



The Alamo

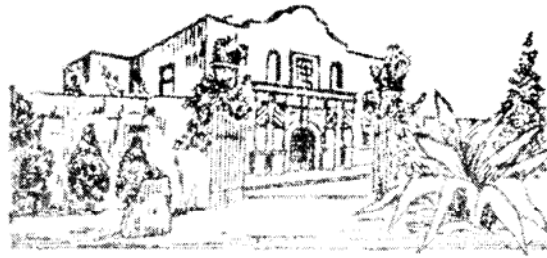
Remembering Through Education

7th Grade School Packet

**The Alamo
P.O. Box 2599
San Antonio, Texas 78299
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*Daughters of the Republic
of Texas
Custodians of the Alamo
"Texas, One and Indivisible"*



The Alamo

P.O. BOX 2599
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78299
(210) 225-1391

Dear Educator:

The DRT is striving to meet the needs of today's classroom teachers. We realize that the school year moves quickly, making planning critical. This Alamo School Packet is based on the *Texas Essential Knowledge & Skills for Social Studies* as specified by the Texas Education Agency. They are designed to create learning opportunities by providing ready-to-use reference material and activity sheets that can be used as either the basis of individual lessons or as sponge activities. We believe that this information can easily be incorporated into the existing curriculum, enhancing learning in the area of Texas History.

The Battle of the Alamo was an epochal event not only in Texas History but in the history of the United States and Mexico as well. Several million visitors come to San Antonio each year to see the spot where a small band of Texans faced overwhelming odds for the cause of liberty. This event and the men and women who took part in it are too important to be forgotten. The story is a powerful learning tool and has sparked an interest in history for many young people and adults. The Alamo saga provides important lessons to a society seemingly looking for values.

We welcome your suggestions as to how to improve our services to you. The DRT is dedicated to the task of helping educate Texans, young and old, about the wonderful history of this state. Visit us on the Internet at <http://www.thealamo.org>. You may also visit <http://www.drhl.org>, the Web site of the DRT Library, for more information regarding the rich history of the Alamo.

Sincerely,

The Daughters of the Republic of Texas



THE DAUGHTERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

A BRIEF HISTORY

The Daughters of the Republic of Texas were officially founded in November 1891. The inspiration for the organization came from two young women, Betty Ballinger and Hally Bryan. Cousins, they had spent the summer at the Ballinger home in Galveston reading from Mr. Ballinger's library. Of particular interest to them was *The History of Texas* by Henderson Yoakum. Miss Bryan's father, Guy M. Bryan, was a charter member of the Texas Veterans Association, an organization started in 1873 comprised of men who had taken part in the establishment and defense of the Republic of Texas. Talk turned to creating an organization for women who were descendants of Texas pioneers in order to honor and preserve the memories of their ancestors. On November 6, a group met at the Houston home of Mrs. Andrew Briscoe to implement the plan. The name selected for the new group, Daughters of the Lone Star Republic, was officially changed to the Daughters of the Republic of Texas in April 1892 at the association's first annual meeting. Mrs. Anson Jones, the widow of the last president of the Republic of Texas, was the first president of the DRT.¹

The purpose of the organization is stated in its Bylaws. Specific goals are as follows:

To perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved and maintained the independence of Texas.

To encourage historical research into the earliest records of Texas, especially those relating to the Revolution of 1835 and the events which followed; to foster the preservation of documents and relics; to encourage the publication of records of individual service of the soldiers and patriots of the Republic and other source material for the history of Texas.

To promote the celebration of March 2 (Independence Day); and April 21 (San Jacinto Day); to secure and hallow historic spots by erecting monuments thereon; and to cherish and preserve the Unity of Texas, as achieved and established by the fathers and mothers of the Texas Revolution.²

Other honor days were added later: January 26 (Lamar Day); February 19 (Texas Statehood Day); March 6 (Alamo Heroes Day); March 27 (Goliad Heroes Day); the third Saturday in September (Texian Navy Day); October 2 (Gonzales Day); November 3 (Stephen F. Austin's Birthday); and November 6 (Founders Day). The DRT today still upholds the traditions begun in 1891.³

¹ Daughters of the Republic of Texas, *90 Years of the Daughters: History of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas* (Waco, TX: Texian Press, 1981), 1, 2, 5-6; *Constitution and By-Laws of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas* (Houston: Gray's Printing Office, 1892), 11-12.

² DRT, *90 Years of the Daughters*, 6-7; Daughters of the Republic of Texas, *Charter and Bylaws & Manual of Procedure* (Austin: Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Inc., 1996), "DRT Charter," 1-2.

³ DRT, *Charter and Bylaws & Manual of Procedure*, "DRT Charter," 1-2.

In 1907, the mission of the DRT to preserve the memory of Texas' early days took on new meaning. Membership of the Texas Veterans Association had declined until only six men were able to attend the 34th Reunion. The veterans voted to allow the DRT to carry on in their place.⁴ Thus, in a very real sense, the DRT became the guardians of the heritage of the Revolution and Republic.

Soon after its founding, the DRT became involved in preserving historic sites. Best known of these efforts is the preservation of the Long Barrack, one of the two original structures which had comprised Mission San Antonio de Valero, or the Alamo. Two names forever associated with this cause are Adina De Zavala and Clara Driscoll. On January 26, 1905, the Texas State Legislature granted the organization custodianship of the Long Barrack and Alamo Church in a bill entitled "An Act Providing for the Purchase, Care, and Preservation of the Alamo." The legislation says in part:

Section 3 . . . the governor shall deliver the property thus acquired, together with the Alamo Church property, already owned by the State [since 1883], to the custody and care of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, to be maintained by them in good order and repair, without charge to the State, as a sacred memorial to the heroes who immolated themselves upon that hallowed ground; . . .⁵

The DRT has taken their charge even further, accepting no tax revenue from any local, state, or federal government. All money used in preservation of the Alamo comes from donations and sales in the Alamo Gift Museum. It is also worth noting that no fee is charged to visitors.

The DRT also manages other historical sites besides the Alamo. These include the following locations:

Galveston	The Cradle (The Ballinger Law Library)	1891
Austin	DRT Headquarters & Museum	1903
San Antonio	DRT Library	1945
Austin	The French Legation Museum	1949. ⁶

The organization has been active in the preservation of other significant sites, most notably the San Jacinto Battleground. Monuments and plaques across the State, placed by the DRT, commemorate historic events and individuals.⁷

The DRT today has approximately 6,400 members on its rolls. The organization is divided into 108 chapters, which in turn, make up ten separate districts within Texas. A twenty-six-member Board of Management oversees the DRT. Eligibility to the DRT is open to "any woman having attained her sixteenth (16th) birthday . . . provided she is personally acceptable to the DRT and is a lineal descendant of a man or woman who rendered loyal service for Texas prior to the consummation of the annexation agreement of the Republic of Texas with the United States of America on the nineteenth day of February, eighteen hundred forty-six (19 February 1846)."⁸

⁴ DRT, *90 Years of the Daughters*, 9.

⁵ "An Act Providing for the Purchase, Care, and Preservation of the Alamo," S.H.B. No. 1, January 26, 1905. For the DRT's role in preserving the Alamo, see the following two works: Lewis Fisher, *Saving San Antonio: The Precarious Preservation of a Heritage* (Lubbock: Texas Tech University Press, 1996), 53-60; Luther Robert Ables, "The Second Battle of the Alamo," *The Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 70 (January 1967): 372-412.

⁶ DRT, *Charter and Bylaws & Manual of Procedure*, "Organizational History," 8-11.

⁷ Daughters of the Republic of Texas, *The Precious Legacy: Compiled Records Concerning the Texas Veterans Association, Daughters of the Republic of Texas' History, Objects, The Marking of Historical Sites and Graves*, compiled by Frances B. Underwood (Austin: The Republic of Texas Museum, 1994), 19.

⁸ DRT, *Charter and Bylaws & Manual of Procedure*, "Bylaws, Article 1, Part B".

AN ALAMO TIMELINE 1718 - 1836

Colonization Through Revolution

- 1718 Spanish officials established Mission San Antonio de Valero on San Pedro Creek.
- 1719 Officials relocated the mission to the east bank at the bend in the river.
- 1724 Officials relocated the mission a third and final time to its present location after a storm destroyed the existing buildings. Construction at the new site began on a two-story convento, or missionaries' quarters.
- 1727 The two-story convento, acequia, and housing for the Indians were well under way. The mission's Indian population totaled 273.
- 1736 The mission Indians built a bridge across the San Antonio River connecting their community to the town of San Antonio de Béxar.
- 1738-39 A series of cholera and smallpox epidemics reduced the Indian population to 184.
- 1744 The two-story convento was finished. Workers laid the first stone of the church on May 8.
- 1745 Three hundred and fifty Apaches attacked San Antonio de Béxar but were driven off by 100 mission Indians.
- 1754 The partially finished church completely collapsed due to poor construction.
- 1756 A second stone church, the present Alamo Shrine, was begun at Mission San Antonio de Valero but never completed. At this time there were 328 Indians, the largest recorded number in the history of the mission.
- 1758 The keystone above the entrance to the church was inscribed with the date "1758."
- 1762 Records show that the baptisms of Indian converts totaled 1,800 by 1762.
- 1768 Apache warriors defeated 500 Spanish soldiers, who were forced to retreat to the mission for safety.
- 1790 The number of mission Indians had dwindled to 48.
- 1793 Spanish officials ordered Mission San Antonio de Valero secularized, or turned over to civil authorities. The thirty-nine resident Indians who remained were given land and goods belonging to the former mission. The buildings were in a state of disrepair.
- 1793-1802 The former mission lay unoccupied except for squatters.
- 1803 A Spanish cavalry unit - La Compania Volante del Alamo de Parras - was stationed at the former mission. Gradually the former mission became known as Pueblo del Alamo, or more simply, the Alamo.
- 1806-14 The commander of the garrison established the first recorded hospital in Texas on the second story of the convento.
- 1812 Officials moved religious records and activities to San Fernando Church across the river in San Antonio de Béxar.

- 1813 (April) Governor Manuel María de Salcedo surrendered San Antonio to Republican forces led by José Bernardo Gutiérrez de Lara and Samuel Kemper. The Republicans made the Alamo their quarters.
- 1813 (August) The Alamo was reoccupied by Spanish General Joaquin de Arredondo following the defeat of Republican forces at the Battle of Medina.
- 1814 Cristóbal Dominguez was appointed *ad interim* governor. General Arredondo returned to Mexico.
- 1820 Moses Austin reported that the Alamo was in poor condition during his visit to San Antonio.
- 1821 Mexico gained its independence from Spain. Mexican officials ordered repairs on the buildings.
- 1825 La Compania Volante del Alamo de Parras was assigned to another post. The Alamo was again officially left unoccupied.

The Texas Revolution

- October 1835 General Martín Perfecto de Cos, acting under the orders of President Antonio López de Santa Anna, fortified the Alamo shortly after his arrival in San Antonio de Béxar at the head of a small army.
- Dec. 10, 1835 General Cos and about 1,200 troops surrendered the Alamo to a volunteer Texan Army of fewer than 400 after a fierce battle for the city.
- Dec. 30, 1835 After stripping the Alamo of supplies and men, Dr. James Grant and 200 men started on an expedition to capture Matamoros.
- Jan. 6, 1836 Colonel James C. Neill, commander of the Alamo, reported to the acting governor that he had 104 men, but they lacked food or clothing.
- Jan. 7, 1836 General Santa Anna and his army arrived at Saltillo, 365 miles from San Antonio de Béxar.
- Jan. 14, 1836 Colonel Neill wrote to General Sam Houston, "Men in field four months. Today we were to receive pay for the first month. I have 100 men. If they do not get paid, 20 of them will leave immediately for home."
- Jan. 15, 1836 Alamo garrison had decreased to 80 men as the volunteers continued to leave.
- Jan. 17, 1836 Sam Houston ordered Colonel James Bowie to San Antonio de Béxar to evaluate the situation.
- Jan. 18, 1836 Captain Green B. Jameson, a military engineer with the Texan Army, wrote General Houston to say, "You can plainly see that the Alamo never was built by military people for a fortress."
- Jan. 19, 1836 Colonel James Bowie arrived in San Antonio de Béxar with 30 men.

