

# **MEXICAN GENEALOGY: WEBSITES**

**By John P. Schmal (October 2023)**

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## **The Two Most Valuable Databases for Mexican Research:**

**The Family Search Database**

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/>

**The Family Search Catalog (Look for the availability of church or civil records by looking up your towns):**

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog>

**The Family Search Link to all Mexican States (66 Collections):**

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/list/?fcs=region%3AMEXICO&ec=region%3AMEXICO>

**The Ancestry.com Database requires a subscription or can be accessed through some libraries.**

<https://www.ancestry.com/>

## **Other Mexican Research Websites:**

**An Up-And-Coming Website: Hispanic Heritage Project (PANES.INFO – Each state has a separate folder --- See Chihuahua, Durango and Sonora):**

<https://panes.info/mexico/>

**DRSW (Documentary Relations of the Southwest):**

<https://uair.library.arizona.edu/item/79579>

**DRSW (Documentary Relations of the Southwest) Biofile:**

<https://uair.library.arizona.edu/item/68386/browse-names>

**The Mission 2000 Database (for Northern Sonora and Arizona)**

<https://home.nps.gov/applications/tuma/search.cfm>

## **Specific Mexican Research Websites:**

**Mexican Genealogy Resources by State:**

<https://mexicangenealogy.info/mexican-genealogy-resources-by-state/>

**Early California Population Project (ECPP) - Huntington Library (California Mission Extracts – not originals)**

<https://researchguides.huntington.org/friendly.php?s=ecpp>

**(Description)**

<http://missions.huntington.org/SimpleQuery.aspx> (Search Database)

**Information about Spanish/Portuguese Surnames and Heraldry (García y Carraffa's Diccionario Heráldico y Genealógico de Apellidos Españoles y Americanos)**

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/534889?availability=Family%20History%20Library>

## **NATIONAL ARCHIVES LINKS (NARA)**

**NARA Advanced Search Function (to search for Naturalization or Alien Registration, Military Records, etc.)**

<https://catalog.archives.gov/advancedsearch>

**Location of NARA facilities (for ordering records):**

<http://www.archives.gov/locations/>

**Alien Registration Records (if they did not become citizens; primarily for the period 1940-41):**

<https://www.archives.gov/research/immigration/aliens>

**How to Order Alien Registration Records:**

<https://www.archives.gov/files/research/order/afire-order-form.pdf>

## **Genealogy Groups:**

**Las Villas del Norte (Genealogy Group specializing in Texas and Northern Mexico):**

<https://www.lasvillasdelnorte.com/>

**We are Cousins Website:**

<https://www.wearecousins.info/>

**Los Bexarenos (Specializing in Texas and Northeastern Mexico):**

<https://www.losbexarenos.org/who-are-we>

**Mexican Genealogy (This website sells “Mexican Genealogy Research Online”)**

<https://mexicangenealogy.info/>

**Society of Hispanic Historical and Ancestral Research (SHHAR):**

<https://shhar.org/>

**For Jalisco, Zacatecas and Aguascalientes, consult the “Nuestros Ranchos” website:**

<http://www.nuestrosranchos.com/>

**Nueva Galicia Genealogical Society (Jalisco, Zacatecas and Aguascalientes):**

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

## **Genealogy Groups (Continued):**

**GSHA:**

<https://www.gshaa.org/>

<https://www.gsha-sc.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/gshasocal/> (GSHA-SC Facebook Page)

