



South Texas Researcher

May 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



An Overview of RootsMagic

RootsMagic is the award winning genealogy software that makes researching, organizing and sharing your family history easy. Smart Computing magazine calls it "the best genealogy program we've seen!"



Registration is required.

Please call 207-2500

(and ask for Genealogy) or email genealogydesk@sanantonio.gov

Tuesday, 3 May 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

Central Library

600 Soledad Street

San Antonio, TX 78205

Probate Records: A Guide for Genealogists

From holographic wills to guardianship, learn how the probate process in the United States can help genealogical researchers uncover their family history.

Registration is required.

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

Tuesday, 17 May 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Central Library Auditorium

600 Soledad Street 78205

Call 210.207.2500 for more information. (Ask for Texana)



Central within Reach



Free Guided Downtown Art and History Tours



These tours are designed to introduce locals and visitors to the rich history and artistic beauty of San Antonio's downtown, within walking distance of the Central Library. **Space is limited to six people and online registration is required** (guides.mysapl.org/CentralWithinReachTour).

Art Tour

Tour begins with Central's Fiesta Tower and includes much of the fabulous public art along the Museum Reach of the River Walk.

Sunday, April 17, 8–10:30am

Sunday, May 29, 8–10:30am

History Tour

Tour begins with Central Library's Texana room and includes historical buildings and sites along the downtown reach of the River Walk.

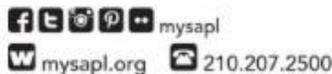
Sunday, April 24, 8–10:30 a.m.

Sunday, May 22, 8–10:30 a.m.

Tours start promptly at 8 a.m. at the entrance of the Central Library, 600 Soledad, and may last up to 2.5 hours.

Registration is required. Please bring a signed copy of the Liability Waiver Form along with photo ID. To register and download the waiver, visit guides.mysapl.org/CentralWithinReachTour.

Participants should be aware that this is a walking tour in outdoor elements, and should be sufficiently prepared. If we have to cancel due to low attendance (less than three), inclement weather, or any unforeseen event, we will make every reasonable attempt to contact registrants in advance.



New Publications



The Cummings Family of Winnebago County, Illinois and Their Ancestry
GENEALOGY 929.2 CUMMINGS

The Hopkins Family of Bureau County, Illinois and Their Ancestry
GENEALOGY 929.2 HOPKINS

Southern Boots and Saddles: The Fifteenth Confederate Cavalry, C.S.A., First

Regiment Alabama and Florida Cavalry
GENEALOGY 973.742 GREEN

Some Pennsylvania Women During the War of the Revolution
GENEALOGY 974.8 EGLE

Records of the Congregation of Trinity Reformed/United Church of Christ,
Waynesboro, Franklin County, Penn., 1828-1993
GENEALOGY 974.8 FRANKLIN

Records of Egypt Reform Church, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, 1734-1834
GENEALOGY 974.8 LEHIGH

Keystone Thunder: Pennsylvania Field Artillery in the Civil War
GENEALOGY 974.8 MCCOY

Newspaper Abstracts from the Philadelphia Repository, 1803
GENEALOGY 974.8 PHILADELPHIA

Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, 1783 Census: Reprinted from Pennsylvania
Archives
GENEALOGY 974.8 WESTMORELAND

New Jersey During the Revolution: As Related in the News Items of the Day
GENEALOGY 974.9 NEW JERSEY

Charleston, Come Hell or High Water
GENEALOGY 975.7 CHARLESTON

Charleston: Alone Among the Cities
GENEALOGY 975.7 CHARLESTON

Register of Deceased Veterans, Florida (50 volumes by county)
GENEALOGY 975.9 REGISTER

Regimental History of the Thirty-Fifth Alabama Infantry, 1862-1865
GENEALOGY 976.1 BANNING

Excerpts from Minutes of Cullman Baptist Association of CULLMAN County, Alabama,
and Surrounding Counties, 1883-1946
GENEALOGY 976.1 CULLMAN

First, For the Duration: The Story of the Eighth Alabama Infantry, C.S.A.
GENEALOGY 976.1 GREEN

