

# Rio Grande Valley Hispanic Genealogical Society

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Harlingen, Texas

**33rd ANNUAL TEXAS HISPANIC GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL CONFERENCE  
OCTOBER 11-14, 2012, HILTON GARDEN INN, SO. PADRE ISLAND, TEXAS**

## Message from the President

We've made significant progress in planning the conference. We plan to have about 30 sessions on Friday and Saturday. If you would like to help plan the conference, please e-mail Annie (barreraannie16@gmail.com) or Ofelia (orolsson@rvgv.r.com) to volunteer.

This is our fifth year as a genealogy group and have completed two years as an incorporated society. Congratulations to all of us. (There's nothing like patting our own backs.)

*Ofelia*

Board of Directors:  
President Ofelia Olsson  
V-President Frances Saucedo  
Secretary Irene Silva  
Treasurer Enedina Barrera

Advisory Board Members:  
Kimberly Wyatt, Attorney  
Victor Fraga, CPA

## ELECTION

It's hard to believe but it's time to elect new officers for our organization. The election will be held on the third Sunday of the Month in October, right after the conference. If you are interested in a position, please contact Toni Garza and tell her what office you're interested in. If you would like to serve on the board, we'd welcome it. It would be great to have a full board this coming year. We lost some board members this year and the planning responsibilities fell on very few people.

Please let Toni know at our next meeting in August or in September.

## SPEAKERS

Getting speakers for our monthly meetings is a hard job. Toni Garza is doing a wonderful job and we thank her very much.

## CONFERENCE INFORMATION

All forms relevant to the conference will be on our website:

www.rgvhispanicgenealogicalsociety.com. There is a link to make your reservation for the hotel that will have the **special rates** for our conference. You can also print out the registration form.

Please visit our website. www.rgvhispanicgenealogicalsociety.com often for up to date information.

## 2012 JOURNAL

It's not too late to submit a pedigree chart, a family group sheet or a short narrative about genealogy topics for inclusion in our 2012 journal. As I research, I find more and more surnames in my extended family. My great-great grandfather had two sisters and I've just discovered that I now have Flores and Cantu in my tree.

You never know whom you'll connect with when you submit a tree. Contact Dr. Alonzo Cavazos to submit.

## 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.behindthename.com/>

[www.rgvhispanicgenealogicalsociety.com](http://www.rgvhispanicgenealogicalsociety.com)

### Conference

The plans for the conference are really shaping up. We will have two full days of presenters- thirty speakers presenting historical, genealogical and cultural topics. DNA topics are being planned as well as topics on cultural music. Lots of drawings will be held throughout the day as well as a drawing for the grand prize (must be present to win) at the end of the conference. Entertainment will be offered every night, starting with a Mexican Movie on Thursday afternoon and a Margarita welcome that evening. Make your plans now. Registration will be at the door for late registrants, but **unfortunately no banquet tickets** will be available at that time.

## BATTLE OF MEDINA

Due to the diligence of the Battle of the Medina Society and mainly to its president and founder, Dan Arrellano, the Battle of Medina is now in the curriculum to be taught in schools throughout Texas in the 7th grade. The mission statement of the society has some wonderful proposals that encourages the recognition of the Tejanos' vital contributions to our state. This battle was the first one fought for independence in 1813. Dues to join the society are \$25 per year and contributions are welcome to accomplish the society's mission. To become a member, e-mail Dan Arrellano at [darellano@austin.rr.com](mailto:darellano@austin.rr.com)

## Snipping Tool

I suppose everybody uses this already. But like everyone else, what you do, you never think about and you take it for granted. If you don't know about it, the snipping tool is the greatest thing. It's sort of like "print screen" but with the snipping tool you can use it to just cut out a particular item that might be on the screen, in a web page, or an article. Then you can save it or print it. It's great for when you want to use it to "cut" a paragraph out of an article you were reading on the screen. Look for it in your windows tools. I used it while using my son's computer in Houston, found some certificates on Familysearch and e-mailed them to myself.



