

Rio Grande Valley Hispanic Genealogical Society

Volume 3 Issue 4

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Harlingen, Texas

Message from the President

We're so proud that our conference was a great success. Now we can bask in the glory that we all deserve. Well, so much for patting our own backs.

This is my farewell letter as president. This month we elect new officers for the society. It has been a pleasure for me to serve as your first president. I have had five years holding the office of the president and it has been very enjoyable. I know that the new officers will do an admirable job. I plan to continue the newsletter if the new board wants me to continue. I'll see you at the meetings.

Ofelia

Board of Directors:

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Battle of Medina

The Battle of Medina Society in conjunction with Southside Independent School District invites you to the annual Battle of Medina reenactment. The parade for the annual Cardinal Days kicks off at 12 noon on Saturday November 10 at the High School located on the corner of Hi 281 South Roosevelt Rd and Martinez-Losoya Road in Losoya, Texas. The parade ends at the football field and the reenactment follows.

The Battle of Medina was the biggest and bloodiest battle ever fought on Texas soil. More lives were lost in this battle and its aftermath, than in all of the other battles in the second Texas Revolution. The Battle of Medina put an end to the first constitutional government in Texas, but not the spirit of Independence. Serving in the Spanish Army at this battle was a 19 year old lieutenant, Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna.

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Indexing Records

Some members of the society spend a lot of time indexing records. The latest additions to our books for sale are the Cameron County Marriages, Brides, Volumes I and II. We are currently working on Funeral Home records and Reynosa Marriages.

New Books

Sometime around January or February the Society needs to submit an order to the Library listing the books that we would like to purchase. It's not too early to start the list. Please submit the titles of any books that you would like to have in the library along with the seller's name and address. If you were at the conference and saw books at any of the society's vendor tables that you liked, please tell the secretary, Irene Silva.

Books for Sale

CAMERON COUNTY MARRIAGES 1848-1943—GROOMS Volume I, containing the index of Cameron County marriages—grooms, A—L and Volume II, M—Z are available for purchase. Each volume is \$40.00 + \$7 shipping. Send me an e-mail and I'll e-mail an order form. We have San Fernando (Mex) Baptisms and El Soliseño Cemetery transcriptions. Mas Antes, a family history book is available as well.

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WEBSITES TO TRY

<http://www.LosCuellar.com.mx>
(marriages of Zacatecas 1857-1863)

<http://johnwilmot.wordpress.com>

www.wearecousins.info

www.texasbeforethealamo.com

Picture Domino

If you didn't attend our meeting in August, you missed a great one. Charles Fisk presented his software "Picture Domino", With this you can write family stories and add pictures and so much more. One of the my favorite features is being able to identify each person in a group photograph. You scroll over the pictures and it circles the face and identifies it by name. You need to check this out for yourself. Check it out at www.picturedomino.com



Professor Israel Cavazos Garza get his tie cut at South Padre Island

During the 33rd Annual Texas Hispanic Historical and Genealogical Conference, South Padre officials read a proclamation that prohibits wearing ties at South Padre Island. If you're wearing a tie, either your tie gets cut or you get carted off to jail (all in fun, of course). Professor Cavazos, from Monterrey, was singled out for wearing a tie. As the scissor wielding official approached, Professor Cavazos was ready to fight her off with his cane to the enjoyment of the audience.

Letty Valadez Garza performed her master of ceremonies' duties admirably as always. She introduced our wonderful keynote speaker, Mr. Bill Millet, producer of the upcoming PBS film "Texas Before the Alamo". He discussed the film and showed film clips to the delight of the entire audience. He is very committed to educating people about the true history of Texas and Tejanos. The film will air on PBS in the Spring of 2013, after the April 6, 2013 world premier of the Film at the Victoria Texas Independent Film Festival at the Fine Arts Center in Victoria. For a preview, visit www.texasbeforethealamo.com
Estimated attendance at the conference was about 300.

Virginia Weaver (daughter of Dr. Henry Weaver, Sr.) married Matias Galvan, his parents were Luciano Galvan and Arcadia de la Garza, Lucianos parents were Valentin Galvan and Antonia Longoria.

