Tricentennial Chronology And The Founding Events In The History of San Antonio And Bexar County

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Introduction

In 2015, San Antonio’s Tricentennial Commission created the opportunity for the citizens of San Antonio to rediscover their shared cultural heritage, history and to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the founding of our beloved City in 1718. Collaboratives were formed with public institutions to further develop presentations commemorating our City’s history. Many months were spent on these projects and in the year 2018, they will be presented to the public in open venues.

An outcome of this year’s celebration is this publication, “Tricentennial Chronology and The Founding Events In The History of San Antonio And Bexar County”. The last published chronology of San Antonio was in 1950 by Edward Hunsinger. For this new study, approximately 1½ years was spent developing additional details and entries of events in San Antonio’s 300-year history. Other chronologies were studied, books were referenced and honored historians were consulted. Every attempt was made to edit and re-edit the many editions of the chronology until this latest edition is being published. While the authors recognize that additional events could be and should be added to this latest version, it is hoped that this Chronology will be posted on-line where people can submit any additions or changes they feel are appropriate.

Also included is an appendix with powerful and significant documents reflecting the founding of San Antonio and its Missions. Copies of originals, transcriptions and translations are included of which many have never been seen before as they come from my private collection of work I have done over the last 28 years. Additionally is a by name listing of the Canary Islanders who left from Cuautitlán in Mexico on their arduous journey to San Antonio on Nov. 13, 1730.

Special thanks and recognition should be given to those individuals who spent many hours assisting with these founding events and those who contributed with their technical assistance: Ernest Menchaca, Dr. David Carlson, Betty Bueche, Joseph M. Bravo, Virginia Van Cleave, Charles John, Fr. David Garcia, Dr. Alfonso Chiscano, Dr. Gerald J. Mulvey, Dave Francis, LTC. Roland Keller U.S.A. Retired and Mario Salas. Additional thanks go to Dr. Frank de la Teja, Gilbert Gavia and George Dawson for their time in editing and their valuable contributions to this timeline.
Finally, gratitude must be given to our public officials for leading the charge to provide the idea and funding for this Tricentennial year and the work they accomplished. Former Mayor Ivey Taylor, Mayor Ron Nirenberg and the City Council and County Judge Nelson Wolf and our Commissioner’s Court.... your efforts are truly appreciated.

This year’s Tricentennial celebration was the impetus for this study. The author’s felt that this was a once in 300 years opportunity to get the events and stories straight. It is with pleasure that this chronology of founding events is being presented to you.

Robert Garcia, Jr.

Feb. 5, 2018
Table of Contents

Title Page iii
Introduction 1
Table of Contents 3
Tricentennial Chronology and the Founding Events in the History of San Antonio and Bexar County 5
Appendix: 69
  Original Entry from Fray Celiz Diary of Arrival of Gov. Alarcon & Fray Olivares to found San Antonio de Béjar 71
  Founding Document for Missión San Antonio de Valero on May 1, 1718 73
  Roster of Founding Soldiers at Presidio San Antonio de Béjar on June 14, 1718 75
  Founding of Missión Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción de Acuña 77
  Founding of Missión San Francisco de la Espada 79
  Founding of Missión San Juan de Capistrano 81
  Founding of Missión San José de San Miguel de Aguayo 83
  Construction of San Fernando Church – 1738 thru 1755 87
  Names of 56 Canary Islanders Who Left Cuautitlán on Journey to San Antonio, Nov. 13, 1730 99
Bibliography 109
Tricentennial Chronology And The Founding Events
In The History of San Antonio
And Bexar County

The First People

The prehistoric San Antonio geographic area was inhabited by Native American bands that later were called Coahuiltecan. Apache Indians subsequently migrated into the Southwestern United States from Canada between the years 1000 – 1400 A.D. In 1541, the Spanish first made contact with the Apache Indians during Francisco Vasquez de Coronado’s expedition in search of gold. This was the beginning of the influence of the horse culture on the Texas Indians. By the early eighteenth century, Comanche Indians began their migration from the Southern Plains of the United States into Northern Texas pushing the Apache Indians further south into Central Texas. The Payaya band of Coahuiltecan Indians are the earliest recorded inhabitants of San Pedro Springs. These nomadic hunter-gathers could be found from the San Antonio area to just west of the Rio Grande. As described by Gobernador Terán de los Ríos in 1691, “they were docile and affectionate, were naturally friendly”.

![Map of Texas showing various Native American tribes including Kiowa, Comanche, Caddo, Jumano, Mesquakie, Apache, Tafaka, Tonnawa, and Llano Apache Coahuiltecan.](image)
The Spanish Era

1518 - Alvarez de Pineda sent to explore and sketch the entire Gulf Coast area from Florida to Vera Cruz. This area was referred to as Amichel.

1519-1525 – Spaniards are led by Hernán Cortés and his alliance with the Tlaxcalan Indians take over central Mexico and pursue colonization of “New Spain.” Silver mines are discovered in central Mexico.

1527-1535 – Ship-wreck survivors from the Panifillo de Narvaez expedition, Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, two other Spaniards and an African “Moor” Estebanico, spend seven years among Texas Indians as captives and as shamans. The first book written about Texas, *La Relación*, by Cabeza de Vaca, results in further Spanish interest and expeditions to Texas.

1531 Dec 12 – On this day, Our Lady of Guadalupe appears to Indian Juan Diego at Tepayac, near present day Mexico City.

1540 - Francisco Vasquez de Coronado leads expedition thru Arizona, New Mexico and the Texas Panhandle looking for City of Cibolo (seven cities of gold).

1542 - Spaniards Hernando de Soto and Louis de Moscoso, the first recorded Europeans to see the Mississippi River and explore westward from Florida to Texas.

The French Era

1682 – French explorer René Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle explores the lower Mississippi Valley region of La., Mississippi, Alabama & Missouri and claims the area for France, naming it Louisiana for King Louis XIV.

1685 - Settlement of Fort St. Louis is established by Frenchman La Salle at Texas’ Matagorda Bay. Claims Texas for France! This action results in Spain’s further interest in securing Texas.

1689 March - Captain Alonzo de León, on his second expedition, arrives at the Bay of St. Louis (Matagorda Bay) and discovers the desolate remains of La Salle’s colony which has been ravaged by Indians; effectively ending Frances’s first claim to Texas.
The Spanish Era

1690 May - Under the leadership of Capt. de León and Fr. Mazanet, expedition is undertaken in order to create a presence for Spain in East Texas. Mission San Francisco de los Tejas is established near present day town of Weches, Texas, by Franciscan friars from the Apostolic College of Queretaro, Mexico. Another mission, Santísimo Nombre de María is built approximately twelve miles away.

1691 June 13 - Gobernador Domingo Terán de los Ríos of Coahuila and Father Damián Mazanet on expedition to supply east Texas missions, arrive at the camp of the Payaya Indians. In his diary, Father Mazanet states “We found at this place the rancheria of the Indians of the Payaya nation. This is a very large nation and the country where they live is very fine. I called this place San Antonio de Padua because it was his day. In the language of the Indians it is called Yanaguana.”

1692 – Mission Santísimo Nombre de María is destroyed by flood waters.

1693 Oct. 25 - French soldiers in adjacent Louisiana and local Indians plot to destroy mission San Francisco de los Tejas. Franciscan missionaries and Spanish soldiers, who are unable to defend it, destroy it themselves and flee westward to safety.

1709 April 13 - Military and Franciscan missionary expedition of Fray Isidro de Espinosa, Fray Antonio de Olivares and Capt. Pedro de Aguirre with 14 soldiers from Presidio del Rio Grande arrive in San Antonio. Fray Olivares names San Pedro Creek "Agua de San Pedro". In addition, Father Espinosa states in his diary “This river (San Antonio River) not having been named by the Spaniards, we called it the river of San Antonio de Padua.”

1714 July 19 - After receiving encouragement from Fray Francisco Hidalgo, Frenchman Louis Juchereau de St. Denis and his group arrive at the Presidio San Juan Bautista del Rio Grande del Norte hoping to purchase grain and cattle from the Spanish. Capt. Diego Ramon immediately arrests St. Denis and puts him under house arrest.

1716 July - Capt. José Domingo Ramón, accompanied by Father President Fray Isidro Félix de Espinosa and Father President Fray Antonio Margil de Jesus, leads an expedition that establishes six Missions and a Presidio in east Texas.

1717 - Juan de Olivan Rebolledo writes to King of Spain recommending establishment of presidios, settlements and missions in Texas in order to stop French incursions into Spanish territory. For San Antonio, he recommends that a garrison, mission and a settlement of Spaniards and Indians be established.

1717 April 14 – Louis Juchereau de St. Denis and Francois Guyon Deprez Derbanne lead a trading expedition from Louisiana to the Presidio de San Juan Baptista del Rio Grande.
It passes through San Antonio area and Derbanne records in his journal that Spaniards accompanying him state “the Spaniards are going to establish a settlement there”.

1718 May 1 - With the arrival of the Gob. Martín Alarcón Expedition of 1718 to the San Antonio area, the Mission San Jose (prev. San Francisco de Solano) is relocated to this area and renamed San Antonio de Valero. Fray Mezquia states in his diary “The mission of the Fray Antonio de San Buenaventura y Olivares is near the first spring (San Pedro Creek) half a league (approx. 1.3 miles) from the high ground and adjoining a small thicket of live oaks, where at present he is building a hut.”

1718 May 5 - In his diary Fray Celiz states “the Gobernador (Alarcon) in the name of his Majesty... fixing the royal standard with the requisite solemnity, the father chaplain having previously celebrated mass, and it was given the name of Villa de Béjar. This site is henceforth destined for the civil settlement and the soldiers (Presidio) who are to guard it, as well as for the site of the mission of San Antonio de Valero established about three-fourths of a league down the creek”.

1718 Sept 5 – Juan Rodriguez, an Indian, introduces himself to Gov. Alarcon at the Mission of San Antonio de Valero as the Chief of the Rancheria Grande tribes of the Tonkawa and Coahuiltecan Indian bands of Central Texas. In his diary, Fray Celiz states “Juan Rodriguez was named Captain/General and Governor of all the nations who are on the road to the Tejas... afterwards he (Alarcon) gave him his own baton of command.”

1719 – First acequia is completed drawing water from San Pedro Springs.

1719 June - As result of French/Spanish war, Frenchmen Blondell and St. Denis expel Spanish missionaries from east Texas. Most of the Spanish soldiers, priests and civilians from the six east Texas missions and Presidios arrive at the Villa de Béjar as refugees in early November 1719.

1719 Sept – Mission San Antonio de Valero moves to a second location on eastern side of San Antonio River at the northeast corner of present La Villita area.

1720 February 23 - Zacatecan Mission San José y San Miguel de Aguayo de Buena Vista is founded by Fray Antonio Margil de Jesús a few miles south of Mission San Antonio de Valero east of San Antonio River.

1721 June – Mission San José moves to new location on west bank of San Antonio River.

1721 Aug – Gov. Marqués de San Miguel de Aguayo leads expedition into east Texas with missionaries from both the College of Queretaro and the College of Zacatecas to re-establish six missions. His guide on this expedition is Juan Rodriguez, Captain/General of the Indians of the Tejas Province. In return for his services, Aguayo promises to establish a mission in San Antonio for Rodriguez’s Indians.
1721 – Establishment of Presidio de Nuestra Señora de Pilar de los Adaes near Mission San Miguel in east Texas. This site serves as the first capital of the Province of Texas.

1722 - After fire destroys original site of Presidio de Béjar in 1721, Gobernador Marqués de Aguayo moves Presidio de Béjar to west side of San Antonio River at present site on Military Plaza.

1722 March 10 - Father Gonzales establishes Mission San Francisco Xavier de Nájera at present site of Mission Concepcion. This mission is to serve about 50 families under the leadership of Indian Juan Rodriguez (El Cuilón). The families did not stay long and it closes by 1726.

1722 May 31 - Presidio de San Antonio de Béjar is staffed with 54 soldiers to protect the San Antonio missions. The Presidio at Los Adaes has 100 soldiers and the Presidio at Bahía del Espíritu Santo has 90 soldiers.

1724 – The second location of Mission San Antonio de Valero is destroyed by heavy winds and rain from a hurricane which hits the Gulf Coast; Valero moves to its third and present location just to the north of the horse-shoe bend on east side of San Antonio River.

1726 - Population of "Villa de Béjar" reported to be approximately 200 people; 45 military families and 4 civilian families.

1726 Aug. 6 – The most famous missionary to serve Texas and the founder of the most successful mission in all of Texas, Mission San José y San Miguel de Aguayo, Fray Antonio Margil de Jesús, dies in Mexico City at the church of San Francisco.

1727 July – Brigadier General Pedro de Rivera leads inspection tour of Presidios in Coahuila and Texas. He makes a report recommending to close, upgrade or relocate various facilities based on efficiency and need.

1729 - San Pedro Springs Park set aside as a public space by Spanish decree making it one of the oldest parks in the United States.

1731 March 5 - As a result of Gen. Pedro Rivera’s report which recommends closing or reducing some east Texas missions and one presidio, the missions San Francisco de la Espada, Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción de Acuña, and San Juan Capistrano relocate to San Antonio area. Sites in San Antonio were chosen for close proximity to the Presidio de Béjar.

1731 March 9 11:00 a.m. – Today marks the arrival of the 16 Canary Island families (56 persons) to the military presidio in the Villa de Béjar by decree of King Felipe V of Spain. Villa de Béjar re-named Villa de San Fernando de Béjar in honor of his son Crown Prince Fernando VI and Spanish military hero Manuel de Zuñiga, Duke of Béjar. First
settlement is around the main plaza of Villa de Béjar later renamed “Plaza de las Islas Canarias” by Canary Islanders.

1731 Aug 1 – Emigrants from the Canary Islands establish the first civil government in San Antonio. Juan Leal Goraz is appointed first Alcalde (Mayor) of Villa de San Fernando with both judicial and administrative functions.

1734 – Construction of “Spanish Governor’s Palace” begins within the Presidio.

1736– The first bridge is built across the San Antonio River connecting the Villa de Béjar and the Mission San Antonio de Valero.

1738 May 11 - 1st stone is laid for construction of new San Fernando Church which is dedicated to Saint Fernando who is also the Spanish King Fernando III of Castilla y León.

1739 - A great epidemic of smallpox and measles ravages the lives of the inhabitants of the Missions, the Villa and the Presidio in San Antonio. Many Mission Indians die and many others flee the Missions back into the countryside.

1740 February 20 - Fray Benito Fernández de Santa Ana writes "the harvest of converted souls has been abundant, and at present, thanks to the Lord, all the Indians (of the Missions in San Antonio) are content and happy, devoting their lives in all docility to the spiritual welfare of their souls and building their pueblos..."

1744 May 8 - Cornerstone is laid for permanent Church of Mission San Antonio de Valero, today the Chapel of the Alamo.

1745 June 30 – During the night, a force of 350 Ypandi and Natage Apaches attack the Presidio de Béjar and the Villa de San Fernando, some of the Indians set fire to the Presidio while the rest wait in ambush just outside of town. The Indians make separate attacks and at separate times. San Antonio was being completely decimated and overrun until about 100 resident Indians from Mission San Antonio de Valero came to the rescue of the Spaniards and ran the Apache Indians out of San Antonio.

1749 Aug. 19 - Twenty years of war with the Lipan Apaches ends. In a formal ceremony where City Hall stands today, instruments of war are buried promising a future of survival, tranquility and prosperity for San Antonio.

1755 Dec 8 - Mission Concepción is completed and officially dedicated on feast day of Our Lady of the Immaculate Concepción.

1755 Dec 12 - San Fernando Church is completed and a special mass is celebrated on feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, one of two patron saints for the Church; the other Our Lady of Candlemas. The church is dedicated to St. Fernando.
1756 – San Antonio population used to help establish new settlements, including 22 soldiers and their families who are assigned to the new presidio to be constructed for the protection of the new San Saba Mission. This reassignment leaves San Antonio with 22 officers and men.

1760 – A bright and prosperous future for the local townspeople and the Missions is derived from the cultivation of New World food products like corn, beans, chilies, pimentos, watermelons, cantaloupes, pumpkins and garden produce as well as from the successful breeding and raising of sheep, goats, cattle and horses.

The San Antonio Missions and their respective ranches:
Mission Espada - Rancho de las Cabras;
Mission San José - Rancho Atascoso and Rancho de San Lucas;
Mission Concepción - Rancho del Paistle and part of Rancho del Monte Galvan;
Mission San Juan - Rancho de San Rafael de Pataguilla and part of Rancho del Monte Galvan;
Mission San Antonio de Valero - Rancho de las Moras and part of Rancho del Monte Galvan.

1760 – Shoshonean speaking Nemene Indians become equestrian nomads pursuing buffalo, horses and a wider range of trade and raid opportunities. They migrate to Central Texas where they become known and feared... as the Comanches.

1763 Feb. 10 - After the “Seven Years War” (aka. the French & Indian War) between Spain, Great Britain and France, terms from the “Treaty of Peace of Paris” ceded lands east of the Mississippi River to Great Britain and lands west of the Mississippi River plus the New Orleans portion of Louisiana to Spain.

1764 – Population of Villa de San Fernando is approximately 125 families or about 660 to 750 people including children.

1767 - During his inspection tour to the Missions of the Province of Texas, Fray Gaspar José de Solís writes that the “Indians of Mission San José de Aguayo are in complete charge of the Mission’s ranching operations. At the Mission compound, the Indians take care of the work in the cloth factory, carpenter shop, forge, tailor shop and quarry. They are industrious and diligent and are skilled in all kinds of labor. They act as mule-drivers, masons, cowboys, and shepherds."

1767 - During his inspection tour to the Presidios of the Province of Texas, the Marqués de Rubi makes 15 recommendations which include that the Presidios at Los Adaes and Orcoquisac be closed. The Presidio Loreto at La Bahia is to be retained and the Presidio de Bejar at San Antonio is to be strengthened to over eighty men. He also recommends that San Antonio be designated as the new capital of the Province of Texas, that the Governor reside there and that he also commands the Presidio. Rubi asserts that the foreign menace of France is gone, but that the Indian menace is greater.
1768 - Hugo O’Connor, a native of Dublin, becomes interim Governor of Texas and lays the cornerstone of new Mission San José.

1771 – Rebuilding of the Presidio de Béxar military begins with the restoration of the billets assigned to the presidio at San Saba.

1772 – “Reglamento y Instrucción para los Presidios” is issued, bringing about the official closing of the presidio at Los Adaes and the reinforcement of the presidios of San Antonio and La Bahia.

1773 - Based on the recommendations of Marques de Rubí and José de Galvez, about 500 residents in the Los Adaes area are forcibly relocated to the Villa de San Fernando.

1773 - The Capital of the Province of Texas officially moves from Los Adaes to Villa de San Fernando.

1774 – About half of the “Los Adaes” families, under the leadership of Antonio Gil Ybarbo, leave the Villa de San Fernando and return to found the settlement of Bucareli. It in turn is abandoned in 1779 due to Indian attacks. The families relocate to Nacogdoches.

1778 – During an inspection tour of Spain’s northern frontier by Commandante General of the Interior Provinces of New Spain, Teodoro de Croix, Fr. Juan Agustín Morfi (known as Murphy) writes in his journal, ”the Villa of San Fernando, which together with the Presidio of San Antonio de Béjar constitutes a town so miserable that it resembles a most wretched village”.

1778 Jan. 11 - Commandante General Teodoro de Croix issues first ordinance for the management of livestock in Texas by ordering that all wild and unbranded cattle within his jurisdiction will now belong to the Royal Treasury. This has a profound effect on the Missions of the San Antonio Valley because the missions had not been aggressively branding their own cattle.

1785 - Many of the previously prosperous mission ranches have now become a wilderness, deserted by both man and beast.

1785 June 17 - Gobernador Domingo Cabello sends Pedro Vial and Francisco Xavier Chávez to ranchería de los Comanches in north-central Texas with purpose of getting Comanche Chiefs to come to San Antonio to negotiate a much needed peace treaty. In early October, Comanche chiefs came to San Antonio to iron out the treaty. The treaty was signed by Oct. 19, 1785.

1787 - Many mission Indians suffer diseases and much hunger after loss of cattle due to new cattle branding regulations; some abandon the missions and go back into the “woods” and steal from the missions as do the Apaches and some Comanches.
1790 – Commandante General Ugalde, commanding an army that includes local Bexareños, defeats a large force of Apaches at Sabinal Canyon. 1792 – As had been ordered as early as 1778 but unenforced by then Gov. Cabello, Fray José Francisco López advocates the complete closure of Mission San Antonio de Valero because the residents at this mission are neither neophytes nor pagan Indians but well instructed Christians.

1793 - Mission San Antonio de Valero is closed.


1794 - Orders to begin the secularization process are issued by Franciscan authorities from the College of Zacatecas:
- Jun 11 Mission San Francisco de la Espada.
- July 14 Mission San Juan Capistrano.
- July 16 Mission San José.
- July 31 Mission Concepción.

Two friars remain to administer to the few remaining Indian and Spanish residents of the four missions. Final and complete secularization at all these missions finally occurs by Feb. 29, 1824.

1800 – Emperor Napoleon negotiates the return of Louisiana to France and in 1803 sells it to the United States (the Louisiana Purchase). Fearing invasion from the United States, Spain begins military build-up in Texas and especially in San Antonio.

1801 – The 2nd Flying “Volante” Company of San Carlos del Alamo de Parras, Coahuila is assigned to garrison at the site of Mission San Antonio de Valero.

1802 – Gobernador of Texas orders compulsory school attendance for children under 12 years of age.

1803 Jan 20 - The Town Council of San Antonio appoints José Francisco Ruiz for the position of school teacher with schooling to be held in his home.

1805 – Felipe Enrique Neri, known as the “Baron de Bastrop”, arrives in San Antonio from Louisiana.

1808 - Campo Santo Cemetery is formally opened. Its location is about ½ mile west of San Fernando Church. Today, it would be located at site of Christus Santa Rosa Hospital at W. Houston and Santa Rosa St.

1810 Sept. 16 - Fr. Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla launches the revolt for Mexico’s independence from Spain with his “call to arms” from Dolores, Guanajuato. In essence he said “My children: a new dispensation comes to us today. Will you receive it? Will you free yourselves? Will you recover the lands stolen three hundred years ago from your forefathers by the hated Spaniards? We must act at once... Will you defend your
religion and your rights as true patriots? Long live Our Lady of Guadalupe! Death to bad government! Death to the Gachupines!"

1811 Jan. 21 – Juan Bautista de las Casas and his group capture San Antonio in the name of the revolutionary forces. Gov. Manuel Salcedo and Bexar Presidio Commander Lt. Col. Simon Herrera are arrested. De Las Casas declares himself “Head of the Provisional Government” in Texas.

1811 March 2 – Juan Manuel Zambrano, a San Antonio resident and a Spaniard loyal to the Spanish monarchy, leads townspeople in a counter-revolt and defeats de Las Casas; re-takes the government house in San Antonio and re-establishes Spanish rule.

1811 Oct. 13 - By action of the Spanish Gov. Manuel Salcedo, the “Villa de San Fernando" formally becomes known as the "Ciudad de San Antonio de Béjar".

1811 Apr. 1 - The Republican Army of the North takes San Antonio from Spanish Royalist Army and now stations themselves at the Alamo.

1811 Apr. 6 – In San Antonio, leaders of Republican Army of the North draft a Declaration of Independence that established the first “Republic of Texas.”

