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THE REMINISCENCES OF MRS. DILUE HARRIS.

(Continued from first page)

to wait a few days, but they would not stop. They said that as they had been camping for two months it would make them sick to sleep in a house. Uncle James stayed with us. He had several bales of cotton, but was not able to work. He looked after our Mexicans and helped the women in the neighborhood to get their corn worked. They all got Mexicans, but it required an overseer to make them work.

There was no prospect of a cotton crop in our neighborhood. The people had been very short of provisions, and there would have been suffering among them if the citizens of New Orleans had not sent a schooner to Harrisburg. The provisions were distributed without cost.

There was considerable talk of a new town being started on Buffalo Bayou about ten miles above Harrisburg by the Allen brothers. They wanted to buy out the Harris claim at Harrisburg, but the Harris brothers would not sell.

June, 1836.—*Shipping Cotton on a Flatboat.*

We received word that they had the cotton on a boat ready to start, and that Uncle Ned should be sent with the Stafford's wagon to bring home family supplies. It was more than fifty miles by land, but a long and dangerous route by water.

The new town laid out, by the Allens was named Houston, in honor of General Houston. There were circulars and drawings sent out, which represented a large city, showing churches, a court house, a market house and a square of ground set aside for use for a building for Congress, if the seat of government should be located there. The government had been on the move since the beginnig of February, stopping temporarily at Washington on the Brazos, Harrisburg, Washington on the bay, Galveston Island, Lynchburg, Velasco and Columbia. There was so much excitement about the city of Houston that some of the young men in our neighborhood, my brother among them, visited it. After being absent some time they said that it was hard work to find the city in the pine woods; and that, when they did, it consisted of one dugout canoe, a little gourd of whiskey and a surveyor's chain and compass, and was inhabited by four men with an ordinary camping outfit. We had a good joke on the boys at their disappointment. We asked them at what hotel they put up, and whether they went to church and to the theater. They took our teasing in good part and said they were thankful to get home alive. They said the mosquitoes were as large as grasshoppers and that to get away from them they went bathing. The bayou water was clear and cool, and they thought they would have a nice bath, but in a few minutes the water was alive with alligators. One man ran out on the north side, and the others, who had come out where they went in, got a canoe and rescued him. He said a large panther had been near by, but that it ran off as the canoe approached.

While father was gone a man came to our house trying to find a place to teach school. Mother told him that the men who had families were absent, but that she thought he could get a school, and that she expected father home in a few days. He said he was without money. He had been in the battle of San Jacinto, but as the army had gone west, he had decided to teach until he could get money to return to the United States. He offered to teach us three children for his board until he could get a school. Mother was glad to have a teacher for us, for we had been out of school since September, '35, when our teacher and the young men had gone to San Antonio, then in possession of the Mexicans under General Cos. We gathered what books we could and began work. We were well pleased with the teacher, whose name was Bennet. We were without paper and wrote on slates.

June, 1836.—*Stafford's Point.*

The first copy Mr. Bennet wrote seemed to amuse our Mexican servant. He picked up a pencil, wrote a few words, and I took the slate to Mr. Bennet. The Mexican wrote French and the teacher was a French scholar, and they had a long conversation in that language. The Mexican had been a colonel under Santa Anna, and he said that he and Santa Anna were not far apart when the battle began. The Mexican soldiers were resting, and Santa Anna was asleep, not expecting an attack by the Texans. The cavalry had just finished watering their horses, and Santa Anna's servant was riding Allen Vince's black stallion, using a common saddle. He said the last he saw Eagle Lake 1499 Waschke had seen of Santa Anna was when he was mounting the horse dressed in ordinary clothes. We had treated the Mexican like a negro servant, and had made him work, churn, wash and do all kinds of drudgery. Besides working i nthe corn field. He said he was well off, and had a home and family in Mexico. He stayed with us only a few days after he let us know he was a gentleman. I don't remember his name. We called him Annese, after the town that was the Mexican port of entry.

July 5, 1836.—*A Jack Fight.*

Father and the men arrived home the last of June. It was three weeks from the time they left Mr. William Little's before they landed at Brazoria. They sold their cotton for a good price and bought family supplies. Father did not forget his promise, but got sister and me nice bonnets.

While they were gone Grandma Perkins and Aunt Sally built a shed on the side of the log cabin we used the year before for a school house. A blacksmith, a Mr. Thompson, had rented the house and opened a shop. He said then when it rained he would quit work and let the children use the shop. There were only eight pupils. Mr. Dyer sent three boys and Mrs. M—— two girls. Mr. A—— would not send his children. He and Mrs. M—— were keeping up their quarrel. Brother Granville and William Dyer were the largest boys in school.

