



GENERAL AUSTIN'S COMMUNICATION.

231

On the question of the relation of Texas to the Mexican government, General Austin said:

“It may be out of place to speak of myself in such a communication as this, but I deem it right to say that I have faithfully labored for years to unite Texas permanently to the Mexican Confederation, by separating its local government and internal administration, so far as practicable, from every other part of Mexico, and placing it in the hands of the people of Texas, who are certainly best acquainted with their local wants, and could best harmonize in legislation for them. There was but one way to effect this union, with any hope of permanency or harmony, which was by erecting Texas into a State of the Mexican Confederation. Sound policy, and the true interest of the Mexican Republic, evidently required that this should be done.

“The people of Texas desired it; and if proofs were wanting (but they are not) of their fidelity to their obligation as Mexican citizens, this effort to erect Texas into a State affords one which is conclusive to every man of judgment who knows anything about this country; for all such are convinced that Texas could not, and would not, remain united to Mexico without the right of self-government as a separate State.”

Homer S. Thrall. *A pictorial history of Texas, from the earliest visits of European adventurers, to A.D. 1879.*
(St. Louis: N.D. Thompson, 1879)



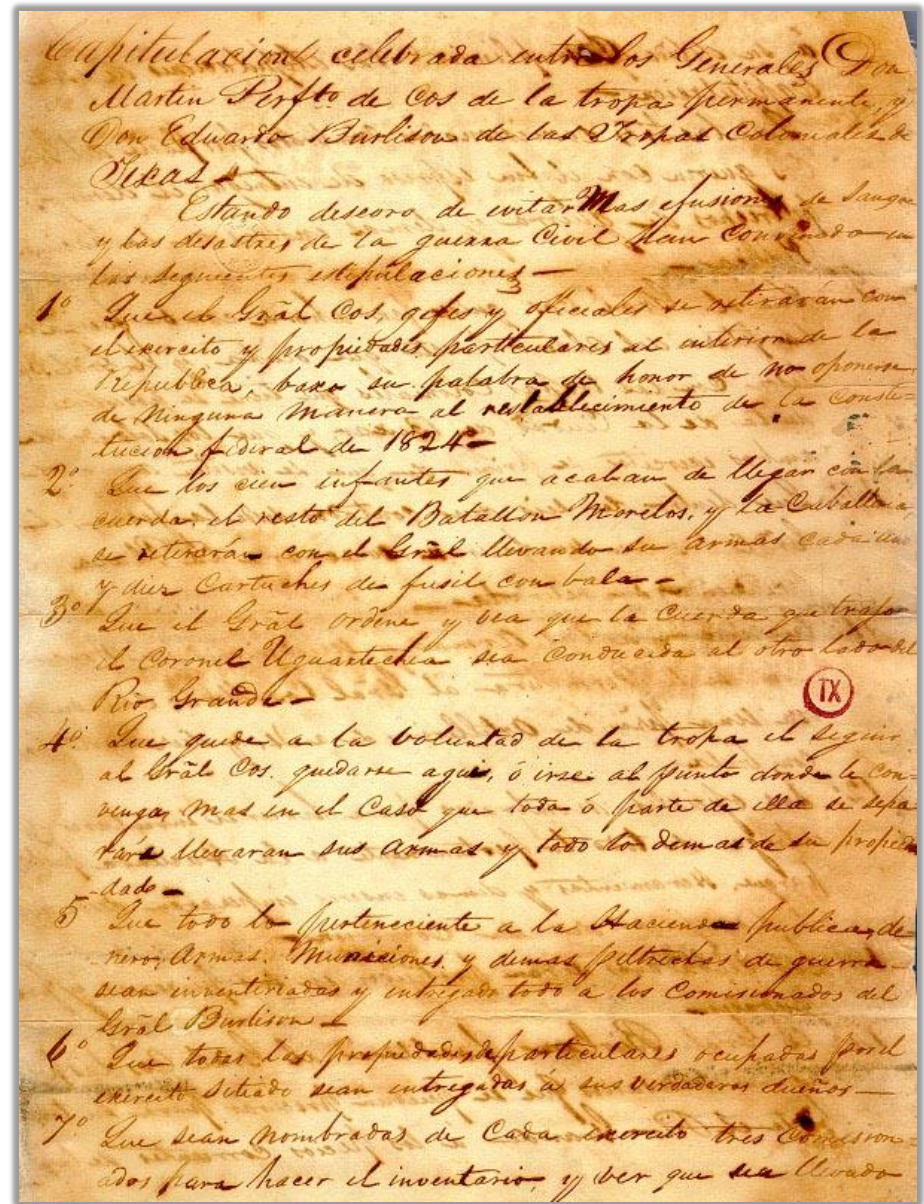
The battle flag said to have been captured
from Santa Anna at San Jacinto.



Courtesy of the Star of the Republic Museum.



Surrender terms
signed by General Cos
and General Burleson
at San Antonio.
(English transcription on
following slide.)





ENGLISH

Capitulation entered into by general Martin Perfecto de Cos, of the Permanent troops, and general Edward Burleson, of the Colonial troops of Texas. Being desirous of preventing the further effusion of blood, and the ravages of civil war, have agreed on the following stipulations:

- 1st. That general Cos and his officers retire into the interior of the republic, under parole of honor; that they will not in any way oppose the re-establishment of the federal Constitution of 1824.
- 2nd. That the one hundred infantry lately arrived with the convicts, the remnant of the battalion of Morelos, and the cavalry, retire with the general; taking their arms and ten rounds of cartridges for their muskets.
- 3rd. That the general take the convicts brought in by colonel Ugartechea, beyond the Rio Grande.
- 4th. That it is discretionary with the troops to follow their general, remain, or go to such point as they may deem proper: but in case they should all or any of them separate, they are to have their arms, &c.
- 5th. That all the public property, money, arms and munitions of war, be inventoried and delivered to general Burleson.
- 6th. That all private property be restored to its proper owners.
- 7th. That three officers of each army be appointed to make out the inventory.

Surrender terms signed by General Cos and General Burleson at San Antonio, December 11, 1835. Page 1.
English Translation. Texas State Library & Archives Commission.

