Friday, October 2, 1835

Dear Journal,

Today marks the beginning of our war for independence against Mexico. My fellow Texans and I are finished with the Mexican government. As part of the War Party, I believe our only option is revolution since Mexico refuses to grant us the rights we deserve. Mexican troops have been slowly trickling into Texas, and today, they met their match. Some time ago, Colonel Ugartechea, the Mexican commander at San Antonio, ordered us to surrender a cannon that the Mexican government had lent us for protection against Native American attacks. We, of course, refused and have been building an army ever since. While we were waiting for more men, we buried the cannon in a peach orchard until reinforcements arrived from the countryside. Once we built a strong force of men, we dug up the cannon and mounted it on a wagon. A local blacksmith quickly forged some ammunition out of iron scraps and pieces of chain. We decorated the front of the cannon with a white flag that bore the words “Come and Take It.” We were ready for the Mexicans!

When the Mexican troops finally arrived at Gonzales, they faced the one hundred and sixty of us stationed here, led by yours truly – Colonel John H. Moore. The fighting began in the early morning, and the struggle was very brief. One Mexican died while no Texans died. I was very proud of my men and our effort in the battle. I am optimistic about our chances in the upcoming battles. The Texans have several advantages: we know the land, we use scouts to warn us about incoming Mexican troops, and we are more motivated to fight. We will not give up until we are victorious! For too long we have suffered at the hands of the Mexican government, but today, we began to pave the path towards independence!

Colonel John H. Moore