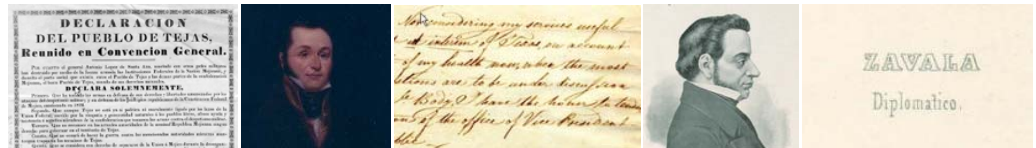


# THE PORTAL TO TEXAS HISTORY

## *Beyond the Bytes*



### Lorenzo de Zavala Online: Shining New Light on an Important Texan

#### Inside:

- A close-up view of the presentation of hand-written materials
- Photos of the 1st Aero Squadron (1913-1915)
- Our new educational initiative, "My Texas History Notebook"
- Adopt a Book *Digitally!*

With the help of nine partner institutions, the Portal to Texas History proudly announces the completion of the grant project "Lorenzo de Zavala Online: Empresario, Statesman and Texas Revolutionary." The project gathers materials from ten different libraries and museums and brings them together into one virtual collection that encompasses historical documents in four languages: English, Spanish, French and Italian.

The materials include correspondence or papers from Lorenzo de Zavala, Adina de Zavala, Mary Jane Harris Briscoe, António Lopez de Santa Anna, José Antonio Mexía, Valentín Gómez Farías, Crescencio Rejón, General Adrian Woll, Baradere, de Valle, Gómez Pedraza, Vicente Filisola, Carlos María Bustamente, and many others.

The bulk of the collection includes handwritten letters or papers, and a transcription of each page is available in the Portal, making these items much more accessible. Almost

half of the Spanish items and all the French items are translated into English.

Turn to page 4 to see how it looks! Readers can toggle between an image view, a transcription view and a translation view.

The Portal team also created a **Primary Source Adventure** about de Zavala in order to share this great resource about the Republic of Texas's first Interim Vice-President with Texas history educators and their students.

To view materials in the collection, enter the Researchers' Portal, select "Browse", then select "Browse by Collection" to see all of the resources. You can also perform a full-text search from the Researcher's Portal, limiting the search to a specific collection if you wish.

*This project was supported in part by Humanities Texas, the state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities.*

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## Humanities Texas funds a new educational initiative, "My Texas History Notebook: Interactive Lesson Plans for Texas History"

The Portal to Texas History team is launching an initiative to develop and present online lesson plans that incorporate the **interactive notebook** style of learning. This method of teaching combines three pivotal concepts in educational research: spiral curriculum theory, multiple intelligences, and cooperative interaction.

In the interactive notebook style of learning, these concepts are synthesized to draw students into actively

participating in the learning process.

This problem-based learning system incorporates preview assignments, multiple intelligences teaching strategies, graphically organized notes, and processing assignments that require students to demonstrate their knowledge. All of the student's notes and work are kept in a spiral binder which brings order to students' work, engages them in content-rich **problem-based**

**learning**, and creates a record of their accomplishments.

In total, twenty lesson plans will be developed by master teachers accomplished in developing this innovative curriculum. The project will be completed in summer of 2007.



Graphically organized notes

*"The 'Portal to Texas History' is amazing! I've spent too much time at this site -- and I'm not a Texan."*

*Jim Dulemba  
Wisconsin*

## Focus on Books

Last month we added the complete set of E. G. Littlejohn's **Texas History Stories** series for young readers, which includes six titles published in 1901. The titles include *Brave Dick Dowling*, *Robert E. Lee*; *Drawing of the Black Beans*, *Castle Peroté*; *The Alamo*, *Remember Goliad*, *Story of San Jacinto*; *Sam Houston*, *David Crockett*; *Ellis P. Bean*, *Stephen F. Austin*; and *Cabeza de Vaca*, *La Salle*.

Littlejohn began his career as an educator in Galveston in 1883, and in 1924 he became the Superintendent of Galveston schools. His Texas history stories

bring to life significant events in Texas history, and make perfect reading for 4th-7th grade students. Readers of all ages will find the books captivating and entertaining.



