

# Rio Grande Valley Hispanic Genealogical Society

Volume 2 Issue 1

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## Welcome Message

Welcome! I hope you've had a good beginning to this New Year.

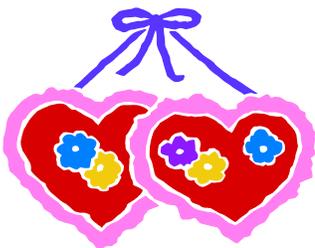
We have many new projects this year that we're excited about. One is the first journal that we will publish as a Society. It will be offered in conjunction with your renewal of your membership to this Society for the year 2012.

Again, I invite you to submit any article, query, suggestion that you might have for this newsletter..

Ofelia Olsson  
President

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## Visit FamilySearch

I don't know if you've visited [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) lately. If you can't readily find your ancestor, you might try looking through the films that are on there. They have films for Nuevo Leon, Tamaulipas, Zacatecas and other states. I found an ancestor in Zacatecas and was able to make a copy.

## 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. There are lots of films to look through. If your research is taking you to Mexico, this is the place to be. If you don't find a film for the region you're looking for, you can order the film for \$5.50 and you have about a month to view it. The computer is working now, so you'll be able to make a copy of your document

## Identifying People and Dating Photographs

I believe we all have photographs where we cannot identify some people or do not know the dates when the photograph was taken. There are several websites that give us some information that can assist us. Some websites that I have come across are:

- A. 5 Steps for identifying People in Old Family Photographs—[http://genealogy.about.com/od/photo\\_dating/ss/identification.htm](http://genealogy.about.com/od/photo_dating/ss/identification.htm)
- B. Family Chronicle's Dating Old Photographs—<http://www.familychronicle.com/phototip.htm>
- C. Costume Detective—[http://fashion-era.com/Dating\\_Costume\\_History\\_Pictures/](http://fashion-era.com/Dating_Costume_History_Pictures/)
- D. Costumer's Manifesto—<http://www.costumes.org/history/100pages/photodating.htm>

DON'T FORGET TO BUY A RAFFLE TICKET FOR THE BEAUTIFUL CROSS AND THE SCONCES THAT WE ARE RAFFLING OFF AS A FUNDRAISER. Not only are you helping the Society, but you might win something worth \$100.

Please attend our monthly meetings. We have 11 meetings a year (Not December). We meet on the third Sunday of the month except for June when we meet on the fourth Sunday. Your attendance is appreciated. The Presenter for our March meeting will be Guillermo Garmendia Leal.

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

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## Journal to be Published

The Rio Grande Valley Hispanic Genealogical Society is in the process of collecting pedigree charts, family trees, articles, and any other genealogical material to be published in the journal that will be offered as part of your membership next year. If you are a member of a Hispanic Society, you will be familiar with a journal that is published by that Society and you know how valuable a resource it is. Please consider submitting any information you might have concerning your family research. Submissions can be e-mailed to Dr. Alonzo Cavazos, chairman of the journal committee, at [acavazosjr@rgv.rr.com](mailto:acavazosjr@rgv.rr.com) or to me at [orolsson@rgv.rr.com](mailto:orolsson@rgv.rr.com) and I will forward it to him. You may bring it to any of our meetings and submit it then. This is another way to make connections and to contribute to the Society.

### Unclaimed persons and Genealogists

**The problem of identifying unclaimed persons is growing. It's not that the bodies are not identified; it's that they do not live with family members and coroners, medical examiners, and investigators do not know whom to notify. This problem is being partly solved by genealogists.**

**The volunteer organization "Unclaimed Persons" is composed of genealogists who volunteer their time to research the family history of the deceased. When these researchers feel confident that they have found the right person, they turn all leads over to the investigators. They in turn try to contact the next of kin. To find out more information or to volunteer, request to join the private Facebook Group.**

### New on the Market

I haven't seen it locally, but that's probably because I haven't looked for it. It appears that it's a good thing; The reviews I've read are good. It's a portable scanner that is powered by batteries. It's called a FLIP PAL. I believe it sells for about \$150. It does not need a computer and records the images on a memory card like the ones used for cameras. It sounds like it would be great for copying those photographs that your relatives are reluctant to lend out to make copies. If you buy one, let me know if you would recommend one.

