



## South Texas Researcher

March 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*:

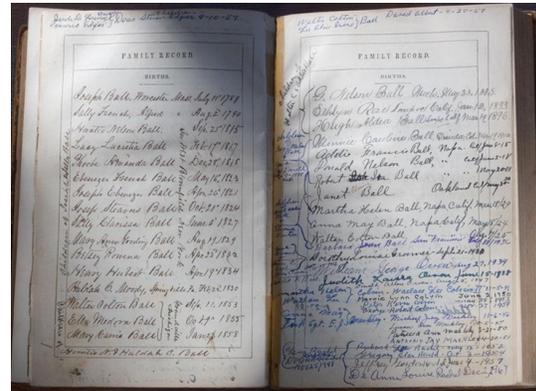
- Cemeteries
- Civil War
- Civil War in Texas
- Death
- Family History
- HeritageQuest Online
- Hispanic Genealogical Research
- Jewish Genealogy
- King James Bible
- La Meri
- Local History
- Texas History
- The Wild West
- Special Collections
- World War I



## Searching for Family Bible Records

Family Bibles can be valuable sources of genealogical information. Even if you don't own one, you may find Bible records online, in published journals or in archives that contain information about your family. This class will show you where to target your search.

Registration is required.



**Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.**

### Central Library Training Room

600 Soledad Street

Call 210.207.2500 for more information.

## Las Tesoros de San Antonio

Jorge Sandoval is a local actor, filmmaker, photographer and technician. He returns to filmmaking with the exciting documentary *Las Tesoros de San Antonio/ A Westside Story*. Experience the sights and sounds.

**Saturday, March 11, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.**

### Central Library Auditorium

600 Soledad Street

Call 210.207.2500 for more information.



## Uncovering Her Story: Finding Your Female Ancestors

Join us and learn special strategies for researching the elusive women in your family tree. Registration is required.

**Saturday, March 26, 2017, 1:00-2:30 p.m.**

### Central Library - Launch SA

600 Soledad Street  
Call 210.207.2500 for more information.



## Friends of Texana Book Sale

The Friends of Texana/Genealogy will be offering for sale a huge selection of both Texana and Genealogy books at great prices! Come early for the best selection.

**Saturday, 1 April, 2017, 10:00-2:00 p.m.**

### Central Library - Gallery

600 Soledad Street  
Call 210.207.2500 for more information.



## New Publications



Los Perioicos Canarios en America  
GENEALOGY 056.1 FERNANDEZ

Early County, Georgia, Marriage Records, 1820-1915  
GENEALOGY 975.8 HEAD

Juan O' Gorman's A Confluence of Civilizations  
TEXANA 700.92 O'GORMAN

The Art of Found Objects: Interviews with Texas Artists  
TEXANA 700.922 BUNCH

Forty Texas Printmakers  
TEXANA 769.92276 FORTY

The Game Changers: Abnre Haynes, Leon King and the Fall of Major College Football's Color Barrier in Texas  
TEXANA 796.33263 MINER

Corazón Del Norte: A Selection of North Texas Latino Writing  
TEXANA 810.80868 CORAZÓN

Ralph Ogden by Ruth Goddard  
The Seven Mustangs by J. Frank Dobie  
TEXANA 917.643 GODDARD

Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca, the Forgotten Chronicler  
TEXANA 970.016 FERNANDEZ

The Life Story of W. Lee O'Daniel  
TEXANA 976.4063 O'DANIEL

Civil War Soldiers of Jasper and Newton Counties, Texas  
TEXANA 976.4159 DAVIS

Muster Rolls of Reserve Militia, Nacogdoches County, Texas, 1870  
TEXANA 976.4182 MUSTER

Cherokee County, Texas in the Civil War  
TEXANA 976.4183 DEVEREAUX

Minutes of the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Rusk County, Texas,  
October 1867-November 1871  
TEXANA 976.4185 CARMEL

Red River County, Texas in the Civil War  
TEXANA 976.4212 ERICSON

Heirship Papers of Franklin County, Texas, Book 1  
TEXANA 976.4213 HEIRSHIP

Historical Records of Franklin County, Texas  
TEXANA 976.4213 HISTORICAL

Homegoing Memorials: A Book of Reflection  
TEXANA 976.4213 HOMEGOING (3 volumes)

Rural Cemeteries of Franklin County, Texas  
TEXANA 976.4213 RURAL

Bridges Chapel Church Titus County, Texas: Some Facts and Memories  
TEXANA 976.4215 BRIDGES

