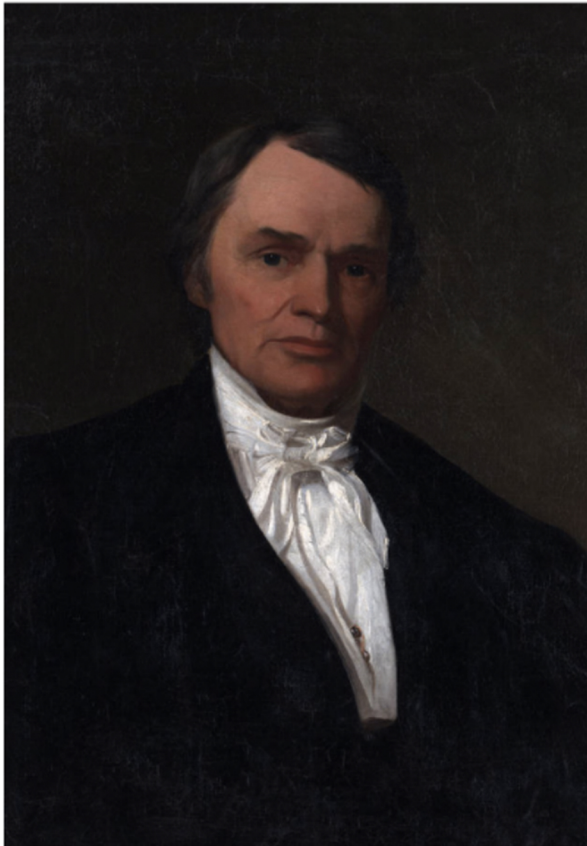




*Henry Arthur McArdle*



*McArdle portrait of Judge R. E. B. Baylor*

# COMING HOME:

## THE TEXAS COLLECTION ACQUIRES MCARDLE PAINTINGS BY FORMER INDEPENDENCE PROFESSOR

The paintings of Henry Arthur McArdle are an invaluable contribution to Texas history. *Dawn at the Alamo* and *Battle of San Jacinto* remain on display at the Texas State Capitol. The Texas Collection at Baylor also proudly houses what is now the world's largest collection of McArdle paintings. A recent gift of five paintings by the family of Henry McArdle's descendants, Paul Gervais Bell, Jr. (deceased) and his wife, Mrs. Paul Gervais Bell, Jr., enrich what already provided a substantive glimpse into Texas history.

Born of French and Irish descent, McArdle was destined to have a keen eye for art and storytelling. He began studying art when he was fourteen before immigrating to America after the death of his parents. This young immigrant had no way of knowing that he would some day be considered by many as the leading portrait artist of his generation.

As McArdle assimilated into American culture during the Civil War era, his art transferred from canvases to topographical maps that he created for General Robert E. Lee. During his career, he depicted monumental events in Texas history, including the battle of the Alamo, *Dawn at the Alamo*, and his most famous

painting, *Battle of San Jacinto*, featuring Texan and U.S. figure Sam Houston.

After the Civil War, in 1869, McArdle moved to Independence, Texas, and served as art professor at Baylor University and Baylor Female College until 1886 when the University and College relocated.

"These portraits were beautifully executed by Henry McArdle. There is great detail and expression on their faces. These men and women were such an important part of Texas history and The Texas Collection is proud to add them to our growing McArdle collection," John Wilson, director of the Texas Collection, said. "It is as if these portraits have come home since McArdle taught at Baylor and the men and women he painted were connected to Independence."

The Texas Collection also sustains the memory of McArdle through some digital collections that contain his personal journals to account books, correspondence, sketches, drawing aids and other ephemera. These records and his portraits will be available to researchers who wish to discover more about the life and work of this Baylor legend.