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RIO GRANDE VALLEY HISPANIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 5 Issue III

July 15, 2014

President's Message

Books for Sale

This month we celebrate seven years as a genealogy group and four years as an incorporated 501(c)(3) organization! Our founding members, with vision, skills, and fortitude, built a society on a strong foundation. With your support, the society has thrived and remains active with tremendous potential for future growth. Our financial position, under the stewardship of the board of directors, continues to be favorable. Our goal is not only to increase membership, but to fund day-to-day operations and special projects from current revenues and maintain a reserve fund for future obligations.

We can all be proud of what our society has accomplished to date, but I believe that each of you has special talents or unique skills to contribute that will result in the Rio Grande Valley Hispanic Genealogical Society becoming an even better organization. The election of officers for 2015-2016 will be on October 19, 2014 and I encourage you to take a proactive role in the management of the society by becoming an officer or volunteering to work on a committee.

Mary Torres

BOOKS FOR SALE

Cameron County Marriages –
Grooms

1848—1943, A-L, \$40.00

+Shipping

Cameron County Marriages—
Grooms, 1848-1943, M-Z,
\$40.00 + Shipping

Cameron County Marriages—
Brides 1848-1943, A-L, \$40.00
+ Shipping

Cameron County Marriages—
Brides 1848-1943, M-Z, \$40.00
+ Shipping

Mas Antes—a book of family stories,
\$40 + shipping

El Soliseño Cemetery— \$10 +
shipping (complimentary dvd of
present day El Soliseño included)

Journal 2011

Journal 2012

San Fernando, Tamaulipas, MX,
Baptisms, 1856

**Reynosa Marriage Index 1811-
1823 \$35.00 + shipping**

**(visit our website for order
form or call Annie at 956-454-
9419)**

www.rgvhispanicgenealogicalsociety.com

Marriages

"a person with the same name as this gr-uncle married to someone else about 17 years later."

When searching to find the siblings of my great-grandfather, I came across a marriage for his brother in the Catholic Archives in Austin from the Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Brownsville in 1878. I was happy to confirm the same information that I had for my gr-grandfather relating to place of origin and parents. Later on, I was searching for someone else in the marriage records in Matamoros and found a person with the same name as this gr-uncle married to someone else about 17 years later. I was curious and looked it up. I was pleased to find that he was the same person and got more information from the document. I discovered that his mother was still alive, that his father was deceased, that he lived in a neighborhood of Matamoros, and that his first wife, named in the documents had been deceased for several years. This brother apparently came with his brothers from Santiago and married here in Texas, then later settled across the River. The brothers had settled on both sides of the river. Fortunately due to where I live, I was able to look for and located both the brother and his wife in the cemetery of that small community in Mexico. I then looked for living relatives there and was able to not only secure a photograph of that brother, but also to hear family stories from his descendants. Don't forget to look for all the marriages for a person. These documents might give you more information.

Conference to be held in McAllen in September 2014

Meeting Dates

July 20—Moises Garza—"Major Resources for Northeastern Mexico Genealogical Research"
August 17—Jesus Correa—"The Real History of Starr County"
September 21—Dr. Joe Chance—"A Short History of Land Titles"
 October 19—TBA
 November 20—Open House/
 Family Trees

35th Annual Texas Hispanic Genealogical and Historical Conference

The 2014 Annual conference will be hosted by Las Porciones Genealogical Society in McAllen, Texas.

The Conference will be held on September 25-27, 2014, at the Renaissance Casa de Palmas Hotel on Main St. in McAllen. Information was sent to all the members. I will forward more information as I receive it. As I understand it, a website will soon be up. Please see last three pages of this newsletter.

