



South Texas Researcher

July 2017

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	12:00 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



Finding Your Ancestors with Ancestry.com (Library Edition)

Join us and learn how to use one of the most popular genealogy databases available today - for FREE - at all SAPL library locations. We'll look at how the site is organized and discuss effective research techniques. Registration is required.

Tuesday, 11 July 2017, 2:00 p.m.

Central Library -Texana
600 Soledad Street
Call 210.207.2500 for more information.



New Publications

The Encyclopedia of African American Military History
GENEALOGY 355.00899 WEIR

The Swiss Grütli-Buno in America
GENEALOGY 949.2 SWISS

Frederick County, Virginia marriage bonds
GENEALOGY 975.5 FREDERICK

A History of the Valley of Virginia
GENEALOGY 975.59 KERCHEVAL

Five Families and Eight Young Men: Nashville and her Jewry
GENEALOGY 975.8 DAVIDSON

Salt of the Earth: A History of Midland County, Michigan
GENEALOGY 977.4 MIDLAND

Creators and Consumers: Women and Material Culture and Visual Art in 19th Century
Texas, the Lower South, and the Southwest
TEXANA 305.40976 CREATORS

Called to Rise: A Life in Faithful Service to the Community That Made Me
TEXANA 363.2092 BROWN BIOGRAPHY

Cornyation : San Antonio's outrageous fiesta tradition
TEXANA 394.26976 STONE 2017

Attracting Birds in the Texas Hill Country : A Guide to Land Stewardship
TEXANA 639.92097 STEPHENS 2016

Don Strange of Texas: His Life and Recipes
TEXANA 642.4092 STRANGE

The Material Culture of German Texans
TEXANA 973.0431 HAPERTEPE

The Last Knight: Don Bernardo Gutierrez de Lara Uribe, A Texas Hero
TEXANA 976.403 GUTIERREZ

Short Biographies of Czech and Other Priests in Texas
TEXANA 976.4004 SHORT

Fairview Church and Cemetery
TEXANA 976.4213 HARE

The History of Franklin County, 1874-1964
TEXANA 976.4213 HISTORY

Franklin County Funeral Home Records: Jan. 1902-Jan. 1908
TEXANA 976.4213 SHELLY

Winnsboro, Texas: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow
TEXANA 976.4223 SUITER

Presbyterian Churches, Gonzales, County, Texas, 1852-1996
TEXANA 976.4257 SMITH

The First Baptist Church of Dallas: A Centennial History, 1868-1968
TEXANA 976.42811 McBETH

An Intensive Pedestrian Survey for Ft. Sam Houston Linear Park Trail in Bexar County,
Texas
TEXANA 976.4351 FIGUEROA

Seventy-Five Years of Benevolent Service: A History of the Knights of Pythias' "Castle on
the Hill", Weatherford, Texas, 1909-1984
TEXANA 976.4553 WITHERSPOON



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 1, 2017

Speaker: Melinda and Sergio Iruegas

Topic: Spanish Colonial and Tejano History Archeology

Sergio and Melinda Iruegas have 30 and 28 years of cultural resource investigation experience, respectively. Sergio has worked with the Texas and Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Offices and Texas Historical Commission. Sergio and Melinda worked at Harvard University's Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology together and came home to grow their family. They started their business, GTI Environmental LLC, in 2014 and have been doing archival research and archaeology together since then. The Iruegas specialize in Spanish Colonial and Tejano Historical Archaeology. Sergio documented the original 1750s ranchos under Falcon Reservoir, and together they have excavated the National Register investigations of the Pajalache Acequia, the original mill site for the first Mission Concepción location for the City of San Antonio, and General Zachary Taylor's Historic Military Road along the Rio Grande at two separate location near the Rio Grande. Recently, the archaeology couple have completed archival research and archaeological excavations at Lobanillo Swales that represents El Camino Real, and Historic Resources Reports for the Ignacio Perez Rancho, De la Garza-Trueheart Rancho, Blas Herrera Rancho, and Ruiz-Herrera Rancho. Currently, this husband and wife team are documenting Spanish Colonial Period Native American Village Sites at Rancheria Grande along El Camino Real. The Iruegas presentation includes the recent excavation results at the Ruiz-Herrera Rancho that contained a buried early mission rancho structure, which predate 1750s, evidence of international trade goods, and evidence of the 1815 Mount Tambora volcanic eruption in Indonesia that affected crops and livestock here in our historic city.

