



## South Texas Researcher

December 2015

### 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	12:00pm - 8:00 pm
Wednesday	9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Thursday	12:00pm - 8:00 pm
Friday	9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday	9:00 am - 5:00 pm

**As of October 1, 2015, these hours apply to the entirety of the sixth floor, as well as the Texana Department. Outside of these hours, you may request back issues of periodicals and genealogy books (other than those in the Texana Room) at the circulation desk on the first floor and they will be retrieved and brought downstairs for you.**



#### 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

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## Events & Classes

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### **Beginning Genealogy Online Resources**

Learn how to get started doing your family history research online. We will discuss free databases you can access from home as well as library use only databases.

Registration is required



**Tuesday, 1 December 2015 at 2:00 p.m.**

### **Central Library**

600 Soledad Street 78205

Call 210.207.2500 for more information. (Ask for Texana)

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## Decorating Your Family History Tree

Join us and learn how to start decorating your family tree! Get tips on where to start your research and learn about the information you'll find in courthouses, cemeteries, archives and even your own San Antonio Public Library!  
Registration is required

**Thurs., 3 December 2015 at 6:30 p.m.**



### **Central Library - Texana Room**

600 Soledad Street

Call 210.207.2500 for more information. (Ask for Texana)

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## New Publications



Rankin County, Mississippi Cemetery Records, 1824-1980  
(GENEALOGY 976.2 RANKIN)

Freddie Steinmark: Faith, Family, Football  
(TEXANA 796.332 STEINMARK BIO)

Journey to Texas, 1883  
(TEXANA 976.403 DUNT)

Bexar County, Texas Voter Registration, 1865 & 1867-1869  
(TEXANA 976.435 ALLEY)

Bexar County, Texas District Court Minutes, 1838-1848  
(TEXANA 976.435 JOYCE)

Bexar County Texas Confederate Pension Records: Annotated Abstractions of the First 325 Accepted Applications  
(TEXANA 976.435 MASSEY)

San Antonio, Texas Sexton Burial Records, 1892-1900  
(TEXANA 976.4351 SEXTON)

Historical Montage of Tom Green County  
(TEXANA 976.4721 HISTORICAL)

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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.

#### **For the December Meeting**

**Date:** December 5, 2015

**Speaker:** In Charge of the Officers

**Topic:** Los Bexareños: Moments in Time

Program will consist of an exhibit of photographs of Los Bexareños' activities and events over the past 32 years and includes photos of many of our members. Program will also recognize Norberto Martinez, Los Bexareños Historian.

The Monthly Highlight will be a brief presentation on the Urrutia, De La Fuente and De Cepeda families presented by President Eleanor Foreman.

Norberto was born on the Birdeye Dairy Farm which was located off Tank Hallow

Road about 6 miles southwest of Poteet, Texas (The Strawberry Capital of Texas).

His parents were Norberto Garza Martinez and Sasha (Elizabeth) Anderson Wilborn.

His first year and a half of elementary school was at Jourdanton, Texas.

In late 1947 his parents moved into the Poteet School District. Along with his brother Rosendo, his four sisters; Esmeralda, Amelia, Mary Jane, Elizabeth and his two adopted cousins, Evangeline and Rosemary Hernandez, he enrolled in that school district and graduated in May of 1959.

Mr. Martinez had been curious about his family history since he was a teenager but it was not until his high school years that he became real interested in family history when he discovered that he had some local second and third cousins. Although he had known them most of his life he was not aware they were related. He found out about it when they would meet at funerals or weddings. This led him to want to learn a lot more about his family but he had to postpone the quest to attend to the matters of making a living for himself. Upon graduation from Poteet High School in May 1959, he and a first cousin, Rodolfo Martinez decided to enlist together in the United States Air Force in order to "see the world." After completing his four year tour of duty in the Air Force, he was persuaded by another cousin, Johnny Joe Martinez to enroll at San Antonio College the fall of 1963. By the summer of 1965, he had almost completed his Associate Degree requirements and was getting ready to look for a job. Fortunately, the National Defense Loan Program became available and so did the Cold War G. I. Bill for assistance in education. This enabled him to enroll at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas from which he graduated in May 1967 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. This qualified him to get a job teaching Social Studies at the Jr. High level in his hometown of Poteet, Texas where he worked from 1967-1973. He then became interested in teaching Special Education and went to the Poth ISD Jr. High for the 1973-74 school year. In the summer of 1974 he enrolled at Texas A & I University to get his certification in Special Education and completed it during the fall of that year. In the meantime, he got a position teaching Special Education at Collier Elementary School in the Harlandale School District. This is where he met his wife Oralia Martinez who was a Jr. High French and Spanish Teacher. Oralia died in 2004. They have a daughter Imelda Gloria who is a teacher in Spain.

