

Source: José Enrique de la Peña

The paragraph below comes from the diary of José Enrique de la Peña. He was an officer who fought with General Santa Anna at the Alamo. His diary first became known in 1955. A bookseller in Mexico City published it. Walter Lord himself used it to write a history of the Texas Revolution. The first English translation appeared in 1975. It caused controversy. Some historians believed it was a forgery. Others found evidence that it was authentic.

Some seven men survived the general massacre and guided by General Castrillón, who protected them, were presented to Santa Anna. Among them was one of great stature, well-formed and with regular features, in whose face was stamped the pain of adversity. He was the naturalist David Crockett, well known in North America for his unusual adventures.... Santa Anna...ordered his execution. The commanders and officers were outraged at this action and did not support the order... but several officers who were around the president...thrust themselves forward...and with swords in hand, fell upon these unfortunate, defenseless men just as a tiger leaps upon his prey. They tortured them before they killed them, and these miserable ones died moaning, but without humbling themselves before their executioners...although I was present, I averted my gaze with horror, so as not to see such a barbarous scene.

What does this source tell you about the death of Davy Crockett? To answer that question, apply INSPECT to the source. Answer as much about it as you can. Pay close attention to what bias the author might have.