Republic of Texas Museum Artifacts

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Artifact: Letter
Title: Rinaldo Hotchkiss, a soldier at San Jacinto, to his father, Capt. A. Hotchkiss in Nacogdoches April 26, 1836

Text: Dear Father
I have not time nor materials for writing much but wish to State to you that I am well and have at last had an opportunity of meeting the Enemy face to face. The fight commenced about an hour and a half before Sun down and the heat of the battle lasted 28 minutes. They cannot fight. We lost in all eleven men and fifteen wounded. Santa Anna Almonte and Cos are prisoners with all their principal officers who were not killed. We have about 600 prisoners. I think there will be no more fighting and shall be home soon. I think Houston is wounded in leg. not bad. We had about 600 men in the fight not more. Rusk is the most popular man in the army can break down Houston. Santa Anna has ordered his men out of country. We killed about, I think, 400 men in the action. Report says more and less. Goliath never came in farther than the Trinity. Is there now. The Negro you had in Mexico is here with young Zavalla, called Ben. Colonel Thompson's goods were all destroyed by the Enemy at Harrisburg. Zavalla has left the county. We're encamped at his place on the San Jacinto. No more to say.

God bless you my dear Father
Rinaldo
Letter to Maria Shackelford from husband, W.J. Shackelford, dated Apr. 14, 1836, written while he was a prisoner at Goliad


Text: Sabia (Goliad) 16th April 1836
My dear Maria,

By the great kindness of a Mexican Officer I am afforded an opportunity of writing to you. I have seen but little of this country; and was detained at this place by Col. _nnin (Fannin) to attend to the Hospital and sick. His army was captur'd on the 20th last month and I have been ever since employ'd in the Mexican Hospital in attending to the sick and wounded. I am treated very kindly by the Mexican Doctors and all the officers and men. And am promis'd a passport to Mattamorris and then to the U.S. as soon as the wounded are well. I have given up all idea of settling in Texas and should I find Mattamorris a good place for my profession, I will make the necessary improvements for settling there and return to the U.S. and bring out my family.

I endeavor to serve the Lord with more fidelity than I ever did-- have greater cause -- you must look to a bleeding Savior for comfort and every affliction -- tis he alone can heal our wounds. My friend Fenner and other friends must desire consolation from the same source. Tell my dear Harriet to be comforted. Sam'l and Edward must be good boys and remember their creator in the way of their youth. My hope is in Christ. I commend you all to the care and protection of my dear son John--to his goodness I confide you all. Be calm, be patient--wait upon the Lord.

To all my friends I request to be remember'd in the kindest and most affectionate measure. I start tomorrow with my friend Dr. Barnard to Bexar (St. Antone) to attend some wounded officers there. When they get well we have our passport. This meets my ardent wish. Be not surpris'd at this short letter-- This is not to be made public.

Farwell my dear wife-- my dear children-- my kind friends -- may God keep you all and take you into his holy keeping. Ever your devoted husband

[signed] W. J Shackleford

Artifact: Letter
Army Orders.
Camp on La Baca
Text: 14 March 1836.

Major Mm. T. Austin is hereby appointed a Volunteer Aid de Camp to the Commander-in-Chief of the army of Texas - - and will proceed immediately to the mouth of the Rio Brazos or such point as the stores belonging to the army may be found and make a requisition upon Colonel J.A. Wharton for seven pieces of artillery, say six and nine pounders. Six of the former and one of the latter Calibre, -- and an abundant supply of grape and canister shot. And forward the same to Head Quarters of the army on the Colorado River near Barnums. A Captain of Subaltern of Engineers will also be ordered to that post. The stores and munitions of war will remain where they are now, until further orders -- except those ordered above -- and such as they may be required by the troops ordered on the Colorado River.
Major Austin will order one hundred and fifty more with their equipment and ammunition – one hundred rounds of ball and _artage to the Head Quarters of the army of the Colorado River. With the 12 inch mortar and a sufficient number of shells and --.
Major Austin will purchase fifteen good horses for the army, which will be forwarded as heretofore ordered.
Major Austin will obey this order with all possible dispatch, and report to the Commander – in – Chief.
By order
San Houston
Commander – in – Chief
Of Army.
G. W. Hockley,
Aid – de – Camp.

Artifact: Marriage Certificate
Dates of creation: 1831
Marriage Certificate, 1831, signed by Michael Muldoon. Written in Latin

Artifact: Baptismal Certificate, 1831 signed by Michael Muldoon in Latin
Artifact: Invitation to a ball in Decateur, Texas Sept. 4, 1835, from Col. James T. Sykes to John W. Dancy and lady.
Text: Decateur, September 4th, 1835
Col. James T. Sykes respectfully presents his compliments to John W. Dancy Esq. & Lady and solicits the pleasure of their company on Thursday evening, the 10th instant.

