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
Events & Classes

Beginning Genealogy

Do you want to learn more about your ancestors? Come and learn how to start researching your family history. We'll discuss basic resources that can help launch you on a rewarding journey.

Memorial Library: Wednesday, 10 December 2019, 1:00 p.m.
3222 Culebra Road, 78228
210-207-9140

Las Palmas Library: Monday, 16 December 2019, 6:00 p.m.
515 Castroville Road
210.207.9200

Book Talk with Robert Jacobus

Robert D. Jacobus, adjunct professor of History at Stephen F. Austin State University, will talk about his recently published book "Black Man in the Huddle: Stories from the Integration of Texas Football."

Dr. Jacobus interviewed over 250 people impacted by the integration of Texas high school and college athletic programs from the 1950s-70s for his book.

Saturday, 14 December, 2:00 p.m.

Central Library Auditorium
600 Soledad Street
San Antonio, TX 78205
210-207-2500

New Publications

Rose Nimmo Engelhardt: The Story of Rose and Her Family
The Descendants of Robert Franklin and Susan May Yantis
GENEALOGY 929.2 YANTIS

Monterrey: The Founding Families and Their Descendants
GENEALOGY 972.13 GARZA 2019

Villaldama al Paso del Tiempo
GENEALOGY 972.13 GONZALEZ YEATON 2017

Lee's Lieutenants: A Study in Command
GENEALOGY 973.73 FREEMAN v.1-3

Bordentown Revisited
GENEALOGY 974.9 BURLINGTON 2005

Cemetery Readings in West Virginia: Prepared by the Historical Records Survey Division of Professional and Service Projects, Work Projects Administration
GENEALOGY 975.6 CEMETERY v.1

Walworth County
GENEALOGY 977.5 WALWORTH 1998

Roche Harbor
GENEALOGY 979.7 SAN JUAN 2009

More Spooky Texas Tales
TEXANA FICTION TINGLE

Eddie Barker's Notebook: Stories That Made the News (and some better ones that didn't!)
TEXANA 070.92 BARKER 2006

Haunted History of Old San Antonio
TEXANA 133.10976 SWARTZ 2013

St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church: Golden Jubilee, 1955-2005
TEXANA 282 SAINT MARGARET 2005

Second Baptist Church: A Journey in Faith, 1879-2006, a Vision toward the Future
TEXANA 286.1 SECOND 2006

Civil Rights in the Texas Borderlands: Dr. Lawrence A. Nixon and Black Activism
TEXANA 323.4 GUZMAN 2016

Save Your River
TEXANA JUVENILE 333.9162 NAPIER 2019

Images for Conservation: Book Two, Coastal Bend of Texas Edition
TEXANA 508.7641 IMAGES 2009

Images for Conservation: Book Three, Borderlands of Laredo, Texas Edition
TEXANA 508.764 IMAGES 2010

Salvage Archeology of Canyon Reservoir: The Wunderlich, Footbridge, and Oblate Sites
TEXANA 574 JOHNSON 1962
Up To My Armpits: Adventures of a West Texas Veterinarian
TEXANA 636.089 EDWARDS 2002

The Man to Send Rain Clouds: Contemporary Stories by American Indians
TEXANA 813.01 MAN 1974

Texas
TEXANA 917.6404 RAMOS 2004

De La Rebelion De Texas a La Guerra Del 47
TEXANA 972.05 DE 1994

Big Wonderful Thing: A History of Texas
TEXANA 976.4 HARRIGAN 2019

Texas: The False Origin of the Name
TEXANA 976.4 RUIZ 2016

Maria Andrea Castanon Villanueva (Senora Candelaria): Heroine of San Antonio
TEXANA 976.402 GOMEZ 2019

Sam Houston and the Alamo Avengers: The Texas Victory That Changed American History
TEXANA 976.404 HOUSTON BIOGRAPHY 2019

First Families of Bexar County, Texas: Descendant Lineages of Residents of Bexar, San Antonio, and Bexar County Prior to 1850
TEXANA 976.435 FIRST 2019

The Hernandez Family Cemetery (41BX542) and Investigations of the Jesus Hernandez and Simon Rojo Rodriguez Farmsteads (41BX2222 and 41BX2223), San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas
TEXANA 976.4351 MCKENZIE 2018

