

# South Texas Researcher

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## Introduction

**Note:** the *South Texas Researcher* is also now available on the San Antonio Public Library's web site ([www.sanantonio.gov/library/](http://www.sanantonio.gov/library/)) under "News & Events" then "News & Newsletters." Backfiles will soon be added.

Please remember that the purpose of this newsletter is to keep librarians, historians, archivists, genealogists, archaeologists, and those in other allied fields informed of what is going on that may be helpful in these fields so they may pass this information on to other interested parties in their locations.

*South Texas* is being broadly defined as beginning in Val Verde County in the west; moving east to Austin (Travis County); and then southeast through Caldwell, Lavaca, Jackson, and Calhoun counties to the Gulf of Mexico.



I am willing to include important events or acquisitions from other areas, in some instances, if they may be of particular usefulness to those in our area. News from our neighboring Mexican states of Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon, and Coahuila would also be welcome.

If you have items you or your organization would like others to know about, please e-mail the address at the end of this newsletter.

*Feel free to forward this communication to anyone who might be interested.*

*Thank you!*

## *News and Calendar of Events*

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### Texana/Genealogy Class Schedule San Antonio Public Library

**All classes are on Saturdays from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.**

**Programs are free and held at the San Antonio Central Library,  
600 Soledad, San Antonio, Texas, 78205.**

**E-mail: [genealogydesk@sanantonio.gov](mailto:genealogydesk@sanantonio.gov)**

**To register (so we have enough handouts) or for information please  
call the Texana/Genealogy Department at (210) 207-2500 (ask for  
Texana) or E-mail: [genealogydesk@sanantonio.gov](mailto:genealogydesk@sanantonio.gov)**

Saturday, 10 January 2009 ; 2:00-3:30 p. m.

#### **Preserving Family Treasures**

Do you have a quilt, family Bible, photographs, or other objects that have been passed on in your family for years or generations? Would you like to know how to protect them for future generations? This workshop is designed to provide the best, simple methods to help preserve such objects.

Saturday, 7 February 2009; 2:00-3:30 p. m.

#### **Beginning Genealogy – Beginning a Family History Project**

Learn the basics of finding your families history. See if someone else has written about your family. Discover where to start your own search and the steps used to find information in archives, libraries, courthouses, churches, cemeteries.

On 21 March 2009, staff of Texana/Genealogy will present an all-day series of classes on basic records groups useful to family historians and those interested in researching basic records of United States history.

#### **Census Records, 9:30-10:45 a.m.**

The U. S. census reports begin in 1790 and are available through 1930. See how they have changed over time, what information is included, and how to read and interpret them. Also, see what special schedules were taken (agricultural, mortality, military, etc.) and how they can further your research.

### **Vital Records, 11:00-12:15**

Vital records are generally defined as birth, marriage, divorce, and death records. We will first learn how to locate these records, then how to read and interpret them. When unable to locate these official records, we will look at alternative sources, i.e. church records, cemetery readings, deeds, probate records, newspapers, and more.

### **County Records, 1:30-2:45**

The primary thrust of this workshop will be on records one would expect to find in a county courthouse: deeds, wills and probate, tax records, naturalization, civil and criminal court records, and others. How these are indexed and how to understand them will be discussed.

### **Federal Records, 3:00-4:15**

This class will give an overview of records created by the federal government. These include immigration and naturalization, military, federal land records, legislative materials.

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## **Archives**

Founded in 1893, TMI – The Episcopal School of Texas (formerly known from 1926 to 2005 as Texas Military Institute and from 1893 to 1926 as West Texas Military Academy) has yearbooks, catalogs and other materials from most years of the school's operation. For family history and other researchers, the staff accepts queries about alumni and school history. Contact the school librarian at 564-6147 or public relations at 564-6155.

