



THE EVIDENCE OF HISTORY

The Mission and Collections of the Briscoe Center for American History

ERIN L. PURDY
Deputy Executive Director



As a leading history
research center, we
collect, preserve, and
provide access to the
evidence of the past.





The Briscoe Center for American History cultivates historical knowledge and fosters exploration of our nation's past.

As a leading history research center, we collect, preserve, and make available archival evidence.

Researchers, students, and the public use our collections for a wide range of academic, professional, and personal uses.

Archival collections also inspire the center's own projects, including books, exhibits, programs, films, and educational materials.

The Briscoe Center is an organized research unit and public service component of The University of Texas at Austin.



Dolph and Janey Briscoe



Alamo Daguerreotype

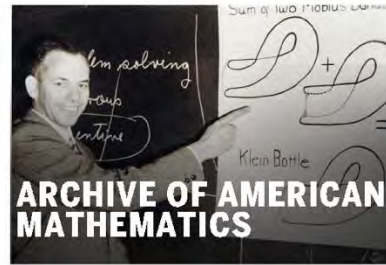


Alamo Daguerreotype





Collections Strengths



The Briscoe Center's collections provide a treasure trove of material for researchers to explore. As of April 2025, our holdings include more than:

10 million

PHOTOGRAPHS

5,500

NEWSPAPER
TITLES

35,000

MAPS

13

HISTORIC
BUILDINGS

17 miles

OF MANUSCRIPTS
AND ARCHIVES

25,000

OBJECTS OF
MATERIAL CULTURE

200,000

BOOKS AND
PERIODICALS

35,000

FILM AND VIDEO
RECORDINGS

57,000

SOUND
RECORDINGS

Texas History



Provincia de los Texas.

Estado que Manifiesta el Numero de Vasallos, y Habitantes q. tiene el Rey en Esta Provincia, Con distincion de Clases, Estados, y Castas de todas las Personas de Ambos Sexos Yncluidos los Partulos.

Nombres de las Poblaciones.	Om- bres.	Mu- geres.	Ni- ños.	Ni- ñas.	Escla- vos.	Escla- bas.
Pies de San Antonio de Bexar, y Villa de S. Fern. do	331.	311.	321.	264.	8.	13.
Mision de Sñr San Jose	41.	31.	26.	29.		
Ydem. de San Juan Capistrano	53.	26.	13.	7.		
Ydem. de San Francisco de la Espada	32.	28.	30.	6.		
Ydem. de Nuestra Sñra de la Concepcion	32.	29.	18.	8.		
Ydem. de San Antonio Balero	49.	39.	36.	29.		
Presidio de la Bahia del Spñu Sñ	193.	147.	68.	49.	1.	
Mision del Spñu Sñ	75.	66.	33.	40.		
Ydem. de Nuestra Sñra del Rosario						
Pueblo de Nñra Sñra del Pilar de los Nacotches	129.	104.	52.	50.	8.	6.
Totales del Presente Año	935.	777.	597.	474.	17.	19.
Totales del Año Anterior	947.	786.	597.	474.	17.	19.
Diminucion	12.	9.				
Resumen Gral de Españoles	488.	373.	376.	340.		
Ydem. de Indios	290.	241.	70.	76.		
Ydem. de Mexicanos	43.	38.	32.	12.		
Ydem. de Color Fuebrado	114.	125.	119.	46.		
Ydem. de Esclavos					17.	19.
Totales	935.	777.	597.	474.	17.	19.
Resumen Gral de Ecclesiasticos Seculares	3.					
Ydem. de Regulares	8.					
Ydem. de Casados	655.	655.				
Ydem. de Viudos	61.	122.				
Ydem. de Solteros	208.					
Totales	935.	777.	597.	474.	17.	19.

Real Pres. de San Antonio de Bexar, y oñ. 31. de 1783.

Don P. Cabello

12-31-1783

Areas Covered By The Bexar Archives 1717 - 1836



Modern Political Map With Approximate Geographic Overlays



Principal area covered in the Bexar Archives
(Spanish era Texas from the Nueces River
to the Sabine River)



Additional areas covered in the Bexar Archives

• Austin established 1839

Feb 26 calaboso No 15

Ex-inquisicion
calle S. Domingo



A Patios

E Entrada principal

B Otra entrada

ooo escaleras

P Pila

TT Arboles en
el patio

La fabrica al re-
dor del patio A.P
es de un atto -

todo lo demas es

de dos attos. The walls of
my cell No 15 have a num-
ber of figures of snakes and
-scapes &c drawn by a prisoner
of the inquisition more than
60 years ago.

