



## South Texas Researcher

April 2018

### 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	12:00 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

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## 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



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## 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)



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## New Publications

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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

TEXANA 362.20976 BUSH

The Line Becomes a River: Dispatches from the Border  
TEXANA 363.285 CANTU BIOGRAPHY

Yellow Fever, Race and Ecology in Nineteenth-Century New Orleans  
GENEALOGY 614.54109 WILLOUGHBY

Homestead: Pioneers of Texas' Frontier  
TEXANA 976.4 LACKEY v. 3  
TEXANA 976.4 LACKEY v. 4  
TEXANA 976.4 LACKEY v. 5

Jane Butel's Tex-Mex Cookbook  
TEXANA 641.59268 BUTEL

Weather in Texas: The Essential Handbook  
TEXANA 551.69764 BOMAR

Maximo Castillo and the Mexican Revolution  
TEXANA 972.0816 CASTILLO

The Kings of Big Spring: God, Oil, and One Family's Search for the American Dream  
TEXANA 976.4858 MEALER

Raza Rising: Chicanos in North Texas  
TEXANA 305.86872 GONZALES

Eavesdropping on Texas History  
TEXANA 976.4 EAVESDROPPING



## 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



## 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](mailto: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, visit [www.txsaghs.org](http://www.txsaghs.org)



### **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](#).

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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



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## News

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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?

### 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



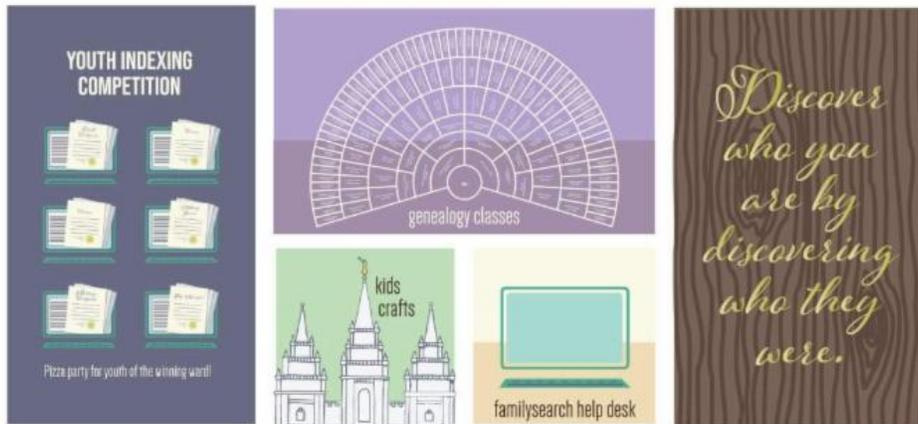
# Family Discovery Day

9:00AM  
1:00PM

SATURDAY, APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2018

LDS CHURCH  
IN OAK HILL

5201 CONVICT HILL RD, AUSTIN 78749



Join us for a day of learning and sharing in family history and genealogy. Lunch will be provided. Discover. Gather. Connect. Let us show you how. Register at [www.aohsfamilydiscoveryday.com](http://www.aohsfamilydiscoveryday.com)



Links

## Legacy Family Tree Webinars

View here [https://familytreewebinars.com/archived\\_webinars\\_free.php](https://familytreewebinars.com/archived_webinars_free.php)

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### 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.

Access the portal here: <https://texashistory.unt.edu/>

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## Texas, El Paso Alien Arrivals, 1909-1924

FamilySearch.org features a new collection of 10,346 indexed digital images of alien arrivals through El Paso, Texas between 1909 and 1924.

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

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## From the Archives

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### 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-

to-date haberdashery. In the center, fronting Alamo Plaza, was a long, broad lobby as the entrance to the theater. On the walls were handsome life-size photographs of leading actors and actresses of the day, all neatly framed. Along the lobby were settees to serve as a lounging place for theater patrons. The three-story structure to the right is the Adams & Wickes Building in which the firm composed of H. B. Adams and E. D. L. Wickes had its real estate offices in charge of Henry Laager. Part of this building was for many years occupied by the Mexican Consulate with Plutarco Ornelas in charge. On the ground floor was the Katy city ticket office and later George C. Saur operated a large retail grocery store here. Subsequently, E. Basse operated the Bismarck Bar here until prohibition went into effect.

### **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, plunking 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](mailto: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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