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### Inside this issue:

FamilySearch	2
2014 Conference	2
Meeting Dates	2
Searching for Cavazos	3
Google Tip	3
Research Tip	3
We are Cousins	3
Queries	3
Marriage of Joseph de Chapa	4
Bartolome de Cuellar	4
Who are Second Cousins?	5
Build on Others' Work Books	5
Photos	6
The Forgotten Four-	7
teen Freedom Fighters of Texas	8

# RIO GRANDE VALLEY HISPANIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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## President's Message

## Books for Sale

It's time to start gathering information for our next journal and a committee, headed by Carlos Cantu, has been appointed to guide us through this process. Submitting information to be published in the upcoming journal gives you an opportunity to record your family history in a permanent and public manner. It is known that historians pay little attention to the lives of ordinary people, recording only those who are famous or sometimes, infamous. How many of you have taken the initiative to preserve the research that tells the story of your family? Our family trees, documents and stories add a richness to history that can't be found in textbooks and can mean so much to our descendants. A special thank you is in order to Alonzo Cavazos for serving as the editor of our three previous journals. Join us in making this another great and valuable journal. Submit your material to Carlos Cantu, Annie Barrera, Ofelia Olsson or me by July 15, 2014.

Mary Torres

### 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**

## FAMILYSEARCH

“...if they had added to their digitized collection.”

I've been doing a lot of research lately using books, google, and various genealogy sites. It takes me a long time because I think I have ADD. I always wander off into other sites away from my primary goal of sticking to the particular genealogy line I'm researching. In my wanderings I have come across so many resources to add to my genealogy collection. For example, in the FamilySearch site, I wandered into the books section to see if they had added to their digitized collection. Thirty minutes later, I had to stop perusing all the titles. A few examples of what you can find are Enciclopedia Heraldica y Genealogica Hispano-Americana, Index to Probate Cases of Texas—Guadalupe Co. 1846-1939, Los Gutierrez de Revilla, The Cano Family, Registros Parroquiales de Frecuencia (Portugal) 1563-1610 and many others. These books are located in the “Search” (hover over and click on Books)section . You can also search “Genealogies” to see if you can find your family. In the “Memories” section (hover) and click on “Find” , type in a surname and see if you can find a picture of any in your family.

## Meeting Dates

Conference to be held in McAllen in September 2014

**March 16**—Rep. Ryan Guillen HB 724

**April 27**—Joe Lopez “Early Texas History—Past Deeds Pave Our Way to the Future”

**May 18**— Gene Fernandez—City Cemetery Center—Resources

**June 22**—Society members: “Do you have a Cavazos Connection?”

**July 20**—TBA

## 35th Annual Texas Hispanic Genealogical and Historical Conference

The 2014 Annual conference will be hosted by Las Porciones Genealogical Society in McAllen, Texas.

**The Conference will on September 25-27, 2014, at the Renaissance Casa de Palmas Hotel on Main St. in McAllen.** More information will be forthcoming.

## Searching for Cavazos?

Here are some sites you might use to search for your Cavazos connection:

tribalpages.com/family-tree/fredy  
 www.somosprimos.com/inclan/bernabecasas3.htm  
 www.vsalgs.org/stnemealogy/reynosa.html  
 www.somosprimos.com/inclan/bernabecasas5.htm  
 www.raullongoria.net/Genealogy/FamilyTree/b39.html  
 home.earthlink.net/~crisrendon/genteranmarriagesvol6.pdf

“Cavzos websites...”

## Google Tip

Google can provide a list of genealogy web sites whose titles include your surname by using the ALL in the Title phrase: Example: allintitle:genealogy “Sabas Medrano” finds sites with the word genealogy in the title and in which the name Sabas Medrano appears on any page.



## We Are Cousins

If you have not visited this following website,, you are really missing something. Moises helps you with resources and with lots of information to help you with your genealogy research.  
[www.wearecousins.info](http://www.wearecousins.info) or visit his facebook page.