□ ahora viene del
mexico - Este comer-
cio servia un lucro muy
fuerte para unir Ixcas
a la federacion, y todo
los gastos &c se erogaban
por los comerciantes
para el tras porte
de los mercancías
se haran en el terro-
rio mexicano, y re-
sultaran en beneficio
de los Mesucanos.

xx

Columbia Texas
1st June 1837.

Dear General,

It is 4 o'clock in the morn-
ing, and I have had no rest
since we parted. The letters
to General Hamilton I send
by Genl Hunt. Give the letter
to Genl Hamilton all speed -
If he should, come urge him
to speedy action - and may
God speed you - send Troops
and Supplies - Yours Truly

Genl T. J. Brown.

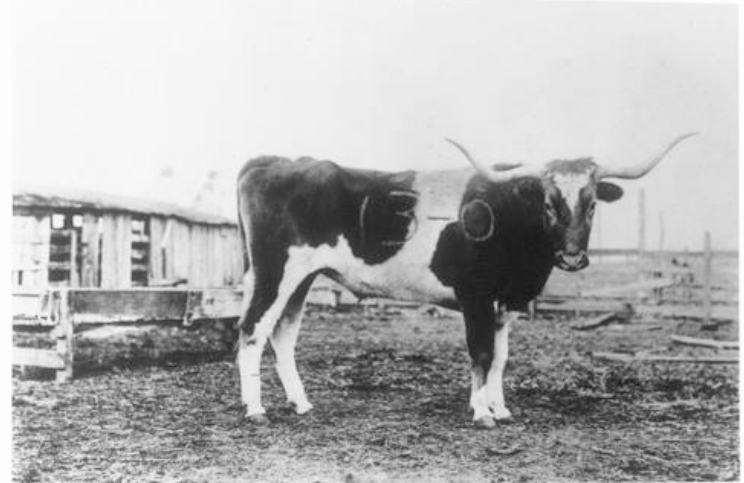
Sam Houston

Genl Sam Houston

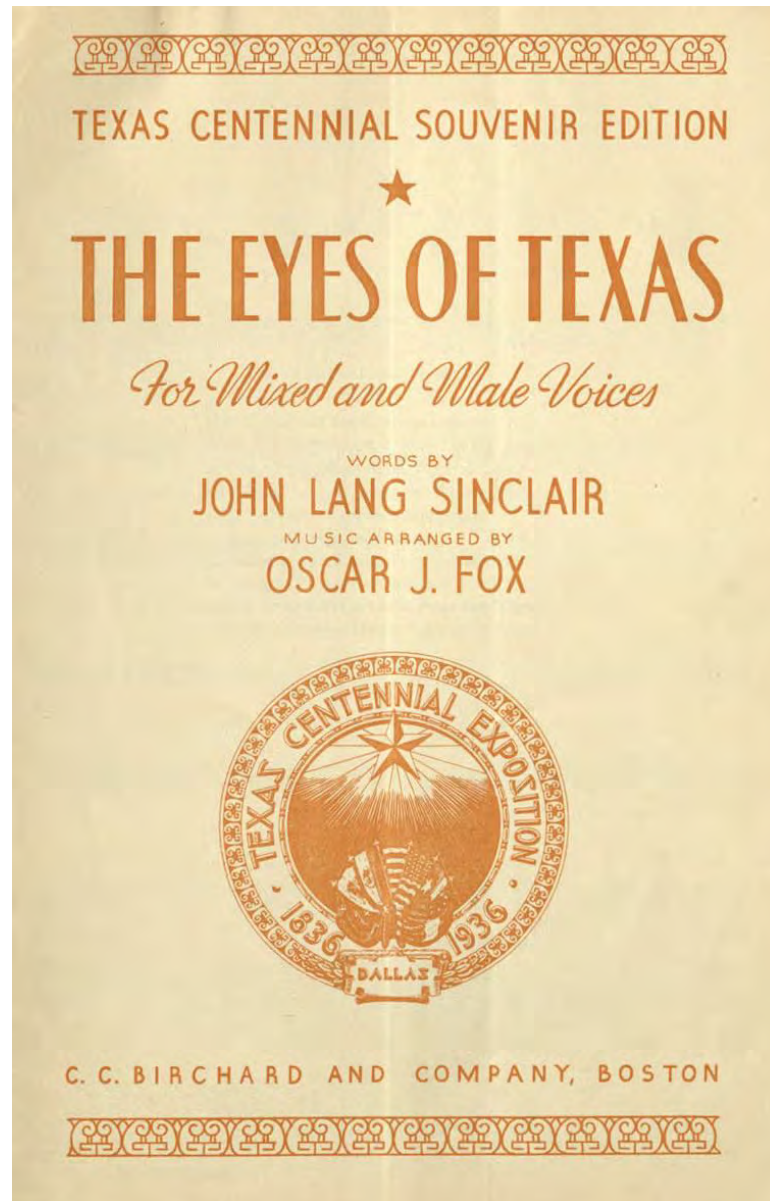
To
Genl T. J. Brown
Waco
Texas

from
Columbia, Texas
May 1st 1837.
M.S.

The University of Texas Archives



“The Eyes of Texas”



