Primary Source Adventures:

Lorenzo de Zavala: Empresario, Statesman & Texas Revolutionary

Oil Painting of Lorenzo de Zavala by Larry Wheeler
Courtesy of the San Jacinto Museum of History
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Harrisburg election returns. Note the margin of Zavala’s victory.

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A list of voters and votes received at an election held at Lynchburg. For the municipality of Harrisburg on the first February 1836 for to elect two delegates to meet in a general convention of all Texas on the first of March next. Also one person for Alcalde (governor) four persons for Regidor two persons for Síndico Procurador (city attorney) and one person for Sheriff of said municipality.

Text version of the Harrisburg election returns.
Zavala’s letter to Dimitt
9 December 1835
Page one

See a transcript on the following slide.
Translation

Mr. Dimitt
Lynchburg 9th December 1835

Regarded Sir,

I received the day before yesterday your letter of the 23 November handed to me by Mr. N. Sianck and not by Mr. G. W. Baylor, who I suppose is at Fort Felipe. In the contents of said letter I observed an ardent zeal for the cause embraced as well by yourself as by those volunteers who are worthy sons of the great Republic, and inasmuch as the said letter treats on an important matter, on which my opinion is asked and even my existence depends I am going to emit my opinion in both matters. Repeating the expedition to the interior of Mexico-particularly that to Matamoras, it is certain that there is no numerous garrison at the latter place: information will soon arrive their of General Mexía’s expedition to Tampico. Should that expedition result favorably which is probable, then you ought speedily to proceed with your brave volunteers to Matamoras, to occupy that town and aid it: should the expedition to Tampico turn out unfavorably then yours will be highly doubtful, for you are well aware of the influence which the result of expeditions exercises over the moral.
Zavala letter’s to Dimitt
9 December 1835
Page two

See a transcript on the following slide.
[Translation Zavala to Dimitt 9 December 1835]

…feeling of an army. I feel grateful to your honorable Committee for the honor conferred on me in asking my opinion and also for that of calling me to join their ranks; my regret at not being able to accept so respectable an invitation is equal to the noble sentiments which animate those defenders of Liberty my regret is profound, it is deep. But the obstacles to my acceptance are insurmountable, for I cannot unite my personal efforts at present to theirs but my best wishes accompany them. Be pleased to accept my excuses and to make them known to the gentleman; accepting also the sentiments of gratitude and respect with which I remain your most affectionate servant.

(signed) Lorenzo de Zavala

A true copy of the Original Folia 9th January 1836

(signed) José Miguel Aldrete
Resignation letter
from Zavala to Burnet
17 October 1836

See a transcript on the
following slide.
Zavala’s Point (Buffalo Bayou) October 17<sup>th</sup> 1836

Sir

Not considering my services useful as Vice President <i>ad interim</i> of Texas, on account of the bad state of my health now, when the most important questions are to be under discussion in that honorable body, I have the honor to tender my resignation of the office of Vice President of the Republic.

With the greatest respect I remain your most obedient Servant-

Lorenzo de Zavala

To the
Honorable members of the Senate
and the House of Representatives

Text version of Resignation letter from Zavala to Burnet
17 October 1836

University of North Texas Libraries
Letter from Zavala to Burnet commenting on his ill health
24 September 1836

See transcript on the following slide.
Sir,

Though in a communication I had the honor to address you a short time ago I stated that as my health was improving I thought I would be able to be at that place by time Congress would begin its Sessions; now I have to inform you that I am not so recovered as I expected I would be by this time and in consequence of this it will be impossible for me to go to exercise the functions of the Vice President; what I have the honor to state to you in order that you as President of the Republic should take such measures as to prevent—that the opening of the Sessions of the Senate should suffer any interruptions; a case of such a nature not being provided for in the constitution.

I have the honor to be, Sir, with great respect
your obedient servant

His Exc. David G. Burnet
President of the Republic of Texas

Lorenzo de Zavala

Zavala’s Point (Buffalo Bayou) September 24 – 1836-
The Declaration that Zavala assisted in writing

See translation on the following slide.
Declaration

To the People of Texas,
In General Convention Assembled.

General Lopez de Santa Anna, and other military chiefs have by force of arms, overthrown the Federal Institutions of Mexico and dissolved the social pact that existed between Texas and the other members of the Mexican Confederation, the good people of Texas, availing themselves of their natural rights.

Do Solemnly Declare,

First. That they have taken up arms in defense of their rights and liberties against the attacks of a military despot; and in defense of the republican principles of the Federal constitution of Mexico, sanctioned in 1824.
Second. That although Texas is neither politically nor morally obligated to the Federal Union, moved by the natural generosity free towns, offered of assistance to those members of the confederation that took up arms against military despotism.
Third. That does not recognize the actual authorities of the Republic of Mexico’s right to govern the territory of Texas.
Fourth. That the people will never cease to do battle against the aforementioned authorities so long as they maintain troops within Texas.
Fifth. That it is considered separated from the union of Mexico during the disorganization of federal system, and the regime of despotism, and to organize an independent government and to adopt measures that are adequate for protection of its rights and liberties; but Texas will continue to be faithful to the Mexican government in the case that the nation can be governed by the constitution and the laws that were formed for the government of political association.
Sixth. That Texas is obligated to pay the expenses of its troops currently on active campaign.
Seventh. That Texas is obligated to pay for any debts contracted by its agents.
Eighth. That Texas will reward by donations of land and citizenship any who volunteer to serve in the present struggle.

These declarations we profess before the world, calling on God to witness the sincerity of our intentions, and invoke a malediction upon our heads in the case that we prove guilty of duplicity in our intentions.