<http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/treasures/republic/bexar/cos1.html>



Translation of the representation addressed to the supreme government by Vicente Filisola in defense of his honor, and explanation of his operations as commander-in-chief of the army against Texas.

7

I am a Mexican by adoption; I have arrived at the height of my career: no personal interest could conduct me to the campaign of Texas, nothing but the love of country and of my honor, which has since been attacked with so much levity: I will defend it at every cost, as without it I neither love life or any thing in existence.

Vicente Filisola. *Evacuation of Texas : translation of the Representation addressed to the supreme government / by Vicente Filisola, in defence of his honor, and explanation of his operations as commander-in-chief of the army against Texas.*

(Olombia, Texas: G. & T.H. Borden, 1837). Permalink: <http://texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-ptb-6110>

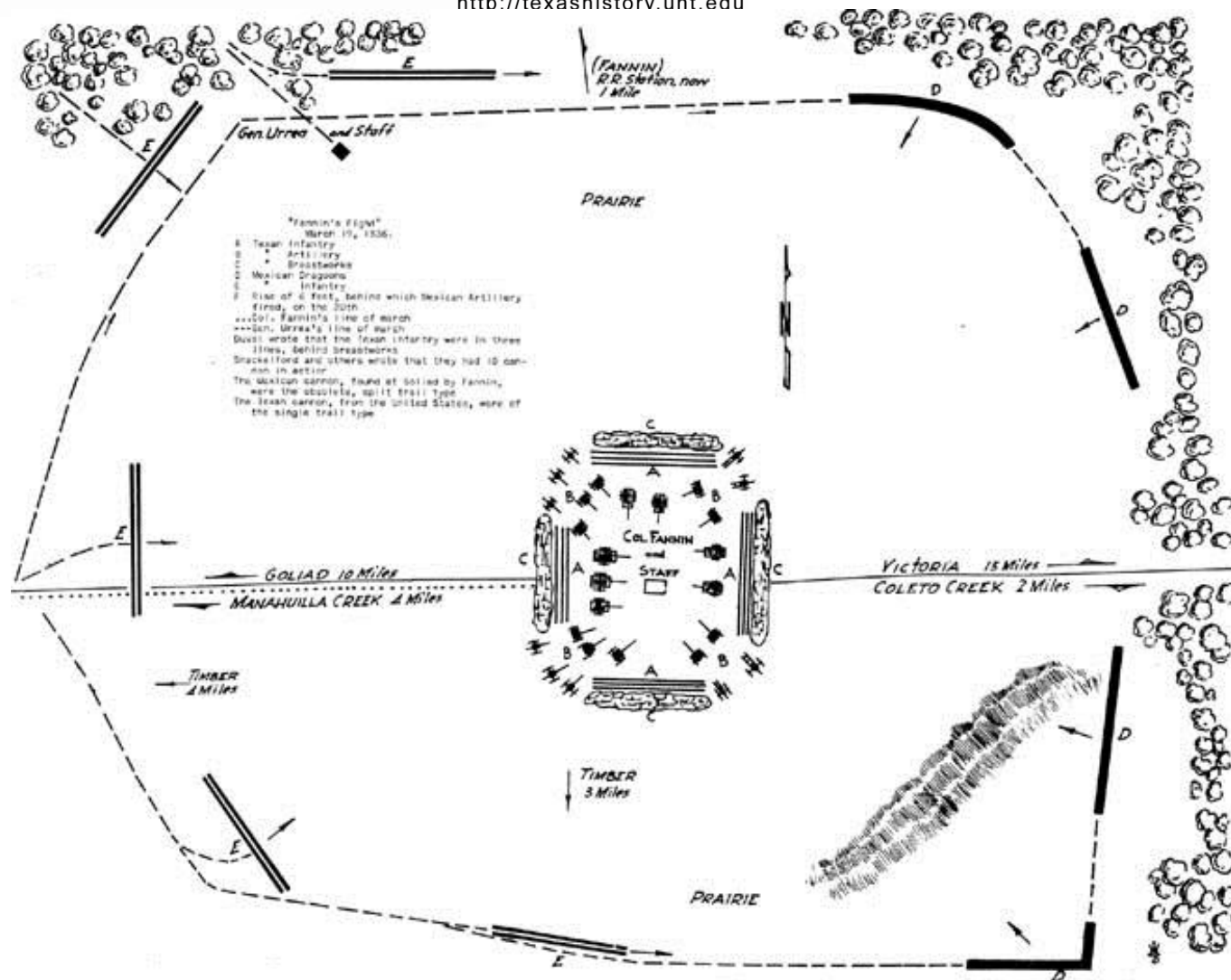


The PORTAL to TEXAS HISTORY

Embark on a Voyage of Discovery

<http://texashistory.unt.edu>

Primary Source Adventures: The Texas Revolution



Houston, Andrew Jackson. "Fannin's Fight." *Military Maps of The Texas Revolution*. (Houston: Anson Jones Press, 1938). Permalink: <http://texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-ptb-2489>

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After the taking of the enclosure of the Alamo, which happened on the 6th March, and the insignificant advantage of the death of Dr. Grant, with twenty adventurers and three Mexicans who accompanied him, which took place on the 2nd day of the same month, and of which we were advised in Bexar on the 7th, the president general-in-chief then supposed that the enemy would not again present themselves, and that in consequence the war was concluded.

From this false impression, and from the contempt which from that time he conceived for the enemy, have emanated the misfortunes which we have since suffered, and which we shall still experience should we proceed with the same indiscretion as until now, in an affair which requires at the same time firmness, much circumspection and consideration.

With that idea, the president supposed that nothing remained to be done but to go on giving directions to the different generals and corps in the manner he intended to take possession of Texas: in consequence, on the 11th he made generals Sesma and Woll march in order to occupy San Felipe de Austin, and afterwards to continue on to Harrisburg and Anahuac with the battalions of Aldama, Matamoras and Toluca; fifty dragoons from the regiment Dolores, two six-pounders and rations for eight days; this section forming an entire force of 725 men.



