Texana / Genealogy

San Antonio Public Library Texana / Genealogy
Find Texana / Genealogy online by visiting mysapl.org/texana. Here you will find the On this day in San Antonio blog, past issues of South Texas Researcher, information about upcoming classes and guides to help you in your genealogy research.

Texana / Genealogy Department is located on the sixth floor of the Central Library, 600 Soledad 78205. The department is open to the public Tuesdays through Saturdays:

- Tuesday 12:00pm - 8:00 pm
- Wednesday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
- Thursday 12:00pm - 8:00 pm
- Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
- Saturday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Library Guides from Texana / Genealogy
The Library Guides are subject bibliographies with a current twist-databases, websites, event schedule, blogs, as well as books. The department now has the following guides on the library's website under Resources:

Cemeteries, Civil War, Civil War in Texas, Death, Family History, HeritageQuest Online, Hispanic Genealogical Research, Jewish Genealogy, King James Bible, La Meri, Local History, Texas History
Events & Classes

Exploring HeritageQuest

The HeritageQuest database has recently been expanded and is now available to use from home! Join Generations," the genealogy club at the new Encino branch library to learn how to utilize the new interface and the useful features of this powerful database.

Saturday, July 18, 2015 at 2 p.m.

Encino Library
2515 E. Evans Road
Call 210.207.9250 for more information. (Ask for Barbara)

New Publications

A guide to Chicago & Midwestern Polish-American Genealogy
(GENEALOGY 929.1072 KRUSKI)

Guide to Swiss Genealogical Research
(GENEALOGY 949.4 ROHRBACH)

Our Hispanic Roots: What History Failed to Tell Us
(GENEALOGY 973.046 VEGA)

Vital Records of Prospect, Maine Prior to 1892
(GENEALOGY 974.1 WALDO)

Births Recorded in the Town Reports of PeterBorough, New Hampshire, 1887-1951
(GENEALOGY 974.2 HILLSBOROUGH)

"Given to Drinking and Whoring:" White Maryland Runaways, 1720-1762"
(GENEALOGY 975.2 GIVEN)
Maryland's Civil War Photographs: The Sesquicentennial Collection
(GENEALOGY 975.2 KELBAUGH)

A Gazetteer of Indian Territory
(GENEALOGY 976.6 GANNETT)

Newton County, Arkansas Marriage Records, 1867-1875
(GENEALOGY 976.7 NEWTON)

Missouri Pioneers of Boone County
(GENEALOGY 977.8 BOONE)

Gringo's Curve: Pancho Villa's Massacre of American Miners in Mexico, 1916
(TEXANA 972.0816 HABERMYER)

Forgotten Chapters of the American Revolution: Spain, Gálvez and Isleños
(TEXANA 973.346 PÉREZ)

Granbury's Texas Brigade
(TEXANA 973.7464 LUNDBERG)

Texas Cherokees, 1820-1839: A Document For Litigation, 1921
(TEXANA 976.4004 FIELDS)

Texas Rising: The Epic True Story of the Lone Star Republic and the Rise of the Texas Rangers, 1836-1846
(TEXANA 976.404 MOORE)

"Laredito," The Forgotten Neighborhood West of San Pedro Creek
(TEXANA 976.4351 PÉREZ)

The 18 Ranch, Colorado Cattle Co., 1881-1973
(TEXANA 976.4732 YEATS)

6666: Portrait of a Texas Ranch
(TEXANA 976.4839 MEINZER)

Chili Queen: Mi Historia
(TEXANA FICTION MARTINELLA)
Meetings are normally held at 9:30 a.m. at the Central Library Auditorium. Visitors are welcome to attend. Membership is not required. Speakers at the meetings are people with a passion for history, professional historians, genealogists, archaeologists and researchers.

**For the July Meeting**

**Date:** none  
**Speaker:** none  
**Topic:** none

The July meeting is cancelled due to the 4th of July holiday. The next meeting is scheduled for August 1, 2015.

**Note:** In November, 2009, the Society rented a building on the campus of Holy Rosary Parish to house our Library. The Parish is located at 159 Camino Santa Maria just north of Culebra Rd. The Library is manned by volunteers on Saturdays, except the 1st Saturday of the month. The hours are 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. There is no charge to use the Library and one need not be a member of the Society.

**Help for the beginning genealogists:**
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.

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

- Dennis Moreno 210.647.5607  
- Yolanda Patiño 210.434.3530

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**Southwest Vaqueros Third Tuesday Meetings**
Southwest Vaqueros was founded by Al Lowman and his friends when he was a researcher and writer for the Institute of Texan Cultures. Among his friends were John Woodhull and Charlie Schreiner III. His personal library and collection are now housed in the Cushing Library at the TAMU campus. Southwest Vaqueros is a Corral of Westerners International.

