



# **NEW SOCIAL STUDIES TEKS UPDATE**

**-LRE STYLE-**

## **7th Grade Bio Cards**

*Every effort has been made for the accuracy of the information contained in the bio cards. Please report any errors to [ldeleon@texasbar.com](mailto:ldeleon@texasbar.com).*



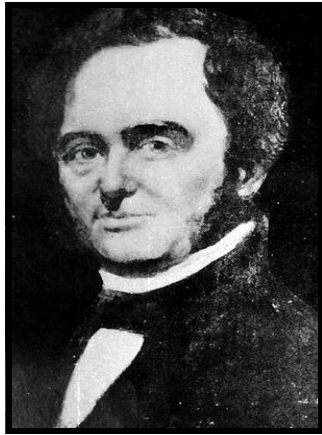
All rights reserved. Permission is granted for these materials to be reproduced for classroom use only. No part of these materials may be reproduced in any other form or for any other purpose without the written consent of Law Related Education, State Bar of Texas.

For additional information on the LRE Program, please go to [www.texaslre.org](http://www.texaslre.org)



# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



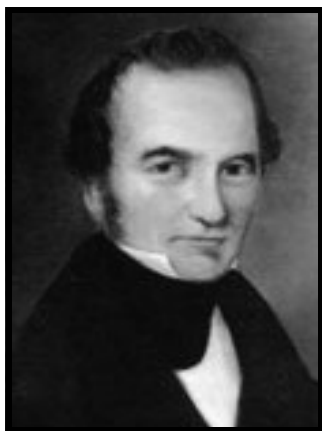
**Moses Austin**  
(1761-1821)

Moses Austin was born in Connecticut and became the first American to establish a settlement west of the Mississippi. Moses first moved to Virginia and opened a dry goods store with his brother. He then married into a family in the growing iron industry and became involved in lead production. When the Virginia businesses failed, he moved to Missouri. The Panic of 1819 wiped out Moses' fortune, and in 1820, he proposed to the Spanish Governor of Texas that he to bring 300 families to Texas. At first, the plan was rejected, but finally he was given permission to settle in Texas. He returned to Missouri to get his settlers, but died before his dream could be realized. However, his son, Stephen F. Austin, followed through on Moses' plan and brought the first Anglo families to Texas.

7th Grade Bio Card-2

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



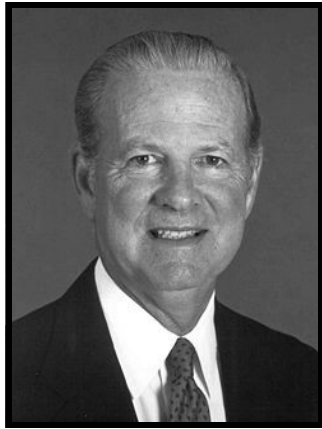
**Stephen F. Austin**  
(1793-1836)

Stephen F. Austin is considered the "Father of Texas." His father, Moses, had received a grant to settle in Texas, but after he died, Stephen continued with the plans for a colony. He recruited families in 1821, and within four years, he brought nearly three hundred families to his colony. When Mexico achieved independence from Spain, Austin was at first pleased with Santa Anna's leadership. However, as Santa Anna assumed more and more control and limited the freedom of Texans, Austin went to Mexico to discuss the matter. There he was imprisoned for treason. When he was released, he went back to Texas to support independence. In 1836, Texas gained its independence from Mexico and became an independent nation. Austin lost a bid to become the first President of Texas to Sam Houston, and instead he became Secretary of State. Austin died in December, 1836 from pneumonia soon after his election.

7th Grade Bio Card-2

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



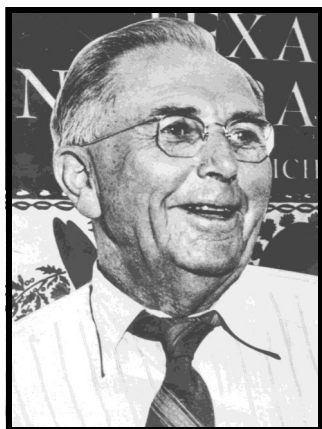
**James Addison  
Baker, III**  
(1930-)

James Baker, III was a noted political advisor to both Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush. During the Reagan administration, he served as Reagan's Chief of Staff. He later served in that same position in the final year of the senior Bush's administration. Baker also served as Secretary of the Treasury and Secretary of State under George H.W. Bush. He became involved in politics through his friendship with George H.W. Bush while they were both living in Houston. Bush encouraged him to get involved as a way to help with the grief he was suffering due to the death of his first wife. In both administrations his conservative views influenced the policies of the two presidents. In 1991 Baker received the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his service. After he left public service, he helped found the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Rice University in Houston, Texas.

7th Grade Bio Card-3

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



*Courtesy of Bedichek  
Family*

**Roy Bedichek**  
(1878-1959)

Roy Bedichek was born in Illinois and moved to Texas at age six with his family. After graduating from the University of Texas, he worked at several jobs teaching, writing on a newspaper, and working in business before beginning a career with the University Interscholastic League (U.I.L.) The U.I.L. is charged with providing educational extracurricular athletic, music, and academic competitions for the students of Texas. The organization is the largest of its kind in the world. Bedichek served as the director of U.I.L. for twenty-two years. He was encouraged by his Austin friends, J. Frank Dobie and Walter Prescott Webb, to begin writing. His published books include *Adventures with a Texas Naturalist*, *Karankaway Country*, and *A History of the University Interscholastic League*. Bedichek, Dobie, and Webb all three have schools in Austin named in their honor.

7th Grade Bio Card-3

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



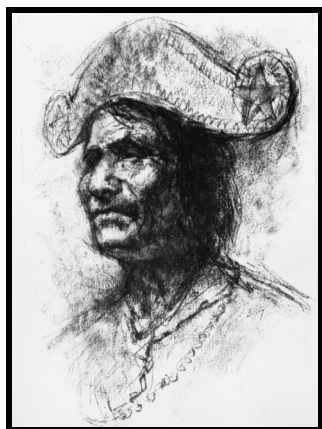
**Diane Gonzales  
Bertrand**  
(1956-)

Diane Gonzales Bertrand was born in San Antonio. She is a Hispanic writer, noted for her books for children and young adults. She has written a variety of books including: *Family, Familia; Mi amigo, Victor/ My Pal, Victor; Somos Primos/ We Are Cousins*, and *La Carrera De Ricardo/ Ricardo's Race; Trino's Choice*, and *The F Factor*. Her books primarily feature Mexican-American characters with the goal of presenting authentic representations of her culture and positive role models for her readers. Diane Gonzales Bertrand is a teacher of creative writing at St. Mary's University in her hometown of San Antonio, Texas. One of the best quotes about her writing comes from the author herself. "I just want to write. I never set out to make any political statements. I just wanted to write stories about people like myself, and I just happen to be Mexican-American."

