

# Texas Historical Commission

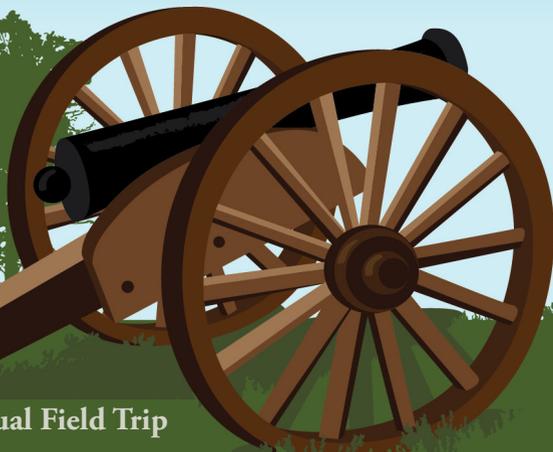
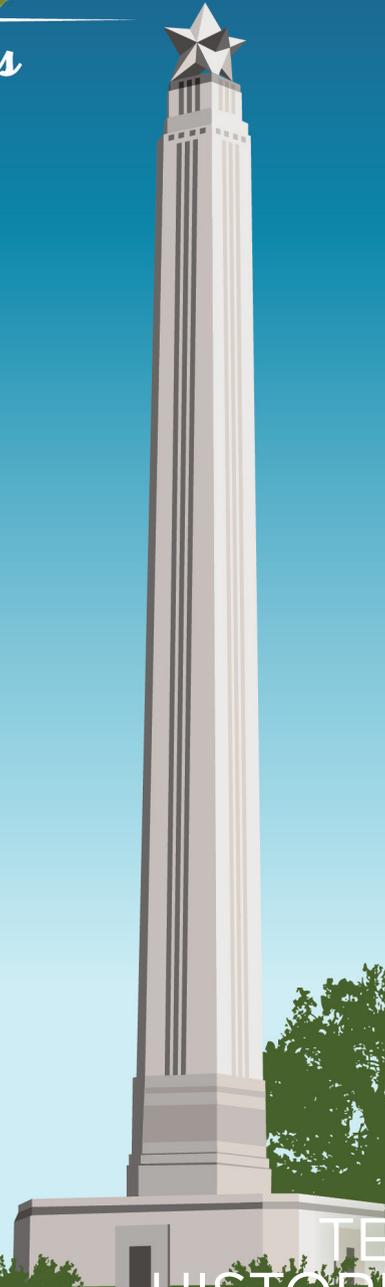
Discovering the Battle of San Jacinto in Primary Sources

Grade 4

## SAN JACINTO BATTLEGROUND

— STATE HISTORIC SITE —

*La Porte, Texas*



Virtual Field Trip

TEXAS  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION   
[visitsanjacinto.com](http://visitsanjacinto.com)



Image courtesy of San Jacinto Battlefield State Historic Site

## Discovering the Battle of San Jacinto in Primary Sources

### Overview: A New Beginning for Texas

The Battle of San Jacinto was a pivotal moment in Texas history, but it happened long before anyone alive now was born. How do historians know what happened during the battle? One of the major ways is by studying primary sources, such as letters, journal entries, artifacts, and maps that were created during the time period they discuss or by people who were involved in the events. In this lesson,

learners explore the Battle of San Jacinto using three primary sources: General Houston's Battle Report, "Mexican Account of the Battle of San Jacinto" by Colonel Pedro Delgado, and Yoakum's map of the battlefield.

### Objectives

- Sequence five Battle of San Jacinto events in chronological order.
- Identify three key locations from the Battle of San Jacinto on a map.
- Explain three advantages and disadvantages of using primary sources.
- Practice analyzing primary source documents.