Civil War Soldiers of Houston County, Texas  
TEXANA 976.4235 DAVIS

Cemeteries of Bexar County, Texas  
TEXANA 976.435 CEMETERIES V. 9

Dios y Tejas: Essays on the History of Von Ormy, TX  
TEXANA 976.435 MARTINEZ de VARA

Reflections of Mills County: Fro the Collection of Kenneth M. Shaw  
TEXANA 976.4512 REFLECTIONS

Centennial Survey, 1882-1982, Bowie Area  
TEXANA 976.4541 CENTENNIAL

The Promised Land: A History of Brown County, Texas  
TEXANA 976.4548 WHITE

The Men and Women in the Armed Forces from Tom Green County  
TEXANA 976.4721 MEN

---

## 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:** March 4, 2017

**Speaker:** Thelma Garcia Celestino

**Topic:** Her book "Are We Almost There?"

The book chronicles childhood experiences of migrant siblings learning family values, work ethics, education and goals for a better tomorrow!

Thelma Garcia Celestino is the daughter of the late Mariano and Carmen Garcia from Floresville, TX. Thelma is the youngest of their ten children. Thelma Garcia Celestino worked as a teacher and administrator for San Antonio ISD for thirty years. She held positions as an elementary teacher in both GT and bilingual classes, instructional coordinator, assistant principal, principal, and library director before retiring in 2009. She is currently an adjunct professor at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, teaching and supervising for the Teacher Education Program, part-time ESL Teacher with Adult Ed in SAISD and loves being a grandma! Thelma presently lives in Floresville, TX with her husband Richard Celestino.

#### 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:

<a href="#">Dennis Moreno</a>	210.647.5607
<a href="#">Yolanda Patiño</a>	210.434.3530





## Canary Islands Descendants Association

The Canary Islands Descendants Association's monthly meetings are open to the public. Association membership is not required to attend. There is a guest speaker at each meeting that shares information about historical events, facts or other related information on Texas, San Antonio or the Canary Islands.

### Event Details:

- Every third Saturday between January 21, 2017 and November 18, 2017
- 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
- Free

### Venue:

- San Fernando Hall
- 231 West Commerce Street
- San Antonio, TX 78205
- 210-538-0905

### EVENT PRESENTED BY:

- Canary Islands Descendants Association
- [cida.satx@gmail.com](mailto:cida.satx@gmail.com)
- <http://www.cida-sa.org>



### 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,



## 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.

---

## 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.

---

## 6th Forensic Genealogy Institute: March 6-8 in San Antonio

Menger Hotel  
204 Alamo Plaza  
San Antonio, TX 78205  
Tel. 210-223-4361

Don't miss an opportunity to participate in the only institute specifically designed for those interested in the field of forensic genealogy. This year two tracks will be offered - for the first time - by two of the best genealogists in the industry. Debbie Parker Wayne, CG, CGL, co-author of the first workbook for genetic genealogy, Genetic Genealogy in Practice, and the innovator who brought week-long DNA courses to genealogy institutes in 2014, will offer a three-day workshop Applying Genetic Genealogy to a Forensic Specialty. Judy Russell, JD, CG, CGL, a.k.a. The Legal Genealogist, will offer a brand new course that forensic genealogists won't want to miss, Becoming an Expert: Law and the Forensic Genealogist.

Welcome reception on Monday March 6  
Banquet on Wednesday March 8

Registration is now open

For more information and to sign up now, visit  
<http://www.forensicgenealogists.org/institute>



[New Witte Grand Opening](#)

4 March 2017

[Above and Beyond](#)

[Presented by Boeing](#)

18 February - 7 May 2017

[Texas Art of Early Days to  
Now: The Witte Collection](#)

6 Oct 2016 - 29 May 2017

[Rudolf Staffel: Gathering  
Light](#)

6 Oct. 2016 - 29 May 2017

[Sur Papier: Works on Paper  
by Renoir, Chagall and Other  
French Moderns](#)

25 January - 21 May 2017

[Broadway: 100 Years of  
Musical Theater](#)

18 January - 18 June 2017

[LP to MP3: The Original Cast  
Recording](#)

18 January - 18 June 2017

[Leigh Anne Lester: A Variety  
of Forms Recovering from  
Transsubstantiated Clarity](#)

4 August 2016 - 30 June 2017

[Julian Onderdonk and the  
Texas Landscape](#)

20 January 2016 - 23 April  
2017

[Carlos Merida: Selections  
from the Permanent  
Collection](#)

8 July 2016 - 19 March 2017

[The Magic of Clay and Fire:  
Japanese Contemporary  
Ceramics](#)

14 Dec. 2016 - Fall 2017

---

## News

---



### **An Attempt to Save South Carolina's Historical Documents is Destroying Them**

This should be a lesson to all genealogists, archivists, historians, and to anyone with old documents or pictures they would like to preserve: Don't laminate them!

