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
Finding Your German Ancestors

Join us and discover the types of records that are available to help you uncover information about the German side of your family tree. Registration is required.

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

Saturday, August 10, 2 p.m.

Central Library Auditorium
600 Soledad 78205
210.207.2500 (ask for Genealogy department)

Finding Your Ancestors with Ancestry.com (Library Edition)

Join us and learn how to use one of the most popular genealogy databases available today - for FREE - at all SAPL library locations. We'll look at how the site is organized and discuss effective research techniques. Registration is required.

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

Saturday, August 21, 2 p.m.

Central Library - Connect Training Room
600 Soledad St.
210.207.2500
Inheritance

Ever wonder if the stories you were told growing up were wrong or slightly skewed? Or have you had your sense of self shaken up by discovering a family secret? Join us for a discussion of the New York Times bestselling memoir by Dani Shapiro. We’ll mull over the implications of unsettling DNA test results. Come and share your own genetic detective narrative.

Tuesday, 27 August, 6:00 p.m.

Briscoe Western Art Museum - Kampmann Library Portal
210 Market St. 78205
Museum admission is free on Tuesdays after 4 pm

New Publications

Blues People: Negro Music in White America
GENEALOGY 781.773 BARAKA 1963

The Wright Book: Worthy Heritage, Enduring Challenge: Being the History of Some of the Descendants of John Wright (1745-1814) Bedford County, Virginia
GENEALOGY 929.2 WRIGHT 1974

From Bremen to America in 1850: Fourteen Emigrant Ship List
GENEALOGY 943 SMITH 2004

Diccionario Hispanoamericano de Heraldica, Onomastica y Genealogía
GENEALOGY 946 GARCIA CARRAFFA v. 80/65

Diccionario Hispanoamericano de Heraldica, Onomastica y Genealogía
GENEALOGY 946 GARCIA CARRAFFA v. 81/66

Diccionario Hispanoamericano de Heraldica, Onomastica y Genealogía
GENEALOGY 946 GARCIA CARRAFFA v. 82/67

Cherokee Descendants West: An Index to the Guion Miller Applications, Volume II (A-M)
GENEALOGY 970.1 WEST v. 2

Cherokee Descendants West: An Index to the Guion Miller Applications, Volume III (N-Z)
GENEALOGY 970.1 WEST v. 3

The Pueblo Indians of North America
Community Partners

Los Bexareños Genealogical and Historical Society

Meetings will be held at the following location on the second Saturday of the month:
Mexican American Unity Council (MAUC) Building

Location: 2300 W. Commerce St.
Doors open at 9:00 a.m. with meeting starting promptly at 9:30 a.m.
Parking at the rear of the building on the Buena Vista St side.

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: August 10, 2019
Speaker: TBA
Topic: TBA

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
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:

288th Cabildo Celebration Luncheon

The Canary Islands Descendants Association requests your presence at the 288th Anniversary Cabildo Celebration Luncheon on August 3, 2019.

This historic event celebrates the establishment of the 1st civil government of San Antonio on August 1, 1731.

Check-in will begin at 11:00 a.m.
The luncheon will begin at 11:30 a.m.

Guest Speaker: Brandon Seale

In honor of the Founders Monument erected on March 9, 2019, we will have a celebratory cake for dessert.

Lunch is $50 per Adult and $20 per Child under 12 years old (use discount code CIDA at check-out to receive discounted Child ticket)

Location
Plaza Club - Frost Bank Tower - Downtown San Antonio, TX.
100 W Houston St.
21st Floor
San Antonio, TX 78205

Contact one of the following individuals by email or phone to schedule an appointment:

Dennis Moreno 210.647.5607
Yolanda Patiño 210.434.3530
Please visit EventBrite to register for the luncheon and for more information.

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

Metal Mayhem
The Institute of Texan Cultures
29 June through 5 January 2020

Metal Mayhem captures the visual history of San Antonio's rise to fame as the Heavy Metal Capital of the World. This exhibit showcases photos, art, and memorabilia documenting San Antonio's thriving '80s heavy metal music scene and highlights the iconic 1984 battle between two infamous bands, S.A. Slayer vs L.A. Slayer, at Villa Fontana. Metal Mayhem salutes the iconic DJ Joe "The Godfather" Anthony, DJ Lou Roney, as well as promoter Jack Orbin with Stone City Attractions, various record shops, and a myriad of local metal bands that started it all.

