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
Events & Classes

Central Within Reach

Exercise your body and your mind with this FREE, guided, historic architectural walking tour starting at the Central Library (meet in lobby) and ending at the Briscoe Western Art Museum.

Limited openings - Registration is required. Ask for Texana.

Sunday, 15 April, 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Central Library - Texana
600 Soledad, 78205
210.207.2500

Preserving Family Treasures

Do you have a family Bible, photographs, heirlooms or other objects that have been passed on in your family? Join us and learn the simplest and best methods to help preserve these treasures. Registration is encouraged.

Saturday, 21 April, 10:00 a.m.

Central Library Texana
600 Soledad 78205
210.207.2500 (ask for Genealogy)

New Publications

Blue Texas: The Making of a Multiracial Democratic Coalition in the Civil Rights Era
TEXANA 324.2764 KROCHMAL

Arredondo: Last Spanish Ruler of Texas and Northeastern New Spain
TEXANA 976.402 ARREDONDO BIOGRAPHY

Black Cowboys in the American West: On the Range, On the Stage, Behind the Badge
TEXANA 978.00496 BLACK

Circuit Riders for Mental Health: The Hogg Foundation in Twentieth-Century Texas
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.

*** Note: Location for April Meeting will on the campus of St. Mary's University. ***

Date: April 7, 2018
Speaker: TBA
Topic: The Archives at Our Lady of the Lake University

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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**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:**

**No Meeting For April**

- Every third Saturday between January 20, 2018 and November 17, 2018
- 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
- Free

**Venue:**

- **San Antonio Central Library**
- 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

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**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. For more information, visit [www.txsaghs.org](http://www.txsaghs.org).

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**Viva Hemisfair!**

*The Institute of Texan Cultures*

April 6 - December 31, 1968

Through historical photos, personal anecdotes, HemisFair memorabilia, archive film footage and more, the exhibit reveals what it took to put on the fair, and how it impacted San Antonio and the surrounding area.

In preparation for the HemisFair exhibit, ITC graduate intern Garrett Bader generated a HemisFair Journal StoryMap. For a more comprehensive look into the HemisFair park area, the old neighborhood, the Polish Quarter, the historic homes, St. Michael's Church and more, access the journal [here](http://viva-hemisfair-journal.com).

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**Brewing Up Texas**

*The Institute of Texan Cultures*

October 21, 2017 - October 28, 2018

From 1840 to the modern craft beer industry, follow the story of beer, brewers and breweries and how they left their mark on Texas culture.
Gathering at the Waters: 12,000 Years of People
13 January through 1 July 2018

Connecting Texas: 300 Years of Trails, Rails and Roads
17 February through September 2018

Confluence and Culture: 300 Years of San Antonio History
3 March 2018 through 6 January 2019

Predators vs. Prey: Dinosaurs on the Land Before Texas
26 May through 3 September 2018

Captain Seth Eastman's Journey with a Sketchbook: Down the Mississippi
4 January 2018 to 1 April 2018

100 Years of Printmaking in San Antonio: Mary Bonner
4 January 2018 to 1 April 2018

Spain to San Antonio: Hispanic Culture On Stage
1 March to 10 June 2018

Cities on Parade: 300 Years of European Festival Books
1 March to 10 June 2018

The Magic of Clay and Fire: Japanese Contemporary Ceramics
Through Spring 2018

San Antonio 1718: Art from Viceregal Mexico
A Tricentennial Exhibition
17 February through 13 May 2018

Egyptian Animal Mummies: Science Explores an Ancient Religion
23 March through 1 July 2018

Spain: 500 Years of Spanish Painting from the Museums of Madrid
A Tricentennial Exhibition
Through 16 September 2018

News

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?
Austin Oak Hills Stake Presents

MY FAMILY TREE

Family Discovery Day
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM  SATURDAY, APRIL 14TH, 2018
LDS Church in Oak Hill
5291 Convict Hill Rd, Austin 78749

Join us for a day of learning and sharing in family history and genealogy. Lunch will be provided.

Links

Free Online Genealogy Webinars
Clayton Genealogy Library - Houston

April 14, 2018  
**Place:** Houston Public Library/Clayton Library/Center for Genealogical Research  
Carriage House  
5300 Caroline Avenue  
Houston, Texas 77004  
Time: 11 am - 12:30 pm

Brigham Young University "Relative Race" returns for a third season and you have the unique opportunity to see a premier episode in Houston, Texas. "Relative Race" consists of four teams competing for a $50,000 grand prize and taking a 10 day journey across the country. Using the contestant's DNA as a road map, this first of its kind genealogy based reality show is about completing challenges, racing against the clock, and discovering unknown relatives. Much of the premiere episode was filmed in the Houston area where one of the teams was racing and another team lives in the area. Following the screening, there will be a short presentation about DNA. Refreshments will be served and all are welcome.

Come early due to limited seating for 60 persons.

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The Portal to Texas History

The Portal to Texas History, a university-maintained online database of Texas-related materials, reached 1 million items on Feb. 9. UNT Libraries celebrated the milestone Feb. 15 in Willis Library's Special Collections unit.  
The millionth item was the "De Cust Van Westindien Van La Desconoscida Tot C. Escondido," a map that dates back to 1680.  
"It's about creating accessible information, to build unique opportunities for students at the university and to not assume the portal is only for history students," said Mark Phillips, associate dean for Digital Libraries.  
Since the Portal's site launched in 2002, the UNT Libraries Special Collections department has been using it to catalog items related to Texas, from historical information and research to sports and rare artifacts. More than half a million users visit the Portal every month.