We had been in school but a few days when we had quite an adventure with two wild bulls. There was no fence around the log house, and the cattle fed close by. One day two large bulls were fighting, and got near the house. The teacher said for the children to go into the shop. We ran to the door, but could not get it open; so we climbed up the side of the house, and with the help of the teacher and the boys got on the roof. By the time we reached it the bulls were under the shed. It was fun for the boys, but the girls were scared. The bulls pawed the ground, fought and bellowed, the boys laughing and hallooing, and the girls crying. The boys said we would have to stay on the house all night, if nobody came for us. The teacher was as helpless as a child. He had been reared in Mobile, Alabama. After the boys had had their fun, they got down and ran the cattle off. The bulls quit fighting and went away bellowing. The next day the men built a fence all around the school house. Our Texas boys had a good joke on Mr. Bennet; they said if he had showed fight the cattle would have run.

Mr. William Stafford, owner of the Stafford plantation came back to Texas. He and his family had been living in the United States since the year '34. He came back by water and landed at Galveston. He had not had a letter from Texas since April. His daughters had written while they were on the Sabine River, but he heard at Galveston for the first time that all the buildings on his plantation had been burned by the Mexicans. He said he would not rebuild, and gave his land and cattle to his sons, Adam and Harvey, and his married daughters, Mrs. Dyer and Miss Neal. He meant to move the negroes, who had built several small houses, to Eastern Texas in the winter.

(Continued until next week)

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VOLUME IX. EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS, SATURDAY, JULY 15, 1911. NUMBER 9.

Reminiscences of ...Mrs. Dilue Harris...

July, 1836.—*The Great City of Houston.*

We heard glowing accounts of the city on Buffalo Bayou. Several families from Brazoria and Columbia had moved there, among them Ben Fort Smith, his mother, Mrs. Obedience Smith, and family, Mr. Wood [illegible] Sam Allen, Mosley Baker and others. Uncle James had gone to Houston to locate land. Everybody had the Houston fever. They were building a steam saw mill there. Father was going to locate land near Houston on Bray's Bayou. Mr. Smith wanted him to settle in town, and said he would give him a lot; but father could not do so, as he had to live on the land to secure title.

The fourth of July came and went and we had no celebration, but were to have a barbecue and ball in September. President David G. Burnet issued a proclamation for an election the first Monday in September. The young people had no amusements and no church to attend. I was in my twelfth year and had not heard a sermon since Easter '32, when I was in New Orleans. We had been disappointed the Christmas before in our expectation of going to a ball at Henry Jones' and seeing the steamer Yellowstone. The boat ran down the river a few days before the battle of San Jacinto, and the Mexicans tried to catch it with their lariats. The Yellowstone had gone to New Orleans.

August, 1836.

August came, but it seemed as if September never would. Our school was doing well, and several young men had entered, among them Leo and Jack Roark, Moses and James Shipman, Mr. Calder and Harvey Stafford.

Mr. Stafford had gone back to the United States. His wife was to return to Texas in the winter and take the slaves back to Eastern Texas. There was a prospect for plenty of corn in our neighborhood, but no cotton, as there was no cotton gin. Father said there would be good crops of both corn and cotton raised near Brazoria and Columbia.

One of father's St. Louis friends, Mr. Gillette, was visiting us. His wife was a sister of Ex-Governor Henry Smith's wife. Mr. Gillette's wife died while we were in St. Louis. He had two little children, a boy named Edwin and a girl named Martha. Mother took care of the children till they were sent to married sisters in Kentucky. We were glad to see Mr. Gillette, especially since he had seen mother's father three months before, while we had not heard from St. Louis in three years. It was a great satisfaction to hear from our friends.

September, 1836.—*An Election.*

The first of September was Monday. The election held then was the——

All things come to him who waits. The barbecue, ball, and election were at Mr. Dyer's, near our house. The people came from different settlements and several of our Harrisburg friends were there. William Harris and Robert Wilson were judges and Glinton Harris clerk. Others from Harrisburg were Mr. Doby, George and Isaac Iiams, James Brewster, Miss Isabella Harris, sister of the four [illegible] B. Harris and several young ladies, among them Misses Elizabeth and Jane Earl. Mr. McDermot, the courier who had carried the news of the battle of San Jacinto to the Sabine River, was there. He was young, handsome, and sociable, and was quite a hero. He was electioneering for Sam Houston and Mirabeau Lamar. When the returns came in Houston was elected president and Lamar, vice-president.

I had been to an election in Harrisburg in the year '33, when a delegate was elected to represent Coahuila and Texas in the Mexican Congress; but I don't remember the names of the candidates. The next election I attended was at Mr. Dyer's, when delegates were sent to San Felipe, in the fall of '35. W. P. Harris and C. C. Dyer were elected at that time. That election for president and vice-president of the Republic of Texas, September 1, 1836, was the last I attended. There was no drinking or fighting. The ladies spent the day quilting. The young people began dancing at three o'clock, and kept it up till next morning.

* * *

Mother had ripped up an old silk and made me a ball dress. It was one she had before she married, and it had been left in the old blue chest that was hid in the bottom when we ran away from the Mexicans. That was my last ball at an election. After that there was too much whisky drunk for ladies to be present.

* * *

October, 1836.—*After the Ball.*

We were going to school. Mother was very anxious to move, and would have gone to the United States, if father had consented.

