



# Tales of Texas Newsletter



March 2026

This issue of Tales of Texas is about the Texas Declaration of Independence.

Comments? Please email me at:  
[DarylLott.Texas@gmail.com](mailto:DarylLott.Texas@gmail.com)

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## When The Letter Arrived Texas Chose Its Fate

Early March of 1836 did not feel like a celebration. It felt like waiting.

In San Antonio, within the crumbling walls of the Alamo, fewer than 200 Texian defenders faced an advancing Mexican army under General Santa Anna. Reinforcements uncertain. The future unclear. Conflicting orders plenty.

Nearly 150 miles away, at Washington-on-the-Brazos, delegates gathered in a drafty settlement to debate a decision that would alter the course of North American history: whether Texas should formally declare independence from Mexico.



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On February 24, Colonel William B. Travis wrote what would become one of the most famous letters in American history.

Addressed “To the People of Texas & All Americans in the World,” it began with urgency:

“I am besieged by a thousand or more of the Mexicans...”

Travis did not soften the situation. He did not promise survival. He asked for aid, yes—but he also made a declaration of his own.

“I shall never surrender or retreat.”

He closed with the immortal line: “Victory or Death.”

That letter left the Alamo and rode east via messenger. When it reached the delegates at Washington-on-the-Brazos, it sharpened everything. The war was no longer distant. It was personal. Immediate. Bleeding.

Texas Independence Day often feels triumphant in hindsight. We know what followed. We know about the Battle of San Jacinto. We know the cry “Remember the Alamo” would rally an army to victory in the next month.

But in early March, no one standing in that drafty hall could see the end of the story.

They signed a declaration of independence while a garrison was under siege. They cast their lot for freedom knowing the Alamo would fall. They chose a future that might cost everything.

That is what gives March its weight.

Freedom was not declared from a position of comfort. It was declared from a position of risk.

The men inside the Alamo understood the cost. The delegates at Washington-on-the-Brazos understood it too. Independence would demand blood, property, exile, and hardship. Many would lose homes. Some would lose families. Some would lose their lives.

And yet, they signed.





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Independence Hall

The letter connected the Alamo to the convention hall. It joined the defenders' courage to the delegates' decision. In a very real sense, the Republic of Texas was forged not only by muskets and cannon fire, but by words carried across muddy roads on horseback.

Words matter.

They steady hearts. They demand clarity. They force choices.

The story of Texas is not simply one of victory. It is one of resolve under pressure. It is a story of ordinary men and women caught in extraordinary circumstances, forced to choose whether conviction is worth the cost.

In my new novel *Isobel's Song*, I place fictional characters inside these very days. The protagonist is a young woman. This in and of itself is unusual because the story is not a romance, Hallmark movie formula, or "chick lit."

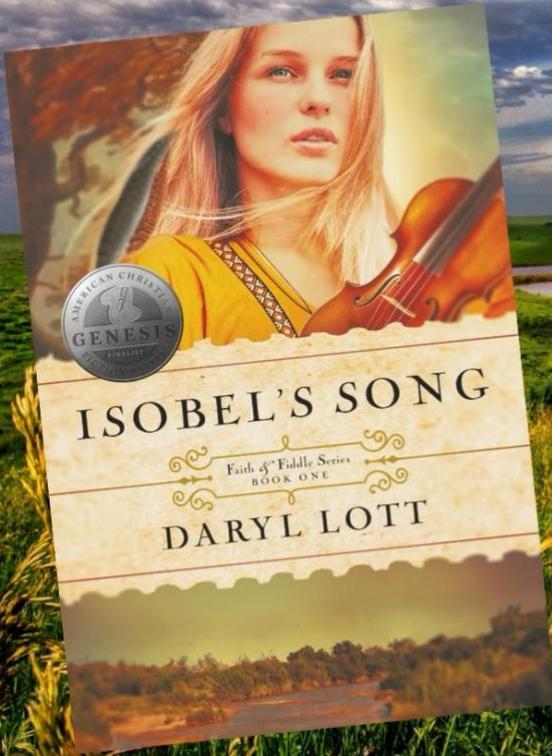
The story springs from my own family's history as well as yours. Our female ancestors were not who we think they were. They were much stronger. They did not adhere to tropes and modern-day stereotypes. They didn't have time for such nonsense. They were too busy trying to survive. We stand on the shoulders of giants.

Most of the characters are actual historical figures, including the females of the era.

Another thing about so many of our ancestors is that they relied on their Christian or Jewish faith to guide them through the hazards of life.

The novel launches in March due to the importance of the month to Texas history. It is available in printed book form and audiobook now (Amazon & Audible). The Kindle e-book launches on March 31. We are not trying to sell a book so much as we are trying to get a message out that our ancestors sacrificed much to leave Texas to us. Regardless of our race or gender, we can be proud of Texas and the First Texans.

The illustration following is from *Isobel's Song* and includes the link to the Amazon listing.



Isobel's Song  
Faith & Fiddle Series  
Book #1

#HistoricalChristianFiction #ACFWGenesisFinalist2026