### Social Studies TEKS

4th Grade: 4.3.A; 4.3.B; 4.3.C; 4.6.A; 4.6.B; 4.19B, 4.21.A, 4.21.B; 4.21.C; 4.21.D; 4.21.E

### Additional Discipline TEKS

ELA 4.6.B; 4.6.F; 4.6.G; 4.7.B; 4.7.E; 4.7.G, 4.10.A; 4.13.D

### Resources

- [Video: San Jacinto Campaign](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CKsSHf5oo-8&feature=youtu.be) (THC YouTube) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CKsSHf5oo-8&feature=youtu.be>
- Video: [Discovering the Battle of San Jacinto in Primary Sources](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jr-ZFzriiJw&feature=youtu.be) (THC YouTube)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jr-ZFzriiJw&feature=youtu.be>
- Activity 1: Analyzing a Primary Source
  - Resource Link: General Houston's Battle Report
  - Resource Link: Mexican Account of the Battle of San Jacinto
- Activity 2: Mapping the Battle of San Jacinto (Yoakum's battlefield map)
- Activity Image: Sam Houston's Copy of His Official Report of the Battle of San Jacinto
- Activity Image: Mexican Account of the Battle of San Jacinto by Colonel Pedro Delgado
- Activity Image: Yoakum's Battlefield Map



# Vocabulary

**audience** (AW dee uhns) noun: the people who are listening or reading something

**bias** (BY uhs) noun: an unfair or unbalanced opinion

**cannon** (KAA nun) noun: a large, heavy gun usually mounted on a carriage

**marsh** (marsh) noun: a tract of soft, wet land usually filled with grasses

**massacre** (MAA suh kur) noun: the act or an instance of killing a number of usually helpless or unresisting people in a brutal or cruel way

**musket** (MUH skit) noun: a heavy large-caliber muzzle-loading usually smoothbore shoulder firearm. In general, it can also mean a shoulder gun carried by infantry

**prairie** (PREH ree) noun: large open grassland

**primary source** (PRY meh ree sorss) noun: an immediate, first-hand account of an event, created by a person who was involved in the event

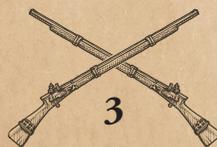
**secondary source** (SEH kuhn deh ree sorss) noun: source that is created by someone who did not directly experience an event; may include quotes from primary sources; cover the same topic as a primary source, but with an added layer of interpretation and analysis

**surrender** (sur REN dur) verb: to yield power, control, or possession after a struggle

## Historical Context

### General Houston's Battle Report

General Houston wrote his official report of the Battle of San Jacinto on April 25, 1836, four days after the victory and three days after General Santa Anna was captured and ordered the remainder of his army to leave Texas. The letter is addressed to David G. Burnett, the interim president of Texas and someone Houston had a rocky relationship with. Fifteen days earlier, Burnett had sent Houston a scathing letter, accusing him of being a coward and saying "The enemy are laughing you to scorn. You must fight them. You must retreat no further. The country expects you to fight. The salvation of the country depends on your doing so."



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

Colonel Pedro Delgado was an aide to General Santa Anna during the Texas Revolution. He was captured at San Jacinto and held as a prisoner of war for nearly a year before being released. Over half of his 13-page account details his experience as a prisoner of war. The account was originally written in Spanish, sometime between 1837 and 1849, and was first published in *Memoirs for the History of the War in Texas*, General Vicente Filisola’s account of the Texas Revolution. It first appeared in English in the 1870 edition of the *Texas Almanac*. The Almanac’s editors included the following note about the account: “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.” It’s one of the only Mexican accounts of the Battle of San Jacinto, and certainly the most colorful one.

## Yoakum San Jacinto Battlefield Map

This map was drawn by Henderson K. Yoakum for his book *History of Texas*, published in 1855. It was one of the earliest published maps of the battlefield and it is one of the more accurate maps available to historians. Yoakum did not participate at the Battle of San Jacinto—he didn’t arrive in Texas until 1845—but he created the map based on Sam Houston’s account and was given a guided tour of the battlefield by Houston himself. Because it was based on Houston’s recollections of the battle, but not created by a participant in the battle, Yoakum’s map straddles the divide between being a primary or secondary source.

The map is uniquely oriented because it was created with the mindset that people would travel to and view the location within the context of the waterways. West is on the top, east is on the bottom, north is to the right and south is to the left. The orientation helps the viewer follow the movements of the battle.

## Video: San Jacinto Campaign

10 minutes

This video is a general overview of the San Jacinto campaign and can be used to build context if the battle has not been covered in previous instruction.



