

# Rio Grande Valley Hispanic Genealogical Society

Volume 2 Issue 2

April 15, 2011

## Message from the President

I hope you're as excited as I am about our Society. We're thrilled to report that the journal is finished and we're getting ready to submit to the publisher. We're very pleased with the final product, all three hundred pages, and I wish to thank all the members of the committee, and particularly our chairman, Dr. Alonzo Cavazos, who did a spectacular job of putting it all together for us. Again, I invite you to submit any article, query, suggestion that you might have for this newsletter.

Board of Directors:  
 President Ofelia Olsson  
 V-President Frances Saucedo  
 Secretary Irene Silva  
 Treasurer Enedina Barrera  
 Director Santos Canales  
 Director Gladys Guernsey

Advisory Board Members:  
 Kimberly Wyatt, Attorney  
 Victor Fraga, CPA

## Beginning Genealogy

We will be offering a few classes on Sunday afternoons to beginning genealogists. If you would like to learn how to start researching, please sign up for the classes. The first scheduled class is set for May 29th. Please bring a pencil, spiral notebook, and a binder.

## 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. Ancestry.Com is available there as well as familysearch.org. Santos is there on Saturdays to assist you with expert help. Frances and I are there on Fridays.

## Journal

I hope you've attended the last couple of meetings and have seen our new "coat of arms"? Logo"? Whatever it's called, it's beautiful. It will be our symbol from now on. It will now grace the cover of our journal. The annual journal will be offered as part of your membership for 2012. We anticipate raising the membership fee to either \$30 or \$35. We will be offering memberships at the Hispanic Genealogy Conference in San Antonio in late September. Our membership drive will begin at our October meeting. We're so excited! We've already started working on the journal for 2013. You may start submitting your pedigree charts, cemetery transcriptions, etc. Dr. Alonzo Cavazos will remain as the chair of the committee. I hope he is aware of this.

**DON'T FORGET TO BUY A RAFFLE TICKET FOR the wonderful genealogy basket. It contains Roots-Magic Software, flashdrive, pencils, magnifying glass, etc. Not only are you helping the Society, but you might win a genealogy goodie.**

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 Presenters for our May meeting will be Mario Muñoz (KMBH) and Manuel Saenz from the Cameron County Clerk's Office.

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)

[olivetreenealogy.blogspot.com](http://olivetreenealogy.blogspot.com)

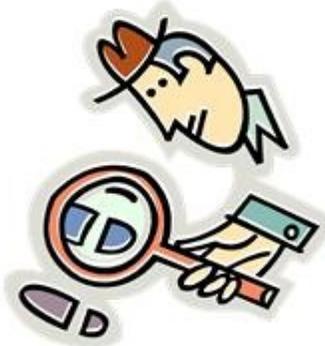
Eastman's Online Genealogy  
Newsletter: [www.eogn.com](http://www.eogn.com)

[www.Wetree.blogspot.com](http://www.Wetree.blogspot.com)

[www.genealogytipoftheday.blogspot.com](http://www.genealogytipoftheday.blogspot.com)

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

<http://blogs.archives.gov/online-public-access>



### Clarifying Genealogy Terms

**Ahnentafel:** a German word meaning "ancestor table." This numbering system gives each ancestor a number, making organization much easier. The father's number is even, your mother's is odd. If you are number 1, your father is two (double yours) and your mother is three (add one).

**Ancestors:** the relatives you descend from. You have two parents, four grandparents, eight great grandparents and so on (doubling each generation).

**Descendants:** An ancestor's children, grandchildren, go-grandchildren and every generation that comes after in the direct line.

**Family Group Sheet:** a chart that shows the parents and children with birth dates, baptisms, places of birth/death, marriages and all pertinent data.

**Pedigree:** List of a person's ancestors

### GUILLERMO GARMENDIA LEAL

You missed a really great program in March!. Mr. Leal's presentation was exceptional. He started off his presentation by giving us the genealogy of Harlingen. That grabbed our attention. His presentation after that just got better and better. He gave us a handout that was an advance page of his newest book. He gave us a couple of websites to try as well. I tried it and found a passenger who sailed from Spain who is in my tree. What a find! When you miss a meeting, you miss valuable information which you may not be able to get later. Please try to attend all our meetings.



GENEALOGY

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

### Queries

I am still looking for Ruperto Sanchez who was married to Norberta Perez around 1873-75. I have found him in the census and have his death certificate but I am looking for his baptismal certificate and his marriage certificate. I believe they were married in Matamoros because he is not in the Cameron Co. records. Any ideas?

