

There were several narrow escapes during the fight; a ball broke McLochlan's ramrod, another his gun lock, and still another went through his powder horn and let the powder out. One went through a handkerchief on his head and cut his hair, and another went through his coat.

We arrived at the Fort that night, Saturday, the 7th of January, 1837. I started the next morning with four men for Colorado Fort to carry out the orders I had received, and have never been back to the battleground since.

Next day Lieutenant Curtis sent McLochlan there with about fifteen men to bury the dead. He arrived after nightfall and from various signs concluded the Indians were still there. He sent one of his men to the Falls of the Brazos by a roundabout way to inform Major Smith; and himself returned with the rest to Little River Fort. The messenger disseminated the news along the way, and it got down to Nashville[-on-the-Brazos] and to the few settlements below clear to Washington County, creating considerable fear of Indians. . . .<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Erath, *Memoirs*, 1956 ed., pp. 48-53.

<sup>2</sup>Since there are at least 37 Elm Creeks in Texas, we should explain the Elm Creek where this battle occurred is described in the *Handbook of Texas*, I, 559, as follows: "Elm Creek, rising in southern McLennan County near the town of Moody and flowing southeast across Bell County and into central Milam County where it empties into Little River two miles northeast of the town of Cameron."

<sup>3</sup>Apparently Jack Hopson, by going on this expedition, was trying to atone for his conduct when the Indians attacked the Goldsby Childers party in June of 1836. See *Robertson Colony Papers*, XIV, 117-121.

<sup>4</sup>The news did not reach the Texas capital at Columbia until two weeks later, when it was published in the *Telegraph and Texas Register* on January 21, 1837. We have entered that article in this volume immediately preceding the foregoing account.

Many stories based on Erath's version of this fight have been published down through the years, the best known being as follows: Wilbarger, *Indian Depredations in Texas*, 1889; reprinted in 1967, pp. 248-255; Brown, *Indian Wars and Pioneers of Texas*, 189\_, pp. 46-47; Lewis Publishing Company, *A Memorial and Biographical History of McLennan, Falls, Bell and Coryell Counties, Texas*, 1893, pp. 231-234; *Frontier Times*, Bandera, Texas, August, 1934, pp. 487-490, and Tyler, *The History of Bell County*, 1936, reprinted 1966, pp. 46-51.