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2013-2014

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RIO GRANDE VALLEY HISPANIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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President's Message

So far, this has been another active year for our society. Thanks to the people who so generously shared their time to speak at our monthly meetings, we have been able to continue to present programs which we hope have been informative, relevant and in keeping with our mission to promote interest in Hispanic Genealogy and to assist others engaged in genealogical research. To further this effort, we are making presentations to the community, not only to promote our society, but to increase public awareness of Hispanic genealogy and family research. In September we spoke to a group at the McAllen Public Library and another program is planned in October for the Brownsville Historical Association. If you have suggestions for future presentations and/or are interested in being part of this outreach effort, please contact me. Our membership drive for 2014 begins at the October 20, 2013 meeting at which time you can renew your membership and receive your copy of new 2013 Journal. Your continued support is appreciated. Mary Torres

Books for Sale

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

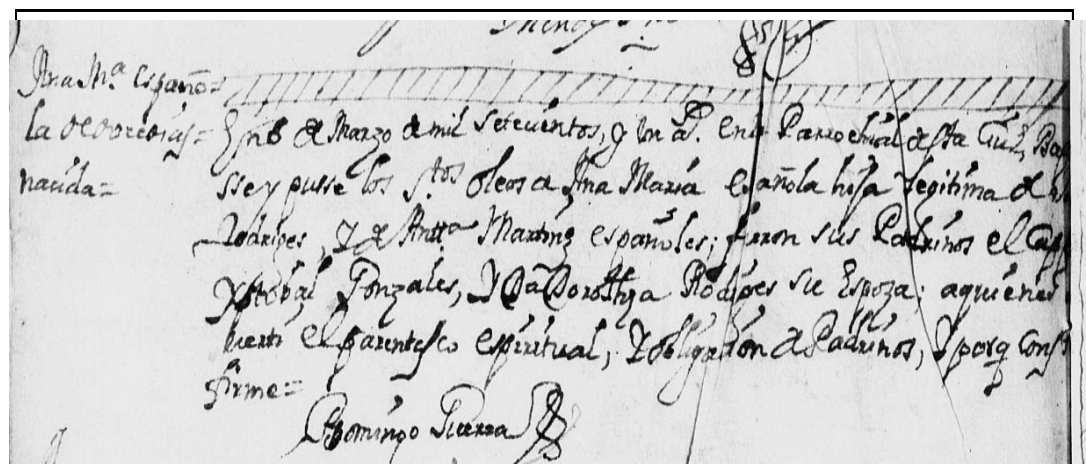
San Fernando, Tamaulipas, MX, Baptisms, 1856

Reynosa Marriage Index 1811-1823 \$35.00 + shipping

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

www.rgvhispanicgenealogicalsociety.com

Befow is the Baptismal record of Ana Maria Rodriguez de Montemayor, one of my ancestors.. It is from the Monterrey Baptisms 1668-1731, Film # 605147, Image 181 (FamilySearch). She was baptized on 06 Mar 1701 and was the ggggranddaughter of Alberto del Canto and the ggggranddaughter of Diego de Montemayor. She married Bernabe Medrano.



I found lots of goodies in the following website. Below are a couple of examples.

<http://www.archivomunicipaldesalttillo.gob.mx/catalogos/cpm/CATALOGO%2002.PDF>

28.

Madrid. 29 de septiembre de 1745. I

Real Cedula. Copia del mandamiento comunicando el casamiento de la hija del rey, la infanta María Teresa, con el delfín, hijo del rey de Francia.

AMS, PM, c 16, e 27, 4 f.

33.Villa de Santiago del Saltillo. 15 de octubre de 1745.

Escritura. Ana de Lizarraras y Cuellar, viuda de Antonio de las Casas Lobo Guerrero hipoteca a favor del Marques de San Miguel de Aguayo, diez y seis dias de agua con sus tierras en la hacienda Palomas de Adentro, con su molino de pan y vivienda y los sitios y parajes del Tunal, Jame, San Antonio y Rincón de las Vacas.

