

GO TO MASTER INDEX OF WARFARE

## THE REVOLUTION OF THE TEXIANS, 1835-1836



"History is an endless chain of inventive and spurious continuities, as in the case of the USS *Constellation*<sub>1</sub>, the USS *Constellation*<sub>2</sub>, the USS *Constellation*<sub>3</sub>, and the USS *Constellation*<sub>4</sub>."

— Austin Meredith



*no credit*





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**1718**

As part of an attempt to intercept French influence on the Gulf Coast, Mission San Antonio de Valero was established on the east bank of the San Antonio River by Father Antonio Olivares. It would later be moved to the west bank, and re-established at its present location in 1724 after the original structure would be destroyed in a hurricane.



From this year into 1720 the French and the Spanish would be contesting the territory of Texas — culminating in Texas becoming a Spanish possession.

**REMEMBERING THE ALAMO**



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**1727**

The two-story stone structure now known as the Long Barrack of the Alamo (not yet known by that name) was completed. It included living quarters for the priests, offices, a dining hall, and kitchens.



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1744

Construction began on a stone church off the southeast corner of the Long Barrack of the Alamo (which was not yet known by that name).



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**1756**

The stone church at the Alamo (not yet known by that name) collapsed due to faulty construction.



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**1758**

Construction began on a second stone church at the Alamo (not yet known by that name), to replace the one of faulty construction that had collapsed. The date is inscribed above the door. The structure was never completed as a church. It did not have the famous bell-shaped top wall depicted on this movie poster:



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1786

David Crockett was born in [Tennessee](#).<sup>1</sup>



1. The movie "The Alamo," perhaps to associate him more closely with the firearm known as "the Kentucky squirrel rifle," would suggest that he had been born in Kentucky.

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**1793**

The San Antonio missions were handed over to civil authorities, epidemics having depopulated them. Spanish cavalry move into the Mission de Valero. Since they came from Alamo de Parras in Mexico, at this point (not before) the former mission began to be known as “Pueblo del Alamo.” (“Alamo” meaning “cottonwood.”)



**REMEMBERING THE ALAMO**



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1821

 As [Mexico](#) became independent from Spain, Mexican troops replaced Spanish troops at the Alamo.



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Mexico began to use its [California](#) province as a dumping-ground for criminals. Upon condition of their pledging that all children born in Mexico would be free –even the children of their slaves– Mexico allowed a group of United States citizens led by Stephen A. Austin to bring slaves into the “Texas” region of Mexico. The white American families emigrating with Austin were awarded large tracts of land on which to settle, and the Spanish government of [Texas](#) promised to refrain from offering freedom to the slaves of these families, so long as they were slaves **of the initial generation.**<sup>2</sup>

2. Later, these white USers would of course ignore the pledge they had made, and treat the new children of their slaves as **a new crop** of their slaves — but by that time they would be heavily armed and would have created an effective segregated militia, so the government of Mexico would be unable to bring them to honor the pledge they had made in order to obtain these grants of land.



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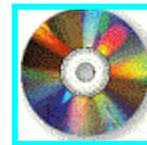
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Between 1814 and this year, Thomson had been creating this map:



"War is God's way of teaching Americans geography."

- Ambrose G. Bierce



**US MILITARY INTERVENTIONS**



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1835



The [Mexican](#) General Martin Perfecto de Cos fortified the Alamo compound in response to rebelling Texians, but was defeated in street fighting outside the walls.



REMEMBERING THE ALAMO

Per THE DOCUMENTS OF [TEXAS](#), a Lieutenant Colonel from [Mejico](#), sent into the [Tejas](#) province by the sitting Vice President, in this year was surveying the three departments of the province (Brazos, Nacogdoches, and Bexar) and reporting on their demographics. In the two departments with mostly Anglo populations (Brazos and Nacogdoches) he would offer that he had found approximately 1,000 people who were effectively [enslaved](#) — and accordingly would recommend that the Mejican Congress issue some sort of decree, freeing these black people from the control of these Anglos.

By this year a percussion Kentucky squirrel rifle was in use in the [Texas](#) territory.

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This depiction of a buffalo hunt was prepared in this year by A. Fisher and W.E. Tucker:



Anglo settlers in [Texas](#) began to use chili powder, as a convenience in their preparing “sorta-[Greaser](#)-style” dishes.



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WALDEN: On gala days the town fires its great guns, which echo like popguns to these woods, and some waifs of martial music occasionally penetrate thus far. To me, away there in my bean-field at the other end of the town, the big guns sounded as if a puff ball had burst; and when there was a military turnout of which I was ignorant, I have sometimes had a vague sense all the day of some sort of itching and disease in the horizon, as if some eruption would break out there soon, either scarlatina or canker-rash, until at length some more favorable puff of wind, making haste over the fields and up the Wayland road, brought me information of the "trainers." It seemed by the distant hum as if somebody's bees had swarmed, and that the neighbors, according to Virgil's advice, by a faint *tintinnabulum* upon the most sonorous of their domestic utensils, were endeavoring to call them down into the hive again. And when the sound died quite away, and the hum had ceased, and the most favorable breezes told no tale, I knew that they had got the last drone of them all safely into the Middlesex hive, and that now their minds were bent on the honey with which it was smeared.

I felt proud to know that the liberties of Massachusetts and of our fatherland were in such safe keeping; and as I turned to my hoeing again I was filled with an inexpressible confidence, and pursued my labor cheerfully with a calm trust in the future.

When there were several bands of musicians, it sounded as if the village was a vast bellows, and all the buildings expanded and collapsed alternately with a din. But sometimes it was a really noble and inspiring strain that reached these woods, and the trumpet that sings of fame, and I felt as if I could spit a Mexican with a good relish, -for why should we always stand for trifles?-and looked round for a woodchuck or a skunk to exercise my chivalry upon. These martial strains seemed as far away as Palestine, and reminded me of a march of crusaders in the horizon, with a slight tantivy and tremulous motion of the elm-tree tops which overhang the village. This was one of the *great* days; though the sky had from my clearing only the same everlastingly great look that it wears daily, and I saw no difference in it.

PEOPLE OF  
WALDEN

VIRGIL

FELICIA DOROTHEA HEMANS

WAR ON MEXICO



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 October: During this month and the following one, Texian forces were gathering outside San Antonio de B exar — Centralist troops fortified the town, including the Alamo.



REMEMBERING THE ALAMO

 October 9, Friday: At 6:45AM, Charles Camille Saint-Saens was born in Paris, to Jacques Joseph Victor Saint-Saens, audit clerk at the Ministry of the Interior, and Clemence Francoise Collin, daughter of a carpenter (the baby would be not only their 1st but also their only child, as the father would succumb to consumption on December 31st).

General Mart n Perfecto de Cos arrived at San Antonio de B exar, bringing the number of Centralist forces in the town to approximately 1,200.



REMEMBERING THE ALAMO



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October 28, Wednesday: When **Texians** defeated Centralists in a skirmish near Mission Concepcion, they did so under a flag which to them signified their God-given right to enslave other human beings.



REMEMBERING THE ALAMO



“I’m a Constitutionalist, which means that your black ass belongs to me!”

In New Zealand, Maoris calling themselves the Confederation of the United Tribes declared independence under British protection.



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November 26, Thursday: [Waldo Emerson](#) lectured in [Boston](#). This was lecture Number 4 of the series: Chaucer.

### THE LIST OF LECTURES

Texians captured a pack train bringing forage for General Martín Perfecto de Cos's cavalry.



### REMEMBERING THE ALAMO

Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

*5th day 26th of 11th M / Our first Meeting was a very good one  
Father had a good pertinent & well seasoned testimony - then  
Hannah Dennis & then Elizabeth Wing & at the close Hannah Dennis  
kneeled in supplication - In the last (Moy [Monthly] Meeting)-  
Moses F Rogers recd his Answer to proceed in Marriage with  
Elizabeth Mitchell & Amos Earle was also liberated to proceed  
in the same way with Catherine Mitchell - Elizabeth Wing was  
liberated to pay a religious visit in Sandwich Quarterly Meeting  
- And a committee was apptd to Visit Thos R Nichols in  
consequence of his request to be recd a Member of Society - other  
buisness refered*

### RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS



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December 4, Friday: Samuel Butler was born.

Colonel Benjamin R. Milam rallied the Texians for an assault on General Martín Perfecto de Cos's garrison in [San Antonio de Béxar](#).



REMEMBERING THE ALAMO

[Richard Henry Dana, Jr.](#) and the *Alert* arrived at the Golden Gate.

It was in the winter of 1835-1836 that the ship *Alert*, in the prosecution of her voyage for hides on the remote and almost unknown coast of California, floated into the vast solitude of the Bay of San Francisco. All around us was the stillness of nature.... Over a region far beyond our sight there were no other human habitations, except that an enterprising Yankee, years in advance of his time, had put up, on the rising ground above the landing, a shanty of rough boards, where he carried on a very small retail trade between the hide ships and the Indians.

**AND NOW, FOR SOMETHING ENTIRELY DIFFERENT, A REPORT FROM OUR SAILOR:**

Friday, December 4th, after a passage of twenty days, we arrived at the mouth of the bay of San Francisco. Our place of destination had been Monterey, but as we were to the northward of it when the wind hauled ahead, we made a fair wind for San Francisco. This large bay, which lies in latitude 37° 58', was discovered by Sir Francis Drake, and by him represented to be (as indeed it is) a magnificent bay, containing several good harbors, great depth of water, and surrounded by a fertile and finely wooded country. About thirty miles from the mouth of the bay, and on the south-east side, is a high point, upon which the presidio is built. Behind this, is the harbor in which trading vessels anchor, and near it, the mission of San Francisco, and a newly begun settlement, mostly of Yankee Californians, called Yerba Buena, which promises well. Here, at anchor, and the only vessel, was a brig under Russian colors, from Asitka, in Russian America, which had come down to winter, and to take in a supply of tallow and grain, great quantities of which latter article are raised in the missions at the head of the bay. The second day after our arrival, we went on board the brig, it being Sunday, as a matter of curiosity; and there was enough there to gratify it. Though no larger than the *Pilgrim*, she had five or six officers, and a crew of between twenty and thirty; and such a stupid and greasy-



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looking set, I certainly never saw before. Although it was quite comfortable weather, and we had nothing on but straw hats, shirts, and duck trowsers, and were barefooted, they had, every man of them, double-soled boots, coming up to the knees, and well greased; thick woolen trowsers, frocks, waistcoats, pea-jackets, woolen caps, and everything in true Nova Zembla rig; and in the warmest days they made no change. The clothing of one of these men would weigh nearly as much as that of half our crew. They had brutish faces, looked like the antipodes of sailors, and apparently dealt in nothing but grease. They lived upon grease; eat it, drank it, slept in the midst of it, and their clothes were covered with it. To a Russian, grease is the greatest luxury. They looked with greedy eyes upon the tallow-bags as they were taken into the vessel, and, no doubt, would have eaten one up whole, had not the officer kept watch over it. The grease seemed actually coming through their pores, and out in their hair, and on their faces. It seems as if it were this saturation which makes them stand cold and rain so well. If they were to go into a warm climate, they would all die of the scurvy. The vessel was no better than the crew. Everything was in the oldest and most inconvenient fashion possible; running trusses on the yards, and large hawser cables, coiled all over the decks, and served and parcelled in all directions. The topmasts, top-gallant masts and studding-sail booms were nearly black for want of scraping, and the decks would have turned the stomach of a man-of-war's-man. The galley was down in the fore-castle; and there the crew lived, in the midst of the steam and grease of the cooking, in a place as hot as an oven, and as dirty as a pigsty. Five minutes in the fore-castle was enough for us, and we were glad to get into the open air. We made some trade with them, buying Indian curiosities, of which they had a great number; such as bead-work, feathers of birds, fur moccasins, etc. I purchased a large robe, made of the skins of some animals, dried and sewed nicely together, and covered all over on the outside with thick downy feathers, taken from the breasts of various birds, and arranged with their different colors, so as to make a brilliant show.

A few days after our arrival, the rainy season set in, and, for three weeks, it rained almost every hour, without cessation. This was bad for our trade, for the collecting of hides is managed differently in this port from what it is in any other on the coast. The mission of San Francisco near the anchorage, has no trade at all, but those of San Jose, Santa Clara, and others, situated on large creeks or rivers which run into the bay, and distant between fifteen and forty miles from the anchorage, do a greater business in hides than any in California. Large boats, manned by Indians, and capable of carrying nearly a thousand hides apiece, are attached to the missions, and sent down to the vessels with hides, to bring away goods in return. Some of the crews of the vessels are obliged to go and come in the boats, to look out for the hides and goods. These are favorite expeditions with the sailors, in fine weather; but now to be gone three or four days, in open boats, in constant rain, without any shelter, and with cold food, was hard service. Two of our men went up to Santa Clara in one of these boats, and were gone three days, during all which time they had a constant rain, and did not sleep a wink, but passed three long nights, walking fore and aft the boat, in the open air. When they got on board, they were completely exhausted, and took a watch below of twelve hours. All the hides, too, that came down in the boats, were soaked with water, and unfit to put below, so that we were obliged to trice them up to dry, in the intervals of sunshine or wind, upon all parts of the vessel. We got up tricing-lines from the jib-boom-end to each arm of the fore yard, and thence to the main and cross-jack yard-arms. Between the tops, too, and the mast-heads, from the fore to the main swiftnets, and thence to the mizen rigging, and in all directions athwartships, tricing-lines were run, and strung with hides. The head stays and guys, and the spritsail-yard, were lined, and, having still more, we got out the swinging booms, and strung them and the forward and after guys, with hides. The rail, fore and aft, the windlass, capstan, the sides of the ship, and every vacant place on deck, were covered with wet hides, on the least sign of an interval for drying. Our ship was nothing but a mass of hides, from the cat-harpins to the water's edge, and from the jib-boom-end to the taffrail.

One cold, rainy evening, about eight o'clock, I received orders to get ready to start for San Jose at four the next morning, in one of these Indian boats, with four days' provisions. I got my oil-cloth clothes, south-wester, and thick boots all ready, and turned into my hammock early, determined to get some sleep in advance, as the boat was to be alongside before daybreak. I slept on till all hands were called in the morning;



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for, fortunately for me, the Indians, intentionally, or from mistaking their orders, had gone off alone in the night, and were far out of sight. Thus I escaped three or four days of very uncomfortable service.

Four of our men, a few days afterwards, went up in one of the quarter-boats to Santa Clara, to carry the agent, and remained out all night in a drenching rain, in the small boat, where there was not room for them to turn round; the agent having gone up to the mission and left the men to their fate, making no provision for their accommodation, and not even sending them anything to eat. After this, they had to pull thirty miles, and when they got on board, were so stiff that they could not come up the gangway ladder. This filled up the measure of the agent's unpopularity, and never after this could he get anything done by any of the crew; and many a delay and vexation, and many a good ducking in the surf, did he get to pay up old scores, or "square the yards with the bloody quill-driver."

Having collected nearly all the hides that were to be procured, we began our preparations for taking in a supply of wood and water, for both of which, San Francisco is the best place on the coast. A small island, situated about two leagues from the anchorage, called by us "Wood Island," and by the Spaniards "Isle de Los Angelos," was covered with trees to the water's edge; and to this, two of our crew, who were Kennebec men, and could handle an axe like a plaything, were sent every morning to cut wood, with two boys to pile it up for them. In about a week, they had cut enough to last us a year, and the third mate, with myself and three others, were sent over in a large, schooner-rigged, open launch, which we had hired of the mission, to take in the wood, and bring it to the ship. We left the ship about noon, but, owing to a strong head wind, and a tide, which here runs four or five knots, did not get into the harbor, formed by two points of the island, where the boats lie, until sundown. No sooner had we come-to, than a strong south-easter, which had been threatening us all day, set in, with heavy rain and a chilly atmosphere. We were in rather a bad situation: an open boat, a heavy rain, and a long night; for in winter, in this latitude, it was dark nearly fifteen hours.

Taking a small skiff which we had brought with us, we went ashore, but found no shelter, for everything was open to the rain, and collecting a little wood, which we found by lifting up the leaves and brush, and a few muscles, we put aboard again, and made the best preparations in our power for passing the night. We unbent the mainsail, and formed an awning with it over the after part of the boat, made a bed of wet logs of wood, and, with our jackets on, lay down, about six o'clock, to sleep. Finding the rain running down upon us, and our jackets getting wet through, and the rough, knotty-logs, rather indifferent couches, we turned out; and taking an iron pan which we brought with us, we wiped it out dry, put some stones around it, cut the wet bark from some sticks, and striking a light, made a small fire in the pan. Keeping some sticks near, to dry, and covering the whole over with a roof of boards, we kept up a small fire, by which we cooked our muscles, and eat them, rather for an occupation than from hunger. Still, it was not ten o'clock, and the night was long before us, when one of the party produced an old pack of Spanish cards from his monkey-jacket pocket, which we hailed as a great windfall; and keeping a dim, flickering light by our fagots, we played game after game, one or two o'clock, when, becoming really tired, we went to our logs again, one sitting up at a time, in turn, to keep watch over the fire.



