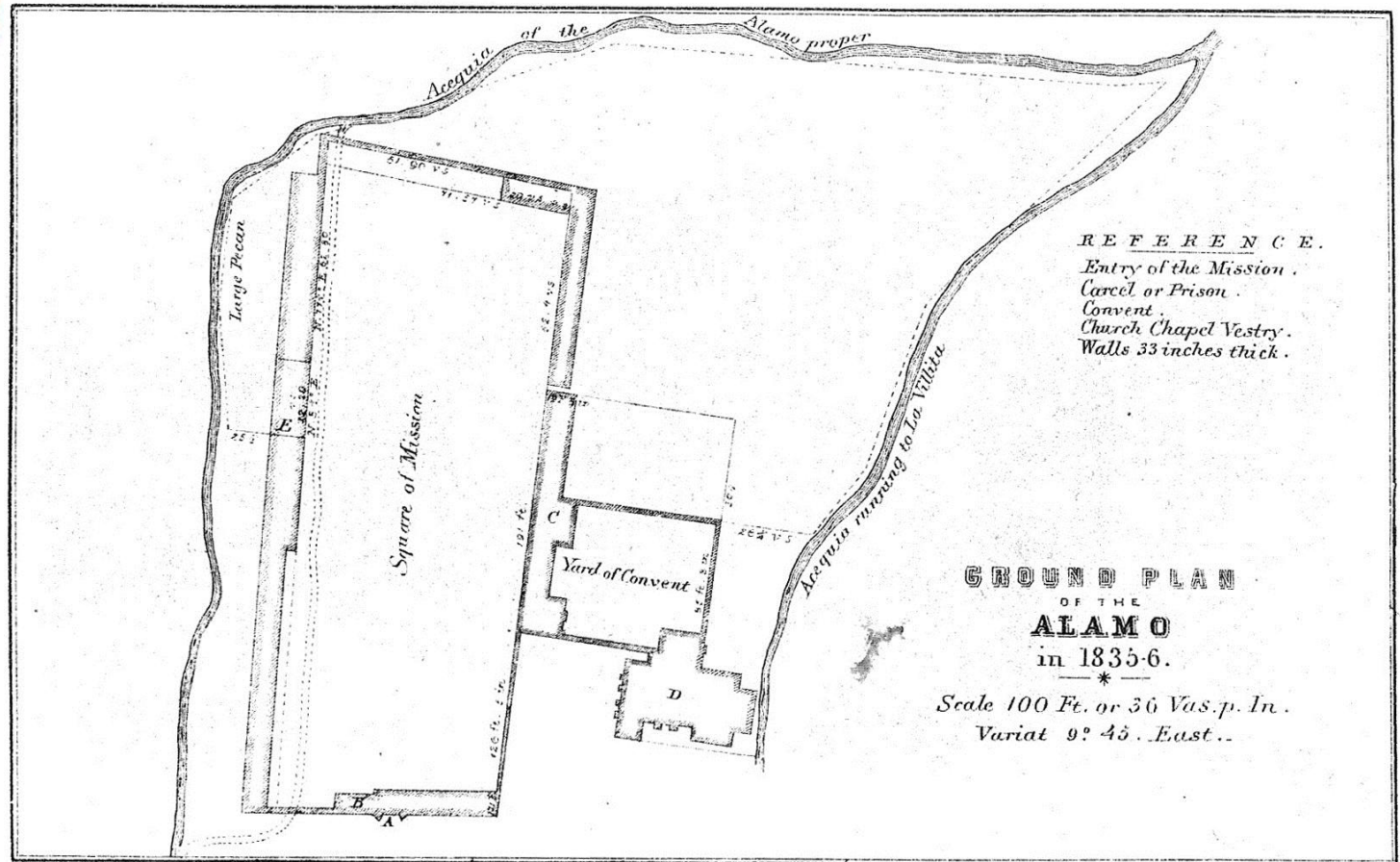




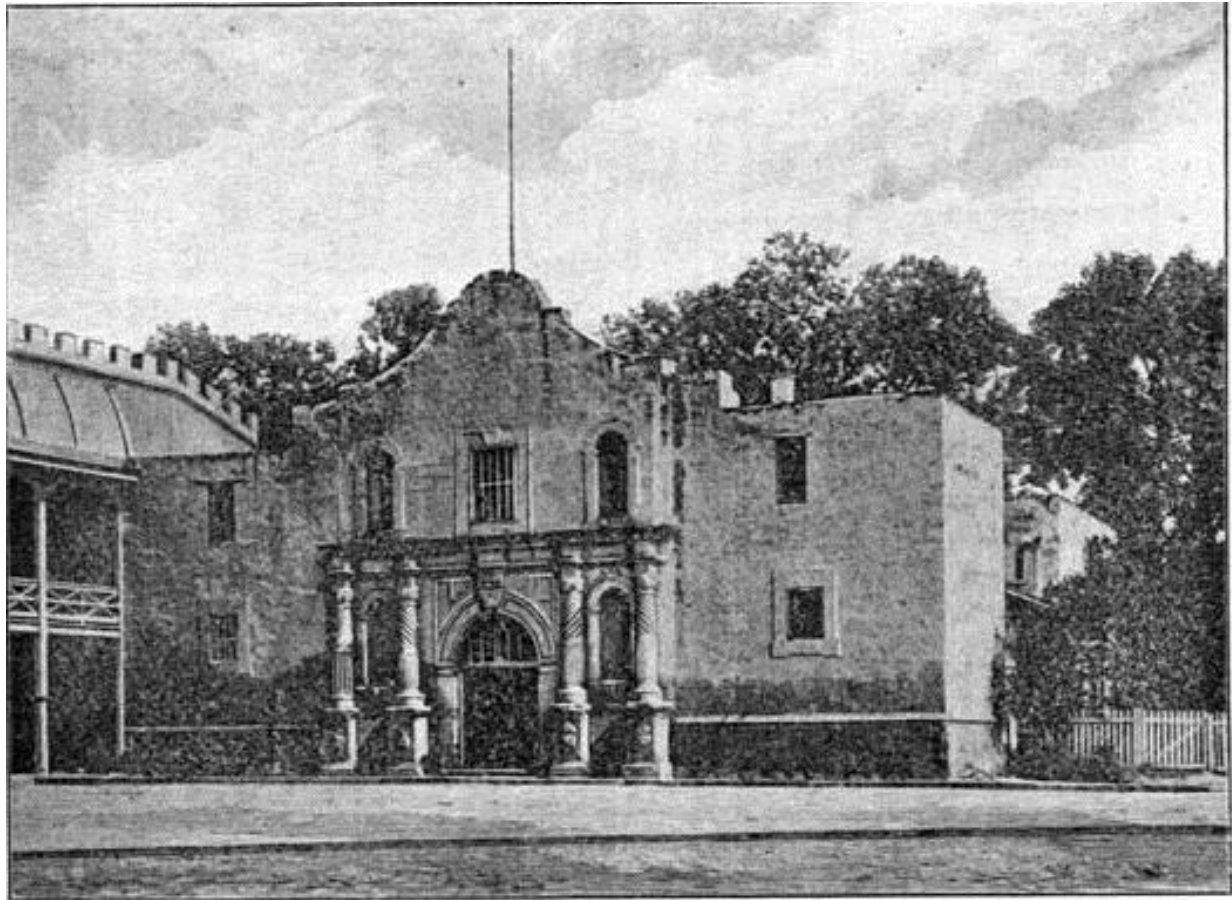
A rough outline of the Alamo mission in 1836



H. K. Yoakum. *History of Texas: From its first settlement in 1685 to its annexation to the United States in 1846*, Vol. 2 (NY: Redfield, 1855)



Photo of the Alamo in 1901



E.G. Littlejohn. *Texas Stories: The Alamo, Remember Goliad, Story of San Jacinto, No.4.* (Richmond: B.F. Johnson Publishing Company, 1901).

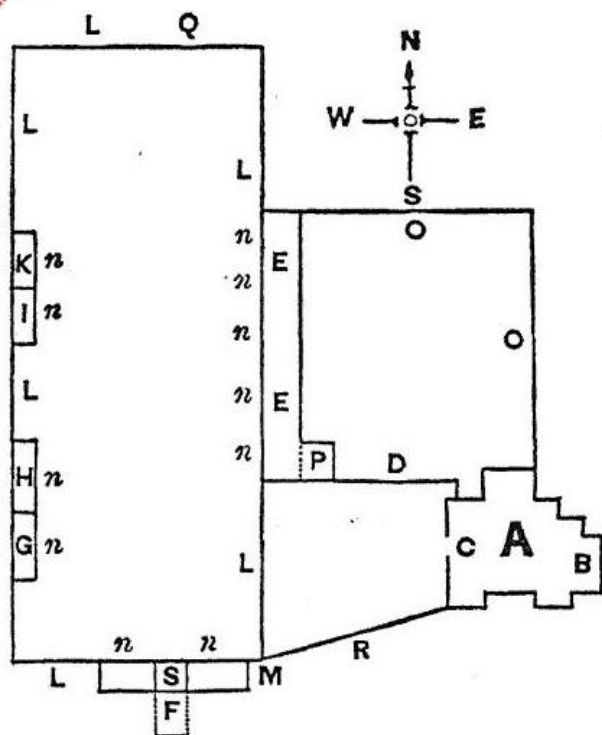
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The plan of the Alamo.

Note the size of the area which Travis and his men were responsible for defending.



GROUND PLAN OF THE ALAMO.

- A. Chapel of the Fortress.
- B. Upper window.
- C. Front door of the Church.
- D. A wall 50 feet long, connecting Church with the long Barrack, E E.
- F. A low stone barrack, 114 feet long, and 17 wide.
- G, H, I and K. Rooms built against the west barrier, and demolished with it.
- L. Barrier wall from 6 to 8 feet high and $2\frac{3}{4}$ thick.
- M. Gate of the area.
- n n. Doors of houses opening upon area.
- O O. A wall from 5 to 6 feet high, and $2\frac{3}{4}$ thick, which inclosed a smaller area east of the long barrack and north of the church.
- P. An upper room in the south-east angle of said barrack.
- Q. A breach in the north barrier.
- R. An intrenchment running from the south-west angle of the chapel to the gate.
- S. Represents a *porte cochere*, or wide passage through the centre of the house F, with but one room on each side. The dotted lines represent a projecting stockade which covered a four-gun battery in front of the outer door.

Homer S. Thrall. *A Pictorial History of Texas: From the Earliest Visits of European Adventurers, to AD 1879.* (St. Louis, Missouri, 1879)



The interior well that the defenders of the Alamo used throughout the siege, preventing Santa Anna from denying the Texans water.



