

# Rio Grande Valley Hispanic Genealogical Society

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## Message from the President

This past quarter has been a busy month for us. We completed the journal that we need to have by September. Some of us have been busy indexing and attending events to promote our society as well. We had beginning genealogy classes which were well attended and I hope were helpful.

The next quarter will be busy for us as well. We need to complete the indexing of the Cameron County Marriage records as well as the funeral home records. We're getting ready to attend the conference in San Antonio. We're excited!  
Ofelia Olsson  
President

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## Family History Event

I suppose I need to accept the idea that some people are just not interested in events that deal with family history and related topics.

If you did not attend the event held at the Harlingen Public Library on June 25, you really missed something special. You would've learned how to take care of your photos and documents. George Gause did an excellent job of informing us. You missed an excellent presentation, as well, by Alex Moreno, the president of Las Porciones Genealogical Society.

## Family History Center

The Family History Center is open on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. On most days, the hours are from 9 until 3. The FHC volunteers are there to help you. Not only can you look through films, but you can use the computer as well. Now, not only is familysearch available there, but Ancestry.com and foot-

## XnViewer

If you've been to the Family History Center, you know what a great scanner and photo viewer are loaded onto the computer. One of our members, Daniel Garcia, brought it to my attention that we can download it at home. I did and it's great. Just google **XnView, go to the website and download.** You can then crop and brighten any document. It's great for baptism and/or marriage documents.

## Hay Van Los Gringos

It is said that the word "Gringo" comes from the song "Green Grow the Rashes -O!". I read this a long time ago and cannot remember where I read it. The soldiers used to sing it as they rode by the countryside during the Mexican War. The Mexicans heard it and said there go the "Greengos." If you'd like to hear the song, Google it and hear it on YouTube. I don't know if this is true or not, but I like it.

## Looking for something?

Queries are not only beneficial for the person researching but for other people as well. If it's printed, other people see it and might be able to help or make connections. Do not hesitate to send in a query or a request. If you're looking for a particular document, there might be a chance that someone might have it or might know where it is.

New memberships are being accepted for the 2011 year. Memberships are only \$20 a year.

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## WEBSITES TO TRY

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

[www.txgenweb5.org/txcameron/index.html](http://www.txgenweb5.org/txcameron/index.html)

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

[www.saudades.org](http://www.saudades.org)

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

### Genealogy Christmas Gifts

It's not too early to think of homemade Christmas gifts using your genealogy research. Things that I have made in the past are DVDs using ancestor pictures, with narration and music, scrapbooks, scrapbooked calendars with ancestors' pictures (male line of descent), recipe book with pictures and a little story of who ever gave me the recipe (i. e. mother, mother in law), etc. Why don't you try a children's book and write a story about yourself as a child and give it to your grandchildren.

## HERALDY

Summer is, for many people, a great time for family reunions. Some people like to display coats of arms at these reunions. What a lot of people don't know is that coats of arms were not assigned to families or for a particular surname. Coats of Arms were bestowed by a King or Queen to a person who had performed some deed that was favored by that ruler. Then that coat of arms was inherited by the eldest son (along with the land), the eldest son, and so on. Siblings of that eldest son sometimes could use the same coat of arms, but they made variations on that coat of arms. To be able to use the coat of arms, you must prove that you are descended from that first eldest son to eldest son to eldest son, etc. and you are the eldest son. Coats of arms are for individuals and are not family crests.

### Books in the Harlingen Public Library

246 Testamentos de Monterrey, en Resumen Genealogica, Villanueva de Cavazos, Lilia E.

Baptisms of Corpus Christi Cathedral, 1853—1872 in Present Day Corpus Christi Texas—Martinez, Andrew

Cadereyta Marriage Records, 1761-1880—SAGA

San Agustin Parish of Laredo, Marriage Book 1, 1790—1857, Brown, Angel Sepulveda

San Agustin Parish of Laredo, Marriage Book II, 1858—1881, Brown, Angel Sepulveda

Nuestra Señora de los Dolores de la Punta de Lampazos, Baptisms, 1757–1791, Brown, Angel Sepulveda

A Treasury of Sephardic Law and Customs, Sephardic Judaica, Dobrinsky, Herbert c.

