

BILLINGSLEY, JESSE -- Born in Rutherford County, Tennessee, October 10, 1810, the third child of Jephtha and Miriam (Randolph) Billingsley. The other children were Tobitha, who married a Mr. Turner; Elijah; Mary C., who married Phil Claiborne; William, who married Eliza Pinckney Wilson; Artena, who married a Mr. Rutherford; Robert and Carroll Billingsley.

In Headright Certificate No. 130 issued in 1838 to Captain Billingsley for one-third of a league of land by the Board of Land Commissioners for Bastrop County it is stated that he came to Texas in 1835. His parents and most of his brothers and sisters came in 1854. His father died on Cedar Creek in Bastrop County October 25, 1836.

In Comptroller's Military Service Record No. 110 it is certified that Jesse Billingsley served as a private in Captain Robert M. Coleman's company of Mina Volunteers (Bastrop) from November 17 to December 17, 1835. For this service he was issued Bounty Certificate No. 3442 for 320 acres of land. At the reorganization of the company at Mina (Bastrop) February 28, 1836, Mr. Billingsley was elected Captain serving until June 1st, at which time the company was disbanded at Mina. He was issued Bounty Certificate No. 3054 for 320 acres of land for having served for the period stated.

At the organization of the army at Gonzales, Captain Billingsley's Company became Company C of the First Regiment of Texas Volunteers. Captain Billingsley was issued Donation Certificate No. 101 for 640 acres of land for having participated in the Battle of San Jacinto. In the engagement Lemuel Blakey was killed and four other men of his

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company were wounded. Captain Billingsley himself received a bullet wound which rendered his left hand partially crippled for life.

Captain Billingsley on July 1, 1836, joined a company of Rangers, commanded by captain John C. Hunt. He received Bounty Certificate No. 3056 for 320 acres of land for his services from July 1 to October 1, 1836.

While in the army Captain Billingsley was elected from Bastrop County to the House of Representatives of the First Congress of the Republic to serve from October 3, 1836 to June 13, 1837. While a member of congress he wore a buckskin suit he had captured from an Indian. At nights he slept on a blanket on the floor of the capitol at Columbia. He was re-elected to the House of the Second Congress.

When General Adrian Woll appeared unexpectedly to the citizens of San Antonio with an army and captured the town in 1842, Captain Billingsley recruited volunteers and hastened to assist Captain Mathew Caldwell in expelling the invaders.

When Texas entered the Union, Captain Billingsley was a member of the convention that framed the constitution of the State. He was elected to the (House of Representatives, Fifth Legislature) Senate from the Bastrop District to the Eighth Senate(?) Legislatures.

A lengthy letter by Captain Billingsley in which he told of the San Jacinto campaign was published in the Galveston News in August, 1857.

Captain Billingsley was married to Eliza Ann Winans. Mrs. Billingsley died at her home on Cedar Creek in Bastrop County. Cap-

tain Billingsley died October 1, 1880 and was buried in the front yard of his home near McDade, Bastrop County. The State of Texas had his remains removed, and on September 3, 1929, interred in the State Cemetery at Austin.

Children of Captain and Mrs. Billingsley were (1) Jephtha P., (2) Francis Marion, (3) Miriam Ellen Billingsley.

(1) Jephtha Billingsley was born October 29, 1848 and died August 14, 1932. He was married to Louisa Joiner in 1878, who resides on a farm in Bastrop County, R. F. D. , Elgin, Texas.

Surviving children of Mr. and Mrs. Jephtha Billingsley are: Wallace Billingsley, Elgin, R. F. D. No. 1; Jesse Billingsley, _____ Street, Austin; Miss Josie Billingsley, R. F. D. No. 3, Elgin; Mrs. _____ Wright, _____ Street, San Antonio; R. R. Billingsley _____ Street, Austin; Mrs. Maggie Berry, _____ Street, Austin; Mrs. Maud Gunn, R. F. D. #1, Elgin; Miss Callie Billingsley, _____ Street, San Antonio; Miss Hallie Billingsley, _____ Street, San Antonio; and Mrs. Pearl Hardwick _____ Street, Austin, Texas.

E. L. Williams 1813 East 12th St., Austin, Texas grandson

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There were three men who joined affiant's company on the morning of the battle, and participated in it, whose names do not appear in the list of his Company. These names he cannot now recollect.

(Signed) JESSE BILLINGSLEY

Sworn and subscribed before me, this 22nd day of December, A. D. 1855.

