



# TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

## JERRY PATTERSON, COMMISSIONER

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Land Office's historic archives grow**

*Private donations to Save Texas History make purchases possible*

AUSTIN — Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson today announced a significant addition to the Land Office Archives, thanks to private donations from across the state to Save Texas History.

At a recent Dallas auction, Save Texas History bought a clean copy of the 1858 publication “Texas: Her Resources and her Public Men.” This book served as the companion text for Jacob De Cordova’s still popular map of Texas, which he used to lure immigrants from Europe. Copies of the map are still a best-seller from the Land Office Archives today.

De Cordova, who was one of the earliest Jewish settlers in Texas, addressed most of the concerns potential immigrants to Texas in 1858 might have had, including climate, soil quality, transportation, laws, history, churches, fraternal organizations, land claims and more in the book.

“None other than Sam Houston praised this book from the Senate floor,” Patterson said. “Adding this book to our archives completes the set, reuniting it with De Cordova’s map of Texas. It also gives researchers using the Land Office Archives a first-hand source explaining what drew people to Texas to begin with.”

This particular copy of De Cordova’s “Texas: Her Resources and her Public Men” was once part of the library of John M. McCoy, the first city attorney of Dallas, according to the bookplate.

Save Texas History also purchased a Land Office document from 1853: “Instructions to Surveyors.”

“This document fills a gap in our knowledge about what the Land Office was telling surveyors on how to do their work,” Patterson said. “The Land Office Archives have a similar document from 1838 and a later document from after the Civil War, but nothing from this busy period for settlers.”

Both of these historical documents will be added to the more than 35 million others stored in the Land Office Archives. Land Office historians and archivists certified the authenticity of the collection before buying the documents.

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“I am honored to preserve this important glimpse into Texas history,” Patterson said. “We are proud to have them and share them with all Texans.”

Created by Patterson in 2004, the Texas General Land Office Save Texas History™ program is a unique campaign that brings together private and government efforts to preserve the 35 million maps and documents in the GLO Archives. The maps, land grants, surveys and field notes — the very documents that trace the creation of modern-day Texas, include Stephen F. Austin’s original Spanish field notes, and records bearing the signatures of Alamo defenders Jim Bowie and William Barret Travis. Also at the Land Office is a document granting 1,280 acres to the heirs of Davy Crockett.

After items are conserved they are digitally preserved and made available to the public via the Internet. The Digital Preservation Project of the Save Texas History program has been recognized by the Texas Historical Commission for its monumental effort to digitally preserve these historic treasures.

For more information, or to make a donation, please visit [www.savetexashistory.org](http://www.savetexashistory.org).

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