Back in the 1950s, many people thought that laminating something was a method of preserving it. Even some archivists recommended laminating old documents. As the years went by, these people learned the folly of their recommendations. Laminating something actually hastens its deterioration.

For 20 years, beginning in the 1950s, the state of South Carolina laminated documents to protect them from aging. However, a chemical reaction caused the documents to deteriorate faster than they would have had they been left un laminated. The natural acids from the paper mix with the degrading laminate to create a noxious vinegar. Each passing year will further degrade the document until it's gone.

"You're effectively forming an envelope where you're keeping the acids in the paper, not allowing them to migrate out," says Molly McGath, a researcher at Johns Hopkins University.

McGath has written extensively about lamination, and she says South Carolina isn't the only state with this problem. She says the method was performed around the U.S., and other countries, throughout the 20th century. There are as many as 6 million laminated historical documents.

You can read more about the South Carolina experience in an article by Cooper McKim in the NPR News web site at <https://goo.gl/ZpUAKw>.

---

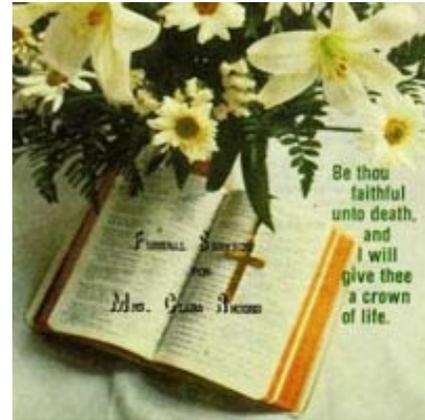
## African-American Funeral Programs

The Texana/Genealogy Department holds a collection of over 4,500 African-American funeral programs to document the lives of those who have passed away since 1935 in the African-American community of Bexar and surrounding counties.

The programs have been digitized and are available to view for free at the Portal to Texas History [HERE](#).

We are always looking to add to our collection, by way of donation, photocopies or digital scans.

---



## 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

**Fifty Six Years and the Alamo Again Sees the Boys March to the Front**

**Charles T. Smith, Veteran of the Confederacy Tells of Doing Guard Duty at**

## Historic Shrine in Civil War Days ---What the Old San Antonio Was Like in the Stirring Days.

by Helen Cahill

"When I read in The Express about two weeks ago that the boys from Camp Funston had taken the oath in front of the Alamo, I was right with them, for back in '61 I stood there myself, taking the oath to serve under Captain Bill Edgar in a company he had organized to take charge of Government property at the time of secession, " said Charles T. Smith, a veteran of the Confederate Army, and a highly respected citizen of San Antonio.

"Later I enlisted in the Christmas Artillery, which was ordered to New Orleans, but while serving in Captain Edgar's company I stood guard many a night in front of the Alamo when it held Government property.

There was also a long narrow flat adobe building also used for storing Government goods, which extended from the west side of the Plaza, about where the opera house now is ---across the north end of the park. The Menger had just been built then. Degen's Brewery was run in conjunction with the hotel.

Talking about being with Captain Edgar's company makes me think of the time we boys tried to burst an old cannon which stood at the west end of that long building I spoke of a few minutes ago. It was a relic of San Jacinto days, which had been dug up and placed there. The muzzle of it was full of spikes. We boys imagined it was full of gold and set to work to get it open. We worked with a sledge hammer for some time, but that was not effective. A woman told us to pour acid over it, then to saw it with a yarn string. Of course, we did as we were advised. We kept up the work for days, taking turn about doing the sawing. After we had made a dent a half-inch deep all round the cannon we decided to try the sledge hammer again, and were successful in breaking it open a little above the point we had been laboring on. There was nothing in the old thing but empty cartridges, and our idea of getting rich that way faded away. That old cannon is now out in San Pedro Springs, in front of that Indian fort. The indentation we made with that yarn string is still there. I am the only one of the boys living that did that piece of work."

