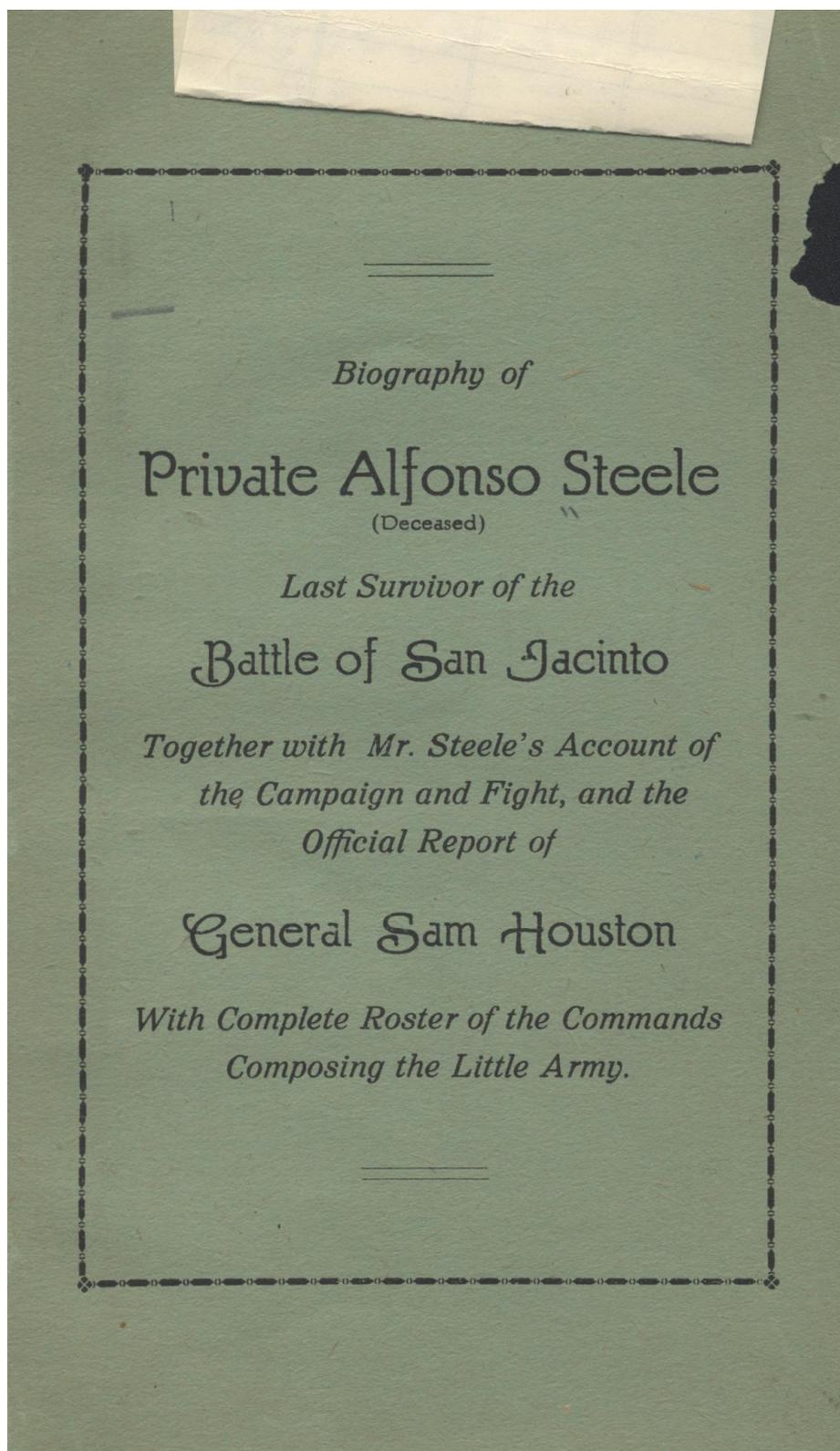


*Biography of Private Alfonso Steele, page 1*



*Biography of Private Alfonso Steele, page 2*

Worthily Proud of “Souvenirs and Medals” of 1836



**ALFONSO STEELE**

Last Survivor of the Battle of San Jacinto

## *Biography of Private Alfonso Steele, page 3*

Then we rested easy until after dinner on the 21st. About sunrise on the 21st Santa Anna received about 500 additional troops under Cos. After dinner on the 21st we received orders to prepare for battle. We advanced in the following order: Houston, with artillery in the center, the cavalry on the right and Sherman on the

left. The Mexicans had thrown up breastworks out of their baggage about one hundred yards south of a point of timber, where they had stationed their artillery. Santa Anna's right wing was placed in a thick grove of timber.

When we got up pretty close, General Houston sent word to Colonel Sherman to attack this position. We were ordered to move forward and hold our fire until orders were given. When we got up within sixty or seventy yards we were ordered to fire. Then all discipline, so far as Sherman's regiment was concerned, was at an end. We were all firing as rapidly as we could; and as soon as we fired every man went to reloading, and he who first got his gun reloaded moved on, not waiting for orders. I got my gun loaded and rushed on into the timber and fired again. When the second volley was poured into them in that timber they broke and ran. As soon as I got my gun loaded again I ran on a little in front of our men and threw up my gun to shoot, when I was shot down. Dave Rusk was standing by me when I was shot. He told some of the men to stay with me, but I told him, "No, take them on."

## *Biography of Private Alfonso Steele*

After dinner on the 21<sup>st</sup> we received orders to prepare for battle. We advanced in the following order: Houston, with **artillery** in the center, the **cavalry** on the right and Sherman on the left. The Mexicans had thrown up **breastworks** out of their baggage about one hundred yards south of a **point of timber**, where they had stationed their artillery. Santa Anna's right wing was placed in a thick **grove of timber**.

When we got up pretty close, General Houston sent word to Colonel Sherman to attack his position. We were ordered to move forward and hold our fire until orders were given. When we got up within sixty or seventy yards we were ordered to fire. Then all discipline, so far as Sherman's regiment was concerned, was at an end. We were all firing as rapidly as we could; and as soon as we fired every man went to reloading, and he who first got his gun reloaded moved on, not waiting for orders. I got my gun loaded and rushed on into the timber and fired again. When the second **volley** was poured into them in that timber they broke and ran. As soon as I got my gun loaded again I ran on a little in front of our men and threw up my gun to shoot, when I was shot down.

artillery = cannons

cavalry = soldiers on horseback

breastwork = wall around Mexican camp

point/grove of timber = group of trees

volley = round of firing

# Analyze a Written Document

## Meet the document.

Type (check all that apply):

- |   |                                    |  |  |  |
|---|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Letter                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Speech    | <input type="checkbox"/> Patent                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Telegram      | <input type="checkbox"/> Court document        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chart                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper | <input type="checkbox"/> Advertisement           | <input type="checkbox"/> Press Release | <input type="checkbox"/> Memorandum            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Report                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Email     | <input type="checkbox"/> Identification document |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Presidential document |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Congressional document |                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Other                   |  |  |

Describe it as if you were explaining to someone who can't see it.

*Think about: Is it handwritten or typed? Is it all by the same person? Are there stamps or other marks? What else do you see on it?*

## Observe its parts.

Who wrote it?

Who read/received it?

When is it from?

Where is it from?

## Try to make sense of it.

What is it talking about?

Write one sentence summarizing this document.

Why did the author write it?

Quote evidence from the document that tells you this.

What was happening at the time in history this document was created?

## Use it as historical evidence.

What did you find out from this document that you might not learn anywhere else?

What other documents or historical evidence are you going to use to help you understand this event or topic?

