



## South Texas Researcher

December 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*:

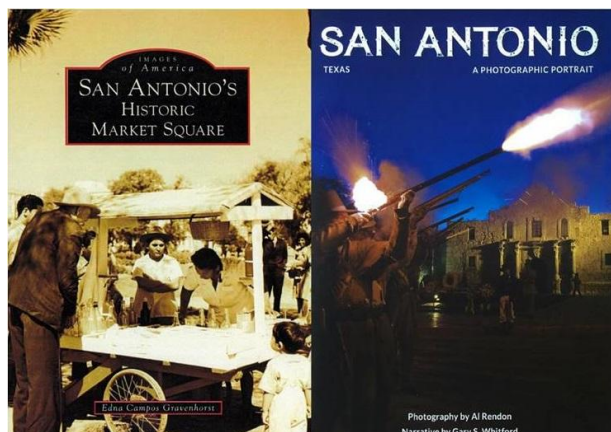
- Cemeteries
- Civil War
- Civil War in Texas
- Death
- Family History
- HeritageQuest Online
- Hispanic Genealogical Research
- Jewish Genealogy
- King James Bible
- La Meri
- Local History
- Texas History
- The Wild West
- Special Collections
- World War I



## **Extra! Extra! Read All About the History of San Antonio**

The history of San Antonio in all its glory and color comes alive in pictures and print as authors Al Rendon and Edna Campos Gravenhorst take you through early San Antonio history as illustrated in their fresh-off-the-press books.

Author signing reception



**Saturday, 2 December, 2:00-3:00 p.m.**

## **Latino Collection and Resource Center**

600 Soledad 78205

210.207.2500 (ask for Genealogy)



## **New Publications**

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Sustainable Genealogy: Separating Fact from Fiction in Family Legends

GENEALOGY 929.1072 HITE

Finding Fathers: Lost. Found. Remembered: A Family History

GENEALOGY 929.2 DAVIS

The Dodson (Dotson) Family of North Farnham Parish, Richmond County, Virginia: A History and Genealogy of Their Descendants

GENEALOGY 929.2 DODSON V. 1 & V. 2

Polish Roots - Korzenie Polskie

GENEALOGY 943.8 CHORZEMPA

Guerrero, Tamualipas, Marriages, 1753-1850

GENEALOGY 972.12 GUERRERO

The Greene County Catskills: A History

GENEALOGY 974.7 GREENE

Gunfight at Ingalls: Death of An Outlaw Town

GENEALOGY 976.1 PAYNE

Military History of Perry Co., Mississippi: American Revolution to World War II

GENEALOGY 976.2 PERRY

Index to Ancestors: of the 1990-1991 Members of the Oklahoma Genealogical Society

GENEALOGY 976.6 INDEX

Oklahoma Genealogical Society Quarterly Subject Index, 1955-1990  
GENEALOGY 976.6 OKLAHOMA

Index to Marriage Records of Oklahoma County, Oklahoma Territory, 1889-1907  
GENEALOGY 976.6 OKLAHOMA COUNTY

Death Notices in Pocahontas, Randolph County, Arkansas, Newspapers, 1911-1920  
GENEALOGY 976.7 RANDOLPH

Cemetery Records of Bedford County, Tennessee  
GENEALOGY 976.8 BEDFORD

The Burned Deed Index of Bedford County, Tennessee, 1852-1861  
GENEALOGY 976.8 BEDFORD

The Kansas Area Key to Sedgwick County  
GENEALOGY 978.1 SEDGWICK

Sedgwick County, Kansas Directory 1971  
GENEALOGY 978.1 SEDGWICK

Probate Index, 18th Judicial District, State of Kansas - Covering Sedgwick County: 1870 to  
November 1917  
GENEALOGY 978.1 SEDGWICK

New Items From Wichita Beacon and Wichita Eagle  
GENEALOGY 978.1 SEDGWICK

Haunted Texas: Famous Phantoms, Sinister Sites and Lingering Legends  
TEXANA 133.10976 WILLIAMS

