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
The Catholic Archives: A Look Into The Future

Join us as the Archivist for the San Antonio Archdiocese, Elvira Sanchez-Kisser, discusses the future of the archives, sacramental records, genealogical research and the ongoing reservations happening at the Chancery.

Thursday, 17 October 6:30 p.m.

Central Library
Latino Collection and Resource Center
600 Soledad Street 78205
210-207-2500 (ask for Texana/Genealogy)

Access NewspaperARCHIVE Database

Learn how to best utilize this online newspaper database in order to help answer questions about your genealogy or other historical research. Registration is required.

Sunday, 20 October, 1:00 p.m.

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

New Publications

The Devil's Sinkhole
FICTION WITTLEF

The Big Book of Texas Ghost Stories
TEXANA 133.10976 BROWN 2019

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church-Shrine: 75th Anniversary 1911-1986
TEXANA 282 OUR 1986

Msgr. Lawrence J. Stuebben: Servant to God, Family, Community
TEXANA 282.092 STUEBBEN 2017

Bridge over Troubled Waters: Resolving the Rio Grande (Rio Bravo) Water Dispute
Ben Thompson: Portrait of a Gunfighter
TEXANA 364.1092 THOMPSON BIOGRAPHY 2018

Common Rangeland Plants of West Central Texas
TEXANA 582.13097 CLENDENIN 2016

The Art of Texas: 250 Years
TEXANA 709.764 ART 2019

Brownsville Architecture: A Visual History
TEXAANA 720.9764 SHAH 2018

Architecture of the Lower Rio Grande Valley: An Introduction
TEXANA 720.97644 SHAH 2017

TEXANA 791.43097 AGRASANCHEZ 2006

Roberta and Rogene: The Intrepid Faulkner Twins from Texas
TEXANA 917.6404 SUND BIPGRAPHY 2018

Aztec and Navajos: A Reflection on the Right of Not Being Engulfed
TEXANA 970.3 LEON PORTILLA 1975

Texas
TEXANA 976.4 HIGHSMITH 2014

Battle of Medina 1813: Revisited on the 200th Anniversary
TEXANA 976.402 BATTLE 2013

Alamo: The Death Struggle and Rout!
TEXANA 976.403 BORROEL 2018

Brigido Guerrero: Alamo Survivor & Texas Hero
TEXANA 976.40309 BORROEL 2018

The Texas Frontier and the Butterfield Overland Mail, 1858-1861
TEXANA 976.405 ELY 2016

Blue and Gray on the Border: The Rio Grande Valley Civil War Trail
TEXANA 976.405 MILLER 2018

William Alexander Waugh: The Life of an Early South Texas Rancher
TEXANA 976.4061 CASTO 2018

Galveston Architecture: A Visual Journey
TEXANA 976.4139 SHAH 2017

The Flavor of San Antonio: A Tercentennial Tribute
TEXANA 976.4351 FLAVOR 2018

Seasons at Selah: The Legacy of Bamberger Ranch Preserve
TEXANA 976.464 SANSOM 2018
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:** October 12, 2019  
**Speaker:** José Hernandez  
**Topic:** Working with Rich Text (RTF) Documents

**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:

Monthly Meeting: October 20
   From 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. - Membership Meeting at Central Library

- Please visit their Facebook page for schedules and 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

Special Class: "Researching Your WWII Ancestor"
Presented by Larry W. Luckett, Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Army, Retired
Saturday, 5 October 2019, 10:00 SAGHS Library Annex

Learn where to find the details for your WWII genealogical article. This class identifies the individual service and organization records that might be available. You will gain descriptions of access to web resources, library resources, and archival sources for your veteran's service. A source biography will be provided.

Please pre-register by calling SAGHS at 210-342-5242 or emailing Education@txsaghs.org. We ask $5.00 contribution from members and $10.00 contribution from non-members.

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**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.
Ancestral Visions: Yarn Paintings of a Huichol Shaman
24 August through 1 December 2019

The Spirit of Texas
Opened May 4, 2019

Close at Hand: Contemporary Still Life
20 June 2019 through 20 October 2019

La Revolución Mexicana: 100 Years Later
29 August 2019 through 24 November 2019

Aaron Curry: HEADROOM
8 August 2019 through 31 July 2020

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

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

Art and the Animal- Society of Animal Artists
20 September through 5 January 2020

2020 Night of Artists
27 March through 3 May 2020

22 May through 6 September 2020

News
October 2: Ask an Archivist Day

On October 2, archivists around the country will take to Twitter to respond to questions tweeted with the hashtag #AskAnArchivist. Take this opportunity to engage via your personal and institutional Twitter accounts and respond to questions posed directly to you or more generally to all participants. Before then:

- Promote #AskAnArchivist Day among your users and constituents.
- Encourage the public to use #AskAnArchivist and your institution’s Twitter handle.
- Talk to your staff and colleagues to develop a plan for responding to tweets throughout the day.
- If you don’t already have one, create an institutional Twitter account.

For more info, go to archivists.org/initiatives/askanarchivist-day.
SAVE THE DATE!

