First Civil Government in Texas Celebration

Canary Islanders established first model of municipal government. Many of our members may not be aware that our ancestors by order of Viceroy Casafuerte with authority from the King of Spain Felipe V established the first civil government in Texas. This form of municipal government is still the model for many municipalities throughout the state of Texas.

Starting on August 5th through August 6th the descendants of these pioneers will celebrate this historic event with a mixer on Friday, August 5th, and a commemoration dinner on Saturday, August 6th. Both events will be at the Holiday Inn, El Tropicano Hotel in San Antonio, Texas. Come join us to celebrate this historic event. See page 3

Our Family

Written by: Julia Lopez, made possible by Norma Rojas and Martie Gonzales

Our ancestors entered what is now Texas in 1731. That statement both astounds and pleases me. I like the ring of it—it sounds determined much like the people that came before me. I wasn’t always interested in genealogy and wish I had listened as my Mother tried so often to provide historical information. Had I listened instead of pretending to, well, let’s just say we’d be a lot further along in our research. And when I say our research, I really mean that of my sisters Norma Rojas and Martie Gonzales, both CIDA members, who were instrumental in getting our research off the ground. They spent long days in cemeteries and court houses and although I was glad to receive their information, I was slow to connect the dots and had a hard time keeping all the people and information straight. Our ancestors became real to me on a particular day spent at Catholic Archives in Austin when we found a baptism record for a baby we were unaware of. See Our Family continued on Page 4
Canary Islands Descendants Association

Purpose

A. To encourage and promote all educational studies and historical and genealogical research that enhance the historical, cultural and civic significance of the accomplishments of the sixteen original Canary Islands families who founded the Villa de san Fernando, now the City of San Antonio.

B. To foster and perpetuate the preservation of documents and artifacts identified with the culture and life of the Canary Islanders’ history in San Antonio, Texas.

C. To initiate, and promote programs, lectures and civic events which are intended for the general public, and which are conducted to memorialize historical sites and buildings associated with the Canary Islanders’ history in San Antonio, such as San Fernando Cathedral.

D. To establish and promote the celebration of significant days and commemorative civic events that celebrate those special days linked to the Canary Islanders’ history in San Antonio for example: February 2-Feast day of La Virgen de la Candelaria, Patroness of the Canary Islands; March 9-Commemoration of the day the 16 families arrived at the Presidio San Antonio de Bejar; and August 1-Commemoration of the establishment of the first civil government in 1731.

E. To remain non-political in structure and activity, yet a viable civic entity.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

Our newest members are Michael Javier Leal, Harlingen, Texas; Gilbert Daniel Leal, Harlingen, Texas; Mario Alberto Leal, Corpus Christi, Texas; and Ricardo David Leal, Harlingen Texas. We welcome you to the organization and hope to see you at the First Civil Government Events. Bienvenidos!!

LIFE’S JOURNEYS

Editor’s Note: We want to keep our members informed about major life events in our members’ lives. Please submit births, deaths, marriage or military deployments to geneC1731@att.net.

CORRECTION!!! Our deepest apologies go out to Eloise Douglas for the error in the newsletter. The information stated in the newsletter was incorrect.

IN MEMORIAM:

Our condolences to associate member Joseph Cunningham and his family in the loss of his brother.

Membership Meeting Scheduled for July 17th

Membership meetings are held in a classroom at the AT&T Community Centre at San Fernando which is located one block away from San Fernando Cathedral, on the corner of Commerce and Camaron Streets. There is some parking available in the rear of the building. Access to the classroom is through the rear of the building from the rear parking lot. Front doors may not be open.

The next membership meeting is scheduled for July 17th at 2:30 PM at the AT&T Community Centre at San Fernando. Fellow member Steve Gibson will be our featured speaker. He is in the process of developing our website and will demonstrate the website.

Next Membership Meeting Scheduled Sunday September 18, 2011

Medallions Have a Arrived!

CIDA items are available

Many of you have requested the large Canary Islands Descendants Association medallions. We had run out of this item, but we reordered them and they will be available at the 280th First Civil Government Celebration. As a reminder we have CIDA cups, coverlets, study guides and other items. These items can be mailed to you. For item prices and shipping information contact First Vice-President Armandina Sifuentes at 210-524-9252 or e-mail her at dinagsif@att.net.