This same day he ordered Colonel John Morales to set out for Goliad with the battalions San Luis and Ximenez, one twelve-pounder, one eight-pounder, one mortar and rations for a month: and on account of advice received from Mr. Sesma, that the enemy appeared disposed to defend the pass of the river Colorado with 1,200 men, and having been informed by general Urrea from San Patricio, that he was going from that point to Goliad, where, it was said the enemy were fortified, and had learned

Vicente Filisola. *Evacuation of Texas* : translation of the Representation addressed to the supreme government / by Vicente Filisola, in defence of his honor, and explanation of his operations as commander-in-chief of the army against Texas. (Olombia, Texas: G. & T.H. Borden, 1837). Permalink: <http://texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-ptb-6110>



9

If the taking of the Alamo and the trifling advantage obtained by Mr. Urrea, in the death of Dr. Grant, caused the general-in-chief to believe that the war was already terminated, this last victory convinced him that now his presence in Texas was no longer necessary and that he ought to return to the capital of Mexico, going by sea from Copano or Matagorda to Tampico, and thence by land to San Luis, &c., leaving to me the command under his instructions, of all that should remain to be done. With this intention he ordered general Urrea on the 25th to scour all the points on the coast, from Guadalupe Victoria to Galveston, with the understanding that his left wing was protected by the section of Mr. Sesma, and that under his most strict responsibility, he should fulfil the orders of the government, shooting all the prisoners; and as regards those lately made, that he should order the commandant of Goliad to execute them; these being the same instructions given to Gaona and Sesma with respect to all found with arms in their hands, and to force those who had not taken up arms to leave the country.

Vicente Filisola. *Evacuation of Texas* : translation of the Representation addressed to the supreme government / by Vicente Filisola, in defence of his honor, and explanation of his operations as commander-in-chief of the army against Texas. (Olombia, Texas: G. & T.H. Borden, 1837). Permalink: <http://texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-ptb-6110>

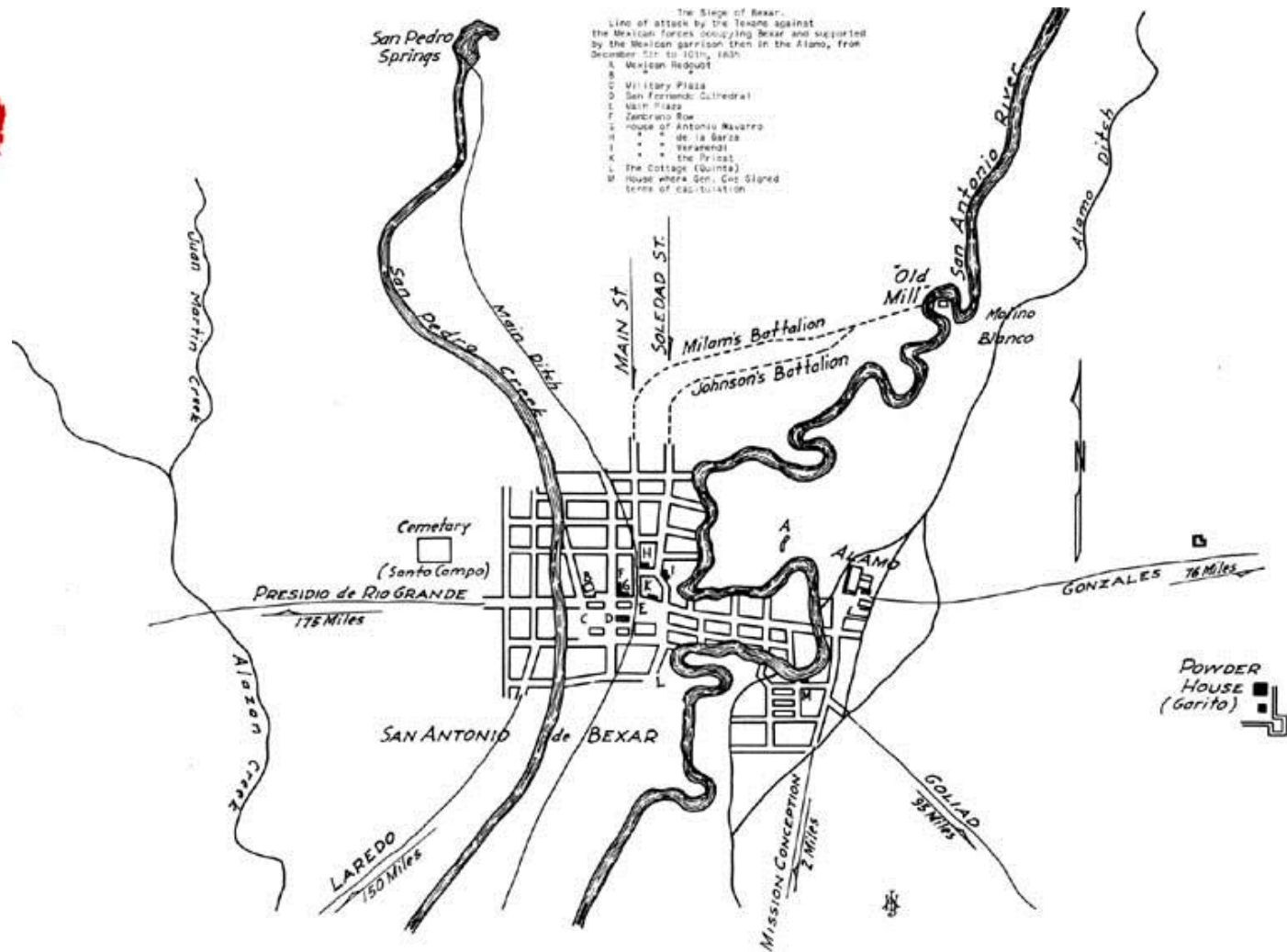


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Embark on a Voyage of Discovery

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Primary Source Adventures: The Texas Revolution



Houston, Andrew Jackson. "The Siege of Bexar." *Military Maps of The Texas Revolution*. (Houston: Anson Jones Press, 1938). Permalink: <http://texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-ptb-2489>