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



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 Antonio Public Library - July 15, 2017**
- 600 Soledad Street
- San Antonio, TX 78205
- 210-538-0905

EVENT PRESENTED BY:

- Canary Islands Descendants Association
- 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, visit www.txsaghs.org



Texas in the First World War

[The Institute of Texan Cultures](#)

Opened April 6, 2017

A century since the U.S. formally entered World War I, the events that unfolded continue to have a profound impact on modern international affairs and society.



**Texas Missions and Churches of
Roberto Cardinale**

[The Institute of Texan Cultures](#)

4 March - 20 August 2017

San Antonio's Spanish Missions have been an inspiration to artists and storytellers for generations. This spring, the UTSA Institute of Texan

Cultures will offer an exhibit capturing the missions and other religious sites in sculpture



theMcNay



San Antonio Museum of Art

Wild Weather

27 May 2017 - 4 Sept. 2017

Whales: Giants of the Deep

27 May 2017 - 4 Sept. 2017

**Natural Beauty: Fiesta of
Land, Water and Sky**

20 April - 13 August 2017

**Leigh Ann Lester: A Variety of
Forms Recovering from
Transubstantiated Clarity**

4 August 2016 - 30 July 2017

Juan Mora: Culture Clash

8 June - 13 August 2017

**California Dreaming: Works
by Ruscha, Hockney and
Others**

18 May - 6 August 2017

**To See is to Have: Navigating
Today's Art Ecosystem**

18 May - 6 August 2017

**Groovy: A Psychedelic
Summer**

9 May - 29 August 2017

**The Magic of Clay and Fire:
Japanese Contemporary
Ceramics**

14 Dec. 2016 - Fall 2017

**Carlos Merida: Selections
from the Permanent
Collection**

8 July 2016 - August 2017



News

Dallas Genealogical Society 2017 Summer Seminar
Dallas, TX

"Sources, Storytelling & DNA", a 2-day seminar featuring nationally-recognized family history researchers, speakers and writers Lisa Louise Cooke, Sunny Morton, Diahn Southard.

Friday, August 4, 2017

Session 1: Google Tools & Procedures for Solving Family History Mysteries

Session 2: Write Your Life Story

Session 3: Genetic Genealogy: Here's What you Need To Know

Session 4: Get the Scoop on Your Ancestors with Newspapers

Saturday, August 5, 2017

Session 1: Why We Care Where Grandma Went to Church: An In-Depth Look at U.S. Religious Records

Session 2: 10 Ways to Enhance Your Genealogy with Video

Session 3: The Combined Power of YDNA and Autosomal DNA: A Case Study

Session 4: How to Create Exciting Interactive Family History Tours with Google Earth

Program details and registration info: <http://dallasgenealogy.com/dgs/meetings-events/seminars/2017-summer-seminar/>

Free Online Genealogy Webinars

Sponsored by the Georgia Genealogical Society

8pm EST, 4th Wednesday of the month

Register at www.gagensociety.org

26 July 2017 - Erin Korris - "The National Map Corps and Cemeteries"

23 August 2017 - Melody K. Porter - "Tribal Member or Just Indian"

27 September 2017 - Melissa Barker - "It's Not All Online: Researching in Archives"

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?



Links

Family Search to discontinue microfilm services

This announcement shouldn't surprise any genealogists. The end of microfilm has been predicted for years. Microfilm and microfiche has become harder and harder to purchase. Most of the manufacturers have stopped producing microfilm and microfiche so the companies and non-profits that release information on film have been forced to abandon the media.

