



South Texas Researcher

October 2016

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 12:00pm - 8:00 pm
Wednesday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Thursday 12:00pm - 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



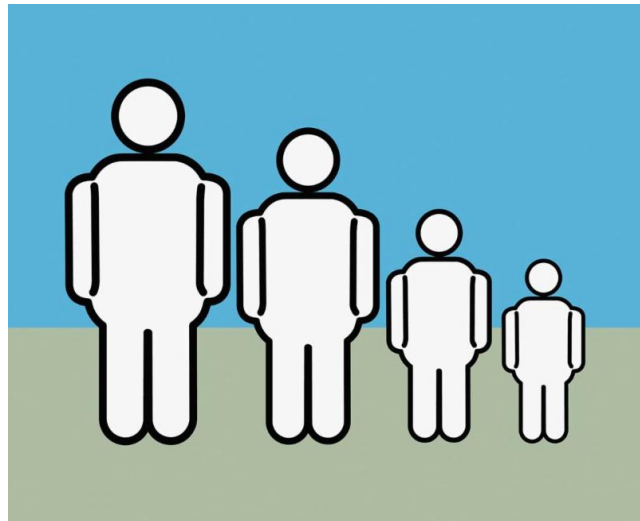
Beginning Genealogy Online Resources

Learn how to get started doing your family history research online. We will discuss library use only databases, such as Ancestry LE, as well as free sites you can access from home.

Tuesday, 4 Oct. 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

Central Library Training Room

600 Soledad Street
Call 210.207.2500 for more information. (ask for Texana)



History of Adoption in Texas

Connie Gray, of Texas Adoptee Rights, will present historical information regarding adoption practices and amended birth certificates in the state of Texas. Sponsored in part by the Igo Branch Library Genealogy Club.

Tuesday, 18 Oct. 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Central Library - Café Commerce

600 Soledad 78205
210.207.2500



Growing Your Family Tree: Beginning Your Research

Learn how to begin researching your family tree! We'll discuss the information you can find online and in courthouses, cemeteries, archives and your own San Antonio Public Library. Registration is encouraged

Saturday, 29 Oct. 2016 at 10:30 a.m.

Central Library - Auditorium
600 Soledad 78205
210.207.2500 (ask for Texana)



New Publications



Cherokee Intermarried White, 1906
GENEALOGY 970.1 CHEROKEE V. 1-10

Applications for Enrollment of Creek Newborn, Act of 1905
GENEALOGY 970.1 CREEK V. 1-14

Little Rock, Arkansas National Cemetery Burial Roster
GENEALOGY 976.6 PULASKI

Cross County, Arkansas Marriage Records, 1863-1913
GENEALOGY 976.7 CROSS V. 1-4

Ft. Smith, Arkansas National Cemetery
GENEALOGY 976.7 SEBASTIAN

Community Partners



Los Bexareños Genealogical and Historical Society

Meetings are normally held at 9:30 a.m. at the Central Library Auditorium. Visitors are 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: Oct. 1 2016

Speaker: Dan Arellano

Topic: The French Connection to the Alamo

"And a brief report on research he did in Viesca, Saltillo and Guerrero, Coahuila."

Dan Arellano, President of the Battle of Medina Society has been an activist for almost 40 years. He was a member of the Austin Optimist Club for 25 years and is the past president. Dan is a member of the Tejanos in Action and a past commander of this Veteran's Organization. Under his leadership the Post Office in South Congress in Austin was renamed the Henry Ybarra Post Office in honor of the Staff Sgt. Henry Ybarra, the first Austin casualty in Iraq. Also, under his command an elementary school in Southeast Austin was named after Lance Corporal Nicolas Perez. He recently built a monument at Johnson high school and at Wm B. Travis H. S. in Austin in honor of the young men from these Austin schools that were killed in Vietnam. Dan was also involved with Dr. Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez in the Defend the Honor Campaign. He served as president of the Tejano Genealogy Society and was a member for seven years. Currently, he is a member of the Los Bexareños Genealogical and Historical Society. He has testified twice before the State Board of Education and as such was successful in having the Battle of Medina and the First Texas Republic adopted as part of the curriculum to be taught in the 7th grade. Arellano is also a professional actor appearing Machete Kills alongside Cuba Gooding Jr. He is also the Co-Host of the Eddie Arevalo Spotlight TV Show. Dan is currently lecturing on Tejano History at the Bob Bullock Texas History museum in Austin. He has been preserving Tejano History by doing the living reenactment of the Battle of Medina in Losoya Texas for 10 years and also the First Texas Republic. The First Texas Republic was founded by our Tejano ancestors under the leadership of Bernardo Gutierrez de Lara on April 6, 1813 which is now formally recognized as House Resolution 709 and approved by the 83rd Texas State Legislature. His mission is to protect, preserve and promote Tejano History.