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 December 5, Saturday: [The Liberator](#).

Some 400 more Māori warriors were transported by a Western ship from the North Island of New Zealand to the Chatham Islands. Visiting the main settlements of the couple of thousand Moriori on these small, cold islands, the Māori announced that henceforth the people there would be their slaves, and that resistance was futile. It was their custom.

The Battle of Béxar began to rage as Texians began to fight their way into town — on the 10th Cos would surrender his army, which would then be paroled.



#### REMEMBERING THE ALAMO

[Richard Henry Dana, Jr.](#) described his activities in the bay of San Francisco.

#### AND NOW, FOR SOMETHING ENTIRELY DIFFERENT, A REPORT FROM OUR SAILOR:

Toward morning, the rain ceased, and the air became sensibly colder, so that we found sleep impossible, and sat up, watching for daybreak. No sooner was it light than we went ashore, and began our preparations for loading our vessel. We were not mistaken in the coldness of the weather, for a white frost was on the ground, a thing we had never seen before in California, and one or two little puddles of fresh water were skimmed over with a thin coat of ice. In this state of the weather and before sunrise, in the grey of the morning, we had to wade off, nearly up to our hips in water, to load the skiff with the wood by armsfull. The third mate remained on board the launch, two more men staid in the skiff, to load and manage it, and all the water-work, as usual, fell upon the two youngest of us; and there we were, with frost on the ground, wading forward and back, from the beach to the boat, with armsfull of wood, barefooted, and our trowsers rolled up. When the skiff went off with her load, we could only keep our feet from freezing by racing up and down the beach on the hard sand, as fast as we could go. We were all day at this work, and towards sundown, having loaded the vessel as deep as she would bear, we hove up our anchor, and made sail, beating out the bay. No sooner had we got into the large bay, than we found a strong tide setting us out to seaward, a thick fog which prevented our seeing the ship, and a breeze too light to set us against the tide; for we were as deep as a sand-barge. By the utmost exertions, we saved ourselves from being carried out to sea, and were glad to reach the leewardmost point of the island, where we came-to, and prepared to pass another night, more uncomfortable than the first, for we were loaded up to the gunwale, and had only a choice among logs and sticks for a resting-place. The next morning, we made sail at slack water, with a fair wind, and got on board by eleven o'clock, when all hands were turned-to, to unload and stow away the wood, which took till night. Having now taken in all our wood, the next morning a waterparty was ordered off with all the casks. From



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this we escaped, having had a pretty good siege with the wooding. The water-party were gone three days, during which time they narrowly escaped being carried out to sea, and passed one day on an island, where one of them shot a deer, great numbers of which overrun the islands and hills of San Francisco Bay.

While not off, on these wood and water parties, or up the rivers to the missions, we had very easy times on board the ship. We were moored, stem and stern, within a cable's length of the shore, safe from south-easters, and with very little boating to do; and as it rained nearly all the time, awnings were put over the hatchways, and all hands sent down between decks, where we were at work, day after day, picking oakum, until we got enough to caulk the ship all over, and to last the whole voyage. Then we made a whole suit of gaskets for the voyage home, a pair of wheel-ropes from strips of green hide, great quantities of spun-yarn, and everything else that could be made between decks. It being now mid-winter and in high latitude, the nights were very long, so that we were not turned-to until seven in the morning, and were obliged to knock off at five in the evening, when we got supper; which gave us nearly three hours before eight bells, at which time the watch was set.

As we had now been about a year on the coast, it was time to think of the voyage home; and knowing that the last two or three months of our stay would be very busy ones, and that we should never have so good an opportunity to work for ourselves as the present, we all employed our evenings in making clothes for the passage home, and more especially for Cape Horn. As soon as supper was over and the kids cleared away, and each one had taken his smoke, we seated ourselves on our chests round the lamp, which swung from a beam, and each one went to work in his own way, some making hats, others trowsers, others jackets, etc., etc.; and no one was idle. The boys who could not sew well enough to make their own clothes, laid up grass into sinnet for the men, who sewed for them in return. Several of us clubbed together and bought a large piece of twilled cotton, which we made into trowsers and jackets, and giving them several coats of linseed oil, laid them by for Cape Horn. I also sewed and covered a tarpaulin hat, thick and strong enough to sit down upon, and made myself a complete suit of flannel under-clothing, for bad weather. Those who had no south-wester caps, made them, and several of the crew made themselves tarpaulin jackets and trowsers, lined on the inside with flannel. Industry was the order of the day, and every one did something for himself; for we knew that as the season advanced, and we went further south, we should have no evenings to work in.



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December 10, Thursday: Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

*5th day 10th of 12th M / Elisha F Rogers And Elizabeth Mitchell  
daughter of Jethro F Mitchell were married in our Meeting House  
-the gathering was much larger than last 5th day, & quite as  
still & quiet but I did not think there was as much of solid  
weight as was felt a week ago - short testimonies were deliverd  
by Father & Hannah Dennis  
This Afternoon I wrote to my dear friend Thos Thompson of  
Liverpool. -*

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS



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The Battle of Béxar came to an end as the [Texians](#) fought their way into San Antonio de Béxar and General Martín Perfecto de Cos surrendered his Centralist [Mexican](#) army.

[REMEMBERING THE ALAMO](#)

Until January 24, 1836, [U.S. Marines](#) would be protecting American interests in Callao and Lima, Peru during an attempted revolution.

[US MILITARY INTERVENTIONS](#)

### Our Perennial Quest to Do Harm So Good I Come

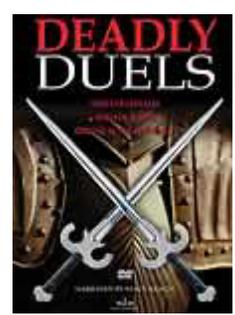


<a href="#">Extermination of the Pequot Tribe</a>	<a href="#">1634-1637</a>
<a href="#">"King Phillip's" Race War</a>	<a href="#">1675-1676</a>
<a href="#">Secession from Britain</a>	<a href="#">1776-1783</a>
<a href="#">The War of 1812</a>	<a href="#">1812-1815</a>
<a href="#">The Revolution of the Texians</a>	<a href="#">1835-1836</a>
<a href="#">War on Mejico</a>	<a href="#">1846-1848</a>
<a href="#">Race War in the Wild West</a>	<a href="#">1862-1863</a>
<a href="#">Secession from the Union</a>	<a href="#">1862-1865</a>
<a href="#">War to End War</a>	<a href="#">1916-1919</a>
<a href="#">Stopping Hitler</a>	<a href="#">1940-1945</a>
<a href="#">The Korean Police Action</a>	<a href="#">1950-1953</a>
<a href="#">Cuban Missile Crisis</a>	<a href="#">1962</a>
<a href="#">Helping South Vietnam be Free</a>	<a href="#">1959-1975</a>
<a href="#">yada</a>	<a href="#">XXXX</a>
<a href="#">yada yada</a>	<a href="#">XXXX</a>
<a href="#">yada yada yada</a>	<a href="#">XXXX</a>

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"To be active, well, happy, implies rare courage. To be ready to fight in a duel or a battle implies desperation, or that you hold your life cheap."  
 — Henry Thoreau





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 December 12, Saturday: [The Liberator](#).

Between this day and Saturday the 19th, [David Henry Thoreau](#) would mail off to [Harvard College](#) materials that would be valued at 29 points, raising his accumulated points toward graduation to 10,290.

[Nicolò Paganini](#) led an orchestra concert in Parma for the birthday of [Grand Duchess Maria Louisa](#) (widow of the Emperor [Napoléon](#)).

The [Mexican](#) garrison under General Martín Perfecto de Cos at [San Antonio de Béxar](#), having surrendered to the besieging [Texians](#), was paroled.



REMEMBERING THE ALAMO

 December 21, Monday: Colonel James C. Neill received orders to take command at San Antonio de Béxar — the garrison consisted of about 100 men.



REMEMBERING THE ALAMO



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1836

 January 14, Thursday: [Waldo Emerson](#) lectured in [Boston](#). This was the 10th and last of the “English Literature” series: Modern Aspects of Letters.

THE LIST OF LECTURES

After forbidding his daughter [Clara Wieck](#) to have any contact with [Robert Schumann](#), Friedrich Wieck carried her off to Dresden in an attempt to get her to forget about the guy.

General [Sam Houston](#) addressed his troops at Goliad and ordered Colonel Jim Bowie to return to San Antonio and blow up the Alamo.



REMEMBERING THE ALAMO

TEXAS

Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

*14th of 1 M 1836 / My cousin Anne Gould Died this Morning about 3 OC in the 67th Year of her Age She had been sick of a Stopage in the bowels for about 5 or 6 days & suffer'd much for the time I learn she was very quiet in her mind patient & resigned. – She was the Daughter of my Fathers first cousin Thos Gould late of Middletown & till within some years ago lived on the paternal Estate but of latter years lived in [Newport](#) & kept house in the house owned by her brother in law Henry Gould – with her Sister Mary. –*

*Our Meeting today was solid & quiet & Father Rodman bore a short good testimony. –*

*Spent Most of the Afternoon at cousin Henrys.*

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

In the US Senate, [Daniel Webster](#) spoke in regard to Mr. Benton's resolutions for appropriating the surplus revenue to the purpose of national defense:

*It is not my purpose, Mr. President, to make any remark on the state of our affairs with France. The time for that discussion has not come, and I wait. We are in daily expectation of a*



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communication from the President, which will give us light; and we are authorized to expect a recommendation by him of such measures as he thinks it may be necessary and proper for Congress to adopt. I do not anticipate him. In this most important and delicate business, it is the proper duty of the executive to go forward, and I, for one, do not intend either to be drawn or driven into the lead. When official information shall be before us, and when measures shall be recommended upon the proper responsibility, I shall endeavor to form the best judgment I can, and shall act according to its dictates.

I rise, now, for another purpose. This resolution has drawn on a debate upon the general conduct of the Senate during the last session of Congress, and especially in regard to the proposed grant of the three millions to the President on the last night of the session. My main object is to tell the story of this transaction, and to exhibit the conduct of the Senate fairly to the public view. I owe this duty to the Senate. I owe it to the committee with which I am connected; and although whatever is personal to an individual is generally of too little importance to be made the subject of much remark, I hope I may be permitted to say a few words in defence of my own reputation, in reference to a matter which has been greatly misrepresented.

This vote for the three millions was proposed by the House of Representatives as an amendment to the fortification bill; and the loss of that bill, three millions and all, is the charge which has been made upon the Senate, sounded over all the land, and now again renewed. I propose to give the true history of this bill, its origin, its progress, and its loss.

Before attempting that, however, let me remark, for it is worthy to be remarked and remembered, that the business brought before the Senate last session, important and various as it was, and both public and private, was all gone through with most uncommon despatch and promptitude. No session has witnessed a more complete clearing off and finishing of the subjects before us. The communications from the other house, whether bills or whatever else, were especially attended to in a proper season, and with that ready respect which is due from one house to the other. I recollect nothing of any importance which came to us from the House of Representatives, which was neglected, overlooked, or disregarded by the Senate.

On the other hand, it was the misfortune of the Senate, and, as I think, the misfortune of the country, that, owing to the state of business in the House of Representatives towards the close of the session, several measures which had been matured in the Senate, and passed into bills, did not receive attention, so as to be either agreed to or rejected, in the other branch of the legislature. They fell, of course, by the termination of the session.

Among these measures may be mentioned the following, viz.:-

THE POST-OFFICE REFORM BILL, which passed the Senate **unanimously**, and of the necessity for which the whole country is certainly now most abundantly satisfied;

THE CUSTOM-HOUSE REGULATIONS BILL, which also passed



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nearly unanimously, after a very laborious preparation by the Committee on Commerce, and a full discussion in the Senate;

THE JUDICIARY BILL, passed here by a majority of thirty-one to five, and which has again already passed the Senate at this session with only a single dissenting vote;

THE BILL INDEMNIFYING CLAIMANTS FOR FRENCH SPOILIATIONS BEFORE 1800;

THE BILL REGULATING THE DEPOSIT OF THE PUBLIC MONEY IN THE DEPOSIT BANKS;

THE BILL RESPECTING THE TENURE OF CERTAIN OFFICES, AND THE POWER OF REMOVAL FROM OFFICE; which has now again been passed to be engrossed, in the Senate, by a decided majority.

All these important measures, matured and passed in the Senate in the course of the session, and many others of less importance, were sent to the House of Representatives, and we never heard any thing more from them. They there found their graves.

It is worthy of being remarked, also, that the attendance of members of the Senate was remarkably full, particularly toward the end of the session. On the last day, every Senator was in his place till very near the hour of adjournment, as the journal will show. We had no breaking up for want of a quorum; no delay, no calls of the Senate; nothing which was made necessary by the negligence or inattention of the members of this body. On the vote of the three millions of dollars, which was taken at about eight o'clock in the evening, forty-eight votes were given, every member of the Senate being in his place and answering to his name. This is an instance of punctuality, diligence, and labor, continued to the very end of an arduous session, wholly without example or parallel.

The Senate, then, Sir, must stand, in the judgment of every man, fully acquitted of all remissness, all negligence, all inattention, amidst the fatigue and exhaustion of the closing hours of Congress. Nothing passed unheeded, nothing was overlooked, nothing forgotten, and nothing slighted.

And now, Sir, I would proceed immediately to give the history of the fortification bill, if it were not necessary, as introductory to that history, and as showing the circumstances under which the Senate was called on to transact the public business, first to refer to another bill which was before us, and to the proceedings which were had upon it.

It is well known, Sir, that the annual appropriation bills always originate in the House of Representatives. This is so much a matter of course, that no one ever looks to see such a bill first brought forward in the Senate. It is also well known, Sir, that it has been usual, heretofore, to make the annual appropriations for the Military Academy at West Point in the general bill which provides for the pay and support of the army. But last year the army bill did not contain any appropriation whatever for the support of West Point. I took notice of this singular omission when the bill was before the Senate, but



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presumed, and indeed understood, that the House would send us a separate bill for the Military Academy. The army bill, therefore, passed; but no bill for the Academy at West Point appeared. We waited for it from day to day, and from week to week, but waited in vain. At length, the time for sending bills from one house to the other, according to the joint rules of the two houses, expired, and no bill had made its appearance for the support of the Military Academy. These joint rules, as is well known, are sometimes suspended on the application of one house to the other, in favor of particular bills, whose progress has been unexpectedly delayed, but which the public interest requires to be passed. But the House of Representatives sent us no request to suspend the rules in favor of a bill for the support of the Military Academy, nor made any other proposition to save the institution from immediate dissolution. Notwithstanding all the talk about a war, and the necessity of a vote for the three millions, the Military Academy, an institution cherished so long, and at so much expense, was on the very point of being entirely broken up.

Now it so happened, Sir, that at this time there was another appropriation bill which had come from the House of Representatives, and was before the Committee on Finance here. This bill was entitled "An Act making appropriations for the civil and diplomatic expenses of the government for the year 1835."

In this state of things, several members of the House of Representatives applied to the committee, and besought us to save the Military Academy by annexing the necessary appropriations for its support to the bill for civil and diplomatic service. We spoke to them, in reply, of the unfitness, the irregularity, the incongruity, of this forced union of such dissimilar subjects; but they told us it was a case of absolute necessity, and that, without resorting to this mode, the appropriation could not get through. We acquiesced, Sir, in these suggestions. We went out of our way. We agreed to do an extraordinary and an irregular thing, in order to save the public business from miscarriage. By direction of the committee, I moved the Senate to add an appropriation for the Military Academy to the bill for defraying civil and diplomatic expenses. The bill was so amended; and in this form the appropriation was finally made.

But this was not all. This bill for the civil and diplomatic service, being thus amended by tacking the Military Academy to it, was sent back by us to the House of Representatives, where its length of tail was to be still much further increased. That house had before it several subjects for provision, and for appropriation, upon which it had not passed any bill before the time for passing bills to be sent to the Senate had elapsed. I was anxious that these things should, in some way, be provided for; and when the diplomatic bill came back, drawing the Military Academy after it, it was thought prudent to attach to it several of these other provisions. There were propositions to pave the streets in the city of Washington, to repair the



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Capitol, and various other things, which it was necessary to provide for; and they, therefore, were put into the same bill, by way of amendment to an amendment; that is to say, Mr. President, we had been prevailed on to amend their bill for defraying the salary of our ministers abroad, by adding an appropriation for the Military Academy, and they proposed to amend this our amendment by adding matter as germane to it as it was itself to the original bill. There was also the President's gardener. His salary was unprovided for; and there was no way of remedying this important omission, but by giving him place in the diplomatic service bill, among *chargés d'affaires*, envoys extraordinary, and ministers plenipotentiary. In and among these ranks, therefore, he was formally introduced by the amendment of the House, and there he now stands, as you will readily see by turning to the law.