But in the meantime, whatever became of his efforts to find more about his family tree? Well, by 1986, the best he could do was ask the old timers in his family who gave him information going back to his great great-grandparents on both sides of his family tree. There he stayed, immovable for a long time until the spring of 1987 when he heard about the Bexareños Genealogical Society. He became a member and before long with the help of the friendly members, he made some amazing discoveries on his father's side of the family. Among many other ancestors, he found some famous ones from Bernardo Gutierrez De Lara, first President of Texas to Alfonso, son of King Ferdinand of Spain. It is to be noted that King Ferdinand was a descendant of William the Conqueror of England, of El Cid of Spain and Charlemagne of the Holy Roman Empire, Germany as well as many other kings and queens of Europe. Mr. Martinez accomplished these finding in a few short months thanks entirely to the great generosity of some of the Bexareños members who willingly shared their family tree research. This meant that when his family tree linked up

their tree he found a bunch of instant primos and primas that he didn't know he had. And to think that he got all this valuable information from sharing information with the members.

In June 1987, he was invited to become the Historian for the Bexareños. Mr. Martinez was so grateful for all the help that he had received for his family tree that he gladly accepted the position as a way of giving back to the organization. His intend was to keep the position for two or three years but he has remained in that position ever since. Why is this so? Mr. Martinez says that in addition to mingling monthly with the friendly and helpful members of the organization, he keeps on learning continuously from the monthly guest speakers who often present interesting and amazing facts that have been forgotten, ignored or distorted. It was through one of these presentations that he was able to break down a wall so to speak on his mother's side of the family. He learned that a direct Welborn ancestor left Wales, England in 1608 on the ship Sea-Venture with the intention of landing at Jamestown on the east coast of what was to become New England. Unfortunately, they ran into a hurricane that blew them of course and they landed somewhere around the Bermuda Islands. They repaired the ship, set sail again and finally landed at Jamestown in May of 1609. This was about 11 years before the famous puritans/pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock in 1620. William Shakespeare wrote a play about this shipwreck and called it the Tempest.

In brief, Mr. Martinez has made connections to Spain, Portugal, France, Jerusalem, Denmark, Turkey, Poland, England, Scotland and Italy, all thanks to the information acquired at Los Bexareños meetings and from the members. Mr. Martinez invites you to come and see for yourself at one of the meeting's. No one can guarantee that you'll discover all your ancestors by comparing and sharing notes with members but he thinks that you will also like mingling with them. And who knows, some of them might turn out to be distant primos and primas that you didn't know you had. He hopes to see you at the meetings real soon.

### **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:



### **Southwest Vaqueros Third Tuesday Meetings**

### **SOUTHWEST VAQUEROS**

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. Southwest Vaqueros is a Corral of [Westerners International](#).

### **Third Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm**

Papa Dante's Italian Restaurant  
8607 FM 1976  
Converse, TX 78109

Call 210.418.4087 or email [jtolleson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jtolleson@sbcglobal.net) for more information.



### **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)



## Los Tejanos

[The Institute of Texan Cultures](#)

presents an exhibit on the Tejano experience.

A thematic approach to 500 years of history, the exhibit draws upon major themes in Tejano life: migration, making a living, struggles for inclusion, and cultural traditions.



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## Our Part of Victory

[The Institute of Texan Cultures](#)

September 2, 2015 - December 7, 2016

September 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. Along with a massive civilian effort on the home front, some 750,000 Texans served during the war. This pivotal point in history shaped the direction of future global development, and brought great changes to Texas. "Our Part of Victory" explores the role of Texans during World War II, and sheds light on the impact it had on the Lone Star State.



Texas was a major supplier of war materials, including aircraft and ships. Some Texans, such as Audie Murphy and Dorie Miller were lauded for heroism, while others simply carried on the fight. Hundreds of pilots from allied nations trained in Texas. On the home front, thousands of Texas women worked in factories, while Boy Scouts and other youth organizations organized scrap drives for vital war materials. Through artifacts, images, anecdotes, and audio and video clips, Our Part of Victory will chronicle lesser known Texas involvements and contributions to World War II.