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)

## COL. JUAN N. SEGUIN-TEJANO PATRIOT AND HERO OF THE ALAMO

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

Col. Juan Nepomuceno Seguín was born on October 27, 1806 in San Fernando de Béjar, New Spain ( now San Antonio, Texas ), the son of Juan José Erasmo María de Jesús Seguín and Josefa Augustina Bercerra Seguín, one of San Antonio's oldest and noblest of families, both native born Tejanos, and prominent cattle and land baron of early Colonial Spanish Texas. Juan Erasmo's grandfather settled in San Antonio in 1722, just four years after the founding of Presidio San Antonio de Valero in 1718. Thus, their heir, Juan N. Seguín, enjoyed the privileges of a refined and cultured environment. Juan N. Seguín married María Gertrudis Flores de Abrego, from a well known San Antonio ranching Tejano family of long standing. Four of her brothers : Captain Salvador Flores, Captain Manuel Flores, Lieutenant Nepomuceno Flores, and Private José María Flores all participated and joined their brother in law, Juan N. Seguín, in his struggle against tyranny that pitted Tejanos against General Antonio de Santa Ana's Army. Historians have normally ignored Seguín's and other Tejanos' accomplishments in the development of Texas and their vast contributions to the initial framework and struggle for Texas Independence. The seguín family as well as other eminent Tejanos of early times believed in liberty, and were fair-minded individuals who showed great respect for families, friends, and fellow Tejanos in their communities. They were the original settlers of Texas, and had inherited the positive qualities of Spanish character, strong families, good neighbor relations, excellent education and upbringings, as well as the qualities of decency and high regard for human beings. These are what led Col. Juan N. Seguín to become one of the most revered and respected heroes of the Texas Independence movement during the 1830's.

He first became aware of the tyranny that was to fall on his beloved Texas when the Mexican Constitution of 1824 completely ignored all basic human rights that previously had been granted to all citizens and subjects of México.

There are several things one must remember

about this tumultuous period in the development of Texas, and to set the historical record straight, I have enumerated them below:

1. The territory of " las provincias de los Tejas" was part of New Spain until 1821, and responded to the Mexican authorities in Coahuila.
2. The citizens of Texas after 1821 were all Mexican nationals ( citizens of the country of México), including Tejanos, and Texians (residents of Texas not of Hispanic origin), which included Stephen F. Austin and the recently arrived northern colonists.
3. The Independence Movement of Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla's " El Grito" of September 16, 1810, that also helped to liberate Tejanos, and as well as the later on the Battle of the Alamo of 1836, were both part of Mexican History, and not of the USA.
4. The Battle of the Alamo of 1836 was a Civil War within the confines of Mexican History, and all participants on both sides were, in essence, fighting their own countrymen.
5. General Antonio de Santa Ana, as despot and ill liked that he was, came to " las provincias de los Tejas" to protect Mexican territory, and not as an invader; this, then, destroys the myth of freedom loving Americans fighting an invading Mexican Army, long propagated in Texas History books. This perception painted all Tejanos, who looked like the enemy, spoke like the enemy, worship like the enemy, thus, were also considered the enemy; an idea that was, indeed, alive for decades in our state.

(to be continued)

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.

May 15, 2011— Mario Muñoz; Manuel Saenz

May 29, 2011—Beginner's Genealogy Class

June 5, 2011—2nd Beg. Class

June 12, 2011—3rd Class

June 26\* (fourth Sunday)

July 17, 2011

August 21, 2011

September 18, 2011

October 16, 2011- New Memberships (Journal)

November 20, 2011

No meeting in December

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

## Google Tip

I like to try different things with google because I think it's an excellent search engine. It's too bad that I don't know how to use it more efficiently. This time I used the advanced search and used the fill in blanks to type in the name (Barrientes) and clicked on the date, usage, etc. bar on the bottom. Another blank came up and I typed in the range of dates I was looking for. I got this:

<http://archives.lib.panam.edu/EAD/county/Hidalgo-county-Marks-and-Brands.xml>

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

## ¿QUÉ SON APPS?

I was smart enough to figure out that APPs was short for applications, but that was it. Since I had a phone that was kind of old, and all I knew was how to turn it on and off, I watched all the tv commercials with a dazed look. I still watch some of the commercials with a dazed look, like the one about Cialis. Anyway, I finally got a new phone and I'm learning how to use it. I still use too heavy a finger on the face and it takes me several tries just to answer the darn phone, but it's amazing what you can do with it. I play games on it and cannot beat the little man in there with whom I play Connect Four. My whole point to this little article is that you can get apps for genealogy. I subscribe to a podcast. I need to try others such as <apps.facebook.com/munida-family-tree> , <apps.facebook.com/onefamilytree> and <apps.facebook.com/we\_r\_related>

