



South Texas Researcher

March 2016

Texana / Genealogy



San Antonio Public Library Texana / Genealogy

Find Texana / Genealogy online by visiting 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

Events & Classes



Using Ancestry Library Edition

Ancestry LE is comprised of over 4000 genealogical databases with access to over 1.5 billion names of individuals. It is one of our SAPL library use only databases. Come and learn how to use some of its features to help you in your family history research.

Searching for that right moment

Start searching billions of records and discover your family's story.

[BEGIN SEARCHING](#)

Receive Records at Home

Send Your Find Home!
 Enter your email address and we will send you a link to your personalized Discovery Page where you can view and download all of the great finds you make while here.

[Send documents](#)

We value your privacy. Read our Privacy Statement

U.S. Public Records
 No
 Address

Source Before Ancestry.com
 U.S. Census, Ancestry, Original only, 1940-1950, Records, and U.S. Births

Five Minute Find: Sending Documents Home From the Library
[View Video](#)

SEARCH CENSUS SEARCH VITALS SEARCH MILITARY SEARCH IMMIGRATION

Registration is required.

Please call 207-2500 (and ask for Genealogy) or email genealogydesk@sanantonio.gov

Tuesday, 1 March 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

Central Library

600 Soledad Street
 San Antonio, TX 78205

Using Military Records for Genealogy Research

Military records can provide a wealth of information to family history researchers. Join us and learn how to begin finding and using muster rolls, service records and other resources to uncover interesting information

Registration is required.



Please call 207-2500 (and ask for Genealogy) or email genealogydesk@sanantonio.gov

Thursday, 24 March 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Central Library Auditorium

600 Soledad Street 78205

Call 210.207.2500 for more information. (Ask for Texana)

New Publications



The Lineage Book of the First Families of the Twin Territories
GENEALOGY 976.6 LINEAGE

Marriages of Shelby County, Tennessee, 1820-1858
GENEALOGY 976.8 SHELBY

Picturing Texas Politics: A Photographic History from Sam Houston to Rick Perry
TEXANA 320.09764 BAILEY

Seeds of Empire: Cotton, Slavery and the Transformation of the Texas Borderlands, 1800-1850
TEXANA 338.17351 TORGET

Gunfights and Sites in Texas Ranger History
TEXANA 976.4 COX



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: March 5, 2015

Speaker: Moises Garza, Villas del Norte Genealogy Group

Topic: Online Mexican Genealogical Resources

Mexican Genealogy researcher and DNA Blogger, Moises Garza will present "Online Mexican Genealogical Resources" at our March 5th meeting. Moises has been doing genealogy research since 1998 and is the person behind the blogs wearecousins.info, dnatestingforgenealogyhq.com, lasvillasdelnorte.com, and mexicangenealogy.info. His personal blog "We Are Cousins" focuses in the genealogy of South Texas and Northeastern Mexico. His Website Mexican Genealogy focuses on helping anyone interested in researching their Mexican ancestry. His website DNA testing for Genealogy HQ serves as a tool to help anyone interested in DNA for Genealogy to choose the right DNA test and company based on their needs. It also provides resources to get the most out of your DNA results. Finally, lasvilladelnort.com is a Genealogy group that provides the same benefits that a genealogy society offers but on a digital platform.

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:

Dennis Moreno	210.647.5607
Yolanda Patiño	210.434.3530



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



Faces of Survival

[The Institute of Texan Cultures](#)

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.



Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta and Farm Workers

[The Institute of Texan Cultures](#)

11 March - 5 June 2016

Columbia Heights Elementary School students will pass along the lessons

they have learned about civil rights leaders such as Dr. Martin Luther King Junior, Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta through two special projects at the Institute of Texan Cultures



Ben Milam at the Siege of Bexar

[The Alamo](#)

20 February - 29 May 2016

This temporary exhibit is intended to highlight the recent return from conservation work of the important Henry Arthur McArdle painting in the Alamo Collection, "Ben Milam Calling for Volunteers" (1901). The painting is joined in this exhibit by other artifacts from the Alamo Collection, as well as documents from the Texas General Land Office Archives.



