



## South Texas Researcher

December 2016

### Texana / Genealogy



#### **San Antonio Public Library Texana / Genealogy**

Find Texana / Genealogy online by visiting [mysapl.org/texana](http://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



## Using Military Records for Genealogy

Military records can provide a wealth of information to family history researchers. Join us and learn how to begin finding and using muster rolls, service records and other resources to uncover interesting information. Registration is required.



**Saturday, 3 Dec. 2016 at 10:00 a.m.**

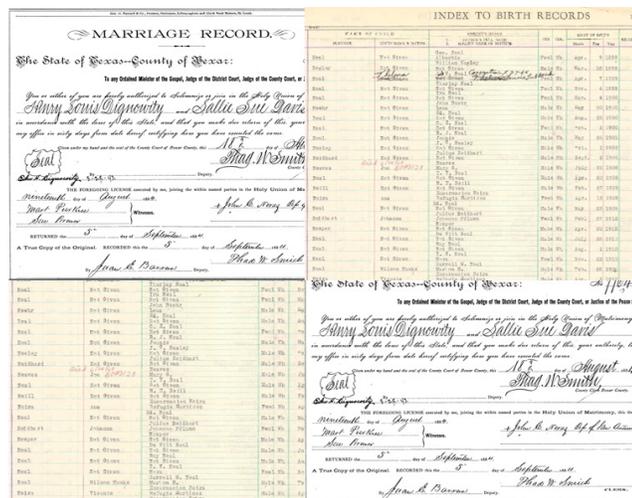
**Central Library - Texana Room**  
600 Soledad Street  
Call 210.207.2500 for more information. (ask for Texana)

## Local Online Genealogy Resources

Join us and learn about local genealogical and historical records that are available online (for free!). Registration is required.

**Tuesday, 6 Dec. 2016 at 2:00 p.m.**

**Central Library - Texana Room**  
600 Soledad Street  
Call 210.207.2500 for more information. (ask for Texana)



## New Publications



Valle y Presidio de Santa Rosa, 1590-1821  
GENEALOGY 972.14 CANALES SANTOS

The Strange Career of William Ellis: The Texas Slave Who Became a Mexican Millionaire  
TEXANA 306.362 ELLIS

Faustian Bargains: Lyndon Johnson and Mac Wallace in the Robber Baron Culture of Texas  
TEXANA 328.73092 MELLON

Actas del Congreso Constituyente De Coahuila y Texas de 1824 a 1827  
TEXANA 342.720.29 COAHUILA

Lone Star Steeples: Historic Places of Worship in Texas  
TEXANA 759.13 CHRISTENSEN

Reminiscing With Peter Beyer  
TEXANA 940.54497 BEYER

The History of Lamar County  
TEXANA 976.4263 NEVILLE

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## Community Partners

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### 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:** December 3, 2016  
**Speaker:** Judge Edward F. "Ed" Butler  
**Topic:** To Be Announced

On Oct. 21, 2016, Judge Edward F. "Ed" Butler, Sr. was selected as one of the six members of the Texas Genealogical College's 2016 Genealogy Hall of Fame.

Judge Ed Butler attended Vanderbilt Univ. School of Law as a Ford Foundation Scholar. He graduated with honors in 1961. While at Vandy, he was editor of the law school newspaper. He practiced law in Memphis, TN from 1961 through 1984. Before going on the bench he was Board Certified as a Civil Trial Lawyer by both Texas and the National Board of Trial Advocacy, and was an annual member of the State Bar College of Texas.

Judge Butler first wore his judicial robes in Memphis as a Juvenile Court Judge. In Tennessee he served as a municipal, county and state judge. He decided both criminal and civil law cases, the latter including, family law, probate; medical malpractice, and general civil litigation. He served as Chief Judge of the Tennessee Medical Malpractice Review Board. In 1991 he was appointed a US federal administrative law judge.

In May 2010, His Royal Majesty Felipe VI de Borbon, King of Spain, asked Judge Butler to write a book about Spain's Assistance during the American Revolutionary War. That book, Galvez / Spain - Our Forgotten Ally in the American Revolutionary War: A Concise Summary of Spain's Assistance was published last year. It has already won 5 awards:

1. The Texas Connection To The American Revolution presented the "Best American History Book about the American Revolutionary War in 2014;
2. Readers' Review gave it its "5 Star Award;"
3. The Sons of the Republic of Texas presented its "Presidio La Bahia Award; "
4. Texas Hill Country Chapter of Colonial Dames - "Best History Book in 2015."
5. International Latino Book Award for Best History Book in 2016

Judge Butler has also written an award winning book on the Butler family; two other family history books, two law books; a U.S. State Dept. Guide to Australia and he has published four books on travel. He has had dozens of professional articles published in legal, genealogical and medical journals, including an award winning article on history. Many of his travel articles have been published in newspapers and magazines. He is currently researching on his next family history book.

Ed served as President General of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the SAR Foundation during 2009-2010. In 2012 he founded the Order of the Founders of North America 1492-1692, for which group he served as the Charter Grand Viscount General. In 2015 he founded the Texas Genealogical College, home of the Texas Genealogical College, and serves as its Charter President.