Jefferson Davis



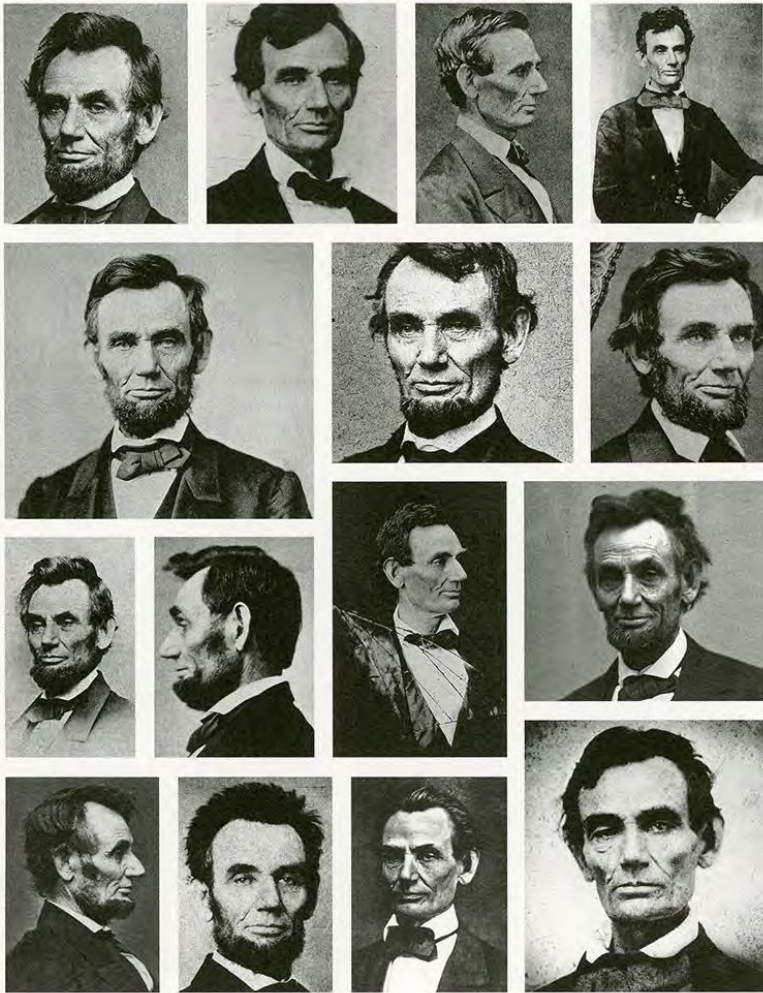
Littlefield Fountain



Studio EIS Collection

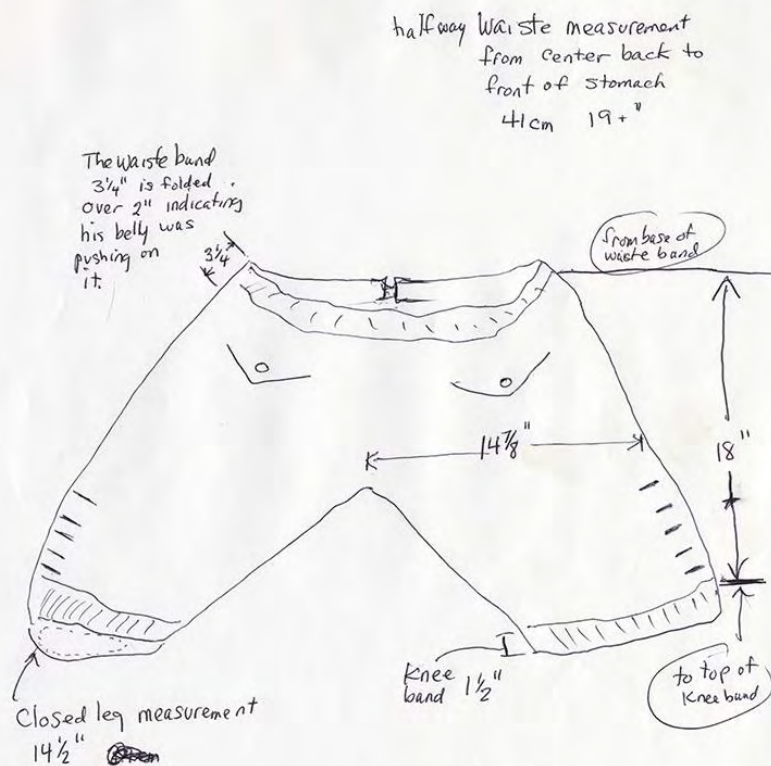


Studio EIS Collection



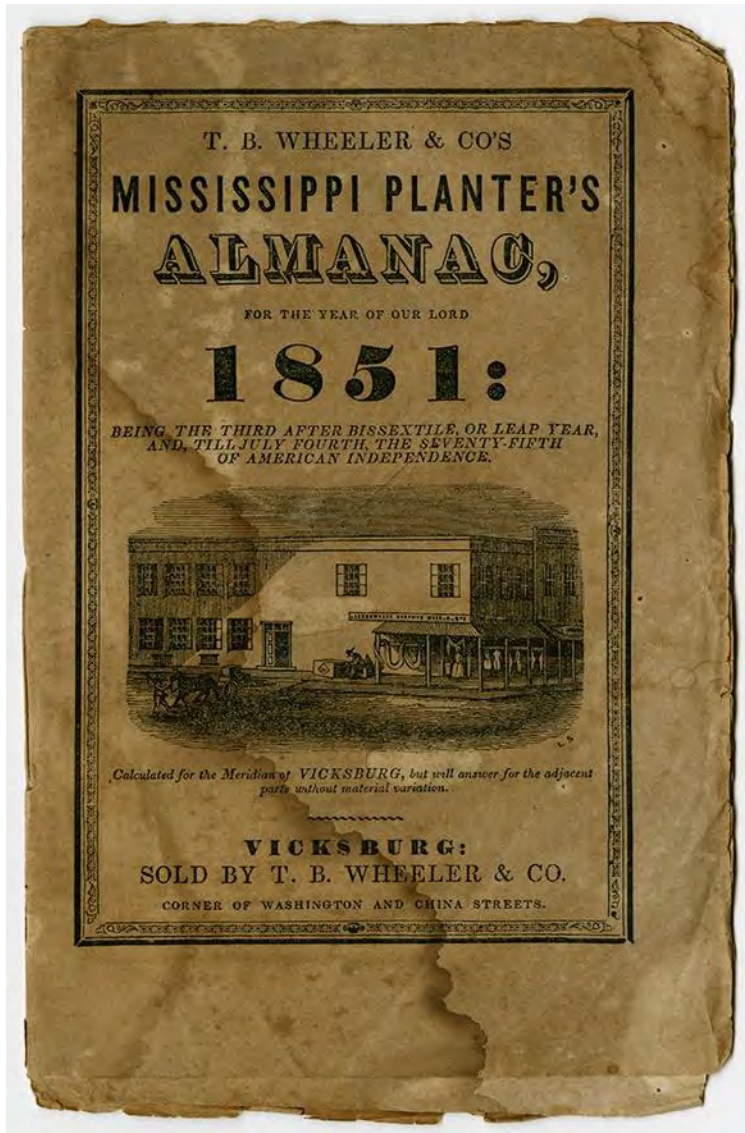


Bottom Fly considered "old fashioned"
by 1780s but Franklin preferred it.



Franklin's Breeches

Southern History



Congressional and Political History



when they met with the Lake I have just now men-
tioned - It is lucky however that there were no
more than three, as much as none escaped to carry
the intelligence, and as a consequence, may be con-
sidered in a favourable light, as the thing which had
gone off, having the knowledge put as general to our
selves -

Indeavour will be used to bring the per-
petrators of this act of villainy to justice, but what
success may attend the attempt, I will not under-
take to say however certain it is that practice of
this kind ought to be suppressed by every possi-
ble means to preserve the order that otherwise must
soon follow - The further distance of the Militia going
out is nothing more I believe than a ruse to
deceive; as it also is of the Redshore Regt & Preser-
vance companies by what I can learn (and I have
seen two or three from their settlement) they wish
for nothing more than Peace & quietness, and are
very well disposed of the false alarm they too
only gave out, that most of them are carrying
out their Families again.