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12

That the enemy did not dare to show their face. They, after the first reverses, had adopted the plan of burning every thing and retreating as soon as we approached them, in order to prevent our finding supplies, and to take advantage of any imprudence that we should commit. In fact, this they did with whatever remained behind them. Houston, on abandoning the left bank of the Colorado, took a position 10 leagues above San Felipe at a crossing of the river Brazos called Groce's, where he had a steamboat to facilitate the passage, with the object of observing the forces which marched under the immediate command of the president and those under general Gaona. On the 15th, he had it in his power to attack Mr. Gaona, the president or myself, in San Felipe, or on the road from that town to Old Fort. He thought better to attack the president, because he was on the other side of the Brazos, unconnected with the other forces; he therefore sent the steamboat down the river to attract our attention, and marched against his Excellency. Since the 21st of April, they have always taken very good care to have between

13

themselves and us either the river Brazos, the Colorado, or the Guadalupe; so that even if we should have gone in search of them, it would have been in vain, for they would have commenced by shooting their prisoners, and afterwards carried off all that would be of service to them, being always three or four days journey in advance of us. Who is so foolish, that knowing the manner of gaining with safety, would like to expose himself to the danger of losing?

Vicente Filisola. *Evacuation of Texas* : translation of the Representation addressed to the supreme government / by Vicente Filisola, in defence of his honor, and explanation of his operations as commander-in-chief of the army against Texas. (Olombia, Texas: G. & T.H. Borden, 1837). Permalink: <http://texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-ptb-6110>



30

Be pleased then, your Excellency, to learn from the following demonstration, taken from the sums of the statements of that time, with the understanding that the one belonging to the command of Mr. Urrea, is revised by himself.

OLD FORT, 24TH APRIL.

ARMS.	CORPS.	FORCE.
ARTILLERY.		50
INFANTRY.	Pioneers	144
	Morelos	382
	1st battalion, regular militia of Mexico	206
	Gaudalaxara	254
CAVALRY.	Guanaxuato	285
	Dolores	46
	Tampico	21
	Frontier Dragoons	20

Total 1408

UNDER THE ORDERS OF MR. URREA IN COLUMBIA AND BRAZORIA.

ARMS.	CORPS.	FORCE.
ARTILLERY		20
INFANTRY.	Ximenez	273
	San Luis	394
	Queretaro	258
CAVALRY.	Cuautla	102
	Tampico	97
	Militia of Guanaxuato	21

Total 1165

RECAPITULATION.

First section	1408	2573
Second section	1165	

DETACHMENTS.

In Bexar, of various corps and arms	1001	
Yucatan. {	In Copano	60
	In the mission of Refugio	5
	In Goliad.	174
Tres-Villas.—In Matagorda	189	
Cuautla.—In Victoria	40	
Regular militia of Durango	21	
Frontier dragoons	15	

Total force of the army 4078

Vicente Filisola. *Evacuation of Texas* : translation of the Representation addressed to the supreme government / by Vicente Filisola, in defence of his honor, and explanation of his operations as commander-in-chief of the army against Texas. (Olombia, Texas: G. & T.H. Borden, 1837). Permalink: <http://texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-ptb-6110>



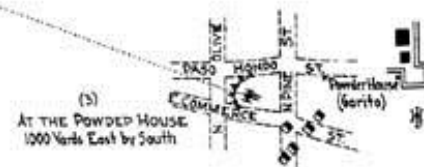
Primary Source Adventures: The Texas Revolution

Signs of the flame.
Terrain comprised in the zone of fire of the Mexican batteries toward the fortifications of the Alamo, with the locations, and the radius of fire of the batteries within the work, during the bombardment, until the final assault, March 6, 1836

(A)
IN THE DITCH,
5 Yards Northeast



Gonzales
36 miles



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Revolution

From this place he wrote to Senior Tornel, Minister of War, giving the outlines of his programme in reference to Texas. It was "to drive from the province all who had taken part in the revolution, together with all the foreigners who lived near the sea coast, or the borders of the United States; to remove far into the interior those who had not taken part in the war; to vacate all lands and grants of land owned by non-residents; to remove from Texas all who had come to the province, and were not entered as colonists under Mexican rules; to divide among the officers and soldiers of the army the best lands,

Homer S. Thrall. *A pictorial history of Texas, from the earliest visits of European adventurers, to A.D. 1879.*
(St. Louis: N.D. Thompson, 1879)