“The Well at the Alamo.” The Portal to Texas History,
<http://texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-pth-3608>



One of the small skirmishes that occurred during the siege.

BOMBARDMENT OF THE ALAMO.

77

Meanwhile, Santa Anna had received reinforcements, and now enlarged his guard, the sentinels being placed nearer the fort. The Texans sallied out for wood and water, without loss; and at night they succeeded in burning some old houses northeast from the fort, and near a battery erected by the enemy on the Alamo ditch, about eight hundred yards distant.†

† Almonté's Journal. Travis to President of the Convention, March 3, 1836.

H. K. Yoakum. *History of Texas: From its first settlement in 1685 to its annexation to the United States in 1846*, Vol. 2 (NY: Redfield, 1855)



The Mexican bombardment of the Alamo and the Texan defensive measures.

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HISTORY OF TEXAS.

During all this time the Mexicans kept up a constant firing, but with little effect. On the 28th, they erected another battery at the old mill, eight hundred yards north, and attempted to cut off the water from the fort. The Texans were engaged in strengthening their works, by throwing up earth on the inside of the walls.

* * *

On the morning of the 1st of March, thirty-two gallant men from Gonzales were safely conducted by Captain John W. Smith into the Alamo, making the effective force under Travis one hundred and eighty-eight men. The bombardment of the fort still continued. The Texans, being short of ammunition, fired but seldom.

H. K. Yoakum. *History of Texas: From its first settlement in 1685 to its annexation to the United States in 1846*, Vol. 2 (NY: Redfield, 1855)

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Colonel William B. Travis's
original letter from the
Alamo on February 24,
1836, the second
day of the siege.

(Page one of two. See next slide for
transcription.)

Travis letter page one,
courtesy of the Texas State Library
And Archives Commission.

Commandery of the Alamo -
February 24th 1836 -
To the People of Texas &
all Americans in the world -
Fellow Citizens & compatriots -
I am besieged, by a thousand
or more of the Mexicans under
Santa Anna - I have sustained
a continual Bombardment &
cannonade for 24 hours & have
not lost a man - The enemy
has demanded a surrender at
discretion, otherwise, the garrison
are to be put to the sword, if
the fort is taken - I have answered
the demand with a cannon
shot, & our flag still waves
proudly from the wall - I
shall never surrender or retreat
Then, I call on you in the
name of Liberty, of patriotism &
everything dear to the American
character, to come to our aid,



Primary
Source
Adventures:
Remember
The Alamo

The text version of
Colonel William B.
Travis's letter.
(Page one of two.)

Commandancy of the Alamo--
Bejar, Fby 24th 1836--

To the People of Texas &
all Americans in the world--

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name of Liberty, of patriotism &
everything dear to the American
character, to come to our aid,

Text Version courtesy of the *Texas State Library and Archives Commission*.

<http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/treasures/republic/alamo/travis-02.html>