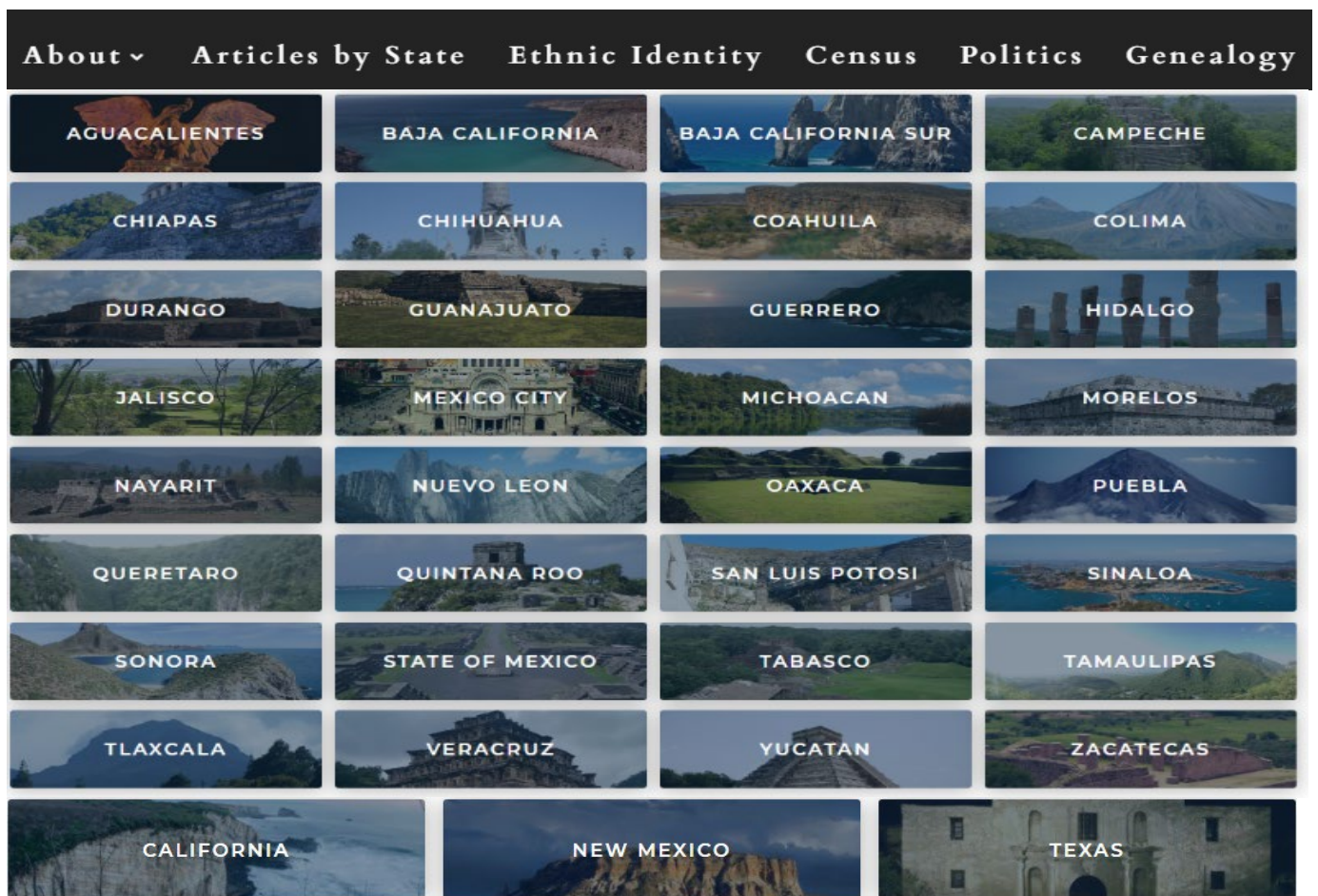
# John P. Schmal's Indigenous Mexico Weblinks:

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<https://indigenoustmexico.org/>

<https://indigenoustmexico.org/articles-by-state/> (Search for articles by state, including California)

<https://indigenoustmexico.org/genealogy/> (Genealogy Related Resources)



## John P. Schmal's Theory of Multi-Tribal Descent

Many people searching for their Mexican ancestors seek to find out the name of a given tribe that inhabited the Spanish jurisdiction (villa, hacienda, ciudad or municipio) where their ancestors lived. But no matter where your ancestors came from in Mexico, it is likely that you may descend from several tribal groups. This is especially true for central and northern Mexico. Some of the many reasons for this include:

1. In Nueva Vizcaya, Nueva Galicia and Nueva España, the Indians were conquered and became Spanish colonial citizens a long time ago. Most people living today may be 200 to 500 years removed from the time when their ancestors actually spoke an indigenous language or adhered to a specific native culture. A lot of assimilation took place during this period.
2. In the colonial period, millions of Indians from other parts of Mexico moved to the mining areas and agricultural settlements to find gainful employment with better wages. Millions of Indians fled the brutal taxation of Central Mexico. They intermarried with the indigenous people who lived in that region, as well as with Spaniards. Widespread assimilation resulted in the creation of the Mexican mestizo.
3. The Spaniards brought Tarascans, Tlaxcalans, Mexica, Otomí and various Náhuatl-speaking peoples to settle alongside the Chichimeca, the Coahuiltecas and other Indian groups of the north to help them adjust to "civilized" living and the Christian faith. Eventually, they would intermarry too.
4. The Spaniards utilized the Mission System in Northern Mexico. Within this system, they provided refuge to the smaller tribes against the powerful, warlike tribes (i.e., Comanches and Apaches). Each mission village usually became home to dozens of indigenous groups who came from the surrounding areas. Thus, local Indians mixed with other displaced groups and this created an unusual ethnic mix that led to the assimilation of many of the Northern Mexican Indians (especially, for example, the Coahuiltecas).