The portal is free and accessible to anyone who wishes to use it.
Texas, El Paso Alien Arrivals, 1909-1924


Access them here: https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2306316

From the Archives

Memories of Grand Opera House Thrill Old Theater Fans

Completely remodeled, bearing no resemblance to its former significance, the old Grand Opera House on Alamo Plaza is but a memory cherished by theater fans of those days. The theater proper was in the rear, extending to Losoya Street, and the walls were three stories in height conforming to the front part of the building. This was the home of the San Antonio Club, which occupied the upper stories fronting on Alamo Plaza. On the ground floor on the corner of Crockett Street was a refreshment parlor and later the Southern Pacific downtown freight and passenger offices were here in charge of Joseph McMillan and John M. Knight. At the north end of the building Herman Harms had an up-
BY FRED MOSEBACH

Many San Antonians will recall at first glance at this picture the happy hours they have spent in the old Grand Opera House in the days of the traveling troupes. That was long before the moving pictures came. Here appeared some of the greatest actors and actresses in the United States, and also perhaps some of the worst. The plays were of all shades and character designed for the entertainment of the theater-going public. San Antonio has always ranked high as a show town, and the SRO (Standing Room Only) sign was frequently displayed here. The theater season in those days always opened in the fall of the year, about the middle of September, and continued until spring, along about Easter. The season was at its height in mid winter. That was the season for box parties, which were a popular feature in high society.

Theater fans in those days kept a list of the plays that were booked to appear here during the season, and on this list they checked off their favorites to be prepared to attend the show on the date of its appearance, which meant that this particular show had the call over any other engagement which they may have had on their list. It was during the summer time when the Grand Opera House was "dark," a vernacular term meaning "no show" that the lessee and manager went to New York to make his bookings for the following season. Among the managers of the Grand Opera House at different times were Ernest Rische, Thomas W. Mullaly, J. R. Tendick, George H. Walker, Sidney H. Weis and David A. Weis. When the manager returned from his booking tour, he have a list of attraction to the newspapers, and these were clipped from the papers by the theater fans, who preserved them for references. In the meantime the opera house had been redecorated so that when the curtain went up on the opening play of the season it had the appearance of an entirely new theater. These detailed were of interest to the theater fans for they felt as much pride in the theater as if they owned stock in it.

Opening Night Big Event

The season's opening performance was always a big event marked with a full house, and the manager sought to have a good attraction for this occasion. It may have been a first-class minstrel show, like George Wilson's r Primrose and West; it may have been Robert Mantell, a famous romantic actor of those days, in "The Corsican Brothers"; it may have been Frederick Warde, equally famous, in the Mountebank"; it may have been the popular little soubrette of those days. Lizzie Evans, in "Fogg's Ferry"; it may have been James H. Wallick in "The Bandit King"; or it may have been the kindly faced Sol Smith Russell in "A Peaceful Vally." Whatever the play, it was destined to please the first nighter and brought a flood of congratulations for the happy manager as he counted the jingling coin in the box office. Silver dollars were the popular circulating medium in those days.
To attend a show in those days was a thrilling incident for the theater fan. He was imbued with the spirit of the theater. He set his watch on the dot to be sure to be there on time, for the curtain rose at 8:30, and that didn't mean a quarter of nine. Besides he wanted to be there in time to hear the opening overture, for the Grand Opera House always carried a full and efficient orchestra, which rendered a medley of tunes to add to the pleasure of the occasion. Whether he had a seat in the parquet, dress circle, family circle or up in the peanut gallery, he was a regular attendant at the show, planking down the price of admission according to the location of his seat. These prices usually ranged from two-bits for a gallery seat to one buck for a front seat in the pit, which was the standard scale, although there were extra-ordinary attractions for which the price was run up to $1.50, $2, $3 and even to $5 a seat down in front, with a graduated advance up to the gallery from four-bits to one dollar. Wherever the theater fan happened to be seated, he derived full enjoyment for his money and did not begrudge one penny of it as he saved and scraped from his week's earning to get the price. Whatever else he may have needed, he was willing to sacrifice in order not to forego the pleasure of a show.

Prices Gauged by Pocketbook

Theater-going in those days was a sort of yardstick for measuring a man's earning capacity. As a small wage earner, he would be seen in the peanut gallery. As his wages increased, he would move gradually down into the family circle, then into the dress circle, and if his luck continued and his pay envelope grew bigger, he would be among the elite down on the ground floor. So it was that the lower his pay, the higher up he would go in the theater and the higher his pay, the lower down he would go to be with the top notch society crowd. Then he was regarded as a prosperous citizen. And there were many prosperous citizen who went the gamut, which they delight in recalling to this day, when the first show they saw in the old Grand Opera House was from a hard board seat on a bench in the peanut gallery and the last show they saw in this old playhouse was from a red plush seat down in the parquet.

Then came the popular-price shows, first among which was the Baldwin-Melville Company, packing 'em in like sardines in a can at 10, 20 and 30 cents. But these were nothing like the old-time road shows at standard prices. They were cheap in price and cheap in talent with screeching soubretts and ranting heroes. This type of shows became the rage and crowded out the high class attractions. As a result there was no more Frederick Warde, who went on the lyceum platform, there was no more Richard Mansfield, no more Blanche Walsh, no more Marie Prescott, no more Louis James and Marie Wainwright, no more James O'Neill, no more Thomas Keene, no more Joseph Jefferson, no more Time Murphy, no more Nat Goodwin, Clara Morris, Patti Ross, Lewis Morrison, Robert Downing and many others that used to delight San Antonio audiences, all since passed away, but whose names will live forever in the memories of those who have seen them when they were at the height of their careers. They like has never been looked upon since they have gone.

San Antonio Express
June 16, 1935

Continued in next issue.
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 by the deadline provided:

- April 2018 by March 15
- May 2018 by April 15
- June 2018 by May 15

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