



## Rio Grande Valley Hispanic Genealogical Society

Volume 8, Issue 2

April 15, 2017

# RGVHGS Quarterly Newsletter



## Letter from the President

Dear Members,

Thank you for renewing your membership or becoming a new member.

The society started out this year with an outstanding line-up of presenters and topics for our monthly meetings and we look forward to continuing to bring you excellent speakers and interesting topics in the months to come. On April 23, the Sunday after Easter, at 2:30 p.m., Rob Ramaker, History Professor, Texas Southmost College, Brownsville, dressed as Hernan Cortez, will present, "The Spanish Conquest of the New World." The society will meet on the third Sunday of the month unless otherwise noted, from May through November, with the exception of July, when the society will not be meeting.

Submissions for the 2017 Journal are being requested and will be accepted for publication now through June 1, 2017. You can submit family stories, photographs, pedigree charts, copies of documents, maps and other records to Ofelia Olsson, Journal Editor. I encourage you to take this opportunity to tell your story, and have your material published so that your family history can be preserved in print and digitally for future generations.

Remember, if you have a suggestion for a program or speaker, or would like to make a presentation, please let me or one of the other board members know. I also invite you to submit any articles, queries, suggestions that you might have for this quarterly newsletter.

Your continued support of the society and its projects and activities is appreciated.

Mary Torres,  
President

### April 23, 2017

After the business meeting, Rob Ramaker, dressed as Hernan Cortez, will present "The Spanish Conquest of the New World."

### Inside this issue:

|                               |       |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| Current Events                | 2-3   |
| Hispanic Voices               | 4     |
| Texas Independence            | 5     |
| Tips, Tops, and Enlightenment | 6-7   |
| What DNA Tells Us, and Award  | 8     |
| Then and Now                  | 9     |
| 2017 Journal, Website, & More | 10-11 |

## Upcoming Events

### RGVHGS 2nd Annual Scholarship Luncheon and Style Show

*"April Showers Bring May Flowers"*

Saturday, April 22, 2017. GoldenPalmsTexas Room

*(Tickets must be purchased in advance.)*



NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
2017 FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE  
10-13 MAY | RALEIGH, NC  
FAMILY HISTORY LIVES HERE



## Current Events

### January 2017



*Rio Grande Valley Hispanic Genealogical Society*

Presents

**Mr. John David Falcon**

Executive Director, Alliance of  
Texas Land Grant Descendants

Mission of the Alliance  
HB 724  
Historical Items of  
Interest  
Open Forum



Harlingen Public  
Library  
Sunday, January  
15, 2017  
2 P M Business  
Meeting  
2:30 P M  
Presentation



John David Falcon spoke on a diverse set of Hispanic related topics from land grants to the establishment of agriculture and ranching by our Hispanic forefathers in Texas.

### February 2017



Rio Grande Valley Hispanic Genealogical Society

A 501(c) 3 Non Profit Society  
Proudly Presents  
Mr. Jack Ayoub

“Forgotten Tejano Heroes of the  
Texas War for Independence”  
Sunday, February 19, 2017  
Harlingen Public Library  
410 '76 Drive  
2 P M Members' Meeting



Jack Ayoub presented a brief history of the struggle for Texas Independence from Mexico highlighting the Hispanic Tejanos who were involved, yet were omitted from the Texas history taught in schools.

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### March 2017

Rio Grande Valley Hispanic Genealogical Society  
A 501(c) 3 Non Profit Society

Proudly Presents  
Mr. Dirk Yarker

Instructor in the History Department of Business  
and Social Sciences,  
Texas Southmost College

“Heredity and Genetics  
Throughout History”  
Sunday, March 19, 2017  
Harlingen Public Library  
410 '76 Drive

2 P M Members' Meeting  
2: 30 P M Presentation



Dirk Yarker gave an overview of the evolution of warfare from ancient Greek and Roman societies and the conflicts that help explain the spread of Greek and Italian heredity throughout Europe and the new World.