Sir, I have not the pleasure to know this useful person; but should I see him, some morning, overlooking the workmen in the lawns, walks, copses, and parterres which adorn the grounds around the President's residence, considering the company into which we have introduced him, I should expect to see, at least, a small diplomatic button on his working jacket.

When these amendments came from the House, and were read at our table, though they caused a smile, they were yet adopted, and the law passed, almost with the rapidity of a comet, and with something like the same length of tail.

Now, Sir, not one of these irregularities or incongruities, no part of this jumbling together of distinct and different subjects, was in the slightest degree occasioned by any thing done, or omitted to be done, on the part of the Senate. Their proceedings were all regular; their decision was prompt, their despatch of the public business correct and reasonable. There was nothing of disorganization, nothing of procrastination, nothing evincive of a temper to embarrass or obstruct the public business. If the history which I have now truly given shows that one thing was amended by another, which had no sort of connection with it; that unusual expedients were resorted to; and that the laws, instead of arrangement and symmetry, exhibit anomaly, confusion, and the most grotesque associations, it is nevertheless true, that no part of all this was made necessary by us. We deviated from the accustomed modes of legislation only when we were supplicated to do so, in order to supply bald and glaring deficiencies in measures which were before us.

But now, Mr. President, let me come to the fortification bill, the lost bill, which not only now, but on a graver occasion, has been lamented like the lost Pleiad.

This bill, Sir, came from the House of Representatives to the Senate in the usual way, and was referred to the Committee on Finance. Its appropriations were not large. Indeed, they appeared to the committee to be quite too small. It struck a majority of the committee at once, that there were several fortifications on the coast, either not provided for at all, or not adequately provided for, by this bill. The whole amount of its appropriations was four hundred or four hundred and thirty



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thousand dollars. It contained no grant of three millions, and if the Senate had passed it the very day it came from the House, not only would there have been no appropriation of the three millions, but, Sir, none of these other sums which the Senate did insert in the bill. Others besides ourselves saw the deficiencies of this bill. We had communications with and from the departments, and we inserted in the bill every thing which any department recommended to us. We took care to be sure that nothing else was coming. And we then reported the bill to the Senate with our proposed amendments. Among these amendments, there was a sum of \$75,000 for Castle Island in Boston harbor, \$100,000 for defences in Maryland, and so forth. These amendments were agreed to by the Senate, and one or two others added, on the motion of members; and the bill, as thus amended, was returned to the House.

And now, Sir, it becomes important to ask, When was this bill, thus amended, returned to the House of Representatives? Was it unduly detained here, so that the House was obliged afterwards to act upon it suddenly? This question is material to be asked, and material to be answered, too, and the journal does satisfactorily answer it; for it appears by the journal that the bill was returned to the House of Representatives on Tuesday, the 24th of February, **one whole week before the close of the session.** And from Tuesday, the 24th of February, to Tuesday, the 3d day of March, we heard not one word from this bill. Tuesday, the 3d day of March, was, of course, the last day of the session. We assembled here at ten or eleven o'clock in the morning of that day, and sat until three in the afternoon, and still we were not informed whether the House had finally passed the bill. As it was an important matter, and belonged to that part of the public business which usually receives particular attention from the Committee on Finance, I bore the subject in my mind, and felt some solicitude about it, seeing that the session was drawing so near to a close. I took it for granted, however, as I had not heard any thing to the contrary, that the amendments of the Senate would not be objected to, and that, when a convenient time should arrive for taking up the bill in the House, it would be passed at once into a law, and we should hear no more about it. Not the slightest intimation was given, either that the executive wished for any larger appropriation, or that it was intended in the House to insert such larger appropriation. Not a syllable escaped from anybody, and came to our knowledge, that any further alteration whatever was intended in the bill.

At three o'clock in the afternoon of the 3d of March, the Senate took its recess, as is usual in that period of the session, until five o'clock. At five o'clock we again assembled, and proceeded with the business of the Senate until eight o'clock in the evening; and at eight o'clock in the evening, and not before, the clerk of the House appeared at our door, and announced that the House of Representatives had **disagreed** to one of the Senate's amendments, **agreed** to others; and to two of those amendments, namely, the fourth and fifth, it had agreed, **with**



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an amendment of its own.

Now, Sir, these fourth and fifth amendments of ours were, one, a vote of \$75,000 for Castle Island in Boston harbor, and the other, a vote of \$100,000 for certain defences in Maryland. And what, Sir, was the addition which the House of Representatives proposed to make, by way of "amendment" to a vote of \$75,000 for repairing the works in Boston harbor? Here, Sir, it is:-

"And be it further enacted, That the sum of three millions of dollars be, and the same is hereby, appropriated, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, to be expended, in whole or in part, under the direction of the President of the United States, for the military and naval service, including fortifications and ordnance, and the increase of the navy: **Provided**, such expenditures shall be rendered necessary for the defence of the country prior to the next meeting of Congress."

This proposition, Sir, was thus unexpectedly and suddenly put to us, at eight o'clock in the evening of the last day of the session. Unusual, unprecedented, extraordinary, as it obviously is, on the face of it, the manner of presenting it was still more extraordinary. The President had asked for no such grant of money; no department had recommended it; no estimate had suggested it; no reason whatever was given for it. No emergency had happened, and nothing new had occurred; every thing known to the administration, at that hour, respecting our foreign relations, had certainly been known to it for days and weeks. With what propriety, then, could the Senate be called on to sanction a proceeding so entirely irregular and anomalous? Sir, I recollect the occurrences of the moment very well, and I remember the impression which this vote of the House seemed to make all round the Senate. We had just come out of executive session; the doors were but just opened; and I hardly remember that there was a single spectator in the hall or the galleries. I had been at the clerk's table, and had not reached my seat, when the message was read. All the Senators were in the chamber. I heard the message, certainly with great surprise and astonishment; and I immediately moved the Senate to **disagree** to this vote of the House. My relation to the subject, in consequence of my connection with the Committee on Finance, made it my duty to propose some course, and I had not a moment's doubt or hesitation what that course ought to be. I took upon myself, then, Sir, the responsibility of moving that the Senate should disagree to this vote, and I now acknowledge that responsibility. It might be presumptuous to say that I took a leading part, but I certainly took an early part, a decided part, and an earnest part, in rejecting this broad grant of three millions of dollars, without limitation of purpose or specification of object, called for by no recommendation, founded on no estimate, made necessary by no state of things which was known to us. Certainly, Sir, I took a part in its rejection; and I stand here, in my place in the Senate, to-day,



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ready to defend the part so taken by me; or, rather, Sir, I disclaim all defence, and all occasion of defence, and I assert it as meritorious to have been among those who arrested, at the earliest moment, this extraordinary departure from all settled usage, and, as I think, from plain constitutional injunction,—this indefinite voting of a vast sum of money to mere executive discretion, without limit assigned, without object specified, without reason given, and without the least control.

Sir, I am told, that, in opposing this grant, I spoke with warmth, and I suppose I may have done so. If I did, it was a warmth springing from as honest a conviction of duty as ever influenced a public man. It was spontaneous, unaffected, sincere. There had been among us, Sir, no consultation, no concert. There could have been none. Between the reading of the message and my motion to disagree, there was not time enough for any two members of the Senate to exchange five words on the subject. The proposition was sudden and perfectly unexpected. I resisted it, as irregular, as dangerous in itself, and dangerous in its precedent; as wholly unnecessary, and as violating the plain intention, if not the express words, of the Constitution. Before the Senate, then, I avowed, and before the country I now avow, my part in this opposition. Whatsoever is to fall on those who sanctioned it, of that let me have my full share.

The Senate, Sir, rejected this grant by a vote of TWENTY-NINE against nineteen. Those twenty-nine names are on the journal; and whensoever the EXPUNGING process may commence, or how far soever it may be carried, I pray it, in mercy, not to erase mine from that record. I beseech it, in its sparing goodness, to leave me that proof of attachment to duty and to principle. It may draw around it, over it, or through it, black lines, or red lines, or any lines; it may mark it in any way which either the most prostrate and fantastical spirit of **man-worship**, or the most ingenious and elaborate study of self-degradation, may devise, if only it will leave it so that those who inherit my blood, or who may hereafter care for my reputation, shall be able to behold it where it now stands.

The House, Sir, insisted on this amendment. The Senate adhered to its disagreement; the House asked a conference, to which request the Senate immediately acceded. The committee of conference met, and in a very short time came to an agreement. They agreed to recommend to their respective houses, as a substitute for the vote proposed by the House, the following:—

“As an additional appropriation for arming the fortifications of the United States, three hundred thousand dollars.”

“As an additional appropriation for the repairs and equipment of ships of war of the United States, five hundred thousand dollars.”

I immediately reported this agreement of the committee of conference to the Senate; but, inasmuch as the bill was in the House of Representatives, the Senate could not act further on the matter until the House should first have considered the report of the committee, decided thereon, and sent us the bill. I did not myself take any note of the particular hour of this



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part of the transaction. The honorable member from Virginia [Mr. Leigh] says he looked at his watch at the time, and he knows that I had come from the conference, and was in my seat, at a quarter past eleven. I have no reason to think that he is under any mistake on this particular. He says it so happened that he had occasion to take notice of the hour, and well remembers it. It could not well have been later than this, as any one will be satisfied who will look at our journals, public and executive, and see what a mass of business was despatched after I came from the committee, and before the adjournment of the Senate. Having made the report, Sir, I had no doubt that both houses would concur in the result of the conference, and looked every moment for the officer of the House bringing the bill. He did not come, however, and I pretty soon learned that there was doubt whether the committee on the part of the House would report to the House the agreement of the conferees. At first, I did not at all credit this; but was confirmed by one communication after another, until I was obliged to think it true. Seeing that the bill was thus in danger of being lost, and intending at any rate that no blame should justly attach to the Senate, I immediately moved the following resolution:-

**Resolved,** That a message be sent to the honorable the House of Representatives, respectfully to remind the House of the report of the committee of conference appointed on the disagreeing votes of the two houses on the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill respecting the fortifications of the United States."

You recollect this resolution, Sir, having, as I well remember, taken some part on the occasion. [Mr. King, of Alabama, was in the chair.]

This resolution was promptly passed; the secretary carried it to the House, and delivered it. What was done in the House on the receipt of this message now appears from the printed journal. I have no wish to comment on the proceedings there recorded; all may read them, and each be able to form his own opinion. Suffice it to say, that the House of Representatives, having then possession of the bill, chose to retain that possession, and never acted on the report of the committee of conference. The bill, therefore, was lost. It was lost in the House of Representatives. It died there, and there its remains are to be found. No opportunity was given to the members of the House to decide whether they would agree to the report of the committee or not. From a quarter past eleven, when the report was agreed to, until two or three o'clock in the morning, the House remained in session. If at any time there was not a quorum of members present, the attendance of a quorum, we are to presume, might have been commanded, as there was undoubtedly a great majority of members still in the city.

But, Sir, there is one other transaction of the evening which I now feel bound to state, because I think it quite important on several accounts, that it should be known.

A nomination was pending before the Senate for a judge of the Supreme Court. In the course of the sitting, that nomination was



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called up, and, on motion, was indefinitely postponed. In other words, it was rejected; for an indefinite postponement is a rejection. The office, of course, remained vacant, and the nomination of another person to fill it became necessary. The President of the United States was then in the Capitol, as is usual on the evening of the last day of the session, in the chamber assigned to him, and with the heads of departments around him. When nominations are rejected under these circumstances, it has been usual for the President immediately to transmit a new nomination to the Senate; otherwise the office must remain vacant till the next session, as the vacancy in such case has not happened in the recess of Congress. The vote of the Senate, indefinitely postponing this nomination, was carried to the President's room by the secretary of the Senate. The President told the secretary that it was more than an hour past twelve o'clock, and that he could receive no further communications from the Senate, and immediately after, as I have understood, left the Capitol. The secretary brought back the paper containing the certified copy of the vote of the Senate, and indorsed thereon the substance of the President's answer, and also added, that, according to his own watch, it was quarter past one o'clock.

There are two views, Sir, in which this occurrence may well deserve to be noticed. One is as to the connection which it may perhaps have had with the loss of the fortification bill; the other is as to its general importance, as introducing a new rule, or a new practice, respecting the intercourse between the President and the two houses of Congress on the last day of the session.

On the first point, I shall only observe that the fact of the President's having declined to receive this communication from the Senate, and of his having left the Capitol, was immediately known in the House of Representatives. It was quite obvious, that, if he could not receive a communication from the Senate, neither could he receive a bill from the House of Representatives for his signature. It was equally obvious, that, if, under these circumstances, the House of Representatives should agree to the report of the committee of conference, so that the bill should pass, it must, nevertheless, fail to become a law for want of the President's signature; and that, in that case, the blame of losing the bill, on whomsoever else it might fall, could not be laid upon the Senate.

On the more general point, I must say, Sir, that this decision of the President, not to hold communication with the houses of Congress after twelve o'clock at night, on the 3d of March, is quite new. No such objection has ever been made before by any President. No one of them has ever declined communicating with either house at any time during the continuance of its session on that day. All Presidents heretofore have left with the houses themselves to fix their hour of adjournment, and to bring their session for the day to a close, whenever they saw fit.

It is notorious, in point of fact, that nothing is more common than for both houses to sit later than twelve o'clock, for the



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purpose of completing measures which are in the last stages of their progress. Amendments are proposed and agreed to, bills passed, enrolled bills signed by the presiding officers, and other important legislative acts performed, often at two or three o'clock in the morning. All this is very well known to gentlemen who have been for any considerable time members of Congress. And all Presidents have signed bills, and have also made nominations to the Senate, without objection as to time, whenever bills have been presented for signature, or whenever it became necessary to make nominations to the Senate, at any time during the session of the respective houses on that day. And all this, Sir, I suppose to be perfectly right, correct, and legal. There is no clause of the Constitution, nor is there any law, which declares that the term of office of members of the House of Representatives shall expire at twelve o'clock at night on the 3d of March. They are to hold for two years, but the precise hour for the commencement of that term of two years is nowhere fixed by constitutional or legal provision. It has been established by usage and by inference, and very properly established, that, since the first Congress commenced its existence on the first Wednesday in March, 1789, which happened to be the fourth day of the month, therefore the 4th of March is the day of the commencement of each successive term; but no hour is fixed by law or practice. The true rule is, as I think, most undoubtedly, that the session held on the last day constitutes the last day for all legislative and legal purposes. While the session begun on that day continues, the day itself continues, according to the established practice both of legislative and judicial bodies. This could not well be otherwise. If the precise moment of actual time were to settle such a matter, it would be material to ask, Who shall settle the time? Shall it be done by public authority, or shall every man observe the tick of his own watch? If absolute time is to furnish a precise rule, the excess of a minute, it is obvious, would be as fatal as the excess of an hour. Sir, no bodies, judicial or legislative, have ever been so hypercritical, so astute to no purpose, so much more nice than wise, as to govern themselves by any such ideas. The session for the day, at whatever hour it commences, or at whatever hour it breaks up, is the legislative day. Every thing has reference to the commencement of that diurnal session. For instance, this is the 14th day of January; we assembled here to-day at twelve o'clock; our journal is dated January 14th, and if we should remain here until five o'clock to-morrow morning (and the Senate has sometimes sat so late), our proceedings would still bear date of the 14th of January; they would be so stated upon the journal, and the journal is a record, and is a conclusive record, so far as respects the proceedings of the body.

It is so in judicial proceedings. If a man were on trial for his life, at a late hour on the last day allowed by law for the holding of the court, and the jury should acquit him, but happened to remain so long in deliberation that they did not bring in their verdict till after twelve o'clock, is it all to



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be held for naught, and the man to be tried over again? Are all verdicts, judgments, and orders of courts null and void, if made after midnight on the day which the law prescribes as the last day? It would be easy to show by authority, if authority could be wanted for a thing the reason of which is so clear, that the day lasts while the daily session lasts. When the court or the legislative body adjourns for that day, the day is over, and not before.

I am told, indeed, Sir, that it is true that, on this same 3d day of March last, not only were other things transacted, but that the bill for the repair of the Cumberland Road, an important and much litigated measure, actually received the signature of our presiding officer after twelve o'clock, was then sent to the President, and signed by him. I do not affirm this, because I took no notice of the time, or do not remember it if I did; but I have heard the matter so stated.

I see no reason, Sir, for the introduction of this new practice; no principle on which it can be justified, no necessity for it, no propriety in it. As yet, it has been applied only to the President's intercourse with the Senate. Certainly it is equally applicable to his intercourse with both houses in legislative matters; and if it is to prevail hereafter, it is of much importance that it should be known.

