



## South Texas Researcher

January 2017

### 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   | 12:00 pm - 8:00 pm |
| Wednesday | 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  |
| Thursday  | 12:00 pm - 8:00 pm |
| Friday    | 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  |
| Saturday  | 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  |



#### **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 101

Have you ever wanted to learn how to do research on your family tree? Come learn how to conduct basic research techniques. Discover how to use the databases and resources available as your guide as you learn about your family tree. Mark your calendar!



*Our  
Family  
Tree*

**Wednesday, January 25, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.**

### Maverick Branch Library

8700 Mystic Park

Call 210.207.9060 for more information.

## New Publications



The Surnames of Wales  
GENEALOGY 929.4 ROWLANDS

Bossier Parish History, 1843-1993, The First 50 Years  
GENEALOGY 976.3 BOSSIER

Caddo Parish, Louisiana Cemeteries, North  
GENEALOGY 976.3 CADDO V. 1 & V. 2

Louisiana Place Names: United State Geological Survey's Geographic Names Information System  
GENEALOGY 976.3 GEOLOGICAL

Bedford County, Tennessee Bible Records  
GENEALOGY 976.8 BEDFORD V. 1 & V. 2

Echoes of Glory: Historic Military Sites Across Texas  
TEXANA 355.00976 ALEXANDER

Marfa Modern: Artistic Interiors of the West Texas High Desert  
TEXANA 747.09764 THOMPSON

Spurs Nation: Major Moments in San Antonio Basketball  
TEXANA 796.32364 SPURS

Friday, Saturday, Sunday in Texas: A Year in the Life of Lone Star Football from High School to College to the Cowboys  
TEXAS 796.332 EATMAN

Shooting for the Record: Adolph Toepperwein, Tom Frye and Sharpshooting's Forgotten Controversy

TEXANA 799.31 PRICE

Early Travellers In Mexico: 1534 to 1816  
TEXANA 917.2 MAYER

Rosters of Tejano Patriots of the American Revolution, 1776-1783  
TEXANA 973.3464 VILLAREAL

How To Be a Texan  
TEXANA 976.4 VALDEZ

Faces of Bexar: Early San Antonio & Texas  
TEXANA 976.4351 TEJA

Sutton County Historical Society, 1887-1977  
TEXANA 976.4879 SUTTON

Cattle, Cowboys and Rangers  
TEXANA 978.02 RAINE

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## Community Partners

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### 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:** January 7, 2017

**Speaker:** none

**Topic:** none

Instead of a January meeting, the Society will hold an Installation of Officers Banquet. Click [here](#) for banquet information.

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



### 1000 Parks and a Line in the Sky

[The Institute of Texan Cultures](#)

21 October 2016 - 16 April 2017

"1000 Parks and a Line in the Sky: Broadway, Avenue of the Future," is a design vision by Antonio Petrov, UTSA assistant professor of architecture, and the "think/do-tank" he has established



in the College of Architecture, Construction and Planning. The exhibit features a 50-foot-long model of Broadway, a street that has the potential to become San Antonio's great urban avenue.

Recent developments on Broadway, such as the Museum Reach and the Pearl, and renewed interest in the street's future have generated much discussion about what becoming an "urban" city actually means. In its present state, however, nearly fifty percent of Broadway's urban landscape is flanked by parking space while nearly all spaces along the corridor are tied to businesses, leaving almost no public space for people to gather as citizens without being consumers.

Petrov has conducted extensive research on Broadway and proposes a linear park system, comprised of unused interstitial spaces found along the street, and a skyride that connects the airport to Travis Park. Many residents and visitors to San Antonio remember experiencing the city from the sky between the 1960s and 1990s on the Brackenridge Park skyride. Inspired by this local history, he explores possible future directions for urban development, public parks, and alternative transportation systems using the Broadway corridor as a model.

The interactive installation focuses on public input, while associated public events, roundtable discussions, photo collection events, and educational programming will bridge the past and future of Broadway to help the community imagine its new identity. Visitors are also able to experience a nostalgic moment by taking a seat in a gondola from the original Brackenridge skyride.