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



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



1000 Parks and a Line in the Sky

[The Institute of Texan Cultures](#)

21 October 2016 - 16 April 2017



"1000 Parks and a Line in the Sky: Broadway, Avenue of the Future," is a design vision by Antonio Petrov, UTSA assistant professor of architecture, and the "think/do-tank" he has established

in the College of Architecture, Construction and Planning. The exhibit features a 50-foot-long model of Broadway, a street that has the potential to become San Antonio's great urban avenue.

Recent developments on Broadway, such as the Museum Reach and the Pearl, and renewed interest in the street's future have generated much discussion about what becoming an "urban" city actually means. In its present state, however, nearly fifty percent of Broadway's urban landscape is flanked by parking space while nearly all spaces along the corridor are tied to businesses, leaving almost no public space for people to gather as citizens without being consumers.

Petrov has conducted extensive research on Broadway and proposes a linear park system, comprised of unused interstitial spaces found along the street, and a skyride that connects the airport to Travis Park. Many residents and visitors to San Antonio remember experiencing the city from the sky between the 1960s and 1990s on the Brackenridge Park skyride. Inspired by this local history, he explores possible future directions for urban development, public parks, and alternative transportation systems using the Broadway corridor as a model.

The interactive installation focuses on public input, while associated public events, roundtable discussions, photo collection events, and educational programming will bridge the past and future of Broadway to help the community imagine its new identity. Visitors are also able to experience a nostalgic moment by taking a seat in a gondola from the original Brackenridge skyride.

Texans One and All

[The Institute of Texan Cultures](#)



Texans One and All examines the stories and customs of more than 20 of the original cultural groups who settled in Texas. It is the people that make Texas the great state that it is. Guests will:

- Learn Wendish wedding customs
- Read the story of the Lebanese pack peddler
- Learn to write Chinese numbers
- Hear the stories of Japanese American intern camp detainees
- See the Czech polka
- Hear the blowing of the Jewish shofar
- Read the stories of black Texans including baseball player Frank Robinson and Pearl

Harbor hero Doris Miller

- See how early Swedish Texans lived
- Walk through today's Tejano story
- Learn what Danish Texan sculpted Mount Rushmore

And much more! The exhibit will change as the museum updates content and specific areas of the exhibit floor.



theMcNay



San Antonio Museum of Art

**National Geographic
Earth Explorers**
24 Sept. 2016 - 22 Jan. 2017

**Parlour Games: Ruloff Kip's
Toy Theatre**
6 July 2016 - 6 Feb. 2017

**Carlos Merida: Selections
from the Permanent
Collection**
8 July 2016 - 29 Jan. 2017

Jennifer Steinkamp: Botanic 3
30 Aug. 2016 - 8 January 2017

**Orientalism: The Middle East
Onstage**
31 August - 24 December
2016

Jim Dine: Salome Reimagined
31 August - 24 December 2016

**Telling Tales: Contemporary
Narrative Photography**
28 Sept. 2016 - 15 Jan. 2017

News



San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society Fall Seminar

The SAGHS Annual Fall Seminar takes place on 15 October at the John Calvin Presbyterian Church in San Antonio. Our speaker is Susan D. Kaufman, Manager of the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, Houston Public Library. Her topics will be:



- Funerals: The Final Event
- Manuscripts and Special Collections

- Outside the Cocoon: Resources Available in the Regular Public Library and Beyond
- Various Unusual Source Records for Genealogical Research

Cost: \$45 for members, \$50 for non-members. \$50 members/\$55 non-members after 7 Oct. 2016. [See more details](#). [Download registration form](#).

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?



From the Archives

Secession Times in Texas (part fourteen) - James P. Newcomb - 1863

"THE BOX COLONY"

Among the Americans I had the pleasure of meeting in Durango, was Dr. ----, from whom I learned the particulars of the unfortunate "Box Colony," he being one of the victims. Box, or "Capt. Michael James Box, of the Texas Rangers"* the "hro of this sad story is a tall, awkward, illiterate frontiersman, past the middle age of life. He came to Texas at an early day, but whether he took part in the struggle against the Mexicans, I am unable to say; there certainly is no record of "Capt. Box's" exploits. He returned to Alabama, an induced his parents to move to Texas, making their settlement near the coast, and here we find them in 1861, a prosperous household, with many branches from the parent stock, living in ease and comfort, when the evil genius of the family, Box, stalked in at their peaceful thresholds, to disturb not only their contentment and happiness, but of many hundreds more - he dropped in upon the community as a huge stone falls upon the smooth surface of a mill pond, ruffling it from centre to circumference. It would be hard to account for Box, during the intervening years from the date of his removal to Texas and the date just mentioned. During the Texan Republic, even after the "lone star" waved in triumph over its enemies, a predatory warfare was kept up along the border by bands of men, who were called "cow boys", from the nature