Illustration from *Ellis P. Bean*; Stephen F. Austin

Another recent addition features Charles Sealsfield's **The Cabin Book; or, Sketches of Life in Texas**, published 1844. Originally published in German, the book encouraged German emigration to Texas by painting an enthusiastic view of life in the Texas frontier:

*"Conceive an immeasurable plain, extending for a hundred miles or more before your eyes, this plain without the least elevation or depression, overgrown with the most delicate grasses. . ."*

p. 6.

## Help the Portal grow - Adopt a Book *Digitally!*



At the Portal to Texas History we have a passion for providing unique historical material online for all Texans. We believe these materials should be available to everyone, and with the Adopt a Book *Digitally!* program we intend to digitize **1,000 books** about Texas history in the next three years.

Selected books include city and county

histories, city directories, biographies of notable Texas characters, and other Texana titles.

Imagine the convenience of searching through 1,000 books on Texas history with one click of the button!

Current Donors include the Dallas Genealogical Society, the Landrum family, the Hutchinson County Genealogical Society,

the Hall Family, the Lucas family, and the City of Mineral Wells.

On our website you can view a list of books available for adoption, see which books are in the works, and browse a complete list of all the books available on the Portal to Texas History.

Learn more on our "About" page or at:

<http://texashistory.unt.edu/young/educators/books/adoptabook.shtml>

### Tarrant County College Northeast



Red Sulphur Springs School

This time last year, J. Paul Davidson, Public Services Librarian, and Paul Gray, Systems Manager at Tarrant County College (TCC) Northeast, began collaborating with the Portal to Texas History

team to provide access to their collection of local history materials. The first phase of the project consists of approximately 2000 photographs of historical personalities, buildings, residences, farms, and cemeteries. Over 150 photographs are currently online.

The Tarrant County College District administration, as well as that

of the Northeast Campus, strongly support the Heritage Room's partnership, and recognize the value in providing digital access to these unique materials.



Post Office 1880

## How it looks in three modes: the Lorenzo de Zavala materials

Just  
toggle  
between the  
image,  
transcript  
and  
translation  
modes

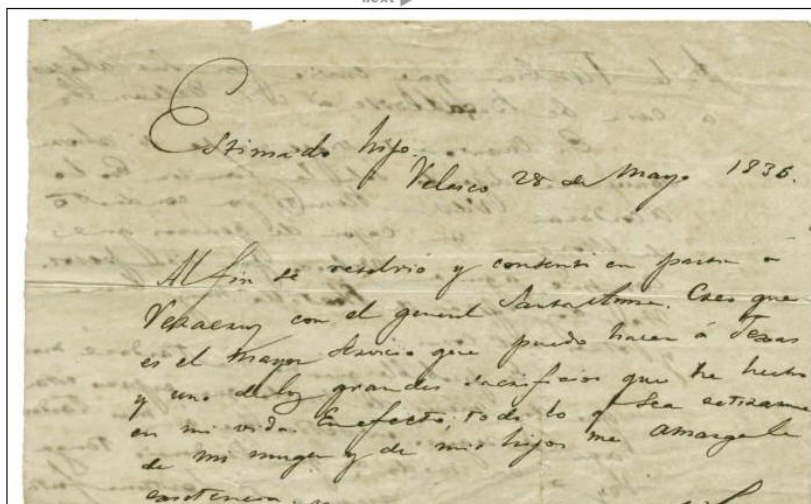
[Letter from Lorenzo de Zavala to his son, May 28, 1836]

[View the description](#) | [View all pages](#) | [Permalink to this image](#)

Sequence: 1

image | transcription | translation

next



Transcription view:

[Letter from Lorenzo de Zavala to his son, May 28, 1836]

[View the description](#) | [View all pages](#) | [Permalink to this image](#)

Sequence: 1

image | transcription | translation

next

Estimado hijo.  
Velasco 28 de Mayo 1836

Al fin se resolvió y consentí en partir a Veracruz con el general Santa Anna. Creo que es el mayor Servicio que puedo hacer a Texas y uno de los grandes sacrificios que se hecho en mi vida. En efecto; todo lo que sea retirarme de mi mujer y de mis hijos me amarga la existencia.

Translation view:

[Letter from Lorenzo de Zavala to his son, May 28, 1836]

[View the description](#) | [View all pages](#) | [Permalink to this image](#)

Sequence: 1

image | transcription | translation

next

My dear son  
Velasco May 28 1836

It was finally done and I agreed to leave for Veracruz with General Santa Ana. I think it is the best Service I can do for Texas and one of the biggest sacrifices of my life. In effect, everything that means leaving behind my woman and children embitters my existence.