## Research Tip

### Age Appropriate?

Is your ancestor behaving in ways that are age appropriate? If you know approximately when your ancestor was born is he getting married at the "right time?" Is she having children between the "right years?" Is he doing something odd like moving to a new state and purchasing a new farm in his 80s While there always exceptions, putting your ancestor's events in the context of her approximate age may help eliminate some situations that simply aren't possible.

Michael John Neill, "Genealogy Tip of the Day," <http://genealogytipoftheday.blogspot.com>,

*“Is your ancestor behaving in ways that are age appropriate?”*

## Queries

Searching for information on the parents of Nicolas Osuna, who was born about 1860 in Mexico. He married Manuela Guajardo on September 4, 1878 in Hidalgo, Texas. Contact Mary Torres : [torresmaro@att.net](mailto:torresmaro@att.net)

### Marriage of Joseph de Chapa and Nicolasa Fernandez

“Sagrada  
Mitra de  
Guadalajara”

“Mas tarde  
tomo parte  
active en la  
conquista de la  
ciudad de  
Mexico, junto  
a Hernan  
Cortes...”

# 2091 Monterrey, N. L. Agosto 23 de 1694. Exp 92—Dispensa de cuarto grado de consanguinidad= Joseph de Chapa, de 26 años de edad, vecino de la Ciudad de Monterrey, hijo legitimo de Juan Bautista Chapa y Beatriz de Treviño, ya difunta, vecinos de esta Ciudad de Monterrey: con Nicolasa Fernandez, doncella de 24 años de edad, hija legitima del Capitan Gregorio Fernandez y de Maria Gonzalez, ya difuntos. Declaracion del pretense: El Cap. Alonzo de Treviño y el Cap. Blas de la Garza, difuntos, fueron hermanos legitimos y del Cap. Blas de la Garza y Beatriz Gonzalez su mujer, procedio Beatriz Gonzalez, casada que fue con el Cap. Gregorio Fernandez, de cuyo matrimonio tuvieron y procrearon a su hijo legitimo el Cap Gregorio Fernandez, casado que fue con Maria Gonzalez, hija legitima del Sargento Mayor Diego Gonzalez y Maria de Ochoa, de cuyo matrimonio procrearon por su hija legitima a la dicha Nicolasa Fernandez contrayente, y por la otra parte, del Cap. Alonzo de Treviño procedio Juana de Treviño y de esta y su marido Juan de Olivares, procedio Beatriz de Treviño y de ella y Juan Bautista Chapa procedi yo. Se otorgo la dispensa en la Ciudad de Guadalajara, en 2 de octubre de 1694. 14 fojas. *Source: Sagrada Mitra de Guadalajara*

Bartolome de Cuellar “el de la Huerta” (Buengrado, tierra de Cuellar,?) fue un conquistador español conocido con el sobrenombre de el de la Huerta, Nacio en Buengrado, aldea perteneciente a la Comunidad de Villa y Tierra de Cuellar, siendo hijo de Bartolome Sanchez y de Catalina Hernandez. Paso a America hacia 1508 estableciendose en La Española desde donde paso a la conquista de Cuba con Diego Valasquez de Cuellar en 1511. Mas tarde tomo parte activa en la conquista de la ciudad de Mexico, junto a Hernan Cortes, donde se avecindo ya en 1529.

En el año 1548 declaro ante el virrey de Mexico, asgurando que era natural de Buengrado, Tierra de Cuellar, tiene un hijo y tres hijas, hace 40 años que llevo a las Indas, estuvo con Diego Velasquez en la conquista de Cuba, fue con Panifilo de Narvaez a Nueva España, participo activamente en la toma de la ciudad de Mexico y en la conquista de muchas provincias de Nueva España, Guaxaca, parte de los Cipotecas y Tutupec, y que tenia en Mexico casa poblada con su mujer e hijos.

