



South Texas Researcher

December 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



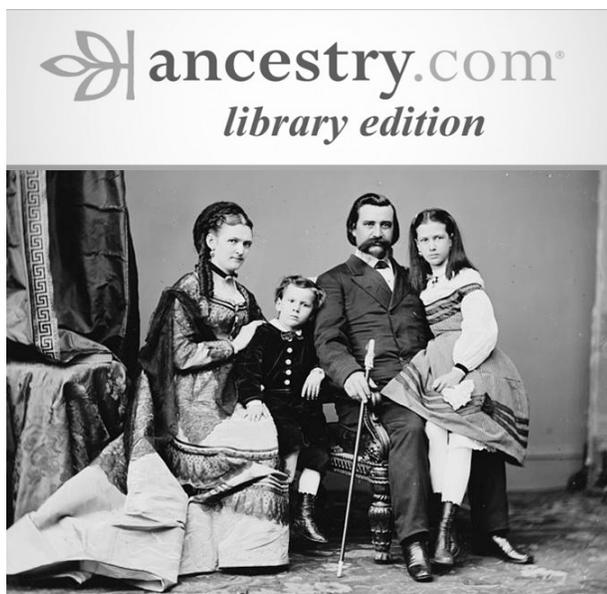
Getting Started with Ancestry.com (Library Edition)

One of the most popular genealogy databases available today, join us and see how Ancestry is organized and learn the best ways to begin researching your family history. Registration is required. Seating is limited.

Sunday, December 9, 1:00 p.m.

Central Library - Connect

600 Soledad
San Antonio, TX 78255
Phone (210) 207-2500 (ask for Texana)



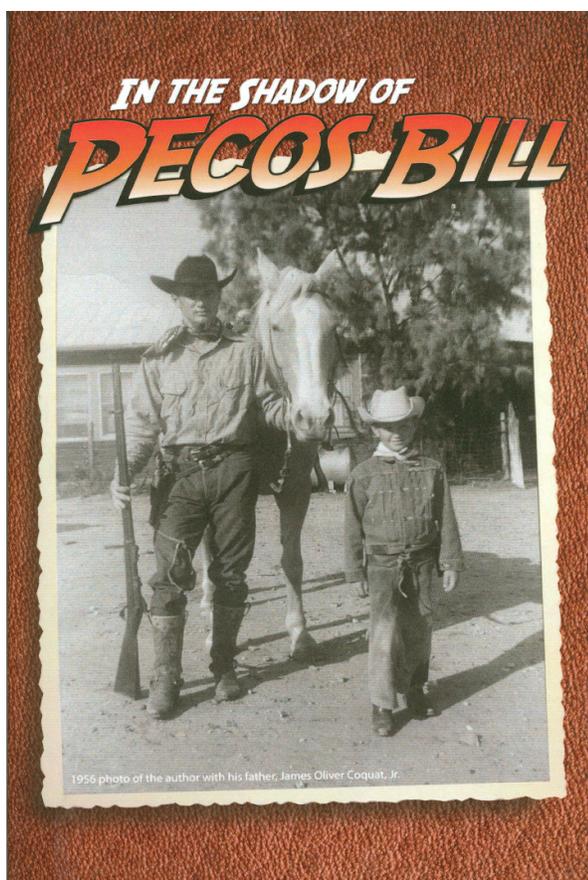
In the Shadow of Pecos Bill

The Central Library's Texana/Genealogy Department would like to announce the donation of "In the Shadow of Pecos Bill", by Jean-Pierre Coquat, in memory of Esther (DuBose) Black. Coquat's book is a collection of family stories as told by his uncles and grandfathers from the DuBose and Carroll families. There will be a book signing session on Tuesday December 11, 2018 at 6:30PM for those wanting to meet the author or purchase a copy.

Tuesday, December 11, 6:30 p.m.

