

Primary Sources

Primary Source C

Reports of Maj. Gen. William B. Franklin, U. S. Army, commanding Expedition.

HEADQUARTERS NINETEENTH ARMY CORPS, September 11, 1863.

"I made a **reconnaissance** of the Texas shore; small boats grounded in mud about 125 feet from the shore. The shore itself is a soft marsh, and parallel to it, and about 50 feet inside of it, is a narrow strip of sand, on which is a road. This road strikes the water and high ground about one-half mile below the fort, at which point there is an old fort. Sailors wading sank into the mud above their knees; soldiers loaded with **muskets** and rations would have sunk to their middle.... The stock of fresh water was nearly **exhausted**, and the animals were already on short allowance of water; the men were living on uncooked **rations**, and there was no fuel on shore for cooking. No fresh water could be obtained unless the fort was in our possession, and the day's experience had taught me that no attack which I could make with the troops which I had been able to get across the **bar** could possibly succeed."

- Union Maj. Gen. William B. Franklin, military report on the Battle at Sabine River, Texas. The Portal to Texas History.

Reconnaissance: A military observation of the land to locate the enemy.

Muskets: A long rifle from the time period.

Exhausted: Run out, finished.

Rations: A specific amount of food allowed each day.

Bar: A high mound of sand limiting passage through a river.

Primary Source D

A message from Texas Major general William C. Young to the people of the Texas Frontier

"Sherman, Texas, May 20 '61.

To the Citizens of the Northwestern Frontier of Texas."

[The Chickasaw Nation] were very much alarmed, (when the U.S. troops left) and were scattering... The Commissioners reached Fort Cobb some time since, but several of the tribes had already left — messengers were dispatched after them. The tribes at Fort Cobb appear anxiously to preserve friendly relations with Texas. It is desirable that our fellow-citizens on the frontier; while they keep a close and constant watch to prevent Indian incursions will not cross Red River with a view to make any attack upon the reserve tribes.

- The Standard. (Clarksville, Tex.)Saturday, June 1, 1861. The Portal to Texas History

Alarmed: Worried, frightened

Dispatched: Sent

Incursions: Invasions

Primary Sources

Primary Source G

William Williston Heartsill, A Texas Ranger and cavalry soldier's journal of his time in Arkansas during the Civil War.

"Nov 24. Marched 15 miles and camped 5 miles west of Pine Bluff. This is 'Camp Clough,' named in honor of Lt. Col. J. M. Clough of Marshall, who was killed at Ft. Donaldson. For the past two days there is a decided improvement in the country, larger and richer plantations, with fine **residences**, and there is every **indication** of **industry**, wealth and refinement. Every day we meet **refugees** with hundreds of Negroes, on their way to Texas; **thus** we see that as the war is **depopulating** and ruining this country, it is building up the 'Lone Star State.'"

- Fourteen hundred and 91 days in the Confederate army. A journal kept by W. W. Heartsill, for four years, one month, and one day: or, Camp life; day-by-day, of the W. P. Lane rangers, from April 19th, to May 20th, 1865. [Marshall, Tex.: W. W. Heartsill, 1876] Library of Congress.

Ft. : Fort

Residences: Homes

Indication: Sign

Industry: Economic activity

Refinement: Elegant culture

Refugees: People running from a bad situation to seek safety

Thus: So, therefore

Depopulating: Decreasing the population

Primary Source H

An account of the Confederate attack on German Unionists in the Texas hill country.

"On the 5th of August, 1862, a **party** of 64 Union men, all Germans except four or five, met on Turtle Creek, in Kerr county, and proceeded to leave the State by way of the Mexican border. This was the **advance band** of some 300 Union men who had determined to leave the State rather than take the **Confederate oath** or take sides against the United States government...The night of the 9th of August the camp was all **glee**; the boys sang and danced, not dreaming of the **dreadful** morning that awaited them...Half an hour before daylight on the 10th the Confederates having crawled within easy rifle shot of the sleeping camp, poured in a murderous fire. Several Unionists were killed...The Union men retreated into the cedar brakes, and after incredible suffering...finally returned to the settlements in the mountains, where they were hunted like wild animals by the Confederates."

- The Plumed Knight (San Antonio, Tex.) Saturday, August 16, 1884. The Portal to Texas History.

Party: Group

Advance band: A smaller group in the front of a larger group.

Confederate Oath: A promise to be loyal to the Southern states

Glee: Happiness

Dreadful: Terrible

