

BALLÍ FAMILY ORGANIZATION

*“We lead the family worldwide to information vital to our heritage.
Fact finding is our mission and
Unity is our bond.”*

www.balli.org

August 01, 2026

NOTICE: Heirs of Spanish & Mexican Land Grants

RE: Joel Rene Escobar – Balli & González Book Sale

Who was Joel Rene Escobar

Joel Rene Escobar was a Texas-based author, editor, educator, and genealogist whose work has become an important resource for families researching Spanish and Mexican land-grant ancestry in South Texas and Northern Mexico.

Rene Escobar was an author/editor of nine genealogical and historical books, known for his meticulous research standards and insistence on factual accuracy.

He was born in Pharr, Texas, graduated from Donna High School in 1955, and earned both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Music Education from North Texas State University in 1959. He later taught Spanish and Choral Music for nearly three decades.

A 1963 Fulbright Scholar, he studied Spanish history, art, and literature in Spain, where he also discovered his family's ancestral connection to El Cid. This discovery fueled his lifelong passion for genealogy.

His Work as an Author & Editor

Escobar's books are widely regarded as high-quality, well-documented genealogical resources, especially for families with roots in:

- South Texas
- Northern Mexico
- The Rio Grande region
- Spanish/Mexican land-grant family

The Ballí Family Organization notes that his books were carefully researched, fact-checked, and often hardbound, making them reliable starting points for genealogical research.

Notable Works (verified)

Each of these titles appear in genealogical catalogs or family-organization listings:

- Family History of José Maria Escobar and His Descendants (hardbound - sold out)
- Ballí Family History - La Barreta & Padre Island Branches (hardbound)
- Capt. Ignacio Guerra Canamar and His Descendants (sold out)
- Capt. Bartolome Gonzalez's and His Descendants
- The Genealogy of Bartolome de Treviño I (sold out)
- Mier in History (translated by Jose Maria Escobar IV) (sold out)
- The Seabury Papers - transcribed by Escobar (sold out)
- El Cid and His Descendants (sold out)

His 1997 book Family History of José Maria Escobar and His Descendants is cataloged by FamilySearch and includes extensive historical context, maps, coats of arms, and a full-name index.

Why His Work Matters

Escobar's books are especially valuable because they:

- Document multi-generational family lines
- Include primary-source transcriptions
- Cover land-grant families central to Texas and Mexican history
- Provide accurate, verifiable genealogical data
- Are often the only compiled sources for certain family branches

For anyone researching South Texas or Northern Mexico ancestry, his work is considered foundational.

His Legacy

Escobar passed away on February 15, 2011, at age 74. His obituary highlights his dedication to education, genealogy, and family history, as well as his respected role in the community.

Books will be charged \$10 extra for S/H.

Ballí Family History - La Barreta & Padre Island Branches (hardbound)

\$90.00

If interested in buying the Balli Family History book, please call;

Richard Balli 956-240-1999 – Please leave a detailed message with your name and phone number. Your call will be returned.

For the Gonzalez book contact Mara or Lucia:

Capt. Bartolome Gonzalez's and His Descendants

\$110.00 Index \$10

Mara Escobar Johnson 972-333-4276 or at maragypsyrose@gmail.com

Lucia Escobar 956-781-2205 or write to:

626 West Caffery Ave, Pharr, TX 78577

Sincerely,
Federico (Fred) Blanco Balli Sr