**April 2017**

**The 2nd Annual Scholarship Luncheon and Style Show is scheduled for April 22, 2016. Guest Speaker will be Celeste Sanchez from San Benito.**

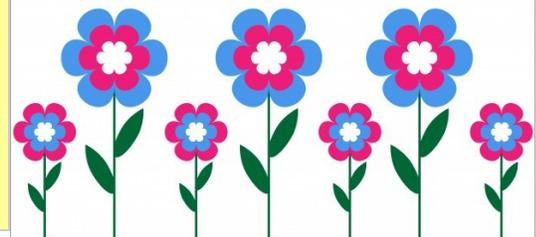
**Celeste Sanchez was born in La Paloma, Texas and raised in San Benito, Texas. She is the mother of three successful sons and grandmother to six children.**

**Ms. Sanchez has been an educator with 45 years' experience in the field of education, Ms. Sanchez began her career as an elementary teacher and proceeded to earn her Administrator Certification, a Bilingual Endorsement from Michigan State**

**University, and a Masters Degree from Texas A&I University in Kingsville. Ms. Sanchez taught in Lansing, Michigan where she was named "Teacher of the**

**Year". She served as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, director and as Assistant Superintendent in San Antonio for eight years prior to her Assistant Superintendent position for San Benito CISD for fourteen years.**

**Her civic duties include seven years as City Commissioner for the City of San Benito and currently is in her first term as Mayor. She also sits on various boards including Workforce Solutions, Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council, Texas Conjunto Hall of Fame and Museum, Rotary Club of San Benito and START Center of San Benito.**



**Did You Know . . .**

Starting in 1790 the United States allowed immigrants to the country to become naturalized citizens. Though the process has changed over the years, [naturalization records](#) still remain a fundamental resource for tracing your family history. While the process was difficult, these records can include detailed information relating to an individual's arrival in the United States, include the date and ship used. Other personal information can include the birthdate and birthplace, the town and country of origin, names of relatives or other acquaintances. (<http://www.findmypast.com/content/20-family-history-resources>)



Texas history has long forgotten Capt. Juan Seguin and his Tejano soldiers who fought for Texas against Mexico during the Texas War for Independence as infantry, calvary, scouts, guides, guards, messengers, spies, and as food foragers.

These Tejano vaqueros were the best qualified for any military service that Texas required of them, but the one Tejano that Seguin always depended on for the most dangerous and most important scouting missions was Blas Herrera, the Paul Revere of Texas.

Herrera was the son in law of Francisco Ruiz, one of the two Tejano patriots from San Antonio, who signed the Texas Declaration of Independence.

There is a letter written by Ruiz to Herrera, asking him to please be very careful on all his dangerous scouting missions, because the Mexican Army would surely prosecute him if the truth ever came out.

Ruiz's letter did not specify what the scouting missions were or how many, but in the memoirs of Capt. Seguin, there were at least four that we know of.

Herrera's first and most important mission was to patrol the Rio Grande River, south of Laredo, for Mexican General Santa Ana and his Army on their march to San Antonio.

According to one account, two Indians rode with Herrera and sneaked into the Mexican camp.

Then, they would cut the ropes and reins to the horses at night to scatter them over the country side. Herrera and his two Indians also burned a bridge to slow down the Mexican soldiers.

The rest of Herrera's story will be told along with Capt. Seguin and his Tejanos, as well as the rest of our brave Texas heroes, who fought together and died together for Texas Independence, on Saturday, March 11, at the San Benito Fair Grounds at 11 a.m.

The public is invited to watch our re-enactors take us back to the Battle of the Alamo, the Battle of San Jacinto, and the Battle of Gonzales (the Lexington of Texas) with their gun powder loading flint lock muskets and their cannons.

And the public is also invited to participate in re-signing the names of our 59 Texas and Tejano patriots to the Texas Declaration of Independence, just like our heroes did at the Washington-on-the-Brazos on a near freezing day on March 2, 1836. Viva Tejas y vivan los Tejanos.

Jack Ayoub is a Harlingen Pharmacist and an Texan Historian.

### Quick Google Tip:

I googled "first settlers to San Antonio, TX" and I found an interesting list. Below is the link to the list.

### **1790 Census Of The Civilians Of San Antonio, Texas**

From: The Bexar County Archives

June 1, 1979

translated by

John Ogden Leal

<http://bexargenealogy.com/archives/1790bexarcensus.rtf>

# Texas Battle for Independence Re-enactment

## TEXAS INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION

SAN BENITO, TEXAS

Symposium  
Cook-Off  
Art Contest  
Music

Our mission is to educate, participate and celebrate Texas Independence.

★ ★ ★ MARCH 12, 2016 ★ ★ ★

memory is so vivid he appreciate the re-enactment of the battle which took place here.

They burned the bodies," said a re-enactor, "The different uniforms were red, blue, and white. I think Santa Anna conscripted people to serve in the army."

