



TEXAS ROSE: The Runaway Scrape and Memoirs of Dilue Rose Harris in 1902 (The FAITH Chronicles Book 3)

Sean E. Jacobs

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The third and final novel in the Faith Chronicles series is THE TEXAS ROSE - The Runaway Scrape. If you ask anyone about Texas history and what one thing stands out in what they were taught, it would be "Remember the Alamo!" "Remember Goliad!" or even "Come and Get It!" There are numerous movies about the same, one directed by Ron Howard and even one for some of us older history fans where John Wayne was the star actor. But, it was not until 2011 I was working on my first creative nonfiction novel, "This Old House" did I come to realize the other less documented part of history, the Runaway Scrape. I made a halt, reset in what I was going to write. Why did I change my mind? I purchased the oldest home in Eagle Lake, Texas, built in 1864. I began a total restoration process on the home. One day, William 'Bill' Kell and his wife Shirley brought to my wife and I a dog-eared, yellow manuscript which still had numerous edit marks throughout the pages. It was a manuscript authored by Dilue Rose Harris in 1898. It was a gift to Bill Kell who in turn gifted it to me for my year-long restoration process of the home. I began reading the manuscript and became intrigued with the bravery shown by women and children as they rushed eastward to save their families from the wrath of General Santa Anna. The more I read, the more I became intrigued with the memoirs of Dr. Pleasant Rose and with Miss Dilue Rose.

Settlers joined Sam Houston as everyone headed eastward to try and cross the Sabine River before Santa Anna reached them and they were all killed. During this migration eastward between March and April of 1836, spring rains for almost two weeks caused all the waterways to come out of their banks. Disease spread like wildfire. And, small children could not take the brunt of the cold weather lingering on in the early spring and died from exposure on the prairies. Some were eaten by alligators! Some died in quicksand!

The Runaway Scrape was an unpleasant experience, to say the least!

This novel covers the tragic flight of the refugees during the Texas Revolution across the swollen creeks and rivers from torrential downpours during the spring. Dilue Rose and her mother must present a shotgun in the face of Davy Crockett's brother to keep him from stealing her horses. In the meanwhile, Santa Anna has proclaimed that he will kill any Texans who he runs into during his run to the east, not stopping until he drinks a cup of coffee from the waters of the Sabine River.

The Runaway Scrape resulted from the people of Texas from receiving news of the loss of the Alamo, Goliad, and Sam Houston running away, appearing to try and get out of Texas! Women and children joined the migration and became refugees. More and more left food on the table and headed out the door and joined thousands of others who crowded roads in a panic. Keepsakes were put in their trunks and loaded on wagons, but later found strung out across the prairies as the panic forced a quicker pace.

If one enters the search term, Runaway Scrape, they can read article after article about the fall of the Alamo and Sam Houston's retreat until the Battle of San Jacinto. But, this story told in The Texas Rose, is one written from the actual memoirs of an eight year old little girl, her mother, and one of her sisters who was buried during their run to the Sabine River.

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