



South Texas Researcher

April 2019

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

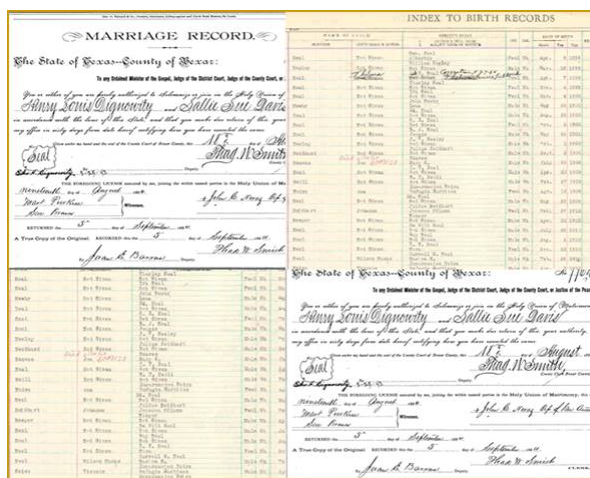


Local Online Genealogy Resources

Join us and learn about San Antonio/Bexar County genealogical and historical records available online. Early land, birth, marriage, and death records will be examined. Seating is limited. Registration is required.

Sunday, 7 April, 1:00 p.m.

Central Library - Connect
San Antonio, TX 78255
Phone (210) 207-2500 (ask for Texana)



San Fernando Cemetery #1 Tour

Take a walk on the "Other Side" and learn about the famous (and infamous) people buried in San Antonio's historic San Fernando Cemetery #1. Visit the gravesites of some of the founding members of our city. Dress for the weather. Rain or shine. Participation is limited. Registration is required.

Email: genealogydesk@sanantonio.gov
or call 210.207.2500 (ask for Texana)

Saturday, 13 April, 9-11 a.m.



San Fernando #1
1110 S. Colorado St. 78207

Digital Preservation Basics

This class will provide basic guidance to individuals about preserving personal and family memories in digital form. Learn about the fundamentals of digital preservation and discover the Library's Memory Preservation Lab equipment that can be used for digitizing personal archive collections in multiple formats, including: audio cassettes, VHS cassettes, slides and photographic prints.



Saturday, 20 April, 2:00PM

Schaefer Library

6322 US Hwy 87 E 78222

210.207.9300



New Publications

The John Nichols Family of Allegany County, Maryland, Fairfield and Marion Counties, Ohio, and Lake and Porter Counties, Indiana with an Allied Bacon Family
GENEALOGY 929.2 NICHOLS

McLean County Pictorial History
GENEALOGY 976.9 MCLEAN 1992

Herping Texas: The Quest for Reptiles and Amphibians
TEXANA 597.90976 SMITH 2018

Outsider Art In Texas: Lone Stars
TEXANA 709.0409 WEHNERT 2018

Hurricane Season: The Unforgettable Story of the 2017 Houston Astros and the Resilience of a City
TEXANA 796.35709 HOLLEY 2018

The Veterans Cemeteries of Texas
TEXANA 974.6 LANNING 2018

The Handy Texas Answer Book
TEXANA 976.4 HALEY 2019

Texas Trivia: Everything Y'all Need to Know about The Lone Star State
TEXANA 976.402 CANNON 2018

Austin to ATX: The Hippies, Pickers, Slackers & Geeks who transformed the Capital of Texas
TEXANA 976.431 PATOSKI 2019

Abstract of title to Catholic Church and School at Mission Espada, Bexar Co. Texas
TEXANA 976.4351 ESPADA

Marfa and the Mystique of Far West Texas
TEXANA 976.4933 SLAUGHTER 2018



Community Partners

Meetings are normally held at 9:30 a.m. every second Saturday of the month. 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.

Meetings are held at the following location:

Luby's Cafeteria
4541 Fredericksburg Rd.
San Antonio, Texas

Luby's opens at 8:00 am for those interested in buying breakfast.
Meeting will be in reserved room starting at 10:00 a.m.

