



South Texas Researcher

August 2017

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	12:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Wednesday	9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Thursday	12:00 pm - 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
- The Wild West
- Special Collections
- World War I



Genealogy Websites: Using FamilySearch.org

FamilySearch.org offers free access to digital images of genealogical records from around the world, including millions of records from the U.S. and Mexico. Join us and learn how these collections and tutorials can help you uncover your family history. Registration is required.



Tuesday, 1 August 2017, 2:00 p.m.

Central Library - Texana

600 Soledad Street

Call 210.207.2500 for more information.

Celebrate the 90th Anniversary of Wings

2017 marks the 90th anniversary of the release of the first Academy Award winning motion picture "Wings." Rudy Purificato, Air Force historian at Randolph AFB, will introduce a special screening of the film and talk about its importance in local San Antonio history.



Saturday, 12 August 2017, 10:30 a.m.

Central Library Auditorium

600 Soledad Street

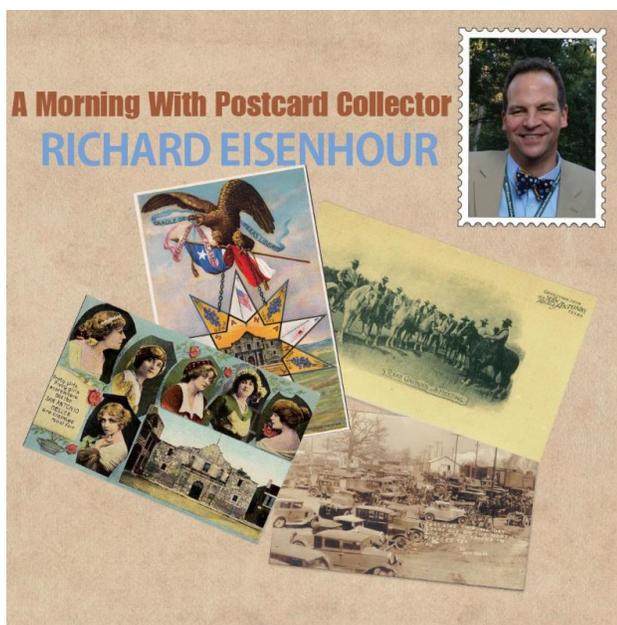
Call 210.207.2500 for more information.

Greetings From Texas: Origins of Tourist Postcards in the Lone Star State

Galveston native Richard Eisenhour has collected and studied antique and vintage Texas tourist postcards for 40 years. He will present new research on the origins of the Texas tourist postcard with emphasis on San Antonio's important role in the story. He holds a B.A. in American Studies from the University of Texas at Austin and an M.A. in Museum Studies from the George Washington University in Washington, D. C. Richard lives in Austin and works as "Collections Coordinator" at the Texas State Preservation Board, assisting the Texas Capitol Curator with the care and handling of the original furnishings and art at the Capitol.

Saturday, 19 August 2017, 10:30 a.m.

Central Library Auditorium
600 Soledad Street
Call 210.207.2500 for more
information.



New Publications

In Their Words: A Genealogist's Translation Guide to Polish, German, Latin and Russian Documents

Volume III: Latin

GENEALOGY 929.1072 SHEA V. 3

Peter Freeny and His Descendants in America

GENEALOGY 929.2 FREENY

The Middleton and Kindred Families of Southern Maryland

GENEALOGY 929.2 MIDDLETON

The Way It Was

GENEALOGY 929.2 VESTAL

Archivos Parroquiales De Nuestra Señor de Guadalupe de Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico:

Matrimonios Vol. 2, 1790-1811

GENEALOGY 972.12 NICHOLS

Primeras Familias de El Cercado: Ascendientes y Descendientes Siglos XVII y XVIII

GENEALOGY 972.13 MONTALVO

History of the Towns of Milford and Bridgewater, Connecticut, 1703-1882

GENEALOGY 974.6 LITCHFIELD

Ossining, New York: An Informal Bicentennial History

GENEALOGY 974.7 WESTCHESTER

Lost Washington D. C.