Getting More Information from Records

When I first started searching for my great-grandfather's marriage record, I looked in the county records to find the date. I noticed that at the bottom of this record, he was married by a Catholic priest. I then went to the Catholic Church and requested the record. I received a very nice printed marriage certificate with his and his bride's names and date but no other information. I was disappointed and expressed that sentiment to the clerk. I told her I was hoping to see who his parents were. She told me that they were in the handwritten record but there was no place on the certificate for that information. She offered to type that information on the back. Now I try to get all records from the Catholic Archives in Austin because I can get a copy of the handwritten record. When you get information, be aware that there might be more information available, but you need to ask for it.

"I received a very nice printed certificate..."

Google Tip

Search for names both forward and backward. For example, search "Ildefonso Medrano" and also search "Medrano, Ildefonso" to find additional relevant results.



Ancestry.com Tips

When using the date search box on the Advanced Search form, it is best to use the year +/-1 or +/-2. When a date is written incorrectly in records, this will help you in finding the record.

Research Tip

My Grandma Said So....

When Grandma (or Grandpa) talks about events that happened before their birth, it is possible they are wrong. Not because they are lying out of malice, but simply because someone didn't give them the correct information, they have confused two stories, or they are simply mixed up. What starts to crack some genealogy brick walls is when we realize they are built on a foundation centering on a story that was not quite true. Michael John Neill, "Genealogy Tip of the Day," <http://genealogytipoftheday.blogspot.com>,

"Not because they are lying out of malice..."

Queries

Searching for information on the parents of Nicolas Osuna, who was born about 1860 in Mexico. He married Manuela Guajardo on September 4, 1878 in Hidalgo, Texas. Contact Mary Torres : torresmaro@att.net

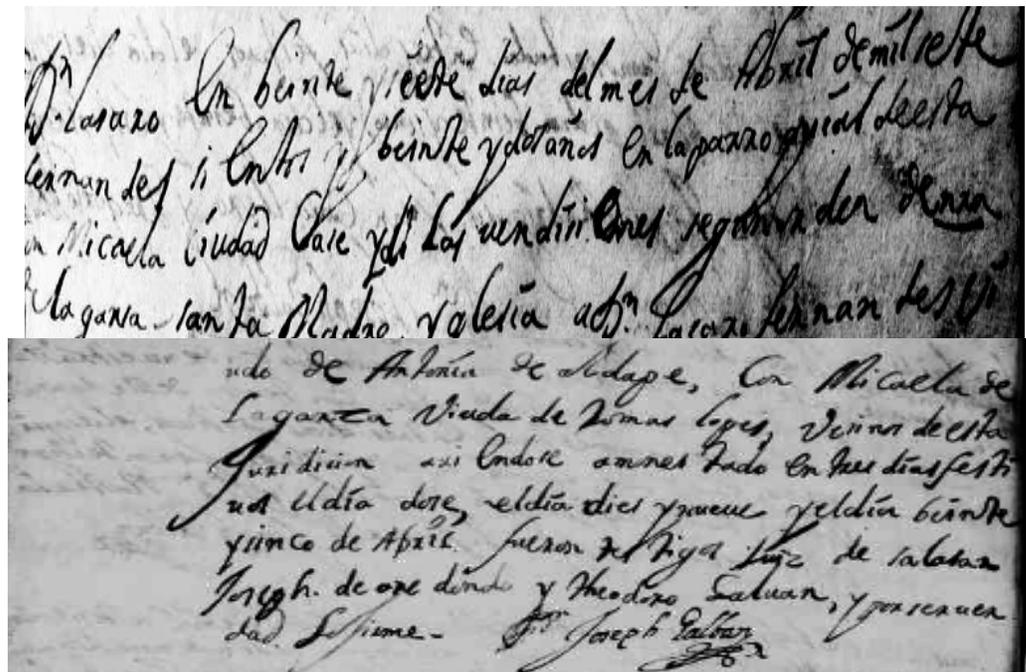
Surname Meanings

“...bald as an egg...”

The surname “De La Cerda” means “of the bristle”. The oldest son of Fernando X King of Castile and Leon was born with an abnormality. He was bald as an egg except for one lone black bristle, So “de la Cerda” became his nickname.

