

South Texas Researcher

January 2014

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.

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

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 - 4:00 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 Classes at Central: Choosing Genealogy Software

The development of genealogy software has made it much easier to keep track of genealogical information. The class covers a variety of free and retail software and their features. You will learn about basic functions and reports generated by these programs to see which one is right for you.

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

Tuesday, February 4, 2014
2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Ancestry Library

One of the most popular genealogy databases available today, Ancestry (LE) is made available - for FREE - at all SAPL libraries. This class will look at how the site is organized and effective search techniques. It will be compared with HeritageQuest Online and Fold3.com for content and

easy of searching. How to print records will also be discussed. Join us in learning how to find your ancestors using this powerful database.

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

Tuesday, January 21, 2014
2:00 - 3:15 p.m.

Forgotten Genealogy Resources: WorldCat & Library Catalogs

Genealogists will learn how best to navigate and utilize the vast bibliographic database WorldCat which includes the holding of over 9,000 libraries in the US and abroad. Participants will also learn about the treasures awaiting researchers through online catalogs.

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.



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.

Installation of Officers Banquet 2014

Date: Sunday, Jan 26, 2014

12:00 - 3:30 pm

Location: Ft Sam Houston Golf Club

1050 Harry Wurzbach Rd

San Antonio, Texas

Speaker: To be Announced

Schedule:

Noon to 12:30 - Socializing

12:30 to 1:00 - Luncheon buffet

Menu: Baked Chicken and Roast Beef

Fresh Garden Salad

Oven-Roasted Potatoes

Green Bean Almondine

Hot Rolls with Butter

Iced Tea, Water, Coffee

1:45 - 3:30 - Banquet Program

Cost per person: \$23.00

Deadline: Wednesday, Jan 15, 2014

Send payment (payable to Los Bexarenos) with list of attending individuals to
Los Bexarenos Genealogical and Historical Society
P.O. Box 1935
San Antonio, TX 78297-1935

Banquet Raffle Event

Tickets for the raffle will be on sale at the door but you may purchase tickets before then by contacting Olga López-Hickey at 210-492-1699 or by e-mail olhickey@yahoo.com. The tickets for the Raffle are \$5.00 a chance and you don't have to be present to win. Five fabulous items are being raffled:

- A gift basket containing imported products from Spain: 3 Spanish wines, and various Spanish treats. The value of this prize \$60.
- From the "Tejano Historical Poster Series": A framed poster of Col. Juan Seguin valued at \$100.
- Dinner for two at "The Palm" located at 233 E. Houston Street in downtown San Antonio. The Palm is considered one of the best steakhouses in the country as well as known for other fine items on its menu. The value of this prize is \$130.
- An original still-life painting in acrylics, by Ms. Maria Ester Valero, a well-known local artist from San Antonio. Ms. Valero is primarily a still-life artist who studied at The Copini Academy of Fine Arts in San Antonio where she received several honors for her work, such as artist of the month and artist of the year. Her works are exhibited in art galleries in Houston, Austin and San Antonio. This painting by Ms. Valero is valued at \$450.00.
- A print signed and numbered titled: "Act of Thanksgiving" by the renowned historian and illustrator of Spanish Southwest history, Jose Cisnero (1910-2009). Mr. Cisnero is considered by colleagues, art collectors, historians, and political leaders as the most influential artist ever to come out of the Southwest. The print we are raffling has a value of \$1,000.00.

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

Yolanda Patino
210-434-3530
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.

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

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

Fray Antonio Margil de Jesús: "Patron Saint of Texas"

October 12, 2013 - March 23, 2014

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

Library Guides from Texana/Genealogy

The Texana/Genealogy department now has a presence on the San Antonio Public Library's website, 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), 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. 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

Cadena Hispanic Genealogical Collection Now Available for Research in Texana/Genealogy

Historian, genealogist, researcher Gloria Lillia Villa Cadena conducted primary Hispanic research from original records. The field work required that she meet with the challenges of traveling to research in Mexico and throughout Texas and having to decipher the archival Spanish language and handwriting. She did this with a passion to fulfill the much needed job of recording Hispanic family genealogy and history and share it with fellow researchers. The research was conducted over a period of many years. Cadena was a prominent founding member of Los Bexarenos Genealogical Society, which began with her inception in 1980, promoting ancestral research and Hispanic history. Along the way, other researchers donated their records to her, and now they are part of this collection. Preserving the genealogical information reflecting the Hispanic culture was an obsession met with a delightful zeal leaving a legacy and inspiring others to conduct research on their family heritage.

The Cadena Hispanic Genealogical Collection of books and research files were donated by her children to the Texana/Genealogy Department of the San Antonio Public Library after she passed in 2007.

The files consist of 49.5 cubic feet and 1,512 file folders, two file cabinets for Bexar County and two for Mexico. The collection spans from the late 1500's to the early 1900's. The much 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.

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

Included are cemeteries, census records, church records, (sub-series: baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and deaths; court records, (deeds, probates, testimonies, and wills; family group sheets and records; Hispanic (history and 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.

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.

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.

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

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, 210-491-0676 for additional information and eligibility requirements or visit www.alamocityguards.com

Websites

[ScotlandsPeople](#)

Scottish records of births from 1913, marriages from 1938 and deaths from 1963 went online for the first time Jan. 1, 2014.

Almost 222,000 images of birth, marriage and death records will be made available to family

history researchers, including those of well-known people and unusual stories.

Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs Fiona Hyslop said:

"These new images, and the stories they tell about Scotland's history, demonstrate the rich variety of information we have in our records.

"The new images of records represent a new chapter of Scotland's story now available to the public. I'd urge anyone who is interested in finding out more about their history, or that of their family or the place where they live, to have a look at the wealth of records now available as part of our wonderful online resources."

Michigan State University Library Guide

Michigan State University has compiled a long list of historic and current newspapers, complete with links to each database. Some of the databases are available free of charge while others are hosted at commercial sites that charge hefty fees.

Some of the databases listed include 19th Century U.S. Newspapers via Gale, America's Historical Newspapers - 1741-1922, Civil War: A Newspaper Perspective via Accessible Archives (more than 2,500 issues of The New York Herald, The Charleston Mercury and the Richmond Enquirer, published between November 1, 1860 and April 15, 1865), and many, many more. The collection includes newspapers from large cities (New York Times - 1851-2009) and small towns (Indiana Farmer - 1851-1917) alike.

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.

For: February 2014, by January 15

March 2014, by February 15