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
CONTENTS OF INVENTORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biographical/Historical Note</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index Terms</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Summary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size</th>
<th>One book - rare</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Geographic Locations</td>
<td>Southern Texas and Northern Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inclusive Dates</td>
<td>1846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Languages</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td><em>Our Army on the Rio Grande</em> 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 &amp; 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.”</td>
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<td>RGDOC 832, A:31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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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