Family Search Marriage

“The above is the marriage of Lazaor Fernandez...”



The above is the marriage of Lazaro Fernandez and Micaela de la Garza on 27 Apr 1722. It is found in the “Matrimonios de la Catedral de Monterrey 1667-1800”, FamilySearch film 605179, Images 126 & 127. Lazaro is listed as “difunto” and Michaela is listed as his widow in the listing of the founders of Reynosa. Michaela’s first marriage was to Tomas Lopez and Lazaro’s first marriage was to Antonia de Aldape. Their children were Eugenio, Alejandro and Bartolome Fernandez, land grantees.

Visit our website to review our Mission Statement

Mortality Schedules

As you search for your relatives, you might come across a census year when your ancestor was not listed. That might be a time when you might decide to look for the mortality schedules. United States census mortality schedules list people who died the year before. These mortality “census” were taken along with population schedules during the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 census. They include persons who died between June 1 - May 31 in the year prior to the federal census. Free 1850 mortality images are on the FamilySearch website. Ancestry.com has them for the years 1850 – 1885.

“list people who died the year before.”

Federation of Genealogical Societies—Conference 27-31, August 2014, San Antonio, Texas. Register now if you plan to attend. www.fgs.org

Siblings

Sometimes when you're stuck, switch your research focus to a sibling. This may give you a way around your roadblock or brick wall. If it's a brother, so much the better. Surnames don't usually change for a brother and it's an easier search than for a female.

SCHOLARSHIP

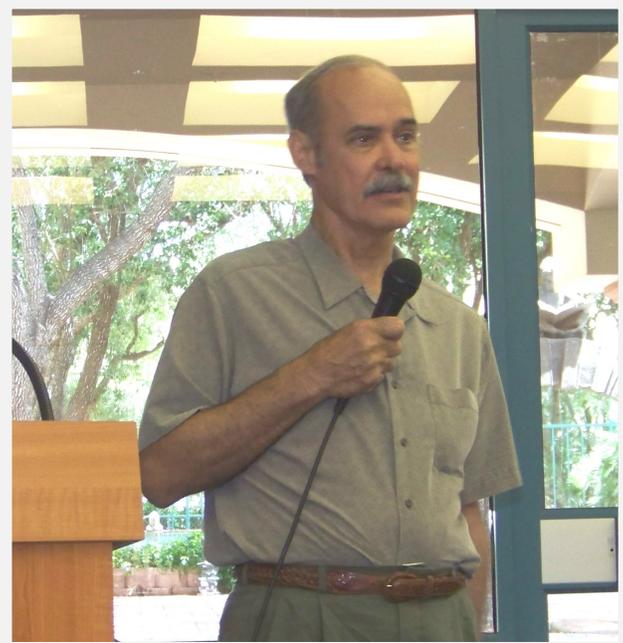
Plans are in the works for a fundraiser. Stay tuned.

Books

As I have stated before, I think I have ADD. Many times in researching for this newsletter, I come across books or articles that, before I know it, lead me in another direction. Such is the case when I came across the book The Empresario, Don Martin De Leon. I started reading it and forgot all about the newsletter. I highly recommend this one for your library.

“These are great to have in your personal library”

May 2014
Presentation:
City
Cemetery
Center



Mr. Gene Fernandez presented an overview of what we can expect to find at the City Cemetery Center in Brownsville. He was able to acquire the Yolanda Gonzalez Genealogy Collection and we can expect to see it after the first of the year.

June 2014
Presentation:
“The Cavazos
Connection”



The presentation of the “Cavazos Connection” which was prepared by several members of the society was given by Mr. Carlos Cantu. The power point program was prepared by Irma Saldaña and Sylvia Flores.

Preserving Tejano Texas is not an option; it's a must!

