

People of the Texas Revolution



James Fannin

"Fellow citizens ... We urge as many as can possibly leave their homes to repair to Gonzales immediately, "armed and equipped for war even to the knife." ...If Texas will now act promptly, she will soon be redeemed from that worse than Egyptian bondage which now cramps her resources and retards her prosperity."

- J.W. Fannin, October 2, 1835



James Fannin's service to Texas is undeniable. Fannin moved to Texas in 1834 from Georgia. When the Texas Revolution began at the Battle of Gonzales in 1835, he fought and urged Stephen F. Austin to send aid to Gonzales. Fannin also served with Jim Bowie at the Battle of Concepción and in the siege of San Antonio. He was placed in command of the Presidio La Bahia in Goliad.

After the Battle of the Alamo, Sam Houston ordered Fannin to retreat from Goliad to Victoria. But Fannin hesitated, waiting five days to begin his retreat. Mexican forces caught up with his men and defeated him at the Battle of Coleto Creek.

Though Mexican general José de Urrea sought mercy for his prisoners, Santa Anna ordered the execution. On Palm Sunday of 1836, the Mexican Army executed more than three hundred Texian soldiers. The 40 wounded men who could not walk were executed inside the presidio. The Mexican army saved Fannin's execution for last. He was taken by Mexican soldiers to the courtyard in front of the chapel, blindfolded and seated in a chair (due to his leg wound from the battle). He made three requests: he asked for his pocket watch to be sent to his family, to be shot in his heart and not his face, and to be given a Christian burial. All three of these requests were denied. Mexican soldiers took his watch, shot him in the face and burned Fannin's body along with the other Texians who died that day. This injustice angered the Texians and gave birth to the battle cry, "Remember Goliad!"

James Bowie



"(I would) rather die in these ditches than give it up to the enemy."

-Bowie, describing the Alamo

James Bowie was born March 10, 1796, in Kentucky. He lived most of his life in Louisiana. He was a land speculator with his brother. During a knife fight near Natchez, Mississippi, in 1828, the Bowie knife was made famous and James Bowie was wounded. After his recovery, he settled in the Mexican state of Coahuila y Texas. James Bowie became a Catholic and a Mexican citizen in 1830. James Bowie was a delegate to the Convention of 1833 and he wanted to make Texas its own state in Mexico. His wife, two children and in-laws all die in a cholera epidemic.

When Sam Houston learned that Santa Anna was leading an army into San Antonio, James Bowie volunteered to defend the Alamo. On January 19, 1836, James Bowie got to the Alamo with 30 men. James Bowie took command of the volunteers, while William B. Travis commanded the regular soldiers. James Bowie fell ill and was bedridden during the last battles at the Alamo. He died fighting from his hospital bed on March 6, 1836.

Juan Seguin



"Texas shall be free and independent or we shall perish in glorious combat."

Juan Seguin was born October 27, 1806 in San Antonio. His father was the postmaster and on the committee that wrote the Mexican Constitution in 1824. Juan Seguin served in several public offices in his twenties. In 1833 he was elected the alcalde, or mayor, of San Antonio.

Juan Seguin joined the Texian Army in October of 1835. Juan Seguin's job was to supply Texian troops with food and supplies. In January of 1836, Juan Seguin was made a captain in the Texas Army and joined William Travis' troops at the Alamo in February. Juan Seguin was not at the final battle at the Alamo because he had carried the Alamo message for reinforcements through the enemy lines. Juan Seguin returned with reinforcements but the Battle of the Alamo was over. Juan Seguin fought at the Battle of San Jacinto and represented the Republic of Texas when the Mexican surrender was accepted at the Alamo on June 4, 1836.

William B. Travis



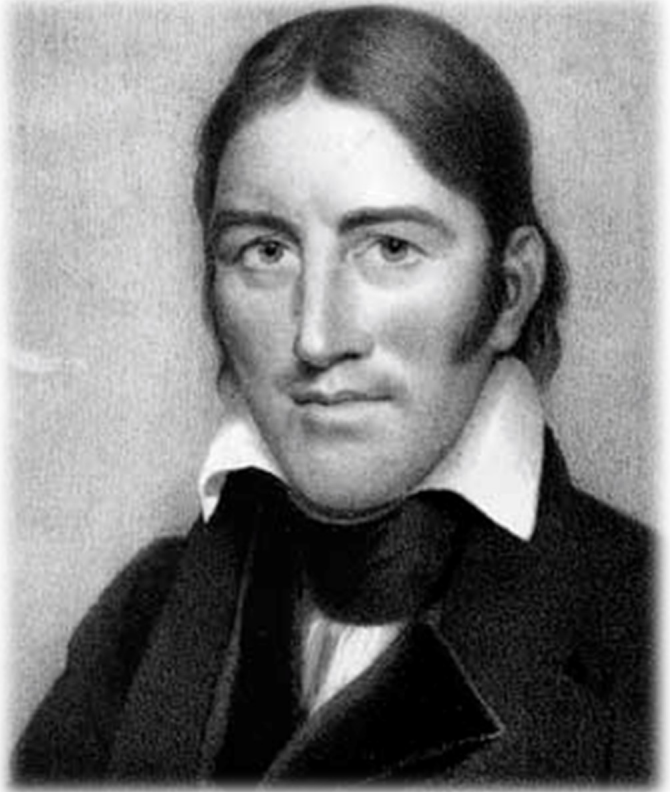
"If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible & die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor & that of his country - Victory or Death."

