

Name:

Date:

Class/Period:

## Voices: Women in the Texas Revolution

### The Accommodated Reminiscences of Mrs. Dilue (Rose) Harris

**Instructions:** Read the background information and analyze primary source excerpts by Dilue Rose. Answer the document analysis questions for each section. All text used for document analysis in this worksheet is from: "The Reminiscences of Mrs. Dilue Harris". *The Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association*, Volume 4, July 1900-April 1901.

#### Background Information:

Born in 1825 in St. Louis, Dilue moved with her family to Texas in 1833 to the lower Brazos River, the heart of cotton country. She was only 10-years-old at the outbreak of the Revolution. Dilue documented the events of the Revolution through journal entries that provide a very unique and valuable perspective of the conditions Texas colonists endured. Her journal entries are now organized into a collection of documents titled "The Reminiscences of Mrs. Dilue Harris" and excerpts from this are displayed below.

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*Background information provided by Dr. Andrew J. Torget,  
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### The Runaway Scrape: Part 1

#### Document A March, 1836. *The Fall of the Alamo*

"On the 12th of March came the news of the fall of the Alamo. A courier brought a dispatch from General Houston for the people to leave. Colonel Travis (William B. Travis) and the men under his command had been slaughtered, the Texas army was retreating, and President Burnet's cabinet had gone to Harrisburg."

"Then began the horrors of the 'Runaway Scrape.' We left home at sunset. Hauling clothes, bedding and provisions on the slight with one yoke of oxen [pair of oxen]. Mother and I were walking, she with an infant in her arms."

Texas State Historical Association. "The Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association, Volume 4, July, 1900 – April, 1901" pp. 162. The Portal to Texas History. University of North Texas Libraries. <https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Texas State Historical Association. Accessed August 17, 2021. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph101018/>

**Document B March 1836. *Crossing the Trinity River***

“Our hardships began at the Trinity. The river was rising and there was a struggle to see who should cross first. Measles, sore eyes, whooping cough, and every other disease that man, woman, or child is heir to, broke out among us.”

“The horrors of crossing the Trinity are beyond my power to describe. One of my little sisters was very sick, and the ferryman said that those families that had sick children should cross first. When our party got to the boat the water broke over the banks above where we were and ran around us. We were several hours surrounded by water. Our family was the last to get to the boat. We left more than five hundred people on the west bank.”

“It had been five days since we crossed the Trinity, and we had heard no news from the army.” ... “My little sister that had been sick died and was buried in the cemetery at Liberty. After resting a few days our party continued their journey, but we remained in the town. Mother was not able to travel; she had nursed an infant and the sick child until she was compelled to rest.”

“A few days after our friends had gone a man crossed the Trinity in a skiff bringing bad news. The Mexican army had crossed the Brazos and was between the Texas army and Harrisburg. Fannin and his men were massacred.”

Texas State Historical Association. “The Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association, Volume 4, July, 1900 – April, 1901” pp. 165-167. The Portal to Texas History. University of North Texas Libraries. <https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Texas State Historical Association. Accessed August 17, 2021. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph101018/>

***Analysis Questions for the Runaway Scrape:***

1. Dilue Rose began her account of the Runaway Scrape by remembering the moment that they learned of the fall of the Alamo. What was their reaction to the news? Use text evidence to support your answer.

Dilue Rose reacted to the news of the fall of the Alamo by

2. In the second section of document “A,” Dilue states: “Then began the horrors of the “Runaway Scrape.” What is your initial reaction to the Runaway Scrape based on that statement?

My initial reaction to the Runaway Scrape was

This was my reaction because

3. Dilue outlines the conditions she and her family endured at the Trinity river in document "B." In your opinion, out of all the hardships she described, which three are *most* horrific? Explain your reasoning.

In my opinion, I believe that

These are the most horrific conditions Dilue and her family endured at the Trinity River because

4. The very last excerpt from document "B" refers to the "bad news.... Fannin and his men were massacred." Which battle of the Texas Revolution is she referring to? (Refer to your notes if needed.)

Fannin and his men were massacred during the Battle of

## The Battle of San Jacinto: Part 2

### Document A, April 1836. *The Battle of San Jacinto*

"On Thursday evening all of a sudden we heard a sound like distant thunder. When it was repeated father said it was a cannon, and that the Texans and Mexicans were fighting" .... "The cannonading lasted only a few minutes, and father said that the Texans must have been defeated, or the cannon would not have ceased firing so quickly." We left Liberty in half an hour. The reports of the cannon were so distant that father was under the impression that the fighting was near the Trinity. The river was ten miles wide at Liberty."

"Then we heard someone calling in the direction of Liberty. We could see a man on horseback waving his hat; and, as we knew there was no one left at Liberty, we thought the Mexican army had crossed the Trinity. The young men came with their guns, and when the rider got near enough for us to understand what he said, it was "Turn back! The Texas army has whipped the Mexican army and the Mexican army are prisoners. No danger! No danger! Turn back!" . . . "Father asked the man for an explanation, and he showed a dispatch from General Houston giving an account of the battle and saying it would be safe for the people to return to their homes."

Texas State Historical Association. "The Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association, Volume 4, July, 1900 – April, 1901" pp. 167-168. The Portal to Texas History. University of North Texas Libraries.

<https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Texas State Historical Association. Accessed August 17, 2021.