## Queries

I found Ruperto's older brother in Monterrey, Mexico. Five years later, his sister is born in Matamoros, Mexico. I can't find Ruperto's baptismal certificate nor his marriage certificate. He is listed in the 1870 Cameron County Census with his parents, Benigno and Rosario Sanchez. Any ideas?

*I looked into my family tree and found out I was a sap.*

Queries are welcome!



Send queries to:

Ofelia at [orolsson@rgv.rr.com](mailto:orolsson@rgv.rr.com)  
 RGV HGS at [hispanicgen@gmail.com](mailto:hispanicgen@gmail.com)  
 We will print them in the newsletter.

All replies to queries may be sent to [hispanicgen@gmail.com](mailto:hispanicgen@gmail.com)

**COL. JUAN N. SEGUIN-TEJANO PATRIOT AND HERO OF THE ALAMO—Part 2**

by Dr. Lino Garcia (printed with permission by the author)

The above statements will hopefully help erase some perceptions regarding the role of the Tejanos during this period of Texas history, therefore easing some of the damage done to the Tejano psyche over the years; as well as leveling history's playing field and bestowing some well deserved dignity to the role of the Tejanos in the development of Texas.

At that time, General Antonio de Santa Ana had taken complete control of the Mexican Government, and had already incurred the wrath of most intellectuals and men of peace in México. This provided Col. Juan N. Seguín with the opportunity to convene, in 1834, the first revolutionary meeting held on Texas soil protesting the new demands and actions of the Mexican Government, and one such complaint was that it was too far away to properly conduct its business in favor of the Tejanos and Texians. Seguín distributed a circular requesting citizens to form a Texas Constitutional Convention in San Antonio to address these issues that he felt were unfair. He was, indeed, the first individual to proclaim the changes entering the lives of the people of Texas, and the dangers that were in complete disregard for the way of life that they had all

3.)  
enjoyed. In 1834, Seguín was appointed Territorial Governor ( Jefe Político) of Texas; and the following year in 1835 he recruited Tejano fighters to defend against the forces

of Santa Ana's army, as well as providing food, horses, and shelter to his own troops. In the 1835, during the Siege of Béjar ( San Antonio). Seguín and his Tejano " rancheiros" and Texian volunteers attacked the forces of the enemy, and re-affirmed their commitment to end the tyranny. The Tejanos were the first ones to initiate the movement for Independence with two skirmishes on Texas soil against tyranny and in support of freedom : the first one was the " de las Casas revolt" of 1811 in San Antonio, and the second one, the Battle of Medina in 1813, near that city also. Thus, the Tejanos were the first ones to initiate the skirmishes, they were the first ones to die in battles, and unfortunately , the first ones to be forgotten in the pages of history.

Although serving at the Battle of the Alamo of 1836, he did not actually participate in the final battle, as with his knowledge of both English and Spanish, he acted as courier for the soldiers fighting, and he was chosen to carry the message , vía enemy lines, that Texians and Tejanos would never surrender. When he returned to the Alamo, it had already fallen to Santa Ana's forces, and in 1837, Seguín directed the burial of the fallen heroes of the Battle of the Alamo. He would also block the Mexican Army from going across the Brazos River, thus prevented them from over-running the Texians.

To be continued

## Meeting Dates for 2011

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

July 17, 2011—Yolanda Gonzalez

August 21, 2011

September 18, 2011

October 16, 2011- New Memberships (Journal)

November 20, 2011

No meeting in December

### SUGGESTIONS

1. If you have a suggestion for a speaker, please let us know.
2. If you come across a good website, please let us know.
3. If you need help from the members (with finding ancestors), please let us know.

We'll print it in this newsletter

## Google Tip

Font size: sometimes the font is very small on a web page and it's hard to read. To increase the size of a web page, simply hold down the control key and press the + sign.