7th Grade Bio Card-4

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



*The Texas State Library  
and Archives*

**Chief Bowles**  
(1756-1839)

Chief Bowles, also known as "The Bold Hunter," was born in 1756 in North Carolina. His father was Scottish and his mother Cherokee. As a leader of a Cherokee village, he led his people west during the "Trail of Tears" and arrived in East Texas. When the Texans fought for their independence from Mexico, Sam Houston and William Goyens negotiated a treaty with Chief Bowles to allow the Cherokees 1.5 million acres of land in East Texas. However, after the war, the Congress of the Republic of Texas refused to ratify the treaty and declared it null and void. President Mirabeau Lamar ordered Chief Bowles and his tribe to leave Texas against the wishes of Sam Houston who maintained that the treaty was binding. Chief Bowles and his warriors fought in the last battle between the Texas Cavalry and the Cherokees on July 16, 1839, when he was killed.

7th Grade Bio Card-4

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**Benjy Frances  
Brooks**  
(1918-1998)

Benjy Frances Brooks was the first woman to become a board certified pediatric surgeon in Texas. Benjy was born in the small north Texas town of Lewisville. She knew from the age of four that she wanted to be a doctor when she operated on her sister's doll with a pair of scissors. She also learned to read by age four and had graduated from college by age 19. After teaching science for four years, she decided to enter medical school and specialize in pediatrics. Even though she had a rigorous teaching and surgical schedule, she continued to research congenital defects, burn treatment, spleen reparation, and the prevention of hepatitis after she began practicing. Grateful parents of one of her patients created The Benjy Brooks Foundation for Children, which has been credited with greatly advancing the surgical care of young children in Texas.

7th Grade Bio Card-5

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**George  
Childress**  
(1804-1841)

George Childress was born on January 8, 1804 in Nashville, Tennessee. Childress and his son left for Texas in late 1835 after the death of his wife and settled in his uncle's colony. There he set up his law practice. In February, he and his uncle were chosen to attend the Convention of 1836 to discuss the pending conflict with Mexico. He and five others were chosen to draft the Declaration of Independence from Mexico. As chairman of the committee, he is acknowledged as being the principle author of the document. His life after the revolution was a struggle as he failed three times to establish a law practice successful enough to support his family. Distraught by his inability to earn a living, George Childress committed suicide at his home in Galveston on October 6, 1841. Five years later, Childress County was named after him in recognition of his service to the Republic of Texas.

7th Grade Bio Card-5

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



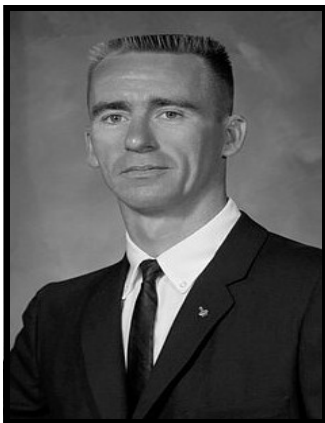
**Denton Arthur  
Cooley**  
(1920- )

Houston-born Denton Cooley is considered one of the leading heart surgeons in the world. He was the first surgeon to successfully remove blood clots that had previously been inaccessible to heart surgeons. When the South African Dr. Christian Barnard completed the first successful heart transplant, Cooley and his associates studied Barnard's methods carefully. He then performed the first surgeon heart transplant in the United States at St. Luke's Hospital in Houston on May 3, 1968. He also became the first surgeon in the world to try using an artificial heart. He and fellow heart surgeon, Dr. Michael DeBakey, had a professional rivalry for over 40 years. However, the two mended their relationship before DeBakey died.

7th Grade Bio Card-6

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**Ronnie Walter  
"Walt"  
Cunningham**  
(1932- )

Ronnie Walter "Walt" Cunningham was born March 16, 1932. He is a retired American astronaut. After serving in the military, NASA named him to the third group of astronauts. He served in the astronaut program until 1971. In 1968, he was a crew member of the first manned Apollo mission, known as Apollo 7. On the 11-day Apollo mission, Cunningham performed a myriad of duties. He is the author of *The All-American Boys* which was published in 1977 and is about his days as an astronaut. He is the recipient of several awards and has been inducted into the International Space Hall of Fame.

7th Grade Bio Card-6

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**José de  
Escandón**  
(1700-1770)

José de Escandón is known as the colonizer and first governor of the colony of Nuevo Santander. This colony extended from the Pánuco River in Mexico to the Guadalupe River in Texas. He founded over twenty towns or villas and a number of missions in the colony, including Camargo, Reynosa, Mier, and Revilla south of the Rio Grande and Laredo and Nuestra Señora de los Dolores Hacienda north of the Rio Grande. For his colonization efforts, Escandón is sometimes called the "Father of the lower Rio Grande Valley." Even though he was once charged for misusing Indians as slave labor, the number of Indians who died while he was governor dropped significantly. There was no question though that he did become wealthy from the use of Indian slave labor. He died in 1770, and numerous streets and memorials can be found throughout the lower Rio Grande Valley in his honor.

7th Grade Bio Card-7

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**Antonio Margil  
de Jesus**  
(1657-1726)

Antonio Margil de Jesus was an early Roman Catholic missionary to Texas. After serving in Mexico and Central America, he traveled into Spanish Texas where he established several missions in East Texas by 1717. These missions had to be abandoned in 1719 when tensions rose between the French and the Spanish. Fray Margil and his settlers fled to San Antonio. There he founded the mission of San Jose y San Miguel de Aguayo, which became the most successful of all the Texas missions. Known for his piety and disciplined life, Fray Margil was often seen barefoot and wearing simple clothing.

7th Grade Bio Card-7

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**José Gutiérrez  
de Lara**  
(1774-1841)

José Gutiérrez de Lara was born in Mexico on August 20, 1774. There he became a merchant, blacksmith, and property owner. He then became an ardent supporter of Mexican Independence from Spain. When the revolution between Mexico and Spain broke out, he was sent to the Rio Grande to recruit soldiers and solicit aid from the United States. He left for Washington, D.C., with letters of introduction from John Sibley. He was received by Secretary of State James Monroe who listened to his plans for establishment of a republican government in Texas and for using Texas as a base to plan the liberation of Mexico from Spain. However, the U.S. did not send aid because it did not want to harm relations with the Spanish. He served as a provincial governor after Mexico was freed from Spain and was later honored for his work in achieving Mexican Independence. He died in 1841.

7th Grade Bio Card-8

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**Martín  
De León**  
(1763-1833)

Martín De León was born to a wealthy family. He was a rancher and important Empresario in Texas. When he decided to settle in Texas, he petitioned the Spanish government for the right to establish a colony in 1807 but was denied. However, after Mexico won its independence from Spain, the Mexican government finally approved his petition to form a colony in 1824. He established his colony and founded the town which is today the city of Victoria. He often was at odds with Green DeWitt who had been given another colonial grant nearby. Today the site of his home in Victoria is a registered Texas landmark. He opposed Santa Anna but died in 1833 before the battle for Texas independence.