Date: April 13, 2019

Speaker: Jelain Chubb: Director of the Texas State Library & Archives

Topic: To Be Announced

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 19, 2019 and November 16, 2019
- 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
- Free

Venue:

- There is no meeting scheduled for March or April

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



Esta Es Mi Ciudad

[The Institute of Texan Cultures](#)

30 March 2019 - 16 June 2019

Students at Robert G. Cole High School, who primarily come from military families stationed at Ft. Sam Houston, have already seen different parts of the world. Now they document San Antonio from their unique perspective.

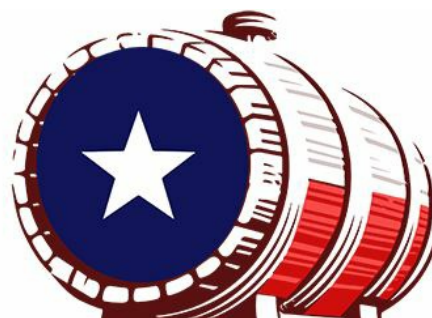


Brewing Up Texas

[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



[Planet Pioneers](#)

2 February through 7 April
2019

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

5 October 2018
through 17 May 2019

[Estampas Chicanas](#)

17 January through 5 May
2019

[Auto Show](#)

9 January through 12 May
2019

[American Dreams: Classic
Cars and Post-War Paintings](#)

14 February through 19 May
2019

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

14 September 2018 through
31 March 2019

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

22 February through
12 May 2019

[AT&T Lobby: Teresita
Fernandez](#)

30 August 2018
through 19 August 2019



News



FREE!

**7TH ANNUAL
SAN ANTONIO BOOK FESTIVAL
SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2019 9AM - 5PM**

• • • • •
**AT THE CENTRAL LIBRARY AND
SOUTHWEST SCHOOL OF ART**

• • • • •
**FREE! 90+ AUTHORS
EDUTAINMENT FOR ALL AGES**

INFO» FESTIVAL.SAPLF.ORG



Family Discovery Day

Saturday April 13, 2019 8:30am to 3 pm

9626 Adams Hill Drive - SA, TX. 78245



Discover Your History
Gather information, Connect with
your family past and present.

Dozens of classes to choose from for
all experience levels and ages.

Attendance is Free.

Come Join the excitement.

Sponsored by the San Antonio Texas Stake
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints



Register @ familydiscoverysa.org



Gonzales County Divorce Records, 1911-1958

New on Family Search

Family Search has recently added a collection of divorce records from Gonzales County, Texas.

The following information may be found in these records:

- Name
- Date of divorce
- Custody of children

You can access them [here](#) through Family Search. You will need to create a User ID and password.

Historical German American Newspapers Online

For those of you who have some German in your family tree, there are several German-American newspapers that have been published over the last hundred or so years that may help you find some information and stories about your ancestors.

The Ancestor Hunt has compiled a listing of German language newspapers throughout the United States available online.

The German language newspapers from Texas are as follows (number of issues):

- [Das Wochenblatt der Union \(14\)](#)
- [San Antonio, Tex., 1865-1945 - Freie Presse für Texas. \(11,564\)](#)
- [La Grange Deutsche Zeitung \(649\)](#)
- [Neu-Braunfelser Zeitung \(53\)](#)
- [San Antonio-Zeitung \(136\)](#)
- [Seguin Zeitung \(171\)](#)
- [Seguiner Zeitung \(1,356\)](#)
- [Die Union \(441\)](#)
- [Bellville Wochenblatt](#)
- [New Braunfels Herald and Zeitung](#)
- [New Braunfels Zeitung Chronicle](#)

- [Deutsche Zeitung für Texas](#) (1)

You can access the full list [here](#).

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

Comparing the Genealogy Giants: Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, Findmypast and MyHeritage 2019 edition

Should you use Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, Findmypast.com or MyHeritage.com? Or should you be using more than one site to accomplish your family history goals? Learn how these genealogy giants compare in 2019 for historical records, online trees, DNA tools and access options. This overview of each site's strengths and weaknesses will help you know which to use now and which to keep in mind when your research interests or budget change.

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, April 24 1:00 p.m. Central

Presenter: Sunny Morton

Free Georgia Genealogical Society Webinars

Newspapers for Genealogical Research

Discover the wide array of information about your ancestors that can be found in newspapers, and learn the best search strategies for finding and searching historic newspapers through a number of free and subscription-based websites.

