



South Texas Researcher

July 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

Events & Classes



Hispanic Genealogy

Join us as we investigate the Hispanic branch of your family tree. Learn the basic research principles and techniques for conducting Hispanic genealogical research. Find out what books, databases and resources are out there to help you uncover your family history. Registration is required.



Friday, 1 July 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

Great Northwest Library

9050 Wellwood

Call 210-207-9210 for more information

Preserving Family Treasures

Do you have a quilt, family Bible, photographs, or other objects that have been passed on in your family for years or generations? Would you like to



know how to protect them for future generations? This workshop is designed to provide the simplest and best methods to help preserve such objects.

Friday, 15 July 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

Great Northwest Library

9050 Wellwood

Call 210.207.9210 for more information.

Finding Female Ancestors

Women are especially difficult to find in the historical record. This class will discuss types of records and search strategies to help you locate your female ancestors.

Friday, 29 July 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

Great Northwest Library

9050 Wellwood

Call 210.207.9210 for more information.



New Publications



The 1879 Diary of Leslie Westervelt
GENEALOGY 929.2 WESTERVELT

Jeremiah White: A First Family of Ohio
GENEALOGY 929.2 WHITE

The German Regiment of Maryland and Pennsylvania in the Continental Army, 1776-1781
GENEALOGY 973.34 RETZER

Robert Cushman of Kent
GENEALOGY 974.48202 CUSHMAN BIOGRAPHY

Early Union County, New Jersey Church Records, 1750-1800
GENEALOGY 974.9 UNION

Marriages and Deaths From Eastern Shore Newspapers, 1790-1835
GENEALOGY 975.2 MARRIAGES

Around Morgantown
GENEALOGY 975.4 MONONGALIA

Fauquier County, Virginia
GENEALOGY 975.5 FAUQUIER

Northern Neck Wills, Inventories and Other Records, 1800-1825
GENEALOGY 975.5 HEADLEY

The Story of Dunwoody
GENEALOGY 975.8 DEKALB

Floyd County
GENEALOGY 975.8 FLOYD

Guntersville Reservoir Cemeteries
GENEALOGY 976.1 GUNTERSVILLE

The Alabama Boys: Unlocking Memories of Alabamians WHO Bombed the Third Reich

GENEALOGY 976.1 WILSON

Donelson & Hermitage, Tennessee: A Suburban History
GENEALOGY 976.8 DAVIDSON

Cape Girardeau County, Missouri, History and Biographies
GENEALOGY 977.8 GIRARDEAU

Old West Justice in Belle Plaine, Kansas
GENEALOGY 978.1 SUMNER

Spanish American War Veterans From Nebraska
GENEALOGY 978.2 SIMMONS

Bexar County, Texas Divorces: Abstracted from Court Records and Newspapers
TEXANA 976.435 DIVORCES

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: July 2, 2016

Speaker: Ernest Menchaca

Topic: San Buenaventura En El Virreinato

Ernest Menchaca was born in Mexico and immigrated to the United States with his family on October 1, 1954. His five siblings and his parents came searching for a better life environment. He was educated in the public school system in San Antonio, Texas. He later went on to serve his country in the U. S. Army and is a Vietnam

War-era Veteran. After leaving the military, Ernest pursued a career at Southwestern Bell Telephone Company that later became AT&T. He worked there for 29 years.

He has always been very active as a volunteer, a passion he still has today. He volunteers for KLRN TV station, Los Bexarenos, the Fiesta Commission, the Conservation Society and various other organizations. He also serves as an election judge when city, county or state elections are held. Ernest has never forgotten where he was born, his language or his culture. His mother instilled this in him "to assimilate as an American but not to forget that he is a Mexican citizen."

When traveling in Mexico two years ago this opportunity arose. He met Professor Jose Maria del Valle Sanchez who approached him and asked if he would edit a book he had compiled. Since the publication was about San Buenaventura, Coahuila, Mexico, Ernest's birthplace he immediately took on this project.