7th Grade Bio Card-8



# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**Alonso Álvarez  
de Pineda**  
(1494-1520)

Alonso Álvarez de Pineda commanded a Spanish expedition that sailed in 1519 along the coastline of the Gulf of Mexico looking for a water route to the Pacific Ocean. In doing so, he was the first to map the northern Gulf Coast as well as the first to document about Texas. He explored a river, some think might have been the Rio Grande, but there is no definite proof of this. His voyage did encourage the Spanish to explore the region even though they now knew there wasn't a water route to the Pacific in this vicinity. After his voyage, he returned to Jamaica where Pineda and his mother were later killed by hostile natives.

7th Grade Bio Card-9

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**Antonio López  
de Santa Anna**  
(1794-1876)

Antonio López de Santa Anna rose to power as the dictator of Mexico after leading a revolt against Mexican President Bustamante in 1832. He promised to restore the Constitution of 1824, but when he didn't fulfill his promise, war with Texas broke out. He led Mexican forces against the Texans, laid siege to the Alamo, and was finally captured at the Battle of San Jacinto. He signed the peace treaty at Velasco in 1836 which ended fighting between Mexico and Texas and called for an exchange of prisoners. Therefore, Santa Anna was eventually returned to Mexico. He commanded the Mexican army against the United States during the Mexican-American War from 1846 to 1848. One of the major causes of this war was the annexation of Texas into the United States. After Mexico lost the war, he was exiled to Cuba but returned to Mexico before his death in 1876.

7th Grade Bio Card-9

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**Álvar Núñez  
Cabeza de Vaca**  
(ca. 1490-ca. 1556)

Cabeza de Vaca was an early Spanish explorer of Texas. In 1528 Cabeza de Vaca's ship and three others were grounded on an island off the Texas coast. After being enslaved by the Mariame Indians, and serving as a merchant and medicine man, de Vaca and other survivors left the area of Galveston Island and began searching for Spanish settlements. After reaching the Pacific Coast of Mexico in 1536, he and his companions recorded their observations describing the Indians, landforms, flora, and fauna of Texas. He was the only Spaniard to live among the coastal Indians of Texas and survive to write about them. In the early 1540s Cabeza de Vaca again served the Spanish crown as a governor in what is now Paraguay.

7th Grade Bio Card-10

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**Lorenzo de  
Zavala**  
(1788-1836)

De Zavala played a pivotal role in Texas' battle for independence from Mexico. De Zavala served in the Mexican Congress (1822–1824), the Mexican Senate (1824–1826), Secretary of the Treasury, and minister to France. He resigned as minister due to his opposition to Santa Anna. He moved to Texas where he became active in the independence movement. As a delegate to the Convention of 1836, de Zavala signed the Texas Declaration of Independence. An experienced politician, de Zavala was named Vice President of the new Republic of Texas. Because of health problems, he resigned as Vice President in October, 1836 and died a month later. He is also credited with the design of the first flag of the Republic of Texas.

7th Grade Bio Card-10

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**Michael Ellis  
DeBakey**  
(1908-2008)

Michael Ellis DeBakey was a world-renowned Lebanese-American cardiac surgeon in Houston, Texas. DeBakey was the chancellor emeritus of Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, director of The Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center, and senior attending surgeon of The Methodist Hospital in Houston. As a medical student, DeBakey was responsible for developing a major component of the heart-lung machine which made open heart surgery possible. While serving in the military medical corps during World War II, he supported moving the doctors closer to the fighting to better treat the wounded. Today, mobile medical surgical units are commonplace on the front lines of combat. Before dying in 2008, DeBakey established a reputation as one the leading cardiac surgeons in the world.

7th Grade Bio Card-11

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**Michael Saul  
Dell**  
(1965- )

Michael Saul Dell is an American business magnate and the founder and chief executive officer of Dell, Inc. He is one of the richest people in the world, with a net worth of \$13.5 billion in 2010. While a pre-med student at the University of Texas at Austin, Dell started an informal business upgrading computers in room 2713 of the Dobie Center residential building. In 1992 at the age of 27, Dell became the youngest CEO to have his company ranked in *Fortune* magazine's list of the top 500 corporations. In 1999, Michael and Susan Dell established the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation which focuses on children's causes. He has previously served on the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.

7th Grade Bio Card-11

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



Gonzales County Records  
& Archives

## Green DeWitt (1787-1835)

Green DeWitt was born in Kentucky. He later became an Empresario in Texas when he was awarded a grant in 1825. He was allowed to bring 400 colonists to settle at Gonzales on the Guadalupe River. Because of the success of his settlement, DeWitt is considered the second most influential Empresario after Stephen F. Austin. He was often at odds with Martin De León as his colonial grant was nearby. He made peace with all of the Indians in the area except for the Comanche. He spent most of his own money on the colony and suffered greatly when the Mexican government tried to limit the number of colonists coming into Texas. DeWitt did not live to see the battle of Gonzales, which traditionally is considered the first skirmish of the Texas Revolution. However, his wife and daughter, Naomi, cut up Naomi's wedding dress to make the "Come and Take It" banner that his fellow colonists adopted as their battle flag.

7th Grade Bio Card-12

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



## J. Frank Dobie (1888-1964)

J. Frank Dobie was a folklorist and writer born on a ranch in Live Oak County. He became the first Texas-based writer to gain national attention. Several of his books became best sellers, including *Tales of Old-Time Texas*, *Coronado's Children*, and *The Longhorns*. In these books, Dobie was able to capture the essence of the Southwest which was quickly disappearing as the United States became more urbanized and industrial. President Lyndon B. Johnson awarded him the nation's highest civil award, the Medal of Freedom, on September 14, 1964. Dobie was also known for his friendship with fellow authors Walter Prescott Webb and Roy Bedichek. The three have schools in Austin named in their honor.

7th Grade Bio Card-12

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**James Fannin**  
(1814-1836)

James Fannin was born in early 1804 in Georgia. He entered the US Military Academy at West Point in 1819 and remained for just over two years. He came to Texas in 1834 and settled with his wife and two daughters at Valesco. Soon after his arrival, he became active in the cause for independence from Mexico. He participated in the Battle of Gonzales and later helped lead the Texas forces in the Battle of Concepcion. In early 1836, Fannin was stationed in Goliad with 400 soldiers. He received orders from Sam Houston on March 14 to retreat to Victoria. Partly through indecision and partly due to circumstances, Fannin delayed the retreat for five days. Due to the delay, Fannin and his troops were captured by General Urrea at Goliad on March 20 and executed on the orders of Santa Anna seven days later. "Remember Goliad" became a Texas battle cry along with "Remember the Alamo."

7th Grade Bio Card-13

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**James L.  
Farmer**  
(1920-1999)

Born in Marshall, Texas, James Farmer became an important leader in the civil rights movement of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. His frustration with segregation and his belief in the non-violent passive resistance ideas of Gandhi from India led him to found the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) with other students at the University of Chicago. CORE became the first protest organization in the United States founded on the concept of civil disobedience and non-violence. Farmer was its director. To protest segregation on buses in the South, CORE organized the "Freedom Rides." These non-violent protests played a part in making people aware of segregation in interstate transportation. This practice was later struck down as unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. Farmer passed away from complications of diabetes in 1999.