February 1836

- Tuesday 2 Colonel Bowie and Colonel Neill held a conference in which they decided that the safety of Texas depended on maintaining the Alamo as a fortress.
- Wednesday 3 Colonel William B. Travis arrived in San Antonio de Béxar with 25 men. He agreed with Bowie and Neill that the Alamo must be defended.
- Monday 8 David Crockett, former Congressman from Tennessee, arrived in San Antonio de Béxar with 16 men.
- Wednesday 10 Colonel Neill reported that the Alamo's garrison, boosted by recent arrivals, totaled 142.

- Thursday 11 Colonel Neill left the Alamo on a leave of absence due to an illness in his family.
- Friday 12 Colonel Travis assumed the role of Alamo commander.
- Saturday 13 General Santa Anna's army--headed for San Antonio de Béxar--was caught in a blizzard that left more than a foot of snow on the ground. In Goliad, Colonel James Fannin learned that General Urrea had brought 1,000 Mexican troops to Matamoros, intended to help suppress the rebellion. This news caused the abandonment of the Matamoros expedition.
- Sunday 14 Colonel Travis and Colonel Bowie agreed to share command of the 150 man garrison after a dispute arose over control of the volunteers.
- Tuesday 16 General Santa Anna crossed the Rio Grande and started for San Antonio de Béxar.
- Wednesday 17 General Santa Anna arrived at the Nueces River, 119 miles from San Antonio de Béxar.
- Thursday 18 A scout reported to Colonel Travis that the Mexican Army had crossed the Rio Grande.
- Sunday 21 A cloudburst swelled the Medina River, thereby preventing Santa Anna from crossing. He was only eight miles away from San Antonio de Béxar.
- Monday 22 General Santa Anna rested his troops while waiting for the Medina River to recede.

13 DAYS OF THE SIEGE OF THE ALAMO

Day 1: Tuesday, February 23, 1836

General Antonio López de Santa Anna arrived in San Antonio that afternoon with the vanguard of his army. A bloodred banner was raised atop the bell tower of San Fernando Church, signifying that no prisoners would be taken. Colonel William B. Travis ordered a cannon fired in response. The Mexican soldiers fired back and the siege of the Alamo had begun. It was to last 13 days.

Day 2: Wednesday, February 24, 1836

Gravely ill, Colonel James Bowie turned over command of the volunteers to Colonel Travis. Travis sent Captain Albert Martin to Gonzales with a letter addressed "To the People of Texas and All Americans in the World."

Day 3: Thursday, February 25, 1836

A messenger reached Colonel James W. Fannin at Goliad. In San Antonio, Santa Anna moved his batteries closer to the walls. A strong norther blew in that night around 9:00 P.M.

Day 4: Friday, February 26, 1836

A skirmish occurred east of the fort when a group of Texans, who had left the Alamo to gather wood, encountered Mexican troops. The Mexican Army tried to cut the Alamo's water supply.

Day 5: Saturday, February 27, 1836

James Butler Bonham left the Alamo headed for Goliad and Gonzales. Back at the Alamo, nighttime activity by the Mexican Army kept the Texans on alert, allowing them very little sleep.

Day 6: Sunday, February 28, 1836

Colonel Fannin left Goliad at the head of a relief column but turned back after only traveling a short distance. Mexican artillery fire fell in and around the Alamo throughout the day.

Day 7: Monday, February 29, 1836

Santa Anna's batteries moved still closer to the Alamo's walls. The Mexican commander reviewed his troops. The Gonzales Ranging Company (32 men strong and commanded by Captain Albert Martin) left that town determined to reinforce the Alamo. [Note 1836 was a Leap Year.]

Day 8: Tuesday, March 1, 1836

The Gonzales Ranging Company arrived at the Alamo at 3:00 a.m., raising hopes that others would soon follow. Texans fired two cannon shots at the house on Main Plaza occupied by Santa Anna--one hit the house but he was unharmed.

Day 9: Wednesday, March 2, 1836

Heavy Mexican cannonading continued. Inside the Alamo, the defenders were unaware that delegates meeting at Washington-on-the-Brazos had signed the Texas Declaration of Independence.

Day 10: Thursday, March 3, 1836

James Butler Bonham returned from Goliad to report that Colonel Fannin was not coming to the Alamo's aid.

Day 11: Friday, March 4, 1836

Mexican cannonading started early and continued all day.

Day 12: Saturday, March 5, 1836

According to a popular legend, Colonel Travis drew a line on the ground with his sword and then asked those willing to stay and fight to cross over and join him. The Mexican bombardment ended at 10:00 p.m.

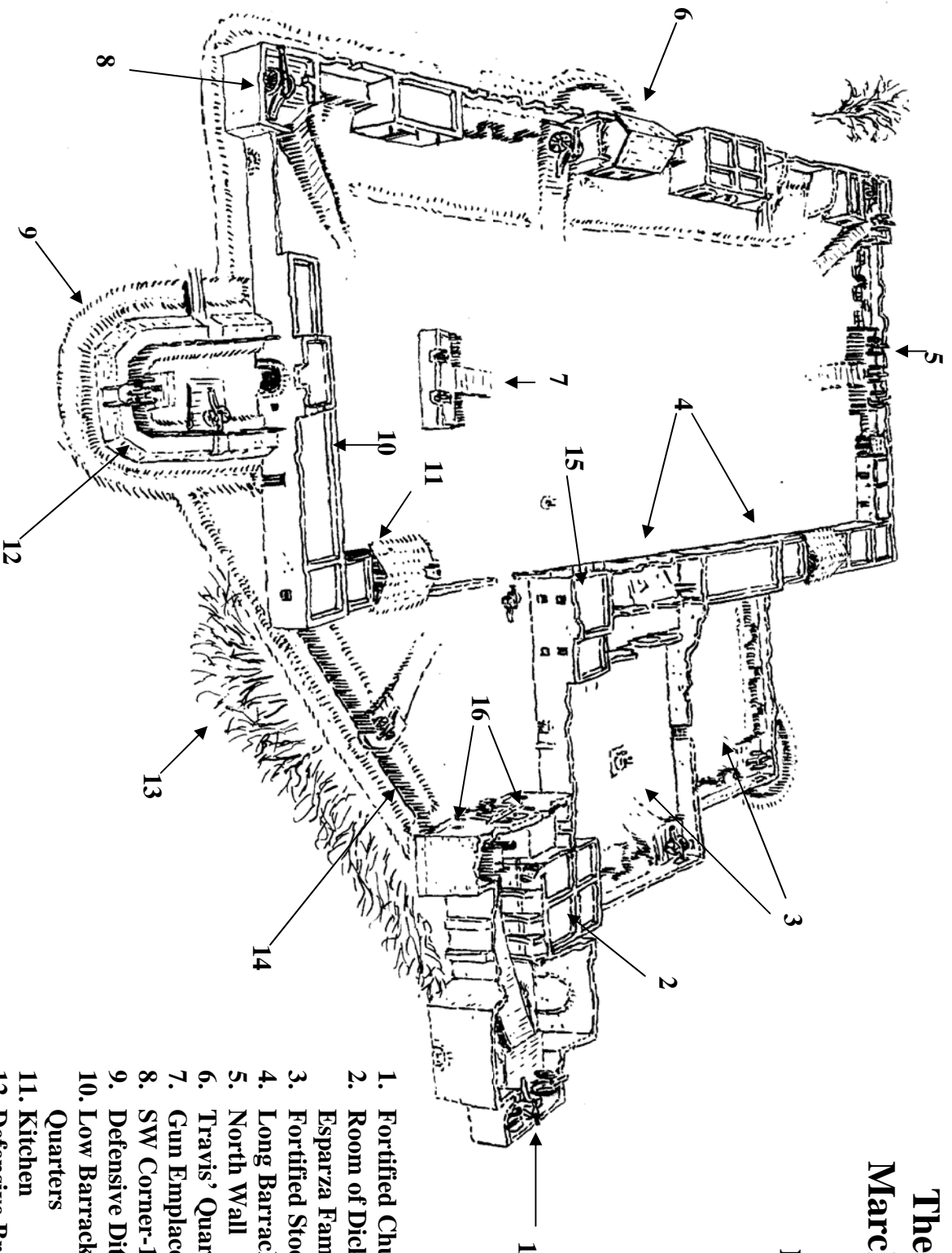
Day 13: Sunday, March 6, 1836

1:00 a.m.	The weary Texans slept while the Mexican troops moved into positions.
2:00 a.m.	Santa Anna and Colonel Juan N. Almonte discussed the battle plans.
3:00 a.m.	The Mexican troops were still moving into positions.
4:00 a.m.	The troops, now in position, laid on the ground in silence.
5:00 a.m.	Santa Anna gave the signal to advance just after 5 a.m. Four columns of Mexican troops advanced on the Alamo. Casualties on both sides mounted during the intense fighting. The troops scaled the north wall and poured into the compound. The fighting moved to the Long Barrack, Low Barrack, and former church.
6:30 a.m.	THE ALAMO HAD FALLEN.

The Alamo

March 6, 1836

North



To San Antonio (Béxar)

1. Fortified Church
2. Room of Dickinson & Esparza Families
3. Fortified Stockpens
4. Long Barrack
5. North Wall
6. Travis' Quarters
7. Gun Emplacement
8. SW Corner-18 pounder
9. Defensive Ditch
10. Low Barrack & Bowie's Quarters
11. Kitchen
12. Defensive Breastwork
13. Abatis or Felled Trees
14. Palisade Wall
15. Hospital
16. Powder Magazines

The Alamo: Building A Scale Model

Making a model of the Alamo is a popular project for students and individuals interested in the history of the site. Many maps and plats of the Alamo exist but discrepancies among them pose a problem for anyone who undertakes the task of building a diorama or model of the Alamo. The Alamo compound has seen many uses during its history and its structures have been altered repeatedly. Although it is impossible to determine the exact measurements of the buildings of the Alamo during the 1836 siege, the dimensions included in this packet are a close approximation of the Alamo compound at the time of the siege and battle. The following sources were consulted in researching the Alamo's dimensions:

De Long, David G., ed. *Historic American Buildings. Texas, Volume I.* 2 vols. New York: Garland Publishing, Inc., 1979.

Everett, Edward, "Plan of the Alamo, 1847." *Plan of the U.S Depot at the Alamo.* Originals in the National Archives. Copies available at the DRT Library.

Long, Charles J. "1836, The Alamo." San Antonio: The Daughters of the Republic of Texas, 1981.

Giraud, Francois, City Surveyor Drawings, City Engineers Office, Book 1. Made December 1849. Copies available at the DRT Library.

Hardin, Stephen L. *Texian Iliad.* Austin: University of Texas Press, 1994.

Lord, Walter. *A Time to Stand.* Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 1961.

Nelson, George. *The Alamo, An Illustrated History.* Dry Frio Canyon, TX: Aldine Press, 1998.