I am having a real problem finding information on my Grandmother, her birth certificate to be exact. The 1900 census states her last name was Balli, by 1910 her last name was Galvan. On her marriage licence to Enrique Weaver Galvan her last name was Garcia.

On her death certificate states her last name was Galvan, and her father's name was Marcelino Galvan. My Aunt Nora says there were "wispers" that maybe her parents we not married but I don't know...Can anyone help with this?

My grandmothers name was Marcelina Garcia Galvan, born Oct. 25, 1986 or 1987.

Reference Katie when replying to this query.

Send queries to:

Ofelia at orolsson@rgv.rr.com

I will print them in the newsletter.

All replies to queries may be sent to orolsson@rgv.rr.com

Comments? Send me an e-mail.

Rediscovering Early Texas Heritage by José Antonio López (Printed with Permission)

After reading an article that I wrote entitled “The Tejano/Tejana Bucket List” many readers wonder why they had never heard of the people, places, and events I mentioned.

Some have told me that they already started their “to do” wish list suggested in the article. Still, others lamented correctly that the level of early Texas history misinformation today is high. Thus, it won’t be easy for the general public to willingly embrace early Texas history since most already have a “Texas history starts with the 1836 Battle of the Alamo” mentality.

The truth is that most U.S. citizens suffer from a severely low Southwest history IQ. Following is a case in point illustrating the pervasive lack of Texas history knowledge:

Shortly after my retirement, I did volunteer work at our local elementary school. One day, members of my 3th grade reading group went on a field trip to the Alamo. The next day, my question was expectedly obvious, “What did you learn yesterday during your class trip?” A boy was quick to respond. “Oh, Mr. López, we learned how General Santa Anna and his army came over here to Texas from Mexico and attacked us at the Alamo!” The other children nodded in agreement. Because of their ages, I did not have the heart to tell them the truth. General Santa Anna was not the aggressor, the Anglo immigrants at the Alamo were!

Sadly, the children’s innocent reaction did not surprise me. Did I honestly expect a different answer? Of course, not. The fact is that we all have been taught a one-sided Anglicized version; folklore that doesn’t pass the common sense test. As to the rest of early Texas history, if it doesn’t fit the Sam Houston model of the story, it’s left out by historians. Regrettably, few citizens understand that Texas and the Southwest are in New Spain and not New England. Adding to the problem is the U.S. dominant society’s notorious dislike for foreign languages, especially Spanish spoken by millions of Mexican-descent citizens in Texas and the Southwest.

Taking steps to educate, some historians (Hispanic and non-Hispanic alike) have begun to write about early Texas and Southwest history in a more inclusive manner. Their efforts are meant to put faces and historical significance on the Spanish Mexican founders of Texas and the Southwest, who have long been treated as virtually invisible people. Although the Spanish Mexican roots of Texas run deep, movies and books have perpetuated a distinct anti-Mexican message, especially John Wayne’s *The Alamo*.

The question is why would John Wayne choose to forever distort the real Alamo story at the expense of Mexico and its people? The simple answer is that Mexico’s reputation was a casualty of the Cold War. Wayne cared little for historical truthfulness. His main goal was to make a movie during the Cold War reflecting his hatred for communism. Sad to say, Wayne picked the 1836 Battle of the Alamo story in which to display his personal anti-communist views, by designing the dialogue and scenery in the movie to project his ultra-conservative opinions. In his biased production, the Anglo immigrants at the Alamo symbolized the U.S. (good guys), while Mexico characterized the communist Soviet Union (bad guys).

Since shortly after its release in 1960, the film has been largely discredited. Even J. Frank Dobie, an early advisor to Wayne, refused to be associated with the movie due to its multitude of inaccuracies. Unfortunately, generations of U.S. citizens use this movie as the source and basis of their knowledge of early Texas history. ¡Que barbaridad!

To be sure, Wayne’s movie about the Alamo is a most annoying obstacle in our path to achieve fairness in teaching Texas history. However, it is only part of the problem. Much of what is taught about 1836 era Texas and Southwest history needs repackaging. It is here where major structural work in the telling of the story is needed.