**My ancestors must be in a witness protection program!**

GENEALOGY

Visit our website. It's not completed, but take a look. Any ideas? [www.rgvhispanicgenealogicalsociety.com](http://www.rgvhispanicgenealogicalsociety.com)

### Queries

I am looking for the marriage of Ruperto Sanchez and Norberta Perez. I am looking for the marriage record of Benigno Sanchez and Rosaria Rodriguez, as well. The time period for Benigno would be about 1840. The one for Ruperto would be about 1872.

Contact Ofelia.

Queries are welcome!

Send queries to:

Ofelia at [orolsson@rgv.rr.com](mailto:orolsson@rgv.rr.com)  
 Santos at [Saintsmo@swbell.net](mailto:Saintsmo@swbell.net)  
 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)**

## The Spanish Language - Part II: Names and Namings by Dr. Lino Garcia (printed with permission by the author) continued from the last newsletter

They were a bellicose people whose conquering efforts wrest Spain from the Romans, and they ruled the land with an iron hand during the Middle Ages. They succumbed, however, to the language of the Romans, and soon adopted the Spanish language as the official one in the country. Their contribution to Spanish are many and included mostly words dealing with warfare. They include words such as: "orgullo" (pride); "Guerra" (war); "riqueza" (wealth); "robar" (to rob); "guarder" (to save or to protect); "botin" (booty); "bandido" (bandit); "guia" (guide); "espia" (spy); "herald" (herald); "espuela" (spur); "yelmo" (helmet); "jabon" (soap); "toalla" (towel); some proper names are derived from this language such as: "Allwar" (Alvaro); "Frithwante" (Fernando); "hrothsink" (Rodrigo); "Gailwers" (Elvira); "Gunter" (Gonzalo); Sifrid" (Sigifredo); "Adolph" (Adolfo); "Albert" (Alberto); "Alfonse" (Alfonso); "Henrich" (Enrique and Enriqueta); "Herich" (Erica); "Wenselves" (Wenseslavo); "Manrique" (Manrique); "Manfred" (Manfredo); "Frederick" (Federico); "Gertrude" (Gertrudis) as well as others. The Arabs came into the peninsula from the south into Spain in the year 711 AD, and soon their culture impacted all areas of life in Spain, especially in the Spanish language. Thus, we encounter many words of Arabic origin now considered proper Spanish such as: "ajedrez" (chess game); "alquimia" (alchemy); "arroz" (rice); "azul" (color blue); "naranja" (orange); "jinete" (horseman); "aceite" (oil); "aceituna" (olive); "acequia" (irrigation ditch); "albondiga" (meatball); "algodon" (cotton); "jarabe" (syrup); "noria" (well); "sandia" (watermelon); "alcalde" (mayor of a city); "tarea" (work); "almacen" (warehouse or large store); "aldea" (village); "alcoba" (bedroom); "alfombra" (rug); "jarra" (jug); "algebra" (algebra); "almohada" (pillow); "alcohol" (alcohol); "almanaque" (almanac); "cifra" (number); "alcahuete" (go between); "alhaja" (jewelry); "ataud" (coffin); "fulano" (that fellow); "hazaña" (a deed); "ojala" (Oh, Allah) as well as many others too numerous to mention here.

In the year 1492, Christopher Columbus arrived in the New World bringing with him the Spanish/Castilian language of 16th century Spain, and soon it also acquired new words to enrich itself. The Spaniards arrived in Mexico in 1519 and they borrowed words from the Nahuatl language and are now considered proper Spanish; "tomate" (tomato); "chamaco" (young boy); "elote" (corn); "ejote" (green beans); "cacao" (chocolate); "pozole" (a hominy);

"chile" (chile); "camote" (yam); "aguacate" (avocado); "cacahuete"; "(peanuts); "zacate" (grass); "tamal" (tamales); "tequila" (tequila); "ejido" (common land); "mole" (mole); "guajolote" (turkey). As the Spaniards and other groups encountered English speaking individuals, and especially in the modern technological age, we find many English words now becoming part of the Spanish language, so it is natural to hear words such as: "chatear" (to chat); "internet" (internet); "software" (software); words used daily such as: "shorts", "party", "beisbol", "futbol", "goal", "knock-out", "honron", "basquetbol" and many others. Who knows how the present Spanish language will be in the future as it continually comes in contact with other cultures in this global society? As long as the language is alive, it will continue to acquire new and diverse vocabulary to enrich itself, maintain its life, and continue its journey into the 21st century. It would be an abnormality if it did not. Perhaps some scholar in the next century will read this article and come to an understanding that cultures, languages, as well as people merge at various stages of their history. Not to engage in this cultural behavior spells distinction for any ethnic group. It is such behavior that will determine our future as human beings.