By Jose Antonio Lopez

No one knows exactly why after 1848, our Spanish Mexican ancestors were unable to maintain their long, well-documented chronicle as the founders of Texas. What is known is that some tried.

However, Tejanos who challenged the anti-Mexican culture bulldozer at that time were brutalized, murdered, and/or hounded out of Texas by Anglo vigilantes. (The list of Tejanos who suffered this last particular indignity includes Colonel Juan Seguin, the hero at the Battle of San Jacinto.) In short, Tejanos looked like the enemy, worshipped as Catholics like the enemy, spoke Spanish like the enemy and so were treated at the enemy.

By deliberate design then, Anglo historians wiped the slate clean of New Spain history of Texas and the Southwest. In its place, they force-fitted the history of New England. From that point on, they began to write Texas history with a pronounced Anglo Saxon slant. Now, over 150 years later, that ink is beginning to fade, exposing the early Texas history record beneath, written indelibly in Spanish.

The question is why would seemingly intelligent historians choose to tear off the pages of early Texas history to write an artificial Anglophile adaptation? More recently, why does the Texas State Board of Education (SBOE) insist on perpetuating that myth by making Texas school children believe that Texas history begins in 1836 with the arrival of Anglo immigrants to Mexico?

It's only within the last two decades that a diverse group of modern-day historians have tackled those and similar questions. The Tejano Monument in Austin represents a giant step to recover pre-1836 Texas history. However, in the words of Winston Churchill, the Tejano Monument "...is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end; but, it is perhaps, the end of the beginning."

Following are short summaries of early Texas people whose stories are left out of Texas classroom curricula. In truth, Texas school should know their names, but sadly they don't. Aficionados of pre-1836 Texas history will recognize some of them.

Others are less well known.

Juan Sabeata. He was a Native American Jumano tribe leader. In the 1680s, he first invited the Spanish to set up missions in Texas. From that very first moment, he proved to be a one-man chamber of commerce, tour guide, and visionary. He was responsible (more than any other indigenous tribal leader) in encouraging Spanish missionary work, exploration, and trade in Texas. He was an enterprising, results-oriented man who led the Spanish to the "Kingdom of the Tejas". He envisioned a trade network to set up a better environment among Texas indigenous people.

Alonso de León. He is one of Texas' foremost explorers. Traveling extensively in early Texas in the late 1600s, he is credited with a key role in establishing what later became known as the Camino Real. Starting in Monclova, Coahuila, it stretched through the Texas brush country reaching the tall pines region of East Texas. In East Texas, de León established the first Spanish mission, San Francisco de los Tejas. Earning great respect from the King of Spain, he became the first governor of Coahuila. De León was successful in finding the remnants of the illegal, ill fated LaSalle Colony. De León gets credit for naming most Texas rivers.



Mr. Jose A. Lopez

"In its place, they force-fitted the history of New England."

Mr. José Antonio (Joe) López was born and raised in Laredo, Texas. He served over 37 years in military/Federal Service. He is a direct descendant of Don Javier Uribe, one of the earliest families that settled in what is now South Texas in 1750.

Printed with permission

Captain Blas Maria Villarreal de la Garza Falcón. He was an early colonizer of South Texas and Tamaulipas and the first settler of Nueces County, Texas. He spent his childhood at Hacienda Paqueria Chica near Monterrey. In 1747 Blas Maria led fifty men to the mouth of the Rio Grande where he set up seven settlements along the river. He was named chief justice of Camargo, the first town. In 1752 Falcón established Rancho Carnestolendas, now Rio Grande City, Texas. In 1766 Falcón established Santa Petronila by the Nueces River (Nueces County, Texas). He and his family started another rancho that served as a camp for the Spanish soldiers from Presidio Nuestra Señora de Loreto. In 1767 Falcón returned to Camargo, where he died and was buried in his private chapel, Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. After his death, his family received land grants extending from the Rio Grande to the Nueces River in South Texas.

