



Student Name:
Class Period:
Date:

Meet the Originals

Texas Originals is a radio series about people who made an impact on Texas. You can hear it online and on radio stations around the state. Read or listen to the episode on Susanna Dickinson. Then, answer questions about it.

Susanna Dickinson 1814–1883

On a cold March dawn in 1836, Mexican officers escorted a shaken young woman and her infant daughter past the heaps of dead in the Alamo courtyard to Mexican General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna. The woman, Susanna Dickinson, was the wife of Alamo defender Almaron Dickinson. She and her baby were hiding in the Alamo's chapel when Mexican troops bayoneted her husband and took the mission.

Dickinson had come to Texas with her husband from Tennessee in 1831, when she was seventeen. They settled in Gonzales, where their daughter Angelina was born. In 1835, Mexican and Texian troops clashed near Gonzales, and the Texas Revolution began. Almaron volunteered with the Texians, and his small family soon joined him at the Alamo. There, they waited for reinforcements that never came.

After the Alamo fell on March 6, 1836, Santa Anna sent Susanna and her daughter to Gonzales to warn Texians about the strength of the Mexican army. That sparked the Runaway Scrape, as settlers fled eastward ahead of Santa Anna's advancing troops. Sam Houston's victory over the Mexican Army at San Jacinto, the following month, ended the war.

After the war, Dickinson endured a string of unsuccessful marriages before finally marrying merchant J. W. Hannig in 1857. She remained with him until her death in 1883, and is buried next to him in Oakwood Cemetery in Austin.

Check for Understanding: Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Susanna Dickinson. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. Why were Susanna Dickinson and her daughter Angelina in the Alamo?
2. Why did Santa Anna allow Dickinson to leave after the Alamo fell?

Going Further: Write or discuss your answer to the question below, supporting your answer with evidence from the episode or additional information you have learned in class.

3. **Taking a Position.** During the Runaway Scrape, Texians had only moments to decide what they could bring with them. What would you have chosen to bring with you and why?