Newsletter Contributions Needed

This newsletter will be published each month that a membership meeting is held. This is your newsletter, please submit any articles, items that pertain to the Canary Islanders that would be of interest to the membership. It has been suggested that each of the sixteen families should be featured in the newsletter. If you want to share what started you on your genealogical quest, or any interesting information, documents about your Canary Islands families, please contact Gene A. Chapa at geneC1731@att.net or at 512-445-9685. All submissions are appreciated.
280th Anniversary
ON AUGUST 6, 2011
THE
CANARY ISLANDS DESCENDANTS ASSOCIATION
WILL BE CELEBRATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
FIRST CIVIL GOVERNMENT OF TEXAS

EVENTS
AUGUST 5, 2011 - "LET'S MEET OUR COUSINS" MIXER

$10.00 PER PERSON
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM HOLIDAY INN "EL TROPICANO HOTEL, RIVERWALK"
110 LEXINGTON AVENUE
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78205

FREE PARKING ACROSS THE RIVER AT
THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH PARKING LOT
SAME SIDE AS THE HOTEL.

AUGUST 6, 2011 - DINNER 6:00 PM
HOLIDAY INN "EL TROPICANO HOTEL, RIVERWALK"

FREE PARKING ACROSS THE RIVER AT
THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH PARKING LOT
SAME SIDE AS THE HOTEL.

MENU:
CEASAR SALAD WITH CLASSIC DRESSING
SLICED GRILLED SIRLOIN WITH MUSHROOM/SHALLOT DEMIGLACE
GARLIC SMASHED POTATOES
VEGETABLE MEDLEY
ROLLS WITH SWEET CREAM BUTTER
DOUBLE CHOCOLATE CAKE
WATER, ICED TEA, OR COFFEE

$30.00 PER PERSON
CHILD'S PLATE $15.00

FOR OUR OUT OF TOWN GUEST, ROOM RATES AT THE HOTEL
WILL BE $89.00 PLUS TAXES PER NIGHT.
FOR RESERVATIONS PLEASE CALL
210-223-9461 OR 877-214-9768
MENTION
GROUP CODE CGA (CIVIL GOVERNMENT ANNIVERSARY)

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR EVENTS,
PLEASE SEND IN CHECK
BEFORE JULY 27, 2011
TO:
CLEM PEREZ
1431 W. LYNWOOD
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
78201
MAKE CHECK OUT TO
"CIDA"

Your Invitation is Your Confirmation
Third Vice-President Clem Perez will be mailing you an invitation once he receives payment for the mixer
and dinner. Bring your confirmation invitation to the mixer and dinner. This will speed up check-in at the
door.

REMININDER-SATURDAY MORNING TOUR CANCELLED
We had planned on touring the area cemeteries where our ancestors might be interred, but due to the
continuing heat we have postponed the tour for a later date when it is cooler.
Our Family
(continued from Page 1)

We love a good hunt and enjoy a competitive spirit when it comes to learning new information independent of each other. In addition to CIDA members, we are also members of Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT) and working on our connection to Daughters of the American Revolution. With a bit of luck, we’ll get there.

I’m proud to tell you about my ancestors, the Cabreras. Nearly one year after commencing their journey, the Cabrera children arrived at the Royal Presidio of San Antonio de Bexar as orphans. The journey proved a testament to the character of the Cabrera family. Parents Juan Pedro and Maria Rodriguez de Bega Cabrera died en route, leaving their children Jose, Ana, and Marcos to complete the journey without parents. Juan Pedro was born about 1680 in Lanzarote, Canary Islands, Spain and died 9 August 1730 in Pueblo de Apa on the Vera Cruz Rd. in Mexico. His wife, Maria was born about 1690 in Lanzarote, Canary Islands, Spain and died 20 Oct 1730 in Quautitlan, Mexico.

The Cabrera’s lived for many years in San Antonio de Bexar. The eldest, Jose was born in 1715 in Lanzarote. He is later listed as a corporal at the Presidio of Our Lady of Loreto de Espiritu Santo (La Bahia – Goliad, Texas). The second eldest, Ana married another Canary Islander, Ignacio Lorenzo de Armas. Ana was born in 1717 in Lanzarote and died 10 October 1757 in La Villa de San Fernando de Bexar. De Armas was born about 1706 in San Sebastian, Gomera, Canary Islands and was one of the four single men comprising the 16th family of Canary Islanders.

