



## South Texas Researcher

June 2016

### Texana / Genealogy



#### San Antonio Public Library Texana / Genealogy

Find Texana / Genealogy online by visiting [mysapl.org/texana](http://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 |

**As of October 1, 2015, these hours apply to the entirety of the sixth floor, as well as the Texana Department. Outside of these hours, you may request back issues of periodicals and genealogy books (other than those in the Texana Room) at the circulation desk on the first floor and they will be retrieved and brought downstairs for you.**



#### 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  
The Wild West  
Special Collections  
World War I

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## Events & Classes



### African-American Genealogy

Interested in looking for your African American roots? Wondering how to begin? Join us and discover how to start the journey. Find out what databases, books and resources are out there to help you uncover your family history.

**Saturday, 18 June 2016 at 3:30 p.m.**

### Carver Library

3350 E. Commerce St.

Call 210-207-9180 for more information

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## Using Military Records for Genealogy Research

Military records can provide a wealth of information to family history researchers. Join us and learn how to begin finding and using muster rolls, service records and other resources to uncover interesting information



**Friday, 24 June 2016 at 10:30 a.m.**

### **Guerra Library**

7978 Military Drive West

Call 210.207.9070 for more information.

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## New Publications



A Records of the Officers, Enlisted Men and Nurses and Lancaster County, Penna. in the World War, 1917-1918

GENEALOGY 974.8 LANCASTER

Early Union County, New Jersey Church Records, 1750-1800

GENEALOGY 974.9 UNION

Marriages and Deaths from Eastern Shore Newspapers, 1790-1835

GENEALOGY 975.2 MARRAIGES

Northern Neck Wills, Inventories & Other Records, 1800-1825

GENEALOGY 975.5 HEADLEY

Spanish American War Veterans from Nebraska

GENEALOGY 978.2 SIMMONS

Revolt: An Archeological History of Pueblo Resistance and Revitalization in 17th Century New Mexico

TEXANA 978.902 LIEBMANN

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## Community Partners



## Los Bexareños Genealogical and Historical Society

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.

**Date:** June 4, 2016

**Speaker:** Dr. Jesus F. De La Teja

**Topic:** A Women's History of San Antonio

Jesus F. de la Teja is Regents' Professor of History, Jerome H. and Catherine E. Supple Professor of Southwest Studies and Director of the Center for the Study of the Southwest at Texas State University of San Marcos. He obtained the Ph.D. in Latin American history from the University of Texas at Austin. Between 1985 and 1991 he worked in the Archives and Records Division of the Texas General Land Office. He has published extensively on Spanish, Mexican and Republic-era Texas, including the award-winning *San Antonio de Bexar: A Community on New Spain's Northern Frontier* and most recently *Faces of Bexar: Writings on Early San Antonio and Texas*, *Lone Star Unionism Dissent and Resistance: Other Sides of Civil War Texas*, and *Recollections of a Tejano Life: Antonio Menchaca in Texas History*, winner of the 2014 Sons of the Republic of Texas Presidio La Bahia Award.

From 1997 to 2005, he served as book review editor for the Southwestern Historical Quarterly. Dr. de la Teja has served on the Board of Directors and as President of the Texas State Historical Association. Among his service activities in the area of history education, he was part of the content development team for the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum from 1998 to 2001. In 2009-2010 he served as an expert reviewer of the Texas Essential Knowledge of Skills Social Studies Standards for the State Board of Education and currently serves on the Board of Directors for Humanities Texas. He was the inaugural State Historian of Texas from 2007 to 2009 and is a Fellow of the Texas State Historical Association and the Texas Catholic Historical Society and a member of the Texas Institute of Letters and the Philosophical Society in Texas. In 2009 he was honored with the Captain Alonso de Leon Medal for Merit in History-International category,

Dr. De la Teja's new book, *Faces of Bexar: Early San Antonio and Texas* will be available for purchase at the meeting at a discounted price of \$30.

**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



**Canary Islands Descendants Association  
Family History Day - June 18, 2016**

Have you ever heard that your family was from the Canary Islands? Ever wondered how that could be?

The San Antonio Public Library's Texana Genealogy Department will host the Canary Islands Descendants Association's Family History Day on Saturday, June 18th from 9:30-12:30 at the Central Library on the sixth floor.



Members of the Canary Islands Descendants Association trace their ancestry back to the original sixteen families whose members who spent a year traveling from the Canary Islands to establish la Villa de San Fernando (now known as San Antonio) in 1731.

Several association members will be on hand sharing their family trees that show connections to many of the sixteen Isleño families. The meeting is open to the public

and all are invited to come and learn about the families that helped form San Antonio's rich history.

If you want to learn more or have questions about the Family History day or of the Canary Islands Descendants Association, send them an email at [cida.satx@gmail.com](mailto:cida.satx@gmail.com).



### **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.txsgahs.org](http://www.txsgahs.org)



### **Nuestra Historia**

[The Institute of Texan Cultures](#)

4 May - 4 September 2016

Featuring documents from the General Archive of the Indies in Seville, Spain, which was the

launching point of Spain's exploration and expansion of the northern frontier of their new territory. Presented in partnership with Bexar County, at the Bexar County Presidio Gallery.