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## Texans One and All

### [The Institute of Texan Cultures](#)

Texans One and All examines the stories and customs of more than 20 of the original cultural groups who settled in Texas. It is the people that make Texas the great state that it is. Guests will:



- Learn Wendish wedding customs
- Read the story of the Lebanese pack peddler
- Learn to write Chinese numbers
- Hear the stories of Japanese American intern camp detainees
- See the Czech polka
- Hear the blowing of the Jewish shofar
- Read the stories of black Texans including baseball player Frank Robinson and Pearl Harbor hero Doris Miller
- See how early Swedish Texans lived
- Walk through today's Tejano story
- Learn what Danish Texan sculpted Mount Rushmore

And much more! The exhibit will change as the museum updates content and specific areas of the exhibit floor.



theMcNay

  
San Antonio Museum of Art

**National Geographic  
Earth Explorers**  
24 Sept. 2016 - 22 Jan. 2017

**Parlour Games: Ruloff Kip's  
Toy Theatre**  
6 July 2016 - 6 Feb. 2017

**Carlos Merida: Selections  
from the Permanent  
Collection**  
8 July 2016 - 29 Jan. 2017

**Jennifer Steinkamp: Botanic 3**  
30 Aug. 2016 - 8 January 2017

**Telling Tales: Contemporary  
Narrative Photography**  
28 Sept. 2016 - 15 Jan. 2017

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## News



## Library of Congress and Digital Public Library of America Launch Partnership with Maps



Posted by [DPLA](#) on November 29, 2016

The Library of Congress today signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Digital Public Library of America to become a Content Hub and will ultimately share a significant portion of its rich digital resources with DPLA's database of digital content records.

The first batch of records will include 5,000 items from three major Library of Congress map collections - the Revolutionary War, Civil War, and panoramic maps.

"We are pleased to make the Digital Public Library of America a new door through which the public can access the digital riches of the Library of Congress," said Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden. "We will be sharing some beautiful, one-of-a-kind historic maps that I think people will really love. They are available online and I hope even more people discover them through DPLA."

"We couldn't be more thrilled to collaborate closely with the Library of Congress, to work with them on the important mission of maximizing access to our nation's shared cultural heritage," said DPLA's Executive Director Dan Cohen, "and we deeply appreciate not only the Library's incredible collections, but also the great efforts of the Librarian and her staff."

"The Library of Congress's extraordinary resources will be exponentially more available to everyone in the United States through DPLA. This partnership will benefit everyone, from curious thinkers to scholars," said Amy Ryan, President of DPLA's Board of Directors.

The Digital Public Library of America, the product of a widely shared vision of a national digital library dating back to the 1990s, was launched with a planning process bringing together 40 leaders from libraries, foundations, academia and technology projects in October, 2010 followed by an intense community planning effort that culminated in 2013. Its aim was to supersede the silo effect many digitization efforts were subject to. Based in Boston, the board of directors includes leading public and research librarians, technologists, intellectual property scholars, and business experts from across the nation. Its goal is to create "an open, distributed network of comprehensive online resources that would draw on the nation's living heritage from libraries, universities, archives, and museums in order to educate, inform, and empower everyone in current and future - generations."

The Library of Congress expects to add a significant portion of its digital items to the original trio of collections over time, covering other collections such as photos, maps and sheet music.

Library of Congress items already appear in the DPLA database. Earlier in this decade, the Library digitized more than 100,000 books in its collections as part of its membership in the HathiTrust and the Biodiversity Heritage Library, both current partners with the DPLA. As a result, those books are already in the DPLA's collections through those partners.

The Digital Public Library of America strives to contain the full breadth of human expression, from the written word, to works of art and culture, to records of America's heritage, to the efforts and data of science. Since launching in April 2013, it has aggregated more than 14 million items from more than 2,000 institutions. The DPLA is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit.

The Library of Congress is the world's largest library, offering access to the creative record of the United States-and extensive materials from around the world-both on site and online. The Library is the main research arm of the U.S. Congress and the home of the U.S. Copyright Office. Explore collections, reference services and other programs and plan a visit at [loc.gov](http://loc.gov), access the official site for U.S. federal legislative information at [congress.gov](http://congress.gov), and register creative works of authorship at [copyright.gov](http://copyright.gov).

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## 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 seventeen) - James P. Newcomb - 1863

#### FROM DURANGO TO MAZATLAN

[Dec]. 20th - Started early this morning, to take advantage of the cool of the day, crossed *El Espinazo al Diablo* or "The Devil's Backbone," a fearful mountain ridge, and said to be the last of our very bad road.

