



## South Texas Researcher

February 2016

### 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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### Access Newspaper Archive

Interested in looking for genealogy clues in old newspapers? Worried about how time consuming that might be? Join us and discover how the Access Newspaper Archive database makes it easier to research newspapers and find interesting family history.

Registration is required.

Tuesday, 2 February 2016 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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## African American Genealogy

Interested in looking for your African American roots? Wondering how to begin? Join us and discover how to start the journey. Find out what databases, books and resources are out there to help you uncover your family history.

Registration is required.

**Tuesday, 25 February 2016 at 6:00 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

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Research in New York City, Long Island, and Westchester County  
GENEALOGY 974.7 DEGRAZIA

Buckingham County, VA Natives Who Died Elsewhere, 1853-1896  
GENEALOGY 975.5 BUCKINGHAM

Lunenburg County, Virginia Land Taxes, Vols. 1-10  
GENEALOGY 975.5 LUNENBURG

Lunenburg County, VA Guardian Accounts, 1828-1851  
GENEALOGY 975.5 LUNENBURG

Veteran Burials in the State of Oklahoma  
GENEALOGY 976.6 VETERAN

Marriage and Death Notices from Columbia, SC Newspapers, 1792-1839  
GENEALOGY 975.7 MARRIAGE

Cemeteries of Henry County, Georgia

GENEALOGY 975.8 HENRY

Miller's Cove Baptist Church Minutes, Walland, Blount County, Tennessee, 1812-1824

GENEALOGY 976.8 BLOUNT

Carter County, TN Marriage Records, 1796-1870

GENEALOGY 976.8 CARTER

Dayton, Tennessee Newspapers, Vols. 1-9

GENEALOGY 976.8 RHEA

Shelby County, TN Newspaper Abstracts through 1859

GENEALOGY 976.8 SHELBY

Callaway County, MO Marriage Records, 1836-1855

GENEALOGY 977.8 CALLAWAY

Callaway County, MO Minors and Guardians, 1821-1854

GENEALOGY 977.8 CALLAWAY

Southwest City, Missouri Cemetery and Some Records of the Nichols Brothers Funeral Home

GENEALOGY 977.8 MCDONALD

Chatauqua County, KS Marriages, Vols. 1-3

GENEALOGY 978.1 CHATAUQUA V. 1

Obituaries from the Wichita Beacon Daily Evening Newspaper, Wichita, KS: Nov. 2, 1885 - June 11, 1886

GENEALOGY 978.1 SEDGWICK

New Mexico Military Institute Alumni Directory

GENEALOGY 978.9 ALUMNI

The Cowman & His Philosophy

TEXANA 818.5202 ADAMS

Unbranded: Four Men and Sixteen Mustangs: Three Thousand Miles Across the American West

TEXANA 917.80434 MASTERS

Tattooed On My Soul: Texas Veterans Remember World War II

TEXANA 940.54817 TATTOOED

Here's Yer Mule: The Diary of Thomas C. Smith  
TEXANA 973.782 SMITH

The Dawson Men of Fayette County  
TEXANA VAULT 976.4251 WADE

Hansford County, Texas: Covering the Lives of Its Citizens, Their Hopes, Dreams,  
Failures and Successes  
TEXANA 976.4814 HANSFORD

Panhandle Plains Memories: The Early years: 1800's - 1939  
TEXANA 976.482 PANHANDLE

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## Community Partners



### **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.

**Date:** February 6, 2015

**Speaker:** Santiago Escobedo

**Topic:** Explaining the Battle of the Alamo

Mr. Santiago Escobedo is a retired postal clerk who maintained a parallel academic career with the University of Texas at San Antonio, prior and during his tenure with the U.S. Postal Service. He has published several articles about Texas history, the Spanish Colonial Missions and letter reports on Mayan Archeology. He received a B.A. in Anthropology in 1977 and worked eleven years as an Archeologist both as a crew chief and crewman on archeological excavations from Central America to Meadowcroft, Pennsylvania, U.S.A. He worked four years, 1980-1984, with the National Park Service at SAAN Missions NHP as an archeologist. He married Ms. Mary Esther Hernandez of San Marcos, Texas in 1992. In 1999 while working nights at the U.S. Postal Service, he applied

and was accepted in the History Department graduate program at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

His Master's thesis was completed in 2005 and is entitled, Ignored Texas History: The Frontier Memoirs of Abbe Emmanuel Domenech, 1848-1850,

#### Academic Degree

AA San Antonio College, 1976.