<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph101018/>

## The Aftermath of the San Jacinto Battlefield:

### Document B, April 1836. *On the way back Home*

[The bodies of 630 dead Mexican soldiers had, by then, been rotting for five days where they had fallen.]

"I was on the battle field of San Jacinto the 26th of April, 1836. The 28th was the anniversary of my birth. I was eleven years old."

"We stayed on the battle field several hours. Father was helping with the ferry boat." ... "The dead Mexicans were lying around in every direction."

"We left the battle field late in the evening. We had to pass among the dead Mexicans, and father pulled one out of the road, so we could get by without driving over the body, since we could not go around it. The prairie was very boggy, it was getting dark," ... "We were glad to leave the battle field, for it was a gruesome [gross] sight."

"We camped that night on the prairie, and could hear the wolves howl and bark as they devoured the dead."

Texas State Historical Association. "The Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association, Volume 4, July, 1900 – April, 1901" pp. 170-171. The Portal to Texas History. University of North Texas Libraries.

<https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Texas State Historical Association. Accessed August 17, 2021.  
<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph101018/>

### ***Analysis Questions for the Battle and the Aftermath of San Jacinto:***

1. In document "A" Dilue says "The cannonading lasted only a few minutes..." Because the event happened so quickly, what does her family think has happened? How did they respond?

Dilue and her family believed that the Texans had **won / lost** (circle one) the battle so they decided to

2. Dilue reports that a messenger brings them good news in the second paragraph of document "A."

*"Turn back! The Texas army has whipped the Mexican army and the Mexican army are prisoners. No danger! No danger! Turn back!"*

Do you think Dilue's family immediately believed the messenger? Why or why not?

I think that Dilue's family **believed / did not believe** (circle one) the messenger because

3. Dilue tells about her 11th birthday in document "B." Where did she "celebrate" her birthday? How do you think she felt about that?

Dilue "celebrated" her birthday at

I think she probably felt

I think this because

- a. Can you remember a time when you were disappointed in how your birthday celebration turned out or unhappy with a present you received? How does that compare to Dilue's 11th birthday?

4. In document "B" Dilue writes, in detail, about the San Jacinto battlefield five days after the battle took place. She reports that she was there, among the dead, for hours as her dad worked. How do you think our modern-day society would respond to that situation? How would the media react to an 11-year-old in that situation?

I think that modern day society would

I think the media would

## The Aftermath of the Runaway Scrape: Part 3

### Document A, April 1836. *On the way back Home*

“San Felipe had been burned, and dear old Harrisburg was in ashes. There was nothing left of the Stafford plantation but a crib with a thousand bushels of corn.”

“Burning the saw mill at Harrisburg and the buildings on Stafford’s plantation [farm] was a calamity [disaster] that greatly affected the people. On the plantation there was a sugar-mill, cotton-gin, blacksmith-shop, grist-mill [for grinding grain], a dwelling-house, negro houses [shelter for the enslaved individuals that worked on the farm], and a stock of farming implements [tools].”

Texas State Historical Association. “The Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association, Volume 4, July, 1900 – April, 1901” pp. 172-173. The Portal to Texas History. University of North Texas Libraries.

<https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Texas State Historical Association. Accessed August 17, 2021.

<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph101018/>

### Finally Home:

### Document B, Sunday morning, May 1, 1836. *Home.*

“Uncle James told mother that the floor had been torn up by the Mexicans in searching for eggs.” ... “As soon as it was light enough for us to see we went to the house, and the first thing we saw was the hogs running out. Father's bookcase lay on the ground broken open, his books, medicines, and other things scattered on the ground, and the hogs sleeping on them.”

“The first thing that father did after breakfast was to go to the corn field. He had planted corn the first of March, and it needed plowing. He did not wait for Monday, or to put the house in order, but began plowing at once. His field was in the bottom, and he had hidden his plow.”

“Mother was very despondent [in low spirits], but father was hopeful. He said Texas would gain her independence and become a great nation.”

Texas State Historical Association. “The Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association, Volume 4, July, 1900 – April, 1901” pp. 177-178. The Portal to Texas History. University of North Texas Libraries.

<https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Texas State Historical Association. Accessed August 17, 2021.

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### *Analysis Questions for the Aftermath of the Runaway Scrape and Finally Home:*

1. In document “A” Dilue and her family are headed back home. She writes that almost everything was burned down. How would losing things like the sugar-mill, cotton-gin

and blacksmith-shop affect the community?

Losing things like the sugar-mill, cotton-gin, and a blacksmith-shop would affect the community because

2. Read the first section of document "B". How do you think Dilue felt when she saw that her house was destroyed?

When she saw her house was destroyed, I think Dilue felt

3. In document "B" Dilue said "The first thing that father did after breakfast was to go to the corn field." and "began plowing at once." Why do you think he did that first? Explain your reasoning.

I think that Dilue's father decided to first go down to the corn field because

4. Dilue makes the observation stating "Mother was very despondent [discouraged], but father was hopeful. He said Texas would gain her independence and become a great nation." Now that you have a good understanding about the conditions Dilue's family faced, who would you side with? Would you side with her Mom who was discouraged and ready to move out of Texas or would you side with her Dad who wanted to stay and be a part of Texas becoming a Republic? Explain your reasoning.

I would feel the same as Dilue's **mom/dad** (circle one) because