

# Texas Historical Commission Purchases Final Letter Penned By Davy Crockett

## David Crockett's Last Letter January 9, 1836

"...what I have seen of Texas it is the garden spot of the world the best land and the best prospect for health I even saw is here and I do believe it is a fortune to any man to come here there is a world of country to settle in..."

— DavyCrockett, 1836  
These were some of the last known words written by Texas hero Davy Crockett in a letter to his son and daughter from San Augustine, Texas on Jan. 9, 1836 — on his way to the Alamo. The letter was purchased by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) for \$550,000 through the Historic Artifact Fund established by the Texas Legislature in 1999.

through the fund include an original, rare oil painting of James Bowie and a rare collection of historic books about the Texas Navy.

The purchase was announced at a press conference held Tuesday, Sept. 4, at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin where THC Chairman John L. Nau, III was joined by letter owner Ray Simpson of Houston and Gov. Rick Perry.

"Davy Crockett is a genuine Texas hero, a man who personified the compassion, the courage and the character of our state," said Gov. Rick Perry. "It is a privilege to honor him today."

The letter was recently discovered in an office by the Simpson

family at Simpson Galleries, one of Houston's oldest fine arts auctioneers. The company recently relocated and the letter was found during the move. Simpson said the letter was purchased years ago by his grandfather from descendants of Davy Crockett but later misplaced.

"The Simpson family is proud to have the opportunity to provide this unique piece of Texas history to the state of Texas," said Simpson. "This document we are celebrating today is the embodiment of what it means to be a Texan."

Simpson alerted Nau of the letter upon its discovery in mid-August, and Nau immediately began the process of purchasing the artifact through the state fund.

"We are grateful to the Simpson family for making this important part of Texas history available to all of its citizens," said Nau.

"Not only Texas, but the world, gains insight into some of the more personal hopes, dreams and impressions of one of Texas' greatest heroes."

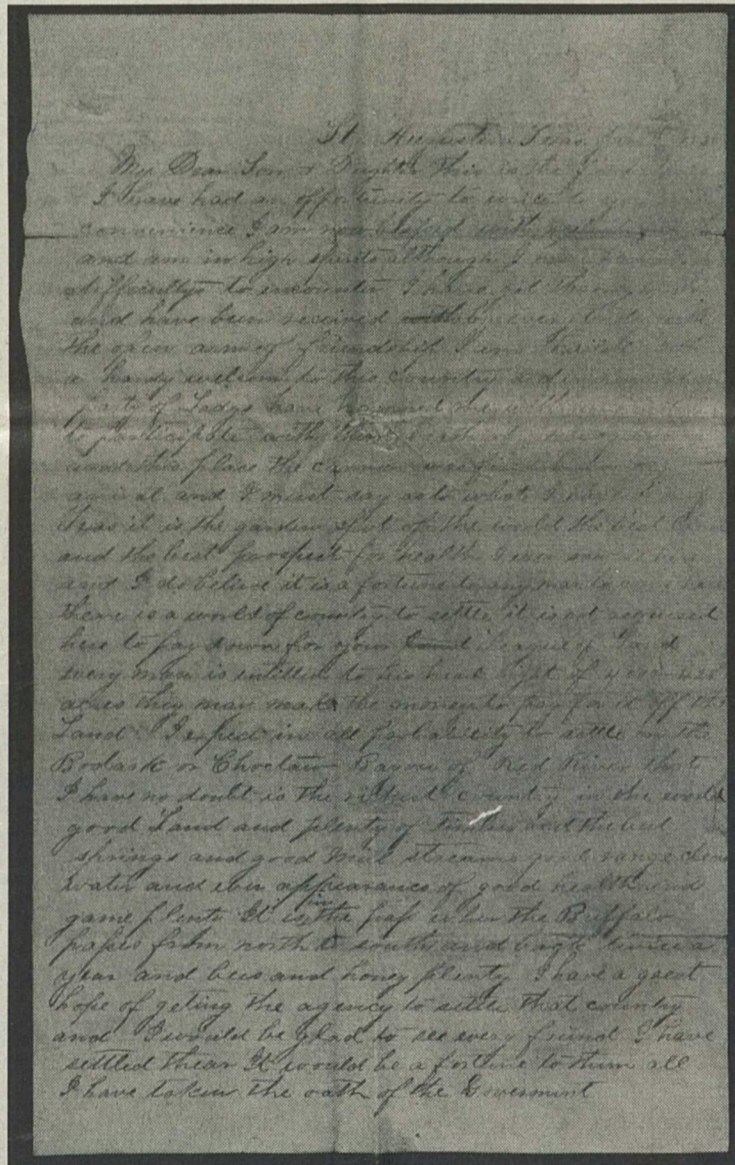
State officials are working to determine the best possible display location for the letter, which is being authenticated, before the sale is finalized.