## Video: Battle Report Video and Primary Sources

20 minutes

Introduce the Battle of San Jacinto by playing the Discovering the Battle of San Jacinto in Primary Sources video. This video introduces General Houston's battle report as a primary source and provides an overview of the battle using General Houston's Battle Report as the framework. Discussion questions after the video might include:

- What is a primary source? What is a secondary source?
- Is this video considered a primary or secondary source? Why?
- What are the advantages of using a primary source to study history? What are the disadvantages?
- What are several ways to analyze a primary source?

## Activity 1: Analyzing a Primary Source

20 minutes

In this activity, learners analyze **General Houston's Battle Report** using the resource link materials and **conversation prompts** below. If time permits, have learners use the resource link materials and conversation prompts to analyze the "**Mexican Account of the Battle of San Jacinto**" by Colonel Pedro Delgado.

- **Distribute copies of the Battle Report** (both the original document and the transcript) and document analysis worksheets.
- **Depending on the number of students, have learners work together or in small groups to analyze the Battle Report.** The National Archive worksheet walks learners through the initial process of analyzing the document. Questions and conversation prompts are provided below.
- **Spend about ten minutes analyzing the Battle Report. If students are working in small groups, give each group a chance to discuss what they observed and their conclusions.**
- Depending on time, student reading level and group size, **analyze a second primary source** – "**Mexican Account of the Battle of San Jacinto**" by Colonel Pedro Delgado. Focus on how this report is different from the Battle Report, even though it's describing the same events. Document-specific questions and pointers are listed below.
- **Conclusion: Ask students how the primaries sources are different from the account of the Battle of San Jacinto they read in their textbooks.** How are the documents different from each other? What things were left out? Was anything in your textbook not included in these reports? Do these sources give you a different view of the Battle of San Jacinto?



### Questions and Conversation Prompts

- ★ Which account is easier to read? Why do you think one is easier than the other?
- ★ How are the two accounts different? What are two differences between the two accounts?
- ★ What are two details that are the same? Why do you think the details are different in the two accounts?
- ★ Can you find an example of bias in this account? Is there bias in General Houston's Battle Report?
- ★ What is the point of view for each account? How does that create a different version of the battle?
- ★ How does Delgado feel about the Texian army?

## Activity 2: Mapping the Battle of San Jacinto

In this activity, learners examine the **Yoakum Battleground Map** for additional primary source information.

- Preview the map and document analysis worksheet, or just have a conversation. Questions and conversation prompts are provided below.
- If possible, have learners explore the “Comparing the San Jacinto Battleground area from 1836 to present” website listed under Additional Resources.
- **Hand out the Mapping the Battle of San Jacinto resource.**
- **Using information from the Battle Report, Delgado's account, and Yoakum's map, have learners use the Location and Event cutouts to label the Battleground Map.** Like historians, learners are using what they learned from the primary sources to create a secondary source.

### Questions and Conversation Prompts

- ★ Why do you think Yoakum made this map? What was his motivation?
- ★ What type of map is it? What is its purpose? How can it be used? In modern times, who do you think would use this map and why?
- ★ Most modern maps are oriented with the north side at the top. The Yoakum map has the southwest side at the top. Why do you think Yoakum oriented his map this way? What does this orientation reveal about how Yoakum envisioned traveling to this location?
- ★ Would he have assumed people would come to this area by land or by water? Is the other map oriented in the same way?



- ★ What do you think about the symbols and labels on these maps? Are they helpful or confusing? What symbols or labels would you use for a battleground map?
- ★ Does color play a role in the understanding of these maps? Can color be used to convey information? What about shading or text font?
- ★ Do these maps have a legend/key, scale, or compass? Do you think they need these features? Why or why not?
- ★ Do you think the names Yoakum includes on the map are the same names that people back in 1836 would have called the features and places? What about on the other map? Are the names accurate or do you think it is possible Yoakum might have misnamed some elements of his map? If the feature labeled on the map is basically correct but has the wrong name, does the map still provide useful information to the observer? Why or why not?

