

“Mexican Account of the Battle of San Jacinto” by Colonel Pedro Delgado, page 1

AND GENERAL STATIONERY.

*Postage to any part of the United States, Four Cents, payable in advance.
Postage to any part of Great Britain or Ireland, Twelve Cents.*

THE
TEXAS
ALMANAC
For 1870,
AND
EMIGRANT'S GUIDE TO TEXAS,

SHOWING

The Vast Area, Climate and Fertility of the Soil; the Mild Temperature, neither so hot nor so cold as in the Northern States; the great Profits realized in Stock Raising, Sheep Husbandry, Agriculture and various Manufactures; the remarkable Cheapness of Living; the great Variety of Productions, and, among them those of the most profitable Staples, Cotton, Sugar, Wheat, etc.; the Abundance and Variety of Fruits; the great Value and Abundance of the Native Grape, and the Success and Profits of Wine Making; the rapidly increasing Revenue from the Export of Beef and Beef Cattle, from Wool, Hides, etc.; the Chief Towns of the State with their Population; Description of the great Subdivisions of the State; the Chief Ports and their Commerce; General Statistics of the State, Post Offices, Newspapers, Schools, Society, Historical and Biographical articles, Minerals, Railroads, the Mails, Etc., Etc., Etc.

PUBLISHED BY RICHARDSON & CO.

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1857, by RICHARDSON & Co., in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Texas.

THE GALVESTON NEWS,
(DAILY, TRI-WEEKLY AND WEEKLY.)
LARGEST CIRCULATION IN TEXAS.
Specimen Copies Sent Free, upon application to
W. RICHARDSON, }
A. H. BELO. } **W. RICHARDSON & CO.**

Soule's Commercial College, New Orleans, La., The Premium College and Commercial Athenaeum of the South. Stores and Banks connected.
Address, for College Journal, **GEO. SOULE.**

J. E. MASON'S, GALVESTON, TEXAS.

THE ONLY HEADQUARTERS FOR SCHOOL BOOKS

WHERE EVERY THING IS KEPT IN THAT LINE.

“Mexican Account of the Battle of San Jacinto” by Colonel Pedro Delgado, page 2

MEXICAN ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLE OF SAN JACINTO. 41

Among the corpses are those of Bowie and Travis, who styled themselves Colonels, and also that of Crockett, and several leading men, who had entered the Fortress with dispatches from their Convention. We lost about 70 men killed and 300 wounded, among whom are 25 officers. The cause for which they fell renders their loss less painful, as it is the duty of the Mexican soldiers to die for the defence of the rights of the nation; and all of us were ready for any sacrifice to promote this fond object; nor will we, hereafter, suffer any foreigners, whatever their origin may be, to insult our country and to pollute its soil.

I shall, in due time, send to Your Excellency a circumstantial report of this glorious triumph. Now I have only time to congratulate the nation and the President, *ad interim*, to whom I request you to submit this report.

The bearer takes with him one of the flags of the enemy's Battalions, captured to-day. The inspection of it will show plainly the true intention of the treacherous colonists, and of their abettors, who came from the ports of the United States of the North.

God and Liberty!

HEADQUARTERS, BEXAR, March 6th, 1836.

(Signed) ANTONIO LOPEZ DE SANTA ANNA

To His Excellency the Secretary of War and Navy, General Jose Maria Torné.

MEXICAN ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLE OF SAN JACINTO.*

On the 14th of April, 1836, His Excellency the President ordered his Staff to prepare to march, with only one skiff, and leaving his own and the officers' baggage with General Ramirez y Sesma, who was instructed to remain at the crossing of the Brazos, whither we expected to return within three days.†

On the 13th, the flank companies of the Battalions of Matamoros, Aldama, Guerrero, Toluca, Mexico, and, I believe, Guadalajara, had commenced crossing the river, with a six-pounder commanded by Lieutenant Ignacio Arrenal, and fifty mounted men of Tampico and Guanajuato, who formed His Excellency's escort. The whole force amounted to 600 men, more or less.‡

At about 4 o'clock P. M. His Excellency started for Harrisburg, with the force above mentioned.

The bottom of the Brazos is a dense and lofty timber, over three leagues wide. On reaching the prairie, we found a small creek, which offered only one crossing. The infantry passed it comfortably, over a large tree which had fallen in such a manner as to form a convenient bridge. The ammunition was passed over by hand. But His Excellency, to avoid delay, ordered the baggage and the commissary stores to remain packed on the mules. However, the water was soon over the pack-saddles, and the opposite bank was steep and slippery. Several mules fell down, interfering with each other, which resulted in a terrible jamming of officers and dragoons, pack-mules and horses. This, together with shouts and curses, completed a scene of wild confusion, which His Excellency witnessed with hearty laughter. Several officers and dragoons fell in the water; the stores were damaged, and two mules were drowned. So much for the precipitation of this march.