He is currently or has previously served as an officer in the following additional groups:

- General Society of Colonial Wars - Dep. Governor General
- Military Order of the Knights of the Temple of Jerusalem - Dep. Grand Prior
- Washington's Army at Valley Forge - Judge Advocate General
- Military Order of the Stars and Bars - Dep. Judge Advocate General
- Sons of the Revolution - State President
- War of 1812 - State President
- Order of the Founders and Patriots of America - Governor of the Texas Society

#### **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:

<a href="#">Dennis Moreno</a>	210.647.5607
<a href="#">Yolanda Patiño</a>	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](http://www.txsaghs.org)



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## 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.

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## 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



**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



### Tarleton, Stephenville libraries partner to digitize historic local newspapers

By TSU Media Relations

Digging into local news archives soon will be easier thanks to a joint effort by Tarleton State University's Dick Smith Library and the Stephenville Public Library to digitize the community's old newspapers. The Ladd & Katherine Hancher Library Foundation donated a \$10,450 grant this month that will help with funding to digitize and archive local newspapers published between 1882 and 1922.



"I'm very excited about partnering with Tarleton's Dick Smith Library and receiving the Hancher Library Foundation grant," said Mary Meredith, director of the Stephenville Public Library. "The grant will enable us to have back issues of the local newspapers copied from microfilm and changed to a digital format."

Historic copies of the former Stephenville Empire and Stephenville Tribune—continuously published today as the Stephenville Empire-Tribune—are available in microfilm at the Dick Smith Library, a difficult medium for researchers to access, says Tarleton's Amy Castillo, periodicals and electronic resources librarian.

By digitizing the back issues of the local newspapers, researchers, students and everyday citizens will have quick, easy access to a wealth of historical data, including genealogical records such as marriage, birth and death notices, as well as advertisements, property transactions and editorials.

Once digitized, the 1882-1992 newspapers will be housed online in the Portal to Texas History digital library, maintained by the University of North Texas. The database provides an excellent digital home for researchers, historians and citizens of Texas to locate newspapers from various regions and counties across the state. The added Stephenville Empire and Stephenville Tribune papers will provide an additional dimension to events occurring in and around Erath County at the time.

"Digitization of these historic newspapers will greatly enhance access to anyone wishing to know more about our community and its history," Meredith said. "Anyone with an internet connection or a library card will be able to browse the papers or perform a quick keyword search to look for stories about specific people, places or events from the past."

Part of the digitization project will enhance the search capability of the newspapers, which will be scanned with optical character recognition (OCR) software to make each page indexed and keyword searchable.

"Both the Stephenville Public Library and Dick Smith Library receive requests to view articles from the newspaper," Castillo explained. "As the microfilm ages it will become even more fragile and susceptible to the elements. Digitizing the film now will allow them to be preserved for future generations."

Once completed, the digitized copies of the newspapers will be made available online to the public for free at <https://texashistory.unt.edu>. During the digitization process, some of the microfilm reels will not be available at the library.

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## 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 sixteen) - James P. Newcomb - 1863

#### FROM DURANGO TO MAZATLAN

[Dec]. 16th - We had traveled but four hours to-day before the order to halt was given, some of our party were quite dissatisfied with so short a day's travel, but the *Mayordomo* gave his reason which soon became apparent to us all: We have reached to the jumping off place and he wished to give his mules a good rest for the morning's arduous task. For the last five days we have been shut up in dark primeval forests, pursuing our rough path over heights and along ravines, but now we have reached the pinnacle to which we have been ascending ever since we left Durango, and in the morning will commence to descend. Our muleteers declare the road already passed, good; but, that to-morrow begins the bad; we consider we have had a terrible road, if to-morrow it is worse, what can we expect? *Nos veremos.*

By ascending a little eminence near camp and walking a short distance through the woods, I came upon one of the grandest and most sublime displays of mountain scenery I ever beheld; standing on a rocky peak I hung as it were over an abyss extending below me for thousands of feet, I may say for miles. I could see a stream which resembled a silver thread, and farms along its banks; it seemed I could throw a stone so that it would fall within their peaceful premises; for below hung white clouds, and the blue ether seemed to envelope me, and on every hand, rose mountain peak on mountain peak in awful wild sublimity, but from my lofty perch I could command them all; and far to the westward, the mountains sank away and the sun's slanting rays reflected from the Pacific's glassy wave - like Bilboa I stood transfixed in ecstasy and delight, experiencing I thought; some of the feeling he must have had on viewing the Pacific for the first time. From this place, although our destination in almost within the scope of our vision, it will take us seven days to reach it, and truly, when I cast my eyes over this rough vista, it seems the mountain barriers could never be passed!

17th. - We began his morning to descend from our lofty eminence and reached this place, Duraznito, about 2 o'clock p.m. Our road was a winding terrific stairway, of twelve miles; the glimpses of the grand and beautiful presented at every turn, filled me with awe and ecstasy. We have changed climates in the course of a few hours; this morning we were shivering from cold and now we seek the shade of the fig tree and bless the soft wind; peach trees are in bloom about us. This little place, is situated as it were on a shelf of the mountain by which it is shadowed; and still beneath it lies a deep gorge or valley. We are now in one of the finest gold and silver bearing regions in Mexico.

