

Cadena Files

Creator Sketch

Historian, genealogist, researcher Gloria Lillia Villa Cadena conducted primary Hispanic research using original civil and religious records housed throughout Texas and much of Mexico. Her research required not only the challenge of traveling but also the arduous task of deciphering Spanish handwriting from as far back as the 16th century. She is acknowledged as a scholar throughout Texas and the state of Mexico by professional historians. Cadena was passionate about Hispanic genealogy and establishing the lineages of the early settlers of Mexico and the area that is now known as South Texas. She happily shared her research with anyone interested in genealogy and in return accumulated the family records of many other Hispanic researchers. She was a founding member of Los Bexareños Genealogical Society which was organized in 1980 and whose purpose was the promotion and retention of Hispanic family history.

Cadena was born on 10 December 1926 and died on 9 October 2007 in San Antonio, Texas. She was a descendant of early Texas empresarios. In 1956, she was left widowed with eight children by Army Air Corps Captain Robert A. Galvan. She later married the Honorable Carlos C. Cadena, having one child to that union. As a relentless advocate of scholarship funding and programs she was an active member of El Patronatos, the Texas Historical Commission and the Bexar County Historical Commission.

Collection History

The Cadena Collection is comprised of thousands of Hispanic genealogical files and over five hundred books that were donated by her children to the Texana/Genealogy Department of the San Antonio Public Library after her death.

Scope and Content Note

The files consist of 49.5 cubic feet and 1,512 file folders, two file cabinets for Bexar County, 25.5 cubic feet and two for Mexico 24 cubic feet. The collection spans from the late 1500's to the early 1900's. The needed information reflects culture and population in Bexar County, surrounding communities, and several Mexican states. The majority of the collection covers Bexar County and Coahuila, Mexico.

Other Mexican States include: Chihuahua, Durango, Nuevo León, Revilla/Guerrero, Tamaulipas and Zacatecas.

Records go back in time to when the independent Republic of Mexico did not exist and Tejas and Coahuila were part of the United Mexican States.

The records are arranged by sixteen series; subject and description in alphabetical subject files divided by county and country then followed by cabinet, drawer and file number.

| Subject | Description | Cabinet | Drawer | File |
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The subject matters include: cemeteries, census records, church records, subseries: baptismals, confirmations, marriages, and deaths; court records, deeds, probates, testimonies, and wills; family group sheets and records; Hispanic history, genealogy, land and land grants, military information, photocopies of maps and newsletters, organizational information, pedigrees, personal correspondences, publications, vital records and an inclusive miscellaneous category on the attached sheets.