7th Grade Bio Card-13

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



*Southern Methodist  
University, Central  
University Libraries,  
DeGolyer Library*

**Horton Foote**  
(1916-2009)

Horton Foote was born in 1916 and soon became a highly successful playwright and screenwriter. He was known for a writing style that captured the true essence of the characters in the work. He wrote the screenplay for such classic pieces as *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Trip to Bountiful*, and *Tender Mercies*. Foote was awarded an Academy Award for the screenplays of both *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Tender Mercies*. He won a Pulitzer Prize for *The Young Man from Atlanta* as well as the National Medal of Arts conferred by President Bill Clinton in 2000. When he died in March, 2009, he left a varied and extensive legacy in the field of drama for future citizens to enjoy.

7th Grade Bio Card-14

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



*Dr. Hector P. Garcia  
Papers, Special Collections  
& Archives, Texas A&M  
University-Corpus Christi  
Bell Library*

**Hector P.  
Garcia**  
(1914-1996)

Hector Garcia moved to Texas as a young man when his family fled unrest in Mexico. He attended the University of Texas and later earned his medical degree from the University of Texas Medical School in Galveston, Texas. He served in the Medical Corps during World War II where he was stationed in the European theater. The discrimination against Mexican Americans that he witnessed during the war led him to found the American GI Forum. The original focus of this organization was to increase veterans' benefits for Mexican Americans, but later the Forum worked to improve education, public housing, etc. For his community service and activism, Mr. Garcia was awarded the American Medal of Freedom in 1984. He was the first Mexican American to receive this honor.

7th Grade Bio Card-14

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



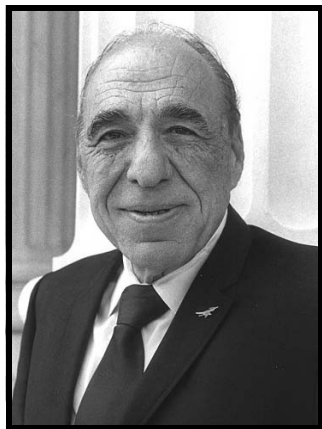
**John Nance  
Garner**  
**(“Cactus Jack”)**  
(1868-1967)

John Nance (Cactus Jack) Garner served as the thirty-second Vice President of the United States during the first and second terms of Franklin D. Roosevelt. He earned his nickname by sponsoring a bill that would have made the prickly pear cactus the state flower of Texas. The bill failed, and the bluebonnet was selected instead. Garner was elected in 1898 to the state legislature, where he served until 1902. While in the legislature, the redistricting plan after the census created a new Fifteenth Congressional District. At thirty-four, “Cactus Jack” was elected the U.S. representative for District Fifteen. He entered the Fifty-Eighth Congress as a Democrat on November 9, 1903 and eventually became Speaker of the House. He served continuously for fifteen terms until March 4, 1933 when he became Vice-President. He died in 1967.

7th Grade Bio Card-15

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



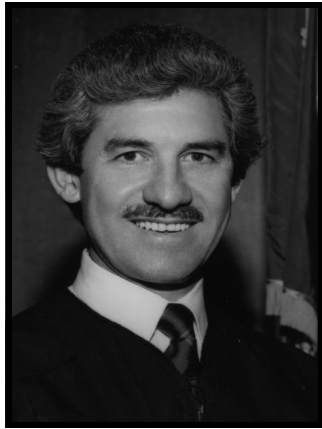
**Henry B.  
González**  
(1916-2000)

Henry B. González was born in 1916 in San Antonio to Mexican immigrant parents. He became one of the most influential Hispanic-Americans of the 20<sup>th</sup> century due to his governmental service. In 1953, he became the first Hispanic-American member of the San Antonio city council. In 1956, González became a member of the Texas Senate. He unsuccessfully ran for governor in 1958, but his candidacy encouraged more Hispanic-Americans to become involved in politics. In 1961 he became the first Hispanic-Texan to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives where he chaired the powerful Banking Committee from 1988 until 1999. As a Democrat, he continued to serve in the U.S. Congress until he retired in 1999 after serving 38 years. He was awarded the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award in 1994 and died in San Antonio in 2000.

7th Grade Bio Card-15

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**Raul A.  
Gonzalez, Jr.**  
(1940- )

Raul A. Gonzalez, Jr., was born to migrant farming parents and grew up in the Rio Grande Valley. Raul graduated from the University of Houston Law School in 1966. His judicial career began in 1978 when Governor Dolph Briscoe appointed him judge of the 103rd Judicial District. He was elected to a four-year term that next November. Before he completed this term, Governor Bill Clements appointed him to fill a vacancy as an Associate Justice on the Thirteenth Texas Court of Appeals. He was subsequently elected to the same position in 1982. Before Gonzalez' term on the Court of Appeals was complete, Governor Mark White appointed him an Associate Justice of the Texas Supreme Court, the highest civil court in Texas. He was later elected to the same position. Gonzalez was the first Hispanic member of the Texas Supreme Court. He served in this position from 1984 until 1998 when he retired.

7th Grade Bio Card-16

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education

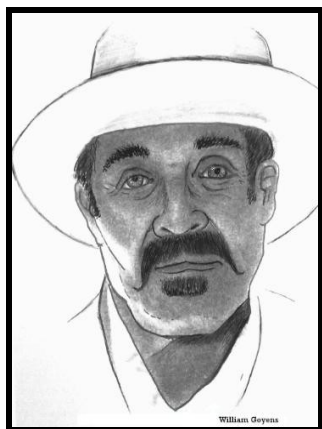


Photo from *After the Republic*, by Joe L. Blevins

**William  
Goyens**  
(1794-1856)

William Goyens was born in North Carolina and came to Nacogdoches, Texas in 1820. His father was a free mulatto, and his mother was white. Even though he was never a slave, he did suffer problems when he was thought to be a runaway slave. Thomas Rusk and Charles Stanfield Taylor, both signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence, represented him in court over this issue. He is given credit for helping negotiate a treaty with Sam Houston that kept the Cherokees friendly and from getting involved with the conflict between the Texans and the Mexicans in the war for independence. After the war, he returned to Nacogdoches where he became a well respected citizen and successful businessman. He died in 1856.

7th Grade Bio Card-16



# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**Thomas Green**  
(1814-1864)

Thomas Green came to Texas in time to assist in the Texas Revolution, serving at the Battle of San Jacinto. At that battle, he operated the only cannons in Sam Houston's army. After the revolution, he served in various government positions in the Texas Republic. In the Mexican American war, he helped Zachary Taylor capture Mexico City. When the Civil War broke out, he served in the Confederate army under General Sibley. In 1863, he was promoted to Brigadier General and participated in the Battle of Galveston. At the Battle of Blair's Landing on the Red River on April 12, 1864, he was killed by cannon fire from a Union gunboat.