<b>Bodies Revealed</b> through 31 January 2016	<b>Miró: The Experience of Seeing</b> 30 September 2015 - 10 January 2016	<b>28 Chinese</b> 5 September 2015 - 3 January 2016
<b>Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed</b> opens May 2016	<b>Picasso, Braque and the Cubist Legacy: Prints and Drawings from the Collection</b> 21 October 2015 - 24 January 2016	<b>Realms of Earth and Sky: Indian Painting from the 15th to the 19th Century</b> 6 November 2015 - 14 February 2016
	<b>Stephen Westfall: The Holy Forest</b> 6 August 2015 - 31 July 2016	<b>Corita Kent and the Language of Pop</b> 13 February - 8 May 2016

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## News

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### Records of former Governor Rick Perry now available

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission has received the official records of the Governor Rick Perry's term, 2000-2015, in paper and/or electronic format. *(Not all records are available in digital format.)* These records include the following divisions of the Office of Governor Rick Perry: Executive; Scheduling; Governor's Mansion; General Counsel; Office of the First Lady; Appointments; Legislative; Press; Budget, Planning and Policy; Correspondence; Internal Audit; Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities; Texas Music Office; Economic Development and Tourist Development; Texas Film Commission and the Governor's Commission for Women.

The records are currently being processed by archives staff and finding aids will be listed as they are completed. Many of the records of Governor Rick Perry's administration contain restricted information under the **Texas Public Information Act** and must be reviewed by an archivist before they can be released to the public.

## Was the first Thanksgiving in Florida?

Did the first Thanksgiving held in the New World happen in Saint Augustine, Florida on September 8, 1565? One person with significant credentials in history claims Thanksgiving started decades before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock.

"The first Thanksgiving that involved a feast and lots of local food and inviting the local people, the Timacuan Indians here in St. Augustine to be part of it, and that's our Thanksgiving," says Kathleen Deagan, Ph.D., the distinguished research curator emerita at the Florida Museum of Natural History at the University of Florida. "Most of us associate our early history and our founders of the English colonies of Jamestown and of Plymouth, and really the first settlement was here in St. Augustine in 1565."

Dr. Deagan continues, "It never ceases to astonish people the first thanksgiving meal was smoked meat and fish. Ham. Garbanzo beans. Red Wine. Olives and Olive oil. There wasn't any corn as far as we know, no turkeys, no mashed potatoes, no pecan pie for sure!"

After Juan Ponce de Leon discovered the peninsula, named it La Florida ("Land of Flowers") and claimed it for Spain in 1513, King Philip II named Spanish Adm. Pedro Menendez de Aviles governor of Florida and commissioned him to establish a permanent settlement and gain control of the territory. Menendez landed in Florida on September 4, 1565. He named his landing spot San Agustin (St. Augustine) in honor of the saint upon whose feast day, Aug. 28, he had first sighted land near Cape Canaveral.

Menendez was accompanied by several hundred soldiers, sailors and civilians. One man in the group was a secular priest named Francisco Lopez de Mendoza Grajales, who not only was the fleet's spiritual leader, but also kept a log describing the historic passage and landing.

"On Saturday the 8th, the general landed with many banners spread, to the sounds of trumpets and salutes of artillery," according to a translation of what Father Lopez wrote. "As I had gone ashore the evening before, I took a cross and went to meet him, singing the hymn 'Te Deum Laudamus.' The general, followed by all who accompanied him, marched up to the cross, knelt and kissed it. A large number of Indians watched these proceedings and imitated all they saw done."

Afterward, Menendez held the first Thanksgiving feast.

## 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?



## From the Archives

### Secession Times in Texas (part six) - James P. Newcomb - 1863

#### THE GERMANS OF WESTERN TEXAS

The foreign vote was the large element in the Democratic party, but let it be placed to the credit of the noble Germans of Western Texas, that they were loyal to the Union, and have suffered terrible persecution in consequence, and being a believer in the doctrine of "Americans ruling America" from what I have seen, I think the Germans the only foreigners, as a mass, safe to trust citizenship with.

You have followed me thus far, in this truly lamentable history, and now I will return to some of the intermediate events.

#### THE BAYLOR RAID

Before the call for a convention was made, there were a few rash men to premeditated forcing Texas out of the Union, without resorting to the humbug of conventions. Capt. John Baylor, a bad man, with a murderous reputation, raised three or four hundred men, in the norther counties, with the avowed object of making a decent missaries, ordnance, arms &c., guarding which was a small U. S. force.

The citizens of San Antonio flew to arms to repel the invasion, and Gen. Twiggs was forced to make a show of resistance, by ordering in reinforcements from the frontier

posts, but before they reached the city, the "Knights of the Golden Circle" petitioned Ge. Twiggs to countermand his order, representing that the presence of so many troops in the city might lead to disastrous consequences. The old traitor took this excuse and did countermand his order. But Baylor subsided, not caring to try his luck against the wide-awake San Antonians. It is only to be regretted that he did not make the attempt - a few drops of blood then, might have prevented the deluge since.

