

BRAZORIA COUNTY DOG GHOSTS

After his capture at the Battle of San Jacinto, Santa Anna was moved successively to three different locations as a hedge against rescue efforts by his supporters in Mexico. Ultimately he was hidden away at Orozimbo, the plantation of Dr. James Phelps twelve miles northwest of Columbia.

One dark and rainy evening, Santa Anna's guards were slipped some wine containing a sleeping potion. Several men waited as the drug took effect, then crept up to Santa Anna's door to free him. Suddenly, the barking and baying of dogs split the peaceful night. The Phelps family awakened, lights went on, people began to stir, and the rescuers leapt to their steeds and fled, abandoning their mission.

But the odd thing was that the Phelps's didn't have any dogs. For several weeks, everyone searched for the mysterious canine heroes, but no one found any clues as to where they had come from or where they had gone.

One traveler mentioned three dogs who had died of grief over a master killed at the Goliad massacre. Had the spirits of the little pack returned to avenge his death?

Through the years, people have occasionally reported seeing in the vicinity of Orozimbo three dogs, pale and still, standing a ghostly watch, staring with wild, strange eyes.

Foster, Catherine Munson. *Ghosts along the Brazos*. Waco: Texian Press, 1984.
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