7th Grade Bio Card-17

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**Jack Coffee  
Hays**  
(1817-1883)

John Coffee (Jack) Hays was best known as a famous Texas Ranger who formed many of the traditions associated with that group today. In 1840, Hays was appointed a captain of the Rangers. He proved himself to be a fearless fighter and a good leader of men. Often mixing Anglos, Hispanics, and Indians, his Ranger companies engaged in battles and skirmishes with the Comanche and other hostile Indian tribes. Additionally, his Rangers fought Mexican troops in the years before the Mexican American War. Hays and his Rangers were involved in important actions against the hostile Indians at Plum Creek, Cañon de Ugalde, Bandera Pass, Painted Rock, Salado, and Walker's Creek. He later moved to California where he died in 1883.

7th Grade Bio Card-17

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



Travis K. Witt

## Francisco Hidalgo (1659-1726)

Born in Spain, Francisco Hidalgo dedicated his life and work to missions among the Indians in East Texas. Ordained as a Franciscan priest, he came to the New World in 1683. Working at first in the villages around Saltillo, Mexico, Father Hidalgo came to Texas in 1691. He stayed at San Francisco de los Tejas until it had to be abandoned in 1693 and became even more determined to do mission work with the Caddo Indians. In 1711 he attempted to reestablish missions in the East Texas/Louisiana area when he sent a letter to the French governor asking for permission. That prompted the French to send St. Denis to East Texas and led to the permanent occupation of the area in 1716 by Europeans. After serving in several missions in East Texas, he returned to San Antonio de Valero Mission where he asked to be allowed to work with the Apache Indians. When that request was denied, he returned to San Juan Bautista and died there at the age of sixty-seven.

7th Grade Bio Card-18

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



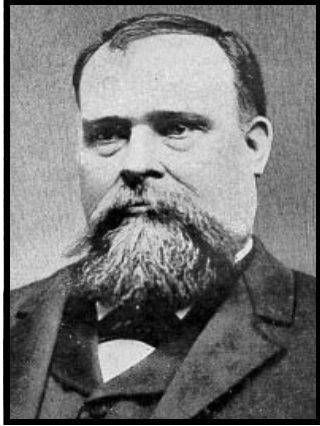
## Oveta Culp Hobby (1905-1995)

Oveta Culp Hobby was the first Secretary of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, the first commanding officer of the Women's Army Corps (WAC), and the first female chairman of the board of the *Houston Post*. She was born in Killeen, Texas. She received her law degree from the University of Texas and later moved to Houston where she became an assistant city attorney. After she married William Hobby, a former Governor of Texas and the publisher of the *Houston Post*, she became executive vice-president of the paper. When her husband died in 1964, she became the publisher of the paper. In 1983 *Texas Business* magazine listed her as the only woman among "the 20 most powerful Texans." She died on August 16, 1995 in Houston.

7th Grade Bio Card-18

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**James Stephen  
Hogg**  
(1851-1906)

When he was elected Governor of Texas in 1890, James Stephen Hogg was the first governor, who was actually born in the state. He was known for his populist beliefs and reforms he felt were necessary to protect the common people from giant corporations. As Texas Attorney General, Hogg pushed legislation forward to regulate railroads and to limit the development of trusts or monopolies. He felt monopolies undermined the free enterprise system. The Texas Anti-Trust Law (1888) was only the second such piece of legislation passed in the country. As governor, Hogg increased funding for public schools and colleges and supported other pieces of reform legislation. He did name his daughter Ima Hogg, but contrary to legend, she did not have a sister named Ura. James Hogg died in his sleep in 1906.

7th Grade Bio Card-19

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**John Bell  
Hood**  
(1831-1879)

John Bell Hood graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1853. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and transferred to the 2nd U.S. Calvary unit in Texas. He resigned from the U.S. Army after Fort Sumter. He joined the Confederate army as a captain. In 1862 he was promoted to Brigadier General and put in command of what was known as Hood's Texas Brigade. He served with Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. His bravery was soon noted, and he was promoted to Major General. His division fought at Second Manassas (Second Bull Run), Sharpsburg (Antietam), Fredericksburg, and Gettysburg. At Gettysburg, Hood was seriously wounded. He was relieved of command at his own request on January 23, 1865. Hood surrendered to federal authorities. He died in New Orleans from yellow fever on August 30, 1879. Hood county and Fort Hood are both named in his honor.

7th Grade Bio Card-19

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**Sam Houston**  
(1793-1863)

Sam Houston was born in Virginia, but the family later moved to Tennessee. In 1809 he ran away from home and lived with the Cherokee Indians. In 1827 he was elected governor of Tennessee. Around 1829, he came to Texas and proved invaluable as Texas worked to draft a constitution and declare independence from Mexico. Houston took command of the Texas army. He became a hero at San Jacinto where Santa Anna was defeated. Houston became the first President of the Republic of Texas. In 1845, he supported annexation of Texas by the United States, and Texas became the twenty-eighth state. He then served as a U.S. Senator from Texas and was elected Governor of Texas in 1859. He is the only person to serve as governor of two states: Texas and Tennessee. When he voiced his opposition to secession and refused to take an oath of allegiance to the Confederacy, he was replaced as governor. He retired to Huntsville in 1862 where he died July 26, 1863.

7th Grade Bio Card-20

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**Howard  
Robard  
Hughes, Sr.**  
(1869-1924)

Howard Robard Hughes, Sr. was an American entrepreneur. He was best known as the father of Howard Robard Hughes Jr. the famous aviation pioneer and film producer. However, it was Hughes, Sr. who created the fortune that Hughes, Jr. inherited when he turned 18. Hughes engaged in various business endeavors involving mining before capitalizing on the Spindletop oil discovery in Texas. As a result of this venture, he began devoting his full time to the oil business. Sharp-Hughes Rock Bit Company found virtually all the oil discovered during the initial years of rotary drilling, and Hughes Jr. became one of the wealthiest persons in the world. This discovery of oil in Texas helped make it one of the wealthiest states in the U.S.

7th Grade Bio Card-20

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**Kay Bailey  
Hutchinson**  
(1943- )

Born in 1943, Kay Bailey Hutchinson became the first woman to be elected to the United States Senate from Texas in 1993. She was elected to serve out the last two years of the term of Lloyd Bentsen who had resigned to become Secretary of the Treasury under President Bill Clinton. She was then elected as a Republican to three, six-year terms on her own. She has become one of the most powerful women in the Senate, but plans to retire rather than run for re-election in 2012. In 2010, she challenged Rick Perry for the Republican nomination for governor, but lost the nomination. Prior to her national service, she was twice elected to the Texas House of Representatives, and in 1990, she was elected Texas State Treasurer. She is a native of La Marque, Texas.

