

# South Texas Researcher

*November 2013*

## Greetings!

Welcome to the new *South Texas Researcher*.

**Note:** the *South Texas Researcher* is also now available at <http://www.mysapl.org/texana.aspx> on the San Antonio Public Library's web site. Back files will soon be added.

This newsletter is produced to keep librarians, historians, archivists, genealogists, archaeologists, and those in other allied fields informed of what is going on that may be helpful in these fields so they may pass this information on to other interested parties in their locations.

*South Texas* is being broadly defined as beginning in Val Verde County in the west; moving east to Austin (Travis County); and then southeast through Caldwell, Lavaca, Jackson, and Calhoun counties to the Gulf of Mexico.

We are willing to include important events or acquisitions from other areas, in some instances, if they may be of particular usefulness to those in our area. News from our neighboring Mexican states of Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon, and Coahuila would also be welcome.

If you have items you or your organization would like others to know about, please e-mail us at [genealogydesk@sanantonio.gov](mailto:genealogydesk@sanantonio.gov).

*Please share this newsletter with others.*



## ***Texana/Genealogy Classes***

The following classes are held at the Central Library.  
600 Soledad Street

One hour free parking is available with a validated ticket.  
E-mail: [genealogydesk@sanantonio.gov](mailto:genealogydesk@sanantonio.gov)

Saturday, November 9 , 2013  
10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

## **Countdown to Eternity: JFK's Last Brooks AFB Visit on Space Exploration**

Rudy Purificato is an Air Force historian who was the last base historian at Brooks Air Force Base when it closed in 2002. He will discuss President Kennedy's visit to Brooks Air Force Base on November 21, 1963, mere hours before he was assassinated in Dallas the next day.

This class will be held in the Central Library auditorium.

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**Igo Library**  
13330 Kyle Seale Pkwy. \* 210.207.9080  
For more information, contact [Michelle Ricondo](#).

## **News and Calendar of Events**



**SOUTHWEST  
VAQUEROS**

**Southwest Vaqueros** is a Corral Chapter of Westerners International.

**Southwest Vaqueros** was founded by Al Lowman and his friends when he was a researcher and writer for the Institute of Texan Cultures. Among his friends were John Woodhull and Charlie Schreiner III. His personal library and collection are now housed in the Cushing Library at the TAMU campus.

**For the present we meet at 6:30 PM at Papa Dante's on the third Tuesday of every other month** since March and May. No dues are due for now, so the only cost is transportation and your wonderful meal. Tolerance of the elderly is appreciated at this time until we can chase up some younger mavericks... If you don't have a computer, call our irksome Sheriff (president) and Scribe (Secretary) at **210-418-4087** and it is reported that he checks his voicemail. His e-mail address is [jltolleson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jltolleson@sbcglobal.net).



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## Los Bexareños Genealogical and Historical Society

Meetings are normally held at 9:30 a.m. every first Saturday of the month on the first floor, Main Auditorium, of the San Antonio Public Library, 600 Soledad Street, San Antonio, Texas. 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.

### Help for the Beginning Genealogist

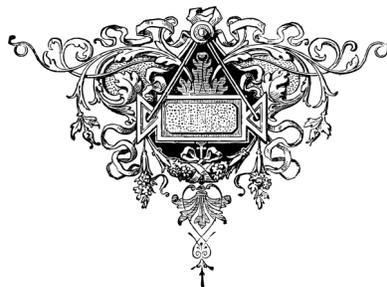
In November, 2009, the Society rented a building on the campus of Holy Rosary Parish to house our Library. The Parish is located at 159 Camino Santa Maria just north of Culebra Rd. The Library is manned by volunteers on Saturdays, except the 1st Saturday of the month. The hours are 10:00am to 2:00pm. There is no charge to use the Library and one need not be a member of the Society.