The President of the United States, Sir, has alluded to this loss of the fortification bill in his message at the opening of the session, and he has alluded, also, in the same message, to the rejection of the vote of the three millions. On the first point, that is, the loss of the whole bill, and the causes of that loss, this is his language: "Much loss and inconvenience have been experienced in consequence of the failure of the bill containing the ordinary appropriations for fortifications, which passed one branch of the national legislature at the last session, but was lost in the other."

If the President intended to say that the bill, having originated in the House of Representatives, passed the Senate, and was yet afterwards lost in the House of Representatives, he was entirely correct. But he has been wholly misinformed, if he intended to state that the bill, having passed the House, was lost in the Senate. As I have already stated, the bill was lost in the House of Representatives. It drew its last breath there. That House never let go its hold on it after the report of the committee of conference. But it held it, it retained it, and of course it died in its possession when the House adjourned. It is to be regretted that the President should have been misinformed in a matter of this kind, when the slightest reference to the journals of the two houses would have exhibited the correct history of the transaction.

I recur again, Mr. President, to the proposed grant of the three millions, for the purpose of stating somewhat more distinctly the true grounds of objection to that grant.

These grounds of objection were two; the first was, that no such appropriation had been recommended by the President, or any of the departments. And what made this ground the stronger was,



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that the proposed grant was defended, so far as it was defended at all, upon an alleged necessity, growing out of our foreign relations. The foreign relations of the country are intrusted by the Constitution to the lead and management of the executive government. The President not only is supposed to be, but usually is, much better informed on these interesting subjects than the houses of Congress. If there be danger of a rupture with a foreign state, he sees it soonest. All our ministers and agents abroad are but so many eyes, and ears, and organs to communicate to him whatsoever occurs in foreign places, and to keep him well advised of all which may concern the interests of the United States. There is an especial propriety, therefore, that, in this branch of the public service, Congress should always be able to avail itself of the distinct opinions and recommendations of the President. The two houses, and especially the House of Representatives, are the natural guardians of the people's money. They are to keep it sacred, and to use it discreetly. They are not at liberty to spend it where it is not needed, nor to offer it for any purpose till a reasonable occasion for the expenditure be shown. Now, in this case, I repeat again, the President had sent us no recommendation for any such appropriation; no department had recommended it; no estimate had contained it; in the whole history of the session, from the morning of the first day, down to eight o'clock in the evening of the last day, not one syllable had been said to us, not one hint suggested, showing that the President deemed any such measure either necessary or proper. I state this strongly, Sir, but I state it truly. I state the matter as it is; and I wish to draw the attention of the Senate and of the country strongly to this part of the case. I say again, therefore, that, when this vote for the three millions was proposed to the Senate, there was nothing before us showing that the President recommended any such appropriation. You very well know, Sir, that this objection was stated as soon as the message from the House was read. We all well remember that this was the very point put forth by the honorable member from [Tennessee](#) [Mr. White], as being, if I may say so, the but-end of his argument in opposition to the vote. He said, very significantly, and very forcibly, "It is not asked for by those who best know what the public service requires; how, then, are we to presume that it is needed?" This question, Sir, was not answered then; it never has been answered since, it never can be answered satisfactorily.

But let me here again, Sir, recur to the message of the President. Speaking of the loss of the bill, he uses these words: "This failure was the more regretted, not only because it necessarily interrupted and delayed the progress of a system of national defence projected immediately after the last war, and since steadily pursued, but also because it contained a contingent appropriation, inserted in accordance with the views of the executive, in aid of this important object, and other branches of the national defence, some portions of which might have been most usefully applied during the past season."



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Taking these words of the message, Sir, and connecting them with the fact that the President had made no recommendation to Congress of any such appropriation, it strikes me that they furnish matter for very grave reflection. The President says that this proposed appropriation was "in accordance with the views of the executive"; that it was "in aid of an important object"; and that "some portions of it might have been most usefully applied during the past season."

And now, Sir, I ask, if this be so, why was not this appropriation recommended to Congress by the President? I ask this question in the name of the Constitution of the United States; I stand on its own clear authority in asking it; and I invite all those who remember its injunctions, and who mean to respect them, to consider well how the question is to be answered.

Sir, the Constitution is not yet an entire dead letter. There is yet some form of observance of its requirements; and even while any degree of formal respect is paid to it, I must be permitted to continue the question, Why was not this appropriation recommended? It was in accordance with the President's views; it was for an important object; it might have been usefully expended. The President being of opinion, therefore, that the appropriation was necessary and proper, how is it that it was not recommended to Congress? For, Sir, we all know the plain and direct words in which the very first duty of the President is imposed by the Constitution. Here they are:— "He shall, from time to time, give to the Congress information of the state of the Union, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient."

After enumerating the **powers** of the President, this is the first, the very first **duty** which the Constitution gravely enjoins upon him. And now, Sir, in no language of taunt or reproach, in no language of party attack, in terms of no asperity or exaggeration, but called upon by the necessity of defending my own vote upon the subject, as a public man, as a member of Congress here in my place, and as a citizen who feels as warm an attachment to the Constitution of the country as any other can, I demand of any who may choose to give it an answer to this question: WHY WAS NOT THIS MEASURE, WHICH THE PRESIDENT DECLARES THAT HE THOUGHT NECESSARY AND EXPEDIENT, RECOMMENDED TO CONGRESS? And why am I, and why are other members of Congress, whose path of duty the Constitution says shall be enlightened by the President's opinions and communications, to be charged with want of patriotism and want of fidelity to the country, because we refused an appropriation which the President, though it was in accordance with his views, and though he believed it important, would not, and did not, recommend to us? When these questions are answered to the satisfaction of intelligent and impartial men, then, and not till then, let reproach, let censure, let suspicion of any kind, rest on the twenty-nine names which stand opposed to this appropriation.

How, Sir, were we to know that this appropriation "was in accordance with the views of the executive"? He had not so told



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us, formally or informally. He had not only not recommended it to Congress, or either house of Congress, but nobody on this floor had undertaken to speak in his behalf. No man got up to say, "The President desires it; he thinks it necessary, expedient, and proper." But, Sir, if any gentleman had risen to say this, it would not have answered the requisition of the Constitution. Not at all. It is not by a hint, an intimation, the suggestion of a friend, that the executive duty in this respect is to be fulfilled. By no means. The President is to make a recommendation,—a public recommendation, an official recommendation, a responsible recommendation, not to one house, but to both houses; it is to be a recommendation to Congress. If, on receiving such recommendation, Congress fail to pay it proper respect, the fault is theirs. If, deeming the measure necessary and expedient, the President fails to recommend it, the fault is his, clearly, distinctly, and exclusively his. This, Sir, is the Constitution of the United States, or else I do not understand the Constitution of the United States.

Does not every man see how entirely unconstitutional it is that the President should communicate his opinions or wishes to Congress, on such grave and important subjects, otherwise than by a direct and responsible recommendation, a public and open recommendation, equally addressed and equally known to all whose duty calls upon them to act on the subject? What would be the state of things, if he might communicate his wishes or opinions privately to members of one house, and make no such communication to the other? Would not the two houses be necessarily put in immediate collision? Would they stand on equal footing? Would they have equal information? What could ensue from such a manner of conducting the public business, but quarrel, confusion, and conflict? A member rises in the House of Representatives, and moves a very large appropriation of money for military purposes. If he says he does it upon executive recommendation, where is his voucher? The President is not like the British king, whose ministers and secretaries are in the House of Commons, and who are authorized, in certain cases, to express the opinions and wishes of their sovereign. We have no king's servants; at least, we have none known to the Constitution. Congress can know the opinions of the President only as he officially communicates them. It would be a curious inquiry in either house, when a large appropriation is moved, if it were necessary to ask whether the mover represented the President, spoke his sentiments, or, in other words, whether what he proposed were "in accordance with the views of the executive." How could that be judged of? By the party he belongs to? Party is not quite strongly enough marked for that. By the airs he gives himself? Many might assume airs, if thereby they could give themselves such importance as to be esteemed authentic expositors of the executive will. Or is this will to be circulated in whispers; made known to the meetings of party men; intimated through the press; or communicated in any other form, which still leaves the executive completely irresponsible; so that, while executive purposes or wishes pervade the ranks



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of party friends, influence their conduct, and unite their efforts, the open, direct, and constitutional responsibility is wholly avoided? Sir, this is not the Constitution of the United States, nor can it be consistent with any constitution which professes to maintain separate departments in the government. Here, then, Sir, is abundant ground, in my judgment, for the vote of the Senate, and here I might rest it. But there is also another ground. The Constitution declares that no money shall be drawn from the treasury but in consequence of appropriations made by law. What is meant by "**appropriations**"? Does not this language mean that particular sums shall be assigned by law to particular objects? How far this pointing out and fixing the particular objects shall be carried, is a question that cannot be settled by any precise rule. But "specific appropriation," that is to say, the designation of every object for which money is voted, as far as such designation is practicable, has been thought to be a most important republican principle. In times past, popular parties have claimed great merit from professing to carry this doctrine much farther, and to adhere to it much more strictly, than their adversaries. Mr. Jefferson, especially, was a great advocate for it, and held it to be indispensable to a safe and economical administration and disbursement of the public revenues.

But what have the friends and admirers of Mr. Jefferson to say to this **appropriation**? Where do they find, in this proposed grant of three millions, a constitutional designation of object, and a particular and specific application of money? Have they forgotten, all forgotten, and wholly abandoned even all pretence for specific appropriation? If not, how could they sanction such a vote as this? Let me recall its terms. They are, that "the sum of three millions of dollars be, and the same is hereby, appropriated, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, to be expended, in whole or in part, under the direction of the President of the United States, for the military and naval service, including fortifications and ordnance, and the increase of the navy; provided such expenditures shall be rendered necessary for the defence of the country prior to the next meeting of Congress."

In the first place it is to be observed, that whether the money shall be used at all, or not, is made to depend on the discretion of the President. This is sufficiently liberal. It carries confidence far enough. But if there had been no other objections, if the objects of the appropriation had been sufficiently described, so that the President, if he expended the money at all, must expend it for purposes authorized by the legislature, and nothing had been left to his discretion but the question whether an emergency had arisen in which the authority ought to be exercised, I might not have felt bound to reject the vote. There are some precedents which might favor such a contingent provision, though the practice is dangerous, and ought not to be followed except in cases of clear necessity. But the insurmountable objection to the proposed grant was, that it specified no objects. It was as general as language could



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make it. It embraced every expenditure that could be called either military or naval. It was to include "fortifications, ordnance, and the increase of the navy," but it was not confined to these. It embraced the whole general subject of military service. Under the authority of such a law, the President might repair ships, build ships, buy ships, enlist seamen, and do any thing and every thing else touching the naval service, without restraint or control.

He might repair such fortifications as he saw fit, and neglect the rest; arm such as he saw fit, and neglect the arming of others; or build new fortifications wherever he chose. But these unlimited powers over the fortifications and the navy constitute by no means the most dangerous part of the proposed authority; because, under that authority, his power to raise and employ land forces would be equally absolute and uncontrolled. He might levy troops, embody a new army, call out the militia in numbers to suit his own discretion, and employ them as he saw fit.

Now, Sir, does our legislation, under the Constitution, furnish any precedent for all this?

We make appropriations for the army, and we understand what we are doing, because it is "the army," that is to say, the army established by law. We make appropriations for the navy; they, too, are for "the navy," as provided for and established by law. We make appropriations for fortifications, but we say what fortifications, and we assign to each its intended amount of the whole sum. This is the usual course of Congress on such subjects; and why should it be departed from? Are we ready to say that the power of fixing the places for new fortifications, and the sum allotted to each; the power of ordering new ships to be built, and fixing the number of such new ships; the power of laying out money to raise men for the army; in short, every power, great or small, respecting the military and naval service, shall be vested in the President, without specification of object or purpose, to the entire exclusion of the exercise of all judgment on the part of Congress? For one, I am not prepared. The honorable member from Ohio, near me, has said, that if the enemy had been on our shores he would not have agreed to this vote. And I say, if the proposition were now before us, and the guns of the enemy were pointed against the walls of the Capitol, I would not agree to it.

The people of this country have an interest, a property, an inheritance, in this INSTRUMENT, against the value of which forty capitol do not weigh the twentieth part of one poor scruple. There can never be any necessity for such proceedings, but a feigned and false necessity; a mere idle and hollow pretence of necessity; least of all can it be said that any such necessity actually existed on the 3d of March. There was no enemy on our shores; there were no guns pointed against the Capitol; we were in no war, nor was there a reasonable probability that we should have war, unless we made it ourselves.

But whatever was the state of our foreign relations, is it not preposterous to say, that it was necessary for Congress to adopt this measure, and yet not necessary for the President to



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recommend it? Why should we thus run in advance of all our own duties, and leave the President completely shielded from his just responsibility? Why should there be nothing but trust and confidence on our side, and nothing but discretion and power on his?

Sir, if there be any philosophy in history, if human blood still runs in human veins, if man still conforms to the identity of his nature, the institutions which secure constitutional liberty can never stand long against this excessive personal confidence, against this devotion to men, in utter disregard both of principle and experience, which seem to me to be strongly characteristic of our times. This vote came to us, Sir, from the popular branch of the legislature; and that such a vote should come from such a branch of the legislature was amongst the circumstances which excited in me the greatest surprise and the deepest concern. Certainly, Sir, certainly I was not, on that account, the more inclined to concur. It was no argument with me, that others seemed to be rushing, with such heedless, headlong trust, such impetuosity of confidence, into the arms of executive power. I held back the more strongly, and would hold back the longer. I see, or I think I see,—it is either a true vision of the future, revealed by the history of the past, or, if it be an illusion, it is an illusion which appears to me in all the brightness and sunlight of broad noon,—that it is in this career of personal confidence, along this beaten track of **man-worship**, marked at every stage by the fragments of other free governments, that our own system is making progress to its close. A personal popularity, honorably earned at first by military achievements, and sustained now by party, by patronage, and by enthusiasm which looks for no ill, because it means no ill itself, seems to render men willing to gratify power, even before its demands are made, and to surfeit executive discretion, even in anticipation of its own appetite.

If, Sir, on the 3d of March last, it had been the purpose of both houses of Congress to create a military dictator, what formula had been better suited to their purpose than this vote of the House? It is true, we might have given more money, if we had had it to give. We might have emptied the treasury; but as to the **form** of the gift, we could not have bettered it. Rome had no better models. When we give our money **for any military purpose whatever**, what remains to be done? If we leave it with one man to decide, not only whether the military means of the country shall be used at all, but how they shall be used, and to what extent they shall be employed, what remains either for Congress or the people but to sit still and see how this dictatorial power will be exercised? On the 3d of March, Sir, I had not forgotten, it was impossible that I should have forgotten, the recommendation in the message at the opening of that session, that power should be vested in the President to issue letters of marque and reprisal against France, at his discretion, in the recess of Congress. Happily, this power was not granted; but suppose it had been, what would then have been the true condition of this government? Why, Sir, this condition is very shortly



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described. The whole war power would have been in the hands of the President; for no man can doubt a moment that reprisals would bring on immediate war; and the treasury, to the amount of this vote, in addition to all ordinary appropriations, would have been at his absolute disposal also. And all this in a time of peace. I beseech all true lovers of constitutional liberty to contemplate this state of things, and tell me whether such be a truly republican administration of this government. Whether particular consequences had ensued or not, is such an accumulation of power in the hands of the executive according to the spirit of our system? Is it either wise or safe? Has it any warrant in the practice of former times? Or are gentlemen ready to establish the practice, as an example for the benefit of those who are to come after us?

But, Sir, if the power to make reprisals, and this money from the treasury, had both been granted, is there not great reason to believe that we should have been now actually at war? I think there is great reason to believe this. It will be said, I know, that if we had armed the President with this power of war, and supplied him with this grant of money, France would have taken it for such a proof of spirit on our part, that she would have paid the indemnity without further delay. This is the old story, and the old plea. It is the excuse of every one who desires more power than the Constitution or the laws give him, that if he had more power he could do more good. Power is always claimed for the good of the people; and dictators are always made, when made at all, for the good of the people. For my part, Sir, I was content, and am content, to show France that we are prepared to maintain our just rights against her by the exertion of our power, when need be, according to the forms of our own Constitution; that, if we make war, we will make it constitutionally; and that we will trust all our interests, both in peace and war, to what the intelligence and the strength of the country may do for them, without breaking down or endangering the fabric of our free institutions.

