



South Texas Researcher

November 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



Online Map Resources for Genealogists

Join us and learn where free, online digitized maps can be found and discover how they can be useful when doing family history research. Registration is required. Two hours, 59 minutes free parking

Tuesday, 1 Nov 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

Central Library

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



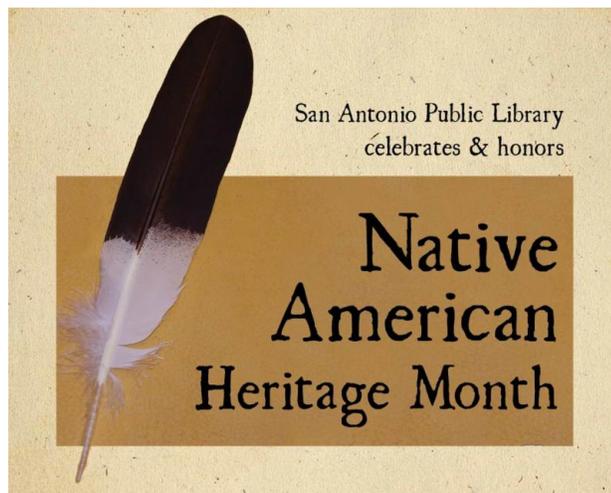
A Short History of Native San Antonio & Vicinity

Join us as Dr. Alston Thoms discusses native inhabitants of today's northeast Mexico and South Texas. Recent studies indicate that there may be hundreds, even thousands, of people living today who descended from Mission Indians.

Saturday, 5 Nov. 2016 at 1:00 p.m.

Central Library Auditorium

600 Soledad 78205
210.207.2500



New Publications



A Boy's Civil War Story
GENEALOGY 923.273 NAGEL

How to Do Everything: Genealogy
GENEALOGY 929.1072 MORGAN

Journeys to the Present
GENEALOGY 929.2 MOULDER

The Taylors, The Tumlinsons and the Feud
GENEALOGY 929.2 TAYLOR (VAULT)

Henry Logan Winfield: A Genealogy
GENEALOGY 929.2 WINFIELD

Historia Grafica de La Bandera Nacional Y Simbolos Patrios
GENEALOGY 929.92 HISTORIA

Stark Roll 1894 (Cherokee Payment Rolls)
GENEALOGY 970.1 CHEROKEE V. 1-3

Families of General Teran, Nuevo Leon, Mexico
GENEALOGY 972.13 RENDON V. 2

Marriage Release of Lincoln County, Tennessee, January 1, 1911 - December 31, 1920
GENEALOGY 976.8 LINCOLN

Index to Official Roster of Ohio Soldiers in the War With Spain, 1898-1899
GENEALOGY 977.1 BROGLIN

At Home in Early Sandusky
GENEALOGY 977.1 HANSEN

Door County: Wisconsin's Peninsular Jewel
GENEALOGY 977.5 DOOR

A Sketch of the History of Benton County, Missouri
GENEALOGY 977.8 BENTON

Families: A Pictorial History of Round Valley, 1864-1938
GENEALOGY 979.4 INYO

The Texas Landscape Project: Nature and People
TEXANA 333.70976 TODD

Sesquicentennial, St. Mary's University, 1852-2002
TEXANA 378.764 SAINT MARY'S

Post Office Papers of the Republic of Texas
TEXANA 383.49764 POST V. 1 & V. 2

Don José Miguel de Arciniega: 36 Years of Service to the State of Texas
TEXANA 976.403 ARCINIEGA

Espada Dam: A Preliminary Historical Report
TEXANA 976.4351 GOMEZ

Story of the Spanish Governor's Palace
TEXANA 976.4351 WRIGHT

Gallery Guide: The Cartographic Collections of Virginia Garrett
TEXANA 976.4531 GALLERY

History of San Antonio Cárcels, Calabazos and Jails
TEXANA 976.4351 PEREZ

The Third Coast: Mapping the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea
TEXANA 976.4531 GOODWIN

Mapmaker's Vision, beholder's Eye: The Art of Maps
TEXANA 976.4531 MAPMAKER'S

Lone Star Hiking Trail: The Official Guide to the Longest Wilderness Footpath in Texas
TEXANA 976.51 SOMERS

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: November 5, 2016

Speaker: Art Martinez de Vara

Topic: The History of Von Ormy

Mr. Martinez de Vara is an attorney with The Martinez de Vara Law firm. He received the Doctor of Law from St. Mary's University School of Law and has a Master of Arts in History from Sam Houston State University. His thesis, "José Francisco Ruiz - A Texas Revolutionary." Other degrees include a Master of Arts in Systematic Theology, St. Mary's University, a Bachelor of Arts in History, University of Colorado at Denver, 2003-Honors Thesis, "Use of Media and Propaganda in the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict." He also attended the University of Texas at Austin, Plan II Honors Program/Computer Science and DeBakey High School for Health Professions, Houston, TX.