Central Library - Texana/Genealogy Department

600 Soledad
San Antonio, TX 78255
Phone (210) 207-2500 (ask for Texana)



New Publications

The Family Tree: Polish, Czech & Slovak Genealogy Guide: How to Trace Your Family Tree in Eastern Europe

GENEALOGY 929.1 ALZO 2016

American Settlements and Migrations: A Primer for Genealogist and Family Historians
GENEALOGY 929.1072 BOCKSTRUCK 2017

Magna Charta Barons and Their Descendants: With the Story of the Great Charter of King John; Sketches of the Celebrated Twenty-Five Sureties for the Its Observance, and Their Lineal Descents from Them of the Members of the Baronial Order of Runnemedede
GENEALOGY 929.2 BROWNING 2017

Kin, Cowboys, Outlaws & Friends
GENEALOGY 929.2 MIERS 2004

The Paulks of America: A Genealogy of Samuel, Palk, His Descendants and Related Families
GENEALOGY 929.2 PAULK 1990

The Wyckoff Family in America: A Genealogy
GENEALOGY 929.2 WYCKOFF 1980 v.1

Scots-Dutch Links in Europe and American 1575-1825, volume 3
GENEALOGY 941.1 SCOTS-DUTCH v. 3

The Washingtons: A Family History
GENEALOGY 973.41092 WASHINGTON 2015 v.1 & v. 3

Biographical Souvenir of the States of Georgia and Florida
GENEALOGY 975 BIOGRAPHICAL 2016

Blacks Found in the Deeds of Laurens & Newberry Counties, SC: 1785 to 1827: Listed in Deeds of Gift, Deeds of Sale, Mortgages, Born Free and Freed
GENEALOGY 975.7 MOTES 2002

(Old) Ninety-Six & Abbeville District, South Carolina, Wills and Bonds
GENEALOGY 975.7 YOUNG 2016

Settlement of the Pendleton District, South Carolina, 1777-1800
GENEALOGY 975.7 ANDERSON

Abstracts of Colonial Wills of the State of Georgia, 1733-1777
GENEALOGY 975.8 PAULK 2011

History of Benton County
GENEALOGY 976.7 BENTON 1975

Lincoln County, Kentucky: Biographies
GENEALOGY 976.9 LINCOLN 2004

La Grange and La Grange Park, Illinois
GENEALOGY 977.3 COOK 1999

Reflections on the Bean: A History of the Hudson Area in Prose and Pictures
GENEALOGY 977.4 LENAWEE 1983

Kenosha: A History of our Town
GENEALOGY 977.5 KENOSHA 2005

The First Presbyterian Church, North Alamo & Fourth Street: In the Heart of Metropolitan San Antonio
TEXANA 285.175 FIRST 1971

Texas VFW: Roster of Texas War Veterans 2016
TEXANA 353.9764 TEXAS 2016

The Finest in the Land: The Story of the Petroleum Club of Houston
TEXANA 367.97641 DONAHUE 1984

MacArthur High School Alumni Directory 2001
TEXANA 373.76435 MACARTHUR 2001

Robert E. Lee High School Alumni Directory 1996
TEXANA 373.76435 ROBERT 1996

Painters in Prehistory: Archaeology and Art of the Lower Pecos Canyonlands
TEXANA 709.0113 PAINTERS 2013

Tome Lea: A Selection of Paintings and Drawings from the Nineteen-Sixties
TEXANA 759.13 LEA 1969

High School Football in Texas: Amazing Football Stories from the Greatest Players of Texas
TEXANA 796.332 2018

50 Golden Years of Golf: Texas Open 1979
TEXANA 796.352 50 1979

The Last American Highway: A Journey Through Time Down U.S. Route 83 Texas
TEXANA 917.64 MAGNUSON 2017

Cortina: The Rogue of the Rio Grande
TEXANA 923.572 CORTINA BIOGRAPHY 1950

Indigenous Landscapes and Spanish Missions: New Perspectives from Archaeology and Ethnohistory
TEXANA 970.00497 INDIGENOUS 2014

Cortina: The Rogue of the Rio Grande
TEXANA 923.572 CORTINA BIOGRAPHY 1950

An Unlikely Journey: Waking Up from My American Dream
TEXANA 973.932 CASTRO BIOGRAPHY 2018

Stories from Texas: Some of Them Are True
TEXANA 976.4 STRONG 2018

Svenskarne I Texas I Ord Och Bild, 1838-1918' Ett Hisroriskt-Biografiskt Arbetet Samladt Och Utgivet Af Ernest Severin
TEXANA 976.40043 SVENSKARNE 1919 v.1 and v. 2

General Alonso de Leon's Expeditions into Texas, 1686-1690
TEXANA 976.401 LEON 2017

1850 Combined Census, Lamar and Red River Counties, Texas: Includes Added Notations
TEXANA 976.403 1850



Community Partners

Los Bexareños Genealogical and Historical Society

Meetings are normally held at 9:30 a.m. every first Saturday of the month on the first floor in the auditorium of the San Antonio Public Library, 600 Soledad Street, San Antonio, Texas.