Mr. President, it is the misfortune of the Senate to have differed with the executive on many great questions during the last four or five years. I have regretted this state of things deeply, both on personal and on public accounts; but it has been unavoidable. It is no pleasant employment, it is no holiday business, to maintain opposition against power and against majorities, and to contend for stern and sturdy principle, against personal popularity, against a rushing and overwhelming confidence, that, by wave upon wave and cataract after cataract, seems to be bearing away and destroying whatsoever would withstand it. How much longer we may be able to support this opposition in any degree, or whether we can possibly hold out till the public intelligence and the public patriotism shall be awakened to a due sense of the public danger, it is not for me to foretell. I shall not despair to the last, if, in the mean time, we are true to our own principles. If there be a steadfast adherence to these principles, both here and elsewhere, if, one and all, they continue the rule of our conduct in the Senate,



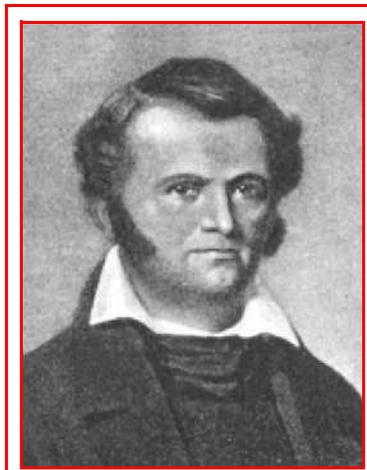
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and the rallying-point of those who think with us and support us out of the Senate, I am content to hope on and to struggle on. While it remains a contest for the preservation of the Constitution, for the security of public liberty, for the ascendancy of principles over men, I am willing to bear my part of it. If we can maintain the Constitution, if we can preserve this security for liberty, if we can thus give to true principle its just superiority over party, over persons, over names, our labors will be richly rewarded. If we fail in all this, they are already among the living who will write the history of this government, from its commencement to its close.

 January 19, Tuesday: Colonel James Bowie arrived at the Alamo to investigate the military situation for Governor Henry Smith and General [Sam Houston](#). The orders he had received were to blow the place up.



**James Bowie**

REMEMBERING THE ALAMO



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February 2, Tuesday: By a decree of the government, Gaetano Donizetti was made a chevalier of the French Legion of Honor.

Defeated as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention from his home town of Nacogdoches, [Sam Houston](#) was elected from the Refugio District.

[TEXAS](#)

At the Alamo, Colonel James Bowie and Neill vowed that they would “rather die in these ditches than give it up to the enemy.” (Were not these defenders noticing the strange glowing ball of the departing [Halley's Comet](#) in the southern skies, and wondering what this [comet](#) had tried to tell them?)

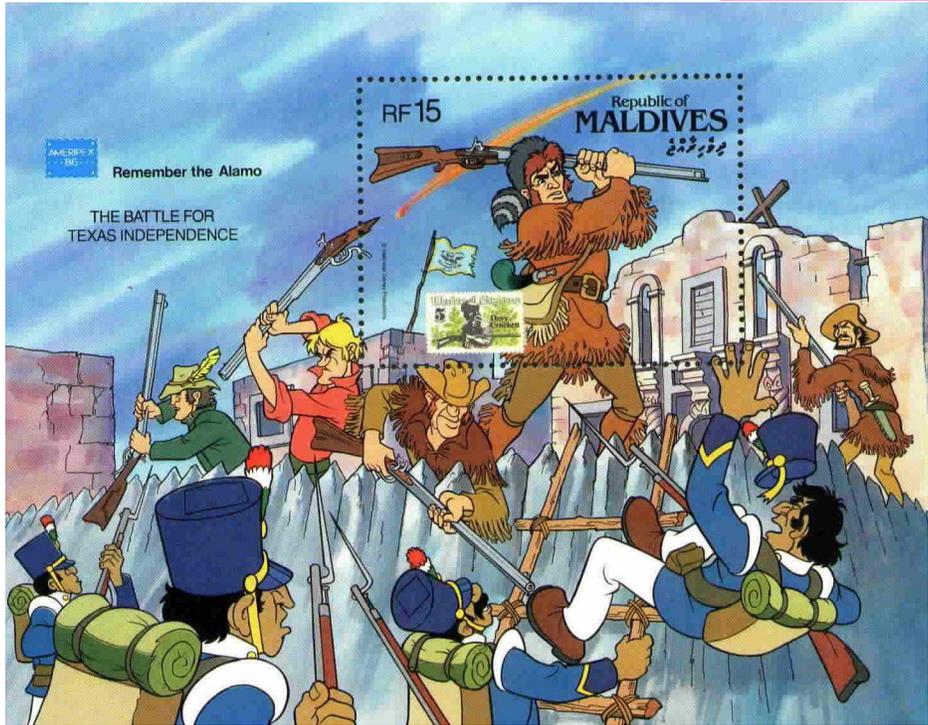
[SKY EVENT](#)



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Lieutenant Colonel William B. Travis arrived at the Alamo with 30 brave, self-sacrificing white men.

REMEMBERING THE ALAMO



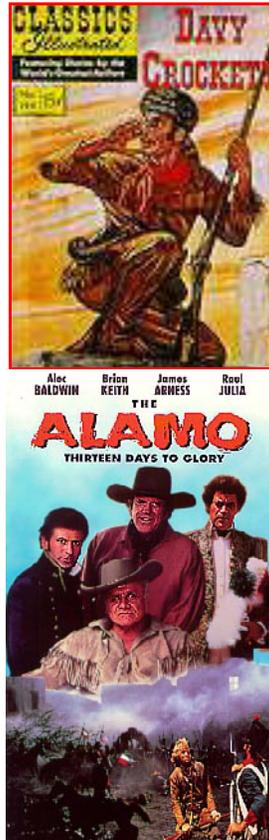


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 February 8, Monday: Former Congressman David Crockett arrived in San Antonio de Béxar with a dozen volunteers.



REMEMBERING THE ALAMO

Captain [George Back](#) was elected a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.



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Waldo Emerson wrote in his journal:

*"The sinner is the savage who hews down the whole tree in order to come at the fruit." Piickler-Muskau [Count von Piickler-Muskau, later Prince, a soldier, scholar, traveller, and prolific writer (1785-1871). His TOUR IN ENGLAND was translated by Mrs. Sarah Austin in 1832.] describes the English dandy. His highest triumph is to appear with the most wooden manners as little polished as will suffice to avoid castigation; nay, to contrive even his civilities so that they may appear as near as may be to affronts. Instead of a noble, high-bred ease—to have the courage to offend against every restraint of decorum: to invert the relation in which our sex stands to women so that they appear the attacking and he the passive or defensive party," etc. Women have less accurate measure of time than men. There is a clock in Adam: none in Eve. The philosopher, the priest, hesitates to receive money for his instructions,—the author for his works. Instead of this scruple, let them make filthy lucre beautiful by its just expenditure. It becomes the young American to learn the geography of his country in these days as much as it did our fathers to know the streets of their town; for steam and rails convert roads into streets and regions into neighborhoods. Steam realizes the story of IEolus's bag. It carries the thirty-two winds in the boiler.*

*Sentences of Confucius*

*(From Marshman's Confucius)*

*"Have no friend unlike yourself."*

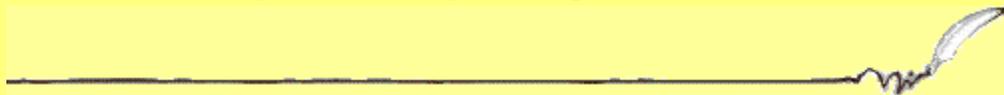
*"Chee says, Grieve not that men know not you; grieve that you are ignorant of men."*

*"How can a man remain concealed? How can a man remain concealed?"*

*"Chee entered the great temple. Frequently inquiring about things, one said, 'Who says that the son of the Chou man understands propriety? In the great temple he is constantly asking questions.' Chee heard and replied, 'This is propriety.'"*

*"Koong Chee is a man who, through his earnestness in seeking knowledge, forgets his food, and in his joy for having found it, loses all sense of his toil; who, thus occupied, is unconscious that he has almost arrived at old age."*

*"Chee was in the Chhi country for three months hearing Sun's music, and knew not the taste of his meat. He said, 'had no idea of music arriving at this degree of perfection.'"*





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February 14, Sunday: William Travis and Colonel James Bowie agreed to share command of the Alamo at San Antonio de Béxar, after Colonel Neill received a temporary leave of absence.



REMEMBERING THE ALAMO

Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

*1st day 14 of 2 M / Stormy day - Silent Meetings & pretty good ones. -*

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

[HDT](#)[WHAT?](#)[INDEX](#)

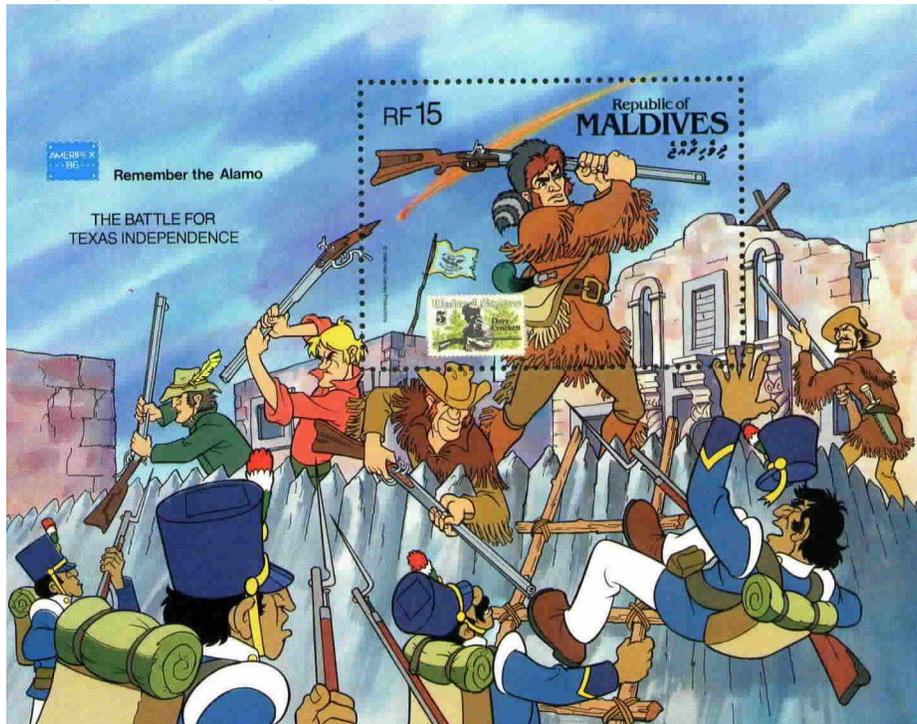
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February 23, Tuesday: General Antonio López de Santa Anna y Pérez de Lebrón's 3,000 Mexican troops of the Centralist forces surrounded 182 Texian rebels in the Alamo mission at San Antonio de Bexar and the famed "Siege of the Alamo" began.



REMEMBERING THE ALAMO

Maria Sarah Williams of New Haven, [Connecticut](#) wrote to Augustus Street:

*... In my letter to Sis, I gave her an account of the wretched condition of some Negroes who occupied a pen in the yard attached to the house. They were all shipped today on board a schooner for Charleston to be sold. Wretched as they were appearing in the yard, as I saw them from my window I realized their misery still more as I saw them on their way to the vessel. I should think more than half had scarcely clothing enough to cover them; not one of them had a shoe and but two any thing upon their heads and I was told they had barely enough to eat to keep them from starving.... How little does the situation of these poor wretches compact with the statements of Mr. Hammond of South Carolina in his speech on the subject of abolition in the district of Columbia. He says that the slaves at the south are better fed, better provided for, better clad and more happy and contented than any other laboring class in the universe. It is all a lie.*

[SLAVERY](#)[ABOLITIONISM](#)



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[Richard Henry Dana, Jr.](#) noted the arrival of the *California*, fresh from [Boston](#).

### AND NOW, FOR SOMETHING ENTIRELY DIFFERENT, A REPORT FROM OUR SAILOR:

Tuesday, Feb. 23d. This afternoon, a signal was made from the shore, and we went off in the gig, and found the agent's clerk, who had been up to the pueblo, waiting at the landing-place, with a package under his arm, covered with brown paper, and tied carefully with twine. No sooner had we shoved off than he told us there was good news from Santa Barbara. "What's that?" said one of the crew; "has the bloody agent slipped off the hooks? Has the old bundle of bones got him at last?"—"No; better than that. The *California* has arrived." Letters, papers, news, and, perhaps,—friends, on board! Our hearts were all up in our mouths, and we pulled away like good fellows; for the precious packet could not be opened except by the captain. As we pulled under the stern, the clerk held up the package, and called out to the mate, who was leaning over the taffrail, that the *California* had arrived.

"Hurrah!" said the mate, so as to be heard fore and aft; "*California* come, and news from Boston!"

Instantly there was a confusion on board which no one could account for who has not been in the same situation. All discipline seemed for a moment relaxed.

"What's that, Mr. Brown?" said the cook, putting his head out of the galley—"California come?"

"Aye, aye! you angel of darkness, and there's a letter for you from Bullknop 'treet, number two-two-five—green door and brass knocker!"

The packet was sent down into the cabin, and every one waited to hear of the result. As nothing came up, the officers began to feel that they were acting rather a child's part, and turned the crew to again and the same strict discipline was restored, which prohibits speech between man and man, while at work on deck; so that, when the steward came forward with letters for the crew, each man took his letters, carried them below to his chest, and came up again immediately; and not a letter was read until we had cleared up decks for the night.

An overstrained sense of manliness is the characteristic of seafaring men, or, rather, of life on board ship. This often gives an appearance of want of feeling, and even of cruelty. From this, if a man comes within an ace of breaking his neck and escapes, it is made a joke of; and no notice must be taken of a bruise or cut; and any expression of pity, or any show of attention, would look sisterly, and unbecoming a man who has to face the rough and tumble of such a life. From this, too, the sick are neglected at sea, and whatever may be ashore, a sick man finds little sympathy or attention, forward or aft. A man, too, can have nothing peculiar or sacred on board ship; for all the nicer feelings they take pride in disregarding, both in themselves and others. A thin-skinned man could not live an hour on ship-board. One would be torn raw unless he had the hide of an ox. A moment of natural feeling for home and friends, and then the frigid routine of sea-life returned. Jokes were made upon those who showed any interest in the expected news, and everything near and dear was made common stock for rude jokes and unfeeling coarseness, to which no exception could be taken by any one.

Supper, too, must be eaten before the letters were read; and when, at last, they were brought out, they all got round any one who had a letter, and expected to have it read aloud, and have it all in common. If any one went by himself to read, it was—"Fair play, there; and no skulking!" I took mine and went into the sailmaker's berth, where I could read it without interruption. It was dated August, just a year from the time I had sailed from home; and every one was well, and no great change had taken place. Thus, for one year, my mind was set at ease yet it was already six months from the date of the letter, and what another year would bring to pass, who could tell? Every one away from home thinks that some great thing must have happened, while to those at home there seems to be a continued monotony and lack of incident.



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**THE REPORT FROM OUR SAILOR DANA, CONCLUDED:**

As much as my feelings were taken up by my own intelligence from home, I could not but be amused by a scene in the steerage. The carpenter had been married just before leaving Boston, and during the voyage had talked much about his wife, and had to bear and forbear, as every man, known to be married, must, aboard ship; yet the certainty of hearing from his wife by the first ship, seemed to keep up his spirits. The *California* came, the packet was brought on board; no one was in higher spirits than he; but when the letters came forward, there was none for him. The captain looked again, but there was no mistake. Poor "Chips," could eat no supper. He was completely down in the mouth. "Sails" (the sailmaker) tried to comfort him, and told him he was a bloody fool to give up his grub for any woman's daughter, and reminded him that he had told him a dozen times that he'd never see or hear from his wife again.

"Ah!" said "Chips," "you don't know what it is to have a wife, and" —

"Don't I?" said Sails; and then came, for the hundredth time, the story of his coming ashore at New York, from the *Constellation* frigate, after a cruise of four years round the Horn,— being paid off with over five hundred dollars,— marrying, and taking a couple of rooms in a four-story houses— furnishing the rooms, (with a particular account of the furniture, including a dozen flag-bottomed chairs, which he always dilated upon, whenever the subject of furniture was alluded to,)— going off to sea again, leaving his wife half-pay, like a fool,— coming home and finding her "off, like Bob's horse, with nobody to pay the reckoning;" furniture gone,— flag-bottomed chairs and all;— and with it, his "long togs," the half-pay, his beaver hat, white linen shirts, and everything else. His wife he never saw, or heard of, from that day to this, and never wished to. Then followed a sweeping assertion, not much to the credit of the sex, if true, though he has Pope to back him. "Come, Chips, cheer up like a man, and take some hot man, and take some hot grub! Don't be made a fool of by anything in petticoats! As for your wife, you'll never see her again; she was 'up keeleg and off' before you were outside of Cape Cod. You hove your money away like a fool; but every man must learn once, just as I did; so you'd better square the yards with her, and make the best of it."

This was the best consolation "Sails" had to offer, but it did not seem to be just the thing the carpenter wanted; for, during several days, he was very much dejected, and bore with difficulty the jokes of the sailors, and with still more difficulty their attempts at advice and consolation, of most of which the sailmaker's was a good specimen.