### **MANY WORE ONLY RAGS**

In comparing the army equipment of today with that of the Civil War, Mr. Smith said: "We had no uniforms when we went in, and some served the entire period of the war without any. I drew one artillery uniform. It was the regulation grey, with red collar and red cuffs. The red part meant 'artillery,' as it does today.

"Many of the boys served in rags, and came home in worse ones.

Before I got my uniform, a friend and I were so badly in need of breeches that we stole a Government wagon sheet and took it off into the brush, where we used our old breeches for a pattern and cut ourselves some new ones out of the sheet. We used a pocketknife to do the cutting and sewed up the seams with twine.

Many of the soldiers went hungry. It is true that some of them would go to where the horses were eating and pick up the corn that they dropped when chewing, was it, then roast it and eat it themselves."

Mr. Smith is a member of the Albert Sidney Johnston Camp No. 144. When interviewed, he wore the hallowed gray uniform, with his camp badge and the copper Cross of Honor given him by the Daughters of the Confederacy, the United States flag and the tricolors of the allies! What finer picture could one hope to see!

"This cross was made from some copper cannon which was used by the Confederates in one of the big battles of the Civil War, and I always wear it," he said with pride.

### **ONCE A SLAVE MARKET**

When asked if the Alamo appeared any different during the Civil War than it does now, Mr. Smith said: "Yes, there are some changes. For instance, at that time there were

outside steps which led up the center of the building to the second floor. The steps ended in a platform. That platform was one of the old slave markets, where negroes were put up at auction. A stout, hardy negro brought anywhere from \$1,000 to \$1,500. The thin ones were not valued so high. Men brought bigger prices than women and boys, because they could pick more cotton.

A great many people thought the Southerners were fighting to keep negroes in slavery, but they were not. We were fighting to keep our property, and the negroes represented a part of what we had toiled to get. The United States Government established slavery in the Southern States, and the Southerners used what was furnished them to cultivate the land. The Government should have paid the people for their property, the same as it does now. That was all the Southerners wanted."

### **DAYS BEFORE THE WAR**

"I came here in the early times when a lot of mischief was being done, but I don't think I ought to tell of that. Sixty-years have brought about many changes for the better in San Antonio," and the aged veteran then went into reminiscences of the days before the war.

"To look sixty years back down Houston Street and Alamo Plaza brings before me quite a different picture than the one which is actually there. It is true that 'Houston Street' at that time was on the map which had been made for the future city, as were a great many others we cross every day, but it was nothing more than a lane or a road when I came here.

My parents moved to Texas from Wisconsin. In '57, to get away from the cold weather up North. We originally came from New York State and had stopped in Wisconsin only a year or so, to see how we liked the climate there. I was born in Franklinville, Cataraugus County, New York, seventy-five years ago, and was just 15 when we came to San Antonio.

I went to school to Judge Lackey in an adobe building which stood where the Goggan Bros. store now is ---at Navarro and Houston Streets, but as I mentioned a while ago, there were in reality no streets then. The boys rode up to the school house from a dozen different directions and tied their ponies out in front.

On the opposite side of Houston Street, all the way from where the Post Office now is to Navarro Street, there was an old picket fence covered with rose vines. The fence enclosed a twenty-acre corn field that belonged to the elder Sam Maverick. The field took in all the land where Travis Park now is. I helped to cultivate that field of corn, and I remember that low picket fence with the roses creeping over it so well that it seems I saw it yesterday.

My father had bought a farm when we first came, about twenty miles from the city on the Somerset Road, and I was raised as a cowboy. The Indians were very troublesome those first years before the war. Hardly a month passed but bands of them came down through Atascosa County and committed depredations in our vicinity. Several of our neighbors were murdered."

### **AN INDIAN ENCOUNTER**

"Two of my chums, Jim Dollahite and Sam Pue were attacked one day, the particulars of which ---I remember very well. The Indians had chased the boys a long way through the black jack sandy country and had succeeded in heading them off by forming their numbers into a V. The boys realized the distance back of them was too great to attempt to cover with the horses as tired as theirs were. One of them had a pistol, and when the V formed they knew their only chance for escape lay in their breaking through the center of the V. Sam Pue, who had the pistol, pulled that old six-shooter and told Jim to follow. He shot the first Indian directly ahead of them, and the line spread. Sam and Jim dashed through the gap and ran for their lives, the Indians right after them.