Looking for anyone who is related to **Maria San Juana Farias**, daughter of **Francisco Farias** and **Maria Lorenza Garcia**. San Juana was born approx. 1831 and was age 16 when she married **Juan Bautista Perez** in Matamoros on 2 Sep 1847. Would like to find children born to this couple, esp. male descendants. Refer to Trevino query when replying.

Queries are welcome!



Send queries to:

Ofelia at [orolsson@rgv.rr.com](mailto:orolsson@rgv.rr.com)  
I will print them in the newsletter.

All replies to queries may be sent to [orolsson@rgv.rr.com](mailto:orolsson@rgv.rr.com)

Comments? Send me an e-mail.

**“El Grito” of 16 of September 1910 by Dr. Lino Garcia (Printed with Permission)**

( continued)

After winning a few skirmishes against powerful Spanish forces, Hidalgo and his group were defeated near Guadalajara and were forced to retreat. By June 16, 1811, many of Hidalgo’s conspirators were detained and executed. On July 30, 1811, Padre Miguel Hidalgo Y Costilla faced a firing squad, and the Independence Movement that he advocated was defeated momentarily.

Mexico would have to wait eleven years, many of them filled with wars, by despotic Mexican rulers and political unrest until 1821 when Mexico and also Texas would be free from Spanish rule. Therefore, not only Mexico and its people were freed from the mother country, but so were the Tejanos, many of whom had fought and died in support of Padre Miguel Hidalgo Y Costilla and his “El Grito” of September 16, 1810. There were specifically two skirmishes that occurred on Texas soil: 1.) one was the “de las Casas Revolt” of 1811 in San Antonio where the rebels attempted to oust the then Spanish Governor of Texas, Manuel Salcedo, and 2.) the second was the Battle of Medina where one thousand Tejanos perished in support of Hidalgo’s independence efforts. That is why Tejanos/Texans still celebrate this historical event of “El Grito” of September 16, 1810, in present day Texas. They are paying homage and remembrance to those brave Tejanos who paved the way to what later on led to the Battle of the Alamo of 1836. One man’s quest for freedom belongs to the entire human race. “El Grito” of September 16, 1810, has now transcended national boundaries and has become “El Grito” of freedom for all mankind.

*Brownsville native Dr. Lino Garcia, Jr., is Professor Emeritus of Spanish Literature at UTPA. He can be reached at (956) 381-3441 or at LGarcia@UTPA.Edu*

### **The Pastry War (Mexico Vs. France, 1838-1839)**

Because Mexico had growing pains after getting its independence from Spain in 1821, there were successive governments replacing one another. There were many lawless acts and fighting in the streets. French citizens living in Mexico had businesses and investments ruined. During this period of strife, a pastry shop owned by a Frenchman, Monsieur Remontel, was ransacked by drunken army soldiers. In the 1830s, several French citizens demanded reparations from the Mexican government. One of these was Monsieur Remontel. By this time, Mexico owed a great debt to European nations and it appeared that it was not going to be paid. Using this demand as an excuse, France blockaded the main port of Veracruz. Mexico declared war and French troops attacked and captured Veracruz. The Pastry War marked the return of Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna. He lived near the city when war broke out and he rushed to lead its defense. The Mexican defenders lost, but he emerged a hero because he lost one of his legs during the fighting. Finally Mexico agreed to pay the full amount demanded by France and the French withdrew. Santa Anna’s leg was buried with full military honors.