Witness my hand and official seal

P. De Cordova
N. P. Travis County

Copy of Muster Roll of Edward Burleson's Regiment. Received from the Hand of the Governor, September 4, 1856, and filed same day.

(Signed) JAMES C. WILSON

BILLINGSLEY, JESSE - The following was printed in the Galveston News (Tri-Weekly, Galveston, Texas Saturday, September 19, 1857:

"(Among many others of those who participated in our early struggle, to whom we have applied for reliable information with a view to get at the truth of our past history, is Capt. Jesse Billingsley, who has kindly furnished us with the following narrative of the campaign and retreat immediately preceding the battle of San Jacinto. It will be seen that Capt. B. confines himself to a statement of such facts as came within his own observation, and having command of the first company raised to meet the enemy on that occasion, he naturally became acquainted with many facts unknown perhaps to officers higher in command.

In his private note to us, Capt. B. Says: "A press of business has delayed my compliance with your request, but with the leading incidents attending Gen. Houston's retreat and the glorious struggle on San Jacinto, I am probably as well acquainted as any other man who participated in that campaign, for, as you will see from the accompanying communication, I commanded the first company enrolled to meet the foe. But with the minor details others may probably be better informed, as I kept no record of the passing events, which I now deeply regret, for a true history of our early struggle has not yet been laid before the public. But what I do state may be depended upon, as substantially correct, in every particular.")

Retreat of the Texas Army previous to the
Battle of San Jacinto

On the 28th of February, 1836, I had the honor of leaving Bastrop in command of the 1st company, in order to meet the invader of our country; our destination was the left bank of the Guadalupe, to form, as it were, a nucleus for the Texan Army. Arriving there on the second day, we learned, through Capt. Manchac, that the Alamo must inevitable fall on a certain day, being besieged, as was generally estimated by 8 or 10,000 men. On the arrival of Gen. Houston, (11th March) who had lately been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the patriot army by the Convention, thereby superseding Fannin of immortal memory, (who had been the choice of the army) the troops were ordered on the east bank of the river, and the following night having received intelligence from Colonel Travis's negro and Mrs. Dickenson (the only survivors) of the fall of the Alamo, Houston issued orders for a retreat eastward. This order, I, as Captain of the 1st Company, considering a very unadvised one, strongly objected to, asserting that we would be compelled to leave our horses, oxen, provisions (which the citizens of Bastrop had so generously furnished us with), in fact, all our camp equipage. Upon this, Gen. Houston came to me in person, and assured me that we would move only two miles or so, to a place more convenient for fighting, should an engagement ensue; and that, in the morning, we could have an opportunity to send back for what had been left behind: but to our astonishment, we were kept marching all night until about half an hour before day, when we rested

on our arms until day-break. About this time our ears were saluted with the noise of barrels of powder, spirits, &c, exploding in the burning of Gonzales. All the stores for the supply of the Army had been placed there, and our sudden retreat in the night left all the property--and worse than this--left all the families in the neighborhood at the mercy of our implacable enemy, none being aware of our sudden, and, to them, inexplicable move.

After a hurried repast we again took up our forced march, and were then destined to see a sight horrowing to our very souls--a sight that beggars all description--a sight I trust I may never see again--families flying in terror from a foe well known as paying no regard to age or sex, striving to come up with those they regarded as defenders, but who, by their hurried mid-night march, seemed about to leave them exposed to all they so much dreaded--mothers carrying one, some two children, all flying in terror and agony, and nearly all on foot. There were no vehicles in the country, even if they had time to avail themselves of them (for at that day all had come to the country by water.) There were also rivers to cross; and, for tender females with children, that was almost impossible. Men were flying bare-headed in every direction, spreading terror and dismay all over the country--houses and property of all kinds unprotected--nay, they even left the tables spread out for the morning meal, and fled, leaving the food untasted. Onward they held their distracted course until they reached the left bank of the Colorado at Burnham's. Here the Army halted about two days, giving the families to cross. We then

also crossed, and, bearing some distance down the river, camped in a cane brake almost inaccessible to the foe.

