



**Board of Directors  
2013-2014**

President Mary Torres  
 V-President Toni Garza  
 Secretary Irene Silva  
 Treasurer Annie Barrera  
 Board Members  
 Carlos Cantu  
 Hilda Flores  
 John Ramirez  
 Ex -Officio  
 Ofelia Olsson

**Inside this issue:**

Clemente Rendon	2
Meeting Dates	2
Conference	2
Picture Domino	3
Google Tip	3
Research Tip	3
Mothers' Days Query	3
Werearecous-ins.info	4
1870 & 1880 Census	4
GenealogyBank.com	4
Gutierrez de Lara	5
De Lara(can't)	6

# RIO GRANDE VALLEY HISPANIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 4 Issue 2

15 April 2013

**President's Message**

The first quarter of 2013 was a busy and exciting time. We had interesting speakers for monthly meetings, several indexing projects are underway and work is in progress on the 2014 Journal and on a new book on Hispanic Veterans of the Rio Grande Valley. I promoted our society at genealogy presentations to four organizations and provided information on meetings to newspapers, and other media. The society is here to help you with your research, but your support is needed for its continued success and growth. Please become more involved - volunteer for committees, assist with projects and submit articles, queries, and suggestions for programs and publications

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)
- San Fernando, Tamaulipas, MX, Baptisms, 1856 (visit our website for order form or call Annie at 956-454-9419)



World Premier of "Texas Before The Alamo" film  
 2-hour theatrical version | HDi½  
 EBS Mexican-American Cultural Center (MACC)  
 600 River Street - Austin, Texas 78701  
 Saturday | May 4, 2013 | 5:30 - 9:30pm

(I called for tickets and was told that I didn't need any. It will be free and seating will be on a first come-first served basis.)

## RGV HGS Hosts March Presenter Mr. Clemente Rendon



Clemente  
Rendon



Mr. Clemente Rendon de la Garza was our presenter for March, 2013. His presentation on the De la Garza family was very well received by over 50 members and guests at our meeting. We are fortunate that Mr. Rendon brought with him his good friend Mr. Carlos Rugiero Cazares and our attendees were the recipients of this good fortune. Both of these fine gentlemen gave us fantastic information. Mr. Rendon is working on a book of the De la Garza family and we hope that when it is published, he will come back for another presentation and book signing.

Conference  
to be held  
in Victoria  
on  
October  
11, 12, and  
13, 2013

### Meeting Dates

February 17— Charles Fisk (Picture Domino)- Bring your laptops loaded with Picture Domino

April 21 - Carlos Cisneros

May 19 - TBA

June 23—Letty Vera

July 21—TBA

### 34th Annual Texas Hispanic Genealogical and Historical Conference

The new Hilton Garden on Huvar Street in Victoria will be Convention Central for the 34th State Hispanic Conference on October 11, 12, and 13, 2013. This is the first conference to book with this hotel that will be completed in June. Soon the conference attendees will be able to start booking rooms at Hilton Garden or the Holiday Inn Express (next door and owned by the same person.) The sales manager said we will have a block of 20 rooms at the Holiday Inn Express. She will also (somehow) be setting a page for our attendees to reserve their rooms, at the Hilton, in a couple of weeks. Room rates are supposed to be \$139 at the Hilton and \$119 at the Holiday Inn Express on Navarro Street.

**By Sophia Wilson, Victoria**

### Mr. Charles Fisk presents Picture Domino

On February 17, Mr. Charles Fisk presented his Picture Comino Program. This program is a wonder for genealogists. You can write your family stories, include pictures and more. I especially like the feature that lets you hover over a group picture and it identifies the individuals. Several people were so taken with the program that Mr. Fisk did two followup visits to further assist these members who were so interested. Several of us are using the program and have written several stories already. If you haven't tried Picture Domino, you should. It's amazing. A Picture Domino Support group is being formed in the future..



