

Name:

Date:

Class/Period:

Voices: Women in the Texas Revolution

The Reminiscences of Mrs. Dilue (Rose) Harris, Part 2

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.

*Background information provided by Dr. Andrew J. Torget,
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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 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?

2. In the second paragraph of Document A, Dilue reports that a messenger brings them the good news.

"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?

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

- a. Do 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?