**Third Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm**
Papa Dante’s Italian Restaurant  
8607 FM 1976  
Converse, TX 78109

Call 210.418.4087 or email jltolleson@sbcglobal.net for more information.
San Antonio Genealogical & Historical Society

In addition to Beginner and Intermediate Genealogy classes, the San Antonio Genealogical & Historical Society is offering its Sunday afternoon *How to Find Out Who You Are* classes. Cost is $5.00 for members, $10 for non-members. Call 210.342.5242 or click on the "Ask Us" button on the website for reservations.

With over 16,500 volumes, 600+ maps, a large vertical file collection and internet access to several great databases, the SAG&HS Library is one of the best private repositories of genealogical and historical material in South Texas.

The San Antonio Genealogical & Historical Society Library is located at 911 Melissa Drive, off Blanco Rd, outside Loop 410 and is open Monday 10am - 4pm, Wednesday 10 am - 9pm, Saturday 10am - 4pm and Sunday 1 - 5pm. Members research free. Non-members may research for a $5.00 donation per day. Tours of the library are free. For more information, visit  [www.txsaghs.org](http://www.txsaghs.org)

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Los Tejanos

*Los Tejanos*  
**The Institute of Texan Cultures** presents an exhibit on the Tejano experience. A thematic approach to 500 years of history, the exhibit draws upon major themes in Tejano life: migration, making a living, struggles for inclusion, and cultural traditions.

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Texas Czechs: Rooted in Tradition

Also at **The Institute of Texan Cultures**: Immigrants from around the world have settled in the Lone Star state, each contributing to its unique and dynamic culture. This exhibit highlights the vibrancy of Texas Czech culture in the 21st century.
News

Fold3 Offers Free Access to the Revolutionary War Collection until July 15th

Fold3 is free and available through the San Antonio Public Library's website for anyone with a library card, but for anyone else - Fold3 has made their Revolutionary War Collection available for free through July 15.

Popular titles for finding Revolutionary War ancestors include:
Texas State Library and Archives Commission Receives $7.5 Million Increase in Funding

The 84th Texas Legislature has increased the appropriation of the State Library and Archives Commission by $7.6M for the 2016-2017 biennium. The new funding includes resources to launch the Texas Digital Archive to preserve and make available electronic archives of state government as well as $6M to offer Texans greater access to online information via the popular TexShare and TexQuest programs. The Texas State Library and Archives Commission also gained funds in the new state budget to address salary needs and to implement a new automated accounting and payroll system.

"We are gratified that Texas lawmakers have demonstrated a recognition of the value of library and archival programs as critically important resources in an information-based economy," commented TSLAC Director and Librarian Mark Smith. "The funding for TexShare and TexQuest will guarantee that academic, public, and school libraries of Texas can offer Texans of all ages the information they need to be productive and informed citizens and the Texas Digital Archive will increase the transparency of state government while protecting and preserving electronic archives," Smith said.

Funding for the Texas Digital Archive--$706,593 for the 2016-2017 biennium-will allow TSLAC to collect, preserve, and make available, archives of enduring value in digital format. Until this action by the Legislature, Texas had been one of only a few states that did not provide for centralized storage and management of state archives in electronic format.

TexShare is a project that has been in place for over 20 years providing shared access to a vast array of digital resources to the public via participation by Texas public and academic libraries. TexQuest makes similar resources available to
students of public K-12 schools in Texas. TexShare resources recorded over 92 million uses in 2014 and schools representing approximately 95% of student enrollment in Texas have access to TexQuest resources.

The increased funding for TSLAC represents a 31% increase in state funding and a 14% increase in overall funding to the agency. With the added appropriations, state funding will increase to $31.4 million for the biennium and overall funding will increase to $63.1 million for 2016-2017. Following significant budget cuts to the agency in the 2011 legislative session, state funding has increased in both the 2013 and 2015 sessions.

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission is a state agency established in 1909 to serve the information needs of Texans by preserving the historical archives of the state, building capacity in libraries statewide, assisting agencies and local governments in maintaining their public records, and providing reading materials to persons with visual impairments or physical disabilities. The agency is governed by a seven-member board appointed by the Governor.

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**Back Up Your Genealogy Files!**

It is the first of the month. It's time to back up your genealogy files. Then test your backups! Actually, you can make backups at any time. However, it is easier and safer if you have a specific schedule. The first day of the month is easy to remember, so I would suggest you back up your genealogy files at least on the first day of every month, if not more often. Of course, you might want to back up more than your genealogy files. Family photographs, your checkbook register, all sorts of word processing documents, email messages, and much more need to be backed up regularly. Why not do that on the first day of each month?

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**From the Archives**

*San Antonio's "Great Little Train Robbery" - July 18, 1970*

**2 Bandits Rob Train in Park**

*By JOHN POLICH*

Two masked men waylaid a Brackenridge Eagle train at 1 p.m. Saturday, brandished a revolver and ordered the miniature train's 75 passengers to hand over their valuables. The bandits escaped with about $500 in the first train robbery in the Wild West in nearly 47 years.