The cause which you have suggested
for the dissatisfaction of the Indians & their bad
behaviour on several occasions, I have before
heard assigned; but hope they will not suffer
their discontent to lead them into acts of open
hostility, when I consider that they have over the

French to aid and abet them as formerly, and
that they are in a manner dependant on us

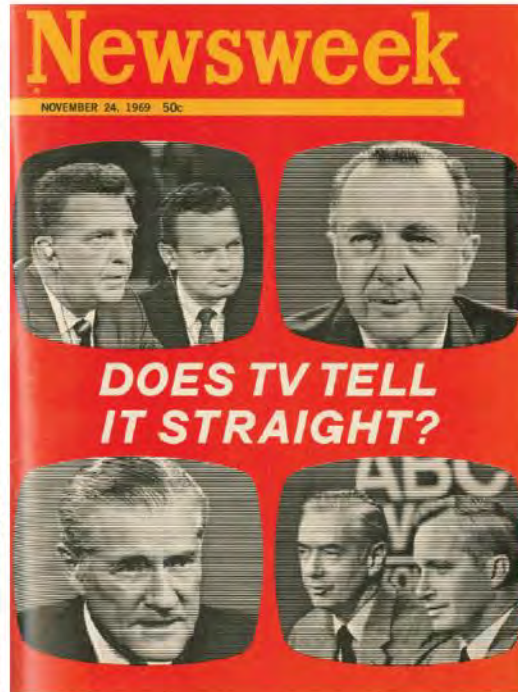
M^{rs} Easton receives in letter bearing
from the King the last time she was here that
she has entirely renounced them - The Gov^r to
whom I have presented your Compliments de-
sires his may be offered in return, & when I
see Doct^r Mercer I shall inform him that he is
sent in your remembrance - with every good
Regard I remain &c &c

Y^r most Obedt^t & Affec^t
Serv^t L^d
Washington





News Media History



ivins/ feb. 19

for new york times

connally

get JC's
directorships

it's Austin, Texas

They used to say of John Connally, when he was governor, that he ~~never~~ messed with the top waters. The topwaters are the little, bitty fish that swim on the surface of a pond. Connally only dealt with the big fish, the ones that swim deep, that have the real power.

John Connally. "Lyndon's boy, John." John Kennedy's Secretary of the Navy. ~~Shot by Lee Harvey Oswald~~ Three times governor of Texas. Richard Nixon's Secretary of the Treasury. Once a possible Republican presidential candidate for 1976. ~~Charisma, but not a Kennedy~~ Now under indictment (on trial) for bribery, ~~and~~ perjury, and conspiracy to obstruct.

John Connally has spent more than 25 years on the public stage, and ~~he spent quite a bit of time on other stages before that~~ but he is still described as ~~enigmatic~~ "enigmatic," even by his biographers. The people who like him and the people who don't like him are so wildly at variance in their estimates of him that it's hard to believe they're talking about the same human being. There are some givens: he is intelligent, possibly extraordinarily intelligent.

VANITY FAIR

DOMINICK DUNNE
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Judge Ladd who may
we had his faults, but he
did me a very great favor
by giving me a permanent
seat in the front row
next to the family of O.J.
Simpson's second victim,
Ron. Goldman. The Goldman
family ~~was~~ ^{was} row up brief,
Judge he was serious
enough

I cheered for his passion
his hatred of O.J., his hatred
of Johnnie Cochran
I cheered his rage, even
when he went into fits

