



## South Texas Researcher

August 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

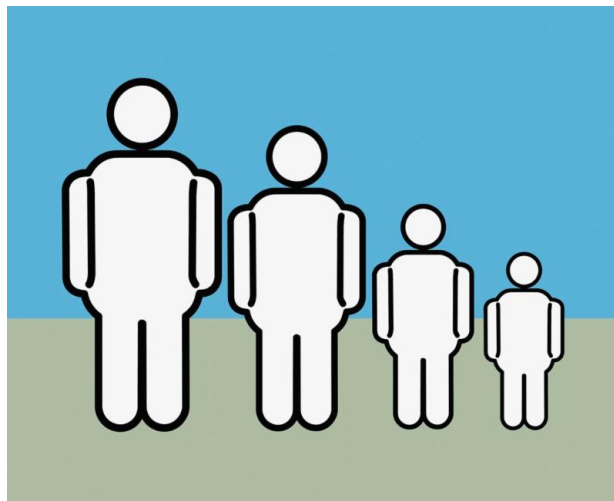
The Library Guides are subject bibliographies with a current twist-databases, websites, event schedule, blogs, as well as books. The department now has the following guides on the library's website under *Resources*:

- 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



## **Finding Out Who You Are: Beginning Your Genealogy Research**

Learn how to begin un-puzzling your family history in this introduction to genealogy. Get tips on how to start your research and the kind of genealogical gems you can find in courthouse records, church records, cemeteries, archives and even your own San Antonio Public Library!



Saturday, August 18, 3:00 p.m.

### **Brook Hollow Library**

530 Heimer

San Antonio, TX 78232

Phone (210) 207-9030

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## **Access Newspaper Archive**

The Access Newspaper Archive database gives you the opportunity to look into the past by searching digitized newspapers from the United States and beyond. Find life events such as birth announcements, burial permits, marriage announcements, obituaries and much, much more! If it went to the print shop, you may be able to find it online at Access Newspaper Archive!



Thursday, August 23 2:00 p.m.

### **Central Library - Connect Training Area**

600 Soledad 78205

210.207.2500

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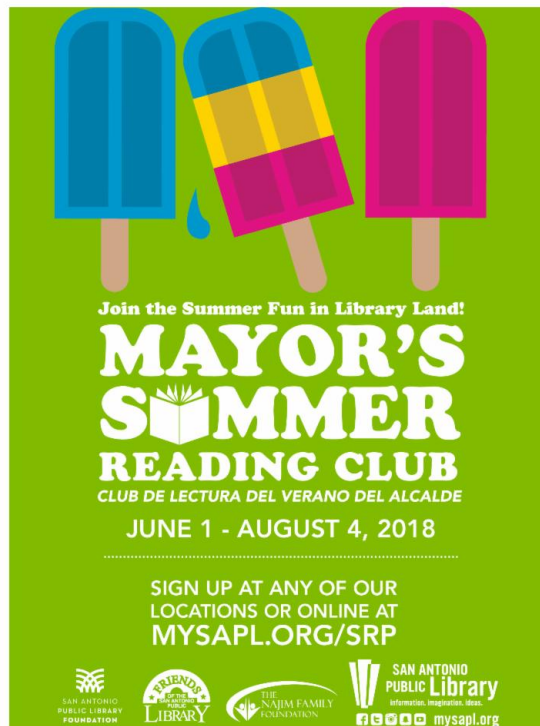
## Mayor's Summer Reading Club

Registration for the Mayor's Summer Reading Club opened June 1. Sign up online or at any San Antonio Public Library location.

Read or listen to books and attend programs to get entries to win prizes!

Read eight books, attend eight programs, or do a combination of reading and programs to reach eight to earn a free book and an extra entry to win.

Take a look at the new books list below in this newsletter. Books marked with an asterisk (\*) also have copies outside of the department that you can check out.



These will count towards your summer reading total.



## New Publications

New Mexico Baptisms, San Felipe de Neri Church in Albuquerque, 1706-1802, 1822-1828  
GENEALOGY 978.9 BERNALILLO 2017

New Mexico Baptisms, Church of San Felipe de Neri in Albuquerque, 1850-1857  
GENEALOGY 978.9 BERNALILLO 2017

New Mexico Baptisms: Nambe 1707-1837 and Pojoaque 1779-1839  
GENEALOGY 978.9 BERNALILLO 2010

Santa Barbara Cemetery, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Burials 1869-1924, with Tombstone Transcriptions 1877-2013  
GENEALOGY 978.9 BERNALILLO 2015

World War I Era Alien Enemy Registrations for New Mexico-1918: Extracts from the United States Marshal Records for New Mexico  
GENEALOGY 978.9 DANIEL

