

SLEUTHING THE ALAMO



**Davy Crockett's Last Stand
and Other Mysteries of the Texas Revolution**

JAMES E. CRISP

Sleuthing The Alamo

Mark Steyvers



Sleuthing The Alamo:

Sleuthing the Alamo James E. Crisp, 2004-12-01 In *Sleuthing the Alamo* historian James E. Crisp draws back the curtain on years of mythmaking to reveal some surprising truths about the Texas Revolution truths often obscured by both racism and political correctness as history has been hijacked by combatants in the culture wars of the past two centuries Beginning with a very personal prologue recalling both the pride and the prejudices that he encountered in the Texas of his youth Crisp traces his path to the discovery of documents distorted censored and ignored documents which reveal long silenced voices from the Texan past In each of four chapters focusing on specific documentary finds Crisp uncovers the clues that led to these archival discoveries Along the way the cast of characters expands to include a prominent historian who tried to walk away from his first book an unlikely teenaged speechwriter for General Sam Houston three eyewitnesses to the death of Davy Crockett at the Alamo a desperate inmate of Mexico City's Inquisition Prison whose scribbled memoir of the war in Texas is now listed in the Guinness Book of World Records and the stealthy slasher of the most famous historical painting in Texas In his afterword Crisp explores the evidence behind the mythic Yellow Rose of Texas and examines some of the powerful forces at work in silencing the very voices from the past that we most need to hear today Here then is an engaging first person account of historical detective work illuminating the methods of the serious historian and the motives of those who prefer glorious myth to unflattering truth **Emily D. West and the "Yellow Rose of Texas" Myth** Phillip Thomas

Tucker, 2014-02-07 For the first time the true story of The Yellow Rose of Texas is told in full revealing a host of new insights and perspectives on one of America's most popular stories For generations the Yellow Rose of Texas has been one of America's most popular western myths growing larger over time and little resembling the truth of what happened on April 21 1836 at the battle of San Jacinto where a new Texas Republic won its independence The woman who has been popularly connected to the story was an ordinary but also quite remarkable free black woman from the North Emily D. West This work reconstructs her experience places it in full context and explores the evolution of a most fanciful myth **How Did Davy Die? And Why**

Do We Care So Much? Dan Kilgore, James E. Crisp, 2010-01-19 Just over thirty years ago Dan Kilgore ignited a controversy with his presidential address to the Texas State Historical Association and its subsequent publication in book form *How Did Davy Die?* After the 1975 release of the first ever English translation of eyewitness accounts by Mexican army officer Jos Enrique de la Peña Kilgore had the audacity to state publicly that historical sources suggested Davy Crockett did not die on the ramparts of the Alamo swinging the shattered remains of his rifle Old Betsy Rather Kilgore asserted Mexican forces took Crockett captive and then executed him on Santa Anna's order Soon after the publication of *How Did Davy Die?* the London Daily Mail associated Kilgore with the murder of a myth he became the subject of articles in *Texas Monthly* and the *Wall Street Journal* and some who considered his historical argument an affront to a treasured American icon delivered personal insults and threats of violence Now in this enlarged commemorative edition James E. Crisp a professional historian and a