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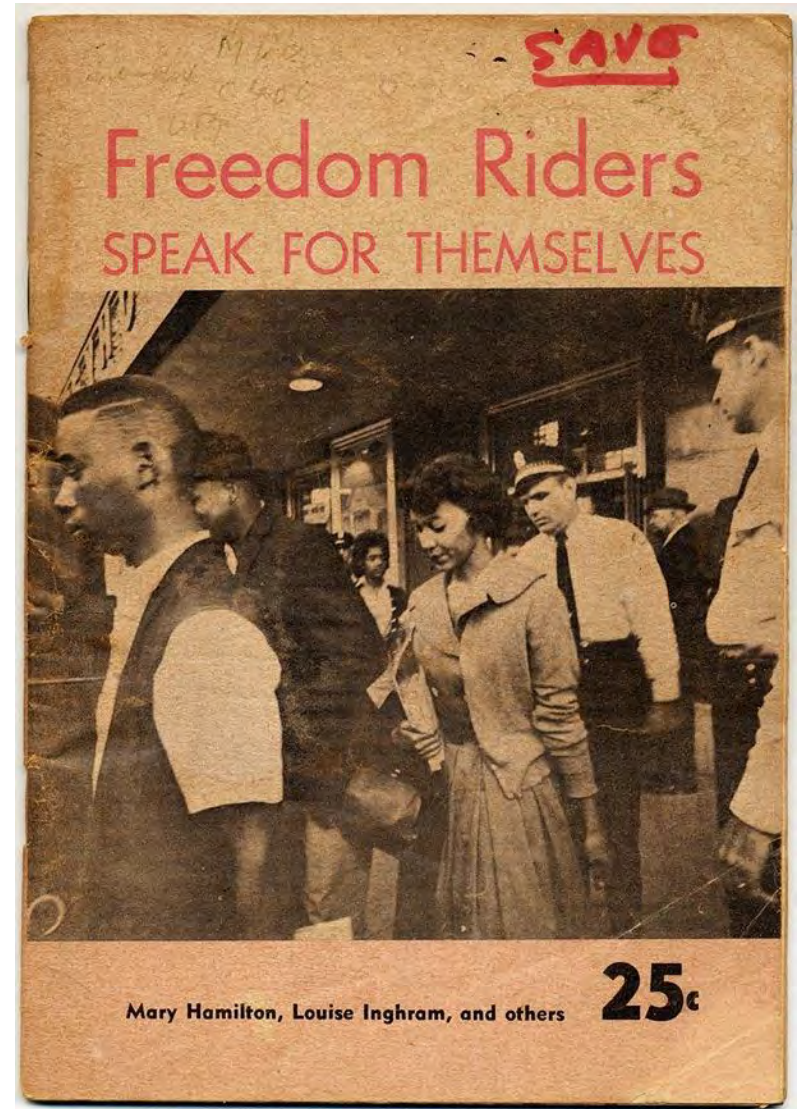
Photography and Photojournalism







Civil Rights History



“Two-Minute Warning” by Spider Martin





PRESIDENT'S REMARKS TO ACCOMPANY VOTING MESSAGE
Draft 1 Goodwin 3/15/65

I speak tonight for the cause.
Join me in that cause.
At times history and fortune meet at a single time in a single place to shape a turning point in man's unending search for freedom. So it was at Lexington and Concord. So it was a century ago at Appomattox. So it was last week in Selma, Alabama.
...and many suffering men and women peacefully protesting were brutally

ed. ... for bride in what happened in Selma.

But there is cause for hope and for faith in our democracy in what is happening here tonight.

convocation all the majesty
on earth.

In our time we have come to live with moments of greatness. Our lives have been marked with debate about great issues -- issues of prosperity and depression. But rarely, in any country, has there been such a debate about the future of America itself.

6

a man whose roots go deeply into Southern soil I know how
 racial feelings are. I know how difficult it is to reshape
 and the structure of society. But a century has passed since
 was freed. ^{100 years} But he is not fully free. Ascendancy has passed
 to the negro. Yet
 equality was promised. And he is not equal. A century has
 gone by and the promise is unkept.

rich, restless country can offer opportunity and
to all -- black and white, North and South.