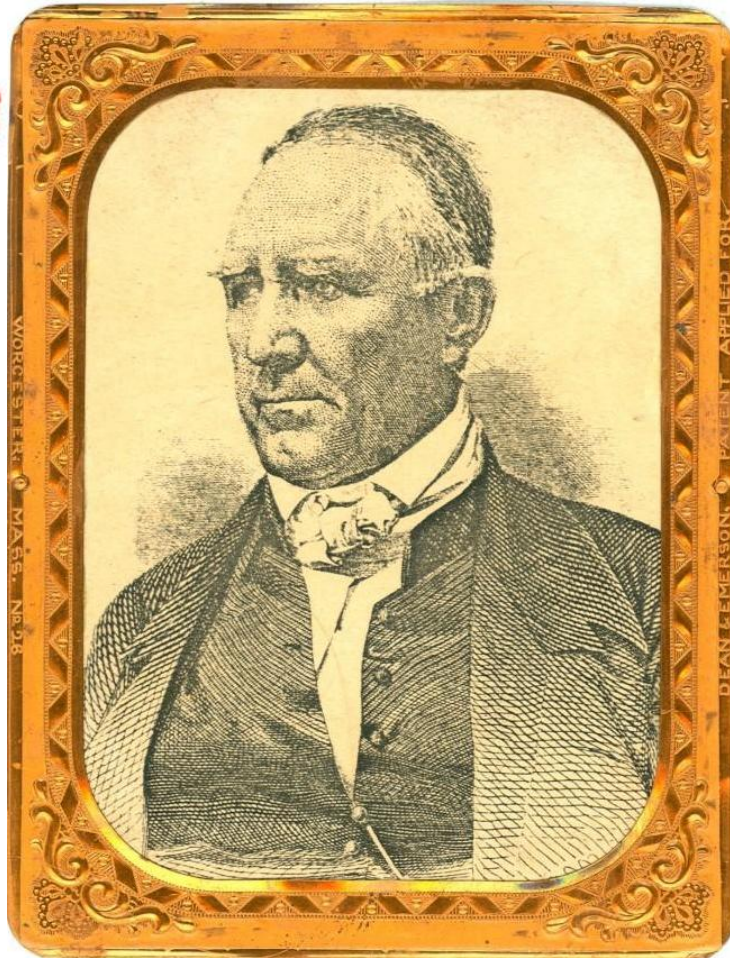


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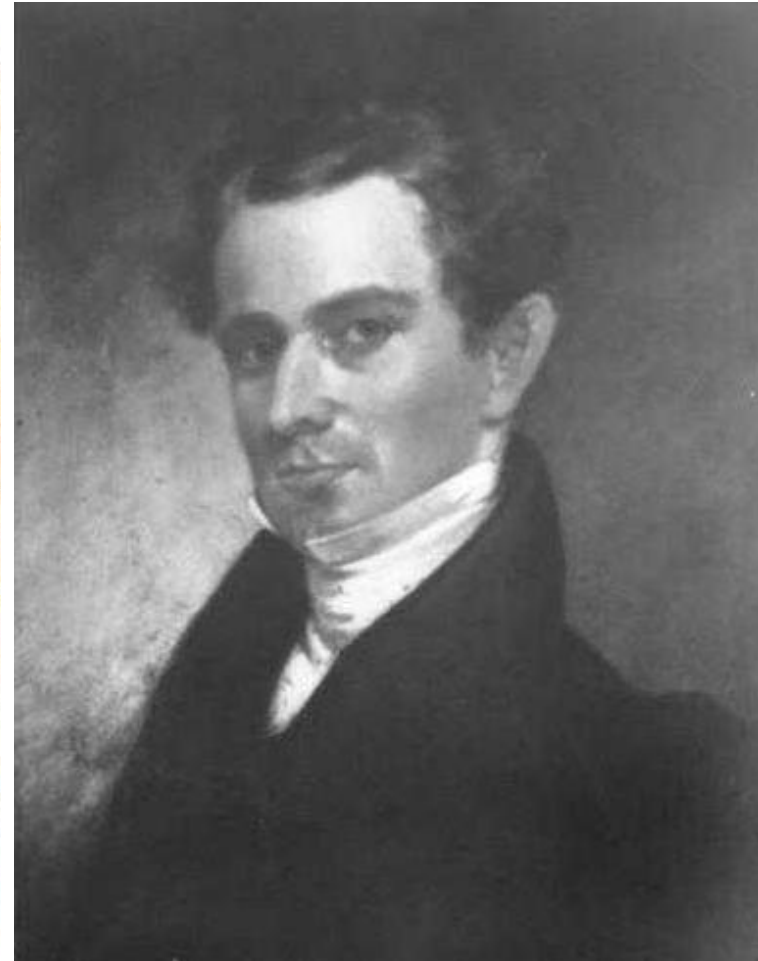
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*Portrait of Sam Houston,
courtesy of Star of the Republic Museum*



*Portrait of Stephen F. Austin
wearing a black jacket,
courtesy of Fort Bend County Museum*

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256

HISTORY OF TEXAS.

Santa Anna, when he heard of the capture of Fannin, thought the conquest of Texas was effected, and in the exuberance of his delight gave orders to his subordinates to shoot all prisoners. He intended soon to return to his capital, and leave Filisola and Almonte to complete the reorganization of the government of the conquered province. But having heard from Sesma that a considerable army, under Houston, was encamped on the east bank of the Colorado, he, at the solicitation of Almonte and Filisola, concluded to remain and complete his work.

Homer S. Thrall. *A pictorial history of Texas, from the earliest visits of European adventurers, to A.D. 1879.*
(St. Louis: N.D. Thompson, 1879)



250

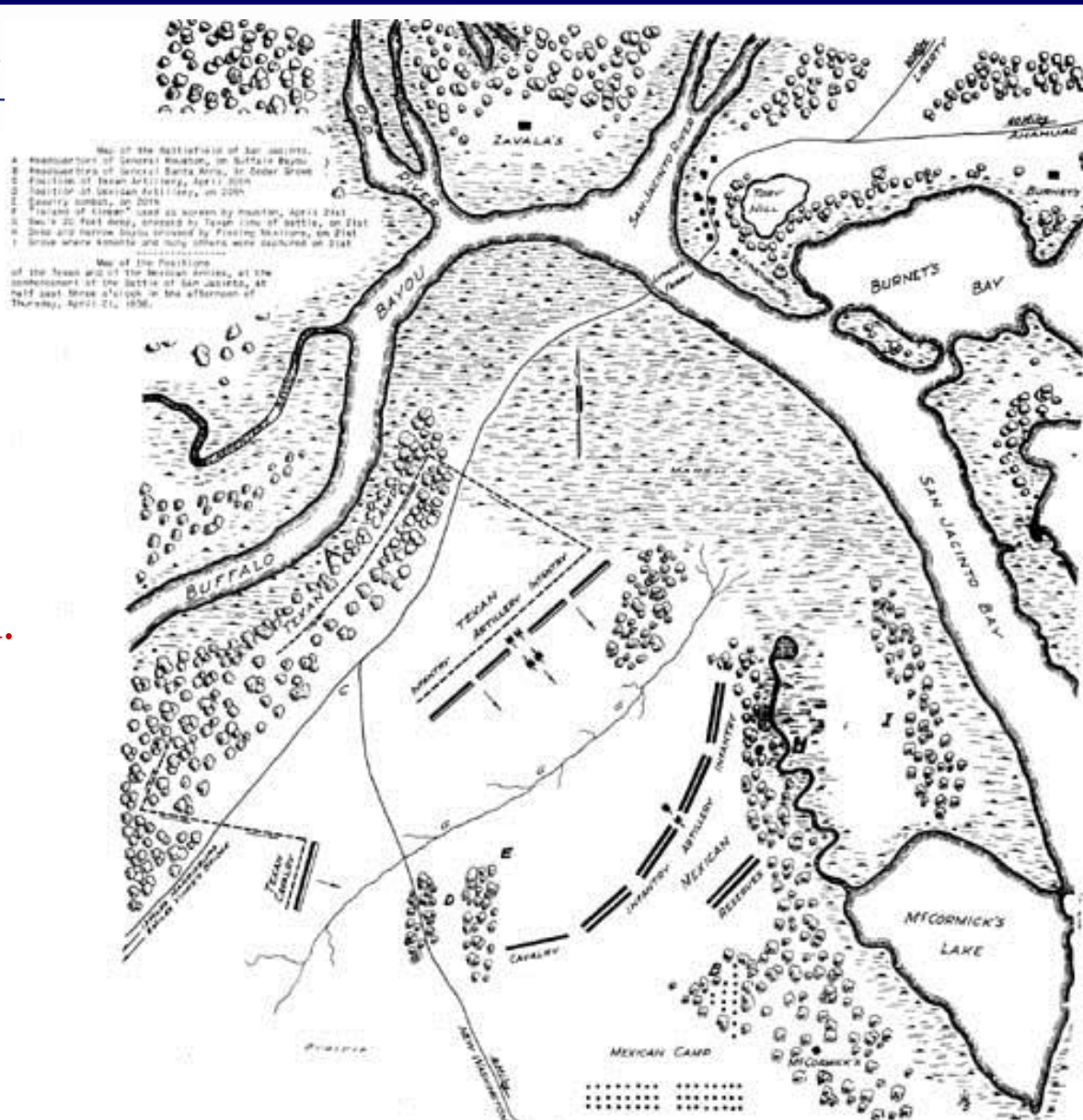
HISTORY OF TEXAS.

