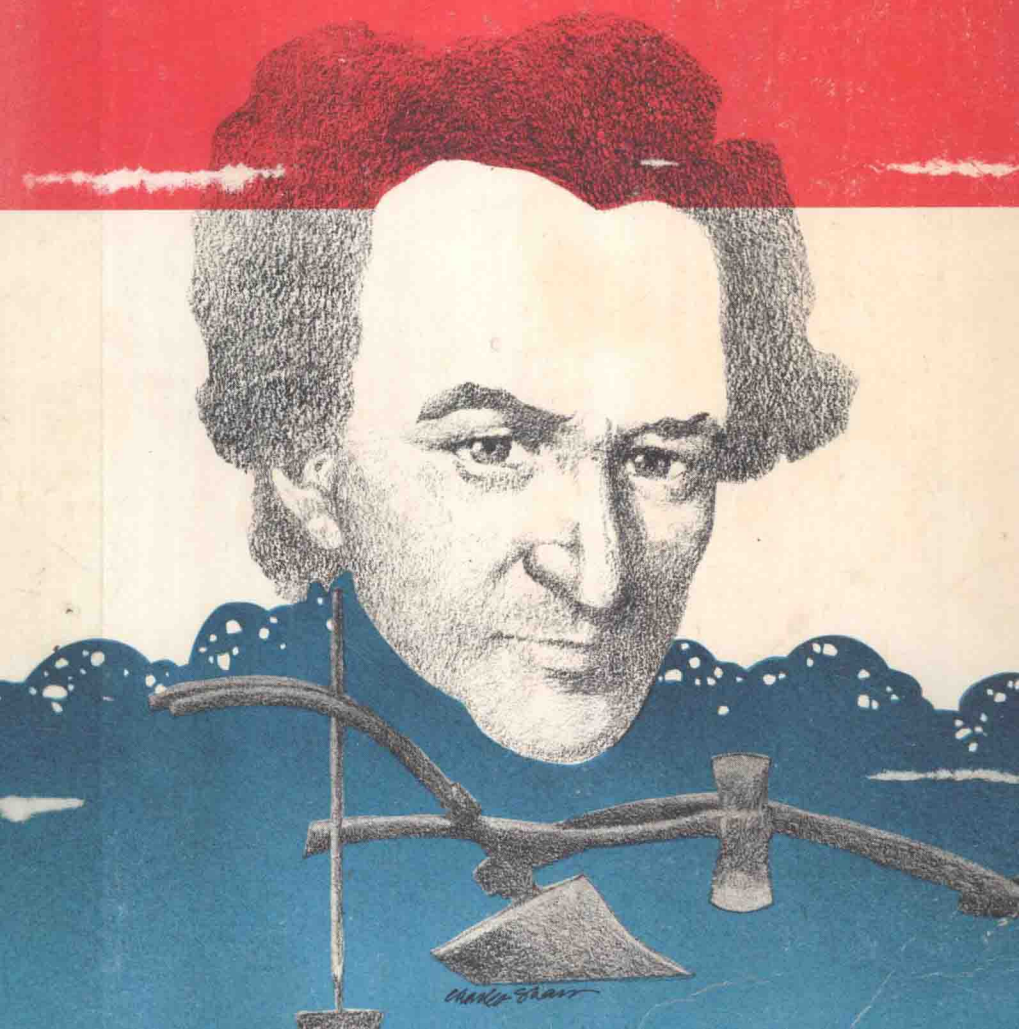


**Eugene C. Barker** THE LIFE OF  
**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN**  
**FOUNDER OF TEXAS, 1793-1836**



The Life of  
Stephen F. Austin

FOUNDER OF TEXAS

1793-1836

*A Chapter in the Westward Movement of the  
Anglo-American People*



By Eugene C. Barker

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS PRESS, AUSTIN



INTERNATIONAL STANDARD BOOK NUMBER 0-292-78421-X

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ORIGINAL HARDCOVER EDITION PUBLISHED BY THE  
COKESBURY PRESS, 1926  
TEXAS HISTORY PAPERBACK, 1969  
PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FOURTH PAPERBACK PRINTING, 1990

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## The Life of Stephen F. Austin