AMS , PM , c 16 , e 32 , 5 f

Words Convey a Picture

I love photos and am always on the lookout for more. Unfortunately, we are not always able to find one of an ancestor. One of the places I know of finding a description of an ancestor is in the draft records. I know that one of my ancestors was tall, slender, and had black hair and brown eyes when he was twenty one. We don't possess a photo of my husband's grandfather and my husband did not remember what he looked like since he died when my husband was five. His draft record for World War Two described him as being 5'6", stocky, ruddy complexion, grey hair and blue eyes. I can almost picture the man.

"One of the places I know of finding a description of an ancestor is in the draft records."

Conference to be held in McAllen in September 2014

Meeting Dates

October 20—Dr. Manuel Medrano
"Los del Valle"

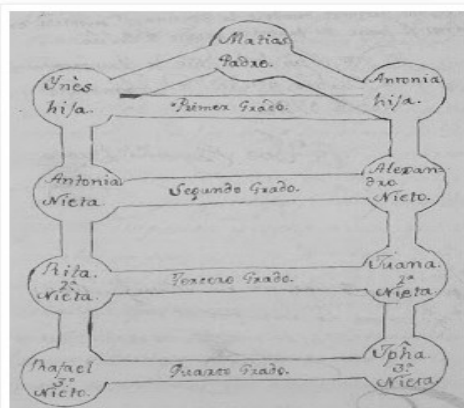
November— Workshop—Need help? Bring your genealogy questions. Bring your trees to display and make connections.

December—No meeting—Merry Christmas

35th Annual Texas Hispanic Genealogical and Historical Conference 2014

The 2014 Annual conference will be hosted by Las Porciones Genealogical Society in McAllen, Texas. Alex Moreno, President, told the conference attendees that he is planning on a September conference and hopes to have the date set soon.

Marriage Dispensations



1796

According to the website, many Spanish priests and scribes created family trees to show the relationship of the bride and groom. The drawing on the left shows one of the several on the website. If you cannot get to a library that has the Guadalajara Marriage Dispensations, this index gives you an alternative. It provides the film number. The website is <http://www.guadalajaradispenasas.com/p/family-tree-art.html>

“...many Spanish priests and scribes created family trees...”

Google Tip

It's amazing what you can find on google. I know that you've tried finding records on google before but have you tried it today? New information goes on the web daily so the information you looked for yesterday and couldn't find might be there today.

Research Tip

Repeat your searches using different search engines. Even though I love to use google, no one search engine has a complete index of what's on the internet. Try these search engines besides google: www.AltaVista.com, www.AllTheWeb.com, www.Ask.com, www.Vivisimo.com or www.Kartoo.com

“Repeat your searches using different search engines.”

The Origin of “Scapegoat”

“Scapegoat” originated in an old Testament story. Aaron, the brother of Moses, was the priest of the people of Israel. On the Day of Atonement, Aaron selected one goat for sacrifice and one goat as the “escape goat.” On the head of the “escape goat”, he symbolically placed the sins of the people of Israel; it was sent off into the wilderness, thereby escaping death and dismissing the sins of the people of Israel. Today the term “scapegoat” is one who bears the blame for the wrongdoings of another.

Our **membership drive** will start at our October meeting. If you would like to fill out your membership form before the meeting, download it from our website: This newsletter is restricted to members only. www.rgvhispanicgenealogicalsociety.com

Queries

Are you up against a brick wall? Do you want to connect? Send your query to orolsson@rgv.rr.com,

Brick Wall Strategies

“Research not only online but in libraries as well.”

1. Review and Organize your research. Take inventory of what you've found out and record your information. Then create a chart or timeline of what you have.
2. List all sources you can think of that you have not searched. Keep a record of your searches and results, positive and negative.
3. Concentrate on that one particular ancestor.
4. Look for alternative sources.
5. Research your ancestor's collateral family.
6. Research not only online but in libraries as well.
7. Talk over your brick wall with another genealogy buff.

I searched in Ancestry.com and was able to get a copy of these records.

Cameron Courts

Marriage Licenses

Jose Charles and Maria Quarez.
Ramon Rodriguez and Adelaida Russett.
Emilio Valez and Francisca Zala.