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



Ancestry.com Texas

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission houses a vast collection of documents related to Texas government and history and provides a variety of reference services and materials for free public use at the Lorenzo de Zavala State Archives and Library Building in Austin and the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center in Liberty.

Free access to our records that have been digitized by Ancestry is available to Texas residents. This access requires you to create a free Ancestry.com Texas account. Continue reading for further instructions.



Frequently Asked Questions

What if I already have an Ancestry.com account?

All the records made available through the Ancestry.com Texas partnership are included in your Ancestry.com subscription. Your search results will include all of the records available on Ancestry.com.

Why am I asked to set up a paid account?

Some Ancestry.com searches may lead you to records outside the free Texas material, at which point you may be prompted to set up a paid account. If you choose not to do so, you may return to the results of your previous search. Onsite researchers may access the entire Ancestry (Library edition) database while at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

What if I do not wish to receive email messages from Ancestry.com?

To opt out of receiving e-mail from Ancestry.com:

Log into your account at Ancestry.com.

At the top you will see a link for "My Account" with a dropdown arrow. Hover over the arrow to see email preferences. Click on that link.

You will go to the page where you can select your email preferences.

Why can't I find what I'm looking for in the records?

Most of the Texas data collections have been indexed, which means you can search by name, location, or other keywords. Records that have not been indexed can be browsed page by page to see what data is available.

What Texas materials are available?

The following data collections are included free to Texans via Ancestry.com:

- *Alabama, Texas and Virginia, Confederate Pensions, 1884-1958*
- *Texas, Prison Employee Ledgers, 1861-1938*
- *Texas, Muster Roll Index Cards, 1838-1900*
- *Texas, Wills and Probate Records, 1833-1974*
- *Texas, Convict and Conduct Registers, 1875-1945*
- *Texas, Court of Criminal Appeal Indexes, 1892-1947*
- *Texas, Capitol Building Payroll, 1882-1888*
- *Texas, Memorials and Petitions, 1834-1929*
- *Texas, Bonds and Oaths of Office, 1846-1920*
- *Texas, Index Card Collections, 1800-1900*
- *Texas, Voter Registration Lists, 1867-1869*
- *Nacogdoches, Texas, Spanish and Mexican Government Records, 1729-1836*
- *Texas, Land Title Abstracts, 1700-2008 (original records held by the Texas General Land Office)*

Visit the site here: <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/arc/ancestry>

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 fifteen) - James P. Newcomb - 1863

Dec. 9th - Camped on a beautiful elevation one day's journey from the pleasant city of Durango, but still in sight. Further than Durango, no wheeled vehicle can go, so we disposed of our ambulances and took it muleback, paying at the rate of twelve dollars per mule for passenger, and baggage. It is the first time since she was a girl, Mrs. B. has backed an animal, but she manages her mule finely, and looks forwards to the dangers and hardships of the journey, with a fortitude and philosophy truly admirable. The two little girls were carried in large bread baskets, one on either side of an old gentle pack mule; this cargo we have much solitude about; at first they cried and were much frightened, but got more used to their cozy perches, toward the last of the day's trip. Four miles from Durango the wagon road gave out and we took a path which wound up rugged cliffs until near camp, when we come to a mountain *mesa*.

10th - Sunrise again disclosed to our view Durango, with the mists of the morning hanging about it, but from this point we must bid it adieu. Our course lay to the westward, and for the first few miles our road was good, and we had a comprehensive view of our company as they strung out over the level mountain top; consisting of about one hundred and fifty animals with their accompanying riders and drivers, besides about thirty foot passengers, men, women and children - a motley array. In consequence of the dangers which beset this road, it is customary for travelers to rendezvous at Durango and travel in large parties. We made a terrific descent to-day, at the bottom of which dashed a beautiful mountain stream, and up we climbed again to the top of another mountain. Our camp is among beautiful pines, and flocks of noisy parrots are flying over us, on their passage from the nut forests. Here is said to begin our dangerous road, nearby are the skulls and bones of some murdered travelers, placed on a pile of stones.