Wealth, Land and Slaveholding in Mississippi: A Planter's Family's Life of Privilege,
1818-1913

GENEALOGY 976.2 ALBIN

Oklahoma City: Statehood to 1930

GENEALOGY 976.6 OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma School Census Location Index

GENEALOGY 976.6 OKLAHOMA

The Founding of Harman's Station: With An Account of the Indian Captivity of Mrs.
Jennie Wiley and the Exploration and Settlement of the Big Sandy Valley in the
Virginias and Kentucky

GENEALOGY 976.9 CONNELLEY

Calvary Catholic Cemetery, Lexington, Kentucky: Transcribed Plus Some Obits, A-Z

GENEALOGY 976.9 FAYETTE

Ohio Towns and Townships to 1900: A Location Guide

GENEALOGY 977.1 OVERTON

University United Methodist Church, Kansas City, Kansas: Records, 1919-2009

GENEALOGY 978.1 WYANDOTTE

Texas A&M University: A Pictorial History, 1876-1996

TEXANA 378.76424 DETHLOFF

The Bell Ringer

TEXANA 796.42092 RODRIGUEZ BIOGRAPHY

East Texas Mill Towns & Ghost Towns

TEXANA 976.4 BLOCK

Runnels County: A Look Back

TEXANA 976.4724 RUNNELS

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: May 7, 2016

Speaker: Dr. Fred Valdez

Topic: Research and Life Among the Ancient Maya:
Field Venues and Experiences

Fred Valdez is a native of San Antonio. He graduated from Central Catholic High School, received his Bachelor's degree from UT-Austin. After working at the UTSA Center for Archaeological Research, he attended Harvard University where he earned his doctoral degree. He has been teaching at UT-Austin for more than 25 years, directs the Center for Archaeological and Tropical Studies, and operates the Program for the Belize Archaeological Project. Dr. Valdez has been a Fulbright Scholar to Guatemala and a Taft Speaker Fellow at the University of Cincinnati. He has also edited and co-edited many volumes on Mayan archaeology in addition to more than 100 papers and presentations.

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



Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta and Farm Workers

[The Institute of Texan Cultures](http://www.institutetexancultures.org)

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](http://www.alamocollection.org)

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

**Stephen Westfall: The
Holy Forest**

6 August 2015 - 31 July
2016

**My Royal Past: Cecil
Beaton and the Art of
Impersonation**

17 February - 5 June 2016

**Dressed to Kill: Glam and
Gore in Theatre**

17 February - 5 June 2016

**Sheperd Fairey at the
McNay**

27 April - 11 September
2016

**Art for the Sake of Art:
Ornament Prints from the
Blanton Museum of Art**

27 April - 7 August 2016

Greg Smith: Loop

26 April - 28 August 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



RECLAIM THE RECORDS

The 1908-1929 New York City marriage index goes online for public use

It took one Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request, one modification of that FOIL request, one FOIL Appeal, one Advisory Opinion issued by the New York State Committee on Open Government, one "Article 78" legal petition filed in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, one legal settlement with the City of New York, 46 brand new microfilm copies created from the master films held in one city agency's vault and another two films from another city agency's vault, one portable hard drive full of high-quality digital scans of the 48 films donated by a kind non-profit organization, several days working in the headquarters of another non-profit to borrow their Internet bandwidth and hard drive space, and sixteen months.

But we did it. Today, Reclaim the Records is very pleased to announce that the index to the New York City Clerk's Office marriage records (the application, affidavit, and license) for 1908-1929 is now online and open for public use.

There are no logins required, no paywalls, no copyrights, and no usage restrictions. The index is now free and open data, forever.

39 of the 48 microfilms are now online at the Internet Archive, and the remaining nine films will be put online throughout the next few weeks.

Here's the link!: <https://archive.org/details/nycmarriageindex>

This includes (so far) 48 items scanned from 39 microfilms:

MANHATTAN 1908-1929

BROOKLYN 1908-1929

BRONX 1914-1917

Coming soon are the final nine microfilms:

BRONX 1918-1929

QUEENS 1908-1930

STATEN ISLAND 1908-1938

Details about how to join a new volunteer-led transcription project for these images, to turn them into a free online searchable database, will be announced shortly.