Investigation of the Hockley Cemetery, 41BX911, an African American Family of the Wetmore Community in Northeast San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas
TEXANA 976.4351 MCKENZIE 2019

Haunting the Graveyard: Unearthing the Story of the Coker Settlement
TEXANA 976.4351 SPENCER 2019

Cemeteries in Weatherford, Parker County, Texas: Curtis, Hilcrest, City Greenwood, East Greenwood, Oakland
TEXANA 976.4553 CEMETERIES

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
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 14, 2019  
**Speaker:** none  
**Topic:** none

**Abbreviated Meeting:** Election of three Board of Directors will take place followed by a Christmas party and fellowship. Attendees are encouraged to bring a dessert to share.

**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

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**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:** December 15  
Annual Christmas Party

- Information and registration to be found [here](https://canaryislandsdescendantsassociation.com).

**EVENT PRESENTED BY:**

- Canary Islands Descendants Association
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](http://www.txsaghs.org)

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**DNA Consultation Hour**

*Saturday, 7 December and 14 December 2019, 10:00 SAGHS Library Annex*

Moderator: Annette Graham. DNA has been another avenue added to our Genealogy sources however its newness created many questions. This program is designed for individuals with question(s) on how to interpret or to use one's DNA results.

These one-hour sessions are offered on the 1st and 2nd Saturday of the month and registration is made by calling SAGHS at 210-342-5242. The one-hour sessions are 10-11a., 11am-12pm, and 12-1pm. Please be sure to bring your access codes to your DNA programs especially if you are not bringing your laptop with access codes!

We ask a $10 donation from SAGHS members and a $20 donation from non-members. If desired, one may bring his or her laptop as needed but it is not necessary to attend the hour with your questions.

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**Treasures Among the SAGHS Library's State Books**

*Sunday, December 8, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.*

SAGHS Library Annex

Speaker: Barbara Johns. Join SAGHS member and Librarian, Barbara Johns as she shares with you her favorite state books for research. Participants will also have time to examine SAGHS's collection of State books.

To better prepare the classroom, and to avoid cancellation, we ask you to pre-register to
Sixteenth Annual Hill Country Family History Seminar
Saturday February 22, 2020

Guest Speaker - Kevin L. Meyers

A fifth generation Texan and professional forensic genealogist since 1996, Kelvin L. Meyers is a frequent speaker at genealogical societies and family associations throughout the United States. Kelvin is also a local expert on land and Texas research. He brings his expertise to our Family History Seminar with four member-selected presentations.

The topics are:

1. Plowing Through the Land Records
2. The Hand that Rocked the Cradle - Finding the Women in Your Tree
3. The Texas State Library
4. Southern Records that Connect Colonial Families

Time: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. Doors open at 8:15 (breakfast tacos and snacks included)

Attend the class by calling SAGHS Library at 210-342-5242 or emailing Education@txsaghs.org. Members are asked for a $5.00 contribution and non-members are asked for a $10.00 contribution.
Place: Kronkosky Place, 17 Old San Antonio Road, Boerne, TX 78006

For more information: contact seminar chair, Brooks Boye at info@GSKCTX.org. Local accommodations are listed on the Where to Stay page at www.visitboerne.org.

Register early and save money!

Early Registration - GSKC members - Early registration ends on February 9, 2019 $ 50.00
Early Registration - Non-members - Early registration ends on February 9, 2019 $ 55.00
Late registration (after February 9, 2019) and at the door - GSKC member and non-member $ 60.00
Lunch (Optional) $ 10.00

Special Membership Offer: We are happy to offer non-members a one-time special offer. Become a member at a discounted rate for the 2020 membership year, and save on registration plus receive all benefits of membership. A individual membership is $20.00 (regularly $30) and a family membership, if both family members are attending the seminar, is $35.00 (regularly $45). This offer is only good if you register for the seminar and must be paid with the seminar registration (see online registration form) and the offer is only good until the day of the seminar. Only valid if you have never been a member of the Genealogical Society of Kendall County, Texas. The membership year runs from January 1 to December 31.

You can register and pay online with a credit card or register online and mail check.

Click here to register.