7th Grade Bio Card-21

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**Lyndon B.  
Johnson**  
(1908-1973)

Lyndon Baines Johnson spent a majority of his life in public service and ended his career as President of the United States. He was born near Stonewall, Texas, and grew up in nearby Johnson City. A staunch Democrat, he served as member of the U.S. House of Representative and in the U.S. Senate, where he became the Majority Leader in 1955. He was elected Vice President in 1960 and assumed the presidency in 1963 when President Kennedy was assassinated. As President, he was able to get Congress to pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the Equal Opportunity Act, and funding for the space program. However, he was not able to end the Vietnam War in which he significantly escalated the U.S. involvement. He was elected to his own term as president in 1964 but choose not to seek a second term in 1968. He retired to his ranch near Johnson City in 1968 where he died in 1973.

7th Grade Bio Card-21

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



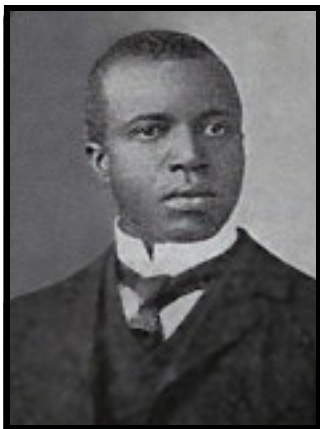
**Anson Jones**  
(1798-1858)

Anson Jones was born in Massachusetts and moved to Philadelphia as an adult. He became a doctor in 1826, but his medical practice was not successful. He moved to New Orleans in 1832 and became a merchant. He lived through a cholera epidemic and suffered from other problems which left him without enough money on which to live. Jones came to Texas in 1833 when Texas was part of Mexico and opened a successful medical practice in Brazoria. Favoring Texas independence from Mexico, he joined the army as a surgeon when the Texas Revolution began. After the revolution, Jones was elected to the 2nd Congress of Texas. When he became a Senator from Brazoria County, he wrote laws about the regulation of medical practice. Anson Jones was Secretary of State under Sam Houston and elected President of the Republic of Texas in 1844. He was in that position when Texas became part of the United States in 1845. He died in 1858.

7th Grade Bio Card-22

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**Scott Joplin**  
(1867/68-1917)

Scott Joplin was a African American composer and pianist at the turn of the 20th century. He was born in the northeast part of Texas around 1867 and only lived to be 49. Joplin's works include 44 ragtime pieces, one ragtime ballet, and two operas. In 1976 Joplin was posthumously awarded a Pulitzer Prize for *Treemonisha*, the first grand opera by an African American. While he did not receive the acclaim while he was alive, he is considered today the "King of Ragtime."

7th Grade Bio Card-22

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**Barbara  
Jordan**

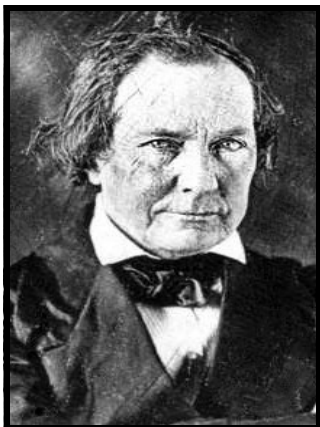
(1936-1996)

Barbara Jordan was born in Houston in 1936. In 1967, she became the first African American elected to the Texas Senate and in 1973 the first African American woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from a southern state. After serving three terms, she retired and became a Professor of Public Service in the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas in Austin. She earned national recognition during the Watergate hearings in 1974, when the House Judiciary Committee was considering the impeachment charges against President Richard Nixon. She was named *Time* Magazine's Woman of the Year in 1975 for her eloquence and dignity during these hearings. She remained in public service until her death on January 17, 1996.

7th Grade Bio Card-23

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**Mirabeau  
Lamar**

(1798-1859)

Mirabeau Lamar was born in Georgia. He loved to read, write poetry, and was an expert horseman. Lamar followed James Fannin to Texas in 1835 to collect historical data in order to write a history of Texas. He liked Texas and decided to stay. He enlisted in the army during the Texas Revolution and fought in the Battle of San Jacinto. He became the Vice President of the Republic of Texas and later was elected President of the Republic of Texas. He was opposed to Texas becoming part of the United States, but he later changed his mind. Lamar thought education was so important that he wanted Congress to set aside some public land for schools and universities. Because of his devotion to education, he is often called the "Father of Texas Education." He retired in 1841 to his plantation near Richmond but later served in the Texas legislature before his death in 1859.

7th Grade Bio Card-23

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**Francis  
Lubbock**  
(1815-1905)

Francis Richard Lubbock was born in Beaufort, South Carolina in 1815 and came to Texas in 1836. During the Texas Revolution, Sam Houston appointed him comptroller. In 1857 he was elected Lieutenant Governor of the State, and in 1861 he was elected Governor. An active supporter of the government of the Confederate States of America, he joined the Confederate forces after his term as governor ended. He was commissioned as a lieutenant colonel, and served as assistant adjutant general on the staff of Maj. Gen. John Bankhead Magruder. Lubbock also served as aid-de-camp for Jefferson Davis and was captured with him at the end of the war. He was imprisoned at Fort Delaware and kept in solitary confinement for eight months before being paroled. From 1878 to 1891 he was Treasurer of the state of Texas and then lived in Austin until his death. The city of Lubbock is named in his honor.

7th Grade Bio Card-24

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**John  
Magruder**  
(1807-1871)

Born in Virginia, Magruder was appointed to the United States Military Academy and graduated fifteenth in his class. He resigned from the US Army to take a commission as Lt. Colonel in the Confederate Army. Magruder's greatest feat was the recapture of Galveston from Union forces. After the Civil War, he fled to Mexico where he served in the Emperor Maximilian's army. He later returned to Texas to make his home in Houston where he died in 1871.

7th Grade Bio Card-24



# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**Fray Damián  
Massanet**  
( unknown )

The news of LaSalle's French settlement on the Texas coast in 1685 prompted a series of Spanish expeditions whose purpose was to seek out and remove the French intruders and establish Spanish missions. Captain Alonso de León, accompanied by Fray Damián Massanet and other priests, led these expeditions. They established the first mission in the province of Texas in a village of the Nabedache Indians. For the next 40 years, the Spanish struggled to make the mission successful. Fray Damián Massanet remained to help when reinforcements and supplies arrived in August after the summer drought of 1691. More droughts brought trouble to the native tribes. Father Massanet learned of a planned Indian attack when he received a personal warning on October 6, 1693. This prompted the Spanish to burn the mission and retreat to Monclova, Mexico. Spain never again had a successful attempt to colonize East Texas.

7th Grade Bio Card-25

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



*Dolph Briscoe Center for  
American History, The  
University of Texas at  
Austin, Prints and  
Photographs Collections  
(di\_02167)*

**Mary Maverick**  
(1818-1898)

Mary Maverick was an early pioneer who kept diaries and then published them into memoirs of her life around San Antonio. In 1842, she and her family fled San Antonio to escape the rumored approaching army of Santa Anna who still did not fully accept the independence of Texas. Upon returning after the Mexican-American War, she became a prominent member of the San Antonio Historical Society and the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. She painted a watercolor sketch of the Alamo which is thought to be the first painting of the mission. In 1889 she wrote a brief account of the fall of the Alamo. Mary Maverick's work, particularly her eyewitness account of the Council House Fight between the Texans and the Comanche in San Antonio in 1840, has often been cited in studies of Texas pioneer life. She died on February 24, 1898.