San Jose Catholic Church, Mosquero, New Mexico, Marriages 1894-1915  
GENEALOGY 978.9 HARDING 2017

History of the Leachman Family  
GENEALOGY 929.9 LEACHMAN

McGehee Descendants  
GENEALOGY 929.2 MCGEHEE 1991

Naturalization Records by New Mexico Courts, Volume 3: Docket Books, Bernalillo  
County, 1881-1927  
GENEALOGY 978.9 NATURALIZATION v. 3

New Mexico Baptisms, Church in Jemez, NM 1701-1829  
GENEALOGY 978.9 SANDOVAL 2017

A to Z of Native American Women  
GENEALOGY 920.72089 SONNEBORN 1998

New Mexico Spanish & Mexican Colonial Censuses: 1790, 1823, 1845  
GENEALOGY 978.9 SPANISH 2015

Her Texas: Story, Image, Poem and Song  
TEXANA 810.80923 HER  
Humans of San Antonio

The Red River Bridge War: A Texas-Oklahoma Border Battle  
TEXANA 976.4062 WILLIAMS 2016



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## Community Partners

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### 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 4, 2018

**Speaker:** Sergio & Melinda Iruegas

**Topic:** 18th-Century Spanish Colonial Rancheria Grande:  
Fulcrum of Texas Participation in the American Revolution

Sergio and Melinda and been working as professional archaeologists for over 30 years. Since 2014, their collaborative research with the city archaeologist for the San Antonio Founding Initiative Project has been combined with their research with El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association to document historic trails and Native American villages. The overall question is how the privately owned Tejano ranchos evolved from the corporately held Spanish Mission complexes and transportation routes in Texas. Sergio has worked for the Texas and Massachusetts Historic Preservation offices. He has taught historic preservation law courses for the Continuing Legal Education International.

Together with his wife, Melinda, they worked for Harvard University's Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology as Curatorial Associates working with Southwestern and Southeastern archaeological collections. They have co-authored 10 volumes since the inception of the project. Sergio and Melinda specialize in Spanish Colonial and Tejano Historical Archaeology, as well as Coahuiltecan and Caddo Archaeology. Past research included documentation of the original 1750s Ranchos under Falcón Reservoir; National Register investigations

of the Pajalache Acequia; the original Mill site for the first Mission Concepción location for the city of San Antonio; General Zachary Taylor's Historic Military Road along the Río Grande at two separate locations near the Río Grande, and Caddo Village sites. Today, Sergio and Melinda are using their company GTI Environmental, L.L.C. to give back to their community in well over \$300,000 in services in kind, while publishing their research for a more balanced historical narrative.

#### **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 Antonio Central Library**
- 600 Soledad Street
- San Antonio, TX 78205
- 210-207-2500

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



### Viva HemisFair!

[The Institute of Texan Cultures](#)

April 6 - December 31, 2018

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.





[Predators vs. Prey: Dinosaurs on the Land Before Texas](#)

26 May through 3 September 2018

[Portraits of Courage: A Commander-in-Chief's Tribute to America's Warriors](#)

now through 3 Sept. 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

[Captain Seth Eastman's Journey with a Sketchbook: Down the Mississippi](#)

5 April 2018 to 30 Sept. 2018

[100 Years of Printmaking in San Antonio: Kent Rush](#)

12 July 2018 to 30 Sept. 2018

[Dario Robleto: Ancient Beacons Long for Notice](#)

28 June 2018 to 23 Sept. 2018

[Immersed: Local to Global Art Sensations](#)

7 June 2018 to 2 September 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

[Marilyn Lanfear](#)

24 August - 11 November 2018

[Becoming John Marin: Modernist at Work](#)

26 October 2018 - 20 January 2019



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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?



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## Links

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### Free Online Genealogy Webinars

#### August 2018

Discovering your UK/Irish Roots Online: Websites and Resources for English, Welsh, Irish and Scottish Ancestry

- **Presenter:** Debbie Dusek
- **Date:** August 22, 2018
- **Time:** 7:00 PM Central
- **Description:** There is no such thing as "one stop genealogy shopping!" This program will lead you through the resources and search techniques for the three big UK and Irish databases: FindMyPast, ScotlandsPeople and RootsIreland. Learn what's new on these databases, how you can apply them to your research and how privacy and information rights impact your quest for records.
- **Registration:** <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3550833608082417665>

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### Clayton Genealogy Library - Houston

**August 3-4, 2018** | Starting at 10:00 a.m.

The Frances Sprott Goforth Memorial Genealogy Weekend will be held August 3rd and 4th, 2018 at the Huntsville Public Library. This year's event, "Orphan Trains, Adoption, and DNA" is hosted by the Walker County Genealogical Society and the Huntsville Public Library. On-site registration begins at 9:30 a.m. both days with programs from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, August 3 and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, August 4. A light supper will be provided on Friday. A silent auction, open to the public, will be held during the weekend and will end at 4 p.m. Saturday.