Visitors are always 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: December 1, 2018

Speaker: None

Topic: None

Business Meeting Only: Elections for Executive Officers and two Board of Directors members will be held.

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



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.

**** There will be no meeting for the month of December ****

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



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 - April 28, 2019

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

[The Birds and the Bees:
Pollinators in Nature, Science
and Culture](#)

5 October
through 17 May 2019

[Confluence and Culture: 300
Years of San Antonio History](#)

3 March 2018
through 6 January 2019

[Captain Seth Eastman's
Journey with a Sketchbook:
The Hill Country](#)

4 October 2018
through 30 December 2018

[Mel Casas: Human](#)
20 September 2018
through 6 January 2019

[Picturing Latin America](#)
11 September 2018
through 6 January 2019

[AT&T Lobby: Teresita
Fernandez](#)
30 August 2018
through 19 August 2019

[Harry Bertoia: Sculptor and
Modernist Designer](#)

14 September 2018 through
31 March 2019

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

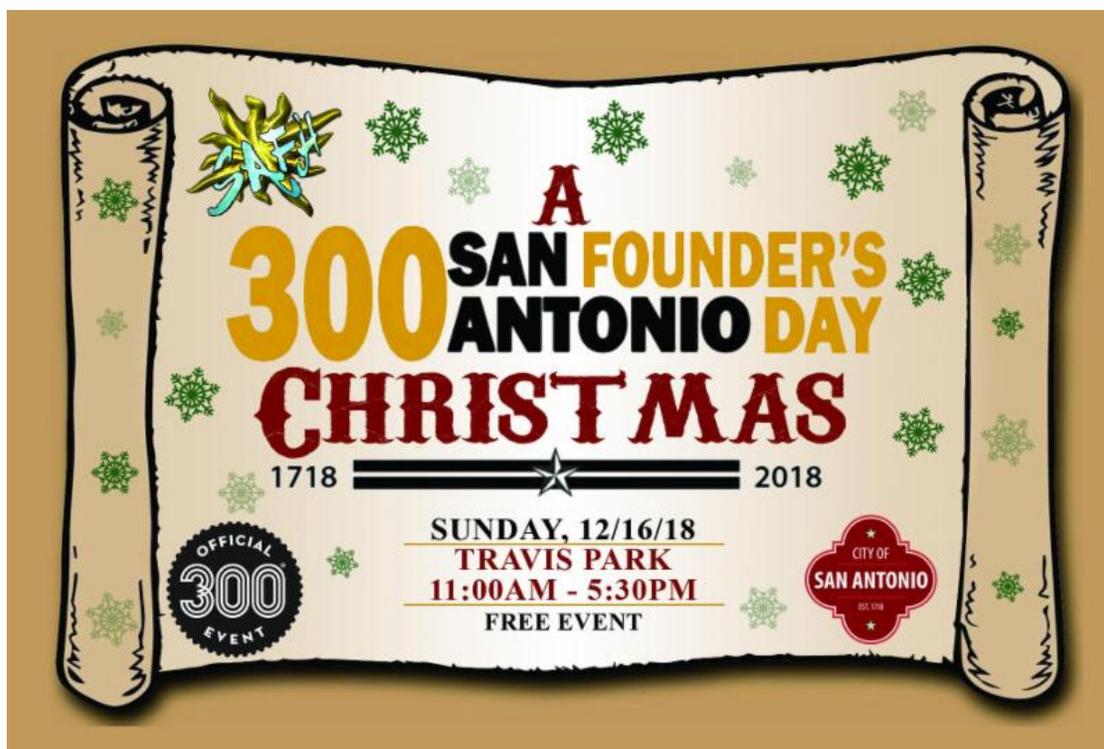
26 October 2018 through
20 January 2019

[Capturing the Moment:
Photographs from the Marie
Brenner and Ernest
Pomerantz Collection](#)

22 February through
12 May 2019



News



Because of the sudden and extensive rains in October, the San Antonio Founder's Day Festival was rescheduled for the Christmas holidays in Travis Park on December 16th. We truly appreciate San Pedro Springs Park and their efforts to help with our Founders Day festival!

