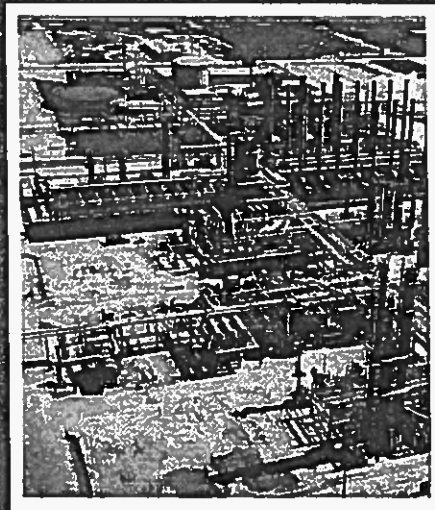


PEARSON PROCTER CONROY

TEXAS

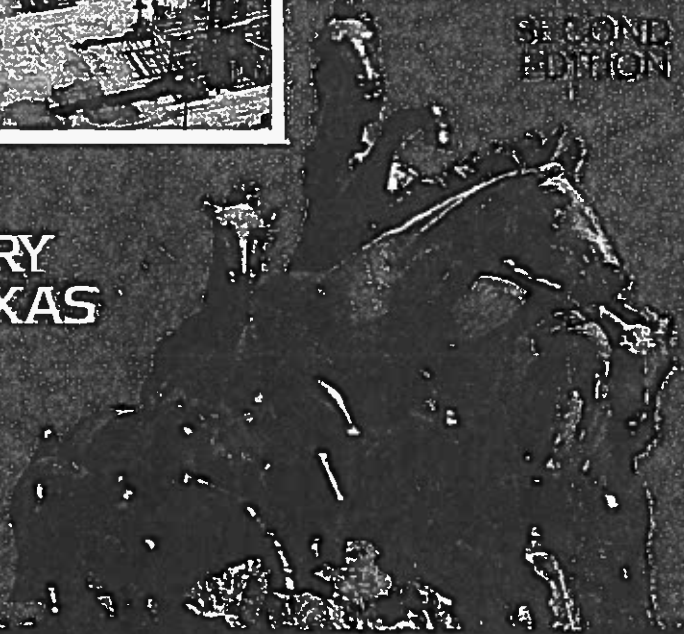


THE
LAND
AND ITS
PEOPLE

SECOND
EDITION



A HISTORY
AND GEOGRAPHY OF TEXAS



were caught on the open prairie under a blazing sun. They were cut off from water and from the shelter of trees. All during the rest of the day Urrea attacked the Texans. He first killed their oxen so that the Texans could not escape. Next, he had his cavalry make swift charges to learn where the Texan defenses were weak. Then he ordered a straight, frontal attack. By dark, however, he had not yet taken the Texans. In fact, the Mexican troops had suffered much heavier losses than had the Texans. During the next few hours, however, more Mexican troops and cannon arrived. Urrea now knew that victory was just a matter of time. Even so, he kept the Texans awake and on edge all night. Now and then he had his buglers blow bugle calls as though they were giving a signal for the troops to charge.

Fannin Surrenders

Why did Fannin surrender?

At 6:30 A.M. on March 20, Urrea began firing two cannon at the tight cluster of Texans. At once, Fannin raised a white flag to signal surrender. To fight, he believed, would only cause more suffering. There was no way he could save his army from defeat. The enemy outnumbered his troops three to one. His men had been without food and water for the past eighteen hours. The wounded were begging for help. If the battle went on, the Mexican cannon would, in time, blow the Texans to bits.

frontal—of, on, in, or at the front.



Dallas Historical Society

Colonel James W. Fannin was in command of the Texas troops at Goliad. They were forced to surrender to the Mexicans.

Fannin gave up his sword when he surrendered to the Mexicans. It is now in the collection of the Dallas Historical Society.



disposal—for treatment as one pleases.

demand—claim as a right.

The Massacre

Who ordered the massacre of the Texans?

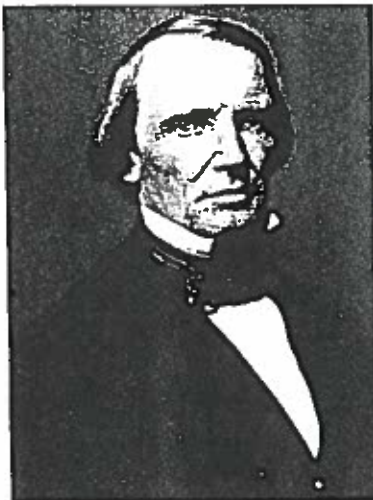
Fannin and his army surrendered to Urrea "at the disposal of the Supreme Mexican Government." That means that they surrendered without making any special demands. Fannin hoped that Santa Anna would show mercy to him and his men. He hoped that Santa Anna would allow the Texans, as prisoners of war, to go to the United States.

Once again Fannin was wrong. He and his men were marched back to La Bahía where they were treated harshly. They were packed into the small rooms of the mission. The heat was awful. The men were given very little water. For food, each man received only six ounces of raw beef a day.

Urrea sent word of the Mexican victory to Santa Anna and the Texans waited to learn their fate. After a week, Santa Anna's orders arrived. Urrea obeyed the orders.

At daybreak on March 27, Urrea told his officers to divide the Texans into three groups. The groups were marched from the mission in three different directions. About a mile from La Bahía, each group was halted, as if to rest a while. Then, firing their guns at point blank range, the Mexicans shot the prisoners. Most of the men were killed by the first shots. To save ammunition, the Mexicans then used knives, swords, and lances to kill those who still lived. In less than an hour, Fannin and most of his men were dead. The bodies were stripped of clothing and stacked into piles. The Mexicans burned the bodies just as they had burned the bodies of the defenders of the Alamo.

A few Texans guessed what was about to happen and ran as soon as the shooting started. Some of these men escaped. A few of the wounded Texans at the mission were saved by Señora Francisca Álvarez [seh·nyo'rah frahn·sees'kah al'bah·rehs] Señora Álvarez, known as the "Angel of Goliad," hid some of the wounded men from Urrea's officers.



Chicago Historical Society

Benjamin McCulloch came to Texas with his friend David Crockett. McCulloch fought in the Battle of San Jacinto with Sam Houston.

The Battle of San Jacinto

Why did the Mexican army lose the battle of San Jacinto?

When the news of the capture and death of Fannin and his men spread across Texas, Santa Anna was sure that the Texans would stop fighting. He believed the Texans would be afraid to fight again. On the other hand, Houston had no intention of giving up.