[http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bartolom%C3%A9\\_de\\_Cu%C3%A9llar](http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bartolom%C3%A9_de_Cu%C3%A9llar)

## Who are “Second Cousins?”

Lately, I've been getting e-mails about my dna results and possible second and third cousins. I had to go look at the chart I have so that I could figure out how we might be related. I know that we share a common ancestor but which one? Your second, third or fourth cousins, etc., depends on how far back your common ancestor is. You share the same grandparents with your first cousins. Your second cousins share your great-grandparents and your third cousins share the same great-great grandparents. My granddaughter and my brother's grandson are second cousins. (I figured out that 2nd cousins = 1 great, 3rd cousins = 2 greats, etc.) To get your chart, go to : [genealogy.about.com/library/nrelationshipchart.htm](http://genealogy.about.com/library/nrelationshipchart.htm)

“My granddaughter and my brother's grandson are second cousins,”

Federation of Genealogical Societies—Conference 27-31, August 2014, San Antonio, Texas. Register now if you plan to attend. [www.fgs.org](http://www.fgs.org)



### Build on Others' work

It is always good strategy to build on others' work. If you're researching a particular surname, go online. Don't be afraid to look for names in published family histories and family trees. However, just make sure you do research to verify all the names, dates and relationships in those resources. You don't want to copy someone else's work and repeat his mistakes. Even some family trees by a well-known researcher can and do have mistakes.

### Books

Reference books that I buy are not necessarily extractions of baptismal or marriage records. I also purchase books such as [Courthouse Research for Family Historians](#) by Christine Rose, [Google your Family Tree](#) by Daniel Lynch or [How to Find Your Family History in Newspapers](#) by Lisa Louise Cooke.. These are great to have in your personal library. All the google tips I write about are things I learned by using Lynch's book.

“These are great to have in your personal library”

Aurora de La Gara,  
Cameron County District Clerk



Aurora De la Garza, Cameron County District Clerk presented a wonderful, informative program to the members and guests of the society. The RGV Hispanic Genealogical Society presented a check to Ms. Garza for their archiving project.

“HB724—  
Relating to  
the creation  
of a  
commission  
to study  
unclaimed  
land grant  
mineral  
proceeds.”



L. to R. : Mary Torres, President, Rep Ryan Guillen, Ofelia Olsson, Past President

Rep. Ryan Guillen was the speaker for the March meeting of the society. His topic “HB724— Relating to the Creation of a Commission to study unclaimed land grant mineral proceeds” gave the members an overview and clarified the scope of the Bill.

## The Forgotten Fourteen Freedom Fighters of Texas

By Jose Antonio Lopez



Mr. Jose A. Lopez

Mostly as a result of the Tejano Monument's unveiling in Austin in 2012; interest in early Texas history people, places, and events continues to grow.

In a previous article, I wrote that the first President of Texas, Lt. Colonel José Bernardo Gutiérrez de Lara Uribe wasn't born in Texas, but in the state of Nuevo Santander (now Tamaulipas), Mexico in what is today's bi-national sister towns of Guerrero and Zapata spanning the Rio Grande. The basic question in readers' minds is why would Don Bernardo get involved in a Texas affair? The answer is simple – family ties.

The fact is that the first communities in Nuevo México, Coahuila, N. León, Tejas and Nuevo Santander consisted of basically the same family groups. Of strong stock, they came from towns in Central Mexico. Hence, firm familial cohesion served as one of Don Bernardo's motivations to first volunteer, and second, to serve and lead Texans in declaring independence from Spain. (Incidentally, family ties could easily qualify both sides of the Lower Rio Grande for a Guinness Book record as a region with one of the largest blood-related populations in the world.)

From their start in 1747-49, Count José de Escandón's Villas del Norte served mas o menos (more or less) as a Camino Real midpoint from Monclova to sites north in Texas, such as San Antonio, Goliad, and Nacogdoches. Thus, the Villas although set up in Nuevo Santander, strengthened Texas communities against French incursion and hostile Indian attacks.

To be sure, independence fervor inside Texas itself grew on its own. Reaction was typical in communities throughout the region, once riders came into town bringing news of Father Miguel Hidalgo's "Grito" of September 16, 1810. One of the first attempts for Texas liberty was initiated in 1811 in San Antonio by Captain Juan Bautista de las Casas. Sadly for Captain de las Casas, his compatriots betrayed him. He was arrested and executed by the Spanish Army.

