



## South Texas Researcher

September 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



### Using Ancestry Library Edition

Learn how to use Ancestry Library Edition to help you with your family history research.

Wednesday, September 12, 6:00 p.m.

**Brook Hollow Library**  
530 Heimer  
San Antonio, TX 78232  
Phone (210) 207-9030



## New Publications

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1840 Census of Pensioners for Revolutionary & Military Services  
GENEALOGY 973.34 PAULK 2010

New Mexico Baptisms, San Felipe de Neri Church in Albuquerque, 1706-1802, 1822-1828, Survey of Dixie County, Florida Cemeteries As of September 1997  
GENEALOGY 975.9 DIXIE 1997

East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana Mortality Schedules, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880  
GENEALOGY 976.3 EAST BATON ROUGE 1983

Born from Iron: Iron Mountain, Michigan 1879-1979  
GENEALOGY 977.4 DICKINSON 1978

Mackinac Island: Its History In Pictures  
GENEALOGY 977.4 MACKINAC 1973

Lost, Texas: Photographs of Forgotten Buildings  
TEXANA 976.40022 DORSEY 2018

The Alamo's Forgotten Defenders: The Remarkable Story of the Irish during the Texas Revolution  
TEXANA 976.403 TUCKER 2016

Franklin County School Census 1914-1915  
TEXANA 976.4213 FRANKLIN 2004

Franklin County School Censuses 1922-1924

TEXANA 976.4213 FRANKLIN 2005

Titus County, Texas Marriages: Sorted by the Groom's Last Name, 1896-1973  
TEXANA 976.4215 DONAGHUE 2007

Titus County, Texas Marriages: Sorted by the Bride's Last Name, 1896-1973  
TEXANA 976.4215 DONAGHUE 2007

Pioneers and Heroes of Titus County  
TEXANA 976.4215 RUSSELL 1974



## 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:** September 1, 2018

**Speaker:** none

**Topic:** This is a members-only meeting

#### 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](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.txsgahs.org](http://www.txsgahs.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](#).

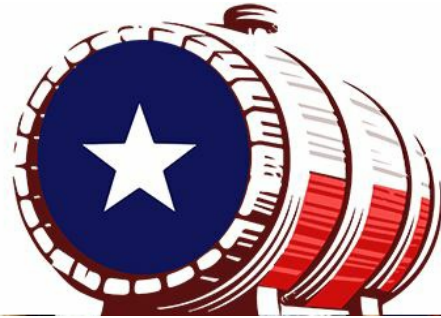
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## Brewing Up Texas

[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.



theMcNay



San Antonio Museum of Art

[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 through 11 November 2018

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

26 October 2018 through 20 January 2019



News

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Sponsored by the Los Bexareños Genealogical and Historical Society

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Make your reservations early at the  
 Holiday Inn Riverwalk, September 27, 28, 29, 2018  
 217 North St. Mary's Street  
 San Antonio, Texas 78205-2303  
 (800) 315-2621 or 210-224-2500 Group Code: LBG

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Fellow Historians, Genealogists, and History Buffs, Please join us in San Antonio for the 39th Annual Hispanic Genealogical, and Historical Conference. This upcoming event will take place on September 27th, 28th, and 29th, during the 300th Anniversary of San Antonio's Founding Celebration. Early registration begins now until May 1st. The reduced rate for the Holiday Inn River Walk applies for two days prior and two days after our conference, if you chose to extend your stay in our beautiful city.

Take this opportunity to visit our Historical Missions, which have been named a "World Heritage Site" by UNESCO. Take a dinner barge down the beautiful San Antonio River as you dine with friends and learn some historical facts from your Barge Captain.

Our conference will have 30 sessions with some of the most renowned Genealogists and noted Historians. We will have instructional sessions for beginning, intermediate, and advanced genealogists, and discuss the importance of collecting oral histories. We are also providing discounts on your DNA so that you can bring your results with you, and discuss it with an expert. Bring your family trees or genealogy records and discover new "Primos" while extending our tree at our Sobremesa after dinner on Friday night.