THE MASSACRE.—On the morning of the 27th—Palm Sunday—without warning, and under the pretext that they were starting to be sent home, the privates were marched out first, in four companies, strongly guarded. They were taken in different directions, so that no two were close together, and when a short distance from the walls of the mission, the four divisions were halted and shot! The most were instantly killed; some, who were only wounded, were dispatched with sabres, and a few, by lying still and feigning death until dark, escaped. The officers and the wounded were still in the fort, and heard the firing and the shrieks of the wounded and dying. They, too, were immediately marshalled in line and marched out to meet the fate of their companions. Fannin was the last to suffer. (See Fannin and Shackelford.)*

Homer S. Thrall. *A pictorial history of Texas, from the earliest visits of European adventurers, to A.D. 1879.*
(St. Louis: N.D. Thompson, 1879)



Map of the San
Jacinto battlefield.



Houston, Andrew Jackson. "Map of the Battlefield of San Jacinto." *Military Maps of The Texas Revolution*. (Houston: Anson Jones Press, 1938). Permalink: <http://texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-ptb-2489>



DISASTROUS DISAGREEMENTS.

251

In General Houston's last speech in the United States Senate, he reviews these events, and lays a large share of the blame on Colonel Fannin, who, "disregarding the orders of the commander-in-chief, became, by countenance of the Council, a candidate for commander of the volunteers." In that speech, great injustice is done to Fannin, who had been appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor and Council, and who implored orders from Houston himself, or from the Council, but whose only order was from Governor Robinson, "To make no retrograde movement." As we have stated, Houston still recognized Smith as governor, and by virtue of his authority, had ordered Colonel Neil to evacuate San Antonio, and Captain Dimmitt to evacuate Goliad. These officers obeyed Houston, taking such men as chose to follow their lead ;

Homer S. Thrall. *A pictorial history of Texas, from the earliest visits of European adventurers, to A.D. 1879.*
(St. Louis: N.D. Thompson, 1879)



HOUSTON'S ACTION CRITICISED.

259

In all his references to this trying period, the General complains of the insubordination of the soldiers. He had ordered San Antonio evacuated. The order was not obeyed. Had ordered Fannin to evacuate Goliad. This was so tardily executed that his army was sacrificed. In the general army under Houston himself, men came and went, almost at will. He had the most unbounded confidence in the personal courage of his men, every one of whom was a hero. But he feared that in a hard-contested battle, this personal heroism might bring on a spirit of independence that would be uncontrollable, and might result in disorder and defeat.

Homer S. Thrall. *A pictorial history of Texas, from the earliest visits of European adventurers, to A.D. 1879.*
(St. Louis: N.D. Thompson, 1879)