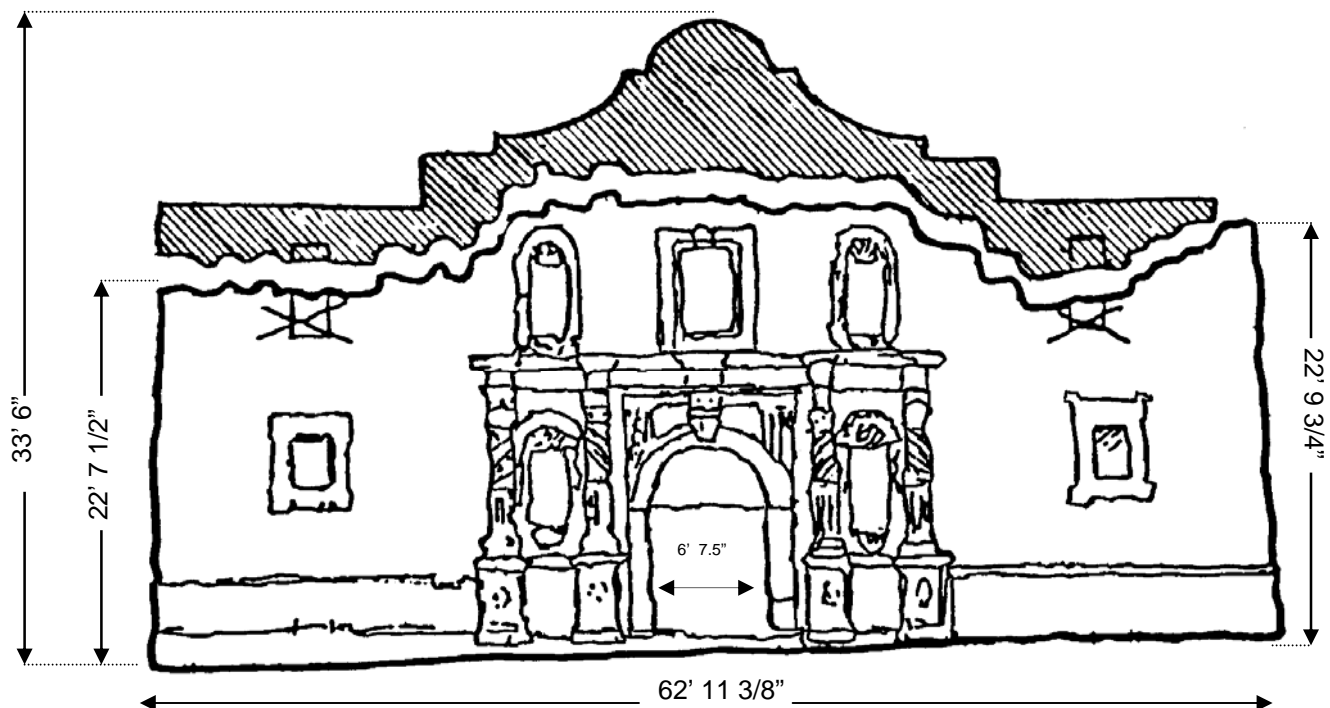
Nofi, Albert A. *The Alamo and the Texas War for Independence.* Conshohocken, PA: Combined Books, 1992.

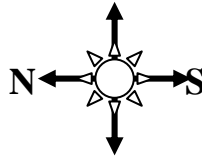
Potter, Reuben Marmaduke. *The Fall of the Alamo: A Reminiscence of the Texas Revolution.* San Antonio: Printed on the Herald Steam Press, 1860.

_____. *The Fall of the Alamo.* Hillsdale, NJ: Otterden Press; 1977 facsimile of 1878 edition.

FRONT OF THE CHURCH IN 1836.

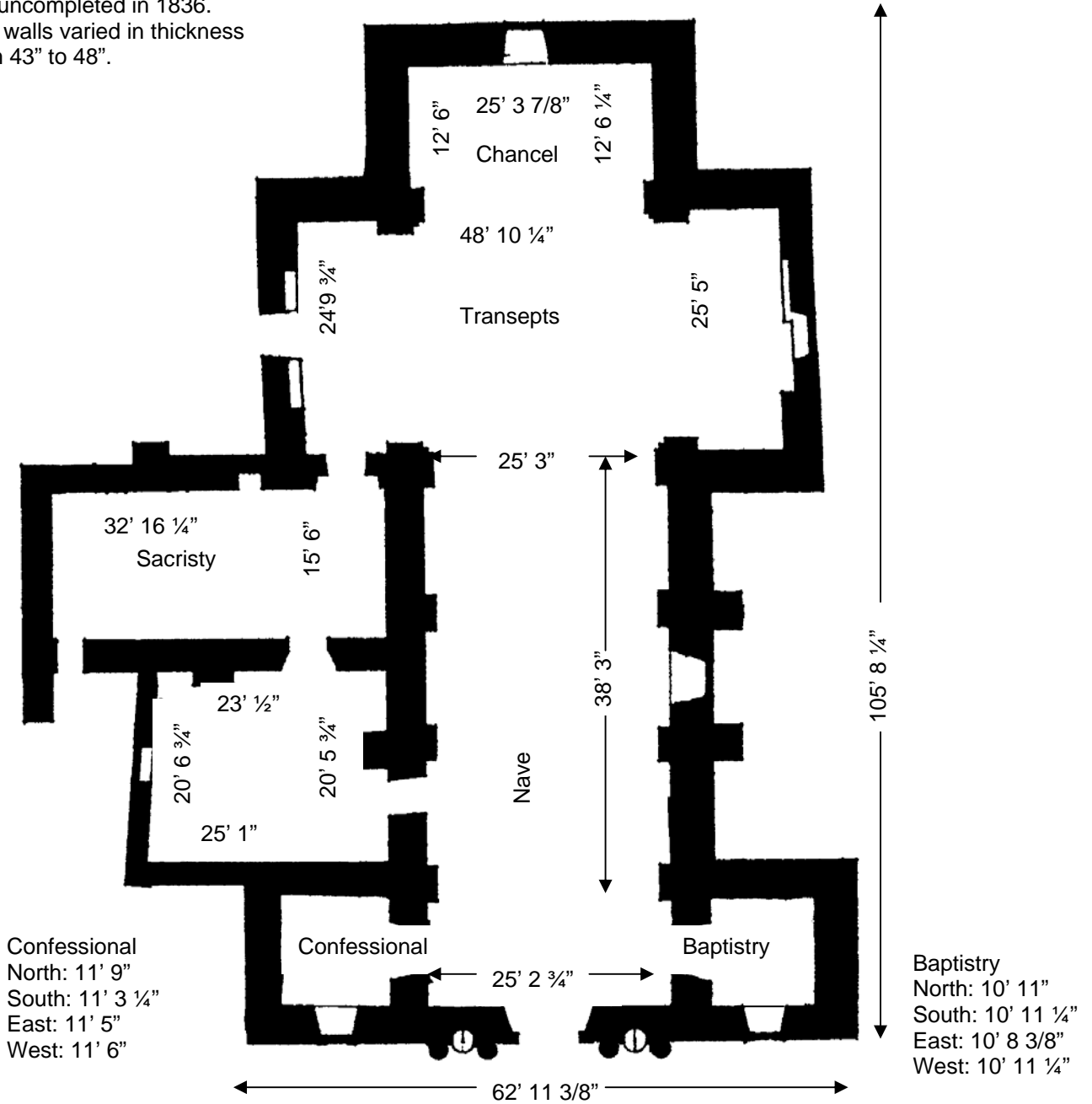
Note: The parapet (arched cap) & two upper windows were added in 1850 by the U.S. Army.





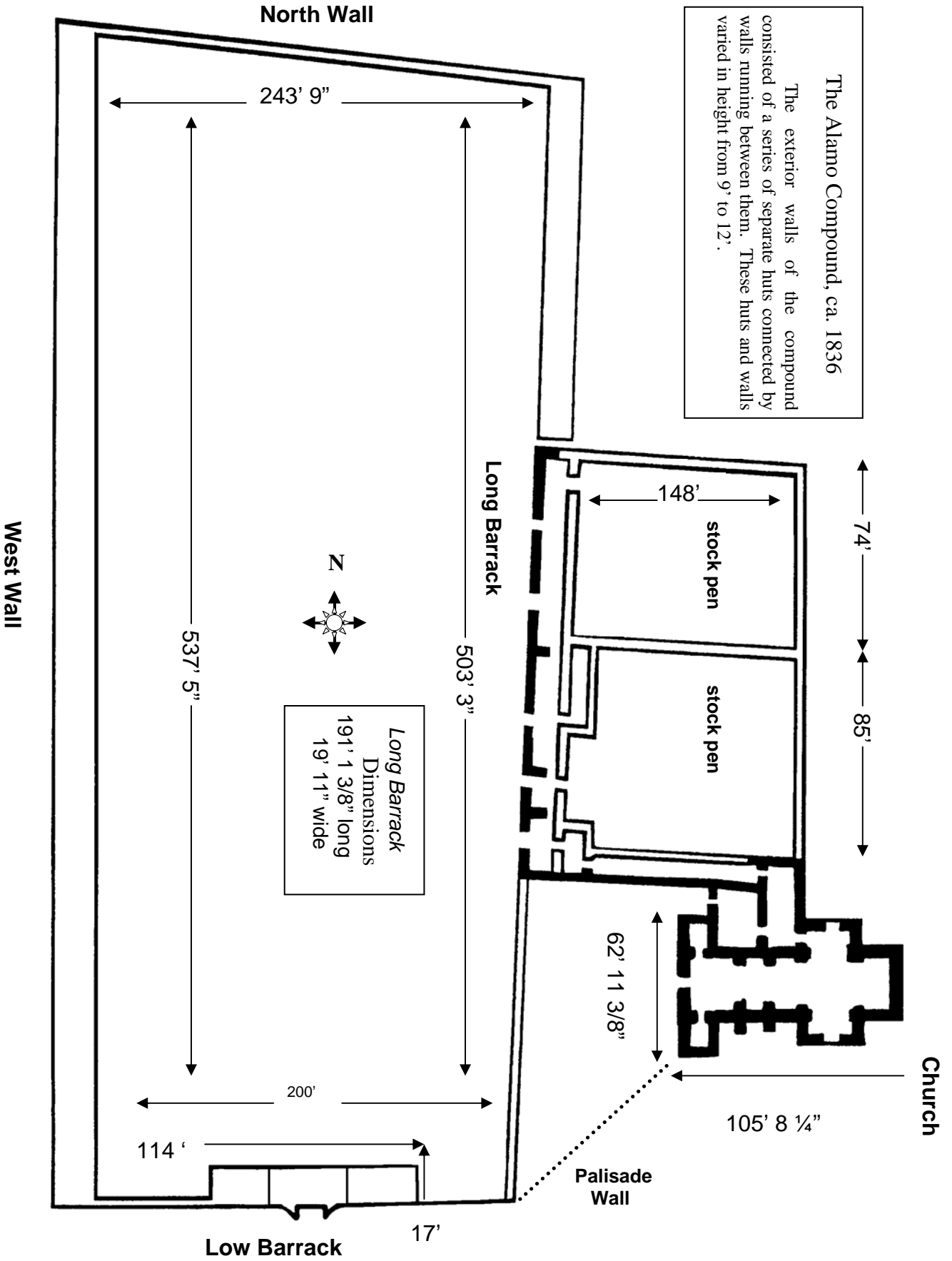
The Church

The roof of the church was still uncompleted in 1836. The walls varied in thickness from 43" to 48".