This exhibit was produced in conjunction with TexPop.
The Art of Texas: 250 years
4 May through 25 August 2019

Survival: The Exhibition
25 May through 2 September 2019

Spotlight: San Antonio's K-12 Artists Embrace Diego Rivera
6 May through 15 September 2019

We're Still Here: Native American Artists, Then and Now
16 May through 11 August 2019

AT&T Lobby: Teresita Fernandez
30 August 2018 through 19 August 2019

The Magic of Clay and Fire: Japanese Contemporary Ceramics
13 April 2019 through 11 April 2020

Men of Steel, Women of Wonder
21 June through 1 September 2019

Victorian Radicals: From the Pre-Raphaelites to the Arts & Crafts Movement
11 October 2019 through 5 January 2020

News
FRANCES SPROTT
GOFORTH
MEMORIAL GENEALOGY WEEKEND
August 2 & 3, 2019

Friday, August 2
10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Lock-in with light supper provided

Saturday, August 3
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Silent auction ends

“BELIEVE IT OR NOT? — How to Verify Research”

HOSTED BY:
Walker County TX Genealogical Society &
The Huntsville TX Public Library

On-site registration opens 9:30 a.m. each day or register online at myhuntsvillelibrary.com
or call (936) 291-5471 to pre-register.
Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting
Austin, Texas
BORDER RADIO
A Nuevo Vaudeville Documentary Performance with Bill Crawford and Gene Fowler

Tuesday,
Saturday 24, 2019  6PM
Briscoe Western Art Museum
Clingman Education Gallery
210 W. Market St. 78205
Museum admission free on Tuesdays after 4pm

Utilizing a multimedia extravaganza in their duo presentation at the Briscoe, authors “Cowboy” Gene Fowler and “Brother” Bill Crawford will bring to life their well-known book Border Radio -- Quacks, Yodelers, Pitchmen, Psychics and Other Amazing Broadcasters of the American Airwaves.

Active from 1930 to 1986, border radio is the cultural phenomenon of high-powered American radio stations on Mexican soil. Blasting their programming northward, they exerted a peculiar, mesmerizing influence on American culture. The stations also introduced American culture to Mexicans and Mexican culture to Americans.

For questions, call #210-207-2500 (and ask for Texana).
Family Search FAQ on DNA Testing

As you learn more about DNA testing, there may be terminology that is unfamiliar to you, and you may have a few questions. Learn more about unfamiliar terminology, and get answers to common questions [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**

**Clayton Genealogical Library**

**DAR Day**

Ever wonder how to join the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)? Representatives from local DAR chapters will be at Clayton Library for consultation and research help in preparing lineage papers for submission to the DAR. No reservations required. No reservations required

**Saturday, August 3, 2019 | 10:30 AM - 4:30 PM**

**Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research**

5300 Caroline St.
Houston, TX 77004
Collections on the Move! Summer Changes Coming to TSLAC Reading Rooms

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) is pleased to announce an exciting transition coming to the Reference and Genealogy public service areas in the Lorenzo de Zavala State Archives and Library Building. Frequently accessed materials such as Texas vital statistic indexes and city directories from the Genealogy and Family History collection will be relocated to the Reference Reading Room.

Key changes include:

- Ready Reference shelving will be relocated to the current microfilm computer area to make room for additional research tables, and microfilm stations will be moved to a central location in the reading room.
- The updated space will include a refreshed Reference Collection, expanded display area for featured and new books, as well as periodicals.
- The second floor will be enclosed to create a new public events and educational programming venue.

According to TSLAC Director and State Librarian, Mark Smith, "This change allows us to increase the visibility of our collections and concentrate our staff to work more closely with researchers." Smith adds, "We are also pleased to be able to dedicate space for public programming and enhance our slate of educational activities."

Updates will be posted on the homepage, as well as on the Out of the Stacks blog. Thank you for your patience as we work to improve services for our patrons.

Questions about our collections or conducting research during the transition? Contact Archives and Information Services at: ref@tsl.texas.gov.

Inquiries about improvements at the Lorenzo de Zavala State Archives and Building may be addressed to: info@tsl.texas.gov.

New Releases: Apollo 11 Edition

Fifty years ago, NASA launched Apollo 11 - the first mission to land humans on the Moon. While the manned space program was national in scope, the heart of Project Apollo beat
firmly in Texas. Houston was more than Mission Control. It was where spacecraft were
designed and tested, where astronauts lived and trained.
It was also through Houston that the world watched Apollo on television. To downsize the
amount of personnel and equipment on site for reporting, the three television networks
agreed to take turns assuming pool coverage responsibilities. All three contracted
Houston's KPRC-TV for these assignments. The station provided both national and
international television news coverage of all NASA space missions between Gemini 4 in
1965 and the Challenger explosion in 1986.