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March: [Lysander Spooner](#) applied to [Albert Gallatin](#), president of the National Bank of New-York, for an entry-level job as bank clerk, but would not then complete even a year of employment. Instead, as soon as he was able, he and a friend, [Hezekiah Lord Hosmer](#), headed toward a land speculation boom in the Maumee River Basin of the Ohio country.

From this month into May, the Alamo was reoccupied by Centralist forces.



### REMEMBERING THE ALAMO



## REVOLUTION

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March 2, Wednesday: [Waldo Emerson](#) lectured in [Salem](#). This was lecture Number 5 of the series. He would receive \$25.

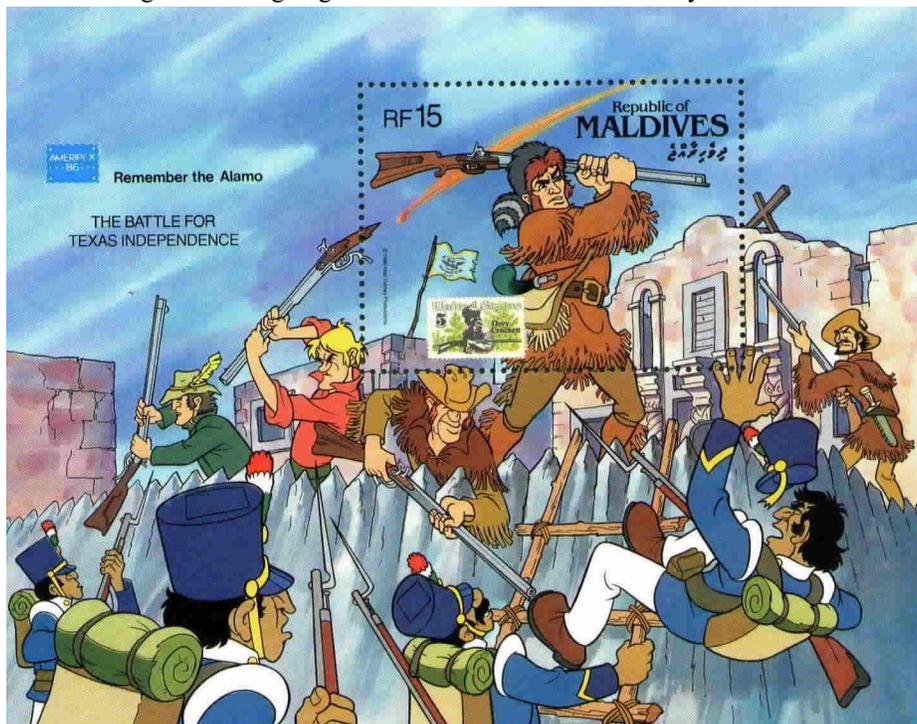
### THE LIST OF LECTURES

After Emerson had delivered this lyceum lecture, “[Martin Luther](#),” [William Silsbee](#) delivered a lyceum lecture “Aesthetic Culture” which seems decidedly Emersonian in its attitudes and in its expressions — listening to the previous address, he had “understood it *all* and liked it *all*.”

At San Antonio, in the northern province of Mejico, Tejas, General Antonio López de Santa Anna y Pérez de Lebrón and the Mexican army had staged a siege that finally, at some cost, had overwhelmed the 179 defenders of the Alamo fortification. Among those trapped there and eliminated, in what would eventually become known as “The Battle for Texas Independence” (see below), had been Davy Crockett, Jim Bowie, and Colonel Travis. General Santa Ana would later be defeated at San Jacinto in a battle against troops led by Sidney Sherman and [Sam Houston](#), and the new [Republic of Texas](#) would be able to assert a claim to all the land between the Rio Grande and Nueces rivers. On this day a constituent assembly named David Burnet as president and Lorenzo de Zavala as vice-president and this northern province declared independence from Mejico.

### READ THE FULL TEXT

[General Houston](#) celebrated his 43rd birthday as the republic declared its independence from Mexico. These were free white men, Texians with Kentucky squirrel rifles, and they could hold slaves if they wanted to — and no little brown greaser was going to come around and tell them they shouldn’t.





## REVOLUTION

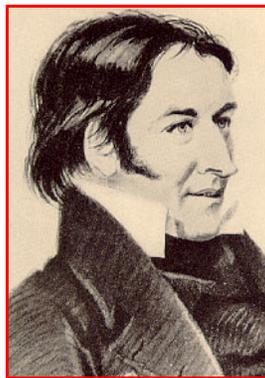
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 March 6, Sunday: In a predawn assault after an 11-day battle the garrison at the Alamo –an unfinished old Franciscan mission complex outside the pueblo of San Antonio in the “[Texas](#)” district of Mexico that had not been in use as a mission for a good deal of time and had been recycled as a fort of sorts– was eliminated by a Mexican army of 4,000 under General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna.<sup>3</sup> Davy Crockett, William Travis, Colonel James Bowie, and 143 other United States citizens and their slaves, led by William Travis, had through some inexplicable obtuseness stuck around to get killed.



**James Bowie**



**Davy Crockett**

A teacher on Long Island, [Walt Whitman](#), himself not among the fallen, nevertheless found the Eastern

3. By this point the old mission of the Franciscans in the Mejjican province of Tejas, the mission which had been founded under the name San Antonio de Valero, was being generally characterized as “the Alamo.” It had picked up this nickname because of a Spanish cavalry unit that had been using it as a headquarters, that having been the designation for this cavalry unit. (“Remember *La Mission San Antonio de Valero!*!” — well, it wouldn’t have worked very well as an Anglo-Saxon battle chant, would it?)



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newspaper reports of this defeat to be of considerable interest (SONG OF MYSELF, 34):



**REMEMBERING THE ALAMO**

...I tell not the fall of Alamo,  
Not one escaped to tell the fall of Alamo,  
The hundred and fifty are dumb yet at Alamo,...

HDT

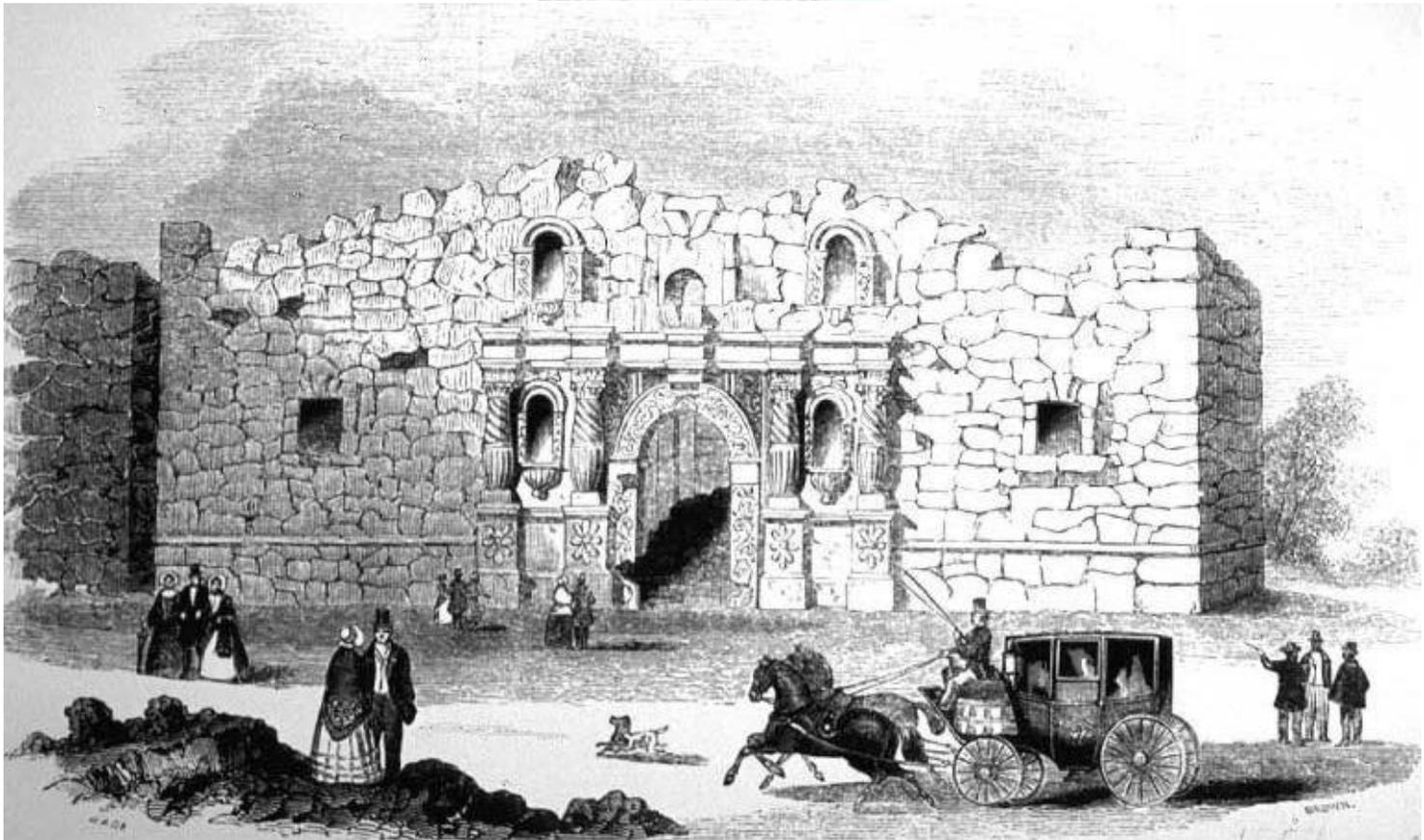
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At that time the fee for teaching an older child was usually about a shilling or 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cents and teaching, for a male teacher, usually brought in an income of about \$200.<sup>00</sup> per year.<sup>4</sup> Whitman was supplementing this teaching income by writing for various New-York papers:

**“Specimen Days”**

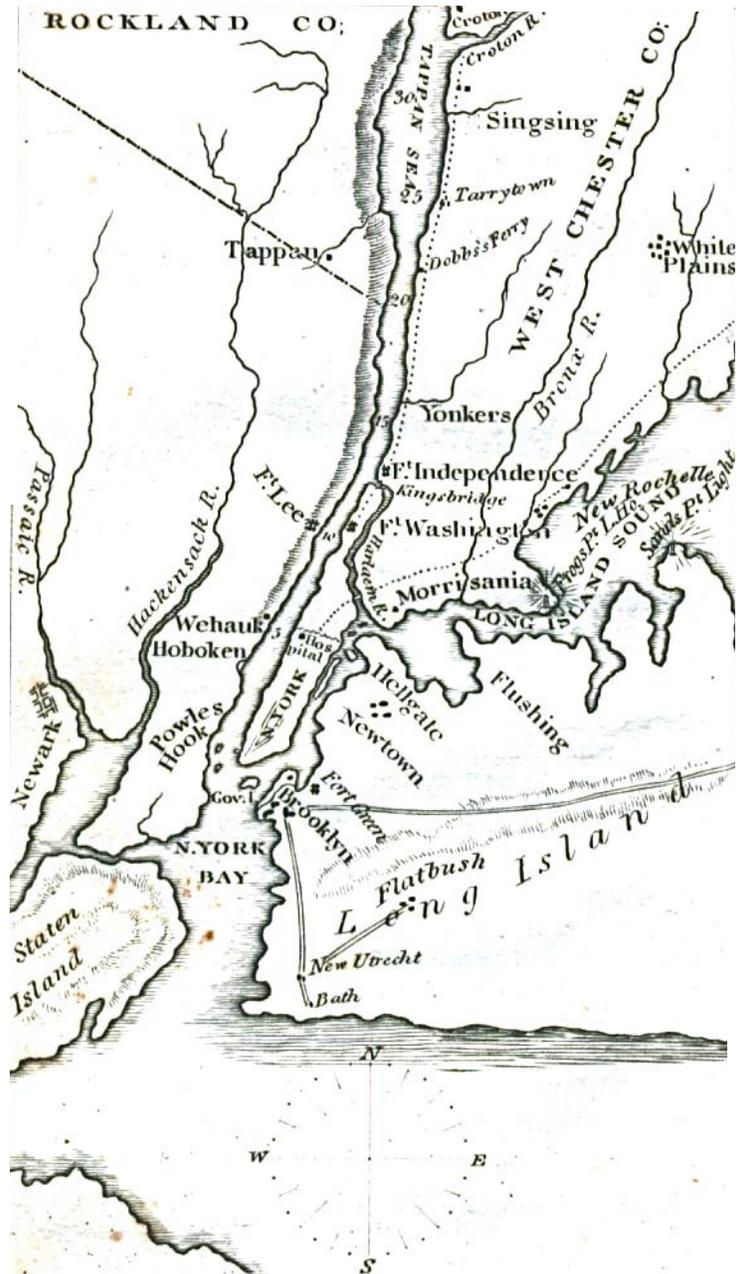
**MY PASSION FOR FERRIES**

Living in Brooklyn or New York city from this time forward, my life, then, and still more the following years, was curiously identified with Fulton ferry, already becoming the greatest of its sort in the world for general importance, volume, variety, rapidity, and picturesqueness. Almost daily, [Page 701] later, ('50 to '60,) I cross'd on the boats, often up in the pilot-houses where I could get a full sweep, absorbing shows, accompaniments, surroundings. What oceanic currents, eddies, underneath – the great tides of humanity also, with ever-shifting movements. Indeed, I have always had a passion for ferries; to me they afford inimitable, streaming, never-failing, living poems. The river and bay scenery, all about New York island, any time of a fine day – the hurrying, splashing sea-tides – the changing panorama of steamers, all sizes, often a string of big ones outward bound to distant ports – the myriads of white-sail'd schooners, sloops, skiffs, and the marvelously beautiful yachts – the majestic sound boats as they rounded the Battery and came along towards 5, afternoon, eastward bound – the prospect off towards Staten island, or down the Narrows, or the other way up the Hudson – what refreshment of spirit such sights and experiences gave me years ago (and many a time since.) My old pilot friends, the Balsirs, Johnny Cole, Ira Smith, William White, and my young ferry friend, Tom Gere – how well I remember them all.

4. To read a story of a teacher/student sex scandal which may or may not have had [Walt Whitman](#) as its principal, see Reynolds, David, WALT WHITMAN'S AMERICA (Knopf):

That I could forget the mockers and insults!  
That I could forget the trickling tears and the blows of the bludgeons and hammers!

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Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

*1st day 6th of 3M 1836 / Our meeting this morning was indeed a very solid good one - tho' mostly in Silence - it Seemed to me there was scarcely an Idle or irreverend mind present - Father had a short testimony to bear - soon after which the Meeting closed. - Good meeting again in the Afternoon & Father had a*



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little to say -

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

 March 11, Friday: [Sam Houston](#) arrived at Gonzales and learned that the defenders of the Alamo were dead.

TEXAS

REMEMBERING THE ALAMO

 April 21, Thursday: At 4PM, [Sam Houston](#)'s army of 800 attacked General Antonio López de Santa Anna y Pérez de Lebrón's army of 1,400 at San Jacinto, and in 20 minutes the issue was decided. General Houston took a gunshot in the lower right leg. General Santa Anna was taken prisoner. The Americans lost 6 killed and 13 wounded while the Mexicans lost 630 killed and 208 wounded. At the beginning of the fight US Army Colonel Sidney Sherman had uttered a famous inspirational slogan, "Remember the Alamo," and it would appear that some of his audience had heard this slogan as a code for "Take no prisoners" — for some of the 630 Mexicans killed on this day had been attempting to surrender.<sup>5</sup>

REMEMBERING THE ALAMO

TEXAS

Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

*5th day 21st of 4th M 1836 / Our first meeting was a solid time of favour Father was twice engaged in testimony & Elizabeth Wing once - In the second which was preparative the queries were all answered, it being the Meeting previous to the Yearly Meeting - After the Preparative Meeting Our Select Meeting for Ministers & Elders was also held at the close of the Preparative Meeting which was a time of some Searching & much favour, my mind was engaged to speak & I did it in a way which affords peace & an evidence that I am not forsaken or out of the right way in some respects at least - Elizabeth Wing bore a faithful testimony as did Father on several occasions in remarking on the Answers to the queries -*

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

5. To avoid misunderstanding we need to be careful what we say and how we say it (for instance, there appear to be some folks who suppose "Never forget the Holocaust" to mean "Let's kill all the Germans before they have a chance to start this stuff again").



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May: From this month into June, [Mexican](#) Centralist forces were ordered out of [Texas](#) following Santa Anna's capture at the Battle of San Jacinto — as they departed, the Centralist garrison destroyed the Alamo's fortifications.



REMEMBERING THE ALAMO

The 2d of the three [Southmayd](#) daughters, Maria, died. Only the infant daughter Catherine remained.



**REVOLUTION**

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**1849**

The Alamo church was repaired by the U.S. Army. At this point the upper facade took its present bell shape.



