

DAVID CROCKETT AT THE ALAMO

By Caleb Edward Robb

Heroes are important in our lives. We all need heroes. Heroes are men and women that served and fought for an ideal greater than themselves. Like George Washington, through his leadership he won the revolutionary war in 1799 and then became the first president of our Republic. Another great hero is Constantine who brought Christianity to Rome.



In 312, during the Battle of the Milvian Bridge, before his conquest of Rome, Constantine saw a vision in the sky of a Cross with the words *In Hoc Signo Vinces* - **“By this sign YOU SHALL conquer.”** Those are really powerful words. There are so many heroes of the past that I can't put them all in this short article. All the evil people in the world do not want us to have heroes. They want us to think that our heroes are villains and demons.

Now I am going to concentrate on an American hero: David Crockett. Crockett was born on August 17, 1786, in eastern Tennessee. When he was 12 years old, his dad sent him as an indentured servant to Jacob Stiler to help with the family's indebtedness. He was well paid for helping Stiler move his cattle on a 400-mile trip near Natural Bridge, Virginia.

Returning home, he became a good hunter and loved to tell folk stories. He was eventually elected to Congress between March 4, 1827 –

March 4, 1831. David Crockett was also a Tennessee militia man who fought in the Creek war in 1812 and served under Andrew Jackson. He got the higher rank as a lieutenant colonel after the war.

In 1835 David Crockett lost his final congressional campaign to Adam Alexander then heard about Texas's fight for freedom. In 1836, newspapers published the now famous quotation attributed to Crockett. Upon his return to his home state, he said to his political enemies, **“You all can go to hell, I'm going to Texas!”** So, David Crockett got his long rifle and his coon skin hat, some of his friends and headed to Texas. On February 8, 1836, Crockett and his friends arrived at the Alamo to help defend it. The Mexican soldiers arrived on February 23, 1836. There were 2 other colonels there as well: Will Travis and Jim Bowie. When David Crockett got to the Alamo there was 180 defenders and there were 2,000 to 5,000 Mexicans

soldiers. There were 5 unsuccessful sieges on the Alamo. Historians said that the Texans almost won the battle because the Mexican soldiers got so scared of the Texans killing 1500 of their men that they almost retreated. Gen. Santa Ana decided to lead the final siege which inspired the Mexican army.

David Crockett and his men fought at a wooden wall next to the chapel at the west wall. On the 2nd day Santa Anna offered the Texans to surrender but Will Travis

ordered to fire the 18 pounder at the Mexican encampment in response to Santa Ana's offer to surrender. For nine days they continued the defense.

On day 9, Will Travis drew a line with his army saber and said, "who wishes to stay with me in the Alamo, cross the line," everyone crossed over.

Are you willing to cross the line for our freedom today?

On the 10th day Jim Bowie became ill and was put in a small room with a cot and on the morning of the 12th day before dawn, Santa Ana ordered his men to siege the Alamo. On the 13th day the Mexican soldiers stormed all sides of the fort, but the Texans were holding them off until the Mexican soldiers got ladders over the north wall. William Travis was shot at the north wall and died, and the Texans tried to stop the flood on the north wall, but it was too late. At the West wall, Crockett and his men were holding their side. Then the Mexican soldiers took the South wall and it fell. David Crockett and the remainder of the Texans fled to the chapel where they quickly built a barricade and stacked sandbags in front of the chapel door and held it. While they were doing that, some Texans that were still trying to save the walls from the Mexicans soldiers who killed the remaining Texans that were still alive at those

walls. So they stormed to the west wall in the fort. Historians say at the final battle, Crockett at the room where Jim Bowie was laying in his cot loaded 2 flint lock pistols and put them in Jim Bowie's hands and left.

Bowie soon heard noises approaching the wooden door. He raised himself from his cot and raised his arms facing the door. The Mexican soldiers with their bayonets were breaking down the door. Then the door busted open and Mexican infantry rushed in the room and Bowie shot both of the Mexican soldiers dead on the ground. More Mexican soldiers rushed in to kill Bowie. Grabbing his famous knife, Bowie managed to stab a couple of them and then Bowie was stabbed to death in his cot. They then left the room to storm the chapel. They stormed the chapel and every man died except David Crockett according to one account. It is recorded that one of the women at the Alamo stated "of Crockett's final moments as a frenzy battle against his enemies, he looked grand and terrible, shouting at the front door and fighting a whole column of Mexican infantry. He had fired his last shot and had not time to reload. The cannon balls had knocked away the sandbags in front of the front door and the infantry was pouring through the breach. Crockett stood there swinging something over his head. The place was full of smoke and I could not tell whether he was using a gun or a sword. A heap of dead was piled at his feet and the Mexicans were lunging at him with bayonets, but he would not retreat an inch."

It is interesting that the same woman survivor of the Alamo described Crockett "as someone who did not look like a hero or the reputation that followed him in fact, he looked quite ordinary." She described him as looking almost soft, and conducted himself with the gentleness that you would not expect of a rouged frontiersman. She said, *"I would never have regarded him as a hero until I saw the way he was willing to die."*

David Crockett is a hero, and his life should inspire us all to be willing to fight for a great cause.

END

"I'm
Going to
Texas"