I am a direct descendant of Marcos Cabrera, the youngest of the three Cabrera children. Marcos was born about 1724 in Lanzarote and died 08 Mar 1769 in La Villa de San Fernando de Bexar. He married twice; Maria Magdalena de Avila on 6 April 1747 and Maria Celedonia de Vargas between 1762-1766, both at La Villa de San Fernando de Bexar. It is from his marriage to Maria de Avila that my ancestor, Vicente Ferrer Cabrera was born about 1862.

Marcos’s 3rd Great Granddaughter, and my 2nd Great Grandmother, Theresita Cabrera married Juan Rubio in 1858 at Immaculate Conception Church in Goliad, Texas. Theresita was the Daughter of Mariano Cabrera and Miguel Mancha. Mariano was granted land in Goliad for his service to the Republic of Texas; he also provided beef for Capt. Phillip Dimmit's troops in 1835 so it was Mariano that provided our link to DRT.

My Mother, Pomposa (Peggy) Rubio was born in Goliad and raised by her Grandmother, Francisca de La Garza and her Grandfather Juan Rubio II. Francisca was the daughter of Antonio de La Garza and my Mother’s namesake and Grandmother, Pomposa Bontan, of French ancestry. My Mother married Ramon Garcia in 1940 and after a short tour in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific theatre, they moved to Victoria, Texas where they were both self-employed. As both Mom and Dad were born in Goliad, our family has had and continues to have strong roots to Goliad today.

We come from a long line of patriots tracing as far back as 1782 where our ancestor Manual Becerra was a soldier at Presidio La Bahia. And in 1785, our 5th Great Grandfather, Vicente Ferrer Cabrera enlisted in the cavalry at the Royal Presidio of San Antonio de Bexar. That sense of dedication had continued to all branches of the armed forces and law enforcement. Our ancestors have been involved in every battle, skirmish, and war including the Battle of the Alamo. We’re a feisty bunch – one that stands on principle. We love a lively debate and do not back down when we believe in something!

We sisters know we have a lot to learn. But what we know for certain is about the contributions of our ancestors and we know that our people played a pivotal role in Texas history. That history is seldom told in Texas history classes or in many of the books that have been written. As we continue on this journey, we pay homage to those who came before us, who sacrificed life and limb, and who were and continue to be a determined bunch - even today.

Our thanks goes out to Julia Lopez, Norma Rojas and Martie Gonzales for sharing their family story. We urge our members to share their family history.
Mount Teide is the highest mountain in Spain. It is located on the island of Tenerife. Its landscape revolves around the largest volcano in Spain: the Teide, which last erupted in 1798. The volcanic cones and the lava outcrops form an extraordinary conjunction of colours and shapes, and are home to a wide diversity of flora of great biological value. The Teide is the volcanic formation located on an ancient and gigantic cauldron-shaped depression, formed by two semi-calderas separated by the Roques de García rock formations. Plant and animal species that are unique in the world live in the shadow of the Teide. There is an astonishing diversity of plants.

Source: www.spain.info
Annual Dues
Members: $25.00
Associate Members: $15.00
Dues should be mailed to our treasurer:
Mrs. Estela Quintero
3735 Sunshine Ranch Rd.
San Antonio, TX 78228-2510
Thank you if you have already paid your dues.
Pass this information on to inactive Members.

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS
Please mail postal and e-mail address corrections/updates to:
Mrs. Armandina Sifuentes
207 Shady Rill
San Antonio, TX 78213-2927
or
e-mail: dinagsif@att.net

Canary Islands Descendants Association Officers
President
Gene Arocha Chapa
First Vice-President
Armandina G. Sifuentes
Second Vice-President
Dorothy M. Perez
Third Vice-President
Clem D. Perez
Treasurer
Estela Quintero
Recording Secretary
Socorro Morales
Custodian
J. J. Zavala
Chaplain
Rosie Anguiano
Immediate Past President
Dorothy M. Perez

P. O. Box 40086
San Antonio, TX 78229-1086
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED