

The Battle of San Jacinto

Catie Miles

St. Luke's Episcopal School

Battle of Flowers Texas History Essay Contest

January 16, 2019

“Hola, me llamo Catie. Yo soy doce años y soy orgullosamente Texana.” Sitting in my Seventh grade history class, I found myself wondering if that was how I would be introducing myself today if the Texans had not won the Battle of San Jacinto. I then started to wonder, would I even be here today if Texas had not earned its independence? Would my German ancestors have been welcomed here? Would I be living in the Texas that I know and love today? I then wondered what life would be like if I was a Texan soldier. So my mind began to go back in time...

*Settlers from all over populated Texas when it was still under the control of Mexico. Soon the American settlers began to outnumber the native Mexicans in Texas. Realizing this fact, Mexico declared that no more Americans could come to Texas. That made folks like me, a settler from Louisiana who traveled to Texas to farm my own land, get angry and decide to fight. After all of the hard work I had put into the land, I wanted my family to be able to settle here too. When we heard about how the Mexicans slaughtered the Revolutionaries at the Alamo and Goliad, settlers like me were so angry and devastated that we joined General Sam Houston’s army.*

*One day on watch duty I saw a man carrying some rolled up scrolls along the road. He was wearing half of a Mexican uniform and seemed anxious. When he saw me, he ran. I tackled him and he began yelling in Spanish. After taking the scrolls to General Houston, we learned that I had caught a Mexican soldier who was transporting strategic plans to the Mexican General, Santa Anna. Later we learned that Santa Anna was at the San Jacinto River and had split his army sending part of it to fight elsewhere in Texas, leaving the remaining part of his army vulnerable to attack.*

*General Houston led us trudging through the mud for many days until we finally made it to the San Jacinto River. We saw approximately 400 to 500 Mexican soldiers cross the bridge. General Houston told us to destroy the bridge that both armies had used to cross the river to prevent the Mexican troops from escaping and so that we could plan our next moves.*

*On April 21, 1836, our army attacked the Mexican camp with men yelling at the top of their lungs, “Remember the Alamo!” or “Remember Goliad!” My heart pounding, I yelled as I ran towards the Mexican soldiers. Total chaos erupted with half dressed men scrambling to find weapons. Bullets flew by, men were loading and reloading muskets, and I shot at any Mexican soldier that I saw. When the gun fire ended, I noticed only eighteen minutes had passed.*

*After we rounded up Mexican survivors, the men noticed that General Santa Anna had not been captured. The next morning, the search began. A short time later, a wet and muddy*

*Mexican man was found near the destroyed bridge. The soldiers dragged him to camp where the other Mexican survivors sat up and yelled "El Presidente!" To all of our surprise, we had captured Santa Anna!*

*Despite the fact that we wanted to shoot General Santa Anna, General Houston ordered me to take him to the signing of a treaty. Surrounded by armed Texas Revolutionaries, Santa Anna was forced to sign the Treaty of Velasco. The treaty proved that Texas was independent from Mexico. Now I could return to my farm as a free and independent Texan!*

"Catie have you started your essay yet?" asked my history teacher. I sat there in silence thinking about what those brave men had done for me and my state. Because of the victory at San Jacinto, Texas is part of the United States and different cultures have spread throughout the state. Even though Mexico lost the battle, I still see Mexican influence throughout my state. I give special thanks to the Texas Revolutionaries - because of the Battle of San Jacinto, today I can introduce myself with "Hi, my name is Catie. I am twelve years old and a proud Texan."

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Anirudh. "10 INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE BATTLE OF SAN JACINTO." *Interesting Facts*, 25 December 2016, <https://learnodo-newtonic.com/battle-of-san-jacinto-facts>. Accessed 30 November 2018.
- "Battle of San Jacinto." *History*, 21 August 2018, <https://www.history.com/topics/mexico/battle-of-san-jacinto>. Accessed 28 November 2018.
- Bluhm, Raymond. "Battle of San Jacinto." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 14 April 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Battle-of-San-Jacinto-1836>. Accessed 28 November 2018.
- Holley, Joe. "San Jacinto: 18-minute battle that changed Texas forever." *Houston Chronicle*, 19 May 2016, <https://www.houstonchronicle.com/local/history/article/San-Jacinto-18-minute-battle-that-changed-Texas-7723878.php>. Accessed 28 November 2018.
- Kemp, L.W. "SAN JACINTO, BATTLE OF." *Texas State Historical Association*, <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/qes04>. Accessed 2 December 2018.
- Minster, Christopher. "The Battle of San Jacinto." *ThoughtCo.*, 5 July 2018, <https://www.thoughtco.com/the-battle-of-san-jacinto-2136248>. Accessed 30 November 2018.
- "The Republic of Texas - The Texas Revolution, The Battle of Jacinto." *Texas State Library and Archives Commission*, 5 December 2017, <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/treasures/republic/san-jacinto.html>. Accessed 4 December 2018.
- "The Republic of Texas - The Texas Revolution The Treaties of Velasco." *TSLA*, 5 December 2017, <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/treasures/republic/velasco-01.html>. Accessed 7 December 2018.