Probate Court

Estate of C. W. Tidwell, deceased.
District Court
Clemente Gloria vs. Guadalupe Gloria, divorce.
Houston Building and Loan Association vs. C. E. Garza, et al., foreclosure.
Houston Building and Loan Association vs. C. E. Garza, et al., foreclosure.

Cameron County Real Estate Transfers

Furnished by Valley Abstract Co.)
T. S. Herren et al., by sheriff to Berty National Bank of Oklahoma, lot 7, block 4, Taylor Addition to Harlingen. \$5000.00.
A. Tamm et ux., to T. J. Choats, trm lots 9-10-20-21-23, block 9, and ts 23-24-25-26, block 8, and lot 27, Sub. 2, Palm subdivision of F. Z.

Bishop subdivision of the C. de G. Grant. \$10.00.
James Dickinson Farm Mtg. Co. to Eli Sanborn, 9.87 acres of farm block "C," El Hardin subdivision, Sh. 27 E. S. Grant. \$3253.
Harlingen Orchards to Berty Properties, Inc., being west 4.33 acres of block 4, and east 1.79 acres in block 5, Briggs & Coleman Sub. of Sur. 49. \$10.00.
T. H. Harbin to Berty Properties, Inc., west 4.38 acres in block 5, Briggs & Coleman Sub. Sur. 49. \$10.
W. L. and W. D. Sanderson et al. to T. H. Harbin, west 4.38 acres in block 5, Briggs and Coleman Sub. Sur. 49. \$10.00.
Berty Properties, Inc. to C. G. Frizzell, 11 acres of block 4 and 5, Briggs and Coleman Sub. Sur. 49. \$14,190.
Florentino Chavez to Jose Chavez, west 2.44 acres of 4.44 acres of Sur. 35. \$10.00.
Florentino Chavez to Teodoro Chavez, being west 1 acre of east 2 acres of 4.44 ares of Sur. 35. \$10.
Harlingen Orchards Co. to Berty

The above is from Ancestry.com from the newspaper collection. The entry is from the Brownsville Herald dated Thursday, January 15, 1931.

Genealogy Roadshow

Have you been watching Genealogy Roadshow on PBS? It's very interesting to watch. But have you also said to yourself. "I wish those researchers would search for a person's ancestry who is not claiming to have someone rich and famous in their ancestry. Well, you have a chance to get on the show. And wouldn't it be great if they could target an area of the country where a large segment of the population would probably be related? I know that the popular saying "somos primos" is repeated by so many Hispanics. But here in the Rio Grande Valley "somos primos and aqui estamos." Our ancestors did not come from the Canary Islands; they came from Monterrey and other parts of Mexico.

If you would like to be on the Roadshow, register on <http://www.grcasting.com/>. See you on TV.

"Well, you have a chance to get on the show."

Ancestry.com Acquires Find a Grave

Ancestry.com has acquired Find a Grave. The site has 100 million memorials to deceased people, and 75 million photos so it adds to ancestry's database. According to Ancestry, it will remain a free site and plans for the Find A Grave site to include a mobile app for uploading cemetery photos just like Billiongraves.com. *From Family Tree*

"...it will remain a free site."

Monthly Meeting in November

The Board of Directors has planned a fun meeting for November. Many of us have said at different times that we wish for a time to "just talk". We will have a time to ask questions, to discuss genealogy, to help people get started, to help those who have said "I've done this; now what's next?" and to display trees or pedigree charts to make connections. We will show people how to search on FamilySearch.org and on Ancestry.com and, if we have time, on GenealogyBank. We will also display some trees and pedigree charts as well as ideas of gifts you can make using your genealogy. We will have refreshments. Get your things ready to bring to this exciting meeting:

1. Genealogy Charts
2. Pedigree Charts
3. Things you've made using genealogy
4. Questions
5. Cookies or other goodies to share

Future Activities of the Society

The Board has planned a number of activities for the coming year. We will continue with our indexing projects and will undertake another fundraising project. A bilingual recipe book was discussed and approved by the board. In November, photos of Hispanic veterans will be displayed in the Harlingen Public Library window. The soldiers book will be published as soon as all the work is done for it.. We will endeavor to bring interesting speakers for our monthly meetings. Two speakers have already been booked for 2014. Mr. Guillermo Garmendia Leal and Mr. Jose A. Lopez have graciously consented to present to our society.