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## **Items from Texana/Genealogy**

### **Highlighted in the *South Texas Researcher* During 2008**

**January:** Non-population census schedules, San Antonio Civic Opera

**February:** Journals on microfilm

**March:** Non-Texas newspapers available on microfilm

**April:** Early American records on microfilm

**May:** Selected book sets and microfilm of special note, Speech Arts Association archives

**June:** Louisiana land records (M1382), Planning a genealogical trip

**July:** Revolutionary War era records on microfilm

**August:** Massachusetts vital records on microfiche, Anti-saloon League of America Yearbooks, Colonial Society of Massachusetts publications

**November:** Builders' Exchange of Texas, Recent journal articles of interest

**December:** Footnote.com

### Texana/Genealogy Department Internet Classes

**All classes are on Saturdays from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.**

**Programs are free and held at the San Antonio Central Library,  
600 Soledad, San Antonio, Texas, 78205.**

**E-mail: [genealogydesk@sanantonio.gov](mailto:genealogydesk@sanantonio.gov)**

**To register (so we have enough handouts) or for information  
please call the Texana/Genealogy Department at (210) 207-2500  
(ask for Texana) or E-mail: [genealogydesk@sanantonio.gov](mailto:genealogydesk@sanantonio.gov)**

Tuesday, 6 January; 2:00-3:30 p. m.

**Beginning Genealogy:** the Internet as a Source for Genealogical Research

This workshop will cover the basics of searching the internet for family history materials and listservs, how to evaluate these sites, where to find downloadable forms, how-to-sites, and other important information.

Tuesday, 3 February; 2:00-3:30 p. m.

**Ancestry, Library Ed.**

This collection of databases is available only within the Central Library and its branches. This class will look at how the site is organized and effective search techniques. It will be compared with HeritageQuest online for content and ease of searching. How to print records will also be discussed.

Tuesday, 3 March; 2:00-3:30 p. m.

**Genealogy Software**

The development of genealogy software has made it much easier to keep track of genealogical information. The class covers a variety of free and retail software and their features. You will learn about GEDCOM files, basic functions and reports generated by these programs to see which one is right for you.

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Odell Miller, President of *Palatines to America* has released the following news:

The Palatine to America Library has been closed. Our collection is being relocated to the Columbus Metropolitan Library in Columbus, Ohio. It is anticipated the Palatine Collection will be available for use sometime in the first quarter of 2009.

### **Los Bexareños Genealogy Society**

Meetings are normally held at 9:30 a.m. every first Saturday of the month on the first floor, Main Auditorium, of the San Antonio Public Library, 600 Soledad Street, San Antonio, Texas. Visitors are always welcome to attend. Membership is not required. Speakers at the meetings are people with a passion for history, professional historians, genealogists, archaeologists and researchers.

#### **There is no January meeting.**

**Next Meeting Date:** February 7, 2009

#### **Help for the beginning genealogist.**

The Society assists individuals in getting started with genealogical research through beginner's workshops. Beginners also receive assistance from the more experienced members of the Society. Currently we are offering assistance by appointment only and on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month between the hours of 10:00am and 2:00pm at the following location:

**The San Antonio Genealogical & Historical Society  
911 Melissa Drive, San Antonio, TX 78213**

Contact one of the following individuals by email or phone to schedule an appointment:

Dennis Moreno 210-647-5607 [dennis.moreno@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dennis.moreno@sbcglobal.net)

Yolanda Patino 210-434-3530 [patinogil@sbcglobal.net](mailto:patinogil@sbcglobal.net)

### **James & Doris Menke Collection Medina County Family Files**

Files are organized alphabetically first by surname into a general file. Once three sheets were found for a particular family, they were moved into an individual family surname file. Sometimes several spellings of a surname are combined into one folder.

These files contain information pertinent to a particular surname such as births, marriages, obituaries, deeds, reunions, or general history which has been collected over the years. Most files contain clippings from the 1960s to the end of 2007. Some go back into the 1940s. There are also original documents, pamphlets, letters, and other items dating from the middle 1800s to the past few years.