18th. - A short distance from Duraznito and at the foot of the mountain which was commence our days' journey, we found ripe blackberries; upon reaching the summit of the mountain we had a fine view; far beneath us was Duraznito, the smoke of its humble tile-roofed domicils ascending in spiral columns, and the deep valley still further down, and the grand mountains that seemed like the giants of creation, basking in the rosy dawn. Here is certainly mountain scenery unrivaled by any in the world, - the lakes of Switzerland are unnecessary - they would be but drops in the infinity of the natural grandeur about us. Our journey was as dangerous if not more so, than yesterday's; a narrow trail winding for the most part along the sides of immense mountains, is just wide enough to admit our mules single file, with tremendous heights rising perpendicularly

above us, and awful gulfs of space below us, one false step would cost a life. When I saw the baskets in which the little girls were carried, - one scraping against the mountain side and the other pending over an abyss, I often shuddered; but the little things had got used to and pleased with their conveyance, and were as happy as larks, and seemed more delighted than alarmed at the grand prospect about them. The sun was intensely hot whenever we were exposed to it, but for the most part we were protected by the shadow of the mountains around and over which we were winding, looking in comparison like a procession of ants upon the dome of St. Peter's, Rome. This tiresome and perilous road was cheered by the sound of laughing rivulets, and the breath of sweet flowers, there is some thing exquisitely pleasant about these mountain solitudes.

While in one of our most difficult passages, our muleteers urging forward their tired mules by cheers which echoed to the far depths and distant heights, the approach of another train was made known by answering shouts. Knowing the impossibility of passing us upon the steep, they rested in a little open space to await our passage; their mules were lying down groaning under their heavy loads and tight drawn girths, and showed evidently that they had had a hard day's travel (a mule when once down has to be helped upon his feet again.) On reaching *El Ojito*, a small ranch, a portion of our train camped, and all of our party with the exception of two were perfectly willing to stop, but the *Mayordomo* thinking we were dissatisfied, ordered the balance of the train to move on, causing a separation of our party; the mules were reeking with sweat and their tired legs, seemed to commence the forward march with reluctance, but our muleteers called out merrily and we passed on. We had traveled hardly an hour along a more fearful trail than ever, a portion of the road called *Buenos Aires*, when one of the mules lost his footing and fell, bounding down the mountain side as an India rubber ball would down a flight of stairs and dashing to pieces below. The train moved on as if nothing had happened, it not being an unusual occurrence, and camped for the night upon a level eminence a short distance further on. The *Mayordomo*, a couple of muleteers and some of the company returned to the scene of the disaster, to recover, if possible, some of the cargo and accouterments. The pack-saddle was first found lodged in the top of a lofty pine, (the sides of these mountains are generally covered with trees which serve to break the effect of their giddy heights;) The head of the mule was next found, and then portions of the body, in fact, the mule and cargo were strewn for more than a mile from the point where the accident occurred. Getting down was somewhat easy, swinging from cliff to cliff under the guidance of the old Mexican mountaineer, but ascending was quite a different thing. DR. G., a dentist who was among the party, attempted to take a straight shoot, disregarding the warning of the old Mexican. He climed well to within fifty feet of the path, when his strength began to fail and, casting his eyes down, he appreciated his perilous situation; below a terrible abyss, above almost a perpendicular height, he called for a rope and grasped the tufts of grass with hands and teeth; before a rope came, however, he rallied his strength and reached the trail, almost by a superhuman effort. It was a few moments of painful suspense to all present. The Dr. was a sober man after this feat, which was more than could be said before he performed it, - as *mescal* had been plentiful at the ranches passed.

We find it quite chilly, the glorious pine fires feel very comfortable.

19th. - Broke up camp early, and commenced our day's travel by ascending, as usual, and passing along more frightful cliffs, warily, from yesterday's accident. Passed *Piedra Gorda*, quite a ranch beyond which we came in view of a mountain called *El Pyramido*, or the pyramid; a magnificent freak of nature; the base is covered with dark woods, from which shoots up a shaft of solid bare stone, tapering gradually to the top; it is certainly grander than all the pyramids of Egypt combined.

As we descended, the climate became warmer and instead of pines, we passed through groves of flowering trees and lemon trees bending with yellow fruit. By mid-day we had reached the bottom of the gorge, or base as it were of the main range of the *Sierra Madre*, and on the banks of the stream which ran westward; our road wound along this stream crossing and recrossing it several times; camped at *Aguas-Calientes*. Before reaching camp we passed through some mud hut villages, and by *El Favor* where an *ataña* or *arrastra* was in operation, working silver ore. It is sunset, and thousands of parrots and

flocks of birds of beautiful plumage are floating down from the adjacent mountains to roost in the woods along the stream.

**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 and italics 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](mailto:genealogydesk@sanantonio.gov) by the deadline provided:

- January 2017 by December 15
- February 2017 by January 15
- March 2017 by February 15

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