The Alamo would like to thank the Elizabeth Huth Coates Charitable Foundation of San Antonio for funding the conservation of the Ben Milam painting.



theMcNay



San Antonio Museum of Art

**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



Ancestry to Launch Irish Catholic Registers Online

The following announcement was written by Ancestry.com:

- Ireland Catholic Parish Registers to launch in March
- 10 million records will help create the largest collection of Irish registers available online
- Collection covers the period 1740 - 1900
- Baptism, Marriage and Burial records available

More than 10 million Catholic Parish records from Ireland are to be published online by Ancestry, the world's largest family history resource. The collection means that Ancestry will have over 44 million Irish records and will provide the largest collection of Irish Catholic parish records available online.

The collection is made up of Baptism, Marriage and Burial records from over 1,000 Catholic parishes across the whole of the island of Ireland - both in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Baptism and Marriage records make up the majority of the collection and Burial records can be found primarily for parishes in the northern regions.

Ancestry has indexed records from over 3,500 parish registers. This is the first time that the collection has been indexed with the images linked online.

John Slyne, VP, International Operations at Ancestry comments: "The Ireland Catholic Parish Registers is the single most important collection needed to trace Roman Catholic ancestors in Ireland in the 1800s and we are delighted to make it available through Ancestry. Providing the very best Irish records to our members is important to us and this collection helps us do that, taking the total number of Irish records to over 44 million. It also means we continue to provide the largest online collection of Irish Catholic parish records available anywhere which is good for those in Ireland and also those across the World with Irish roots.

The collection is set to go live on Ancestry in March 2016.

Ancestry Library Edition is available free for use in every San Antonio Public Library location.

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 eight) - James P. Newcomb - 1863

LAMPASSAS

In quite a place, built principally of adobe and containing a population of about 5,000 inhabitants; but like all Mexican towns it is extremely, solemnly dull. In the vicinity are extensive cornfields and stock farms. Several fine garden and orchards are to be met with thought the town, - a beautiful, bold spring bursts from a barren hill adjacent and supplies it with delicious water; in the crystal pools of this spring we enjoyed a refreshing bath. Lampassas is noted as the birth-place of Vidauri and Zuazua. Vidauri rose from a *peon* to be Governor of Nueva Leon and Coahuila, which office he now holds, having cut a considerable figure in the history of his country. Zuazua was Vidauri's right-hand man and General, and remained faithful to him thro' all the vicissitudes of fortune. In 1858, Vidauri took refuge in Texas, having been banished by a decree of the Congress of Nueva Leon and Coahuila, and Arremberri place in his stead; Zuazua raised a revolution in his favor and appeared before Monterey with a few hundred men; so many of the citizens went out to join him, that Arremberri thought it best to compromise. Arremberri abdicated, the Congress revoked the degree of banishment and ordered an election; Vidauri returned and was elected. Zuazua was assassinated a few months since, at a rancho between Monterey and Saltillo, which accompanying Vidauri to the latter place to suppress a revolt. He was a brave man.

We have now a better view of the mountains before mentioned, curious in defile and grand in appearance, among them are La Gloria which seems a perfect home for

rainbows, from the continual showers passing over it, and La Mesa or table mountain - a square-topped mountain celebrated for once being an extensive stock farm, sustaining on its elevated pastures over 15,000 cattle; it is now the property of Vidauri, who has some six hundred head of horses upon it. This mesa can only be reached by one narrow difficult path, it is therefore with abundance of grass and water, a fine location for a stock farm in this country where the ruthless Apaches roam at will. Upon the mountain ranges all the stock of the country are grazed, as they furnish fire pasturage while the adjacent plains are parched and bare.