The event is free but requires registration. Call 936-291-5471 or sign up online at [www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com](http://www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com).



## Share Your Story: Get Started

### Every Texan has a story. What's yours?

The Texas Story Project lives [here](#). Share your story and write your own page in Texas history.

You have a story. Every Texan has a story. Or hundreds. Here is your chance to tell at least one. Pick a prompt below and write your real-life version of that story. Feel free to include photos, audio files and/or video files if you'd like to share those, too. After you've composed your contribution, send it in. Museum staff will include selected pieces in the ever-growing Texas Story Project collection. Look through the stories we already have on the Interactive Texas Map if you need some inspiration, or if you just want to laugh and cry a little. Read them, search them, share them.

But first, write them.



## From the Archives

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### Hill Country Flood of August 1978

In looking at Hill Country river flooding during the mid-1970's, residents would acknowledge that they had missed some of the worst flash flood events, such as those in Sanderson, San Marcos and New Braunfels. The Guadalupe River above Canyon Dam had not had a large rise since 1958 and 1960. With one of the most severe droughts since the 1950's under way in the summer of 1978, one of Texas' biggest weather dangers, a dying tropical storm, once again brought a world-class deluge and a set of flash floods to the Texas Hill Country.

The flash flood of August 1978 was one the most staggering ever recorded. The slow-moving remnants of Tropical Storm Amelia produced the dreaded core rainfall during the middle of the night, sending walls of water down some of the Hill Country's most beautiful stretches, including the Medina River and the upper Guadalupe River. The lovely riverside settings outside of Bandera were home to some of the state's most popular summer camps and dude ranches. With the world-record-category deluge upriver, camp owners and campers had no idea that the unprecedented surges would rip through their camps. The scars of the 1978 flash flood left marks that will be remembered for decades.

#### Precedent

The spring and summer of 1978 were dry, causing most Hill Country and Central Texas counties to seek drought assistance. Cities with the largest deficits included Boerne (10.5 inches), Hondo (8 inches), Hunt (7.5 inches) and Brady (7 inches). Fredericksburg received boosts from stray showers in June and July, which dropped its rainfall deficit to only 0.18

inches. Streamflow in the Hill Country reflected the drought conditions. At the end of the July, the Guadalupe River at Hunt was flowing at less than 20 cfs. Downstream at Comfort, it was flowing at less than 40 cfs. The streamflow for the Medina River at Pipe Creek was less than 10 cfs.

## Rainfall

Late in July widely scattered thunderstorms formed in the Hill Country on several different days. On July 26 a tornado was spotted four miles west of Llano. A day later, sixty mph winds were reported at Lake Travis, and a day after that, a tornado was reported near Thrall. While these storms brought some violent weather to parts of Central Texas, a much larger system was needed to break the drought

That system would come from the Gulf of Mexico. In the last week of July, a tropical wave approximately 200 miles south of Brownsville briefly intensified as it approached the Texas coast, where it was upgraded to a tropical storm and named Amelia; its winds officially peaked on July 30 at forty-five mph. Amelia hit the Texas coast 40 miles north of Brownsville. During the night it moved northwesterly, passing approximately 50 miles west of Corpus Christi. The storm was officially designated as a tropical depression or tropical storm for less than two days, prompting the *San Antonio Express* on August 1 to comment, "Amelia's rapid ascent and demise caught many unaware, touching off a controversy about the reliability of weather forecasters."

By nightfall of July 31, the center of Amelia's remnants was west of San Antonio. Moist air flowed into Texas from the Gulf of Mexico - the dew point stood at 79 in Corpus Christi that night. Rains associated with the fading storm began falling in South Texas that day. Totals were light, most of them less than 0.5 inches. San Antonio managed to break a fifty-day rainless streak.

At 6 a.m. on August 1, forecasters reported a vorticity center near Del Rio. (On July 29, Del Rio received 0.23 inches of rain, followed by 1.73 inches on July 30.) The storms from the previous day dissipated in the afternoon, but the threat of heavy rain was developing as the remnants of Amelia settled over the Hill Country. The National Weather Service issued a flash flood watch on the afternoon of August 1. At 7 p.m. the NWS raised the watch to a flash food warning for Bandera, Kendall and Kerr counties. Showers in the Medina area and the Guadalupe River basin intensified rapidly near midnight and moved slowly through Bandera, Kerr, Gillespie and Kendall counties. These were the core rains from the dying tropical storm in action. Massive totals of more than 20 inches of rain fell in the early morning hours of August 2. The highest totals were at Medina (20.2 inches) and north of Medina at Manatt Ranch (31 inches). Others included Kerrville (18 inches), Vanderpool (11 inches), and Fredericksburg (7.5 inches)

With the moist air and triggering mechanisms still in place, the forecast was for 6 inches of rain on the night of August 2. The downpour continued, as predicted, with the main concentration falling north and northwest of the upper Guadalupe and Medina basins. My 7 p.m. convective showers started again in Bandera County. Around 10:30 cells intensified and expanded in to central Kerr County, as well as western Gillespie and southeastern Mason counties. The center of the rain, which again exceeded 20 inches, was located in west-central Gillespie county. Parts of the Guadalupe basin were hit once more, with the peak rain falling at Ingram (almost 16 inches). Hunt logged 7.5 inches that same night.