To all of our exhibitors who were scheduled to join us that day, but can not join us in December, we will continue to honor your organizations on our web site. Thank you for making our events so memorable! A huge thank you to all of our dedicated volunteers and individuals that continue to make our San Antonio Founders Day festival a very special experience!

So join us, won't you? At the same festival but...
a NEW LOCATION, NEW DATE, and NEW TIME!

**A SAN ANTONIO FOUNDERS DAY CHRISTMAS
AT TRAVIS PARK
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2018
11:00 AM-5:30 PM**

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 USCIS Online Genealogy Webinars

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

The USCIS Historical Research Branch offers several webinars for beginner and advanced researchers. They are an easy and free way to learn about the USCIS history, library, and genealogy programs and services from agency historians, librarians and program representatives.

Check them out here: <https://www.uscis.gov/HGWebinars>

Free Legacy Family Tree Webinars

Ins and Outs of Indexes: Keys to Unlocking County and State Records

Indexes for county records are the key to finding deeds, probates and more. As FamilySearch digitizes more and more records, it's crucial to be familiar with different indexing systems and how to use them. The same skills are necessary for onsite courthouse and archive research. Learn about 15+ indexing systems discover strategies to use when you can't find the index or instructions to it.

Click [HERE](#) to register for FREE - via Legacy Family Tree Webinars. This lecture is FREE, but seating is limited to the first 1,000 attendees and promises to fill up fast! Make sure you log in at least 15 minutes before start time!

Wednesday, Dec. 5, 1:00 p.m. Central

Presenter: Mary Kircher Roddy

Free Georgia Genealogical Society Webinars

Why Video for Genealogy?

Participants will learn how video engages viewers and brings family history to life. A short video about an ancestor's story can help share genealogy research with family members who may not be "genealogically inclined."

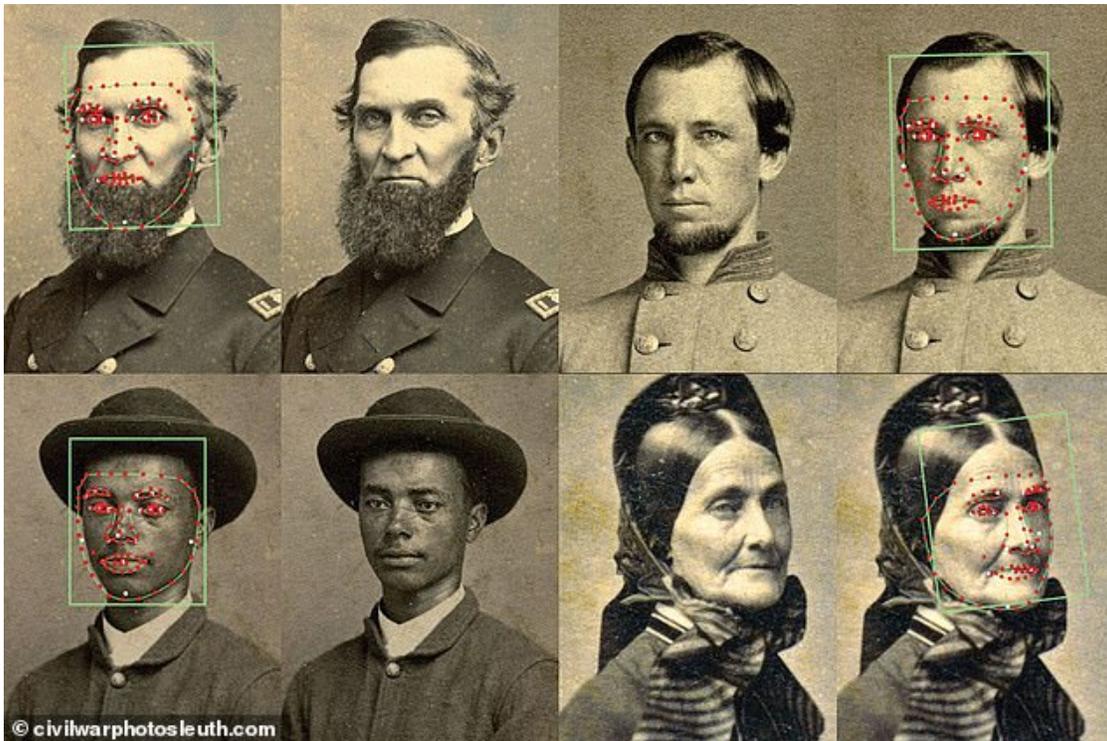
Topics covered include:

