

TEXAS STATE LIBRARY
AUSTIN

February 1, 1921.

Mr. Harrel B. Ayres,
San Antonio, Texas.

Dear Mr. Ayres:

I am at last returning your blue print of an early Texas map, and regret to say that I have been unable to locate the author or the exact date it was made. It is very difficult to locate it by the towns, as most of the towns on the map date back very early. As closely as I can approximate it, it must have been made between 1831 or 1832 and 1836. I base this on the information given in the enclosed extracts from various histories. The town of Liberty, which appears on your map, was created about 1831, and Houston, which does not appear on your map, and which came into almost immediate importance, was established in 1836. I think that the map, which seems to be unusually accurate for such an early one, would certainly have shown the town of Houston, if it had been made as late, as say, 1837. Of course, this is only a guess, and I realize that just locating the date between 1831 and 1836 is very indefinite, but it is the best I can do at present. I may run across some data later which will establish its date more accurately, and I will keep the matter in mind.

I have compared your print with all of our old maps and with those in the University archives, but it does not correspond with any of them. I have also asked the best history authorities here, namely, Drs. Barker and Ramsdell, about it, but they were unable to tell me the author or the approximate date of it.

I am enclosing a list of maps which show the old San Antonio road and the names of the towns through which it passed.

I received the Old Spanish Trail Magazine, read it through and enjoyed it very much, and then placed it on the magazine stand in our Library for the use of the general public.

Trusting that the above information may be of some use to you, I am

Sincerely yours,

Herbert Elliott

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in Census Room
file