**Saturday Evening Banquet Speaker will be:**

**Dr. Emilio Zamora**

Associate Professor with the School of information Science with a courtesy appointment in the Department of History and associate status in the Center of Mexican American Status at the University of Texas at Austin

Topic: Texas Colonial - Mexican Time Period  
 Conference Speakers

**Friday, September 28, 2018**

Time	Room B	Room C
9:00 am	Dan Arellano The French Connection to the Alamo	Ricky D. Reyes The Four Directions of the Universe Prayer from the Secrete Wisdom of a Yaqui Mestizo Healer
10:05 am	Dr. Javier Villarreal His presentation follow the road taken by the Spanish language in the Americas. It will explain the results of language contact, initially, in the Antilles, later betwenn Spanish and Nahuatl (the	Dr. Frank de la Teja Ph.D. "The Other Seguín: Don Erasmo and the birth of Modern Texas." Description: While Juan gets the lion's share of attention among the Seguíns of San Antonio, the story of his father, Erasmo, is no less compelling and full of

	<p>language of the Aztecs) in Mexico. He will explain how language expansion occurs linguistic and cultural environment. It concludes with a discussion on the vitality of Aztec words that have survived and thrived in today's Spanish and English.</p>	<p>hard choices over loyalties and adversity. Mostly known for escorting Stephen F. Austin into Texas in the summer of 1821, Erasmo's role during the Mexican War of Independence era and the early Mexican national period are largely unknown. This talk attempts to deal with the conflicting loyalties and responsibilities faced by Erasmo and how his experience. shaped history</p>
11:10 am	<p>Janine Cloud Family Tree DNA You've decided to try DNA testing to help break through your genealogical brick walls, but all those test descriptions read like they're written in a foreign language. What can you really expect from testing? What test should you take? Who should you test? What does it all mean? In this talk, Janine Cloud explains DNA testing for genealogy in simple terms</p>	<p>Steve Gonzalez Executive Director of the Camino Real de Los Tejas, will bring us up to date on ongoing research projects that shed light on various aspects of the trail's history, has allowed historic sites to be recognized as official trail resources.</p>
Lunch		
1:00 pm	<p>Anthony Delgado &amp; Joe Arciniega The Interview (Dramatic presentation on Texas History)</p>	<p>William Scott Early Ranching Women of the San Antonio and Guadalupe River Valley.</p>
2:05 pm	<p>Alex Baez Alex Baez tells the tell the story of their grandfather "Memoirs" written in his own hand. The story of the grandfather's migration from Spain to Monterrey. Beginning in 1834. The grandfather shared personal philosophies about life.</p>	<p>Dr. Carolina Castillo Crimm Ph.D. The Story of General Bernado de Galvez and how Tejanos became Sons of the American Revolution and resulted in victory for the Americans.</p>
3:10 pm	<p>Sylvia Reyna Research resources available at the San Antonio Library Texana Department.</p>	<p>Gus Martinez The Evolution of the Tejanos: 500 years in the Americas and 300 years in Texas. Discussing the First Families of Bexar 1716-1730</p>
4:15 pm	<p>Art Martinez de Vara &amp; Norma Langwell The Alcades Program</p>	<p>Jose Sierra Sr. The presentation deals with the who, what, where, when and why Texas Spanish and Mexican Land Grants were stolen from Tejano ancestors after 1848</p>

		and will discuss U.S. reparation of those lands.
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**Saturday, September 29, 2018**

Time	Room A	Room B	Room C
7:20 am			
8:05 am	Margarita Araiza The History of Women Religious in Laredo.	David Gonzales He will discuss his research on of Sephardic Jews in Texas and Mexico and what is the meaning of this renaissance and where do Hispanics with Sephardic ancestry go from here.	Angel of Goliad Presentation Team Preserving the Memory of an Incredible Lady.
9:10 am	Maña Elena Laborde y Pérez Treviño Author of the hottest selling book "Objective: Salvar Vidas: Mexico en Madrid, 1936" of Mexican Involvement in the Spanish Civil War. She is a descendant of 1716 families of Bexar and author about her grandfather who was governor of Coahuila, founder of a political party, presidential candidate and ambassador of Mexico to Spain where he saved lives during the Spanish Revolution.	Dave Gutierrez Author of "Patriots from the Barrio." The Story of Company E, 141st Infantry: The Only All Mexican American Army Unit in World War II. The unit consisted of men from El Paso, San Antonio & other Texas towns. Film rights have been sold for a movie.	Ed Mata The Cristero War. The persecution of Catholics in Mexico. This was a popular uprising against the anti-Catholic Mexican government 1926 to 1929.



