



South Texas Researcher

May 2018

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

D-I-V-O-R-C-E:

Grass widows, sod widows & scandals

Our class will explore where to find historical divorce records for genealogy research and how to navigate those records. Registration is required.

Saturday, 12 May 2018, 3:00 p.m.

Central Library Auditorium

600 Soledad 78205

210.207.2500 (ask for Genealogy)



San Antonio's Old Spanish Missions: A Sacred Heritage

Join us as Fr. David Garcia, Director of the Old Spanish Missions, speaks about the history, art, and architecture of the Missions National Historical Parks, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The ongoing life and celebrations at today's mission parishes will also be discussed.

Tuesday, 22 May 2018, 6:30 p.m.

Central Library - Latino Collection Resource Center

600 Soledad 78205

210.207.2500 (ask for Genealogy)



New Publications

Peacekeepers and Conquerors: The Army Officer Corps on the American Frontier, 1821-1846

TEXANA 355.00975 WATSON 2013

A Promise Fulfilled: The Kitty Anderson Diary and Civil War Texas, 1861

TEXANA 976.405 ANDERSON 2017

Exiled: The Last Days of Sam Houston

TEXANA 976.404 HOUSTON BIOGRAPHY 2017

Delbert McClinton: One of the Fortunate Few

TEXANA 781.64092 MCCLINTON BIOGRAPHY 2017

Inside the Texas Chicken Ranch: The Definitive Account of the Best Little Whorehouse
TEXANA 306.74 BLASCHKE 2016

Texas Women: Their Histories, Their Lives
TEXANA 305.40976 TEXAS 2016

Man-Hunters of the Old West
TEXANA 978.02092 DEARMENT 2017

Texas Wildflowers: A Field Guide
TEXANA 582.13097 LOUGHMILLER 2018

Las Villas del Norte: The 1757 Censuses of Laredo, Dolores, Revilla, Mier, Camargo, and
Reynosa
GENEALOGY 972.12 VILLAS 2015

St. Joseph, Fitchburg, Massachusetts, Baptisms A-K, July 1891-December 1995
GENEALOGY 974.4 WORCESTER 1996 v. 1

St. Joseph, Fitchburg, Massachusetts, Baptisms K-Z, July 1891-December 1995
GENEALOGY 974.4 WORCESTER 1996 v. 2

Saint Alphonsus, Glens Falls, New York, Baptisms, vol. 1, A-L, July 1855- October 2003
GENEALOGY 974.7 WARREN 2003 v. 1

Saint Alphonsus, Glens Falls, New York, Marriages, July 1855-March 2003
GENEALOGY 974.7 WARREN 2003

St. Basile Le Grand, Madawaska County, New Brunswick, Marriages 1791-1977
GENEALOGY 971.5 MADAWASKA 1995

St. Lawrence, Troy, New York, Marriages, Baptisms, Burials
GENEALOGY 974.7 RENSSELAER 2011

Precious Blood, Holyoke, Massachusetts, Baptisms, vol. 1, A-J, April 1869-June 1986
GENEALOGY 974.4 HAMPDEN 2017 v. 1

Precious Blood, Holyoke, Massachusetts, Baptisms, vol. 2, J-Z, April 1869-June 1986
GENEALOGY 974.4 HAMPDEN 2017 v. 2

Sacred Heart, Holyoke, MA: Baptisms, vol. 1, A-K, January 1877-February 2001
GENEALOGY 974.4 HAMPDEN 2010 v. 1

Sacred Heart, Holyoke, MA: Baptisms, vol. 2, L-Z, January 1877-February 2001
GENEALOGY 974.4 HAMPDEN 2010 v. 2

Sacred Heart, Holyoke, MA: Marriages, vol. 1, A-L, May 1880-November 2000
GENEALOGY 974.4 HAMPDEN 2009 v. 1

Sacred Heart, Holyoke, MA: Marriages, vol. 2, M-Z, May 1880-November 2000
GENEALOGY 974.4 HAMPDEN 2009 v. 2