Bulls of Iberia: Life and Death of the Fighting Bull  
TEXANA 791.82094 VAVRA

Gringo Rebel: Mexico  
TEXANA 972.081 THORD-GRAY

Mexico Under Carranza: A Lawyer's Indictment of the Crowning Infamy of Four Hundred  
Years of Misrule  
TEXANA 972.082 GIBSON

A History of Bee County With Some Brief Sketches About Men and Events in Adjoining  
Counties  
TEXANA 976.4117 MADRAY

When the News Went Live: Dallas 1963  
TEXANA 976.42812 WHEN



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:** December 2, 2017

**Speaker:** none

**Topic:** none

This month is the membership's opportunity to nominate Executive Officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer) and Directors for the 2018 year. The membership is encouraged to attend to participate in this important meeting. **In addition, the membership will vote on the proposed revisions to the current By-Laws.** For a copy of the proposed By-laws click [here](#).

### 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 Central Library**
- 600 Soledad 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, visit [www.txsaghs.org](http://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.



### **Brewing Up Texas**

[The Institute of Texan Cultures](#)

October 21, 2017 - October 28, 2018

From 1840 to the modern craft beer industry, follow the story of beer, brewers and breweries and how they left their mark on Texas culture.





theMcNay



San Antonio Museum of Art

[\*\*2TheXtreme: Math Alive!\*\*](#)

30 Sept. 2017 - 7 Jan. 2018

[\*\*Your Country Calls: Art to Win World War I\*\*](#)

23 Sept 2017 - 7 January 2018

[\*\*Maverick - A Texas Word That Became Legend\*\*](#)

Now through 7 January 2018

[\*\*Rashaad Newsome: KNOT\*\*](#)

8 August - 5 January 2018

[\*\*Chuck Ramirez: All This and Heaven Too\*\*](#)

14 Sept. 2017 - 14 Jan. 2018

[\*\*Stage Frights: Madness, Monsters, Mayhem\*\*](#)

28 Sept - 31 Dec. 2017

[\*\*Behind the Screen: Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas\*\*](#)

28 Sept. - 31 Dec. 2017

[\*\*Intercambios: Modernist Photography in Mexico from the Permanent Collection\*\*](#)

11 August - 31 December 2017

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

14 Dec. 2016 - Fall 2017



[\*\*THAT DAY: Pictures in the American West  
Photographs by Laura Wilson\*\*](#)

September 15 - December 10, 2017

Renowned photographer Laura Wilson has captured the majesty, as well as the tragedy, of her home region of Texas and the wider West for more than 30 years. In the Briscoe Museum's photographic exhibition, THAT DAY: Pictures in the American West, Laura Wilson takes us into a West defined by diverse communities outside the suburban middle-class. This exhibition of eighty-four photographs introduces us to worlds that are framed equally by beauty and violence, reflecting Wilson's challenge to the traditional views and stereotypes of the region. Text from Wilson's field journals accompanies the photographs, recalling her personal experiences behind the camera. With her keen eye for detail, Wilson offers an unexpected vision of the West—a topic of enduring fascination. The exhibit is part of FOTOSEPTIEMBRE USA.

[Click here for interview with Laura Wilson](#) by Kathleen Petty of San Antonio Magazine - Sept. 2017



## News

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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?



## Free Online Genealogy Webinars

### Legacy Family Tree Webinars

View here [https://familytreewebinars.com/archived\\_webinars\\_free.php](https://familytreewebinars.com/archived_webinars_free.php)

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## New Records Available on FOLD3

The Federation of Genealogical Societies is pleased to announce new pension images available at our hosting partner, Fold3. As we detailed in August of this year, conservation had resumed and digitization would shortly follow on War of 1812 Pension files covering surnames M(Moore)-Q. This new release of images is the first installment on the promise made by FGS, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and Ancestry to complete the project we started and to which you all have so generously contributed. Additional images will follow as the Ancestry digitization team continues to refine their process and achieve full capacity in accord with NARA protocols.