Mr. Charles Fisk

### Google Tip

#### Alternative to NOT

**When you're searching for a particular name, use a minus sign to disregard a word commonly linked to the term you're searching for. For example, if you're searching for Montemayor, but not Diego, use the search term Montemayor-(minus) Diego.**

### Research Tip

As you know, many women in the "olden days" used their own surnames even though they were married. As you look in the census, keep that in mind. If a woman's husband passes away before a particular census was taken, she might be listed under her own surname. This happened with one of my ancestors. Maria Francisca Longoria was married to Felipe Rosales. She's listed in the 1850 census with her husband and two children under her husband's surname. In the 1870 Census, she's listed under her maiden name, along with her children. At first glance, you would think that they have their mother's surname. As you research, go back and revisit the census.

*"As you research, go back and revisit the Census"*

### MOTHERS' DAY

Mothers' Day in Mexico is always celebrated on May 10. Tradition calls for children to honor their mothers and thank them for their efforts in caring for them and raising them. According to custom, sons and daughters come to the family home on the eve of Mothers' Day on May 9th.

Mothers' Day in Mexico began in 1922 after a journalist, Rafael Alducin, wrote an article honoring mothers and urging the celebration of Mothers' Day in Mexico. After that, although Mothers' Day celebrations took place in parts of the country, May 10th became the universal day of celebration throughout Mexico.

People in Mexico celebrate Mothers' Day much like here in the United States, with gifts, flowers and cards to their mothers. Elementary schools also participate by encouraging students to make hand-made gifts.

A whole study can be made of our civilization honoring motherhood in all the history of mankind.

### Queries

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 license 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 "wispsers" 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. Thanks,

When replying to this query, refer to "Katie"

## WEARECOUSINS.INFO

## Searching in the Census

1870 &  
1880  
Census

I have come across a wonderful website that I'm sure you will want to visit,

<wearecousins.info>

You will find lots of information to help you in your research. Mr. Garza also offers a subscription to his new magazine. His facebook page with the same name will also give you lots of information. Visit these two sites often. He's always posting new information.

The 1870 census and the 1880 census indicate the month in which the person was born and if born within the year in which the census was taken (June to May). In any census the age may not be an exact year of birth, but it can provide an estimated figure to help you in your research. Remember that there

There are other schedules that can help, such as the mortality schedule.

To download an 1870 or 1880 blank census form, go to [www.familytreemagazine.com](http://www.familytreemagazine.com)

*I searched in GenealogyBank.com and was able to get a copy of this record.*

## Bautizos en San Fernando

Martha García, hija de Adolfo García y de Angela Miramón.—Padrinos, Ernesto Campos y Guadalupe Ríos de Campos.

Silvestre Barajas, hijo de Trinidad Barajas y de Dominga Rangel.—Padrinos, José Martínez y Luisa García.

Gilberto Mesa, hijo de Miguel Mesa y de Ernestina González.—Padrinos, José Ocón y Dolores O. de Ocón.

Raúl Castillo, hijo de Victoriano Castillo y de María del Refugio Herrera.—Madrina, Timotea Escobar.

Elvira Romagnano, hija de Federico Romagnano y de Eloísa Tirado.—Padrinos, Luciano Durr y Natalia Medrano.

Juan González, hijo de José González y de Lucía Gómez.—Padrinos, Ricardo Morín y Petra Cruz.

Jesús Eduardo y Antonio Saucedo, hijos de Emeritiano Saucedo y de Verónica de la Garza. Padrinos, Antonio Cervantes y Trinidad de la Garza.

Aida Garza, hija de Albino Garza y de Paula Elizondo.—Padrinos, Daniel González y Adelina González.

Elena Esther Vera, hija de José Vera y de Josefa Sánchez.—Padrinos, José Tamayo y Leonor Orozco.

Francisco Biaggio, y Daniel Granato, hijos de Eugenio Granato y de Rosa Granato. Padrinos, Nic Granisi y Rosa Granato.

Guillermo Martínez hijo de Guillermo Martínez y de Natalia de Martínez.—Padrinos, Agustín Ruiz y Hortensia Félix de Ruiz.