When they were about six miles from home, Jim's horse fell and he was thrown off. One of the Indians overtook him at this moment and Jim hollered to Sam: 'They've got me; keep going.' Sam whirled around just in time to see the Indian take hold of Jim. He

took steady aim and the Indian keeled over, but not before he stuck an arrow right through Jim's neck. The arrow went in one side of the front and just below the chin, and stuck out the other side. Sam tried to pull it out, but it hurt so bad ---besides they were in a hurry to be off before the rest of the band reached them, so Jim got back on his horse with that thing sticking through his neck. While running through the mesquite brush the arrow worked itself out in some way, for when they got home it was gone. Jim fainted at the gate though, he had lost considerable blood. The Indians followed up to about twenty yards of the house, then turned back. Jim Dollahite carried that arrow scar in his neck for the rest of his life I guess.

Indians didn't always ride horses. Many would be mounted and others walking. Those walking were only waiting for a chance to make off with a horse. The constant stealing made it hard for the cowboys to keep enough mounts for their own use.

When the Indians got hold of new saddle horses, they made a wild dash to get out of the country. If a horse was contrary, the Indians wasted little time on him, and shot arrows through them at once. We found eight of our horses lying in the field, kicking with pain from the arrows stuck in them."

### **A FRIEND SCALPED**

"Another time a bunch of cowboys, seven in number from our section of the country, followed a band of about forty Indians over the division ridge, and into the valley beyond where the Indians stopped to water their stock. The boys were anxious for a fight, but didn't show good judgement, for instead of making the attack all in a body, they strung themselves out yards apart, the ones on the best horses making the advance, the slower horses coming up behind. When the first three reached the Indians they began the attack at once, this gave the redskins an opportunity to surround them, which they proceeded to do. The boys did manage to dismount, holding the reins of their horses as they aimed. When the shooting started, the horses of course jumped away, and the Indians rushed up. Two more of the boys rode up just in time to witness the scalping of one of the first three. The remaining two boys jumped up back of the two boys who had just reached the scene and got away. It was their first Indian fight and they did not know all the tactics.

The name of the boy who was scalped was Jim Winters. One of the others of that crowd was Dr. Speed, who was riding a mule. When Speed tried to retreat, the mule got stubborn and insisted on keeping with what he had started to do, chasing the Indians. It looked like Speed was done for but when that mule felt an arrow in his side, he made a quick cut in the opposite direction and landed Mr. Speed in safety. Another of those boys was Orville Kinnard who was the uncle of Mr. Haumberg a clerk in Mamma's store. Alphonse Van Cleave was still another."

### **THE OLD ROCK CHURCH**

"A few weeks ago, I went out to the old Somerset Rock Church to attend the funeral services of my lifelong friend, George Carrothers, and the scenes of many early experiences and recollections came back to me.

I thought of the time of the Sestadero (place of rest) Creek, when a band of Indians came down out of Mexico - they generally came through the neighborhoods of D'Hanis and Castroville --- this band had killed and scalped a red headed man named Smith from farther up the country and the neighboring boys were after them. They trailed the Indians to the Sestadero and started around to the head of them. The Indians stopped: the chief went a distance off from his warriors, and beckoned to the boys, a dare to them to advance. The boys knew the redskin wanted to draw their fire without giving them a chance to reload; everything was muzzle loading then. When the boys didn't bite on his dare, the old chief stuck a pole in the ground with a blanket on top of it, and the red headed scalp attached to the blanket and waved at the fellows.

One of the boys said he thought he would take a shot at the chief, but the rest advised him not to, the distance being some 300 yards away. But when the old chief came out again and waved the scalpel, the boy said he had shot a deer from that far and he was

going to take a chance on the red man. He took aim and the old warrior fell. The other braves started on foot toward him, and attempted to get him on his horse and away before the cowboys came on with such whoops and yells that the Indians fled. The boys divided the trappings of the old warrior and scalped him. The Indians held a chieftain generally disgraced when had been scalped, so they never bothered to return for his bones. I saw them bleaching there in the sun for many a day after that.

My friend, George Carrothers, was the boy who scalped that brave. George decided he would like to see how an Indian hide would tan. He dressed a piece of that old fellow. It wasn't fine like beef hides, it looked more like hog leather, it was as porous as a sponge. That old church is just a mass of ruins now, but it recalled many happy and many a sad incident of those early days. Nothing but the walls remain of the old place. There is not even a roof above, nor seats inside, yet services are occasionally held there."