Texas State Genealogical Society
2019 Family History Conference

Blazing Family Trails

October 11-13, 2019
Omni Houston Hotel Westside | Houston, Texas

www.TxSGS.org
#TxSGS2019
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

Secrets in the Genes

Learn how using DNA evidence and traditional genealogical research can confirm oral histories and unknown parentage with little to no paper trail.

Register here.

Saturday, October 12, 2019 | 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research
5300 Caroline St.
Houston, TX 77004
October is Texas Archives Month and we want to help you with your personal digital archive!

**About this Event:**

Celebrate Texas Archives Month with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) and discover how to organize and maintain your own personal digital archive. Our digitization and electronic archiving experts will offer up pro tips on the issues, challenges and types of resources available for properly preserving and conveniently maintaining all those photos and files documenting your memories.

Digital Asset Coordinator, Steven Kantner and Senior Electronic Records Specialist, Mark Myers lead this two-part workshop with presentations on the digitization process and arranging and preserving your electronic content. The workshop also includes a tour of the professional scanning and media reformatting equipment TSLAC uses to preserve and provide online access to archival materials.

This free event takes place Saturday, October 12 from 10a.m. - noon at the Lorenzo de Zavala State Library and Archives Building in downtown Austin. Registration is required and limited to 20 participants. Please let us know you are coming by October 10.

You can register for the free workshop [here](https://familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars.php).

**Free Legacy Family Tree Webinars**


Click [HERE](https://familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars.php) 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

From the Archives

Memories of San Antonio - 1857
Rudolph F. Lafrentz was the editor of the *New Braunfels Zeitung* during the early nineties of the last century. He also published *Deutsch Texanische Monatshefte* (German-Texan Monthly Magazine) which contained much of historical worth. The following article is taken from this magazine.

Rudolph F. Lafrentz was a lad of twelve years when he came with his family via Hamburg to New Orleans and from there to Indianola, as immigrant to Texas. During the month of June after a hot and dusty trip by stagecoach he arrived at five in the afternoon in old San Antonio de Bexar.

Mr. H. Meyer had recommended the hotel of Mr. Frank Umscheid on the corner of Alamo and Commerce Streets while we were in Powderhorn (Indianola). However, when we arrived there we were informed that Mr. Umscheid had been blinded and had given up the hotel. The stagecoach driver then took us to Plaza House, at that time, as he said, the only hotel in San Antonio.

The Plaza House in the middle of the north side of the Main Plaza, was, for the circumstances of the time, a quite handsome, two-story stone house, and we were assigned rooms in the second story from which a balcony opened toward the plaza.

With natural curiosity I ran immediately onto the balcony in order to view the activity on the plaza. The appearance of the Texas coast had disappointed me, but I was favorably surprised by the scene below. Everything had a foreign appearance, but it was all pretty, and for everything pretty I had much sympathy. So, my first sight of San Antonio was reassuring.

The main plaza was by a third smaller in those days. In line with the present Market Street and surrounded by three streets and the plaza was a complex of one-story adobe buildings. At the corner of the cathedral opposite was a two-story building in which that hardware business of the brothers Norton was located. From the balcony of this house we saw the Fourth of July parade several weeks later with the family Deutz with whom we had become acquainted. In a long one-story building opposite was the grocery of Mr. Groesbeck. This complex of houses was demolished during the sixties [1860s] in order to enlarge the plaza.

The Cathedral San Fernando at that time was an unattractive structure. The back side with the cupola is still a part of the old building. In the front part of this was a short four-sided structure with a flat roof and a bell tower similar to those of the other missions in the area, which, however, all were more impressive than San Fernando.

Further to the west side of the plaza at the present site of Frost’s Bank was a wooden building with a wide porch where a certain Carolan conducted an auction business. The adobe and stone buildings which stand nearby are now (1908) still much the same as then.

On the north side, the Plaza House occupied the middle of the Plaza. Toward Commerce Street were several attractive stone buildings which are still standing; however, now renovated. Toward the other side stood a long unattractive adobe building which, however, was one of the first businesses of San Antonio, the store of Vance Brothers. Later Vance Brothers moved to Alamo Plaza and the old house was occupied by Theisen and Dunlap until the Civil War.

The east side of the Plaza was the stateliest. A three-story building as well as three adjoining buildings stood at the corner of Market Street. The first contained the business of Ulrich and Jones, the next following I have forgotten, then came the stores of Feinberg and Company and H. Mayer. Then came unattractive board and adobe houses. In one of these was the most comfortable (cozy) saloon of Justus
Sauer, during those days the main meeting place of the Germans in San Antonio. On the corner of Commerce was the fancy goods and toy shop of Pentenreider and Blersch. None of the firms here mentioned are still part of the business world of San Antonio.

I was interested, however, more in the activity on the Plaza than in the buildings. This had the undeniable Mexican character. There were the table at which were offered the national dishes Chili con Carne, tamales, etc., which were consumed on the spot; there were the two-wheeled carts hitched to a pair of long-horned oxen, but especially, the Mexicans themselves who, at that time, were still dressed in their own national costumes, which though dirty and ragged, yet made a picturesque impression.

(to be continued)

Translated by Curt E. Schmidt
from Jahrbuch, New Braunfels Zeitung für 1944