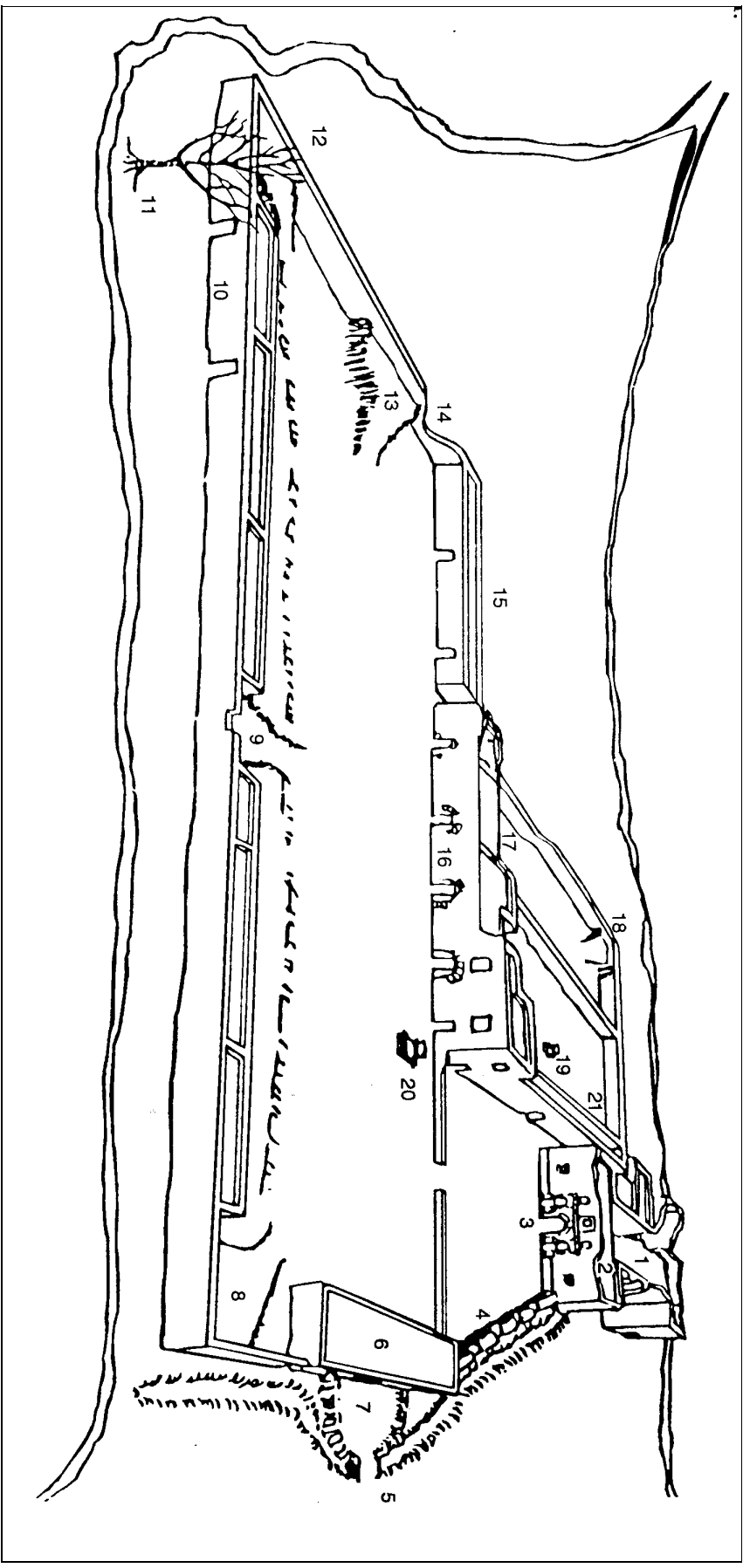


The church and other permanent structures of the Alamo were built using a tan-colored limestone.

The Alamo Compound, ca. 1836
 The exterior walls of the compound consisted of a series of separate huts connected by walls running between them. These huts and walls varied in height from 9' to 12'.



The Alamo in 1836



1. Construction was halted on the church in 1762 before the roof was completed. An earthen ramp made from the fallen roof arches led to an artillery platform on which several cannon were mounted.
2. The front or west section of the church possibly had a flat roof.
3. The front of the church lacked the distinctive profile it has today.
4. A wooden palisade closed an open space between the church and the Low Barrack.
5. A trench along the south wall provided additional protection.
6. The Low Barrack formed a section of the south wall and contained several small rooms as well as the main entrance to the Alamo.
7. A lunette, or circular breastwork, protected the main entrance to the Alamo.
8. An 18 pounder, the largest cannon in the fort, was located at this corner.
9. A small cannon mounted on a low ramp was located here.
10. Possible location of doors leading into the compound.
11. A large pecan tree grew outside the northwest corner of the Alamo.
12. & 13. Several cannon were located along the north wall of the compound.
14. A low place in the north wall made it possible for the Mexican Army to enter the compound.
15. This low building formed a section of the east wall.
16. Many Texans retreated to the Long Barrack after the soldiers entered the compound. Some of the fiercest fighting occurred in and around this building.
17. This area was used as a cattle pen.
18. A cannon was positioned at the northeast corner of the cattle pen.
19. This area, with its well, was used as a horse corral.
20. A well in the plaza.
21. A walled corridor connected the church to the Long Barrack.

THE TEXIAN VOLUNTEER



Many Texians did not have uniforms. They instead wore hunting clothing that would hold up in outdoor conditions. The frock (another word for coat) was made of either buckskin or linen. The cape on the frock was designed for extra warmth. The fringe at the bottom of the cape and along the sleeves was not just a decoration – it helped the garment dry faster. A linen shirt, buckskin or linen pants, and moccasins completed the outfit. A fur cap sometimes replaced the broad brimmed felt hat in cold weather.

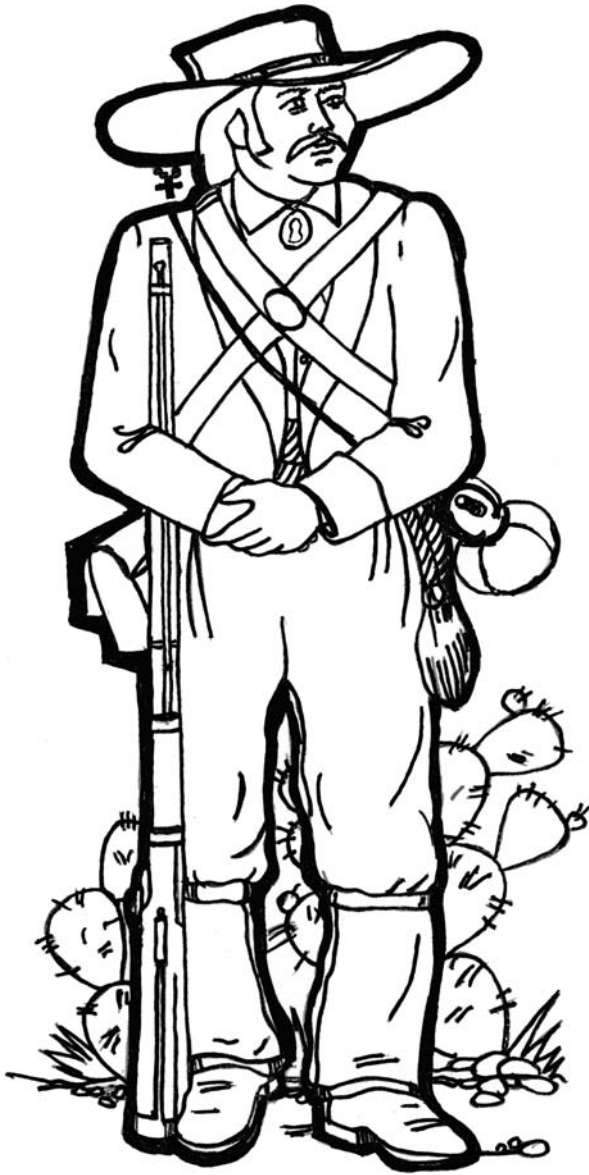
This Texian is armed with a single-shot flintlock rifle. Although it had a range of twice as far as the standard military musket, the rifle took much longer to load and fire. Unlike the musket, the rifle did not have a bayonet. Frontiersmen carried long knives to make up for this drawback. A hollowed out horn from a cow or a buffalo, slung over the shoulder, carried gunpowder. A leather pouch was also carried over the shoulder and contained lead bullets, patches, and spare flints.

The Texian Army at the beginning of the revolution was made up mainly of colonists who had already settled in Texas. Gradually, however, volunteers from the United States arrived who wanted to help win Texas' independence. Many Tejanos (Texas-born Mexicans) also fought against the government of General Antonio López de Santa Anna.

Things To Think About

1. Define the word "Texian."
2. Compare and contrast the advantages and disadvantages of the rifle and musket.
3. What was the relationship between Texian colonists and their environment?
4. Why were people in the United States interested in events in Texas?
5. Why did the Texians want their independence from Mexico?

TEJANO VOLUNTEER



1. List three items that indicate that this Tejano volunteer lives on the Texas Frontier.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
2. This Tejano wears a crucifix on his hat and a medallion with the image of the Virgin de Guadalupe around his neck. What do these items signify?
3. A gourd hangs by his side. What does it hold?

4. Why did some Tejanos support the fight against the Mexican Government?
5. Identify three Tejanos who supported independence and describe their individual contributions.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

TEJANA



The term Tejana refers to a woman of Mexican heritage born in Texas. There were several Tejanas inside the walls during the Battle of the Alamo.

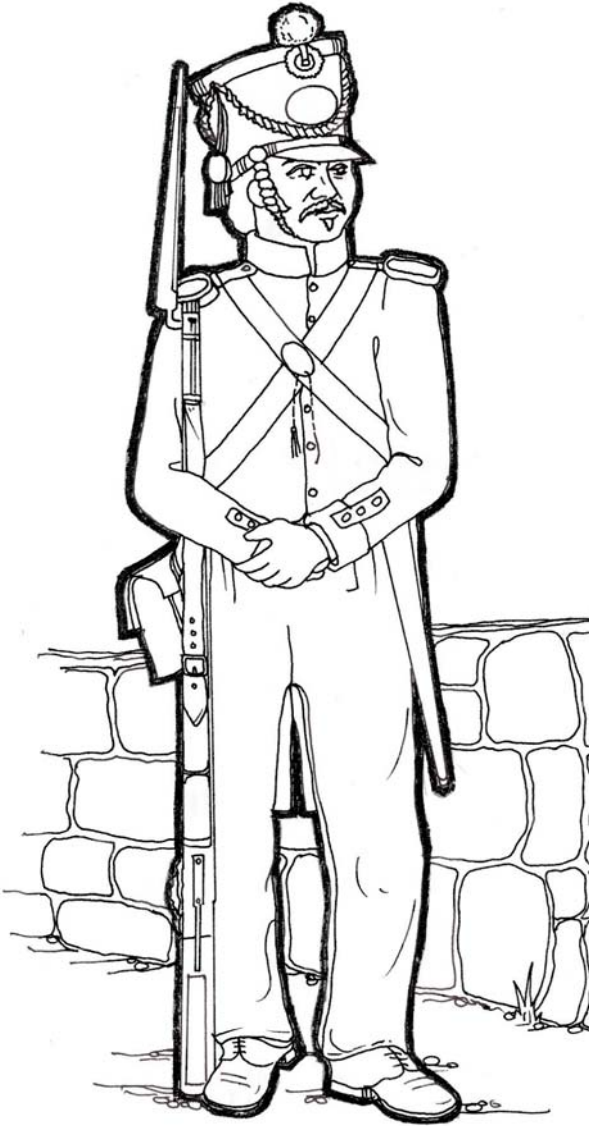
This woman is wearing a dress and a shawl or rebozo. The rebozo could be used for warmth in cold weather or used to cover the head. She is wearing a religious medal around her neck, perhaps with the image of the Virgin of Guadalupe.