Yes, the 1836 Battle of the Alamo did take place as did the battles of Goliad and San Jacinto. However, these battles are a chapter in Mexico’s history, not the U.S. The reason is that Mexico did not lose Texas until 1848. In other words, General Santa Anna had every right to be in San Antonio in 1836 to defend Mexico’s sovereign territory against armed immigrants from the U.S. (continued on page 5)

Meeting Dates for 2012

All meetings are held at the Harlingen Public Library at 2 P. M.

October— Elections; report on conference

November— Rosales Genealogy

December—no meeting

Merry Christmas



The next newsletter will be published in January.

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(New Mexico). Their stock included 150 mares, 1,000 goats, 2,000 sheep and 1,000 cows. Before The Onate expedition, the only animal in what is now America were the Bison and today horses run wild in many states, thanks to the Onate Expedition. To read more go the website above.

Google Tip

I don't have very many photos of my family. I'm always on the lookout for some whether from aunts or uncles or anybody really, who might be related to me. I've turned many times to the internet to see if I can find any. I recently found one picture on a headstone, would you believe it? I simply used a google search technique. I try to use the MEDRANO surname for examples when I write this newsletter; therefore use the surname you want in place of Medrano. In the google search box type medrano texas ~ genealogy ~ vintage. You will get many pages of information. I got many Medranos in many different cemeteries, including a listing of Medranos from the findagrave site in different cemeteries. Of course, there were many other sites as well.

SPAIN – AMERICA

ROY ARCHULETA [ram3644@wildblue.net]

Visit web site [www.wherewecomefrom-ra.com]

Don Juan de Onate began his journey from Nueva Spania which is now Mexico on January 1598 with 129 soldiers, ages mid teens to 60 and Onate himself was age 43, married to Isabel de Tolsa Cortez Moctezuma; Onate a moul (wealthy man) was paying for the journey and besides the soldiers included their wives and families, including babies. The total was some 500 people, some servants, some packers, some Mestizos and some Mulattos, Indians and a few slaves. He brought some 7,000 head of stock including horses and mares for breeding, 83 wagons loaded with supplies, steel farming equipment and many sacks of carne seca (dried meat) and perhaps the principle source of food as they traveled north to Colonize Nuevo Mejioco what is now

Filing System and Researching

One of the first things a genealogist does is to try to pose a question. Much of it resembles a scientific method where you pose a question, develop a hypothesis, and then the method of proving it is developed. Each method needs to be, dare I say it, methodical. Once you devise your plan, you must be prepared to keep your findings in an organized system. I use binders for my research. Each person uses what he is comfortable using but must ask himself – If someone else, my family, for example, tried to look at my genealogy, would they be able to make sense of it? It is your choice as to what filing system will work best for you, but it would work best if you can readily locate individual information.

Before starting on an ancestor, update your family group sheet. Fill it out and update it as to new siblings, families, etc., including vital statistics and census information. You might also do a timeline on the family. With this data, you are then ready to embark on finding that elusive ancestor, that brick wall. Analyze all your data, pose your question, state your hypothesis, and then methodically search. Don't forget to file your findings.

Rediscovering Early Texas Heritage (continued from page 3)

Yes, Sam Houston and David Crockett did come to Texas. But, they did not come here to fight for Texas independence. They left the U.S. and immigrated to Mexico seeking free land. Equally important, both were running away from serious personal problems in their home state of Tennessee. In de-mystifying the persona of these men, and others such as Travis and Bowie, it's important to know that they did not possess god-like, near divine stature that Anglophile historians and state patriotic organizations have long given them. They were just part of the tsunami of typically poor, land-hungry immigrants from the U.S. that were pouring into Texas (Mexico) in a torrential stream, most of whom did not have proper immigration papers.

Finally, nowhere else in history has one ethnic group robbed another group of its heritage to embellish their own. Yet, that is what has been done regarding El Alamo in San Antonio and La Bahia Presidio in Goliad. These iconic Texas landmarks must no longer be marketed only because armed Anglo expatriates from the U.S. died there. It is time for these structures to be honored for their strength, beauty, and creativity of their Spanish Mexican builders.

The recent unveiling of the Tejano Monument in Austin signals the start of our race to attain a fair and balanced telling of Texas and Southwest history. Let us not falter in educating others and reclaim the role that our ancestors played in founding Texas. In the words of Dr. Lino Garcia, Jr., UTPA Professor Emeritus: "Exigimos solamente lo que merecemos."