GENEALOGY 975.3 DE FERRARI

Images of America: Watauga County

GENEALOGY 975.6 WATAUGA

The Episcopal Church in Georgia, 1733-1959
GENEALOGY 975.8 MALONE

Images of America: Melbourne and Eau Gallie
GENEALOGY 975.9 BREVALO

City In the Osage Hills: Tulsa, Oklahoma
GENEALOGY 976.6 TULSA

The First Southwest: The Third Atlas, The Cumberland and Duck River Settlements
GENEALOGY 976.8 MASTERS

Thoroughfare for Freedom: The Second Atlas of the Cumberland Settlements, 1779-1804
GENEALOGY 976.8 MASTERS

Self-Portrait of Marshall County: A History of One Minnesota County and Many People
Who Made That History
GENEALOGY 977.6 MARSHALL

Old Mammoth: Being a First-Hand Account of Old Mammoth
GENEALOGY 979.4 MONO

Walla Walla: A Nice Place to Raise A Family, 1920-1949
GENEALOGY 979.7 WALLA WALLA

Reverend Orceneth Fisher
TEXANA 287 FISHER

Kelly Field Yearbook
TEXANA 358.4 KELLY 1948

S.A.A.S.C., Maintenance Division, Kelly Field, Texas: AAF Air Service Command
TEXANA 358.4 S.A.A.S.C.

The Odyssey of Texas Ranger James Callahan
TEXANA 362.2092 CALLAHAN BIOGRAPHY

One Hundred Years of Excellence: The Story of the Alamo Heights Independent School
District
TEXANA 379.1535 FISHER

The Landmark: Alamo Plaza, San Antonio
TEXANA 690.24 LANDMARK

Daughters of the Republic of Texas Patriot Ancestor Album
TEXANA 976.404 DAUGHTERS V. 2

History of Titus County, Texas, 1846 to 1960
TEXANA 976.4215 JURNEY

An Intensive Pedestrian Archeological Survey of Hot Wells County Park, San Antonio,
Bexar County, Texas
TEXANA 976.4351 SMITH

Seventy-Five Years of Benevolent Service: A History of the Knights of Pythias' "Castle on
the Hill", Weatherford, Texas, 1909-1984

TEXANA 976.4553 WITHERSPOON

A Pictorial History of Marble Falls: The Land Embracing the Falls on the Colorado
TEXANA 976.463 PICTORIAL

Between the Wichitas
TEXANA 976.4743 BETWEEN

Graham Barnett: A Dangerous Man
TEXANA 976.49306 BARNETT BIOGRAPHY



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: August 5, 2017

Speaker: Manuel Andrés Soto

Topic: Life in a South Texas Colonia

Manuel Andres (Andy) Soto grew up in Edroy, Texas. He graduated high school from nearby Odem, Texas in 1987. He earned a baccalaureate (1983) and a master's degree (1997) from Texas A&M University Kingsville (TAMUK). In 2001, he earned a PhD in Coastal Science from the University of Southern Mississippi. He is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Biological and Health Science at TAMUK. He grew up in a rural colonia and his first book is a reflection of his and his family's experience during the 1900s. Soto wrote and created all the artwork in his book.

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

The Canary Islands Descendants Association's monthly meetings are open to the public. Association membership is not required to attend. There is a guest speaker at each meeting that shares information about historical events, facts or other related information on Texas, San Antonio or the Canary Islands.

Event Details:

- Every third Saturday between January 21, 2017 and November 18, 2017
- 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
- Free

Venue:

- **No meeting this month**
- 600 Soledad Street
- San Antonio, TX 78205
- 210-538-0905

EVENT PRESENTED BY:

- Canary Islands Descendants Association
- cida.satx@gmail.com
- <http://www.cida-sa.org>



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,



Texas in the First World War
[The Institute of Texan Cultures](#)
Opened April 6, 2017

A century since the U.S. formally entered World War I, the events that unfolded continue to have a profound impact on modern international affairs and society.



Texas Missions and Churches of Roberto Cardinale
[The Institute of Texan Cultures](#)
4 March - 20 August 2017

San Antonio's Spanish Missions have been an inspiration to artists and storytellers for generations. This spring, the UTSA Institute of Texan Cultures will offer an exhibit capturing the missions and other religious sites in sculpture



theMcNay


San Antonio Museum of Art

[Wild Weather](#)
27 May 2017 - 4 Sept. 2017

[Whales: Giants of the Deep](#)
27 May 2017 - 4 Sept. 2017

[Natural Beauty: Fiesta of Land, Water and Sky](#)
20 April - 13 August 2017

[Juan Mora: Culture Clash](#)
8 June - 13 August 2017

[California Dreaming: Works by Ruscha, Hockney and Others](#)
18 May - 6 August 2017

[To See is to Have: Navigating Today's Art Ecosystem](#)
18 May - 6 August 2017

[Groovy: A Psychedelic Summer](#)
9 May - 29 August 2017

[The Magic of Clay and Fire: Japanese Contemporary Ceramics](#)

14 Dec. 2016 - Fall 2017

[Carlos Merida: Selections from the Permanent Collection](#)

8 July 2016 - August 2017



News

Dallas Genealogical Society 2017 Summer Seminar Dallas, TX

"Sources, Storytelling & DNA", a 2-day seminar featuring nationally-recognized family history researchers, speakers and writers Lisa Louise Cooke, Sunny Morton, Diahn Southard.