Don Bernardo Gutiérrez de Lara led the next attempt. More substantial, it introduced the people of Texas to their first taste of freedom. Here's how those events occurred. As mentioned above, Don Bernardo was appointed a Lt Colonel in the Republican Army. Alas, shortly after Mexico's 1810 revolution began, Father Hidalgo and his senior staff were defeated in battle, captured, and executed. It was shortly thereafter that Lt. Colonel Gutiérrez de Lara, accompanied by Captain José Menchaca, undertook a difficult trip to Washington, D.C. to seek help for their revolution.

Of interest to South Texas is the fact he was also joined on his trip from Revilla to the U.S. by a small group of recruits. The trip was tough, with most energy spent trying to avoid the Spanish Army. All went well until the party reached the Texas-Louisiana border. It was then that they were attacked by a Spanish patrol. Don Bernardo narrowly escaped death; most of his soldiers wounded, and three of his men were killed. Stopping in New Orleans, Don Bernardo left Captain Menchaca and wounded soldiers there to recuperate. He continued his journey.

“One of the first attempts for Texas liberty was initiated in 1811 in San Antonio by Captain Juan Bautista de las Casas.”

Mr. José Antonio (Joe) López was born and raised in Laredo, Texas. Hes served over 37 years in military/Federal Service. He is a direct descendant of Don Javier Uribe, one of the earliest families that settled in what is now South Texas in 1750.

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For the record, Don Bernardo succeeded in his mission. (Due to its historical significance, many people are now familiarizing themselves with his epic story, and would like to see it become part of mainstream Texas history classroom curriculum.) Besides Gutiérrez de Lara, only one other name is known; that of Capt. Menchaca. However, what about the recruits who were with him when they left Revilla? Who were they and what is known about their lives before they became the seeds of the Army of the North (First Texas Army)? Regrettably, we don't know.

Based on available information, following is a partial list in alphabetical order of some early Revilla family names. It's possible that the 12 heroes had names within this group. However, many other family names existed in the nearby close-knit Villas del Norte (over 20) on both sides of the Rio Grande. There was also constant movement of pioneer settlers within the villas:

- Adame, Alcántara, Baez Benavides, Benavides, Botello, Campos, Cañamar, Cavazos, Cuellar, de la Cerda, de la Garza, de la Garza Falcón, de la Peña, Garcia, Gonzales, González Hidalgo, Guerra, Guerra Cañamar, Gutiérrez, Gutiérrez de Castro, Gutiérrez de Lara, Herrera, Longoria, Martínez, Ochoa, Paredes, Peña, Pérez, Piña, Rodríguez, Salinas, Tabares, Treviño, Uribe, Vela, Villarreal.

I'm hoping folks with these names who originate in the Villas del Norte realize that they're blessed to have such lineage. Coincidentally, the enthusiastic generosity of South Texans (Nuevo Santander/Tamaulipas descendants) led by Mr. Renato Ramirez of Zapata was vital in getting the Tejano Monument built. It's quite a fitting tribute, since the spark leading to the first Texas independence in 1813 was lit in Revilla. The torch of liberty was then carried to Texas.

Rio Grande Valley residents should be especially proud of early Texas history. Most of all, please share this knowledge with your children to show them how it is they have ownership of early Texas history. It's with that thought in mind, and with a deep sense of honor, that the following homage is dedicated to these unidentified Texas patriots:

#### The Forgotten Fourteen

Fourteen Revilla Valientes rode out in 1811 in search of freedom.  
First to fight for Texas, against the mighty Spanish kingdom.  
Pledging their very life; these courageous men, loyal and brave;  
Eternally entombed in a long vanished, far-away unknown grave.

Their spirits soar high in heaven, amidst other warriors in history.  
Rare valor; so vital to Don Bernardo's Texas Independence victory.  
Nameless souls whose memory in our hearts will always be close.  
Valiant Villa de Revilla patriots; 'ever may you rest in sweet repose.

"IT'S  
POSSIBLE  
THAT THE 12  
HEROS HAD  
NAMES  
WITHIN THIS  
GROUP."

"Rio Grande  
Valley residents  
should be  
especially  
proud of early  
Texas history."