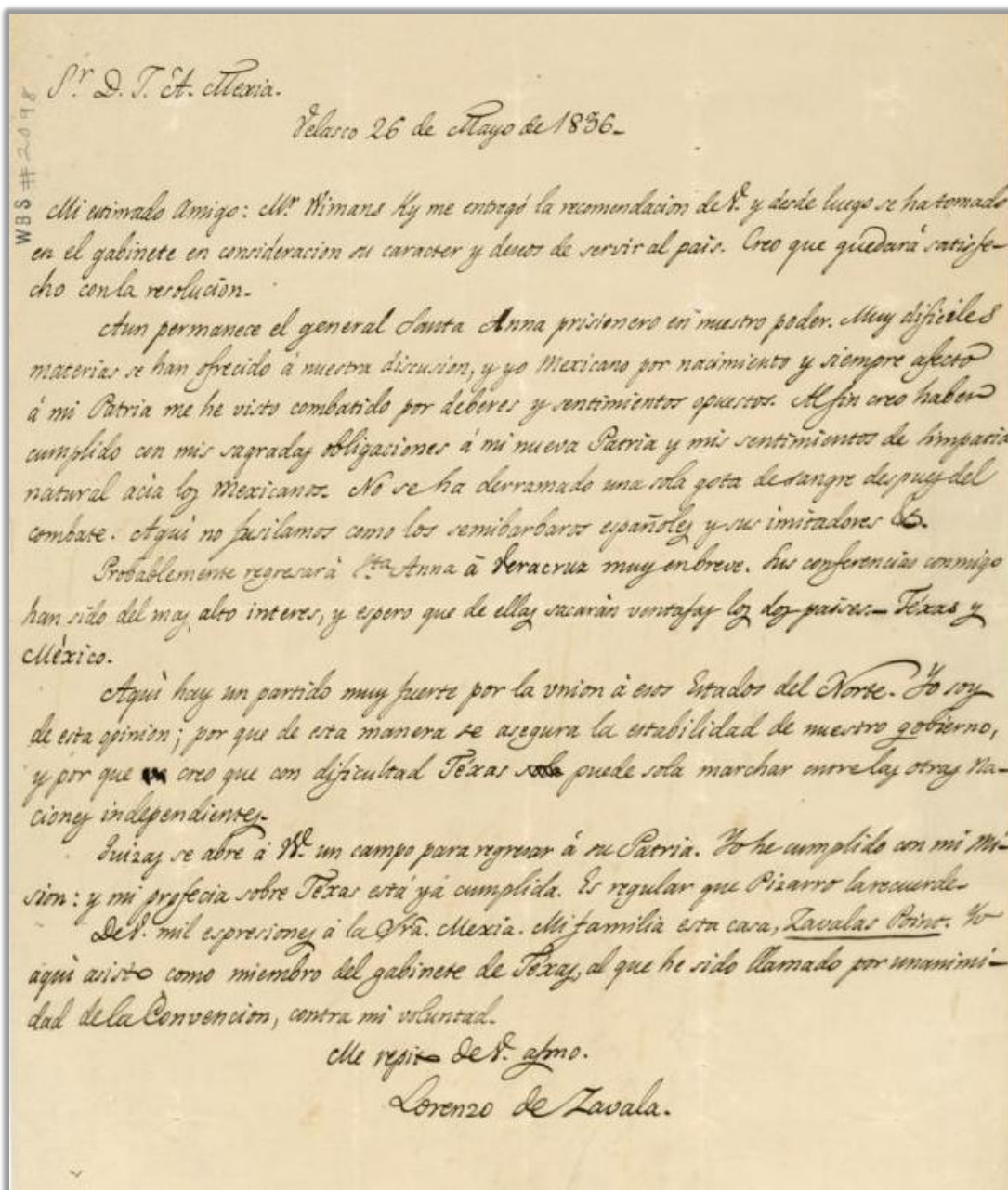
Letter from
Lorenzo de Zavala to
Mexico, May 26, 1836

(Spanish and English
transcriptions on the
following two slides.)

Lorenzo de Zavala. Letter from
Zavala to Mexico, 26 May 1836. 26
May 1836.

Permalink:

[http://texashistory.unt.edu/permalink
/meta-ptb-6699](http://texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-ptb-6699)





The PORTAL to TEXAS HISTORY

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Spanish Text

Sr. D. J. A. Mexia
Velasco 26 de Mayo de 1836

Mi estimado amigo: Mr. NimansKy me entrego la recomendacion de U. y desde luego se ha tomado en el gabinete en consideracion su caracter y deseos de servir al pais. Creo que quedara satsifecho con la resolucion.

Aun permanece el general Santa Anna prisionero en nuestro poder. Muy dificiles materias se han ofrecido á nuestra discusion, y yo Mexicano por nacimiento y siempre afecto á mi Patria me he visto combatido por deberes y sentimientos opuestos. Al fin creo haber cumplido con mis sagradas obligaciones á mi nueva Patria y mis sentimientos de Simpatia natural acia [sic] los Mexicanos. No se ha derramado una sola gota de sangre despues del combate. Aqui no fusilamos como los semibarbaros españoles y su imitadores etc.

Probablemense regresara Sta. Anna á Veracruz muy en breve. Sus conferencias conmigo han sido del muy alto interes, y espero que de ellas sacaran ventajas los dos paises- Texas y Mexico.

Aqui hay un partido muy fuerte por la union á esos Estados del Norte. Yo soy de esta opinion; por que de esta manera se asegura la estabilidad de nuestro gobierno, y por que creo que con dificultad Texas puede sola marchar entre las otras Naciones independientes.

Quizas se abre á U. un campo para regresar á su Patria. Yo he cumplido con mi Mision: y mi profecia sobre Texas esta ya cumplida. Es regular que Pizarro la recuerde.

De U. mil espresiones á la Sra. Mexia. Mi familia esta casa, Zavala's Point. Yo aqui asisto como miembro del gabinete de Texas, al que he sido llamado por unanimidad de la Convencion, contra mi voluntad.

Me repito de U. afmo.
Lorenzo de Zavala



Translation English Text

Mr. D. J. A. Mexia
Velasco May 26 1836

My esteemed friend: Mr. Nimansky gave me your recommendation and of course the cabinet has considered your character and wishes to serve the country. I think you will be satisfied with the resolution.

General Santa Ana is still our prisoner. Very difficult issues have been offered for our discussion, and I being a Mexican by birth and always loving of my Country have been wracked by opposing duties and sentiments. In the end I believe I have fulfilled my sacred duties towards my new Country and my natural sentiments of Sympathy towards the Mexicans. Not a drop of blood has been spilled after combat. We do not execute like the semi-barbarous Spaniards and their imitators etc.

Santa Ana will probably return to Veracruz soon. His talks with me have been of very high interest, and I hope that from these both countries will benefit – Texas and Mexico.

There is a strong party here advocating union with the States of the North. I am of that opinion, for in that way the stability of our government is assured, and because I think it will be difficult for Texas to walk alone among other independent Nations.

There may be an opening for you to return to your country. I have fulfilled my Mission: and my prophecy concerning Texas has come to be. It's normal for Pizarro to remember.

Please give a thousands expressions to Mrs. Mexia. My family is home, Zavala's Point. I am attending here as a member of the Texas cabinet, to which I have been called by unanimity by the Convention, against my will.

I repeat myself your friend,
Lorenzo de Zavala



Primary
Source
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The Texas
Revolution

Santa Anna's order
authorizing the retreat of
the Mexican Army,
April 22, 1836.
(Spanish and English
transcriptions on next slide.)



Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna. Order authorizing the retreat of the Mexican Army, 22 April 1836.
22 March 1836. Permalink: <http://texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-ptb-5928>.



Original Spanish text and the English translation of Santa Anna's order authorizing the retreat.

Primary Source Adventures: The Texas Revolution

EJERCITO
DE
OPERACIONES,

E.S.