Translated by: Vale Fitzpatrick
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“Zavala Diplomatico”

From Album mejicano: tributo de gratitud al civismo nacional: retratos de los personages ilustres de la primera y segunda época de la independencia mejicana y notabilidades de la presente.
Letter from Lorenzo de Zavala to Santa Anna, 13 September 1828

University of North Texas Libraries
Sr. D. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna
Tlalpam September 13, 1828.

My respectable friend: as soon as I had news of the attempt those miserable representatives made on you I consented to the project of writing to you saying that your current position is the most advantageous one to defeat your enemies, resting on your justice, on the circumstances, and your well known services. What are those eleven imbeciles when confronting the Hercules of Veracruz? And, what can they do other than crash, finish ruining their reputation and forever disappear taking the opprobrium and curse of us all?

They have committed an arbitrary act failing because of their base resentments, without able to cite any law explicitly broken by you.

I, my friend, consider and declare them unthinking imbeciles and capable of loosing the state. I cannot analyze the issue for lack of time, but I assure you they are lost forever.

You do not need these consolations, because the matter is worthy of none and because Santana has energy for greater things. But I thought I must manifest to you that Zavala joins his sentiments with the illustrious Caudillo of Veracruz, whose name occupies a distinguished place in the pages of our history.

Receive these sincere _____ of friendship and laws that I am yours [affectively?] L de Z
From the book
Los gobernantes de México.

Galería de biografías y retratos de los vireyes, emperadores, presidentes y otros gobernantes que ha tenido México, desde Don Hernando Cortes hasta el C. Benito Juárez.

Published 1872 in Mexico.
Santa Anna’s letter to Lorenzo de Zavala expressing shock at Zavala’s attack on him in Zavala’s newspaper, El Correro, November 9, 1829.
Santa Anna’s letter to Lorenzo de Zavala expressing shock at Zavala’s attack on him in Zavala’s newspaper, El Correro, 24 Sept. 1829
Excellent Sir Don Lorenzo de Zavala

Mexico

Veracruz, October 7, 1829

My dear Sir

I have read with much pain the second editorial article of the Correo, dated the 24th of last month; and I am compelled to say that the labors, the sacrifices I have borne to save the nation in the recent struggle, and the dangers to which I have exposed myself and my [illegible] comrades in arms, are not [manuscript torn] to similar recompense. It appears to me to be a terrible threat to the nation’s peace. ¿And where are the grounds for this fear?

I have seen letters from your capital in which it is said that you (Spanish “usted”) are the author of the article, in which I am directly attacked. If it is you, truthfully, or if it is not, what is certain is that the Correo is under your direction and that without your consent nothing is inserted in it. This realization has made me experience a powerful emotion, since I did not expect such conduct from a person who calls himself my friend; especially when I have not given a motive to such a person. ¿Or, where is the motive? Explain to me in which form, or for which cause it can be said that as a result of danger to me the system is in order. It is a bizarre thing that when my work is unwaveringly directed toward the good of the nation, it can be believed that I am capable of neglecting its interests. In the nine years during which with my person and sword I have served the nation, I do not believe there is anyone who with justice can make the same acrimonies against my character that the said editorial contains. As a lover of justice, I enjoy giving it, and in turn enjoy when others give it to me. Without presuming to be Aristides, I do want to imitate him; and if it be necessary, so that the imitation be more exact, that I suffer exile, I would suffer it. In prosperity as in adversity, I endeavor to master myself, and not that my passions dominate me: one will not diminish me, nor will another exult me more than what is just. I accept praises when I consider them deserved: I confess my mistakes when I notice them. If in my efforts for the general good I become separated, even for a moment, from the correct path, it is not because I chose to: as the error shows itself I will correct it. Thus has been my constant walk. Now listen to what I truly desire: that peace be preserved; that unity be consolidated, that the integrity of liberty be maintained: that the system be sustained.

Having clarified this, I am convinced that your attack which has inferred so much against me, could not have proceeded from any other cause other than you having taken offense because I suggested that you retire from the ministry. I said this to you as a friend: as I will repeat endlessly. The accusations against you are many and of much seriousness, relating to your public office as well as you in particular. These accusations refer to deeds that, certain or not, are so degrading and so repeated that you have been stripped of all prestige. As minister you have been accused of monopolies, bribes and
illegal commerce, agitations that: specifically, it is told and retold about what occurred with Señorita pasienta de Tornél, as well as with other women. In light of this, ¿Would you not prefer that I suggest you resign? Not only to you, I would also suggest this to the other secretaries of the office; since, justly or unjustly, they lack the necessary prestige, without which nothing can be advanced. I conclude by pointing out that I expect you will abstain from writing with regards to me in the terms with which you have done in the editorial, preparing your opinion against me, and painting me with colorful denigrating terms, as if I were a danger to the system, and as if I were a worthy object of spite more so than any other citizen.

This correspondence has lasted longer than what my tasks truthfully permit me; yet it is because I have not been able to excuse it any longer.

Your Attentive Servant,
Q.B.S.M. (Who Kisses Your Hand)

Text version of Santa Anna’s letter to Lorenzo de Zavala expressing shock at Zavala’s attack on him in Zavala’s newspaper, *El Correro*, 24 Sept. 1829

University of North Texas Libraries
From the book
*México, su evolución social: síntesis de la historia política, de la organización administrativa y militar y del estado económico de la federación mexicana;*

de sus adelantamientos en el orden intelectual; de su estructura territorial y del desarrollo de su población y de los medios de comunicación nacionales y internacionales; de sus conquistas en el campo industrial, agrícola, minero, mercantil, etc., etc. Inventario monumental que resume em trabajos magistrales los grande progresos de la nación en el siglo XIX ...

Published 1900-1902 in Mexico.