### **A ROMANCE RECALLED**

"One of those old ruins out there on that old road that recalls an early romance is the rock foundation just beyond what they then called Garza Crossing. Two well to do brothers by the name of Hermann owned all of the land there. They were both bachelors. One of them was engaged to be married to the daughter of one of the finest men of that time, whose sons and grandsons are among the city's best men today. The father's home was the finest ever built at that time, and the prospective bridegroom had begun a house which was to rival that of the young lady's father. But the young lady made another choice. That old ruin is a monument to a broken heart. The disappointed lover discontinued the building, and I believe, left the country. Tall blackberry trees have grown up between the four walls in the last fifty years, and shrubbery has about hidden the old foundation."

### **STORY OF MOORE HOLLOW**

"Between here and Pearsall there is a stop called Moore Station. It used to be spoken of as 'Moore Hollow,' in memory of a man by that name who was killed by the Indians while he was passing through the hollow on the way to Hondo where he intended to spend the week hunting deer. The man had no family, and was always seen driving alone in an old buggy with a tired old horse. Mr. Moore had asked my mother to let me go with him on the trip, but mother was cautious about letting us go where we would be exposed to the Indians, and said so.

The Indians had ambushed on the top of the hill, and when Moore started up the other side from the hollow, they shot him. He was a great Indian fighter, and he knew their tactics better than any other man; up to that time he had always been able to beat them at their own game.

It was the Comanches before, and the Kickapoos after the war, who caused most of the depredations in this part of the country. One of the last raids was made in 1877, about a mile from our house, when a neighbor was killed while herding cattle. There was a spring on our land which the Indians always came to for water. They were circling around looking for the trail to this spring when the herder had the misfortune to cross their path. The Indians took what stock they could manage and cleared out for Mexico."

### **"LAND-SHARKS" THEN AND NOW**

"My father owned all the land where the lower parade ground is now. We tried before the war to sell it for anything we could get. We would have taken \$300 for the entire stretch, but could get that price. It was a chaparral wilderness, full of rattlesnakes.

I remember the trips I used to make out there with prospective buyers for the land. I would always drive them out in a hack and talk all the way about what a fine piece of land it was. When we reached the top of the hill it was my invariable custom to halt and exclaim, 'Stand up and see the beautiful view!' They would always do that, but I couldn't keep them at the same time from seeing the chaparral land below. One look at the 'view'

was enough. I was requested each time to get back to the city as quickly as possible.

A long time after the war the Government sent men to San Antonio to choose a site for the present Post. As I said, we lived twenty miles out from the city and didn't know much about what was going on in town.

One day a man whom I had known before the war drove up to the ranch and pretended to be very much surprised that he had happened to stop at our place. He said he thought we lived further on. We invited him in and he stayed all night.

After supper he said in an accidental sort of way, 'Say Charlie, what did you ever do with that chaparral hill you folks used to own in San Antonio? Or was it yours? I can't remember.'

I asked him if he meant the piece where the Post is now. He said that was it, he believed. I told him we still had it, and would be glad to sell it to him if he wanted to buy it. He said it was worthless and would yield nothing. I agreed with him that it was not the best farming land to be had, but perhaps he could do something else with it. He said that was out of the question, for he would not have it if we gave it to him, and that closed the subject for that night.

But the next morning before setting off, he began, 'Charlie, what would be the very lowest you'd consider for it? Give me your rock bottom price.' Well, we closed the deal for \$700. The tract included, besides the present lower parade grounds, the land on the opposite side of the street, where Muth's pavilion is located.

That 'land-shark' had been sent out to buy that property from us by a real estate concern. I came to town two weeks later and found that the Government owned the land. I learned that it had been surveyed and a price made for it before that 'old friend' looked me up. It was sold to the Government at a high price for land, as prices were in that day."

#### **AN EARLY BEAU BRUMMEL**

"Before the war, one of the most prominent and learned men of the town was Judge Schlessinger. He performed the marriage ceremony for many San Antonians. He himself caught the habit, for he was married four times. Nat Goodwin had nothing on him!

Edward Schlessinger died in New Orleans last year, at the age of 104 years. He was a British subject when he came here a young man in 1837, and had been education both at Cambridge and Heidelberg. He practiced law here for a number of years, but he had a roving disposition and was never satisfied. He left here just before the war, to visit his mother in Europe, he said. His wife remained; I remember her very well. She was a very beautiful French woman, and couldn't speak English. But most everybody in San Antonio in those days knew something of French.