Our society can only be as strong and successful as our members can make it. Renew your membership and volunteer.

“Everyone thoroughly enjoyed it.”



Conference attendees enjoyed the tours that the Victoria Genealogical Society hosted for the 34th Annual Texas Hispanic Genealogical and Historical Conference. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed it. RGV members Celia Quintanilla (third from left), Dominga Anguiano (second from left, just visible) and Mary

Profesor
Israel
Cavazos
Garza



It was quite enjoyable to visit with Profesor Israel Cavazos Garza from Monterrey. I assured him that this time there would be no tie cutting. We had a good laugh. From Left: Mary Torres, Profesor Garza and Ofelia Olsson

DOWN MEMORY LANE IN OLD BROWNSVILLE

By: Dr. Lino García, Jr

Their descendants became the early settlers, the entrepreneurs, the “ hacendados “, the ranching families, and the cattle and land barons of that time. These families are still here : they are the Cavaceños, de la Garza Falcón, Treviño, Longoria , Chapa, Medrano, Solis, Guerra, Zavalletta, SantosCoy, Vela, Balli, and others. These families known as Spanish Grantees have contributed immensely to the early development of early Brownsville, and I say all of this at a beginning to establish the tone, the human environment, the character of the people who made early Brownsville, and also to honor those who later came from the North and provided a new perspective, a new energy, a new vision, all of which set in motion the memories we all hold of Old Brownsville.

III. The settlement of the Land Now Comprising the City of Brownsville

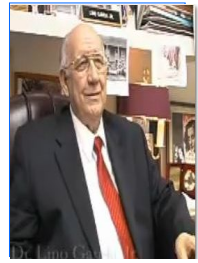
José Salvador de la Garza and Ma. Gertrudes de la Garza Falcón were granted a Spanish Land Grant in 1781 by King Carlos III of Spain in Northern Cameron County. The daughter of Blas María de la Garza Falcón, Ma. Elizalde inherited this land that included Rancho Viejo land. The same de la Garza Falcón had the land grant later on comprising the King Ranch, and for decades were the Cattle King and Queen of South Texas . They also comprised one of the 13 original families that settled South Texas and Northeastern Mexico around 1767 and before that time in 1749 with Col. José de Escandón . Before that time we merely had the explorers and conquistadores but without their families; as they arrived later on with promised of Spanish Land grants .

These early pioneering ranching families set the tone of character, work ethics, family loyalties, love of nature, citizenry, and other qualities one finds in Old Brownsville families. Thus, from around the beginning of the 18th. century to around the last few decades of the 19th. century certain leading and prominent Spanish families , some of them enjoying ancestors of Sephardic (Spanish Jewish culture),

were the main business leaders and merchants of what was to be modern day Brownsville. These families whose business enterprises consisted in general of large wholesale warehouses (bodegas) in whose places these families also lived In the upstairs area and whose remnants of walls, buildings still form part of old Brownsville; especially east of town, on east Madison, Adams, Monroe, and whose large up to the street old buildings are still standing as an eternal testimony to old Brownsville : Andrés Pacheco, Juan Fernández e Hijos, Champion, Ortiz (La Madrileña) , Samano, Cueto, Cárdenas, Yturria, Cavazos, Celaya, and others were mainly the families comprising the business owners. One can still travel via east Brownsville close to downtown and still see remnants of old building with names at the top such as: Pacheco, Fernández e Hijos (later on changed), Cueto, Samano, and others attesting to the early Spanish commerce prevalent in old Brownville.

The distinct and excellent bi-cultural aspect of our dear hometown of Brownsville got its start during those early times, as northerners coming into the city in search of fortune would married into leading Spanish grantee families of long standing here, and thus produce off-springs with names we would later hear sitting across many of us in our school classes . Williams, Dorsett, Connors, Shears, Black, Brown, Bollock, Betz, Decker, Bennett, Roberts, Boyd, McAllen, and others. Also during the Civil War, many soldiers from the South arrived, and thus in some cases would marry local girls, as did soldiers stationed at Fort Brown during the 1940's or so.