To celebrate the anniversary of Apollo 11, the Texas Archive of the Moving Image is
excited to share new releases from KPRC and the Larry Weidman Collection focused on
the historic mission and its famous flight crew.

You can find these treasures [here](#).

---

**Free Legacy Family Tree Webinars**


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!

---

**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](#).

---

**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](https://www.uscis.gov/HGWebinars)
From the Archives

BUILDING'S SITE A HISTORIC SPOT

Where the New Rand Structure Stands Now
Was an Important Place in the Early
Life of San Antonio and Many Strange
Scenes Were Enacted There.

One by one the quaint adobe and limestone buildings that in some cases for nearly two centuries have formed the landmarks of San Antonio are giving place to modern structures of concrete and steel. The older inhabitants who find it hard to reconcile the memories of the past with the ideals of the present may sigh that this is the case, and those who value romance above progress may strive to hinder their removal, but in vain. Since it was only by heroic efforts of a few devoted women that the Alamo itself was saved from the destroying hand of progress, lesser buildings could scarcely hope to avoid a similar fate. Many regretted it when the old Veramendi palace that was, or should have been, the pride of the city, was torn down to make room for a modern business establishment, and many find the tiny tablet with which the spot is marked but a satirical comment upon memories of the house where Milam fell and where Bowie won his bride. This sentiment was again in evidence when the old Garza group of buildings that stood for more than two hundred years at the head of
Houston street were torn down in March of last year to make room for the splendidly equipped modern skyscraper which Edwin Rand, present owner of the property, has erected as a new home for the firm of Wolff & Marx.

According to the abstract of the property it was in 1736 that His Most Catholic Majesty, Philip V of Spain, ordered the governor of Coahuila and Texas to issue a grant of land fifty varas square to Javiera Cantu de la Garza, widow of Geronimo de la Garza. Don Luogo Carlos Franques Benites was the incumbent at that time and he in turn instructed the commandants of San Antonio to put the widow in possession of her property in accordance with the royal edict. This is the site where 187 years later the huge department store was to be erected.

**Handed Down to Children.**

From the widow the property passed to her son, Don Leanardo [sic] de la Garza, and in turn from him to his son. Don Jose Antonio de la Garza, who, like his forebears was an hidalgo, grandee[sic] of Spain. "This nobleman," says the history of the Garza family, "was first married to Senorita Josefa Rivas in honor of whose family the western portion of what is now Houston street was named, and which at the time was bounded by the western boundary of the De La Garza property.

By this marriage he had two sons and one daughter. The former were Vicente and Rafael. The daughter's name was Carmen. Rafael became one of the Veramendi family

by marrying first, Josefin Veramendi, and after her death her sister, Antonia, both daughters of Don Juan Martin Veramendi and sisters of Ursula, the wife of James Bowie, who was killed in the defense of the Alamo.

Don Jose Antonio's second marriage was to Senorita Josefa Chavez Manchaca, herself of noble descent. Some of the names of the issue of this second marriage are familiar to every Texan, although probably not one in a hundred knows that there is a connection between them and the family that once lived in the stone houses on Houston street between Main avenue and Soledad street.

However, one of the daughters, Rudecinda, became a religious recluse, entering the Ursuline convent here where she remained for forty years prior to her death, becoming finally Mother Superior of the institution. It was for another one of the daughters, Angelina, that the town of San Angelo was originally named, although it was later corrupted into its present form, an Italian and not an a Spanish derivation. From these heirs the property descended to Leanardo Garza, who is still residing in San Antonio.

**A Mint Stood There.**

Many stories of love and battle, of blood and gold centered about the old buildings which the commercial development of the city has swept into the past. This is not exaggerated, for one of them was at one time a mint, the only place in Texas where money was coined. This was in and succeeding the year 1808, when Carlos III, King of Spain, who had his hands full with the Napoleonic wars, authorized coinage by Don José Antonio de la Garza. Both gold and silver coin were struck, but principally the latter, and it is said that many thousand pesos have gone out from the doors of the old Garza group.

Don Antonio was a banker - the first in San Antonio - but the vault in which he kept his wealth and the deposits of his patrons he did not regard as sufficiently strong to
protect
the money entrusted to his care at all times so he constructed a secret vault in which
he could place it when an invasion of San Antonio threatened. When the old building
was torn down this secret hiding place, between two of the rooms, was discovered.
In it workmen found a number of old coins of several different countries. An
underground
vault, the existence of which was rumored for years, was also discovered when the
old building was demolished. In the Houston street portion of the property, which
was the
garden, there was found a skeleton, I believed to be that of a man named Walker, an
Englishman, whom rumor said had been buried there.