Handwritten: The “lady” my fathers 1st wife, eho died the next year – then he came to Texas by boat 1836.
Naturalized by “Three Legged Willie”
Built Law Office on “Dancy Bluff”
West bank of Colorade River 1837. His eldest daughter and two nephews own the House & Farm now 1933. Their names:
Lena Dancy Ledbetter – Austin
Leon Dancy Brown – Houston
John Dancy Dibrell – Seguin
[Signed] L.D.L.

Artifact: Letter from Stephen F. Austin to Peter and Joseph Powell, Jan 18, 1834. 2 pages. Written while Stephen F. Austin was a prisoner in Monterrey, Mexico. (1st page and cover provided)
Text: Monterey Jany 18, 1834
To Peter Powell and Joseph Powell
Dear Sirs,
Mr Allsbury has informed me that you are at Pilon and have heard of my arrest. I am arrested by an order from the Minister of War to answer an accusation made, as I understand, by the state government, on account of my having written to ayuntamentos of Bexar recommending that all the ayuntmentos of Texas should consult together, as to what ought to be done, in the event that the Arista, or military party should succeed, it being somewhat doubtful at that time (2nd of October), how the civil war would terminate.

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The gent govt could do no otherwise than to order me back to Mexico, to answer to this accusation coming as it did from the State, neither could the State govt very well have avoided making the accusation -- so that I do not blame either of them in any manner. It was my duty, as agent, acting under the instructions I had, to write as I did under the circumstances.

The fact is that the revolution, since the plan of Jalpa, (has) kept everything so disjointed and so confused all over the nation, that no man who has had anything to do with public business could avoid being entangled in some way. It was a 1 ways my wish, as is well known in Texas, to keep the colony and the whole country out of the revolution but it was impossible. All the measures of the Bustamante administration tended to ruin Texas, and subject it to a military govt. This irritated the people so much that they could not be restrained, but I wished them to keep out of that revolution for it was not absolutely necessary.

The military would have gone [the] way of themselves in a short time. Since then, all has been unsettled everywhere and I have been drawn to the whirlpool, unavoidably -- it could not be helped. The disposition of the gent govt toward Texas is in the highest degree favorable and friendly and everything will be done for that country that can be consistent with the constitution and laws. It would be made a state or a territory without delay if it was asked by the ayuntamientos unanimously, but there must be no more conventions and no more wild excitement. The people must keep quite, obey the state authorities and law, harmonise fully with Bexar and Goliad and with the Mexican population, discontinue all violent men or measures and speak to the govt through the legal channels, that is the ayuntamentos and the chief of departments, as they would speak to a kind and affectionate father, and they will be listened to and all of their reasonable requests be granted.

I hope there will be no excitement about my arrest, and I particularly request that on your return, you will say that I request of the people there to remain quiet, not to be excited because I am arrested. No injustice or violence will be done to me. I have been very kindly and respectfully treated since my arrest. It may cost me some months and perhaps a year delay and great expense but nothing more, and good will finally come out of it for Texas.

God knows the Colony has given me trouble enough. I am wasting away my years, my strength and my spirits to try and make all your fortunes. I have no time of my own, it is all yours, and yet many of you (I speak of the colonists) complain - you listen to men who are my enemies. If you think I do wrong in anything it is unpardonable and magnified, you get perversed and excited and violent and drag me into difficulties in spite of myself - These things however are all inevitable. Upon the whole my Colony as suffered much less from party spirit and division than most new settlements under such circumstances, and it is now entirely safe. The govt is in favor of Texas and will protect, and the people are beginning to have too much property and too many comforts at home to risk them by any more conventions or excitements. I think things will now get better and better every day, and that consideration and reason will have more weight than they heretofore have had. If so there will be peace and prosperity. I particularly request that you will say to the people that I advise them to harmonise fully with the Mexican part of the population. This is very important indeed.

Remember me kindly to everybody. I am as I always have been and will be, a friend to Texas and to you all

[signt:d] S.F. Austin
Artifact: Teacup
China cup in red, blue and green design. Pattern may be called "Moss Rose." Found in cabin by A.G. Perry and H.E. Grimes after Indian raid 1829.

Artifact: Carriage
Two-seater carriage built in 1828. Used by Mrs. Waggoner of the Waggoner family of Vernon, Texas.

