

Contact: Kevin Femmel
Alamo Trust, Inc.
kfemmel@thealamo.org
Office (210) 225-1391x3005
Mobile (210) 836-8616



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The Alamo Releases New Research Report On The Iconic 18-Pounder Cannon



Fernando Raven with the 18-pounder in the 1890s, before the cannon was lost.

[Source](#)

SAN ANTONIO – The Alamo is proud to announce the release of a new research report on the 18-pounder cannon, which details the cannon's prominent role in the Battle of the Alamo and how a faithful replica can be made.

Accounts from 1836 have long shown that the 18-pounder was an important cannon for the Alamo Defenders, but the cannon itself was lost to history sometime after the battle. The information in this report

sheds new light on what the cannon looked like, where it originated, and challenges commonly held beliefs about the cannon.

"It was important for us to do a deeper dive into the history of the 18-pounder," Alamo History Researcher Kolby Lanham said. "The historical narrative of this cannon hasn't changed for many years, and as students of history we have an obligation to re-evaluate the historical narrative when new information comes to light. The most important point for us was letting the primary sources speak for themselves – this was the driving force behind our research, and ultimately it helped reshape the way we look at this valuable piece of the Alamo story."

Previously, researchers believed that the 18-pounder was British-made and originally manufactured to handle 18-pound ammunition. Now, the Alamo Research team has discovered that it was actually a Swedish-made cannon. In addition to this, it appears likely that the 18-pounder started its life as a 9-pounder and was later bored out so that it could fire 18-pound cannonballs.

This research was conducted as part of the Alamo's [1836 Battle Cannon Replica Project](#), which will see high-quality, historically-accurate replicas of 1836 battle cannons installed in what history tells us were their likely locations throughout the historic battlefield footprint. The 18-pounder replica will be the third cannon put on display for visitors, with two four-pound cannons currently in Alamo Plaza. The 18-pounder replica is expected to debut on site in early 2021.

The full report, along with several others published by the Alamo, can be found on the [Research & Studies page](#) of theAlamo.org.

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About Alamo Trust, Inc. | Located in the heart of San Antonio, the Alamo serves as a sacred memorial to all those who lived, fought and died there. Visitors pay homage to the heroes of the 1836 Battle of the Alamo, a defining moment in Texas History. Alamo Trust, Inc., or the Alamo, tells that story of Texas independence, as part of its 300-year history to over 1.6 million visitors every year. To visit the Alamo is to witness living history, experience authentic artifacts and admire an iconic landmark that shaped the country. Visit thealamo.org.