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 Services -> Guides:

- British and Irish Genealogy
- Cemeteries
- Civil War in Texas
- Death
- Genealogy: Getting Started
- HeritageQuest Online
- Hispanic Genealogical Research
- King James Bible
- La Meri
- Local History
- Texas History
- The Wild West
- Special Collections
- World War I
**Genealogy for Beginners**

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.

**Tobin Library:** Tuesday, 7 January 2020 2:00 p.m.
4134 Harry Wurzbach 78209
210-207-9040

**Cody Library:** Friday, 10 January 2020, 3:00 p.m.
11441 Vance Jackson 78230
210.207.9100

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**Military Records for Genealogy Research**

Join us and learn how to begin finding and using muster rolls, service records and other military resources to uncover information about your ancestors.

**Igo Library:** Tuesday, 14 January 2020, 2:00 p.m.
13330 Kyle Seale Parkway
San Antonio, TX 78249
210-207-9080
San Antonio Black History: Near and Far

Saturday, 1 February 2020, 2pm
Central Library Auditorium
600 Soledad, 78205
210.207.2500

Native San Antonian, Everett Fly, was honored in 2018 by the San Antonio Power of Preservation Foundation with a “Champion of Preservation Award” for his work preserving African American history here in San Antonio and Bexar County. Mr. Fly will speak on San Antonio’s Black History and an exhibit, featuring African American resources housed in the Texana Special Collections, will be on display. 3 hours free parking in library garage.

New Publications

Bookbinding and the Conservation of Books: A Dictionary of Descriptive Terminology
GENEALOGY 686.303 ROBERTS 1982

A Treasury of Needlework Projects from Godey’s Lady’s Book
GENEALOGY 746.4 WICZYK

The Mayflower
GENEALOGY 917.44032 CAFFREY 2014
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:** January 11, 2020
**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 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:** January 18  
San Fernando Hall (SFH)  
231 W. Commerce

- Information and registration to be found [here](http://www.cida-sa.org).

### EVENT PRESENTED BY:

- Canary Islands Descendants Association  
- cida.satx@gmail.com  
- [http://www.cida-sa.org](http://www.cida-sa.org)

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**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 to 4pm, Wednesday 10 am to 9pm, Saturday 10am to 4pm and Sunday 1 to 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, 4 January and 11 January, 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
Treasures Among the SAGHS Library's State Books

Wednesday, January 8, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
SAGHS Dwyer Center

**Moderator:** Scott Atkinson. Since developing the Family Tree Maker Workshop in 2014, the 2019 program added an additional genealogy documentation tool - the Wikitree.com. Thus the regular monthly Workshop continues to assist in answering questions or solving problems in their use. Laptops are encouraged but not required to attend. Contact Scott Atkinson for questions at [s.atkinson@ieee.org](mailto:s.atkinson@ieee.org).

Please pre-register by calling SAGHS at 210-342-5242 or emailing [Education@txsaghs.org](mailto:Education@txsaghs.org).

This is a member benefit for SAGHS members, but we ask a $5 contribution from non-members.

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 full day seminar will consist of 4 sessions.

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)

**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.

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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 to 31 July 2020

Paris: Notre-Dame and Beyond
5 December to 23 February 2020

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 to 5 January 2020

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

Texas State Library and Archives Research Workshops

**RESEARCH WORKSHOPS**

**EVERY SECOND SATURDAY**

The public is invited to attend free, brief research workshops at 10 a.m. every second Saturday of the month at the State Archives. You can become research-ready in twenty minutes! Attend our short Saturday morning orientation sessions to learn about a library resource that can help with your research project, assist your genealogy work, or even satisfy your curiosity about historical records. The focus each month will be on a specific type of resource, including the U.S. Census, Texas vital statistics, newspapers, Texas county records, city directories and the Ancestry.com Texas Collection. Reference staff will provide the orientations in the Reference Reading Room at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission at 10 a.m. each Second Saturday. Space is limited to ten participants.

Visit the website [here](#).

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?