A woman in the 1830's was responsible for the keeping of the house and rearing of the children. Some Tejanas were landowners. Often they would inherit land from their husbands or fathers. Many became the head of large cattle ranches.

1. Why is this Tejana wearing a medallion with the image of the Virgin of Guadalupe?
2. Where would a Tejana woman in the 1830s get her clothing?

THE MEXICAN SOLDIER

(El Soldado Mexicano)



Mexican soldiers wore dark-blue uniform coats trimmed in various colors to represent their different regiments. White cotton pants were worn in the summer and light-blue wool pants worn in the winter. Their tall hats, called *shakos*, were made of leather. Although supposedly issued shoes, many Mexican soldiers wore sandals.

Personal possessions and extra equipment were stored in a knapsack that the soldier carried on his back. Leather belts, worn over the shoulder, held two important pieces of equipment – the cartridge box and the bayonet scabbard. A smaller strap held a canteen or gourd for carrying water.

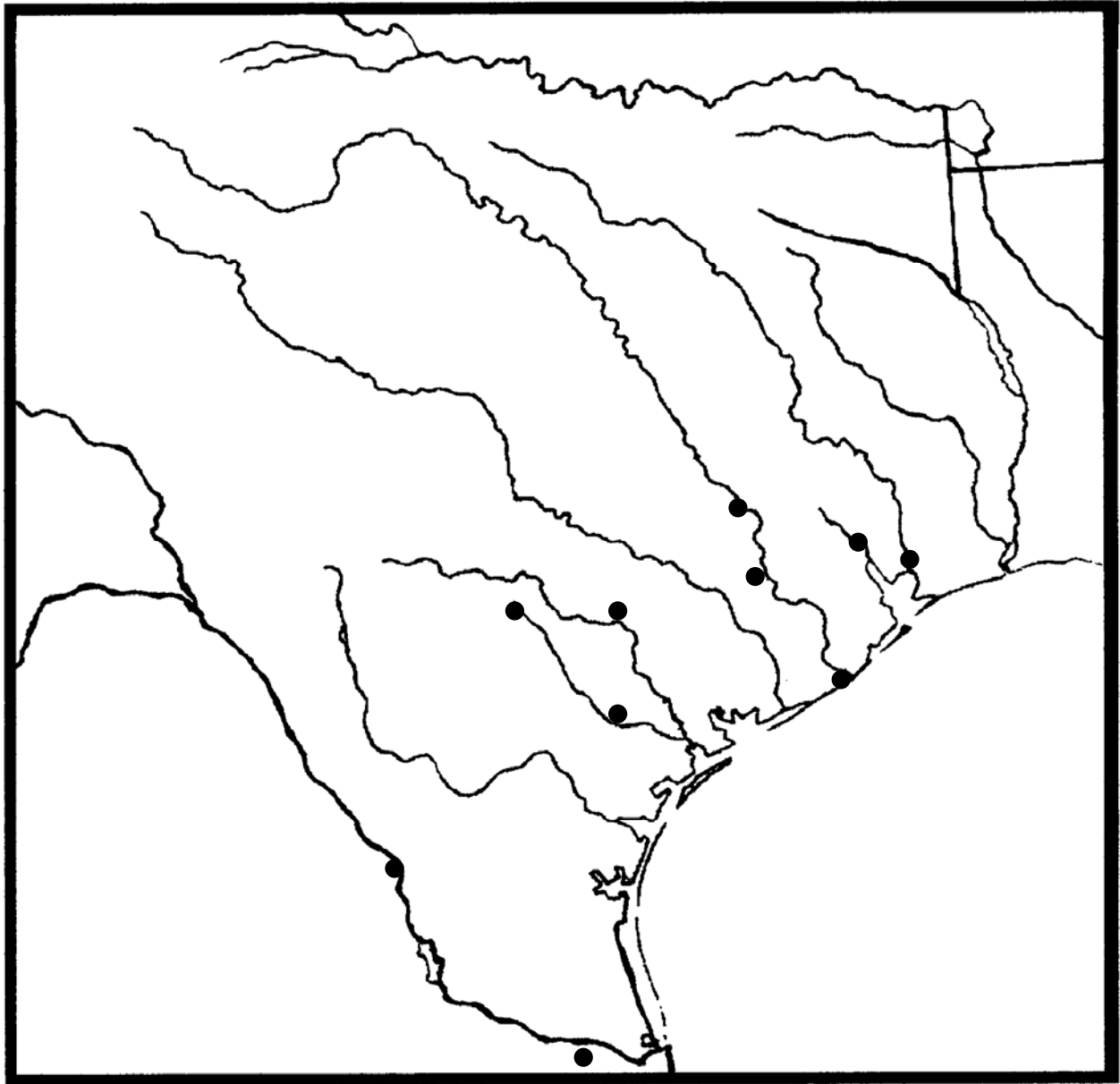
The single-shot flintlock musket was used by the infantry. A well-trained soldier could load and fire his musket three times a minute. An eighteen-inch-long bayonet attached to the end of the barrel at the muzzle of the musket. A strap or sling allowed the soldier to carry the weapon over his shoulder.

Being a soldier was hard work. He was expected to be able to march at least ten miles a day while carrying his own food, knapsack, ammunition, and musket. The combined weight of these items often added up to thirty to forty pounds.

Things To Think About

1. What did soldiers eat? How did they cook their food?
2. Who took care of soldiers when they were ill?
3. Where did soldiers sleep?
4. Describe a typical day in the life of a soldier in the Mexican Army.
5. How is a soldier's life different from your life?

TEXAS AND THE REVOLUTION



Label the following rivers:

Brazos River
Guadalupe River

Rio Grande
Sabine River

San Antonio River
San Jacinto River

Number the dots that represent the following communities:

1. Anahuac
2. Goliad
3. Gonzales
4. Laredo
5. Matamoros

6. San Antonio de Béxar
7. San Jacinto
8. San Felipe de Austin
9. Washington-on-the-Brazos
10. Velasco

Selected Alamo Biographies

William Barret Travis

William Barret Travis, commander of the Alamo, was born on August 9, 1809 in Saluda County, South Carolina. Travis' father moved the family to Conecuh County, Alabama in 1817. Travis was enrolled in a school in Claiborne, Alabama. There he assisted other students in their studies. Travis became an apprentice of the leading attorney in Claiborne and eventually his partner.

On October 26, 1828, Travis married Rosanna Cato. Their first child, Charles Edward Travis, was born on August 8, 1829. Travis became involved in the Claiborne community by joining the Masonic Lodge, starting a newspaper and accepting a position in the Alabama Militia. Despite these personal successes, the Travis' marriage was falling apart. Both accused the other of infidelity and Travis would leave his wife, son and unborn daughter.

Travis, like so many others, chose Texas to start a new life. He arrived in 1831 and established a law practice in Anahuac on Galveston Bay.

In the course of practicing law in Texas, Travis met men associated with the war party, a group of militants opposing the Law of April 6, 1830.

In 1832, Travis was retained to help secure the return of runaway slaves being held by the commander of the Mexican garrison at Anahuac. Eventually, Travis and his law partner were jailed in two brick ovens. As men began to gather in protest, the Mexican Commander realized that he was outnumbered and released the two men.

Travis moved his law practice to San Felipe and was elected to the town council. He also met Rebecca Cummings and they became engaged in 1834. Meanwhile, Travis' wife, Rosana traveled to Texas in the fall of 1835, in order to get her husband's signature on divorce papers. She left their son, Charles, with him. Travis arranged for Charles to stay with David Ayers and family as he was caught up in the Texas Revolution.

Travis participated in the Grass Fight near B  xar. He accepted a commission of lieutenant colonel of cavalry. He was ordered to recruit 100 men and reinforce the Alamo. Although he could only recruit 29 men, he arrived in San Antonio in January 1836. He shared command of the Alamo with James Bowie until Bowie fell ill on February 24th. After General Santa Anna's arrival in San Antonio on February 23rd Travis penned letters to the provisional government of Texas explaining their situation and requesting reinforcements. The most famous of these letters was written on February 24, 1836 and began, "To the people of Texas and all Americans in the world..." Travis was killed early on the morning of March 6 as the Mexican army attacked the compound. According to his slave, Joe, Travis was shot through the head early in the battle as he directed fire on the north wall. His body was burned with those of the other defenders.

David Crockett

Frontiersman, congressman and Alamo defender, David Crockett was born in Greene County, East Tennessee, on August 17, 1786. He rose from humble beginnings to become a United States Congressman from his home state of Tennessee. At the age of twelve, David's father hired him out to Jacob Siler to help drive a herd of cattle to Virginia. David came home a few weeks later and received what would become a very short formal education.

He married Mary (Polly) Finley in 1806 and started a family. In 1813, David Crockett enlisted as a scout to avenge the Indian attack at Fort Mims, Alabama. He participated in the massacre of Tallussahatchee. He would reenlist several more times in the militia each time rising in rank.

Upon his return home in 1815 he found himself to be a father again, and before the year's end would also be a widower. Crockett married Elizabeth Patton, a widow with 2 children.

In 1817, Crockett became a justice of the peace, a position he would hold until 1819. It was also during this time that he decided to run for the Tennessee legislature and was elected first in 1821 and then again in 1823. He then decided to run for the United States Congress and was elected in 1827. He would be reelected to Congress two more times.

During his years in Congress, many books and plays were being written based on his exploits as a frontiersman. Crockett was on his way to possibly becoming president. In 1835 he lost his congressional seat and decided to leave Tennessee behind to explore Texas. On his way to Texas, he stopped at the Union Hotel and made his famous remark, "Since you have chosen to elect a man with a timber toe to succeed me, you may all go to hell and I will go to Texas."

David Crockett arrived in Texas on January 9, 1836, with the prospects of moving his family there, but upon arriving found himself in the middle of a revolution. He joined the Texas Army and was sent to San Antonio de Béxar and to the Alamo. David Crockett died on the morning of March 6, 1836 fighting alongside the rest of the Alamo defenders.

James Butler Bonham

James Butler Bonham was born on February 20, 1807 in Saluda County, South Carolina. He attended college, but did not graduate. He studied law and began practicing in Pendleton, South Carolina, in 1830. On October 17, 1835, Bonham led a rally to support the Texan cause in Mobile, Alabama. Two weeks later, he helped organize the volunteer company of Mobile Grays. He was in Texas by November of 1835.

Bonham was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Texas cavalry and declined all payment for his service. On February 1, 1836, he was unsuccessful in becoming a Béxar garrison delegate to the Constitutional Convention. He was sent to get help for the Alamo on February 16, 1836 and returned on March 3, 1836. Bonham would be the last

man to arrive at the Alamo before the battle. He died with the other defenders on March 6, 1836.

José María (Gregorio) Esparza

Alamo defender José María Esparza better known as Gregorio was born on February 25, 1802 in San Antonio de Béxar. He married Anna Salazar and together they had four children. In October 1835, Esparza enlisted in Juan Seguín's company. He participated in the siege and Battle of Béxar against the Mexican Army. He served until December 10, 1835.

