

Spanish History Research Library,  
112 College Street,  
San Antonio.

October 23, 1933

Mr. Edgar B. Davis,  
Luling, Texas.

Dear Mr. Davis:

There is imperishable recognition for the man who will create a foundation for the development of this old Spanish history at and around San Antonio---of this "Spanish South Texas" for San Antonio and the Missions were the flowerings of a century of imperial efforts spread over a considerable part of South Texas.

The cost would be small. For a year or so it would be a matter of contacting and encouraging many individuals scattered about South Texas that have material, and a disposition to dig. This material, woven together, would be the basis for all time for history, literature and intellectual understandings. Bancroft did this work for California. Stetson is doing it, I am told, for Florida. Many have immortalized their name by providing for the reclamation and preservation of just such rare historical material as this that lies, now dying, around San Antonio.

I have opened many channels. Have opened and furnished a library workshop. Have data, maps, files, indexes, and ten years of Spanish history background, and a geographical knowledge that is invaluable. Have been decorated by the King of Spain (1930) for historical work. Have associates who from time to time render valuable assistance on some angle. But that Spanish Era is too big for any one man to handle as an individual. Such works elsewhere are accomplished thru orderly organization, and they must be here.

I have laid the foundations. There is imperishable recognition, as I have said, for him who will now help or support this work *until* the material is *in* print for posterity.

Sincerely,

Harrah Ayres