1813 Mar 29 – At the Battle of Rosillo Creek (aka. Battle of Salado Creek), the revolutionary Republican Army of the North (revolting Tejanos) defeat the Spanish Royalist Army. Spanish Royalist Army retreats to San Antonio.

1813 April 1 - The Republican Army of the North takes San Antonio from Spanish Royalist Army and now stations themselves at the Alamo.

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1813 June 12 - Colonel Elizondo with his Spanish Royalist army of 700 regular soldiers and over 300 volunteers camp on the outskirts of San Antonio, about 500 yards west of Alazan Creek. The Republican Army of the North surrounded the Royalist camp before sunrise. The battle raged for over an hour and a half. The pursuing cavalry was joined by their Indian allies and Royalist soldiers were killed mercilessly.

1813 August 18 – At the Battle of Medina, the Republican Army of the North, led by José Alvarez de Toledo is defeated by Spanish Royalist troops under Gen. Joaquin Arredondo. Less than 100 out of 1,400 Republican Army of North soldiers survive this bloody battle.

1816 Nov. 1 – Republic of Haiti President, Alexandre Petion, dispatches about 200 French-speaking Haitian troops to Texas to join the struggle to free Texas from Spanish rule and to abolish slavery. These troops landed at Galveston Island.

1819 – The “Adams-Onis Treaty”, between the United States and Spain, establishes the Sabine River as the boundary between Texas and Louisiana.

1819 July 5 - In a written report by Antonio Martinez, the Gov. of Province of Béjar, announces that San Antonio has suffered much damage and loss of life at the hands of a great rain and the flood of water from the San Pedro Creek and San Antonio River. Many homes have been swept away and many citizens are left destitute.
1820 Dec. – Moses Austin visits San Antonio and proposes to establish a colony of American-Catholic families on the Colorado River.

1821 – Stephen F. Austin arrives in Texas, escorted by Erasmo Seguin and Juan Martin Veramendi, intent on carrying out the approved colonization plan initially proposed by his late father, Moses Austin.

**The Mexican Era**

1821 August 24 – Captain General O’Donojú signs the “Treaty of Córdoba” which establishes Mexican independence from Spain. The Spanish Crown refused to acknowledge this treaty and to recognize Mexico’s independence.

1822 May 19 – Augustine de Iturbide proclaimed first “Constitutional Emperor” of Mexico.

1822 – First democratic elections held in Texas. Father Refugio de la Garza of San Fernando Church is elected to represent the Province of Texas in the Imperial Congress in Mexico City.

1823 Mar. 19 – After a disastrous short reign, Emperor Iturbide abdicates and in the following months, Mexico is declared a Republic.

1823 – In the fall, Texans elect a provincial deputation, which selects Erasmo Seguin to represent Texas at the Constituent Congress in Mexico City.

1824 April – The Mexican state of Coahuila and Texas is formed ending the status of Texas as a separate province and demoting San Antonio to the seat of district government.

1824 Oct. 4 – Mexico adopts a new Federal Constitution.

1825 – “Colonization Law of Coahuila and Texas” is issued, regulating the operations of Austin’s and of other Anglo-Texan empresario colonies in Texas.

1826 – Waco and Tawakoni bands of Indians raid San Antonio and Gonzales.

1826 Dec. - Empresario Hayden Edwards refuses to obey a Mexican law recognizing land claims made by Tejanos already living within his grant area. Hayden and his colonists proceed to capture Nacogdoches and declare the area the "Republic of Fredonia".

1827 – Coahuila and Texas law ends the introduction of slaves into the Texas and declares all persons born in the Texas free, starting the process of gradual abolition. A compromise is struck with Anglo-Texans by permitting long-term indentured servant contracts.
1829 Sept. 15 - Mexican President Vicente Guerrero issues a proclamation emancipating all slaves living on Mexican territory which also includes Texas.

1830 April 6 – "Colonization Law of April 6, 1830", Mexican government passes a law which ends further legal Anglo-American immigration into Texas from United States.

1831 - Anglo immigrants outnumbered the existing Tejano population in Texas almost 5 to 1.

1832 – Anahuac and Turtle Bayou problems signal growing tensions between Texans and Mexico’s national government.

1832 Oct. – Anglo-Texan settlements hold first convention to petition against the state government of Coahuila.

1833 April – Second convention held at San Felipe to petition Mexico’s national government to separate Texas from Coahuila.

1834 – General Santa Anna revokes Mexico’s new Constitution of 1824 and becomes dictator of Mexico.

1835 Oct. 28 – At the Battle of Mission Concepción, Texian troops, led by Jim Bowie, defeat Mexican troops in a fight on the banks of San Antonio River at the south bend of the river where the dam for Mission San Jose was located.

1835 Nov. 26 – “Grass Fight” occurs on Alazan Creek just west of town. Texians engage Mexican cavalry thinking pack train of mules is carrying a payroll only to discover mules only carrying grass to feed Mexican army horses.

1835 Dec. 5-9 – “Storming of Béjar”. Texian and Tejano troops defeat the army of Gen. Martín Perfecto de Cos in a bloody door to door battle in present day downtown San Antonio. Ben Milam is killed during this battle. The defeat of the Mexican army and capitulation of General Cos is viewed as an insult by General Santa Anna and in early 1836, he force marches his troops back to Texas to put down the Texas revolt.

1835 – John Twohig, a local banker and widely known for his helping the unfortunate, participates in the Siege of Bejar. In 1870, he is among the 100 wealthiest men in Texas.

1836 Feb. 23 - March 6 - After a 13 day siege of the Alamo by Mexican forces led personally by General Antonio López de Santa Anna, who orders that no quarter be given, nearly 190 Texians sacrifice their lives to defend the Alamo and Texas. The largest percentage of those killed, 15 men, were Irishmen.
The Republic of Texas Era

1836 Mar. 2 – On this day at Washington on the Brazos, 59 Texian delegates sign and adopt a Declaration of Independence from Mexico. The only two Texas-born signers, José Antonio Navarro and Francisco Ruiz are both natives of San Antonio. This action officially creates the new Republic of Texas.

1836 Mar. 2 – Republic of Texas Constitution Sec. 9 - “All persons of color who were slaves for life previous to their emigration to Texas, and who are now held in bondage, shall remain in the like state of servitude...” (Source: Handbook of Texas)

1836 March 27- Santa Anna continues his carnage by capturing the Texians who surrendered at Presidio La Bahia and executes Commander James Fannin and 342 Texas prisoners of war in what is known as the “Goliad Massacre”.

1836 April 21 - Texians capture Santa Anna at San Jacinto to the cries of “Remember the Alamo! Remember Goliad!” resulting in one of the most decisive battles in Texas history. The Treaty of Velasco is signed between Gen. Sam Houston and Gen. Santa Anna.

1836 Dec 22 – The new Republic of Texas establishes the County of Bexar with San Antonio as the County Seat.

1837 Dec 14 – By action of its City Council, Ciudad de San Antonio de Béjar is renamed City of San Antonio.

1838 - A group of Irish settlers in San Antonio, led by William E. Howth, establish and plat a new city called “Avoca” at the headwaters of the San Antonio River. This development is totally abandoned by the 1890’s.

1840 - Irish Flats neighborhood section of San Antonio is established. It is bounded by Broadway Street, East Houston, the future Interstate Highway 37 and 9th Street to the north.

1840 Mar 18 – The Council House Fight occurs when 65 Comanche Indians come into San Antonio for the purpose of signing a peace treaty of which in part were terms whereby the Indians would return captive white children. A misunderstanding occurs by an interpreter causing the Indians to fear for their lives. Hand to hand combat begins with both sides incurring heavy losses. All but 12 of the Indians are killed resulting in all of the captives being killed and the Comanche’s declaring war across Texas.

1842 Mar 5-7 - Mexican Gen. Rafael Vásquez invades and occupies Texas and San Antonio. No Texian resistance is made to the Vásquez invasion.

1842 Sept. 11-18 - Mexican Gen. Adrian Woll invades Texas and takes San Antonio. This time, two companies of Texian soldiers offer some resistance. After a negotiated
surrender, a number of San Antonio citizens are seized and sent to the Perote prison in Mexico until they are returned in 1844 to New Orleans.

1844 May 19 – Henri de Castro leads immigrants from Alsace, Baden and Switzerland thru San Antonio on their way to settle near west of San Antonio.

**Texas Becomes the Twenty Eighth State of the United States**

1845 Mar. 1 - U.S. Congress votes to approve treaty making Republic of Texas a State.

1845 Dec. 29 – Texas officially is admitted as a State into the United States.

1846-1848 – San Pedro Springs becomes first home of the U.S. military garrison in Texas.

1846 – War between the United States and Mexico begins. San Antonio becomes a military center establishing Camp Crockett near present day San Pedro Springs. The Alamo and Espada missions are used by the United States Army and the construction of a roof atop the old Alamo church and the addition of the distinctive pediment for which the Alamo is known were among the repairs made before the end of the 1840's.

1846 – First United States Post office is established by John Bowen on Bowen's Island. This site is currently the site of the Tower Life Building in San Antonio.

1847 – Presbyterian Pastor, John McCullough establishes First Presbyterian Church. It is the first Protestant church in San Antonio.

1848 - William, James and John Vance, built and operated a mercantile store in San Antonio on Alamo Plaza. They also built the first army barracks in San Antonio located at what is the corner of Travis and St. Mary's streets and a two-story building adjoining the barracks that serves as an army headquarters which is now the Gunter Hotel.

1848 Feb. 2 - United States and Mexico sign the "Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo", officially ending a 2 year war between U.S. and Mexico. The treaty ends Mexico's claim to Texas and establishes the Rio Grande as the official border between U.S. and Mexico. As part of this treaty, the United States pays Mexico $15 million dollars for Alta California, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada and Colorado.

1848 Nov. 17 – The first newspaper in San Antonio is published. It’s called the Western Texan.

1849 Jan. – A cholera epidemic hits San Antonio. Over 600 lives were lost. The first case among citizens is reported at Mission San Juan.

1849 – Catholic Archdiocese leases the old Alamo compound and it becomes the Headquarters of the U.S. Army 8th Military District.
1849 – German immigrant Frederick Klemcke begins making soap in a small building on San Pedro Creek. Klemcke sold his business in 1851 to Simon Menger, who expanded the facility and operated the San Antonio Soap Works there until 1917.

1850 - Dr. Julius Heusinger opens the first Apothecary and Drug store on Main Street.

1850 – The Quartermaster Corps of the United States Army completes the re-building of the stone church of the former Alamo and uses it as a warehouse.

1850 – Construction begins on the new City-County Courthouse and new jail.

1851 - Henry Skillman starts a stagecoach service between San Antonio and El Paso. One of his famous drivers is William A. A. “Big Foot” Wallace, the “Daniel Boone” of Texas.

1851 - Seven sisters of the Order of Saint Ursula arrive in San Antonio and establish the Ursuline Academy for girls on Augusta Street. Several of the early buildings are designed by Francois P. Giraud. Its students are drawn primarily from the daughters of the Tejano upper class. Today it is the Southwest School of Art.

1851 - City Council takes official action to reserve a clearly defined area for San Pedro Springs Park. The San Antonio Daily Ledger reported: A public square embracing an extent of fifty acres, has been set apart, above our town. From the heart of this square, leap forth, from God’s alembic, the clear waters of San Pedro.

1852 March 5 - St. Mary's Institute, the first all boys school in San Antonio is established in rented rooms above a blacksmith's shop on Military Plaza. The original faculty consisted of Brother Anthony Edel (Founder, First Superior and First Principal) from Ohio, three more Marianist Brothers from Bordeaux, France (Nicholas Koenig, Jean-Baptiste Laignounse and Xavier Mauclerc), and Timothy O'Neil, a layman from San Antonio. The school moved to a new 2-story building at 112 College Street on March 1, 1853, today the La Mansion Hotel. The school is the forerunners of St. Mary’s University, St. Mary’s Law School and Central Catholic High School.

1853 - City of San Antonio establishes the “East Side Cemetery” then donates it to the Federal government creating the San Antonio National Cemetery.

1853 July 1 – “The San Antonio Zeitung”, the first German language newspaper is published by Editor Adolf Doui.

1854 June 6 - First Volunteer Fire Company “The Ben Milam No. 1” is organized.


1854 – A public school system is established with one school for boys and one school for girls.
1855 - “El Bejareno”, the first Spanish language newspaper is published in San Antonio.

1855 - William A. Menger's and Charles Degan establish the Western Brewery (1855–78), located on Alamo Square in San Antonio and is considered the first commercial Texas brewery. By its last year of business in 1878, it was the largest operating brewery in Texas.

1857 - St. Mary’s Catholic Church, dedicated to the Immaculate Concepcion is established in 1852 and begins services for non-Spanish speaking Catholics in 1857 at the corner of St. Mary’s and College. Father Dubuis serves as Pastor.

1857 - San Antonio's first German social club and theatrical house, the Casino Club, originates from meetings of twenty German citizens who gather for conversation and sociability in 1854. The 1921 flood damaged the buildings and a new Club was constructed and opened for services in August of 1924.

1857 Jul. 24 - A new stagecoach line opens for mail and passenger service from San Antonio to San Diego, California. A trip takes 26 ½ days. Max Aue and his wife establish “Anna’s Settlement Inn” in Leon Springs which is the first stop of the “Jackass Line”. It still stands today as Rudy’s Roadhouse behind Rudy’s BBQ.

1857 Dec. 26 - St. John’s Lutheran Church is organized at S. Presa and Nueva Streets with founding pastor, Phillip Zizlemann.

1857 May 29 - Bill Hart, notorious gambler and desperado while awaiting trial, is shot and killed in a shootout with Assistant City Marshal Fieldstrup at Alamo and Market Streets. Marshal Fieldstrup is killed.

1858 June 18 – Thirty-four camels arrive at San Pedro Springs and soon leave for Camp Verde close to Kerrville. Secretary of War Jefferson Davis sponsored the experiment to replace army mules with camels fails because of the camels smell foul, they spook the horses and American soldiers are strong proponents of the horse.

1858 – Casino Hall with its Opera House is completed on Market Street.

1859 - The first U.S. Military building in San Antonio is the Arsenal (south of present downtown area) which is established to furnish arms and munitions to the frontier forts in Texas. During the Civil War, the twenty-one-acre reservation was occupied by Confederate forces and the supplies were used for the Confederate war effort. After the war, the United States Army once again took possession of the complex, and over the course of the next half century, it was gradually enlarged. By the end of World War I, the Arsenal comprised thirty-eight buildings. During both World Wars, it served as a major supply depot. The volume of operations reached its height during World War II, when it shipped more than 337,000,000 pounds of ammunition. The arsenal was closed in 1949, although some remaining buildings continued to be used.
1858 - The German-English School in San Antonio is established by members of the Casino Club. Voluntary contributions bought land fronting on South Alamo Street in the district known as La Villita. A second building was constructed at the front of the lot and in 1869; a two-story building was built at the back. The curriculum offered English, German, geography, writing, poetry, history, and arithmetic. To these were added Spanish, algebra, sewing, and singing. Rotation teaching of English, German and Spanish gave the students a chance to become familiar with each language.

1859 – The Menger Hotel, founded by German immigrants William and Mary Menger, opens for business fronting Alamo Plaza. The hotel holds the record as the oldest continuously run hotel this side of Mississippi.

1859 - Construction of St. Mark’s Episcopal Church begins with Robert E. Lee laying the cornerstone. Because of the Civil War, construction is halted and the first service in the completed church was Easter 1875.

1859 Oct. 2 - Carl Hilmer Guenther moves from Fredericksburg and opens a gristmill here. Pioneer Flour Mills still owned by Guenther descendants.

1859 – A new Market House is constructed by the City on Market Street near Main Plaza.

1860 - San Antonio Gas Company is chartered and begins supplying natural gas.

1860 Oct. - Gov. Sam Houston speaks publically at San Pedro Springs Park about his opposition to the secession of Texas from the US and San Antonio votes with him.

**Texas Joins the Confederacy-1861-1865 Civil War**

1861 Jan 28 - Texas secedes from the Union.

1861 February 23 - By a vote of 44,317 to 13,020, Texans ratify secession from the Union. In doing this, it declares that all current officeholders must swear a loyalty oath to the Confederacy. Sam Houston refuses, saying that the actions of the convention after it adjourned in February are illegal. Convention delegates declare the office of governor vacant and instruct Lt. Gov. Edward Clark to assume the office of governor. On March 23, the convention adjourns for the last time, having taken Texas out of the Union, allied it with the Confederacy and ended the political career of its most prominent citizen.


1861 - San Pedro Springs Park is used as a prisoner of war camp by the Confederate Army.
1861 Jan. 20 - The First Baptist Church is founded by Rev. John Thurmond and 13 worshipers on the second floor of a downtown drug store.

1862 – San Antonio becomes headquarters for the Texas Confederate Army.

1864 June 7 – According to Mary Adams Maverick, wife of Samuel Maverick, a heavy flood sweeps through San Antonio on this evening. The San Antonio River rises up to fifteen feet and causes a number of adobe houses on the banks of the river to crumble.

**Texas Becomes a State Again**

1865 June 19 - Union General Gordon Granger brings the full force of the United States military establishment to Galveston and proclaims the Civil War at an end and all wartime proclamations by President Abraham Lincoln in effect in the Lone Star State. He proclaims: "The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor." The tidings of freedom reached the approximately 250,000 slaves in Texas gradually as individual plantation owners inform their slaves over the months following the end of the war. The date, observed in Texas to the present, is known as “Juneteenth.”

1865 Sept. 27 - First issue of the “San Antonio Express” newspaper is published by August Siemering.

1865 – Lafayette Walker, a veteran of the Civil War and a black union soldier becomes a leader in pressing for infrastructure improvements for the black community using his political involvement.

1865 – The Eastern Cattle Trail starts southeast of San Antonio. The northern part of the trail is called the Chisholm Trail.

1865 – The telegraph reaches San Antonio and is installed at the Menger Hotel.

1865 – The German language newspaper “Freie Presse Fuer Texas” is first published by August Siemering.

1866 - Gas lights are turned on in the plazas.

1866 – St. Paul Methodist Church is established and converts the area as the center of African-American life in San Antonio for many years. San Antonio’s nonpartisan city elections are credited to the churches’ Rev. Matthew “Mack” Henson and others like Lafayette Walker’s persistent political advocacy; helped create the non-partisan city elections we have in San Antonio today.
1866 Nov. 1 – The First National Bank in San Antonio is organized by local businessman and philanthropist George W. Brackenridge.

1866 Sept - A cholera epidemic starts in September causing schools to close. Approximately 293 people lose their lives.

1867 Feb. 23 - The Beethoven Maennerchor, a German singing society, organizes and continues to perform to the present day.

1867 - Julius Joske, a German immigrant and local merchant, opens his merchant store “Joske” on Main Plaza and in 1875 moves it to Alamo and Commerce as Joske Bros. Later it is known as “The Biggest Store in the Biggest State”.

1868 - Cornerstone of St. Joseph’s Catholic Church is laid and the building is completed in 1871. It serves a large and growing community of German Catholic immigrants. Mass in German continues to be said once a month at the church.

1868 - When the natural ice supply from the North was cut off by the Civil War, men of ingenuity in Texas and Louisiana came forth with inventiveness in mechanical ice making and food preservation. J. B. Lacoste and Associates of San Antonio open an ice factory on Losoya Street.

1868 - Clock tower is erected at Ursuline Academy Convent. The clock is constructed with three faces. There is no need for a northern face, since no one inhabits the area north of the Academy.

1868 June 7 - First steam fire engine is purchased by Wm. Menger from the Silsby Manufacturing Co. of New York. The apparatus is assigned to the Alamo Association No. 2 Volunteer Fire Company.

1869 – Construction begins on The First Baptist Church building at Jefferson and Travis streets. The church is now located at 515 McCullough.

1869 - Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word open first hospital (Santa Rosa Hospital) across from present day Milam Park.

1870 March 30 - The United States Congress re-admits Texas into the Union. Reconstruction continues however for another nine years. Following the Civil War, Texas is in turmoil as its people attempt to solve political, social, and economic problems produced by the war. Emancipation changes the labor system and the end of slavery forces a redefinition of the relationship between blacks and whites. The change in labor and the cost of the war threatens to undermine the economic power of those who have dominated antebellum economic life, which was focused on the plantation. The weakening of the antebellum elite threatens not only their economic and social position but also their political power.
1870 – The City of San Antonio donates forty acres of land east of the city to the U.S. Government to be used by the U.S. Army as Fort Sam Houston, which today encompasses more than 3,000 acres.

1871 - Freedman’s Bureau builds the first Negro public school, the Rincon School, for African Americans. For the first few years, enrollment fluctuates between 100-170 students

1871 - Mount Zion First Baptist Church is established by 22 former slaves on Santos St. south of Commerce St. in what is now considered the Lavaca/Southtown neighborhoods. The church in later years was led by the Rev. Claude Black and played a major role in the 1960s civil rights movement of the city. The church resides at 333 Martin Luther King Dr.

1874 - San Antonio’s Street Railway Company is organized.

1874 - Congregation Temple Beth El organizes and immediately becomes a charter member of the Union for Reform Judaism. In so doing, it lays the foundation for Reform Judaism in San Antonio and in South Texas.

1874 June 26 - Cock fighting and bull fighting is prohibited in the City Limits by Ordinance.

1874 - Bell for St. Mark’s Episcopal Church arrives, it is said to have been made from one of the Alamo cannons. Some Texas Republic weapon researchers and authors have stated that it may have been the “Come and Take It Cannon” from Gonzalez.

1874 - San Antonio’s Catholic Archdiocese is established and the Church of San Fernando is designated a cathedral.

1875 - Jewish Synagogue Temple Beth El is built at the corner of Travis and Jefferson Street. It is now located at Ashby and Belknap.

1876 – U.S. Government starts construction of the Quadrangle Headquarters and tower at Fort Sam Houston.

1876 - Barbed wire is introduced for the first time in San Antonio and Texas with an exhibition on Alamo Plaza by John “Bet a Million” Gates. Barbed Wire along with the railroads changes cattle ranching in Texas. Gates later becomes the founder of The Texas Oil Co.

1876 - Edward and Johanna Steves build their lavish Second Empire home. Alfred Giles, prominent San Antonio is the architect. The family donated the Victorian home to the San Antonio Conservation Society in 1952. The Society opened the Steves Homestead to the public as an example of a fully period furnished home.
1877 February 16 - The Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio Railroad, the first passenger train to arrive in San Antonio, is the cause of a massive citywide celebration. It attracts dignitaries such as the State Governor and half the city’s population, which at the time, stood at around 16,000.

1877 April 3 - A water system by J.B. LaCoste and Associates is established. LaCoste constructs a pump house near the headwaters of the San Antonio River in what is now Brackenridge Park. Water pressure operates a pump which lifts water to a reservoir near the Old Austin Road on the present site of the San Antonio Botanical Garden. This site is high enough for the water to flow by gravity into the distribution system. G.W. Brackenridge acquired the company in 1883 and began drilling the first artesian well in San Antonio for the water supply.

1877 - Honre Grenet purchases the Alamo Convento, covers it with a wooden façade and opens a grocery store.

1878 - The Hertzberg Clock, cast in iron by E. Howard Clock Company of Boston, is first installed in front of Eli Hertzberg Jewelry Company on Commerce Street. In 1910, the company moves the clock to the corner of St. Mary’s and Houston Streets.

1878 - Augustus Belknap charters “The Street Railway Company”, providing the first rail mule-drawn car going from Alamo Plaza to San Pedro Springs and back.