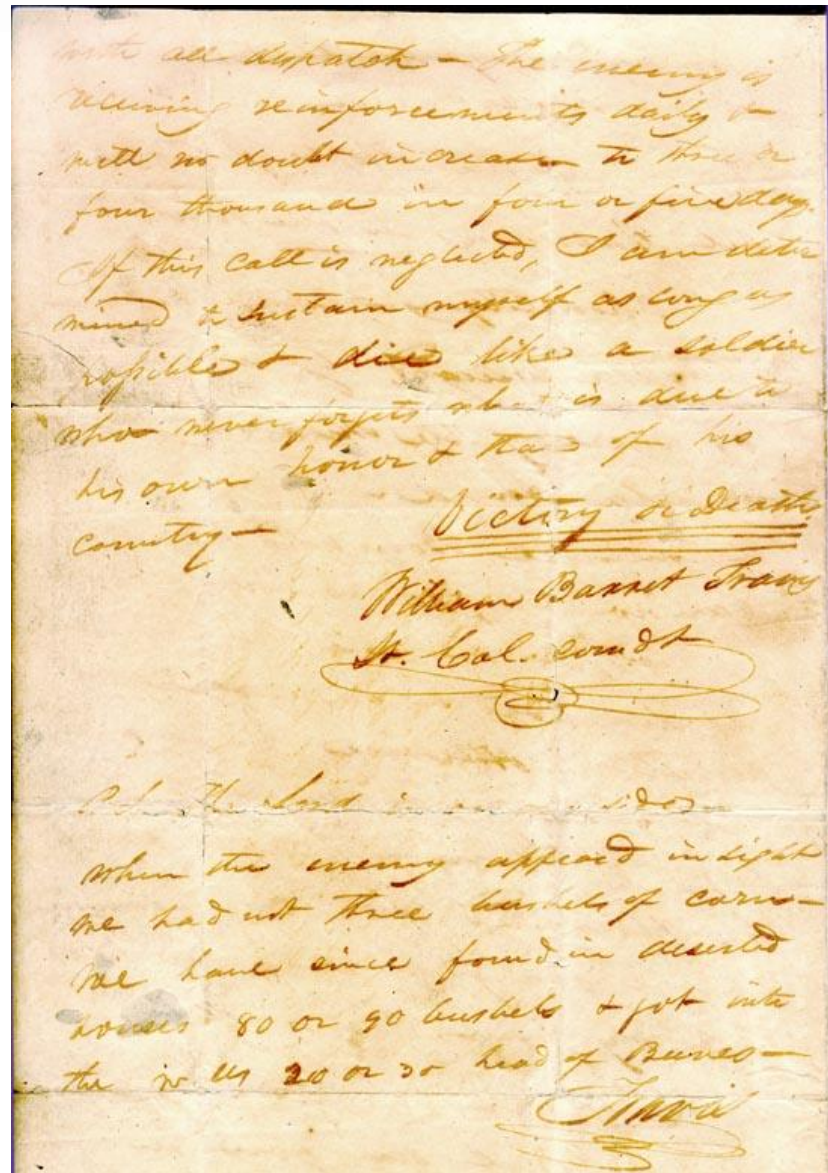


Primary
Source
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Remember
The Alamo

Colonel William B. Travis's
original letter from the
Alamo on February 24,
1836, the second
day of the siege.

(Page two of two. See next slide for
transcription.)

Travis letter page two,
courtesy of the Texas State Library
and Archives Commission.





The text version of
Colonel William B.
Travis's letter.
(Page two of two.)

with all dispatch -- The enemy is
receiving reinforcements daily
& will no doubt increase to three or
four thousand in four or five days.
If this call is neglected, I am deter-
mined to sustain myself as long as
possible & die like a soldier
who never forgets what is due to
his own honor & that of his
country -- Victory or Death
William Barret Travis
Lt. Col. comdt

P.S. The Lord is on our side --
When the enemy appeared in sight
we had not three bushels of corn --
We have since found in deserted
houses 80 or 90 bushels & got into
the walls 20 or 30 head of Beeves --
Travis

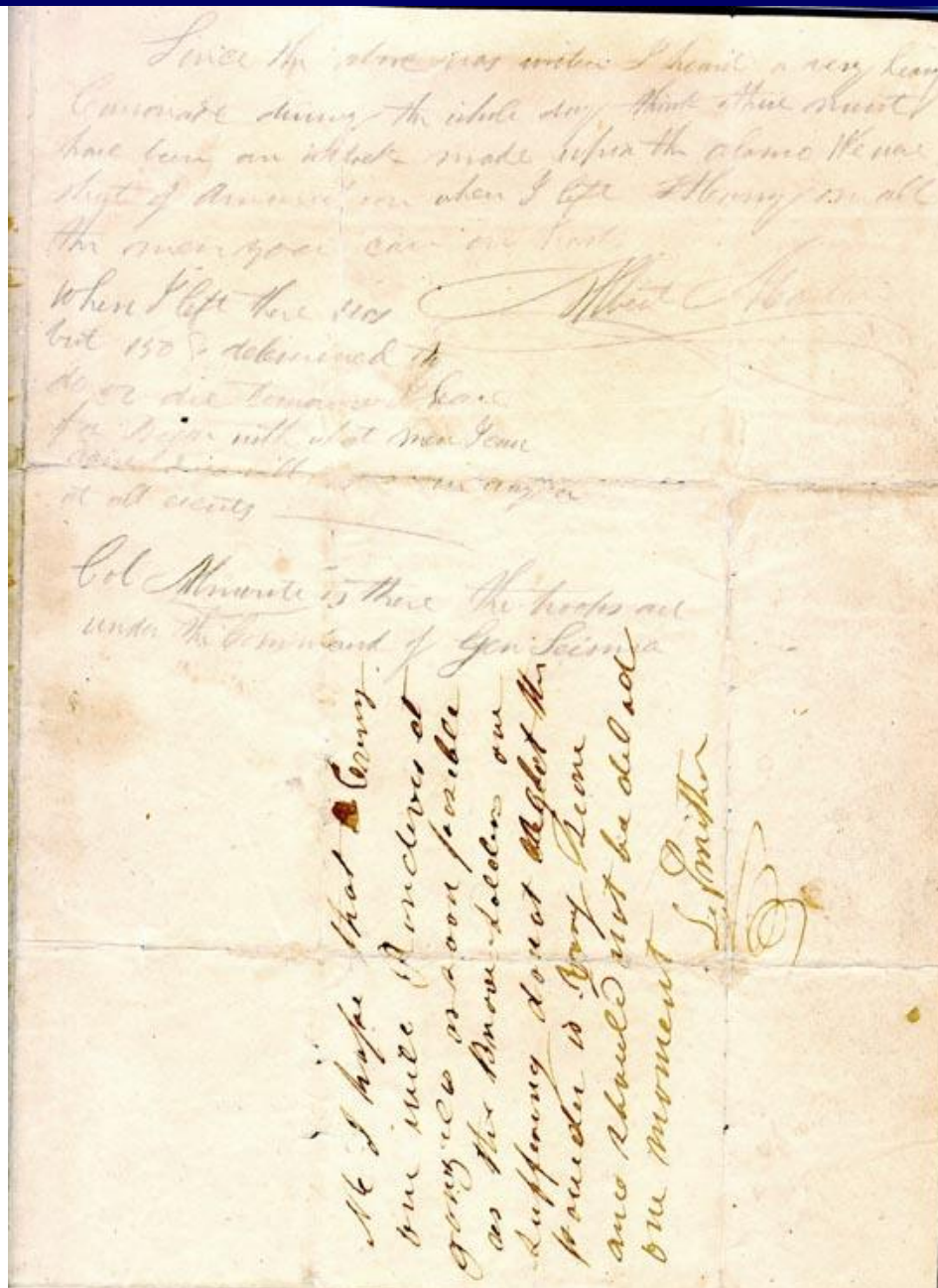


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Source
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Remember
The Alamo

The postscript (in pencil)
added by courier Captain
Albert Martin on
February 25th to Colonel
William B. Travis's
original letter from the
Alamo.