11th - We were delayed a while this morning, hunting for some mules that had escaped during the night and taken the back track; after their recovery, we proceeded on our way, somewhat encouraged by the assurances of our muleteers that our road will be good for several days to come; still we have found it quite rough, in fact a mere path winding through dark woods and over precipitous heights. These wild solitudes are charming, - the pines forming arches over head, the earth carpeted with green grass, and at short intervals cool springs of water - the days are warm, the nights cool.

As we advanced, the evidences of human violence increased - skulls studded the roadside, and often I have been startled, when I sought the shade of some noble tree, to find skulls grinning at me from its forks or piled up at its foot. Many is the tale of horror and dreadful strife between travelers and the *Ladrones* and Indians, told us by our Mexican muleteers, a traveling, and only history of these murdered dead. I counted as many as six skulls in one pile, at another place were five, at another the bones of a family and their faithful dog. Crosses are generally erected near the skulls, and huge heaps of stones lay about them, thrown there, I suppose, by travelers, to tell of the performance of the solemn petition written on the crosses, to say, "*un Ave Maria, o un Padre Nuestro*" for the soul of the unfortunate dead. This is the only road in Mexico where I have seen the skulls and bones exposed; a simple cross generally marking the spot, where murder has been committed, or the grave of the murdered, and of these there are thousands.

12th - Camped in a beautiful pine grove on an eminence overlooking a pretty little vale. In the midst of the grove stands a high, rude Cross; said to mark the spot where the banished Bishop of Durango performed mass, - a grand temple surely, whose pillars are the forest monarchs, and whose dome, blue Heaven. In His adversity, no doubt, this man forgot the mummery of his usual performance, and truly worshiped God in the midst of His works, where man sinks to littleness. This Bishop still wanders in these wilds accompanied by a few faithful followers. When we consider the great power of the priesthood over the Mexican people, we are somewhat at a loss to understand the present state of affairs - the production of civil war. The church is now at the mercy of the Liberal party, who deal mercy as they have been taught it by the Church party. The Juarez administration has confiscated church property and banished the bishops, who prowl

about in the robber wilds waiting for a change, and hoping to be reinstated; a war with Spain is imminent, and they think their opportunity is at hand. I look upon the their power as it once existed, as gone forever; at one time, the resources of the church much exceed those of the government of Mexico, but war has drained her coffers and devastated her domain. The Mexicans have caught up the cry, "*Dios y Libertad*," and they will never unlearn the lesson, and when religion attaches itself to political affairs, it forfeits forever its claim to universal rule, however it may augment its power over the few - its throne must be built upon some universal principle or it loose caste even with the ignorant and superstitious.

13. - To-day our path passed through a beautiful mountain country of pine woods and gushing streams, our every step still beset with the melancholy sight of human skulls. Passed the ruins of a ranch lately burned down, and its inhabitants put to death by the Indians, further on we came to a new ranch where we bought some fresh provisions.

14th - Camped in the bend of a beautiful bold mountain stream - a desirable location for a settlement; soil good, building material abundant, and a natural site for a mill. Our company seems in a better humor than usual; songs and merriment prevailing in the circles gather around the cheerily burning camp fires, the cause of which is, we have passed the dangerous portion of our road.

15th - Halted in a delightful spot. There seems a general relaxing of the vigilance which marked the conduct of our muleteers a day back. Shortly after leaving camp this morning, the foot passengers and some of the horsemen separated from us, taking a nearer but rougher route to Mazatlan. The roads parted near the *piloncillos*, a collection of curious, cone-shaped rocks. Among the footmen were some mountain *cegadores* now carrying loaded of apples; they carry their loads on their backs, keeping them in place by means of a strap across their foreheads; these men are employed to carry heavy machinery where it is impossible to use animals, they also carry the mails between Durango and Mazatlan, making the round trip in eight days, for which they are paid fifteen dollars. They keep up a brisk trot all day, munching their tortillas as they run, pursuing their way over places impassable for even the sure footed mule, they do not wear shoes, but sandals or *guaraches*, as do also the muleteers, merely pieces of raw-hide cut to fit the sole of the foot and kept in place by thongs, these they prefer to shoes, their feet becoming very hardy, suffering neither from cold, nor the gravel which is continually sifting between them and the feet; and further, they suffer no inconvenience from the more civilized and uncomfortable institution of corns.

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:

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

