

Meeting of the Citizens of Natchitoches, Louisiana October 7, 1835

At a meeting of the citizens of Natchitoches convened on the 7th of October, 1835, at the Red River exchange, Dr. John Sibley was called to the chair, and J.E. Carr was appointed secretary.

John R. Dunn, Esq. having in an appropriate address declared the object of this meeting to be to express our sympathy with the inhabitants of Texas, who are about to suffer from the lawless and tyrannical attempt to trample their liberties under foot, and to deprive them of the rights and immunities to which as men and as freeman, they are entitled.

On motion of Dr. C.G. Lewis, resolved that a committee of five be appointed to prepare the resolutions expressive of the sense of this meeting on the alarming situation of affairs in the neighboring province of Texas, whereupon Messrs. John A. Dunn, C.G. Lewis, P.W. Wilkins, D.S. Koufman and J.B. Carr, were appointed on the said committee, and having retired, in a few moments reported the following preamble [*sic*] and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted.

Whereas, the rights and liberties of our fellow countrymen of the neighboring province of Texas, are endangered by the violent and despotic course of general Santa Anna, the rights of their state trampled upon, their governor thrown into prison, and their legislature dispersed at the point of bayonet.

And whereas we have just learned with great concern that a trained band of mymidons has lately landed near the mouth of the Brasos, under the command of General Cos, with the declared intention of "disarming the people, creating a military government and confiscating the property of the rebellious."

Therefore, resolved, That this meeting regard the situation of the people of Texas as commanding their most lively feelings; and that we cannot look upon a brave and generous people, who have remained loyal to their oaths and to the constitution, oppressed by a usurper who seeks to reduce them to the condition of slaves, by bayonets place in the hands of a mercenary soldiery, whose whole aim and end are rapine and massacre.

Resolved, That we will lend them all possible assistance in their struggle for liberty and the constitution, in the event that it may be necessary for them to throw off the yoke of their oppressors, and assume among the nations of earth, that "independent station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them."

Resolved, That the majority of the people of Texas are bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh, that they are united to us by the ties of nativity and kindred, and that they are engaged in the same cause in defence [*sic*] of which, their and our forefathers bled and died - the great cause of constitutional liberty.

Resolved, That in times past, we have freely and with an honest pride, contributed our aid to the disenthrlment [*sic*] of Greece, the restoration of Poland and the liberation of Mexico, and that we cannot now refuse our sympathy and aid to those who are advocating the same principles, and who are endeared to us by every tie that can bind one people to another.

Resolved, That in the defence [*sic*] of Texas from an external enemy, the treasures and blood of some of the best citizens of the union, and especially of Louisiana were freely expended; and that now in the hour of her conflict and trial, we cannot resist the call to protect her from the ruthless fangs of an internal despot.

Resolved, That we feel proud that the citizens of Texas have shown an abiding attachment to the principles in which they have been educated; that, although few in number, they have shown themselves genuine Americans, that they repudiated the ambitious and dangerous attempts of Santa Anna at centralism, consolidation and dictation, and that they are determined to pledge their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor, in defence of "God and liberty."

Resolved, That copies of these resolutions be forwarded to the heads of the municipalities of Nacogdoches and San Augustine, and that they be published in the Red River Herald.

The above resolutions having been adopted by acclamation, the meeting was addressed in an eloquent and appropriate manner by Messrs. Wilkins, Kaufman and Thompson, who spoke of the wrongs sustained by the people of Texas at the hands of Santa Anna, of the stern and patriotic resolution which was manifested by them, not to succumb to the machinations by which it was attempted to infringe and destroy their rights, and to reduce them into the state of vassals to the arch apostate of liberty, who has already filled the measure of his wicked ambition, by destroying the freedom of the Mexican states.

On motion, resolved, that the meeting adjourn, to meet on Wednesday next.

John Sibley, Chairman

J.B. Carr, Secretary