Lancelot Smither added
his own note (in ink)
when the letter arrived at
Gonzales.

Travis letter page three,
courtesy of the Texas State Library
And Archives Commission.





Primary
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Adventures:
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The Alamo

The text version
of the Travis letter
postscript.

Since the above was written I heard a very heavy
Cannonade during the whole day think there must
have been an attack made upon the alamo We were
short of ammunition when I left Hurry on all
the men you can in haste

When I left there was Albert Martin
but 150 determined to

do or die tomorrow I leave
for Bejar with what men I can
raise [copy here illegible]
at all events --

Col. Almonte is there the troops are
under the Command of Gen. Seisma

[printed sideways]
Nb I hope that Every
One will Rondevu at
gonzales as soon poseble
as the Brave Solders are
suffering do not neglect this
powder is very scarce
and should not be delad
one moment

L. Smither

Text Version courtesy of the *Texas State Library and Archives Commission*.

<http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/treasures/republic/alamo/travis-04.html>

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HISTORY OF TEXAS.

After declaring his determination to sell his life as dearly as possible, and drawing a line with his sword, Travis exhorted all who were willing to fight with him to form on the line. With one exception, all fell into the ranks, and even Bowie, who was dying with the consumption, had his cot carried to the line. The man who declined to enter the ranks, that night made his escape.

Homer S. Thrall. *A Pictorial History of Texas: From the Earliest Visits of European Adventurers, to AD 1879.* (St. Louis, MO: N.D. Thompson, 1879)



1174



Santa Anna's
decision to
directly assault
the Alamo.

BOMBARDMENT OF THE ALAMO—COUNCIL OF WAR. 79

The enemy continued the fire on the 4th; but few shots were returned from the fort. In the afternoon, Santa Anna called a council of war, to advise on the question of assaulting the place. After much discussion, "Cos, Castrillon, and others, were of opinion that the Alamo should be assaulted *after* the arrival of the two twelve-pounders expected on the 7th. The president, General Ramirez, Sesma, and Almonté, were of

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HISTORY OF TEXAS.

opinion that the twelve-pounders should not be waited for, but the assault made."* Santa Anna, without making a public decision, determined upon an assault, and made his preparations accordingly. His troops then in Bexar exceeded four thousand in number, the most of whom had been refreshed during the time they had spent there. The Texans, on the contrary, were worn down by incessant watching and labor within their walls.

H. K. Yoakum. *History of Texas: From its first settlement in 1685 to its annexation to the United States in 1846*, Vol. 2 (NY: Redfield, 1855)



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A drawing of General Lopez
de Santa Anna



SANTA ANNA.

Homer S. Thrall. *A Pictorial History of Texas: From the Earliest Visits of European Adventurers to A.D. 1879* (St. Louis, MO: N.D. Thompson, 1879)

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A romanticized representation of the final battle for the Alamo.



STORMING OF THE ALAMO.

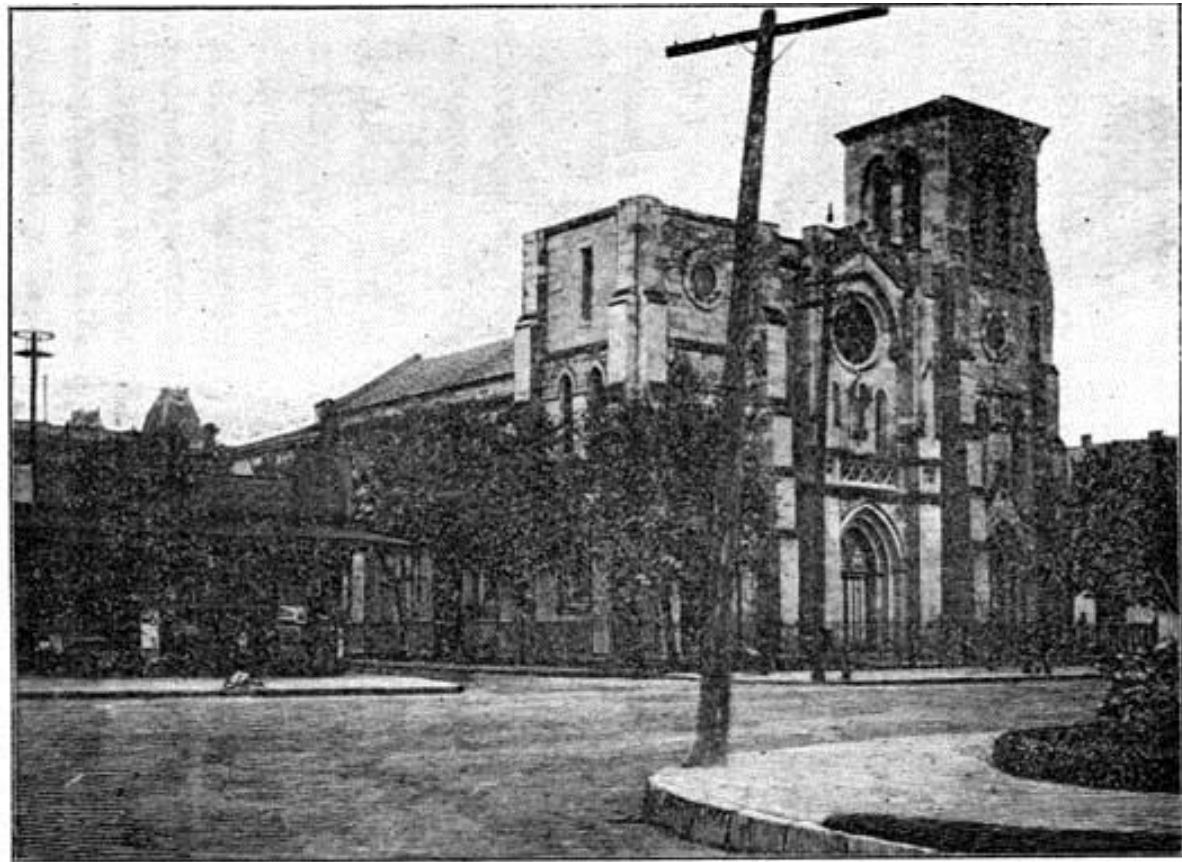
Homer S. Thrall. *A Pictorial History of Texas: From the Earliest Visits of European Adventurers, to AD 1879.* (St. Louis, MO: N.D. Thompson, 1879)