A majority of the articles was taken from The Hondo Anvil Herald and list only the date. "NB" indicates the article was taken from The News Bulletin of Castroville. A few articles were taken from the San Antonio Light or the San Antonio Express-News and are so indicated.

James & Doris Menke  
5 August 2008.

## *News and Calendar of Events*

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### **Witte Museum**

**3801 Broadway  
San Antonio, Texas 78209**

**(210) 357-1900**

***Bluebonnets & Beyond:***

***Julian Onderdonk, American Impressionist***  
*19 September through 11 January 2009*

***La Cultura Trasciende Fronteras:  
A Personal Portrait of Tejaons and Mexicanos***  
*20 September through 25 January 1009*

***Fashions in Art: 1870-1920***  
*11 October through 15 February 2009*

***Wild, Wild West: The Myths, The Reality***  
*20 December 2008 through 23 August 2009*

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### **McNay Art Museum**

**6000 North New Braunfels**

**San Antonio, Texas 78209**

**(210) 824-5368**

***ArtMatters 13 : Joseph Marioni : Liquid Light***  
*22 October 2008 – 18 January 2009*

***Prints Gone Wild : John James Audubon***  
*22 October 2008-18 January 2009*

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### **San Antonio Museum of Art**

**200 West Jones Ave  
San Antonio, TX 78215**

**(210) 978-8100**

***Chocolate: A Photography Exhibition***  
*September 6, 2008 through January 11, 2009*

## *News and Calendar of Events*

The Genealogical Society of Kendall County announces the  
**Fifth Annual Hill Country Family History Seminar**

Saturday, February 7, 2009

**Guest Speaker: George K. Schweitzer, PhD, ScD**

Dr. Schweitzer is Alumni Distinguished Professor at the University of TN and holds BA, MS, and PhD degrees in Chemistry, an MA in the History of Religion, a PhD in History of Science, and an ScD (Doctor of Science) in Philosophy of Science. He is Phi Beta Kappa and is listed in Who's Who in America. He has authored 220 publications including 19 genealogical guidebooks. Professor Schweitzer uses historical reenactment to teach genealogy and has traced many of his ancestral lines back to the early 1500s. He has lectured to over 200 genealogical and historical societies in the US, Canada, England, and Germany. His topics will be:

- The Civil War
- German Genealogical Research
- Genealogy in the Southeastern United States
- Dr. Schweitzer's Problem Solving

>>>>>> ----- C u t o n t h i s l i n e ----- <<<<<<

Please print clearly. Complete a separate form for each seminar attendee. Early registrants will have name and ancestors printed in syllabus. Price saving pre-registration before Saturday, January 24, 2009 is \$35 for members, \$40 for non-member. Seminar registration at the door is \$50.00 for all.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Three surnames, with location, you are researching for publication in syllabus. (*Example for format: Newsom – NC*)

Early Registration, including lunch: \$40.00 non members. (GSKC Members \$35.00) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

No. of dinner reservations @ \$30.00 each \_\_\_\_ ( Check if vegetarian\_\_\_\_) Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form and check to: **Genealogical Society of Kendall County, Attn: GSKC Seminar Registrar, PO Box 623, Boerne, TX 78006-0623.**

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Seminar doors open at 8:15 a.m.

(Morning and afternoon snacks and lunch included)

**Place:** The Boerne Convention and Community Center

820 East Adler Rd., Boerne, Texas

**Pre-Seminar Dinner with Dr. George K. Schweitzer**

Friday, Feb 6, Kendall Masonic Lodge, 897 E Blanco, Boerne, TX

**(Space Limited. Pre-registration required. Seminar registrant and 1 guest.)**

For more information:

(1) Visit our website at [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txgskc](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txgskc)

(2) Contact Christy Kestler, [christykestler@hotmail.com](mailto:christykestler@hotmail.com). Mention "GSKC Seminar" in the subject line

(3) Call Registrar Ruth Taylor at 210-831-8737 or 210-863-1798 (cell).

