacts, video, maps, audio recordings, letters, and manuscripts from more than 450 collaborative partners. Below are some of the best collections to learn more about the JFK assassination, and this dark moment in our nation’s history.

Collection: Dallas Times Herald John F. Kennedy Photos
Partner: The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza
texashistory.unt.edu/explore/collections/DTHJFK
The Dallas Times Herald’s collection contains negatives of approximately 700 black-and-white news images taken by photographers over the assassination weekend and beyond. It includes many unique and crucial images, and though only a few of these historic scenes were published by the Times Herald in 1963, they are a powerful visual record of President Kennedy’s last hours in Fort Worth and Dallas, including the motorcade, assassination aftermath, and investigations.

Collection: John F. Kennedy, Dallas Police Department Collection
Partner: Dallas Municipal Archives
texashistory.unt.edu/explore/collections/JFKDP
The John F. Kennedy/Dallas Police Department Collection contains the entirety of the department’s investigation into the assassination. There are nearly 11,000 pages of affidavits, interviews, and evidence, along with 404 photographs that document the scenes associated with this moment in our nation’s history.

Collection: John F. Kennedy Memorial Collection
Partner: Ten partners
texashistory.unt.edu/explore/collections/JFKAM
This collection contains newspapers, correspondence, legal documents, police reports, photographs, and video footage documenting the weekend of President Kennedy’s assassination as well as the subsequent investigations into both Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby.

Collection: Jack Ruby Trial Transcripts
Partner: The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza
bit.ly/ptth-jfk-jack-ruby
This group of materials features 39 published transcripts arising from the Jack Ruby trial, where he was convicted of “murder with malice” in the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald.

Collection: Charles Reagan Papers
Partner: UNT Libraries Special Collections Department
texashistory.unt.edu/explore/collections/CERP
The physical collection contains the research of Charles E. Reagan, Jr., who was working on a book about John F. Kennedy and the era surrounding his presidency. Items include his hand-written notes and manuscript on notepads, printed articles, magazines and newspapers featuring Kennedy, and typed manuscript pages.

Collection: Judge Sarah T. Hughes Collection
Partner: UNT Libraries Special Collections Department
texashistory.unt.edu/explore/collections/SARAH
Sarah Tlghman Hughes (1896-1985) practiced law in Dallas, and was the first woman to serve as a federal district judge in Texas (1961-1975; senior status until 1982), and championed various human and women’s rights causes. Notably, as a federal district judge, Hughes administered the presidential oath of office to Lyndon B. Johnson aboard Air Force One following the assassination of John F. Kennedy in November 1963.