When news came of Antonio López de Santa Anna's arrival in San Antonio, the Esparza's were advised to take refuge in the Alamo since they supported the revolt. They entered the Alamo through a window and Gregorio chose to remain and fight even though Tejanos were being allowed to leave. His family remained with him. He manned a cannon and died at his post on March 6, 1836. His family survived the battle. After the fall of the Alamo, Francisco, a Mexican soldier and brother of Gregorio asked Santa Anna for his brother's body for burial. He was the only Alamo Defender to be given a Christian burial in the Campo Santo of San Antonio de Béxar. His son Enrique, an Alamo survivor, would tell the story of what occurred during the battle.

José Toribio Losoya

Tejano Alamo defender José Toribio Losoya was born on April 11, 1808. The family home was located in the southwest corner of the Alamo compound. Toribio Losoya was married to Concepción Cubier and was the father of three. In 1830, Losoya was serving in the Alamo de Parras Company under Lt. Colonel Francisco Ruiz. It was in the same year that the Alamo de Parras company was sent to build and occupy Fort Tenoxtitlan on the Brazos River. He returned to San Antonio in 1832. When the government announced the abolishment of the federal constitution, Losoya was one of many soldiers that opposed Santa Anna. By 1835 he had deserted the Mexican Army and was serving with Juan Seguín's company. He took part in the siege and battle of Béxar and would later help reinforce the Alamo. Losoya would fall at the Battle of the Alamo along with the other defenders on March 6, 1836.

Juan Nepomuceno Almonte

Mexican officer and diplomat, Juan Nepomuceno Almonte was born in Michoacan on May 15, 1803. Almonte was sent to the United States to be educated. When he returned to Mexico he joined the fight against Spain. In 1822, he was sent to Texas to serve under the newly appointed governor José Félix Trespalacios. In 1824, he was sent to London as part of the legation, where he negotiated Mexico's first commercial treaty. In 1830 he served in the National Congress, but came under persecution by the government and had to hide due to his editorial works against President Anastasio Bustamante. In 1834, Almonte made an inspection of Texas and wrote a detailed report of his findings. He served in the Texas campaign under Santa Anna as his secretary and confidential adviser. Almonte also participated in the assault on

the Alamo. He was captured following the Mexican Army's defeat at the Battle of San Jacinto.

In 1837 he was sent to the U.S. with Santa Anna. In 1841, he was sent to Washington where he served as minister until 1845 when Texas was annexed. He served as secretary of war during the Mexican American War. After the war he was sent to London as a minister but neglected his duties to promote a foreign intervention in Mexico with the French. In 1862 he arrived in Veracruz to help establish the monarchy, finally fulfilling the 1821 Plan de Iguala. He was declared supreme chief of the Nation by the French. He was appointed envoy to France by Maximilian. He died on March 21, 1869 in Paris.

Susannah Dickinson

Susannah Dickinson was born in 1814 in Bolivar, Tennessee. She married Almeron on May 24, 1829 and moved Texas with him. Susannah and Almeron had a daughter, Angelina on December 14, 1834.

After Almeron left Gonzales to fight at the Siege of Béxar, their home was broken into by a group of men. Future Alamo courier, Launcelot Smither came to her rescue. Almeron returned home and brought Susannah and Angelina to San Antonio. They entered the Alamo on February 23, 1836.

Prior to the final battle on March 6, 1836, Colonel Travis, the Alamo commander gave fourteen month old Angelina a ring.

Although Susannah was shot in the leg, she her daughter were among the survivors of the battle of the Alamo. Afterwards General Santa Anna issued Susannah a blanket and two pesos and sent her on her way. On the trip to Gonzales she and Angelina met up with Travis' slave Joe.

Susannah delivered the news of the fall of the Alamo to General Sam Houston. She would retell her experiences at the Alamo many times over the course of her life.

Juan Nepomuceno Seguín

Texas patriot, political and military leader Juan Nepomuceno Seguín was born in San Antonio on October 27, 1806. Juan was encouraged to read and write even though he had very little formal schooling. At the age of 19, Juan married Maria Gertrudis Flores de Abrego and together they had 10 children. Seguín entered the political arena at a very young age, being elected to the town government in 1828. He later served as both mayor and political chief of the Department of Béxar. In 1835, Seguín entered into military service opposing the Centralist government following the battle of Gonzales; he was given a captain's commission by Stephen F. Austin. Seguín would raise a company of 37 to support the revolution. His company served as scouts; they also helped gather supplies of the army. In the Battle of Béxar, his company took part in the assault against General Cos troops. He entered the Alamo when Santa Anna arrived but was sent out as a courier. At Gonzales, he organized another company that would serve as the rear guard of Sam Houston's army and would take an active role at the Battle of San Jacinto. After the defeat of Santa Anna, his company observed the Mexican Army's retreat and

accepted the surrender of San Antonio on June 4, 1836. In February of 1837, Seguín would direct the burial of the remains of the Alamo defenders as he served as the military commander of San Antonio.

Seguín went on to serve in the Texas Senate for three terms. In 1840 he was elected mayor of San Antonio. He fell under suspicion due to his land speculation and trips to Mexico. He moved to Mexico in mid 1842 as a result of General Vasquez invasion of San Antonio on April 18, 1842. In September of that same year he was forced to serve in Gen. Adrian Woll's invasion of Texas. Seguín company saw action in the Mexican War against the U.S. forces after the war, he returned to Texas and settled in present day, Wilson County. He reentered the political science and eventually retired to Nuevo Laredo where he died on August 27, 1890. He was re-interred in Seguín, Texas on July 4, 1976.

Martín Perfecto de Cos

Mexican general Martín Perfecto de Cos was born in Veracruz in 1800. He rose through the ranks of the Army beginning in the 1820s as a cadet and by 1833 was a brigadier general. In September 1835 he was sent to Anahuac to investigate the refusal to pay duties to Mexico by the colonists. He dispersed the State legislature of Coahuila y Tejas and landed 300 men on the coast of Texas. His purpose was to end the resistance in Texas. In December 1835 Texas insurgents attack Béxar after a long siege and he surrendered. He was released with the pledge that he would not oppose the Federal Constitution of 1824.

Cos returned in 1836 with General Santa Anna and led a column that attacked the Alamo. At San Jacinto he was taken prisoner again. In the Mexican War, Cos commanded the troops at Tuxpan. Cos died in Veracruz on October 1, 1854.

James Bowie

James Bowie was a sugar planter, land speculator and a respected Texian leader. He was born on April 10, 1796 in Logan County, Kentucky. His family lived in Tennessee, Missouri and Kentucky before settling in Louisiana. Bowie left home at the age of 15 and made a living by floating lumber to market and operating a sugar plantation with his brother.

James and his older brother, Rezin became involved in the slave trade with pirate Jean Lafitte. Lafitte provided the Bowie brothers with captured slave from ships in the Caribbean. The Bowie's would then sell the slaves to plantation owners. They would continue this practice until accumulating \$65,000. James Bowie was also involved in a series of fraudulent land grants in Arkansas.

Bowie became well known for the large knife that he carried. He gained national attention at an event known as the Sandbar Fight. Bowie attended a duel as a second for a friend. After the men involved in the duel had both missed, the others in attendance began to feud. Bowie was shot through the lower chest; he then drew his butcher knife

and gave chase to his assailant. He was then shot through the thigh and stabbed in several places. When his original attacker bent over him, Bowie plunged his knife into his chest.

Bowie arrived in Texas on January 1, 1830. On February 20, Bowie took the oath of allegiance to Mexico and traveled to San Antonio de Béxar. He was baptized in the Catholic Church and married Ursula de Veramendi, the daughter of a prominent San Antonio family. September 1833, Bowie's wife and in-laws died of cholera. At the time Bowie was ill with Yellow Fever and unaware of their deaths.

At the outbreak of the Texas Revolution, Bowie took part in the Battle of Concepción on October 28, 1835. Later during the Siege of Béxar served under General Stephen F. Austin. Colonel Bowie received instructions from Sam Houston to ride to Béxar to destroy the Alamo. After arriving, he and the garrison commander determined that the Alamo should be defended.

Colonel Bowie shared command of the Alamo garrison with Colonel William B. Travis until February 24, 1836 when he became ill and was forced to his cot. James Bowie died in his sick bed on the morning of March 6, 1836 with the rest of the Alamo garrison.

Antonio López de Santa Anna

Antonio López de Santa Anna, soldier and President of Mexico was born in Jalapa, Veracruz on February 21, 1794. He joined the Spanish Army in 1810 and served under General Joaquin de Arredondo. He fought in Texas against the Gutierrez-Magee expedition and was cited for bravery. It was during this time that he witnessed the execution of prisoners from the Battle of Medina near San Antonio de Béxar. He would shift his position from a loyal Spanish officer to an insurgent leader by joining forces with Agustín de Iturbide. He would turn against Iturbide in December 1822 and called for a republic to be established.

Santa Anna became the military governor of Veracruz, and would once again be called to defend Mexico against Spain at the Battle of Tampico in 1829. As the hero of Tampico, Santa Anna became President of Mexico in 1833. He abandoned his Federalist supporters and became a Centralist in 1834, a move that angered many Mexican states. When the state of Zacatecas refused to comply with his orders, he attacked with his army in bloody retribution. Once Zacatecas had fallen, Santa Anna's glance shifted northward to Texas. He arrived in San Antonio on February 23, 1836 and laid siege to the Alamo. On March 6, 1836 the Alamo fell before dawn to the Mexican Army.

After the fall of the Alamo, Santa Anna headed eastward to what is now Houston. There he was defeated and captured by General Sam Houston on April 21, 1836. After his release six months later, Santa Anna traveled to the United States before returning to Mexico. In 1838 he rose against the French, losing a leg in battle, but once again gaining popularity. He led the Armies against the United States, in the Mexican War, 1846-1848. After his defeat, Santa Anna would see Mexico lose half of its territory to the United States. He went into exile until 1853 when he returned to power. Two years later, Santa Anna would sell a small portion of land to the United States known as the Gadsden Purchase, a move that ended his political career. He died of old age in Mexico City on June 21, 1876.

WHO AM I?

Using the Alamo biographies, answer the following questions.

1. When I was 12 years old, my father hired me out to drive cattle from Tennessee to Virginia. I was gone for several weeks. Who am I?
2. I was shot in the leg, but was later released after the battle of the Alamo. Who am I?
3. I am a hero of several battles. I served as president of Mexico many times. Who am I?
4. I was the only Alamo defender to receive a Christian burial. Who am I?
5. I served in the Alamo de Parras company, but deserted by 1835 to join the Texians. Who am I?
6. In 1834, I conducted an inspection of Texas and wrote a detailed report of my findings. Who am I?
7. I was almost killed in a knife fight, but survived. Today knives of the style that I carried are named for me. Who am I?
8. I brought a company of Tejanos to the Alamo, but I left when I was asked to carry a message to General Sam Houston. Who am I?
9. I surrendered Bexar to the Texians in December 1835. But, I would return in February along with General Santa Anna. Who am I?
10. After Jim Bowie became ill; I was in full command of the Alamo. I died early on March 6, 1836. Who am I?
11. I was forced to serve the Mexican army when they returned to Texas in 1842 to capture San Antonio. Who am I?
12. I organized a company of volunteers in Mobile, Alabama and brought them to Texas. Who am I?

13. I was involved in the slave trade with pirate Jean Lafitte. Who am I?
14. I served three terms as a congressman from Tennessee. Who am I?
15. I surrendered to General Sam Houston at the Battle of San Jacinto. Who am I?
16. My fourteen month old daughter, Angelina, was given a ring by Colonel Travis before the fall of the Alamo. Who am I?
17. I penned a letter that began, "To the people of Texas and all Americans in the world...." Who am I?
18. I was the last courier to return to the Alamo. Who am I?
19. I was born at the Alamo and I died at the Alamo. Who am I?
20. My brother, Francisco, was a Mexican soldier in Santa Anna's army. Who am I?

CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS

Using Alamo Quotes

Historians categorize sources as either primary or secondary. Primary sources [*], as in the case of a quote, can be traced back to a letter or some other historical document produced by a person who actually said or wrote the words. Secondary sources are those in which a witness repeats what he heard or saw another person say or do. Knowing the difference between primary and secondary sources is an important analytical tool.

***Green B. Jameson**, "You can plainly see ... that the Alamo was not built by a military people for a fortress,..."

John Jenkins, ed., *Papers of the Texas Revolution* (10 vols.; Austin: Presidial Press, 1973), 4:59. [Green B. Jameson, Engineer, to General Sam Houston, January 18, 1836]

***William B. Travis**, "I shall never surrender or retreat."

John Jenkins, ed., *Papers of the Texas Revolution* (10 vols.; Austin: Presidial Press, 1973), 4:423. [Travis appeal for help, February 24, 1836.]

Moses Rose, "Col. Travis then drew his sword, and with its point traced a line upon the ground, extending from the right to the left of the file. Then resuming his position in front of the centre, he said, 'I now want every man who is determined to stay here and die with me to come across this line. Who will be the first? March!'"

The Texas Almanac, 1857-1873: A Compendium of Texas History (Waco: Texian Press, 1967), 694. [First told by William P. Zuber in "An Escape from the Alamo," *The Texas Almanac for 1873*.]

William B. Travis, "Come on boys, the Mexicans are upon us, and we'll give them Hell."

William Fairfax Gray, *From Virginia to Texas, 1835: Diary of Col. Wm. F. Gray* (Houston: The Fletcher Young Publishing Co., 1965), 137. [Related by Joe, Travis' slave, to the delegates gathered at Washington-on-the-Brazos, March 20, 1836.]

***David Crockett**, "In my last canvass, I told the people of my District, that if they saw fit to reelect me, I would serve them as faithfully as I had done; but if not, *they might go to hell, and I would go to Texas.*"

Arkansas Gazette, May 10, 1836; reprinted in *Journal of the Alamo Battlefield Association* (Summer 1995), 13. [Newspaper article.]

David Crockett, "I have come to aid you all that I can in your noble cause."

Dr. John Sutherland, *The Fall of the Alamo* (San Antonio: The Naylor Company, 1936), 11-12. [Crockett in speech to Texans as related by John Sutherland, Alamo courier.]

David Crockett, "Colonel [Travis], here am I. Assign me a position, and I and my twelve boys will try to defend it."

Dr. John Sutherland, *The Fall of the Alamo* (San Antonio: The Naylor Company, 1936), 20. [Related by John Sutherland, Alamo courier, describing how Travis ordered Crockett to defend the Palisade Wall]

***James Bowie**, "We will rather die in these ditches than give it up to the enemy."

John Jenkins, ed., *Papers of the Texas Revolution* (10 vols.; Austin: Presidial Press, 1973), 4:238. [Bowie to Governor Henry Smith, February 2, 1836.]

Almeron Dickenson, "Great God, Sue, the Mexicans are inside our walls! All is lost! If they spare you, save my child!"

J. M. Morphis, *History of Texas* (New York: United States Publishing Company, 1875), 176.

"... Almonte remarked 'it would cost them much;' that the reply [Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna,] was, 'it was of no importance what the cost was, that it must be done.'"

Rev. C. Newell, *History of the Texas Revolution* (New York: Wiley & Putman, 1838), 88. [Related by Ben, a slave who cooked for Santa Anna and Almonte.]

Santa Anna, "Santa Anna was holding in his hand the leg or a chicken which he was eating, and holding it up he said: 'What are the lives of soldiers more than so many chickens? I tell you, the Alamo must fall, and my orders must be obeyed at all hazards. If our soldiers are driven back, the next line in their rear must force those before them forward, and compel them to scale the walls, cost what it may.'"

Nicholas D. Labadie, "San Jacinto Campaign, *The Texas Almanac for 1859*, 61-62; reprinted in *The Texas Almanac, 1857-1873: A Compendium of Texas History* (Waco: Texian Press, 1967), 173. [Related by Captain Fernando Urriza to Dr. Labadie following Santa Anna's capture at San Jacinto.]

Captain Fernando Urriza, "At about eight o'clock I went into the fort, and saw Santa Anna walking to and fro. As I bowed he said to me, pointing to the dead: 'These are the chickens. Much blood has been shed; but the battle is over: it was but a small affair.'"

Nicholas D. Labadie, "San Jacinto Campaign," *The Texas Almanac for 1859*, 61-62; reprinted in *The Texas Almanac, 1857-1873: A Compendium of Texas History* (Waco: Texian Press, 1967), 174. [Related by Captain Fernando Urriza to Dr. Labadie following Santa Anna's capture at San Jacinto.]

Ben, "It shortly died away, day broke upon the scene, and Santa Anna and Almonte returned, when the latter remarked, 'that another such victory would ruin them.'"

Rev. C. Newell, *History of the Texas Revolution* (New York: Wiley & Putman, 1838), 89. [Related by Ben, a slave who cooked for Santa Anna and Almonte.]

***Sanchez-Navarro**, "It could well be said: With another such victory and we will be taken to the devil."

Carlos Sanchez-Navarro, *La Guerra de Tejas: Memorias de un Soldado* (Mejico: Editorial Polis, 1938), 152.

Francisco Becerra, "The victory of the Alamo was dearly bought. Indeed, the price in the end was well nigh the ruin of Mexico."

Francisco Becerra, *A Mexican Sergeant's Recollection of the Alamo and San Jacinto As Told by Francisco Becerra to John S. Ford in 1875* (Austin: Jenkins Publishing Company, 1980), 25.



ALAMO . . . THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

Use these questions as a pre-test to enhance understanding of the historical events depicted in the movie, *Alamo . . . The Price of Freedom*.

1. Why were the Texans upset with the Mexican Government?
2. What problems did the Texans face in the defense of the Alamo?
3. What difficulties did Santa Anna's troops have to overcome before the Alamo was captured?
4. Why did so little help come to the aid of the Alamo?
5. Were there any survivors of the battle?

Identify these individuals who appear in *Alamo . . . The Price of Freedom*:

James C. Neill -

William B. Travis -

James Bowie -

David Crockett -

Juan Seguín -

Antonio López de Santa Anna -

Susanna Dickinson -

Angelina Dickinson -

Joe -

Toribio Losoya -

Gregorio Esparza -

James Allen -

James W. Fannin -

Making a film . . .

How do you think the writers developed the script for the film?

How can an actor's performance shape opinion about a historical character?

Who played the Texans and Mexican soldiers in the movie?

Who make sure that the sets, costumes and props are accurate?

Vocabulary

artillery: Large caliber crew served mounted firearms (such as cannons, howitzers and rockets)

barrack: a building for lodging soldiers in garrison

bayonet: a steel blade attached at the muzzle end of a shoulder arm such as a musket and used in hand to hand combat

beeves: cattle

besieged: surrounded with armed forces

bombardment: an attack with artillery

cannonade: a heavy fire of artillery

cartridge: a tube of paper containing a complete charge for a firearm (paper tube, ball and powder)

cavalry: an army component mounted on horseback

Centralist: a political faction in Mexico whose goal was to limit the power of the states in favor of concentrating power in Mexico City

cholera: very contagious disease causing diarrhea and vomiting contracted by drinking untreated water and usually resulting in death due to dehydration. Cholera epidemics were widespread in the United States and Mexico in the 1830's and 1840's

colonist: one that settles in a new country at the request of that country

constitution: a system of fundamental laws and principles that prescribes the nature, functions and limits of a government

convert: a person that has been persuaded or induced to adopt a particular belief and lifestyle

convento: the living quarters of religious orders

courier: a messenger

custodian: one entrusted with guarding and protecting

daguerreotype: an early photograph produced on silver or a silver covered copper plate

dictator: one ruling absolutely and often oppressively

degüello: a bugle call used by the Mexican Army to appeal to the enemy to surrender or else die by the sword

Empresario: a land agent given permission by the Mexican Government to bring colonists to Texas

Federalist: a political faction in Mexico whose goal was to restructure Mexico socially and politically along the lines of a federal republic

friar: a member of a religious order (Franciscans) combining monastic life and outside religious activity

grenadier: a soldier who is a member of a special corps or regiment originally carrying grenades

garrison: military post; soldiers that are stationed at a military post

grapeshot: a cluster of small iron balls used as a cannon charge

infantry: soldiers trained, armed and equipped to fight on foot

immigrant: a person who comes to a country to take up permanent residence either legally or illegally

lunette: a crescent shaped fortification

musket: a heavy, large caliber smooth bore shoulder firearm usually equipped with a bayonet

no quarter: It is the opposite of the term quarter which means, the sparing of men's lives in battle and giving them good treatment when they surrender. Thus no quarter means that no prisoners will be taken alive.

provisional government: temporary government

palisade: a fence of stakes usually for defense

parapet: an earthen or stone embankment protecting soldiers from enemy fire

parley: to discuss terms with the enemy

picket: a soldier whose job is to warn a garrison of a surprise attack

pistol: a hand gun

pyre: a combustible heap for burning a dead body

redoubt: a reinforcing earthwork within a fortification

republic: A government in which the supreme power lies in a body of citizens who are entitled to vote for officers and representatives responsible to them

rifle: a shoulder weapon with spiral grooves cut into the bore

saber: a heavy cavalry sword with a one-edged, slightly curved blade

sentry: a soldier standing guard at a point of passage such as a gate

skirmish: a minor battle in war

shako: a stiff military hat with a high crown

shrine: A shrine is a place hallowed by its associations. At a Shrine events have occurred that people believe should be remembered for their significance or for the character of those who participated in them. Shrines can be religious or patriotic.

soldado: Spanish term for soldier

smallpox: a contagious viral disease, causing fever, vomiting and rash often resulting in death.

surrender: to give up completely

sword: a weapon with a long blade for cutting or thrusting

Tejano: a native born Mexican from the state of Coahuila y Tejas

Texian: used in place of the word Texan through out the period of the Texas Revolution and the Texas Republic



Alamo Word Puzzle – Can you find a famous Crockett quote?

1. The Alamo was originally built as a Spanish Mission called

— — — — —
26 23 12

2. The former mission church is now called the

11 2

3. This building was started in 1724 and was originally called the Convento.

During the battle it was called the — — — — —
14 20 3 32

4. This defender’s rifle is in a display case inside the Shrine.

— — — — —
6 33 16 25

5. This defender’s ring is on display in the Long Barrack Museum.

5 — — — — — 1 — — — — — 9

6. The number of defenders who died from Tennessee. — — — — — 7

7. Four Alamo defenders had this last name: — — — — —
13 28

8. On March 1, 1836, thirty-two men from — — — — — came to the
aide of the Alamo defenders. 27

9. Number of days of the siege — — — — —
30 17

10. Texas won her independence from — — — — —
31 19



11. Group responsible for taking care of the Alamo since 1905.

— — — — —
10 21 8 24
18 15 4 22 29

David Crockett said “

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

,
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33!”

Texas Independence

Using the word bank below, fill in the blank with the best answer.