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A 1901 photo of the San Fernando Cathedral, where a Texan scout
rung the bells to warn of Santa Anna's approach.



CATHEDRAL SAN FERNANDO (Warning of the approach of the Mexicans was given from the tower of this building)

E.G. Littlejohn. *Texas Stories: The Alamo, Remember Goliad,
Story of San Jacinto, No.4.* (Richmond: B.F. Johnson Publishing Company, 1901).

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Source
Adventures:
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The Alamo

Santa Anna's assault
against the Alamo's walls
on March 6th, 1836.

H. K. Yoakum. *History of Texas:
From its first settlement in 1685 to its
annexation to the United States in 1846*,
Vol. 2 (NY: Redfield, 1855)

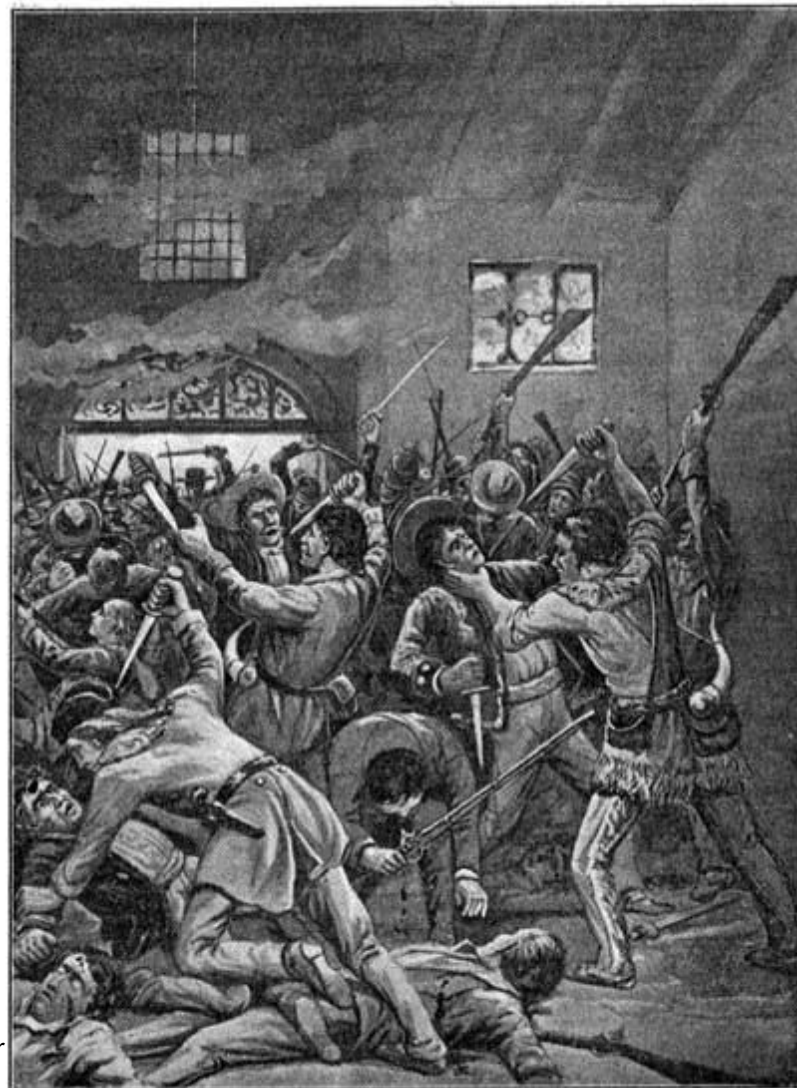
On Sunday morning, the 6th of March, a little after midnight, the Alamo was surrounded by the entire Mexican army. The cavalry were placed without the infantry, to cut them down if they offered to give way. The latter were provided with scaling-ladders. The enemy, thus forming a circle facing the fort, advanced rapidly under a tremendous fire from the Texan rifles and artillery. Just at daylight the ladders were placed against the walls, and an attempt made by the enemy to enter the fort, but they were driven back by the stern defenders within. Again the charge was sounded, and a second effort made to reach the top of the walls, but again the assailants were repulsed. For a few minutes there was a pause. By the presence, threats, and promises, of Santa Anna, a third assault was made, and with more fatal success. The enemy, reaching the tops of the ladders, wavered and fell; but their places were supplied by the hundreds pressing onward and behind them on each ladder. At length, killed, cut down, and exhausted, the Texan defenders did not retreat, but ceased to keep back the Mexicans. Instantly the fort was filled by the latter. The survivors within the walls still continued to do battle. They clubbed their guns, and used them till they were nearly all cut down.