Doris Kearns Goodwin Papers





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History and Fate

The Goodwins and the 1960s

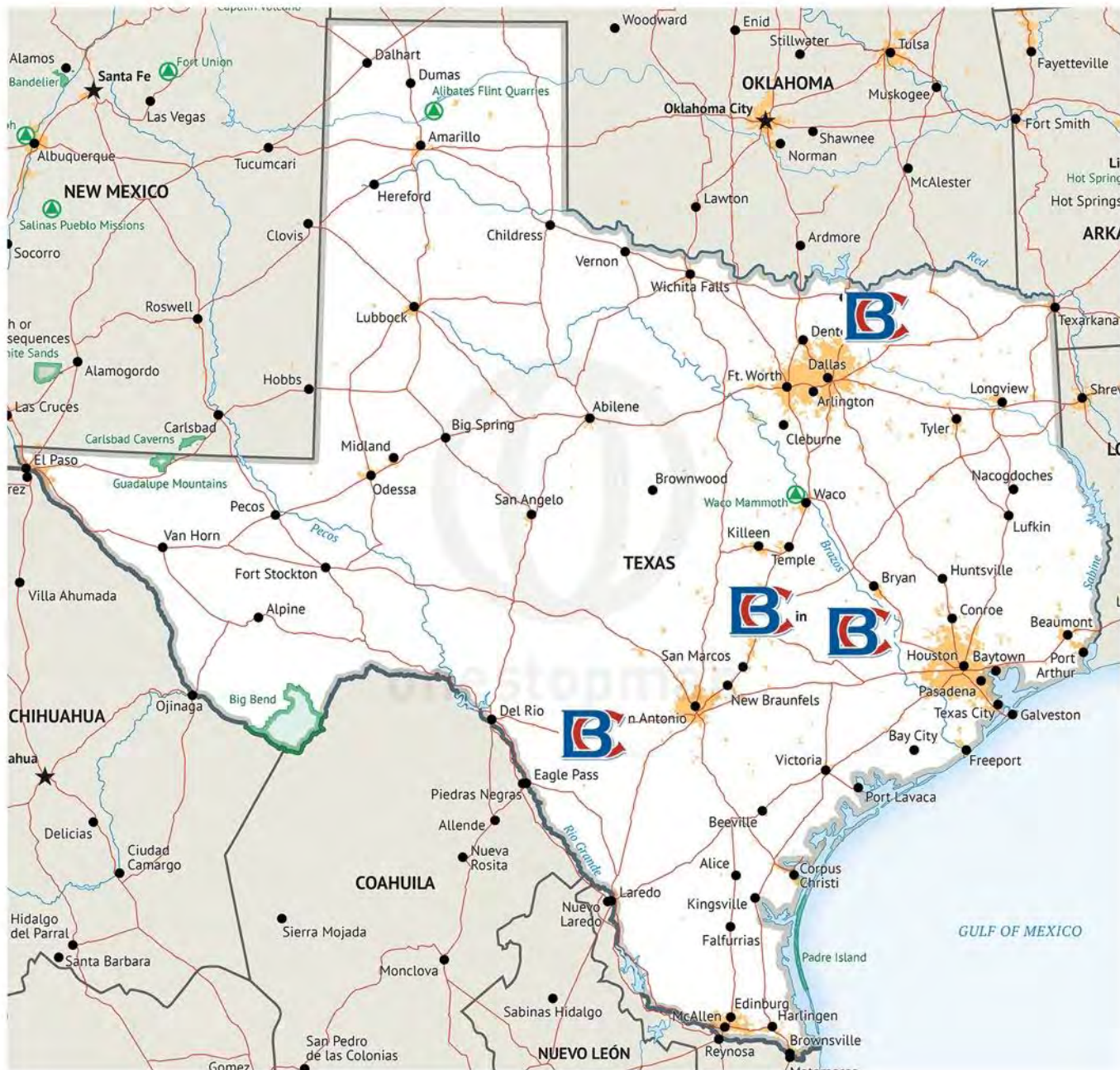


Research & Collections Division



Reading Room





Briscoe-Garner Museum







Sam Rayburn Museum





The House of Representatives is my life and my love.
—Sam Rayburn

THE LEADERSHIP OF MR. SAM

Sam Rayburn is one of the 20th century's most significant political leaders.

First elected to the House of Representatives in 1912, Rayburn served as Speaker of the House for a record 17 years.

His leadership as Speaker, Democratic minority leader, and other statesman coincided with the New Deal, the Second World War, the early years of the Cold War, the emergence of the civil rights movement, and the introduction of John F. Kennedy's New Frontier.

His leadership philosophy, honed by decades of public service, still offers insights into political success.