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  
[dennis.moreno@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dennis.moreno@sbcglobal.net)

Yolanda Patino  
210-434-3530  
[patinogil@sbcglobal.net](mailto:patinogil@sbcglobal.net)





## The 201st Fighter Squadron Mexico Joins the Fight in World War II

SAN ANTONIO - In May 1942, Nazi submarines sank two Mexican oil tankers. This provocation prompted Mexican President Manuel Avila Camacho to pledge support to the Allied forces and enter the war against Germany and Japan. In meetings with United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt, they determined the war effort could best be served with fighter pilots. The result: Recruitment and mustering of personnel for the 201st Fighter Squadron that became known as the "Aztec Eagles."

The story of this small unit of Mexican pilots, largely untold and overlooked in the history books, will be on display at the **Institute of Texan Cultures, Aug. 3, 2013 - Jan. 12, 2014**. "The 201st Fighter Squadron: Mexico Joins the Fight in WWII" is curated by UTSA Art Specialist Arturo Infante Almeida and developed by researcher and English Doctoral candidate Mario Longoria.

"The exhibit features the courageous Mexican volunteers who trained and fought alongside American servicemen during World War II, and offers a rare glimpse at a moment in history that reflects the enduring tenacity of the generation that saved the world," the joint statement from Almeida and Longoria reads.

In July 1944, the 201st Fuerza Aerea Expedicionaria Mexicana (Mexican Expeditionary Air Force) arrived for training at Randolph Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. The unit trained on various aircraft including the P-40 Warhawk and P-47 Thunderbolt fighter planes. The unit shipped to the Philippines in April 1945, assigned to the 58th fighter Group of the 5th United States Army Air Force.

The unit flew combat missions from Porac and Clark Air Fields on the island of Luzon. Major General Charles L. Mullins, Commander, 25th Infantry Division praised the 201st for the support they provided his troops. The unit sustained five casualties during their overseas service. In recognition of their service, members were awarded many decorations, including the Legion of Merit, the Air Medal, the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation, and the Mexican government's Far East Service Medal of Valor. The squadron has the distinction of being Mexico's only veterans of a foreign war in the nation's history.

"ITC is pleased to be partnering in the creation of this exhibit, highlighting the contributions of our Mexican allies in World War II," said Bryan Howard, director of exhibits at the museum. "The 201st trained in Texas for a period before joining our forces in the Pacific, but it's a story few Americans have ever heard. One of the last members of the squadron passed away not long ago here in Texas, so in a way, the history of the 201st isn't just one of U.S. and Mexican cooperation during the war, it's now part of our collective Texan heritage too."

The Institute of Texan Cultures is located on the UTSA HemisFair Park Campus, 801 E. César E. Chávez Blvd., a short distance from the Alamo and the River Walk. Regular hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Saturday; noon-5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$8 for adults (ages 12-64); \$7 for seniors (ages 65+); \$6 for children (ages 3-11); free with membership, UTSA or Alamo Colleges identification. For more information, call 210-458-2300 or visit [TexanCultures.com](http://TexanCultures.com).

## Research in Texana/Genealogy - German America

The following titles are available in the Texana Genealogy Department of the San Antonio Public Library. Items on microfilm. For the many books on Germans in America consult the Library catalogue.

### Texas

*Freie Presse fur Texas* (newspaper), San Antonio, 15 May 1865 - 19 October 1945

*San Antonio Zeitung* (newspaper), San Antonio, 5 July 1853 - 29 March 1856

*Texas Union* (newspaper), Galveston, 1860-1861, 1865-1867

*Texas Stern* (newspaper), German Conference of the Methodist Church in Texas - local, state, and national news in German. Monthly.

Roll 1: August 1913-Dec. 1924

Roll 2: Jan. 1925-Dec. 1942

### Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania German Society, Proceedings and Addresses, vols. 1-43 (1891-1934)

Pennsylvania German Folklore Society, vols. 3-24 (1938-1960)

### Revolutionary War

*Hessian Documents of the American Revolution*

#### ***Free American and Deutscher Weckruf und Beobachter***

*The Free American and Deutscher Weckruf und Beobachter* was the official organ of the German-American Bund and the German-American Business League. Published in New York, it carried National Socialist propaganda, news from Germany, and news from local Party groups. The issues on this microfilm cover the period **5 July 1935 through 11 December 1941**. Most of the newspaper is in German. However, as time went on, more and more is written in English. It sought to unite German Americans in a pro-Nazi stance.