## Brick Walls

1. Double check your work.
2. Make sure you have checked all your records. Look at all the information contained therein.
3. Make a list of places and documents available for searching.
4. Make sure that documents are available for the years you are searching. Do not assume that all documents are available. There are no documents available for the Catholic Church in Cameron County before 1848. There is no census for 1890.
5. Make sure you have information that is correct. Many people in the census have different ages for different years. Try several years before and after the date you have.
6. Make sure you don't make assumptions. I was looking for an ancestor who married in 1850. I made an assumption that he was about 20 to 30 when he married so I looked for his baptism in that date range. I later found out he had been married for fifteen years to his first wife which I didn't know he had. And not every child lived to adulthood.
7. Let someone else look over your information.
8. Make connections with other people.

**KILLED BY LIGHTNING.****Raymon Lara, a Mexican, Meets Death While Riding in a Buggy.**

Jim Bruce and Raymon Lara, a Mexican, was driving in a buggy to Mr. Bruce's place northeast of Wadsworth, Wednesday morning during the shower which passed over this section, when a bolt of lightning struck Lara upon the head, killing him instantly and throwing him from the vehicle. The horse became frightened and ran with Mr. Bruce, who was occupying the seat with Lara, a short distance to the pumping plant where Mr. Bruce feeling somewhat dazed lay down to rest and sent young Mr. Horn back to ascertain the nature of Lara's injuries. He was found dead and later in the day he was brought to Matagorda where he lived with his wife and six children, and his remains prepared for burial by his Mexican friends. Other than a shakeup, Mr. Bruce came out unhurt, but escaped a very close call from the grim reaper--Death.

Lara was leading a horse as he sat in the buggy Mr. Bruce driving. The bolt of lightning struck Lara on the top [of] the head, burning hair down to his neck, and then evidently passing on to the wheel into the ground, as no part of the buggy was struck.

Mr. Bruce was on the streets yesterday and did not show any signs of the fearful experience of the day before. He says he still has a roaring in his head as one would experience who is in close proximity to a great explosion.

*The Matagorda News and Midcoast Farmer, August 29, 1913*

**Emilio Longoria**

(March 20, 1931 - May 4, 2006)

Emilio Longoria, 75, of Bay City died May 4, 2006. He was born March 20, 1931 in Harlingen, Texas to Rosalio and Rosa Rosales Longoria. He was a painter and a longtime resident of Bay City. He is survived by his wife, Felipa Gomez Longoria of Bay City; five daughters Alvina L. Longoria of Katy, Elva L. Gonzales of Houston, Mary Jane Longoria of Bay City, Graciela Longoria of Bay City and Rosa Irene Braune of Victoria; three sons Emilio Longoria, Jr. of Palacios, Jesse Longoria of Bay City and Richard Longoria of Austin; one sister Delfina Diaz of Harlingen; fifteen grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and one son, Arturo Longoria. A prayer service will be at 7:00 PM Friday, May 5, 2006 at Taylor Bros. Funeral Home. Funeral service will be 3:00 PM Saturday, May 6, 2006 at Taylor Bros. Funeral Home with Pastor Mark Longoria officiating. Interment will follow at [Roselawn Memorial Park](#) in Van Vleck. Pallbearers will be Ruben Longoria, Jr., Mark Anthony Longoria, Emilio Ray Longoria, Eric Longoria, Arthur Longoria, Richard Gonzales II, William Gonzales, and Eugene Rodriguez. David Ross Braune, Jr., Zachary Ryan Braune and Christopher Rey Braune will serve as honorary pallbearers. Online condolences may be sent by visiting [www.taylorbros.net](http://www.taylorbros.net). Arrangements are with Taylor Bros. Funeral Home in Bay City. 979-245-4613.

I found the above obituaries using igoogole with the advanced search. The first one was interesting to read and the second one is actually related to me—I had no idea before I found this. I use google chrome as well. It's wonderful! I found my husband's grandfather's burial site and date. He died in 1911 in Arkansas. He was found dead in his bed by his son and was buried in the woods nearby. The burial site is in what is now a national forest — all this information on the internet!