Quick notes and updates

Our first court date in our Article 78 legal petition in the Supreme Court of New York against the New York City Clerk's Office, seeking the first-ever public copies of the 1930-2015 NYC marriage index under the New York State Freedom of Information Law, has been pushed back one month, to May 9, 2016. We will let you know how it goes.

Our case to be reimbursed our attorneys fees by the New York City Department of Records and Information Services (DORIS, parent agency of the NYC Municipal Archives) is scheduled to have its oral arguments on May 25, 2016. We'll let you know how that goes, too.

Last month, Reclaim The Records was one of the organizations that was a signatory to a letter to Senators Grassley, Leahy and Cornyn, all of the Senate Judiciary Committee, for the Endorsement of Immediate Passage of FOIA Improvement Act of 2016. Yup, Reclaim The Records is going to start getting involved in governmental lobbying efforts to improve FOIA and strengthen state Freedom of Information laws.

The start of the avalanche

Thank you to everyone who has supported us on this journey to make this dream of open records a reality.

And we're just getting started... There's more news coming soon.

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?

How Many Backup Copies of Important Files Do You Need?

Here's the old data center 3-2-1 rule-of-thumb for backing up:

- 3 copies of anything you care about - Two isn't enough if it's important.
- 2 different formats - Example: Dropbox plus DVDs or Hard Drive plus Memory Stick or CD plus Crash Plan, or more
- 1 off-site backup - If the house burns down, how will you get your memories back?



From the Archives

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

INDEPENDENCE DAY

I witnessed the celebration of the 16th of September, the Mexican Independence Day. On reflecting upon the people and institutions which surround me I can hardly conceive that it is really freedom's gala day they celebrate but a look towards my own unhappy country warns me to be modest and charitable.

EX-PRESIDENT COMMONFORT

I called upon this somewhat noted Mexican and found him to be a large, fine-looking man, rather past the middle age of life, kind and gentlemanly in his manners. Like Iturbide, he has ventured back into Mexico under bane of the general government, but Commonfort has found in Vidauri what Iturbide did not find in Garcia, a true and faithful friend. Vidauri has made him his guest and refused to comply with the demand of the general government for his arrest. Commonfort keeps quiet, but is evidently waiting for something to turn up.

THE BISHOP'S PALACE

Is situated on Independence Hill West of the city and about seven hundred feet above its level, and commands the city as well as the road which leads to Saltillo. During the storm of Monterey, this strong position was stormed and taken by our troops under the command of the gallant Worth. The view from the palace is splendid: to the North stretches out an extensive valley dotted with farms and villages, reaching to the mountains adjacent Marin; - to the East, the city lies at your feet, and you look down into its streets and the beautiful quintas with dark leaved orange groves, beyond rises the *Silla* or saddle mountain; to the South, rise range on range of mountains until your vision is arrest by lofty peaks, whose summits are fringed with pines standing out in bold relief against the sky, forming and magnificent

background to the city; to West, are more mountains with fertile valley between and the village of Santa Catarina in the distance; it is certainly a grand and beautiful picture of mountains, valleys and city, and I have often availed myself of the splendid vista, at each time gathering fresh delight; - while gazing on the scene around me, and standing thus upon the common altar of my country's fame, I thought upon its unhappy strife, - the thought oppressed me - my mind mused over the past, - up the steep hill-side dash our brave men, their shout of victory ringing out amidst the storm of shot and shell as they behold their starry flag floating over the captured fort, and in this shout I head a voice from every State from Maine to Texas. I could not bear to think that the glories of the past must be blotted out in shame - no, never! - the flag that once waved in triumph over "Bishop's Palace," "Black Fort" and Monterey, shall yet wave over every State United, and be loved and honored by freeman North and South, who will forget the wounds of civil war, remember the joint achievements of the past and strive together to obliterate the disgrace of the present, in a glorious future.