José Luis Arriaga, hijo de Gabriel Arriaga y de Ofelia Rivera.—Padrinos, Rafael Arriaga, representado por Máximo López y Dolores D. V. de Arriaga respresentada por Manuela Rivera.

Amparo Treviño, hija de Patricio Treviño y de Eudelia Garza. Padrinos Luis Contreras y Lucía Villescas de Contreras.

This above is from GenealogyBank.com. It is from the newspaper "La Prensa" from San Antonio, Texas, dated Monday, January 23, 1922, page 8.

## Gutiérrez de Lara Brought Texas its First Taste of Independence By José A. López (printed with permission)

In sharing with others the beauty of early Texas history, there is an increasing positive response from South Texas folks in particular.

They have found inspiration and a sense of wonder as they learn about long-forgotten pre-1836 people, places, and events.

Most especially after reading tidbits of information in my article, "Seven Flags of the Rio Grande Valley," based on the grand opening of the Weslaco Visitor Center, readers are eager to rediscover the bicultural and bilingual roots of Texas. Many are reminded of oral history lessons they have heard since infancy from their parents and grandparents. Hence, one particular question is asked more often than any other. "What purpose has it served mainstream Texas historians to ignore these wonderful early chapters of Texas history?"

That most of the Texas story has a noticeable Anglicized Manifest Destiny pitch is not debatable. So, the quick answer to the question is one of convenience. Simply stated, the test for inclusion is as follows: If Spanish Mexican-descent Texas history doesn't fit the Sam Houston mold, it is conveniently left out. Doing so, mainstream historians have built a literary fence that acts like an impenetrable barrier, hiding pre-1836 historically significant details from the public's view.

With few exceptions, most history books have been written to make readers believe that fundamental Texas history begins in 1836 with the arrival from the U.S. of Anglos and other non-Hispanic white immigrants of Northern European descent. Nowhere else is this more frustrating than in the classroom curriculum where students with Spanish Mexican-roots, and descendants of the first citizens of Texas, are made to feel like foreigners in their own homeland.

That doesn't mean that conventional historians omit all Spanish-surnamed personalities from Texas history. Mainstream historians do mention a few Tejano names, albeit cursorily. Alas, a small group of Tejanos is included only because they supported Sam Houston. They are de Zavala, Seguin, Navarro, Losoya, Esparza, and Ruiz. Historians fail to mention that most of these patriots have a direct connection to Don Bernardo Gutiérrez de Lara and the first Texas Revolution (1812-1813). For example, after the Battle of Medina, entire San Antonio families (Navarro, Leal, Losoya, Ruiz, among others) were forced to flee to Louisiana by the pursuing Spanish Army. Many were cut down by Spanish swords on the Camino Real before they reached sanctuary. Such is the price that early Texas families paid for daring to dream of liberty and independence before 1836. Additional key early Texas history details are provided below.

While Lorenzo de Zavala is a bona-fide 1836 Texas Revolution hero, the following proves the old adage that politics make "strange bedfellows," De Zavala was born in Yucatán, and rose in political affairs to be a senator and then the governor of the state of Mexico. In the period of unrest following the 1821 independence of Mexico, de Zavala joined none other than Antonio López de Santa Anna in a coup-d'état plot to remove the freely elected president and install Vicente Guerrero as President. Later, when his co-conspirator Santa Anna forcefully assumed the Presidency, the political intrigue was too much for de Zavala. His survival instincts kicked in and he fled to the U.S. He then re-entered Mexico in 1835. While in Texas, he befriended Sam Houston, a recent immigrant to Mexico from the U.S. and served as his Spanish interpreter. It was then that de Zavala joined the Anglo-led rebellion against the central government in Mexico City.