## Discovering the Battle of San Jacinto in Primary Sources Extensions

- ★ [San Jacinto Battleground Crossword Puzzles](#)
- ★ The San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site has created a six-lesson curriculum that use primary sources to study the Battle of San Jacinto and the Texas Revolution. For a copy of the complete curriculum, contact our education staff at [san-jacinto-battleground@thc.texas.gov](mailto:san-jacinto-battleground@thc.texas.gov).

## Additional Resources

- ★ “How to Teach Students to Identify Bias in a Primary Source” by Kevin Gregory <https://blog.socialstudies.com/how-to-teach-students-to-identify-bias-in-a-primary-source>
- ★ General Houston’s Battle Report, full version <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/treasures/republic/san-jacinto/report-01.html>
- ★ “Mexican Account of the Battle of San Jacinto” by Colonel Pedro Delgado, full version (p.41-53) - <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph123775/>
- ★ Comparing the San Jacinto Battleground area from 1836 to present [http://tpwd.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Compare/storytelling\\_compare/index.html?appid=3cde3394c71940fd96cdeceb4e2be87d](http://tpwd.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Compare/storytelling_compare/index.html?appid=3cde3394c71940fd96cdeceb4e2be87d)



# Activity Image: Sam Houston's Copy of His Official Report the Battle of San Jacinto (pg. 1)

Texas State Library and Archives Commission

<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/treasures/republic/san-jacinto/report-01.html>

405

Head Quarters of the Army  
San Jacinto 25<sup>th</sup> April 1836

Excelsency  
J. P. Burnett  
President of the Republic of Texas

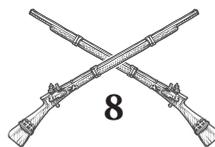
(TX)

I regret extremely that my distractions since the Battle of the 30<sup>th</sup> has been such as to prevent my sending you my official Report of the same, previous to this time.

I have the honor to inform you that on the evening of the 18<sup>th</sup> inst after a forced march of fifty five miles, which was effected in two days and a half, the Army arrived opposite Harrisburg; that evening a Courier of the Enemy was taken from whom I learned that Gen Santa Anna with one division of his choice troops had marched in the direction of Lynch's Ferry on the San Jacinto, having Harrisburg as he passed down.

The Army was ordered to be in readiness to march early on the next morning. The main body effected a crossing over Buffalo Bayou, below Harrisburg on the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup> having left the Baggage, the sick, and a sufficient camp, landed in the rear.

We continued the march throughout the night, making but one halt in the prairie for a short time, and without refreshments. At daylight we resumed the line of march and in a short distance we shortly encountered those of the Enemy and we received information that Gen Santa Anna was at New Washington and would that day take up his line of march for Axtell's Camp at Lynch's.



## Activity Image: Sam Houston's Copy of His Official Report the Battle of San Jacinto (pg. 2)

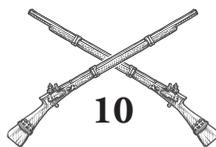
their Artillery was placed. Their Cavalry upon their left wing. About 9 o'clock on the morning of the 21<sup>st</sup> the Enemy were reinforced by 500 choice troops under the command of Gen Cos. increasing their effective force to upwards of 1500 men, while our aggregate force for the field numbered 783. At 1/2 past 3 o'clock in the evening, I ordered the officers of the Texan Army to parade their respective commands, having in the mean time, ordered the Bridge on the only road communicating with the Brazos, distant 8 miles from our Encampment, to be destroyed, thus cutting off all possibility of escape. Our troops paraded with alacrity and spirit, and were anxious for the combat. Their consoling disparity in numbers only served to increase their confidence, and heightened their anxiety for the conflict. Our situation afforded me an opportunity of making the arrangements preparatory to the attack without exposing our designs to the Enemy. The first Regiment commanded by Col Bullock, was assigned the center. The second Regiment under the command of Col Sherman, formed the left wing of the army. The Artillery under the special command of Col Geo. W. Hockley Inspector Genl. was placed on the right of the first Regiment; and four companies of Infantry under the command of Lieut Col Henry Millard, sustained the Artillery upon the right. Our Cavalry sixty one in number, commanded by Col Mirabeau B. Lamar (whose gallant and daring conduct on the previous day had attracted the admiration of his comrades, and called him to that station) placed on our extreme right completed our line. Our Cavalry was first dispatched to the front of the Enemy's left, for the purpose of attracting their notice, while an extensive island of timber afforded us an opportunity of concentrating our forces and displaying from that point, a greatly to the previous design of the troops. Every evolution was performed with alacrity, the whole advancing rapidly in line, and through an open prairie, without any protection whatever for our men. The Artillery advanced and took station within two hundred yards of the Enemy's Breastwork and commenced an effective fire with grape and canister. Col Sherman with his Regiment having commenced the action upon our left wing



