

Macogdoches Archives, June 27, 1832. Volume 62. Pp. 194-5.

ACCOUNT OF THE ATTACK ON FORT VELASCO.

James B. Bailey to David Shelby.

June 27th, 1832.

Dear Sir: I have just arrived from the mouth of the river, and yesterday the Spanish Fort was attacked by the Americans a little before midnight, and incessant firing having been kept up till half an hour after sunrise this morning. Many men were killed on both sides and several of our party wounded, among them Poorhouse wounded in the leg and arm, Boatwright in his leg, Robertson (the Scotchman) was killed as well as M. I. Hings (the Bricklayer) and Buckner. We estimate our loss at about 10 men, but we would have taken possession of the fort, had we not been compelled to withdraw this morning by a pelting rain such as I have never before experienced. However, our artillery is safe at about 150 yards from the fort, on the schooner "Brazoria," which is well-armed and manned. The enemy are supposed to be almost out of ammunition and provisions, and there are quite a number of men here ready to renew the attack. Could we only succeed in getting 15 more recruits, we could take the fort without the loss of one drop of blood, and I wish we could do so, now that we have gone this far, I would be happy to see you join our cause and recruit as many men as you possibly can. There are Mr. Stewart, Andrew Roberts and others over whom you have great influence, and I hope they will have no objection to join in the defense of their country and avenging the blood of their neighbors. The blow has al-

ready been struck and we are all in the same dilemma; indeed if one falls, the others must necessarily do so too. If you think you can come, let me know by the bearer, because I have promised to be there on the 28th inst. and I am positively certain that all the men here and at Brezoria will go out. Now or never is the time to sever all ties with them or others. I shall wait for you and send my wagon to transport the wounded to-morrow.

I am, as ever, your respectful neighbor.

James B. Bailey.

(Endorsed:)

A faithful and true translation of the original letter made by me this the 27th day of June, 1832.

Jose M. J. Carvajal,

Inspector and Secretary.

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