

# Texas Twist

Mid-Year Edition

1999



## Personalities at the Alamo

The Alamo had many interesting personalities. The question is would the cry "Remember the Alamo" have been as potent without these people? Goliad had most of the Texans taken prisoners literally slaughtered and although the battle cry in many cases included Goliad it always came second (if at all). It is important to analysis the personalities that were associated with the battle of the Alamo and determine the reason why these men have always been singled out to represent Texas freedom. This edition of the Texas Twist looks at some of the major players in this war for independence.



<http://www.thealamo.org/defenders.html>

## Jim Bowie



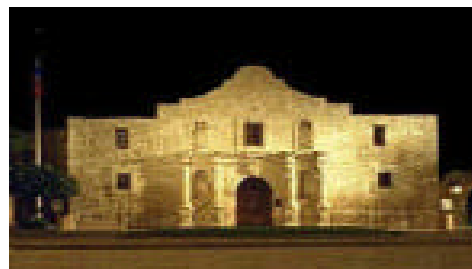
Known for his famous "Bowie knife" and a sometimes reckless adventurer, Jim Bowie is now immortalized as one of the true folk heroes in early Texas.

Bowie was born in Kentucky in 1796. While still very young, he moved with his family, first to Missouri, then in 1802 to Louisiana, where he spent most of his youth. It was there that he first acquired a reputation for his bold and fearless disposition.

In 1827, Bowie participated in a bloody brawl near Natchez, Mississippi, where several men were killed and Bowie was wounded. Rezin Bowie, his brother, wrote he had the first Bowie Knife made at Avoyelles, Louisiana, for his brother James to defend himself, and that James used the Bowie knife in the sandbar duel.

After recovering from the wounds he received in the sandbar fight the following year, he moved to Texas.

Before the revolution in Texas, Bowie took part in many adventures. He spent considerable time cultivating friendships with  
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<http://www.geocities.com/BourbonStreet/8781/JimBowie.html>

## Sam Houston

One of the most colorful and controversial figures in Texas history, Sam Houston was born in Virginia on March 2, 1793. He spent much of his youth, however, in the mountains of Tennessee. There, young Houston became acquainted with the Cherokee Indians.

As a sergeant, he excelled in the military and quickly won the admiration of his men and his superiors. After receiving three near-mortal wounds at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, he rose to the rank of first lieutenant before resigning in 1818 to study law.

He practiced law in Lebanon, Tennessee before running

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Indians in his search for elusive silver and gold reported to be hidden in the interior of Texas. By some accounts, he is said to have found the fabled San Saba mines, also known as the Bowie mines, near the geographic center of present day Texas.

In the Texas Revolution, Bowie was a leading participant at the Battle of Concepcion and in the Grass Fight near San Antonio. He was in command of a volunteer force in San Antonio when William Travis arrived with regular army troops. The two men shared authority during much of the Siege of the Alamo, which caused some personal friction. But pneumonia disabled Bowie, and he was confined to his cot at the time of his death when the Alamo fell on March 6, 1836. ♦

Who were these Alamo defenders?



<http://www.thealamo.org/defenders.html>

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for public office. He sought and won public office and was elected to the US Congress in 1823 and again in 1825. In 1827, Houston was elected Governor of Tennessee by a large majority.

While governor and after a brief marriage that ended unfavorably, Houston quietly resigned from Tennessee politics and returned to live with his longtime friends, the Cherokees. There, he remained until 1832 when he moved to Texas along with a few friends.

## Davy Crockett

Davy Crockett was perhaps best known in Tennessee as a noted hunter and for his unique style of backwoods oratory. In Texas, however, he will always be remembered as a heroic participant in the Battle of the Alamo.

Crockett was born 17 August 1786 in what is now northeastern Tennessee. It was not until he was eighteen before he learned to read and write. About that time, he married and started a family of several children.

By 1821, he was elected to the State Legislature until 1823. From 1827 through 1833, Crockett served in the Congress of the United States. However, he was defeated in a fourth term bid for Congress.

<http://www.lsjunction.com/people2/crockett.htm>

From the time that Houston was elected a delegate in Nacogdoches, he emerged as a prominent player in the affairs of Texas. In 1835 he was appointed general of the military district east of the Trinity. He became a member of the Consultation of 1835, and of the Convention which met at Washington on the Brazos in 1836 to declare independence from Mexico. It was there that Houston was elected commander-in-chief of the armies of Texas.

Houston took control of the Texas forces after the fall of the Alamo and Goliad, and conducted the retreat of the army to the site of the Battle of San Jacinto, where on April 21, 1836, his force defeated Santa Anna and secured Texas independence. ♦

<http://www.lsjunction.com/people2/houston.htm>

Disgusted by that time with politics, Crockett bid farewell to Tennessee and headed for Texas in the fall of 1835. There he was well received and seemed to enjoy his new environment, for on 9 January 1836 he wrote a daughter back in Tennessee: "I would rather be in my present situation than to be elected to a seat in Congress for life."

Less than one month later, however, Crockett and a few of his fellow Tennesseans were among the 189 defenders that sacrificed their lives at The Battle of the Alamo. ♦