As for Juan Seguín, the sanitized version of his story is known by most Texas history fans. Militarily, no one can top his Texas independence heroism, especially leading his all-Tejano cavalry in decisive charges at the Battle of San Jacinto. (In my view, their superb military-style horse riding skills



José A. López

*"Nowhere else is this more frustrating than in the classroom curriculum where students with Spanish Mexican-roots, and descendants of the first citizens of Texas, are made to feel like foreigners in their own homeland."*

Printed with permission

**“AS THEY BUILD ON THEIR RENEWED MOTIVATION TO LEARN MORE, SOME READERS FIND IT DISAPPOINTING THAT DON BERNARDO’S COVERAGE IN HISTORY BOOKS IS SCANT AND NOT ALWAYS POSITIVE. THEY WANT TO KNOW WHY.”**

José Antonio (Joe) López was born and raised in Laredo, Texas, and is a USAF Veteran. He now lives in Universal City, Texas. He is the author of two books: “The Last Knight (Don Bernardo Gutierrez de Lara Uribe, A Texas Hero),” and “Nights of Wailing, Days of Pain (Life in 1920s South Texas).” Lopez is also the founder of the Tejano Learning Center, LLC, and [www.tejanosunidos.org](http://www.tejanosunidos.org), a Web site dedicated to Spanish Mexican and events in U.S. history that are mostly overlooked in mainstream history books.

qualify these early Tejanos as the Cossacks of Texas.) However, some sad details regarding Seguin’s life after 1836 are not well known.

Enjoying what turned out to be a very short honeymoon with the Anglos after 1836; Spanish-surnamed patriots like Juan Seguín suddenly became personas non grata in Texas. Adding to the problem was the tsunami of angry, surly Anglos from the U.S. who treated Spanish Mexican Tejanos with utmost disdain and conducted several ethnic-cleansing drives. Seguín was accused of treason and charged with other false claims. He was chased out of Texas and forced to resettle with family in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, Mexico. He died there, across the Rio Grande from his beloved Texas. In 1974, about 120 years later, the citizens of Seguin, Texas and his descendants asked Mexico for the return of his remains and reburied them where they always belonged – his hometown.

The José Antonio Navarro family suffered a similar fate. Hounded out of San Antonio, almost the entire family was forced southward. Upon reaching the Rio Grande, my ancestors in the Dolores (& San Ygnacio), Texas area convinced the Navarros to stay on this side of the river, which is where they began a new life. Shortly after Zapata County was organized, José Antonio Navarro, Jr., became its first official County Judge. At least two of the judge’s brothers also became Zapata County officials. (By the way, when I was born, my Grandfather Ignacio Sánchez, himself a Zapata County Judge and Sheriff, asked my parents to name me José Antonio in honor of José Antonio Navarro, Jr.)

This brings us to the hero who is finding new aficionados, Lt. Colonel José Bernardo Gutiérrez de Lara, the first President of Texas (1813). As they build on their renewed motivation to learn more, some readers find it disappointing that Don Bernardo’s coverage in history books is scant and not always positive. They want to know why.

Bluntly, Don Bernardo’s incredible story of valor is too awkward for mainstream historians to handle. He brought to the citizens of Texas their first taste of independence on April 1-2, 1813, when he led his army in capturing the Regional Capital of San Antonio. Shortly after, he completed his revolution by declaring that Texas was now an independent province (state).

As regards thoughts of liberty, freedom, and justice for all in Texas, Sam Houston took over a work in progress. Equally important, many Tejanos who supported Sam Houston in 1836 received their military OJT fighting for Don Bernardo Gutiérrez de Lara in the first Texas independence (1812-1813)!

Still, Don Bernardo’s legacy has been deliberately left out as the architect of Texas liberty. His many feats of courage deserve better in the recording of Texas history. His role as Texas independence trail-blazer must no longer be denied. It is for that reason that many of us now push for presenting Texas history in a seamless manner from the arrival of the Spanish in 1519 to the present. The Tejano Monument in Austin, Texas, is a great start. If you haven’t visited it yet, I highly recommend that you do.

Finally, due to the ever-increasing interest in our state’s pre-1836 history, future articles will follow dealing with little known facts of this great place we call Texas. Meanwhile, in the words of my good friend and fellow Laredoan Walter Herbeck, “Más, later!”