- how to quickly brainstorm ancestor story ideas,
- storyboarding a video using available images,
- sources of public domain images to augment your story
- putting together a finished video using free or low-cost editing tools,
- ways to share videos with family members and encourage dialog.

December 26 at 7:00 p.m. Central

Register to Attend:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1414334084377898755>



Civil War Facial Recognition

Photography was a new technology at the time of the U.S. Civil War. An estimated 40 million photos were taken during the Civil war - although only four million are believed to remain today. Many have been treated as heirloom photos by families ever since. Still others are valuable for their historical value. One problem is that many of the people shown in the old photographs have never been identified, until now.

In a marriage of the latest technology and 150-year-old technology, computerized facial recognition techniques are now identifying many of the people in the old photographs.

Computer scientist and history buff Kurt Luther created a free-to-use website, called Civil War Photo Sleuth, that uses facial recognition technology to cross-reference vintage photographs with a database and hopefully assign a name to unknown subjects. Anyone may upload their own photographs or select from the many photographs that are already available online, such as photos from the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration's web site. The software in the Civil War Photo Sleuth web site then maps as many as 27 "facial landmarks" on each photograph. Once it finishes cross-referencing, the site will serve up a slate of closely similar photographs that already have names attached.

For any one photo, the web site often identifies a number of potential candidates, rather than just one. In that case, humans have to compare the photographs of potential candidates to identify the correct person, if possible.

A lot more information about the Civil War Photo Sleuth may be found in an article by Annie Palmer in the Daily Mail web site at <https://dailym.ai/2S6gUwy> while the Civil War Photo Sleuth web site may be found at: <https://www.civilwarphotosleuth.com>.



From the Archives

Xmas Was Different Half A Century Ago

Was Not as Generally Observed as Now
and Customs Have Widely Changed in Last 50 Years

WHO WILL SAY IT IS BETTER?

(By Tom M. Morgan)

Christmas fifty years ago was not like it is today - that is, the day was observed differently, when it was observed all. Santa Claus existed then, just as he does today, but he did not have such a wide circle of those who depended on him to serve them with presents.

Very few people in those days erected a Christmas tree in their homes and such a function in a church would have shocked the lank-haired puritans of that time - for it was in those days that some very learned men preached of a place that seethed with fire and brimstone, and to have desecrated a church with a Christmas tree would have been the primary stop on the way to that hot place where a personage with cloven foot and long spike tail made it hot for all those who had gone other than in the narrow way during life.

In very few families then stocking were hung up on Christmas eve. Of course some families observed this custom, but the practice was not general as it is today. Old Santa task on Christmas eve at that remote time was but a little errand compared with what it is at the present time. His reindeer were the same then as today and bore the same names - Dancer and Prancer - and he skipped about the world in his sleigh just as he does now, but he made fewer stops. He did not deliver the same kind of presents then as he does today. Where he did call he usually left a few wooden toys, painted in most exciting colors - in fact, no such animals ever existed except in Old Santa's menagerie - some "barber-pole" candy and occasionally some

fortunate little girl got a wax doll whose head melted off the first time it was left too near the fire.

Fire Crackers For Boys

Sometimes a boy would get a bunch of fire crackers and few little tricks such as a Jew's harp, top or tin horn. But a large majority of the children did not get anything, for as remarked in the foregoing Santa was not so well known as he is today and the practice of present-making was not universal. About the only sweetmeats a large proportion of the children received in the small towns and many of the cities was stick candy given to them as they ran from place to place on Christmas morning and shouted "Christmas gift" to the merchants and shop keepers. Sometimes, however, young women who had a sweetheart who was really in earnest got a large candy apple, peach or pear as a reminder that some one was really interested in them. One of the earliest memories of the writer relative to Christmas is the desire he had to eat a large candy apple, much larger than any that ever grew on a tree, that had been received by a young woman. He recalls, too, how rich he imagined the man was who made that young woman a present of such precious gift, and though very young - mentally planned how he would give the girl he loved a candy apple on Christmas when he grew to be as large as his father.