1878 - The Edison phonograph is demonstrated at the Alamo Literary Hall.

1879 - Cornerstone of the German Methodist church in La Villita is laid. It is now a non-denominational church known today as the Little Church of La Villita.

1879 – San Antonio’s first High School is a “one-teacher facility for all grades” known as Central School or Central Grammar and High School. This institution operates in the Firemen’s Hall headquarters for Hook and Ladder and No. 2 Engine companies on Avenue C (later Broadway/Pearl Hatters) just north of Houston Street.

1879 - Buffalo Bill Cody appears in a melodrama at a downtown variety theater. The next year, he returns with the Buffalo Bill Wild West show.

1880 – The Buckhorn Saloon opens. The saloon moves four times and continues to be a tourist attraction. It’s considered to be the oldest continuously run saloon (curio shop during prohibition) in San Antonio.

1880 – San Antonio’s famous “Chili Stands” are ordered to open for business on the City’s plazas only at night.

1881 Jan. 20 - First issue of the “San Antonio Evening Light” newspaper is published.
1881 Feb. 9 - San Antonio Electric Light Co. is incorporated. It begins furnishing electricity to businesses and homes in 1882.

1881 - June 17 - San Antonio Telephone Exchange is established with 100 subscribers.

1881 - The Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word establish Incarnate Word College as a center of higher education for young women in the Government Hill area of San Antonio. It is now located on 154 acres north of downtown at the headwaters of the San Antonio River.

1882 - San Antonio High School, a three story stone structure with an observatory and clock tower, is built on Acequia Street, now Main St., to accommodate the growing number of school-age children in San Antonio. The school is rebuilt and renamed Main Avenue High to reflect its street name in 1917 and is currently known as Fox Tech.

1883 - Cornerstone of Paine (Travis Park) Methodist-Episcopal church is laid.

1883 - Luccahese Boot Co. established at Fort Sam Houston’s Cavalry School by Salvadore and Joseph Lucchese, newly arrived Sicilian immigrant boot makers.

1883 - Cornerstone of Paine (Travis Park) Methodist-Episcopal church is laid.

1883 - Construction of the J. H. Kampmann Building at Soledad and Commerce begins. It is to be the first four story building and with the first building elevator to be built in San Antonio.

1883 - First polo match in San Antonio is played. Location is unknown, but San Antonio did have a polo field for many years in Brackenridge Park.

1883 April 23 - The Alamo Chapel is purchased by the State of Texas from the Catholic Church for $20,000.00

1883 - Dullnig Building at Commerce and Alamo opens as San Antonio’s first super store.

1883 – Southern Pacific Railroad’s Sunset Route commences, connecting San Antonio to San Francisco. Amtrak continues this line to this day.

1884 March 11 - Ben Thompson, the notorious gambler and lawman and his friend ex-Uvalde County deputy sheriff King Fisher are shot and killed at the “Jack Harris Vaudeville Theater and Saloon” by Joe Foster and Jacobo Coy over a blood feud and over the killing of previous saloon proprietor Jack Harris.

1884 - Lone Star Brewery is established by Adolphous Busch at 200 Jones Ave, now the site of the San Antonio Museum of Art. Lone Star continues brewing at this location until prohibition in 1918 forces it to close. After prohibition in 1933, Lone Star began brewing as Champion Beer, but the Lone Star name was re-adopted later. The brewery changed
hands a few more times and the Lone Star brewery was shut down in 1991. Pabst began brewing Lone Star at Pearl Brewery until 1996 when Pearl was closed.

1884 – John L. Sullivan, the famous boxing prize-fighter, gives an exhibition at Turner Hall.

1884 - Museum of Natural History opens in a hurriedly constructed frame building at San Pedro Springs Park, thereby creating San Antonio’s first museum.

1885 – The Central Christian Church is founded on Camden and North Main Streets by Elder David Pennington. The existing building, the third church at this location, constructed in modified Georgian colonial style, was dedicated in 1950. The art glass windows from the 1903 building were installed. This building is distinguished as a San Antonio historical building.

1885 - The San Antonio & Aransas Pass (SAAP) Railroad station depot is built at the corner of Aransas, now Alamo and S. Flores streets. It runs 3 passenger trains and 3-6 freight trains daily. During World War I, the railroad began to run trains through the new Missouri-Kansas and Texas station but kept offices in the older building. The top floor was used to entertain men who had been trained at Camp Stanley and Leon Springs prior to being shipped out overseas. The Southern Pacific R.R. took over the building in 1925 and in 1926 it was used as a backdrop for “The Rough Rider”, a Spanish-American War movie filmed here. The building was razed in December 1939.

1886 - Dr. W.B. Seeley establishes The Seeley School, a college preparatory school. Opening classes brought thirty boys to 231 East Houston Street, near Travis Park, and by year’s end enrollment had increased to sixty-four students. Later it becomes known as San Antonio Academy.

1886 - Jack Harris Vaudeville Theater is destroyed by fire.

1886 - Grand Opera House opens at the current location of Wax Museum on Alamo Plaza.

1886 – The Apache War Chief, Geronimo and other Apache prisoners, are held here as prisoners for several weeks at the Fort Sam Houston Quadrangle before being sent to their incarceration in Florida.

1886 - San Antonio International Exposition is held.

1886 - The San Antonio-Aransas Pass Railroad (S.A. & A.P.) starts a trial run to Floresville eventually connecting San Antonio with Corpus Christi and Laredo to the south, Waco to the north and Houston to the east.

1886 – San Antonio and Floresville are connected by telephone.
1886 - The estate of Honore Grenet sells the Alamo Convento building to merchants Hugo, Schmeltzer & Heuermann for $28,000.

1888 July 9 – The cornerstone of the new County & City Hospital for indigent patients is laid near present site of University Hospital’s Robert B. Green/ Brady Clinic.

1888 - Congregation Agudas Achim is organized.

1888 - San Antonio Missionaries baseball club becomes a charter member of the Texas League.

1888 - St. Peter Claver (Mission) Catholic Church is the first African American Catholic Church in San Antonio. The church was built by Irish-born Margaret Mary Healy Murphy, the widow of John Bernard Murphy, who was the mayor of Corpus Christi from 1889 to 1884. Mrs. Murphy also built two free schools for 500 children. The mission provides African Americans an opportunity to create their own church community and to avoid having to attend church services from the rear of church balconies. The school was also the first institution built for Catholic African American children in Texas.

1888 – Antonia Piñeda de Hernandez takes over the management of the Carlos Villalongin Dramatic Company. Her daughter, Herlinda “Concha” Hernandez de Villalongin becomes the most prominent female stage performer of the local Mexican American cultural community.

1889 Sept. 16 - Cornerstone is laid for present City Hall on Military Plaza.

1889 Sept. 26 - Old mule streetcars are replaced with electric motor cars and the first trip is made from Navarro St. to the International Fair grounds.

1889 - George W. Brackenridge, owner of the San Antonio Water Works Company, drills the first artesian well in what later becomes Brackenridge Park to supply the city of San Antonio with fresh potable water.

1889 - The San Antonio Union Stock Yards are built.

1889 – Downtown streets are paved with mesquite blocks.

1890 Aug. - The Argyle Hotel is reconditioned and opens as a hotel. It originally was a ranch house built by Charles Anderson in 1854.

1890 - Construction is initiated on the “Southwest Texas Lunatic Asylum”, now the San Antonio State Hospital.

1890 - New Post Office and Federal Building opens for service at Alamo plaza. The building received damage to a fire in the 1930’s and a new Federal Building Post Office was built in 1937.
1890 - Thriving “Red Light District”, has its own “Blue Book” guide and is known as the most lavish “sporting” area between New Orleans and San Francisco. It was ordered closed in 1941.

1890 - Faster electric streetcars replace the mule drawn fleet in San Antonio.

1890 - Southern Messenger, an English-language Catholic newspaper is founded by C. J. Smith as the parish bulletin of St Mary’s Catholic Church.

1890 - Government Hill, one of six San Antonio suburbs is developed during the "Gilded Age" of the city's history and is comprised mainly of Irish and German families.

1891 – The local German gymnastic club, “The Turn Verein”, opens its new building on Nacogdoches St., present day Bohham St.

1891 - San Antonio City Brewery (Pearl) is established by J. B. Belohradsky & Co. on site of present day Pearl Brewery. Otto Koehler takes control of the brewery in 1902.


1891 - Newly elected Mayor Brian Callaghan Jr. disbands the Volunteer Fire Companies and establishes the paid professional San Antonio Fire Dept.

1891 April 20 - The first Battle of Flowers parade to commemorate Texas Independence is held. President Benjamin Harrison is here to inaugurate the parade.

1892 - Construction begins on current Courthouse on Market Street.

1892 - Farmers Market is designated at southeast corner of W. Commerce and Pecos later to be Market Square.

1893 - McClellan Shacklett submits winning bid of $500 a year to lease sulfur water springs at Hot Wells from the Southwestern Lunatic Asylum. His spa includes a swimming pool and private baths. The Hot Wells Resort built in the later 1890s was once the crown jewel of the South Side. Its baths brought celebrities such as Charlie Chaplain and Teddy Roosevelt to the city.

1894 - The Businessmen’s Club organizes with James L. Slayden as its first President. In 1936 the name was changed to the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce.

1894 - St. Louis College is founded. In 1927, it became known as St. Mary’s University.

1895 - St. Patrick Catholic church’s first parish Church, is built to serve the soldiers at Fort Sam Houston.
1895 - Beethoven Hall opens on South Alamo as a concert hall for the Beethoven Maennerchor.

1896 - San Antonio Drug Co. is founded by George H Kalteyer, a local prominent pharmacist.

1896 - Bexar County’s legal newspaper the “Commercial Recorder” begins publication.

1896 - “Big Red”, Bexar County’s Courthouse, fronting Main Plaza, opens. Architect James Gorden Riely designs the red sandstone “Second Empire” style construction that continues to serve Bexar County citizens.

1896 – Citizens protest the closing of the Alamo’s original Acequia Madre.

1897 - In Re Ricardo Rodríguez, a landmark civil rights case in which Ricardo Rodríguez, a Mexican immigrant who had resided in San Antonio for 10 years, sues for final approval of his application for U.S. citizenship, which would give him the right to vote. His request comes during a period in which Mexican American voting rights are routinely contested. The court’s decision in favor of Rodríguez legally affirms the civil rights of Texas Mexicans to vote.

1898 - Our Lady of the Lake Academy (University) opens. It is founded by the Sisters of Divine Providence.

1898 May 3 - The Spanish-American War brings San Antonio into military prominence again. The Belknap Rifles and the San Antonio Zouaves, local home guard units, report for service.

1898 May 16 - Col. Leonard Wood welcomes Theodore Roosevelt’s arrival in San Antonio and Roosevelt organizes the famous “Rough Riders.” Their training takes place at the old Fairgrounds, now Riverside Golf Course.

1898 Oct. 1 – The Woman’s Club of San Antonio organizes with Miss Eleanor Brackenridge as its first President. The club continues its work located at the beautiful Woodward home at 1717 San Pedro.

1898 - The first site of St. Philips School (College) opens in La Villita. The school is founded by James Steptoe Johnston, the Bishop of St. Phillips Episcopal Church. Artemisia Bowden, its first teacher, led the school from 1902 to 1954 and is responsible for it becoming the great community college it is today.

1898 - The Episcopal Church establishes a school the St. Philip’s Mission for African Americans with an enrollment of 13 students.

1899 Dec. 4 - Property consisting of 260 acres along the San Antonio River is donated to the City by George W. Brackenridge to be used as a public park.
1889 – Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word purchase 280 acres from George W. Brackenridge for its expanded woman’s college.

1900 - The Buffalo Bill Cody Wild West Show entertains 20,000 plus people at San Pedro Springs Park.

1901 May 1 - President McKinley visits the City and gives a speech from a platform facing the Alamo.

1901 Jan 6 - Tuesday Musical Club is organized by Anna Goodwin Hertzberg, her sister and four other women at her home. The club of over 250 members continues to meet every other Tuesday at its clubhouse at Brackenridge Park. The members continue to share the goal of celebrating and promoting music.

1901 - Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad line to San Antonio is completed. The depot features a Mission style facade.

1901 - All streetcar line companies consolidate into the San Antonio Traction Company. As automobiles become more available in the 1920s, ridership declines and the last lines are run in 1933.

1901 - The De Zavala Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic organizes mainly to preserve the Alamo property.

1903 – Adina E. De Zavala enlists heiress and historical preservationist Clara Driscoll to put up needed additional monies for the purchase of the long barracks/convento in the Alamo compound. On January 26, 1905, Gov. S.W.T. Lanham signs legislation for state funding to preserve the Alamo property and to reimburse Clara Driscoll for her financial assistance.

1903 Jan 31 - Southern Pacific Railroad station opens in a recently adapted Mission style of architecture building with the Alamo as its key point of reference.

1903 July 9 - Bexar County Medical Society organizes with Dr. T. T. Jackson as its first President.

1903 - First San Antonio Public library opens at corner of South Presa and Market Streets. It is built with a $50,000.00 grant from Andrew Carnegie. The library was damaged in the 1921 flood.

1903 - Physicians and Surgeons Hospital on Dallas Street built. Today it is known as the Baptist Memorial Hospital.

1904 - A city ordinance passes requiring automobiles to be numbered.
1905 - President Theodore Roosevelt attends a Rough Rider’s reunion at the Menger Hotel.

1905 - Cavalry and Artillery posts built at Ft. Sam Houston.

1905 Oct. 4 - The State of Texas assigns custodianship of the Alamo Chapel and the Convento to the Daughters of the Republic of Texas.

1906 April 18 – The Alamo Mission Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic is organized.

1906 – Water flowing in the Flores Street ditch, previously known as the San Pedro Acequia, is permanently stopped.

1906 - The International & Great Northern R.R., presently known as the Missouri Pacific Lines, constructs a new depot of Moorish architecture at W. Commerce and Medina St.

1907 - The Missouri Pacific terminal built featuring a copper dome rising eighty-eight feet from the ground is topped with a bronze statue of an Indian shooting an arrow towards the northeast. The architect, Harvey L. Page, was influenced by the architecture of San Jose Mission. The stained-glass windows on the north, south and east sides are representative of San José's "Rose Window" with the I&GN logo inside them. In 1975, the depot was placed on the National Register for Historic Places. In 1985, the San Antonio City Employees Federal Credit Union purchased and restored the building and later, Generations Federal Credit Union owned the facility. VIA purchased the depot in 2010 and is now bringing new life to the historic structure now called the West Side Multimodal Transit Center.

1907 – A new State law passes making gambling unlawful and every gambling house in San Antonio is closed.

1908 - Congregation Rodfei Sholom is organized.

1908 - Gibbs building is erected Alamo & Houston Streets.

1908 - Fire Department purchases its first two motorized pumper trucks to replace two horse-drawn trucks.

1908 – The Electric Park Company opens by Samuel Weiss across the street south of San Pedro Springs Park. Electric Park includes all manner of attractions including a carousel, a toboggan track, a Ferris wheel, shooting gallery, pool hall, boat rides, among other exciting activities. The star of the Electric Park show comes on after twilight. The theme park is fully electrified and lights up the night sky. The park closed in 1917 due to high operating costs and several fires.
1908 Feb. 10 - Adina De Zavala barricades herself in the Alamo long barracks to stop demolition of the dilapidated Hugo Schmeltzer building that is thought to be a post 1836 structure by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. De Zavala prevails and saves what is the Alamo Mission Convento/Long Barrack.

1909 - President William Taft visits San Antonio to dedicate the Army Chapel at Fort Sam Houston.

1909 Feb. - Order of the Alamo organizes with John B. Carrington as its first President, to promote the holding of an annual “Battle of Flowers” and the “Queen’s Pageant of the Spring Carnival”.

1909 Feb. - St. Anthony Hotel opens and known as the “Waldorf of the Prairie” because of its lavishness.

1909 Sept. 1 - Gunter Hotel opens on site of the old “Frontier Inn” that had served as a stagecoach stop at Houston and St. Mary’s

1909 Dec. - Crockett Hotel opens as an Odd Fellows Fraternal Hall and Hotel

1909 – “Chili Queens” ordered to stay off Alamo Plaza by City.

1909 - For the first time, San Antonio women enter politics with Mrs. Eli Hertzberg and Mrs. Noyes Evans running for the School Board.

1910 - First U.S. Military flight in government owned airplane by the first military trained pilot Lt. Benjamin D. Foulois occurs at Fort Sam Houston and is considered the birth of military aviation.

1910 Oct. 8 - Future President of Mexico, Francisco Madero and several revolutionists are sequestered in San Antonio after escaping jail in Mexico City. Madero organized the Revolution to overthrow Mexican Dictator Porfirio Diaz who had served 36 years as President. Madero arrived in San Antonio and his wife and secretary followed the next day. Madero spent his first night here in the home of Ernesto Fernandez but after his wife's arrival, he checked into rooms at the Hutchins Hotel at 205 Garden St., later St. Mary's Street. Here he established the headquarters-in-exile of a movement to unseat Mexican President Diaz. A group of people, including Madero’s father, brothers and sisters and other revolutionaries became known as the “San Antonio Junta.”

1910 - Friedrich Refrigeration Company opens. It is the brainchild of one-time San Antonio furniture maker, Ed Friedrich. The original business, located on Cherry Street, created refrigeration products using ice as a raw material. When Ed’s sons, George and Richard Friedrich joined the company, they developed mechanical refrigeration. After a fire struck the Cherry Street building in 1923, Friedrich relocated the company to the 1617 Commerce St. location. A new building was constructed on the site in 1925 and was dedicated to the production of refrigerator units and air conditioning equipment. At
one time, the complex housed the last manufacturer of commercial refrigeration in the United States. Intense Chinese competition forced the business to move its operation to Mexico in 2007.

1910 Oct. 7 - The first Boy Scout troop organizes in San Antonio with George S. Chessum as the Scoutmaster. At the time, Chessum was the Director of the YMCA and that organization sponsored the troop. This was just a few months after Scouting was brought to the United States from England. Thus, it is quite probable that Chessum and his troop were the first in Texas and what is today our South Central Region.

1910 – Many people living around Michell Lake in southeast San Antonio have malaria, a parasitic infection spread by mosquitoes. Charles A. R. Campbell is instrumental in getting bat roosts to combat the problem. By 1919, farmers signed affidavits declaring that malaria had disappeared from the area. Bat roosts are also built in Alamo Heights at the site of Texas Military Institute. By mid-century the bat roosts were replaced with pesticides.

1911 May 10 - Lt. George E. Kelly is killed in a plane crash at Fort Sam Houston. He is the first American military aviator to lose his life while piloting a military aircraft.

1911 - Fiesta Association is formed by the San Antonio Business Men’s Club.

1911 - Cornerstone of Hermann Sons Hall is laid at 500 Block of S. St. Mary’s St.

1912 - Rand Building is completed. This building, designed by “skyscraper architects” Sanguinet and Staats of Fort Worth, ranked as the tallest in San Antonio when constructed in 1912. It housed Wolff and Marx, a popular local department store until 1965. In 1981, the San Antonio Conservation Society entered into a lengthy series of negotiations with Frost National Bank to save the building from demolition. The Society purchased the building in 1981 and sold it the same year. It is presently used as an office and high tech complex.

1913 - Thomas Brady constructs the Empire Theatre on the same site as the Old Turner Opera House of 1879. The Empire is built as a European palazzo and designed by architects Mauran, Russell & Crow of St. Louis. The "new" Empire is considered the most modern steel-constructed building and the largest theatre in San Antonio at the time boasting an electric lighting system, excellent acoustics, electric fans, and stage equipment for vaudeville, stock theatre, and motion pictures. The theatre was fully carpeted and showcased grand draperies throughout its gilded interior.

1913 Feb. 13 - San Antonio’s Spanish language newspaper, “La Prensa” is established by Ignacio Lozano and begins publication as a daily newspaper from 1913 to 1963. When it first appeared, it met a real need by Mexicans residing temporarily in the United States who desired to follow events in Mexico regarding the Mexican Revolution. A new “La Prensa de San Antonio”, an American bilingual semi-weekly newspaper was founded by
Florentino "Tino" J. Durán and his wife, Amelia ("Mellie") Durán in 1989. Amelia Durán's father, Rogelio Jiménez (1914–1990), uncles and grandfather worked for the original La Prensa newspaper as typesetters and printers from the 1920s through the 1950s.

1913 – The Brady Tower, a low-rise building on the corner of East Houston and North St. Mary's streets is first opened in 1913 along with the neighboring Empire Theatre by developer Thomas F. Brady. In its early days, it served as an office building. It was designed by St. Louis architecture firm Mauran, Russell & Crowell. In 1992, the nine-story building was converted into an apartment building, which it remains today.

1914 - San Antonio adopts a home rule charter providing for a commission form of government to be in effect on June 1, 1915, creating the Board of Commissioners instead of Alderman.

1914 – The widening of Commerce Street begins due to the street’s crowding and congestion. From its earliest days, Commerce Street was noisy, congested, and decidedly foul smelling with hundreds of oxen and mules, blacksmiths, saddlers and livery services catering to the large amount of freight entering and leaving the city every day. It was so crowded that it was not possible to operate streetcars through its confined space. Houston Street was newer and wider. Every streetcar route began and ended there. Soon Houston Street eclipsed the older road, becoming the premier location for shopping and other businesses. Commerce was widened on each side of the thoroughfare and stretching well beyond the confines of the historic city center based around Main Plaza at San Fernando Cathedral and Alamo Plaza. During the four-year widening project on Commerce Street, many buildings were either totally demolished or lost several yards of their original structure. A few had their frontages carefully removed and then rebuilt. Only one, the new five stories Alamo National Bank building, was physically raised and moved back while work continued uninterrupted within it.

1914 – The Travelers Hotel, a seven-story hotel, sitting in the middle of the block on Broadway, is considered upscale and an extended-stay establishment for the business elite. In recent years, it has become known as a flophouse where transient visitors could rent a room for $30.00. Now under new ownership, Travelers Hotel is undergoing a multimillion-dollar renovation, one that will transform the infamous building from flophouse to — possibly — a luxury hotel.

1914 - The Calcasieu building is constructed as an office retail space designed by noted San Antonio architect Atlee B. Ayres. A major renovation in the 1940's converts the second through fifth floors of the six story building to apartments. The building has recently been purchased and renovated and managed by a non-profit affordable housing corporation.

1914 - San Antonio's first zoo consists of a collection of animals assembled in San Pedro Park in the 1800s. In 1914, Colonel George W. Brackenridge, one of the city's leading citizens and founder of the San Antonio Express-News, placed buffalo, elk, deer,
monkeys, a pair of lions, and four bears on land he had deeded over to the city in what is now known as Brackenridge Park. This collection became the San Antonio Zoo.

1914 – The concrete Commerce Street Bridge is constructed as part of a major street improvement program. It is located at the historic main ford across the San Antonio River. The bridge is noted for its many decorative details including noted Texas artist Waldine Tauch’s sculptured Indian drinking fountain.

1914 - Battle of Flowers Association is incorporated.

1915 - Stinson family opens its aviation school.

1917 - Robert B. Green Hospital opens. This hospital is built at a time when San Antonio badly needs a new hospital to care for indigent patients. The community had struggled for years with endless structural problems at the old San Antonio City Hospital. Community leaders decided to tear down that hospital at North Leona and Morales streets and build the new Green hospital.