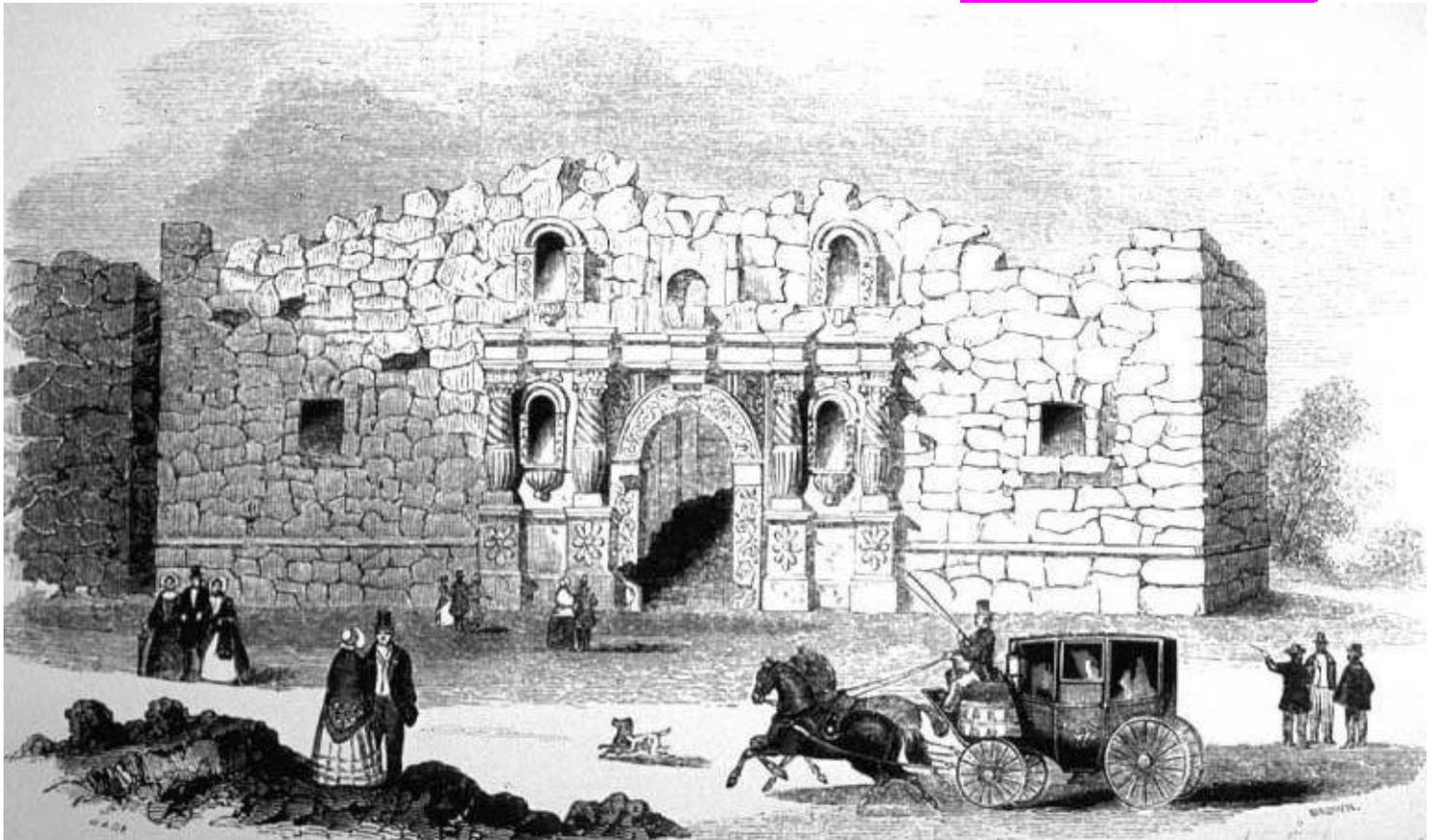
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1876

At the Alamo, a frame building was erected atop the remains of the Long Barrack for use as a store.



REMEMBERING THE ALAMO





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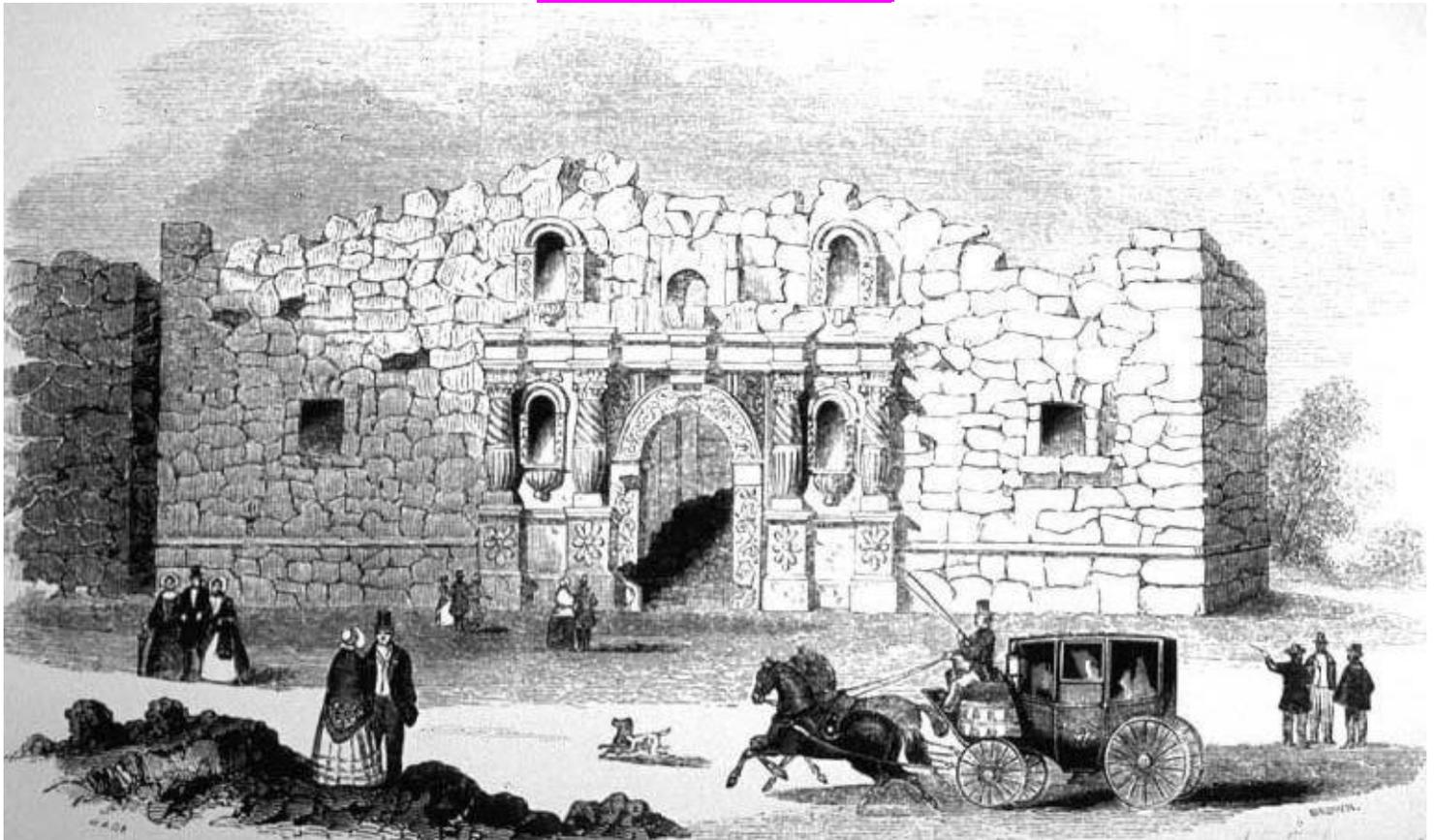
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1883

The Alamo, in use as a warehouse, was purchased by the Sovereign State of Texas.



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**1903**

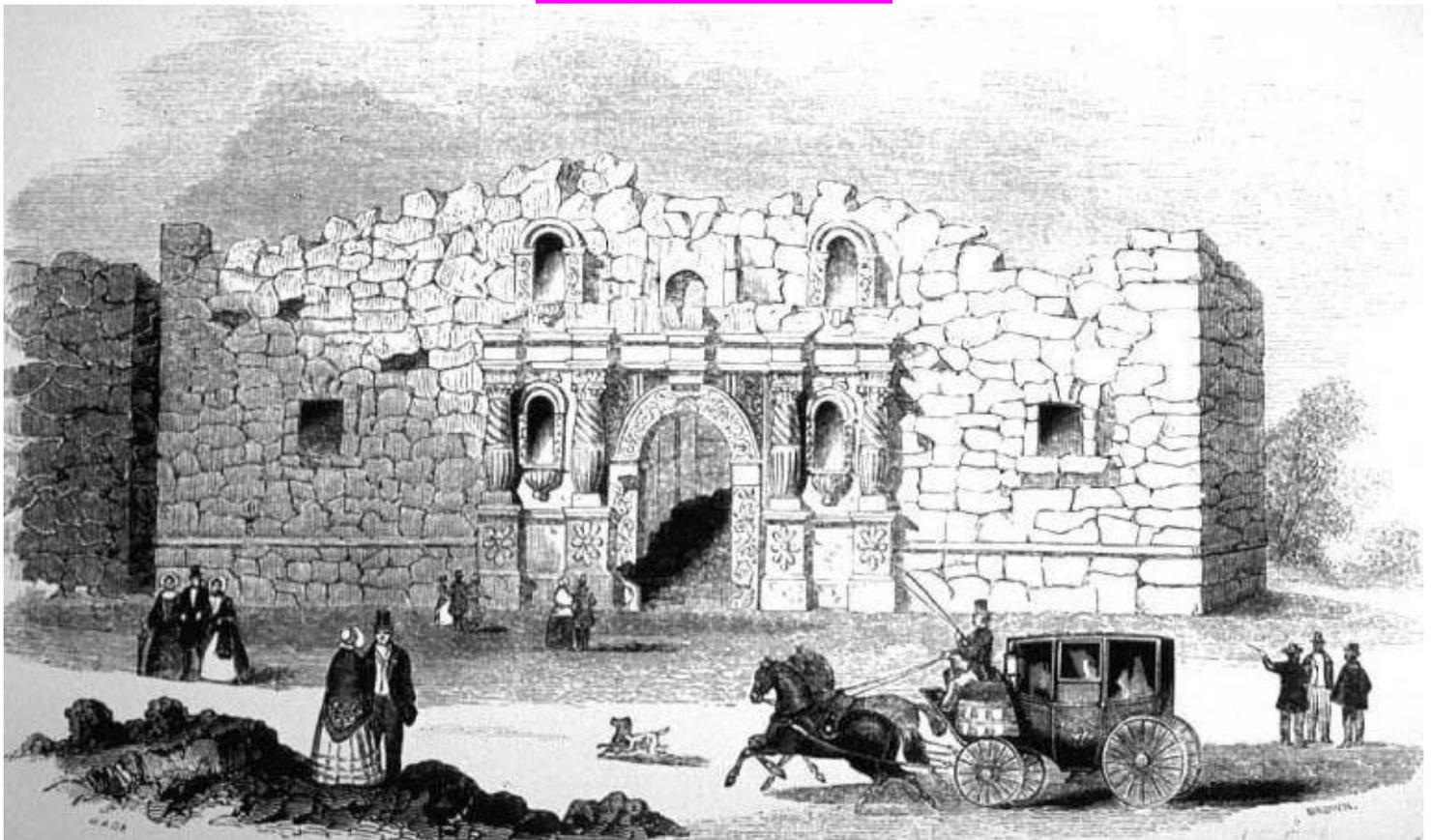
The Long Barrack building at the Alamo was offered for sale as a hotel site, but was bought instead by Clara

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Driscoll of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas.



REMEMBERING THE ALAMO





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**1905**

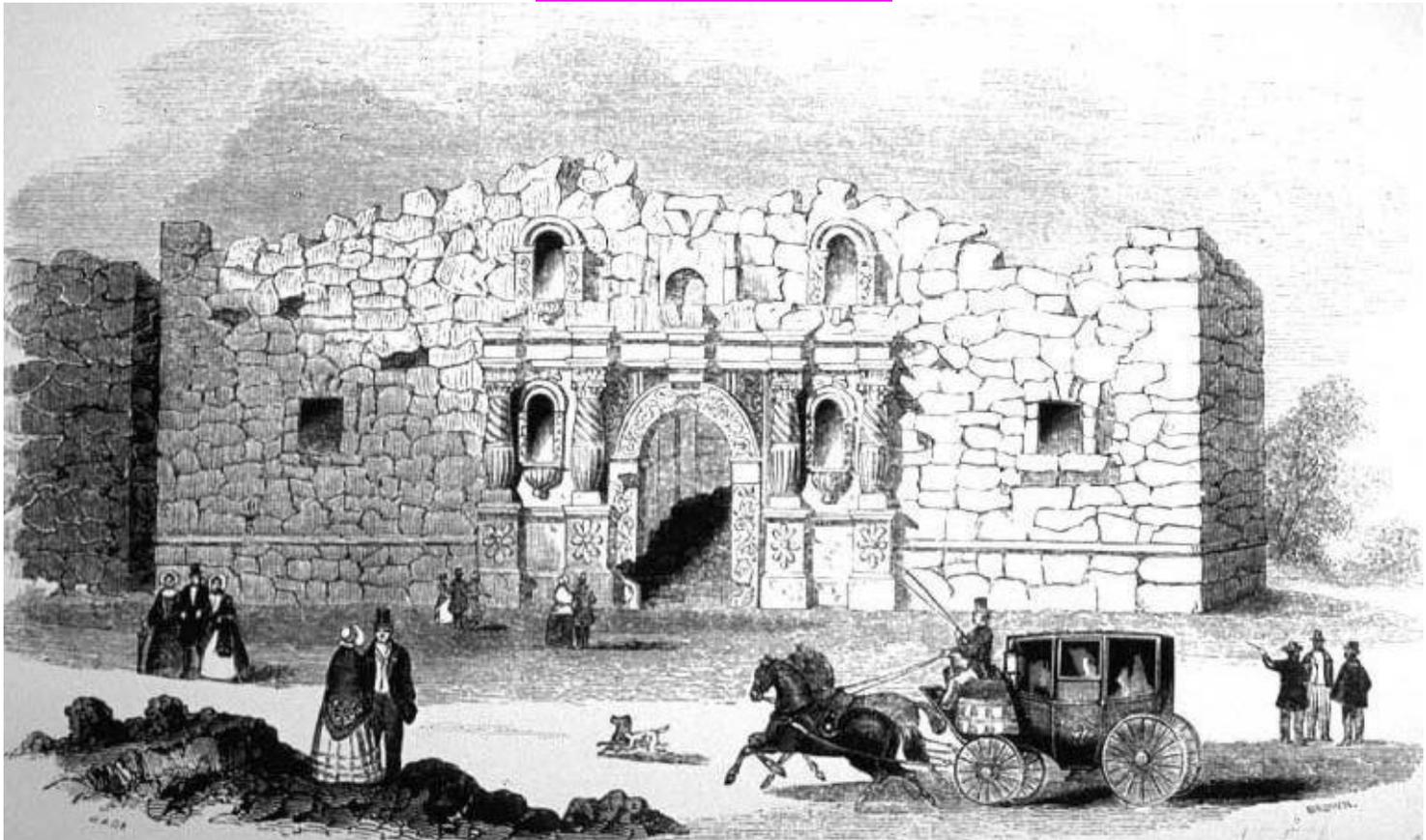
The State of Texas repaid Clara Driscoll for her Long Barrack transaction, then placed the structure and the Alamo church in the custody of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas “to be maintained in good order and

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repair, without charge to the State.”



REMEMBERING THE ALAMO





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1911

To calm a rumor started in American newspapers by the [German](#) Kaiser, that [Japan](#) was going to invade [California](#) through [Mexico](#), President [William Howard Taft](#) needed to dispatch half the US Army to the Mexican border for maneuvers.

The first movie about the Alamo, a silent one titled “The Immortal Alamo,” began a tradition of depicting the [Mexican](#) enemy in a derogatory manner — in this version of the fight General Antonio López de Santa Anna y Pérez de Lebrón is depicted as a druggie.