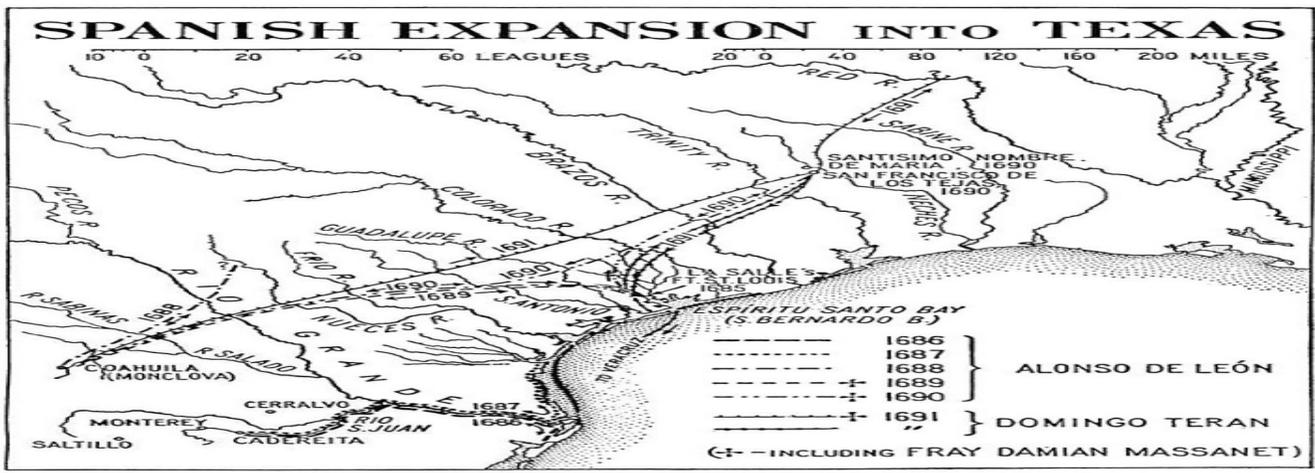
They watched as re-enactors playing Mexican officers rode briskly around a field on horseback. Their dashing blue and red uniforms shone brightly in the afternoon sun. They projected a commanding presence before the foot soldiers lined up with muskets at the ready.

See ALAMO ★ AS

See photo gallery.

### Re-enactors stage historic battle/ PAGE A5

Photos by Travis M. Whitehead/Valley Morning Star, March 3, 2017)



Spanish Exploration of Alonso de Leon and Domingo Teran. Courtesy of the National Humanities

## Tips, Tops, and Other Enlightenment . . .

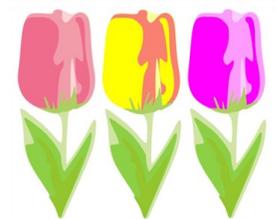
### Saving and Cropping Documents

I know that I wrote about this before in one of the previous newsletters, but it bears repeating. XnView is a wonderful tool that you can download for free. Just google it and download. Make sure it's on your desktop. When you have a baptism or marriage that you want to save, (for example, one that you find on FamilySearch) "Save as" it on the desktop. Then slide it into XnView. There you can crop it (  ) (I tried to draw the command to crop) and brighten or darken it. Save it to your desktop if you wish. On my desktop, I have my folders for family with subfolders in each for baptisms, newspaper clippings, marriages, etc. which is where I have my digital information. Then I open a folder and subfolder and very easily slide each document where it belongs. It's a very simple way to digitize your information and very rapid. When you're finished, it's already filed.

(Submitted by Ofelia Olsson.)

A journal enables you to write down your . . .

- Guided questions and prompts will help you tell your grandchildren (and great-grandchildren to come) all about your childhood and teen years;
- your education, love, and marriage; work, community,
- religion, military service; parenthood and family life;
- and, of course, grandparenthood! **Inside back cover pocket allows for storage of keepsakes, notes, and other mementos.**



(<http://www.genealogytoday.com/articles/reader.mv?>

## Record Types

- Bible Records
- Cemeteries
- Census
- Church Records
- Court Records
- Directories
- Emigration & Immigration
- Genealogies
- Land & Property
- Military Records
- Naturalization & Citizenship
- Newspapers
- Online Records
- Periodicals
- Probate Records
- Vital Records

(Texas Genealogy website, 2016)

## More Tips . . .

What are the best free sites for family history research?