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**Links**

Mattie Oline: Thoughts of A Grandmother
The Texas Story Project

This project is a tribute to Tom R. Chambers' grandmother, Mattie Oline (Battles) Meekins, 1899-1997. She kept a diary from 1948 through part of 1993. Chambers researched her entries over the years, and chose the ones that have significance for him and society. His grandmother rarely missed making a daily entry in her diary during 45-plus years - an astonishing 16,000-plus entries. Chambers was born in July of 1947, so her diaries were...
ongoing from when he was about six-months old through the age of 45. The entries are practical, heartfelt and country-bred.

In the early 1900s, she moved with her family to Texas in a covered wagon. Later, she got married to Bill (Willie) Meekins, and raised a family of five in Hynds City. This country village is on Farm Road 103 eight miles north of Nocona in Montague County. It was developed in 1925, when oil production began in the area, and it served local oil production workers. There were a church and three businesses there during the "boom". The Meekins (Chambers' grandparents) owned one of the businesses - a store and gasoline station. After Mrs. Meekins' husband passed away in 1964, she moved her home to Nocona, and lived there until she passed away in 1997.

There are three basic reasons for making entries in a diary: the first is to record what has transpired; the second is to make notes on future activities/events; and the third is for the entries to be kept with other diary entries to become a personal history. Chambers considers his grandmother's collection of 46 diaries a personal history including family and friends with occasional comments/reactions to societal events. Chambers' grandmother's handwriting is used to provide an immediacy - connection - with Mattie Oline. Notes are used to add more information. He hopes that his grandmother would understand why he has chosen to go public with some of her diary entries: to pay tribute to an individual who helped raise him; and to indicate his sense of longing for her presence. As a former educator, he also sees merit in using family diaries as educational tools.

You can read a lot more about this collection by her grandson, Tom Chambers at: [https://bit.ly/2Qwmyc4](https://bit.ly/2Qwmyc4)

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**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!

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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](https://familysearch.org).
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

1938 Pecan Sheller's Strike

Police Seek to Learn Labor Group Plans

Police Friday instituted a search for Mrs. Emma Tenayuca Brooks, labor agitator and leaders of the Worker's Alliance of America, after several pecan shelling plant owners complained she descended on their plants with a large group of followers.
Juan Gomez, operator of a plant at 2301 San Fernando Street, told police Mrs. Brooks, accompanied by 30 persons, came to his establishment Friday morning, demanding to see his employees. Later, she was reported to have visited three other plants.

Police Captain Cliff Hamschisel [sic] dispatched a squad of officers to search for her and determine the purpose of her visits.

San Antonio Light - January 28, 1938

CIO Prepares Drive to Form Pecan Union

An intensive drive to organize San Antonio's 12,000 pecan shellers under the banner of the C. I. O. is in progress, according to Police Chief Owen W. Kilday.

The organizing is being carried out by Mrs. Emma Tenayuca Brooks, national executive of the Workers Alliance and the wife of Homer Brooks, former communist candidate for governor.

A meeting of more than 300 pecan shellers was held at 4 p.m. Friday in a dance hall in the 2400 block of Guadalupe Street.

Police Capt. Cliff Ramschissel was present at the meeting and reported to Kilday that the present plan is to organize as many of the shellers as possible and then to demand higher wages and improved working conditions.

Chief Kilday said Saturday he was convinced any effort to force a wage increase would result in a strike and that he was making preparations to cope with the situation should it arise.

San Antonio Light - January 29, 1938

2 Pecan Strike Protests Filed

C. I. O. and American Civil Liberties Union representatives Tuesday had filed protests against alleged violations of the rights of striking pecan shellers in San Antonio.

Warning that the C. I. O.s might will be called upon to preserve the strikers' rights was received by Police Chief Owen W. Kilday from Donald Henderson of Washington, D.C., president of the United Cannery, Agricultural Packing and Allied Workers of America, C. I. O. affiliate.

Later came a telegram to Kilday from Roger Baldwin, Arthur G. Hays and Harry F. Ward, protesting in the name of the American Civil Liberties union.

ARREST PROTESTED

"Intimidation, beating and arrest of our peaceful pickets is a violation of our civil rights," the telegram stated.