We are camped again on the river, and near a ranch called *El Palmar*, I suppose from the roofs of the huts being made of palm leaves. The inhabitants of this region have very dark complexions and are universally afflicted with the *goitre*. I visited the hut of the principal man of *Palmar* to procure some corn. In a miserable hammock reclined the old man evidently taking his ease, he had on hardly clothing enough to merit a description - merely a bandage about his middle and a pair of sandals on his feet - his gray, grizzly locks seem never to have made acquaintance with a comb, and his wrinkled features and the huge tumor under his chin, suggested the idea of a patriarchal baboon. Under the porel, sat his old mate, much after the same pattern, only she was fully dressed, the lump under her chin or side of her neck was so large that it swung in a sack; three girls sat along side the mother who would not have been lacking in comeliness if it were not for their disfigured necks; on the ground sat or crawled, two naked, miserable idiots. I don't think I

shall soon forget the picture. Children of *goitred* parents are apt to be idiotic, and personas afflicted with the *goitre* speak with effort.

21st. - Had a beautiful day, and our trail lay for the most part through dense tropical woods; our attention was attracted by the strange varieties of trees, and especially the banyan, whose roots spring from the upper branches and tread down to the earth and then take root. Great numbers of parrots flocked through the woods, almost deafening us with their screams, our party shot several, and we made a feast of parrot, which we found very palatable, in fact delicious.

22nd. - After a warm day's travel, we have arrived at *Puerto San Marcos*, quite a nice little village - our road pursuing the river all day.

23rd. - Camped at a miserable little ranch one days travel from Mazatlan. The weather was quite warm but our trail has been more tolerable to-day. Passed several ranches and plantain groves, and fields enclosed with hedges of *argona* cactus, planted like posts in the ground.

24th. - Came into a broad wagon road within a few miles of Mazatlan, and gaining an eminence near the city the sea broke upon our view; my vision spread over its beautiful surface with delight, and each heavy surge that broke upon the sandy beach seemed fraught with memories of the past, - how many changes time has brought me since I first saw the great ocean; with Byron I apostrophized:

*"Time writes no wrinkles on thy azure brow  
Such as creations down beheld, thou rollest now."*

Just before entering the city, we underwent the scrutiny of the custom house officers.

#### OUR MULETEERS

In bidding good-by to our muleteers, I must pay them a tribute justly due them. They are a hardy, lusty set of young mountaineers, guided by an old experienced Mexican. Never have I seen a more industrious, good natured set of men; their work, always hard, patience-trying and often perilous, they performed cheerfully and without a murmur, a word of anger or an oath, - from morning till night they were on the go, and it was truly astonishing with what celerity and skill they handled the mules and packs, - on the march, constant vigilance is required to keep the packs balanced and every rope tight. Their dress is somewhat peculiar; besides the flowing pantaloons and broad brimmed hat, they wear leather pads on their breasts and thighs to protect them from the rubbing of the packs. While I award them the meed of being the handiest men in the world, in their line, I will also say that the mule finds his appropriate station, and displays to a greater advantage, his superiority over any other animal as a beast of burden on these mountain trails; having no equal in hardihood and endurance, and rivaling the mountain goat in the certainty of his step, even with a load of several hundred pounds upon his back. Some writer awards the mule the palm for sapiency over the horse, and I must say my opinion of the animal is materially changed, - once I considered him the embodiment of stupidity, now I believe him capable of becoming the most docile and tractable of the horse kind - on these mountains they are indispensable

#### CAJEN'S EXPEDITION

About eighteen months since, Cajen, a Federal General, or rather robber, headed an expedition from Durángo to Mazatlán, for the purpose of capturing it. Besides cavalry, he brought long four pieces of field artillery, twelve pounders; he reached the "Devil's Back Bone," and ambushed and defeated by the Liberals, leaving behind his artillery.

Considering the route, the bringing of these cannon thus far, is certainly one of the greatest military feats ever performed by any Mexican General; they had to be carried entirely by hand. He was compelled to improve the road in many places, so we found it in better condition than it was prior to his expedition.

#### MAZATLÁN

Is situated on the eastern shores of the Gulf of California at the mouth of the gulf, which also bears the name of the Gulf of Cortéz. Cortéz having discovered and explored it in his expedition to the Pacific in the 16th century. On a high hill which rises from the water's edge, is built a lookout from which is had a fine view of sea, land and city. The city is situated on a quadrangular peninsula, and seems embowered in tall, coco-nut trees. In the tranquil little harbor are anchored the small crafts and the light canoes of the natives dart everywhere over the water or are drawn up on the beach; while in the offing are anchored the larger vessels and ships. East from the harbor stretch arms of water, anon green islands, and in the distance blue looking mountains. The coast is bold and rugged, and several small mountains seem to have missed their calculation and got to sea, forming mountain islands.