The War of 1812 pensions are among the most frequently requested set of materials within NARA's holdings, yet had never been microfilmed or digitized. Through a fundraising effort unprecedented in the genealogical community, more than 4,000 individuals, 115 genealogical and lineage societies, and industry leaders such as FamilySearch helped FGS secure the funds, matched by Ancestry, to preserve and share this invaluable genealogical resource. The images already captured, as well as those soon to be, are hosted at Fold3 and available for free.

The San Antonio Public Library subscribes to FOLD3 and the database is available for use at all SAPL locations.



## From the Archives

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### Making Kelly Field the Finest Aviation School in the World

**San Antonio's Establishment for the Training of Warplane Pilots Will Soon Be Without an Equal, and Will Be Further Enlarged by the Addition of a New Unit Near Berg's Mill. Army of Civilians Is Rendering Notable Service**

While an army of young men is being trained in the science of aerial warfare, so that they may execute America's plan to "put out the eyes of democracy's enemies," another army, likewise of young men, is making this enterprise possible. It is an army in which civilians are playing an important part.



While giving their services to their country, these men are incidentally giving San Antonio the largest and the finest aviation school in the world.

Even before Col. W. D. Chitty, upon his return from Washington last week, announced that a new aviation unit would be established on a 1000-acre tract east of Berg's Mill, Kelly Field had been pronounced "one of the largest and finest aviation schools in the world" and plans already had been decided upon that would place this post above all others, either in the United States or in Europe, in every essential respect. The establishment of the new field near Berg's Mill will make San Antonio aviation school far and away superior to any other institution of the kind anywhere.

The army of civilians engaged in giving Kelly Field paramount position is "officered" by men who formerly occupied lucrative and responsible positions in business fields. Realizing the government's need, their employers "loaned" them to the army.

### **Efficiency to Be Watchword**

Kelly Field, with its two hundred or more buildings, representing an investment of about \$3,500,000, with improvements yet to be made, provide the most thoroughgoing instruction and practical training for large numbers of the 100,000 or 150,000 warplane pilots who are to fight the country's battles of the air. Efficiency is to be the watchword of the huge enterprise.

Already about twenty-five thousand young men have been schooled and are being schooled here. With accommodations for about twenty thousand students at a time, the school is expected to turn out fliers at a greater rate than is possible at any other such institution in the world.

America is breaking all records in carrying out the \$640,000,000 aerial warfare program. Kelly Field, under the direction of Col. W. D. Chitty, commander, is breaking all records in the training of young men for this army, and a corps of young engineers is continuing the various units which are making Kelly Field the larger and better equipped than any like military establishment. The buildings are not only permanent but high class and substantial.

Neither money, material nor labor is spared to carry out the program of construction and expansion as designed by the experts who offered their services to their country. A vast mesquite field of a few months ago has disappeared almost in a night and in its place has risen a city of strange structures and odd looking buildings.

### **Engineers Are Young Men**

D. B. Niederlander, of the construction division of the signal corps, is in charge of the construction department, having succeeded Captain Deacon, who was in charge of the work for the army, on September 1. Mr. Niederlander is a young man of wide experience in the engineering field and came out of civil life to do his "bit" in the service of his country. He was construction engineer of the National Aniline Chemical Company, with main offices in Buffalo, N. Y., and was "loaned" to the government by that company for the duration of the war. The officers in charge of the construction work like their chief, Mr. Niederlander, are all young men of ability in their respective callings, who have left good positions in private life to serve their country. R. H. Dixon Jr., field superintendent, was formerly county engineer of Dorchester County, Maryland.

With more than \$2,000,000 expended by the government in modern and permanent structures and other improvements at Kelly Field Nos. 1 and 2, work has been started for additional improvements and new structures, especially at field No. 1. The acquisition of field No. 1 many weeks before the site of field No. 2 was purchased may have given the impression that Uncle Sam bought a small stretch of land for his aviation school and put up a lot of buildings without regard for the establishment of another camp. But that was not the case. It is said that even before the acquisition by actual purchase of the land for Kelly Field No. 1 plans for the construction of a unit group of buildings with necessary improvements had been definitely determined by Col. E. G. Folgar, chief construction officer in the signal corps. Now further expansion of the aerial arm of the service has

been decided upon and that this will mean the establishment of another training school of the unit system to represent an additional investment of \$1,000,000 or thereabouts.