### HISPANIC CONFERENCE

The San Antonio Conference website is [http://web.me.com/lousyl/LBGHS\\_Conference/Bienvenidos.html](http://web.me.com/lousyl/LBGHS_Conference/Bienvenidos.html)

The Hispanic Genealogical Conference this year will be held in San Antonio on September 29—October 2, 2011.

### Historical marker: Battle of La Bolsa

**City:** Progresso

**County:** Hidalgo

**Year Marker Erected:** 1991

**Marker Location:** from Progresso, take US 281 east about 4 mi.

**Marker Text:** In 1859 and early 1860 a series of raids on Texas settlements led by Juan N. Cortina (1824-1894) led to skirmishes with companies of Texas Rangers and U.S. soldiers. These conflicts became known as the Cortina War. On February 4, 1860, a battle occurred at La Bolsa Bend (ca. 1 mi. S.) between Cortina's raiders and Captain John S. "Rip" Ford's Texas Rangers. The Rangers successfully defended the riverboat "Ranchero", traveling downstream from Rio Grande City, from an attack by Cortina's band. Cortina escaped into Mexico and later became a general in the Mexican Army.

### Mexican Research

When doing research in Mexican records, there are some facts that will help you. Civil registration was mandated in 1859 but was not widely practiced. Researching Church records is the best method of doing research. Remember that in many records, every boy (man) had a first name of Jose and every girl (woman) had the first name of Maria. Until 1822, almost all church records gave a racial classification for people baptized or married. Mexican spelling was varied with "b" and "v" interchangeable as well as "s" and "c", and "I" and "Y", i.e. Sineros, Cisneros, Ynes, Ines, Ynojosa, Inojosa. Sometimes you'll find not only the parents listed, but the grandparents as well. Conversely, you'll find "padres no conocidos", also. In cases like that, look for siblings and their baptismal or marriage records. They might have the parents or grandparents listed.



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The plaintiff deraigned title by a grant from the authorities of New Spain, of the 26th of September, 1781, to Jose Salvador De la Garza, containing fifty-nine leagues and eleven and a half cabellerias of land.

The defendants claimed under a grant made by the authorities of the state of Tamaulipas, by a title of possession issued to Ignaceo Trevino, on the 26th of February, 1829, and confirmed by a final title issued by the governor on the 29th of May, in the same year. The defendants insisted that the western boundary of the land embraced in this grant was the same as the eastern boundary of the tract granted to De la Garza, as they alleged that boundary to be, while, according to the plaintiff's claim, all the land granted to Trevino was included in the prior grant to De la Garza.

Again, I used Google to search and found the above. This is an excerpt of a case titled Cavazos v Treviño, 73 U. S. 773 (1867). It looks very interesting. This is the website where you can find the entire case: <http://supreme.justia.com/us/73/773/case.html>

**Benigno Sanchez, Jr.**

**Benigno Sanchez, Jr.**, died Saturday, August 21, 2004, in Aurora, Colorado. The Brownsville, Texas, native had lived in Glennville for many years. He was retired from the **seafood** industry, and was a member of the Church **of Jesus Christ** of Latter Day Saints.

He is survived by his wife, Elva Sanchez of Glennville; four sons: **Benigno Sanchez III** and **Damian Sanchez**, both of Glennville; **Rigoberto Sanchez** of Shellman Bluff; and **Tony Sanchez** of Brunswick; five sisters: **Dora Padlla** of Aurora, Colorado; **Rosa Morales**, **Sanjuana Iniques**, and **Maria Delgado**, all of Brownsville, Texas; and **Mercedes Sanchez** of San Diego, California; four brothers: **Tomas Sanchez**, **Arturo Sanchez**, and **Alonso Sanchez**, all of Brownsville, Texas; and **Jesus Sanchez** of Easterling, Pennsylvania; six grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. Friday, August 27, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 220 Sandy Run Drive, Hinesville, Georgia. Burial was in Glennville Memorial Gardens. Carter Funeral Chapel of Glennville, Georgia, was in charge of the arrangements.

The above is an obituary I found online when I was searching for my Sanchez ancestors. Interestingly enough, this person had the same name as my ancestor.