participant in the debates over the De la Pe a diary reconsiders the heated disputation surrounding How Did Davy Die and poses the intriguing follow up question And Why Do We Care So Much Crisp reviews the origins and subsequent impact of Kilgore s book both on the historical hullabaloo and on the author Along the way he provides fascinating insights into methods of historical inquiry and the use or non use of original source materials when seeking the truth of events that happened in past centuries He further examines two aspects of the debate that Kilgore shied away from the place and function of myth in culture and the racial overtones of some of the responses to Kilgore s work David Crockett in Texas Allen J. Wiener,2024-10-23 presents a realistic profile based on a foundation of research that can only be described as exhaustive Given its balanced tone and exhaustive research this book actually has a chance to become the last word on an enigmatic subject Paul D Lack author of Searching for the Republic of the Rio Grande Northern Mexico and Texas 1838 1840 challenges the mythology of the Alamo s most famous defender and nearly every Davy trope from fantastic tales circulated in Crockett s lifetime to Billy Bob Thornton s on screen fiddle playing in 2004 San Antonio Express News A stunning tour de force of research and analysis that illuminates the last three months of Davy s life Wiener s book will stand in the top rank He also adds important new speculation and analysis on those last thirteen days in the Alamo William C Davis author of Lone Star Rising The Revolutionary Birth of the Texas Republic David Crockett in Texas His Search for New Land by Allen J Wiener takes a fresh look at the well known figure from the perspective of his quest for land in Texas and the new start it promised for his family This retelling of what the author terms the last adventure in the life of a nineteenth century Tennessee frontiersman who became a national celebrity presents a picture of Crockett that contrasts with the popular image of the brash adventurer who sought glory on the battlefield as well as that of the bitter failed politician who came to Texas as a last resort Wiener presents a nuanced examination of Crockett s motivations that places them in the context of the full arc of his career and aspirations starting long before he ventured to the south side of the Red River Notably this book devotes a full chapter to the fate of Crockett s family after his death contributing perhaps the most complete account to date of the astute legal actions taken by Elizabeth Crockett to secure title to the land obtained by her late husband s enlistment in the Texian cause Uniquely to studies of Crockett Wiener presents Elizabeth Crockett as a shrewd businesswoman who ably managed her husband s various enterprises at home while he was off campaigning or serving in Washington DC David Crockett in Texas offers fascinating new evaluations of what we thought we already knew about one of the most studied and debated figures in Texas and American history **Lone Star Politics** Ken Collier,Steven Galatas,Julie Harrelson-Stephens,2020-12-10 In Texas myth often clashes with the reality of everyday government Explore the state s rich political tradition with Lone Star Politics as the author team explains who gets what and how Utilizing a comparative approach the authors set Texas in context with other states constitutions policymaking electoral practices and institutions as they delve into the evolution of its politics Critical thinking questions and unvarnished Winners and Losers discussions guide

students toward understanding Texas government and assessing the state's political landscape. The highly anticipated Seventh Edition includes coverage of the state's response to the COVID pandemic, brand new chapter level learning objectives, updated demographic and immigration statistics, and new Discussion Starter questions to help in class discussion on critical policy debates. Digital Option Courseware: SAGE Vantage is an intuitive digital platform that delivers this text's content and course materials in a learning experience that offers auto-graded assignments and interactive multimedia tools all carefully designed to ignite student engagement and drive critical thinking. Built with you and your students in mind, it offers simple course set up and enables students to better prepare for class. Assignable Video with Assessment: Assignable video available with SAGE Vantage is tied to learning objectives and curated exclusively for this text to bring concepts to life. LMS Cartridge Import: Import this title's instructor resources into your school's learning management system (LMS) and save time. Don't use an LMS? You can still access all of the same online resources for this title via the password-protected Instructor Resource Site. CQ Press Lecture Spark: Designed to save you time and ignite student engagement, these free weekly lecture launchers focus on current event topics tied to key concepts in American Government.

South to Freedom Alice L Baumgartner, 2020-11-10 A brilliant and surprising account of the coming of the American Civil War showing the crucial role of slaves who escaped to Mexico. The Underground Railroad to the North promised salvation to many American slaves before the Civil War. But thousands of people in the south central United States escaped slavery not by heading north but by crossing the southern border into Mexico where slavery was abolished in 1837. In South to Freedom historian Alice L Baumgartner tells the story of why Mexico abolished slavery and how its increasingly radical antislavery policies fueled the sectional crisis in the United States. Southerners hoped that annexing Texas and invading Mexico in the 1840s would stop runaways and secure slavery's future. Instead, the seizure of Alta California and Nuevo Mexico upset the delicate political balance between free and slave states. This is a revelatory and essential new perspective on antebellum America and the causes of the Civil War.

The Secret War for Texas Stuart Reid, 2007-01-05 Could the British have stopped Manifest Destiny in its tracks in 1836? A Scottish doctor named James Grant was the agent who tried to make it happen, and Texas was the stage on which the secret battle was fought. On the eve of the Texas uprising, only two things stood in the way of American ambitions to reach the Pacific Ocean: the British claim to the Oregon country and the vast but sparsely populated Mexican province of Texas. Britain was therefore almost as concerned with the outcome of the Texians' war as Mexico was. At a crucial point when Texians had to decide whether to seek rights within the Federal Republic of Mexico or to secede and ally with the United States, James Grant led a band of followers toward Mexico with the intent of forming a state within that nation. His efforts met enduring accusations that he fatally weakened the Alamo by stripping it of men, ammunition, and medical supplies. When Grant was killed on the ill-fated Matamoros expedition, British hopes of blocking the upstart Americans died too. Yet despite his important role, Grant remains a shadowy and often sinister figure, routinely condemned by

historians and frequently dismissed out of hand as merely an unscrupulous land speculator Drawing heavily on British sources Reid tells the forgotten story of Dr James Grant and the twelve year long secret war for Texas from his involvement in the silly quixotic Fredonian Rebellion to the bloody battles along the Atascosita Road The international scope of the story makes this far more than just another tale of the Texas Revolution