Primary
Source
Adventures:
Remember
The Alamo

A dramatized drawing of the
hand-to-hand fighting as the
surviving Texans fought to
the last.

E. G. Littlejohn. *Texas Stories: The Alamo, Remember Goliad, Story of San Jacinto, No.4.* (Richmond: B.F. Johnson Publishing Company, 1901)



(15)

THE LAST STAND IN THE ALAMO



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A representation of David Crockett



E. G. Littlejohn. *Texas Stories: Sam Houston and David Crockett*, No.3.
(Richmond: B.F. Johnson Publishing Company, 1901), 34.

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Primary
Source
Adventures:
Remember
The Alamo

A dramatized account of
Crockett's death.

16 TEXAS HISTORY STORIES

Crockett, with several others, were driven to a corner of the church where, with backs to the wall, they fought with the fury of tigers. Their faces were begrimed with powder, and blood trickled from many wounds. Crockett had a frightful gash across his forehead. Piles of Mexicans, dead and dying, lay around them.

When they could fight no longer, Crockett and five others were taken prisoners, and carried before General Santa Anna.

General Castrillon, who captured them, was a brave man, and he loved bravery in others. He wanted to save their lives. He said to General Santa Anna, "Sire, here are six prisoners, what shall I do with them?"

"Did I not tell you that no prisoners were to be taken?" shouted Santa Anna in rage. "To death with them."

This cruel order was immediately carried out. The last Texan had fallen, and with him the Alamo.

E. G. Littlejohn. *Texas Stories: Sam Houston and David Crockett, No.3.* (Richmond: B.F. Johnson Publishing Company, 1901)



A dramatized account of the aftermath of the battle of the Alamo.

STORMING AND FALL OF THE ALAMO.

81

Thus fell the Alamo and its heroic defenders; but before them lay the bodies of five hundred and twenty-one of the enemy, with a like number wounded. At an hour by sun, on that sabbath morning, all was still; yet the crimson waters of the aqueduct around the fort resembled the red flag on the church at Bexar! The defenders of Texas did not retreat, but lay there in obedience to the command of their country; and in that obedience the world has witnessed among men no greater moral sublimity.

Those in the fort that survived were, Mrs. Dickinson (wife of Lieutenant Dickinson, who fell in the defence), her child, a negro-servant of Colonel Travis, and two Mexican women of Bexar.*

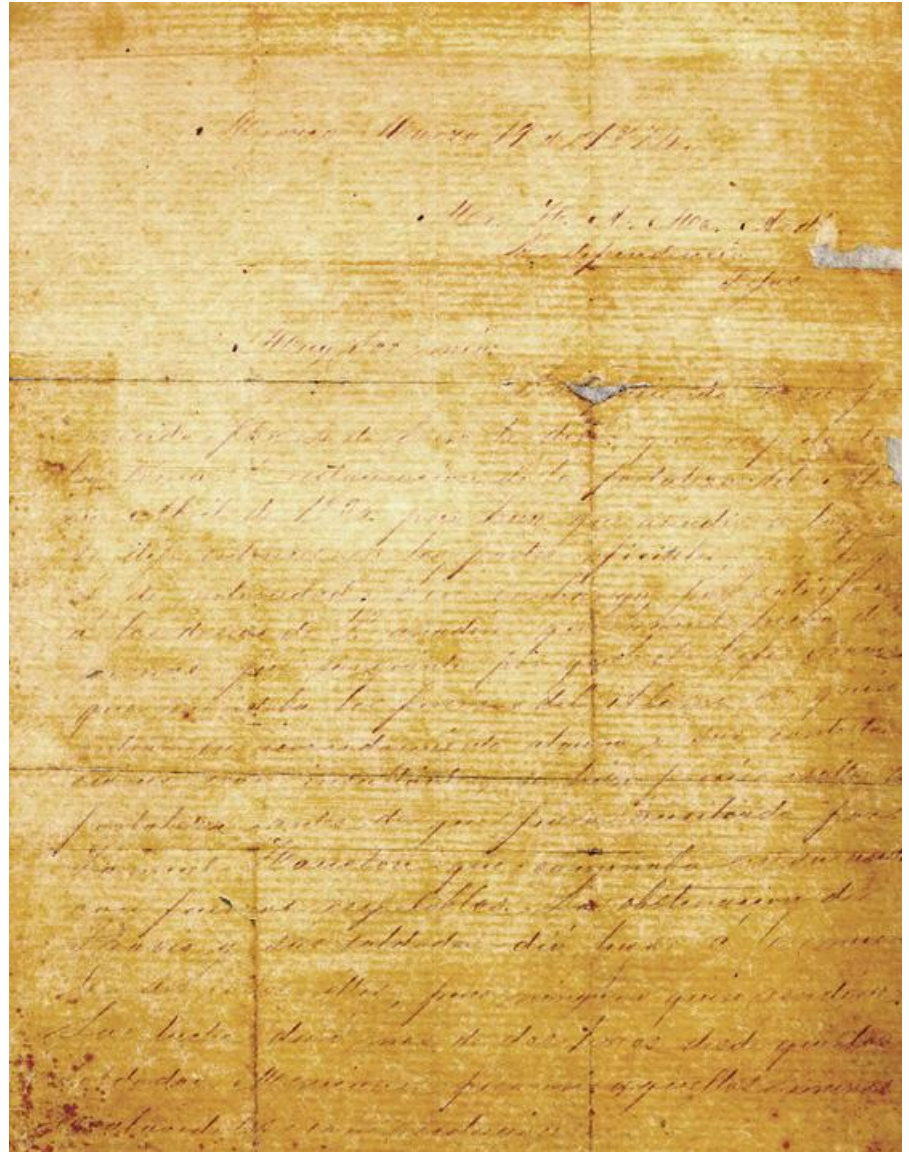
H. K. Yoakum. *History of Texas: From its first settlement in 1685 to its annexation to the United States in 1846*, Vol. 2 (NY: Redfield, 1855)