# 10 Free Genealogy Sites

January 25, 2015

FamilyHistoryDaily.com

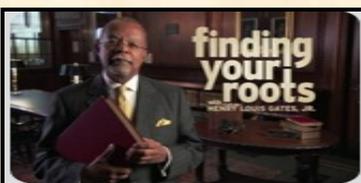
Here are our favorite completely **FREE** resources for researching your ancestors.

1. FamilySearch - [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org)
2. Find a Grave - [findagrave.com](http://findagrave.com)
3. Ellis Island - [libertyellisfoundation.org](http://libertyellisfoundation.org)
4. National Archives - [aad.archives.gov](http://aad.archives.gov)
5. Chronicling America - [chroniclingamerica.loc.gov](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov)
6. Cyndi's List - [cyndislist.com](http://cyndislist.com)
7. Crestleaf - [crestleaf.com](http://crestleaf.com)
8. StoryWorth - [storyworth.com](http://storyworth.com)
9. Google News Archive - [news.google.com/newspapers](http://news.google.com/newspapers)
10. Castle Garden - [castlegarden.org](http://castlegarden.org)



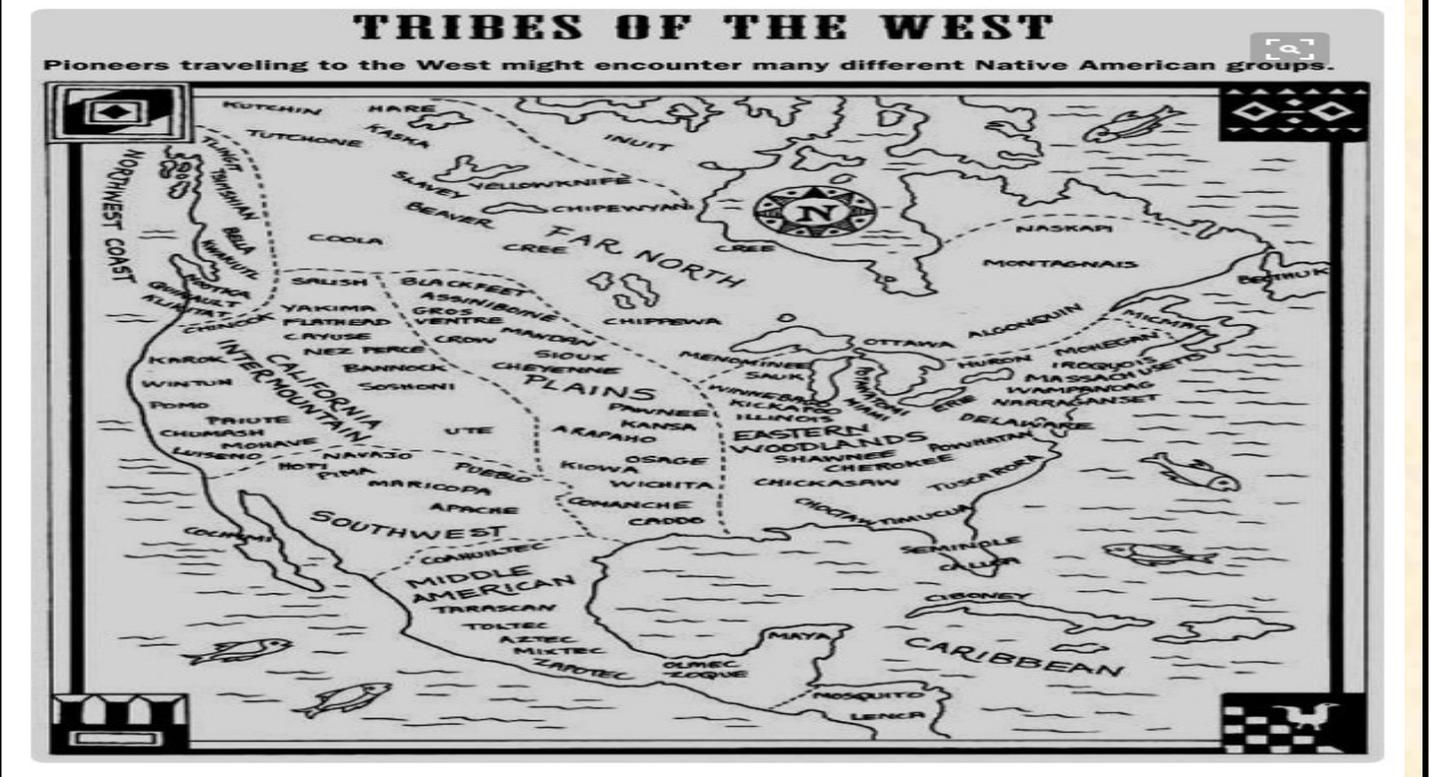
## Four Genealogy Shows to Watch

(Check your local listings for show times.)



