



## South Texas Researcher

April 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

---

## Events & Classes

---



### **Genealogy** **FamilySearch.org**

**Websites:**



FamilySearch.org offers free access to digital images of genealogical records from around the world, including millions of records from the U.S. and Mexico. Join us and learn

how these collections and tutorials can help you uncover your family history.

Registration is required.

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

**Tuesday, 5 April 2016 at 2:00 p.m.**

**Central Library**  
600 Soledad Street  
San Antonio, TX 78205

---

## Using Census Records for Genealogy Research

Learn how to use census records to research your family history. We will discuss the U.S. federal census and other available resources.

Registration is required.

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

**Thursday, 28 April 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 Civil War in Southern Appalachian Methodism  
GENEALOGY 287.67509 DUNN

Guns of the Civil War  
GENEALOGY 623.44209 AMER

Genealogical Proof Standard: Building a Solid Case  
GENEALOGY 929.1072 ROSE

Harlem's Rattlers and the Great War  
GENEALOGY 940.41273 SAMMONS

Civil War Wests: Testing the Limits of the United States  
GENEALOGY 973.7 CIVIL

Five Dollars and a Jug of Rum: The History of Grafton, Vermont, 1754-2000  
GENEALOGY 974.3 WINDHAM

Glastonbury: From Settlement to Suburb  
GENEALOGY 974.6 HARTFORD

Louisiana and the Gulf South Frontier, 1500-1821  
GENEALOGY 976.301 SMITH

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

Caldwell's Atlas of Ashland Co., Ohio from Actual Surveys By and Under the  
Direction of J. A. Caldwell  
GENEALOGY 977.1 ASHLAND

Ohio Marriages Recorded in County Courts Through 1820: An Index  
GENEALOGY 977.1 OHIO

Faribault, County, 1855-1976: A Panorama  
GENEALOGY 977.6 FARIBAULT

Welcoming the World: A History of Salt Lake County  
GENEALOGY 979.2 SALT LAKE

A Legacy of Faith: The History of Notre Dame Parish, Kerrville, Texas  
TEXANA 282.7648 JOHNSON

Their Lives, Their Wills: Women in the Borderlands, 1750-1846  
TEXANA 305.40972 PORTER

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

Tales of Texas Cooking  
TEXANA 641.597.64 TALES

Tortillas: A Cultural History  
TEXANA 641.815 MORTON

---

## Community Partners

---

---



### Los Bexareños Genealogical and Historical Society

\*\*\* For April Meeting Only - Meeting will be held at the Mission Branch Library, South Meeting Room, 3134 Roosevelt Ave, San Antonio, Texas, 10:00am - 12:30pm. \*\*\*

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:** April 2, 2016

**Speaker:** Ed Mata

**Topic:** Real de Catorce: Pueblo Mágico

Mr. Mata is a native of Austin, Texas and a resident of Bulverde, Texas. He has a BS in Occupational Education from Wayland Baptist University and an AAS in Law Enforcement from San Antonio College. He is Past President and Board Member of Los Bexareños Genealogical and Historical Society. Mr. Mata is also a U. S. Army Veteran.

He retired with 35 years of criminal investigations and law enforcement experiences. Mr. Mata also served in the following capacities:

- \* Chief of Investigations, Texas Workers' Compensation Commission.
- \* Chief Investigator, Texas department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics.
- \* Senior Investigator, Texas Department of Human Services, Office of Inspector General.
- \* Detective, City of Terrell Hills.
- \* Police Sergeant, City of Kingsville.

### **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.txsgahs.org](http://www.txsgahs.org)



### **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



**Splendor on the Range:  
American Indians and the  
Horse**

open through August 21

**Maya: Hidden Worlds  
Revealed**

opens May 2016

**Collecting in Context**

16 December 2015 - 17  
April 2016

**The Extraordinary**

**Ordinary: Three  
Installations**

21 October 2015 - 10 April  
2016

**Stephen Westfall: The  
Holy Forest**

6 August 2015 - 31 July  
2016

**Roberto de la Selva:**

**Modern Mexican**

**Masterpieces in Wood**

29 January - 26 June 2016

**Corita Kent and the**

**Language of Pop**

13 February - 8 May 2016

**Rodin: The Human**

**Experience**

5 March - 29 May 2016

---

## News

---



### Texas State Library and Archives Commission Launches Texas Digital Archive

AUSTIN, TX - The Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) announces the launch of the Texas Digital Archive (TDA), a searchable online repository designed to manage, preserve, and provide access to the electronic records collections held at the Texas State Archives. Virtual visitors are invited to explore our shared heritage through digitized prints, photographs, documents and

manuscripts made available through a \$706,593 appropriation for the 2016-2017 biennium from the 84th legislative session.