While encamped here, we learned from our spies and several prisoners we had taken, that Gen. Sesma was encamped on the opposite side of the river, not more than three miles from us, with a force of about 700, or at most, 800 men, our force amounting, at this time to about 1300 strong, according to the statements of Maj. B. F. Smith, the acting Adjt. General. Upon receiving this information, the Army earnestly besought Gen. Houston to come to an engagement. This Houston declined, and commenced making preparations, as it seemed, for a permanent camp, to the surprise of all, and truth compels me to add, to the disgust of many a gallant soldier, as the apparent salvation of the country depended on the successful issue of an immediate engagement. Eventually, however, Gen. Houston determined to send Capt. Karnes across the river with one hundred and fifty troops, fifty of whom were mounted, with orders to station the foot in a ravine parallel to the route to the Mexican camp, then to proceed with the mounted force to draw out the enemy and retreat. The orders were obeyed. The Mexicans fired a discharge of grape at the Tex'n cavalry, but did not advance. Karnes not deeming it prudent to march nearer against so large a force, recrossed the river without effecting anything. The General then determined to take up his line of march to the Brazos, assuring the Army that he would not pass over that river without coming to an engagement with the foe. After a hurried march he halted the army in the Brazos bottoms at a place

inaccessible to the foe. While encamped here we learned that Santa Anna was about to cross the river near San Felipe, and that Capt. Mosley Baker, who commanded the Brazos troops (and gallant troops they were) was determined to oppose his passage. I, in common with others, earnestly entreated the General to give us permission to aid Baker, but he refused to the great grief of a large portion of the army. He then took up his line of march eastward, the army growing less and less every day, many leaving the ranks imagining that Houston would not come to an engagement with the enemy. And in truth, the majority were induced to remain and continue the retreat from unfounded statements made to them by Gen. Houston, to the effect that he was in receipt of letters from different States promising aid, &c., and that by continuing our retreat, we would fall in with them. These statements, and the promise of finally coming to an engagement with the foe, could alone have induced men, situated as we were, to retreat from a foe inferior to numbers.

Having but scanty clothing and many of us without shoes, and our property gone, we were naturally eager for the fight, knowing that nothing but victory could save us, and the chance of that was diminishing every day, and feeling that we must soon give out; and to crown the whole, our confidence in Gen. Houston's intention of coming to an engagement, was becoming weaker every day. These false statements could therefore alone have induced the majority of us to follow Houston's retreating policy as long as we did. But all things have an end, and then it transpired on the line of march, that when we

should come to a certain part of our route, where the road parted in the right and left; (the right leading to Harrisburg, and where we would in all probability meet the foe, and the left leading to Nacogdoches away from the enemy) that the army would be ordered to take the left hand road, so great became the excitement among the Captains commanding companies, that many of us signed an agreement to support each other and take the road leading in the direction of the foe, whatever the order might be. The vanguard under the command of Capt. W. Martin, took the Nacogdoches road and never came up with the army any more. True to our engagement, we took the road leading in the direction of the foe, and after a toilsome march encamped not far from Harrisburg, on the opposite side of the bayou. From an intercepted courier of Gen. Santa Anna's, we learned that Santa Anna was encamped near Harrisburg, having burned the city. Our men now became so eager to fight, that Gen. Houston found his retreating policy must give way before the united voice of the army, for in plain terms they declared that fight they would. One effort more he did make: he issued the strange order that about 400 men should remain in camp; to guard what? an old baggage wagon; doubtless imagining that thus weakened, we never would venture to cross such a street, as we had no boat suitable for carrying horses over, and would be compelled, if we made the attempt, to extricate them by means of ropes. But if such was his idea, he was doomed to be disappointed. No difficulty could now restrain the long pent up ardor of our gallant band. Water and fire combined could scarcely have

deterred them then. They crossed, but on arriving at Santa Anna's Camp, found that he had set out for the junction of San Jacinto and Buffalo Bayou, and, lest he should get in the advance, the army marched all night and a short time before day we rested on our arms. At day break we resumed our march, and after marching some distance, commenced making some preparations for breakfast. But learning that Santa Anna was pushing on to the ferry, we immediately dropped the preparations for breakfast, seized our arms and hastened on. We had just fairly struck camp when Santa Anna came up and (to do him justice as a soldier ought) in a gallant manner opened a smart fire with his artillery -- We promptly replied, when finding we were likely to gain the advantage, he withdrew his forces to the adjacent bank of the San Jacinto--one wing of his army being thus protected--and the other stretching out into the prairie--and commenced fortifying about three-fourths of a mile from our camp. We now made some preparations for taking refreshment (for the first time since leaving the upper encampment near Harrisburg) Some time during the day, Sherman was sent out, as we presumed, by order of Gen. Houston, to bring on an engagement; seeing him under a heavy fire and receiving no orders from Gen. Houston to go to his support, I determined to go voluntarily, and accordingly led out the first Company of the first Regiment, to which I was attached, and was immediately followed by the entire Regiment, under command of its gallant leader, Col. Burleson. On passing the place where Gen. Houston and his Aide-de-Camp were standing, he ordered us to countermarch. This order the men treated with