10:15 am	<p>Lic. Maria de Jesus Real Garcia Figueroa Spanish Presentation</p> <p>Nace en el Distrito Federal. Es licenciada en Antropología e Historia con especialidad en Etnohistoria, enfocándose en Historia Oral. Tiene la maestría en Historia por la UNAM y es cronista de la Delegación Benito Juárez.</p>	<p>Bill Millett</p> <p>Bill Millett - film director &amp; co-producer of the Music Soundtrack - had an imaginative and original way to illustrate the synthesis of a vast and detailed history of Spanish Texas that has never been revealed to the public in Film. People involved in film production from California will participate in the presentation.</p>	<p>Brennan Gardner Rivas ABD</p> <p>An unequal right to Bear Arms. State weapon laws and how regulations targeted the non-white persons of Texas, particularly the male slaves and Indians who posed a threat to the safety and social order of white communities</p>
11:20 am	<p>Lic. Miguel Angel Munos Borrego</p> <p>"Spanish Presentation"</p> <p>His research will show a connection of the Borrego families that brought ranching into northern Mexico. To include rancher Jose Vasquez Borrego who crossed the Rio Grande near Laredo in 1750 and in 1755.</p>	<p>Dr. Teresa Von Hoy Ph.D.</p> <p>Presentations by several of her St. Mary's University History students who will present stories about their families in Texas, primarily South Texas.</p>	<p>Moises Garza</p> <p>The author of over 38 books on Mexican Genealogy, the administrator of The Mexican Genealogical Blog; and developer of the WEARECOUSINS.website will present on current findings and research</p>
Lunch			
1:30 pm	<p>Art Martinez de Vara</p> <p>"Mission Espada After Seclarization: 1794 - 2014"</p> <p>He is a Texas</p>	<p>Dr. David Carlson, Ph.D.</p> <p>The Bexar County Archivist</p> <p>"¿Quién crees</p>	<p>Dr. Francis Galan Ph.D.</p> <p>An Assistant Professor of History at Texas A&amp;M University-San Antonio.</p> <p>"From Los Adaes to the Alamo: The Significance of East Texas to San Antonio's Tricentennial</p>

	<p>historian, author and attorney. He was the grand Prize Winner at the 2016 TSGS Book Awards for "Dios y Tejas: Essays on the history of Von Ormy Texas" and the winner of the 2014 Presidio La Bahia Award for "The Jose Francisco Ruiz Papers: Report on Indian Tribes of Texas in 1828"</p>	<p>que eres? History, Genealogy and Popular Culture viewed from the Archives."</p>	<p>Celebration" San Antonio celebrates the 300th anniversary of its founding in 1718, this talk considers the ties that bound Adaeseños from East Texas alongside Bexareños, Coahuiltecas, Apaches, and Comanches at the three principal institutions that constituted the Alamo City's core identity of the missions, presidio, and town in its formative years. Adaeseños infused a spirit of accommodation and rebellion from the Texas-Louisiana border at Los Adaes and Nacogdoches to South Texas, and vice-versa, as Tejanos became caught in revolutionary movements for American, Mexican, and Texan independence. In particular, family surnames such as Losoya, Esparza, Carmona, and Tejeda are but a few who came to San Antonio from Los Adaes while others traveled back and forth along the Camino Real in search for opportunity, land, and freedom</p>
2:35 pm	<p>Crispin Rendon The well-known Genealogist who many of us depend upon will speak on: Exploring Mexican Catholic Marriage Records using FamilySearch.org</p>	<p>Mary Ozuna Torres The Harlingen Native write a weekly column for the Valley Morning Star, will present the weaving of the story of the Molina and related families of Revilla, Mexico and South Texas.</p>	<p>Dr. Mary Jo Galindo, Ph.D. La Orden Caballeros de America and the Legacy of Maria L. Hernandez La Liga Pro Defensa Escolar demonstrations protesting the discrimination in and deplorable conditions of public school for Mexican children in the 1930's</p>
3:40 pm	<p>Carlos Martín Herrera de la Garza Spanish Presentation He will discuss his book on the marriages that occurred in Burgos, Tamaulipas from 1750 until 1860</p>	<p>Cindy A. Medina The Administrator of the FB site "New Spain and Mexico" will talk about the Dr. Hogan Book "Abraham Lincoln and</p>	<p>M. E. Rios M.E. Ríos is a genealogy enthusiast who is passionate about connecting people with the history of northeastern México through their genealogies. He has research experience in archives in México, Spain, and the United States. His current research focuses on tracing lineages of Jewish ancestry in northeastern México. He is the project administrator for the Cohen de México Project on Family Tree</p>

<p>which encompass such names such as Adame, Balli, Cano, Flores, Garza, Gonzáles, Guillén, Gutiérrez, Palacios, Treviño, and Zuñgia. Professor Herrera is a faculty member of the Universidad de Tamaulipas in Ciudad Victoria</p>	<p>Mexico"</p>	<p>DNA, and has a forthcoming book on proving an unbroken maternal lineage of Judeo-converso origin in northeastern México dating back to 1495 in Spain and HOW that could affect YOU!</p>
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2018  
**annual**  
CONFERENCE