Diccionario Hispanoamericano de Heraldica, Onomastica y Genealogia
GENEALOGY 946 GARCIA CARRAFFA v. 76/61
GENEALOGY 946 GARCIA CARRAFFA v. 77/62
GENEALOGY 946 GARCIA CARRAFFA v. 78/63
GENEALOGY 946 GARCIA CARRAFFA v. 79/64

Breakfast in Texas: Recipes for Elegant Brunches, Down-Home Classics & Local Favorites
TEXANA 641.52097 THOMPSON-ANDERSON 2017

The Garden of Eden: The Story of a Freedmen's Community in Texas
TEXANA 305.89607 SANDERS 2015

Tejano West Texas
TEXANA 973.04687 DE LEON 2015

Anti-Black Violence in Twentieth-Century Texas
TEXANA 305.89607 ANTI-BLACK 2015

Bush League Boys: The Postwar Legends of Baseball in the American Southwest
TEXANA 796.35764 SMITH 2014

Giant: Elizabeth Taylor, Rock Hudson, James Dean, Edna Ferber and the Making of a
Legendary American Film
TEXANA 791.4372 GRAHAM 2018

Marriages de Saint Mary de Rollinsford, NH 1856
GENEALOGY 974.2 STAFFORD 1977

Marriages de Infant-Jesus, 1909-1977, de Saint Joseph 1955-1977 de Nashua, NH
GENEALOGY 974.2 HILLSBOROUGH

St. James, Island Pond, Vermont: Marriages 1882-1942, Baptisms 1872-1935, Burials 1872-
1948
GENEALOGY 974.3 ESSEX 1997

Taftville, Connecticut Sacred Heart Parish, Marriages 1883-1924
GENEALOGY 974.6 NEW LONDON 1990

Marriages de Saint Martin, 1882, de Somersworth, 1852, NH
GENEALOGY 974.2 STRAFFORD

St. Francois Xavier, Winooski, Vermont, Burials, June 1868-December 1994
GENEALOGY 974.3 CHITTENDEN 1997

St. Francois Xavier, Winooski, Vermont, Marriages, December 1868-December 1994
GENEALOGY 974.3 CHITTENDEN 1997

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Hudson Falls, NY: Baptisms, December 1844-August 2004
GENEALOGY 974.7 WASHINGTON 2010

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Hudson Falls, NY: Marriages, December 1844-August 2004
GENEALOGY 974.7 WASHINGTON 2010

Saint Joseph, Greenwich, NY: Marriages, Baptisms, Burials
GENEALOGY 974.7 WASHINGTON 2007

Holy Cross Parish, Salem, NY: Marriages, Baptisms, Burials
GENEALOGY 974.7 WASHINGTON 2012

St. Joseph, Fort Edward, New York: Baptisms, November 1869 to July 2005
GENEALOGY 974.7 WASHINGTON 2009

St. Joseph, Fort Edward, New York: Marriages and Burials
GENEALOGY 974.7 WASHINGTON 2009

Northern New York Parishes
GENEALOGY 974.7 HAMILTON 2010

Saint Joseph, Cohoes, New York: Baptisms, September 1868 to August 2005
GENEALOGY 974.7 ALBANY 2005 v. 1
** also have vol. 2**



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: May 5, 2018

Speaker: Aaron Moreno

Topic: The Jewish Ancestry of Many Latinos

Dr. Moreno is the Director of the Undergraduate Program of International Relations and Assistant Professor in the Department of History at St. Mary's 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:

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

Venue:

- **San Fernando Hall**
- 231 W. Commerce
- San Antonio, TX 78205
- 210-576-1365

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, visit 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.