derision, requesting him to countermarch himself, if he desired it, and steadily held on thier way to the support of Col Sherman, and succeeded in driving the enemy behind their breastworks. Gen. Houston, however, kept back the Second Regiment, and thus prevented us bringing on a general engagement, which, in the then state of things, would have been synonomous with victory, and that without any aid from Gen. Houston. But finding ourselves unsupported, we deemed it prudent to retire to our camp for better concert of action--Many now became convinced that Houston would not fight, consequently I was not surprised at receiving, on my return to camp, from the hands of Capt. M. Baker, (a tried and gallant soldier) a paper setting forth the convictions of many of the most experienced officers of the army, that Houston did not intend to fight, but that his object was to procrastinate until Santa Anna would receive such reinforcements, as would render it an act of madness to engage with him with the small force now at our command. This conviction he assured me was also endorsed by John A. Wharton who was afterwards called "The keenest blade on San Jacinto." And further, in this same instrument of writing, the officers entered into a solemn engagement to fight the enemy on the next day, General or no General!!

During that night, Santa Anna was reinforced by Col. Kos' division, as we learned early next day, As the day wore on, Gen. Houston still procrastinating, finally called a council of war. After finding all unanimously determined to fight, he repeatedly asked Col. Burleson if his men would fight.-- The Col. again and again assured

him that he knew his men and that they would fight! At last, losing patience at the repeated insinuations as to the courage of his gallant regiment, he emphatically declared that if there was a coward in his regiment he would shoot him down. Gen. Houston, however, still continued to assert that raw militia like ours, could not be depended on in an engagement with such regular and well disciplined soldiers as Santa Anna commanded. But finding the officers and men all determined to fight, he finally proposed to build a floating bridge across the stream, in order to retreat, if necessary. Now, no idea could be more repugnant to our men than that of retreating or preparing any way for a retreat: for well they knew the ruthless and merciless foe they had to deal with, and they were fully determined to cut their way through the enemy--to conquer or die. The day was wearing apace; the men were growing more and more excited, when finding that in my capacity of officer in charge of the guard, I was likely to receive no order from Gen. Houston to dismiss the various guards, in order that they might join their companies and prepare for the coming strife, I (on my own authority, and in consequence of my agreement with several of my brothers officers, on the previous day,) relieved them for that purpose. Almost immediately afterwards, I learned, to my inexpressible joy, that Gen. Houston had at length agreed to fight. The companies were paraded in battle order, and marched out in gallant array, under command of Gen. Houston. Then, gallantly did they redeem their noble pledge, to conquer or to die. In vain did Santa Anna's disciplined veterans endeavor to sustain the assault of our gallant army,

as with the cry of "Remember the Alamo!" "Remember Fannin and Goliad!" they rushed to the charge. The resistless onslaught of our patriot soldiers was too much even for them to withstand, well tried though they had been, on many a tented field. They fled, and now, on the very eye of victory, was heard the command of Gen. Houston, (who had been wounded during the engagement) ordering the Texas troops to cease firing and give over the pursuit, exclaiming, "glory enough for one day!" But Gen. Rusk dashed among the men, and crying, "No, it is not enough, while the enemy is in sight!" cheered on the troops in pursuit of the flying foe. Well and truly did they respond to his encouraging voice. The hour, so long delayed, had at length come, for vengeance and the memory of unnumbered wrongs nerved each patriot arm to avenge those wrongs with a determination deadly sure. Down, and down forever, went the baneful meteor of Mexican despotism; and then uprose the fair star of Texas Liberty, destined never to pale or dim. On that day was born a nation of freemen. Who was instrumental, mainly instrumental, in producing so glorious an event, let a discerning world say.

JESSE BILLINGSLEY

Capt. 1st Com., 1st Reg't, Tex. Army."

Cedar Creek, Bastrop County, Texas
September 27th, 1859.

Col. Sidney Sherman
Dear Old Friend:

I designed trying to make some remarks this winter upon General Houston's valedictory, in which he attempts to vindicate the truth of history; that attempt to answer that part of his speech commencing with the retreat of the Army from Gonzales to the fighting of the Battle of San Jacinto, and I now call upon you^r for certificates as you were an eye-witness of the campaign of 1836.

