



# RUNAWAY SCRAPE

In song, verse and lecture, songwriter **Fletcher Clark** and author/historian **Donaly Brice** recount this frenzied flight before the advancing forces of cruel Santa Anna. **The Runaway Scrape** ends with victory at San Jacinto and the capture and surrender of the tyrant.



**Fletcher Clark**  
songwriter

As a young officer in the Mexican Army under the command of Joaquín de Arredondo with his fierce counterinsurgency policy of mass executions, Generalissimo Santa Anna seems to have formed his policy and conduct in the Texas Revolution. The Tornel Decree had been initially issued by the Mexican government in response to depredations by pirates upon Mexican coastal towns and outposts, but when it became clear that Texian insurgents were intent upon armed response to Mexican military presence, the decree was invoked against them. So Texians who found themselves in a state of rebellion - whether their intent be enforcement of their citizenship and loyalty to their consitutional government or a



**Donaly E. Brice**  
author/historian

desire for total independence from Mexico - were soon to realize that Santa Anna intended to show no quarter and spare no measure in his use of the Tornel Decree. As the Mexican Army moved north across the Rio Bravo, citizens became alarmed as early as January of 1836 and as far south as San Patricio, the seat of Stephen Austin's Colony. The English translation of the Tornel Decree was then published in New Orleans and in Texas prior to the Battle of the Alamo and the Battle of Coleto Creek. Civilians had begun their flight toward the imagined safety of the United States beyond the Sabine River, while Houston attempted to form a true Texian army in Gonzales. News of the fall of all at the Alamo spurred him to order the burning of Gonzales. News of the massacre and executions at Goliad and the burning of Bastrop further fed the peoples' fear. Thus, came the fearful civilian flight and the ragged military retreat that we know as the Runaway Scrape.



Donaly Brice and Fletcher Clark have previously collaborated for their critically acclaimed presentation on Susanna Dickinson, *There Must Be a Good Man in Texas*.

*Once experienced, this program of song and history will not be forgotten. It gives new life to our understanding of our Texas heritage. Clark and Brice working together is indeed a true delight.*

Chuck Parsons, Author/Historian

## SUSANNA APPEARANCES



Friends of Susanna Dickinson Museum (Austin) ~ Heart of Texas Chapter/DRT (Brady) ~ Lindenauer Chapter/DRT (New Braunfels) ~ Brazos Corral/Westerners International (College Station) ~ Caldwell County Genealogical & Historical Society (Luling) ~ Gonzales County Historical Commission (Gonzales) ~ Caldwell County Historical Commission (Lockhart)

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