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Source
Adventures:
Remember
The Alamo

Santa Anna's letter to McArdle
explaining why the Alamo
defenders had to die on
March 16, 1874.
(Transcriptions in Spanish and English
are on the next two slides.)

Santa Anna letter page one,
Text Version courtesy of the Texas State
Library and Archives Commission.
[http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/treasures/republic/
alamo/santa-anna-letter-01.html](http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/treasures/republic/alamo/santa-anna-letter-01.html)





SPANISH

Mexico Marzo 19 del 1874

Mr. H.A. McArdle
Independencia
Tejas

Muy sur mio:

Sa[tisf]acienda a su favorecida fha 4 de Enero te dire: que respecto de la toma o restauracion de la fortaleza del Alamo en Abril de 1,836, pues hay que anadir a lo que se dijo entonces en los partes oficiales, y a lo que es de notoriedad. Sin embargo, por satisfacer a los deseos de Ud anadire que aquel hecho de armas fue sangriento porque el Gefee Travis que mandaba las fuerzas del Alamo no quiso entrar en acomodamiento algun y sus contestaciones eran insultantes, se hizo preciso asaltar la fortaleza antes de que fuera auxiliada por Samuel Houston que caminaba en su asisto con fuerzas respetables. La obstinacion de Travis y sus soldados dio lugar a la muerte de todos ellos, pues ninguno quiso rendirse. La lucha duro mas de dos horas desde que los soldados Mexicanos pesaron aquellos muros escalandolos con resolucion.

Primary
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Adventures:
Remember
The Alamo

The text of Santa Anna's
letter in Spanish.



The translation of
Santa Anna's letter in
English.

ENGLISH

Mexico March 19, 1874

Mr. H.A. McArdle
Independence,
Texas

Dear Sir:

In response to your favor of the 4th of January, I have to say that in regard to the restitution or restoration of the fortress of the Alamo, in April 1836 there is but little I can add to what was said in my official dispatches, and what was notorious. Notwithstanding, for your satisfaction, I will add that, that conflict of arms was bloody, because the chief Travis, who commanded the forces of the Alamo, would not enter into any capitulation, and his responses were insulting, which made it imperative to assault the fort before it could be reinforced by Samuel Houston who was marching to its succor with respectable forces. The obstinacy of Travis and his soldiers was the cause of the death of the whole of them, for not one would surrender. The struggle lasted more than two hours, and until the ramparts were resolutely scaled by Mexican soldiers.



Santa Anna's letter to McArdle explaining why the Alamo defenders had to die on March 16th, 1874.



Travis letter page three, Text version courtesy of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

<http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/treasures/republic/alamo/santa-anna-letter-02.html>



The text and translation of Santa Anna's letter.

SPANISH

Celebrare que esta esplicacion llene los deseos de
Ud y que conozca mi buena disposicion para ser
virlo como su mas at'o S.S.

A. L. de Sta Anna
rubric

ENGLISH

Hoping this explanation will fill your wishes
and that you will be satisfied of my good disposition to be
truthful, as I am your obedient servant

A.L. de Santa Anna

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Portrait of Anson Jones,
last president of the Republic of Texas.



Anson Jones. *Memoranda and Official Correspondence Relating to the Republic of Texas, its History and Annexation. Including A Brief Autobiography of the Author.* (NY: D. Appleton and Co., 1859)

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Anson Jones's comments on Travis and the Alamo

SS

MEMORANDA.

[1850.

June 4th.—The defence of the Alamo by Travis is one of the most splendid instances of bravery and noble devotion to the cause of one's country on the page of history, and has no parallel except the defence of the pass of Thermopylæ by Leonidas and his little band of Spartans.

SS

MEMORANDA.

[1850.

the example of high and elevated heroism they left behind was of priceless value, and constituted a legacy, the benefits of which will last while Texas has a name. It nerved at the time the heart and the arm of every Texan,

Anson Jones. *Memoranda and Official Correspondence Relating to the Republic of Texas, its History and Annexation. Including A Brief Autobiography of the Author.* (NY: D. Appleton and Co., 1859)

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