### SURRENDER OF THE U. S. POSTS AND PROPERTY

The first convention, disregarding the fact that the people had not yet voted on secession, appointed a "committee of public safety" with secret instructions, this committee appointed commissioners to treat with Gen. Twiggs for the surrender of the U.S. posts and property. Twiggs required them to back their authority with some show of force, merely as a matter of form. The "committee of public safety" commissioned Ben McCullough\* [sic] to do the job; and on the morning of the 16th of February, 1861, the good people of San Antonio were awakened by the yells of Ben McCullough and three or four hundred "Knights" who had ridden into town and formed on the main square. One two or [sic] citizen companies turned out, and acted as a police force. The commissioners opened negotiations with Twiggs, Ben. having surrounded the arsenal where the U.S. soldiers had prepared to fight. The Alamo, comprising the Quarter Master's Department, had been captured early in the morning, by a man by the name of Edgar, a clerk in the department, at the head of some city "Knights", there being no one to oppose them. The agreement between Twiggs and the commissioners was, that the posts be surrendered and the troops march out of the State by way of the coast, with all the honors of war. In this agreement the commissioners said:

"It is the desire of the Commission, that there shall be no infraction of this agreement on the part of the State. It is the wish, on the contrary, that every facility shall be offered the troops. They are our friends. They have heretofore afforded to our people all the protection in their power, and we owe them every consideration."

Twiggs would have made a more shameful surrender had he not feared an outbreak of the troops. On the evening of the 16th, the U. S. garrison, consisting of two skeleton companies under command of Captains King and Smith, vacated their quarters, and marched out of the city, accompanied by a large concourse of citizens. There was a profound sensation among the people, strong men wept and hung their heads in shame, as the old flag disappeared and the national music sunk away in the distance. After which the city sank into a sullen gloom.

As company after company passed through San Antonio for the coast, the citizen turned out and received them kindly, demonstrating their true feelings. While waiting at the coast for transportation, Earl Van Dorn, fresh from the hot bed of treason, with a commission from Jeff Davis in his pocket, appeared among his old companions in

arms, offering them brilliant inducements to desert the flag they had sworn to protect, and which he had so dastardly betrayed. But all honor to those brave men, not one budged from the ranks; and afterwards when crowded together on two little schooners, they were surrounded by armed steamers and an overwhelming force commanded by Van Dorn, and compelled to surrender, they threw their arms overboard and wept that they had no chance to fight. After the surrender of the tropas at Saluria, Van Dorn came to San Antonio, and with a force of about 15,000 men, met Col. Reeve with a command of three hundred, on their way to the coast, a few miles west of the city, and demanded his surrender. Reeves surrendered. And thus was the lighted faith of Texas violated and trampled upon.

### BURNING OF THE "ALAMO EXPRESS"

On the 13th of May, 1861, four days after the surrender of Col. Reeves, I issued an "extra" giving an account of the surrender, and some strictures on the perfidy of the whole transaction; the town was full of Confederate rangers, and at midnight on the same day, a mob destroyed the press and material and then set fire to the building. The alarm of fire was given and the city engines, and people turned out, but to no purpose. The morning light displayed the charred ruins of the "Alamo Express," the last Union paper in Texas. This caused great excitement, and for fear of retaliation, the secession offices were guarded. Shortly after this, a plot for the hanging and banishment of one hundred and fifty of the most prominent citizens, was discovered, and the Confederate commander was compelled to withdraw the troops for fear of a collision.

### PERSONAL

The next day after the destruction of my office, at the solicitation of some friends I left the city for the Rio Grande, announcing that I should be back again in two weeks. I did not leave clandestinely, but in broad day-light, in the presence of friends and foes. In returning from the Rio Grande, every one I met warned me not to go into San Antonio, as the secessionists would hang me, that they were sorry they had let me go before. Near Castroville, I met Baylor's troops on their way to New Mexico; I had an only brother and many acquaintances in this expedition, who broke ranks and gave me a kind good-bye; poor fellows, many of them found graves in the sands of New Mexico.

I have thus passed rapidly over a period, full of thrilling events, which if given in detail, would make a very interesting volume.

The man who prophesies even at this day, the end of the present troubles, risks his reputation for sanity, but if there be any certainty in Heaven or on earth, the present Southern Confederacy must perish - it is founded on no principle of liberty or right - it is the work of satanic ambition, and terrible will be its end.

\* McCulloch was killed at "Pea Ridge."

### 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 2016 by December 15
- February 2016 by January 15
- March 2016 by February 15

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

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