Friday, August 4, 2017

Session 1: Google Tools & Procedures for Solving Family History Mysteries

Session 2: Write Your Life Story

Session 3: Genetic Genealogy: Here's What you Need To Know

Session 4: Get the Scoop on Your Ancestors with Newspapers

Saturday, August 5, 2017

Session 1: Why We Care Where Grandma Went to Church: An In-Depth Look at U.S. Religious Records

Session 2: 10 Ways to Enhance Your Genealogy with Video

Session 3: The Combined Power of YDNA and Autosomal DNA: A Case Study

Session 4: How to Create Exciting Interactive Family History Tours with Google Earth

Program details and registration info: <http://dallasgenealogy.com/dgs/meetings-events/seminars/2017-summer-seminar/>

Free Online Genealogy Webinars

Sponsored by the Georgia Genealogical Society

8pm EST, 4th Wednesday of the month

Register at www.gagensociety.org

23 August 2017 - Melody K. Porter - "Tribal Member or Just Indian"

27 September 2017 - Melissa Barker - "It's Not All Online: Researching in Archives"

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?

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?



Links

McLennan County, Texas, Marriage Records Since 1850 to be Digitized

McLennan County Clerk Andy Harwell and his staff have undertaken a project to digitally scan and preserve county marriage records from 1850 to 1996. After six weeks of work, the documents have been digitized, but that's just a start, Harwell said. The county hired Edoc Technologies for about \$36,000 to perform the digitization work, and Harwell's staff is starting to index the more than 170,000 marriage records by groom's name, bride's name and date.

"You'll be able to sit at home and research in McLennan County back to 1850," Harwell said. "So if we would have had a fire or tornado or something or a flood, we would have lost everything."

You can read more in an article by Cassie L. Smith in the Waco Tribune web site at: <http://bit.ly/2v3qaXt>.



From the Archives

How San Antonio Hotels Have Grown in 75 Years

Hospitality Included Provision for Both Man and Beast; Were Famed for Service

The first hotel established in Southwest Texas was the Menger Hotel on Alamo Plaza, which today occupies the original site and retains the same name.

It was established in 1859 by W. A. Menger and has been in the continuous operation for 68 years. When it was opened there were no other hotels south or west of

the Colorado River. The opening of the hotel was attended by celebration which was long remembered by citizens of that day.

Before the hotel opened there were a few inns and boarding houses in Southwest Texas. These were mostly in private homes, although there were some inns built much after the fashion of the old drinking palaces in Germany and Alsace Lorraine, but hardly as pretentious. Travelers in the country usually went to the most popular village bar to obtain accommodations. The wife of the bar, or inn keeper, was usually able to provide a room and meals.

When a real hotel was opened in San Antonio the fact was widely advertised over the country. Stage lines soon found that travelers preferred to come to San Antonio to the old Menger Hotel, rather than stop in smaller settlements with uncertain accommodations. Thus the opening of the hotel had a definite influence upon the growth and popularity of San Antonio, which from earliest history has been the leading city of Texas.

The hotel was rebuilt out of part of the old Menger Brewery. After it was opened the brewery continued to operate to the rear of the hotel. There was a big court in the rear, into which wagons were driven to load the golden beverage for distribution throughout the Southwest. Mr. Menger built a livery stable on Blum Street, between St. Joseph and Bonham Streets, to accommodate the horses and vehicles of travelers, the wagons and teams of beer traders, the stages and horses of the stage lines, and also for the travel equipage of the hotel and guests.

From the first the Menger Hotel was a high class place. No rowdyism was permitted, although the bar in the southwest corner of the building was one of the most popular in the city. Here convivial spirits gathered to slake their thirst, relate their experiences on the trail, exchange reminiscences and transact business. It was a large barroom and accommodated hundreds in its time.

Mahncke Hotel Famous

Later on the old Southern Hotel was opened a block south of San Fernando Cathedral, and became the headquarters for stockmen. Here cowboys and stockmen gathered in legion and celebrated. This hotel was razed many years ago when Dolorosa Street was opened. Another hotel, facing the City Hall Square on Dolorosa street now carries the name of the famous hostelry which was its predecessor.