## What DNA tells us . . .

If your DNA results say you are part Native American, chances are your ancestors were from one of the tribes in this map:



The RGVHGS is happy to report and to congratulate President Mary Torres for receiving the H. William Card, Jr. Library Service Award.

(Excerpt and picture are from the Valley Morning Star)

Local genealogist honored with the H. William Card, Jr. Library Service Award

Mary Torres, local genealogist and contributor to the Valley Morning Star, shown

above with Harlingen Mayor Chris Boswell, was presented with the H. William Card, Jr.

Library Service Award on February 6. The award was established in honor of former

Mayor H. William Card and is the highest honor bestowed by the Harlingen Public Library Advisory Board.

COURTESY PHOTO

## Then and Now . . .



Troops patrolling along the Mexican border

Troops patrolling the Mexican border as ordered by President Woodrow Wilson in 1916. Image available on the Internet and included in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107.

## 100 Years Later . . .



(electronic fromproducts.com)

## Preparing the RGVHGS 2017 Journal



### A note from the RGVHGS 2017 Journal Editor:

Just wanted to touch base with you and let you know that the deadline for submissions for the journal is June 1st. I know it is fast approaching but I need to finish several projects and in order to accomplish everything, I must ask that you submit as soon as possible. I know some of you have submitted in the past and I'm very grateful for all your help. Some of you have never submitted and don't know what you're missing. Imagine your submission, several years from now read by your family, acquaintances and descendants. What a find for them! Maybe your submission can be a picture of the house where you grew up and what that means to you. OR, submit an

ancestral chart that some one else reads and contacts you to make a connection. It could be a third, fourth, or fifth cousin who contacts you and now you know how you can make that DNA connection. Have you ever transcribed headstones at a cemetery? Submit that. Look at your tree, choose a great-grandmother and submit a chart of her ancestors. Help!.. Send me something.

Thanks,  
Ofelia

P. S. Being an editor of a journal is one thing. Being the sole author of a journal is something else.

## Check out our new website!

Have you taken a few minutes to visit our new and improved website? We are hosting Crispin Rendon's Saltillo books which are available for download. We have a lot more links for you to try.

How are you doing on your genealogy research? We are here to help if you have a question?

**[www.rgvhispanicgenealogicalsociety.com](http://www.rgvhispanicgenealogicalsociety.com)**  
**Or like us on [Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)**

President: Mary Torres  
Vice-President: Toni Garza  
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Anguiano  
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Member: Andreina Muniz

**Advisory Board**  
**Ofelia Olsson and**  
**Irene Silva**



### Editor's Note . . .

As a retired educator my passions are God, family, reading, writing, gardening, and anything involving creativity.

I also enjoy editing this newsletter as I learn more and more about my "roots." Recently I lost my mother, and her passing increased the meaning of "my roots." She was the main root that gave my siblings and me the foundation to be who we are, and with her passing her five children became the main roots for their children. Hence the importance of where we come from becomes essential to the legacy we all leave behind.

I hope in this newsletter you discover worthwhile information to spark or continue your genealogy



research and find your roots. I welcome your ideas and suggestions. Please send your submissions, queries, comments, or questions to [m1guilen@yahoo.com](mailto:m1guilen@yahoo.com).

### Book Store

Cameron County Marriage Index, Grooms, Vol I A-L \$40  
Cameron County Marriage Index, Grooms, Vol II M-Z \$40  
Cameron County Marriage Index, Brides, Vol I A-L \$40  
Cameron County Marriage Index, Brides, Vol II M-Z \$40  
San Fernando Tamaulipas, Mexico, Baptisms, 1854 Indexed \$50  
San Fernando Tamaulipas, Mexico, Baptisms, 1856 Indexed \$50  
2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015 Journals, \$30 Each  
**Please note: A \$7.00 shipping and handling charge will be added to each book listed above.**  
Rancho Soliseño Cemetery, El Soliseño, Tamaulipas, Mexico \$10, \$3 S/H  
Once Upon a time—Mas Antes, Family Stories, Rio Grande Valley, \$20, \$7 S/H  
Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico Marriage Index Book III 1811-1823 \$ 35, \$5 S/H

### 2016 Journal

**\$35.00 includes membership**