Check out the free webinar schedule [here](#).



From the Archives

FROM THE STAGE COACH IN THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO TO THE ELECTRIC CARS

Evolution of Transportation a Remarkable Achievement Culminating in a Magnificent Rapid Transit System

In the days before street cars, a herdic coach line was operated in San Antonio on several streets, one of the first lines being from the post office, which then was in the building now occupied by the I. & G. N. ticket office on Alamo plaza, to the Sunset passenger depot on Austin street; the line traversing Avenue E and Eighth street. When the first street car was run in San Antonio nearly 30 years ago, the people congratulated themselves upon having attained that stage of rapid transit by which they moved along on steel rails. A trip from Alamo Plaza to San Pedro Springs

was never made in less than an hour, which was good running time, and when there was a derailment, which was often the case, there was no time limit to the trip. Any time was good - just so the car reached its destination.

Those who are here now and were here at that time can appreciate the great improvement that has been made in San Antonio's street railway system. They can recall the time when a car, which seated about, a dozen people, drawn by a diminutive Mexican mule, moved along Houston street to the tingling of a bell, which was tied around the animal's neck. The bell was the only signal of the approach of the car in those days, and unless the prospective passenger's bearing was good he stood a good chance to miss the tingle and also the car. Double tracks were unknown then and switches were rare. But the people had one advantage in those days. They could miss a car and still catch it. A little foot work would bring them within hailing distance. Neither would they have to keep it up long, because the chances were largely in favor of the car leaving the track and by the time it was replaced after its last derailment, plenty of time had intervened to catch it.

The First Line.

Scrap rails laid on stringers and no trestles constituted the track on which the first cars were run. The line started at San Pedro Springs where the car sheds are now located and extended along San Pedro and Main avenues and Houston street to the corner of Avenue D which was the "jumping off and getting on place. These cars afforded an especially interesting sight during rainy weather when the little mule in trotting along his path of slush splattered mud all over the car. The track was bad in rainy weather and as a result the cars frequently got off the rails. It was then, that the G. O. P. line was popular, the mysterious initials meaning "Get off and push." It was not uncommon to see a car run along a street for a block or two at a time without the wheels being on the rails. This was not done with a desire on the part of the driver to give the passengers a shaking-up, but as a means to facilitate matters in getting the car back on the rails and sometimes it happened that the wheels did bounce back on the rails. Be it said to the credit of the late Col. Augustus Belknap that the building of this line marked the beginning of the present excellent traction system that the people of San Antonio enjoy. Col. Belknap was a moving spirit of San Antonio and one whose place has never been filled.

Extending the Line.

The line as originally built became popular. It led to the principal amusement resort in the city and both the street car line and the amusement resort were well patronized. With the improvement of business a line was built along Flores street, and then one along Avenue C to the old G. H. & S. A. passenger depot on Austin street. Then a line was built to the I. & G. N. depot and later to Prospect Hill, and at one time the line extended to Lakeview, where the Academy of Our Lady of the Lake is located, but this was torn up and a lawsuit followed in which a land syndicate sought to restrain the street car company from taking up the track.

Upon the death of Col. Belknap, W. H. Weiss succeeded to the presidency of the San Antonio Street Railway Company, which was then its name, the late Col. B. H. Morton, formerly city clerk, was secretary and Joseph Robb was superintendent.

Competition Begins

The lines as named was the total trackage of the company, and were exclusively operated with mule cars back in the '80s. Competition then began to drop out and the Crosstown Railway company was organized. This company operated a single mule car along a track extending from the intersection of Main Avenue and Camden street along Camden street, around Madison square park into Dallas street to Grand avenue and along Grand avenue to Austin street. Lack of patronage soon put this line out of the running, and the San Antonio Street Railway Company again had the field to itself until the West End line was started. This was the first line to use mechanical power instead of mules. A steam engine was fitted up for that purpose. The line extended from the intersection of Houston and Flores streets to the West End Lake, it was built at the time of the opening of West End by a land syndicate.

First Motor Car

In the fall of 1890 the first electric car was run in San Antonio. This was on September 25, when, the Citizens Electric Street Railway company completed a line to Riverside park, and which is now known as the Hot Wells line. T. C. Brown, now superintendent of transportation of the San Antonio Traction company, was the first man to operate a motor car in this city. The Citizens' company had its offices and terminals on Navarro street at the corner of Martin street.

