

# Stephen F. Austin

Born: November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1793 – Virginia

Died: December 27<sup>th</sup>, 1836 – Texas



Stephen F. Austin was an American impresario who brought over 300 American families to settle in Texas. These families were among those who later founded the Republic of Texas. This is also why he is called the “Father of Texas”.

This plan was originated by his father, Moses. Moses Austin wanted to bring settlers from the U.S to Texas. He even received permission from Mexico. However, he died before he could carry out his plan.

Stephen F. Austin decided to carry on with his father’s plan. He worked hard to help and protect Americans who came to settle in Texas. He worked so hard assisting settlers in any way he could. This led to his death at such a young age – 43.

# Sam Houston

Born: March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1793 – Virginia

Died: July 26<sup>th</sup>, 1863 – Texas



Sam Houston was an American soldier and politician. He is best known for helping Texas become the 28<sup>th</sup> state.

He was one of many soldiers in the Texas Revolution. He defeated the Mexican Army at the Battle of San Jacinto. Instead of killing Santa Anna, he traded for Texas' independence. He then became president of the Republic of Texas in 1836.

He was one of the major forces that helped Texas join the U.S. He believed Texas needed financial aid and military assistance from the U.S. because it was under constant threats from Mexico. Later, he became a U.S. congressman and governor of Texas. In 1861, he was forced to resign as governor when he refused to join the confederacy.

# Davy crockett

Born: August 17<sup>th</sup>, 1786 – Tennessee

Died: March 6<sup>th</sup>, 1836 – Texas



Davy Crockett was an American folk hero, soldier, and politician. He is commonly referred to as “King of the Wild Frontier” because he was known for hunting, exploring, and storytelling.

He served in the U.S. House of Representatives, fought in the Texas Revolution, and died at the Alamo.

After losing the 1835 congressional election, he was very frustrated with the U.S. Congress and decided to go to Texas and help Texans fight against Mexican oppression. He was interested in all the opportunities available in Texas and wanted to explore the western frontier.

# William B. Travis

Born: August 9<sup>th</sup>, 1809 – South Carolina

Died: March 6<sup>th</sup>, 1836 – Texas

William B. Travis was a 19<sup>th</sup> century lawyer and soldier. Before coming to Texas, he lived in Alabama where he owed many debts due to failed business pursuits. He managed to avoid being arrested for the debts by sneaking off to Texas.

When he got to Texas, he purchased land from Stephen F. Austin and quickly became a militia leader. He worked to help Texas gain independence from Mexico. He was commissioned as a lieutenant colonel in the Texas Army and was in charge of the garrison at the Alamo. He died fighting for Texas' independence at the Alamo in 1836.



# William B. Travis' Letter from the Alamo

On February 24, 1836, during Santa Anna's siege of the Alamo, Travis wrote a letter addressed "To the People of Texas and All Americans in the World":

Fellow citizens and compatriots;

I am besieged, by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna. I have sustained a continual Bombardment and cannonade for 24 hours and have not lost a man. The enemy has demanded a surrender at discretion, otherwise, the garrison are to be put to the sword, if the fort is taken. I have answered the demand with a cannon shot, and our flag still waves proudly from the walls. I shall never surrender or retreat. Then, I call on you in the name of Liberty, of patriotism & everything dear to the American character, to come to our aid, with all dispatch.

The enemy is receiving reinforcements daily and will no doubt increase to three or four thousand in four or five days. If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible and die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor & that of his country.

VICTORY or DEATH.

William Barret Travis

Lt. Col. Comdt.

P.S. The Lord is on our side. When the enemy appeared in sight we had not three bushels of corn. We have since found in deserted houses 80 or 90 bushels and got into the walls 20 or 30 head of Beeves.

Travis



# Jim Bowie

Born: circa 1796 – Kentucky

Died: March 6<sup>th</sup>, 1836 – Texas



Jim Bowie was a 19<sup>th</sup> century American folk hero, pioneer and soldier. He became popular after using a large knife in a fight. The knife was subsequently named after him – the Bowie knife.

He came to Texas in 1830, became a Mexican citizen, and married the daughter of the Mexican vice governor of the province.

Later, he played a prominent role in the Texas Revolution. He was a colonel in the Texas Army during the Battle of the Alamo. He became ill and reportedly died shooting the enemy from his bed when they entered his room.

# Antonio López de Santa Anna

Born: February 21<sup>st</sup>, 1794 – Mexico

Died: June 21<sup>st</sup>, 1876 – Mexico



Santa Anna was a wealthy landowner, general of the Mexican Army, and president of Mexico in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

After he became president, Texans became unhappy with changes in Mexican law and began calling for Texas' independence from Mexico. Santa Anna was determined to put down any efforts by Texans to become independent. Santa Anna and his army defeated the Texas defenders at the Alamo.

Later, in the Battle of San Jacinto, Santa Anna's army was surprised by an attack from Sam Houston and the Texican army. Santa Anna was captured and forced to sign the Treaty of Velasco, which recognized Texas' independence and set the Texas/Mexico border at the Rio Grande River.

# Texas Rangers



The Texas Rangers were formed in 1835 (unofficially in 1823). They were volunteer “police” who helped defend Texas and its people from any and all dangers, including invaders, Native American attacks, and other scoundrels.

After Texas became a state, they were recognized as one of the foremost defense agencies in the country.

Today, Texas Rangers are no longer volunteers. They are an elite branch of our state’s police force and are considered some of the best police officers in our state.