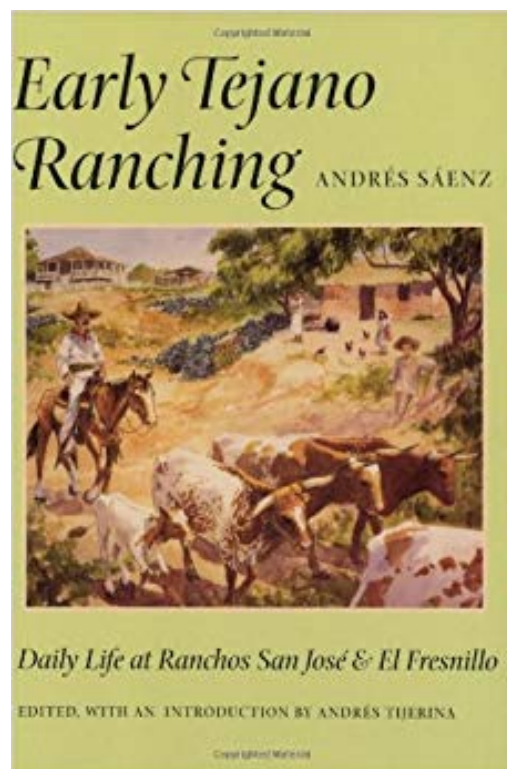
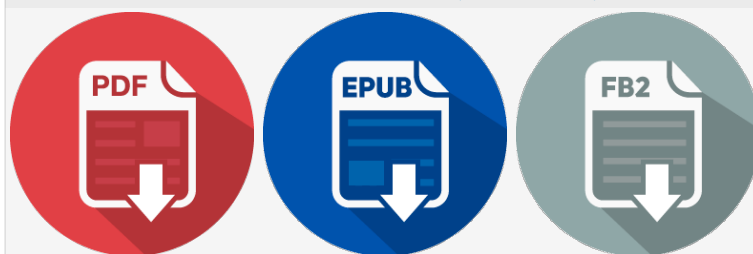


# Early Tejano Ranching: Daily Life at Ranchos San Jose and El Fresnillo (Published in Cooperation With U.T. Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio) by Andrés Tijerina, Andrés Sáenz



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For two and a half centuries Tejanos have lived and ranched on the land of South Texas, establishing many homesteads and communities. This modest book tells the story of one such family, the Sáenzes, who established Ranchos San José and El Fresnillo. Obtaining land grants from the municipality of Mier in the Mexican state of Tamaulipas, these settlers crossed the Wild Horse Desert, known as Desierto Muerto, into present-day Duval County in the 1850s and 1860s. Through the simple, direct telling of his family's stories, Andrés Sáenz lets readers learn about their homes of *piedra* (stone) and *sillares* (large blocks of limestone or sandstone), as well as the *jacales* (thatched-roof log huts) in which people of more modest means lived. He describes the cattle raising that formed the basis of Texas ranching, the carts used for transporting goods, the ways *curanderas* treated the sick, the food people ate, and how they cooked it. Marriages and deaths, feasts and droughts, education, and domestic arts are all recreated through the words of this descendent, who recorded the stories handed down through generations. The accounts celebrate a way of life without glamorizing it or distorting the hardships. The many photographs record a picturesque past in fascinating images. Those who seek to understand the ranching and ethnic heritage of Texas will enjoy and profit from *Early Tejano Ranching*.



**Reviews of the [Early Tejano Ranching: Daily Life at Ranchos San Jose and El Fresno \(Published in Cooperation With U.T. Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio\)](#) by **Andrés Tijerina, Andrés Sáenz****

Gholbirus

This book contains stories of my grandmother and many other relatives. It was wonderful to read it and see what their life was like in early rural Texas. Very enlightening!

Redfury

This book has information that I could not find anywhere else. This author is very educated in the subject, and I also purchased his book "Tejano Empire."

I used the book as research for a historical fiction adventure novel based in 1880 on the Tex/Mex border.

Mall

I was delighted to see how family documents and oral histories can be woven into an understandable view of Tejano ranching life that predates the view of ranching in Texas celebrated by popular culture.

Tuliancel

Love this book! I am from South Texas so I can relate to most everything.

Stylish Monkey

My husband enjoyed this book!

Hulbine

ok

catterpillar

My husband just loved it. Thank you.

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