## Meeting Dates for 2012

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

July—No meeting

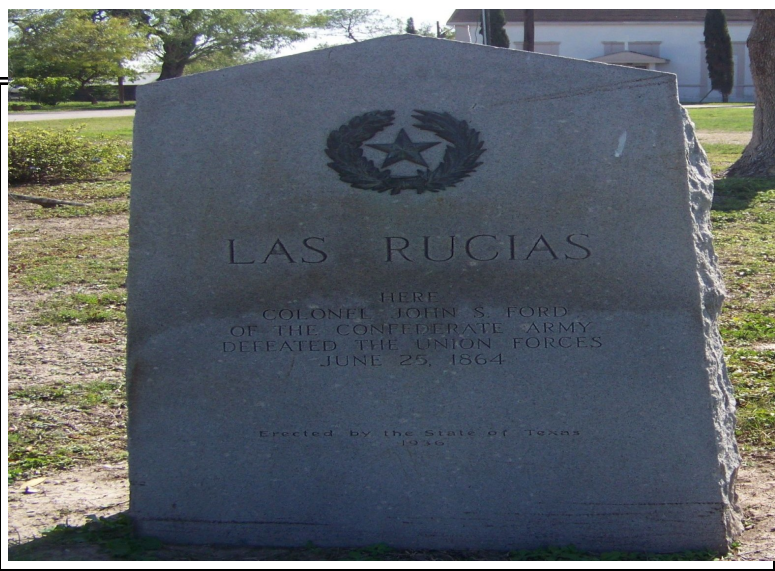
August— Presentation on Picture Domino

September—Gloria Gonzalez de Leon—"Remember Your Ancestors, Keep the Legend Alive"

October— Elections

November— TBA

December—No meeting



Historical Marker on Hwy 281 south of Harlingen, east of Rangerville Road \*\*\*\*\*

## Google Tip

### Google Tip

**You should always be aware that a name can appear differently in different sources. For example, "Andres Medrano" might appear in an article. On the other hand, "Medrano, Andres" might appear in a county record. For that reason, genealogists should always be sure to search for at least three variations of an ancestor's name. The three ways I might search for Andres Medrano might be "Andres Medrano" (note the quotes), OR "Medrano, Andres" Or "Andres \* Medrano". The asterisk indicates that there might be a character or string of characters between Andres and Medrano, ex., Andres Jose Medrano.**

Marker reads:

Las Rucias

Here Colonel John S. Ford of the Confederate Army defeated the Union Forces  
June 25, 1864.

Did you have an ancestor who fought in the Civil War? Perhaps he was in Treviño's Squad. One of my ancestors did and he lived in Las Rucias. I was able to get some information from Footnote.com which is now Fold3. This is another website which is accessible to patrons when visiting the Family History Center.



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## APPENDIX.

for three hundred and twenty acres ; a location made for the same party, under a land warrant, for nine hundred and sixty acres of land, issued to J. W. B. McFarland ; a location made for the same party, under a headright certificate granted to J. Curting, for six hundred and forty acres of land ; locations made for Charles Stillman, one of the defendants, on the seventh day of November, A. D. 1848, under headright certificates, No. 36, for twelve hundred and eighty acres of land, issued to Estafan Villarrial, and No. 18, for six hundred and forty acres of land, issued to Sabas Medrano, and under balance of land warrant No.  $\frac{4}{2}$ , issued to David Snively for nine hundred and sixty acres of land ; the location or locations made for the said Stillman, on the fifteenth day of August, A. D. 1848, under the following headright certificates, to wit : one for three hundred and twenty acres of land, issued to John Chubb, in Galveston county ; one for six hundred and forty acres of land, issued to Francisco Guzman, in Bexar county ; one for six hundred and forty acres of land, issued to Michael Judd, in Galveston county ; one for six hundred and forty acres of land, issued to Juan Rodriguez Montemayor, in Bexar county ; one for six hundred and forty acres of land, issued to Francisco Bartolomies, in Galveston county ; one for three hundred and twenty acres of land, No. 295, fourth class, issued to Antonio Garza, in Bexar county ; one for one-third of a league of land, issued to John B. Fox, in Harris county ; one for six hundred and forty acres of land, issued to Henry H. Wheeler, in Montgomery county ; one, No. 15, fourth class, issued to Henry H. Wheeler, in Grimes county ; a location made for

I used a google search technique for Sabas Medrano, Bexar County, Texas and this came up on google books.

### Fugitive For Nine Years Is Captured

Nine years ago Reuben Cortez was indicted jointly with Juan Salinas for the murder of Fernando Medrano at Harlingen.

Cortez fled across the Rio Grande and was not apprehended by officers. Salinas was arrested and later sentenced to 30 years in the penitentiary.

After being free for nine years, Cortez is now in the Cameron county jail facing his old murder indictment. He was arrested Saturday night by E. W. Anglin at Harlingen.

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 particular article came from the newspaper and publications collection, Brownsville Herald, and was dated March 24, 1931. Again, I was looking for one of my Medrano ancestors and I came across this article.