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PRESS RELEASE

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Exploring the questions of South Texas land ownership *New book offers insight for genealogists, attorneys and historians alike*

AUSTIN — From the border fence traversing ancient Spanish land grants on the Rio Grande to the unending pursuit of escrowed mineral royalties allegedly set aside for unknown heirs of the original grantees, there are endless questions surrounding South Texas land grants. In the “New Guide to Spanish and Mexican Land Grants in South Texas,” these controversies are explored with true expertise.

Written by Galen D. Greaser, the Spanish Translator for the General Land Office Archives Division, the book delves deep into Texas land grant history and provides a rich, factual narrative about early land settlement in South Texas.

These land grants signify the beginning of the legal establishment of private land ownership in the territory between the Nueces River and the Rio Grande. The Texas assertion of control over the trans-Nueces region caused bitterness within the Spanish provinces and later, the Mexican states in the territory.

This book presents expert insight into the stories behind these land grants and their integration with the land system of Texas after the Mexican-American War ended in 1848. The narrative explores how each grant fits in with the big picture of colonization, settlement and development of the region. Readers will also learn about historic Spanish and Mexican property law and how each dictated the land granting process and mineral rights.

“For many descendants of the Rio Grande pioneers these grants are an enduring reminder of the colonizing experience and cultural tradition of their ancestors, for the landman and attorney they often pose unusual challenges, and for the student of Texas history they offer a compelling story of endurance, conflict and survival,” Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson wrote in the book’s forward.

The author is available for interviews. Please contact our Press Office to schedule. To order the book or find out more about the Texas General Land Office Archives, please visit our Web site at <http://www.glo.state.tx.us/archives/archives.html>.

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