OFFICIAL ARMY REGISTER OF THE VOLUNTEER FORCE OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY, 1861-1865, PARTS 1-8

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|--|--|---|---|
| <p>1162 TEXAS CAVALRY</p> <p>SECOND REGIMENT.</p> <p>(This regiment, composed of five companies, was organized at Brownsville, Texas, from December 13, 1861, to January 8, 1862, to serve three years. It was consolidated with the 1st Regiment Texas Cavalry September 30, 1864.)</p> <p>(The official list of battles in which this regiment bore an honorable part is not yet published in order.)</p> <p>Colonel.</p> <p>John L. Haynes..... 7 Nov., 61</p> <p>Lieutenant Colonel.</p> <p>*George W. Paschal... 13 Apr., 64</p> <p>Major.</p> <p>Theodore V. Crawford... 10 Mar., 64</p> <p>Captains.</p> <p>George Trevino..... 15 Dec., 63</p> <p>*Clemente Zapata..... 15 Dec., 63</p> <p>Cesarito Palom..... 15 Dec., 63</p> <p>*Jose Maria Martines... 2 Jan., 64</p> <p>First Lieutenants.</p> <p>Richard E. Evans, E. Q. M. * Dec., 61</p> <p>James Carlos Palom... 15 Dec., 63</p> <p>Horace Dick, Ensign, 15 Dec., 63</p> <p>George H. Engheta, 15 Dec., 63</p> <p>AGI, 15 Dec., 63</p> <p>James Hough, E. C. M., 15 Dec., 63</p> <p>Angus T. Ash, 15 Dec., 63</p> <p>Henry C. Leitch, 15 Dec., 63</p> <p>Second Lieutenants.</p> <p>Francis Gorman..... 29 Dec., 61</p> <p>*Antonio Abad Diaz... 7 Jan., 64</p> <p>James A. Freeman..... 22 Jan., 64</p> <p>Adjutant.</p> <p>Mahk A. Southworth... 7 Nov., 61</p> <p>Adjutant Adjutant.</p> <p>Chaplain.</p> <p>* Discharged by reason of emasculation.</p> <p>NOTE.—The roster of officers is given as it stood on the day of enrollment.</p> | <p>TEXAS CAVALRY. 1163</p> <p>SECOND BATTALION.</p> <p>(This battalion, composed of three companies, was organized at Brownsville, Texas, and from Brownsville, Texas, to Brownsville, Texas, in March and April, 1862, to serve one year. It was consolidated with the 1st Regiment Texas Cavalry November 30, 1864, to conform with its order from the War Department.)</p> <p>(The official list of battles in which this battalion bore an honorable part is not yet published in order.)</p> <p>Colonel.</p> <p>James R. Boyd..... 15 Dec., 63</p> <p>Charles W. Boyd..... 15 Dec., 63</p> <p>William G. Boyd..... 15 Dec., 63</p> <p>Captains.</p> <p>James W. Stewart..... 15 Dec., 63</p> <p>George W. Boyd..... 15 Dec., 63</p> <p>Second Lieutenants.</p> <p>Thomas A. James..... 15 Dec., 63</p> <p>Gary T. Dix..... 15 Dec., 63</p> <p>Adjutant Adjutant.</p> <p>NOTE.—The roster of officers is given as it stood on the day of muster out.</p> | <p>Captains,</p> <p>George Trevino..... 15 Dec., 63</p> <p>*Clemente Zapata..... 15 Dec., 63</p> <p>Cesarito Palom..... 15 Dec., 63</p> <p>*Jose Maria Martines... 2 Jan., 64</p> | <p>Resigned, (1.)</p> <p>Second Lieut. Santos Cadeau, June 7, 1864.</p> <p>Dismissed, (2.)</p> <p>Captain Monico de Abrego, July 12, 1864.</p> <p>First Lieut. Cecil Vela, July 12, 1864.</p> |
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This is an example of what you can find in Ancestry.com. The paid subscription site is available for free at the Family History Center. This is a copy of the Official Army Register of the Volunteer Force of the United States Army, 1861-1865, Parts 1-8. I enlarged the names and placed them on the right because the print is small; I had to resize it to fit into this small space.