Friday & Saturday  
**Sept. 14 & 15**

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# German-Texan Heritage Society

## 2018 Annual Meeting

September 14-15, 2018 in Galveston, TX

### REGISTRATION FORM

NAME (1<sup>st</sup> registrant) \_\_\_\_\_  
 NAME (2<sup>nd</sup> registrant) \_\_\_\_\_  
 NAME (3<sup>rd</sup> registrant) \_\_\_\_\_  
 MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Please print or write legibly.  
 Your name tag will be made from this information.  
 Use one sheet for registrants at the same address.  
 Make copies of this sheet for registrants at different addresses.  
 Membership with GTHS is **not** required.

**REGISTRATION:** Please make your selections by telling us how many will attend EACH day and placing dollar amounts in the appropriate blanks.

Call 512-467-4569 with questions or email us at [office@germantexans.org](mailto:office@germantexans.org)

### 2018 Annual Event Registration - Pricing

		<i>cost per person</i>	<i>how many?</i>	<i>Total per event</i>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	September 14 – Conference Day 1 ONLY	<b>\$40</b>	_____	\$_____
<b>SATURDAY</b>	September 15- Conference Day 2 ONLY	<b>\$40</b>	_____	\$_____
<b>Friday &amp; Saturday</b>	Registration for both days	<b>\$60</b>	_____	\$_____
	<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>			\$_____

Check enclosed payable to GTHS. Mail to: GTHS, PO Box 684171, Austin, TX 78768-4171

Charge to my MasterCard / Visa / Discover \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ VCode \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## 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

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### Free Online Genealogy Webinars

#### September 2018

##### North Carolina Land Grants Overview

- **Presenter:** David McCorkle
- **Date:** August 26, 2018
- **Time:** 7:00 PM Central
- **Description:** Land records can provide useful genealogical information beyond just time and place, such as relationships, clues to wealth, occupations, neighbors, and more. Land Grants are of particular interest because they represent the first time a particular plot of land was allocated to settlers, and also because the grant process required a number of steps and often took several years, with numerous documents generated. North Carolina has original documents going back to 1663, and the free website [nclandgrants.com](http://nclandgrants.com) has searchable data on all the grants along with many original document images.
- **Registration:** <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6510824466305617923>

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### Clayton Genealogy Library - Houston

**September 8, 2018** | Starting at 10:30 a.m.

Grandparents Day Celebration - Bring the grandchildren (or children) and participate in the multi-generational Activity stations created for sharing family stories and memories.

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# Virtual Genealogical Association

Virtual meetings & conferences. *Any time. Any place.*

The Virtual Genealogical Association is a global organization serving family history enthusiasts of all levels, geared towards those:

- whose circumstances make it difficult to attend local genealogical society meetings
- who prefer online presentations, special interest groups (SIGs), conferences, and socializing
- with an interest in connecting, networking, and mentoring with global genealogists

The Virtual Genealogical Association was founded on 27 April 2018 with the recognition that many family history enthusiasts are merging technology and globalization in their genealogical pursuits. We aim to provide a forum for genealogists to connect, network, and mentor with genealogists around the world through monthly meetings online, webinars, social networking, annual conferences, and in-person meet-ups at conferences, institutes and events around the world.



## From the Archives

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### Early Breweries Tell Interesting Story That Made San Antonio Famous

By Fred Mosebach

What ever has made San Antonio famous since the first settlers were attracted by the crystal clear springs, the beautiful trees and the salubrious climate, there is perhaps nothing can compare with the fine quality of beer that has been brewed here. That dates back as far as the memory of the oldest resident goes, for beer brewing is a time-honored industry of San Antonio that has maintained a payroll to supply the sinews for trade and commerce as a contributing share to prosperity this city has always known. There is no institution in San Antonio which has provided more employment than the breweries, and likewise none that has paid more taxes for the upkeep of the Government, and also none that has contributed more to the cause of charity. When a subscription list is started to bring in a new enterprise, such for instance as a railroad, the breweries kick in with the largest sums.