William Travis was born in South Carolina on August 1, 1809. He worked as a teacher, newspaper publisher and lawyer. Due to money he owed many people and facing jail time, William Travis went to Texas in May of 1831. William Travis purchased land from Stephen F. Austin and opened a law office in Anahuac. He also started a militia to help fight against the Mexicans.

As a lieutenant colonel, William Travis was ordered by the governor to take troops to help the Texians at the Alamo Mission in San Antonio. On February 3, 1836, William Travis got to the Alamo with 18 regular army soldiers. William Travis took command of the regular troops while James Bowie commanded the volunteers. William Travis wrote the "Victory or Death" letter on February 24, 1836, asking for help at the Alamo. A rider on horseback made it through enemy lines with the letter but help did not arrive in time. William Travis died on March 6, 1836, in the final battle at the Alamo.

Davy Crockett

"Pop, pop, pop! Bom, bom, bom! throughout the day. No time for memorandums now. Liberty and Independence forever."
Last entry in his diary,
(5 March 1836)



David Crockett was born August 17, 1786 in what is now a part of Tennessee. His father apprenticed David Crockett many times to work for others to pay off the debts his father owed. David Crockett also worked moving livestock. David Crockett was a scout and hunter for the military during the Creek Wars and the War of 1812. David Crockett was elected to the Tennessee State Legislature in 1821 and the United States House of Representatives in 1822. When he wasn't re-elected in 1835, David Crockett left for Texas.

David Crockett felt that war was going to happen between Mexico and the Texans. On January 14, 1836, David Bowie and 65 other volunteers pledged an oath to the Provisional Government of Texas to fight for Texas for six months. They were promised 4,600 acres of land as payment for their service to Texas. On February 8, 1836, David Crockett and five other men arrived at the Alamo. David Crockett died March 6, 1836, during the final battle at the Alamo defending the area outside the church walls.

Susanna Dickinson



*"Great God, Sue, the
Mexicans are inside
our walls! If they
spare you, save my
child!"*

- statement to
Susanna Dickinson

Susanna Dickinson was born in Tennessee in 1814. At the age of 15, Susanna married Almaron Dickinson and they settled in DeWitt's Colony in Texas. The Dickinsons opened a blacksmith shop and had part ownership in a hat factory.

Almaron Dickinson fought in the Battle of Gonzales. Then he was assigned to the garrison, or fort, at the Alamo. Susanna and her baby daughter, Angelina, followed him there. As the Mexican Army approached, the families were moved into the Alamo for protection. The women and children were in the church during the final battle. The day after the final battle, the women were interviewed by Santa Anna. Susanna Dickinson had to identify the bodies of the Alamo defenders. The Tejano civilians were allowed to return home. Santa Anna gave each woman \$2 and a blanket. Santa Anna told Susanna Dickinson to spread the news about the terrible battle.

Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna

"That man may consider himself born to no common destiny who has conquered the Napoleon of the West. And now it remains for him to be generous to the vanquished."

-Santa Anna to Sam Houston after his defeat at the Battle of San Jacinto



Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna was born February 21, 1794, in Veracruz, New Spain. Santa Anna began his military career at the age of 16 fighting for Spain in Mexico's war for independence from Spain. In 1821, Santa Anna changed sides and fought for Mexican independence.

In 1824, Santa Anna repealed, or recalled, the Mexican Constitution. New settlers were no longer allowed to enter Texas. Santa Anna also abolished, or removed, the State Legislature and gave himself complete control. The Texas Declaration of Independence made Santa Anna form a large army and marched north into Texas to bring the area back under his control. With the Battle of the Alamo on March 6, 1836, and the Goliad Massacre on March 27, 1836, Santa Anna wanted the Texas Army to know he would not be stopped. Santa Anna's army was defeated at the Battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836. But Mexico was not done with Santa Anna. He was elected President of Mexico eleven times between 1833 and 1853.

Sam Houston

"Texas, to be respected must be polite. Santa Anna living, can be of incalculable benefit to Texas; Santa Anna dead, would just be another dead Mexican."

-Sam Houston
after the Battle
of San Jacinto



Sam Houston was an experienced politician and leader even before he came to Texas. Born in 1793, Houston had fought in the War of 1812 and was both a representative for and governor of Tennessee. While in both of those positions, he supported the Cherokee and fought for their rights.

Houston was selected to lead the Texas army at the Convention of 1836. When he met his army, he only had 374 men with few supplies and little training. He was facing an army of thousands led by one of the fiercest generals in the world. Houston knew his men needed time to train and supplies sent by Stephen F. Austin in the United States. Houston marched his army east with Santa Anna and General Urrea chasing them. But the time he gained was valuable, when the Texians met the Mexican Army at San Jacinto, Houston was able to lead his army to victory. Houston used the "twin sisters", two cannons from the people of Cincinnati. Sam Houston was injured in the battle, but still defeated Santa Anna's army.

General Cós



"Soldiers! We shall only delay the commencement of the campaign, for such time as is necessary to concentrate all our forces and will then prove to the colonists, that the Mexican soldiers have never feared dangers, and conquer with greater glory a boastful enemy."

Cós was appointed commander of military forces in Texas in July 1835 and was sent there to disarm any rebellious citizens. He arrived in Texas on September 21, 1835 with 300 soldiers. Cós proceeded to the town of Goliad on October 1, then moved on to San Antonio de Béxar. Cós ordered the arrest of William B. Travis and any other rebel leaders. Once in San Antonio (Siege of Béxar), Cós was attacked by Texian forces under the leadership of Stephen F. Austin. The town was put under siege by the Texian army. After a 56-day siege of the town and Alamo mission, on December 9, Cós surrendered the town of San Antonio and weapons to the Texians then proceeded to leave Texas.