

A Case Study in Hispanic Genealogical Research - RT2781

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Overview:

The objective of this presentation is to learn the basic techniques and resources needed to begin researching Hispanic ancestors in Northern Mexico and South Texas. It will cover the use of various resources such as genealogical websites, including FamilySearch.org, interviews with family members, census, church, civil and other record types to help assist you in tracing your Mexican ancestors and their Spanish and indigenous roots.

I'm a third generation Texan, born and reared in Harlingen, Texas. I have been doing genealogy research for fifteen years and have been active holding offices in both local and a state genealogical society.

Initially my goal was to learn more about my Martinez and Molina families who came to Texas from Mexico in the 1800s. I will walk you through the research steps I took both on and off the web, in the United States and Mexico, to trace these families back through several generations to the 1700's.

Geographical Location:

South Texas and North Eastern Mexico

History:

History: The Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas, known as Nuevo Santander, was settled beginning in the eighteenth century by the Spanish colonizer, José de Escandón. He established over 20 communities on both sides of the Rio Grande River during the years 1749-1755 including Camargo, Reynosa, Refugio, Dolores, Revilla, Mier and Laredo. Many of the families who settled this area were of Sephardic Jewish ancestry, came from the state of Nuevo León, Mexico. Many present day families trace their roots to these original colonizers.

Research Methodology:

Records used in the United States - Census, church, civil, land, tax and others online and onsite.

Mexico - Church, civil, books, indexes, and others online.

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Online Resources:

FamilySearch Wiki

Mexico Genealogy

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Mexico_Genealogy

Mexico Quick Start Guide

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Mexico_Quick_Start_Guide

Research Outline: Mexico

Author: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Guide: [http://files.lib.byu.edu/family-history-library/research-outlines.LatinAmerica/Mexico.pdf](http://files.lib.byu.edu/family-history-library/research-outlines/LatinAmerica/Mexico.pdf)

Books:

Ryskamp, George & Peggy, *Finding Your Mexican Ancestors: A Beginner's Guide*.
Provo: Ancestry Publishing, 2007

Duaine, Carl Laurence, *WITH ALL ARMS, A Study of A Kindred Group*. 2nd Edition: Revised
and Edited by Laurence A Duaine
www.withallarms.com/order.html

Books by various authors about the history of the Spanish and Portuguese Empires, Mexico and the Mexican Republic, the United States Borderlands and the genealogies of the Hispanic settlers of these areas.

Borderlands Bookstore
P.O. Box 28497
San Antonio, Texas 78228
Direct Mobile: 210-647-7535
Email: gfarias@satx.rr.com

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Hispanic Genealogical Societies - South Texas:

Rio Grande Valley Hispanic Genealogical Society

Harlingen, Texas

<http://www.rgvhispanicgenealogicalsociety.com>

Las Porciones Genealogical Society

Edinburg, Texas

amoren1947@gmail.com

Las Villas del Norte Genealogical Society

Mission, Texas

<http://lasvillasdelnorte.com>

Villa De San Agustin de Laredo - Laredo Genealogy Society

Laredo, TX

<http://www.vsalgs.org/>

Nuevo Santander Genealogical Society

Zapata, Texas 78076

<http://www.zapatamuseum.org>