

# South Texas Researcher

December 2013

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, archæologists, 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 Auditorium.  
600 Soledad Street

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

Saturday, January 11 , 2014  
10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

## **Genealogy 101: Getting Started**

Learn how to begin un-puzzling your past in this introduction to genealogy. Get tips on where to start your research and the kind of genealogical goldmines you can unearth in courthouse records, church records, cemeteries, archives and even your own San Antonio Public Library!

Saturday, January 18 , 2014  
2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

## **Genealogy 101: Using SAPL Genealogy Databases**

Join us and learn how to access and navigate your way around various SAPL genealogy databases like Ancestry.com (Library Edition), Heritage Quest and others!

Saturday, January 25 , 2014  
10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

## **Genealogy 101: Understanding Census Records**

Learn how to read and interpret U.S. Census records from 1790-1940. Join us and see how they can be used to fill in the branches of your family tree!

Tuesday, January 7 , 2014  
2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

## **Computer Class at Central: Introduction to Familysearch.org**

This free genealogy database contains millions of digitized records for the United States and Mexico, as well as other countries from around the world. Join us and see how Familysearch can help you fill in the branches of your family tree.

This class will be in the new Connect Training area on the first floor.

### **Igo Library**

13330 Kyle Seale Pkwy.  
210-207-9080

For information about classes at Igo Library contact:  
Michelle Ricondo at [Michelle.Ricondo@sanantonio.gov](mailto:Michelle.Ricondo@sanantonio.gov)



On display in the Texana Room  
through December 2013

## The Texas Connection to the American Revolution



Approximately 10,000 head of cattle were herded by San Antonio vaqueros from the Missions and Ranches situated in El Rincon, the area between the Cibolo and San Antonio Rivers. They were driven to Goliad (La Bahia), on to Nacogdoches, then to Natchitoches, and finally to Opelousas. From there they were ferried up the Mississippi River, to the Ohio River, and into Pennsylvania or down the Mississippi River to New Orleans and used in support of American Army.

## News and Calendar of Events

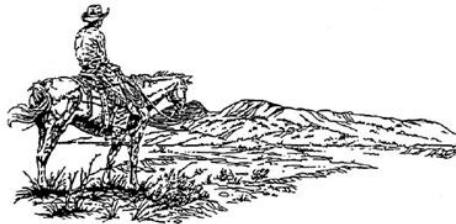


### SOUTHWEST VAQUEROS

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.

### For the December Meeting:

Date: December 7, 2013

Speaker: Art Martinez de Vara

Topic: His new book "The History and Records of San Patricio de Bexar Church at Bexar, Texas"

San Patricio de Bexar Church at Bexar (near present-day Somerset, Texas) began as the Catholic mission to Atascosa and Frio Counties. Located on the Kinney Ranch in South Bexar County, it served the coal mining communities of Bexar and La Colorada. With the arrival of the Artesian Belt Railroad, the town of Bexar declined as its population moved two miles east to Somerset. Many of the early families of Atascosa and South Bexar Counties are contained among these books in nearly 10,000 entries, including the Ruiz, Herrera, Navarro, Cotulla, Lytle, Casias, Kinney, Hayden, Barker and Vara families. This volume contains the complete records of San Patricio de Bexar, plus a modern survey of its cemetery, an 1876 mission census of Atascosa County and a detailed history of the community.

Art Martinez de Vara is the current mayor of Von Ormy, Texas.

## Help for the beginning genealogist

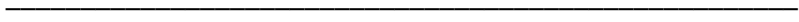
In November, 2009, the Society rented a building on the campus of Holy Rosary Parish to house our Library. The Parish is located at 159 Camino Santa Maria just north of Culebra Rd. The Library is manned by volunteers on Saturdays, except the 1st Saturday of the month. The hours are 10:00am to 2:00pm. 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

## Illinois Historical Collections

Illinois Historical Collections, also called Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library, are a series of scholarly volumes on a variety of topics related to Illinois history published by the Illinois State Historical Library. Each volume deals with one or more topics. While some volumes in this series have been digitized, most are only available in print or this microfilm.

- Volume 1. [Miscellaneous Documents, ca. 1672-1779]. - A compilation of primary sources related to LaSalle, Marquette, Hennepin, deTonty, George Rogers Clark and others.
- Volume 2. Virginia Series, Volume I: Cahokia Records, 1778-1790.
- Volume 3. Lincoln Series, Volume I: Lincoln-Douglas Debates, 1858.
- Volume 4. Executive Series, Volume I: Governors' Letter Books, 1818-1834.
- Volume 5. Virginia Series, Volume II: Kaskaskia Records, 1778-1790.
- Volume 6. Bibliographical Series, Volume I: Newspapers and Periodicals of Illinois, 1814-1879.
- Volume 7. Executive Series, Volume II: Governors' Letter Book, 1840-1853.
- Volume 8. Virginia Series, Volume III: George Rodgers Clark Papers, 1771-1790.
- Volume 9. Bibliographical Series, Volume II: Travel and Description, 1765-1865; County Histories, Atlases and Biographical Collections: Territorial and State Laws, 1788-1913.
- Volume 10. British Series, Volume I: The Critical Period: 1763-1765.
- Volume 11. British Series, Volume II: The New Régime: 1765-1767.
- Volume 12. Bibliographical Series, Volume III: The County Archives of the State of Illinois.
- Volume 13. Constitutional Series, Volume I: Illinois Constitutions, 1818-1870.
- Volume 14. Constitutional Series, Volume II: The Constitutional Debates of 1847.
- Volume 15. Biographical Series, Volume I: Governor Edward Coles.
  
- Volume 16. British Series, Volume III: Trade and Politics, 1767-1769.
- Volume 17. Law Series, Volume I: The Laws of the Northwest Territory, 1788-1800.
- Volume 18. Illinois Election Returns, 1818-1848.
- Volume 19. Virginia Series, Volume IV: George Rogers Clark Papers, 1781-1784.
- Volume 20. Lincoln Series, Volume II: The Diary of Orville Hickman Browning, Volume I: 1850-1864.
- Volume 21. Law Series, Volume II: The Laws of Indiana Territory, 1801-1809.
- Volume 22. Lincoln Series, Volume III: The Diary of Orville Hickman Browning, Volume II: 1865-1881.

Volume 23. French Series, Volume I: The French Foundations, 1680-1693.

Volume 24. Statistical Series, Volume II: Illinois Census Returns, 1810, 1818.

Volume 25. Law Series, Volume V: The Laws of Illinois Territory, 1809-1818.

## 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.rootsworld.com/~txsaghs2](http://www.rootsworld.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

# Ancestry Library Edition adds Texas birth and death certificates

Ancestry Library Edition has recently added 2,285,125 Texas birth certificates between the years of 1903 and 1932 along with 4,676,740 Texas death certificates between 1903 and 1982. These records just came online on November 19, 2013. In addition, Ancestry has added 7,361,103 records to the recently added Texas Divorces Index, which now goes up to 2011.

Ancestry Library Edition is free to use in the Central Library or any of the library branches. Due to contractual stipulations, however, it is not available on our website.

## 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: January 2014, by December 15

February 2014, by January 15