The Texas Historical Commission is the state agency for historic preservation. The agency administers a variety of programs to preserve the archeological, historical and cultural resources of Texas.

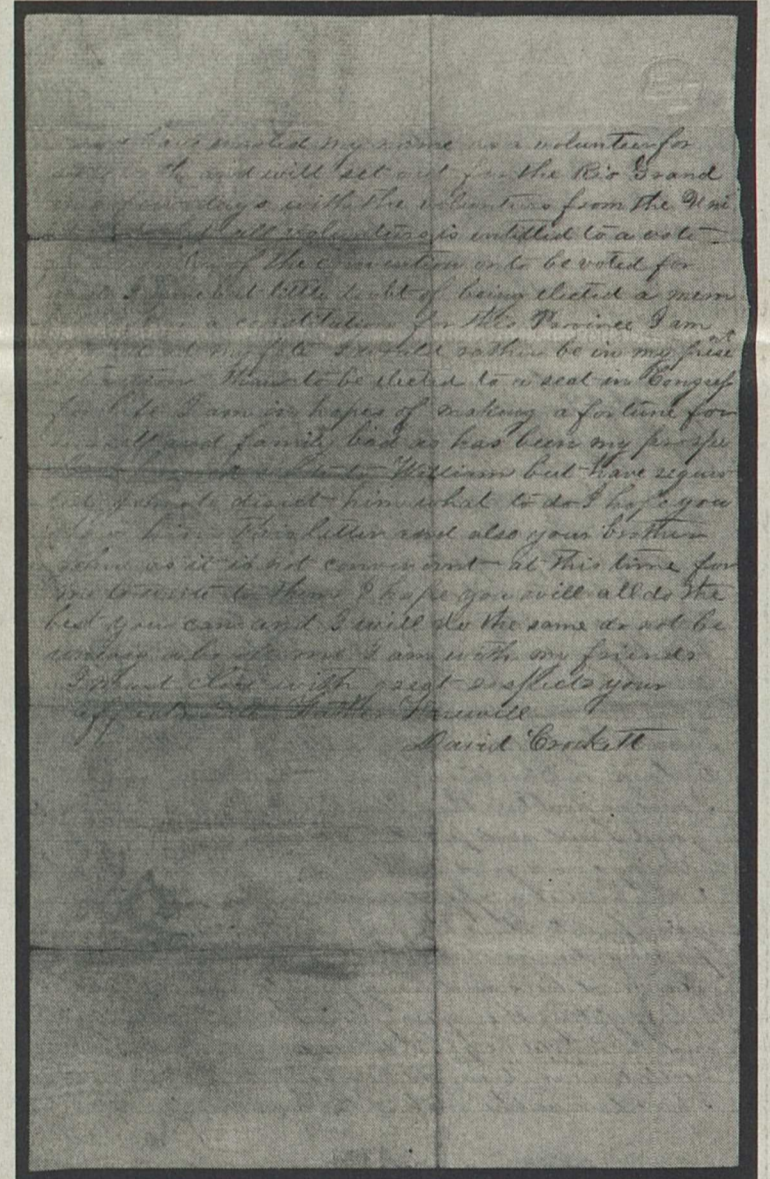
A transcript of the letter is at the right.

My dear son and daughter this is the first time I have had an opportunity to write to you with convenience I am now blessed with excellent health and am in high spirits although I have had many difficulties to encounter I have got through safe and have been received by every body with the open arm of friendship I am hailed with a handy welcome to this country a dinner and a Party of Ladies have honored me with an invitation to participate with them both at Nacogdoches and this place the cannon was fired here on my arrival and I must say as to what I have seen of Texas it is the garden spot of the world the best land and the best prospect for health I even saw is here and I do believe it is a fortune to any man to come here there is a world of country to settle it is not required here to lay down for your League of Land every man is entitled to his head right of 4000-428 acres then man make the money to pay for it off the Land I expect in all probability to settle on the Bodark or Choctaw bayou Red River that I have no doubt that it is the richest country in the world good land and plenty of timber and the best springs and good mill streams good range clear water and ever appearances of good health and game plenty it is in the pass where the buffalo passes from north to south twice a year and bees and honey plenty I have a great hope of getting the agency to settle that country and will be glad to see every friend I have settle there it would be a fortune to them all I have taken the oath of the government and have enrolled my name as a volunteer for six months and will set out for the Rio Grand in a few days with the volunteers from the United States all volunteers is entitled to a vote for a member of the convention or to be voted for and I have but little doubt of being elected a member to form a constitution for this Province I am rejoiced at my fate I would rather be in my present situation than to be elected to a seat in Congress for life I am in hopes of making a fortune for myself and family bad as has been my prospects I have not wrote to William but have requested John to direct him what to do I hope you show him this letter and also your brother John as it is not convenient at this time for me to write to them I hope you will all do the best you can and I will do the same do not be uneasy about me I am with my friends I must close with great respects your affectionate Father Farewell.

