

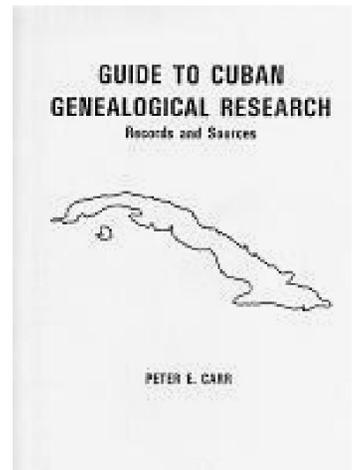


# IN MEMORIAM: PETER E. CARR

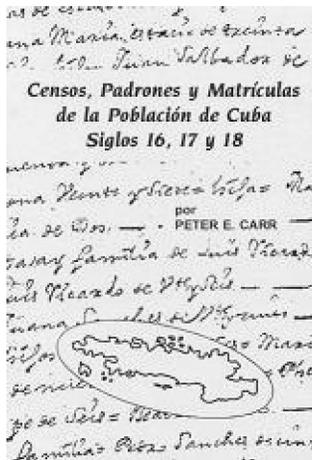
By Eduardo Ramos Garcia

On January 9, 2008, the world of Genealogy, Cuban Genealogy in particular, was shocked at the news of the passing of one of our better known and respected contemporary genealogists. Not only was Peter Carr considered an expert on Cuban Genealogy, but also on the genealogies of France, England, and Spain. Born in Havana, Cuba, on October 16, 1950, Peter immigrated to the United States as part of the “Pedro Pan” project after the rise of the Cuban dictator. A college graduate, Peter earned his degree in Anthropology and Archeology in 1986 from California State University – Long Beach. He was an archaeologist for eight years with most of his work involved in cultural resource management in Southern California. It has been said that his natural curiosity, investigative skills, and love of history were what led him to pursue a career as a professional genealogist. Peter held memberships in various academic, historical and genealogical organizations, and was named as the Ethnic Liaison of the California Genealogical Alliance. With over 25 years of public speaking experience, he had lectured on genealogical research methods and sources throughout the United States, presenting his knowledge on this subject at various genealogical conferences. Other lecture topics have included Funerary Practices in the 19th Century; Records of Hispanic American Southwest; U.S. Consular Records; Merchant Ship and Marine Records, and Newspaper Research to name a few.

Peter began studying his family genealogy shortly after arriving in the U.S., in 1962. Facing difficult challenges in his investigations, he set out to find any and all information relevant to Cuban Genealogy. It was his frustration with the lack of information on Cuban family history that years later led to writing the definitive book on the subject of researching one’s Cuban ancestors. His first foray as an author was a “how to” book on Cuban Genealogy: **Guide to Cuban Genealogical Research**, first published in 1991 and reprinted in 2006. The book covers how to find family information by tapping into the various types of records available for Cuban research, including many unknown resources such as: genealogical societies, passenger lists, newspapers, deeds, notarial records, census lists, cemetery plot lists, *cabildo* lists, libraries, archives, and military and consular records. Well received by the genealogical community at large, the book won the American Society of Genealogists Scholar Award in 1997. The award is an annual scholarship, providing a stipend towards tuition and expenses at one of the two major and oldest genealogical institutes: The Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR), based at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, and the National Institute on Genealogical Research (NIGR), based at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. Candidacy for the award is open to all genealogists, genealogical librarians, and researchers working in related fields.



“Guide” 1991 – 1st Edition



“Censos” 1993 – 1st Edition

Peter Carr’s second book on Cuban genealogy, **Censos, Padrones y Matriculas de la Población de Cuba Siglos 16, 17 y 18** was first published in 1993 and a revised edition printed in 2004 [Clearfield Co.]. For clarification sake, *censos* refers to enumerations taken on a national scale, while *padrones* and *matriculas* refer to local enumerations, both official and informal. This book contains dozens of lists of names of town residents, some founding families, land and plantation owners, voters and donors of goods and services throughout the island. The book commences with a very small list of some early settlers of Trinidad, Las Villas dated 1520, to an 18 page *padrón* of the city of Holguín, Oriente, from 1731, and ends with a list of witnesses in a *pleito* from Remedios, Las Villas. Also included is an important *padrón* of “émigrés” of *Floridano* families who left St. Augustine, Florida, after the British takeover of the city and arrived in Guanabacoa, La Habana, in 1763.

In addition to books specifically on Cuban Genealogy, Peter also published **The San Francisco Passenger Departure Lists** [Cuban Index, 1991]. It was the first in a series six volumes detailing the passengers departing San Francisco starting from 1850. The lists were compiled from the newspaper “Alta California” and provide the first and last names of the passenger, ship name, date of departure and destination.

Peter contributed articles to *Raíces de la Perla* and other publications such as The Genealogical Journal (SHHAR: Society of Hispanic Historical and Ancestral Research) and Nuestra Herencia (HGSNY: Hispanic Genealogical Society of New York), as well as to various encyclopedic projects for Salem Press, CLIO Press, Marshall Cavendish, and others.

Peter Carr was also the founder of TCI Genealogical Resources, an organization created to promote the study of West Indian and Cuban Genealogy. For several years, he was also the editor and publisher of the “**Cuban Index**” later known as the “**Caribbean Historical and Genealogical Journal**”, first published in 1993. The first, as its name would imply, was concentrated solely on providing Cuban data. The latter, offered information to a much wider audience, covering the historical and genealogical aspects of the Spanish, English, Dutch, Danish, and American Caribbean as well as the African and native Indian communities from prehistoric times to the present day.