1917 April 6 – U.S. enters World War I as the U.S. joined its allies Britain and France in declaring war on Germany. Under the command of Major General John J. Pershing, more than 2 million U.S. soldiers fought on the battlefields of France. By the end of the war, 116,516 American soldiers had lost their lives.

1917 April 9 - Four aircraft take off from Fort Sam Houston fly across San Antonio and land on the new Kelly Airfield, which at the time was a cleared cotton field. Tents were erected as hangars; however, a permanent presence at the airfield was not established until May 7 when 700 soldiers arrived. A week later, the population had grown to 4,000 soldiers. Construction of the facility is rapid with the United States now at war and the mission of the new airfield is to train aviators to be sent to the Western Front in France. Kelly Field was named in honor of 2nd Lt. George E. Kelly, who while attempting to land on May 10, 1911 crashed his aircraft into the ground in order to avoid flying into a tent and thereby possibly injuring several others.

1917 - San Antonio Public Service Company is incorporated.

1917 - Camp Bullis is established in San Antonio as a training site for the American Expeditionary Force. It is used as a small arms and rifle range with no troops stationed at the camp. Later it would be used by the Civilian Military Training Corps, the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Reserve Officer Training Corps.

1917 April – About 420 Chinese refuges arrive at San Antonio’s Camp Wilson next to Ft. Sam Houston and begin working for the Army. In 1922, the U.S. Congress gave them legal residency.

1918 - “San Antonio Evening News” newspaper begins publication.
1918 Nov. 11 - World War I ends with an Armistice signed. Over 198,000 Texans saw service plus 450 nurses; of that number, one nurse and 5,170 Texans died. Today, Nov. 11 is observed as Veterans Day.

1918 Dec. 8 - Brooks Field, Brooks Air Force Base, is one of thirty-two Air Service U.S. Army Air Service training camps established after the United States entry into World War I as Kelly Field No. 5. Its first commander is Lt. Col. H. Conger Pratt.

1918 March 12 - The State Legislature adds criminal penalties for violations of its English-only legislation. This legislation requires teachers in the public free schools to conduct schoolwork in the English language exclusively and prevents the adoption of text for elementary grades not printed in English. This law defined the grades in which a foreign language could be taught and fixed penalties.

1918 - A labor shortage in the Southwest leads to the recruitment of more than 50,000 Mexican nationals between 1918 and 1921. The first U.S. government-approved recruitment of Mexican workers occurred in 1917, when the U.S. Department of Labor suspended the head tax and the literacy test on Mexican workers coming to the U.S. "for the purpose of accepting employment in agricultural pursuits." The 81,000 Mexican workers admitted legally between 1917 and 1921 are required to work for the employer with whom they have up to a one-year contract or face deportation. Mexican immigration rose sharply, from 17,900 in 1917 to over 52,000 in 1920.

1918 - City acquires West End Lake Park, now Woodlawn Lake. West End Lake was the dream of real estate developers in the 1880s who wanted to build the West End as a residential subdivision on San Antonio's rural west side. It was George W. Russ, President of the Rhode Island-based West End Town Company, who saw great potential in the flat pasture on Alazan Creek and made the dream come true. To attract residents, the creek was dammed to create West End Lake, which some reports say was as large as 80 acres. Today it is about 30 acres. Visitors travel by streetcar to enjoy what is called "the finest artificial lake in the South." Electric lights, still new at the time, illuminate the lake where visitors dance on an outdoor pavilion and row in small boats. In later years, there were outdoor movies and vaudeville acts.

1918 – Louis Santikos, a Greek born immigrant, moves to the city from Waco and enters into the movie theater business at the invitation of San Antonio businessmen. He operates the Rialto Theater on Houston Street and then opens the Palace Theater on Alamo Plaza, San Antonio’s first “movie palace” and the forerunner of the Majestic, Aztec, and Texas theaters. His son, John Louis Santikos, continued and expanded the family business until his death in 2015. The Santikos Corporation now is a philanthropic foundation whose generosity is managed by the San Antonio Area Foundation.

1919 – The South Texas Building is completed at the N.E. corner of Houston and Navarro Streets. At twelve stories, it is deemed the tallest building in San Antonio. Today it continues its service as a hotel.
1919 – David Cantu Barkley, a private in the Army, is one of only three Texans awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic service during World War I.

1921 - San Antonio Savings and Loan opens for business by Walter W. Mc Allister Sr.

1921 - San Antonio historic flood kills 51 people and causes $5 million dollars in damages. The 7.38 inches officially recorded in San Antonio combined with amounts twice as heavy from higher ground to the north, sent a massive surge of water down the San Antonio River. Most of the deaths occurred along the San Pedro and Alazan creeks.

1922 – USAA, San Antonio’s first major corporation, is founded by 25 U.S. Army officers at the Gunter Hotel.

1922- Brooks Field becomes center for primary flight training in the Army.

1922 - First radio station (WJAR) broadcast but lasts only a few months. Second radio station (WCAR) broadcast from 324 N. Navarro Street later renamed KTSA. WOAI was third station to broadcast in San Antonio.

1922 - San Antonio Jewish Social Service Federation (now the Jewish Federation of San Antonio) is created to coordinate the many Jewish community groups.

1922 – The Travis Building, a ten story office structure, opens at 405 N. St Mary’s St.

1922 – The Robert E. Lee Hotel opens. This hotel is an upper level establishment, billing itself as "100% AIR-CONDITIONED". Built by the Travis Investment Company of Russell Hill, Harry Rogers and Wallace Rogers, the ten-story structure is one of several "skyscrapers" going up during this time. San Antonio building permits reached a record high in 1922.

1923 - Sister Columkille Colbert, the long-serving president of Incarnate Word College, is the first nun in Texas to receive a Ph.D. She receives it from Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

1924 – Rena Maverick Green and Emily Edwards organize the San Antonio Conservation Society. The Society is formed to preserve and to encourage the preservation of historic buildings, objects, places and customs relating to the history of Texas.

1924 - Scottish Rite Cathedral is dedicated. The 5½ story building at 308 Ave. E was built in the style of a classic revival temple and serves as a headquarters and meeting place for Scottish Rite Masonry in San Antonio and for the South Texas Region. The building also frequently serves as an event hall for performing arts and various cultural events. The building features notable architectural elements including Pompeo Coppini created gabled front portico, Corinthian columns, a terracotta frieze and elaborately sculpted bronze front doors featuring George Washington and Sam Houston. Coppini was a 32nd degree member of the San Antonio Consistory. In 1936, sculptor Coppini was one of the
honored guests who delivered an address at the November 15 dedication and installation of the doors. The Cathedral is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

1924 - Mattie T. Landry organizes the first Camp Fire Girls chapter in San Antonio. The Camp Fire Girls organization was created as the sister organization to the Boy Scouts of America in 1910. The organization changed its name in 1975 to Camp Fire Boys and Girls when membership eligibility was expanded to include boys. In 2001, the name Camp Fire USA was adopted and in 2012 it became Camp Fire.

1925 - Old City Market House on Market Street is torn down as part of the widening of Market Street. The building was built in 1859 and was one of the city’s few examples of Greek revival architecture. The city promised to preserve its façade for use in construction of the 700-seat San Pedro Playhouse, to be the home of the San Antonio Little Theater in San Pedro Springs Park. The stonework was found, however, to have been so roughly dismantled that it could not be reused. When the Playhouse opened in 1930, the city had the façade constructed in new stone to replicate that of the old Market.

1925 - The Olmos Dam and Reservoir is constructed after the record flood of September 1921 which extensively damaged the San Antonio business district. Construction on the dam starts in 1925 and is completed in 1926. The reservoir basin is normally empty, and the area is used for parks, playgrounds and a golf course, except when needed for floodwater storage. The drainage area above the dam is thirty-two square miles. The surrounding terrain is flat to gently rolling and is surfaced by clay loam soils that support mesquite, cacti, and grasses.

1925 June 1 - City Water Board forms after contract and rate disagreements marred the relationship between the City and the new local water entity. In 1924, the company demanded a rate increase and because an agreement could not be reached, the new rates were put into effect and the City was prohibited from interfering. This situation prompted the City to issue $7 million in revenue bonds so it could purchase the system outright. The utility became known as the City Water Board (CWB) and its management was placed under a Board of Trustees appointed by the City Council.

1925 Sept. - San Antonio College is established as University Junior College under the auspices of the University of Texas. The following year control of the college was transferred to the San Antonio Independent School District and the name was changed to San Antonio Junior College. The first offices were housed at 203 Romano Street on the northwest side of Main Avenue High School near Romano Plaza. The campus was moved in 1926 to the 400 block of South Alamo Street, once home to the German-English school.

1926 - Municipal Auditorium, designed by noted architect Atlee Ayers, is built as a memorial to American soldiers killed in World War I. For decades, it is the place for all
sorts of events, including boxing and wrestling matches, concerts, ice shows, political rallies, television broadcasts, the Ziegfeld Follies, graduations, fundraisers, operas and circuses. The auditorium, after extensive renovations re-opened in 2014 as the Tobin Center for Performing Arts.

1926 - The Witte Museum is established under the charter of The San Antonio Museum Association and is named after San Antonio businessperson Alfred G. Witte who bequeathed $65,000 to the city for construction of a museum of art, science, and natural history. The architect for the museum was Robert Ayres.

1926 – The Texas Cavaliers is founded by John B. Carrington. The Cavaliers consist of over 500 business, civic and community leaders who promote and preserve the bravery and independence for which the heroes of the Alamo died. Developed initially as a social group, the Texas Cavaliers’ original 19 members also promoted horsemanship in a day when automobiles were becoming abundant. Over time, what started as a social club developed into a charitable organization seeking to give back to the community and supporting those in need.

1926 – The Aztec Theater opens as a notable example of the impressive exotic-theme motion picture palaces constructed in the United States during the economic boom of the 1920s. Designed by San Antonians Robert Kelly and R.O. Koenig, the theater is housed in a six-story office building. The interior of the theater is embellished with fixtures, furnishings, relief carvings, sculpture, plaques, painted symbols and architectural elements inspired by the Aztec, Mixtec, Zapotec, Toltec, and Mayan cultures. In the 1970s, the Aztec was divided into a three-screen theater. The San Antonio Conservation Society purchased the Aztec in 1988 with nearly all of the original fabric intact, saving the building from possible demolition. The Society also purchased the assets of the theater and continued to operate the theater until 1989. In 1992, the Aztec was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the only surviving example of a Mayan Revival style theater in Texas, as well as one of the few examples of the style remaining in the nation. In August 1993, the Society sold the Aztec Building with preservation covenants. Baron Theodore Bracht purchased the building in 1998 and completed a $20 million restoration of the building in 2006. While no longer a movie theater the Aztec now serves as a performance venue.

1926 - The Medical Arts Building is constructed by Jim Nix on Alamo Plaza. Designed by architect Ralph Cameron, the thirteen-story tower is influenced by the Gothic revival style and features pieces of cast iron, unique ornamentation, and a copper roof with wood ribs. It holds an array of interesting gargoyles that line the building, each portraying a medical ailment. From 1926 to 1976, the building housed doctor’s offices and a hospital. In 1976 it was converted to an office complex and then in 1986 it was transformed into the Emily Morgan Hotel.

1926 - Work begins on a river by-pass channel by the City. Plans for flood control are published, including draining the river bend and making it a storm sewer with a street
built over it. The San Antonio Conservation Society makes a presentation at City Hall and takes Commissioners on canoe rides to show them the potential value of the river and to convince them to save it. It worked.

1926- The U.S. Army transfers the School of Aviation Medicine (SAM) to Brooks Field, where it remained for five years. It was then transferred to Randolph Field, now known as Randolph Air Force Base and then back to Brooks Field in 1959.

1927- First talking picture, “Don Juan” with John Barrymore, is shown at the Aztec Theater.

1927 Jan. 26 - Plaza Hotel, now known as the Granada Homes, opens. Designed by local architects Atlee B. Ayres and Robert M. Ayres and finished for a total cost of $2.5 million, the 12-story Plaza opened in two phases. The first phase opened Jan. 26, 1927 and the second on April 25, 1928. Many notables have stayed in the hotel. One most noteworthy were Lady Bird and Lyndon Johnson who spent their wedding night at the Plaza.

1927 - Dr. C. A. Whittier opens the first the Black Diagnostic and In-Patient Medical Center. Dr. Whittier is the first black to be admitted to the Bexar County and the American Medical Associations. He was a well-known civil rights activist.

1928 - Milam Building, the largest all-concrete structure in America (21 stories) and the first air-conditioned commercial building in the world, opens. The architect is George Willis, a student of Frank Lloyd Wright. It is constructed in Willis’ blend of modern technology and Gothic design and named after the Texas revolutionary hero, Ben Milam.

1928 - First Air Mail flight arrives at Winburn Field, now Stinson Field.

1928 – Chinese American School is established in San Antonio to teach Chinese children the Chinese language and culture.

1928 - San Antonio Zoological Society is organized.

1928 - Frost Bank on Main Plaza (Municipal Plaza Building) becomes the first air-conditioned bank in the U.S.

1929 - The Majestic Theater is designed and built by John Eberson for Karl Hoblitzele's Interstate Theatres. It stood proudly for many years as the largest theatre in Texas and the second largest motion picture theatre in the country. The Majestic remains one of the finest atmospheric theatres ever built. Inspired by Spanish Mission, Baroque, and Mediterranean architectural traditions, theatre patrons are transported to a fantasy villa. Walls become towers with windows of colorful glass. A rare white peacock perches on a balcony railing as doves are caught in mid-flight. Grapevines creep along the walls and luscious foliage flourishes. The vaulted "sky" comes to life as stars twinkle while drifting clouds pass by overhead. Balconies, tile roofs, arches, and columns, railings, elaborate
ornamentation, statues and a bell tower all aid in the transformation of the theatre into a mystical village. On December 31, 1974, changing entertainment habits forced the Majestic Theatre to close its doors "forever." The next year, the theatre was listed on the National Register of Historical Places and in 1976 was donated by the Hoblitzelle Interests to the newly formed Majestic Foundation. Las Casas Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and restoration of historic buildings for cultural use, ensured that the Majestic would continue to flourish. Las Casas raised $4.5 million to restore the 2,311-seat theatre. The theater was designated as a National Historic landmark in 1993. The theater serves as a venue for Broadway touring attractions, performing arts events and concerts of all types.

1929 June 28 - Young architect, Robert H. Hugman, presents his plan for “The Shops of Romula and Aragon” to Mayor Chambers, two City Commissioners, property owners and civic leaders. The proposal endorses the bypass channel and recommends floodgates at the north end, a small dam at the south end and a tainter gate in the channel to check the flow and create pools of water. The Depression prevents any construction other than the bypass channel that was begun in 1926.

1929 - The Mexican Chamber is organized by Don Enrique Santibañez, Consul General of Mexico in San Antonio, who becomes its first president. Given the deep historical and commercial ties and tensions between the U.S. and Mexico, the chamber’s primary emphasis in its early years is to promote trade, policy and cultural harmony. It was the first organization of its type in the United States. It is now known as the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

1929 - San Pedro Playhouse is opened as the San Antonio Little Theater in 1912, as part of the growing Little Theatre movement sweeping the nation. Now housed in the 1929 first city-owned, city-built theater in the U.S., the Playhouse holds a place of pride in San Antonio history. The Playhouse has produced hundreds of plays and reached an audience of millions, including residents and visitors from all over the world. Each year, The Playhouse’s staff, with the help of nearly 500 volunteers, produces a series of plays in its two theaters. The Russell Hill Rogers Theater is home to larger musicals while the Cellar Theater houses a variety of dramas, comedies, and experimental works. Both stages host original works by local playwrights as well as classic and recent Broadway hits. Each season, The Playhouse contracts hundreds of local artists, showcasing some of San Antonio’s greatest talents.

1929 June 1 - The Smith Young- Tower formally opens and is immediately a landmark and historic building in San Antonio. The building is eight-sided, neo-gothic brick, terracotta tower and complete with gargoyles, is designed by noted local architectural firm Ayres & Ayres. The tower rises 403 feet (123 meters) and has 31 floors.

1929 - Nix Professional Building is completed by developer Joseph Madison “J.M.” Nix and is now known as the Nix Medical Center at 414 Navarro St adjacent to the San Antonio River. The 23-story hospital at the time of its completion was the largest and
tallest hospital in the United States. It was also the only hospital with doctor’s offices, hospital beds, and a parking garage all in one building.

1929 - The Alamo National Bank Building is constructed on San Antonio’s historic Paseo del Rio, spanning one city block facing St. Mary’s Street. Using art deco ornamentation and the principles of the Beaux-Arts, the architecture firm of Graham, Anderson, Probst, and White designed the 24-story skyscraper and incorporated the Texas stars and southwest patterns. This architectural masterpiece has been a landmark in the San Antonio skyline since its construction. While undergoing renovation in 2005, the Alamo National Bank Building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2007, the Alamo National Bank building opened as the Drury Plaza Hotel San Antonio Riverwalk. Drury Hotels’ careful renovation preserved many of the unique period features in the lobby, like stained glass windows, bronze framework, marble walls and travertine flooring. The original chandeliers from its construction in 1929 have been refurbished and still hang today from the 50-foot ceilings in the main lobby.

1929 - The George Washington Carver Library and Auditorium is constructed (with additions in 1950 and 1986) as the "Colored Branch of the San Antonio Library and Auditorium." The building stands at the southeast corner of North Hackberry and Center Streets on San Antonio's near-east side. The facility was constructed on the site of the old Colored Recreation Center, opened in 1919 as a cooperative venture of War Camp Community Service and the Colored Library Association. The Recreation Center became a popular gathering place for soldiers returning from World War I and local residents who were denied access to other facilities. The City of San Antonio purchased the property in 1925 and opened a branch of the public library here. A 1928 bond issue provided funds to construct a new library and auditorium on the site. The building, designed by local architects Carl Von Seutter and Malcolm Simons, opened in 1930. Until desegregation, the library and auditorium remained a vital educational and social gathering place for the African American community. The auditorium was renowned for appearances by leading African American performers including Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, and Count Basie. Leading political and religious speakers also appeared here, and social clubs held dances, initiations, and meetings. After the library closed in 1973, the building was renovated as a performing arts and meeting facility, continuing its role as a venue for artistic programming and community discussion.

1929 - San Pedro Springs Park and Roosevelt Park Branch Libraries open. The San Pedro Branch remains open today, but the Roosevelt branch closed in 1968. It later served many years as the Fire and Police Pension Office and most recently has become a private home and design center.

1929 - The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the oldest and largest Latino civil rights organization in the U.S., is founded in Corpus Christi. Women’s auxiliaries are added in 1932.
1930 June 20 - Randolph Air Force Base, about fifteen miles northeast of San Antonio, is identified as the "West Point of the Air" when it was dedicated as a flying-training base. Though the base no longer goes by that phrase, the pilot-training mission has remained the essential mission at Randolph.

1930 July 14 - Sunken Garden Theater opens to the public at a former rock quarry site. Ray Lambert, Parks Commissioner since 1915, transformed the City’s old quarry into a civic attraction. On the northern portion of the site where the Cement Company’s kilns had been located, Lambert built a lushly landscaped lily pond that he named the Japanese Garden. To the south, City workers constructed the Texas Star Garden, an enormous designed landscape with patterns formed by rocks and flowers. Newspapers as early as 1926 refer to the area as "The Sunken Garden." The natural acoustic features of the quarry drew local performers to the site and in 1926 the Chaminade Choral Society gave a well-received performance in the Texas Star Garden. The Society's President, Mrs. Eli Hertzberg, urged that the area be considered for outdoor musical and other events too large for the Municipal Auditorium. The Hertzberg idea became a reality and construction of the theater was completed. The Sunken Garden Theater became a favorite venue for symphonic, jazz, dance, drama, and pop music performances. The Parks and Recreation Department’s Cultural Program assumed management of the theater in the early 1970s.

1930 – The new art deco styled San Antonio Public Library replaces the Carnegie Library building at the same location of S. Presa and Market Streets. The site is now occupied by the Briscoe Western Art Museum.

1930 - Work begins on the new Thomas Jefferson High School.

1930 April 10 - The African American newspaper “San Antonio Register” is established by Velmo Bellinger.

1931 – San Antonio Conservation Society completes the purchase of the Mission San José Granary and begins its restoration, the first step in a decades-long effort to conserve the buildings and lands of San Antonio’s five Franciscan Missions.

1931 - Spanish Governor’s palace, the residence and office of the Captain and Governor of San Antonio’s colonial period military presidio, is restored by the City of San Antonio after a campaign led by educator and civic activists Adina De Zavala. The building, one of this State’s oldest Spanish Colonial residences, now serves as a museum of that period.

1931 - Southwestern Bell Building opens. It was designed by architect Irving R. Timlin and reflects a blend of Chicago School skyscraper and Spanish Mission-style design. The 14-story, brick-clad skyscraper features elaborate ground floor window and door surrounds similar to Spanish Baroque ecclesiastical architecture and geometric designs of colored tile on the spandrels of the central bays.
1931- Fritos Corn Chips factory opens in San Antonio.

1931 - A federal Women's Bureau survey notes that in San Antonio, Mexican American women earn far less than Anglo working women. They work ten to 15 hours a day for as little as two to five cents an hour. Pecan shellers earned $2.65 a week compared with Anglo women's average wages of $4.15 per week.

1932 – Carolina Malpica Munguía hosts the San Antonio radio program “La Estrella”. With her husband José Romulo Munguía, she helps him establish the family printing business, Munguía Printers.

1932 – Jefferson High School is opened. The city’s third High School is like no other school in the entire country. The building itself, in Spanish-Moorish design, is built around two large patios and with a large silver doomed tower and a sub-tower. The roof is made of red Spanish tile and wrought iron balconies protrude from the windows. To preserve the unique heritage of the school, the Student Council of 1982-83 had the school declared a San Antonio Historical Landmark and on July 30, 1983 the Texas State Historical Society voted unanimously to declare the structure a state landmark as well. The Society also recommended to the Federal Department of the Interior that Jefferson be listed on the National Register of Historic Places and both the landscaping and architecture were approved on May 15, 1983.

1933 April 29 - San Antonio becomes the first major U.S. city to abandon streetcar service. The last streetcar ran on April 29, 1933 after 55 years of service. San Antonio has become the first major city to convert all its electric streetcars to gasoline driven buses.

1933 - Mexican American employees are approximately 90 percent of the Finck Cigar Company workers in San Antonio. The group of skilled minority women workers challenged the owner of a manufacturing plant on pay violations, unfair production quotas and unsanitary working conditions. These violations became the impetus for organizing a labor movement that was met with enthusiastic support by the low-income Mexican community concentrated on the west side of the city. Significantly, neither the movement nor the series of strikes at the Finck plant received the endorsement of city leaders and law enforcement agencies.

1934 - The LULAC Committee on Public School Buildings and Recreational Facilities issues a report on San Antonio schooling of Mexican American children, with a particular focus on the West Side. They discover that only 56% of school age Mexican American children are enrolled in public schools.

1936 - President Franklin D Roosevelt visits the City to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Alamo battle.
1936 – Two years after the first parking meters in the world were installed in Oklahoma City, San Antonio installs their meters.

1936 - St. Anthony Hotel is remodeled and becomes the first completely air-conditioned hotel in the world.

1936 - Texas Centennial is celebrated with a River Parade.

1936 - Pat Nixon is the first physician to write extensively on the history of medicine in Texas and helps establish the Bexar County Medical Library.