Como he prevenido a V.E. en oficio de esta fecha hasas retiras las tropas por Bejar y Victoria encargo V. E. que ordenes a los com.(bes) de las (Diviacion), que en dicha retirada, no se cause da o alguno en las propiedades de los habitante de este Pais, esperando que, esta (e iporiccion) sea puntualmente efecutada.

Dios y Libertad Campo de San
Jacinto Abl. 22 de 1836

Ant. Lopez es
Santa Anna

[Stamp]
ARMY
OF
OPERATIONS

E. S.

As I have notified Your Excellency in the official communiqué of today, withdraw the troops through Bejar and Victoria, I ask Y. E. that you order the Division commanders that in said retreat, no harm be done to the property of the inhabitants of this Country, hoping that this disposition will be followed precisely.

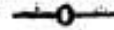
God and Liberty. Field of San
Jacinto, April 22 1836.

Antonio Lopez de
Santa Ana

Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna. Order authorizing the retreat of the Mexican Army, 22 April 1836.
22 March 1836. Permalink: <http://texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-ptb-5928>.



DOCUMENTS.



NO. 1.

Generals Gaona, Urrea and Ramirez Sesma, have joined their divisions to mine, as I have previously remarked. Your Excellency is well aware of the disposable force with which I can operate with these divisions; and in consequence will perceive that I cease hostilities in spite of my responsibility to the supreme government, only, I repeat, for the consideration due to your person, and to the peace of the republic; but in return, I wish to know also that your Excellency, and those who have been made prisoners shall be perfectly respected, as are several of the enemy that I have in my power. Hostilities ceasing, as I say to your Excellency, property shall also be respected, only that which is very necessary for the army will be taken; and should

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38

their owners appear, they shall be punctually paid, as they would have been, had they not have abandoned, and many of them burnt their dwellings. Some small houses of wood have been set on fire, which has excited my indignation, and that of the generals under my orders;—this act, perpetrated by the pillagers, who are never wanting in armies, has called our attention to such a degree, that in consequence, I imposed penalty of life to whomsoever should repeat it, even before receiving the communication of your Excellency.

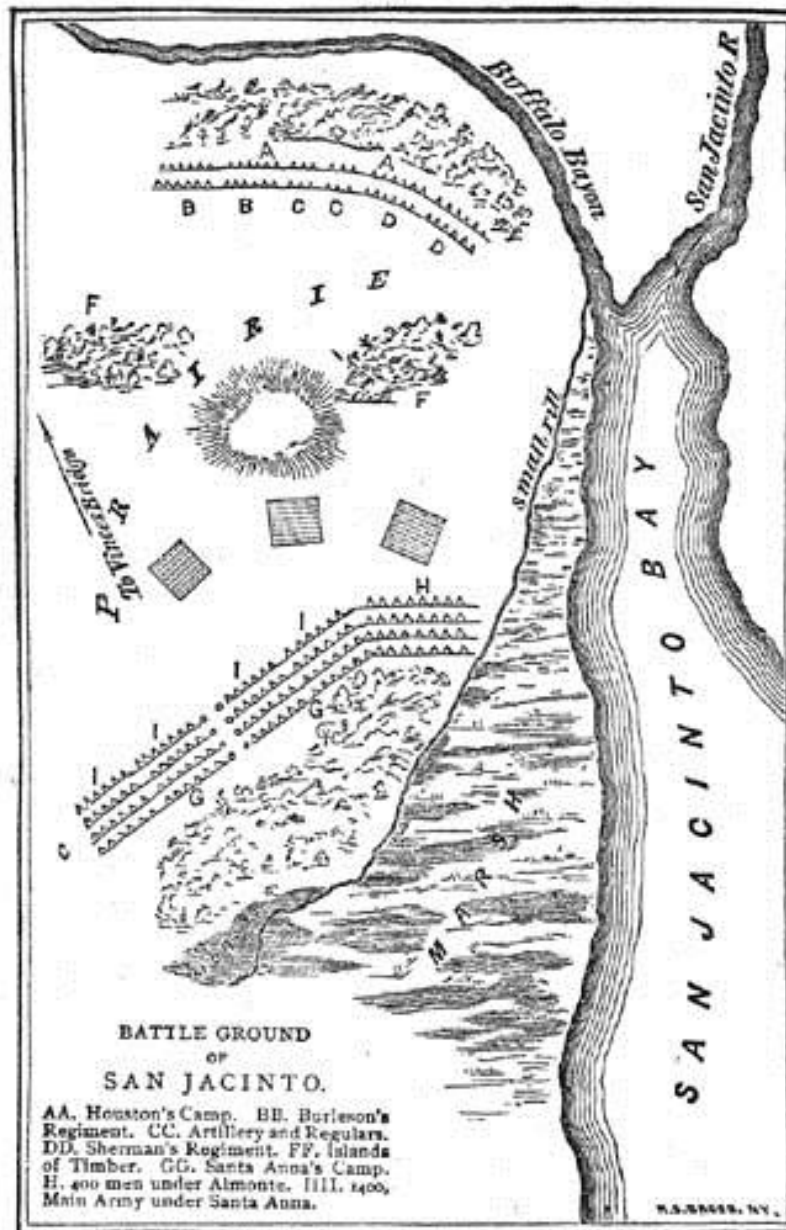
As your Excellency says to me that he has agreed upon an armistice with general Houston, and does not explain to me the basis of it, general Adrian Woll passes to inform himself of them, in order that they may be fulfilled on our side, and also to be able to exact their fulfilment from our opponents. With what I have stated, all that your Excellency says to me in his letter referred to, is attended to; and I take great satisfaction in reiterating my esteem and consideration.—And I advise your Excellency of it in order that he may be pleased to give an account of every thing to his Excellency the president *pro temp* for his superior determination.

God and liberty. Rivulet of San Bernard, 28th April, 1836.—*Vicente Filisola*. To his Excellency the secretary of war and marine.

Vicente Filisola. *Evacuation of Texas* : translation of the Representation addressed to the supreme government / by Vicente Filisola, in defence of his honor, and explanation of his operations as commander-in-chief of the army against Texas. (Olombia, Texas: G. & T.H. Borden, 1837). Permalink: <http://texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-ptb-6110>



Map of the San
Jacinto battlefield.



PLAN OF BATTLE.