The holdup was staged just one block from heavily traveled Broadway on the eastern leg of
The Brackenridge Park railway which is obscured by high brush and trees. The loss was more than cash for some of the victimized families who were left without car keys, check books and credit cards to continue their vacations and return to Houston; Boulder, Colo., and other cities.

The robbers timetable was thrown off by the incredulous reaction of many passengers and a bold move by the 24-year-old engineer. "I laughed at the man with the pistol," said C.A. Berndt, 52, of Houston, who was sitting in the first coach behind the locomotive. "The robber had just grabbed the man in front of me by the neck when he refused to turn over his wallet," Berndt said, "but nobody took him seriously. When he pushed me down the seat and held the gun against my head, I still laughed." Berndt said he didn't realize the drama was for real until the fellow grabbed his wife's purse and moved on down the train.

The Berndts lost $25, credit cards and the keys to their car. Many families succeeded in laughing away the holdup men, who were about 20 years old and became increasingly nervous. Others weren't so lucky and one couple lost $135.

Meanwhile, the engineer, Walter Lucas, 434 Laurelwood Dr., watched the robbers move away from him and slowly reached for a walkie-talkie in his back pocket. "That man was really brave. He sat there calmly until the men were about 20 feet from him and then used the radio to call for help," Mrs. Brandt recalled. "They answered me and I told them I was being robbed," Lucas said of his transmission to the railway station near the zoo. The train manager, Jim Collins, 47, of San Marcos could make out some of Lucas' whispered words and immediately set out with a park ranger to aid the train. Lucas reported he had just chugged out of the tunnel south of the Witte Museum when two men sprang from behind some brush. One was wearing a ski mask and carrying a large white laundry bag which was used to hold the loot. The other, armed with a .22-caliber snub-nosed revolver, wore a woman's stocking over his head. The stocking resembled those worn by six bandits who stopped the KATY Limited near Okesa, Okla., on Aug. 21, 1923. That was the last robbery in the Southwest, according to Charles Mizell of Dallas, former president of the Southwest Railroad Historical Society. Mizell said reference works indicate those men, their faces hidden by silk stockings, lined up the Pullman passengers, robbed them and then took $21,000 in Liberty Bonds from an express car.

Other victims in Saturday's incident included Glen Falcon, 34, of Boulder, Colo., his wife and two children. "I threw my camera off into the bushes so they wouldn't get it," Falcon said. His wallet was taken. It held $45, credit cards and his driver's license.

When the gunman confronted Mrs. Sue Stewart, 31, of Lovington, N.M., she said she told him, "You're shaking worse than I am." "I know I am," she quoted the man as saying as he took $8 and the family's credit card. "The last of the Great Train Robberies," declared husband, Jim, 31, and their two children laughed.

"We were robbed of $72," sighed Mrs. H. D. Chesley of Houston. "If we had known it was the real thing, we could have hidden all our money." Chesley said the family did manage to slip $800 into their shoes just before the robbers got to them. They said they had discussed the possibility of being robbed Friday and had decided to hide some case in the woman's check book. "If we hadn't, we would have to go home barefooted," Mrs. Chesley joked. "I really thought they were kidding until he pointed the gun at me and I saw the bullets in the cylinder," said Raymond Hernandez, 30, of Austin. "He just grabbed my wife's purse
containing $5 and kept moving." The couple's four children watched the episode from nearby seats.

"We all just sat here like dummies because we thought it was a joke," explained A. D. Coe, 59, of Houston. The man with the gun corrected that impression when he pointed the weapon at Mrs. Coe and announced, "Lady, this is no joke." He grabbed her purse which held $135, eyeglasses and heart pills for her husband.

Mrs. Maria Huerta, 41, of Del Rio took six of her children for a train ride while her husband went to the zoo with another son. She said she had just cashed one daughter's $60 pay check before coming to San Antonio Saturday morning, and had put the cash in her purse for safekeeping. The bandits took the mother's purse but spared the daughter's.

Mrs. Laura Martinez, 23, lost $45 when one robber saw her trying to hide her purse under one of her two children. Two Corpus Christi youngsters also were robbed. An inexpensive camera was taken from Janice Fogle, 15, and Karen Kolluzey, 12, was relieved of her purse and $4.

The first passenger approached by the holdup men who laughed even when he was being choked slipped away as police arrived and was not identified. His good humor saved him the loss of any money.

Collins, the railway manager, said the walkie-talkies have been in use about six months. "It never occurred to us something like this might happen," he admitted. "We wanted to be prepared for breakdowns, passengers who get sick along the way and other emergencies. This certainly fits in that last category."

San Antonio Express and News
Sunday, July 19, 1970