The Mahncke Hotel was another old-time hostelry of considerable fame. It stood where the Gunter Hotel now stands. Still another hotel of olden days was the Vance Hotel, where many noted characters have stayed while sojourning in San Antonio. In addition to these there were several notable boarding houses in private homes in the olden times.

Of all the hotels that existed before the Civil War, however, none remain except the Menger. It was operated by W. A. Menger until 1871, when he died. L.W. Menger, a son was associated with his father in operation of the hotel for many years, and continued to operate it for his widowed mother for 10 years after his father's death. On December 1, 1881, the hotel was sold to J. H. Kampmann, and it has been in the properties of the Kampmann family since that time.

Many famous personage have been accommodated at the old Menger. Theodore Roosevelt, John J. Pershing, William Howard Taft, Warren G. Harding and many other leaders in the country's history have stopped at the Menger and complimented its cuisine. Adolph Mitrovich was in charge of the culinary department for nine years during the hey-dey of the city's growth. From 1902 until 1911 he aided in making the hotel's dining room famous.

Here Before Railroad

Guy Groben, who lives at 942 Highland Place, was steward at the Menger Hotel for many years, in its early history.

The hotel was in operation for 18 years before the first railroad came to San

Antonio, and had a hectic history in the days of the horse, the buckboard and ox cart and the two gun man. From time to time it has been rebuilt and improved, and its owners have always kept apace of times in architecture, interior decoration, service and cuisine.

In the days before the railroad the hotel served wild game in abundance. There still exist a number of pictures of the old courtyard, with deer, wild turkeys, wild geese, partridge and quail hanging in the trees, awaiting the artistic touch of the chef. Those were the days before ice boxes were known. Game could only be chilled in the beer cellars, which were cooled by being isolated from the hot rays of the southern sun.

Fine liquors and wild game comprised the best part of the menu in the early days. Fancy vegetables were scarce and many vegetarian dishes that are popular today were unknown. The chefs of old were pastry experts, having acquired their skill abroad and pastries were always popular. But they were less versatile than chefs of the present day. Usually they were versed in the pastry art of their native land, and rarely had a knowledge of the pastry art of other countries.

Banquets in the old days were a thing of beauty, and joy forever. A banquet back in 1880 was a real banquet with all the food that the word implies. They were quite different from the banquets of today, where oratory, as a rule, overbalances the dietary. Whole roast pigs, whole grilled lambs, whole braised venison and the like were common in the days when men ate hearty and exercised so much that they relished a good meal. No one counted calories and it was the chief delight of a good chef to provide a meal fit for a king and watch it disappear.

There were many famous eating houses in San Antonio in the days before the Civil War, and the city is still noted throughout the country for its many fine cafes and restaurants. Not a few of the old time restaurants are still in existence, in name, if not in policy. The Harnische & Baer Cafe is among the oldest. It was established in 1870 on Commerce Street, at the bridge.

Most of the eating places of old had saloons in connection, and some of them were better known as bars than cafes. Among these were the old Veramendi Palace, Dosch & Rische's, Horners saloon, John Brady's saloon, the old Casino on Market Street, a place known as the White Elephant, and a number of summer gardens on which another article appears in this issue.

One of the oldest native restaurants in San Antonio was the place operated by Madam Garza on the West Side. Here one could obtain the richest of original Mexican dishes. The food here was famous throughout the South at one time. Periodically there sprung up other eating houses specializing in dishes of the various nationalities. There were notable French, German, and Italian restaurants and cafes in the old days, none of which have remained through history, nor have they a counterpart in the cafes of specialties today.

One of the noted chefs of San Antonio is Adolph Mitrovich, who has been in the restaurant business under his own name in San Antonio for more than sixteen years. He was chef at the Menger Hotel from 1902 until 1911, and in the latter year opened a café on Alamo Plaza. In February 1916 this was moved to the basement of the Brady Building, where it remains popular to day.

Mitrovich was born in Ragusa, Dalmatin, He came to this country when a young man and opened a café in Fresno, Calif., which retained his name for many years. He later opened cafes in San Francisco, Denver and Fort Worth. Finally he came to San Antonio and made the cuisine of the Menger hotel famous. He is now seventy years old, and still active in his restaurant business, one of the oldest active chefs in the southwest.

From the *San Antonio Express*
Tuesday Morning June 21, 1927, page 8J



for an upcoming issue, email genealogydesk@sanantonio.gov by the deadline provided:

- September 2017 by August 15
- October 2017 by September 15
- November 2017 by October 15

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