County of Matagorda) Personally appear-
Republic of Texas 14th) ed before me the
November 1836) Charles Wilson
Primary Judge in and for said County
Eli Thompson who being sworn states
that at the time the citizens of
Matagorda fled for safety from the
Enemy say near about 1st of April
last that he was put in possession and
in command of the Sloop Rattle Snake
belonging to G.R.R. Royall by his clerk
Wm Ridgeley with instructions to
remove the Boat by running her to
Galveston or some place of safety and
that he Thompson was preparing
to Deck over the Vessel having plenty
of material to window her safe at
sea all of which was down to the Bay
Caballo and on a point shut out of
reach of the Enemy as he thought and
on a Point which he believes the Enemy
has never visited as yet. and further
that when preparing to execute his design
in order to save the Vessel for the
Owner that Capt Wm Brown of the
Schr. Liberty Prepared a Sign with the
Rattle Snake and Prepared the said Thom-
pson as a hand before the Mast and
after cutting up Boat (Rattle Snake)
with an axe and turning her loose
in the Breakers where she went to
Pieces he returned aboard of his Vessel
The Deponent states as fully his
opinion that he could and would have

7/4-63