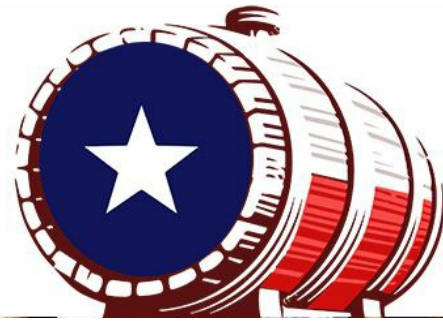
In preparation for the HemisFair exhibit, ITC graduate intern Garrett Bader generated a HemisFair Journal StoryMap. For a more comprehensive look into the HemisFair park area, the old neighborhood, the Polish Quarter, the historic homes, St. Michael's Church and more, access the journal [here](#).

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.



theMcNay



San Antonio Museum of Art

[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](#)

5 April 2018 to 1 July 2018

[100 Years of Printmaking in
San Antonio: Bill Reily](#)

12 April 2018 to 1 July 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?



Links

Free Online Genealogy Webinars

May 2018

Want to Honor Your Revolutionary Roots? : Resources for Applying to a Revolutionary War Lineage Society

- **Presenter:** Bryna O'Sullivan
- **Date:** May 8, 2018
- **Time:** 8:00 PM Central
- **Description:** With the 1776-79 Illinois Campaign running straight through its borders, and immigrants later arriving from other American colonies, many Illinois families have ties to Revolutionary War soldiers that they wish to honor by joining the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), and the other Revolutionary War lineage societies - but don't know where to start. This presentation will introduce the attendee to the basic requirements of joining a Revolutionary War lineage society and the sources that can be used to meet them. It will touch upon common sources, such as the census and vital records, as well as less common sources such as pension files, loyalty oaths, and more. An attendee should finish ready to begin putting together their application.
- **Registration:** <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7567631057019748611>

Clayton Genealogy Library - Houston

May 12, 2018 - Clayton Library Friends General Meeting

Place: Houston Public Library/Clayton Library/Center for Genealogical Research
Carriage House
5300 Caroline Avenue
Houston, Texas 77004

Time: Registration starts at 10:15 and meeting starts at 10:30 am

Speaker: Larry Youngblood

Title: "The Colonial Youngblood YDNA Genealogy Research Project, A Strategy for Knocking Down Brick Walls"

Have you found little errors or omissions in your family research? Our speaker, Larry Youngblood, will share his experiences in the hopes that others can complete the task in a much more timely fashion. What must we learn of the basic understanding of DNA? Do you have to invest the time to be an expert? Given this, who should be our testing company? Is there already a Surname group? Which test should we ask relatives to take? Which relatives should we test, what are the goals and how are candidates found? Furthermore, how do you convince a "relative" to take a DNA test and when do you pay for the tests or upgrade the tests? After waiting for and getting results, what do we do now when a relative matches or a "known relative" does NOT match? What if the strategy does not get you to your results? Learn more about Larry's fascinating discovering which will likely help guide you in your own discovery !!!

The meeting is free.

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/>

Texas, Swisher County Records, 1879-2012

FamilySearch.org has added 6,320 indexed images to their collection of 93,603 records from Swisher County, Texas

Access them here: <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2103490>



From the Archives

Memories of Grand Opera House Thrill Old Theater Fans (Continued)



PART TWO

Emma Abbott Kept Promise

The picture of the old Grand Opera House revives memories of the sweetest experiences in the lives of those who are still here. They recall when this beautiful playhouse was built; when the old Cottage Saloon where John L. Sullivan once punched the bag, was torn down to make way for this theater; the old vacant lot in the rear, on Losoya Street, where a one-ring circus used to show with a pretty girl in tights walking