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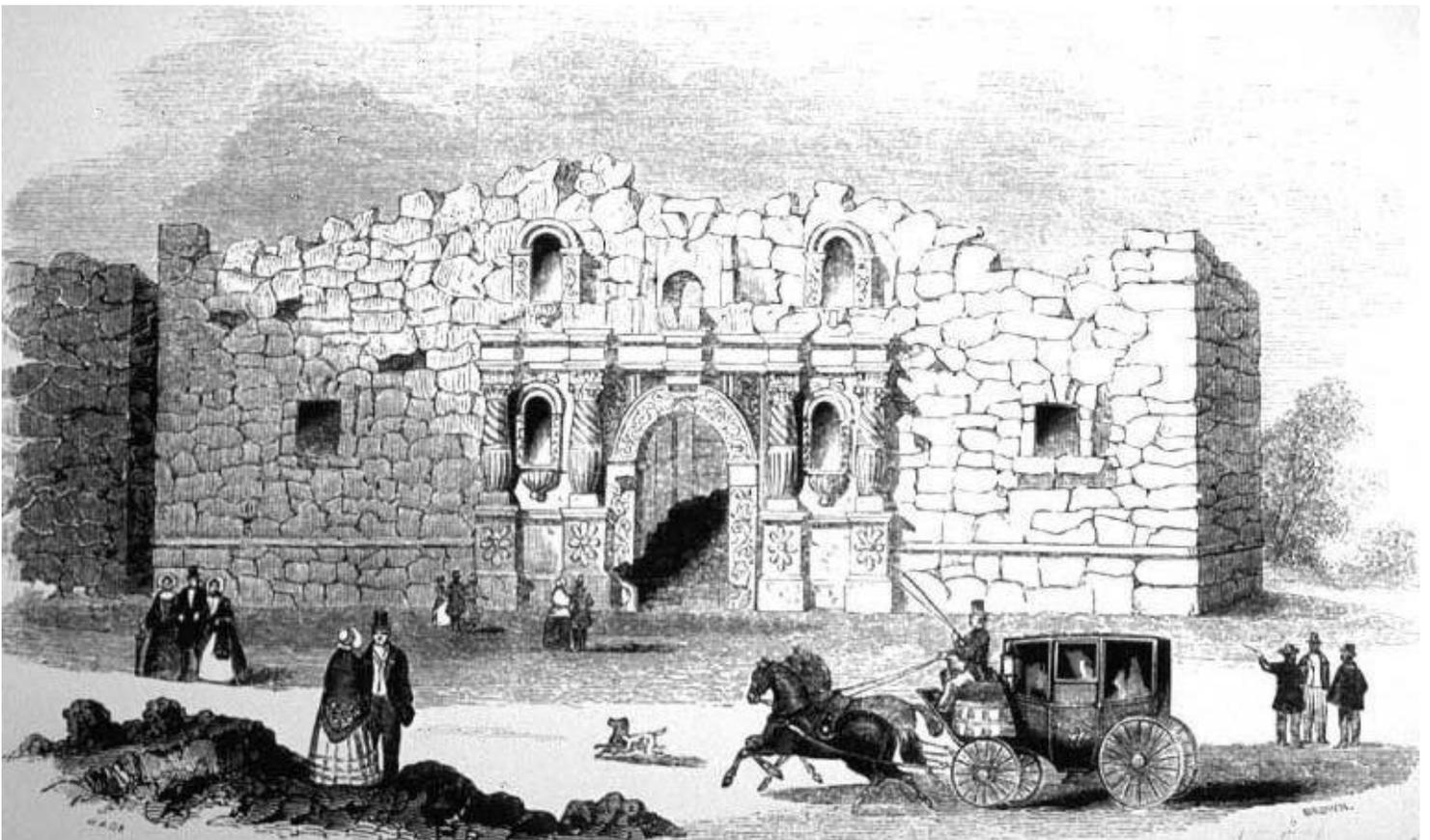
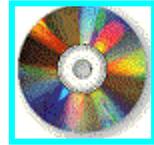
1982

During this year Ozzie Osbourne the rock star was caught in the act of urinating against the sacred wall of the Alamo. For sure he'll never pee inside the city limits of San Antonio again.



"I was emptying the Cistern of Nature, and making Water at the Wall. At the same Time, there came a Dog, who did so too before me."

— The Reverend [Cotton Mather](#)



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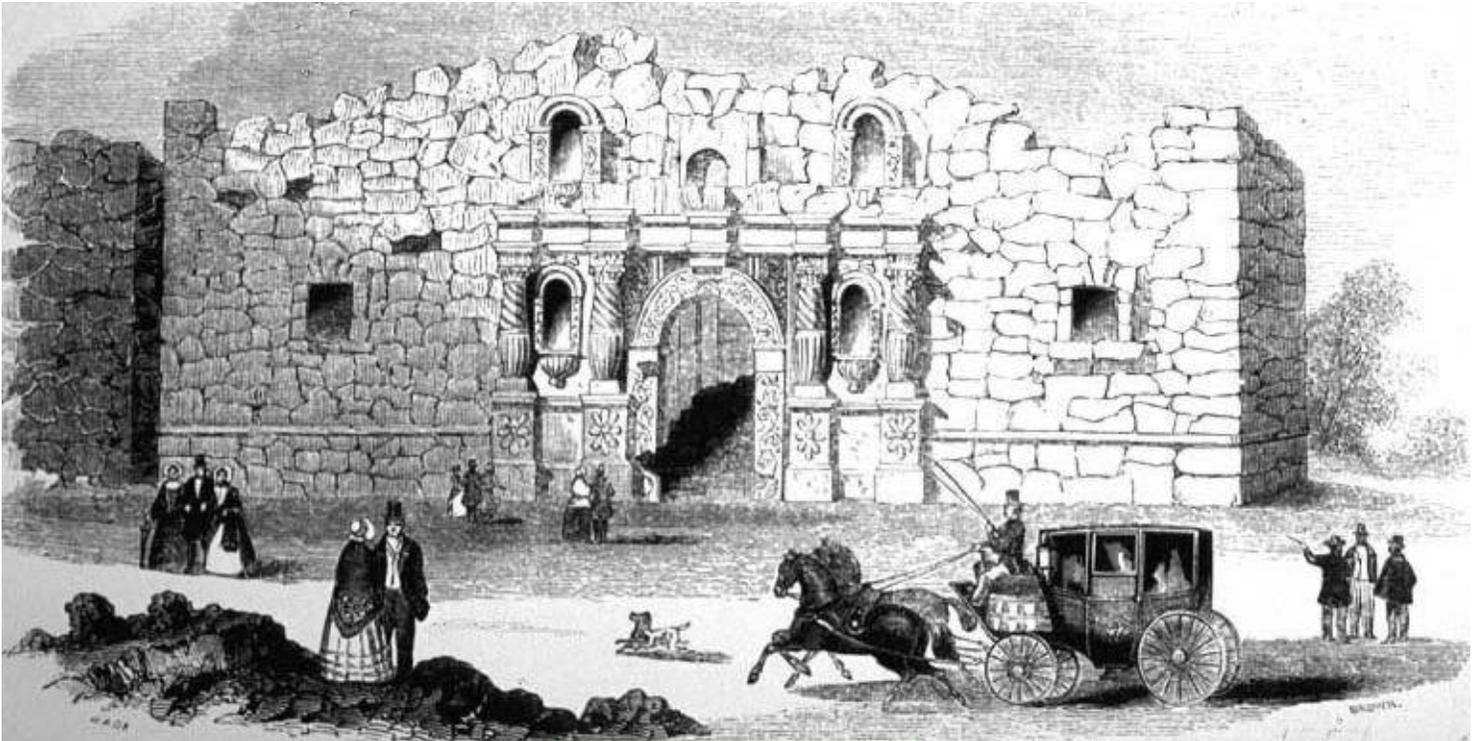
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### 1999

The Daughters of the Republic of [Texas](#) maintain the Alamo as a “Shrine of Texas Liberty” using donations and the proceeds of their gift and museum shop. There is no admission fee. The modern city of San Antonio has grown up around the site. What was once the mission’s enclosed compound is now a traffic square with a monument. On the east side of the square stands the church and Long Barrack. The store fronts on the other side of the square stand approximately where the compound wall stood.



REMEMBERING THE ALAMO



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2002

Early March: William Patrick, the specialist who had devised the US [anthrax](#) weaponization process, was interviewed by the FBI in relation to the domestic anthrax attacks. He expressed his surprise that the FBI hadn't interviewed him earlier. According to the Baltimore [Sun](#) for June 27, 2002, after he passed their lie detector test the FBI would invite him to join their inner circle of technical advisers to the anthrax investigation. (It would later be noted that many of the experts the FBI turned to for help had been also, almost categorically, potential suspects. That had put FBI agents in the uncomfortable position of having to subject their scientist-consultants to polygraph tests, and then, afterward, to ask those same experts to help analyze evidence.)

BIOTERRORISM

Derek Alger explained why “We Didn’t Always Celebrate the Alamo”:

The names of Davy Crockett, Jim Bowie, Travis and Santa Anna are forever linked to the final storming of the Alamo in the predawn hours of March 6, 1836 when the Mexican forces wiped out the garrison of hopelessly outnumbered defenders to a man. But how did the legend of the Alamo, the mythic visions of romanticized glory, pass down from one generation to the next? How did the cry of “Remember the Alamo” a month later at the Battle of San Jacinto when Sam Houston’s forces defeated a Mexican army and captured Santa Anna spread from heroic lore in the Lone Star State to a political symbol of American individualism and freedom during the Cold War and on through today?



REMEMBERING THE ALAMO

The book *A LINE IN THE SAND: THE ALAMO IN BLOOD AND MEMORY* by historians Randy Roberts and James S. Olson tackles those questions; first, by recounting a well-documented retelling of the 13 day siege and the climactic assault on the Alamo, but second, and perhaps, more interesting in many respects, they detail the story of the survival of the actual Alamo itself and then go on to show how a television show un-expectedly gripped



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the country and moved the Alamo from a symbol of Texas to one of heroic stature on a national level.

The Alamo may have been considered sacred by many but the actual mission was not treated as such. True, it was the site of a heroic battle, one in which fellow Texans and others gave their lives fighting for the independence of Texas from Mexico. Even Santa Anna contributed to the aura of myth by not allowing proper burial of the Alamo defenders, but instead, burning their corpses and never disclosing the location.

As Roberts and Olson state, in referring to the inhabitants of San Antonio de Bexar, who had witnessed the assault on the Alamo and its aftermath, "Many concluded that the spirits of the dead Texans, denied eternal access to their own bodies, had no place to go, neither to heaven nor to hell, and remained on the battlefield, angels of righteousness charged with defending the Alamo against future enemies."

Similar to the site where the World Trade Center stood, people scooped up relics from the Alamo, gathering rocks or stones, some for themselves as a tribute to Lone Star history, and others for profit, to sell such items as part of preserved history to future generations. In fact, as noted in A Line in the Sand, the town council even allowed citizens to haul away stones from the Alamo, as early as 1840, for a fee of \$5 a wagon load.

Future occupation of the Alamo also took a toll on the mission. Soldiers of the Republic of Texas returned to occupy what was left of the Alamo in December of 1836, all walls having been destroyed before the Mexicans had departed, and returned to occupy it again in 1839. And it was also occupied by Mexican troops, first in March of 1841 and again in September of 1842. After Texas received statehood in 1845, followed by the Mexican-American War, the Alamo was rented by the US Army in 1849 from the Catholic Church for \$150 a month to be used as a quartermasters' depot.

It was during this period that the first work was really performed to rebuild and restore the Alamo. In fact, under the direction of Major E.B. Babbitt, the now famous Campanulate, or bell-shaped facade, atop the front wall of the chapel, was erected. That facade, of course, is the image that immediately comes to mind for most when thinking of the Alamo, and it's difficult to accept that it never existed while Crockett and Bowie and company lived and died within the walls of the Alamo. The US Army departed from the Alamo in 1876 for another fort and the Catholic Church sold the mission to Honore Grenet, a businessman who constructed a two-story wooden building on the site and operated a grocery store there until he died in 1882. The Catholic Church, which had retained ownership of the famous chapel, sold it to the State of Texas for \$20,000 in 1883, while the actual Alamo mission was purchased by the mercantile firm of Hugo & Schmeltzer.

Two women, Adina De Zavala and Clara Driscoll, were responsible for saving the Alamo during the early turn of the past century when the sacred fortress faced the very real possibility of being razed and replaced with a hotel.



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De Zavala came on the stage first in 1889, when she organized other women in San Antonio who were dedicated to the preservation of the memory of the early heroes of Texas. In 1892, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT) was founded, and the following year the De Zavala Chapter of the DRT was started in San Antonio.

In an effort to preserve an American history, monuments and commemoration events were taking place across the land as the country began to come of age. Roberts and Olson note: "By 1900, more than two hundred thousand tourists visited Gettysburg each year." Yet, in San Antonio, the 50th anniversary of the Alamo was ignored, and, in 1903, there were no ceremonies at the site, the Texas flag flapping at half mast the only sign of tribute. That same year, Hugo & Schmeltzer announced its decision to sell the property to a buyer who planned to demolish the building and replace it with a hotel.

De Zavala went into action, first convincing Gustav Schmeltzer to give the DRT first option to buy the property. A school teacher, she knew she couldn't hope to match the \$75,000 asking price but fortune was on her side when she ran into Driscoll, who was also appalled at the current state of the Alamo. More important, Driscoll was the heir to an oil, railroad and cattle fortune, and perhaps equally as important, both her grandfathers had fought at the Battle of San Jacinto.

A letter by Driscoll, published in the San Antonio Express in 1901, quoted in A LINE IN THE SAND, shows exactly where Driscoll stood on the matter. In part, the letter stated, "There does not stand in the world today a building or monument which can recall such a deed of heroism and bravery, as that of the brave men who fought and fell inside those historic walls."

At De Zavala's urging, Driscoll joined the DRT and the two women promptly received a concession from Hugo & Schmeltzer; that for \$500 the DRT would have 30 days in which to come up with another \$4,500 and the option to buy would be extended for a year. After that, the DRT would be required to pay \$20,000, followed by \$10,000 installments for next five years.

Driscoll put up the initial \$500 out of her own pocket and the De Zavala Chapter's Alamo fund-raising committee set out to drum up the required money to save the Alamo. The effort fell short, raising only a little over a thousands dollars, but once again, Driscoll stepped in, making up the difference with her own funds to reach the necessary \$4,500.

De Zavala and Driscoll also lobbied to convince the state legislature to purchase the Hugo & Schmeltzer building for \$5,000 but were rebuffed when Governor Samuel W.T. Lanham vetoed the bill, arguing that it was not justified and a waste of taxpayer dollars.

As the deadline of February 10, 1904 approached, when the payment of the \$20,000 was due, the San Antonio DRT had only raised \$5,666.23. Once again, Driscoll stepped in and purchased the Hugo & Schmeltzer building herself, also agreeing to pay the additional \$50,000 in five future installments of \$10,000 each. Political pressure mounted after word of Driscoll, known as the



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Savior of the Alamo, and her generous actions spread throughout the state. In response, the state finally acted, appropriating the funds to reimburse Driscoll in January 1905, and Driscoll, in turn, subsequently transferred the title of the Hugo & Schmeltzer building to the State of Texas on September 5, 1905. As pointed out in *A LINE IN THE SAND*, "The bill, largely drafted by Adina De Zavala and sponsored by Samuel Ealy Johnson, also guaranteed that once Driscoll transferred title to the state, the DRT would be named custodian of the Alamo."

Johnson was the grandfather of Lyndon Baines Johnson, and the future president, while a congressman, was one of the honorary pallbearers at Driscoll's funeral in July of 1945. Other such honorary pallbearers included Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn, former secretary of state Cordell Hull and former vice-president John Nance Garner.

Driscoll had preserved the Alamo as a monument to Texas but it took Walt Disney and a television show to bring the saga of the Alamo into living rooms across America. Six days before De Zavala died at the age of ninety-three on March 1, 1955, ABC broadcast "the final episode in its Davy Crockett trilogy, in which Walt Disney's Davy Crockett died in Clara Driscoll's Alamo."

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"It's all now you see. Yesterday won't be over until tomorrow and tomorrow began ten thousand years ago."

- Remark by character "Garin Stevens"  
in William Faulkner's *INTRUDER IN THE DUST*





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Prepared: December 11, 2017



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ARRGH AUTOMATED RESearch REPORT

GENERATION HOTLINE



This stuff presumably looks to you as if it were generated by a human. Such is not the case. Instead, someone has requested that we pull it out of the hat of a pirate who has grown out of the shoulder of our pet parrot "Laura" (as above). What these chronological lists are: they are research reports compiled by ARRGH algorithms out of a database of modules which we term the Kouroo Contexture (this is data mining). To respond to such a request for information we merely push a button.



**REVOLUTION**

**IN TEJAS**

**GO TO MASTER INDEX OF WARFARE**

Commonly, the first output of the algorithm has obvious deficiencies and we need to go back into the modules stored in the contexture and do a minor amount of tweaking, and then we need to punch that button again and recompile the chronology – but there is nothing here that remotely resembles the ordinary “writerly” process you know and love. As the contents of this originating contexture improve, and as the programming improves, and as funding becomes available (to date no funding whatever has been needed in the creation of this facility, the entire operation being run out of pocket change) we expect a diminished need to do such tweaking and recompiling, and we fully expect to achieve a simulation of a generous and untiring robotic research librarian. Onward and upward in this brave new world.

First come first serve. There is no charge.  
Place requests with <Kouroo@kouroo.info>. Arrgh.