Winedale



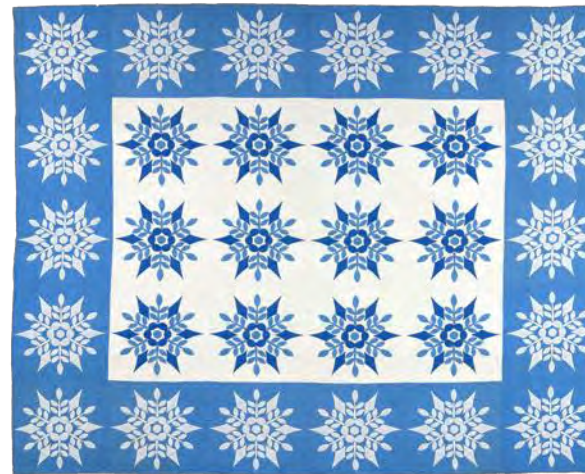


Handwritten signature and date:
The [illegible]
[illegible]
1897-1898





Quilt History



Material Culture



Music History



For Bob Johnson
Thank you for everything
Bob Dylan



Willie Nelson Collection

A poster for Willie Nelson's Fourth of July Picnic. At the top is a caricature of Willie Nelson wearing a top hat with a star and a red bow tie, pointing forward. Below the image is the text "I WANT YOU FOR WILLIE NELSON'S FOURTH OF JULY PICNIC" in large, bold, red letters. The year "1984" is printed below the title. At the bottom, it says "THE SOUTH PARK MEADOWS AUSTIN, TEXAS" and lists the performing artists: Waylon Jennings, Leon Russell, Kris Kristofferson, Jessi Colter, Joe Ely, David Allen Coe, Jerry Jeff Walker, Mo Bandy, Carl Perkins, Billy Joe Shaver, Johnny Rodriguez, Farron Young, and John Bush. Ticket prices are listed as \$18.00 for adults and \$11.00 for children 10 to 10. There is also a note for "Under 12" and mentions of "Fireworks Display" and "Concessions".

I WANT YOU
FOR
WILLIE NELSON'S
FOURTH OF JULY
PICNIC
1984

THE SOUTH PARK MEADOWS AUSTIN, TEXAS

Waylon Jennings	Jessi Colter	Jerry Jeff Walker	Billy Joe Shaver
Leon Russell	Joe Ely	Mo Bandy	Johnny Rodriguez
Kris Kristofferson	David Allen Coe	Carl Perkins	Farron Young
			John Bush

Doors Open 8 a.m. 10 to 10 **\$18⁰⁰ Adults** **\$11⁰⁰ Children** Under 12

Fireworks Display **Concessions**



Stanley
7924

Gene Autry
6920 SUNSET
HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA

Messing
Blank

DECEMBER 10, 1954

MR. LUCHESE
LUCHESE BOOT COMPANY
106 E. COMMERCE
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Autry
A

No
answer

DEAR MR. LUCHESE:

I AM SENDING THREE BOOTS TO YOU, AND WISH TO HAVE TWO NEW PAIRS MADE FOR MR. AUTRY.

ONE PAIR WILL BE RED, THE SAME RED YOU USED ON THE RED AND WHITE BOOT. I AM RETURNING IT SO YOU CAN GET THE SAME COLOR. ALSO I AM SENDING YOU THE 1ST ONE YOU MADE, A BLUE AND WHITE, AS A SAMPLE FOR THE DESIGN OF THE TOPS. THE RED BOOT SHOULD HAVE A SOLID RED FOOT AND TOP. THAT IS, INSTEAD OF RED AND WHITE IT SHOULD BE ALL RED, BUT IF YOU THINK IT WOULD BE PRETTIER YOU CAN HAVE IT OVERLAYED AS THOUGH IT WERE RED AND WHITE. IF YOU DON'T THINK THAT WOULD LOOK AS NICE, PERHAPS YOU WOULD LIKE TO PUT QUITE A BIT OF STITCHING ON THE TOE. THE TOP OF IT SHOULD HAVE A LOT OF DULL GREEN FOR THE LEAVES AND STEMS AND THE FLOWERS AND STEER HEAD SHOULD BE WHITE. I DO NOT WANT THE GREEN STEMS TO BE TOO PROMINENT, SO CHOOSE A DULL GREEN THAT WILL BLEND WITH THE RED. THE BORDER AROUND THE TOP SHOULD BE WHITE WITH INLAY OF RED HEARTS AND DIAMONDS, BLACK SPADES AND CLUBS, RED ARROWS AND WHITE LACING.

THE SECOND PAIR SHOULD BE OF THE LIGHT BROWN, THE COLOR YOU USED IN THE LIGHT BROWN AND WHITE BOOTS YOU MADE. I AM ALSO SENDING THIS BOOT AS A SAMPLE FOR THE COLOR WE WANT. ON THIS BOOT WHERE YOU USED THE WHITE BEFORE, WE WOULD LIKE A VERY LIGHT BEIGE. PLEASE HAVE THIS BEIGE LIGHT ENOUGH TO BE A GOOD CONTRAST. THE TOP SHOULD HAVE THE SAME DESIGN OF INLAY AS THE RED ONE, WITH STEMS OF BRIGHT KELLY GREEN AND FLOWERS OF YELLOW. THAT WILL BE, GREEN AND YELLOW INLAY ON A



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