I speak at length of Judge Schlessinger because his prominence here lent considerable distinction to the town. His home on Soledad Street was the rendezvous for the wit of the community. There were some famous suppers and dances at that old place.

Not long after Judge Schlessinger left for that European trip, his wife received word from him to meet him in New Orleans. I recall the day she and the children got into the old four-horse stagecoach to go to Galveston from where they were to take the steamer for New Orleans.

I did not see Ed Schlessinger again for fifty years. About seven or eight years ago while I was attending a Confederate reunion in New Orleans I got on his trail and located him in that city, hale and hearty at the age of 97. He had married wife No. 4, a bride of two years.

Judge Schlessinger made and lost a fortune during his lifetime. he did not join the troops at the outbreak of war, but three of his sons did. They were all killed in battle.

The judge was father of thirty-one children, and the grandfather of more than he could ever count."

#### **EARLY WATER SUPPLY HERE**

"In the early days of San Antonio the drinking water came from springs which were numerous along the banks of the river. The water was very deep then, there being only

two fording places where a horse and buggy could cross, one of the fords was at the old mill on Garden Street and the was one at the Maverick bend, in Ninth Street. The river was over a man's head at every other point.

If the river were dredged down to about six feet, these filled-in springs would again gush forth. The leveling of the land and the excavations dug for the building which have gone up along its banks are the caused of its present shallow waters.

One of the finest springs was just at the east end of the Commerce Street bridge. That spring supplied many of the homes with drinking water. The Dignowity home which stands on the hill was the only house between town and that section of the country: everything else was a thicket of mesquite brush. But I remember seeing one of Mrs. Dignowity's darkies come every other day to that spring on Commerce Street to get a barrel of water.

The barrel had pivots at each end, with rawhide strings which the man placed around his neck and under his arms. As he walked along the barrel rolled after him, and up the hill he would go. It looked like easy work. That was the way all the water was hauled when the distance to go was not too great.

At the commencement of the Civil War, the building of the old Presbyterian Church at the corner of North Flores and Houston Streets, which was torn down a few years ago, and the Episcopal Church on Travis Park, had just been started. The basement of the Presbyterian Church had been dug, and the walls of it completed to ground level. When war was declared work of all kinds was suspended. The men laid aside the shovel for the musket.

It was some time after the war that these two churches were finished. The Methodist Rock on Soledad Street was also begun before the war, and completed when the men came back. It was afterward sold to another denomination."

#### **CHOLERA EPIDEMIC IN 1866**

"I was married in 1866, when I came back from the war, to Miss Emily Barrow, the daughter of Dr. Aaron Barrow of Guadalupe County. When I came into town to get my marriage license, I stopped for the night at a boarding house on Military Plaza. During the night - September was the date - I heard people running about in the wildest kind of excitement and, upon investigating, learned that cholera had broken out in the town. I had gotten my marriage license, so I hurried back to where my future bride was waiting.

The Union soldiers who had come down here to take charge of Government property were encamped out on the Medina River near the old Jones place, had come into town to get supplies, and took the cholera back with them to the camp. A great many deaths occurred there from the plague."

#### **HAS HAD VARIED CAREER**

During the periods of his boyhood when not "cowboying," Mr. Smith turned his endeavors, he says, "to anything by which he could make an honest penny." Before the war, when he was but 16 years of age, he carried the United States mail from Waco to Meridian, and from Waco to Salado, three times a week. The next year he drove ox teams, carrying freight from San Antonio to Port Lavaca. He later went on several scouting expeditions with "Bigfoot" Wallace.

Later he served many years as a United States mail contractor, running stages from San Antonio to various points and for a time he clerked in Emerson's Jewelry Store.

Mr. Smith worked with Captain Goodrich in the Merchant Police Force for twelve years. The Merchant Police Force was a private detective organization, much patronized in the early days.

A large family of children surrounded Mr. Smith in his retiring years, four daughters and four sons, Mrs. H. A. Moos, Mrs. Vodrie, Mrs. P. F. Loring and Mrs. Joseph Shelley; his sons are C. A. Smith, E. G. Smith, W. Dee Smith and Zay Smith.



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:

- April 2017 by March 15
- May 2017 by April 15
- June 2017 by May 15

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)