After a year of editing with the help of Maria Elena Martinez and Herman Huebenthal, the book became a reality. While reading the book, he found several interesting stories and documentation on everyday life during the time

period of 1748-1821 which he will share at the meeting. The publication will be available for sale at the meeting.

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



Nuestra Historia

[The Institute of Texan Cultures](#)

4 May - 4 September 2016

Featuring documents from the General Archive of the Indies in Seville, Spain, which was the launching point of Spain's exploration and expansion of the northern frontier of their new territory. Presented in partnership with Bexar County, at the Bexar County Presidio Gallery.



**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

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

**Coney Island: Visions of an
American Dreamland: 1861-
2008**

11 May - 11 Sept. 2016

**Highest Heaven: Spanish and
Portuguese Colonial Art from
the collection of Roberta and
Richard Huber**

11 June - 4 September 2016

Mi Casa Your Casa

11 June - 21 August 2016

**Heaven and Hell: Salvation
and Retribution in Pure Land
Buddhism**

10 June - 3 Sept. 2016

In Their Own Words:

The Messages of Early 20th Century Texas Real Photo Postcards



Saturday, July 9, 2016
11:30 a.m.

1201 Brazos St.
Austin, Texas



Ken Wilson
Postcard Collector and Writer

Postcards were the E-mail, Facebook, and Instagram of their day providing glimpses into individual lives and events. Led by postcard collector, writer, and lay historian Ken Wilson, visitors will explore the resulting narratives captured in photographic postcards from the minutiae of daily life, to disasters, to occasional mysteries.

This program coincides with the current TSLAC lobby exhibit, *Wish You Were Here*, which invites visitors to explore Texas tourism by region through historic postcards from the collections at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

News



Southeast Texas Postcard Collection Available Online

LIBERTY, TX - The Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) has digitized the Don Kelly Southeast Texas Postcard Collection as part of TSLAC's Texas Digital Archive (TDA). TDA is a searchable online repository designed to preserve and provide access to the state's historical records collections. The Don Kelly Collection, as it is commonly known, includes 1,500 postcards and photographs of historic Beaumont, Orange, Port Arthur, and surrounding areas. About 1,000 of those images can now be seen online.



The full Don Kelly Collection, dating from 1898 to 1997, can be viewed in person at the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center in Liberty, Texas, a part of TSLAC's Archives and Information Services Division. The images no longer protected by copyright law can be browsed and downloaded through the Texas Digital Archive, www.tsl.texas.gov/texasdigitalarchive. Some of the postcards are also part of TSLAC's new exhibit *Wish You Were Here*, on display at the Lorenzo de Zavala building in Austin until September 30, 2016.

Don Kelly, a community leader who has been engaged in the political and civic life of Southeast Texas for decades, actively collected postcards depicting notable scenes of the area's life, locale, and architecture. In the 1990s, Kelly donated portions of his personal postcard collection to the Sam Houston Center. The collection tells the story of many Southeast Texas businesses, churches, government institutions, railroads and landscapes.

The Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center serves as the official regional historical resource depository for the ten counties of Chambers, Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Newton, Orange, Polk, San Jacinto and Tyler. It is located at 650 FM 1011 in Liberty, TX. For more information on the Center's collections, including the Don Kelly Southeast Texas Postcard Collection, please call (936) 336-8821 or visit www.tsl.texas.gov/shc/.

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 eleven) - James P. Newcomb - 1863

PARRAS

The word Parras means grape clusters. Under the Spanish rule, certain sections were assigned the production of particular articles, and they were not allowed to be produced outside their restricted limits, and were under the control and monopoly of the government - to Parras fell the wine press, as to Orizaba the production of tobacco. After the overthrow of the Spaniards, these restrictions were removed, and the grape and tobacco were planted anywhere but Parras has always retained the reputation of producing the finest grapes and best wine in Mexico. Parras is situated at the base of a slate hill, from which is procured the water that supplies the town and irrigating ditches that irrigate the gardens, vineyards and extensive corn and wheat fields of the valley; - by sinking five or six feet, artesian springs are struck, the water is trained to the brow of the hill and goes dashing down in cascades, blessing, beautifying and fertilizing all below.