Over 1.5 million microfilms (ca. 1.5 billion images) have been digitized by FamilySearch, including the most requested collections based on microfilm loan records worldwide. In addition, many records that FamilySearch has not yet published can be found online on partner or free archive websites. FamilySearch plans to finish microfilm digitization by 2020.

The following is an extract from the announcement from FamilySearch:

On September 1, 2017, FamilySearch will discontinue its microfilm distribution services. (The last day to order microfilm will be on August 31, 2017.)

The change is the result of significant progress made in FamilySearch's microfilm digitization efforts and the obsolescence of microfilm technology.

- Online access to digital images of records allows FamilySearch to reach many more people, faster and more efficiently.
- FamilySearch is a global leader in historic records preservation and access, with billions of the world's genealogical records in its collections.
- Over 1.5 million microfilms (ca. 1.5 billion images) have been digitized by FamilySearch, including the most requested collections based on microfilm loan records worldwide.
- The remaining microfilms should be digitized by the end of 2020, and all new records from its ongoing global efforts are already using digital camera equipment.
- Family history centers will continue to provide access to relevant technology, premium subscription services, and digital records, including restricted content not available at home.

You can read the full announcement at: <http://bit.ly/2sGGePz>.

The Bexar Archives

The Bexar Archives are the official Spanish documents that preserve the political, military, economic, and social life of the Spanish province of Texas and the Mexican state of Coahuila y Texas. Both in their volume and breadth of subject matter, the Bexar Archives are the single most important source for the history of Hispanic Texas up to 1836. The Archives, housed at the University of Texas for more than a century, consist of approximately 300,000 pages of diplomatic, military, religious, and other manuscript and printed records of the Spanish colonial province of Texas from 1717 to 1821 (the area encompassing the present Mexican state of Coahuila, all of Texas, and a portion of Louisiana including the town of Natchitoches) and the Mexican District of Bexar (the area from the Nueces to the Sabine rivers, including the Texas towns of Anahuac, Brazoria, Velasco, Copano, Goliad, Gonzalez, and Nacogdoches) from 1822 to 1836.

The Bexar Archives reflect the growth and development of Spanish Texas and Mexican Texas. Earlier documents deal with the affairs of settlers from the Canary Islands, and relations between the military, civil, and missionary communities that constituted San Antonio. Major topics during the eighteenth century include Indian policy and relations, military affairs, cattle raising, trade, legal proceedings, and exploration and communications. After 1803, the documentation also reflects a growing Anglo-American presence in the area, the development of trade and colonization, and currents of political unrest and revolution. As the affairs of Texas and the region grew in complexity, so does the volume of documentation in the Bexar Archives. Fully half of the collection represents the Mexican period (1821 to 1836).

The University of Texas received the Bexar Archives in 1899, when an official act of the Bexar County Commissioners Court transferred the archives to the University's possession. All local land title records were removed before the Archives were transferred to the University, and remain with the Bexar County Clerk. The archives became a cornerstone of the Barker Texas History Collections, part of what is now the Briscoe Center for American History.

On behalf of the University, the Briscoe Center has improved and enhanced the Archives well beyond the original requirements of the gift, including microfilming every document in the collection, publishing an extensive index of proper names in the Archive, and digitizing several thousand pages for access on the web. The Bexar Archives Online is an innovative web-based resource that features over 5,000 original documents (23,000 pages) that have been digitized from microfilm. Researchers may browse, by year, the originals and translations, or compare an original and its translation side-by-side. Full-text searching of the translations is also supported. The project received TexTreasures grants in 2009, 2010, and 2011, with funding from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission and the Institute for Museum and Library Services.

Researchers can access the original documents in the Briscoe Center's Reading Room on the University of Texas at Austin campus. The typescript translations are also available in the reading room, and bound translations of each volume are available via the Bexar County Clerk's office. On microfilm, 201 volumes of translations are available at the University of Texas at Austin, as well as more than 20 libraries across the United States. Additional volumes of translations not on microfilm are available in the Briscoe Center reading room.

