

OUR ARMY ON THE RIO GRANDE
By Thomas Bangs Thorpe
Finding Aid

Compiled by
Phyllis Kinnison

Museum of South Texas History
Margaret H. McAllen Memorial Archives
Edinburg, Texas

2017



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SUMMARY

Size	One book - rare
Geographic Locations	Southern Texas and Northern Mexico
Inclusive Dates	1846
Languages	English
Summary	<i>Our Army on the Rio Grande</i> by Thomas B. Thorpe is an 1846 first edition. The book contains nine early engravings of scenes of the Mexican War in Texas, including Resaca de Palma and Palo Alto, the two battles fought on Texas soil. Gilbert & Gihon engraved the plates in the book after Thorpe's original art work. Except for the frontispiece which shows the fall of Major Ringgold, the author sketched his subjects "from nature."
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Related Collections	
Citation	Thorpe, Thomas Bangs. <i>Our Army on the Rio Grande</i> . Philadelphia: Carey and Hart, 1846. Margaret H. McAllen Memorial Archives, Museum of South Texas History, Edinburg, TX.
Display Credit Line	Courtesy of Museum of South Texas History.
Stack Location(s)	RGDOC 832, A:31

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Thomas B. Thorpe (1815-1878), the author of *Our Army on the Rio Grande*, was a non-combatant in the Mexican War and followed the Army as a reporter. However, he had ready access to the highest levels of the United States' officer corps, who provided him with much of the material found in the book. The book covers only the battles fought in Texas and action up to the surrender of Matamoros.

In addition to his writing and journalism, Thorpe painted landscapes and portraits, exhibiting at the American Academy as early as 1833. Although originally aspiring to be an artist and painter, Thorpe turned to writing after he moved to New Orleans in 1836 to recover his health. He remained there until 1854 when he moved to New York City, where he lived out his life except for a brief period of service with the Union Army back in Louisiana. He is remembered as a portrayer of scenes and people as well as a writer of Southern humor, especially the tall tale and the hunting story.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

Our Army on the Rio Grande by Thomas B. Thorpe is an 1846 first edition. The book contains nine early engravings of scenes of the Mexican War in Texas, including Resaca de Palma and Palo Alto, the two battles fought on Texas soil. Gilbert & Gihon engraved the plates in the book after Thorpe's original art work. Except for the frontispiece which shows the fall of Major Ringgold, the author sketched his subjects "from nature."

INDEX TERMS

Thorpe, Thomas Bangs, 1815-1878

Mexican War, 1846-1848

Mexican War, 1846-1848—Campaigns—Texas

Mexican-American War, 1846-1848

Mexico—History, 1821-1861

Mexico—History—Mexican War, 1846-1848

Mexico—History—War with the United States, 1846-1848

Palo Alto, Battle of, Tex., 1846

Palo Alto, Battle of, Tex., 1846--Pictorial works.

Resaca de la Palma, Battle of, Tex., 1846

Resaca de la Palma, Battle of, Tex., 1846--Pictorial works.

United States—History, 1815-1861

United States—History—War with Mexico, 1846-1848

United States—History—Mexican War, 1846-1848

United States-Mexican War, 1846-1848