OR

Click here to print registration form and mail with check

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.
**Mythic Creatures: Dragons, Unicorns & Mermaids**
28 September 2019 to 12 January 2020

**Ancestral Visions: Yarn Paintings of a Huichol Shaman**
Open now through 1 March 2020

**How the West was Fun! Circus, Saddles and the Silver Screen**
Open now to 31 March 2020

**Aaron Curry: HEADROOM**
8 August 2019 through 31 July 2020

**Picasso to Hockney: Modern Art on Stage**
17 October to 29 December 2019

**Mary Cassatt’s Women**
31 October 2019 to 9 February 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

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**News**

**New Bexar County Heritage Center Opens**
A new high-tech interactive museum at the Bexar County Courthouse offers a glimpse of the county's origins as a frontier settlement at the seat of a massive district that extended all the way north into Wyoming.

Texas was a republic then.

The San Antonio Express-News reports the $2.9 million Bexar County Heritage Center, which officially opened Oct. 8, also delves into the area's early history when indigenous people were the local residents and continues on through the years as Bexar evolved into the urban county it is today, providing health care, flood control, criminal investigations and many other services.

Visit their website here.

Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center
Liberty, Texas
LIBERTY, TX - The Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center presents the exhibit, "Wish You Were Here!" now on display in the Center's museum. "Wish You Were Here!" highlights historic Southeast Texas vacation spots, industry, culture and recreational opportunities through a selection of postcards, tourism publications and historic documents curated from the research collections.

Among other sources, the exhibit pulls from the substantial Don Kelly Southeast Texas Postcard Collection, which covers almost the entirety of the 20th century and features visual documentation of the Southeast Texas oil refineries, architecture, rivers, railroads and much more. Sour Lake’s springs and hotel were a draw in the early 20th century and the Pleasure Pier in Port Arthur entertained visitors to the Gulf Coast. Later, in the 1960s, tourists might visit the Alabama-Coushatta’s Living Indian Village near Livingston. Postcards and promotional materials contribute to the material culture of a time and place and reveal how people interacted with their environment and each other. Visit "Wish You Were Here!" for a fascinating view of the past.

A component of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC), the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center houses local government records, rare books, manuscripts, archival materials, photographs and other media formats covering a wide range of Southeast Texas history. In addition to the archives and museum, four historic buildings and the Jean Price Daniel Home and Archives are located on the Center's grounds.

The Center is located at 650 FM 1011 in Liberty, Texas. Operating hours are Tuesday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Center staff at 936-336-8821, samhoustoncenter@tsl.texas.gov, or by visiting www.tsl.texas.gov/shc

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**Family Search FAQ on DNA Testing**

As you learn more about DNA testing, there may be terminology that is unfamiliar to you,
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
127 Years of Dallas History Uncovered as Oakland Cemetery's Records, Once Buried, Come to Light

If you have ancestors in or near Dallas, Texas, you need to read this story. It seems that Christine Sharbrough, the archivist and historian who manages the downtown library's Dallas History & Archives Division, recently made a major discovery.

Robert Wilonsky recently wrote in the Dallas News:
"A few days ago I got an email from Christine Sharbrough, the archivist and historian who manages the downtown library's Dallas History & Archives Division. It read: 'Just thought I'd drop you a note and let you know that the Oakland Cemetery records are at DPL (and on my floor).’ She didn't say how small or how vast the collection, only that 127 years' worth of Dallas history - scattered for decades across warehouses and garages and the cemetery's storage shed - was in her possession.

"This is how I came to spend a few hours Wednesday thumbing through file drawers stuffed with pink interment cards bearing the names of men and women and children - and pets - buried in the South Dallas cemetery that opened its gates in 1892. "Some have just the names of the deceased, a date of birth, when they died and where they are buried on the cemetery grounds. Small death notices are affixed to some cards; some even have photos. And upon some are scribbled details horrific ('killed with machete to head') and heartbreaking (found in Grovehill Cemetery, cause of death unknown)."

You can read a lot more about this previously-unknown source of records at: http://bit.ly/2ONGwhD.

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Free Legacy Family Tree Webinars

https://familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars.php

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!

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Free Family Search Webinars

The FamilySearch Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, does not yet have any webinars scheduled for December but you can keep up with the free webinars offered by FamilySearch here.