"We thank the Texas Legislature for making funds available to finally launch the Texas Digital Archive," commented Mark Smith, Director and Librarian of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. "This project will ensure that these materials of permanent value to the state of Texas will be preserved, maintained, and made available to Texans now and for generations to come."

The launch of the TDA comes as the result of the transfer of over six terabytes of electronic records from the administration of former Texas governor Rick Perry in early 2015. These records, along with select images from TSLAC's historic prints and photographs collections, make up the foundation of an ever-growing digital research resource for all ages and for generations to come. In the coming months, TSLAC archivists will add more than 150,000 files created during its decade-long digitization program, including over 18 terabytes of digital audio files from the Texas Senate that date from 1972 to 2006.

"Long-term preservation of electronic data is a challenge," explained Texas State Archivist Jelain Chubb, "especially as the hardware and software used to create digital records change so frequently. Fortunately, the protocols and tools we have in the TDA will help us ensure authenticity, integrity and accessibility of digital records over time."

TSLAC will begin working with select state agencies to acquire, preserve, and make accessible their electronic records and continue to develop the process, procedures, and workflows governing the TDA in 2016. The Texas Digital Archive is built on the Preservica preservation system and uses Amazon Web Services for offsite cloud-based storage of digital materials. TSLAC is the first state archives to use the system in the Amazon Government cloud, which offers heightened back-end security for sensitive and restricted records while providing access to both archival staff and researchers.

Visitors can learn more about the Texas Digital Archive by visiting [www.tsl.texas.gov/texasdigitalarchive](http://www.tsl.texas.gov/texasdigitalarchive) and exploring the growing collection of archival materials vital to the story of our state.

---

## **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 nine) - James P. Newcomb - 1863

#### SOCIETY IN MONTEREY

Travelers are too apt to pass hasty judgement upon Mexican society, as they pass rapidly over the country; you must go in doors and see something of life and manners among the better and wealthy classes, and you will find much true gentility, refinement, virtue and generous hospitality. I have attended several public balls and witnessed the combined elite of the city; and I never saw a more brilliant assemblage, or finer display of beauty or gallantry. The ladies dress after the latest Parisian fashions and being naturally graceful, carry themselves like sylphs, sparkling with jewels through the giddy mazes of the dance. The gentlemen are attired after the latest mode, and you see nothing of the broad brimmed hat, flowing pantaloons and short jacket, which seems to have passed into the notion as the national costume of the Mexican *caballero*. There is one ball-room custom which comes awkward to the stranger; a gentleman once ushered into the room, is understood as introduced and recommended to the entire company, and with perfect propriety without special introduction, ask any lady in the room to dance with him; in fact, is requested to do so, and if he happens to be a good-looking *estrangero*, will receive an affirmative, even at the expense of the less lucky Mexican *caballero*. To all balls and public amusements, the mothers attend with their daughters, and one of the conditions of taking a young lady out to drive, walk, to theater or dance, is that you must also take the mother. All the sparkling must be carried on under their watchful eyes; that the old ladies are often out-witted can be safely written.

#### THE FAIR

The annual fairs in Mexico are an institution of the country, regulated by law, each