1937 May 5 - The 45th Legislature of Texas creates the San Antonio River Canal and Conservancy District, now known as the San Antonio River Authority. The members of original Board of Directors are all from Bexar County and they met for the first time on June 11, 1937. The focus of the newly created District is to plan a barge canal for commercial transportation of goods and materials by commercial barge between San Antonio and the Texas coast. The lack of feasibility for the canal project combined with a devastating flood in San Antonio in 1946 changed the emphasis of the District from navigation to flood control. A San Antonio River Watershed Study, completed in 1952, recommended the construction of approximately 85 dams throughout the basin.

1938 Jan. 31 - Pecan Sheller’s strike. Eight to ten thousand San Antonio pecan shellers, mostly Mexican American women, walk off their jobs. A three-month strike follows in which the pecan shellers confront both management and San Antonio politics. Emma Teneyuca, local labor organizer, is a primary leader in the strike. It is the largest labor walkout in Texas at this time.

1938 - Central Fire Station No. 1 is dedicated at 801 E. Houston. The WPA Project is now serving as the San Antonio Fire Museum.

1938 Nov. - Brooke Army General Hospital is completed. The new 418-bed hospital cost $3 million dollars. The hospital is the first in a series of moves which change Fort Sam Houston from an Infantry to a Medical Post.

1939 - Federal Courthouse and Post Office is dedicated on Alamo Plaza as a WPA project. A skillful example of Beaux-Arts classicism, the U.S. Post Office and Courthouse is indicative of the federal government's goal of expressing democratic ideals through classically derived architecture featuring grand scale, symmetry, and refined details. The six-story building encompasses an entire city block and is constructed of steel and concrete clad in rich local materials--Texas Pink granite and Texas Cream limestone. Architects Ralph Haywood Cameron designed the building in association with renowned Philadelphia architect Paul Philippe Cret under the direction of the Office of the Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury Department.
1939 - Artist Howard Cook finishes a two-year $12,000.00 AWPA mural project “The Importance of San Antonio in Texas History” in the foyer of the new Post Office.

1939 - City of Terrell Hills and Olmos Park are incorporated.

1939 – The Symphony Society is founded. The 1880s brought San Antonio’s earliest symphonic concerts, but no formal orchestra was formed at first. The San Antonio Symphony was founded by conductor Max Reiter, a native of Trieste, Italy, who brought with him to America a background in symphonic and operatic repertoire.

1939 Oct. 12 - La Villita is restored and is owned by the City and operated as a craft and recreational center. The National Youth Administration participated in the two-year restoration, during which 1,800 youths were trained in arts and crafts. San Antonio local architect O’Neil Ford and others contributed to the project.

1939 Oct. 25 - Riverwalk beautification project begins with Robert Hugman as the architect.

1939 - Henry Guerra, known as the "Voice of San Antonio" broke ethnic barriers in radio and television as a Mexican American broadcaster for more than half a century in San Antonio. Henry Guerra was the first Mexican American radio announcer to use his Spanish surname on WOAI, a major English-only radio station. Ten years later, he is the first Mexican American television announcer in the city. We remember Henry with his trademark sign-off, "Good night, y muy buenas noches."

1940 – Construction begins on the Alazan and Victoria Courts, the first low cost housing projects sponsored by the Federal Government.

1940 - San Antonio’s first outdoor theater named the Drive-in Theater is established at 3602 Fredericksburg Road, which moves to another location on the same street and lasted until 1984.

1940 Sept. 20 – WPA project Alamo Stadium is finished and dedicated at a cost of $470,000 by the San Antonio Independent School District.

1940 May 13 - The Los Angeles Heights suburb is annexed into the City and is the first suburb to increase the historic corporate city limits area of 36 square miles.

1940 Nov. 11 - Cenotaph monument commemorating Alamo Heroes 100th (1836) anniversary is dedicated today on Armistice Day (Veterans Day) of World War I.

1941 Jan. 22 – Citizens of San Antonio approve a bond issue to purchase lands north of the City for a new municipal airport.

1941 May 8 - Mission San José is named a National Historic Site and placed under the supervision of the National Park Service.
1941 - Lackland Army Air Base is established as part of Kelly Field.

1941 – The Texas Cavaliers sponsor their first night parade on the downtown San Antonio River after the Works Progress Administration completed improvements to the San Antonio River.

1941 Dec. 7 - The United States enters World War II with the bombing today of Pearl Harbor in Honolulu, Hawaii. By the end of the war, 405,399 American soldiers had lost their lives.

1941 Dec. 8 – The San Antonio Chamber of Commerce invites Trinity University to move to San Antonio from Waco. The new campus merges with the University of San Antonio and in 1945 builds a new campus on an old rock quarry on Stadium Drive. O’Neil Ford is one of the main architects of the new campus.

1941 Dec. 10 – Axis nationals deemed “enemy aliens” by the FBI are sent to Fort Sam Houston for temporary detention as prisoners of war.

1941 Dec. 20 – Tom Slick establishes The Foundation of Applied Research later to be named Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research.

1942 July 4 - The U.S. War Department separates the part of Kelly Field lying west of Leon Creek and makes it an independent installation naming it the San Antonio Aviation Cadet Center and the first class of 1,906 cadets begins training.

1942 – Mrs. Marion K. McNay gifts her estate to be used as art school and to be under the direction of the San Antonio Art League.

1942 - City Public Service Board and Transit Company are organized.

1943 – H.B. Zachry Co. purchases the Tower Life Building from the San Antonio Transit Company.

1943 – A trial blackout is begun where every light in the City is extinguished lasting about half an hour.

1943 – For the first time, several of San Antonio’s downtown streets are designated as one-way streets.

1943 – The last remaining “Chili Queen” stands are shut down by the City of San Antonio.

1943 Jan. 13 – The patriarchs of the Cortez family and owners of the Mi Tierra Restaurant, Pedro Cortez and Cruz Ilanes are married in San Antonio.

1944 – Victory vegetable gardens are planted by citizens of San Antonio in back yards and vacant lots throughout the City.
1944 – Gasoline and tires are rationed and “share the ride” becomes every Citizen’s duty.

1944 June 17 – Carmen and William Bordelon Sr. attend a ceremony at Alamo Stadium where their son, Marine Staff Sergeant William J. Bordelon posthumously receives the nation’s highest award for combat valor, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

1945 May 8 – Today is designated V.E. day with the Allied Army’s victory in Europe. A downtown parade and a huge banquet reception is given for veterans returning from Europe.

1945 Aug. 6 - The atomic bomb is dropped on Hiroshima ushering in the Atomic Age as well as bringing a rapid close to WW II after the second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki.

1945 - Aug. 15 – Tremendous crowds gather on downtown streets to celebrate United State’s victory over Japan.

1945- Sept. 2 – Today the treaty is signed which officially ends the U.S. war with Japan, VJ Day. A total of 750,000 Texans served in the armed forces including 12,000 women. Of that number 22,022 Texans are killed in battle or died of their wounds.

1946 – Tom Slick Airways is organized to provide the first commercial air freight line out of San Antonio.

1946 – San Antonio Catering Queen, Rosemary Kowalski and her husband Henry, open a Bar-B-Que restaurant on N. Zarzamora.

1946 – World re-known violinist Isaac Stern performs with the San Antonio Symphony at Municipal Auditorium.

1946 - Casa Rio is the first restaurant to open on the Riverwalk.

1946 - Raoul Cortez founds KCOR-AM in San Antonio, the first full-time Spanish language radio station in the United States.

1946 – WW II makes San Antonio an outstanding military center and shuts down all construction and other city activities for almost five years.

1947 - Robert Luby establishes the Luby’s Cafeterias.

1947 - LULAC selects Joe Ortiz as the first “Rey Feo” for Fiesta.

1947 April 18 – A new baseball park and grandstand “Mission Stadium” is built near Mission Concepcion and the opening game of the Texas League season is played.
1947 July 1 – The San Antonio Aviation Cadet Center is re-designated as a major personnel distribution center and is renamed Lackland Air Force Base after Gen. Frank D. Lackland.

1947 Oct. 19 – Ground is broken for construction of the new Incarnate Word High School and Community College to cost approximately $1,000,000 on Hildebrand Ave. near Brackenridge Park.

1948 Mar. 27 – Baptist Memorial Hospital takes over ownership of old Physicians’ & Surgeons’ Medical & Surgical Hospital.

1948 – Reynolds Andricks recommends that a new night parade be added during Fiesta Week. It becomes known as the Fiesta Flambeau Night Parade.

1948 – The San Antonio Charro Association, established in 1925, is reorganized and increases membership and takes active part in City’s parades.

1948 April – The San Antonio Conservation Society holds first annual “A Night in Old San Antonio” during Fiesta Week to help raise funds necessary for its many preservation activities.

1948 – Local attorney Gus Garcia serves as lead attorney in Delgado vs. Bastrop I.S.D. in which a Texas school district is found guilty of illegal discrimination by segregating Mexican American children.

1949 Oct. 19 – The new Bexar County Coliseum opens and later is renamed the Joe and Harry Freeman Coliseum for their two prime interests: youth and the agricultural and livestock industries.

1949 Mar. 09 – The Alameda Theater on W. Houston opens to the public. It is one of the last grand movie palaces built in America. When it opened, the Alameda Theater was the largest movie palace ever dedicated to Spanish language films & the performing arts. Singing cowboy Gene Autry was a surprise guest at the opening and he sang a popular ballad in Spanish.

1949 – July - First City expressway is opened from Fredericksburg road to Culebra (0.712 miles).

1949 Dec. 11 – WOAI TV-4 is San Antonio’s first local television station. Mayor Jack White proclaims this day as “T Day.”

1949 - San Antonio Municipal Airport opens.

1950 June 25 - The United Nations, with assistance from the United States, comes to the aid of South Korea. China, with assistance from the Soviet Union comes to the aid of North Korea. The war arose from the division of Korea at the end of World War II and
from the global tensions of the Cold War that developed immediately afterwards. By
the end of the Korean Conflict, 36,516 American soldiers had lost their lives.

1950 - First San Antonio Livestock Exposition is held in the new coliseum. An estimated
200,000 citizens attend the livestock show and half that number the rodeo.

1950 - Director John Ford’s movie “Rio Grande” starring John Wayne and Maureen
O’Hara has its world premiere at the Majestic Theater. Festivities include the stars
laying a wreath at the Alamo.

1950 - Channel 5 signs on as KEYL TV. Today it is known as KENS TV.

1952- San Antonio City Council passes a city annexation ordinance doubling the city’s
area to 155 square miles, becoming Texas’ second largest city with a population of
440,442.

1952 – H.B. Zachry Co. moves its corporate headquarters from Laredo to San Antonio.

1953 - Henry B Gonzales is elected to City Council.

1953 – Pan-American Golf Association member Tony Holguin defeats Doug Ford and
Julius Boros to win the 1953 Texas Open at Brackenridge golf course.

1953 July 27 - The Korean War ends; 289, 000 Texans served during the war.

1954 - San Antonio I.S.D. is one of the first school districts to desegregate following the
U.S. Supreme Court decision in Brown v. Board of Education.

1954 April – Archbishop of San Antonio Robert E. Lucy, requires that all Catholic schools
must integrate.

1954 May - The U.S. Immigration Service begins “Operation Wetback,” a five-year
program to deal with illegal border crossing and illegal aliens extending their allotted
stay time. This after the practice of the “Bracero Program” had ended.

1954 - Bexar County is one of ten sites in Texas selected for the polio vaccine trials that
hopes to wipe out infantile paralysis. Every second grader is to get three shots over a
five-year period to complete the vaccination. The trial is a success and the next year,
the polio vaccine developed by Jonas Salk is declared safe.

1954 - A Texas constitutional amendment ends discrimination against women on jury
lists. Bexar County Sheriff Owen Kilday scrambles to find money to hire at least two
women bailiffs to cope with the new law.

1954 - San Antonio replaces Commissioners with a City-Manager form of government
which is still in use today.
1954 – July 11 - Pedro Hernandez, a Mexican American agricultural worker, was convicted for the 1950 murder of Joe Espinosa. Hernandez's legal team from San Antonio included Gustavo C. Garcia and Carlos Cadena wanted to challenge what they knew was "the systematic exclusion of persons of Mexican origin from all types of jury duty in at least seventy counties in Texas. They appealed Hernandez's conviction because Mexican Americans were systematically excluded from the grand jury and jury. Hernandez' defense lawyers demonstrated that, although numerous Mexican Americans were citizens and had otherwise qualified for jury duty in Jackson County during the previous 25 years, no Mexican Americans (precisely no one with a Hispanic surname) were among the 6,000 persons chosen to serve on juries. Hernandez and his lawyers successfully appealed to the Texas Supreme Court. They then appealed to the United States Supreme Court. Chief Justice Earl Warren and the Supreme Court unanimously ruled in favor of Hernandez and required he be retried and by a jury composed without discrimination against Mexican Americans.

1955 – The San Antonio I.S.D. fully integrates all of its public schools including Phyllis Wheatley High, it’s all black east side high school. Some of Wheatley High School’s prominent athletic alumni include John “Mules” Miles, Cliff Johnson, Willie Mitchell and sprinter Clyde Glosson.

1955 - KCOR-TV (later KWEX) premieres in San Antonio, becoming the first full-time Spanish-language television station in the U.S.

1955 - Preservation begins on the walls of Mission Espada.

1955 Nov. 1 - The United States begins sending Military Assistance Advisory Groups to Vietnam (MAAG-V). U.S. involvement in Vietnam started slowly with an initial deployment of advisors in the early 1950s, grew incrementally through the early 1960s and expanded with the deployment of full combat units in July 1965.

1955 Dec. 16 – Re-known faux bois artist Dionicio Rodriguez passes away in San Antonio at the age of 64.

1956 - Henry B. Gonzales is elected to the Texas State Senate. He represented Bexar County’s District 26 from 1957 to 1964. He became Texas’ first Mexican American State Senator since 1846. He also made history for a record-setting filibuster, talking on his feet for 22 hours helping derail several proposals he viewed as discriminatory.

1957 - Mando & the Chili Peppers, pioneers of Tejano rhythm and blues in San Antonio, is the first Mexican American band to appear on the television program Bandstand.

1957 - Channel 12 signs on as KONO-TV. Today it is known as KSAT. Its trademark was its 10 p.m. newscast known as “12 Star Final.”
1958 - San Antonio’s newest skyscraper, the 20 story $8 million National Bank of Commerce opens at Soledad, Martin, and Pecan Streets.

1958 - The first ever space cabin simulation is performed at Randolph when Airman Donald Ferrell spent seven days of a mock mission to the moon in a 3x5 foot metal cabin. U.S. Senate Majority Leader Lyndon B. Johnson along with Dr. Hubertus Strughold, “Father” of the School’s Dept of Space Medicine congratulated him when he emerged from the environmental space chamber at the School of Aviation Medicine.

1959 - School of Aviation Medicine is constructed at Brooks AFB. The center completed some research projects for NASA including work with rhesus monkeys setting the stage for America’s first manned spaceflight.

1959 - The city purchases the San Antonio Transit Co and officially begins operating the bus transportation business under the name San Antonio Transit System.

1960 March 16 - San Antonio becomes the first southern city to begin voluntarily integrating its small restaurants and cafeterias. Demonstrations were set to begin on March 17, 1960, but on March 16th four blacks were served in a previously segregated restaurant so lunch counter demonstrations were cancelled.

1960 - City’s first mall “Wonderland” opens with the world’s largest ribbon cutting and with the world’s largest shears. Later, the name is changed to the Crossroads Shopping Center and today is called “Wonderland of the America’s.”


1961 - Voters approve a bond election to build the North Expressway; protracted legal battle ensues. It eventually opened as McAllister Freeway in 1978.

1962 March 28 - City Council ordinance establishes a River Walk District and a seven member Riverwalk Advisory Commission.

1962 - City Traffic engineers report that San Antonio has the country’s second largest urban highway network, second only to Los Angeles. More than 180 miles of highway have been built in Bexar County since 1950 including Loop 410 (formerly Loop 13) and Loop 1604.

1963 Nov 21 - President John F. Kennedy visits San Antonio, the first sitting President since Harry Truman in 1948 to do so and dedicates Aerospace Medicine Facility at Brooks AFB before a crowd of 10,000. He was assassinated in Dallas the next day.
1963 Nov. 22- Following the assassination of President Kennedy in Dallas, Texas Vice-President, Lyndon B. Johnson is sworn in as President. During his years in office LBJ frequently flies into San Antonio on his way to his ranch in Stonewall, Texas. Under his tenure, the Vietnam War escalates. He served five years, one term plus one year of President Kennedy’s term. His Presidential Library is located at the University of Texas at Austin.

1963 - Sunny and the Sunliners perform their Top Ten hit “Talk to Me” on Dick Clark’s American Bandstand, becoming the first Mexican American band to appear nationally on television.

1963 - Lila Cockrell is elected to San Antonio’s City Council. The ballot listed her as Mrs. S. E. Cockrell, Jr. She had moved to San Antonio from Dallas in 1956. She was elected to five terms as a council member: 1963-1965, 1965-1967, 1967-1969, 1969-1970 (left term early for an extended trip with her mother) and 1973-1975.

1965 - The San Antonio Conservation Society purchases part of the Old Ursuline Convent (1850) slated for demolition. The Society’s Foundation provided matching funds that leveraged the first federal restoration grant from the Economic Development Administration.

1965 - Martha Buchanan breaks ground in San Antonio as the first prime-time female anchor in Texas in WOAI’s weekday 6 p.m. broadcast. She also broke ground by staying on as a pregnant anchor and set a positive example for women.

1965 April 9 – Rev. S.H. James, pastor of 2nd Baptist Church, is the first African American to be elected to the City Council. Rev. James ran on the Good Government League ticket and defeated three other candidates in the race.

1966 - San Antonio Fire Department hires first African American firefighter, Lutrell Sutton, since the volunteer African American Fire Companies No. 3 and No. 4 were disbanded in 1888.

1966 Oct. - Harp & Shamrock Society is established in San Antonio by Dr. Sean Burke, Joseph B. McShane and Patrick J. Dowd.

1968 April 6 - “HemisFair 1968” opens on April 6th and closes on October 6th, 1968. The event was held on 92 acres east of downtown and was designed to be a mini-city with a monorail, canals, elevated walkways and a Swiss sky ride. The Tower of the Americas was built and gave visitors a panoramic view of both the fair below and of the City. More than 20 countries participated in “HemisFair” which attracted six million visitors, brought San Antonio international recognition and launched this City’s modern tourism industry.
1968 - The Hilton Palacio Del Rio Hotel opens. It is the first new downtown hotel in thirty years. H.B. Zachary Company constructed the hotel in 202 days using modern offsite precast concrete rooms that were shipped to site and raised individually one by one by cranes.

1968 - Edgewood Student Walkout. 400 students walk out in protest demanding the removal of the Superintendent who was accused of indifference to students’ conditions. The students were demanding better facilities and having college prep courses, in addition to vocational courses. By summer’s end, the school was refurbished and college prep courses were started. Students were no longer punished for speaking Spanish.

1968 – A new Main Library at a new location at 203 S. St. Mary’s Street replaces both the original Carnegie Library from 1903 and the re-built Art Deco structure Main Library from 1930. Voters had approved a $1.75 million bond issue for this new main library and four branch sites. Today there are 27 branch libraries and one under construction.

1968 - The Vietnam Veterans Memorial located on Auditorium Circle pays tribute to the South Texans killed in the war. Artist Austin Deuel created the bronze sculpture from his memories of the war.

1968 – U.T. Health Science Center opens as the key anchor in the future South Texas Medical Center. Biosciences are now one of San Antonio’s top industries.

1968 - TESORO is founded as a company primarily engaged in petroleum exploration and production. In 1969, the first refinery is established in Kenai, Alaska. TESORO Corporation is one of the largest independent petroleum refiners and marketers in the country.

1968 September - The U.T. Medical School at San Antonio opens its doors and begins accepting students and graduates its first class in 1970. The Bexar County Teaching Hospital began admitting patients in November. The UT School of Nursing and UT School of Dentistry soon followed. Today, the Medical School is known as the University of Texas Health Science Center. The Medical Center becomes a major employer in the area.

1968 – A chapter of the Student Non-Violent Coordination Committee (SNCC) is organized at San Antonio College.

1969 – The Hertzberg Circus Museum opens at the old Carnegie Library site on the corner of Market St. and S. Presa. The collection is one of the largest and most impressive collections of circus art and artifacts in the world. In his will Harry Hertzberg indicated that the Witte Museum would receive the collection should the City of San Antonio be unable to retain the collection. It was transferred to the Witte Museum in 2003. Today the building houses the Briscoe Western Art Museum.
1969 - The first St. Patrick’s River Parade is started by the Harp & Shamrock Society.

1969 – A Black Student Union is established at San Antonio College by SNCC activists.

1969 - Medical Center complex begins development composed of the U.T. Health Science Center, V.A. Hospital and many other health care teaching, research and clinical care facilities. This becomes a major employer in the area.

1969 June - The Texas Legislature establishes a University of Texas campus in San Antonio. The U.T. Board of Regents accepts 600 acres near the I.H. 10 and Loop 1604 and construction begins in May 1972. First students enroll and take classes at the Koger Center in September 1973 and first commencement is in August 1974. Classes open at the main UTSA campus in 1975.

1970 – The University of Texas Health Science Center of San Antonio graduates its first class.

1970 - Patrick Flores becomes the first Mexican American bishop in the Roman Catholic Church. The son of migrant farm workers, he is known for his commitment to the Latino community, co-founding PADRES (Padres Asociados para Derechos Religiosos, Educativos, y Sociales or Priests Associated for Religious, Education, and Social Rights), the Mexican-American Cultural Center in San Antonio, and the National Hispanic Scholarship Fund. He also served as chairman of the Texas State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and participated in grape and lettuce boycotts. He was named Archbishop of San Antonio in 1979.

1970 - San Antonio Savings boycott lead by Mexican American women over Mayor W.W. McAllister’s (President of SASA) disparaging remarks of the Hispanic community of San Antonio in a CBS nationally televised documentary “Hunger in America.”

1971 - The first Queen of Soul to ride in the Battle of Flowers Parade is Libby Barksdale. The first pageant sponsored by Queen of Soul Inc. was in 1969. The primary purpose of the Organization is to provide scholarship programs that emphasize the importance of education and motivate young women to attain their academic goals. It also enhances representation for the African American community in the city of San Antonio’s annual Fiesta celebration and other civic activities.

1971 - The old Ursuline Academy in San Antonio is named a Texas Historic Landmark.

1972 - The Headquarters of the Fifth Army moves from Fort Sheridan, Illinois to the Quadrangle at Fort Sam Houston. Fifth Army replaced the Fourth Army which had been in the Quadrangle since 1944. With this move, Fifth Army’s area included the central third of the continental United States.

1972 - The Texas Folklife Festival is held for the first time on the grounds of the Institute of Texan Cultures.
1973 - Former President Lyndon B. Johnson dies of a heart attack in San Antonio.

1973 Aug. 15 - Direct U.S. military involvement in the Viet Nam War ends on this day. The capture of Saigon by the North Vietnamese Army in April 1975 marked the end of the War and North and South Vietnam are reunified as one country the following year. By the end of the War, 58,209 American soldiers had lost their lives. It was reported that 291 soldiers from San Antonio were killed in action.

1973 - San Antonio Spurs begin their first season as members of the A.B.A. Basketball League playing their games at the Hemisfair Arena. The team is leased from Dallas (Dallas Chaparrals).

1974 - Willie Velasquez founds the first major Latino voter registration organization, the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project, registering more than two million Latino voters in the first 20 years. He was posthumously honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1995.