Thus, from its Native-American presence in the old Brownsville area, to a Spanish Grantee old families, now slowly becoming a bi-cultural city during those formative years of old Brownsville, where Spanish was the preferred language among the city's old and founding families, including the new comers who soon merged with the local towns people. This scenery began to change some as during mid-20th. century other individuals arrived in town. (continued on next page)



Dr. Lino Garcia, Jr.

“These families are still here : they are the Cavaceños, de la Garza Falcón, Treviño, Longoria , Chapa, Medrano, Solis, Guerra, Zavalletta, SantosCoy, Vela, Balli, and others.”

Printed with permission

I can remember the days when certain grocery stores would deliver their groceries in wagons drawn by two mules, one could see this activity often traveling the streets of old Brownsville, until around 1946 or so, when I suppose certain laws prohibited this practice. Such grocery stores as the Gómez Store located on East Madison and 5th. across from the old cemetery, a store we called “El Cafetero”, and just around was the old Gavito Grocery Store on East Jefferson on the way to the only High School in town. I can still remember going into a similar store across the Washington Park located on East 9th. and Adams Street owned by an old Brownsville family, and the store was a long warehouse that extended all the way to the alley, and an old man named Don Nicolás would tend to its customers, and all products were still in large glass or wooden containers. Right nearby was the Crixell grocery store also. I remember walking the streets of old Brownsville on the way to the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church to hear mass, or to go along with my sisters who would spray the corridors of the church with flowers or we would say in Spanish “regar las flores”; while we all sang “Oh, María, Madre Mía, Oh, Consuelo del Altar; amparame y guíame a la Gloria Celestial”. I would pass by the old Laiseca Hardware Store in front of the old court house, and also by La Madrileña, owned by prominent Ortiz families. Along the way were one or two barber shops filled with customers.

There was the City Hall building, whose outside first floor was used by many merchants selling their products, such as the Garcia family fruit and vegetable stand (whose brothers Enrique, and older brother were excellent football players during out time), the Tony Ayala Meat Market, and others too numerous to mention. Right in the corner was the Cisneros Radio Store, and the Cisneros Flower Shop, Manitou Department Store, the Klan Flower Store, and Davos Store, along the East Washington Street were many stores: the González Pharmacy, owned by Tony González, one time Mayor of Brownsville, the Pilot Bar, the Calderoni Drug Store, the Gavito Gourmet Store, the Zepeda Hardware, the Charro Loan Company, the Guadalupana Drug Store for the best ice cream cone after seeing a good western movie at the old Dittman, Río or Grande Theater of old Brownsville. Right next in front was the perennial Mexico Theater or El Tiro, and the Iris (El Iris) owned and operated by an old line Brownsville family, the David Young family, the Jackson Feed Store, and the Don Enrique Valentín Department Store, Rutledge Hamburger Stand, and to the side were the Shapiro Store, McChesney's, owned by the Carolyn McChesney family, who was a classmate of ours; the Brooks Walgreen, owned by Allan Brooks' parents who was a dear classmate and a fine and courteous friend to all who knew him. Remember the OK Café, owned by the Molina family? Or the Benavides Hamburger Stand on East Adams, where inexpensive hamburgers were served with ketchup?

Remember the Brownsville Transportation Co. of city buses founded in 1937 by the Mr. Joe Colunga, Sr. with his four sons: Joe, Emilio, Luis and Frank, and daughter María? This family that gave Brownsville its first experience with public transportation. My dad and I, as well as countless Brownsville residents made use of this avenue to get to work, go downtown, or to simply visit family on all parts of town. Later on the Victoria Transportation Co. operated on the east side of Brownsville.
(to be continued)

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Dr. Lino García, Jr., is an 8th. generation Tejano, and holds the chair of Professor Emeritus of Spanish Literature at UTPA. He can be reached at: LGarcia@UTPA.Edu