### **Additions to Cost \$1,000,000**

Construction has recently been started on improvements in field No. 1 which will represent a cost of about \$1,000,000. Work on the big depot warehouse is well underway and it will be a modern building of its kind with a concrete floor space of 125,000 square feet and a wood superstructure. It will be used for the storage of planes, engines and other supplies and will be 464 feet long by 272 feet wide, arranged with a double-track railroad system to the platforms, to facilitate loading and unloading of materials. A concrete roadway will encircle the structure, which will be enclosed by a steel wire fence ten feet high. It will stand out more prominently than any of the more imposing structures in the aviation center, for by night electric flood lights will be thrown on the building, "So the guards may read while they watch," as one officer put it.

A school building, six barracks, six mess halls, a postoffice, a telephone exchange, a large garage, an ice house, a large post exchange, a cottage for Col. W. D. Chitty, commandant, and a bakery for the entire post, are some of the new structures contracted for in field No. 1. This is in addition to the construction of a water system and a sewage disposal plant for 15,000 men. This latter project, which will cost about \$60,000, includes six Immopp tanks, a filter bed 350 by 150 feet and a sludgebed, and will require 250 cars of building materials. A series of bath houses for all the barracks in field No. 1, while a great convenience for the men, is not listed as a costly improvement in the contract recently awarded.

Rebuilding and tarviating three miles of roadway also form part of the new work just begun in field No. 1 This field embraces about six hundred and fifty acres of land.

### **Made Record in Construction**

Kelly Field No. 2, which is 3500 feet long with a flying field of 1576 acres, grew up like a mushroom, in so far as the measurement of time is concerned, but in post of construction it is said to be the best arranged and most substantially built aviation post in the world. Plans for the hundred or more buildings in this field had been prepared long before the sit was acquired and the arrangement is such that units may be added from time to time without affecting the original plot of the entire field. The contractors were on the ground on Sunday, July 22, and work was started on the first permanent building, a barrack used in the beginning as a storehouse, on Monday, July 26, this year, and on the administration building, which during the construction period was used as a general office building for the contractors and government engineers. On September 5 one-half the camp was ready for occupancy, with all the buildings up and water and sewer facilities installed. On October 1, the camp was completed and turned over the by the contractors to the aviation section of the army.

There are 104 buildings in this community providing complete accommodations for twelve squadrons of 150 men each and for all the officers. Included in the improvement was the clearing and grubbing of 688 acres of mesquite, the construction of 8.03 miles of road, one-half of which was tarviated; six miles of walks, four and a half miles of water mains and three miles of railroad track. It required 8,000,000 feet of lumber and 6000 cubic yards of concrete for the little settlement of bird men. Of the total floor space of fourteen acres in all the structures seven acres of it is concrete. Four thousand five hundred electric lights are required to give illumination to the city of birdmen.

### **Big Army of Workmen**

At times there were 6000 men employed in the building of the flying field and the average number throughout the whole period was more than four thousand with an average payroll of \$175,000 per week.

All the buildings in Kelly Field No. 2 are models of construction and efficiency in service

of the aerial branch of the army. Each of the twenty-four hangars, built on sixty-six steel spans erected from the ground on concrete bases will house six airplanes. By request of the War Department the cost of these structures is not given, but each of them represents an investment of many thousands of dollars. There are twenty dwellings, or rather double dwellings, known as officers' quarters, comfortable, convenient and constructs with the idea of utilizing every foot of space to the very best advantage. Each of these contains a kitchen and living room, two bed rooms and bathroom. They are equipped with gas and electric lights, range and hot water heater, screened gallery and telephones.

**San Antonio Light**  
**25 November 1917**



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:

- January 2018 by December 15
- February 2018 by January 15
- March 2018 by February 15

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)