* This account of the Battle of San Jacinto was written by Colonel Pedro Delgado, of General Santa Anna's Staff, and is published in General Filisola's "Memoirs on the Campaign of 1836, in Texas."

† Santa Anna's army was then on the Brazos, between Richmond and San Felipe.

‡ General Filisola estimates that force at 800 men.

“Mexican Account of the Battle of San Jacinto” by Colonel Pedro Delgado, page 3

No important incident took place until 4:30 P.M. At this fatal moment, the bugler on our right signaled the advance of the enemy upon that wing. His Excellency and Staff were asleep; the greater number of the men were, also, sleeping; of the rest, some were eating, others were scattered in the woods in search of boughs to prepare shelter. Our line was composed of musket stacks. Our cavalry were riding, bare-back, to and from water.

I stepped upon some ammunition boxes, the better to observe the movements of the enemy. I saw that their formation was a mere line in one rank, and very extended. In their centre was the Texas flag; on both wings, they had two light cannons, well manned. Their cavalry was opposite our front, overlapping our left.

In this disposition, yelling furiously, with a brisk fire of grape, muskets and rifles, they advanced resolutely upon our camp. There the utmost confusion prevailed. General Castrillon shouted on one side; on another, Colonel Almonte was giving orders; some cried out to commence firing; others, to lie down to avoid grape shots. Among the latter was His Excellency.

Then, already, I saw our men flying in small groups, terrified, and sheltering themselves behind large trees. I endeavored to force some of them to fight, but all efforts were in vain—the evil was beyond remedy; they were a bewildered and panic-stricken herd.

The enemy kept up a brisk cross-fire of grape on the woods. Presently we heard, in close proximity, the unpleasant noise of their clamors. Meeting no resistance, they dashed, lightning-like, upon our deserted camp.

Then I saw His Excellency running about in the utmost excitement, wringing his hands, and unable to give an order. General Castrillon was stretched on the ground, wounded in the leg. Colonel Treviño was killed, and Colonel Marcial Aguirre was severely injured. I saw, also, the enemy reaching the ordnance train, and killing a corporal and two gunners who had been detailed to repair cartridges which had been damaged on the previous evening.

Everything being lost, I went—leading my horse, which I could not mount, because the firing had rendered him restless and fractious—to join our men, still hoping that we might be able to defend ourselves, or to retire under the shelter of night. This, however, could not be done. It is a known fact, that Mexican soldiers, once demoralized, cannot be controlled, unless they are thoroughly inured to war.

On the left, and about a musket-shot distance from our camp, was a small grove, on the bay shore. Our disbanded herd rushed for it, to obtain shelter from the horrid slaughter carried on all over the prairie by the blood-thirsty usurpers. Unfortunately, we met, on our way, an obstacle difficult to overcome. It was a bayou, not very wide, but rather deep. The men, on reaching it, would helplessly crowd together, and were shot down by the enemy, who was close enough not to miss his aim. It was there that the greatest carnage took place.

Upon reaching that spot, I saw Colonel Almonte swimming across the bayou with his left hand, and holding up his right, which grasped his sword.

I stated before that I was leading my horse, but, in this critical situation, I vaulted on him, and, with two leaps, he landed me on the opposite bank of the bayou. To my sorrow, I had to leave that noble animal, mired, at that place, and to part with him, probably forever. As I dismounted, I sank in the mire waist deep, and I had the greatest trouble to get out of it, by taking hold of the grass. Both my shoes remained in the bayou. I made an effort to recover them, but I soon came to the conclusion that, did I tarry there, a rifle shot would certainly make an outlet for my soul, as had happened to many a poor fellow around me. Thus, I made for the grove, bare-footed.

“Mexican Account of the Battle of San Jacinto” by Colonel Pedro Delgado, page 4

entirely the small detachment that guarded us, and allowed us the limits of the town. Should some drunken man insult us, he went, or sent some member of his family, to drive him out. Meat and salt were our only rations, and these often gave out. Then, even in the stormiest or coldest days, Hardin would shoulder his rifle and walk out to kill a beef, which he sent, ready butchered, to our quarters. When we were out of rations, which happened not seldom, his good and virtuous wife was kind enough to send us large pieces of seasoned beef, bacon, coffee, sugar, bread, and whatever was placed upon her own table. On one occasion she removed from her family beds five or six mattresses, which were placed on the beds of as many of the sick prisoners. Again, on another occasion, she distributed among us half a barrel of hard bread, all that was left for her own use. The butter, potatoes and corn in the house belonged to the prisoners.