The palace is now undergoing repairs, not having been occupied since the war. It is again intended as the residence of the Bishop of Monterey.

AMERICANS IN MONTEREY

Hardly a week passes over without some arrivals, and the Mexicans altho they seem to welcome us, appear a little uneasy at the influx of so many *estrangeros*. Many old San Antonians; who for the first time for years, find business at a standstill and their hands idle, to drive away gloomy thoughts have taken a trip to Mexico, and are delighted with the change - others, are Union refugees, who have sought Mexico as place of safety until the storm is over, or make it a passage way, to the loyal States. A few days since, four Orderly Sergeants, who had been made prisoners along with Col. Reeve's command in Texas, arrived here, having made their escape, and after incredible hardships reached this city, expecting to find an American Consul; there was no Consul, but they were amply provided with means and sent on their way rejoicing, mounted on four good ponies they started for Tampico, from whence they will embark for New York. With a few friends I accompanied them a few miles on their way, giving three cheers for the Union as we parted. I felt very much like going too, but could not. Another Sergeant has arrived here and gone to Matamoras, hoping to find a way to get to New York.

OF MY OCCUPATION AND RESIDENCE

What can one doe who has nothing to do in Monterey? is a question I have been trying to solve ever since my arrival. In the morning I rise early, often before the sleepy watchmen have cried out the last hour of expiring night, and with dog and gun walk to the outskirts of the city, where I sometimes find snipe and duck. I watch the breaking day and hear the low murmurings from the waking city, the bugle notes and rattling drums of the garrisons; and get well paid for my walk, for sunrise upon

Monterey, its valley and mountains, is splendid; - long before the god of day has driven the lingering shades of darkness from the valley, the tops of the lofty mountains are blushing with his light, contrasting strangely with their somber sides, where clouds are still sleeping; as the day advances the clouds furl away, and the old giants stretch themselves once more in the welcome light, just as they have done so many times before. These mountains never weary my sight or thoughts, whether mantled in clouds, painted with rainbows or lying bare in the sunlight, and displaying the green forests that cover their sides. After feasting upon this grand panorama of nature I return, take a bath in a beautiful little lake situated in the very heart of the city, the resort of bathers and washerwomen; it boasts an awkward skiff which the authorities had built and launched up on its limpid water, and is the pride and delight of the citizens; being the first naval structure thousands of them ever saw. After my bath I breakfast. The balance of the day I pass as best I may, - reading, climbing hills, sauntering through orange groves, beautiful *quintas* and flower gardens, or about the city seeing the same sights daily. I'm getting tired of such employment if it can be so calls, and will soon be on the wing.

I must live somewhere, and as good fortune will have it, I find a pleasant home with the B. family; they are Louisianians and moved from New Orleans to Texas and when secession smiled upon that once pleasant State, they preferred Mexico; loyal, kind and hospitable, they long to quit Mexico, and again live under the protection of the American flag. We live in a sweet neighborhood - adjoining us in La Constancia, a large sugar refinery, and fronting a little plaza, upon which a hundred or more prisoners, (prisoners for debt and crime, political and otherwise,) chained in pairs, are daily at work paving. Of course, this is not a pleasant sight, but opposite lives a rich and aristocratic Mexican family, of which there are four beautiful girls, one in particular is a fine specimen of Mexican beauty: - dark beautiful hair, which she often wears unconfined by the comb - clear brunette complexion - and beyond everything conceivable - for the very light of Heaven seems to gather luster from them, - her soft and not-to-be-described black eyes. But with all that has been said of Mexican female beauty, it exists in beggarly proportion to the horrid homeliness one meets at every turn; - travelers tell only of the beautiful pictures, magnificent sceneries and romantic adventures they see, meet or imagine - they trim their lines with silver moonshine, or gild them with the golden hues of setting suns, throw in thunderstorms for grandeur, and load the air with the perfume of flowers, in spite of the deformity which meets their eyes, the filth which greets their olfactory organs - the dusty roads, the parching sun and the barren wastes.

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.*



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:

- June 2016 by May 15
- July 2016 by June 15
- August 2016 by July 15

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)