David Crockett



Pictured above is a scan of the original Davy Crockett letter that was recently purchased by the Texas Historical Commission.



## NEWSBRIEFS

Continued from front page

Kilpatrick at 732-8781.

### Gospel musical set for Sept. 22

A gospel musical in memory of the late Deacon Malcom Thomas Sr. will be held Saturday, Sept. 22 at 7 p.m. at White Cloud Baptist Church in Eagle Lake. Rev. Obie Rhodes pastor. Sponsors are Sis. Aberleen Lemons and Sis. Michelle Coleman. For more information call 979-232-0350.

### Chamber dinner is Sept. 22

The Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the Eagle Lake Study Club will hold a dinner on Saturday, Sept. 22 at the Community Center. The meal will consist of fried chicken with two sides. Serving will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Drive thru or dine at the Community Center. For advance tickets call any chamber member or pageant winner.

### Study Club to hold auction Sept. 22


The Eagle Lake Study Club annual auction has been scheduled for Saturday, September 22 at the Eagle Lake Community Center. Silent auction from 5 p.m. until 6:45 p.m. and the main auction from 7 p.m. until all items are sold. All proceeds are for the support of the Wintermann Library.

### Duplantis to visit AACC in Sealy

Dr. Jesse Duplantis from New Orleans, Louisiana will be speaking Thursday, Sept. 27 at 7:30 p.m. at the All Around Cowboy Church (AACC) in Sealy. If inclement weather, the meeting will be moved to the Women's Pavilion at the Austin County Fairgrounds in Bellville. For more information, call 979-885-1155 or 979-885-2799. If you have any questions, please call Patty Leger or Gloria at 979-885-1155 or email me at [pattyleger2003@yahoo.com](mailto:pattyleger2003@yahoo.com).


### Multi-Year reunion planned

Rice High School Classes of 1976-81 are planning a reunion to be held in Eagle Lake on Saturday, October 27, beginning at 3 p.m. Information letters will be going out soon to those whose addresses we have. If you do not receive a letter but would like to participate, contact GayeLynn Thomas 979-234-5693 or [gayelynnthomas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gayelynnthomas@sbcglobal.net) or Lisa Hoffman 979-758-3933 or [thierry@elc.net](mailto:thierry@elc.net) for more information. Also, we'd like to hear from any graduates of RHS Classes of 1971-75, 82 and 83 who would like to be a part of this event.



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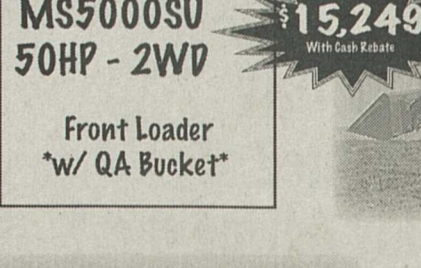
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## Shoppers come from big city for Harper's big time deals and service

While many people in Sealy convince themselves they must drive to Katy for the best prices and selection on some items, Don Acord of Katy proved just the opposite is true.

Acord chose to bring his wife and daughter to Sealy to shop for new furniture at Harper's Furniture over other options closer to home. The reason was simple: great selection and great service.

They came to Sealy and purchased a couch, loveseat and two beds and could not be happier.

"I knew Shane McCarthy when he had been with a company in Katy and every time I've dealt with him he has treated me fairly and with great professionalism," Acord said.

Q: How did the selection at Harper's compare to other stores in Katy?

A: "It was worth the drive for us. My wife and daughter picked out our sofa and loveseat and they had 15 to 20 items to choose from. It was a hard to narrow it down

and decide which one to get."

Q: What was different about the service at Harper's over other stores?

A: "If you have ever had any dealings with Shane you know how well he treats his customers. You know he will go out of his ways to get you the best price possible and nine out of 10 times he will beat any other price. He has always made me and my family feel special when we come to him."

Q: Was it a hassle buying furniture in Sealy to be delivered to Katy?

A: "The delivery was wonderful and we had no problems. I recently had shoulder surgery and could not have gotten it in the house myself. They came in, set the beds up, picked up the plastic and trash, picked up the old bed and disposed of it. I could not ask for anything more."

Q: Will you make the trip back to Harper's again?

A: "I'll be back as soon as I need some new furniture, I guarantee it."

Harper's Furniture

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