



## **On Exhibit at the Lorenzo State Archives and Library Building:**

### ***The Republic of Texas Legation Papers, 1836-1845***

As an independent nation from 1836 thru early 1846, the Republic of Texas sent diplomatic representatives to form a legation in Washington, D.C. The legation wrestled with many issues, including boundaries of Texas, relations with Mexico and Native Americans, and annexation to the United States. After annexation and the closure of the legation office in 1845, Charles Mariner, the acting Texas Secretary of State, directed Sam Houston to send the records of the legation to Austin where they would be preserved by the state. Houston instead took them to his home in Huntsville. The papers passed to Houston's son Andrew Jackson Houston, and then granddaughters Ariadne and Marguerite. In 1973, the descendants of Sam Houston donated more than 4,800 of his papers to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, which became known as the Andrew Jackson Houston Collection. Among them are approximately 250 official documents created or received by the Republic of Texas legation to the United States between 1839 and 1845. For decades, the legation documents in the Andrew Jackson Houston Collection were the only known records of the Texas legation, covering the years 1839-1845; the earlier records dating 1836 to February 1839 remained unaccounted for until 2004, when they were offered for auction. The Commission and the Attorney General's Office claimed these documents as official records of the Republic of Texas government on behalf of the people of Texas. Following an agreement with the Texas State Historical Association, the documents were auctioned with the buyer naming a university in Texas as the temporary home of the documents. Texas Christian University was the university selected and it displayed and housed the documents for five years. Returned to Austin at the end of 2012, these unique documents are now part of the permanent collections of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

#### **Case 1: Uniting the papers of the Texas Legation**

- Proclamation signed by Texas President Sam Houston appointing Fairfax Catlett Secretary to the Texas Legation in the United States, December 13, 1836 (Andrew Jackson Houston Collection)
- President Sam Houston to Republic of Texas Senate, explaining reasons for nomination of Memucan Hunt to replace William H. Wharton as Minister Plenipotentiary, circa 1837 (Andrew Jackson Houston Collection)
- Original engraving of Memucan Hunt, Minister Plenipotentiary, undated (Prints & Photographs)
- Texas Secretary of State Charles Mariner to U.S. Senator Sam Houston: Authorization to take possession of the records of the Texas Legation, March 7, 1846 (Andrew Jackson Houston Collection)
- Photograph of Andrew Jackson Houston with Governor Pappy O' Daniel (Prints & Photographs)
- "Andrew Jackson Houston—Late Senator from Texas—Memorial Addresses Delivered in Congress," June 27, 1941, May 25 and June 24, 1942 (Andrew Jackson Houston Papers, Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center)

#### **Case 2: Story of the Legation Papers**

- Box opening, June 9, 2006: Preservation Officer John Anderson, Director and Librarian Peggy Rudd, Assistant State Librarian Edward Seidenberg, Texas State Archivist Chris LaPlante.
- Papers received, June 9, 2006 (showing evidence of fire damage on several of documents)
- Peggy Rudd, J.P. Bryan, John Crane, J.B. Bryan, and Texas State Library and Archives Commissioners Sandra Pickett and Martha Doty Freeman, with some of the Legation documents, November 3, 2006
- Documents on exhibit in the Archives search room, November 3, 2006 (all images from TSLAC, Executive Services, Communications Office photograph collection)

- *The Texas Legation Papers, 1836-1845*, Kenneth R. Stevens, Editor, The Center for Texas Studies at TCU, TCU Press, 2012

### **Case 3: Work of the Legation**

- Stephen F. Austin to William H. Wharton, December 16, 1836, informing Wharton of an illegal plot to introduce slaves into Texas from the U.S. via the Sabine River (Legation correspondence)
- Peter Wagener Grayson to William H. Wharton and Memucan Hunt, January 13, 1837, regarding prevention of raids by Native Americans (Legation correspondence)
- William Bembeck (from Chambersburg, Pennsylvania) to William H. Wharton, February 11, 1837, noting that he could not arrange transportation for the Germans recruited (Legation correspondence)
- Samuel Rhoads Fisher to William H. Wharton, March 7, 1837, unofficial report on what he witnessed on the brig *Pocket* (the merchant ship taking provisions to Santa Anna when it was captured by the Texas Navy in April 1836) (Legation correspondence)
- U.S. Secretary of State John Forsyth to William H. Wharton and Memucan Hunt, March 13, 1837 (Legation correspondence)
- Samuel May Williams to Anson Jones, December 6, 1838, sending the Minister Plenipotentiary Texas bonds for the Texas Navy (Legation correspondence)

### **Case 4: Treaties**

- Engraving of Stephen F. Austin, December 18, 1836 (Prints & Photographs)
- Stephen F. Austin (Republic of Texas Secretary of State) to Wharton, November 25, 1836, stating that Santa Anna has left for Washington, D.C.; copies of the public and secret versions of the Treaty of Velasco enclosed (Legation correspondence)
- Treaty between U.S. and Texas on boundary, April 25, 1838, with wax seals (Artifact Collection)

### **Case 5: Annexation**

- Stephen F. Austin to William H. Wharton, November 18, 1836 (Legation correspondence)
- Aaron Vail (acting U.S. secretary of state) to Anson Jones, October 13, 1838, regarding notification that Texas has withdrawn its proposition to be annexed to the U.S. (Legation correspondence)
- Henry Clay campaign ribbon, 1844 (anti-annexation) (MS collection)
- Statement of the number of votes polled in the Republic (by county) on annexation, constitution and ordinance from returns received at the Texas Department of State up to November 10, 1845 (Secretary of State election returns)
- Anson Jones engraving, from D.W.C. Baker, *A Texas Scrap-Book* (1875, 1991) (Prints & Photographs)

### **Case 6: Other Notable Correspondence within the Legation Papers**

- Letter from U.S. President Andrew Jackson to Mexican leader Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, September 4, 1836, concerning the U.S. position on the Texas conflict with Mexico (Legation correspondence)
- Lorrain Thompson Pease to William H. Wharton, December 24, 1836, asking for information about his son, Elisha Marshall Pease (future Governor of Texas) (Legation correspondence)
- James Pinckney Henderson (Secretary of State of the Republic of Texas who replaced Stephen F. Austin) to William H. Wharton, December 31, 1836, regarding his and Memucan Hunt's credentials as agents of Texas to the U.S., and the death of Stephen F. Austin (Legation correspondence)
- Joel Roberts Poinsett (first U.S. minister to Mexico, 1825-1829) to William H. Wharton, February 2, 1837 (Legation correspondence)
- Samuel F.B. Morse to Memucan Hunt, March 1, 1838, offering the Republic of Texas the exclusive use of the telegraph he invented (Legation correspondence)
- James Logan to Isaac Van Zandt, May 30, 1844, discussing the conflicts around the Red River (Legation correspondence)
- Isaac Van Zandt engraving, undated (Prints & Photographs)