Oh! virtuous family! How great and how many your exertions have been to relieve the despair of our sorrowful and destitute condition! Oh, William Hardin! thy name, and that of thy noble wife, will be imperishable in the hearts of the Mexican prisoners, who, victims of fate, suffered the unexpected disaster of San Jacinto! I vow, that, although thou art among the criminal enemies of my beloved country, whether of thy own free will, or because thy destiny so willed it, I will never cease to proclaim and praise thy meritorious and charitable conduct towards us.

A ball was given by the citizens of Liberty, on the 21st of April, 1837, to which all the neighboring families were invited.

The ball was intended to commemorate the bloody 21st of April, 1836, on which day so many illustrious Mexicans were immolated. These people had the effrontery to invite to that criminal entertainment General Cos, who, of course, declined. It was told to him by a man of some standing that there were alarming conversations about the Mexican prisoners. This report was not altogether groundless, inasmuch as the gatherings of those besotted people are invariably more or less influenced by mean liquors. In consequence, we spent a very uncomfortable night.

However, it so happened that Bacchus inspired them with gentler feelings. There is no evil that does not work some good. We were told that they deliberated at length upon the question of the prisoners, and that they resolved to send a petition to their Government, which was signed even by the ladies, asking it to dispatch us at once or to set us free, as we were eating up their meat and supplies. They added that their destitution was daily increasing, and that they would soon have nothing left for their families, unless the Government granted them prompt relief.

Hallowed be the hour when this petition was inspired! Its result was that we were set free, which happy news reached us on the memorable 25th day of April, 1837.

[NOTE.—For a truthful account of the battle of San Jacinto, we refer to former numbers of this work. The present account, by the enemy, contains many exaggerations of the insults and cruelties inflicted upon our prisoners, but, at the same time, many incidents are truthfully stated which have been omitted by American writers.—ED. ALMANAC.]

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE LATE W. B. OCHILTREE.

THE long connection of Judge W. B. Ochiltree with the public service of Texas, both as a Republic and State, together with the high position at the Bar, which he held for so long a period, renders it proper, that, in a publica-

“Mexican Account of the Battle of San Jacinto” by Colonel Pedro Delgado

No important incident took place until half-past four P.M. At this fatal moment the **bugler** on the right signaled the enemy's advance upon that wing. **His excellency** and staff were asleep. The great number of the men were also sleeping. Of the rest, some were eating, others were scattered in the woods in search of **boughs** to prepare shelter. Our line was composed of musket-stacks. Our **cavalry** were riding bareback to and from water.

I stepped upon some ammunition-boxes the better to observe the movement of **the enemy**. I saw that their formation was a **mere line in one rank, and very extended**. In their center was the Texas flag. On both wings they had two light cannon, well manned. Their cavalry was opposite our front, overlapping our left.

In this **disposition**, yelling furiously, with a brisk fire of **grape, muskets**, and rifles, they advanced **resolutely** upon our camp. There the **utmost** confusion **prevailed**. General Castrillon shouted on one side; on another Colonel Almonte was giving orders; some cried out to **commence** firing, others to lie down to avoid the **grapeshot**. Among the latter was his excellency.

Then already I saw our men flying in small groups, terrified, and sheltering themselves behind large trees. I **endeavored** to force some of them to fight, but all efforts **were in vain**; the evil was beyond remedy. They were a

bugler = someone who plays a bugle or horn

His excellency = General Santa Anna

boughs = tree branches

cavalry = soldiers on horseback

the enemy = the Texas army

mere line in one rank, and very extended = only one row of soldiers, very spread out

disposition = position

grape/grapeshot = groups of small cannonballs

musket = gun

resolutely = determinedly

utmost = total

prevailed = won

commence = start

endeavored = tried

were in vain = didn't work

a bewildered, panic-stricken herd. The enemy kept up a brisk cross-fire of grape on the woods. [...] Meeting no resistance, they dashed lightning-like upon our deserted camp.

On the left, and about musket-shot distant from our camp, was a small **grove** on the bayshore. Our **disbanded** herd rush for it to obtain shelter from the **horrid** slaughter carried on all over the prairie by the bloodthirsty **usurpers**. Unfortunately we met in our way an obstacle hard to overcome. It was a bayou, not very wide but rather deep. The men, on reaching it, would hopelessly crowd together, and were shot down by the enemy, who was close enough to not miss his aim. [...] These savages struck with their **bayonets** our wounded soldiers lying on the way; others following them **consummated** the sacrifice by a musket or a pistol shot.

grove = group of trees

disbanded = broken up

horrid = terrible

usurpers = someone who takes power illegally

bayonets = sharp knife attached to the end of a gun

consummated = finished

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?

