

William B. Travis



"If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible & die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor & that of his country - Victory or Death."

William Travis was born in South Carolina on August 1, 1809. He worked as a teacher, newspaper publisher and lawyer. Due to money he owed many people and facing jail time, William Travis went to Texas in May of 1831. William Travis purchased land from Stephen F. Austin and opened a law office in Anahuac. He also started a militia to help fight against the Mexicans.

As a lieutenant colonel, William Travis was ordered by the governor to take troops to help the Texians at the Alamo Mission in San Antonio. On February 3, 1836, William Travis got to the Alamo with 18 regular army soldiers. William Travis took command of the regular troops while James Bowie commanded the volunteers. William Travis wrote the "Victory or Death" letter on February 24, 1836, asking for help at the Alamo. A rider on horseback made it through enemy lines with the letter but help did not arrive in time. William Travis died on March 6, 1836, in the final battle at the Alamo.