
The title of this Italian map of south Texas translates as “Texas: the New York, Texas and Mexican Railway and the Italian Colonization of the Coast of Texas.” The map accompanied a pamphlet on the subject published in Turin, Italy in 1881 that extolled Texas’ agricultural and labor employment potential and promoted Swiss-Italian Count Joseph Telfener’s New York, Texas and Mexican Railway. Constructed in part by 1,200 laborers brought from Italy, the railroad was known locally in south Texas as the “Macaroni Line.” It ran from Richmond in Fort Bend County, Texas, south to Matamoros, Mexico. Victoria, Texas, served as the company’s headquarters and towns along the route were named for the Count and his family, including his daughters Inez and Edna and his sister-in-law Louise.