Since much of the original order of the Bexar Archives had been disturbed over the years, University of Texas librarians and historians arranged all the documents-whether

provincial, municipal, military, or private-into chronological order in the following series:

1. Coahuila y Texas Official Publications, 1826-1835
2. General Governmental Publications, 1730-1836
3. Non-governmental Publications, 1778, 1811-1836
4. General Manuscript Series, 1717-1836
5. Undated and Undated Fragments

One can access the Bexar Archives online [here](#).



From the Archives

Development of Houston Street from Lane of One-story Shacks

By Fred Mosebach

When Houston Street was striving to become a business thoroughfare to rival Commerce Street, the name of Maverick was synonymous with progress, for the Mavericks owned most of the property along what is now known as Houston Street. The first pretentious business structure on Houston Street was erected by George Maverick on the north side of the street, just west of Navarro Street, where the South Texas Bank Building now stands. It was a two-story rock structure, which still stands with a remodeled front, and it became known as the George Block. One of the first tenants was Nicholas Winther, who put in a photograph gallery on the second floor, moving from his previous location on Commerce Street, thus giving the first evidence that Houston Street was beginning to detract business from Commerce Street. Later Charles W. Green put in a grocery store on the ground floor, one of the largest retail establishments in the city at the time. In subsequent years the Riegler Confectionery was established on the ground floor of the same building as a rival to Harnish & Baer on Commerce Street, which was the leading ice cream refreshment parlor in the city. At the same time G. A. Duerler had a refreshment parlor also on Commerce Street.

Early Enterprise

The Mavericks were desirous of developing Houston Street to enhance the value of their properties, and with this end in view they contracted for newspaper advertising space for the sole purpose of boosting Houston Street as the coming retail center of San Antonio. As a result new buildings sprang up-well, not exactly like the proverbial mushrooms, but steadily, one after the other-until today they are lined up on both sides of the street. About the time the George Block was built a two-story rock structure was put up across the street, on the ground floor of which Harry Cunningham had a shoe store for a number of years while the Belknap Rifles occupied the second floor for an armory.

Until then Houston Street represented a row of one-story frame and ironed shacks interspersed with vacant lots. The only substantial building on the street was the Vance Block, a two-story rock structure erected by James and William Vance on the present site of the Gunter Hotel, which was occupied by the United States Government for military

headquarters before and after the Civil War, and during the interim served as headquarters for the Confederacy.

Vance House and Mahncke Hotel

Later it was transformed into a hotel and became known as the Vance House with Capt. William G. Tobin in charge. Subsequently Frank Starr operated the hotel and later Ludwig Mahncke took charge and named it the Mahncke Hotel, as which it was known until it was torn down to make way for the Gunter. On the opposite corner, where the Gunter Office Building now stands, the Odd Fellows erected a three-story rock building and they occupied the top floor for a lodge room while on the second floor was a school and on the ground floor George Koerner had a produce commission business and Harry C. Miller made stencils and rubber stamps. On the southwest corner was a squatty one-story rock building used for a carpenter shop and later Marcus Struve used it for a saloon with Otto Felder as bartender. Where the Brady Building now stands was a vacant lot and here the Turner Hall was built in 1880. Adjoining the Turner property in a small house were the first rooms of the Young Men's Christian Association established by the First Presbyterian Church. This church had its edifice, a handsome rock structure with two steeples, on the northeast corner of West Houston and North Flores Streets, the finest architectural design in the city at the time.