"No such protests are too strong against such inhuman and unconstitutional treatment of 6000 workers in a peaceful attempt to voice their grievances."

No reports of any beatings administered strikers has been made here. Chief Kilday immediately replied to the civil liberties union via telegram: "As usual, you take a report from an admitted communistic source without taking the trouble to investigate."

REFERRED TO PAPERS

"Refer you to the city editors of local papers as to the truth of this report."
On the other hand, it appeared that a request from local shellers’ union officials that Governor Allred intervene would be ignored.

NO ANSWER

A telegram was sent the state executive asking him to intervene to preserve law and order and civil rights in San Antonio. The request was made, it was said, "in view of the lawless actions by the police."

No answer had been received from the governor Tuesday afternoon. Meanwhile only one incident had been reported Tuesday morning of any disturbance on the strike front. One woman was arrested on a picket line and charged with disturbing the peace.

Emma Tenayuca Brooks, Workers Alliance leader, who had been held in jail under investigation, was released at noon Tuesday.

"If she gets out of line, I'll arrest her again," Chief Kilday stated in announcing her release from a vagrancy booking.

About 12,000 pecan shellers are employed in San Antonio but only approximately 500 are said to be on strike. The strike was called at a mass meeting in Cassiano Park Sunday. Only a few of the city's 120 pecan factories were affected by the walkout Monday.

POLICE ON GUARD

Peaceful picketing was in progress Tuesday at only two or three plants, under the watchful eyes of the police. Kilday assigned 24 patrolmen to strategic points on the West Side and trebled the number of squad cars in the district.

Two officials of the International Pecan Shellers Union No. 172, arrested Monday by police, were at liberty Tuesday. The telegram received by Kilday from Henderson follows:

"Have reports local police violating rights of striking pecan workers. Our union with support of C. I. O. embracing 4,000,000 workers, will use all legal and publicity channels to protect these workers' rights to organize, strike and picket for decent wages and living conditions. As responsible police authority of San Antonio, we call on you and your force to scrupulously respect these rights."

MASS MEETING

During the holiday season the companies paid 50 cents per 100 pounds for cracked pecans, with a scale of 7 and 6 cents per pound for shellers. Recently, it was said, the rate has been cut to 40 cents for cracked pecans and 6 and 5 cents for the shelled nuts. James Sager, a member of the international executive board of the U. C. A. P. A. W., who is in San Antonio conducting the strike, said it was for the purpose of restoring salary cuts rather than to gain an increase in wages. Sager presided at a mass meeting of strikers late Monday at Union hall, Pecos and Matamoros Streets. More than 1000 shellers were reported at the meeting.

Examples cited by Sager in justification of the strike included Juan Garcia, sheller, who lives at 112 San Barnardo Street. According to Sager, Garcia, who worked daily from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. with an hour for lunch, received $2.65 as his salary for last week - minus old age benefit payments.

Julio Garcia, 29, 1010 San Fernando street, is another sheller cited by Sager. Garcia, who has a wife and baby to support, received $1.31, less old age benefit, for 30 hours
work last week. He pays 30 cents a week insurance and $1 a week rent, Sager said.

A survey of pecan shelling plants Tuesday morning disclosed that most of them were operating at normal or nearly so. Some were paying the 7 and 6-cent rate for shelling, while others were still compensating their workers on the 6-5-cent basis.

The Delicious Pecan company, 515 West Houston street, was operating with about half a force, according to S. Tavolaccia, the manager. He added that it had raised its pay scale to 7 and 6 cents Monday.

George Azar of Azar and Solomon, 2427 West Commerce Street, reported his plant was running on a full-time basis. Its scale, he said, was 6 and 5 cents.

All employees were reported on duty at the Southern Pecan Shelling Company, 135 East Cevallos street, although receiving the 6-5-cent scale adopted last week.

A. Sanchez of A. Sanchez and company, 817 S. Colorado Street, declared all his workers were on the job. The company has never cut its pay scale, he said.

The National Pecan Shelling Company, 1025 West Houston Street, reported "business as usual." The firm is paying 7-6-cent scale for small pecans and a flat 6-cent rate for the large nuts.

San Antonio Light, February 1, 1938