Texas History for Teachers

Printmaking & San Felipe de Austin *Advanced*

Unit 5: The Texas Revolution

Name: Date: Period:

Part I: Getting Started Printing in San Felipe de Austin

On August 10, 1829, a man named Godwin Cotten arrived in San Felipe de Austin, Texas, the main city of Stephen F. Austin's colony in Mexican Texas. Cotten had been a printer and newspaper publisher in Louisiana and Alabama before arriving in Texas.

Cotten opened a print shop in San Felipe de Austin on September 25, 1829, and established Texas's first consistently published newspaper, *The Texas Gazette.*



Figure 1: A reproduction of a printing press at San Felipe de Austin. The Texas Historical Commission.

Cotten's print shop also printed legal documents for the land office such as forms and deeds, as well as advertisements and informational pamphlets like Austin's "Translation of Laws" for colonization.

In 1831, Cotten moved his printing press to nearby Brazoria, and the village of San Felipe de Austin was left without a press for the next four years.

Who was Godwin Cotten, and how was he significant to the development of Stephen F. Austin's colony?

Part II: The Early Years of Printing at San Felipe de Austin

Directions: Use primary sources 1 – 4 to complete the work below. When specific information is not directly stated in the source, make inferences to create your response.

Primary Source #1: The 1830 Census of Austin's Colony

In one sentence, explain the main topic or idea of this source	What is the purpose of this excerpt?
What do we know / can we infer about the author and the audience?	What does this material tell us about life in Austin's colony?

Primary Source #2: Sheriff's Sales

In one sentence, explain the main topic or idea of this source	What is the purpose of this excerpt?
What do we know / can we infer about the author and the audience?	What does this material tell us about life in Austin's colony?

Primary Source #3: Invitation to a Ball in Honor of Santa Anna, 1832

In one sentence, explain the main topic or idea of this source	What is the purpose of this excerpt?
What do we know / can we infer about the author and the audience?	What does this material tell us about life in Austin's colony?

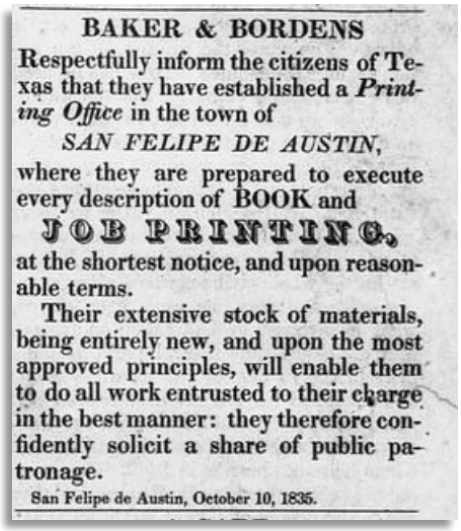
Primary Source #4: Notice by Teacher James Norton

In one sentence, explain the main topic or idea of this source	What is the purpose of this excerpt?
What do we know / can we infer about the author and the audience?	What does this material tell us about life in Austin's colony?

Part III: Printing and the Texas Revolution

After four years without a printing press, two men named Joseph Baker and Gail Borden established a new printing office in San Felipe in October 1835. That same month, Borden and Baker established a new newspaper, *The Telegraph and Texas Register,* whose first issue was published on October 10, 1835, a little more than a week after the Battle of Gonzales.

While *The Telegraph and Texas Register* kept Texas residents informed about the progress of the Texas Revolution, Borden's and Baker's printing press also published other important documents such as the Texas Declaration of Independence and William B. Travis's famous "Victory or Death" letter from the Alamo.



BAKER & BORDENS

Respectfully inform the citizens of Texas that they have established a *Printing Office* in the town of

SAN FELIPE DE AUSTIN,

where they are prepared to execute every description of BOOK and

JOB PRINTING,

at the shortest notice, and upon reasonable terms.

Their extensive stock of materials, being entirely new, and upon the most approved principles, will enable them to do all work entrusted to their charge in the best manner: they therefore confidently solicit a share of public patronage.

San Felipe de Austin, October 10, 1835.

Figure 2: The Portal to Texas History

After Santa Anna's army defeated the Texians at the Alamo, his centralist army began its pursuit of the Texas army under Sam Houston and the Texas provisional government. Texas residents throughout the region fled the approaching centralist army. Sam Houston's retreating army set fire to the town to prevent Santa Anna's army from using its resources. The men who worked in the printing shop at San Felipe also fled, taking the press with them. Santa Anna's army caught up with the escaping printers at Harrisburg on April 15, 1835, where they captured the men and threw the press into the bayou.

After the Revolution, San Felipe was not rebuilt, however Gail Borden bought a new printing press and established printing offices first in West Columbia and then Houston.

How was Baker and Borden's new printing press significant during the Texas Revolution?

Part IV: Printing & the Texas Revolution

Directions: Use primary sources 5 – 9 to complete the work below. When specific information is not directly stated in the source, make inferences to create your response.

Primary Source #5: William B. Travis's Letter from the Alamo

In one sentence, explain the main topic or idea of this source	What is the purpose of this excerpt?	What can this source tell us about life in Texas during the Revolution?

Primary Source #6: Military Report on the Situation at Gonzales

In one sentence, explain the main topic or idea of this source	What is the purpose of this excerpt?	What can this source tell us about life in Texas during the Revolution?

Primary Source #7: Excerpts from the Declaration of the People of Texas

In one sentence, explain the main topic or idea of this source	What is the purpose of this excerpt?	What can this source tell us about life in Texas during the Revolution?

Primary Source #8: Mail Delivery Routes

In one sentence, explain the main topic or idea of this source	What is the purpose of this excerpt?	What can this source tell us about life in Texas during the Revolution?

Primary Source #9: Financing the War and Treaties with American Indians

In one sentence, explain the main topic or idea of this source	What is the purpose of this excerpt?	What can this source tell us about life in Texas during the Revolution?