From Santa Anna to Selena Harriett Denise Joseph,2018-03-15 Author Harriett Denise Joseph relates biographies of eleven notable Mexicanos and Tejanos beginning with Santa Anna and the impact his actions had on Texas She discusses the myriad contributions of Erasmo and Juan Segu n to Texas history as well as the factors that led a hero of the Texas Revolution Juan to be viewed later as a traitor by his fellow Texans Admired by many but despised by others folk hero Juan Nepomuceno Cortina is one of the most controversial figures in the history of nineteenth century South Texas Preservationist and historian Adina De Zavala fought to save part of the Alamo site and other significant structures Labor activist Emma Tenayuca s youth passion courage and sacrifice merit attention for her efforts to help the working class Joseph reveals the individual and collective accomplishments of a powerhouse couple bilingual educator Edmundo Mireles and folklorist author Jovita Gonz lez She recognizes the military and personal battles of Medal of Honor recipient Raul Roy Benavidez Irma Rangel the first Latina to serve in the Texas House of Representatives is known for the many firsts she achieved during her lifetime Finally we read about Selena s life and career as well as her tragic death and her continuing marketability

American Legend Buddy Levy,2006-12-05 David Crockett was an adventurer a pioneer and a media savvy national celebrity In his short but distinguished lifetime this charismatic frontiersman won three terms as a U S congressman and a presidential nomination His 1834 memoir enjoyed frenzied sales and prompted the first ever official book tour for its enormously popular author Down to earth heroic and independent to a fault the real Crockett became lost in his own hype and he s been overshadowed by a larger than life pop culture character in a coonskin cap Now American Legend debunks the tall tales to reveal the fascinating truth of Crockett s hardscrabble childhood his near death experiences his unlikely rise to Congress and the controversial last stand at the Alamo that mythologized him beyond recognition In this beautifully written narrative Crockett emerges as never before a rugged individual a true American original and an enduring symbol of the Western frontier A great myth busting story that presents Davy Crockett as a man of genius and folly which has the unlikely effect of making him all the more heroic Martin Dugard author of The Last Voyage of Columbus and Into Africa The Epic Adventures of Stanley and Livingstone As spellbinding and dramatic as any novel and as compelling as any reportage Peter Hoffer Distinguished Research Professor of History The University of Georgia

Born on a Mountaintop Bob Thompson,2014-03-04 Pioneer Congressman Martyr of the Alamo King of the Wild Frontier As with all great legends Davy Crockett s has been retold many times Over the years he has been repeatedly reinvented by historians and popular storytellers In Born on a Mountaintop Bob Thompson combines the stories of the real hero and his Disney enhanced afterlife as he delves deep into our love for an American icon In the road trip tradition

of Sarah Vowell and Tony Horwitz Thompson follows Crockett's footsteps from his birthplace in east Tennessee to Washington where he served three terms in Congress and on to Texas and the gates of the Alamo seeking out those who know love and are still willing to fight over Davy's life and legacy Born on a Mountaintop is more than just a bold new biography of one of the great American heroes Thompson's rich mix of scholarship reportage humor and exploration of modern Crockett landscapes bring Davy Crockett's impact on the American imagination vividly to life *Crockett* Buddy Levy, 2025-03-11 A great myth busting story written in a taut narrative style that is guaranteed to keep the reader up all hours turning the pages Martin Dugard coauthor of the 1 New York Times bestseller *Killing Lincoln* with Bill O'Reilly Crack open the most in depth exciting portrait of Davy Crockett ever written from acclaimed bestselling adventure history author Buddy Levy Inside is more than just the tale of the coonskin cap wearing frontiersman who heroically sacrificed himself at the Battle of the Alamo but of the real man behind the King of the Wild Frontier myth From a humble childhood and meager education the legendary adventurer David Crockett led a distinguished life winning three elections as a congressman and earning a presidential nomination Buddy Levy reveals the fascinating truth of Crockett beyond the newspaper spins and folkloric celebrity status as a figure that both embraced and clashed with the identity of the American Old West He was charismatic down to earth pioneering independent to a fault and his adventures have been warped beyond recognition by Hollywood hype But in this beautifully written narrative Davy Crockett emerges as never before a rugged individual a true American original and an enduring symbol of the Western frontier **Lives and Times** Blaine T. Browne, Robert C. Cottrell, 2010-05-16 *Lives and Times* is a biographical reader designed to acquaint students with major issues in American history through the lives of individuals prominent and otherwise whose ideas and activities were crucial in shaping the course of the nation's history Employing a narrative style each volume consists of thirteen chapters in which the lives of two individuals are examined in the broader context of major historical themes Readers will find not only a diversity of individuals profiled including Mary Dyer and Cotton Mather Andrew Jackson and Tecumseh and John Brown and Abraham Lincoln but also themes spanning political economic social cultural intellectual and military history This combined biographical thematic approach provides the reader with more extensive biographical information and a fuller examination of key issues than is commonly offered in core texts Each chapter also offers study questions and a bibliography Also Available *Lives and Times* Individuals and Issues in American History Since 1865 by Blaine T. Browne and Robert C. Cottrell *Beyond Texas Through Time* Walter L. Buenger, Arnoldo De León, 2011-01-27 In 1991 Walter L. Buenger and the late Robert A. Calvert compiled a pioneering work in Texas historiography *Texas Through Time* a seminal survey and critique of the field of Texas history from its inception through the end of the 1980s Now Buenger and Arnoldo De León have assembled an important new collection that assesses the current state of Texas historiography building on the many changes in understanding and interpretation that have developed in the nearly twenty years since the publication of the original volume This new work *Beyond Texas*