Artifact: Sofa
American, probably New Orleans, circa 1840, rosewood frame in modified Louis XV style. Gently curving crest rail extends down to roll arms, serpentine arm posts extend to cabriole legs ending in pad feet. Ringer mould frame is carved in simple scrolling. Upholstery in claret colored satin woven hair cloth with claret and beige gimp cover padded back rest and spring construction seat. Serpentine seat has conforming seat rail. On the back of the crest rail is a brass plaque engraved: "Original Rosewood sofa/ from/ French Embassy/ A.D. Saligny/Charge d’ affaires from France/ to the/ Republic of Texas/ 1839-1842/ Presented to Museum/ Daughters of the Republic of Texas/ by/ Emma Kyle Burleson/1917"
This sofa en suite with chair is said to have been purchased in New Orleans and brought to Texas by A.D. Saligny during his residence in Austin (1840-1842).

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Artifact: Five dollar certificate from the Republic of Texas, signed by Mirabeau B. Lamar and dated June, 1839.

Artifact: Wood shingle. Curved down on one side to overlap an adjoining shingle
From the home of Juan Martin Veramendi, who became vice-governor of Coahuila and Texas Sept 6, 1830. While he was governor, his home in San Antonio became known as the Veramendi Palace.

Artifact: Violin, or fiddle, with bow in hinged black wood case. Violin with bow and case owned by Doom Families 1830s. Violin made in Germany. Treasured in the Doom family since the days of the victory at San Jacinto. This violin was given to the Museum at the request of a loyal member of the DRT, Annie Doom Pickrell.

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**Artifact: Six pointed Spanish spur rowel**, iron, spoke-like star with center hole.
Ploughed up on a farm near Coupland in Williamson County

**Artifact: Brick**
Plaque holding fireplace brick with following description:
"Stephen F. Austin became ill on a cold December 25 day in 1836. Austin went to Judge George B. McKinstry's home to recover. As his fever worsened, he lay down in front of the fireplace to break his fever and became delirious. On the morning of December 27, 1836 he rose and uttered, 'Texas recognized, have you heard'; and expired. This is a piece of brick from that fireplace."

**Artifact: Piece of limestone** from fireplace with remnants of mortar at Bernardo. Bernardo was used as a hospital in 1836 by the Texas Army. Taken from the Brazos River in 1822. This stone is all that's left of the hospital. At the home of Jared Groce, near Hempstead.

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Artifact: **Ball Gown, aqua silk with black lace overlay**
Artist Ball gown, one piece dress of Aqua blue silk with black and gold lace net overlay. Gold bullion trim at waist and neckline. Neckline trim has turquoise-colored beads. EXTREMELY FRAGILE. Shows signs of alteration.
Harriet Duke Cole (Mrs. Mason Gabriel Cole), lived with her family in Nacogdoches circa 1817 to 1836. Family left Texas as part of the Runaway Scrape, moved to Mississippi and then Louisiana. Some of her children returned to Texas as adults. See references in Annie Doom Pickrell, "Pioneer Women of Texas" (1970) and Paula Mitchell Marks "Hands to the Spindle" (1996)

Artifact: **Muzzle of a canon**
The blown off muzzle of one of the Runaway Scrape four pound cannons retrieved in Gonzalez by the River near the bluff where an old gin and brickyard stood; the muzzle was part of the cannon that D.S.H. Darst, W.T. Collins and C.C. DeWitt salvaged in 1848. Recovered from Sandies Creek, dug up in the streets of Gonzales

Artifact: **Santa Anna Collection, 1836. Dueling pistols, .44 cal.**

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Artifact: Ring made from epaulet belonging to Ben McCollough. inscribed with his initials "BMC". Top of ring face is a hinged lid that opens to inside space.

Artifact: Drawing of the 1st capitol in Austin by Mrs. Albert S. Johnston, 1852. In gilt frame mounted with a handwritten note from the artist.

Artifact: Lance
Handmade iron point, with extension for handle. Noted on donor form as "lance point." Found on the Fanin Battlefield.

Artifact: Albert Sydney Johnson Collection
Uniform sleeve of grey wool with gold braid trim. From his coat when he was killed at the Battle of Shiloh.

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Artifact: Epaullet with Insignia for a Lt. Col. or Col. in U.S. Army and two shoulder braids. Gold. Epaullet has American Eagle facing left with shield on chest, arrows and laurel bough in talons, beak holds banner that reads "E Pluribus Unum". Domed button at base of epaulet, same design as eagle above, without banner, with ring of stars a round base.

Artifact: Photograph of Texas State Capitol dedication 1896

Artifact: Photographs of State Capitol fire 1881 in Austin
Artifact: Letter to Thomas Stansbury from Henry Millard about the move on Matamoros, moving men to headquarters, and no public funds available. 1836.

Artifact: Photograph of Senora Candelaria, at age 100+. Survivor of the Alamo.