1974 Mar. 1- The San Antonio Fire Department’s Emergency Medical Service is established.

1974 – San Antonio Spurs acquire George Gervin from the ABA Virginia Squires. Gervin goes on to win 4 NBA scoring titles and appeared in 9 NBA All-Star games.

1974 – UTSA is established and moves to its present campus in 1975.

1974 - The State legislature passes the Bilingual Education and Training Act, mandating bilingual instruction in public elementary schools in which twenty or more students have limited English skills.

1974 - Communities Organized for Public Service (COPS) forms the first IAF (Industrial Areas Foundation) organization in San Antonio and the first in the Southwest Network. It was created to improve the quality of life of Mexican Americans.

1974 - San Antonio votes to change the City Charter to elect the Mayor at-large.

1974 - The Lady Bird Johnson Fountain is dedicated between the Alamo and the Menger and Crockett hotels.

1975 - San Antonio’s elects the first female Mayor, Lila Cockrell. She had served 5 terms as a City Council member from 1963 to 1970, then 1973 to 1975. She served as Mayor from 1975 to 1981, then again elected to serve as Mayor from 1989 to 1991.

1975 - The Majestic Theater closes as a cinema after 45 years of operation in downtown San Antonio.
1975 April - The last U.S. personnel are evacuated from Vietnam. The exact number of those from Texas that served in the Vietnam War is not known but 3,415 Texans were killed during the war, their names are on the Texas Vietnam Memorial in Austin.

1975 - The University of Texas at San Antonio enrolls almost 5,000 students in its first undergraduate class.

1976 - San Antonio Shoe Factory (SAS) is established as an American shoe manufacturer founded in San Antonio. The company specializes in handcrafted men's shoes, women's shoes, and handbags.

1976 July 29 - Windsor Park Mall opens and is San Antonio's sixth mall. Located on the northeast side of the city, it closed its doors in 2005. In 2007, the building’s ownership was transferred to the suburb of Windcrest. Rackspace, a webhosting company purchased the mall and based its operations there.

1976 - The Menger Hotel is added to the National Register of Historical places.

1976 - San Antonio Spurs join N.B.A.

1976 April 10 - President Gerald Ford visits city. He was given a tour of the Alamo at a reception held for him by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. While there, he noticed “a plate of tamales took one and began to eat it, shuck and all.” A vigilant DRT member stopped him “before it was too late.”

1976 March 5 - Armed Forces Bicentennial Caravan takes part in the 250th celebration.

1976 - San Antonio dedicates $450,000 for Alamo Plaza renovation as a bicentennial gift to the nation.

1977 – The City Charter is amended to create single member voting districts after a referendum vote by the public. This ends Council at-large positions except for the Mayor.

1977 – Anti-Apartheid activists prepare a resolution urging San Antonio citizens not to buy Krugerrand coins. Councilman Claude Black submits this resolution to the San Antonio City Council and it passes by a majority vote.

1978 - McAllister Freeway is opened following a protracted legal battle. (North Expressway election approved in 1961)

1978 – San Antonio Conservation Society plays a critical role in the creation of the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park.

1978 - City passes ordinance creating VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority, the public transport system for San Antonio.
1979 May 29 - Judge John H Woods, a US District Judge of the US District Courts for the Western District of Texas, is assassinated by Charles Harrison outside Wood's home (Chateau Dijon) in San Antonio. Judge Wood’s killing was the first assassination of a federal judge in the 20th century.

1979 - San Antonio Fire Department hires, Diana Chapa and Bodeil Wiggins, as first SAFD women firefighters.

1979 - The 52-year-old Municipal Auditorium is gutted by fire. The cause is attributed to a discarded cigarette.

1980 May 31 - The San Antonio Botanical Center opens with city bond, local and federal grant funding. Mrs. R. R. Witt and Mrs. Joseph Murphy conceived the idea of a Botanical Garden in San Antonio.

1981 - Henry Cisneros is elected first Hispanic mayor in modern history. No Hispanic has held the Office of Mayor since Juan Seguin, 140 years ago, who resigned in April 1842.

1981 - María Berriozabal is elected to San Antonio City Council, becoming the first Mexican American woman to win such a position in the city. She serves on city council for ten years.

1981 - First Holiday River parade is held to celebrate the lighting of the river.

1981 March - San Antonio Museum of Art opens in a re-purposed Lone Star Brewery after a $7.2 million adaptive renovation.

1983 - Site of the Palo Alto College campus is selected.

1984 - President Reagan visits city

1984 - Chinese Sunken Gardens is renamed Japanese Tea Gardens after name was changed during WW II.

1984 - The Edgewood School district files a lawsuit against the state’s Commissioner of Education. As a result of Edgewood vs. Kirby, property rich districts are required to pay a portion of their taxes to the state for redistribution to poorer school districts.

1985 January 12 - Heaviest snowfall of 13.9 inches is recorded in San Antonio’s history.

1985 - Fairmount Hotel is moved six blocks and holds World Record of largest building moved on pneumatic tires.

1985 – The Republic Bank Building with Texas Theater façade opens after a series of court battles and protests from the San Antonio Conservation Society. The facade was saved, but many felt the final solution was a poor compromise that served neither
party's interests. The loss of the movie house has been intensified now that the other downtown theaters have been renovated. The Republic Bank is now defunct.

1985 Nov. 28 - Karen Teresa Daidone is believed to be the first test tube baby born in San Antonio.

1986 - Texas celebrates its Sesquicentennial, including San Antonio.

1986 June 27 - Blue Star Art Complex is opened. The old cold storage warehouse was purchased and developed by Hap Veltman and Bernard Lifshutz. The complex now hosts studios, galleries apartments, and eateries.

1987 - Pope John Paul II visits San Antonio. Little Flower Catholic Church is designated a Basilica by Papal decree.

1987 - The Spurs use their No. 1 NBA draft pick to select Naval Academy Midshipman David Robinson.

1987 Jan. - Palo Alto College campus opens. The culmination of a struggle that first was voiced at the 1974 convention of Communities Organized for Public Service (COPS) when Fernando Rodriguez Jr. introduced a resolution to work toward obtaining a community college for the West Side or South Side of San Antonio.

1988 - Sea World of Texas opens.

1988 - River Center Mall opens

1988 - Texan George H.W. Bush is elected the 41st President of the United States. He served one term. His Presidential Library is located at Texas A&M University at College Station.

1988 - Patricia Calderon becomes the first female police officer to be killed in the line of duty in San Antonio.

1990 - Following the closing of the Levi-Strauss factory in San Antonio, Mexican American women who are laid off, organize La Fuerza Unida, a group committed to improving the conditions of laborers worldwide.

1990 - Interstate 10 is double decked to serve heavier traffic in the Alamo city.

1990 - Nine crew members of Kelly's 433rd Military Airlift Wing die in a C-5 crash in Germany while aiding in Operation Desert Shield.

1990 - San Antonian Dan Morales is the first Hispanic elected as Texas Attorney General.
1991 Sept. - UTSA downtown campus dedicated. The campus offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs in the College of Architecture, Construction and Planning, the College of Public Policy and the College of Education and Human Development.

1992 - San Antonio resident Rose Spector becomes the first woman elected to the Texas Supreme Court.

1992 - Fiesta Texas opens in an old rock quarry near Loop 1604 and IH 10W.

1992 - Southwestern Bell announces it will move its headquarters to San Antonio.

1992 - NAFTA agreement ceremony is held at Plaza Hotel’s German School Patio with President George H. Bush, Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gotari and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney attending. NAFTA went into effect in 1994.

1993 - “San Antonio Light” newspaper goes out of business.

1993 - President Bill Clinton names Henry Cisneros as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, making him one of the first Latinos to hold the position.

1993 July - Olympic festival is held in San Antonio.

1994 - President Clinton designates San Antonio as the home of the North American Development Bank.

1994 - Henry B. Gonzalez is awarded the “Profile in Courage Award” from the John F. Kennedy Library.

1994 - Nelson W. Wolff Municipal Baseball Stadium is opened.

1995 - Central Library is opened at 600 Soledad with both colors reflecting Mexico and the architectural style of world-renowned architect Ricardo Legorreta.

1995 - BRAC announces the closure of Kelly AFB to be completed by 2001. Approximately 19,000 jobs lost.

1995 - Linda Chávez-Thompson, of San Antonio, is elected Executive Vice President of the National AFL-CIO, the first Mexican American elected to an executive office of the union and the highest-ranking woman in organized labor.

1996 - NBA All-Star weekend in San Antonio,

1996 - Completion of flood tunnels designed to work with Olmos Dam Floodwater Detention to protect downtown San Antonio from damage. The project includes an inlet facility located at St. Josephine Street and the San Antonio River, a 24-foot...
diameter tunnel, and an outlet site at Lone Star Boulevard. The other tunnel inlet is at San Pedro Creek at Quincy with an outlet in the 100 block of Guadalupe St.

1996 - San Antonio suffers through the worst drought since a seven-year drought in the 1950s.

1996 – Historic Hotel Robert E. Lee becomes a residential apartment complex.

1997 - Billy Graham brings his crusade to San Antonio drawing nearly 250,000 people in four days.

1998 - NCAA Men’s Final Four basketball finals are held at Alamodome.


2000 Sept. 5 – San Antonio records its hottest day on record, 111 degrees.

2000 Nov. - Texan George W. Bush is elected President after a fierce contested election in Florida resulting in the Supreme Court declaring that he won the state and the Presidency. George W. Bush served two terms. His Presidential Library is located at Southern Methodist University (SMU) in Dallas.

2001 - Hertzberg Circus Museum closes at old Carnegie library and the collection is moved to the Witte to be displayed on a rotating basis of special exhibits.

2001 - President and Mrs. George W. Bush attend the dedication of the restored gristmill at Mission San Jose.

2001 - San Antonio siblings Santiago Jimenez, Jr. and Leonardo “Flaco” Jimenez receive the Texas Medal of the Arts for their contributions to Texas music.

2001 Sept. 11 - All the citizens of San Antonio are saddened by the death and destruction caused by a terrorist attack on U.S. soil which kills 2,977 American citizens. This is the beginning of the international war on terrorism.

2001 Oct. 7 – On this day, the U.S. launches “Operation Enduring Freedom” in its quest to dismantle al-Qaeda in Afghanistan and to remove the Taliban from power. In this war, 4, 497 American soldiers lost their lives.

2002 - NCAA Women’s Final Four Basketball finals are held at Alamodome.

2002 - SBC Arena opens, currently named AT&T Center.
2002 July 22 - Brooks AFB becomes Brooks City Base when the property is conveyed to the Brooks Development Authority as part of a unique project between local, state, and federal government.

2003 - San Fernando Cathedral restoration is completed.


2004 - NCAA Men’s Final Four Basketball finals are held at Alamodome.

2004 Oct. - The first annual Founders Day is celebrated at San Pedro Springs Park.

2005 June 23 - San Antonio Spurs win third NBA Championship by defeating Detroit Pistons.

2006 Nov 16 - The first Toyota Tundra truck rolls off the assembly line. The following day the production line starts.

2007 June 13 - San Antonio Spurs win fourth NBA Championship by defeating the Cleveland Cavaliers by a score of 83 to 82.

2008 - NCAA Men’s Final Four basketball finals are held at Alamodome.

2008 Mar. - The Convention Center Hotel “Grand Hyatt” opens.

2008 Sept. - The San Antonio Conservation Society invites community leaders interested in Brackenridge Park to work with the Society and the City in forming a conservancy. The “Brackenridge Park Conservancy” incorporates to act as a steward and an advocate to preserve and enhance the Park’s resources.

2008 Nov. 4 - Voters approve term limits for City Council representatives and Mayor to four, two-year terms in office.

2008 - AT&T moves their national office to Dallas. Work completed on Main Plaza renovation.

2008 April - Work is completed on the Main Plaza renovation.

2009 May 23 – Texas A & M University of San Antonio opens.

2009 May 30 - $72 million overhaul of the Riverwalk “Museum Reach” opens and doubles the size of the San Antonio River Walk. The new section transformed the dry weed-choked eyesore north of the River Walk into a 1½-mile manicured waterway with whimsical art, benches and fountains that can be passed on foot or by water taxi. River
boats/barges use a lock system below the Brooklyn street bridge where the river rises another 10 feet.

2010 - Haven for Hope opens its new 37-acre campus and begins accepting homeless residents. The dorms house thousands of homeless men, women and children who receive nutritious meals and mental health services. The program aims to rehabilitate the homeless and prepare them to move on to find employment and stable housing.

2010 March 31 – The world’s largest J.W. Marriott opened to the public with 1,002 guest rooms and two PGA golf courses.

2011 Sept. 29 – City adopts a Bicycle Master Plan.

2013 Oct. – Briscoe Western Art Museum opens in the 1929 Carnegie Library building.

2013 Oct. 5 – Riverwalk “Mission Reach” opens with improvements focused on ecosystem restoration transforming the straightened river to replicate the original flow of the river while maintaining flood control, reducing erosion, re-introducing native vegetation and creating an environment more suitable for recreation and wildlife.

2014 - Leonardo “Flaco” Jimenez is named Texas State Musician. From a noted musical family, he helped popularize Tejano music across the globe.

2014 Jan. 7 - Tobin Center for Performing Arts, formerly Municipal Auditorium, is opened to public.

2014 June 15 - San Antonio Spurs win fifth NBA Championship by defeating the Miami Heat.

2014 July 22 - Ms. Ivy Taylor is appointed Mayor of San Antonio after former San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro leaves during his term of office to assume the position of Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Before becoming Mayor, Ms. Taylor represented District 2 on San Antonio’s City Council from 2009 to 2014.

2015 - San Antonio accordion legend Leonardo “Flaco” Jimenez receives Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award.

2015 June 13 – Ms. Ivy Taylor is elected as San Antonio’s first African American Mayor.

2015 - July - The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) approves the designation of San Antonio's five Spanish Colonial Missions as World Heritage Sites. This represents the culmination of roughly eight years of work by the San Antonio Conservation Society, National Park Service, Los Compadres, the Archdiocese of San Antonio, Bexar County and the City of San Antonio.
2015 Nov. - The Texas General Land Office purchases three historic buildings on Alamo Plaza for $14.45 million to further enhance the revitalization of the Alamo complex.

2016 March 1 – Video artist Xavier de Richemont projects the history of San Antonio, Texas and the southern United States onto the facade of the beautiful San Fernando Cathedral in historic Main Plaza twelve times per week and continues until Dec. 31 2024.

2016 Sept. 8 - Ground is broken for the San Pedro Creek Development Project. This is a combined effort by Bexar County and the San Antonio River Authority, in coordination with the City of San Antonio to transform San Pedro Creek from a concrete-lined drainage ditch into a natural creek habitat and world-class linear park.

2017 March 24 – Brooks City base celebrates the completion of a $2.8 million rehabilitation and restoration project of the historic Hangar 9 building, built in 1918. The building is the oldest wooden aircraft hangar of its kind still standing in its original location. Hangar 9 is a San Antonio Historic Landmark, listed in the Texas State Historical Survey, the National Register of Historic Places and is a National Historic Landmark.

2017 May 11 - San Antonio City Council unanimously approves the Alamo Master Plan and conceptually approves plans to close Alamo Street, from Market Street to Houston Street, and Crockett Street from Losoya Street to Bonham, as well as repairing and relocating the Cenotaph. The Council’s vote was a critical step in the process to restore the Alamo Church and Long Barrack and better tell the complete story of the nearly 300-year old Alamo.

2017 Dec. 31 - San Antonio’s Tricentennial year-long celebration opens with New Year’s Eve event at Hemisfair Park.

2018 Mar. 30 – NCAA men’s division I college basketball final four tournament is held at the Alamodome in San Antonio.

2018 May 1 - The Most Excellent Pedro de Alcántara Roca de Togores, Duke of Béjar, Spain, and his wife, the Most Excellent Marta Roca de Togores, Duchess of Béjar, led a delegation from Spain that visited San Antonio during its Tricentennial Commemorative week.

2018 May 1-6 Tricentennial Commemorative Week opens the celebration of the founding of Mission San Antonio de Valero on May 1, 1718, the founding of the Presidio de Béjar on May 5, 1718 and the establishment of a settlement, the Villa de Béjar also on May 5 of 1718. These three events in 1718 are considered the founding of San Antonio.
The authors have examined turning points and “firsts” in San Antonio’s history over more than a three-hundred-year period. Extensive newspapers, books, documents and on-line historical sources were utilized. We are receptive to any corrections or additions to this time line which can be submitted directly to Chabot2007@yahoo.com.
Appendix
On the 5th of May, the governor [Alarcón], in the name of his Majesty, took possession of the place called San Antonio, establishing himself in it, and fixing the royal standard with the requisite solemnity, the father chaplain having previously celebrated mass, and it was given the name of Villa de Bejar. This site is henceforth destined for the civil settlement and the soldiers who are to guard it, as well as for the site of the mission of San Antonio de Valero established by the said governor about three-fourths of a league down the creek.
Founding Document for Mission San Antonio de Valero on May 1, 1718

(This document is located inside of the cover of Mission Valero’s 1st baptism book in 1718)
On the 1st day of May, of the past year of 1718, this Mission was moved from San Joseph (new name given to Mission San Francisco de Solano in 1712) to San Antonio de Valero due to the lack of water found in the site (of San Joseph) by the order of His Excellency, the Marques de Valero, Viceroy of New Spain. The mission was transferred to the care of the Rev. Father Pastor Fray Antonio de San Buenaventura y Olivares, and the site of the town and the nations that live in its margins to Sgt. Major Don Martin de Alarcon, the General of the Provinces of the Kingdom of the New Philippines.

And that it may be, [with] the signature as Minister of said Mission on said day, month, and year so that the administration of the sacraments that it is due may be continued.
Roster of Founding Soldiers at Presidio San Antonio de Bejar on June 14, 1718

(3)
Company of the Presidio of Texas, dated 14 June 1718

PRESIDIAL STAFF

Governor Don Martin de Alarcon

Military Engineer: Don Francisco Barreiro y Alvarez

PRESIDIAL COMPANY

Captain Santiago Ximenes

Alférez Francisco Hernandes

Sergeant Juan Barrera

Alférez Juan de Castro

Sergeant Domingo Flores

Soldiers

Christobal de Caravajal
Vicente Guerra
Sebastian Gonzalez
Joseph de Neira
Joseph Velasquez
Joseph Ximenes
Antonio Guerra
Geronimo Caravajal
Juan Domingo
Joseph Chirino
Juan Valdes
Francisco R.s (Rodriguez)
Francisco Menchaca
Joseph Antonio R.s (Rodriguez)
Marcelino Licona
Nicolas Hernandez
Francisco Hernandez
Andres de Sosa

Joseph Maldonado
Manuel Maldonado
Juan Galvan
Patricio de la Cruz
Joseph Placido Flores
Antonio Perez
Agustin Perez
Joseph Cadena
Christobal de la Garza
Miguel Hernandez
Juan de Sosa

The above are different in appearance with the youngest no more than fifteen years of age. Six are married and have their wives here, some are Coyotas or Mestizas. The above is certified to be a true and accurate listing.

From Provincias Internas Vol. 181, Page 256, Archivo General de la Nacion
Writ of Possession For Misión Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción de Acuña

March 5, 1731

At the location where Our Lady of Concepción was placed on the 5th day of March of the year 1731, I Don Juan Antonio Pérez de Almazán, Captain of the Royal Presidio of San Antonio de Béjar, on behalf of the King our Lord, in virtue of the order and dispatch from the Most Excellent Señor Marqués de Casa Fuerte, Viceroy, Governor and Captain General of these kingdoms of New Spain, and President of the Royal Audiencia of Mexico in virtue of the authority conferred on me:

Present are Very Reverend Father Friar Gabriel de Vergara; Mateo Pérez, Lieutenant of said Presidio, Xaviér Maldonado, Second Lieutenant; Don Joséph de Media Villa y Azcona, Don Juan Francisco de Ymitola and other persons at this place for the establishment of this mission, to what was first dedicated here with the name Misión San Francisco Xaviér de Nájera for the Indians Yerbipiamos who are gathered in the Misión San Antonio {de Valero}. This site is unpopulated and exempt of contradiction by any person. It has {boundaries} on the north side the lands assigned to the Misión San Antonio, and on the west side by the division of the river, and on the {east} side lands of Mission San José de Aguayo.

I took the hand of the Captain of the Pajalat Nation, in name of all the Indians of that nation that are gathered in Misión San Antonio {de Valero} and I led him through the entire site and I had him pull up plants and throw stones and do all the other acts of a true possession, such that in virtue of it, according to and determined by the Most Excellent Sir {Viceroy} they may not be dispossessed nor made unquiet without first being heard and attended to by the Very Reverend Friar Gabriel of the College de la Santa Cruz de Querétaro, or be another religious who may be administering the said Indians gathered in this mission and their pastures, watering tanks, water-outlets on the river for irrigation, uses and the workers.

On the east and south sides, in which directions the land assigned to this mission according to rights and law, constitute a newly founded pueblo occupied on the west side {by} the river and immediately next {east} to it of Misión San José de Aguayo. Concession is made to this in the time of planting that this mission’s livestock will have passage to the south side to pasture. Such that there will never be opposition to Mission Concepción’s planting and cultivation and that everything will serve to its established utility and growth—with the provision that it does not interfere with the wellbeing of Mission San José and its residents.
And I, the said Captain, on behalf of the Governor, with the authority he has vested in me to grant to the said Indian Captain that whom I put in possession of the said pueblo along with the other officials of the community so that they may live in a political state. I advised them, through an interpreter, that they must cooperate and assist with the Christian Doctrine and with public wrongdoing. And that these proceedings may be certified, acting before me a Judge Receptor, since there is no public or royal notary, and it was expressed and dated the same day, month and year {5th of March 1731}:

Juan Antonio Pérez de Almazán  
Witness: Sevastián de Munarriz  
Witness: Marcelino Martínes
Writ of Possession for
Milisión
San Francisco de la Espada

March 5, 1731

By order of the newly appointed Viceroy of Nueva España, Marqués de Casafuerte, the Missions of San Francisco de los Neches, San José de los Nazonis and Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción were relocated to the banks of the San Antonio River. Captain Juan Antonio Pérez de Almazán told the story of its re-establishment:

In the location where San Francisco de la Espada was placed on the fifth day of the month of March, 1731, I, Don Juan Antonio Pérez de Almazán, acting Captain for our Lord the King of the royal fortress of San Antonio de Béjar, by the authority of the Order of His Excellency the Marqués de Casafuerte, Viceroy, Gobernador and Captain-General of this realm of Nueva España and Presidenté of the Real Audiencia of Mexico, who resides in it by virtue of the same authority which he concedes in me, and when in said place in company with Reverend Father Pedro Muñoz, the Lieutenant of said garrison Mateo Pérez, standard bearer of the same, Xaviér Maldonado, Don José de Media Villa y Azcona, Don Juan Francisco de Ymitola and others, regarding the re-establishment of the mission, and having recognized it to be a likely location for the mission because of the beauty of the surroundings, the tillable fields, the water supply, pastures, and watering places for the livestock, and proximity of three leagues to the mission San José de Aguayo to the southward, and in accordance with the order of His Excellency, I took the Chieftain of the Pacao nation by the hand in the name of all the Indians of said nation, and I walked throughout the immediate locality and its environs in which I made him throw stones and perform all the rest of the acts of real possession so that by virtue of that possession they could not be dispossessed nor disturbed without first being heard and attended to by the Reverend Father Pedro Muñoz, Apostolic and Missionary Preacher named for said mission by the College of the Holy Cross of Querétaro, or by another priest who administers to other Indians, collecting to another mission the feed of the livestock, water-bags, tools, and servants.
To the north, south and west, in which directions the lands are assigned to said missions, these according to right and to royal laws correspond to a newly founded town. To the east is the river, and I, said Captain, with the authority which has been conferred upon me, named for Gobernador the said Indian chieftain, whom I placed in possession of the other town with the other officials of the Republic in order that they might live in the political state, advising them through an interpreter what they should do in the interest of the Christian doctrine, and to get rid of offenses of public sins, to assist in the cultivations of the fields, to open canals, to take care of the flocks of the mission, and all other acts by which they aid its growth, and that I might be assured all would be done diligently. Acting before me as judge receptor with the witness of my assistance in default of a public or royal notary, of which there is none in this jurisdiction, and the presence of the following, done this said day, month, year:

Juan Antonio Pérez de Almazán –
Witness: Sebastian de Manarroz and
Witness Marcelino Martínez.