city and town taking its turn. I happened in Monterey in season to witness the fair, to describe which I am unable to do in detail; after a lapse of several weeks; it now remains on my memory as a grand gambling spree. The *Plaza de Armas* was occupied with drinking and gaming tables, and all the adjacent buildings were devoted to the same lawful and righteous purposes. I may as well remark in this connection, that the most respectable and aristocratic citizens are gamblers - gambling is encouraged by the civil and religious authorities, as right, proper and respectable; and all classes, ages and sexes engage in it, the priests heading the list; you are therefore taught to look upon it, as you would any other legitimate calling. During the fair, the city was crowded with thousands of visitors from different parts of Mexico - speculators, merchants, pleasure and fortune-seekers. All sorts of Mexican made goods and articles, were presented for sale, consisting in the main of saddlery, shoes, shawls, blankets, and crockery; fine horses and mules are also offered for sale, and can be purchased cheap when the owner is hard up for a stake to try his luck at the *monte* or *roulette* tables. In the mornings the city seemed in sleep - the thousands of revelers rest after the dissipations of the previous night, and the silence is only broken by the cries of the fruit venders; towards noon the gaudily dressed bull-fighters prance through the streets preceded by the clown who advertises the afternoon performance; - about three o'clock the city would wake up, and immense crowds of people throng the streets. The amusements generally commenced with the bull fights after which came the rattling of dice boxes, and the whiz of roulette tables and night sets in which the scene in full blast - troops of minstrels, male and female rove through the crowds, playing the harp and guitar and singing songs of love and war, and everywhere young and old press around the gambling tables to try their fortunes; - the drinking booths, fruit and refreshment stands are well patronized; and the air is redolent with garlick and frying grease. At every turn, you meet the ever-present beggar crying out in loud and mournful tones for alms. Thus it raged a perfect furor of excitement and confusion lasting four weeks.

## BULL FIGHTS

I attended as a matter of course some of these cruel exhibitions, a description of which would hardly be interesting or new, it having been done by so many before me, but still I will give them a passing notice. The *Plaza de Toros* is a large circular amphitheatre, open over head, with the exception of an awning over the seats, which are arranged with an upper platform, and then tiers of seats to the ground, around the entire circle; on half the seats are necessarily in the sun and are denominated *el sol*, the others *la sombra*, half price is charged for the *el sol* side; the bull ring is strongly enclosed, with side doors for the fighters to escape when closely pressed; there is an entrance for the bulls, opposite which on the upper platform are the umpires who preside over the performance and see that it is conducted in accordance with the established rules, also to decide all question raised by the spectators. The performance is generally opened by clown singing some comic songs, after which comes in any other performance, if any, before the fighting commences; during the

fair a snake tamer exhibited in connection with the bull fighters: he had a dozen large rattle snakes which he brought out and handled, winding them about his neck and body; these snakes had their fangs entire, and as a finishing stroke to this exhibition the tamer would exasperate one of them to strike him and he would retire with the blood trickling down his thighs, he was a slim, youth with a cold, pale cadaverous countenance and no doubt used some powerful antidote to counteract the poison.

The fighting commences by a bull being let into the ring, where eight or ten bull-fighters are ready to receive and put him through a course of cruel torture. Two of the fighters are armed with spears and mounted on miserable skeletons of horses, they would provoke the bull to turn upon them and sometimes horse and rider are borne down by his infuriated charge, and then the poor horse lies dying with a frightful wound exposed, or is led out of the ring with his entrails dangling between his legs; this disgusting sight is lustily cheered by the spectators. After the horses are withdrawn, the bull is literally covered with rosettes of ribands pinned to him by the fighters, and in every wound fireworks are stuck, which make the poor animal bellow with pain; when the umpire consider the torture complete, the bugle is sounded and then skillful *matador* comes forward, makes a bow, then turns and gives the *coup de grace* by planting his sharp sword up to the hilt in the bull as he makes a dash at his red flag - the noble animal, so lately monarch of the plain, is pierced through the heart - the blood gushes from his mouth and would, he staggers - falls and dies, to the great delight of the assembled multitude, composed of all sexes and ages. As many as five bulls are thus tortured and killed during an afternoon's performance. The carcasses are dragged from the arena, by horsemen with ropes attached to their saddle pummels. The performance generally wound up with the letting in of a bull with his horns sawed, when the *pelados* or common Mexicans pour into the ring and maneuver with their blankets; in this there is a good deal of sport. My sympathies were always with the bull - I often wished to see him toss his tormentors, and on one occasion during the fair, a bull killed the principal fighter - it was a sickening sight. In justice to the Mexican ladies of the better class, I will say they do not attend these brutal shows.

***Editor's Note:*** *We realize that some of the language used by Mr. Newcomb in 1863 may be 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...**



---

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:

- May 2016 by April 15
- June 2016 by May 15
- July 2016 by June 15

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

Copyright © 2016. All Rights Reserved.