7th Grade Bio Card-25

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



*Austin History Center,  
Austin Public Library*

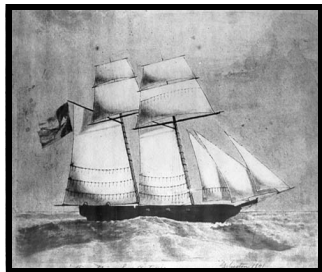
**Jane McCallum**  
(1877-1957)

Jane McCallum was a leader for the women's suffrage movement in Texas. In 1915, she joined the state organization attempting to achieve the right to vote for women. Within a year, she was elected president of the organization. Through the years, she organized rallies, wrote newspaper columns, made speeches, and distributed literature for the movement. She then organized the "Petticoat Lobby," which was dedicated to the passage of laws protecting women and children. She supported Dan Moody for governor. When he was elected, he appointed her to be Secretary of State. She continued to write weekly newspaper columns and published a book of essays about pioneer women. On August 14, 1957, Jane McCallum died.

7th Grade Bio Card-26

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**Edwin W.  
Moore**  
(1810-1865)

In July of 1839 Edwin Moore became commander of the Texas Navy when he was 29 years old. Moore and the Texas Navy fought during the war with Mexico for Texas Independence. He guarded the coast during the time Texas was an independent nation. From 1842 to 1844, he challenged President Sam Houston to provide funds to finance the Texas Navy. During this time, Sam Houston declared Edwin Moore and the Texas Navy to be pirates, but at the end of Houston's term, Moore swept into Galveston, and the city declared him a hero. He was eventually cleared of all pirating charges. By 1857, the United States Navy was in charge of defending the Gulf Coast, and there was no need for the Texas Navy. Moore County in the Panhandle of Texas is named in his honor.

7th Grade Bio Card-26

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**José Antonio  
Navarro**  
(1795-1871)

José Antonio Navarro, a leading Mexican participant in the Texas Revolution, was born at San Antonio de Béxar on February 27, 1795. Before Texas independence, Navarro was elected to both the Coahuila and Texas state offices. He became one of the three Mexican signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence. Upon his election to the Texas Congress as a representative from Bexar, Navarro sought to advance the rights of Tejanos. He was the sole Hispanic delegate to the Convention of 1845 which was assembled to vote on the American proposal to annex Texas which he favored. After voting in the affirmative, he remained to help write the first state constitution, known as the Constitution of 1845. He was twice elected to the state Senate. In 1846, in recognition of his contributions to Texas over the years, the legislature named the newly established Navarro County in his honor. He died on January 13, 1871.

7th Grade Bio Card-27

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



*Elizabeth Ney Museum*

**Elizabeth Ney**  
(1833-1907)

Elizabeth Ney was born in Germany. She became known as one of the most-well known sculptors and artists in Texas and the United States. She came to Texas and settled at a plantation near Hempstead, Texas with her husband. After a twenty year lapse in her career, she began sculpting again. She was commissioned to sculpt Sam Houston and Stephen F. Austin for the Chicago World's Fair. Her work can be seen in the Texas State Capitol in Austin, in the National Capitol in Washington, DC., and in the Smithsonian Art Museum. Elizabeth Ney is often thought to be a pioneer in Texas art. In addition to her sculpting, Ney took an active role in artistic and civic activities in Austin before she died on June 29, 1907.

7th Grade Bio Card-27

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**Quanah  
Parker**  
(?-1911)

Quanah Parker was the last leader of the Comanche people before they were moved to a reservation. Parker was born to Pete Nocona, a Comanche war leader, and Cynthia Ann Parker, a white woman who had been captured by the Comanche and raised as an Indian. He had the necessary skills to become an influential negotiator with government agents as well as a prosperous cattle-rancher. Even after the Comanche tribe had been placed on the reservation, he remained a vocal advocate and leader of his people. He especially spoke of the need for educating for the Comanche children. It was originally thought that Quanah was a war chief at one of the last stands of the Comanche at the Battle of Adobe Walls. However, most historians think he would have been too young to have been be a war chief but that he was present at the fight. He died of an undisclosed ailment in 1911 and was buried next to his mother.

7th Grade Bio Card-28

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



*Jim Arndt (photographer)*

**Amado Peña, Jr.**  
(1943- )

Amado Peña, Jr. is recognized as an Artisan of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona. He was born and grew up in Laredo, Texas. He studied art and education at Texas A & I University in Kingsville, where he earned B.A. and M.A. degrees. He was a teacher in his hometown of Laredo as well as in Crystal City and Austin, Texas. Mr. Peña has been a successful professional artist for more than 30 years. His focus on Hispanic and Native American figures has been described as capturing the essence of the Southwest. Amada Peña, Jr. continues to teach as an artist in residence at El Paso Community College. Mr. Peña is also an adjunct professor in the College of Education at the University of Texas. Mr. Peña maintains his studio gallery in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

7th Grade Bio Card-28

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**Sam Rayburn**

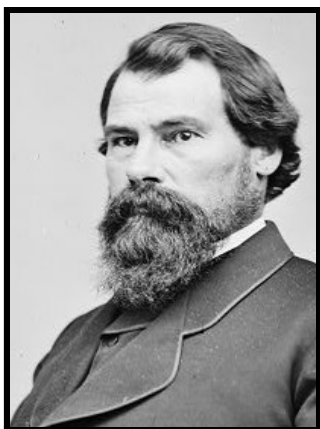
(1882-1961)

Sam Rayburn was born in Tennessee but was grew up in Bonham, Texas. He was a Texas legislator, a U.S. Congressman, and longtime Speaker of the United States House of Representatives for 24 years. He entered the U.S. House of Representatives in 1912 when Woodrow Wilson was President and died when President John F. Kennedy was in office. As a leader, he was known for being able to maneuver legislation through Congress. He earned respect from both Democrats and Republicans for his abilities at effective compromise. Rayburn supported President Woodrow Wilson and favored the progressive reform of anti-trust legislation. As a senior member of the U.S. House, he chaired the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee and promoted the New Deal legislation of Franklin Roosevelt. He was re-elected 24 times as a Democrat from Texas and served until his death in 1961.

7th Grade Bio Card-29

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**John Reagan**

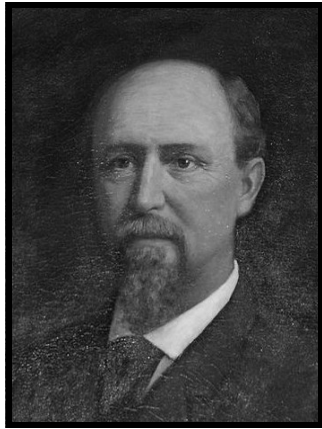
(1818-1905)

John Reagan was born in Tennessee in 1818 but moved to Texas in 1839. He soon became a leader in the Texas Democratic Party and served Texas in the United States House of Representatives from 1857 to 1861 when he resigned his seat in order to join the Confederate States of America. At the end of the Civil War, Reagan was captured with President Jefferson Davis. Reagan drafted a letter urging Texans to renounce slavery and secession and recognize the authority of the United States. As a result of this letter, many Texans shunned him, and for a time, his political career came to an end. However, in 1875, he was once more elected to represent Texas in the U. S. House of Representatives where he remained until 1887. He died in 1905 and became known as the “Old Roman” who had sacrificed his political future for the good of his state.