Through Time departs from the earlier volume's emphasis on the dichotomy between traditionalism and revisionism as they applied to various eras. Instead, the studies in this book consider the topical and thematic understandings of Texas historiography embraced by a new generation of Texas historians as they reflect analytically on the work of the past two decades. The resulting approaches thus offer the potential of informing the study of themes and topics other than those specifically introduced in this volume, extending its usefulness well beyond a review of the literature. In addition, the volume editors' introduction proposes the application of cultural constructionism as an important third perspective on the thematic and topical analyses provided by the other contributors. Beyond Texas Through Time offers both a vantage point and a benchmark serving as an important reference for scholars and advanced students of history and historiography even beyond the borders of Texas.

Texas Benjamin Heber Johnson, 2025-02-25 An exploration of the multifaceted characters and complex events that have defined the Lone Star State from its inception through today. When Americans turn on their laptops, play video games, go to church, vote, eat TexMex, shop for groceries, listen to music, grill steaks, or watch football, they are knowingly or not paying tribute to Texas. Tracing the profound and surprising story of the Lone Star State, Benjamin Heber Johnson shines new light on why Texas has had such a powerful influence on U.S. history. Texas is known to outsiders for mob violence, swaggering self-conception, and conservative politics, but Johnson reveals that the state has also been on the forefront of taming frontier violence, establishing LGBTQ rights, and developing modern businesses such as organic food and personal computing. Neither looking away from the dark chapters of Texas history nor letting them overshadow the achievements of democracy and pluralism that are some of the state's greatest legacies, Johnson offers a balanced and inclusive history of an often contentious and stereotyped region, covering such topics as the persistence of Native Americans, the frontier story of the Alamo, agrarian populism, racial segregation, the state's porous border with Mexico, and the way historical memory continues to shape the state's identity. The reality of Texas, Johnson shows us, is even bigger than we think it is.

This Corner of Canaan Randolph B. Campbell, 2013 Randolph B. Mike Campbell has spent the better part of the last five decades helping Texans rediscover their history, producing a stream of definitive works on the social, political, and economic structures of the Texas past. Through meticulous research and terrific prose, Campbell's collective work has fundamentally remade how historians understand Texan identity and the state's southern heritage, as well as our understanding of such contentious issues as slavery, westward expansion, and Reconstruction. Campbell's pioneering work in local and county records has defined the model for grassroots research and community studies in the field. More than any other scholar, Campbell has shaped our modern understanding of Texas. In this collection of seventeen original essays, Campbell's colleagues, friends, and students offer a capacious examination of Texas's history, ranging from the Spanish era through the 1960s War on Poverty, to honor Campbell's deep influence on the field. Focusing on themes and methods that Campbell pioneered, the essays debate Texas identity, the creation of nineteenth-century Texas, the legacies of the Civil War,