BA University of Texas at San Antonio, 1977 Anthropology.

MA University of Texas at San Antonio, 2005 History.

#### **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:

<a href="#">Dennis Moreno</a>	210.647.5607
<a href="#">Yolanda Patiño</a>	210.434.3530



#### **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 [jltolleson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jltolleson@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)



### **Faces of Survival**

15 April 2015 - 6 March 2016

UTSA graduate and honor students produced this exhibit to explore the conditions which can lead to genocide at any time, in any place: hatred, intolerance and discrimination, perpetrators and bystanders.



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### **Honoring Texas Military Members**

[The Institute of Texan Cultures](http://www.institutetexan.com)

11 November 2015 - 14 February 2016

Brandeis High School 11th grade AP History students pay tribute to Texas service members through images, oral histories, artifacts and more in this companion exhibit to "Our Part of Victory: Texans in World War II."





**Maya: Hidden Worlds  
Revealed**  
opens May 2016

**Collecting in Context**  
16 December 2015 - 17  
April 2016

**Roberto de la Selva:  
Modern Mexican  
Masterpieces in Wood**  
29 January - 26 June 2016

**The Extraordinary  
Ordinary: Three  
Installations**  
21 October 2015 - 10 April  
2016

**Realms of Earth and Sky:  
Indian Painting from the  
15th to the 19th Century**  
6 November 2015 - 14  
February 2016

**Stephen Westfall: The  
Holy Forest**  
6 August 2015 - 31 July  
2016

**Corita Kent and the  
Language of Pop**  
13 February - 8 May 2016

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## News



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### Hispanic Texas: Locating Mexican Revolution-Era Texas Border Crossing Records

The Texas State Genealogical Society website has a new blog featuring Hispanic genealogy research.

Read about it here: <http://tinyurl.com/txsgs>

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### Newspaper Archive ordered to pay \$100,000

Newspaper Archive Inc., which provides online access to digitized newspapers from across the country, is barred from using a pre-checked box on its website to collect donations for a charity, according to Dec. 3 judge's order. The company also must stop automatically renewing subscriptions and alert subscribers to price increases.

Read about it here: <http://www.thegazette.com/subject/news/newspaper-archive->



## 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 seven) - James P. Newcomb - 1863

#### EAGLE PASS

At Eagle Pass we took possession of the old government hospital building and made ourselves as comfortable as possible for a few days, until the duties on the goods and movables of all the company could be arranged with those snail-like Mexican officials. During these days of necessary delay, I experienced much hospitality and kind feeling from the American residents of the place, and had ample time to speculate until Eagle Pass, its past, present and future. it may justly be considered one of the most important points on the Rio Grande, opening upon one of the finest agricultural and mining districts of Mexico and leading out by fine roads to the great interior cities of that country. heretofore a large U. S. forces has been stationed here, but now alas! the extensive barracks composing Fort Duncan are deserted and now flutters a faded rag displaying a single pale and sickly star, as if in mockery of sad and solemn change which had taken place, and I felt curiously sad from the silence and desolation which reigned around me as I sauntered through the deserted halls and mansions and heard the echoes answering like the voices of departed spirits, when I sang or whistled the "red white and blue," or the "star spangled banner."