The Medina River basin again received heavy rains, as Manatt Ranch gauged another 12 inches. The total at the ranch was 48 inches, a new record for a seventy-two-hour period in the United States. Incredibly, the rainfall averaged almost an inch per hour, as most of the 48-inch total fell within fifty-two hours. The city of Medina received only 0.6 inches

during the night of August 2, indicating how abruptly the heavy rain subsided.

Gillespie County's rains focused on the western portion of the county and fed the Pedernales and Llano rivers. The greatest total was in the Spring Creek area, where 21 inches fell. Harper, White Oak, and Pilot Knob each tallied close to 20 inches. The Doss area gauged 10-13 inches. The Kerr County agriculture agent remarked, "For the first time since I have been here, I hope it does not rain tonight."

As the storms pummeled the Hill Country, additional concern for disastrous downpours arose due to a cool front that was expected to push south from the Texas Panhandle.

### **Streamflow**

At Manatt Ranch, the 30-inch rains on the morning of August 2 fell in the headwaters of the Medina River. At the headwaters of Verde and Turtle creeks, which flow into the Guadalupe near Center Point, 15-20 inches fell. USGS gauging stations were active on the Medina at Pipe Creek, well below the origin of the flood, on the Guadalupe above Center Point at Kerrville and below it at Comfort. Because the streamflow gauges were not distributed throughout the rivers, the official records did not chronicle the flood wave as it moved down the Medina River or Verde and Turtle Creeks.

The downpours on the night of August 2 were centered at the headwaters of Spring Creek, which feeds into the Pedernales River southwest of Fredericksburg. Only the section of the Guadalupe above Kerrville received significant rain in the second round with sixteen inches falling at Ingram.

### **Summing Up**

President Jimmy Carter granted Dolph Briscoe's request that Bandera, Kerr and Kendall counties be designated major disaster areas. It was the twenty-eighth time in twenty-five years that portions of Texas had been declared disaster areas as a result of storms and flooding. When Briscoe toured the region, he called the flood "the worst in the history of Texas."

An account in the Austin American-Statesman documents some of the sights from Bill Kueger's and Briscoe's trip to review the flood damage. "Utility poles... scatter about the flooded area like broken match sticks, crushed automobiles [that] lay around as though dropped from the sky, and home [that] were reduced to unrecognizable rubble." They also witnessed a thirty-foot cypress tree jammed into the limbs of another tree about twenty-five feet above the ground.

Earl Estell, head of the National Weather Service Disaster Survey Team, maintained the "reason for [the] increasing death toll and escalating property damage is increased development on flood-prone land.... People are building in places where - if they had the facts - no one in their right mind would build."

Following the disastrous inundations, the National Weather Service visited the area to ascertain how well warnings were issued and heeded. Its report on the flood and the staff's handling of the event concluded, "The death toll in last week's tragic Hill Country flood could have been reduced if the National Weather Service had provided better warning ... [b]ut NWS forecasters ... were hampered by a shortage of monitoring systems in the Hill Country ... Consequently, the NWS had little idea of the magnitude of the record flood ... We knew something was going on, but, only after the fact did we realize we had a monster of a storm on our hands. . . . Although NWS issued a flood warning for the Hill Country on August 1 - just hours before the Guadalupe, Medina, Frio, Pedernales and Sabinal rivers surged from their banks - the danger was not adequately stressed. As a result, Hill Country residents 'did not feel sufficiently threatened.'" The investigation

found that many people simply did not believe the flood was going to be severe; it also contended that additional reporting and recording stations were needed throughout the Hill Country to gather more data.

Another report stated that the long-distance telephone service failed around 5:45 a.m. on August 2. Moreover, lightning knocked out the Department of Public Safety's radio transmitter tower, and the Bandera County sheriff's radio transmitter also went out that same day.

***from the book Flash Floods in Texas by Jonathan Burnett, pp. 216-231***

Texas A&M University Press, 2008

TEXANA 551.489 BURNETT



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:

- September 2018 by August 15
- October 2018 by September 15
- November 2018 by October 15

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

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