## Activity Image: Sam Houston's Copy of His Official Report the Battle of San Jacinto (pg. 3)

the whole line at the center and on the right, advancing, in double quick time, using the war cry "Remember the Alamo" received the Enemy's fire and advanced within point blank shot, before a piece was discharged from our line - Our line advanced without a halt, until they were in possession of the woodland and the Enemy's breastwork. The right wing of Richardson's, and the left of Abilard's, taking possession of the breastwork, our artillery having gallantly charged up within 70 yards of the Enemy's Cannon, where it was taken by our troops. The conflict lasted about 18 minutes from the time of close action, until we were in possession of the Enemy's breastwork, taking a great quantity of Cannon (Load & 4) Stand of colors, all their Camp equipage, Stores, and Baggage. Our Cavalry had charged and routed that of the Enemy upon the right and given pursuit to the fugitives, which did not cease until they arrived at the bridge which I have mentioned before. Capt. Harnes, always among the foremost in danger commanding the pursuit. The conflict in the breastwork, lasted but a few moments, our troops encountered hand to hand, and not having the advantage of Exports on our side, our Infantry used their pieces, as war clubs, breaking many of them off at the trunk. The route commenced at 1/2 past 4, and the pursuit by the main army continued until twilight. A guard was then left in charge of the Enemy's Encampment, and our army returned with one killed and wounded. (TX)

In the Battle our loss was two killed, and twenty three wounded, six of whom mortally. The Enemy's loss was 600 killed, among which was one General Officer, 4 Colo's, 2 Lieut Colo's, 5 Captains - 12 Lieut. Wounded, 308 of which were 5 Colo's, 3 Lieut Colo's, 2 Second Lieut Colo's, 7 Captains - 1 Cadet. Prisoners; 700. President General Santa Anna's Gen Colo, 4 Colo aids, 4 Gen Santa Anna, 1 Lieut Colo. The private Secretary of Gen Santa Anna, and the Col of the Guerrero battalions are included in the number. Gen Santa Anna, was not taken until the 22<sup>nd</sup>, and Gen Hood on yesterday; very few escaped. About 600 muskets, 300 Sabres, and 200 pistols have been collected since the action. Several hundred mules and Horses were taken, and many trunks, Chests and dollars in specie. For several days previous to the action our troops were engaged in forced marches exposed to excessive rains, and the additional inconvenience of extremely bad



**Activity Image: “Mexican Account of the Battle of San Jacinto” by Colonel Pedro Delgado (pg. 1)**

University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History

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## Activity Image: "Mexican Account of the Battle of San Jacinto" by Colonel Pedro Delgado (pg. 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 José María 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.



## Activity Image: "Mexican Account of the Battle of San Jacinto" by Colonel Pedro Delgado (pg. 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.

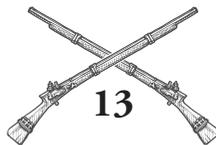
Then I saw His Excellency running about in the utmost excitement, wringing his hands, and unable to give an order. General Castrillon was stretched on the ground, wounded in the leg. Colonel Treviño was killed, and Colonel Marcial Aguirre was severely injured. I saw, also, the enemy reaching the ordnance 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.



## Activity Image: "Mexican Account of the Battle of San Jacinto" by Colonel Pedro Delgado (pg. 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.

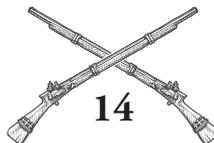
Hallowed be the hour when this petition was inspired! Its result was that we were set free, which happy news reached us on the memorable 25th day of April, 1837.

[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.]

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### 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-



# Activity Image: Yoakum's Battlefield Map