VILLALDAMA

Is the next place we come to, situated near high mountains on the banks of a small stream which feeds the irrigating ditches of several little villages up and down the valley. This place has many signs of steady prosperity, the valley being fertile and the adjacent mountains mineral bearing. We camped near some rude smelting works decidedly simple and Mexican. The ore, which was galena with a small percentage of silver, was run out into ugly awkward flat cakes upon the dirt floor. All the lead ores of this country contain paying percentages in silver, and in consequence of the light duty on lead it is not separated, but run out in the rude manner just mentioned and exported to the United States and elsewhere.

The road to *Salinas*, the next in the order of towns, was quite rough and mountainous. We also passed through extensive forests of *palma* or *yuca* trees, whose ragged trunks, tops bristling with green bayonets and festooned by pyramids of beautiful white flowers, present one of the strangest and most pleasing sights in Mexican scenery; by moon-light or in the distance, forming grotesque figures and not needing much stretch of the imagination to believe them roving Indians or stalking giants.

SALINAS

Is a pretty little place, neat and clean; its church is quite an oddity, being painted in the brightest colors. Leaving Salinas at 2 o'clock in the morning, we reached La Estancia, two leagues from Monterey, I should judge about 450 miles, it being 150 from the former place to Eagle Pass, and about 300 miles from there here.

MONTEREY

Nestles so close at the feet of the grand old mountains that soar up around it into the azure sky, that in approaching it from the North you are in the city before you are blessed with a view. It is a solid, stone-built city, the houses, with few exceptions, single-storied and flat-roofed. The private dwellings have one large *portal*, *saguan*, or door-way for man, beast and vehicle, which leads into a court-yard and from which you can enter the house, or pass out into a back-yard or garden. Large windows face upon the street, strongly protected with iron rods, these windows afford a safe

cage in which the Mexican beauties are allowed by their careful mamas to sit and smoke their *cigarillos* and view the passers-by. The yards are generally tastefully planted with shrubbery or shaded by orange trees, and contain either a fountain or a well with a stone curb, two stone pillars, a cross-beam of wood, to which is attached a simple pulley, rope and leather bucket. The houses of the rich are generally finely furnished after the modern style, and are very deceiving from the exterior. With its surrounding, Monterey is estimated to contain 42,0000 inhabitants, which I think must be an over estimate.

The fine old cathedral fronting the *Plaza de Armas*, is worth a visit. It is a massive pile of architecture after the Spanish style, its front being elaborately decorated with carved stone work of saints and angels. You enter, and find it after the manner of all Mexican-Romish churches; - dingy old pictures hang upon the walls, around which are arranged several altars and full sized images of saints; the principal altar is fronted with massive silver. You lean against one of the pillars, and gaze over the multitude of prostrate worshipers, the officiatingpriests, dimly burning candles, and smoking censers, and listen to the deep reverberating tones of the organ, and it seems like the dream of a past time. The floor of this church is composed of pannels, and can be lifted up, so as to admit men and war material into an immense cellar below and was so used during the storming of the city by the Americans. In many places the walls bear testimony of American cannon balls.

The plaze on which this church fronts, is planted round with orange trees, with smoth pavement and seats made of sement, and is the even resort of hundreds who promenade and sit and take the pleasant air, gossip, smoke and are occasionally treated to music by the military bands.

The theatre would do credit to any city, being large and well constructed. I attended some of the performances which were dull and spiritless, the prompted bawling out the parts and the actors mouthing them after him but the display of dark eyed beauties somewhat recompensed me for going.

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. Also, all the unorthodox spellings were left as-written by Mr. Newcomb.*

To Be Continued...



Mary Esther Zahradnick

The Texana/Genealogy Department of the San Antonio Public Library wishes to express our deepest sympathy to the family of Mary Esther Zahradnick, who passed away on February 25, 2016.

Mrs. Zahradnick was a longtime patron, researcher, and friend of the Texana/Genealogy Department. She

was always willing to share her

knowledge of Hispanic family history research with anyone, from beginning researchers to staff employees.

She will be greatly missed.



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 by the deadline provided:

- April 2016 by March 15
- May 2016 by April 15
- June 2016 by May 15

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

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