## Research in Texana/Genealogy - War of 1812

### Periodicals (contemporary)

Military Monitor and American Register (NY): Aug. 1812-Apr. 1814

Niles National Register (D.C.): 1811-1849

Lancaster Journal (Lancaster, PA): 1796-1836

Lexington Gazette (KY): 1793-1844

Pittsburgh Gazette (PA): 1786-1834

## **Microfilm Collections**

American State Papers

Battle of Tippecanoe - Muster Rolls & Payroll of Militia & Regular Army, Nov. 1811  
(T1085)

Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served From 1784-1811 (M905)

Discharge certificates and miscellaneous records relating to the discharge of soldiers from  
the Regular Army, 1792-1815 (M1856)

Draper Manuscript Collection

Early American Orderly Books

General Orders and Circulars...War Department and Army Headquarters, 1809-1860  
(M1094)

Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served During the War of 1812  
(M602)

Index to records relating to War of 1812 prisoners of war (M1747)

Miscellaneous Lists and Papers Regarding Impressed Seamen, 1796-1814 (M1839)

Muster rolls and payrolls of militia and regular army organizations in the Battle of  
Tippecanoe, Nov. 1811 (T1085)

Records relating to War of 1812 prisoners of war (M2019)

Registers of Applications for the Release of Impressed Seamen, 1793-1802 (M2025)

Registers of Enlistments in the United States Army, 1798-1914 (M233)

War of 1812 Military Bounty Land Warrants, 1815-1858 (M848)

"War of 1812 Papers" of the Dept. of State, 1789-1815 (M588)

## **Museum News**

### **Witte Museum**

3801 Broadway

San Antonio, Texas 78209

(210) 357-1900

***The World Through Magic Lanterns***

*June 29, 2013 - June 30, 2014*

***Threads of South America: 2,000 Years of Textiles***  
*October 13, 2013 - March 31, 2014*

***Patriotism and Pageantry: Fiesta Honors the Military***  
*April 18, 2013 - January 6, 2014*

**McNay Art Museum**

6000 North New Braunfels  
San Antonio, Texas 78209  
(210) 824-5368

***CUT! Costume and the Cinema***  
*October 2, 2013 - January 19, 2014*

**San Antonio Museum of Art**

200 West Jones Ave.  
San Antonio, Texas 78215  
(210) 978-8100

***Danny Lyon: The Bikeriders***  
*September 7, 2013 - December 1, 2013*

***Lethal Beauty: Samurai Weapons and Armor***  
*September 28, 2013 - January 5, 2014*

***TX★ 13: Spotlight on Texas Artists  
in the Contemporary Collection***  
*September 5, 2013 - November 9, 2014*

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**Library Guides from Texana/Genealogy**

The Texana/Genealogy department now has a presence on the San Antonio Public Library's website, [www.mysapl.org](http://www.mysapl.org). Go to the website, click on "Services," and scroll down to Texana/Genealogy. There you will find our blog, back issues of the South Texas Researcher (directly at [www.mysapl.org/texana.aspx](http://www.mysapl.org/texana.aspx)), our upcoming classes, and some of our "guides."

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  
La Meri  
World War I (**New**)  
Hispanic Genealogical Research  
Jewish Genealogy  
King James Bible  
Local History  
Special Collections  
Texas History  
The Wild West

## 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. Classes are \$5.00 for members, \$10 for non-members Call 210.342.5242 for reservations or email to [saghs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:saghs@sbcglobal.net). Classes are held in the library annex, behind the library.