and Reconstruction and the remaking of the Lone Star State during the twentieth century Featuring some of the most well known names in the field as well as rising stars the volume offers the latest scholarship on major issues in Texas history and the enduring influence of the most eminent Texas historian of the last half century **American Myths, Legends, and Tall Tales** Christopher R. Fee, Jeffrey B. Webb, 2016-08-29 A fascinating survey of the entire history of tall tales folklore and mythology in the United States from earliest times to the present including stories and myths from the modern era that have become an essential part of contemporary popular culture Folklore has been a part of American culture for as long as humans have inhabited North America and increasingly formed an intrinsic part of American culture as diverse peoples from Europe Africa Asia and Oceania arrived In modern times folklore and tall tales experienced a rejuvenation with the emergence of urban legends and the growing popularity of science fiction and conspiracy theories with mass media such as comic books television and films contributing to the retelling of old myths This multi volume encyclopedia will teach readers the central myths and legends that have formed American culture since its earliest years of settlement Its entries provide a fascinating glimpse into the collective American imagination over the past 400 years through the stories that have shaped it Organized alphabetically the coverage includes Native American creation myths tall tales like George Washington chopping down his father s cherry tree and the adventures of King of the Wild Frontier Davy Crockett through to today s urban myths Each entry explains the myth or legend and its importance and provides detailed information about the people and events involved Each entry also includes a short bibliography that will direct students or interested general readers toward other sources for further investigation Special attention is paid to African American folklore Asian American folklore and the folklore of other traditions that are often overlooked or marginalized in other studies of the topic *The History of Texas* Robert A. Calvert, Arnaldo De Leon, Gregg Cantrell, 2020-03-10 The most comprehensive best illustrated survey of the Lone Star State the new updated edition of the classic text The History of Texas offers a sweeping exploration of the Lone Star State covering its history from the pre Columbian period to the era of Spanish control to nineteenth century watershed events through the 1900s and into the new millennium This engaging student friendly textbook looks at how people of diverse politics identity class ethnicity and race shaped the state s past and continue to influence its present Recent knowledge on the political social and cultural history of Texas provides insights on the celebrated figures unsung heroes and ordinary people of the state s past The sixth edition of this classic text has been revised and updated to reflect the latest scholarship in all fields of Texas history among them New Indian History and cultural and gender studies The text offers fresh perspectives on Texas history including discussions of the Progressive Era the Great Depression the Second World War and post war modernization and the state s transition during the 1960s and into the 1980s Revised chapters provide wide ranging coverage of Texas in the late 20th and early 21st centuries including recent statewide and national elections and political debates This textbook Connects events in post World War II Texas to the larger U S historical narrative Offers

substantial coverage of events occurring from 1900 to 2018 Uses a chronological approach to divide chapters into easily identifiable eras Includes engaging illustrations maps and tables an appendix and inclusive lists of recommended readings Features online resources for students and instructors including a test bank maps presentation slides and more Effectively organized to better meet the needs of instructors The History of Texas is the ideal resource for undergraduate and graduate courses in Texas history at colleges and universities across both the state and the nation Historical Evidence and Argument David Henige,2006-01-20 Historians know about the past because they examine the evidence But what exactly is evidence how do historians know what it means and how can we trust them to get it right Historian David Henige tackles such questions of historical reliability head on in his skeptical unsparing and acerbically witty Historical Evidence and Argument Systematic doubt is his watchword and he practices what he preaches through a variety of insightful assessments of historical controversies for example over the dating of artifacts and the textual analysis of translated documents Skepticism Henige contends forces us to recognize the limits of our knowledge but is also a positive force that stimulates new scholarship to counter it Discovering Texas History Bruce A. Glasrud,Light Townsend Cummins,Cary D. Wintz,2014-09-09 Discovering Texas History is a historiographical reference book that will be invaluable to teachers students and researchers of Texas history Chapter authors are familiar names in Texas history circles a who s who of high profile historians Conceived as a follow up to the award winning but increasingly dated A Guide the History of Texas 1988 Discovering Texas History focuses on the major trends in the study of Texas history since 1990 In part one topical essays address significant historical themes from race and gender to the arts and urban history In part two chronological essays cover the full span of Texas historiography from the Spanish era to the modern day In each case the goal is to analyze and summarize the subjects that have captured the attention of professional historians so that Discovering Texas History will take its place as the standard work on the history of Texas history **Texas** Rupert N. Richardson,Cary D. Wintz,Angela Boswell,Adrian Anderson,Ernest Wallace,2021-05-31 Now in its 11th edition Texas The Lone Star State offers a balanced scholarly overview of the second largest state in the United States spanning from prehistory to the twenty first century Organized chronologically this comprehensive survey introduces undergraduates to the varied history of Texas with an accessible narrative and over 100 illustrations and maps This new edition broadens the discussion of postwar social and political dynamics within the state including the development of key industries and changing demographics Other new features include New maps reflecting county by county results for the most recent presidential elections Expanded discussions on immigration and border security The effects of the COVID 19 pandemic in Texas and a look to the future Updated bibliographies to reflect the most recent scholarship This textbook is essential reading for students of American history

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Sleuthing The Alamo Introduction

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