1st. Houston says that he gave up all his public wagons at Gonzales to help the families off in advance of the Army. Please certify how many public wagons that he had at Gonzales and how many he gave to the families. Also certify whether or not that all the families had left in advance of our Army. Also certify if you heard of the poisoned liquor that Houston spoke of.

Please certify what you know about T. J. Rusk being Secretary of War, when he came to the Army. Houston denies that he was Secretary of War.

Certify what you know about Rusk ordering Houston to take the Harrisburg Road and fall in with the Enemy.

Please state all that you know about Captain Wily Martain leaving the Army. Please state whether he took the Nacogdoches road as Capt. of the vanguard of our Army. Houston says that he dismissed him for his refractory conduct.

Please state what place Rusk came to our Army. Please state how many men was left at what was called the upper encampment near Harris-

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burg and how many public wagons were there.

Please state if Houston crossed over in the first boat or not.
Please state who was the cause of calling the Council of War at our
camp near the Battle ground; state at what time it was called and how
many Councils were called before the Battle was fought. Please state
who was in the Councils and who presided over them.

State if Rusk was at that time Secretary of War. Please state if
those who composed the different Councils were opposed to fighting, all
or any of them and who they were. State what you know about the Junior
Officers Council and who presided over it.

Please state who it was that wanted to build a floating bridge
across the San Jacinto. Please state if you believe that the Army was
opposed to attacking Santa Anna on the 20th or 21st and also if you
believe that Rusk was opposed to fighting at the time that we did fight.

I see in your defence that you quote from a short sketch of the
Campaign that I wrote some years since; if you have a copy please
send it to me. If you have a copy of pamphlet styled "Houston Dis-
played, or Who Won the Battle of San Jacinto", please send it to me.
It contains charges and specifications against Houston upon which
John A. Wharton drew a Bill of Impeachment. Please send me a copy of
the Galveston Almanac as soon as it comes from the press.

It seems hard to trouble an old friend with answering so very
many questions, but if you will read Houston's speech closely you
will see the propriety of it. I can answer those questions myself

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but I want additional proof and as you are the only field officer now living that I know of, I sincerely hope that you will answer them at your earliest convenience.

I have written a long letter to the Hon. David G. Burnet and have addressed him at Oaklin, Lavacca County. Please inform me if that is where he lives.

Should you ever come through this country, you will do me a great kindness by coming to my home and letting me have the honor of dividing my meat and bread with you and if I should have the good fortune to be in Galveston, I will call upon you. So no more, but remain

Ever your old friend,

Jesse Billingsley.

ANSWER

Question 1st. I do not recollect how many wagons there were at Gonzales. I know of none that was given up to families; some I think were left for the want of horses.

2nd. I know nothing about poisoned liquors, except that I heard Genl. Houston say at the time we heard the explosion (explosion) at Peach Creek, that the liquors were poisoned.

3rd. Genl. Rusk was Secy. of War at the time he came to the Army and was so acknowledged by Genl. Houston, as he expressed much regret to me in not being made aware of the approach to the Army of the Secty. of War, that he might be received with the honors due his rank.

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4th. Genl. Houston told me that Rusk had given him orders to take the Harrisburg road, and he was bound to obey him as his superior officer and requested me to inform my regiment to that effect. (See my pamphlet).

5th. I know nothing as regards Capt. Martin except by report - namely, that he had been ordered to the Trinity to stop all troops from advancing further west than that stream.

5th. Rusk joined the Army in the Brazos bottoms opposite of Crocus.

6th. I think from 300 to 350 men were left at the upper camp opposite of Harrisburg.

7th. Houston did not cross over Buffalo Bayou in the first boat nor until a large number of troops had crossed.

8th. I do not know who suggested the Council of War. I knew nothing of it previous to my being summoned to attend.

9th. The Council was composed of Field officers only. Genl. H. presided. (See my reply to Genl. H. San Jacinto speech).

10th. They were not opposed to fighting, either one of the councils. It was merely a question whether we should attack them behing their works, or give them a reasonable time to attack us. I recollect that Major Wells was for attacking immediately, the balance of us were in favor of waiting a reasonable time for the enemy to attack, but all

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were determined to fight that day.

11th. Rusk was Secty. of War at the time the council was held and afterwards.

12th. I do not know of any one wishing a bridge built,- that question was not mooted in Council. I heard afterwards that Genl. Houston took some steps to ascertain the possibility of constructing one across Buffalo Bayou - not the San Jacinto. (See Capt. John Duncan's letter in my defence).

13th. I know the army was not averse to attacking the enemy on the 20th & 21st - but on the contrary were anxious to do so.