Mazatlán bears no evidence of Mexican antiquity, being comparatively a new place. Twenty years ago, there were in fact only a few huts upon the western shore of the little peninsula, a few canoes were the only craft in the harbor, these belonging to the natives who partly lived upon the fish which swarm these waters in great numbers, variety, and delicacy of flavor. Within the last fifteen years the present city has been built; its prosperity being coeval with the opening of California. It now boasts a population of about twelve thousand, a growing trade and hopeful future. Adjacent are rich mineral bearing mountains and a good agricultural country. The climate is a drawback, the the summer being very hot and sickly. However, a good government and the influx of Americans would make Sinaloa a fine country.

The principal portion of the city is solidly and well-built. There are no fine old churches as in other old Mexican towns. The streets are narrow, but are kept clean. The market house is passable, but poorly supplied, considering the capability of the country. The new custom house is a credit to the town. The main square is out of shape and taste, but serves well enough as a congregating place for the people to hear the brass bands and take a pasear.

The people of Mazatlán are much darker than the people of the interior.

The principal business of the place is done by foreigners. The most important trade is with California.

#### ON PROSPECTING

Being compelled to wait in Mazatlán for the arrival of the steamer for California, I had several days leisure which I employed in "prospecting." Taking an old Mexican mountaineer along to carry my blankets and provisions, I started out on foot, and traversed our road back as far as Duraznito and went some five leagues beyond that place. I examined the "Providencia," "Minas Negras," "Guadalupe Los Angeles," "El Favor," and other mines, and returned to Mazatlán, performing for the trip, about two hundred and fifty miles and eight days, breaking down my Mexican companion, which a consider a pretty good feat of pedestrianism considering the road. The mountain ranges which traverse Mexico from end to end, may be said to be one vast mining region, embracing all the minerals. Silver, however, seems to be predominant, at least demands the most attention. At no distant day the region I have just prospected will attract the notice of capitalists; already many Californians are coming in and picking up good mines. Who can tell the future of a country which contains so much undeveloped wealth as this? It seems to be held in reserve for more enterprising and deserving people than now inhabit it.

#### NEW YEAR'S DAY IN MAZATLÁN

January 1st, 1862, finds me in in Mazatlán. I rose early, took a stroll by the sea-side and a bath in the bright waves. The wind was fresh and the tide coming in - how like the great ocean is Time, wave succeeding wave, year succeeding year, breaking on the shores of the world. On my return from my bath, I saw a coffin, painted black, with golden stripes, ready to receive its tenant, borne on the shoulders of two young men: I thought, it could not be for the Old Year, for he finds a sepulcher in the hearts of all mankind, and epitaph on the page of history; no, it was intended for one of the human family, who breathed his

last with the expiring year. Many a strong arm and brave heart that commenced the struggles of the last year with vigor, has perished, and many a bright eye, full of hope, has faded in death. Eventful to America has been the past year, and as an humble citizen, I have cause to ruminate over the rough storms which have drifted me to the shores of the Pacific. In the opposite direction from the coffin-bearers, approached a beautiful Castilian girl, with rosy cheeks and heavenly eyes - the simile was complete - a sadness seems to steal over her fair face, as the solemn emblem passed. For one I am willing to let the past be the past, and for Time to roll on his never-stopping car, to a better future.

#### TO SAN FRANCISCO

On the 25th of January, 1862, we took passage on the steamer Panama for San Francisco, California, where we arrived after a propitious voyage of nine days. I must say, it was with little regret I saw the shores of Mexico fade from view. Coming in at the "Golden Gate" seemed like entering some fairy sea, surrounded by a fairy land, - the beautiful harbor, the green upland shores, and finally, the shipping and city, passing in panoramic review. My heart beat with joy and gratitude, when I set my foot on American soil once more. It was delightful to see the starry flags waving, and the great stir of an American city after several months spent among the dull old towns of Mexico.

**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 and italics were left as-written by Mr. Newcomb.*

The End



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:

- February 2017 by January 15
- March 2017 by February 15
- April 2017 by March 15

VISIT OUR WEBSITE