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Free Georgia Genealogical Society Webinars
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 (part three)
by Rudolph F. Lafrentz, written in 1908
San Antonio was at that time in the process of converting from a Mexican town to a cosmopolitan city. During the eighteen forties it was being described as "a Mexican town with flat roofs." This the town was not exactly in 1857 although the Mexican character was predominant. The buildings that were going up at the time were already of the European or American style. The main building material was the soft limestone taken from the quarries north of the city. This material was easy to work but, if not held under constant maintenance, soon had a gray and weathered appearance. Only few wooden houses were built. Lumber was carted from Bastrop by ox or mule teams and became expensive by virtue of the difficult transport. Although ground realty was relatively inexpensive, rentals were almost as high then as now. For a miserable hole in the Grenet barracks, where we stood it only a month, we had to pay $8.00. Only little better houses rented for $12.00 to $15.00 and a truly decent house rented for $20.00 to $25.00 a month.

The houses were without exception built in the simplest and unpleasing style. In those days there were no conveniences; such as running water, electric lights, or gas, at least not in San Antonio. There was also no wallpaper, and the walls were simply painted with lime and had to be repainted every few years. The inner rooms were often divided by domestic curtains (cloth) but in those days one yielded to much which one would declare to be intolerable now.

One reason for the high rents lay in the high interest rates of the time which was often between 10 and 12 percent. Naturally, the investors in rental properties expected the same income as their money would earn at interest, and since rental property was relatively scarce, they could demand high rentals.

Thus it came about that the "little" people who had to live by day labor, tried as soon as possible to get out of renting. Ground realty was not hard to come by, and even if the first house was no more than a modest hut, one was content, and added on as circumstances permitted.

The entire living conditions then were simple - and expensive, if one desired more than the ordinary fruit of the land. Only meat was cheap but not always in generous supply and often left much to be desired in the matter of quality. Beef was slaughtered as it came from the prairies, and the meat had to be used immediately because there were no cooling facilities and the meat began to spoil within 24 hours. There was no feeding of cattle since feed was unusually high and unavailable. In those days there was grass close to San Antonio and no one thought of stall feeding. For this reason little veal was provided because killing calves was considered a waste since letting them mature into larger animals cost nothing. Little mutton was offered for sale and pork was available only in the wintertime. On the other hand, venison came to market frequently, and bear meat was not rare. The latter I never considered as a delicacy because it is usually very fat, has a sweetish taste, and easily becomes repulsive to the palate.

Eggs, when hens were disposed to lay, were cheap and in generous supply; but at other times rare and expensive, and often not to be had at all. Concerning butter, the rule in Texas was to classify it into three time periods: 1) in summer thin like oil; 2) in winter hard as stone; and 3) most of the time not available at all.

Ocean fish and oysters could naturally not be brought to San Antonio, but the river produced excellent Catfish, and they were not overly expensive.

Bacon and ham could not be produced here and had to be imported. Since the transport from the coast took at least 14 days under the best of circumstances and often as long as six weeks during the rainy season, perishables such as vegetables, fruit, fish, etc. often spoiled en route. Even Irish potatoes often came to the market
partly rotten and thus were high in price.

Also locally raised vegetables remained at good price except during times when they were in over abundance. In Spring there were peaches, melons and figs. There were also Agarita (Berberitzen) which especially the Mexicans gathered and brought to market.

Naturally all this could be had only at certain times of the year, and canning and preserving fell as the main assignment of the women-folk. The scarcity of produce induced all kinds of innovations of which one would not think today. (1908). Thus, I ate canned "cactus figs" in those days, and found them not at all bad.

In those days, the superstition prevailed that certain fruit and vegetables could not be raised, which in later years proved false, and were especially well adapted to Texas. The people had given up (Die Flinte ins Korn geworfen) after only a few superficial trials. Vegetable production, especially on the farms and in the small towns, was predominantly woman's work. Only in San Antonio with its irrigation systems were there professional truck farmers such as Peter Marx, Ringelstein, Poppy and others whose names I have forgotten. After the war some other truck farmers came such as Wehrhahn and others. Most of the truck farmers became well-to-do in a relatively short time. They were all Germans since the Americans first learned from the Germans much later the value of truck farming. The preparation of vegetables and salads is still an unknown science to the Americans to this day.

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

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:

- January 2020 by December 15
- February 2020 by January 15
- March 2020 by February 15