Anyone who has known the men at the head of our breweries will tell you that

they are the leaders in public enterprise. The pioneer of them all was the late William A. Menger, one of San Antonio's leading citizens before the Civil War, who founded the hotel that today still bears his name, then the leading hostelry of San Antonio and Southwest Texas, and also established the first brewery. He was one of the organizers of the first fire department when this started out as a bucket brigade as a means of protecting the homes of the citizens from the ravages of flames, and as a stroke of civic pride he presented the city with its first steam pumper. When John B. Behloradsky came here in later years to establish the City Brewery, he was enrolled as one of San Antonio's leading citizens and was in the front ranks among those to put their shoulders to the wheel to push the city ahead. Others equally as enterprising were Herman D. Kampmann, Louis S. Berg and Oscar Bergstrom. Otto Koehler, Otto Wahrmond, John Legler, George Schober and George Aschbacher are among others that could be named as wheelhorses for the progress of San Antonio, all identified with the beer brewing industry.

### **Yeast Cakes for Housewives**

It is the old Menger Brewery, however, that still strums a vibrating chord in the memory of those who were here at the time, for they delight to recall when they used to go to the brewery, which was on Blum Street, to get there yeast for their mothers for the making of bread and "kaffe-kuchen." Ed Lyons recalled the other day how his mother at the old Lyons homestead on Sixth Street made yeast cakes and laid these on a board out in the sun to dry. Hundreds of others can recall the old days of yeast cakes, for no household was without them. The housewives would soften the yeast cakes in water and mix them with dough for baking bread. That was before bakeries became numerous to take care of the bread supply and bread making was an art among housewives.

William A. Menger was born in Wildecken bel Hanau, Kurhessen, Germany, on March 15, 1827. He was a cooper and brewer and had traveled extensively before coming to Texas. He operated a cooperage in San Antonio and manufactured wooden barrels and tanks of all kinds. As he knew how to make good beer he started a brewery about the year 1855. The fame of the Menger beer became state wide and was delivered in kegs to all parts of Texas by wagon trains and ox carts. In 1858, Menger built his hotel on Alamo Plaza, and this he opened on Feb. 1, 1859, operating it until his death, March 18, 1871, at the age of 44. His widow and son, the late L. William Menger, operated the hotel for 10 years after his death. A daughter, Mrs. C. Barbara Menger, is still living.

### **Some Early Breweries**

Among other early breweries was the Joe Hutzler on Presa Street, at the river, just south of Market Street. Henry Karber had a brewery on San Pedro Creek near where Martin Street now crosses, and not far from there, H. Hammer had a brewery. Don Heder had a brewery on south Laredo Street, near Arsenal Street; William Esser had one on North Flores, between Hickman and Krempkau Streets, and in the same block, Henry Diedler had a brewery, all back 60 years ago, so there was no danger of a drouth in San Antonio. These brewers used to import piloncillo from Mexico by wagon trains and used this instead of sugar. Piloncillo is made from sugar cane and is put up in conical form, as which it is still handled by some grocers. It used to be a favorite among sweets for children. It gave the beer a heavy brown body. Lorenz Kaupert, whose home was on Avenue E, at the corner of Seventh Street, used to



make a sweet beer and George Aschbacher used to make weiss beer, which was very popular at the time. This was light colored, highly effervescent, weiss beer, meaning white beer.

San Antonio's most distinctive brewery was that of Carl Degen which went out of existence when prohibition came in during the World War. In a little rock house on Blum Street he had his vats where he brewed the beer. He did not place it on the market, but served it to his customers who called at his place of business where he had a bar equipped with tables and chairs. This little room was filled with customers almost constantly. Some of these called in the morning and others in the afternoon. They would sit at the tables and order their beer, which was served in schooners at five cents each. Some of the leading families of San Antonio would drive to Degen's place in their carriages for a schooner of this refreshing beverage. Tourists and traveling theatrical troupes when they visited the city never failed to visit Degen's for that was one of the points of interest in the city. Notwithstanding the popularity of his beer, Degen refused to capitalize it. He was content with the business he did and refused offers to incorporate to put his product on the market on a large manufacturing scale. He used to say, "It is not what you put in the beer, but it is how you brew it that makes it what it is." For that reason, he always personally supervised the making of his beer and would allow nobody to help him in the process of making it until the years began to weigh down on him and he was compelled to retire until he passed away. But the Degen beer had never been the same from the time that he could not attend to the vats himself.

When prohibition came in all the breweries went out of business. The old City brewery was converted into a food product concern, but has since been taken over for the beer industry as which it is now operating. The Lone Star Brewery closed down. George Schober had a thriving brewery just south of East Josephine Street, but this went out of business with his death.

### ***San Antonio Express***

August 25, 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](mailto:genealogydesk@sanantonio.gov) by the deadline provided:

- October 2018 by September 15
- November 2018 by October 15
- December 2018 by November 15

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)