14th. I do not believe Rusk was opposed to fighting.

(Signed) C. S. Sherman

Galveston, Oct. 24th, 1859.

Hon. Jesse Billingsley,
Dear Sir:

I address you by the special request of our mutual friend, Genl. Sherman. His time is so incessantly occupied just now that it is impossible for him to do more than hastily respond to your interrogated - his answers you will find enclosed herewith.

And beside this I wish to say a word or two to you - That Gen. Houston's last Senatorial speech is a tissue of shameless misrepresen-

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tations. I presume no respectable officer or soldier engaged in the
Campaign of 1836 will venture to deny--that they ought to be corrected
and the truth presented before the public is equally incontrovertible.
The history of our late revolution has never/^{yet}been fairly and truthfully
published--it is high time something of the kind was done or time it-
self will sanctify the many falsehoods that have issued from the press
under the title of "Sam Houston and His Republic" and "Life of Gen.
Sam Houston" and some other equally fulsome and ridiculous publications.
I have made a small effort in this direction in the "Compendium of
History" which you will find in the forthcoming Almanac. I prepared
it under some disadvantages, having collected but few materials to
sustain my statements. I believe I am generally correct and at least
intended to be so. You have been in the army throughout the campaign,
will detect any errors I may have committed. If there are any of im-
portance, will you be good enough to inform me of them and of the
truth in relation to them. If I have done injustice to anyone, I would
gladly acknowledge it and give the true version of the relative facts.
If my life is spared, it is possible I may prepare the historical
compend for the Almanac of 1861--but whether or not, I can correct the
errors of the one now in press, through the Galveston News and it may
be transferred to the next Almanac.

There are many little points in the events of '36 that are still
unexplained and I think it is the duty of every survivor of that in-
teresting period to put on record such facts as may be within his own

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knowledge and are of sufficient importance to be noted.

There is one little transaction which I have never heard explained - it has figured in several publications and sounds pleasantly (?) in Houston's last speech in the U. S. Senate, but the authority is somewhat equivocal. I allude to "the blind woman with six children at the Navadad". Major Hare (?) of the Colorado once made remarks in relation to this event but I cannot now lay my hand upon his letter and it was not a full account of the matter. Can you learn anything in detail from Parson Kinney (or Kinnsy), who I understand assisted the distressed family in escaping from the enemy. I would be pleased to get an authorized and minute account of that affair. As it now stands before the public it reflects credit on the conduct of the General and if the statements be true, in all conscience, let him have the credit in its fullest sense - but statements from himself are not always reliable.

The "Compendium" was finished and out of my hands before Gen. Sherman had received the many certificates contained in his pamphlet - if I had had them, I could have made a more satisfactory article, but it had to go with all its imperfections, as it was printed in New York and therefore I had no access to the manuscript afterwards.

In your letter to Gen. Sherman, you say you had written a long letter to me and directed it to Oakland, Lavaca County. I regret not having received it - Oakland was the little home style of my late residence in Harris Cy., near the San Jacinto. This letter may be at Col. Turner's Postoffice which is styled Okland - but I should

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suppose the Colonel, an old friend, would have forwarded it to me.

Well, it is time for me to close - your patience will tire in the reading of my long epistle.

Very respectfully
yours, etc.
(Signed) David G. Burnet

Galveston, Jan'y 2, 1860

Capt. Jesse Billingsley,

My dear Sir:

I requested Judge Burnet some time since to say to you that I would endeavor to find a copy of your account of the Campaign of 1836 and send it to you, but I find it impossible to procure one. I have it, but it is, like many other such documents which I value, pasted in a scrap-book and I cannot cut--without taking out an important article on the other side of the sheet. I trust you will be able to find it in the hands of some one who keeps a file of the News.

You say you intend showing up "Old Sam" in his true colors before the Legislature adjourns. I most heartily wish you all success; you are so well posted, I know you can do it.

I am not done with Houston yet, If I am not mistaken, he will hear from me, through a channel which he little dreams of. He was under the impression, when he made his speech in the U. S. Senate, he was beyond my reach, but time will show whether he was or not.

Permit me, Captain, to ask you to look into the merits of the

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case of my old friend Genl. L. Combs, of Kentucky, and if you can, after examining it, find it consistent with your ideas of justice to aid him in getting his claim through the Legislature, it would make me extremely happy. The General at an early day, and up to the present time, has been a true friend to Texas, and I would like to see justice done him.

In great haste, I remain,

Truly your friend,

C. S. Sherman.