(4)
Writ of Possession for Missión San Juan de Capistrano

March 5, 1731

On the fifth day of the month of March, one thousand, seven hundred, thirty-one (1731), I, Don Juan Antonio Pérez de Almazán, said Captain of the Royal Presidio of San Antonio de Béjar for the King, Our Lord, by virtue of {the} order dispatched by the Most Excellent Lord Viceroy, the Marqués de Casafuerte, Governor and Captain General of these Kingdoms of New Spain, and President of the Royal Tribunal of Mexico, through which he acts; {and} by virtue of the power he confers upon me, being in said location along with:

The Reverend Fray Joséph de Hurtado {sic}, the Lieutenant of said presidio Mateo Pérez, the Corporal of it Xáviér Maldonado, Don Joséph de Media Villa y Azcona, Don Juan Joséph de Ymitola, and other people, for the planting of the aforementioned mission; and having recognized it to be a fitting and appropriate {spot} to found {a} mission; by the beauty of its setting, farmlands, damming pools, pasturage, and watering holes for its livestock, and {it being} about 3½ leagues distant from the mission of Concepción de la Acuña {located} to the south of {it}; and in accordance with the orders of said Most Excellent {Lord},

I clasped the hands of the Capitánes of the Venado and Toluja nations in the name of all the Indians of the two nations, and I took them in a circuit of the site of their settlement, in which I had {them} pull up grass, throw stones, and all the other acts of a true possession, so that by virtue of it, according to that determined by said Most Excellent Lord, they may not be dispossessed, nor disturbed without first being heard and listened to by said Reverend Fray Joséph de Hurtado, Apostolic Preacher and Minister, named for said mission on behalf of the College of Santa Cruz de Querétaro, or by other religious, who will oversee said Indians gathered at said mission, the lands, damming pools, pasturage, usable and serviceable watering holes, to the north, south and to the east, which signify the boundaries of said mission; that according to local and royal laws pertain to a newly founded village. To the west, in the proximity and on the same bank, founded the Mission of San Francisco de la Espada.

And I, said Captain, by the authority conferred upon me, named as Governor of said village, the Capitain of the Benado nation in the first place {office} , and in the second, the Capitain of the Toluja, whom I placed in possession of the mission along} with the other public officials, so that they may act in an official capacity, informing them through an interpreter, what they must do; learn Christian doctrine, and to avoid offenses, public lawbreaking, to willingly participate in the cultivation of the lands, to {build} irrigation ditches, to care for the livestock, and all the other duties that will serve the upkeep of said mission. So that all that ordered be attested to, having been carried out before me as receiving official, accompanied by my attending witnesses,
due to lack of either Royal or public notary, who are not extant in this jurisdiction, I attest to those above mentioned being present. Dated on said day, month and year.

Juan Antonio Pérez de Almazán
Witness-Sevastian de Munarriz
Witness- Marzelino Martínez.
Writ of Possession For Missión
San José de San Miguel de Aguayo de Buena Vista

February 23, 1720

On the said day, month and year, I, the said Lieutenant General, set out from this Presidio (San Antonio de Béjar) to give possession, as I had been commissioned to do by his Majesty, accompanied by the Reverend Father Preacher Antonio Margil de Jesús, and Fr. Joséph Guerra taking the place of Fray Antonio de Olivares and Captain Alonzo de Cárdenas, Ensign Nicolás Flores, as well as many soldiers from this Presidio. Having reached a site where water can be drained from the San Antonio River to irrigate the land, I found Fr. Augustín Patrón and Fr. Miguel Nuñes de Haro there in a hut with a few soldiers. The latter had been placed there by Captain Alonzo de Cárdenas. I also found the Indian chiefs of those tribes. The priests, the Indian chiefs, and others went with me. We went down river following the direction where the irrigation ditch is to be. We traveled about ¾ of a league noticing the fertility of the land where irrigation could water many farmlands, as many as could be planted by a large number of people. This area seemed the best site for planting and settling, not only to me but to all the priests, the Indians, Captain Alonzo de Cárdenas, Ensign Nicolás Flores, and Captain Lorenzo García, the interpreter.

The land offered such rich pastures with plentiful wood for beams, quarry stones, and firewood. There are excellent exits and entrances along the river for the cattle, sheep, goats, and horses. We considered a slight elevation that is very even and spacious to be the best site for building the church and pueblo. I inquired about the number of leagues this was from Mission San Antonio. My companions replied that it is a little more than three leagues. Knowing this to be so, I dismounted and, in the presence of the Reverend Father and all, called the interpreter, Captain Lorenzo García who in turn told the Indians what is needed for taking possession. When the Indian chiefs understood it all, they said they wanted and do want us to give them land and water so that they may live there and be Christians. Not only did they agree to dig their irrigation ditches and cultivate their lands, but also promised to teach their sons to do the same, insisting that they want to obey the law of God. In addition, they promised to obey the father missionaries as they would also have their children do, and they would do and observe everything commanded for the service of God.

Seeing this and the eagerness with which they asked for it, in conformity with the royal ordinances in the new booklet and pursuant to the commission given me by the Governor, the author of these decrees, I grasped the hands of the said Indian chiefs and, taking them throughout the site, give them and do give them possession of the
land and water. They accepted it all quietly and peacefully without any opposition. Going through the area, they pulled up grass, threw rocks, cut off branches from the brush land, and performed other acts of possession. They stated that they were satisfied with the land and the supply of water which the Governor in the name of the King had ordered us to grant. Captain Baldés pointed out to us that many advantages would accrue to us such as peace and quiet for this Province from this establishment of our pueblo of which we now take possession. God willing, our settlement here is to continue. Since our pueblo is so far north, and one part is a highly concentrated area of gentile nations, we can hope to have many conversions through a continuous communication among all the tribes.

Therefore, in accord with the royal ordinances and by virtue of the commission for the greater glory of God and his most holy Mother, the most pure Virgin Mary, Our Lady, in this place I establish this pueblo and mission. I hereby name it San Joséph de San Miguel de Aguayo de Buena Vista. In the name of the King (may God keep him), I give civil and criminal jurisdiction which by royal law is granted to the natives, as well as the boundary and territory fixed by royal ordinances. With due accord to the latter, I assign for the church the site indicated for the said possession with sufficient area for the cemetery and the rest. Allowance is made for the usual buildings such as the friary, the infirmary, the royal houses, the prison and all the other needed places. There is to be a large square plaza with 120 varas for each square. The houses are to be built in the usual manner as well as the streets. As arranged by royal ordinances, I have agreed to appoint a governor and other officials of the governing body in order to provide for the progressive increase of the pueblo, the establishment of good government, the setting up of a watch, their maintenance of good conduct, construction of homes and beds in order to sleep off the ground, the raising of chickens from Castile and from the land, and all the rest that promotes progress in the pueblo. Putting it into action in the name of his Majesty, I selected the chief of the Pampopas, named Juan, as Governor; Nicolás, chief of the Suliajame tribe, as Judge and Alcade; Alonzo of the Pastía tribe as constable; and Francisco of the Pampopa tribe and Antonio of the Suliajamas as Aldermen. To each I gave the insignia befitting his office so that he is to be obeyed as an official. Through the interpreter, I made them all understand their obligation of maintaining justice, the great dedication they must have in looking out for the progress of their pueblo, and their concern for the building of the church and whatever else is needed. Likewise, all were told about the obedience due their governor and alcaldes who have now been appointed for them and those who succeed them in the future. They are to obey all that is ordained for the service of both Majesties and the welfare of their pueblo and mission. They are to attend the religious instruction which the missionaries provide them. All this was told them through the said interpreter. Through him, they declared that they would comply. The officials agreed to a whole-hearted acceptance of their said appointment. They are here present and say that this has indeed been to their great pleasure. They made it clear that they will comply with all that has been commanded them. Finally, they promise to maintain the pueblo and mission called San Joséph de San Miguel de Aguayo de Buena Vista.
According to the said agreement, I drew up this decree of foundation. I submitted the transactions and decrees carried out by me according to the commission which his Highness gave me, to the governor of the town of Santiago de la Monclova. These authorized me to leave the Reverend Fathers Fray Miguel Nuñes and Fray Augustin Patrón together with the said soldiers assigned here by Captain Alonzo de Cárdenas at the pueblo and missions. By means of this decree, I approved, ordered, and signed the above as did the said Reverend Fathers. The interpreter did not sign because he did not know how. At his request a witness from among my attendants signed. With my other attendants, he had acted as receiving judge because there was no notary public nor royal agent in this region to witness as the law requires. To this I bear witness.

Juan Baldés (Lieutenant Gen. Captain of Presidio de San Antonio de Béjar)
Fr. Antonio Margil de Jesús, President Missions of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Signing for Lorenzo Garcia (at his request) Sebastián Gonzales Ortiz
FROM THE LIBRARY OF LOUIS LENTZ,
4390 HARVEST LANE, HOUSTON TEXAS
Typed Manuscript
of
RECORDS OF THE FOUNDING OF THE PARISH CHURCH
AT SAN ANTONIO
February 17, 1738 – July 03, 1738
Copied from
Transcripts of the Nacogdoches Archives
in
The University of Texas
Compared with the Original Manuscript
in
The State Archives
and
Translated by
J. Villasana Haggard
Translator of the Bexar Archives

Archives Department
The University of Texas

1937 NACOGDOCHES ARCHIVES; Vol.1 November 26, 1731 – January 12, 1747.
Copied from originals in the Texas State Library, 1928. Pages 68-86
February 17, 1738:

Royal Presidio of San Antonio de Bexar

Whereas the room which was designated at the foundation of the Presidio for the celebration of the holy ceremony of Mass is serving as parish without having a sacristy, baptismal font, or other equipment for proper administration of sacraments, and whereas Señor Bachiller Don Juan Rezio de Leon, parish priest, vicar, and ecclesiastical judge of the Villa of San Fernando [outside the walls of this presidio] has designated me to remedy this condition, therefore, in order to serve God our Lord and to further the increase of daily worship and general utility, I, together with the municipal council and charter members of the town, have provided for the building of the parochial church and in return for the devotion of all it will surely have the invocation of the Virgin of Candelaria and Our Lady of Guadalupe. Putting this into execution in the company of the aforementioned priest, ecclesiastical judge, and municipal council of that town, I looked the best site for its building, which should be most convenient for the settlers and residents of the Presidio. Having no other means for its erection save those proffered by the pious hearts of the inhabitants of both places, from whom will be received grants and among whom will be distributed the building: the municipal council of the town of San Fernando will name two subjects in whom are found both zeal in serving God and conduct proper to the direction of the work of that parish, who have account of the job, and who have knowledge of the necessary plans and who have the requisite diligence for accomplishing the work in due time. Let that which is legally proper obtain, as decreed by Señor Don Prudenzio de Orobio Bazterra, Governor and Captain General of the Province of Texas and the New Philippines, as testified to before me, the notary, Prudenzio de Orobio Bazterra.

Witnessed by Francisco Joseph de Arrocha, notary public of the chapter.
February 18, 1738:

In the Villa of San Fernando of the Government of Texas and the New Philippines, February 18, 1738, the municipal council of which is composed of Don Manuel de Nis, and Don Ygnacio Lorenzo de Armas, alcaldes ordinary Don Juan Leal Goraz, Don Juan Curbelo, Don Antonio de Los Santos, Don Juan Leal Alfarez, Don Bizente Albarez Trabieesso, and Don Antonio Rodriguez, rulers. In conformity with the preceding decree we name Don Bizente Albarez Travieso, first Alguacil of the town, and Don Francisco Josep de Arocha majordomos of the parochial church which is to be built with the invocation of the Virgin of Candelaria and Our Lady of Guadalupe, and to be financed by the charity of the settlers of that town and the Presidio of San Antonio de Bexar on the site which is set off, thirty yards long and six yards wide, with a sacristy and baptistery, like the church of the Mission of San Antonio, having the principal door to the east, adjoining the Plaza of the town, and on the west next to that of the Presidio. We hope that the zeal and application of the aforementioned majordomos will have such an effect that the Parish will be perfectly executed in conformity with the plans and conditions outlined in due form. So it is that this appointment is made known to them, so that without loss of time they may begin the accomplishment of your wish. Certified to for all time on the aforementioned date. Those who could not sign their names made the customary cross.

X  Ygnacio Lorenzo de Armas
X  Juan Leal Goraz
  Antonio de los Santos
  Juan Leal
  Don Bizente Alvarez Travieso
  Antonio Rodriguez Madreros
  Francisco Joseph de Arocha

Immediately thereafter we, the aforesaid municipal council, made known to the aforementioned majordomos the writ recorded on the preceding page, and having understood its content and form, they said that they would accept, and they did accept the appointment as majordomos made to them in person. They promised that without loss of time on their part they would put into the work of the parish the charitable offerings which they received for the erection, and that they obligate themselves to account for all sums to the judges and council members who are responsible.

Agreed and testified to by the municipal council.

X  Ygnacio Lorenzo de Armas
X  Juan Leal Goraz
  Antonio Santos
  Juan Leal
February 25, 1738:

In the Villa of San Fernando of the Government of Texas and the New Philippines, February 25, 1738. Account made by the aforementioned majordomos of the charitable offerings of the settlers resident in the town and inhabitants of San Antonio for the building of the Parochial church, as follows:

First, the Señor Don Prudenzio de Orobio e Bazterra, Governor and Captain General of this province, offered two hundred pesos 200
Señor Bachiller Don Juan Recio de Leon, parish priest, vicar and ecclesiastical judge, offered twenty-five pesos 25
The Señor Don Joseph de Urrutia, Captain of the Company of said Presidio, offered one hundred pesos 100
Don Manuel de Niz, alcalde ordinary of first rank, offered ten cartloads of rock
Don Ygnazio Lorenzo de Armas, alcalde ordinary of second rank offered ten pesos 10
Don Juan Leal Goraz, magistrate deacon, offered a one-year-old heifer 4
Don Antonio de los Santos, magistrate, offered ten pesos 10
Don Juan Curbelo, magistrate, offered ten pesos 10
[Rubric] Don Juan Leal Albarez, magistrate, offered ten measures of corn, at two pesos the measure 20
Don Bizente Albarez Travieso, first alguacil, offered twenty pesos 20
Don Francisco Joseph de Arocha, notary public, offered ten pesos 10
Don Antonio Rodriguez Mederos, majordomo of the lands of the said villa, offered twenty cartloads of stone
Joseph Leal offered two measures of corn and a seven-year-old heifer 8
Patrizio Rodriguez offered ten pesos 10
Francisco Delgado offered ten pesos 10
Juan Delgado offered ten pesos 10
Joseph Antonio Rodriguez offered twenty pesos 20
Martin Lorenzo de Armas offered a yearling calf 4
Antonio Ximenez offered a yearling calf 4
Bernardo Joseph offered a yearling calf 6
Francisco de Decca y Muzquiz offered six pesos 6
The soldiers of the Royal Presidio follow:
Don Matheo Perez, lieutenant of said Company, offered two yearling calves 8
Don Juan Galban, ensign of the company offered six pesos 6
Asensio del Raso, sergeant of the aforementioned company,
offered ten pesos 10
Manuel de Carauaxal offered two pesos 2
Juan Flores offered one peso 1
Antonio Martio Sauzedo offered one peso 1
Franzisco Flores offered four pesos 4
Lorenzo de Castro offered two pesos 2
Nicolas de Carauaxal offered four pesos 4
Thoribio de Urrutia offered one peso 1
Matthias de la Zarda offered four reales 0.4
Luis Madlsonado offered two pesos 2
Don Pedro Conitrillo offered one peso 1
Francisco de la Pena offered one peso 1
Cayetano Perez offered four pesos 4
Joseph Padron offered ten pesos 10
Sebastián Rincón offered four pesos 4
Joseph Ximenez offered four reales 0.4
Joseph Antonio Flores offered one peso 1
Andres Hernandez offered two pesos 2
Xavier Perez offered four pesos 4
Ygnacio de Urrutia offered ten pesos 10
Pedro de Urrutia offered five pesos 5
Juachin de Urrutia offered two pesos 2
Don Miguel Nunez Murillo gave thirty pesos 30
Don Gabriel Costtales, Captain of the Presidio of la Bahia del Espiritu Santo, offered twenty-five pesos 25

I also take upon myself seventeen pesos and six reales, gathered as alms
May 11, the day on which the first stone was blessed and laid. 17.6

May 2, 1738:

We, the municipal council of the Villa de San Fernando, having as is customary gathered together to discuss and deal with matters pertaining to the common good, have decided, in view of the writ provided in these proceedings by Señor Governor and Captain General of this Province Don Purdenzio de Orobio Bazterra, in view of other proceedings attached to it, and in view of the short space of time allotted for the construction of the church, and in order to locate the church with due formality, to send these proceedings to the Señor Bachiller Don Juan Recio de Leon, parish priest, vicar, and ecclesiastical judge of this Villa and the jurisdiction. In view of these proceedings his Grace may, if he finds it convenient to do so, designate to this as a parish under the protection of its patronesses, and after this decision turn these proceedings over to the appointed majordomos, in order that the additional contributions which may be made may be
affixed to these proceedings. Determined upon and signed by the municipal council members of the aforesaid Villa May 2, 1738.

Attested to by the writer.

Ygnacio Lorenzo de Armas
Juan Leal Goraz
Antonio Santtos
Juan Leal
Bizentte Albarez Travieso

the Bachiller Don Juan Recio de
Leon, Cleric, Priest, Vicar and
Ecclesiastical Judge of the Villa
de San Fernando and Royal Presidio
of San Antonio de Bejar

June 6, 1738:

I have received a writ from the Governor of this Province, Señor Don Prudenzio de Orobio Basterra, dated February 10, 1738, and other following writs, as well as the writ of remission which the very illustrious chapter of the Villa of San Fernando was good enough to send me on May 2 of last year (1737) and that which was requested in this writ. The Señor Governor Don Purdenzio de Origin Bazterra has been called upon in order that there may be offered for his consideration the great indecency prevailing in the place in which the sacred sacrifice of Masses is offered and in which all the other sacraments are administered. It is a very small and highly indecorous, for the land and building are those of soldiers’ quarters, as may be clearly seen in most quarters. Even these, indecent, uncomfortable and miserable as they are, are superior to the quarters which are serving as a church. It is a very dirty place, having no secure door for the protection of the sacred vestments. For this reason, no treasure of the church is kept there. It lacks a baptismal font, sacristy, and altars. The altar is a pile of clods. There is need of baptism and the other sacraments. I leave to the consideration of those informed of this matter the great indecencies to which any religious head is exposed. Conscientious scruples oblige me to take over its administration, because of the indecency with which high and sovereign sacraments are treated. His Excellency having seen these difficulties and having all before him decreed in his writ that which is to be found at the beginning and head of these proceedings. I have seen and understood the request by the very illustrious governing body of this villa for me to designate as belonging to the parish the new church which is being constructed at the expense of this poor vicinity, under the patronage of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Acting upon my ecclesiastical jurisdiction so far as possible, I designate this church as belonging to the parish of this villa and the Royal Presidio of San Antonio, under the two invocations of the Eternal Virgin Mary Mother of God and our Lady, Our Lady of Candelaria, and Our Lady of Guadalupe. I humbly beg her to accept and behold with eyes of compassion this new house of hers, keeping it always under her vigil and protection. Since the senor San Antonio and the senor San Fernando presidio and villa under the patronage of their names, I reserve this right safe and in full force for its owner. In regard to these writs I
beg your Excellency ask that I be given some authority so that I may send a testimony to his very illustrious Señor the senior Bishop of Guadalajara, so that he may decide the work of the enterprise to both their majesties. I thank you for the great zeal, love and Christianity which you have shown in this matter, beginning and fostering a work so valuable to both their majesties, I am also grateful to the very illustrious council. Considering the insufficiency of the offerings as shown in these writs, I beg both senores to aid with their great zeal and enthusiasm, so that this work so valuable to God may not be stopped. The senor Marquis de Cassafuertte, late Viceroy of New Spain [may he rest in peace], in the dispatch sent out providing for the founding of the villa of San Fernando commands that Mass be held in the Mission of San Antonio, since it adjoins this Villa. He also commands that they build a church. Since such a church has not yet been built, I beg your Excellency to command that a notice be sent to the Very Illustrious and Excellent Viceroy of New Spain, asking him to decide upon a convenient solution. Written in the villa of San Fernando June 6, 1738. In confirmation thereof signed by the present notary public. Bachiller Don Juan Rezio de Leon. Witnessed by the notary, named Albertto Lopez.

June 15, 1738:

In the Royal Presidio of San Antonio de Bexar on the fifteenth day of the month of June, seventeen hundred thirty-eight, before me, Don Prudenzio de Orobio Basterra, governor and Captain General of the Province of Texas, the contents of the following writ were presented.

The municipal corporation, regular and general alcalde of this villa of San Fernando, province of Texas, in due form according to law and for our wont welfare and for the preservation and growth of this new villa [personally] appear before Your Lordship and state that, recruited in the Canary Islands, we arrived at this destination in the year seventeen hundred thirty-one by order of His Majesty, the King, our master [may God guard him], and at great expenses to his royal treasury caused by our transportation by land and sea. All expenses were paid with the punctuality and magnanimous zeal of our Catholic king. We constructed houses to be used as dwellings in compliance with orders given by the most excellent Marquis de Casafuertte, who at that time was Viceroy of these kingdoms of New Spain, in a dispatch dated in Mexico on November twenty-eighth, seventeen hundred thirty. A site was set aside in the main plaza for a church and royal building in according with stipulations of the laws and ordinances for new settlements [although the site] was set aside in a different location form that which had been designated at first.] Nevertheless, we have had to bear the discomfort of having to hear the holy sacrifice of the mass and [to receive] other spiritual food in a place nearby, which was half of the barracks used by soldiers, where
mass has been held for the presidial [soldiers] of the Presidio of S[a]n Antonio de Bexar. This same place is at present serving as parish church. It is as indecorous as one may see; and it is threatening to fall in ruins. Only our duty as Christians compels us to make use of it. This pitiful condition inspired the seal of Y[our] L[ordship] [perhaps with a superior impulse] to encourage the spirit of this community and presidial settlers toward the material construction of the most decorous ch[urc]h that the country can afford. Immediately thereafter, [Your Lordship] was the first one to take part in this work by contributing two hundred pesos from your funds and by performing other deeds which we shall not mention in order not to vex the modesty of Y[our] L[ordship]. Following this example, and with the aid of our parish priest, everyone from the cap[tai]n and soldiers to the poorest person among the civilian settlers [which are the two classes {of People} now living on this frontier] contributed the items listed in the records of the proceedings on this matter.