This hill is about three or four hundred feet above the level of the valley, and commands a fine view of Parras and its surroundings - the town, and its thousand vineyards now brown with Autumn leaves, having yielded their precious crops. Parras has a population of about four thousand inhabitants; the houses are built principally of *adobe*, but are neatly plastered and display considerable taste in the decoration of their yards - in Summer, it is a perfect paradise of flowers - the public walks and drives are well laid out and shaded by cotton woods. In fact, Parras is a nice place; it has no beggars and its people are happy, prosperous, and seem to have glad hearts; it is the wine, next to water, the cheapest beverage, that causes all this prosperity and gladness.

Among the places worthy of visiting is the *Hacienda Arriba*, which is situated just on the limits of the town as you enter by the Saltillo road; it consists of a cotton factory and the largest vineyard and wine cellar in Parras. The factory building are after the American style and plan, and the works are superintended by a couple of Americans - they manufacture manta or common cotton domestic; one hundred and twenty Mexican girls tend the looms, and the machinery is worked by water power. We were shown over the wine cellar by the superintendent, who is a German, and we almost saw double, by the time we had satisfied our curiosity.

One evening before leaving Parras, a dozen Negroes, once of the Seminole tribe, rode up to the Government house opposite our quarters; they had a scalp, and reported a fight they had had with the Indians only a little distance from the town, right on our road. These Negroes are employed by the Mexicans to fight the Indians and are very successful.

FROM PARRAS TO DURANGO

Nov. 9. - Left Parras, being escorted out of the town by our German friends. Our party has been increased by five travelers; three sons of the Emerald Isle and two young Germans, all from Texas and bound for California; fine fellows, jovial, kind and brave, and a valuable reinforcement. Our caravan now consisted of one large ambulance, containing Mr. and Mrs. B. and five youngest children, two little girls and three boys, the oldest of which drove; following this came a smaller ambulance, driven by Dick B. and an Englishman, the rear was brought up by our Irish companions' outfit, being a little wagon drawn by a single mule, in which two of them rode, the third walking; leaving me a cavalry force composed of two young Bs. and the two Germans: - one of the B's and myself formed the vanguard, and thus we journeyed keeping a sharp look out for Indians. Our first accident happened to-day in the capsizing of the large ambulance, the youngest of the little girls, little Bella, had her collar bone broken, none of the rest received injury, little damage was done to the vehicle. Arrived in *La Pena* after dark, having made a good day's journey over a rough and dangerous road; a party of Mexicans immediately behind us were attacked by Indians

10th. - From *La Pena* we could see *Alamo de Parras*, some twenty-five miles distant; we descended and passed over a level plain of soft alkaline soil, and reached here early in the evening. It is a thrifty little village, surrounded by extensive fields of corn, wheat and cotton, the last product is grown to a considerable extent in this region, by means of irrigation; the crop is certain and the staple good, - it is sold in Parras. We found a good *Meson* and had hardly alighted, when an old Mexican rushed in and inquired if there was a doctor in the party, saying he had a daughter who had been *mala en parte* for four days; Mrs. B. volunteered, and having too much to do, I despatched one of the young Germans as interpreter; in a few minutes my young friend came back blushing to the eyes, and I was compelled to go in his place. I fully appreciated his embarrassment, when I entered the sick room, where all the females in the village were in attendance - it was the first time I had ever been called in on such a consultation - the situation was desperate, but circumstances alter cases, - that night there was a new arrival in town, to the great joy of all interested. We rested a day in this place, and were treated very hospitably by the people, particularly by the happy parents, who supplied us with young kid, and furnished us a guide to *Poso Calvo*. I may remark, that the Mexicans think every American possesses the healing art, and you are continually accosted by the ailing.

11th. - Our fame had preceded us, and upon our arrival at *Poso Calvo* a host of sick came forward to be cured. The owner of the ranch had a family of albino children. Here they make *mescal*.