wire high above the tent as an outside attraction; the same vacant lot where Dr. J. H. Hartley used to hold-forth with his medicine show and pull teeth. They recall when ground was broken for the building of the Grand Opera House early in 1886 under a rush contract to have it completed for the opening by Emma Abbott and her opera company, Christmas week of the same year; how a hundred men or more worked day and night on the job, making excavations for the basement, putting in a deep foundation, laying brick as the walls were reared to a height of three stories, topped off with the roof, and how the painters and decorators worked overtime, designing classical figures and symbols with highest artistic merit as the fresco scheme for the ceiling, and how the great drop curtain, a rare work of art, with not an advertisement on it, was installed at a cost of \$3,000, all in time for the opening performance by Emma Abbott and her company, which happened to be Donizetti's brilliant opera, "Lucretia Borgia" with Miss Abbott singing the name roll [sic], on Monday night, December 20, 1886. The opening engagement was contracted for a year ahead when work on this building of the opera house began, and Miss Abbott wired at the time to Manager Rische, "I'll be there if I have to come 3,000 miles to do so." When the time for the opening arrived, Miss Abbott and her company were in Omaha and they engaged a special train to whirl them across the western plains down through the cactus land of Texas, holding true to her promise to meet her engagement, although delayed on the way by three train wrecks, the last of which was near Taylor, Tex., only a day before the date of her scheduled appearance in San Antonio. On her arrival here Miss Abbott related her thrilling experience she had on the trip, and although under a heavy nervous and physical strain she sang "Lucretia Borgia" in the sweetest voice that had ever been heard in San Antonio. This was not her first appearance here, for she had previously appeared in the old Turner Hall and also in the casino Hall, so that she was a favorite of long standing with the people of San Antonio, and when she died from pneumonia a few years later she was mourned here as if she had been one of San Antonio's own.

First in Vaudeville Field

The old Grand Opera House served as the pioneer in the vaudeville field as well as for moving pictures. It was here the first "legitimate" vaudeville bill was presented, pioneered by a company from the honky-tonks and which included Wiley Hamilton, George Milton, Tom McKeogh, Bill Green, Bertha Wells, Elsie Moore, Bellie Donaldson and May and Vic Atkinson, from the old Fashion Theater, as an advanced step in theatricals in San Antonio, long before the present vaudeville circuits had been in existence. Many years later came the Majestic as the first theater of an organized vaudeville circuit, for which the old Turner Hall, an ironclad building, was remodeled into a virtual amusement place as the first home of the Majestic early in 1900. It was in the Grand Opera House where the first moving pictures were flashed on the screen in San Antonio and it was also here that the first sound pictures were presented, long before the present sound pictures came into vogue. These sound pictures were then in the experimental stage and were not presented in dramatic form but rather in specialties, such for instance as a dog barking or a rooster crowing, in which the dog or rooster could be seen and heard as they were barking or crowing, something that caused people to wonder in awe. One of the specialties was the showing of John J. McGraw, who had just led the New York Giants to their first National League pennant under his management, McGraw was shown in the picture as if he were there in person, moving his arms and lips as he was relating his varied experiences in baseball.

Advent of Fire Escapes

During the entire run of the Grand Opera House there was never a panic in the theater, although Kate Claxton, who held the record of appearing in more theater panics than any other actor or actress, appeared here season after season when she was at the height of her success in "The Two Orphans." There had been theater panics in various parts of the country, but perhaps the greatest of these was that in the Iroquois Theater in Chicago, in which several hundred children were trampled to death in the mad rush for the doors and windows. That brought on the law requiring fire escapes for every building more than two stories in height and the designation of exits marked by a red light as a precautionary measure. Accordingly the Grand Opera House was so equipped as the first building in San Antonio to have fire escapes, to be followed by other buildings in meeting the requirements of this law.

Talk to an old-timer and he will tell you he had never seen Hamlet played as by Edwin Booth in the Grand Opera House or that he had never seen the County of Monte Cristo as played by James O'Neill, Virginius as played by Louis James, Marc Anthony as played by Frederick Warde, Richard the Third as played by Thomas Keene, Rip Van Winkle as played by Joseph Jefferson, Mephisto as played by Lewis Morrison or Marguerite as portrayed by Florence Roberts, Beau Brummell as played by Richard Mansfield, Raffles as played by Kyrie Ballew, all seen on the stage of the old Grand Opera House, all standard roles which became synonymous with the names of these actors and will forever live in the memories of those who saw them.

San Antonio Express

June 16, 1935



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:

- June 2018 by May 15
- July 2018 by June 15
- August 2018 by July 15

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)