Many Celebrations There.

The celebration of numerous weddings in the Old days took place in this cluster of
old buildings. Probably the weddings of Rafael Garza, first to one of the Veramendi
girls
and after her death to her sister, after having taken place in the San Fernando
cathedral were celebrated the Veramendi palace. The festivities connected with the
Crawford,
DeWitt and Truehart weddings, took place in the Garza group, where the revelry was
gay and in accord with the position the families held. The then "Newly-Weds" dwelt
for some time afterwards in the Garza group. It is said that the Yturri revelry was also
held in this group.
The place where the new Rand building stands is called the heart of San Antonio, and
street cars, vehicles and great crowds of people pass it every day. Yet it was not such
a very long time ago that the place was on the edge of the wilderness; and friendly
Indians used to come to trade with the banker Garza, and to dance their strange
ceremonial dances on the roof of the old Garza building.
But there were times when the Indians came on another errand. Once they attacked
the houses when only the women and children were there to hold them against the
savages.
But this the brave defenders did, until the men returned and dispersed the Indians.
A door in one of the old buildings gave mute testimony of this attack. It was hacked
by tomahawks, and there were bullet holes in it, made by the shots of the desperate
women, who crouched within the room, could hear the ghastly war whoops of their
assailants and the crash of their hatchets on the thin wood between them and their
eagerly sought prey.

A Desperate Fight.

The heat of the fighting, when the "Texians followed old Ben Milam into San
Antonio," and struggled from house to house before they took the city from the
Mexicans, occurred here. Cos's forces fought desperately. A leaden hail of death
swept up the Soledad street side of the house, and, it was right here where Milam
died, shot by a sharp shooter who was perched in a cottonwood tree on the banks of
the river back of the old court house on Soledad street. The Garza group had just
been taken in the desperate struggle and Milam was crossing the street to the
Veramendi palace, when he was hit.
Main avenue, which used to be called Acequia street, because of the acequia or
irrigation ditch that ran along it, bounds the west side of the Rand building. In the
olden days, tall, beautiful cottonwood trees grew along here. One of these was put to a strange use in the celebration of the "pastores." From the top of the tree a rope was run to the Garza garden, and it was by means of this cord that the impersonator of the Archangel Michael would descend to put to flight the devils and demons who were planning harm to mankind. Then the audience would applaud: "Viva Miguel! Viva Miguel!"

A ghastly accident once was caused by the old Garza building. An acrobat, a daring trapeze performer called "El Gavilian," the Hawk, missed the second trapeze to which he leapt in turning loose the first one. His body went hurtling through space, and crashed head first into the walls of the Garza building. His brains were dashed out.

When the Flood Raged.

The owners of the adjacent houses in the early days were of diametrically opposed temperaments. Don Juan Martin Veramendi, at that time governor of Coahuila and Tejas, was extremely autocratic, while his neighbor, Don José Antonio de la Garza, was a mild and genial soul. As an illustration of Don Juan 's temper, it is related that once when he was going to Monclova, he was warned against the trip, for, people said the plague was raging in the place that was his destination. Senor Veramendi is reported to have drawn himself up to his full height, and striking his chest, to have said: "Sir, the plague may destroy common people, but it will never dare harm a Veramendi!"

Alas, as in Greek tragedy, the anger of the gods was aroused at this presumption, and no sooner did poor Don Juan arrive at Monclova, than both he and his daughter, Ursula, she who married James Bowie, were the victims of the scourge. Illustrating the gentle soul of Don Jose, there is an anecdote that tells how once he was struck by a drunken "pastor," or shepherd.

"The man is blinded by drink," said Don Jose. "Let him not be punished."

About thirteen years ago the river went on a "boom" and the waters swept over the bridges and people marveled. But this was a mere drop, in comparison to the terrible flood of 1819, when a cloud burst occurred over San Antonio. The swollen river and San Pedro creek left their banks and their waters rushed together. A number of unfortunates were drowned, but many others made their way to the Garza and Veramendi buildings, whose substantial walls withstood the flood. There on the flat roofs, whole families found a place safe from the water, and remained there until the flood had abated.

Increase in Value.

Turning from the romantic and historical story of the property to the financial history, a remarkable increase in values is seen, an increase that makes one shake his head and wish that he had been able to get in while the price was low. At the time when the Spanish crown granted fifty square varas to Garza, the property was worth less than $100 gold. In 1888 it was sold for $21,000. When its present holder purchased it not long ago $200,000 was the price.

The property changed hands a number of times after it left the Garza family and before it came into the hands of its present owner, Edwin Rand, it belonged successively to

San Antonio Light - August 10, 1913.