Rosa Maria Balli. Rosa Maria is part of the influential Balli family in early Texas history. She was a pioneer rancher. At one time, her land holdings covered over one-third of the present-day Lower Rio Grande Valley. She represents a fact that is not well known in history. That is, many pioneer women led the early success of the ranching industry. They either worked side-by-side their husbands or managed large ranchos on their own. (Note: As with many early Tejano families, the Ballis lost their vast land holdings twice, Once, when they were confiscated by the government after the war with Mexico. The second time occurred when after winning them back in dubious land courts, they lost them again to unscrupulous attorneys and land agents. Only recently, the Ballis won their case and awarded some payment for their lost lands.

Captain Antonio Gil Ybarbo (Father of East Texas). He was born in Los Adaes, the Capital of Texas in 1729. He became an East Texas rancher-merchant who enjoyed a fair amount of freedom in trading with Native Americans and the French. As part of a Spanish reorganization program, the East Texas missions closed and its citizens moved to San Antonio. Because they dearly missed their home, Don Antonio petitioned the viceroy to allow Los Adaes settlers to return home. His request was approved and led to the settlement of Nacogdoches, Texas.

De los Santos and Chávez. In the late 1700s, Cristóbal de los Santos was the co-founder of the first road from San Antonio to Sante Fe. Albeit, mainstream Texas historians credit Pierre Vial, a French-born Spanish subject. Also, New Mexico-born Francisco Xavier Chavez, a Comanche captive since childhood, used his unique skills to provide Vial with key direction-finding help.

Readers, please realize that the above is only a partial list. There are many more courageous stories sure to inspire; especially Mexican-descent students in Texas classrooms. With the rapid re-browning of Texas, SBOE members and other critics should be reminded that learning about Texas' Spanish Mexican past is not a modern-day development caused by recent immigrants. Long ignored, the lost pages of early Texas history have been there all along. Acting as smoldering smoking chasms in volcanic fissures, all they need is oxygen to re-Surface into the light of our Texas classrooms. Ignorance feeds intolerance; knowledge feeds understanding.

“..named chief justice of Camargo...”

“...many more courageous stories to inspire, especially Mexican-descent students in Texas classrooms.”

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

35th Annual State Hispanic Genealogy Conference

SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2014

Hosted by Las Porciones Society

P. O. Box 3323, Edinburg, Texas 78540

HOTEL INFORMATION:

Casa de Palmas rates: \$109.00 plus tax for regular room

Reservations: (956) 631-1101

Hampton Inn & Suites: \$99.00 plus tax for regular room

Reservations: (956) 661-1100

Springhill Suites: \$89.00 plus tax for regular room

Reservations: (956) 682-6336

Be sure to specify 35th Annual Genealogical Conference for room rates
Links for on-line reservations available on website

ABBREVIATED CONFERENCE SCHEDULE:

Thursday, September 25, 2014

8:00a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Conference Registration

8:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. North Hidalgo County Tour Lunch extra

Starr County Tour Lunch extra

7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Border Buttermilk Reception in Patio

Friday, September 26, 2014

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Conference Registration continues

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. - Conference Presenters

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Book Sales and vendors

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. – Lunch on your own

1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Conference Presenters continued

1:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m. Book Sales and vendors

6:30p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Complimentary Bar-B-Q & Entertainment

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

**35th Annual State Hispanic Genealogy Conference
Hosted by Las Porciones Society
P. O. Box 3323, Edinburg, Texas 78540**

Saturday, September 27, 2014

8:00a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Book Sales and vendors

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Conference Presenters

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. – Lunch on your own

12:00p.m. – 1:30 p.m. – President's Meeting

1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Conference Presenters

1:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m. Book Sales and vendors

6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. - Banquet in the Ballroom

We are still working on the final schedule and expect to add several smaller tours in the McAllen area. Check the website for more information.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions or wish to make special requests to accommodate disabilities, dietary requirements or other matters, please send an email to: amoreno1947@gmail.com .