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 Library is located @ 911 Melissa Drive, off Blanco Rd., outside loop 410 and is open Monday 10-4, Wed. 10 am-9:00 pm, Sat. 10-4, Sunday 1-5. 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.rootsweb.com/~txsaghs2](http://www.rootsweb.com/~txsaghs2)

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## DO YOU HAVE A CONFEDERATE ANCESTOR?

The period 2010-2015 is being observed as the Sesquicentennial of the War Between the States.



Now is the time to join the Sons of Confederate Veterans and honor your ancestor and his heritage.

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## **The San Antonio Civil War Roundtable**

The San Antonio Civil War Roundtable (SACWRT) is a non-profit group that promotes the study of the American "Civil War." The Sesquicentennial of the War is being observed from 2010 to 2015. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month to discuss topics about the War. We meet at Grady's BBQ, 6510 San Pedro Avenue at the intersection with Jackson-Keller Road. The group gathers at 6 PM to eat and visit, with the speaker and discussion at 7:00 P.M.

We are seeking to grow the group by recruiting new members and speakers. Please visit one of the meetings to see if this group might be of interest to you. For further information contact Richard Brewer at 210-490-8827 or by email [rbrewer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rbrewer@sbcglobal.net).

We look forward to having you attend our meetings and become an active member.

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## **The Alamo City Guards Camp #1325 Meets on the first Thursday of the month at 6pm at Grady's Barbecue, 6510 San Pedro**

Visitors are always welcome. Come see if this may be an organization that interests you. Contact Commander Russ Lane, [alamocamp@yahoo.com](mailto:alamocamp@yahoo.com), 210-491-0676 for additional information and eligibility requirements or visit [www.alamocityguards.com](http://www.alamocityguards.com)

## **Websites**

### **FamilySearch.org adds records**

FamilySearch has recently added more than 2 million indexed records and images from Canada, England, and Russia. Notable collection updates include the 1,164,586 indexed records and images from the England, Norfolk Bishop's Transcripts, 1685-1941, collection, the 353,648 indexed records from the Canada, Ontario Marriages, 1869-1927, collection, and the 462,714 images from the new Russia, Tatarstan Church Books, 1721-1935, collection. See the table below for the full list of updates. Search these diverse collections and more than 3.5 billion other records for free at FamilySearch.org.

Searchable historic records are made available on FamilySearch.org through the help of thousands of volunteers from around the world. These volunteers transcribe (index) information from digital copies of handwritten records to make them easily searchable online. More volunteers are needed (particularly those who can read foreign languages) to keep pace with the large number of digital images being published online at FamilySearch.org. Learn more about volunteering to help provide free access to the world's historic genealogical records online at FamilySearch.org.

### **Genealogy Roadshow comes to Texas**

This recently-aired episode was videotaped in Austin, Texas, in the historic Driskill Hotel. Many of the stories revolved around Texas genealogy and history. One guest found she was a relative of, although not a descendant of, Sam Houston and also Texas' current governor, Rick Perry. Another found that her Tejano ancestor fought in the Texas Revolution. She also had her DNA tested and it indicated descent from Crypto Jews, one of the groups who settled in Mexico early in its colonial days. DNA obviously doesn't provide names, places, or dates, but does provide connections to documented ethnic groups.

Most of the guests are non-celebrities on Genealogy Roadshow, but this episode had one exception: Earl Campbell is a former National Football League running back. He won the Heisman Trophy, and was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame, the College Football Hall of Fame, and the High School Football Hall of Fame. He was the sixth of eleven children, raised in Tyler, Texas. His father died when Campbell was 11 years old and Earl Campbell knew little about his father or his father's ancestors. The professional genealogists of Genealogy Roadshow found information about Campbell's father's participation in D-Day in World War II, as well as about earlier ancestors who owned farms in Tyler.

## About Us

Texana / Genealogy  
San Antonio Public Library  
600 Soledad Street  
San Antonio, Texas 78205  
210.207.2500

Please submit information and articles to [genealogydesk@sanantonio.gov](mailto:genealogydesk@sanantonio.gov).

For: December 2013, by November 15

January 2014, by December 15

February 2014, by January 15