of their pillage - Box may have been a "cow boy." But now we come to more light on the subject, for positively, Box did go to the Mexican War, perhaps, as a "high private" in Ben McCullough's company. He remained in Mexico, and with a few American and Mexican confederates, fought the Indians by contract; his success at Indian fighting was remarkable; he received so much per scalp, and he and his companions had few scruples, when Indians were scarce or hard to find, in making up the deficit from Mexican pates - which being found out or suspected, caused Box to loose [sic] his occupation, the Mexican authorities no longer considering it a matter of public economy. After about twelve years spent in Mexico, we find him again among his kind, as mentioned before; his Indian fighting confederates having separated to California and Else where in search of fame or fortune. And now we come to the "Box Colony" the capping climax in the history of "Capt. Box." Of course these many years he had spent abroad, amidst strange and stirring scenes and wild adventure, furnished him abundant narrative, which found eager listeners, not only around his paternal fireside, but throughout the neighborhood. The great burden of his story, was about a mountain he had discovered among the mountains of Durango, which he called the "Red Mountain" where gold existed in such abundance, that a man could make from twenty-five to a thousand dollars per day, according to his exertion [sic] - that when the sun shone upon it, it actually glistened with the precious metal. The magnificent tale, paleing into insignificance those told by the first greedy Spaniards who visited Mexico, strange to say, spread like wild-fire far and wide, but affected more seriously the neighborhood in which the Boxes lived. Counter reports derogatory to the truth of Box's golden story, came from good and abundant sources, but he induced his own family, consisting of his aged parents, brothers, sisters and married kind, to embark with him upon the golden enterprise - abandon their comfortable homes, and sacrifice their moderate fortunes. This circumstance broke down all suspicion of deception, for it was not in human nature to conceive how Box could have the heart to drag his own family from their homes, for the purpose of deceiving and ruining them, consequently, many others followed their example. Box soon found himself at the head of the first party of emigrants that had ever started from Texas to Mexico, numbering over three hundred souls, men, women and children. Before starting, he issued a circular, in which he invited emigrants to join him, stating that he had procured a grant from the State of Durango, covering a rich mining and agricultural district, making no mention however of the "Red Mountain" which he explained, by saying he did not wish to excite the suspicion of the Mexicans.

He advised his followers to encumber themselves as little as possible with money, as they only needed enough to bear their expenses to their destination; and also, to use oxen instead of horses or mules to draw their ambulances and wagons; many complied with the latter injunction. Those who proposed riding on horseback, he advised to procure white horses, giving a reason for this, that it would be a sign to the Mexicans, that they came on a peaceful errand. Thus started the "Box Colony," in which there were many well-to-do families - children in their tender years, delicate women and hardy men of all professions and trades - on a trip, which took them five years to perform, attended with intolerable hardships, to meet in the end the most heart-crushing disappointment.

After about the first of March 1861, the main body of the "Red Mountain" emigrants took up their line of march for Laredo, on the Rio Grande; the company, being from time to time augmented until reaching this point, where they were detained a few days, in arranging their duties with the Mexican authorities.

To the Rio Grande, their trip was devoid of interest; no doubt they felt some heart pangs and misgivings in leaving their homes; the golden future, however, reconciled them to their journey. At every step they heard contradictions of the golden story; but no reasoning, argument or authority, could eradicate the golden egg Box had laid in their minds, - it must be hatched in bitter experience - they followed blindly in his lead.

Shortly after the company had crossed the Nueces river, an attempts was made to organize the colony, adopt laws and appoint officers to execute and conduct its affairs; but it failed, and in Box was centered all the authority, his word was law and his tyrannical disposition began to show itself early, and most of the emigrants, determined to set him aside when they reached the "Red Mountain."

In Mexico, their hardships began; the roads become rougher, water scarcer, and they were compelled to purchase forage for their teams. Box led them by way of Monterey [sic], and his entrance into that city, created quite a sensation; at the head of fifty fine looking young Texans, completely armed and mounted on white horses, he rode up the the palace and paid his respect to Gov. Vidauri [sic], who received him with the respect due a gentleman who could afford so imposing a retinue. At Monterey [sic], the oldest inhabitants laughed at the delusion they were pursuing, and a lively interest was taken to detain them, the Governor making liberal offers of land, in the vicinity. But nothing would do them short of the "Red Mountain" - no doubt in their fevered imaginations they looked upon the golden clouds that each day gilded the wake of the setting sun, as a reflection from that golden mountain.