## **San Antonio Founders Day Art & Essay Contests**

Students in Grades 6-12 Can Win a \$1,000 College Scholarship

### **Contest Theme:**

**“How the History and Heritage of a Cultural Group Has Contributed to San Antonio”**

Winners of the 2008-2009 Essay Contest will receive a \$1,000 Scholarship provided by the Alamo Community Colleges' Foundation to any one of the Alamo Community Colleges. Seven scholarships will be given for grades 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 (one per grade level).

The University of Incarnate Word will also award seven \$1,000 Scholarships to the winners of the Visual Arts Contest. Seven scholarships will be given for grades 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 (one per grade level).

Schools can win, too! San Antonio Founders Day Excellence Awards of \$500 cash will go to the school of each winning student as a "thank you" for promoting and encouraging student participation in these contests.

New rules (and entry forms) for the [Essay Contest](#) and the [Visual Arts Contest](#) are now on-line.

The deadline for both contests is February 28, 2009.

To motivate more reading about the history and cultures of San Antonio and to get ideas for the contest, students, their parents and teachers, are directed here: [Scholarship Contest Cultural Resource Paper—Read Me First!](#)

For complete contest rules, helpful hints, contact information and entry forms, visit our website at [www.SanAntonioFoundersDay.org](http://www.SanAntonioFoundersDay.org).

Sponsored by the San Antonio Founders Day Alliance in association with San Antonio's Founding Heritage, Alamo Community Colleges' Foundation and the University of the Incarnate Word.

## *New in Texana*

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Black, Mary S. **Early Texas Schools.** [370.9764 Black]

Albro, Ward. **The Day of the Dead.** [394.266 Albro]

Hernandez-Ehrisman, Laura. **Inventing the Fiesta City: Heritage and Arrival in San Antonio.**  
[394.26976 Hernandez-Ehrisman]

Hartman, Gary. **The History of Texas Music.** [780.9764 Hartman]

Wood, Roger. **Texas Zydeco.** [781.6241 Wood]

Hudson, Kathleen. **Women in Texas Music.** [782.42164 Hudson]

Crager, Kelly. **Hell under the Rising Sun: Texan POWs and the Building of the Burma-Thailand  
Death Railway.** [940.54 Crager]

**Nancy Love and the WASP Ferry Pilots of World War II.** [940.54497 Love]

**The Forgotten Expedition, 1804-1805: The Louisiana Purchase Journals of Dunbar and Hunter.**  
[973.46 Dunbar]

Dupree, Stephen. **Planting the Union Flag in Texas: The Campaigns of Major General Nathaniel P.  
Banks in the West.** [973.73092 Banks]

Watson, J. M. **Confederate from East Texas: The Civil War Letters of James Munroe Watson.**  
[973.7464 Watson]

**Buffalo Soldiers in the West.** [973.8 Buffalo]

Chapman, James. **Soda Spring Community, Comanche County, Texas, vols. 1 & 2.** [976.4554  
Chapman]

Boyd, Greg. **Texas Land Survey Maps for Tom Green County.** [976.4721 Boyd]

**Cochran County Legacy: Texas Last Frontier, 1924-1986.** [976.4845 Cochran]

Marrin, Richard B. **Going to Court in Texas: Riding the Circuit, 1842-1861.** [976.42 Marrin]