Many Play Pranks

Some parents insisted that Santa would not find the stockings if these were not hung on the outside of the house, the children being told that he was such a fat old fellow that he could not get down the chimney. This practice, where it was observed, caused many pranks to be played on those who hung their hosiery outside the door. Not infrequently all that would be found in them in the morning were chips, rocks and a great variety of trash that had been picked up by mischievous boys and girls - yes, girls sometimes played Santa and helped fool some trusting boy or girls who had remained awake as long as possible in hope of hearing old Santa when he crept up to the door to fill their stockings with all kinds of hoped-for things.

Dance Affords Pleasure

Christmas Day, too, was not observed in those days as it is today. It is true many of the older inhabitants made turkey carcasses look like scant picking after they had given it a Christmas turn. The young people frequently had a dance on Christmas night where a one-man orchestra with a three-dollar fiddle furnished the music and the dancing was confined to quadrilles - the waltz not having become popular at that time. On occasions like these, the fiddler put in the entire night playing such tunes as "Soapsuds Over the Fence," "The Belle Cow," "Moneymusk," "Arkansaw Traveler," "Tim Finnegan's Wake," "Hell on the Wabash" and "The Girl I Left Behind Me." These were not dances either where the young people hopped around for an hour or two, going through a few "fancy figures" and then repaired to some convenient place for supper. In those days it was dance all night, 'till broad daylight and go home with the girls in the morning.

Boys Take to Ice

Children had their Christmas frolics too. The lad who had a pair of skates usually took to the ice, if he lived in a country where ice was plentiful at that season of the year, or if he was a town boy and did not own a pair of skates, he put in the day firing

fire cracks, turning "devil catchers" loose in some unsuspecting crowd or exploding small torpedoes just for the fun of hearing the noise. Little girls popped corn or made little trips about the neighborhood to tell about the fun they had the night before at blind man's bluff [sic] or playing tricks on some one who hung a stocking outside the door.

Shooting Match Has Place

Those who did not move in the social circles of the times, or preferred to be out with the "boys" sometimes had great sport at a shooting match where real live turkeys were put up, the best marksmen taking a larger share of the birds as a result of their prowess.

On Christmas eve, just to inform every one that the real day would come with sunrise the next day, it was the custom in many localities to get anvils from some blacksmith shop and fire them at intervals until late in the night. The first detonation from an anvil was a sure enough signal that Christmas was on schedule time and would arrive the following morning.

Of course the practice of present-making was observed in those days but not so universally as it is today. Parents usually selected Christmas as the day to give their daughters each a gold watch, or to get a pair of red-topped, copper-toes boots for the youngest son in the family who happened to be approaching that age when his parents thought he should have his first boots and begin to realize that he was getting to be a "big boy."

Long Sermons Rule

In localities where the religious significance of the day was observed, a large per cent of the inhabitants met at the neighborhood church and listened to a discourse of two hours duration or longer on such a text "As in Adam All Die, Even So in Christ Shall All Be Made Alive Again." Some of the memories that still find a place in the writer's mind are of how hungry he got on one or two occasions when some really pious minister of the old school apparently forgot that it was part of the command to eat and be merry, and spun his discourse out over two hours or more.

Dull By Comparison

By comparison with today the Christmas of the old says may seem dull to those who get so much pleasure out of the event today. But the joys of life are a relative something and appeal to people from the angle at which they touch the world and the social atmosphere in which they move. While the Christmas time of a half century ago was not so full of preparation as it is today, and while the people did not go to such extremes in trying to remember all their friends, it had its joys and was a step toward that time the world is slowly approaching when there will be job enough to go round. The manner of observing the Christmas tide may seem crude, but the people were just as happy then in their homespun, in proportion to their opportunity to be so, as the residents of Christendom are today.



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:

- December 2018 by November 15
- January 2019 by December 15
- February 2019 by January 15

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

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