Alamo Literary Hall

At the other end of Houston Street, where the Jefferson Hotel now stands, was the Alamo Literary Hall, built of chalk rock. This was equipped with a stage and scenery and traveling theatrical troupes appeared here when Casino Hall was engaged for a private ball or bazaar and was not available. Here Fay Templeton, who later became a famous musical comedy star and burlesque queen, appeared when she was a child and was billed as a juvenile star. When she grew up she returned to San Antonio for an engagement as the star of the Fay Templeton Musical Comedy Company composed of a lot of pretty girls in tights. This was considered rather risqué in those days and the audience at the show was made up mostly of men. Here appeared also for the first time as a blackface team Tom K. Heath and Jimmy McIntyre. That was when they were playing a separate engagement at the Jack Harris Vaudeville Theater. A performance was arranged to be presented at the Alamo Literary Hall for the benefit of the orphans and Jack Harris volunteered his entire vaudeville bill for the occasion. It was then McIntyre & Heath teamed up to become famous in negro minstrelsy, for previously they had traveled separately. In the Alamo Literary Hall the body of Congressman Gustave Schleicher lay in state at the time of his death. Alamo Literary Hall was also noted as the forum for noted speakers, among whom was Henry Ward Beecher.

Notable Homesteads

On the present site of the Maverick Building, before Presa Street was opened, were the government stables, running back to the river, and later, about 1878, the Mavericks put up a two-story rock building here to be occupied by the U.S. Adjutant General's Department. This was subsequently converted into the Maverick Hotel with a third story added and a large four-story rock addition in the rear. West of this, extending to Navarro Street, were the Vance, Dittmar and Herff homesteads, fashionable structures and on the corner was a small rock building in which Christopher Plagge had a school.

Across the street, where the South Texas Bank Building now is, was the Lingsweiler home, and adjoining this was the Oblate Fathers' home, Col. W. B. Wright of Dallas later acquiring this property and erecting on it a three-story red brick building, occupying the corner for a bank, while the other half was occupied by Hardy Adams and Ed Winstead for a haberdashery, catering largely to the Belknap Rifles, of which both were popular members, and here the young men would get the latest styles in hats, ties, collars and socks. Later San Antonio's first moving picture theater was opened in this building. Where

the Vogue now stands was a one-story rock building occupied by Milton Vance and Willis Edwards for a grocery store and later by Ben Kiolbassa and Louis M. Welton. Adjoining, this was the Flamm & Filbert confectionery. One-story buildings and vacant lots made up the rest of Houston Street.

Soledad Block Spurs Building

Such was the picture of Houston Street until the three-story Soledad Block went up, followed by the three-story University Block adjoining and the three-story red brick Dwight Book Building, these three structures taking the place of a row of iron-clads extending from Soledad street to the Houston Street bridge. Houston Street was now ready for its skyscraper and this materialized with the erection of the of the five-story Maverick Bank Building on the Corner of Alamo Plaza, then the tallest structure in San Antonio, and since torn down to make way for a three-story modern building for the Woolworth store.

There were still some hollow spots along Houston Street to be filled, and one day Capt. Nelson Mackey acquired the site previously occupied by the Crider carpenter shop and later by the Vail & Deviere paint shop, which was destroyed by fire. This was cleared away and Captain Mackery had built on it a five-story brick structure with ornamental stone front with H. B. Salliway as superintendent in charge of the construction. About the same time the four-story brick building of the present Jefferson Hotel was erected. Captain Mackey converted his building into the St. James Hotel, and here the Cincinnati Reds, first major league baseball club to train in San Antonio made their headquarters during their stay here through the month of March, 1898. Captain Mackey died in his apartment in this hotel on July 5, 1898. Since then the building changed hands, was remodeled with several stories added and became known as the Central Building. Now it is being dismantled to be replaced by a modern building by the Kress firm.

The Mackey Building was the key to modern building construction along Houston Street, but the trail blazers in the development of Houston Street were the Mavericks. They were the principle property owners along that thoroughfare and they were the pioneers in the work of construction. It was their foresight in advertising the possibilities of Houston Street that brought investors here and spurred the real estate market to transactions of gigantic proportions, which made Houston Street what it is today.

From the *San Antonio Express*
February 27, 1938



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 2017 by July 15
- September 2017 by August 15
- October 2017 by September 15

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)