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Guide to the Thomas W. Streeter Collection of Austin Family and Texas Revolution Papers

WA MSS S-3000



by Alison Clemens

2014

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New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: WA MSS S-3000

CREATOR: Streeter, Thomas W. (Thomas Winthrop), 1883-1965, collector

TITLE: Thomas W. Streeter Collection of Austin Family and Texas Revolution Papers

DATES: 1786-1942

BULK DATES: 1814-1858

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.63 linear feet (2 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Legal and financial documents, correspondence, and military records documenting the history of Texas and the Spanish Southwest. Included is manuscript material generated by the families of Moses and Stephen F. Austin during the settlement of Texas; military records pertaining to the Mier Expedition and the capture of San Antonio de Bexar during the Texas Revolution; and Thomas W. Streeter's research files on the history of Texas and the Spanish Southwest.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.sfaustin>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.sfaustin>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Thomas W. Streeter, 1962.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Thomas W. Streeter Collection of Austin Family and Texas Revolution Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Thomas W. Streeter Collection of Austin Family and Texas Revolution Papers. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This collection received a basic level of processing in 2014, including rehousing and minimal organization.

Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

Former call number: Uncat WA MS 92

Thomas W. Streeter

Thomas W. Streeter (1883–1965), businessman, collector, and bibliographer, was born in New Hampshire and received degrees from Dartmouth College (B.L., 1904) and Harvard Law School (LL.B., 1907). Streeter worked as a businessman, including in the oil industry. He retired in 1939 and devoted his time to collecting and bibliography for Americana and Texana.

Streeter compiled the five volume *Bibliography of Texas 1795-1845*, published in three parts. In 1957, he sold his collection of Texas imprints to Yale University.

Stephen F. Austin

Stephen F. Austin (1793–1836), founder of Anglo-American Texas, was born in Virginia to Moses Austin and Maria Brown Austin. Moses Austin moved his family from Virginia to Missouri in pursuit of opportunities managing lead mines. After this pursuit failed, Moses traveled to San Antonio in 1820, where he made a successful request for a land grant in Spanish Texas and the ability to bring 300 families to the region.

Moses was aided in this endeavor by his association with the Baron de Bastrop, who encouraged the governor of Spanish Texas, Antonio Maria Martinez, to accept Austin's bid.

Moses Austin died of pneumonia shortly after his return to Missouri, and Stephen assumed responsibility for the settlement charge. Austin began bringing settlers to Texas in 1821, shortly after Mexico achieved independence from Spain. Austin managed immigration and established and maintained the land system from the colony's capital, San Felipe de Austin. He also had civil and military control over the colony until 1828, when the Constitution of Coahuila and Texas went into effect and facilitated integration of the colony into the larger Mexican government.

Upon Mexico's independence from Spain, the Mexican government began to have growing concerns about revolutionary activities in Texas. In 1831, Austin was arrested in Mexico City on allegations of attempting to incite insurrection; he was freed in July 1835 and returned to Texas. Later that year, the Texas Revolution began. Texas achieved independence in June 1836, and Austin was appointed the Republic's first Secretary of State. He died in office two months later, on December 27, 1836. His sister Emily Austin Perry's husband, James F. Perry, served as executor of his estate. After Austin's death and the independence of the Republic of Texas, border disputes with Mexico continued, such as in the Mier Expedition of 1842.

Scope and Contents

Manuscript legal and financial documents, correspondence, and military records documenting the history of Texas and the Spanish Southwest. Included is manuscript material generated by the families of Moses and Stephen F. Austin during the settlement of Texas, including an 1827 transcription of the will of Baron de Bastrop; military records pertaining to the Mier Expedition and the capture of San Antonio de Bexar during the Texas Revolution; and Thomas W. Streeter's research files on the history of Texas and the Spanish Southwest.

Arrangement

Organized into three series: I. Austin Family Papers, 1786-1858. II. Texas Revolution Papers, 1836-1852. III. Thomas W. Streeter Research Files, 1942, undated.

Collection Contents

Series I: Austin Family Papers, 1786–1858

8 Folders

The order in which this previously uncataloged collection was arranged has been maintained.

| | | |
|-----|--|-----------|
| b.1 | Moses Austin and John Rice Jones papers concerning the dispute over the Mine à Breton | 1786–1797 |
| b.1 | San Felipe de Austin and early Texas papers <i>3 Folders</i> Includes a 1827 manuscript transcription of the will of Baron de Bastrop; land grants for territory in San Felipe de Austin, San Antonio de Bexar, and the Matagorda League; correspondence concerning land allocations; financial records concerning the Austin family's finances; a 1843 letter to Santa Anna concerning a plan to make peace with the Texans; and a 1831 manuscript petition from Hosea H. League and Seth Ingram to be released from the San Felipe de Austin jail. | 1814–1858 |
| b.1 | Stephen F. Austin estate papers <i>4 Folders</i> | 1837–1854 |

Series II: Texas Revolution Papers, 1836–1852*5 Folders*

The order in which this previously uncataloged collection was arranged has been maintained.

| | | |
|-----|---|-----------|
| b.1 | Mier expedition papers (2 folders) Includes original manuscript documents, 20th century typed English translations, and photostats of unidentified related documents. | 1842–1843 |
| b.1 | Capture of San Antonio de Bexar Manuscript inventory of soldiers defending San Antonio, 1836; manuscript description of the dead and wounded, 1836; manuscript document justifying the capture of San Antonio, 1836; and photostats and 20th century English translations of unidentified related documents. | 1836–1836 |
| b.1 | Military records documenting the court martial of Brigadier Major General Gabriel R. Paul | 1852–1852 |
| b.1 | Manuscript letter from the Convention of Massachusetts concerning the annexation of Texas | 1845–1845 |

Series III: Thomas W. Streeter Research Files, 1942*3 Folders*

The order in which this previously uncataloged collection was arranged has been maintained.

| | | |
|------|---|---------------|
| b. 2 | Photostats and other copies of material related to the Spanish Southwest from the John Carter Brown Library | 1942, undated |
| b. 2 | Typed transcriptions and translations of unidentified material relating to the history of the Spanish Southwest <i>(2 folders)</i> | undated |

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Land grants -- Texas
Real property -- Texas

Geographic Names

Coahuila (Mexico : State)
Coahuila and Texas (Mexico) -- Colonization
Mexico -- Foreign relations -- Texas
Texas -- Colonization
Texas -- Emigration and immigration
Texas -- Foreign relations -- Mexico
Texas -- History -- 1846-1950
Texas -- History -- Republic, 1836-1846
Texas -- History -- Revolution, 1835-1836
Texas -- History -- To 1846
Texas -- Politics and government

Genres / Formats

Conveyances -- Texas -- 19th century
Land grants -- Texas -- 19th century
Legal documents -- Texas -- 19th century
Military records -- Mexico -- 19th century
Wills -- Texas -- 19th century

Names

Austin, Moses, 1761-1821
Austin, Stephen F. (Stephen Fuller), 1793-1836
Bastrop, Felipe Enrique Neri, Baron de,
1759-1827
Streeter, Thomas W. (Thomas Winthrop),
1883-1965