## PIEDRAS NEGRAS

Jumping into one of the many skiffs that ply between the shores, you are soon in Piedras Negras, Mexico. This town is far inferior to its American neighbor across the water, and as you view it from the Texan side you feel impressed with the thought that a different nation lives upon the opposite bank. The town is composed of a hundred or two miserable *jacals* (shanties built of poles and mud and thatched with *tule*) and a few dingy old one-storied stone buildings. The inhabitants, with a very few exceptions, are a low, cut-throat, thieving set of Mexicans as is the case with all Mexican border towns. In the narrow, filthy streets and their miserable habitations, you see the universal absence of cleanliness, proper pride and intelligent industry.

The warm season is now in its zenith and the lazy native keep in the shades of their shanties, sleeping away the time or lying around in lazy groups smoking *cigarrillos*, apparently having no occupation; the quiet stillness of the long summer day is sometimes broken by the loud patting of the Mexican women making *tortillas* (corn cakes), the women are rather industrious and seem to be always cooking, washing or hunting down vermin in the bushy pates of their lazy lords. About sun-down they crowd the banks of the river in its dark waters and it becomes a lively scene of men, women and children floundering about in its dark waters with which their dusky skins make no striking contrast, but blend as with a natural element. After nightfall, comes the gay fandango and gaming table. Such is the first picture of life in Mexico presented to the traveller upon crossing the Rio Grande, a drink of whose water may be truly called a baptism to crime.

## THE RIO GRANDE

This noble river deserves a parting word. Resembling in many particulars all the great Western rivers, it differs from them in that it traverses for hundreds of miles together, a barren, naked country, devoid of noble trees and rich bottom lands. At this point, and below to its mouth, so deep has it worn its channel that the Mexican has never attempted to divert its waters into irrigating ditches. No levies are needed - it never rises out of its banks to flood the surrounding country, although at times it is very high. And thus it rushes along in naked majesty, serving as a boundary line between two distinct peoples.

I must necessarily pass hurriedly over the trip from Piedras Negras to this city. In our route we passed through Nava, Piote, Lampassas, Villaldama and Salinas besides every haciendas.

## NAVA

The first place from Piedras Negras is a small adobe-built down, but its irrigating ditches and extensive cornfield make it quite a flourishing place. You are now in a level country coursed by small streams.

Is similar in all respects to Nava. In approaching this place you notice one thing common in many parts of Mexico, cornfields without fences. To facilitate watching and irrigation, the inhabitants of the village plant their fields contiguously, consequently they present the appearance of one single field or plantation rather than the separate possessions of sever hundred. In Piote I ate some delicious figs with a young Mexican girl, who told me a disconsolate story about a blue-eyed American lover she once had, who left her promising to return but never had.

Between Piote and Lampassas we passed one or two *haciendas*, one worthy of note, *Alamos*, belonging to the Vidauri's [sic], and reputed one of the worst cut-throat places in Mexico; here our party came near getting into a difficulty with the inhabitants, in consequence of Van driving away half a dozen shameless scamps who came to bathe within a few yards of where he had camped with his wife and family. Van had one of Colt's revolving rifles in his hands and accompanied by his indignant looks and fierce words, it is no wonder the rascals scampered off as fast as their legs would carry them - some of them undressed, taking their clothes with them.

Soon after this occurrence there was evidently a stir among the natives and several sported pistols as they paraded by our camp; - we did not breathe freely until far upon our road beyond *Alamos*. We had left the larger part of our company behind and did not care to have a difficulty where the odds would be so much against us.

Before reaching *Alamos*, we crossed the beautiful little river Sabinas, and came in sight of a towering range of Mountains, some of them curiously shaped and square the top, lying in the vicinity of *Lampassas*.

***Editor's Note:*** *We realize that some of the language used by Mr. Newcomb in 1863 is offensive and/or derogatory. This document is provided for historical purposes only and the opinions therein are solely those of the late James P. Newcomb and do not reflect the opinions or of beliefs held by the San Antonio Public Library or its Texana/Genealogy Department.*

**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:

- March 2016 by February 15
- April 2016 by March 15
- May 2016 by April 15

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