**Splendor on the Range:  
American Indians and the  
Horse**

open through August 21

**Maya: Hidden Worlds  
Revealed**

opens May 2016

**Stephen Westfall: The  
Holy Forest**

6 August 2015 - 31 July  
2016

**My Royal Past: Cecil  
Beaton and the Art of  
Impersonation**

17 February - 5 June 2016

**Dressed to Kill: Glam and  
Gore in Theatre**

17 February - 5 June 2016

**Sheperd Fairey at the  
McNay**

27 April - 11 September  
2016

**Art for the Sake of Art:  
Ornament Prints from the  
Blanton Museum of Art**

27 April - 7 August 2016

**Greg Smith: Loop**

26 April - 28 August 2016

**Roberto de la Selva:  
Modern Mexican**

**Masterpieces in Wood**

29 January - 26 June 2016

**Highest Heaven: Spanish  
and Portuguese Colonial  
Art from the collection of**

**Roberta and Richard  
Huber**

11 June - 4 September  
2016

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News

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## Southeast Texas Postcard Collection Available Online

LIBERTY, TX - The Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) has digitized the Don Kelly Southeast Texas Postcard Collection as part of TSLAC's Texas Digital Archive (TDA). TDA is a searchable online repository designed to preserve and provide access to the state's historical records collections. The Don Kelly Collection, as it is commonly known, includes 1,500 postcards and photographs of historic Beaumont, Orange, Port Arthur, and surrounding areas. About 1,000 of those images can now be seen online.

The full Don Kelly Collection, dating from 1898 to 1997, can be viewed in person at the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center in Liberty, Texas, a part of TSLAC's Archives and Information Services Division. The images no longer protected by copyright law can be browsed and downloaded through the Texas DigitalArchive, [www.tsl.texas.gov/texasdigitalarchive](http://www.tsl.texas.gov/texasdigitalarchive). Some of the postcards are also part of TSLAC's new exhibit *Wish You Were Here*, on display at the Lorenzo de Zavala building in Austin until September 30, 2016.

Don Kelly, a community leader who has been engaged in the political and civic life of Southeast Texas for decades, actively collected postcards depicting notable scenes of the area's life, locale, and architecture. In the 1990s, Kelly donated portions of his personal postcard collection to the Sam Houston Center. The collection tells the story of many Southeast Texas businesses, churches, government institutions, railroads and landscapes.

The Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center serves as the official regional historical resource depository for the ten counties of Chambers, Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Newton, Orange, Polk, San Jacinto and Tyler. It is located at 650 FM 1011 in Liberty, TX. For more information on the Center's collections, including the Don Kelly Southeast Texas Postcard Collection, please call (936) 336-8821 or visit [www.tsl.texas.gov/shc/](http://www.tsl.texas.gov/shc/).

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?

### **How Many Backup Copies of Important Files Do You Need?**

Here's the old data center 3-2-1 rule-of-thumb for backing up:

- 3 copies of anything you care about - Two isn't enough if it's important.
- 2 different formats - Example: Dropbox plus DVDs or Hard Drive plus Memory Stick or CD plus Crash Plan, or more
- 1 off-site backup - If the house burns down, how will you get your memories back?



## **From the Archives**

### **Secession Times in Texas (part ten) - James P. Newcomb - 1863**

#### **HO! FOR CALIFORNIA**

We took a sudden notion to go to California, that is, the B. Family, myself and others. For myself, I had determined to go somewhere, anywhere out of Mexico; there is a rumor that Gen. Sumner with ten thousand Californians, is marching for Texas; it gained credence and raised the hopes of Union men, and if there be such an expedition I hope to join it.

On the 29th of October, 1861, we took leave of Monterey, bound for Mazatlan, to take shipment to California. By common consent I was chosen general superintendent of the party, which position was attended with some annoyance and considerable anxiety, leaving me but little opportunity to view the country and take note of events, in the wise of one who travels for the express purpose of pleasure of sight-seeing.

**SANTA CATARINA**

Our hearts were light and happy at being once more on the move. In starting, everything worked awkwardly, but we managed to reach Santa Catarina, three leagues from Monterey, the first day; it is a little village with a bad reputation, and is situated on the border of the bleak and barren stretch which resides nearly to Saltillo. Here we found Dr. Beaumont, formerly of Indianola, Texas, who extended to us all the hospitality in his power.

## SANTA MARIA

*OCT. 30* - Left *Santa Catarina* - the day was cloudy and misty, hiding from our view the mountains that walled us in on either side - reaching Santa Maria after dark, having made a good days travel, passing several ranches: *Carvajal*, *Rinconada*, *Los Muertos*, so called from the fact that the Indians have several times killed off the inhabitants; it is a dangerous part of the road, both for the Indians and robbers; a little further on we come to a ranch where some soldiers were stationed to protect the road, especially as the fair is just winding up in Saltillo, and those returning are likely to be lightened of their gains. Santa Maria is a neat old ranch to the right of the road.