**Scholastic Census of Washington County, TX, 1854-1856, with 1854 Census.** [976.4245 Scholastic]

## *New in Genealogy*

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- Shaw, Robert B. **A Legal History of Slavery in the United States.** [342.73087 Shaw]
- Conway, Lorie. **Forgotten Ellis Island: The Extraordinary Story of America's Immigrant Hospital.** [362.11097 Conway]
- Fritz, Karen E. **Voices in the Storm: Confederate Rhetoric, 1861-1865.** [815.01099 Fritz]
- Mills, Elizabeth. **Evidence Explained.** [907.2 Mills]
- Darrow, Carol Cook, and Susan Winchester. **The Genealogist's Guide to Researching Tax Records.** [929.1072 Darrow]
- Hatcher, Patricia Law. **Researching Your Colonial New England Ancestors.** [929.1072 Hatcher]
- Punch, Terrence. **Erin's sons: Irish Arrivals in Atlantic Canada, 1761-1853.** [929.3715 Punch]
- Green, Linda L. **Delaware 1850-1860 Agricultural Census: Volume 1.** [975.1 Green]
- Green, Linda L. **Delaware 1870-1880 Agricultural Census: Volume 2.** [975.1 Green]
- Green, Linda L. **Delaware Mortality Schedules, 1850-1880; Delaware Insanity Schedule, 1880 Only.** [975.1 Green]
- Fuller, Marsha Lynne. **African American Manumissions of Washington County, Maryland.** [975.2 Washington]
- Hynson, Jerry M. **District of Columbia Runaway and Fugitive Slave Cases, 1848-1863.** [975.3 Hynson]
- Absher, Mrs. W. O. **Some Pioneers from Wilkes County, N.C.** [975.6 Wilkes]
- Wooley, James E., and Vivian. **Edgefield County, S.C. Wills, 1787-1836.** [975.7 Edgefield]
- Holcomb, Brent. **South Carolina's Royal Grants, Vol. 2: Grant Books 10 - 17, 1760-1768.** [975.7 Holcomb]
- Holcomb, Brent. **South Carolina's Royal Grants, Vol. 3: Grant Books 18 - 24, 1768 - 1773.** [975.7 Holcomb]

## ***Web Sites of Interest***

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### **St. John's Lutheran Church, San Antonio**

[http://www.stjohnsroosterchurch.org/anniversary\\_sect2.htm](http://www.stjohnsroosterchurch.org/anniversary_sect2.htm)

The Archives Committee has been hard at work to make the first records of our church available to all. The documents have been transcribed from the original records books of the church. The earlier books were written in the old German script handwriting, some of which are very difficult to decipher.

Please keep this in mind as you do your research. Here is information contained in our archives about the founding families of St. John's:

List of all Pastors that have served St. John's, Book 1 Family Register Explanation, Book 1 Family Register Index, First Families Register transcription, Cemetery History, Map of Cemeteries, Map of Old Lutheran Cemetery, Map New Lutheran & Immanuel Cemetery, Burials at Old Lutheran Cemetery, Burials at New Lutheran Cemetery, Burials at Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery, Marriage Records 1869 - 1899 transcription, History of St. John's- Abstract from the handwritten history

### **Chronicling America**

<http://www.loc.gov/chroniclingamerica/>

### **More Than 500,000 Newspaper Pages Now Available**

More than 79,000 newly digitized newspaper pages, along with several new site features, have recently been added to the Chronicling America Web site at [www.loc.gov/chroniclingamerica/](http://www.loc.gov/chroniclingamerica/). With this update, the site now provides access to more than 500,000 digitized newspaper pages, dating primarily from 1900 to 1910, and representing 61 newspapers from California, the District of Columbia, Florida, Kentucky, New York, Utah and Virginia. Chronicling America is a project of the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP), which is a partnership between the Library of Congress and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

### **Acadian Roots**

<http://acadian-roots.com/frames.html>

An "everything" site about Acadians in the Maritime Provinces of Canada containing census records, school returns, marriage records, cemetery records, parish records and more.

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San Antonio, Texas 78205      210-207-2500  
e-mail: [genealogydesk@sanantonio.gov](mailto:genealogydesk@sanantonio.gov)

Please submit information and articles to the above e-mail.  
For the                      February 2009 issue by 15 January  
   March 2009 issue by 15 February  
   April 2009 issue by 15 March