Dr. Lino Garcia, Jr., is Professor Emeritus of Spanish Literature at UTPA.

## Meeting Dates for 2011

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

February 20, 2011 -Dr. Alonzo Cavazos

March 20, 2011-Guillermo Garmendia Leal

April 17, 2011

May 15, 2011

June 26\* (fourth Sunday)

July 17, 2011

August 21, 2011

September 18, 2011

October 16, 2011

November 20, 2011

No meeting in December

If you have a suggestion for a speaker, let us know.

## Google Tip

If you're looking for an ancestor and you know that he lived between certain years, then use the suspension point. For example:

"Reinhold Wenzig" 1850...1911

The suspension point (...) tells the search engine to retrieve webpages that mention Reinhold Wenzig (the quotation marks indicate the exact phrase) between the years of 1850 and 1911.

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

## DNA Terms

**Autosomal DNA**—genetic material inherited equally from mother and father. It's less useful genealogically than Y-DNA and mtDNA because it mutates more often. Genetic test to determine ethnic origins: African, Native American, Viking, typically analyze autosomal DNA.

**Chromosome**—a threadlike strand of DNA that carries genes and transmits hereditary information

**DNA**—the molecule that contains each cell's genetic code, organized into 23 pairs of chromosomes. Genetic genealogy tests analyze your Y-DNA, mtDNA or autosomal DNA.

**Genealogy**—the study of your family's history; the process of tracing your ancestors back through time.

**Genetic marker**—represents a specific location on a chromosome where the basic genetic units exist in a variable number of repeated copies.

Continued:

**Genotype/signature**—the compilation of multiple genetic markers; serves as the unique genetic identifier for any given individual.

**Haplogroup**—an identification of the genetic group your ancient ancestors (10,000 to 60,000 years ago) belonged to; sometimes referred to as your branch of the world's family tree

**Haplotype**—collectively, the marker values on your Y-DNA test results

**Mitochondrial DNA**—genetic material both males and females inherit from their mothers. Because it's passed down mostly unchanged from mothers to daughters, mtDNA can tell you about your maternal line—but the results reveal only "deep ancestry," not definitive links to recent generations.

**Y Chromosome**—genetic material passed down from father to son. Because surnames also pass from father to son, Y-DNA tests can confirm or disprove genealogical links through a paternal line.

## The Bug Hit Me!

### By Frances M. Saucedo

When my grandson, Orlando, Jr., was in school, he called me, asking who his ancestors were. He has an assignment for his class and he had to turn it in. Well, I know my parents and grandparents, PERIOD!. I called my Tio Cele and asked him the same question. He wrote and gave me some information on his paternal father and family, and I sent the information to my grandson. And that was the end of that!

After several (many) years, I retired. I would go over to Mother's at springtime to help her spruce up the house, cleaning, moving, painting, etc. Grandmother Valeriana had given Mom a doctor's leather satchel full of papers. The satchel had disintegrated and Mom had put it all in another bag. The next spring, when I finished, Mom came over with this bag and told me, "Mijita," if someone is going to do anything with these papers, I think it will be you. Irene is still working and you know how involved Sarah is with the Church."

Well, as tired as I was when I got home, I started taking out a TREASURE!! I began to sort out all the bills, letters, etc. I found where my grandmother had bought me a beautiful baby carriage for \$5.95, which she bought on credit, \$1.00 down and payments of 50 cents and \$1.00. I spread out the table with, oh, so many memories.

THE BUG BIT ME REALLY HARD!. I have found my grandfather, Henry Permenter living to be 107 years, 11 months. My father, Frank Marez, just passed away 2 years ago at 97 years, 10 months. My mother Valree P. Marez is now 91 years. So I told my pastor, Peter Piñon, "I'm going to live to be 107 years old. Poor Johnny, my husband, Que aguante! My uncle Henry lived to be 97.

Our ancestors, Hendrick Albrecht came from Holland in 1732, the Sanchez & Cortez from Lampazos de Naranjo, Nuevo Leon, Mexico in the early 1700s, the Gaonas came from Guatemala in the late 1600s, the Barrientos also 1700s, the Saucedas and Morales in the mid 1800s, the Briseños in 1760, and the Treviños in 1780.

And, guess what? I am more intrigued with every passing moment. Mom said the other day, "You're addicted to those books."

And I can't say THE END  
Because I feel like I'm barely starting.

The "Who do You Think You Are" television program is back on this season. Check your local listing.