Four Companies Here.

With the opening of Alamo Heights by the Washington Land and Improvement Company the Rapid Transit line was built and extended from the post office along Avenue E up Austin street and River avenue to Alamo Heights. J. Stuart Simmons was at the head of the enterprise, and W. B. Randall was the superintendent. With this line in operation San Antonio had at one time four separate electric railways - the San Antonio, West End, Citizens and Rapid Transit.

The Citizens line experienced a number of changes in management, and during the course of these changes it was extended to San Pedro Springs by way of Navarro, Martin, Convent and Augusta, streets. A peculiar incident during the existence of this Citizens line was the part it played in the local baseball situation. The late John T. Miceljohn was at the head of the company, and through a stroke of enterprise induced the local franchise owners in the Texas league in 1896 to play the games in the racing park at the International Fair Grounds. On account of long distance, however, the venture did not prove a success, and after some litigation the games were transferred to San Pedro Park.

Consolidation.

Gradually the different electric lines were absorbed by the San Antonio Electric Street Railway company, the Citizens' line, which later became known as the Edison company, being the first. Later the West End and the Alamo Heights lines were taken up by the San Antonio, and this was followed by the consolidation of the electric interests of San Antonio under the head of the San Antonio Traction Company, with the late B. H. Jenkins as general manager. This marked a big era of improvement in the transportation service in San Antonio. The entire lines of the city were overhauled and connected, so that there was one continuous line over the entire

city. This was no small undertaking, for it required the reconstruction of an entire line in some instances. This was the case with the Alamo Heights of Rapid Transit line. This line was a standard gauge, four feet between rails, and it had to be reduced to the uniform size of the San Antonio company's tracks.

The Advent of Transfers

An advantage that was gained by the consolidation of these lines was the transfer system that is now in use here. With the various lines under separate ownership there were no transfers and straight fare was charged over all lines and after 10 o'clock at night the San Antonio company charged 10 cents fare. Another instance of extra-charge was on the Hot Wells line by the San Antonio company. A fare of 5 cents was charged for a ride to the city limits, which was the fair grounds, and another fare of 5 cents was charged to the Hot Wells, which can now be taken for 5 cents, then cost 20 cents, for a person on alighting from the West End car would have to board an Alamo Plaza car to Navarro street and there take the Hot Wells car. This would require four collections of fare from one passenger.

The Present System

In the past four years all of the 50 miles of track, which is now controlled by the San Antonio Traction company has been rebuilt with 60 and 94 pound rails and the road bed is in excellent condition. The Traction Company has always made it a practice to keep on the best terms with its employes and to encourage them in every way possible to give the company their best efforts. In order to do this the company pays good wages and works its men reasonable hours.

"The highest rate of wages this side of St Louis is paid to the conductors and motormen," said Superintendent Brown. "It is 10 per cent above the average pay of motormen and conductors. The reason for this is to hold the men and keep them. The company in its endeavor to get experienced men, pays men that have had previous experience two cents an hour more than new men. The company also appoints all minor officials and most of the office force from the ranks of the car men. As a mark of the time of service the men are in the employ of the company, they are given a stripe to wear on their coat sleeves for every three years of service.

Not a Soulless Corporation.

There are in the employ of the Traction company 260 motormen and conductors and their working hours are from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. and from 3 p. m. to midnight. The men work in two shifts. The Traction company also looks after the welfare of its employes during their hours of leisure. In order that the men may have some place to congregate when they are not on duty there is a club house at the car sheds at San Pedro Springs which the company has started, and which it maintains. This club house, which is a handsome frame structure, is neatly furnished with tables and chairs, writing material and the latest books, papers and magazines.

Evolution of the Headlight.

The headlight now used on the cars had its beginning with the kerosene lamp. In

former days the conductors were required to move the lamps to the front end of the car every time the car reached the end of the line. With the introduction of the motor car the incandescent headlight came and now the search headlight is here.

San Antonio Light, October 18, 1908



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:

- May 2019 by April 15
- June 2019 by May 15
- July 2019 by June 15

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

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