During the first portion of their journey, all was high hopes and spirits, - plenty reigned, and pleasure smiled, - the young people danced in the shade of their camps; they sang, they joked and laughed; but when they began to thirst for water over the long, arid stretches, their oxen to give out by the way, their horses stolen or stampeded, their vehicles to loosen and drop to pieces under the shrinking influence of a Mexican sun, their hardships increasing, and the days to pass slowly and wearily away, their hearts went down, and they began to regret the distance which separated them from their Texas homes; still they pressed on, the "Red Mountains" glimmering in the distance.

Box was reserved, morose and tyrannical, and when addressed as to his views he would sometimes answer, that "if his shirt knew them, he would take it off"; that if all he had told them did not turn out to be true, they might take his head off; this they swore they would do if he deceived them.

When nearly to their destination, which Box had fixed as Corneta, a little mining town in whose vicinity he told them, was the "red Mountain," the small-pox broke out among them, causing a delay of several weeks, and they suffered much from exposure and want of proper treatment. Several pushed on to Corneta; Box went to the city of Durango where he received a liberal donation of provisions from the Governor to the colonists, Box represented he had purchased them with his own money, and sold them to the colonists.

After all had reached Corneta, none of the colonists being able to speak Spanish, they could learn no tidings of the "Red Mountain," Box still abiding by his original story, they demanded he should lead them to it. Ten men were selected to accompany Box, who procured a Mexican guide, who he said had been with him to the mountain. This party spent two weeks roaming over the mountains, in a fruitless search, enduring great hardship. Box would lag behind the party in moody silence, when they would curse him up, for fear he intended giving them the slip. They returned broken down to Corneta, their unwelcome news soon spread among the travel and disease-worn colonists - it was the last feather that broke the camel's back. Their fury against Box broke forth, and they meditated taking him at his word. Box fell suddenly sick, on the evening the party returned, and pretended to be dying; he called them round his bed side and told them he did not expect to live until morning, that all he had told them was true, that the "Red Mountain" was within twenty miles of them, to hunt for it. This ruse served to turn their fury into pity and contempt, and so great had been their infatuation, many of them still doubted if Box was deceiving them. Box became convalescent and went to Durango; his rascality in regard to the Governor's donation being found out, the colonists drew up a paper to the Governor, enumerating Box's rascality, and the deception he had practiced upon them, and requesting his arrest. Box was brought before the Governor and confronted through an interpreter, with the victimized colonists. Box produced the circular he had issued in Texas, in his defence, which was a deception, as he had never received any grant of land from the State of Durango. The Governor released Box, thinking the colonists deserved all he had done to them, for their folly.

After this, the company broke up in confusion. The young men roved wildly about getting into mischief and trouble; one was killed at a "Fandango," which came near drawing the company into a bloody difficulty with the native. Scattered and broken up into little parties, the majority of the colonists began their sorrowful return to Texas, suffering terribly, and some of the being murdered on the way. Several from want to

means were compelled to remain in Mexico, the comprise a few families, for whom the Dr., I mentioned in the beginning, has kindly provided, procuring from the Governor, a "hacienda" for them to live on, and some dozen men who remain at Corneta and are working in the mines. Box is also at the same place, mining; his poor old father and family being returned to Texas.

It is a matter of speculation as to the true designs of Box in thus deceiving and inducing these people to emigrate to Mexico, the only solution I have heard is, that Box had met an agent of some New York firm who was prospecting the mines in the vicinity of Corneta, and who offered Box large inducements if he would bring out a colony of Americans, sufficiently large to give security to any mining operations the firm he represented might wish to go into, - and that Box had told the story of the "Red Mountain," hoping to be able to manage the worn-down colonists when they reached there. But Box seems to have lost confidence in himself, as he used no address to smooth the matter over. With some education and polish, Box would be a second edition of Parker H. French, long to be remembered by many victims.

It may be wondered, how so many people allowed themselves to be humbugged in such a manner, by such a man as Box but we must remember Joe Smith made a religion, and Ponce de Leon died searching for the "waters of eternal youth."

*Since my arrival in California, I have found a work entitled
Capt. Box's Adventures and Explorations in New and Old Mexico, a record of ten years &C.
by Capt. Michael James Box, of the Texas Rangers, and dedicated to Ben McCulloch. it is evident our hero, is the individual meant, but that he ever wrote the book, is an absurdity. He may have furnished the items to someone else, in fact, I learned such was the case.

Editor's Note: We realize that some of the language used by Mr. Newcomb in 1863 may be offensive and/or derogatory. This document is provided for historical purposes only and the opinions therein are solely those of the late James P. Newcomb and do not reflect the opinions or of beliefs held by the San Antonio Public Library or its Texana/Genealogy Department. Also, all the unorthodox spellings were left as-written by Mr. Newcomb.

To Be Continued...



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:

- November 2016 by October 15
- December 2016 by November 15
- January 2017 by December 15

VISIT OUR WEBSITE