## SALTILLO

*31st* - Left *Santa Maria* by sun-rise; road fine, weather summer-like. Yesterday, it was a mountain road; to-day, the mountains have receded, and we pass through a valley covered, as it were with broken stone without apparently a bush or tuft of grass, still flocks of goats are everywhere browsing [sic] over it; at the base of the mountains are haciendas looking very pretty in the distance. We met numbers of people returning from the expiring fair - families in carriages, accompanied by armed attendants - men and women on horseback, double and single - a whole family, with all their household goods on a little donkey, and parties on foot; speaking plainer than words their conditions and grades, for in Mexico, appearance is everything; - this stream of home-ward bound fair-goers increased as we drew neared Saltillo. Before reaching the city we passed through a pretty valley and our road was bordered by that most beautiful and luxuriant of the plants of Mexico, the *Maguey* or *Agave* plant - it is useful as well as ornamental, as it furnishes a *spirited* quality of liquor, and a material for rope, said to be as good as hemp, (a cause and remedy for crime), also food, and the ancient Aztecs made a kind of parchment from it - it is indiginous to the country and grows without much care; a leaf falling to the ground will take root and grow to a splendid plant, ten or twelve feet in height, branching out with beautiful, mammoth leaves; when it reaches maturity, which takes several years, the stalk that shoots up from the center, is tapped by scooping out a reservoir to receive the sap, which is sweet and palatable, and from which the *pulque* is made.

We found on entering the *Plaza de Toros*, the gambling stands and booths still in active operation, but everything bore the insipid appearance of the day after the feast. Put up at the *Meson Wesatch*. A meson is not exactly a hotel, but a stopping place, where the traveller pays twenty-five cents for a room furnished with a table and

bench, and stabling for his animal, eating where he pleases or cooking for himself.

Saltillo contains about ten thousand inhabitants, and is a brisk place for a Mexican town; it is well built and abundantly supplied with water, fountains playing in the plazas and private yards; there are several cotton factories in the town and vicinity which are supplied with the raw material mostly from Texas. The church is finely decorated inside, and the public market place is quite creditable. The climate is fine and healthy, and withal Saltillo is a pleasant town to pass through.

## FROM SALTILLO TO PARRAS

*Nov. 3rd* - On the road again; two hours drive brought us to the battlefield of Buena Vista, the scene of General Taylor's memorable victory over Santa Anna - many of the old breastworks remain, and the position occupied by our forces is readily distinguished; - the road winds as the base of the heights over which most of the fighting was done - to the right, are the deep gullies, - I had been over the ground before and had pointed out to me the different places of interest - the spot where the brave young Henry Clay fell fighting, and where desperate valor was displayed - as we passed some Mexicans were threshing wheat along the road side. A few miles further on, we entered a wide prairie where the roads part for Mexico, Zacatecas and Parras. Camp at *Las Muchachas*.

*4th*. - The day was fine and we had plenty of company; passed over some rough road and reached *Rancho Nuevo*. Put our animals in a good enclosure, and for safety I made my bed across the gate, next morning my boots were gone - a sad loss - no doubt the thief had serious intentions upon our horses, and took my boots in lieu.

*5th*. - Our road grew worse as we proceeded until we reached *El Infernillo* or "little hell," a part of the road so called from its roughness, being an ascent to a high table land, from which we descended towards Parras; which place we reached before night, nooning at a ranch about half way from Rancho Nuevo. The approach to Parras is a series of surprises pleasant to the mountains-weary traveller; - you first get glimpses of the valley, with its regular rows of trees, running along irrigating ditches and its island-like groves, displaying the many tinted hues of autumn, - the city, still hidden from your view, - you descend and pass through the pretty valley - on the other side upon the green lawns are grazing lazy cattle; bright rivulets are gurgling through the groves of stately cotton-woods; the brow relaxes and the heart warms under the genial influences of the surrounding landscape; - you have seen just such things before, but never felt such pleasurable emotions; - the dreary mountains and sterile wastes you have just past [sic] over, have sharpened your powers of appreciation - you are the weary traveler who has reached an oasis. All of a sudden we were in Parras; the people came to the doors to gaze at us, but it seemed they looked a welcome. We found quarters facing up on the main square, and were rejoiced to meet some German Texas friends, amongst them Mr. Fries who would start back to San Antonio in a few days, being merely on a prospecting trip; during our stay we experienced much kindness and hospitality from those Germans.

**Editor's Note:** *We realize that some of the language used by Mr. Newcomb in 1863 may be offensive and/or derogatory. This document is provided for historical purposes only and the opinions therein are solely those of the late James P. Newcomb and do not reflect the opinions or of beliefs held by the San Antonio Public Library or its Texana/Genealogy Department. Also, all the unorthodox spellings were left as-written by Mr. Newcomb.*

### To Be Continued...



The South Texas Researcher is a publication of the San Antonio Public Library Texana/Genealogy department. For more information, or to submit program information for an upcoming issue, email [genealogydesk@sanantonio.gov](mailto:genealogydesk@sanantonio.gov) by the deadline provided:

- July 2016 by June 15
- August 2016 by July 15
- September 2016 by August 15

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)