With these [funds] materials are being hauled, wood is being cut for lumber, and the walls are being raised. Nevertheless, since this contribution is so meager that it will not cover one fourth of the cost of the work commenced [although it is as small as possible in dimensions and architecture], we justly fear that we may not be able to see it finished with the perfection due the Being to Whom it is dedicated and as our Christian zeal desires. In order that this [failure] may not occur, we have decided to declare to [Your] L[ordship] that we have been informed that H[is] Maj[esty], the King o[u]r L[ord], was to build a church for us out of the royal treasury. We base our belief on [the fact] that in the aforecited dispatch issued by the Viceroy, Marquis de Casafuerte, when H[is]Ex[cellency] gave us instructions to attend the holy sacraments and divine worship in the nearby mission of S[a]n Ant[onio], His [Excellency] added the following words; until a church is built for them. It seems that these words convey the idea that H[is] Maj[esty] or H[is] Ex[cellency], as our only benefactor and one who helps and protects us and who paid without parsimony for [the settlement of] this town, should build it for us. It may be that, since we did not secure it, we are accused of negligence or of failure to appeal to the Viceroy and remind him of the matter. There is no justification for such an accusation, however, as we have done so several times through our attorneys and even through our representatives who have gone to the Cortes of Mex[ic]o to see about this and other matters touching our welfare. Inasmuch as these [petitions] have been attended to our satisfaction, the matter of the const[ruction] of a ch[urc]h has not been brought up, perhaps because of lack of information on the part of the agents. Certain persons from among our families, who have been in Mexico on business, however, assure us that when they went to take leave of his Ex[cellency] in order to return to their community, he said to them: “Go in peace, my children, for orders already have been given for building you a church”. Likewise, S[eno]r B[achille]r D[o]n Joseph de la Garza, our former curate, assured us that he knew that the Viceroy had ordered five thousand pesos allotted from the r[oya]l treasury for this purpose. The result of this information, however, was never obtained. Therefore, we pitifully have been compelled to continue using the aforesaid indecorous barracks as a church. We have been prevented from filing another petition by our misfortunes and our poverty, and by the
great distance [to Mexico]. We had as we have already stated, took steps to start this project, which is worthy of your Christian seal.

Therefore, as one who has made it his goal, we beg and beseech [Your Lordship], keeping in mind our inability to act, to make every effort to inform our most ho[norab]le and most ex[celle]nt master, the Archbishop Viceroy, of the need we are suffering: and how acceptable it will be unto God for him to aid us with part of the cost so that we may proceed with the construction of our ch[urc]. Once his Excellency is apprised of our need, we are confident that his kindness will attend our request by aiding us in this urgent distress since this country is so embarrassed for greater worship of God to bring the gentiles into His fold. This is the main object which moved our king to the preservation and development of these settlements. Therefore, we bet and beseech Y[our] L[ordship] to accept this petition, and in view thereof, to order our request fulfilled; we shall thus receive a favor with justice. We [hereby] swear in due form according to law, etc.

X Ygnazio Lorenzo de Armas
X Antonio de los Santos
   Juan Leal Goraz
   Juan Leal
   Disentte Alvarez Travieso
   Anttonio Rodriguez Maderos
   Juan Delgado

I examined it and accepted it. Let it be filed together with the proceedings in this matter and forwarded to the Most Honorable and Most Excellent Archbishop Viceroy, with remarks thereon [consults] so that H[is] Ex[cellency] may determine whatever may be //his wish. Thus I [hereby] provide and decree, together with attendant witnesses in the absence of the cau[l]do and n[otar]y publico.

Prudenzio de Orobio Baztarra

W[itness]s:       W[ites]:
Manuel Ramirez de la Pissina       Matheo Anttonio de Ybarvo

92
July 3, 1738:

In the R[oya]l Presdio of S[a]n Antonio de Bexar, third of July, seventeen hundred thirty-eight, I, D[on Purdenzio de Orobio Bastterra, [hereby] order D[o]n Bizentte Albarez Travieso, superintendent of Construction at the parish ch[urc]h of the Villa of S[a]n Fernando which is being built, to appear before me to examine the list of persons who have contributed to its construction. He shall declare whether, besides the six hundred forty-two pesos two reales recorded on the first four pages of these proceedings it is still necessary to secure an additional amount. Thus, I [hereby] decree and order, together with attendant witnesses in the absence of the cavildo and notary public.

Prudenzio de Orobio Basterra

W[itnes]s:       W[itnes]s:
Manuel Ramirez de la Pissina    Matheo Anttonio de Ybarbo

October 2, 1745:

Bexar Archives

Provision for Building of Church.

Don Antonio Rodrigues Maderos, Alcade secretary of first rank and ruling deacon of this Villa of San Fernando.

    I wish to advise all the settlers and inhabitants of my jurisdiction that, as has been stated by the most illustrious municipal council of this Villa to the Señor Viceroy of New Spain and the illustrious Bishop of Guadalaxara, this Villa needs a church in which to celebrate the holy sacrifice of Mass and other sacred offices. They have provided and contributed nothing for its construction. It was begun in years past at the expense of this settlement and of the soldiers and is now half completed. I take into consideration the great poverty of all, and the hopes that the King may finish it. It is apparent to all that part of the church in which mass is now being said is falling down, and the other part is about to fall down. Therefore, with the consent of the most illustrious municipal council, I command all settlers and inhabitants, no matter what their rank or condition, to go where they are told to go in order to complete the building of the church which has been begun, according to tickets which will be given to each of them. If anyone should fail to report promptly for duty in the building, a penalty of twenty-five pesos and fifteen days in jail will be assessed. This fine will be applied on the materials to go into the building of the church. So that this news may be made known to all, and so that none may claim ignorance of it, I shall make public this my determination, next Sunday,
after the principal Mass, in the usual place and in the presence of all. To uphold this decree he signs this before the present notary, in this said Villa.

October 2, 1745. Sworn to before me.

Joseph Francisco de Arocha
notary public of the council.

Antonio Rodrigues y Mederos.
Completion of the Church

Work Completed December 12, 1755

“Work began on October 28, 1748, with the dressing of stone for the doorways and arches. By June 5, 1749, the tesoro was set in place. By using the existing stone and some additional supplies, the church when completed measured 91.65 feet in length, 20.831 feet in width, 31.94 feet to the tip of the parapet and 28.46 feet to the lentels supporting the dome. The roof was of wood and the cupola of tufa. Entry up the tower was through the naïve, as the tower had no internal spiral stairway. Felipe Santiago continued working on the church until 1754, when he left to work on the construction of Mission Concepcion. Ibarra remained through 1755, when the church was finished. The parish priest, Juan Ignacio de Cardenas Pinilla y Ramos, described Ibarra as the “Master” of the said building from the first stone until the last.

The completion of the church gave the community an opportunity to celebrate and dedicate itself to Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of Mexico, on December 12, 1755. Captain Toribio de Urrutia, who also served as the Justicia Mayor, and the municipal councilors of the cabildo, who asserted that the feast had been celebrated since the laying of the church’s foundation, organized the inauguration. From 1755 on, the feast would be celebrated annually as would the feast days of the Villa’s patron saint (Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12); San Fernando, Rey de España; of Our Lady of Candlemas (February 2); and of Saint Anthony of Padua (June 13). “

Adán Benavides, Author

“Sacred Space, Profane Reality: The Politics of Building a Church in Eighteenth-Century Texas”

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At Cuautitlán, November 13, 1730
(Translation)

“Testimonio delas diligencias echa por el Sor factor Dn Manuel Ángel de Villegas Puente para el despacho y aviso delas familias que de orden de S. M. passan ápoplar ala Provincia de los Téjas”

“Testimony of the instructions and route carried out by Señor Factor, Don Manuel de Villegas Puente to dispatch the families who by order of His Majesty, are on their way to colonize the Province of Texas”

In the town of Cuautitlán, on the thirteenth [day] of November, seventeen hundred thirty, D[on] Manuel Angel de Villegas Puente, factor, overseer, and royal official purveyor of the R[oya]l exchequer and the sub-treasury of Mexico City for H[is] M[a]jesty, arrived on the tenth of the present month of November in response to the order of H[is] E[xcellency], Marqués de Casafuerte, Viceroy of this K[ing]dom, in order to make a new list of the families who came from the Canary Islands by the order of H[is] M[a]jesty, and who have been in this town and in the meantime have been given all the underclothes, the outer clothes, and sleeping clothes, arms, horses, munitions, and all the corresponding equipment which they have already received, together with two months advanced wages to each one of the fifty-six persons, as is recorded in the proceeding documents.

All this having been concluded, the said gentlemen had the families appear before him for the purpose of making a list of them as well as for paying them in person the thirty-six days allowance that has been considered necessary for them to reach Saltillo. Having to be on their way from this town precisely and punctually tomorrow, each one answered to the roll call and a last account was made of the names, parentage, native lands, and physical appearance of each one by the said gentleman with the intervention of Fran[cis]co Dubal and Juan Leal, as head of the first family, and before D[o]n Fran[cis]co Domingo de Laba, alcalde mayor of this jurisdiction, before me, the royal notary public of this town and the witnesses who helped me. I testify that this [transaction] was executed in the following manner;

First Family

1. Juan Leal Goras, son of Antonio Goras and Maria Perez, native of Lanzarote Island, fifty-four years of age, tall, long face, thick beard, dark complexion, sharp nose, blind in the left eye, black beard and hair, brown eyes.
2. **Vicente Leal**, son of foregoing and Catharina Rodriguez (deceased), native of the aforesaid island, eighteen years of age, medium height, broad shouldered, long face, beardless, aquiline nose, eyebrows meeting, light brown eyes, black curled hair, black eyebrows, dark complexion.

3. **Bernardo Leal**, son of the same [person], native of Lanzarote, round face, Lanzarote, thirteen years of age, tall, broad-shouldered, full-faced, fair complexion, grey beard and hair, light brown eyes, black eyebrows, rather bald at the temples, sharp nose.

Second Family

4. **Juan Curbelo**, son of Domingo Curbelo and Maria Martin Enriquez, native of Lanzarote, fifty [fifteen] years of age, tall, broad-shouldered, full-faced, fair complexion, grey beard and hair, light brown eyes, black eyebrows, rather bald at the temples, sharp nose.

5. **Garcia Perdomo y Umpierres**, wife of the forgoing and daughter of Marcos Perdomo y Umpierres and Maria Cabrera, native of Lanzarote, forty-six years of age, medium height, large face, dark complexion, black eyes, aquiline nose, black hair and eyebrows.

6. **Joseph Curbelo**, son of the aforesaid, native of the aforesaid island, medium height, twenty years of age, broad-shouldered, full-faced, beardless, pitted with small-pox, sharp nose, light brown eyes, dark complexion, black hair and eyebrows.

7. **Juan Francisco Curbelo**, son of the aforesaid, native of La Palma, nine years of age, fair complexion, round face, light brown eyes, chestnut eyebrows and hair, thick eyelids.

8. **Maria Curbelo**, daughter of Juan above, native of Lanzarote, thirteen years of age, small body, round-faced, dark complexion, red nose.

Third Family

9. **Juan Leal, el Mozo**, son of Juan Leal of the first family, native of Lanzarote, thirty years of age, medium height, broad-shouldered, dark complexion, long face, thick beard, sharp nose, meeting eyebrows, curly hair, black eyebrows and hair, eyes almost brown, blobber-lipped.

10. **Garcia de Acosta**, wife of the foregoing, daughter of Pedro Gonzales Cavreras, and Fran[cis]ca de Acosta, native of the island of Tenerife, thirty years of age,
tall, full-faced, fair complexion, light brown eyes, black hair and eyebrows, pointed nose.

11. **Manuel Leal**, son of the foregoing, native of Lanzarote, round face, twelve years of age, (2 years old), dark complexion, aquiline nose, light brown eyes, chestnut curly hair, scar above the left eyebrow.

12. **Miguel Leal**, son of the foregoing native of Fuerteventura, round face, ten years of age, large brown eyes, meeting eyebrows, light chestnut hair, aquiline nose, scar at the end of the left eyebrow, blubber-lipped, black curly hair.

13. **Domingo Leal**, son of the foregoing, native of Palma Island, round face, seven years of age, fair complexion, black eyes, reddish hair, flat nose, freckly face.

14. **Pedro Leal**, son of the foregoing, native of Havana, round face, five months old, fair complexion, black eyes, black hair and eyebrows.

15. **Maria Leal**, daughter of the aforesaid, native of Fuerteventura, six years of age, round face, dark complexion, brown eyes, black hair and eyebrows.

**Fourth Family**

16. **Antonio Santos**, son of Simon and Anna Rodriguez, native of Lanzarote, fifty years of age, more or less, medium height, broad-shouldered, round face, dark complexion, large nose, black eyes, thin beard, black beard and hair, rather grey and curled, black eyebrows.

17. **Isabel Rodriguez**, wife of the aforesaid, daughter of Domingo de Vargas and Leonor Rodriguez, thirty-four years of age, native of the aforesaid island, tall, fair complexion, thin nose, round face, light brown eyes, black eyebrows and hair.

18. **Miguel Santos**, son of above, native of Lanzarote, about seventeen years of age, medium height, broad-shouldered, round face, dark complexion, flat nose, light grey eyes, black eyebrows and curled hair.

19. **Catharina Santos**, daughter of the aforesaid, native of the same [place], twelve years of age, more or less, round face, dark complexion, black eyes, flat nose, black eyebrows and hair, pitted with smallpox.
20. **Maria Santos**, daughter of the aforesaid, native of La Palma, about seven years of age, long face, dark complexion, brown eyes, thin nose, light chestnut hair and eyebrows.

21. **Josepha Santos**, daughter of the aforesaid, native of Lanzarote, about two years of age, round face, flat nose, light brown eyes, chestnut hair and eyebrows.

**Fifth Family**

22. **Joseph Padron**, native of La Palma, about twenty-two years of age, good physique, long face, dark complexion, black eyes, black hair and eyebrows, thin black beard.

23. **Maria Francisca Zanaria**, wife of the aforesaid, daughter of Luis Zanaria and Fran[cis]ca Lusgarda, native of Lanzarote, about twenty-two years of age, medium height, slender, thin face, thin nose, light brown eyes, fair complexion, chestnut hair and eyebrows.

**Sixth Family**

24. **Manuel de Niz**, son of Juan and Andrea Mireles, native of the Canaries, about fifty years of age, medium height, broad-shouldered, long face, dark complexion, thin beard, flat nose, light brown eyes, black beard and hair, rather bald, black eyebrows.

25. **Sebastiana de la Peña**, wife of the aforesaid, daughter of Domingo de León, and Gregoria Suarez de la Peña, a little over fifty-two years of age, good figure, dark complexion, long face, black hair, eyes and eyebrows, thin nose.

**Seventh Family**

26. **Vicente Álvarez Travieso**, son of Juan Álvarez Travieso and Catharina Cayetana, native of Tenerife, medium height, twenty-five years of age, broad-shouldered, round face, thin nose, light brown eyes, thick beard, fair complexion, chestnut curled hair.
27. **Maria Ana Curbelo**, wife of the aforesaid, daughter of Juan Curbelo and Garcia [sic] Perdomo Umpienes, native of Lanzarote, about eighteen years of age, medium height, broad-shouldered, fair complexion, long face, light brown eyes, chestnut hair and eyebrows, thin nose.

**Eighth Family**

28. **Salvador Rodriguez**, son of Francisco Rodriguez and Isabel de los Reyes, native of Lanzarote, about forty-two years of age, good physique, broad face, dark complexion, greenish eyes, thick beard, rather grey, black hair.

29. **Maria Perez Cabrera**, wife of the aforesaid, daughter of Domingo and Maria Perez, native of Lanzarote, about forty-two years of age, good figure, long face, dark complexion, thin nose, light brown eyes, black hair and eyebrows.

30. **Patricio Rodriguez**, son of above, native of Lanzarote, about fifteen years of age, medium height, slender, dark complexion, light brown eyes, thin face, chestnut hair and eyebrows.

**Ninth Family**

31. **Francisco de Arocha**, son of Simon de Arocha and Angela Francisco, native of La Palma, twenty-seven years of age, tall, long face, brown eyes, dark complexion, meeting eyebrows, thick beard, thin nose, black hair.

32. **Juana Curbelo**, wife of the aforesaid, daughter of Juan Curbelo and Garcia Perdomo de Umpierres, native of Lanzarote, fourteen years of age, full-faced, dark complexion, brown eyes, black hair and eyebrows, flat nose.

**Tenth Family**

33. **Antonio Rodriguez**, son of Juan and Maria del Carmen, native of the city of Canary, eighteen years of age more or less, medium height, broad-shouldered, full-faced, fair complexion, pitted with small-pox, Roman nose, brown eyes, chestnut hair and eyebrows, mole on right cheek.

34. **Josefa de Niz**, daughter of Manuel de Niz and Sebastiana de la Peña, wife of the foregoing, native of the Canaries, good figure, nineteen years of age, long face, pitted with small-pox, black eyes, hair and eyebrows, thin nose, dark complexion.
Eleventh Family

35 **Joseph Leal**, son of Juan Leal Goras and Louisa Hernandez, native of Lanzarote, twenty-two years of age, good physique, long face, dark complexion, thick beard, black hair and eyebrows, meeting of eye-brows, thin nose.

36 **Ana Santos**, wife of the foregoing, daughter of Antonio Santos and Isabel Rodriguez, native of Lanzarote, fifteen years of age more or less, medium height, broad shoulders, full face, fair complexion, lively brown eyes, flat nose, light chestnut hair and eyebrows.

Twelfth Family

37. **Juan Delgado**, son of Luis Delgado and Maria Melean, native of Lanzarote, nineteen years of age more or less, good physique, broad shoulders, round face, dark complexion, meeting eyebrows, brown eyes, chestnut hair and eyebrows, the beard is beginning to show.

38. **Catharina Leal**, daughter of Juan Leal and Lucia Hernandez, wife of the foregoing, native of Lanzarote, about sixteen years of age, medium height, dark complexion, flat face, flat nose, lively brown eyes, black hair and eyebrows.

Thirteenth Family

(without father and mother)

39. **Joseph Cabrera**, son of Juan Cabrera and Maria Rodriguez, native of Lanzarote, about fifty [fifteen] years of age, medium height, broad shoulders, dark complexion, round face, flat nose, pitted with small-pox, brown eyes, chestnut hair and eyebrows, blubber-lipped.

40. **Marcos Cabrera**, son of the foregoing, native of Lanzarote, about six years of age, dark complexion, round face, black eyes, hair and eyebrows, Roman nose.

41. **Ana de Cabrera**, daughter of the aforesaid, native of Lanzarote, about thirteen years of age, medium height, slender, long face, dark complexion, light brown eyes, chestnut hair and eyebrows.

Fourteenth Family

(Widow of Juan Rodriguez Granadillo)

42. **Maria Rodriguez-Robaina**, daughter of Manuel and Paula Umpierres, native of Lanzarote, about twenty-seven years of age, good figure, slender, long face, fair complexion, black hair and eyebrows, thin nose.
43. **Pedro Rodriguez Granadillo**, son of Juan Rodriguez and the foregoing, about thirteen years of age, good physique, fair complexion, broad shoulders, full face, light brown eyes, thin nose, light chestnut hair and eyebrows, pitted with smallpox.

44. **Manuel Fran[co] Rodriguez Granadillo**, son of the foregoing, native of Lanzarote, about three years of age, fair complexion, reddish hair, blue eyes.

45. **Josefa Rodriguez Granadillo**, daughter of the foregoing, native of the same [place], full faced, about ten years of age, fair complexion, Roman nose, golden eyes, chestnut hair.

46. **Paula Rodriguez Granadillo**, daughter of the aforesaid, about eight years of age, native of the same [place], fair complexion, Roman nose, round face, black eyes hair and eyebrows.

47. **Maria Rodriguez Granadillo**, daughter of the aforesaid, five years of age, native of Lanzarote, round face, fair complexion, reddish hair and eyebrows, brown eyes.

48. **Juan de Acuña, Rodriguez Granadillo**, son of the aforesaid, native of Cuautitlán, about one-month old, round face, fair complexion, blue eyes, reddish hair and eyebrows, flat nose.

**Fifteenth Family**
*(Widow of Lucas Delgado)*

49. **Mariana Meleano**, daughter of Fran[co] and Ynes de Hoyos, native of Lanzarote, about thirty years of age, good figure, fair complexion, long face, black hair, eyes, and eyebrows.

50. **Francisco Delgado**, son of Lucas and the foregoing, native of the same [place], about sixteen years of age, medium height, fair complexion, thin nose, light brown eyes, chestnut hair and eyebrows, two moles on the right cheek.

51. **Domingo Delgado**, son of the aforesaid, native of the same [place], two years of age, fair complexion, round face, reddish hair, thin nose, greenish eyes.

52. **Leonor Delgado**, daughter of the foregoing, about four years of age, native of Lanzarote, round face, fair complexion, large black eyes, black hair and eyebrows.
The Four Unmarried Men  
(*later designated as the Sixteenth Family*)

53. **Phelipe Perez**, son of Domingo and Maria Granados, native of Tenerife, twenty years of age, medium height, broad shoulders, long face, dark complexion, thin nose, blue eyes, black hair and eyebrows, large forehead.

54. **Joseph Antonio Perez**, brother of the foregoing and son of the same parents, native of the same [place], nineteen years of age, good physique, long face, thin nose, black hair, eyes and eyebrows.

55. **Martin Lorenzo de Armas**, son of Roque and Teresa de Aviles, native of one of the Canary Islands, about twenty years of age, good physique, broad shoulders, round face, dark complexion, flat nose, long eyebrows, brown eyes, black beard, eyebrows and hair, three moles on the left cheek toward the nose.

56. **Ignacio Lorenzo de Armas**, brother of the foregoing and son of same parents, native of the same [place], about twenty-two years of age, good physique, long face, dark complexion, thin nose, black eyes, beard and eyebrows and hair, pitted with the small-pox, several moles between the nose and the left cheek.

Thus the fifty-six persons of the said families answered the roll call and the final list was made, each one receiving eighteen pesos in cash, before me, the present royal notary public. I testify it was in this manner executed and with the intervention of Francisco Dubal and Juan Leal, before Don Francisco Domingo de Laba, alcalde mayor of this jurisdiction.

The witnesses were;  
Don Thomas Zubiria  
Don Joseph Carillo  
Don Juan Manuel Ximens.
Sources:


2. This is a literal copy of a document in the V.O. King Collection, now in the State Library of Texas. It was translated by Luis de Tejada from originals once on file in the office of the secretary of State at Austin. De Tejada’s affidavit appended to the translations is dated June 1882. The originals cannot now be found.

Notes:

#8 Maria Curbelo somehow was omitted from the English transcription of the document.

#11. Manuel Leal, age is given as twelve years of age, the Matti Alice Austin list him as 2 years old.

#39. Joseph Cabrera’s age is given as fifty years old. It should read 15 years old.

Tenerife is spelled Teneriffe throughout the document.
Bibliography


3) “Provencias Internas, Vol. 181, page 256, Archivo General Nacional, Mexico City, copy from Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas, Austin, Texas.

4) “San Antonio Missions”, #219, Expediente, 21 pages, 10/2/1770, Catalogue of the Spanish Collection, Part Two, Texas General Land Office, Austin, Texas. Translations by David McDonald.


8) Canary Islands Descendants Association website at http://www.cida-sa.org/