1. The battle of the Alamo lasted _____ days.
2. David Crockett was a former congressman from _____.
3. William Barret Travis was the commander of the _____.
4. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna was the _____ of Mexico.
5. The Degüello is the traditional march of no _____.
6. Stephen F. Austin is the “_____ of Texas.”
7. The First President of the Republic of Texas was _____.
8. Lorenzo de Zavala was the First _____ of the Republic of Texas.
9. Col. James Fannin was the commander of the garrison at _____.
10. The Battle of Bexar took place in the month of _____.
11. Alamo is the Spanish word for _____.
12. “Who will go with old _____ into San Antonio?”
13. This resident of San Antonio was a famous knife fighter _____.
14. Messages to and from the Alamo were carried by _____.
15. _____ was born at the Alamo.
16. William Barret Travis placed his ring around _____ neck.
17. The people of Gonzales challenged the Mexican Army with the phrase
“_____”
18. Santa Anna was defeated at _____.
19. The Commander of the Mexican Army during the Battle of Bexar was
_____.
20. The New Orleans Greys were _____.
21. Liberty or _____.
22. Texas declared its independence on _____.
23. _____ destroyed a bridge at San Jacinto.
24. After the fall of the Alamo and the Goliad Massacre, Texans began to flee towards
Louisiana in what was called the _____.
25. The Mexican casualties from the Alamo were buried at the _____.

Word Bank:

Couriers

13

Cottonwood

Volunteers

December

Runaway Scrape

Death

Goliad

Angelina's

Ben Milam

Alamo

Campo Santo

San Jacinto

Quarter

Tennessee

Vice President

Sam Houston

“Deaf” Smith

James Bowie

President

March 2, 1836

Martín Perfecto de Cos

Toribio Losoya

Father

Come and Take it

Which Alamo Defender?

Do you know which Alamo Defender fits the following descriptions? You can use the Alamo web site (www.thealamo.org) if you need help. Look for the Alamo Defenders section of the web site (<http://thealamo.org/defend.html>). Hint: Look up the ten defenders listed in the answers and read about each of them. Then this should be easy.

- _____ 1. Tradition says, only Alamo Defender to be buried.
- _____ 2. Died at the Alamo on his birthday.
- _____ 3. Chief surgeon of the Alamo Garrison.
- _____ 4. Former Congressman from Tennessee.
- _____ 5. Famous for his knife.
- _____ 6. Thought to be the youngest Alamo Defender — only 15 years old.
- _____ 7. Thought to be the oldest Alamo Defender — 56 years old.
- _____ 8. Chief engineer of the Alamo who sent detailed descriptions of the Alamo's defenses to Sam Houston.
- _____ 9. Born in the Alamo near the southwest corner of the compound.
- _____ 10. A nephew of the fourth president of the United States.

Defenders:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| a. Green B. Jameson | f. William Philip King |
| b. José Toribio Losoya | g. Amos Pollard |
| c. James Bowie | h. James M. Rose |
| d. Dolphin Ward Floyd | i. Gordon C. Jennings |
| e. Gregorio Esparza | J. David Crockett |



Suggested Reading List on the Texas Revolution

- Barr, Alwyn. *Texans in Revolt, the Battle for San Antonio, 1835*. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 1990. 94 p.; ISBN 0-292-77042-1.

The Siege of San Antonio de Bexar began in October 1835 and culminated in the Battle of Bexar December 5-9, 1835, the only major success for the Texans other than San Jacinto. Barr describes the Texan and Mexican armies and explores the impact of this campaign on the military strategies of 1836.

- Castañeda, Carlos E., ed. *The Mexican Side of the Texan Revolution*. Reprint Services Corp., 1993; ISBN 0781259207.

Compiles translations of published accounts by five Mexican participants in the Texas Revolution: Antonio López de Santa Anna, Ramón Martínez Caro, Vicente Filisola, José Urrea, and José María Tornel.

- Chariton, Wallace O. *100 Days in Texas: The Alamo Letters*. Plano, TX: Wordware Publishing, 1990. 390 p.; ISBN 1-55622-131-2

Provides in chronological order letters, documents and other first-hand accounts dated from Dec. 9, 1835 through March 17, 1836. Some are edited while others are presented literally. Temporarily out of print.

- Davis, William C. *Three Roads to the Alamo: The Lives and Fortunes of David Crockett, James Bowie, and William Barret Travis*. New York: HarperCollins, 1998. 688 p.; ISBN 0060173343

Davis explores the lives of Crockett, Bowie and Travis and what brought them to Texas.

- Filisola, Don Vicente. *Memoirs for the History of the War in Texas. Vol. I & II*. Austin, TX: Eakin Press, 1987. Vol. I, 226 p.; ISBN 0-89015-461-9. Vol. II, 298 p.; ISBN 0-89015-585-2.

Wallace Woolsey translates the memoirs of Vicente Filisola, 2nd in command of the Mexican troops in Texas. Volume I, the Spanish colonial period through 1833; Volume II, 1834 through May 1836.

- Dimmick, Gregg J. *Sea of Mud: The Retreat of the Mexican Army after San Jacinto, An Archeological Investigation*. Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 2004. ISBN: 0876111983

Dimmick's study helps to create a real understanding about what to the Mexican Army following Santa Anna's disastrous defeat at San Jacinto. This book is a "must" for students of the Texas Revolution.

- Groneman, Bill. *Alamo Defenders: A Genealogy, the People and Their Words*. Austin, TX: Eakin Press, 1990. 185 p.; ISBN 0-89015-757-X

Provides short biographical accounts of members of the Alamo garrison, including the women and children sheltered there. The second part includes quotations from letters and personal diaries left by the defenders.

- Groneman, Bill. *Eyewitness to the Alamo*. Plano, TX: Republic of Texas Press, 1996. 267 p.; ISBN 1-55622-502-4

Contemporary correspondence (letters, diaries, memoirs) and newspaper accounts are printed in chronological order. The last chapter places some participants in the 1836 Battle for the Alamo in the mission complex according to eyewitness accounts.

- Habig, Marion A. *The Alamo Chain of Missions: A History of San Antonio's Five Old Missions*. Chicago, Illinois: Franciscan Herald Press, 1968. Publ. 1997, Pioneer Enterprises, rev.ed.

An introduction to the Spanish mission system and an in-depth history of the five missions of San Antonio.

- Hansen, Todd, ed. *The Alamo Reader: A Study in History*. Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 2003.

Hansen has compiled the most comprehensive single-volume book on the Alamo to date that brings together more than 800 pages of accounts related to the siege and battle.

- Hardin, Stephen L. *Texan Iliad*. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 1994. 321 p.; ISBN 0292-73086-1

Hardin provides a careful analysis of the military aspects of the Texas Revolution. Excellent illustrations of the Alamo and the progression of the Mexican attack.

- Huffines, Alan C. *The Blood of Noble Men: An Illustrated Chronology of the Alamo Siege and Battle*. Austin, TX: Eakin Press, 1999. 221 p.; ISBN 1-57168-194-9

Original Texian and Mexican accounts describe the events preceding and during the battle in this thirteen-day chronology annotated and analyzed by Huffines.

- Jenkins, John, ed. *The Papers of the Texas Revolution 1835-1836*. 10 volumes. Austin, TX: Presidial Press, 1973.

Volumes 3 and 4 deal specifically with the Alamo. Not readily available but useful for primary source material.

- Lord, Walter. *A Time to Stand*. New York: Harper & Row, 1961. 255 p.; ISBN 0-8032-7902-7

Lord's book, although more than 40 years old, remains a standard narrative account of the siege and battle.

- Matovina, Timothy M. *The Alamo Remembered: Tejano Accounts and Perspectives*. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 1995. 146 p.; ISBN 0-292-75185-0

A compilation of accounts of the Battle of the Alamo by Tejanos, native Texans of Mexican descent. Taken from unpublished documents and published sources.

- Miller, Edward L. *New Orleans and the Texas Revolution*. College Station: Texas A & M Press, 2004. ISBN: 1585443581

Although others have discussed New Orleans' involvement in the Texas Revolution, no other author has done such a thorough job to date. Miller makes it clear that New Orleans businessmen had a stake in the success of the revolt.

- Moore, Stephen L. *Eighteen Minutes: The Battle of San Jacinto and the Texas Independence Campaign*. Republic of Texas Press, 2004. ISBN: 1589070097

Moore chronicles the weeks leading up to the Battle of San Jacinto. His account and description of the battle is well crafted.

- Nelson, George. *The Alamo: An Illustrated History*. Dry Frio Canyon, TX: Aldine Press, 1998. 105 p.; ISBN 0-9659159-0-5

A detailed visual history of the Alamo from its founding to the modern era. Artists' renderings and conceptions and photographs illustrate the changes to the Alamo and its surroundings over time.

- Nofi, Albert A. *The Alamo and the Texas War of Independence, September 30, 1835 to April 21, 1836*. New York, NY: Da Capo Press, 1994. 222 p.; ISBN 0-306-80563-4

A narrative of the Texas Revolution, focusing on the Battle of the Alamo. Includes brief biographies of notable figures, lists, and short sections on political events, military matters, and legends.

- Peña, José Enrique de la. *With Santa Anna in Texas: A Personal Narrative of the Revolution*. College Station, TX: Texas A & M University Press, 1997. 206 p.; ISBN 0-89096-527-7

This account of the Texas Revolution by an officer of the Mexican Army details many of the events of the military campaign.

- Seguín, Juan N. *A Revolution Remembered: The Memoirs and Selected Correspondence of Juan N. Seguín*. Austin, TX: State House Press, 1991. 216 p.; ISBN 0-93849-68-6

The edited memoirs and selected correspondence of an important figure in Texas history that includes his eyewitness accounts of events during the Texas Revolution.

- Winders, Richard Bruce. *Sacrificed at the Alamo: Tragedy and Triumph in the Texas Revolution*. Abilene, TX: State House Press, 2004.

Winders' explains the events and conditions in text that resulted in the siege and battle. His analysis of the Texas Revolution is a must for students of the Alamo.

- Winders, Richard Bruce. *Crisis in the Southwest: The United States, Mexico, and the Struggle over Texas*. Wilmington, Del.: Scholarly Resources Inc., 2002. ISBN 0-8420-2800-5

For three decades Texas was a source of conflict between the United States and Mexico. Winders weaves together the story of this struggle from the filibustering expedition of 1812-13 to the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848. An excellent overview of this era.



WRITTEN DOCUMENT ANALYSIS WORKSHEET

Primary Source: a document produced by a participant or witness; example, a letter

Secondary Source: a document based on accounts from participants or witnesses; examples, a newspaper article or book

Tertiary Sources: reference works; example, encyclopedia

Suggested documents: Federal Constitution of 1824; Turtle Bayou Resolutions; Declaration of Causes; Tormel Decree; Travis' Letter of February 24, 1836; Texas Declaration of Independence

Type of document: _____

Title of document: _____

Describe the physical characteristics of the document:

Date(s) of document: _____

Author (or creator) of the document: _____

Position (title): _____

For what audience was the document written? _____

Document information: List three things the author said that you think are important:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Why do you think this document was written?

What evidence in the document helps you know why it was written? Quote from the document.

List two things the document tells you about life in Texas at the time it was written:



I do solemnly swear that I will bear true allegiance to the Provisional Government of Texas, or any future republican Government that hereafter may be declared, and that I will serve her honestly and faithfully against all her enemies and opposers whatsoever, and observe and obey the orders of the Governor of Texas, the orders and decrees of the present and future authorities and the orders of the officers appointed over me according to the rules and regulations for the government of Texas. "So help me God."

The above sworn to and subscribed to me this 14 Jany. 1836.

John Forbes
1st Judge of the Municipality of
Nacogdoches.

Oath of allegiance taken by David Crockett and other volunteers who enlisted for a period of six months in the Voluntary Auxiliary Corps of the Texian Army.

Source: John H. Jenkins, ed. *Papers of the Texas Revolution*.

(10 vols.; Austin: Presidial Press, 1973), 4:13-14.