12th. - Nooned at *Rio Buenavil*, and made a dry camp a few miles farther on.

13th. - Reached *La Cadia* about 12 o'clock M., rested a couple of hours and then proceeded on to *El Passaje*, having the choice of the road to *Cuencame*, a flourishing mining town. *El Passaje* is noted for the grave of the gallant Cajen, who was killed in a fight with the Indians near by. Here I lost my dog, "*Estrangero*" - I had praised his good qualities to the owner of the ranch; and upon our leaving he was missing, having been stolen and carefully hid away. I charged the head man with the theft, but he pleaded innocent and had some of the houses searched. It was with reluctance I left the faithful creature behind; he came to me at *Castroville* in extreme poverty, I befriended him and repaid me

by becoming my friend and companion over the many rough miles I had travelled.

13th. - We met a Mexican wagon train and were informed that the Indians were committing depredations on all sides of us, a little further on, we saw Indians in the distance, driving horses. Stop at *Yerbanis*, found the inhabitants greatly excited; shortly after our arrival, the survivors of an adjacent ranch came in for refuge, their houses having been burnt by the Indians and their neighbors murdered. From this on to Durango, is an open prairie country that once pastured thousands of stock, but the Indians have devastated it.

14th. - Passed ranch which had been destroyed by Indians. Camped at *Los Sauces*, quite a village.

15th. - Passed a couple of ranches and reached *El Charro* at an early hour, where we were kindly entertained by the head man. Just before we came in sight of the *hacienda*, quite an exciting and amusing accident occurred. It is well to say, that we had heard that the robbers were very bad in the vicinity of Durango, and as we near that city we naturally keep a sharp look out. In the distance, we descried a party of horsemen approaching us and we could see the little red pennants fluttering from their lances. Chas. B. who was riding ahead with me, asked my opinion of them, I told him they were either a party of regular soldiers, or the escort to some *Don*; he was satisfied, but bent a joke, knowing the great dread his brother Dick, who drove the smaller ambulance, had of robbers, he dropped behind and told him in a hurried manner, that a party of *ladrones* were coming up the road, to get ready. Dick began active preparations immediately, and in his great hurry accidentally shot off his double-barrel gun, the most of the load taking effect in Charley's back as he was riding up to me, chuckling over the consternation he had caused Dick - for a moment all was confusion, Charley was taken into the large ambulance writhing with pain, his back being peppered with good-sized duck shot; fortunately he had on a thick coat and they had only pierced the skin. Dick did not notice the effect of his shot only so far as he was concerned, having shot away his reins and stampeded his mules, their ears being in ranged were completely perforated; bringing them to, he cursed his luck at having wasted a hot. We were soon to rights, and the escort passed us, followed by a Mexican family in a carriage.

Near *El Charro* are numerous ponds of water, and their surface was literally covered with wild geese and ducks, our Englishman who was riding one of the little mules, which he professed to do to perfection, insisted on taking a gun and trying his luck; riding to the edge of one of the ponds he fired into a flock with no effect, but the little mule not fancying the operation, "stooped up behind," turning his conceited rider a somerset into the water, and did not stay to see him out, but came back to the company full tilt, evidently well pleased with his trick performance. This caused great merriment at "Old England's" expense, and although it may not entirely eradicate his conceit, we are likely to be spared his boasting for several days to come.

Here we saw the "*melachino*," an old Aztec dance, performed by men and boys masked and fancifully dressed, it is a kind of pantomime.

Nov. 16. - Good road to within six miles of Durango, when we came to a swamp in which was mired an entire train of wagons; our large ambulance stuck, but after considerable trouble we got safely over. Came in sight of Durango, its church spires glistening in the evening light.

Put up at the excellent meson Santa Anna. Here we remained two days, then rented a fine mansion, adequate to the wants of the entire party, it had been the former residence of the Governors of Durango.

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:

- August 2016 by July 15
- September 2016 by August 15
- October 2016 by September 15

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