Congress met at Columbia the third of this month. President David G. Burnet retired from office, and Houston and Lamar were inaugurated.

There was a great deal of excitement among the people in regard to General Santa Anna. He was a prisoner, and there were some of the Texans who would have had him shot for the slaughter of Colonel Fannin's men; while others wished him sent to Mexico, under promise to acknowledge the independence of Texas. There had been severe threats made against President Burnet, and he was glad to become a private citizen. Father said that Mr. Burnet was honorable and just in all his official life, but there were so many ambitious men in Texas they were liable to start strife among the people. If Colonel Travis and Colonel Fannin had obeyed orders and retreated until they could have joined General Houston at Gonzales, the Mexican army could not have crossed the Colorado, but every man seemed to think he could command an army.

November and December, 1836.

Our school closed the last of December and Mr. Bennet went back to the United States. Father took him to Harrisburg, where he boarded a schooner for New Orleans. That was the first time father had been to Harrisburg after the Mexicans burned it. He said the people were building, and that they had made the Mexicans burn brick and help build houses.

Father visited the new town at Houston. He said the Allens would bring a steamboat from New York next year; that they were having one built. It was to run from [illegible] They would have bought the Yellowstone, but she was too large to turn around in Buffalo Bayou.

Mrs. Stafford came back. She was getting ready to move the

(Continued on last page)

LAST HERO OF SAN JACINTO IS DEAD.

ALONZO STEELE

Kosse, Texas, July 8.—Mr. Alonzo Steele, last survivor of San Jacinto, age 94 years, died at the home of his grandson, one mile north of Kosse, some time during last night.

Heavy Rain and Electrical Storm.

A heavy rain and electrical storm visited this place between 3 and 4 o'clock last Friday evening. During the rain the lightning was terrific, a bolt striking the barn of Mr. J. W. Thatcher and setting fire to it. The barn was practically destroyed with between fifty and seventy-five bales of hay contained therein. The fire company responded to the alarm promptly in the pouring rain but there being no pressure on, the firemen could do nothing. Lightning also struck the barn of Mr. D. P. Alley, tearing a large hole in it, and also struck the home of Mr. Leo Breitkreutz passing through two rooms, tearing the paper from the walls, and into the kitchen where it tore a large hole through the floor, and a post on the back kitchen gallery was split by the same bolt. A telephone pole on Main street was struck by lightning during the storm. Evangelist M. F. Ham was under the tent protecting the piano and organ from the rain when Mr. Thatcher's barn was struck. He was knocked from the platform and his hand slightly burned. It is thought the umbrella that Mr. Ham was holding in his hand attracted the electricity. Grady Harris, who was sitting in a chair in the cable room at the telephone office, was knocked from the chair to the floor by lightning that came into the office on the telephone wires, but other than the shock was uninjured. The rain here amounted to about an inch and three quarters. At the Engelhard Brothers farm the rain gauge measured three inches and at the Eldridge plantation there was a regular cloud burst, the rain fall amounting to four inches.

Mr. A. F. Mitchell has been appointed county surveyor to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Tolliver, deceased. Mr. Mitchell at once gave the required bond with Geo. Gegenworth and O. A. Zumwalt as sureties. Mr. Mitchell will continue to make Eagle Lake his home and will retain his present position here in Engineer T. L. Smith's office.

Real and Personal Properties in Colorado County.

The following is a complete list of all the real and personal properties in Colorado county and the values of same according to the tax rolls for the year 1911, which have just been completed by our popular tax assessor, Mr. H. J. Lange:

[illegible] acres of land in county valued at	$[illegible]
All city and town real estate and improvements	[illegible]
945 horses and mules	40,730.00
20425 cattle	204,250.00
93 jacks and jennets	6925.00
[illegible] sheep	4730.00
[illegible] hogs	1,000.00
8 dogs	65.00
328 buggies, wagons and automobiles	69,790.00
Goods, wares and merchandise	327,940.00
Moneys, notes, stocks and bonds	452,870.00
Tools, implements, machinery etc.	3,930.00
Organs, pianos, diamonds, household furniture, etc.	29,565.00
172 1-4 miles telephone and telegraph lines etc	4,670.00
114 1-2 miles railroads	279,960.00
Total value of all property in county this year	$12,756,606.00
Total value of all property in county last year	$12,727,676.00
Increase	$878.00

How's your subscription date?

Negro Woman Slashed.

In a difficulty between two negro woman, Liza Watson, better known as "Bill," and Mary Hurd, about half past one or two o'clock Sunday morning at a negro house near the McClanahan lumber yard, the Watson woman was severely cut on the right arm, in the neck, head and in the right thigh. Dr. Cross was called to dress the wounds and took fifty eight stitches in sewing them up. The Hurd woman caught a train for Houston immediately after the cutting, and has not yet been apprehended. Nelse Hurd, a negro man, was also cut in the neck in the fracus. He claims that he was attempting to separate the women when he received his slash in the neck.

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