*Published in cooperation with*  
*The Texas State Historical Association*

## *Preface*

IT is just a hundred years since Stephen F. Austin began the transformation of the wilderness that Texas then was into an Anglo-American commonwealth. Measured by what he accomplished, he is one of the great figures of American history. But, although the period of Texas history to which he belongs—or, more properly, the period that belongs to him—has long been a fruitful field of study, for most readers of history the man has been obscured by the magnitude of his work. This is natural, and, moreover, is much as he would have had it. He was an unobtrusive, unassuming man, and both inclination and circumstances required him to do his work without the blare of trumpets. All that is written about him by his contemporaries could be printed in a few pages, and he has never been the subject of biographical study. That has determined the character of this treatment, which is primarily factual and direct rather than interpretative. It is in what he did and the manner of doing it that the admirable character and winning personality of the man must appear.

The materials for this study are found for the most part in several great collections of manuscripts. In the Library of the University of Texas are the papers preserved by Moses and Stephen F. Austin; the Bexar Archives; and transcripts obtained by the writer from many sources, but principally from the National Archives of Mexico and the State Archives of Coahuila, at Saltillo. Next to the Austin Papers, the most nearly indispensable collection—and a very voluminous one—is that of the General Land Office, at Austin. The Texas State Library has much Austin correspondence, and other manuscripts illustrating the period, in the collections known as the Nacogdoches Archives, the Lamar Papers, and Domestic Correspondence. And the Rosenberg Library at Galveston possesses an invaluable series of letters written by Austin to his confidential friend and secretary, Samuel M. Williams. The rich collections of printed Texana and Mexicana in the library of the University of Texas, the

Texas State Library, and the Bancroft Library of the University of California have supplemented the manuscript materials. And the newspaper files of many libraries have been searched, particularly those of the Library of Congress, the Wisconsin and Missouri Historical Societies, and the University of Chicago—but chiefly with negative results. Unless otherwise indicated, all manuscripts cited are in the Austin Papers.

Grateful acknowledgment is due the custodians of the collections enumerated for courteous and considerate assistance; to Mrs. Mattie Austin Hatcher, of the History Department of the University of Texas, for many kindnesses in locating material; to my friend L. W. Payne, Jr., Professor of English in the University of Texas, who generously read the galley proofs; and to Mrs. Hally Bryan Perry, Mrs. Edward W. Parker, and Mr. Guy M. Bryan, children of the late Colonel Guy M. Bryan, nephew of Stephen F. Austin, for the use of manuscripts in their possession. Finally, the research that has gone into the book, extending through many years, could not have been done without the uniformly cheerful and sympathetic cooperation of my wife.

EUGENE C. BARKER.

Austin, January, 1925.

## *Preface: Second Edition*

THIS second edition of *The Life of Stephen F. Austin* is identical in text, except for a few technical differences here and there to adjust space. New make-up has reduced the number of pages from 551 to 477, but the Index is revised to fit the new paging. Some readers will be interested to know that after the first edition went to the printer the Austin Papers, on which the book is based, were published. Volumes I and II, containing respectively 1824 and 1184 pages, were issued by the American Historical Association in 1924 and 1928 as Volume II of its Annual Report for the years 1919 and 1922. Volume II, 494 pages, was published by The University of Texas Press in 1926. These volumes contained all of Stephen F. Austin's writings known at the time of publication, except a few somewhat lengthy documents previously published in relatively accessible works. The fundamental portion of this material, described in the Bibliography of this volume, page 451, passed on Austin's death to his nephew, Guy M. Bryan, and was donated to the University of Texas by Colonel Bryan's heirs—Mrs. Edward W. (Laura Bryan) Parker, Mrs. Emmet L. (Hally Bryan) Perry, and Mr. Guy M. Bryan, Jr. To these original Austin Papers were added, and included in the published collection, transcripts of Austin writings found in various Mexican government archives and elsewhere. Since publication of the three volumes of *The Austin Papers*, the University of Texas has acquired two other considerable collections of supplementary Austin material. The first of these is made up of a mass of letters written to Thomas F. Leaming of Philadelphia by Stephen F. Austin and other members of the Austin family. The other came to the University by gift of Mr. Thomas W. Streeter of Morristown, New Jersey, from the Beauregard Bryan estate. Beauregard Bryan was a grand-nephew of Stephen F. Austin, the son of Moses Austin Bryan.

EUGENE C. BARKER

The University of Texas  
January 15, 1949



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