7th Grade Bio Card-29

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



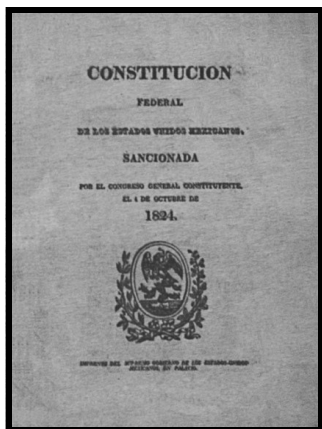
**Lawrence  
Sullivan "Sul"  
Ross**  
(1838-1898)

Lawrence Sullivan "Sul" Ross was born in 1838. He became a soldier, statesman, and university president. Reared in Waco, a city founded by his family, he became a Texas Ranger and spent time fighting the hostile Comanche Indians. It was during one of those conflicts that he rescued Cynthia Ann Parker who had been kidnapped as a child by the Indians. When Texas seceded from the United States, Ross joined the Confederate army and became a Brigadier General in 1864. After the war, he helped write the document that governs Texas today, the Constitution of 1876. In 1887, he became the 19<sup>th</sup> Governor of Texas. He retired from state politics to become the Chancellor of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas which is today Texas A&M. After he died in 1898, the Texas legislature created Sul Ross University in his honor.

7th Grade Bio Card-30

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**Erasmus Seguin**  
(1782-1857)

Erasmus Seguin, a descendant of a Frenchman who settled in Mexico, was born in San Antonio. Always a civic leader, he helped found the first public school in San Antonio in 1812. In 1821, Seguin was one of the men who met Stephen F. Austin to let him know his petition to be the heir of his father's grant for a colony in Texas had been accepted. He later served as a representative from Texas to the 1824 Constitutional Convention after Mexico had won its independence from Spain. After being expelled from his office as postmaster by Mexican authorities, he recruited men and provided the Texan army with food and horses during the revolution. Early in 1836, Seguin sent spies to the Nueces to watch for Santa Anna, and attempted to provide food and cattle during the "Runaway Scrape." After the revolution, he returned to his ranch to farm and raise cattle until his death in 1857.

7th Grade Bio Card-30

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**Juan N. Seguín**  
(1806-1890)

Juan Seguín was one of the most important political and military leaders during the Texas Revolution and the Republic of Texas. Because Seguín spoke Spanish, he was chosen to take a message from the Alamo stating that “they would never surrender or retreat.” Returning, he found the Alamo had fallen to Santa Anna. He supervised the burial of the ashes of the heroes of the Alamo. He commanded a militia unit of Mexicans living in Texas at the Battle of San Jacinto in 1836. He served in the Texas Senate from 1837 to 1840 and then as mayor of San Antonio from 1840 to 1842. Because of conflicts with American settlers and his connections with Mexican business, Seguín resigned as mayor and returned to Mexico in 1842. He fought against the United States in the Mexican War but returned to Texas after the war, and spent the last 20 years of his life in Nuevo Laredo, where he died in 1890.

7th Grade Bio Card-31

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



*University of Texas at  
El Paso Library Special  
Collections Department*

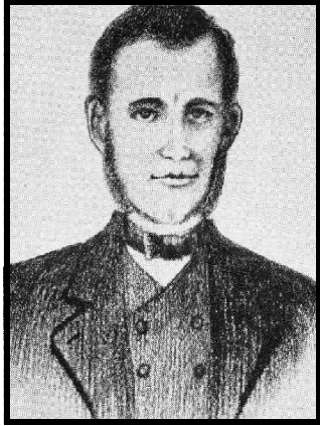
**Raymond L.  
Telles**  
(1915- 1998)

In 1957, when Raymond Telles was elected mayor of El Paso, he became the first Hispanic mayor of a major city in the United States. He was re-elected in 1959 with little opposition. He also served in the US Air Force for 34 years retiring as a Colonel. During his military career, he served as a military aide to both President Truman and President Eisenhower. In 1961 he was appointed U.S. Ambassador to Costa Rica by President Kennedy. President Nixon then appointed him to be the Chairman of the Equal Opportunities Commission. Mr. Telles died in 1998 after a long life dedicated to public service.

7th Grade Bio Card-31

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**William B.  
Travis**  
(1809-1836)

William Travis is best known as the co-commander of the Alamo. Originally from South Carolina, he moved to Alabama with his family. When he obtained land from Stephen F. Austin, he abruptly left his family and moved to Texas. He became involved in the growing rebellion against the Mexican government. After hostilities broke out, he went to the Alamo in San Antonio with a small force of men. There he agreed to share command with James Bowie and prepare for Santa Anna's invading army. On February 24 he wrote a letter "To the People of Texas and All Americans in the World" which brought attention and support for the Texas cause. However, it was too late to help the men at the Alamo because after being under siege for 13 days, it was overrun by the Mexican army. His death as a defender of the Alamo elevated Travis from a military commander of a small force to a Texas hero. Travis County is named in his honor.

7th Grade Bio Card-32

# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**Walter  
Prescott Webb**  
(1888-1963)

Walter Prescott Webb was a renowned historian and author who lived in Austin. He was born on a farm in Panola County, Texas, on April 3, 1888. After graduating from the University of Texas, he taught for a few years. In 1939, Webb became director of the Texas State Historical Association. During his time as the director, he began a project to compile an encyclopedia of Texas. This was published in 1952 as the *Handbook of Texas*. He became famous for his books and seminars, especially those devoted to the Great Plains and the Great Frontier.

7th Grade Bio Card-32



# The LRE Times

Law Related Education



**Lulu Belle  
Madison White**  
(1907-1957)

Lulu Belle Madison White, teacher and civil rights activist, was born in 1907 in Elmo, Texas. Until the late 1940s, White served the NAACP as director of the Youth Council, fund-raiser, and organizer of new chapters throughout the state. Her seven-year tenure in the post brought her both state and national attention. After the Supreme Court handed down its 1944 decision in *Smith v. Allwright*, outlawing the white primary, White was at the forefront of educating blacks on what they needed to do to vote. When the NAACP looked for a case that would integrate the University of Texas School of Law in 1950, White chose the plaintiff, Heman Marion Sweatt, and, with the legal core of the NAACP, pursued the case of *Sweatt v. Painter* all the way to the Supreme Court. This case was significant in chipping away at segregation. She resigned as executive secretary of the Houston chapter in 1949 and became state director of the NAACP until her death on July 6, 1957.