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## What's in the Lab now?

### From the Boyce Ditto Public Library, Mineral Wells

At the height of its popularity as a resort town, Mineral Wells hosted over 100,000 visitors a year, including famous people like Judy Garland, Clark Gable, and **Bonnie and Clyde**. Visitors to the town lived



early souvenir guide

in luxury at world-class hotels—the Crazy Water Hotel and the Baker Hotel

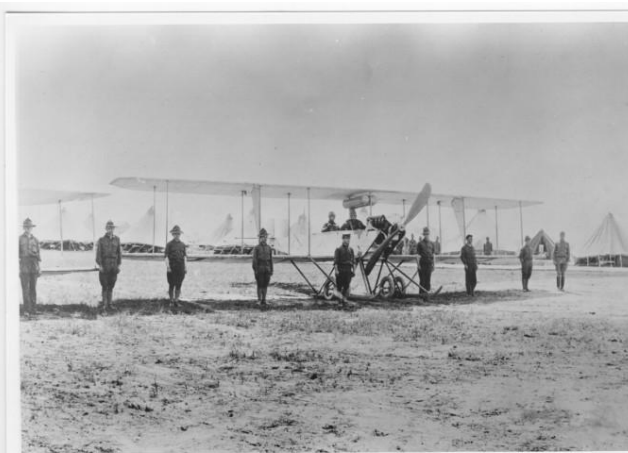
We are currently scanning old souvenir guides and promotional materials extolling the virtues of the water for which the town was known.

The Boyce Ditto Public Library also has a large team of dedicated volunteers who are working on digitizing their collection of local history photographs that document early Mineral Wells. In the Fall, we'll also be adding two City Directories dating from 1901 and 1922.



### Summerlee Foundation grants, "Rescuing Texas History . . ." with the Moore Memorial Public Library

*Next up, materials from the **Archives of the Big Bend** will include hand drawn maps by W. D. Smithers (1895-1981), a photographer, map maker, historian, news correspondent, author, naturalist, and soldier who came to the Big Bend in 1915 with the U. S. Army.*



1st Aero Squadron, Texas City, c. 1913-1915.  
Moore Memorial Public Library

Materials from the Moore Memorial Public Library include images of the Army's **1st Aero Squadron**, and images of the Texas City Disaster of 1947.

From 1913-1915, Texas City served as the home of the first U.S. military unit to use airplanes, the 1st Aero Squadron. Photographs in this collection present

unique documentary evidence of the first use of airplanes by the military.

On April 16, 1947, the worst industrial accident in U. S. history occurred in the port at Texas City. Two ships loaded with ammonium nitrate, the *SS Grandcamp*, and the *Highflyer* exploded, causing devastating damages and over 500 deaths.

The Moore Memorial Public Library's collection includes more than 300 photos of the **Texas City Disaster**, and they will be available on the Portal by the end of the summer. Both collections represent important events in 20th century American history.

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# UNT LIBRARIES' PORTAL TO TEXAS HISTORY

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**Mission Statement:** The Portal to Texas History offers students and lifelong learners a digital gateway to the rich collections held in Texas libraries, museums, archives, historical societies, and private collections. The Portal team at the University of North Texas provides strong leadership by supporting collaborative efforts with its partners, while pursuing the goals of accessibility, best practices, and preservation of historical material.



Fireworks at the Denton County Courthouse 1918.  
Denton Public Library



Daughters of the Confederacy, 1900. Palestine Public Library



Buffalo Horn  
George Ranch Historic Park



Newt Harris Barber Shop, 1919.  
Richardson Public Library

## The Portal on Myspace—check us out!

Yep, the Portal has joined the **MySpace** generation, so look us up at:

[http://www.myspace.com/portal\\_to\\_texas\\_history](http://www.myspace.com/portal_to_texas_history)

Subscribe to our blog for the latest Portal information on new content, tips, announcements, and news.

## Tips! how to enlarge images

Did you know that almost all of the items on the Portal can be viewed at a **larger size**? We know you want to see all the details, so if a letter, map, photograph or book looks too small just click on the image itself, or the magnifier glass icon. A new window with a larger image will open.

If you use Internet Explorer as your browser, sometimes it will fit the entire image within the browse window without making it larger (and actually makes it smaller!). If this happens, just roll your browser over the image until the magnifier glass icon returns, and click on it.



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